

More Greek Strikes, But Law Rules

Protests Start to Fizzle Out, Pension Worries

ATHENS – Blowing whistles, carrying signs, shouting slogans, throwing leaflets listing their demands into the air, thousands of Greek workers took to the streets again June 8 in the country's sixth general strike this year protesting public worker pay cuts and tax hikes, marching past Parliament while lawmakers debated a bill that would make life tough for pensioners too. Most of the country's public services ceased, except for intermittent stoppages at the international airport, as civil servants were joined by private workers and the elderly in a march through the downtown that led to Syntagma Square. But, unlike the May 5 protests by an estimated 70,000 angry people that became violent, and then deadly when three bank workers were killed after a firebomb was tossed into their offices, this protest began with a relative whimper as protesters mostly milled about in front of the Parliament and even contingent s of riot police leaned on their shields. There was defiance on people's faces, but defeat in their eyes as surveys showed more and more Greeks are resigned to the austerity measures that Prime Minister George Papandreou implemented as a condition for getting \$146 billion in emergency loans over three years from the European Union and International Monetary Fund to keep the country from defaulting on its obligations. Still, some analysts predict will eventually go under because it cannot service even its existing debt. Finance Minister George Papaconstantinou said that the government's measures had succeeded in reducing the debt this year by 42% over a year ago, but the other shoe is dropping, as workers whose pay has been cut aren't spending, so tax revenues are falling off the table, creating the prospect of a recession, especially combined with a precipitous fall in tourism as visitors have been scared off by the constant strikes that have left thousands of them stranded at the airport and unable to get on ferry boats blocked by workers carrying wooden staves.

NO GETTING AROUND IT

All flights to and from the country were grounded for hours while ferries remained docked at ports across the country. The country's two main car-

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Oil Spill Worries for Gulf Greeks

By Angelike Contis

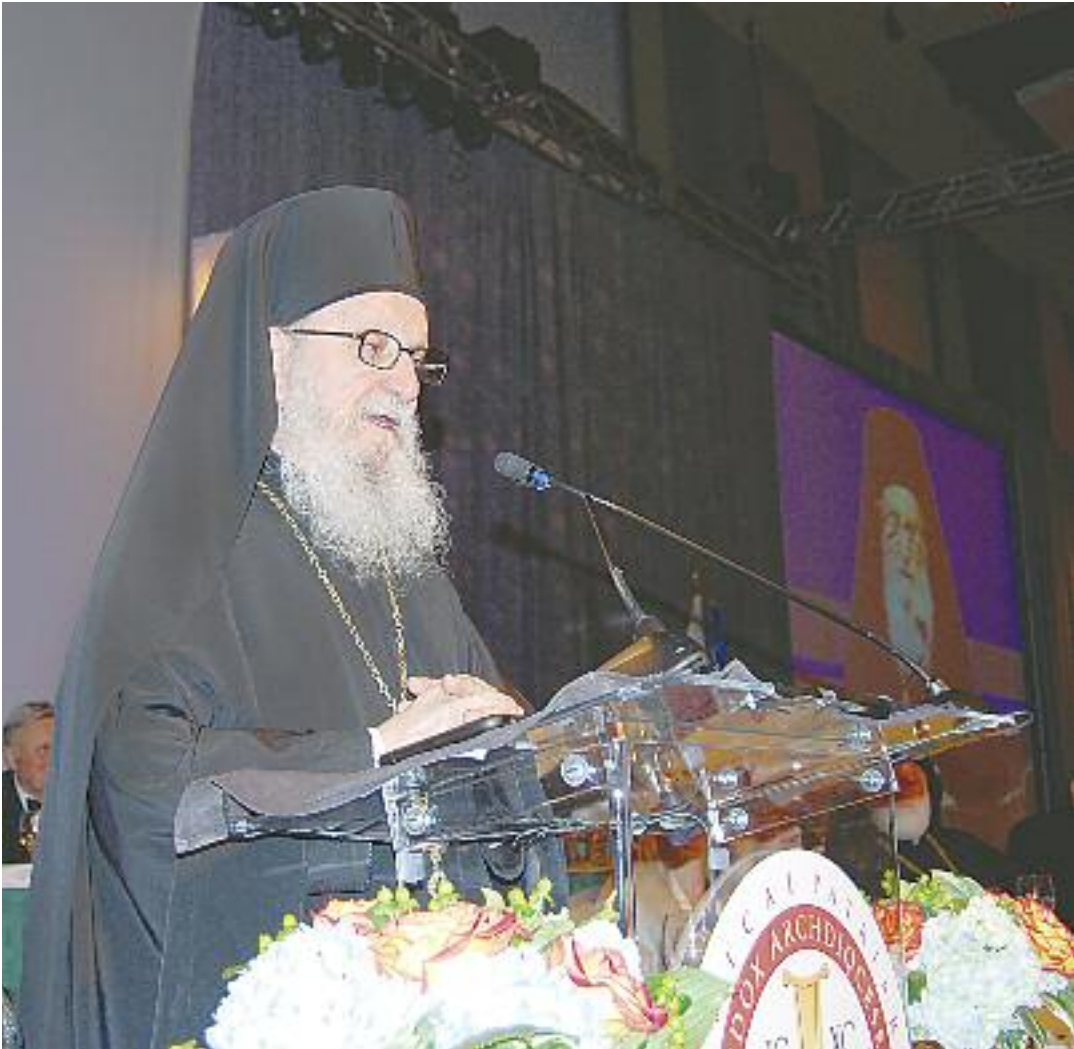
TNH Staff Writer

NEW YORK- After the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Daybrook Holdings and Fisheries owner Gregory Holt worked to rebuild his fishmeal and fish oil-producing company - which employs more than 300 people. Now, the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill, which has been gushing since April 20, threatens what he's built.

Holt, 63, whose grandfather hails from Cyprus, is among the Greek Americans and Greek Cypriots in Louisiana affected by the disaster. As the oil continues to gush, tar balls from the Mexico Gulf disaster were reported for the first time in Texas and as the onset of tropical storm season has interrupted

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Archdiocese Asks Parishioners To Dig Deeper



TNH/THEODORE KALMOUKOS

Archbishop Demetrios cites what he said were the church's many accomplishments in recent years during his speech at the 40th Clergy-Laity Congress in Atlanta.

Five Harvard Graduates in One Family

BOSTON – This is a first, not only for the Greek American Community, but probably also for the academic community in general: five of the seven children John and Zoe Rigas were graduated from Harvard. It began with Peter Rigas in 1995, and his sister Elaine followed in 2004, then Michael in 2005, Elias in 2008 and this year it was the turn of their brother, Nicholas. Michael's wife, Laura, also graduated from Harvard this year.

Speaking to The National Herald, John Rigas said: "My

wife and I first give glory and thanks to God for all this. All our relatives here in the U.S. as well as those in Greece and Australia feel exceptionally proud. I do not have words to laud our children, because they are the ones who worked hard and all the honors and accolades belong to them, and as an achievement it is singular." His wife added: "This year we had graduated our Nicholas and Laura, who is the wife of our other son, Michael." Both graduated from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, the renowned

school which deals with Public Administration. Laura was previously Press Secretary at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and worked at the White House for former president George Bush. Regarding the fields of studies which the other children specialized in, Rigas said that, "In general they have studied Economics, as Michael and Peter did, but also Public Administration dealing with government service in America, which we currently see

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The Sound Of Metaxas, On the Air

By Constantine S. Sirigos

TNH Staff Writer

NEW YORK – Tune in to WCBS Newsradio 880 on weekend mornings and your will hear, "This is John Metaxas." The name, among Greeks, may evoke different feelings depending on your knowledge of Greek history and your family's politics, but the deep, resonant voice will calm and inform you. He is a news anchor and reporter at WCBS Newsradio 880 and WCBS-TV, Channel 2, in New York. The same voice might have addressed New Yorkers as they sat on juries, but Metaxas, who has a law degree from Columbia Law School, followed his heart into journalism rather than the legal profession. "I was always leaning to going to law school but while I was in college I discovered broadcasting and journalism that became my passion. The very first day of college I went straight to the radio station and I stayed there for four years." In his senior year in high school he tuned in to a station that turned out to belong to Columbia University. That's when he discovered that the school he would be attending had a station, and resolved that he would go there his first day.

But Metaxas' broadcast roots go deeper than that. "I grew up as a news junkie, like many Greek Americans who are very interested in news and current events and I was a radio junkie. I knew all about radio. I used to come home from kindergarten and tune into radio stations and listen to all of them. I remember one day specifically. I had come from kindergarten and they broke into the program to announce the President Kennedy had been shot. I ran into the kitchen and told my mother and it wasn't until many years later that it dawned on me that that was my first news report."

He takes his family audiences

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TNH/COSTAS BEJ

Dimitris Mitropanos doesn't like to talk much, but he sure can sing, as the 62-year-old Greek music star showed in a New York concert where he belted out his greatest hits to adoring fans.

Rock of Ageless, Mitropanos Returns

NEW YORK – After a very brief instrumental introduction, the audience of primarily Greek Americans at Radio City Music Hall started hooting and clapping. He had arrived. There he was, with trademark untucked button-up shirt, grey hair, rock-like immobility– and most importantly – the voice.

With the power to stretch vowels through passionate and plaintive dips and rises, Dimitris Mitropanos, 62, a legend of Greek music for decades, didn't disappoint. He easily worked his way through all the classics expected from him with a power undiminished by years or health problems (including a kidney transplant in 2008). He had last sung in New York in 1997, and after that long absence, his fans wanted to hear that voice again, and they showed up to prove it.

They were lucky, because a few days later he had to cancel

the rest of his tour because of a bacterial infection. He had been slated to go to Connecticut, Chicago and Montreal.

Though the audience expressed their adulation by frequently standing up, waving their hands and chanting "Mit-sos," Mitropanos proved a performer of few words. "Thank you, good evening. It's been 13 years, a lot of years I think," he said to the audience at the start of the show, adding only: "I think we will have a wonderful night. Be well, all of you." At the end of his performance, which lacked an encore (though it was heartily requested by the nearly 4,000 spectators), Mitropanos laconically added: "Thank you. Be well everyone. Thank you." He saves his voice for singing.

But few people in the crowd were there for chit chat. They pushed the limits of the venera-

Clergy-Laity Okays \$23 Million Budget Plan for The Church, by 2012

By Theodore Kalmoukos

TNH Staff Writer

ATLANTA – It was designed to be a spiritual meeting, but in between prayers and promises, the 40th Clergy-Laity Congress held here this year came to be dominated as much by talk of money as anything else, including the need for more funding for educational programs, which have helped swell the Archdiocese's budget to \$23 million, nearly twice what it was a decade ago when Archbishop Demetrios took the held of the Greek Orthodox churches of America and inherited a \$12 million spending plan.

The approval of the budget was the sole official topic on the agenda for the Clergy-Laity Congress, as noted in previous articles by The National Herald. The event was skimpy on substance and much of the organization came together only at the last minute. The figure of \$23,107,519 was according to documents The National Herald initially obtained, and is for 2012. The budget for 2011 has been set at \$22,091,653. In 2009, the Archdiocese's budget was \$20,792,871 and rose to \$21,737,385 in 2010. Back in 2009, the budget was exceeded by \$4,487,133, bringing the actual cost of Archdiocesan operations to \$25,180,004. Going back to 2007, the Archdiocesan budget was \$18,263,500, while in 2008 it was \$19,533,500. Meanwhile, in 2005 it was \$16,179,000 and in 2006 it was \$16,378,000.

Four years ago, in July 2006, the Clergy-Laity Congress in Nashville, Tenn. changed the method of stewardship calculation for parish communities to the Archdiocese.

Prior to 2006, parishes would contribute 15% of their annual income to the Archdiocese. From 2006 on, stewardship dues began to be calculated at 15% of parish's expenses, while parishes were required to submit to the Archdiocese a financial report prepared by a CPA.

The new way provides that the parishes sent to the Archdiocese 15 percent based on their expenses instead of their income. This way, the sums given to the Archdiocese increased considerably.

According to Archdiocesan officials and members of the Finance Committee, this method provides for a more accurate review of parish communities' finances, while enabling it to better calculate corresponding stewardship dues. This system was first implemented by the Metropolis of Atlanta, and according to reports, its first six years of operation are considered to be successful. It should also be noted that stewardship monies are calculated based solely on the expenses of the parish, and not day schools as well, in the event that a parish community operates a day school. Twenty-five percent of the stewardship monies collected by each Metropolis from its parish communities are subsequently returned by the Archdiocese to the Metropolis to cover operational costs.

It seems no one's immune from the financial crises that continue to grip the world, and

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N.J.'s Panos Stavrianidis: A True Greek

By Demetris Tsakas

Special to The National Herald

NEW YORK - The President of The Hellenic Link of New Jersey, the Greek American Chamber of Commerce for Central New Jersey, and the Vice-President of the newly established Federation of Hellenic American Organizations of New Jersey, Panos Stavrianidis, is a familiar face to the Greek American Community of the New York tri-state area, as well as to the readers of The National Herald.

His longtime involvement in the advancement of Hellenic national issues and the leading role he has played in international awareness campaign for the recognition of the Pontian Genocide, in addition to his association with dozens of other Greek American organizations and parish communities, as well as local civic associations has been a major factor in shaping his leadership profile. His long period of service in local Greek Orthodox parish communities and interest for the Church and Ecumenical Patriarchate played a big part in him being awarded the title of Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and his induction into the Order of St. Andrew.

When The National Herald contacted him in mid-May to inform him that he would be the feature story in its Greek language weekend insert Periodiko, he could hardly hide his surprise. "You caught me off guard, as I was at my place of business preoccupied with a customer. The first thing that came to my mind was how I was going to face all those good friends and associates who I am surrounded by and who are more deserving than I and may have made a greater contribution. I don't know why, but I feel a special kind of satisfaction when I undertake the job of honoring others; much more so, than when they honor me," he said during his interview with TNH.

OPPORTUNITY IN CRISIS

Several weeks ago, the Greek American Chamber of Commerce for Central New Jersey in association with The Hellenic Link of New Jersey acted upon Stavrianidis' suggestion and organized the first of a series of lectures on the theme Success in Not an Accident - Success is a Habit, with TNH Publisher and Editor Antonis H. Diamataris as the keynote speaker (Photo Gallery available on line at http://www.thenationalherald.com/photos?PageNum_photos=1&album_id=5909).

In his opening speech, Stavrianidis spoke about the goals of this lecture series and told the audience "each one of them could be a speaker and share

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In the Spotlight: Creativity Advisor Michailidis

By Constantine S. Sirigos
TNH Staff Writer

NEW YORK: Stavros Michailidis is a first generation Greek American. His parents, Miltiadis and Panagiota, both immigrated to the United States from northern Greece in the late 1970s. He lives part of the time in New York City and part time on the island of St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands

TNH: Briefly tell us what you do.

SM: I am a creativity advisor, empowering executives to build more creative organizations capable of innovation and problem solving. I also lecture at the University of the Virgin Islands on the subject of applied creative studies. Most people aren't familiar with the science of creativity. There is over 40 years of scholarly research and best case business practice knowledge on the subject. We know how to make people more creative; how to build more creative teams; develop innovative products and processes; create supportive organizational climates. The result is new and appropriate solutions to all types of business problems. My work has provided me with many interesting experiences and rewarding relationships. I have worked with entrepreneurs and small start ups, multi-billion dollar firms, government agencies and not-for-profits. There are so many interesting people in the world doing wonderful things and I enjoy helping them in their journeys.

TNH: Do you think people in your field can help Greece overcome its current problems?

SM: Absolutely. However, although creative experts can help solve problems, ultimately the commitment to finding a new way do things and the willingness to find a better way has to come from the population and its leaders.

TNH: Has your life path been influenced by your Ancient and/or Modern Greek heritage?

SM: It must have. Simply by the nature of our culture and our heritage, as Greeks we are influenced. I grew up curious,



Stavros Michailidis is a pioneer in the field of Creativity Advising. He splits his time between N.Y. and the Virgin Islands.

encouraged by my parents to explore many truths before reaching conclusions and to challenge the status quo. I have keen analytic and meta-cognitive skills developed by my father's insistence that I "THINK" before I take action. These are traits that I would associate with our roots. If I had to characterize the ancient Hellenes with only one trait, I would say it is the unending passion for knowledge about ourselves and the world around us. I am lucky to share this passion with them.

TNH: What has been your greatest achievement so far?

SM: My relationships with my loved ones. There is no greater success for me than spending time with them, enriching their lives, and having my life blessed by them.

TNH: What's the greatest lesson you've ever learned?

SM: "Learn to hear the specific needs of the people who already want to follow you," spoken to me by my dear friend Teresa Thewes. This phrase is very personal to me, so I don't know if it will speak to the readers. For me it was very impor-

tant because it made me a better leader. I stopped worrying about trying to convince others I had a better solution and started worrying about what concerns stopped them from seeing a better solution on their own.

TNH: Do you have a role model?

SM: Wow, so many. My Mom and Dad. Parents get a lot of grief, but I would not have the values I hold today if it were not for the examples they set for me. Very importantly, they were not overbearing role models which makes them the most effective type of role model - they taught me to think for myself. Also my brother - for his courage. My wife - for her compassion. The list is very long.

TNH: What's your ultimate goal in life?

SM: The generic and yet still very honest answer is that my ultimate goal in life is to actually live a good life. But the real question is what does that good life look like? For me this ideal life involves people & freedom. I don't like to think of goals as outcomes that one tries to attain, but rather as ideals that

one continuously and increasingly embodies. For me this goal is to help people find freedom in many aspects of their lives.

TNH: If you could change something about yourself, what would it be?

SM: For starters, let's begin with being wise enough to answer that question correctly. Change is a very complex topic. The philosophers of ancient Greece debated for some time as to the nature of the universe. Is it continuously changing, or is the universe static, and is it instead our limited perception of it that is always changing? In truth, regardless of the answer, we experience change. It is important to honor what has already transpired, but also to live in the moment and to embrace the future that is heading our way. If I could change something about myself it would eventually be everything about myself.

TNH: What's your most enjoyable pastime?

SM: I like to sail. I don't do as much as I'd like, but I don't think I could ever get enough. One of my dreams is to sail from Florida to Venezuela one island at a time. Another is to sail across the Atlantic so I can gaze at a star-lit sky midway between the U.S. and Portugal. Once there I could make good on my dream to sail the Mediterranean. As you can see - a lot of my dreams involve sailing.

TNH: Share with us some words of wisdom.

SM: In life, be original, but not too original. In labor, be efficient, but not too efficient. In love, be affectionate, but not too affectionate. And in the end, do whatever feels right and be well prepared to pay the price for it. More information about creativity, innovation and what Stavros Michailidis does is available at www.StavrosCM.com.

If you'd like to nominate a notable member of the Greek American community for "In the Spotlight," please contact english.edition@thenationalherald.com with your suggestions.

GOINGS ON...

■ JULY-SEPTEMBER 4

CHICAGO, Ill. – The National Hellenic Museum will be hosting the Percy Jackson and the Olympians: A Look inside the Lightning Thief from July through September 4. In this world-premiere exhibition, visitors will get an up-close and personal look at some of their favorite props from the Fox 2000 film, Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief. In partnership with Twentieth Century Fox, the National Hellenic Museum and Curator Bethany Fleming created the exhibition based on the film, Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief. The film is the big screen adaptation of author Rick Riordan's #1 New York Times best-seller, Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief, the first of five books in Riordan's series. Hours for the exhibition are: Tuesday through Friday, 10 am - 4 pm; Saturday, 11 am - 4 pm. Closed Sunday, Monday. Suggested general admission: adults and seniors; \$5, NHM members, children 12 and under; Free. The National Hellenic Museum is located at: 801 W. Adams Street, 4th floor, at the corner of Adams and Halsted Streets Chicago, IL 60607. For further information, call: 312-655-1234 or visit: www.nationalhellenicmuseum.org.

■ JULY 6-10

NEW YORK CITY, N.Y. As part of American Thyme Theatre's (ATT) 2010 Euripides summer series, ATT is presenting its New York Euripides Summer Festival with five free, fully staged, consecutive performances of Euripides' "Alcestis" in three different locations in New York City from July 6-10. This genre of theatrical expression encompasses areas such as ancient history, mythology, music, and dramatic poetry at its best, all interwoven with marvelous lyricism, Greek culture, education, and rarely-offered free entertainment, as presented in the quality, traditional approach that has characterized American Thyme Theatre in its seventeen-year existence. This American Thyme Theatre production of "Alcestis" is directed by acclaimed director Lorca Peress. Original music for this ATT production of "Alcestis" is composed by award-winning, Athens-based composer Kostas Kouris. The five free consecutive performances will be staged at the following locations: July 6-7 at 6:30 p.m. at the East River Park Amphitheatre, FDR Drive overpass at Cherry Street to East River Park/south of Delancey Street; July 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the Naumburg Bandshell, Central Park Mall - Enter from 67th St./Central Park West or 72nd St./5th Avenue; July 9 and 10 at 8:00 p.m. at the Marilyn Monroe Theatre, Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute - 115 East 15th St./Union Square East. Reservations are available through: <http://www.SmartTix.com/show.aspx?showcode=EUR1> or by calling: 212-868-4444. For further information, visit: <http://www.AmericanThymeTheatre.yolasite.com> or call: 212-781-3631. American Thyme Theatre -1202 Lexington Avenue, 138 New York, N.Y. 10028.

■ JULY 9-11

MERRIVILLE, Ind. - St. Constantine and Helen Greek Cathedral Grecian Festival will be held on July 9-11

■ JULY 12

NEW YORK, N.Y. - The AHI Business Network and The New York Chapter of AHI hosts its Monthly Informal Networking Reception, Monday, July 12, 5:30 to 7:30 PM at Avra Restaurant in Manhattan. Avra Restaurant is located at: 141 East 48th Street. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres will be served and it will be a cash bar. Please RSVP by July 10 to Col. Andonios Neroulas at andonis@att.net. For further information on AHI activities and membership visit: www.aheworld.org.

■ JULY 15-18

NORTH ROYALTON, Ohio – St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Cathedral will be hosting their annual Greek Festival July 15-18. For further information, visit:

www.stpaulgoc.org.

■ JULY 15

NEW YORK, N.Y. – The Association of Greek American Professional Women (A.G.A.P.W.) will be hosting a Summer Evening of Conversation and Art on July 15 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the loft of Eleni Delimbaltadakis and Spencer Janis. Special guest will be the Hon. Dionysia-Theodora Avgerinopoulou, Member of the Greek Parliament, International Attorney and co-founder and President of the European Institute of Law, Science and Technology. Ms. Avgerinopoulou will be available to answer questions about the current situation in Greece and to discuss current environmental issues affecting Greece and the United States. RSVP by emailing: oalexakos@nyc.rr.com or call: (917) 405-6833. The loft is located at: 35 West 26th Street, 2nd floor, New York, NY 10010.

■ JULY 19

NEW YORK, N.Y. - If you have a passion for news and want to hear how Soterios Johnson, local host of Morning Edition on WNYC Radio, got started in radio and became the host of Morning Edition, come to the next GAME event on July 19 at the Perfect Pint. Soterios will give a little background on he got started in radio and pursued his desire to report the news and welcome everyone before the event. The event will be held July 19 from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. The Perfect Pint is located at 203 East 45th Street, between 2nd and 3rd avenues, New York, NY 10017. For further information, call: 212-867-8159 or RSVP to Dorie Klissas at Dorie.Klissas@nyumc.org.

■ JULY 31

CHICAGO, Ill. – The National Hellenic Museum is hosting the Heritage Ride for Hellenic Pride on July 31 at 10:00 a.m. "We will not say that Greeks ride like heroes but that heroes ride like Greeks." The ride begins at the National Hellenic Museum and ends at the Harley-Davidson Museum. Registration is \$30 per rider, \$45 with passenger. Registration includes: t-shirts, breakfast, tour of the Harley Davidson Museum, Tailgate lunch with burgers, brats and beer, giveaways and more. For further information, visit: www.nationalhellenicmuseum.org/calendar/event/?id.

■ AUGUST 6-8

TORONTO, CANADA – The Greek town Taste of the Danforth sponsored by Pilaros is one of Toronto's signature events showcasing the best of Hellenic food, culture and music the city has to offer. There will be traditional Greek foods ranging from souvlaki to an assortment of mezes, authentic Greek music and interactive children's games. The event will be held from 12:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. each day. For further information, visit: www.tasteofthedanforth.com/tasteofthedanforth.php.

■ AUGUST 8

MONTREAL, CANADA – The Hellenic Flame Festival in Montreal will be held on August 8 through August 10 at the Park Jean Drapeau. The festival will be held every day from 1 p.m.-11 p.m. The event is free and will feature a variety of activities for the entire family, including food, dance, music and cultural booths representing artists' and associations from within the Greek Community. For further information, call: 514-738-2421 (ext. 107) or visit: www.hcm-flame.com.

■ AUGUST 28

LOS ANGELES, Calif. – The Los Angeles Greek Festival will be held on August 28 from 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. For further information, call: 213-915-8003.

■ SEPTEMBER 10-12

The Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church will be held September 10-12. Festival hours will be: September 10 from 12:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.; September 11 from 12:00-11:00 p.m.; and September 12 from 12:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. For further information, visit: <http://www.dormitionchurch.org>.

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: Do the Clergy-Laity Congresses have any real value as they are currently structured?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Maybe

The results for last week's question: Should the Ecumenical Patriarchate be moved from Istanbul to the United States?

27% voted "Yes"

69% voted "No"

4% voted "Maybe"

Please vote at: www.thenationalherald.com



Greek American Students meet Papoulias

Students on the AHI Foundation's 2nd annual two-week trip to Greece and Cyprus for a program of visits with leaders there, met with Greek President Karolos Papoulias on July 1.



Photo Evidence of 4th of July's Greek Roots

The Lincoln Memorial looks enough like the Parthenon to remind 4th of July fireworks viewers in Washington, D.C. that America's founding fathers were inspired by ancient Athens.



Papoulias Meets Canadian Students Too

Graduates of Toronto's Orthodox Theological Academy and other Greek Canadians led by Metropolitan Sotirios visit Greece's President Papoulias at Athens' Megaron Presidential Palace.



Hellenic American Academy Graduation

The Hellenic American Academy, established in 1912 and now located in the Bronx, is the oldest Greek school in N.Y. The graduates are shown with Fr. Sylvester Berberis and Ann Procop.

ΕΘΝΙΚΟΣ ΚΗΡΥΞ

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για τον Ελληνισμό

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For John Metaxas, Journalist & Parent, There is No Substitute for Truth

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as seriously as he does his listeners and viewers. When it comes to teaching their children Christiana and Yanni about the world, there is no substitute for the truth, for he and his wife Irene.

“I remember when 9/11 happened, Metaxas said. “My wife called and she said the school is sending the kids home.” They were in kindergarten and first grade. “They are telling the parents not to have them watch television because it’s disturbing,” she said. Metaxas’ response was “no, you put them in front of the TV and make them watch. I felt it was important for them to understand from a very young age what happens in the world and not have them be cloistered or sheltered from that. They did watch. They are very inquisitive and we often discuss the news over the dinner table.”

Metaxas’ education prepared him well for his roles of father and broadcaster. He was a history major at Columbia, studying the history of the United States, the City of New York, and modern Greece. He went on to Columbia Law School, as planned, but he found himself missing broadcasting, so that midway through, he decided to do a joint program with the Columbia School of Journalism. He worked at ABC Sports actually, on the team covering the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics and then the 1988 Presidential campaign. He also married Irene in 1988, right after

the primary season ended, saying, “It ended just in time because I had been in 45 states in three months.” Metaxas told TNH, “I believe its important to be personally fulfilled in your work,” and he said his wife has always been supportive. “Journalism is what I love to do and that is the path I pursued,” he said. Both parents are committed to cultivating their childrens’ Greek roots. Last year Christiana completed the first part of 10th grade at the American community school in Athens. Nine years of Greek school and passing the N.Y. State regents exam prepared her for her Greek experience. “She loved it. She really connected with her Greek roots, which is amazing for someone who was not born in Greece and whose parents were not born in Greece. She got up last week at 7:30 in the morning to watch the Greek soccer team,” gushed Metaxas. His son has also done overseas programs and Metaxas believes he will do something along the same lines as his sister at the college level. Both had been to camp in Greece at the Ionian Village. “We’ve made a real effort to expose our children to (Hellenism) and they feel a real connection to their heritage because of that.”

He currently works for both WCBS newsradio 880 and WCBS Channel 2 in New York. He anchors every Saturday and Sunday morning at 6, 8, 10 a.m. and 12 noon for an entire hour. Asked how he felt about the stressful lifestyle he said, “It’s very exciting. This is what we journalists live



THE RECORD-REVIEW
At WCBS Newsradio 880, weekend anchorman John Metaxas.

for, to cover the news. I don’t think I can recall a more interesting year - the variety of the big stories I’ve been able to cover...it’s been very intense. The two stories on the Hudson River, the miracle landing and the collision, and being able to broadcast the Yankees ticker tape parade.” Metaxas, however, is a Mets fan. “I appreciated the story for what it was, a great moment for New York. It was one of the most thrilling

things I’ve ever covered.”
THE VALUE OF HELLENISM
Metaxas serves on the Advisory Council of Queens College’s Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies and is a member of the Archdiocesan Council. The work he does for Hellenism and the Church are more than contributions he makes to the community, as they set examples for his own and for other people’s children.

Oil Spill Worries for Greeks in New Orleans and Florida Keep Gushing

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cleanup efforts, their struggles are told against an increasingly dark backdrop. “It’s hard for me to speak,” said Holt about the spill, which has forced the Empire-based company’s 15-man fishing boats to travel out of Breton Sound, further afield. “We are trying to find areas where it’s clean,” he told TNH, adding: “It’s extremely hard because we have to travel great distances.” No one’s been laid off, he says; his employees continue to receive paychecks, but the company is “dealing with the consequences.”

He notes that, as with Hurricane Katrina, when the “appalling state of FEMA” was revealed, this time around, “the actual resources deployed ... are severely lacking.” Holt adds:

“What was in place was lightweight and minimal.” He now fears bureaucratic inertia with “too many cooks in the kitchen, too much procedure and not enough content.” However, he said, “To be fair, I don’t know if anyone envisioned an oil spill or disaster of this magnitude.” As with Katrina, there’s plenty of media attention, but little action. He says: “We were the company that got put on the front page of the New York Times after Katrina. We were photo of the year of WNBC.” But he said the publicity didn’t do them much good. He sympathizes most with the fisherman who are in the strange position of having to work for BP, the company behind the accident, on the cleanup. Holt notes that if they lose their mortgaged fishing boats, they’ll lose their mort-

gaged homes. “It happened to a lot of them after Katrina.”
NEW ORLEANS CUISINE HIT
Politically-active businessman and philanthropist John Georges, whose Georges Enterprises is based in Elmwood, Louisiana, echoed a similar combination of dread, but also pragmatism and resilience. “We’ve experienced tragedy before in New Orleans,” he told TNH, speaking from Greece. He added: “So we all react by going through the grieving cycle quickly.” Georges, who made unsuccessful bids for Governor of Louisiana in 2007 and for Mayor of New Orleans in 2010, considers himself lucky for getting out of the oil service sector in January. He sold his vessels, which specialized in moving oilrigs in deep water. “I sold the fleet but still have the company and facilities, which we are mak-

ing available,” he said. The move was made “just in time,” he added.
Georges Enterprises includes grocery distribution and food services, but its new restaurant concerns may be threatened. Georges recently purchased New Orleans’ historic 105-year-old French/Creole restaurant Galatoire. He’s concerned about the loss of sanctuaries for the singularly tasty fish, scrimp, crabs, lobsters and oysters of the region; Georges noted that some “70 percent of U.S. Seafood comes from the Gulf of Mexico.” He’s tried seafood, such as soft-shelled crabs, from elsewhere, but, Georges says, “It doesn’t taste the same.” As a precautionary measure, Georges’ restaurant bought six months worth of live shrimp in advance. While he said that he was pleased with Vice

President Joe Biden’s support of a Dutch plan for sand barriers for marsh areas, he said he was “very concerned about the use of dispersants” in the cleanup efforts. Georges knows he’s not alone in his seafood worries. He estimates that some 30 Greek Americans own restaurants in the New Orleans area. Many specialize in seafood. Though the future is scary, he said, “We’ve become like warriors,” pointing to loyalty in the region’s food business amongst vendors. His family is involved in the cleanup, as his wife’s family owns cleanup company Oil Mop OMI.

SPONGE DIVERS WORRIED
On March 24, Anastatios “Tasos” Karistinos of Tarpon Springs, Florida, was given the 2010 Florida Folk Heritage Award for his work in the sponge diving tradition. For 35 years, the Evia-born captain and diver has been navigating into Florida’s waters for grueling 15-to-20-day-long sponge harvesting expeditions. Now, he said, speaking to TNH a few days before embarking on another sponge trip: “It’s a scary situation really, because they didn’t stop the oil yet. The oil is pushing into the Panhandle, very

close to us.”
He anticipates that sponge divers will face the limitations that fisherman face, as the oil approaches, but also slowly rises from its 5,000 feet depths. “Sponges filter water,” he explained. “If the oil comes here, it’ll be hard for us.” He too noted that the marine creatures will die if they imbibe the tiny droplets of oil treated with solvents. Sponge divers have only to monitor the Fishery Commission’s computer maps of restricted areas to see that 80 miles from Tarpon Springs has already become off limits. Karistinos believes the damage is underreported. “It is a lot more than they say,” he said. Nonetheless, the name of his ship speaks of optimism in ecologically dark times. The 17-foot Greek style sponge fishing vessel is called Anastasi, or Resurrection. It’s a name it shares with its owner, his son and his grandfather before them.

Note to readers: Do you know any Greek Americans involved in the cleanup of the BP Oil spill? If so, please contact the following email:
Angelike.contis@ekirikas.com

Five Harvard Graduates in One Very Proud Family

Continued from page 1

changing at dizzying speed.” Michael Rigas held from 2006 until 2009 a high government position in Washington, D.C. as an appointee in the Bush administration, as Associate Administrator at the General Services Administration, which is in charge of overseeing all the United States government assets, such as all federal building, vehicles, which the government owns. As his father explained, “as Associate Administrator, he

It is something which defies explanation, and my mind, still, has not been able to believe it.” Harvard is one of the most expensive schools in the world, and Rigas said, “As parents, we helped as much as we could, but the children received scholarships and also took out student loans, as it is common these days with students who pay high tuition.” He also said that, “We could not but help seeing their exceptional achievement; one would borrow any amount of money if their child had the

Boston bank, and Irene is a Pharmacist.
GOOD BREEDING
John Rigas is from the city of Aigion. His wife Zoe is from Sparta from the area of Skoura Barbitsa and a direct descendant of the family of Anagnostopoulos and his brother Barbitsiotis both of whom fought in the war for the Independence of Greece in 1821.
They fought with Kapetan Zacharia, who also trained the renowned General Theodore Kolokotronis. Rigas came to the

cupation of Greece in 1945.” He said, “The years of the occupation of Greece were very difficult. My mother, left all alone had to learn tailoring of clothes to eke out a meager living to support my brother, myself and to raise three orphaned children of her brother who had been killed in the war and there were many nights we all went to bed hungry not having anything to eat.” He also said that, “My father could not send us help during those years. But when in 1945 communications with America opened, my father immediately sent us money regularly as well as clothes and many other things which we needed during the next three years while our paperwork was again being processed for us to migrate to this blessed land of America.
Rigas finished high school in Albany, New York where he and his wife attended St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church. He studied at the Theological School of Holy Cross and later taught in the Boston Public Schools for 30 years. His wife worked as Microbiologist at the Children Hospital in Boston, until the birth of their first child, after which she dedicated her life to being a housewife and raising their children. Since 1976, Rigas has operated the Orthodox Church Supplies of America store, providing the Orthodox Churches with many of their altar needs, but he and wife took care of their children’s too.
Theodore Kalmoukos



Members of the Rigas family who’ve graduated from Harvard. From left are Panagiotis, the Class of 1995; Eleni, from 2004; Lora, 2010 (wife of Michalis); Nicholas, 2010; Michalis, 2005, and Elias, 2008, for whom their father – and father-in-law, said, “We feel very, very proud.”

reported to the Department head, who in turn reported to the President.” Today, Michael is the Political Director of the Republican Party of Massachusetts, and is responsible for helping elect Republicans to office across the state.
Elaine Rigas, who also was graduated from the Kennedy School, was a Counselor to the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, also an appointed position in the Bush administration. After some time in the private sector, she has returned to serve once again in the federal government. How was it all your children went to Harvard and did he program them for it? Rigas said, “No, how could we have planned such a thing? We would have felt grateful if even only one of our children went to Harvard.

opportunity to go there.” What lessons did he and his wife teach them as they were heading toward college age? “We always spoke to them about the importance of education,” and underlined that, this was the first objective for us, after of course, our commitment to our Christ and our most Holy Theotokos. Most of the children graduated from the elite Boston Latin High school where they studied both ancient Greek and Latin. Without saying, education always played a significant role in our life.” He also said that, “The children had strong family ties, always with their prayer and fasting life, something which they keep even today when they are on their own.” The other two Rigas family children are also college graduates. George is an economist working for a

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Detail of a painting from Pompeii depicting Admetus and Alcestis listening to the oracle. National Archaeological Museum, Naples.

Archdiocese’s Education Director Cites Need for Funding

By Theodore Kalmoukos
TNH Staff Writer

ATLANTA - The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese’s Director of Greek Education, Ioannis Efthymiopoulos admitted that, “If the Office of Education does not have the financial wherewithal, we cannot move ahead. You need to spend money to succeed in Education,” during a meeting that was held at the 40th Clergy-Laity Congress on Education. Meanwhile, he said he was not informed of a plan being developed by Hellenic College in Brookline, Mass. to train future teachers, which was announced at the Clergy-Laity Congress by Nick Andriotis, Chairman of the St. Demetrios Cathedral School Board in Astoria, N.Y. Students who complete the program, which is worth 12 college credits, will receive a Teacher’s Certificate for Modern Greek and Greek Culture.

Thirty-six delegates, including both clergy and laity, attended the meeting on Greek Education, although Archbishop Demetrios did not. However Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago attended at his own initiative, stating that “I love and care about Greek Education and the Greek language.” There were no items on the agenda for this meeting, which followed the pattern of the last three Congresses, and seemed more like a discussion that developed on the fly. Dr. Steve Gounardes of New York chaired the committee. Efthymiopoulos was the main speaker, and was joined by five other presenters: Nick Andriotis, Tom Dalas, Rev. Emmanuel Pratsinakis, and Rev. Michael Varvarelis, and Nicholas Kyritsis. Maria Macedon, Director of Education for the Direct Archdiocesan District of New York was also on hand.

Efthymiopoulos spoke at length about the new school books being used to teach Greek in parochial schools, and noted that “it gives me great pleasure to announce that Volume II of



PHOTOS: TNH /THEODORE KALMOUKOS

Dr. Ioannis Efthymiopoulos, Director of the Archdiocese's Office of Greek Education, addresses the Committee on Greek Education.

the book for Level I is being printed as we speak. We hope that you will have it at all the Metropolises by the middle of August.” He also noted that, “Whichever schools have not completed the first book should not move ahead with the second, because it would be a big mistake to do so. This book is structured, has grammatical continuity, and follows a strategy regarding syntax. These are all things we must take into serious consideration.”

He also noted that, “The first book has already been evaluated, but we do not have all the results. Up until now, we have received about 67% of our requested feedback. The results are very encouraging, and the only recurring observation we are getting is for the book to be divided in two. Some 67% of the respondents feel this way, while 72.3% said that the book is “very good, very popular, and has been accepted by the students.” Efthymiopoulos also reported that, “The (teachers) seminar in Cyprus is all set. It

begins on July 13th with 20 teachers from all over the United States participating.”

He pointed out that, “We are trying to establish communication with all the parish communities, but it appears that we have not been all that successful. We are not at fault for this matter. We are trying, but schools think that they know everything and that they can go at it alone. This is a grave mistake.” In addition, Eftymiopoulos pointed out that, “The absence of a detailed program in our planning is a characteristic example of how everyone takes decisions by themselves and does whatever they think is best in their own backyard.” He also cited the fact that “there are a lot of books in use. Using a lot of books is a good thing, but we should first have one basic book.”

Continuing, Efthymiopoulos said that “autonomy does not yield good results. It is a major mistake for each school to go at it alone and decide which books to use. The Archdiocese issued

a curriculum for Kindergarten put together by Mrs. Macedon. The schools ought to adhere to it, as another one will follow.” During another part of his speech, Efthymiopoulos told teachers that, “We are dealing with the situation with realism and pragmatism. We need money to move ahead.” In response to a question by The National Herald regarding how much money the Faith Endowment has contributed for the printing of the books, he answered that “it has given \$220,000 until now, and we are expecting another \$150,000 for the second book.”

As far as the total amount needed to complete the publication of the set, Dr. Efthymiopoulos said, “I believe it will reach \$700,000, including all other expenses - advisers, committees both at Holy Cross and in other locations.” When asked who chose Greek academic Prof. George Babiniotis and his team of researchers to write these books, Efthymiopoulos answered, “Mr. Babiniotis is not

receiving a salary,” and added “Mr. Babiniotis was suggested by the Archdiocese.” When asked who in particular chose Babiniotis, he replied that, “The Archdiocese obviously has a leader.”

As to what kind of corrections his assistant is undertaking on the books, Efthymiopoulos noted that, “The corrections are being undertaken by two groups - a group from the Archdiocese, and a group from Greece,” and that he was involved as well. Responding to a question about how many parish communities in the Archdiocese do not operate Greek Afternoon Schools, he said they were “quite a few.” He also pointed out that “up until now, we have received 325 responses to various questionnaires we have sent out. There are a remaining 150 communities that I assume do not have Greek schools,” while adding that, “There are small schools in areas that open and close according to different circumstances. They may not have enough teachers, or sometimes

students.” About the issue of teachers dispatched from Greece, he said that the law was amended and specialty teachers who do not have a full schedule, as well as other teachers who do not have a full program in their subject area are being recalled.

Andriotis told Efthymiopoulos that “the fact that you are here attending this meeting of the 30-32 some odd people gathered here shows precisely how interested you are in Greek Education,” and added that, “If more people shared your interest we would have had better results.” He encouraged Efthymiopoulos to, “Not be afraid to dream and set goals.” He also said “Greek Education was always the forgotten child, and continues to be even today, but we await something better and will continue to do so. The Archdiocese always devoted the smallest portion of its budget to Greek Education. I wonder why?”

Andriotis added that, “I cannot believe that our leaders - and I go as high up as Constantinople - would work against us. I will note something that pleased me, and something that angered me. The Chief Secretary of the Ecumenical Patriarchate spoke some time ago at the Holy Cross Theological School in Boston and didn’t pull any punches. He said ‘I do not maintain that our services in America need to be done exclusively in the Greek language. I simply do not understand how a priest from the Archdiocese of America is unable to officiate services in both languages. I do not understand how a college level institution cannot manage to teach a language to students who will be there for at least four years.’ “

Andriotis noted “after four years at St. Demetrios Greek American School, our students not only speak Greek, but they can sing in Greek, put on plays, and chant ecclesiastical hymns in Greek.” He asked himself if, “We went wrong somewhere.”

Archdiocese Asks Parishioners to Dig Deeper to Support the Church

Continued from page 1

the United States too, of course, and even the church has recognized it. During his opening address to the 40th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress, Archbishop Demetrios admitted for the first time that, “We were directly confronted with the threat of dramatically diminishing or even suspending vital aspects of our national ministries as a Greek Orthodox Church.” He said that was avoided “due to God’s Providence and the astonishing determination and creativity of our faithful, clergy and laity.” Archbishop Demetrios touched on three negative events that cast a shadow over the Archdiocese: the economic crisis that has been affecting the U.S. since 2008. In fact, he noted that the onset of this crisis occurred shortly after the last Clergy-Laity Congress, and “had an immediate impact on our Parishes, Metropolises, National Organizations and the whole Archdiocese in many ways.”

In 2007, the Archdiocese had a surplus of \$4,370,607 before

COME AND SEE

The theme of this year’s Clergy-Laity Congress, which was held at the Marriot Marquis, was Gather My People to My Home –Come and See. After the delivery of the keynote address by Archbishop Demetrios, the delegates formed eight groups headed by each Metropolitan in which the theme of the archiepiscopal address was further discussed, analyzed and developed. The Archbishop’s speech supposedly set the Congress agenda.

In regards to the Clergy-Laity Congress, the Archbishop spoke about the theme of the previous CLC, noting that it remained the same, but included the additional phrase Come and See. Speaking about this, Archbishop Demetrios said “When the people decide to come to the house of God, what do they see? Or rather whom do they see? Do they see Christ as did Nathaniel when he responded to the invitation of Philip “Come and See?” Do they encounter God in His home? These questions have specific applications in the areas of worship, teaching, pastoral care and phil-



Astoria's St. Demetrios Church community attends the event, including (R-L) School Board Chairman Nick Andriotis, Very Rev. Fr. Apostolos Koufalakis and Parish Council President Costas Eliades.

Liturgy at the Annunciation Cathedral of Atlanta , during which some 800 faithful participated. Archbishop Demetrios of America presided over the Divine Liturgy concelebrating with the Metropolitans of the Holy Eparchial Synod of the Archdiocese. Metropolitan Maximos of Pittsburgh was not able to be present. Archbishop Irenaios of Crete, representative of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to the Congress was present at the Liturgy from the Solea along with Metropolitan Chrysostomos of Patras and Bishops John of Amorion, Savas of Troas, Andonios of Phasiane and Demetrios of Mokissos.

Also concelebrating the Divine Liturgy were The Very Reverend Sevastianos Skordallos, Chief Secretary of the Eparchial Synod, The Very Reverend Archimandrite Grigorios Tatsis; Protopresbyter Fr. George Tsahakis, Chancellor of the Metropolis of Atlanta; Fr. George Alexson, Dean of the Annunciation Cathedral; Fr. Stavros Tschlis, president of the Archdiocesan Presbyters Council; Fr. Theodore Barbas, Chancellor of the Metropolis of Boston; Fr. Luke Uhl, Chancellor of the Metropolis of Denver; archdeacon Panteleimon Papadopoulos, archdeacon Michael Diamond, archdeacon Ryan Rafael Gzikowski and deacon Vasiliou Louros.

Archbishop Demetrios of America spoke to the hundreds of faithful attending the Liturgy both in the Cathedral and the adjoining church hall were the video of the liturgy was transmitted simultaneously. The Archbishop first expressed the gratitude we all should have for God’s blessings and gifts of freedom and creativity, especially on the 4th of July for the gift of liberty we as Americans enjoy. He made

reference to the epistle reading of the day (Romans 12:6-14), which precisely talks about the charisma (grace) given by God. These charismata help the believers grow in the grace of Christ, said the Archbishop, who noted that, “We are the people of great gifts from Christ ... and in that spirit we should offer this 40th Clergy Laity Congress as a hymn of praise to God.” The representative of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Archbishop Irenaios of Crete conveyed the paternal and Patriarchal greetings and blessings of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. Archbishop Irenaios said he feels the closeness and unity between the orthodox faithful here in America and his flock in Crete and all the Orthodox around the world. A Doxology service followed on the occasion of July 4th – Independence Day, and a southern style barbecue was offered for all in

the adjoining facilities of the Cathedral community.

PLENTY OF MEETINGS

Later in the afternoon Archbishop Demetrios was joined by the other hierarchs and Leadership 100 Chairman Constantine Caras for the cutting of the ribbon at the official opening of the Congress Exhibit Hall. Leadership 100 provided the underwriting for the exhibit area, which features numerous booths with vendors from the United States, Canada, Greece, and Cyprus and includes a ministry pavilion which highlights the national ministries of the Archdiocese. Following the opening of the exhibit area, Archbishop Demetrios attended the opening ceremony of the National Philoptochos Conference, which coincides with the Clergy-Laity meetings. Archbishop Irenaios read the Patriarchal Message. Philoptochos President Aphrodite Skeadas pre-

sented the accomplishments of the last two years and thanked among others Bishop Andonios of Phasiane for his leadership and spiritual guidance. Immediately after, Archbishop Demetrios, accompanied again by Archbishop Irenaios, Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta, Metropolitan Chrysostomos of Patras and the other Metropolitans of the Eparchial Synod attended a reception and presentation of the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians, where a choir performed several hymns. The Order of St. Andrew - Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America also held a reception and a informative presentation on the issues concerning the Ecumenical Patriarchate, attended by Archbishop Demetrios, many hierarchs Archons and delegates.

A number of seminars were offered, such as Communicating your Parish to the Local Media, Effective Stewardship, Redefining the Ministry of the Parish Council, How to Approach Tough Topics with Young People, Internet Safety, Addiction and Spirituality, and Interfaith Marriages. Delegates and guests participated from across the country. The registration fee was \$550 per delegate, scaled down to \$100 for retired clergy and retired and widowed Presvyteres. It included all Congress meal functions, admissions into workshops and forums, the registration portfolio and all other Congress related material. The National Philoptochos held its annual conference during the Clergy-Laity. Some 400 delegates participated. The organization celebrates its 79th anniversary this year. The Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Church Musicians also held their assemblies in conjunction with the Congress.



Fr. Dimitrios Moraitis, of the St. Paraskevi Greek Orthodox Church of Long Island with his family.

paying out legal fees and settlements for lawsuits dealing with allegations of sexual molestation against children by priests. Following fees and settlements, the Archdiocese was left with a surplus of \$2,370,782. Meanwhile, the figure for debts and expenses totaling \$7,891,011 at the end of 2006 was reduced by \$5,144,011 in 2007 and reached \$2,747,000. In 2007, the Archdiocese gave \$900,000 to the Ecumenical Patriarchate. On Dec. 31, 2007 the Archdiocese’s annual expenses reached \$19,844,342 before legal fees and the payment of legal settlements. In 2007, the Archdiocese paid out the amount of \$1,455,823 in legal costs and settlements, which was \$705,823 more than the expenses foreseen in the budget.

anthropy.” The Archbishop also explained that worship must serve as a singular opportunity - for both the individual and group - to meet Christ. “Our worship must be a unique opportunity for an encounter with Christ that is both personal and communal. Is it that way? If not, what are the measures to be taken? The teaching activities of our parishes in the forms of catechesis, Sunday School or religious education, must also be centered on Christ and reveal Him. The pastoral care exercised by the parish must be permeated by the healing spirit of Christ, so that those who join the Church they can see Christ the unique healer as did Nathaniel.”

The Clergy-Laity began on Sunday morning, July 4 with a hierarchical and Synodal Divine



Group of Greek clergy, including Archimandrite Eugene Pappas, Bishop of Mokissou Dimitrios, Fr. George Delis, Archimandrite Timothy Bakakos and Fr. Ioannis Kalomas.

Jaharis Tells Church: Speak English, but Remember Greek Lessons

By Theodore Kalmoukos
TNH Staff Writer

ATLANTA - Archdiocesan Council Vice-President Michael Jaharis proposed using the English language for the Divine Liturgy and other worship services even in parishes comprised largely of Greek speaking faithful, during his address at the 40th Clergy-Laity Congress of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, which was being attended by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's representative Archbishop Irenaios of Crete and hundreds of other delegates from the clergy and laity. At the same time, however, he portrayed himself as a staunch supporter of the Greek language and Hellenism. Jaharis, the son of Greek immigrants from the village of Aghia Paraskevi in the Greek island of Lesbos, noted in his speech - which contained clear elements of theological and ecclesiastical knowledge and terminology - that although progress in the Archdiocese and great modern achievements both internally and externally are duly noted, he believes that it is equally important to pose the question what needs to be done to build upon this success, to ensure that nothing will impede the ability to achieve continual success in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. "What must we do in order to continually enable 'the people to gather in our spiritual home?'" he asked.

According to Jaharis, the sole great challenge now facing the Archdiocese is to hold on to the faithful - especially the young people - and keep them linked to and active in the Church. The development and future of the Church in America will depend on the ability to keep young children active in the Church and Community, as well as the ability to welcome those who wish to convert to Greek Orthodoxy, he stressed. Jaharis, along with the other members of the Executive Committee, are appointed to their positions by Archbishop Demetrios. During his address, Jaharis also said he wished to make two proposals for consideration and further discussion based on his own personal thoughts and observations. The first proposal dealt with language, and had to do with how the Church could continue to pass on the message of Christ in today's constantly changing cultural milieu. The second proposal dealt with educational, cultural, and social examination regarding how to better enable young children to participate in Church and bring them closer to Church and their Greek heritage.

WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE

"More than ever, there is an urgent need to support the existing educational Greek Language and Cultural programs at local parishes as well as to promote the development of innovative programs and opportunities that will incorporate new technologies, multimedia resources, and that will partner with educational and cultural institutions. Our children are accustomed to entirely different educational systems (and related challenges or expectations) than those experienced by their grandparents and parents. Yet, it is so important that our young people acquire and understand the beauty of the Greek language and culture – it is the powerful underpinning of their identity as Hellenes, Greek Orthodox Christians and as Americans as of many of these values are embedded in America's foundation as a nation," he said.

"To the best of my knowledge, all of the meetings of Standing Conference of Canonical Bishops of America (SCOBA) have been in English, as well as the recent Episcopal Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Hierarchs of North and Central America.

In proposing this, I am not advocating the eradication of the Greek language from our parishes and parish schools –

quite the contrary. It is of paramount importance to maintain the Greek language and cultural programs and encourage young people to learn the language. Furthermore, the Greek language is aesthetically unsurpassed in terms of acoustic beauty especially as we hear it in various liturgical verses of the Petitions. "However, we must be sensitive to the fact that our services need to be accessible to all of our parishioners and our educational programs must be tailored to fit the needs of young people growing up in this country," he stressed.

And, as to how can the church continue to strengthen and maintain the educational programs for its young people, thereby keeping them active and engaged at the local parish and national level, Jaharis said that the discussion on strengthening the participation of young people in our Church is connected to the development of innovative educational and cultural programs to enhance their understanding of Greek Orthodoxy and connect their identity to Hellenism," he said.

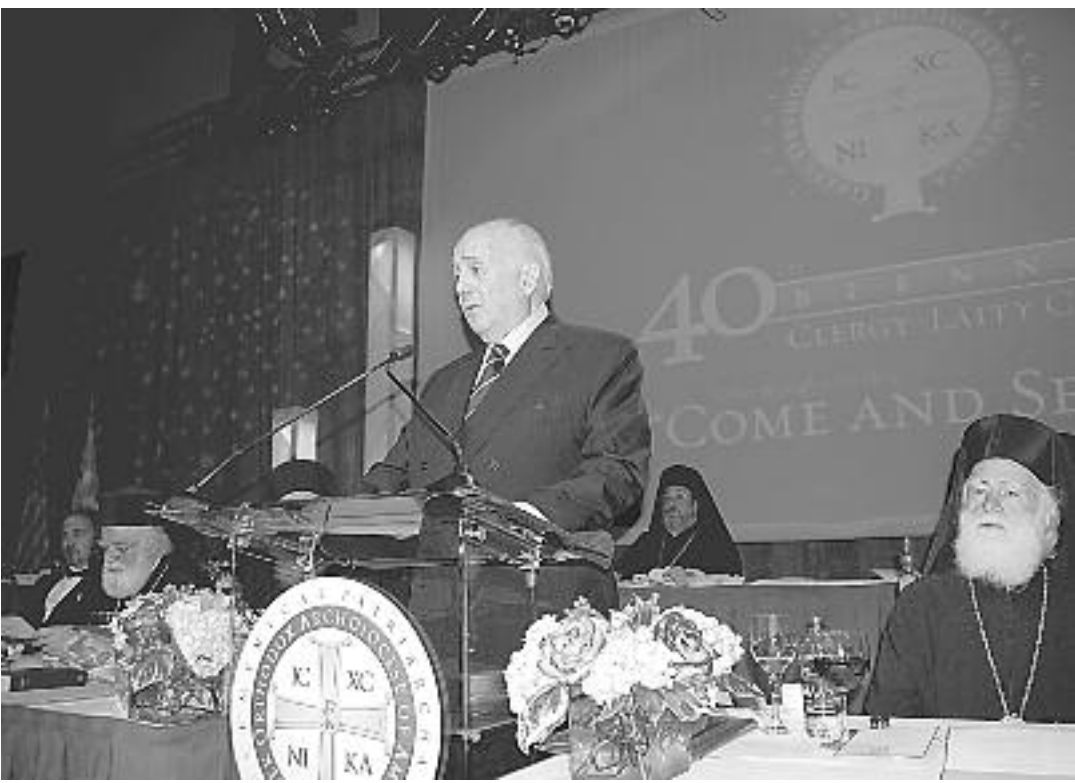
THE PRIORITIES

Regarding his first proposal, Jaharis asked the audience how they thought the Church would better be able to help people pray in their native language. He said that he believes the Archdiocese has now reached a point where it can have a growing number of parishes celebrate holy services in English - including parishes comprised of predominantly Greek-speaking congregations. Jaharis argued that today's reality is that the majority of young parishioners, as well as many older parishioners, together with second and third-generation Greek Americans, along with children from mixed marriages, do not understand the Greek language. He cited the constantly growing and irreversible trend of inter-faith and intercultural marriages, and noted that it is "absolutely imperative to welcome these new couples and their families into the Church, or risk losing them."

Jaharis also noted that there are far more Americans of Greek heritage living in the United States today than what they appear to be, but that they were not listed in the parish registries. He asked the audience to consider how the Church can reach out to these people and welcome them to their Greek Orthodox spiritual Home, while passing on the message of love and peace in Christ, in a manner that will enable them to fully experience and appreciate the beauty of prayer and the faith. According to Jaharis, "If these people cannot understand what is being said in the liturgy, not only will they miss out on a deep and profound spiritual experience, but they will on a greater level lose the foundations and beauty of the faith, culture, and Greek language - a heritage which spans and surpasses two thousand years." He pointed out that the spread of the Eastern Orthodox Faith was achieve through the reliance on various languages aimed at making the Gospel more understandable to new ethnic populations."

THE PATRIARCH SPOKE

Jaharis also cited the example of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, who spoke in English during his visit to the U.S. last October. Jaharis said that the people ought not to forget that all of the Ecumenical Patriarch's public addresses were conducted in English during his visit last fall, because he wanted to communicate his message directly to the faithful, while remarking that this had a very positive effect. But Jaharis also clarified that in making this proposal, he was not advocating the uprooting of the Greek language from parishes or parochial schools, but in fact proposing the opposite. He said it was of exceptional importance to preserve the Greek language and cultural programs, and to encourage youngsters to learn



What the Church needs in the 21st Century in the United States is not just to listen to its youth, but more services in English as well, while not diminishing attention to Greek, Archdiocesan Council Vice-President Michael Jaharis said at the 40th Clergy-Laity Congress in Atlanta.

Greek. Moreover, he said that the Greek language is aesthetically unsurpassed in regards to its beauty, especially when it is used during supplications and other verses in the divine liturgy. Still, he stressed that, "The Church must be sensitive to the fact that services must be open to all parishioners and that educational programs must be formed in order to meet the needs of young children growing up in the U.S." He also emphasized that now more than ever there was a pressing need to support the already existing Greek language and culture educational programs operating in local parishes, and added that as a founding member of Leadership 100 and Faith: An Endowment for Orthodoxy and Hellenism, he could personally

assure the audience that it was this very need to support educational programs for young children that served as the impetus for the establishment of these kinds of endowments. Elsewhere in his address, he noted that due to the unfortunate economic crisis affecting Greece at the present time and the bleak outlook for the country's financial future, there is a possibility that it might not be able to continue providing financial support to the Ecumenical Patriarchate. He also referred to the unprecedented growth of the Russian Orthodox Church the great financial contribution it receives. Here in the U.S., he said, Greek Orthodox faithful have been blessed to be able to support themselves and make a significant contribution

to the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Nevertheless, he argued that the future of the Church in America depends on its ability to support itself and welcome new members to the faith. He noted that the path that will be chose will undoubtedly define the future of the Greek Orthodox Church, not only in America, but worldwide.

IN PRAISE OF DEMETRIOS

Jaharis also spoke highly of Archbishop Demetrios, noting that over the past decade of his service as Archbishop, he has inspired and unified the Church with remarkable ingenuity and passed on his ecumenical philosophy "to serve the Church with the greatest possible respect, pride, and Christian love." He also called this Congress was unique because it celebrates two



An attentive audience at the plenary session of the National Philoptochos on Monday, July 5. As usual, the philanthropic work of the Church drew interested and enthusiastic crowds.

Among the achievement of the last 10 years he said were:

- The change in the structure of the Archdiocesan Council through its active committee work has enabled more creative thought and action moving information more rapidly from the national committees to the Metropolis and Parishes. For the first time there are subcommittees within the Council who work year-round on a local level to address various issues.
- The active work of such Council committees, especially in the areas of Finance and Administration has provided new and innovative methods of helping to structure our Church in growth and expansion. He said the council's size should be limited though
- The Archbishop and the Holy Eparchial Synod have conducted their work in a productively peaceful and stable collaboration over the past 10 years and we now look forward to a new beginning of growth and expansion of our Ministries at all levels of our Archdiocese.
- Over the past several years we have restructured our National Ministries Commitment system in order to establish a more equitable method of funding the National Church. This

new allocation method has successfully enabled our Archdiocese to stabilize its finances and build a solid foundation for future growth of the church.

- The most important part of our new allocation system has been the participation and the empowerment of the committees at the Metropolis level. In developing continued dialogue, communication and participation of the local Metropolis committees, there is a better understanding of our Archdiocese throughout the country.
- The theme of this congress "Gather My People to My Home – Come and See" directs us to the continued strength and growth of our Church. Our growth and strength as a church is contingent upon our working together from Parishioner to Parish from Metropolis to Archdiocese. Working collectively is the only way we will continue to build upon the foundation that has been given to us by those who have labored before us. The parishes, under the leadership of our Clergy and Laity, have done an exceptional job of being effective at a local level (especially through the financial crisis of the past two years); however, there is still a need for parishes to be more engaged at the Metropolis and Archdiocese.

anniversaries. The Independence of the United States and the celebration of the 10th anniversary of Archbishop Demetrios' tenure as spiritual leader of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. Throughout the last decade, His Eminence has motivated and united us with his extraordinary intellect and ecumenical philosophy to serve the Church with the deepest sense of respect, pride, and Christian love. His progressive foresight and vision coupled with his scholarly approach have created, enabled and strengthened the promotion of the mission and ministries of the Greek Orthodox Church and built bridges of new opportunities for all the members of our Orthodox faith in America and around the world," Jaharis said.

Over the last 10 years, Archbishop Demetrios has been awarded numerous honorary degrees of the highest distinction from institutions including the University of Notre Dame, Fordham University, the Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki, Fairfield University, Loyola Marymount University (Los Angeles) and many more – and he has also been inducted to Academy of Athens. (Many of these institutions are Catholic Universities which says a lot about interfaith relations and collaboration, Jaharis said.) Fordham University now has an Orthodox Studies Program, the first of its kind in the United States. At universities and cultural institutions, there is a revival of interest in Byzantine Studies where as it has surpassed other subfields of Medieval Studies in terms of growth. Byzantine Studies departments are appearing and growing at many universities across the country and museums – for example, institutions such as the Louvre Museum and many others are now preparing to inaugurate Byzantine galleries, he said.

"So, while we laud the progress of the Archdiocese and how it relates to many great contemporary developments internally and externally, I believe it is equally important to address the question of 'What needs to be done to maintain and build upon this success to ensure the nothing erodes the possibility for continued success of the Greek Orthodox Church of America?'" What do we need to do to continue to "gather people to our spiritual home?"

"This year was filled with unprecedented progress in terms of national and international issues connected to the Church. For example, two of the most well respected television news programs (Charlie Rose and 60 Minutes) aired interviews with His All Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and the Wall Street Journal published an Op-Ed piece by His All Holiness during his visit," Jaharis added.

"In the face of the significant progress we have made over the last 10 years, I believe we find ourselves at one of the most important crossroads since the Archdiocese's incorporation in America in 1921. As we all know, the Patriarchate continues to face an ever increasing set of challenges of human rights and tolerance issues in Turkey and unfortunately, Greece, given its current financial crisis and dismal economic outlook may be challenged in terms of its ability to financially sustain and maintain its current level of support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Further, the Russian Orthodox Church is growing with unprecedented speed and financial support.

Here in America, we are blessed to find ourselves in a stable position to support ourselves and also offer significant support to the Patriarchate; however, our future success lies in our ability to maintain our faithful and welcome newcomers to our faith. The path we choose will undoubtedly determine the future of the Greek Orthodox Church not only in America but will also have tremendous impact worldwide.

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ΕΘΝΙΚΟΣ ΚΗΡΥΞ

Panos Stavrianidis: A True Greek Fighter For Family and Culture

Continued from page 1

the secret of their success with the general audience.” Stavrianidis’ career as a successful businessman and his entrepreneurial spirit definitely serve as a model example. Part of this success is attributed to the fact that Stavrianidis saw the economic crisis that has hit the U.S. economy over the past four years as an opportunity. Instead of following the general trend and laying off employees, limiting his financial activities, and bearing down for the difficult days that lie ahead, he took a courageous leap, doubling the retail space in his jewelry store. Following a complete renovation, he is preparing the opening ceremony for Venus Jewelers, located in the Rutgers Plaza Shopping Center at 1024 Easton Ave., Somerset, N.J. this coming September. This gem located at the heart of the Greek American Community of Piscataway, N.J. is a family owned business that encompasses the legacy of four generations.

According to Stavrianidis, despite his university studies and his initial intent on pursuing a career in academia, circumstances led him to follow in his family’s footsteps and work in the field of jewelry and the magical world of precious metals and stones.

“It’s not just an ordinary line of work. For me, it’s a love affair and a passion for jewelry and the art of jewelry design. You need know-how to design a piece of jewelry, as well as technique and imagination to join precious metals – platinum, gold, and silver – together with gemstones. This is an important art that is inexhaustible. We have a tradition of four generations to uphold at Venus Jewelers, and so although I set out to do other things, I was drawn back to the world of jewelry as if by fate. Together with my university studies, I enrolled at the Gemological Institute of America and received my degree in this specialty. Since then, I have attended countless seminars and lectures on subjects related to my profession, to the point that I too have become a much sought after speaker for these types of forums. Venus began in Greece during my grandfather’s day, and my father continued the tradition here in America. This year we are marking 31 years of service in the same location here in New Jersey. This is a family business, and thanks to the great assistance from my sister and quality employees most of whom have been with us for over twenty years, we have managed to do more than our fair share to expand this business” he noted.

Stavrianidis said that his customers are both Greek and non-Greek alike. “We work a lot with diamonds and gemstones. Couples coming into our store today are pretty well informed and know what they are looking for, partially because of the Internet. My associates and I make various presentations on jewelry at professional and local organizations. The presentations are historical and educational in nature, and focus on the role that various figures and events in history played in the advancement of jewelry,” he explained.

He also pointed out that his staff is excellently trained to fully serve customers’ needs, and that his technicians always work under his close supervision and guidance. “I have even made my own completely unique collection using the alias Peter Samson. These genuine pieces are on display exclusively at our store. We are members of the American Gem Society, which protects customers by only accepting businesses that adhere to the highest professional standards and have a proven track record,” he said.

THE STAVRIANIDIS FAMILY

Panos Stavrianidis was born in Athens during the 1960’s and relocated to Astoria, N.Y. together with his parents George and Eleni, and his sister Dorothy. In time, his late father George opened his own jewelry store, while also involving himself in community affairs and helping to establish the Pontian Society of New York Komninoi. “When I came to America with my family in the 60’s, I was still only a child and I innocently believed that it was only a temporary situation, and that we would be heading back to Greece in a few years time. Of course, like the old saying goes “there is nothing more permanent than the temporary,” and several decades later we have without a doubt joined the ranks of the Greeks of the Diaspora, who are known in the Pontian dialect as Transhellenes, or “Greeks 30 times over,” said Stavrianidis, who attended Queens College following his graduation from Bryant High School in Astoria. He went on to complete his graduate work at Baruch College, earning a Master’s degree in Economics. It was then that he was called

to do his mandatory service in the U.S. army, as the draft was still in effect. The U.S. was fighting in Vietnam at the time, and Stavrianidis was the only male child in his family. “Lots of people my age managed to avoid doing their military service by relying on all sorts of tricks. Some people pretended they were sick, others acted as if they did not speak English. For me, my code of ethics and respect for this country did not allow me to adopt these tactics, and so I did my service like every other law-abiding citizen. When I returned, I saw that the climate in the Greek American Community had changed due to the political situation back home in Greece and the coup d’état that the junta had conducted. Without joining any particular political party, I joined the student movement against the dictatorship,” he said, while noting that this played a key role in his involvement with community affairs and the struggle of the Greek American Community on behalf of Hellenic national issues.

When asked to cite his biggest accomplishment, without the slightest hesitation or second thought Stavrianidis says, “It’s definitely my family. My wife Maggie Konstantinidis and our three boys George, Jason, and Constantine are the most valuable things I have in life. I started my family somewhat later in life because I was very busy with my involvement in community affairs, you see, I could not settle down. However, I made the big decision during the second global conference of Pontian Hellenism taking place in Thessaloniki, where I met my wife. She had just graduated law school and was helping to organize the conference. We felt a mutual attraction, and not long after – just two weeks later – we were engaged at the Church of Panagia Soumela in Vermio. By the third week, the mayor of Kalamaria Thrasyvoulos Lazaridis had married us. Eight months later, Bishop Philotheos of Meloa officiated the religious ceremony in New Jersey.”

When asked if he believes in the old saying that behind every great man there is a great



Top: A family photo of the Stavrianidis family. (L-R) are George, Maggie, Constantine, Panos, and Jason Stavrianidis. Below: Another family photo of the Stavrianidis’. (L-R) Jason, Maggie, Constantine, Panos, and George Stavrianidis.



everything to them. I also feel a special love for my in-laws in Greece Costas and Nora Konstantinidis, as well as for all our close friends and koumbaroi, whom I consider an inextricable and invaluable part of my life,” Panos Stavrianidis added.

One of Stavrianidis’ passions is education. “I adhere to the tenet of the Socratic school ‘I am always learning as I grow

out questionnaires to various representative parish communities of the Metropolis of New Jersey, where there are first, second, and third generations Greeks. Despite some remarkable exceptions, the fourth generation has lost its bond with Hellenism,” he said. When asked if he is optimistic about the future of the Greek American Community, Stavrianidis replied that he is

portant role,” he stated.

THE CHURCH’S ROLE

Regarding the role of the Church, Stavriiadis said that, “Here in America, the role of the Church is religious, social, and ethnic. Church is the central gathering place for Hellenism, as well as for people who have embraced Hellenism and Orthodoxy by extension. Success will depend on the priest and the

the Greek Diaspora, the Greek Genocide in Asia Minor, and other related topic that I am knowledgeable in. Often times, it is with great sadness and anger that I see faithful within the ranks of our Church who do not comprehend the historic and religious significance of the Patriarchate of Constantinople and the all important role of Patriarch Bartholomew, who is one of the brightest figures on the planet. I think that a part of my mission in my interaction with the Greek American Community and as an Archon of the Patriarchate is to enlighten those who have not had the opportunity to learn about such important issues.”

When asked about the role of local societies and umbrella federations in preserving the Greek language and cultivating the Greek conscience, he answered that “as you know, during my forty years of involvement in community affairs, I have served in many posts and have spent thousands of hours – along with many other esteemed compatriots in the Community – working for the betterment of the Greek American Community and the advancement of our national issues, including the restitution of past wrongs. I don’t regret this ‘investment’ for even a second. However, as a pragmatist my many years of experience and the academic proof from the dissertation that I am working on tell me that these societies will one day fade away as well. I believe that those of us coming from first generation Greek Americans are now the last generation that will keep these societies alive for a few years longer.”

THE PONTIAN QUESTION

Discussing the issue of the international recognition of the Pontian Genocide, Stavriiadis said that, “During my time as President of the Pan-Pontian Federation of USA and Canada we received the first set of recognitions from various cities and states across America. This occurred initially in the states of New York and New Jersey, and over time the number of cities and states that recognized the genocide grew to around 14. Now we must move on to the next stage and follow



Top: Panos Stavrianidis, President of the Greek American Chamber of Commerce for Central New Jersey is seen at the podium announcing the start of a lecture series entitled Success is Not An Accident - Success is a Habit. Right: Stavrianidis knows how to work a crowd as well, and is a popular figure at business gatherings where he has a lot associates and admirers.



woman, Stavrianidis responded, “Maggie has reached significant success in her career. She holds an administrative position in the company she works for and stands by me as a wife, a mother to our children, and also offers invaluable service to our parish as a Sunday school teacher.” Maggie Stavrianidis is a well known figure in the Greek American Community not only due to her involvement with community affairs in New Jersey and service at the St. George Sunday School in Piscataway, but also due to her active involvement in the job fairs held by the Cyprus – U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Greek American Chamber of Commerce in New Jersey, and other organizations. She is an expert in human resources administration, and usually the keynote speaker at these functions and tries to advise the youth on how to prepare their resumes and improve their interviewing skills.

“My father George (he passed away two years ago) and mother Eleni raised me and my sister Dora – who has started a wonderful family of her own – in keeping with all the Greek Pontian traditions, and we owe

older.’ I am constantly surrounded by books, educational materials, or glued to the Internet where I find information for my job, the dissertation that I am working on, or anything else that has to do with education,” he said.

HITTING THE BOOKS

Stavrianidis has been working on a doctoral dissertation in the field of political sociology for some years now in cooperation with Panteion University in Athens, Greece. The research is based on the Greek American Community and is entitled The Intergenerational Inclusion of Greeks of the USA in American Society and Differentiation in Their Social and Political Behavior.

“This research is being conducted with strictly scientific criteria. Although my life experiences with the Greek American Community have been intense and I could proceed with this dissertation purely based on theory, when you are speaking to an academic audience you need to present the findings and data that serve as the basis for your conclusions. I saw this dissertation as both a challenge and an opportunity. Right now, I am at the point where I am sending

optimistic by nature, but noted that reality sometimes checks optimism and has a somewhat bumpy landing in store for those with highflying hopes.

Regarding the future of the Greek language, he noted that, “I have an incurable passion for the Greek language. Just imagine that when I visit Greece in the summer I don’t even say one word in English. It has gotten to the point that people think I’m lying to them when I tell them that I am a Greek of the Diaspora. My three sons attend Greek Afternoon School at our parish, we speak as much Greek to them as we can when we are at home, and we send them to Greece in the summers for some ‘extra’ practice. However, it pains me to say that our language is fatefully following the path of assimilation and will be faced with disappearance in one or two generations at the most. On the other hand, I am very optimistic that we can save our Greek conscience through measures that we can adopt in a timely fashion. Church is going to play the largest role. In addition, universities centers of Modern Greek and Classical Greek Studies can also play a very im-

bishops who are leading our parish communities. Here in the Metropolis of New Jersey, which I belong to, I have been feeling ‘secure’ for several years now because Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey – a hierarch that is particularly Greek-minded and well versed in the Greek language – is at the helm. Due to the fact that he is fairly young, our future is secure.”

Stavriiadis also expressed his admiration for Archbishop Demetrios of America, noting, “I have never seen a person with His Eminence’s age display such energy. He is a truly learned man, whose knowledge, words, genuine and unique sense of humor touch us each time we come into contact with him and ‘uplift’ us spiritually.” Speaking about the role of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Stavriiadis said, “he is giving his own personal battle, but he is also fighting for all of us. If we want to call ourselves Greeks and Orthodox Christians, it is not possible for us not to give our complete support to the Patriarch and the Patriarchate. As you know, I visit many parishes that invite me to speak about

the Armenians’ example so we can make a dynamic entry into Congress, both in the House and the Senate. The issue of the genocide is not a matter that concerns only the Greek of Pontus. It is a matter for all of Hellenism, and we half to convince Greek Americans and the Greek homeland about this,” he said. Stavrianidis also gave a vote of confidence to the new leaders at the Pan-Pontian Federation. “There are signs that make us more hopeful because Dimitris Molohides has assumed the presidency, and he has the knowledge, the vision, and the hunger to do something different.”

He also noted that in recent years a new dynamic has been formed after the purchase of Pontian land in the United States. “A dream spanning several generations for the establishment of a sacred monastery of Panagia Soumela has now materialized, and we now have our own place of worship in West Milford, N.J. along with the basic substructure that will allow the Holy Institution of Panagia Soumela Pontion Amerikis & Canada to go on an achieve great things,” he said. Just as he has.



Top: Seen here in this photo are Panos Stavrianidis, center, his sister Dora, fourth from left, and their associates at Venus Jewelers. Right: Panos Stavrianidis is a passionate speaker as well, whether it’s about business, his family, or his heritage, of which he is immensely proud.



GREEK GASTRONOMY

On Patmos, the Festival is about Food, but There’s No Food Like It

By Georgia Kofinas
Special to The National Herald

Attending food festivals is one of the most enjoyable aspects of being a food writer and I rarely pass up any opportunity to participate in these events. I was invited for a second year to participate in the Festival of Taste and Tradition held every summer on the island of Patmos, so I was feeling quite smug on that June afternoon as the boat sailed out of the harbor of Piraeus on a seven-hour voyage southeast to the island. One of the most beautiful and serene islands of the Dodecanese, Patmos, ecclesiastically under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, is blessed with hosting the cave where St. John the Theologian wrote the Book of Revelation. There are also a number of monasteries on the island, but the most noted is the fortress-style Monastery of St. John the Theologian, founded in 1088 AD by St. Christodoulos the Blessed, who had been granted the whole island of Patmos with a decree by the Emperor of Byzantium, Alexis I Komninos. The sanctity of the various pilgrimages pervades the island and for this reason there is a long-standing tradition of restricting night clubs and loud music to certain locations with limited hours of operation. This year I was traveling with my friend and mentor, food writer Vicki Smyrli, who would also be with me on the panel of judges for the cooking competition. On the same boat with us was the team from the Greek NET television morning show Menoume Ellada (We live in Greece) who would cover the event. Despite our arrival at 2:00 in the morning, we were cordially greeted by a welcome team headed by Smaragda Mouliati, a key organizer of the event, who took us to our hotel overlooking one of the picturesque little coves near the harbor.

Refusing to put up with a generic touristy breakfast for a second day, Vicki and I sought out a breakfast with a more traditional twist to it. We discovered that the small cafe bar, Igloo, where we were treated to drinks the night before also serves breakfast, offering a delectable fresh soft cheese known as xinomizithra eaten with regional whole wheat rusks and thyme-scented honey or homemade marmalade. The owner, Theologos Gryllis, even grows his own organic vegetables and fruit for his accompanying appetizers to drinks. He surprised us with an unusual species of figs, mavrosyka, which were brought to the island from Egypt generations ago. They are more elongated and darker than the usual Greek figs and simply served with cheese, they make a great appetizer.

The festival, also dedicated to the past generations of fishermen and boatmen who served the island's needs, was held under the auspices of the Holy Monastery of Patmos, the self-governing Prefecture of the Dodecanese Islands, the Tourist Committee of the Island of Patmos, and the Union of Patmos Hoteliers. Sponsors providing services included Patmos Aktis Suites and Spa, Blue Star Ferries, Dodekanisos Sea Ways, Hotel

Romaïos and Groikos Hotel, Christodoulos Pastry Shop, Michas Kava and Aloni Restaurant. The local newspaper, Patmos Times (Patmiaka Chronika,) owned by our hostess Smaragda Mouliati, and the local Union of Hoteliers was responsible for organizing the festival. Participating organizations in the events included local auxiliaries for the promotion and preservation of Patmos, the local youth committee and delegates from the neighboring islands of Leros, Agathonisi, Kalymnos, Leipsoi and Astypalaia.

BRING ON THE FOOD

There were four categories of food entries for the competition-meats, fish and seafood, oil dishes (ladera) and sweets. Besides the food displayed for the competition, neighboring islands also brought their traditional products for everyone to taste. There was an array of soft, semi-hard and hard cheeses, some even preserved in wine sediment. Sweets included syrupy pastries, cakes, small confections, liqueurs, spoon sweets and marmalades. Some of the local bakeries and pastry shops as well as a few taverns set up tables with their specialties thereby providing enough food for everyone attending the event. The Monastery of St. John the Theologian also prepared numerous trays of delicious food from their monastery kitchen. The venue was strategically positioned on the wharf so that the spectacular crimson sunset behind the stage would reward the hour and a half tedious task of tasting and evaluating some 160 entries. Not to mention the large crowd of guests eager to have their own go of trying out the competing dishes. With fork and knife in hand the four judges set off to evaluate the dishes. Vicki teamed with Renia Tsitsimbikou from the television program to judge the ladera and the fish and seafood entries. I teamed up with Sotiris Zacharias, a chef and teacher at the chef's school in Rhodes, to evaluate the meat dishes and sweets. Tasting food for competitions requires a bit of training and experience since it is not the same as sitting down to an enjoyable relaxing meal with only two or three dishes. While sharp taste buds are essential to find the distinguishing feature of each dish, knowledge of the basics of traditional Greek cuisine is just as important. The entries were judged according to presentation (appearance,) taste, and adherence to tradition.

The dishes were indeed superb with each category revealing a rich delegation of regional cuisines. The meat entries included an array of stuffed vegetables, dolmades, rabbit and onion stews (stifado,) quite a favorite with the islanders; baked lamb and potatoes with a lemon sauce, a few poultry dishes and, of course, the island's favorite meat—goat! In fact, the fist prize winner from Patmos had baked a whole baby goat in a tangy lemon sauce in oil paper for hours. Second prize went to a delicious meat and rice-stuffed zucchini dish with avgolemono sauce, and third prize was taken by an entry of tiny dolmades tediously wrapped with an aromatic ground beef, rice and herb stuff-



Top: The beautiful island of Patmos. Right: The famous Pougia of Patmos.

ing. The fish and seafood category had some enticing representations of traditional island cuisine. First prize went to a competitor from the nearby island of Leros. She entered a salted fillet of sea bass preserved in oil and ornamentally presented in a glass jar. Not surprisingly, the second prize was kakavia (fish soup,) a mainstay at these island food fares for it represents the epitome of expertise in knowing which types of fish can be used to impart the finest of flavors to a simple soup. A deliciously succulent octopus stew with onions (htapodi stifado) also from Leros took the third prize.

The simplicity of taste coming from the freshest of vegetables basking in the Aegean sun is what distinguishes the Greek islands' ladera. Eggplants, zucchini, green beans and summer greens set the scene for most of the tomato-based summer vegetable stews, but they can also be the focus of other traditional preparations. The wild-growing caper plant also offers opportunities to pickle both the caper buds and the tender shoots of the plant. In fact, first prize in this category went to a young man from Leros whose pickled caper leaves brought a culinary nod of approval from the judges. A local Patmian lady who usually comes away each year with a number of awards took second prize with her tasty meatless dolmadakia made with the grapevine leaves from her own vineyard. Third prize was handed to a talented young cook from Patmos for his simple but pungent melitzanosalata (eggplant salad).

NOW THE SWEET STUFF

By the time Chef Sotiris and I finished sampling the 34 entries of sweets we concluded that this was not the time to check our glycemic index. One of the most interesting sweets I tasted (but whose presentation lost points) was schinopita, a dark moist cake with a crumbly texture. It was surprisingly flavored with coarsely ground tiny



wild pods that come from a small bush much akin to a wild pistachio tree. Their resin-like aroma lends an earthy nutty taste to the area's traditional cakes and other baked goods. First prize was taken by a regional favorite called pougia (sachets.) These are half-moon shaped pastries stuffed with nuts, sugar and various spices and either fried or baked before being dipped in syrup or simply dusted with confectioner's sugar. Traditional wedding and baptism dipless (fried swirls of thin dough) drizzled with an exceptionally aromatic local honey won second prize, while a young pastry chef from the small island of Astypalaia came in third for his delectable baklava made with fresh butter. Although the formal festivities were over, wining and dining continued for the next two days. The next day Vicki and I hopped onto a fishing boat and sailed over to the tiny island of Hiliomodi, just half an hour away, to watch the filming of a cooking demonstration for Chef Sotiri's television show. The venue was a new fish tavern named Mike & Mike whose co-owner Michael Hatzisavas, a former restaurateur from Connecticut, decided to set up his business here with his partner and take advantage of the local resources. Their fish and seafood supply is restricted to the catch of the day from the island's fishing boats and the two Michaels have their own vegetable garden right next to the tavern. Marrying local fresh ingredients with imagination,

Chef Sotiri and Michael cooked a fabulous fish stew with green beans and potatoes in fresh tomato sauce. For a second dish they boiled a whole octopus, cut it up, dusted it with flour and fried it for a few minutes in olive oil. Sotiri laced the succulent flavor of the octopus with a pungent, but light, wine-garlic sauce making the dish even more divine.

For our last night in Patmos our gracious hosts, Mouliati and husband Kostas, took us to a fine dining restaurant, Benetos, just across the harbor on a charming little inlet. The restaurant, opened in the summer of 1997 is owned and operated by Benetos and Susan Matthaïou who spend some of the year in their second home in Miami, Florida. Chef Benetos prepares classic Mediterranean dishes with a modern flare and fused with a bit of Asian cuisine. They use only the freshest of local fish and their own home-grown vegetables from the garden on the premises.

Our epicurean meal that evening included some eclectic appetizers such as tiny pastry pouches stuffed with spinach and cheese; mushroom and cheese-stuffed zucchini blossoms with a lemon sauce and a vegetable terrine with raisin-balsamic sauce. The main course was a triumvirate of flavors from the crusted pan-seared tuna with wasabi sauce, a seafood risotto with swordfish and poached salmon with ginger sauce on a bead of aromatic rice. Dessert was completely non-conforming

to the typical Mediterranean palate but nonetheless decadent. The divine assortment of sweets included lemon crème brulee, apple crumble, chocolate cheesecake and walnut brownies with their own homemade ice cream. The lucullan feast ended with a shot of refreshing lemon sorbet. It only seems right that I should share with you the recipe for the island's trademark sweet, Pougia. The ingredients are simple, the technique is familiar, and the results are sure to excite your taste buds!

Pougia from Patmos

Makes about 20-24 pieces

- For the pastry:**
- 1 lb. all-purpose flour
 - ¼ cup oil (preferably a light olive oil with a mild flavor)
 - 1 egg yolk slightly beaten
 - ¼ cup water (about)

- For the filling:**
- ½ lb. blanched almonds
 - ½ lb. walnut meats
 - 3 tablespoons toasted bread-crumbs, finely ground
 - ¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg

- For the syrup:**
- 1 lb. sugar
 - 4 cups water
 - 2/3 cup honey

About 1 qt. oil for frying

1. Combine flour and oil in large bowl and mix together with fingers until oil is incorporated. Add egg yolk and enough water to make a medium soft dough. Knead until smooth and let rest while preparing filling.
2. Coarsely chop almonds and walnuts and mix with breadcrumbs and nutmeg.
3. Roll out dough to thickness of about 1/8 (one-eighth) inch and cut into approximately 3-inch diameter circles (use a biscuit cutter or thin-rimmed glass).
4. Place 1 level teaspoon of filling in center of each circle and fold over to create a half moon. Seal edges by dipping fork tongs in water and pressing edges together. Prick pougia in 3-4 places with a toothpick
5. Heat enough oil in a wide frying pan to cover one layer of pougia. When oil is hot, fry pougia one layer at a time until brown on both sides. Lift out of oil with slotted spoon onto a tray lined with paper towels to soak up excess oil.
6. Prepare syrup. Bring ingredients for syrup to a boil, lower heat and simmer for about 5-7 minutes. Dip cooled pougia in hot syrup for about 15 seconds, lift out with a slotted spoon and place in a perforated tray or strainer. Cool before serving.

Variation: Instead of frying pougia, arrange on baking tray and bake in preheated moderate oven for about 20 minutes or until golden. They can also be rolled in powdered sugar instead of being dipped in syrup.

Georgia Kofinas is a food writer, cookbook author and chef instructor at Alpine College, a hotel management and tourism school in Athens, Greece. Her culinary journeys have taken her to many regions of the Eastern Mediterranean and Asia Minor.

Rock of Ageless, Mitropanos Returns to the U.S., Wows New York Crowd

Continued from page 1

kati na xaso to treno (Do Something So I'll Miss the Train), the technicians shone hot white lights on the audience as a cue to sing along.

LOTS OF BACKUP

Mitropanos' vocals were supported by his band of 13; the star sang along, at the start of the show with youngsters Evdokia Kadi (Cyprus' 2008 Eurovision entrant), Evangelia Somarakis and Kostas Triantafylidis. There wasn't an intermission,

GREEK POETRY

Denial

*On the secret sea-shore
white like a pigeon
we thirsted at noon:
but the water was brackish.
On the golden sand
we wrote her name;
but the sea-breeze blew
and the writing vanished.
With what spirit, what heart
what desire and passion
we lived our life: a mistake!
So we changed our life.*

Giorgos Seferis (1900-1971)
Translation by A.E. Stallings

but much of the audience filed out to the lobby for drinks when Mitropanos left the stage after his second appearance, just as singer Margarita Zorbala came onto the stage in a bright red gown with some classic ballads. They returned when Mitropanos took the stage two more times through the end of the two-and-a-half hour plus show. Among his final nine solos were Pes mou pou poullan kardies (Tell Me Where They Sell Hearts). “Amazing,” was a word that Staten Island resident Mike Drosos employed repeatedly, in describing the show afterwards. Like many of the audience members in their 20s or 30s, he credited his father with introducing him to Mitropanos' music. “All his songs are legendary ... they are classics,” he added. The crowd was notable for its mix of ages – all of them often singing in unison with Mitropanos' booming vocal cords. Many of the younger set were genuinely surprised by the performer's seeming agelessness. “I thought his voice has not gotten worse at all. It's actually gotten better.” That's what one fan, Anastasios Kouros, 37, of the Upper West Side, said. He claims to have been listening to Mitropanos since age 2, thanks to his dad. Remy Thanos, of Long Island, said that she grew up listening



PHOTOS: TNH/COSTAS BEJ

Fans lined up early outside the Radio City Music Hall to see Dimitris Mitropanos. Singer Margarita Zorbala (L), renowned in her own right, joined Mitropanos on stage.

(again, courtesy of her father), to Mitropanos' 1960s and 1970s tunes. “It's the most amazing concert in either language I've ever seen,” she said. She was delighted to see “young and old dancing the zeimbekiko and Greek dances in the aisles, whether they were teenagers or old grandmothers and grandfathers.” Her friend Argyri Tsimitkali of Manhattan agreed: “The hairs on your skin just raised as soon as he starts singing. It's just unbelievable.” Calliope Iliopoulos of Brooklyn said of the event: “It was beyond your expectations.” Yiannis Antzoulis of Astoria, noted: “For us Greeks here in the U.S., Mitropanos equals Greece.” The only complaint heard from the crowd leaving was that their singer did not return for an encore. “I'm used to coming to these concerts and seeing encores and without it, it's incomplete,” said young Queens resident Nick Jutis. He added: “Union rules are union rules.”

For more info:
www.globeent.com
Find the TNH's video report of Mitropanos at Radio City Music Hall online (after 1pm July 2) at:
www.thenationalherald.com/video/706

Angelike.contis@ekirikas.com

DEATHS

■ ALEXANIAN, ARMEN

TORONTO, CANADA – The Toronto Star reported that Armen Diran Alexanian passed away peacefully surrounded by his children on July 1. Armen was predeceased by his loving wife of 49 years, Jane; his parents Aris and Mary and his brother Aram. He is survived by his brother, Albert (Nancy); his beloved children, Brian, Janice, Susan (Allistair) McKinnell, Arisa (Steve) Nicholson, Greg (Sarah) Bromley and Linda (Derek) Galbraith; his cherished grandchildren, Tessa, Liam, Arianna, Luke, James, Ethan, Lily and Michael; his sisters-in-law Lida Alexanian, Barb Tytler, Betty (Dan) Watson; his brother-in-law, Walter Anders; and numerous nieces and nephews. Visitation was held at the Erb & Good Family Funeral Home. Funeral services were held at Saints Peter and Paul Greek Orthodox Church. Donations to one of the following charities would be appreciated: Heart & Stroke Foundation, Grand River Regional Cancer Centre, Kiwanis Foundation of Canada (for the Eastern Canada and Caribbean project: Children with HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean), Waterloo Regional Down Syndrome Society.

■ BOLLAS, NICHOLAS

HOUSTON, Texas – The Houston Chronicle reported that Nicholas Bollas passed away on June 30 after a series of illnesses. Nick is survived by his loving wife, Margarita; five children; six grandchildren; two brothers; two sisters; and many other extended family members in Greece. Nick was born on the island of Poros and served several years in the Greek Army. He then immigrated to the United States in 1969 and began living the American dream owning two restaurants by the age of 23. After a dozen years in New York City, Nick decided to switch careers and moved to Texas to work in the shipping industry. Nick met the love of his life in 1992 and they were married shortly afterwards. Nick was extremely proud of his heritage and was very active in the Greek community. Nick's passions included soccer, cooking, and fishing. One of Nick's proudest achievements was becoming a United States citizen in 1987. Nick's ever present smile and chicken and potatoes will be missed by all who knew him. Pallbearers will be Ben Pardo, Jr., Manuel Ramon Pardo, James Kevin Reid, Nick Nicopoulos, Bill Nicopoulos, and Pete Pappas. Visitation was held at Forest Park East Funeral Home and funeral services were held in the Chapel of Forest Park East Funeral Home.

■ FEIL, BESS

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – The Sacramento Bee reported that Bess Anton Feil, 84, passed away peacefully. She was born on May 7, 1926, daughter of Greek immigrants, the late George and Katina Anton, who raised her to work hard and excel in whatever she did. She was a gifted musician with a beautiful voice and played the piano, clarinet and drums. As a teenager, she was a finalist on the "Major Bowles' Amateur Hour" radio show, ultimately losing to another rising star, Merv Griffin. She sang professionally with '40s-era big bands in the area, including Red Ninnis, Kelly Perini and Bill Rase. As The Anton Sisters, she and her sister Penny performed at many Greek cultural events in Sacramento. Bess graduated from Roseville High in 1944 and attended Sacramento City College, where she met her husband, Terry G. Feil. They were married in December 1946, and lived in Sacramento for a few years before moving to the American River bluffs in Fair Oaks, where Bess had lived ever since. She and Terry were entrepreneurs who started a number of successful local businesses, including Medical/Dental Personnel and the Midtown Employment Agency, which Bess opened in 1957 and continued to run until her passing. Bess is survived by her sister and brother-in-law, Penny and Terry Kastanis; her three children, Terry G. (Kathy) Feil Jr., Kathy Feil (Clayton) Masera and Erick (Linda) Feil; and four grandchildren, Sarah, Jason, Alexandria and Katina Feil. A Trisagion prayer service was held at the Nicoletti, Culjis & Herberger Funeral Home. Funeral services were held at the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Sacramento Zoo or SPCA.

■ GOUVALARIS, THOMAS

MANCHESTER, N.H. – The Union Leader reported that Thomas Gouvalaris, 98, passed away peacefully at his home on June 30. He was born December 20, 1911 in Kasime, Greece. He immigrated to the United States with his mother, an American citizen, when he was 8 months old. He was the holder of Merrimack's Boston Post Cane, recognizing him as the oldest resident of the community. He served in

the Pacific Theater in World War II, attaining the rank of staff sergeant. One of his most vivid memories was witnessing the Enola Gay land amid whispers of the plane's top-secret mission. The Enola Gay was on its way to bomb Japan. He settled in Manchester when he married Katherine Metaxopoulos in 1947. He worked for several companies, most notably Waumbec Mills. After retiring he became restless and chose to return to work. He spent 23 years with Alexander's Supermarket and two years with Hannaford Supermarkets. He also owned restaurants in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. He was a communicant of St. George's Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Manchester. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Katherine Gouvalaris; his daughters, Maria White and Ann (Buck) Howe; his grandsons, Matthew Bland and Philip T. Howe; his great-grandson, Aiden Bland; his sister-in-law, Fanny Metaxopoulos; and several nieces and nephews. Memorial donations may be made to the charity of one's choice. The George R. Rivet Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. (www.rivretfuneralhome.com).

■ KALEVAS, VASILIOS

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – The Fayetteville Observer reported that Vasilios Bill Kalevas, 85, passed away on July 2. He was born Feb. 20, 1925 in Stenoma, Greece to the late Constantine Kalevas and Ourania Karathanos Kalevas. He was a member of Velouchi Association, Order of AHEPA and was a Greek Army Veteran of World War II. He was a devoted member of Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church. He is survived by his sons, Dino Kalevas, Greg (Effie) Kalevas and Vic (Zoe) Kalevas; his daughter, Karen Kalevas; his grandchildren, Kristina, Bobby, Patricia, Billy, Sia, Roula and Billy; and his siblings, Dimitrios, Katerina and Eleni. Visitation and funeral services were held at Rogers and Breece Funeral Home. Funeral services were held at the Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church with the Rev. Tom Vlahos officiating. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be sent to Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, 614 Oakridge Ave., Fayetteville, NC 28305. Services entrusted to Rogers and Breece Funeral Home of Fayetteville.

■ KANELOS, EUGENIA

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – The Providence Journal reported that Eugenia Kanelos, 85, passed away peacefully on June 30. She was born in Sparta, Greece, daughter of the late Nicholas and Florence (Dounias) Stevens. Mrs. Kanelos was a graduate of Classical High School and the Edgewood Secretarial School. She was a very active member in Church activities, including PTA and the Philoptochos Society. She was a member of the Cranston League of Women Voters and was a volunteer in the Cranston School System. She was a loving and devoted mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Dr. Peter T. Kanelos and her brother Anthony Stevens. She is survived by her beloved children, Dr. Theodore (Janet) Kanelos and Stella (Peter) Vasiliopoulos; her grandchildren; Dr. Peter (Brigit) Kanelos, Andrea (Michael) Wood, Alexander (Alyssa) Kanelos; six great grandchildren and her brother Peter Stevens. Visitation was held at Woodlawn Funeral Home. Funeral services were held at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Annunciation Church. For online condolences www.WoodlawnGattone.com.

■ KONTOS, GEORGE

BALTIMORE, Md. – The Baltimore Sun reported that George C. Kontos, 81, passed away peacefully on June 29 at Peninsula Regional Medical Center in Salisbury. George was born in Paros, Greece on November 21, 1928. He served in the Greek Air Force, where he was stationed in Biloxi, Mississippi. He worked many years as a marine engineer for the Seafarer's International Union. He was a supportive member of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Baltimore. He is survived by step-children, Mary Frances Werner, Paula (James) and Roger D. Rose; his niece, Christina Figetakis and his nephew, Michael Figetakis. He was preceded in death by his wife of 47 years, Beverly Kontos. Visitation was held at Short Funeral Home and funeral services were held at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church with Reverend Michael Pastrikos officiating. Arrangements are in the care of Short Funeral Home, Delmar. Online condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.shortfh.com.

■ MANOS, GEORGE

NEWARK, N.J. - The Star-Ledger reported that George J. Manos, 86, passed away peacefully on

July 1 at Overlook Hospital. George was born in Jersey City and lived in Cranford since 1978. He owned and operated GM Printing in Jersey City. The valedictorian of his class at William Dickinson High School, Mr. Manos was an Army veteran of World War II. He was a 50-year member of the Free and Accepted Masons, an active 50-year member of AHEPA and a member of the American Legion and the ROMEOs. He was the former president of the parish council at Evangelismos Greek Orthodox Church in Jersey City and a present member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. He was a former Alcohol and Beverages commissioner in Jersey City. He is survived by his beloved wife, Kaliope Manos; his loving sons, Fr. James Manos, and John (Lisa) Manos; his devoted brothers, Peter and Steven; and two beloved granddaughters, Alexandra and Zoe. Visitation was held at Dooley Funeral Home and funeral services were held at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church.

■ NIKITAS, MARGO

CHICAGO, Ill. – The Chicago Tribune reported that Margo Chris Nikitas, 79, passed away peacefully on June 19. Margo's life was dedicated to causes of peace, social justice, and helping the poor. She was preceded in death by her parents, Christos Nikitas and Calliope Tingos; and her brother, Nick. She is survived by her brothers, Jim (Margit) Nikitas and Jerry (Lyn Ward) Nikitas; her nephews, Chris (Carolyn) Nikitas, Dan (Margaret) Nikitas, Aram (Zana) Nikitas, Nick Nikitas; and by her nieces, Kali (Rich) Shelton, Ariana Nikitas, Margot Nikitas and Elia Nikitas. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to your favorite charity in Margo's name. For further information, call: 773-736-3833 or visit her memorial at www.smithcorcoran.com.

■ PAGOULATOS, ATHENA

NEPTUNE, N.J. - The Asbury Park Press reported that Athena Pagoulatos, 75, passed away peacefully on July 1. Mrs. Pagoulatos was born in the Bronx, New York and lived in Ft. Lee and Cranford before moving to Barnegat in 2003. Mrs. Pagoulatos attended the New York Institute of Fashion in New York, was a Realtor Associate with Paige, Paige & Richards of Cranford and later opened and operated Bridals by Athena, a bridal salon in Westfield and Cranford. Athena was kind, gentle and generous. She was a loving mother and grandmother. She lived her life for her family and friends. For this, she was adored and will always be remembered. Mrs. Pagoulatos is survived by her beloved husband of 51 years, Thomas; her daughter, Christina; her son, Thomas Jr.; her granddaughter, Andrea; her grandsons, Christian and Damian; her brother, Charles (Barbara) Varos; her brother-in-law, George (Pauline); and many nieces and nephews. Visitation was held at the Higgins and Bonner Echo Lake Funeral Home. Funeral services were held at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. In lieu of flowers, please make donations in her name to the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Building Fund or to a charity of your choice.

■ PALASKONIS, GEORGIOS

CHICAGO, Ill. – The Chicago Tribune reported that Georgios Palaskonis passed away peacefully. He is survived by his beloved wife, Nikolitsa; his children, Georgia (Konstantinos) Stamatis, Mary and Dimitra Palaskonis; his grandsons, Panagiotis and Georgios Stamatis; and his siblings in Greece, Konstantinos (Eleni) and Athanasios (Maria) Palaskonis. Visitation was held at the Smith-Corcoran Funeral Home and funeral services were held at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church. Arrangements by John G. Adinamis, Funeral Directors, LTD. 773-736-3833.

■ PAPAHRONIS, MARIA

KANSAS CITY, Missouri -The Kansas City Star reported that Maria Papahronis, 80, passed away peacefully on June 28. Maria was born in Kansas City, where she attended the University of Missouri at Kansas City and the Academy of Saint Basil in Garrison, New York, where she received her degree for teaching the Greek language. An active member of the Assumption Ladies Philoptochos Society, philanthropic group and St. John the Almsgiver--Cooking for the Needy, she was devoted to volunteering her time and cooking skills to help those in need. Funeral services were held at the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church. She is survived by her husband of 56 years, Basil; her daughter, Frosene (John) Sacco; her son Michael (Ingrid); her grandchildren, Mikala Eleni and Trifon Michael Papahronis; and her sister Nicoletta Economy.

Donations to the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church Building Fund, 12001 Wornall Rd., KC, MO. 64145 are kindly requested.

■ PORTOULAS, EVANGELINE

ST.PETERSBURG, FL. – The St. Petersburg Times reported that Evangeline Portoulas, 89, passed away peacefully on June 29. She was born in North Braddock, Pennsylvania on September 23, 1920. She was a member of St. George Greek Orthodox Church, a member of the St. George Philoptochos Society and also in the choir for many years and a very active church member. Evangeline was predeceased by her husband, who shared in a loving marriage of 62 years, George A. Portoulas and her sister, Kaye. A Greek Orthodox funeral service was held at St. George Greek Orthodox Church. Visitation was held at the Grace Memorial Funeral Home. For further information, visit: gracefuneralhome-hudson.com.

■ SARKOS, ZAFEROULA

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. – The Press of Atlantic City reported that Zaferoula Sarkos, 102, passed away at Shore Memorial Hospital after a brief illness. She was born in Itea, Greece in 1907. Her mother passed away when she was a teenager and she became a surrogate mother for her three younger siblings. In 1927 she married Peter Sarkos, who was already a United States citizen and a veteran of WWI, and she eventually immigrated to the United States. Although neither she nor her husband had a formal education, she taught herself how to read and write English by using her sons' grammar school textbooks. She loved to cook, especially Greek cuisine, pastry and cookies. She was predeceased by her husband in 1972. She is survived by her children, John (Mary), George (Kathy), Lew (Marika) and Gus (Phyllis); her beloved grandchildren, Suzie, Marie (Tony), Johnny, Beth, George (Janet), Peter (Kym), Kate, Chrysso (Mike), Sophia (Bob), Rebecca, Peter, and Michele (John), Peter (Samantha), Jim (Michele) and Christa; and her beloved great grandchildren Joe, Caroline, Alex, Zach, Rebecca, Sarah, Claudia, Charlotte, Nick, Ryan, Jack, Jake, Zoe, Stephanos, Elias, Athanasios, Ariana, and Michael. Viewing was held at the George H. Wimberg Funeral Home and funeral services were held at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Atlantic City or Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Egg Harbor Township.

■ THEROS, STEVE

ST. PAUL, Minn. – The Pioneer Press reported that Steve Theros, 45, passed away suddenly on June 21. He is preceded in death by his mother, Maria H. Theros. Steve is survived by his father, Jimmy S. Theros; sisters, Tiki (Bill) Spell and Elena Theros; niece Nichole Spell; nephew Chipper Spell and many dear extended family members and loyal friends. All who knew him loved him and his unique sense of humor. Steve was born and raised in St. Paul and graduated from Highland Park High school and the University of Colorado, Boulder with a degree in Biomedical Engineering. Although he was a quiet intellectual, his true passion was enjoying the great outdoors. He grew up spending as much time as possible boating and water skiing the St. Croix River. For the last 20 years, his true love has been the Rocky Mountains. This led him to Vail, Colorado where he tested his athletic gifts with avid skiing and biking. He was also an amazing cook. Steve's greatest attribute was his deeply sensitive soul and love for his family and friends. Visitation was held at the Willwerscheid Funeral Home and funeral services were held at St. George Greek Orthodox Church. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to St. George Greek Orthodox Church in St. Paul or Eagle Valley Humane Society; P.O. Box 4105, Eagle, CO 81631.

■ VOSKAKIS, EMMANOUIL

VANCOUVER, CANADA – The Vancouver Sun reported Emmanouil Voskakis, 59, passed away on June 12 in Vancouver. Mike was born in Arhontiki, Crete, Greece on February 12, 1951. He is survived and treasured by his loving wife Ekaterini; his children, Mike, George and Stavros; his siblings Ioannis (Athanasia), Chrisoula (Athanasios), Dimitris (Arete), Maria

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

(Dionyssios), Nikiforos, Efthia (Antonis), Efthi (Ioanna); his mother-in-law Antonia Glakousakis; and many aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces and friends. Funeral services were held at St. George's Greek Orthodox Cathedral with Reverend Demetrios Partsafas officiating. Condolences and tributes may be sent to the family by visiting www.mountpleasantfuneral.com.

■ XANTHOU, EVANGELIA

MANCHESTER, N.H. – The Union Leader reported that Evangelia Xanthou, 87, passed away on July 1 at Hanover Hill Healthcare Center after a period of declining health. She was born in Manchester on March 29, 1923, to Arthur and Helen (Karformentos) Xanthos. She attended Manchester High School Central and was a lifelong resident of the city. Until her retirement, she was a clerk at Dorson Fleischer Shoe Company for many years. Later, she worked at Van Otis Chocolates. She was a longtime member of St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral where she taught Sunday school and sang in the choir. She was a member of the Daughters of Penelope, the Anagenesis Society and was an active volunteer in the annual Glendi celebration. A loving aunt, she was devoted to her nieces and nephews. She will be re-

membered for her outgoing ways. She especially enjoyed cooking Greek foods. She is survived by her sister, Alice Carabites; her nieces, Lisa Cronin, Nina LaBonte and Ellen Katseroubas; her nephews, Arthur Xanthos and James Carabites; 10 great-nieces and great-nephews. She was predeceased by her brother, Soterios Xanthos. Visitation was held at the Connor-Healy Funeral Home and Cremation Center. Funeral services were held at St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral with the Rev. Andrew Mahalares, Dean officiating. Memorial donations may be made to St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 650 Hanover Street, Manchester, 03104. For more information go to www.connorhealy.com.

■ XIROUHAKIS, KONSTANTINOS

NEWARK, NJ - The Star-Ledger reported that Rev. Fr. Konstantinos Xirouhakis, 83, passed away peacefully on June 30. Father Xirouhakis is survived by his beloved wife, Anna; his daughter, Katerina Kanelos; his sons, Ilias, Ioannis and Konstantinos; his brother, Andreas; and 10 grandchildren. Funeral services were held at St. Fanourios Greek Orthodox Church. For information and directions, visit: www.paskas-funeralsvc.com, or call (908) 686-5118.

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Another Greek Strike Shuts Down Travel, but Not the Law

Continued from page 1

riers, Olympic Air and Aegean, cancelled dozens of domestic flights and rescheduled many international flights. Public transport remained stopped in cities across the country while employees in government ministries, tax offices, municipal offices, banks and courts stayed away from their desks. Workers were angry their present has been cut by the pay slashes, and that they face bleak futures as the Socialist government aimed to ram through a bill that curbs early pensions and raises the retirement age. In a show of protest, Parliament workers said they would also join thousands in the nationwide strike, which will shut down all major forms of transport across the country. Tourists planning to travel to the Greek islands faced a day of frustration as seamen unions warned port authorities that no ships will be leaving or docking at Greece's main port of Piraeus. With journalists also joining the strike, a virtual news blackout is in effect while hospitals operated on emergency staff.

According to opinion polls, a large majority of Greeks oppose the pension reform, which will cut benefits, increase the number of contribution years, raise women's retirement age from 60 to 65 and curb widespread early retirement. Analysts question whether Athens will be able to enforce the tough measures because it has the potential of unleashing large-scale social unrest - more so than any other austerity decision.

The plan was approved in principle by a vote of 159-137 late on July 7, the night before the protests. Individual provisions were to be voted on July 8 before a final vote on the whole package. According to police estimates, the numbers were between 5,000 and 10,000 for this latest strike. Despite a few challenges by hooded youths carrying sticks and axes, riot police with gas masks and shields seemed to be in control of the situation. "Nobody expected this — this is worse than the occupation under the Germans," said Nikos Stathas, 60, a plumber who is just retiring now, told The New York Times. He says he has just got his pension, but he is worried about his children and grandchildren. "This will demolish their retirement," he added.

LOOKS LIKE A DUD
The strike, called by private-sector umbrella union GSEE and its public-sector counterpart AD-EDY, which represent nearly 2.5 million workers, half those in the country, shut down public services across the country, with



A man lies injured in the street after being assaulted by violent demonstrators during a protest in central Athens, Thursday, July 8. Authorities identified the man as a public servant who was apparently wrongly identified as a plain clothed policeman.



Crew members of a boat sit in front of a banner hung by the PAME Communist-affiliated union during a strike at the port of Piraeus, near Athens, July 8, 2010.

central and local government offices closed and many public-sector companies operating with skeleton staffing levels. Still, the last strike a week ago drew only about 12,000 people and this one seemed about the same.

The main effect was to prevent people, including tourists, from getting around trains, buses and trolleys in the capital, Athens, ground to a halt as transportation workers took part. Rail and ferry services to Greece's islands were also affected by the strike, while dozens of domestic and international flights were grounded or rescheduled by a four-hour work stoppage by flight-traffic controllers. Lawyers, journalists and some shopkeepers also walked off the job.

"“With (this) 24-hour general strike, we are making our protest against the unjust, anti-social pension legislation felt in the most vigorous manner,” GSEE President Yannis Panagopoulos said in a statement. ““We reject this pension legislation. ... Our struggle will not stop. It will continue and endure.” He added: “Social and retirement rights are not erased, not even by the passing of a law. Our fight for these rights will be long, and we will use every means at our disposal to overturn these unacceptable...and anti-social measures.” Perhaps so, but the steam seems to have gone out of the demonstrations.

The pension reform is seen as the toughest test for the ruling Socialist party as it struggles to implement a harsh three-year



Protesters shout slogans during a rally in central Athens, July 8, 2010. Only about 10,000 people took part in two separate protest marches, according to police estimates. Greece's governing Socialists are battling growing discontent as a new round of economic austerity faces party dissent, growing public hostility and fresh strike.

austerity and reform program. Apart from stoking the ire of labor unions, the pension and labor reforms are also deeply unpopular within the ruling party, which many lawmakers view as a betrayal of its Socialist ideology. Among other things, the bill will raise retirement ages, cut pension benefits, make it easier to hire and fire workers, and lower basic salaries. Since its initial draft was unveiled last month, the bill has been amended about 50 times to take into account objections from various interest groups as well ruling party lawmakers. The demonstrators accused Papandreou of shielding big business interests from bearing the brunt of state spending cuts, which have hit civil servants, private employees and pensioners. “Georgie, you said there was money to spare, but you gave it all to bankers and bosses,” the demonstrators chanted outside parliament, many of them wearing red caps and blowing whistles. The new law is the latest in a series of measures taken to ease the country's debt crisis, which has rocked international markets. Along the march route, there could be seen posters bearing the pictures of lawmakers and supporters of the austerity measures, saying, Wanted: 173 Bandidos, and accusing them of selling out to the EU

budget deficit that stood at 13.7% at the beginning of the year, and left Greece reeling with \$380 billion in debt it can't pay.

Even Papandreou's Economy Minister, Louka Katselli, has shown signs of rebelling, showing how deep the sentiments against his austerity plans are for the future of the party, which in some polls has seen support drop to 23%. Most of his party hierarchy remains in line, however. “This is our passport out of hell,” Yannis Stournaras an Athens-based economist who has advised past Socialist governments, told The New York Times. “It represents the toughest challenge for Papandreou and goes to the very heart of his party. No politician has ever been able to do this.” Greece's generous pension system has allowed many employees to retire before they turn 50 and earn the right to rich payouts calculated on the basis of bonus-laden salaries. The bill would unify the retirement age at 65 years of age for both men and women and would reduce payouts by calculating salaries on lifetime income as opposed to a worker's highest, most recent pay and would also make it easier for Greek companies to fire workers, almost impossible up to now.

WHAT'S NEXT?
A team from the I.M.F. and

the European Union is due in Athens next month to examine the government's progress, before the next round of loans, worth nine million euros, can be disbursed. The Greek economy is expected to show a 2.5% decline for the second quarter of the year that ended June 30, less than the 4% predicted by the IMF, and there are report the deficit could be cut almost in half, to about 7%, by the end of year. But there are still worrying signs about tax revenues. “Things have been better than expected,” Paul Mylonas, chief economist at the National Bank of Greece, told The Times. “The politics are holding up very well. But will this hold up for two to three years, I don't know.”

Panagopoulos added: “We will insist in this protest because we are right.” At one of the spin-off demonstrations, a 7,000-strong march organized by a Communist Party-affiliated union, protesters chanted “Workers, answer the war declared by capitalists with war,” and “Let the oligarchs pay for the crisis.” An estimated 5,000 people took part in two separate protests in Thessaloniki.

Socialist dissenters had openly criticized the bill, but yielded to strong party pressure after winning dozens of 11th-hour amendments, most slowing down the changes. A late pledge also came from Papandreou to eventually reverse some pension cuts. “When our economy is back on its feet, and growth returns, we will be able to improve pensions and offer better services to workers and pensioners. That is our commitment,” Papandreou told Parliament before the vote.

“I expressed my very strong reservations to a number of articles,” said Panayiotis Kouroumplis, a Socialist member of Parliament. “Criticism can be helpful ... We are not living under colonial rule,” he said.

The EU says the Greek fiscal measures are “broadly on track” but warned in a report that unemployment is likely to worsen after hitting a 10-year high of 12.1% in February. The data has done little for party morale, as Cabinet ministers scramble to avoid bearing the brunt of drastic spending cuts. Papandreou has already expelled three deputies who failed to support austerity measures in parliament.

Transport Minister Dimitris



No Astipalea today. A tourist walks in front of parked trucks and a giant advertising banner about that Greek island, during a strike at the port of Piraeus, near Athens, Thursday, July 8, 2010.



Trains are parked during a strike at the subway station of Piraeus, near Athens, Thursday, July 8, 2010. Greece's governing Socialists are battling growing discontent, now over pension cuts.

The National Herald

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

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

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Subscriptions by mail: 1 year \$66.00, 6 months \$33.00, 3 months \$22.00, 1 month \$11.00
Home delivery NY, NJ, CT: 1 year \$88.00, 6 months \$48.00,
3 months \$33.00, 1 month \$14.00
Home delivery New England States, Washington DC, Virginia and Maryland:
1 year \$109.00, 6 months \$57.00, 3 months \$41.00, 1 month \$18.00
On line subscription: Subscribers to the print edition: 1 year \$34.95, 6 months \$23.95,
3 months \$14.95; Non subscribers: 1 year \$45.95, 6 months \$29.95, 3 months \$18.95

Periodical postage paid at L.I.C., N.Y. and additional mailing offices.
Postmaster send change of address to:
THE NATIONAL HERALD, 37-10 30th Street, LIC, NY 11101-2614

History in the making?

The 40th Clergy-Laity congress took place in Atlanta this week - returning after 30 years. For a long time it appeared as though it would happen only because it was scheduled to occur this year, and cancelling it would be embarrassing to those in charge.

Or so it seemed.

It now seems certain that things were only designed to look that way. In reality, a lot of work and deliberation went into the event, behind-the-scenes, before it took place.

Ultimately, the 40th conference could be very well characterized as among the historic. One has to go back to the 1972 controversial conference that took place in New York to find a suitable comparison.

The list of what differentiates this latest conference from previous ones is a long one. Here are some of the main points:

For one, the influence of the Ecumenical Patriarchate was, at best, curbed. There was a representative of the Patriarchate, the wise, elderly archbishop of Crete, but even his selection was a product of compromise.

On top of that, this was the first Clergy-Laity congress where the authority of the Patriarchate was challenged. A point was made to remind it, in a none-too Byzantine, open way, of both its predicament and its financial dependence upon the Archdiocese.

Could this be the end of the beginning of efforts to establish an autocephalous (Greek) Church in America.? And could this also be the end of the beginning of the Greek Archdiocese in America? Furthermore, could this be the beginning of the splitting into two of the Greek American church? Only time will tell.

Two: At this conference, it became evident that power was shifting out of the hands of the clergy into those of the powerful members of the Archdiocesan Council (who in effect run the Archdiocese).

This important shift of power would not necessarily be unwelcome, if it were to become institutionalized. It was, after all, brought about by the inability of the Archdioceses to live within its means. They inhabit a dream world, spending money as if it grew on trees.

One prime example is the number of people on their payroll; one is reminded of Olympic Airlines and its thousands of needless employees with their generous benefits and few hours worked.

They are also very generous with most of the priests' salaries, but seem indifferent to the burdens placed on communities.

The end result is that the Archdiocese is often short of money.

So what happens, at the end of the month when the Archdiocese cannot meet its payroll or some other liability? You guessed it. One of the benefactors writes a check. But then, of course, the balance of power shifts, again, possibly for the better, yet...

There is a cardinal rule that applies to every organization: You cannot double the budget of an organization in ten years, and expect it to stay solvent and maintain its independence. It just is not possible, unless you have a fast-growing customer or support base, or if your revenues increase accordingly. In our case, however, communities are reaching their breaking point. There is not much more they can give...

One more point: you cannot lay the blame for all your church problems on the use of the Greek language at services. The facts show otherwise. Even in Astoria, N.Y., the last bastion of Greek immigrant life, or in Saint Nicholas, in Flushing, N.Y., another major hub of immigrants, there are two services performed, one in Greek and the second, in English. In most other communities the services are done mostly, if not entirely in some, in English.

In fact many people would agree that, if anything, the church has all but abandoned the use of Greek as evidenced by the fact that many recent graduates of Holy Cross who joined the ranks of the clergy have a cursory (at best) knowledge of the Greek language themselves... One needs ask if abandoning Greek is counterproductive. And worse, you might be pushing the part of the community that does not speak English well or prefers Greek in the services, towards other possible solutions.

Finally there was another point that was discussed among the participants of this conference: His Eminence's speech once again was devoid of any meaningful ideas and visions.

In fact it reminds one very much of the speech he gave two years ago which may hint at the end of a tenure, with one difference: This year's was less panegyric, triumphant, self congratulatory.

We are entering a new, uncharted pathway as a community. What the impact will be of what took place in Atlanta cannot be foreseen. What is clear is that these decisions should not be left in the hands of a few. We all need to raise our voices, and be counted...

On immigration

U.S. immigration policy is on the front burner - put there by Arizona's law SB1017 and fired up even more by politics – as well it should be, along with related issues like drug trafficking and terrorism. Conservatives correctly note border control is a basic function of government. On the other hand, we are not just any kind of state, but a democratic one, with a constitution that has a Bill of Rights that is an integral part of it - despite being introduced two years after the Constitution was ratified, it's not an afterthought or secondary. So those who oppose SB1017 on the grounds that it smacks of racism should not be dismissed. The concept of a slippery slope, which warns that laws can be abused or inadvertently lead to serious dangers, appears in many wise court decisions.

That said, we agree with President Obama's decision to challenge the Arizona law as it stands, while also agreeing with the President's transfer of 1,200 National Guard troops to the border. The serious practical and constitutional issues can be sorted and formed into better laws while we take concrete and effective action on other fronts.

We believe that cracking down on landlords and employers who hire illegal immigrants is an important and effective approach, but there should also “an earned path to citizenship”, for undocumented aliens. We are a community of law-abiding citizens, but as Greek Americans we should feel sympathy with those for whom the American dream is a magnet. Most Greeks came here legally, step by step as workers or students, but many did not, the “skasti”. The laws passed in the racist-minded 1920s to keep them out were unjust, and contrary to American interests – what would our country be without immigrants? The laws divided families: husbands and fathers here legally for decades could not bring in wives and children. Others had to jump ship so they could earn a decent living while helping to build America. They were kept out, we forget, because Greeks too, as darker-skinned men and women who spoke English poorly, were victims of racism. So Greek American concern over profiling, and sympathy, even for illegals, is not out of place as this important issue is debated.

It's the Bad Old Days All Over Again for Workers

The article, Ganging up on Obama, Hannity and Gingrich want Conservative Tide, should have been titled, Obama-Bashing, Hannity and Gingrich want America to Return to the “Good ol' Days.” Having given us Social Security, an act that ended “poor houses” for the workers, and free public education, worker's Disability Act, collective bargaining rights and the right to form a union, the rich denounced President Franklyn Roosevelt as having gone against his patrician roots, especially, when he tried to guarantee that no American will die on foreign soil, again. He promoted the Good Will Policy in South America like Obama who is trying to promote good will throughout the world. Obviously, those who think themselves patricians are still with us, not those of “Plymouth” origins, but those of enormous incomes.

These are people who want, by any means, to keep their ill-gotten gains, and multiply them. In the pre-Roosevelt era one income was insufficient and entire families labored (sound familiar?); half the workers were children between the ages of 9 to 18. Doctors reported that “a considerable number of those children died within two or three years of employment in the American Woolen Company.” Bosses cut wages at random for better profits; workers became outraged and strikes began; acts that were entirely justified at a time when thirty-six out of one hundred workers died of malnutrition, overwork, T.B. before the ages of twenty-five.

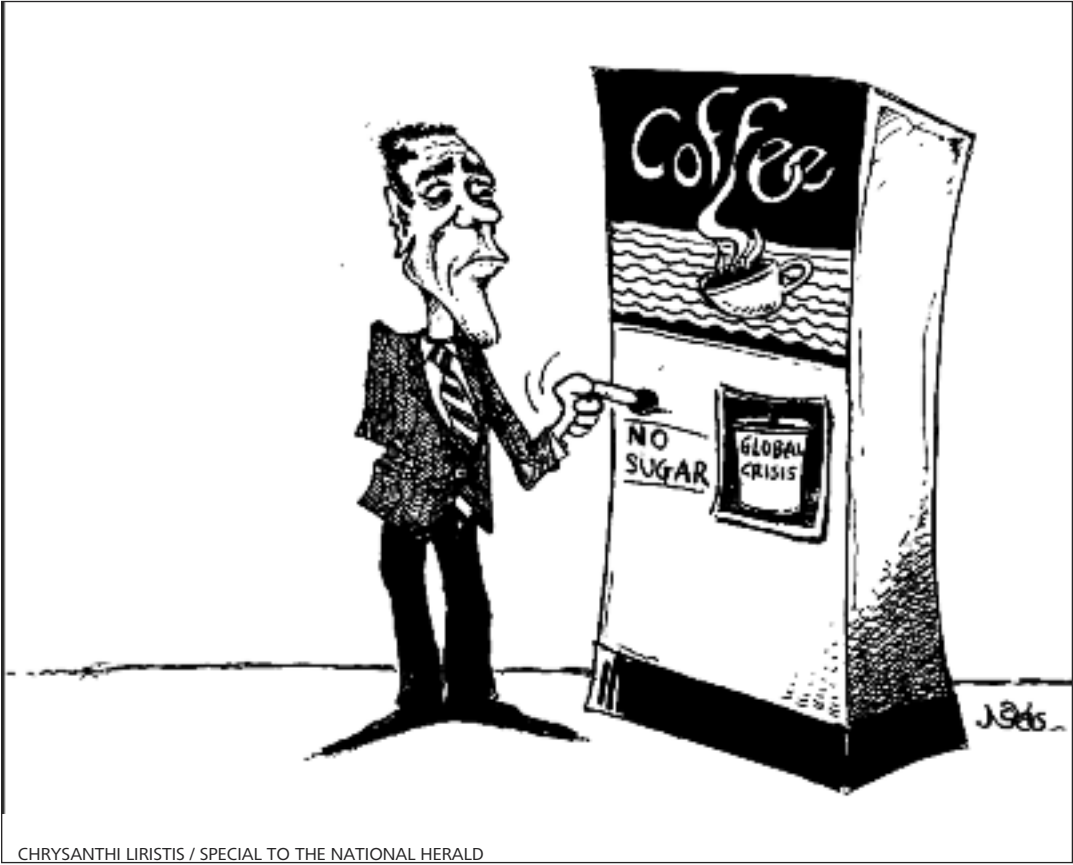
Orphans sprouted everywhere in that era. The local and state militia was called out - ordered to fight against 'those immigran upstarts' and Harvard students joined them, anxious to enjoy a fling at “those foreigners.” Then, a voice rose up in 1918, a Socialist voice that said, “The master class has always declared wars while the worker classes always fought those wars. The master class had all to gain and nothing to lose while the worker class had nothing to gain but all to lose - especially, their lives.” That was the voice of Eugene V. Debs who received one million votes for president while in prison for speaking out. Every war is fought for economic reasons. But, few of the rich fight them.

It is 2010 and those who wish to keep the worker down still exist, only they are now, obscenely richer, have the Media and many politicians on their side and are bending the truth to suit themselves. Racists now bash Mexicans and Arabs - not very different from the old days when Italians and Greeks were their victims. Until recently, in Greece and Italy and many

other countries, houses were owned by the citizens, unlike us, who never really own our houses. They belong to the banks. There is a clause that says you fork over several times what the house was priced at. Then, you believe you own that house. Property taxes keep your ownership forever in a precarious state.

Many sell their houses and move to rural areas where the taxes are low - whether they want to or not. But Gingrich never mentions those taxes; he wants to eliminate Social Security taxes (which would bring a return of 'poor houses for the retired workers'), and the Federal Government - (which would mean an end to FDIC, our savings aren't safe anymore), college educations would be financed by the individual, solely, since federal loans would be abolished. It would mean fewer college graduates - except for the rich. That means more workers - thus, a return to 1918.

Of course, he doesn't like Obama. His comments are camouflage racial but he's too canny to admit it. The Tea Party is financed by millionaires, so, he is with them and all they stand for. He is among those who promote Fracking and, 'Dig-dig-dig' for the oil companies that ex-vice - president Cheney of Halliburton, heads. Yet, I've not seen any Republican visit the area of The Gulf of Mexico. That's too visual! Obama did not create the financial mess we're in, the oil catastrophe, or the wars we're engaged in. He inherited them from the Bush years. But, he knows on which side the bread has butter. So, he tries to be neutral, invite opposite opinions from the Republicans - who, in 1912, voted against abolishing



CHRYSANTHI LIRISTIS / SPECIAL TO THE NATIONAL HERALD

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

the child-labor laws. Gingrich's ideas are dangerous and very one-sided. They, however, serve the billionaires, well (note his ideas on eliminating the corporate tax cuts - a principle that says enrich the rich so that the poor benefit. Never worked yet!)

Obama struggles to solve the problems handed him - a far cry from a president that took 436 vacations in eight years of presidency, who was an AWOL soldier and did nothing for the returning vet.

I am one of those who believe Obama is not liberal enough. I lived through a time when I hardly knew my father due to the 15 hour work day, the 'hate the Greeks and Italians' era in grammar school and will fight the hurtful prejudice whenever or wherever it lifts its ugly head.

Phyllis Sembos
Emerson, N.J.

A Candle in the Hurricane

To the Editor:

The situation in Greece is turning tragic. Tourists sitting out in the hot sun waiting for strikes to end, shame, shame, shame on the Greek nation for allowing this. Reading the American papers here suggesting cancellations of trips to Greece - Go elsewhere they say. The land of the golden Greek is tarnished, visit the parliament building and instead of seeing changing of the guards you see changing of the Strikers, with a few good Greeks cussing to fill in the blanks. Fanatics is what they say. Greeks are turning to the Arab ways.

Look what has happened to all the Olympic sites, overgrown with weeds and neglected,

roads full of trash, drivers neglecting traffic controls, and by the way, don't forget to visit the Metro.

I'm sure they are on strike too. And yes, the New Acropolis Museum. I can understand why the Elgin marbles are in England. Greeks have this attitude that the are the best people in the world but the ancient Greeks were philosophers with great minds for the future with democratic ideals.

Today's Greeks have one thing in mind, - who is going to pay them to sit around the kafenio and talk about how bad the USA is. Records will show that this will be the worst tourist season on record and the Greeks have no one to blame but everyone else. Yes, I am still going to Patmos this summer to enjoy the good food, the beauty of the island, and when I go to church I'll light some candles for Greece...

I think it needs them.
George Magoulas
Houston, Texas

TO OUR READERS

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COMMENTARY

Clergy-Laity: Save the Pleasantries, Solve the Problems

Frankly, most Clergy-Laity Congresses seem more like a forum for schmoozing and PR than anything else. There was probably some mention of the First Episcopal Assembly of Orthodox Hierarchs in America (which sounds a lot like SCOPA, without the acronym,) a bit of sunshine blown in the direction of self-important donors, and a lot of feel-good stuff that inherently limits any essential dialogue. It's hard to say whether these conferences really bring anyone together. That's accomplished by celebrating the Divine Liturgy, right? Then why hold these conferences, if not to discuss the problems and challenges facing the Archdiocese. If any real discussion and acknowledgement of the problems facing parishes at a grass roots level is not discussed, the event is a failure. Life is a lot more complex than golf tournaments, dinner dances, and catch phrases, so let's talk about some of these problems:

Administratively, the Archdiocese is missing in action. Problems with parishes are addressed only after great delay, and sometimes never at all. Many parish communities have suffered irreparable damage from this infuriating practice. Too often, presiding hierarchs or their representatives are unaware or unwilling to handle problems plaguing communities (i.e., mismanagement, misconstruing the UPR, ulterior motives, sheer incompetence, etc.) Either there are not enough bishops, too few staffers, or a dysfunctional system of administration. Even many Metropolitanans, who made such a fuss to be promoted to their present status, don't seem too willing to lobby for the appointment of as-

sistant bishops. Financially, the Archdiocese seems to also be losing touch with reality. It has increased stewardship (tax) payments, even during periods of recession. Priests' salaries are getting (sometimes scandalously) fatter, but communities are given no support when it comes to fundraising or financing institutions that are of community-wide importance (schools, day care centers, senior centers, libraries, etc.) These programs make the biggest impact on the community and the faithful. Shouldn't they at least be partially underwritten by the Arch-



by **Christopher**
TRIPOULAS

Special to
The National Herald

diocese, or indirectly supported by tax breaks? Even the government supports constructive projects such as housing through tax breaks.

Educationally, there's much work to be done too, and you can't just expect it to be done by priests. We've witnessed the beneficial effect that a good priest can have on a community and the catastrophic effect a bad one can have. But as good or as bad as a priest is, he cannot hold a community together by himself. A vibrant parish community needs teachers, principals, and able administrators, well-trained in-

dividuals knowledgeable in Greek and English, with a profound understanding of both cultures so they can pass on the unique cultural identity of Hellenism & Orthodoxy. Now, when not only priests, but even certain Bishops are lacking in some of these qualities, it's hard to expect better results from the people. Education shouldn't stop for priests once they graduate from the seminary. There need to be Greek language and culture institutes set up in multiple locations in each Metropolis. Scholarship and employment opportunities should be made available to young aspiring professionals who can serve parish communities and Metropolises with their knowledge and talents.

Attracting trained professionals to come and work for Archdiocesan institutions will play a key factor in the future survival of parish communities and related organizations. There are funds and programs we aren't taking advantage of and the problem is primarily organizational. When the Archbishop proclaimed that we are no longer a Church of immigrants at the last Clergy-Laity Conference in Nashville, he may have highlighted one of the major challenges the Archdiocese will face in the 21st Century: How to keep non-immigrant faithful active in preserving their identity now that they have “made it” in mainstream society and climbed the social ladder.



TNH PHOTO

Archbishop Demetrios is seen at the podium on Monday, July 5, 2010 during the opening session of the 40th Clergy-Laity Congress in Atlanta, Georgia. With him are the Archbishop's Archdeacons, Patriarchal Representative Archbishop Irenaios of Crete, and members of the Archdiocesan Council.

ΛΟΓΟΣ

Dr. Alex Pattakos’ column
will resume next week.

LETTER FROM ATHENS

What’s Good from Greece? The Goods

There’s strikes and protests outside the window here in Athens, people marching in the streets, wondering how to pay their rent in the wake of pay cuts and tax hikes, others shuffling along, having given up, with that defeated look in their eyes knowing it’s game over, the rich and politicians – who are undefeated in these matters – have won again. There were at least 70,000 people at the May 5 riotous protests when they tried to storm the Parliament, where lawmakers inside hid in their offices, afraid to face them. But the last march drew only about 12,000 and only a few ho-hum looks from the cops, who fired a fear tear-gas canisters for practice as people walked past the Parliament this time, not stopping, looking like a line of POWs heading for Bataan. There’s some token yelling and screaming, and union officials, who live like the people they complain about, say all the things they’re supposed to say even though they know it’s game over. Even the hooded, cowardly anarchists are on forced vacation, discredited by the murders of three innocent bank workers with a firebomb. Aren’t these guys supposed to be on the side of workers?

Sometimes it’s easy in these hard times in Greece to overlook the good there is, and what good comes from here, especially in the products that have been famous for millennia. While other people were picking berries, Greeks were extracting the essence of life from olives, making honey from the bees, creating feta and growing the best figs in the world. It’s just too bad that Greeks still don’t know how to market to the United States and world what’s good from Greece. At the Fancy Foods festival in New York City recently, there were only a relative handful of Greek companies, who are ceding the market to other countries more aggressive in their American campaigns. Tunisia pro-

Greeks, unlike Greek Americans, don’t really know how to promote even their best products. It’s an attitudinal thing, shown by its dismal ranking in a competitiveness survey conducted by the International Institute for Management Development: 52nd out of 57 developed countries.

So what’s good from Greece? You can start with this good news: FIX IS BACK. That great Greek beer once dominated the domestic market and you could even find it in a bar in Manhattan once upon a time before apathy and complacency put it out of business. Now, it’s making a comeback and you can even see men in the Polish-American neighborhood of Greenpoint in Brooklyn drinking it. How good it is? Put it this way, when you need a beer, you need a Fix. It’s in good company with the likes of Coca-Mat, the all-natural mattress company which now has an outlet in Manhattan. Try one, you’ll buy one, because after a Coca-Mat all other mattresses are about as useful as a waterbed from 1973, and you’ll set fire to your old mattress after sleeping on one of these babies. As more Greek companies discover there’s a continent on the other side of the Atlantic, more Americans will discover the best of Greece too. You want a stereo speaker that will make you remember your Advent, ADC 303-AX or AR-6? Try Roister, a Greek company that produces superior speakers for less than the cost of a bad bookshelf system.

Korres has established itself around the world as a leader of natural and organic cosmetic products and has plenty of competition from Apivita. You want olives? Kalamata makes the best and thanks to some Greek specialty stores and supermarkets, you can find those in the US, often in the same section as alleged American feta cheese, and, at the way it’s going, not far from the Tunisian olive oil. While you’re



moted olive oil. Tunisian olive oil? That’s like Manhattan clam chowder. The olive tree is as much a symbol of Greece as the Parthenon, but Greek olive oil has such low visibility abroad that 75% goes to Italy, combined with local varieties and re-sold as Italian, which is counterfeit compared to the quality the Greeks produce. But who knows it? Greece exports only about \$21.37 billion worth of goods, but imports \$64.27 billion, a lopsided trade imbalance that could be righted if Greek products had some good PR and imagination, but you’d have a better chance convincing Iran’s crackpot President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to become a Christian than convince a Greek company to advertise in the US.

Thank Zeus that the Cretans, who’d spit in Charos’ face, grow some of the world’s best products and know how to live, were there. “It’s a philosophy of living,” Manolis Lantzanakis said of the Cretan Way and his organic Kyra extra virgin olive oil, and the Greek love of food, a metaphor for living itself. He was among a half dozen Cretan olive oil companies pushing their products while too many other Greek companies are apparently hoping the Greek Gods will do some PR for them. You can have over-sauced, over-priced and over-rated French food and the world needs to know who makes the best food-stuffs. “Eat Greek, live long is our slogan,” is how Nick Hovardas, owner of The Fat Greek restaurant put it to his local newspaper in Yucaipa, California. Pretty good slogan for other Greek companies who are beginning to figure out that the US is a pretty good market, even though a number of them have been there for years now already.

there, ask for Cypriot haloumi cheese too, and Total’s Fage yogurt, which is there now too. Since you can’t often get liquor in supermarkets, you’ll have to go to the package store for some Ouzo Number 12, Ouzo Barbiyiani, but you can’t get Plomari ouzo there yet. Go a little easy on the Ouzo Number 12 though because I started in on it one night and the next thing I knew I was being helped up off the floor and being told to call all my friends in the US and apologize for phone calls I didn’t remember making. And don’t forget Metaxa, that unforgettable grape brandy. The 5-Star is the best and no better drink at night when you’re reminiscing about life and want to feel the vapor of the gods evaporate in your throat. It’s pure ambrosia, and once upon a time they had an ad in magazines like Playboy as I remember which put it this way: It’s A Man’s Drink. And for dinner, break out the Hatzimichalis wine, some of Greece’s best. And while you’re eating, use some AA Sea Salt flakes. If you’re in New York City, stop by the Mastiha shop for that sweet gum-flavored candy and loukoumes and try their Spirit liquor.

And after you stock up, sit down to some Greek food (you’ll live longer), maybe some Misko pasta cooked in Altis or Minerva or Cretan olive oil, with Kyknos tomato sauce, some feta on the side, a horiatiki, and savor life the way Greeks do when they’re not protesting. Talk to your friends and family, sit in your backyard or porch or balcony, eat well, and finish up with some Greek coffee, Loumidis or Bravo. As for me, I need a beer so that means I need a Fix.

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Another Schism in Turkey Causes Split with U.S. & West

In my May Op-Ed I wrote that Turkey’s actions and verbal attacks against Israel provided an opportunity for the Greek American community to seek a critical review of U.S.-Turkey relations by the Congress and Executive Branch. Since then, Turkey’s anti-U.S. and pro-Iranian actions have actually initiated a review of Turkey’s policies by some Executive Branch officials. Turkey’s pro-Iranian actions in opposition to U.S. policies, and those of the West and Russia and China, have caused the U.S. to publicly question where Turkey is heading.

Turkey and Brazil entered into a nuclear fuel swap agreement with Iran aimed at derailing U.S. proposed stronger sanctions by the United Nations against Iran regarding Iran’s effort to develop nuclear weapons. The U.S. proposal had broad support including Russia and China and passed easily. Robert Kagan, a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, in a column in the Washington Post on June 29, wrote that U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Philip Gordon warned on June 26 “that Turkish actions have placed its ‘orientation’ in doubt and were making it ‘harder for the United States to support some of the things that Turkey would like to see us support.’” And this from Gordon, an apologist for Turkey these past decades. But there are those in the Administration who want to placate Turkey rather than forcefully responding to Turkey’s pro-Iranian moves. And former U.S. officials like Eric Edelman, former U.S. ambassador to Turkey and former Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, are working to smooth over relations at the expense of Greece and Cyprus.

Edelman was quoted in a June 21, article by Laura Rozen in Politico as saying, “The fundamental problem, I believe, which hasn’t been addressed, is that at this stage, the Turks believe we need them more than they need us. But they need us for a lot of things, too.” Laura Rozen wrote that Edelman counseled that the Obama administration could point out in private, not publicly, a number of points where Turkey needs us. Edelman said: “Make clear to them privately that there will be a cost, and some things they want from us might not be forthcoming. There are degrees of how much we have to support them on Cyprus, how much to support their candidacy for the (European Union.) We are helping them with the PKK (Kurdistan Workers’ Party) and giving them lots of intelligence. Exactly how much effort we have to put into that is all a question of degree.”

Another former U.S. official, Elliott Abrams, has denounced Turkey. Abrams, former deputy national security adviser in the George W. Bush administration and now senior fellow for the Middle East at the prestigious Council on Foreign Relations, in an article in The Weekly Standard on June 21 sharply criticized Turkey’s actions regarding Iran, Syria, and Israel and its support of Hamas. He attacked Turkey’s role in the Gaza flotilla incident and Turkey’s support of the “jihadists on board and their sponsors in Turkey.” Abrams also criticized the Obama administration’s view of the region and its handling of Turkey. He challenges Obama’s policy in the Middle East as helping the radicals and calls for “America the fierce and certain ally” to give Middle East “moderates strength and radicals pause.”

Thomas Friedman, the New York Times’ Pulitzer Prize winning columnist devoted two columns to Turkey in a “Letter



by EUGENE T. ROSSIDES

Special to The National Herald

hard line against Israel’s partial blockade of Hamas-led Gaza — and quietly supporting the Turkish-led flotilla to break that blockade, during which eight Turks were killed by Israel — Turkey could vastly increase its influence on the Arab street and in the Arab markets. “Indeed, Erdogan today is the most popular leader in the Arab world ... because he is loudly bashing Israel over its occupation and praising Hamas instead of the more responsible Palestinian Authority in the West Bank, which is actually building the foundations of a Palestinian state.

There is nothing wrong with

criticizing Israel’s human rights abuses in the territories but it is very troubling when Erdogan describes Israelis as killers and, at the same time, warmly receives in Ankara Sudan’s president, Omar Hassan al-Bashir, who has been indicted by the International Criminal Court on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity for his role in the bloodshed in Darfur, and while politely hosting Iran’s president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, whose government killed and jailed thousands of Iranians demanding that their votes be counted. Erdogan defended his reception of Bashir by saying: ‘It’s not possible for a Muslim to commit genocide.’”

Friedman then quoted a Turkish foreign policy analyst: “We are not mediating between East and West anymore. We’ve become spokesmen for the most regressive elements in the East.”

In the second column from Istanbul published on June 20, Friedman, “I leave Istanbul with four questions that Turks asked me echoing in my head. Forget the answers, just these questions will tell you all you need to understand the situation here. The four questions, which were asked of me by different Turkish journalists, academics or businessmen, can be summarized as follows:

One: Do you think we are seeing the death of the West and the rise of new world powers in the East? Two: Tom, it was great talking to you this morning, but would you mind not quoting me by name? I’m afraid the government will retaliate against me, my newspaper or my business if you do. Three: Is it true, as Prime Minister Erdogan believes, that Israel is behind the attacks by the Kurdish terrorist group P.K.K. on Turkey? Four: Do you really think Obama can punish Turkey for voting against the U.S. at the U.N. on Iran sanctions? After all, America needs Turkey more than Turkey needs America.”

The Greek American community should be active with the Congress and the Executive Branch and call for sanctions against Turkey and withdrawal of existing benefits to Turkey until Turkey removes its illegal troops and colonists from Cyprus, halts its threats against Greece regarding the Aegean and halts its incursions into Greek air space in the Aegean, and grants full religious freedom and protection for the Ecumenical Patriarchate and returns the 7000 church properties illegally seized.

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



Turkish P.M. Erdogan, who heads the Islamist AKP party, has become a lot more bombastic and aggressive, going after Israel in particular, as relations between the two countries fray.

In Search of an Honest Man, a Tough Task in Greece

One of my all-time heroes is Diogenes the Cynic, who spent most of his life chilling in his barrel outside the city-state of Corinth. He was the original Cynic because he believed that men and women lived a life dictated by rules and taboos and therefore no one was really truthful or honest. Actually Diogenes is my hero because he was witty, rude, and had little respect for authority. For example, when Alexander the Great rode down to visit Diogenes in his barrel, he offered Diogenes any gift of his choice. With a scowl, Diogenes snapped back his response: “What you’ve taken away, you can never give me.”

“Huh?” said Alex. “You’re standing in my sun.” What most people know about Diogenes is that he wandered around ancient Greece carrying a lantern and searching for an honest man. In Plaka you can find the figures of him and his lantern and Rataplan, his mangy mutt. What most people don’t know is why he went searching for an honest man when he believed, as a Cynic, that there was no such person. A few scholars believe that Diogenes went on his fruitless search as an altruistic philosophical search for a truly evolved human being. However, my years as an archaeology student reading whatever was irrelevant to my studies revealed to me a darker reason. It may have had to do with the fact that he and his father had been accused of embezzling money from the Corinthian mint, where they had worked. Perhaps Diogenes was trying to prove that nobody is completely honest, and thus wipe the slate clean from his little misdemeanor.

Even though I don’t live in a barrel like Diogenes did, I did live out of my car in the exclusive Irodotou Attikou Street outside the Spanish ambassador’s apartment until one day I caught a policeman taking the plates off my car. I brought up the idea of paying him off in exchange for

my number plates. But unfortunately, the amount he suggested was five times more than my yearly budget for traffic offences. So, being rather good at bargaining, I haggled. At which point, this honest copper threatened to arrest me, impound the car, and keep the plates.

Suddenly I was reminded of Diogenes, who as I mentioned was also was accused of something that most ancient Greeks did routinely. In fact, being caught with your fingers in the till was so common, that ancient Greek historians used to write with surprise and wonder about the one or two cases where men, having been entrusted with money or power, were actually straight in their dealings. Indeed, when anybody tried to swindle the Romans in commercial dealings, the name the Romans called such actions was “Greek honesty.”

So I decided to follow my great hero’s footsteps and go in search of an “honest” man (or anyone who could help me get my plates back before 40 days.) My first interviewee was the peripetro (kiosk) man I buy my Rex Lights from. “Do you know an honest man?” I queried.

He winked at me, “I am,” and he grinned. I kept my hand out for the rest of my change. “Really? What is an honest man?”

“Ah, an honest man is someone who says what they mean, doesn’t steal, doesn’t lie, and respects their responsibility to society.”

“Do you know anyone in the traffic police?” I asked. “How much money do you have to spend?” he asked promptly. I told him and he laughed. At this point, I knew my task here was difficult. So I decided to simply concentrate on searching for an honest modern ancient Greek.



by Adrian VRETOS

Special to The National Herald

“Do you know of any other honest men in Athens?” He thought this over for a couple of seconds. “No.”

“How about honest women?” He laughed. “How about honest men on the islands?”

“Not a chance,” he said, and proceeded to recount the tale of being swindled at a tavern in Hydra after choosing a “fresh” fish. I wandered off to continue my search. The next few people I asked had a similar response, i.e. yes, they were honest and of course they didn’t know anyone else who was.

In true modern ancient Greek tradition, individuality is the most important liberty. There is no sense of hypocrisy when people change their principles or lie to defend themselves, or attack others, or just for the fun of it. For example, we can take the great Athenian general, Alcibiades who, on a drinking binge with his mates, went around the wealthy streets of Athens breaking off the phalluses from the statues.

The Athenians, miffed at his juvenile antics, punished him by not letting him lead the campaign against the city of Syracuse, in Sicily. So, taking this with typical grace, Alcibiades went to Sparta and revealed the Athenians’ plans, which led to the Spartans crushing the Athen-

ian expedition. A Spartan general, Pausanias, popularly known as The Lech, switched sides in a similar way. Throughout Greek history, villages and towns have switched their allegiances, and this has been deemed acceptable and not punished because it was understood that it was usually a case of self-preservation.

So the modern ancient Greeks think themselves honest, as indeed I do. This is different from most of my Northern European friends who openly and freely admit that they are not always honest. This is shocking to me and my Greek compatriots, who would never admit such a thing. Did Diogenes ever find his honest man? As far as I know, he didn’t. Nor did I find my cheap corrupt traffic cop. So I had to wait to get my plates back. Which I think somehow and in some way makes me an honest man.

Adrian Vrettos is a British-born archaeologist, anthropologist and writer who has always been intrigued by the ancient past / modern day connection in his native Greece. He has cooperated with major British newspapers, worked with ABC during the Athens 2004 Olympic Games. Since 2005 he has been a regular contributor to Fodor’s Greece, and Greek Islands Travel Guides (Random House) Greek chapters. Link to Adrian’s column Mythical Rock: <http://www.athens-guide.com/journalists/index.htm>

GUEST EDITORIALS

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AHEPA Honoree Kotsopoulos Takes Her Basketball Moves to Greece

By Angelike Contis
TNH Staff Writer

NEW YORK – Greek Canadian basketball star May Kotsopoulos is sad to be leaving the University of Vermont, after a stellar four years there. But she's now taking the first step towards her dream of a professional basketball career, starting in Greece. In August, she heads to Athens to join Greek team Ano Liosia W.B.C.

"I'm going into a situation where as long as I work hard and play well, I'm going to be able to play a good amount of minutes," said Kotsopoulos, speaking to TNH from her home in Waterloo, Canada. The 5-10 guard and recent graduate, who made a name for herself at UVM both for her playing and academics, was recruited by a scout who watched one of her games (unbeknownst to her) in Massachusetts. She hopes that in Greece she can showcase her talents, hopefully playing on the national team and making enough of an impression to be picked up by a WNBA league in the U.S.

Before dribbling from the Vermont's Green Mountains to Athens' ancient terrain, however, Kotsopoulos will be honored by AHEPA at the organization's July 11-18 Supreme Convention in Montreal. She will receive the William D. Chirgotis Collegiate Athletic Award. The prize, established in 1972, goes to the outstanding collegiate athlete of the United States and Canada. Says Kotsopoulos of the AHEPA prize: "I'm very honoured to receive it. Something about Greek awards obviously makes me very happy."

"I couldn't have gone any better," says Kotsopoulos of her final UVM season. She led the University of Vermont team to a 27-5 record through the team's second straight America East Championship and NCAA Tournament appearance. The athlete, who graduated with honors on May 23, was an Academic All-American and three-time America East Women's Basketball



Left: May Kotsopoulos (R) and teammate Alissa Sheftic enjoy graduation day from the University of Vermont on May 23, 2010. Kotsopoulos was a top honors student besides being an All-Star player. Right: University of Vermont hoop star May Kotsopoulos cuts down the net after winning the America East Championship in 2009.

Scholar-Athlete. She ended her UVM career with a bang; she was the 2010 America East Fans' Choice Player of the Year, leading the league in scoring at 17.1 points per game.

Kotsopoulos, the 2010 America East Fans' Choice Player of the Year, led the league in scoring at 17.1 points per game. In the NCAAAs, the No. 10 Catsamounts upset No. 7 Wisconsin in the first round to pick up the program's first-ever NCAA Tournament victory. Kotsopoulos was a unanimous choice for America East All-Conference First Team honors and was named to the league's all-defensive team for the fourth straight season.

She was also named the women's winner of the Wasson Athletic Prize at the 2010 Rally Awards, hosted by the UVM Athletic Department. She was recognized as the top female scholar-athlete among the senior class. Kotsopoulos graduated with a bachelor's degree in business administration and a 3.66

grade point average.

Kotsopoulos became the first Catsamount to earn an invite to a WNBA training camp and played in two of three exhibition games with the Connecticut Sun. She totaled 21 points in two games before being waived by the team.

THE FIRST TIME

Though both she and her coaches are both moving on (head coach Sharon Dawley is heading to University of Massachusetts), they remain close. Kotsopoulos consulted them about her first professional team contract, noting: "I'll probably ask them basketball advice forever." Among those sad to see Kotsopoulos go are members of the Dormition of the Mother of God Greek Orthodox Church in Burlington, Vermont, which provided a devoted Kotsopoulos fan club at games and threw her a party after graduation.

Kotsopoulos' father, Dimitrios, is coaching his daughter on Greek this summer. And her

dual citizenship paperwork is being finalised. The basketball player is excited to finally visit her parent's homeland. She says: "I've never been to Greece, which is really sad and pathetic, but I couldn't go when I was younger because I'd always have a tournament or something that would get in the way." She's excited about the prospect of finally visiting her grandmother at the familial home in Vevi village, located near Florina, just south of the border with FYROM in northern Greece. She adds: "You know I made those sacrifices when I was younger and now it's going to pay off, because I'm going to go move there. So it's OK."

In Athens, Kotsopoulos will be teammates- as well as roommates - with one of her former rivals, Hartford's Diana Delva. Kotsopoulos said that being on the same team as a woman she played against for four years will be "different," but added, "I have nothing but respect for her." She

already is planning bring her basketball magic to the Ano Liosia team, which is in the top A1 league in Greece. Because the team is ranked sixth out of 13 teams, Kotsopoulos sees a chance for improvement. "They were in the middle, which is a good opportunity for me to go in and help and take the team further and stuff." The season runs from September to April.

Kotsopoulos already sounds the pro in discussing her academic achievements (at commencement she marched in holding the business school's banner), selecting an agent and eyeing the future. But she also can barely contain the excitement of any recent college graduate who has clinched the all-important first job. The player gushes that as time approaches: "I'm thinking oh my God, I'm moving to Greece. It's crazy. I'm very excited and I'm very happy I'm going to go play in Greece. Play with family members around and hopefully also play

for the national team. I'm looking forward to it."

Until she boards the airplane to Greece in August, Kotsopoulos is enjoying some rare time off with her close-knit family. "They are great," she says of her sister, who works for the NHL, and her businessman brother, whose example in the hockey rink she credits for giving her her "toughness."

Until she leaves, she'll be coaching for the high school KW Lightning camp, where she once played. "I enjoy coaching and giving back – it's the program where I grew up in, so I'm happy to give back." Soon Kotsopoulos will be giving back to Greece too – on the basketball court. Despite her talents, she may have her hands full as the Greek women's league is very competitive and includes the likes of former WNBA All-Star Sheryl Swoopes and a number of other American who were college stars.

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THE KOTSOPOULOS FILES SHOW A WINNER:

- Kotsopoulos was a unanimous choice for America East All-Conference First Team honors and was named to the league's all-defensive team for the fourth straight season.
- She closed out her career ranked among the top five all-time leaders at Vermont in six categories: games played (2nd – 129,) minutes played (2nd – 4,316,) steals (3rd – 243,) three-point field goals (3rd – 187,) scoring (5th – 1,722,) free throws (5th – 385)



Dimitrios "Jim" Kotsopoulos, the father of UVM basketball star May Kotsopoulos at one of his daughter's championship games in 2009. He's the one with the hat and accoutrements.

- Kotsopoulos was also named the women's winner of the Wasson Athletic Prize at the 2010 Rally Awards, hosted by the UVM Athletic Department. She was recognized as the top female scholar-athlete among the senior class. Kotsopoulos graduated with a bachelor's degree in business administration and a 3.66 grade point average
 - Kotsopoulos became the first UVM Catsamount player to earn an invite to a WNBA training camp and played in two of three exhibition games with the Connecticut Sun. She totaled 21 points in two games before being waived by the team
 - Kotsopoulos is the sixth Catsamount in the program's history to play professionally and the third in the last seven years
 - Ano Liosia W.B.A. site: www.basketliosia.gr
- (Source: The University of Vermont)

HIGHLIGHTS:

PERSONAL: Is the daughter of Dimitrios (Jim) and Frieda Kotsopoulos ... Has an older sister, Sophie, who played lacrosse at Wilfrid Laurier University and an older brother Gary ... Was a business administration major and Dean's List student ...

Worked as a student assistant in the athletic communications office at Vermont during the summer of 2008... Spent the summer of 2009 as a marketing/promotions intern with the Connecticut Sun of the WNBA ... Last name is pronounced cots-sop-ah-las.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Wrote a letter to the editor that was featured in the Burlington Free Press about UVM's "Think Pink" game as part of the WBCA's initiative to raise breast cancer awareness ... The Cata-

Was selected to the ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District I First Team for the second straight year ... Has reached double figures in 98 games and scored 20+ point 20 times in her career ... Finished the year leading America East in scoring (17.1 ppg) ... Named to the 2009-10 America East Preseason All-Conference Team for the first time in her career ... Was the MVP of the Sheraton Raleigh Wolfpack Invitational after totaling 47 points on the weekend (23.5 ppg) and shot 59.3 percent from the field and 54.5 percent from three-point

range ... Matched her career-high of 26 points in the season opener versus Western Michigan ... Added 22 points in UVM's victory at Boston College ... Scored a team-high 17 points (4-for-6 3FG) and added six rebounds in a win over Manhattan ... Scored a career-high 29 points to lead UVM to a victory at Holy Cross ... Scored a game-high 19 points to lead Vermont past UMass ...



May Kotsopoulos in 2010, as she plays with a Connecticut Sun jersey. She was trying out for the WNBA team.

Led Vermont with 20 points against Oklahoma State ... Named the America East Player of the Week (12/14) after averaging 22.7 points and shooting 51.1 percent from the field in a three-game stretch ... Scored a team-high 20 points against Oklahoma State ... Set a new UVM single game school record for consecutive free throws with a 13-for-13 effort from the stripe in a victory over Boston University ... Finished the game with 22 points ... Led Vermont to its second straight America East Conference Championship with wins over No. 7 Albany, No. 3 Boston University and No. 1 (#21) Hartford ... Averaged 10.5 points and 5.0 rebounds in the tournament ... Vermont advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the second consecutive year and earned a No. 10 seed ... Kotsopoulos helped UVM post its first-ever NCAA victory with an upset win over No. 7 Wisconsin in the first round in South Bend, Ind. ... She averaged 13 points and 2.5 rebounds in two NCAA games .

2008-09 SEASON:

Named to the America East All-Conference Second Team and All-Academic Team for the second straight year ... Also earned a spot on the America East All-Defensive Team for the third straight season and is the only Catsamount in the program's history to garner the honor ... Helped lead Vermont to the 2009 America East Women's Basketball Tournament Championship ... Named to the America East All-Championship Team ... Reached the 1,000-career point milestone with 12 points versus Hartford ... She was the 18th member of UVM's 1,000-point club and the eighth player to reach the milestone prior to their senior year ... She reached the mark in her 81st career game, the sixth fastest in school history ... Had her streak of 58 consecutive starts snapped when she stepped out of the starting lineup on Senior Day to allow all five seniors to earn a start ... One of 12 players in school history to play over 3,000 minutes ... Played 53 minutes and scored 24 points in UVM's triple-overtime win against Dartmouth in the TD Banknorth Classic Consolation Game and followed that up with 25 points in an overtime victory over Providence ... Named to the State Farm Classic All-Tournament Team after scoring 25 points at No. 18 Florida ... Ranked second on the team in scoring for the second straight year (14.0 ppg) and led the team in steals (74) ... Earned a spot on the ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District I Women's Basketball First Team ... Also named the America East Women's Basketball Scholar-Athlete for the second straight season.



With a 3.66 GPA and more than 1,000 points to her credit, University of Vermont basketball captain May Kotsopoulos was a valuable asset to the reigning American East Conference team and now will play professionally in Greece.

Honors

- 2010 America East Women's Basketball Scholar-Athlete
- 2010 ESPN The Magazine Women's Basketball Academic All-American Second Team
- 2010 ESPN The Magazine Women's Basketball Academic All-District I First Team
- 2010 America East All-Conference First Team (unanimous)
- 2010 America East All-Defensive Team
- 2010 America East All-Academic Team
- 2009-10 America East Preseason All-Conference
- 2009 Sheraton Raleigh Wolfpack Invitational MVP
- America East Player of the Week (12/14)
- 2010 ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District I First Team
- 2010 ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America Second Team
- 2010 America East Fans' Choice Player of the Year
- 2010 America East All-Conference First Team (unanimous)
- 2010 America East All-Defensive Team
- 2010 America East All-Academic Team
- 2009 Team MVP
- 2009 America East All-Conference Second Team
- 2009 America East All-Defensive Team
- 2009 America East All-Academic Team
- 2008-09 ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District I Women's Basketball First Team
- 2008-09 America East Commissioner's Academic Honor Roll
- 2008 America East Commissioner's Academic Honor Roll
- 2008 America East Women's Basketball Scholar-Athlete
- 2008 America East Defensive Player of the Year
- 2008 America East All-Conference Second Team
- 2008 America East All-Defensive Team
- 2008 America East All-Academic Team
- 2007 America East All-Rookie Team (unanimous)
- 2007 America East All-Defensive Team