

Will Ground Zero Mosque Battle Help St. Nicholas Church Rebuild?



Bishop Antonios of Phasiane, the Chancellor of the Archdiocese, spoke to the media at an event on August 23 at Ground Zero, just a short distance from where the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church destroyed on 9/11 once stood. NY Congressional

candidate George Demos (R) and former Governor George Pataki (C) also spoke on behalf of the church. Fr. Alex Karloutsos, Archbishop Demetrios' advisor (L) also was present to present the case that the church should be a priority too.

World Trade Center Rising Again, So Do Islam's Critics, No Common Ground

TNH staff writers

NEW YORK – At Ground Zero, the site of the World Trade Center's twin towers that were destroyed in the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, a new building, 1 World Trade Center, that will be 1,776 feet tall to mark the year of American independence, has hit the 34th floor. Two blocks away, plans for Islamic Center Park51, a religious and cultural center for Muslims, which will include a mosque, has been given rapid initial approval by city officials. But in the shadow of the fast-rising 1 World Trade Center, and not far from the proposed home of Park51, all that's left of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, also felled that fateful day, is an empty lot. Church officials have now stepped up their ire too, complaining the city has stalled plans for its rebuilding, even while giving the Muslim center a green light.

Against the din of construction at Ground Zero, opponents of the mosque and supporters of the church have found common ground, if for different reasons, and both went to the sites to make their case last week. "The only house of worship destroyed on September 11" is how both George Demos, a Republican candidate for Congress in Suffolk County, and former New York Governor George Pataki, who was in office in 2001, referred to the church. With a constant flow of curious tourists passing by, the media (including the New York Times, Associated Press and WNYC) squeezed into a narrow zone at the corner of Liberty and Greenwich streets to hear what they had to say. Demos and Pataki are opposed to building the Islamic center near Ground Zero, joining their voices to the national debate. Critics, who took part in protests

in Manhattan last weekend over an issue that has become a national campaign issue, say it the \$100 million center will desecrate the memories of the nearly 3,000 people killed that day in the attack.

HALLOWED GROUND TOO?

The location where Demos and Pataki and Greek church leaders held their news conference wasn't coincidental. It was a few steps from a fence labeled 8A, the coveted real estate spot where the St. Nicholas community of some 70 families wants to rebuild its church. That Liberty Street spot was proposed to them – in a deal that went bust in March 2009- by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which owns the Ground Zero site, as a suitable swap for their original location – a short distance within the same fence. The 300-member congregation lost its 90-year-old parish when the twin towers collapsed. Leaders of the church and the Port Authority have spent years negotiating a deal that would let the church rebuild on land a bit far-

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Joy of the Scoop: The Demetracopoulos Files

By Angelike Contis
TNH Staff Writer

NEW YORK – Greek journalist Elias Demetracopoulos, who has been based in Washington, D.C. since 1967, was on both former president Richard Nixon's and the Greek military junta's enemies list. Today, at 82, he has outlived both. Nonetheless his struggle against them continues - evidenced by the stacks of photocopies that fill his assisted living center suite, where he has

resided since an injury a few years ago, still pushing a quest for justice. When reviewing nuggets of the past, he is prone to a thinly concealed cynical delivery, punctuated by the occasional good-hearted belly laugh. He prides himself on past scoops related to Watergate, Konstantinos G. Karamanlis and disgraced banker George Koskotas. "No other Greek journalist has been mentioned so often in the American and British mass media," wrote the Greek newspa-

per Apogevmatini in 2009. Demetracopoulos' kudos include an honorary Phoenix award from the Greek President.

The reporter's biggest claim to fame is uncovering the Greek Watergate connection. He discovered that, in 1968, the Greek military junta's intelligence agency (KYP) made a \$549,000 donation to Nixon's 1968 presidential campaign - via Greek American supporter Tom Pappas. This, Demetracopoulos says (in an interview this journalist

videotaped for a forthcoming Greek documentary) made him "a press target of destruction by the Nixon administration and (Nixon's National Security Advisor Henry) Kissinger." The then-US secretary of state, Demetracopoulos said, wanted him dead. It wasn't that personal for the journalist. As he wrote in a 2001 Naval Review Proceedings article: "I did not have a political ax to grind. I

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Three Hierarchs Academy Now in Aristotle's Hands to Teach the Young

By Stavros Marmarinos
TNH Staff Writer

NEW YORK –The Pastor of the Three Hierarch Community in Brooklyn, Rev. Eugene Pappas handed out blue and gold carnations - symbolizing Greece and the Church - to all those at-

tending the inaugural ceremony of the Aristotle Academy of Math and Sciences, which took place in Brooklyn on Sunday, August 15th. Earlier in the day, the Three Hierarchs Church was filled with faithful who had come to celebrate the feast of the Dormition of the Virgin Mary.

The inaugural ceremony followed afterwards on a raised platform set up in the courtyard outside the community's school building. A procession formed right after the divine liturgy, with the community's local boy scouts troop participating as well. The ceremony began with the singing of the Greek and American national anthems, followed by the hymn of the Three Hierarchs - the patron saints of the parish. A traditional blessing of the water service, known as the "agiasmos" followed, where members of the parish's Russian Orthodox community led by Rev. Andrianos also participated. Earlier in the day, a priest from the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Rev. Vladimir, distributed the antidoron to faithful at the end of the Ukrainian Community's divine liturgy - the third liturgy that day taking place in the multiethnic parish. Three Hierarchs Parish Council President and School Board Chairman Costantinos "Gus" Savaros greeted the dignitaries and guests attending the ceremony. During his speech, he noted that the formation of the Academy in the Three Hierarchs Community marks a major shift towards the area of education. He also highlighted the fact that the Academy will be operating in direct affiliation with St. John's University.

The Aristotle Academy is a private school, using the Little Red Schoolhouse Program from St. John's University. This method has been proven successful in educating and preparing young students for higher education everywhere. Academy staff have been trained, educated, and are supervised by the St. John's University Graduate



For rent signs are displayed at the entrance of a building in central Athens, Aug. 20, 2010. The pain from the harshest austerity package debt-ridden Greece has seen in decades has kicked in with a vengeance. Unemployment is up. Shops, caught between higher taxes and consumers' rapidly diminishing purchasing power, are closing.

Is it a Depression Yet for Greece?

ATHENS – Scores of thousands of visitors poured onto the moon-lit Acropolis on Aug. 24 – as they did to other monuments around the country traditionally open and free so Greeks and tourists can bask in the glow of the country's glorious past. But there were so many it took 1 1/2 hours to make the usual five-minute walk up to the Parthenon and some grumbled it was because cash-strapped Greeks, their pay cut and taxes raised, couldn't afford to do anything else this year. "There wasn't 1/10th as many people last year," one man said. Indeed, the country's most fabled and famous symbol almost didn't open at all as its guards initially refused to work or open the doors because they weren't going to be paid. They reached a compromise with the government, donating their 100 euros (\$127)

special pay for the night to charity, cheering visitors, if only for a night because with September looming there are fears the country's austerity measures, instituted by Prime Minister George Papandreou to keep Greece from defaulting on its obligations under the weight of a \$380 billion debt, are starting to backfire. Only recently, the government said there were signs of optimism and that Greece was starting to crawl its way back to fiscal stability.

Greece has received the first two installments of a three-year package of \$146 billion in emergency loans from the European Union and International Monetary Fund (IMF) and government officials said a recovery is under way, but more telltale signs are that public sector workers and others aren't spending, and that despite sky-

high tax rates, that revenues aren't meeting projections either. The signs – For Rent, For Sale – are everywhere in Athens, with estimates that 25% percent of the stores on one of the main shopping avenues, Stadiou Street, are now closed. That's also the home of a now-closed branch of the Marfin Bank that was firebombed on May 5, killing three workers during a wild strike and protests in which Greeks took to the streets to protest the cutbacks and tax hikes.

Now, it looks like the worst is yet to come. More than 170,000 small and medium-sized Greek businesses risk going bankrupt by the end of 2011 unless the government changes its tax policy and introduces growth measures, according to

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NEW YORK – The City Mice and the Country Mice have been at it for about 17 years. That is, members of the Church of the Annunciation/Evangelismos in Manhattan's Upper West Side trek 100 miles across Long Island to the tony Hamptons (they are not exactly their country cousins of modest means) for a picnic or beach party and a softball game against the Church of the Kimisis/Dormition. Too bad they didn't have God as an umpire. This year's game on Saturday, August 21 was also notable for a sad reason: it was the first time the two parishes have gathered since the passing of the Annunciation's beloved former pastor, Fr. James Moskovites, prompting some to refer to it as "the first Father James Memorial Softball Game." Fr. Moskovites was an avid baseball fan from Massachusetts, so the reverend was a devout Boston Red Sox fan. The parish's new pastor also loves baseball, but Fr. Nathanael Symeonides was sporting a New York Yankees cap, something of a relief to ballplayers who accepted and forgave Father James' baseball ways, especially because their game is the church equivalent of the Sox-Yanks rivalry.

The annual event emerged naturally out of friendships between Annunciation parishioners who have bought houses in the Hamptons or rent accommodations for the summer, and the people of Kimisis Church. Stephanie Astic George, who has long been active in the Annunciation parish, and her husband, own a summer home nearby. A former president of the Annunciation Parish Council, George Nicholas, along with his wife Stacey, has been going to the Hamptons for the summer for 25 years. The Hamptons church is open year-round but attendance swells during the summer. The community is led by Protospesbyter Fr. Alex Karloutsos. Fr. Constantine Lazarakis, who has served at a number of youth-related posts at the Archdiocese, had been assisting Fr. Karloutsos for about seven years. At the feast of the Kimisis this year on the 15th of August, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios officially appointed him Presbyter, and he will now assist Fr. Karloutsos on a fulltime basis.

Fr. Lazarakis served seven years as the director of the Ionian Village summer camp that is located in Greece and was the youth director of the Archdiocesan district for two years. Stephanie George said she loves

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In the Spotlight: Dorie Klissas, Producer

By Constantine S. Sirigos
TNH Staff Writer

NEW YORK - Dorie Klissas breathed the rarefied air of network television producer for 20 years. From 1990 to 1994 she was an Olympics Profiles producer covering the 1992 Winter Olympics in Albertville, France and the 1994 Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway. As a producer for the Today Show on NBC from 1994-2006 she produced numerous "Where in the World is Matt?" trips, including a live broadcast from the Acropolis in 1999. She also developed numerous medical series. When Katie Couric became the first solo female anchor at CBS Evening News in 2006, she followed her to be the network's senior medical producer. Klissas' passion for medical news led to her current position at New York University's Langone Medical Center where she has the opportunity to collaborate with leading scientists and physicians. Her passion for tennis led to a national ranking with the U.S. Tennis Association when she was younger.

TNH: Briefly tell us who you are and what you do.

As the media director at NYU Langone I promote the work of physicians, scientists and clinicians.

TNH: How do you help the people you work with/for?

As an academic medical center, NYU Langone is on the forefront of medical research and compassionate patient care. My job is to explain to the media and general public what scientific and clinical advances are being made. I lead a team of media professionals who write press releases, interact with members of the media and pitch key clinical areas such as cancer,

cardiology, neurosurgery and orthopaedics. I feel I help the doctors and scientists I work with by breaking down their clinical and scientific discoveries in terms that the lay public can understand. By successfully translating this knowledge into forms they can easily grasp, I believe that individuals will become empowered, creating better health for themselves and their families.

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

Odysseus was a wanderer and a warrior and I feel that is what skills were necessary to forge a career in television. With an intense curiosity, I was drawn to journalism during college where I worked for the college paper. More than that, I could see that journalists received incredible access to news and sports figures. As a news and sports enthusiast, I wanted to tell their stories. After meeting tennis commentator Bud Collins during a college event, I wrote to him asking to be an intern at the U.S. Open Tennis Championships in Flushing Meadows, New York. That first adventure sealed my fate, especially when he suggested that I work at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London as a production assistant. After covering Wimbledon, I decided that television was a collaborative and creative field, and I wanted to be part of it. I persisted and eventually became an Olympics producer where I traveled around the world to interview athletes. I went to Norway to cover the ski jumpers and traveled to Jamaica to interview the fabled Jamaican Bobsled team. Later, as a Today Show producer, I filmed the restoration efforts at the Acropolis in Athens, spent



Dorie Klissas

three days on the Christina yacht, the legendary vessel owned by Aristotle Onassis, and went sponge diving in Tarpon Springs and Kalymnos, Greece.

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

The greatest lesson I have ever learned is that failure is often a blessing. If you fail, the best remedy is learning what you did wrong so you can figure out how to succeed the next time around.

TNH: Do you have a role model?

My greatest role model is my mother, Mary Klissas. She's been an inspiration to me ever since I was very young. She was a hard worker who helped her parents in their motel business and helped run my father's diner. I learned from her and everyone around me that hard work could pay off. But what was so wonderful about my mom was that she encouraged my creative talents and desire for indepen-

dence. When I told her I wanted to go into television, she said, "Good work if you can get it. Go for it." She encouraged my passions and supported me wholeheartedly. Perhaps what I found the most incredible about my mom is, that ever since my dad passed away in 1994, she has been extremely independent.

TNH: What's your ultimate goal in life?

My ultimate goal in life is to live every moment to the fullest. It's wonderful to strive and achieve, but the most important moments are spent with your loved ones and friends.

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

For many years, I had wanderlust - and that led to many travels and adventures. But I often wished I was a bit happier sitting still. My sister Rita used to tell me, "I can be happy by sitting in my bed and looking up at the ceiling, but you, Dorie, you have to travel the world." That was very true for many years, but now having been out of television for a bit, I feel a bit more settled and happy to be in one place.

TNH: What's your most enjoyable pastime?

My most enjoyable pastime is playing racket sports like tennis and squash.

TNH: Share with us some words of wisdom.

Throughout my experiences as a producer, I realize that the thing that makes most people happy are the simple things - time spent away from the phone, reading to your kids, getting the most out of a sunset. That's why it is important to simplify life and appreciate the blessings you have - and make time to create blessings for others.

GOINGS ON...

■ AUGUST 26-29

NORWALK, Conn. - The St. George Greek Orthodox Church will be hosting their annual Greek festival from August 26 - 29. Enjoy the variety of homemade Greek cuisine; authentic Greek pastries; an outdoor café; a marketplace to buy jewelry and things for the home; games and rides; and a cash prize raffle. There will also be live Greek music and traditional Greek dancing. Cash raffle tickets are \$10.00 each. Prizes include: 1st Prize: \$10,000; 2nd Prize: \$3,500; and 3rd Prize: \$1,500. The raffle will be drawn on August 29 at 9:30 p.m. Rain or Shine! Free admission and valet parking. Festival hours are: August 26: 5-10 p.m.; August 27: 4 p.m. - 11 p.m.; August 28: Noon-11 p.m.; August 29: 1-10 p.m. St. George Greek Orthodox Church is located at: 238 West Rocks Road, Norwalk, CT 06851. For ticket information, email: nwkgreekfestival@gmail.com or visit: <http://www.stgeorge.org/ChurchFestival.html> for further information.

UPLAND, Calif. - The St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church is hosting their 11th annual Greek festival on August 27-29. Enjoy the variety of homemade Greek food, lots of live music, children's games, vendor shops, church tours and traditional Greek dancing. Happy hour specials will be on August 27 from 5-7 p.m. and August 28-29 from 3-5 p.m. \$2.00 off dinners and \$1.00 off drinks. Admission is \$2.00; children under 12 free. Festival hours are: August 27 - 5-10 p.m.; August 28 - 12-10 p.m.; and August 29 - 12-10 p.m. St. Spyridon is located at: 1391 Chaffee Street, Upland, California 91786. For further information, call: (909) 985-4411 or visit: <http://www.saintspyridon.org>

■ AUGUST 30-SEPT. 2

NEW YORK - Greek American playwright Maria Micheles' new play is part of the Dream Up Festival of the Theater for the New City. Directed by Richard Vetere, "Around the Night Park" is a haunting love story about a relationship between a social outcast and an actress. The remaining performances are on August 30 & September 2 at 7 p.m. and August 31 at 9 p.m. Tickets \$15. 155 First Avenue. For reservations call 212-254-1109.

■ SEPTEMBER 3-5

SACRAMENTO, Calif. - The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church of Sacramento is hosting their annual Greek festival from September 3-5. The variety of mouth-watering homemade Greek food ranges from mousaka, kalamari, pastitsio, fasolakia, pilafi and dolamadakia to name a few. There will be an assortment of Greek pastries and coffee and frappes. Each night there will be live Greek music and Greek dancing performed by Greek dance groups. Festival hours are: Friday, 11:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m.; Saturday, 12:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.; and Sunday, 12:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. General Admission is \$5 for adults; Seniors (55 and over) \$4 and children under 12 are free. Admission is free on Friday from 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. There is a \$2.00 off admission coupon on the website. The Convention Center is located at: 1400 J Street Sacramento, CA 95814. For further information, visit: <http://www.annunciation.ca.gov/arch.org/> or call: (916) 443-2003.

■ THRU 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 bestseller, 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.

■ SEPTEMBER 10-12/17-19

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. - Staten Island celebrates Hellenic culture with the Staten Island Greek Festival of the Church of The Holy Trinity-St. Nicholas. For the past 40 years the church has used the festival to stage events that represent the Greek way of life and to share their rich cultural and artistic heritage with the rest of NYC. Visitors can taste traditional Greek food, pastries, coffee, sample the great wines of Greece, watch and learn traditional dances from all regions of Greece, and shop at the authentic Greek boutique. Guests can test their skills at games of chance, have fun spinning, swirling and sawing on exhilarating rides or simply soak up the culture and celebrate it with family and friends. The hours are Sept. Fridays Sept. 10 & 17 from 6 to 10 p.m.; Saturdays Sept. 11 & 18 from 2 - 12 pm and Sundays Sept. 12 and 19 from 2 to 10 p.m. For directions visit the church Web site at <http://greekchurch-si.org/> or call (718) 494-0568.

■ SEPTEMBER 10-12

LOS ANGELES, Calif. - The Los Angeles Greek Festival of the Saint Sophia Cathedral is around the corner. For further information, call: (323) 737-2424.

SOMERVILLE, Mass. - 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/>

CARMEL, Ind. - The Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church is hosting their 38th Annual Greek Festival September 10-11 from 4:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m. For more information, visit: www.holytrinityindy.org/

■ SEPTEMBER 18

TARPON SPRINGS, FL. - The Greek Arts Initiative on September 18 will present Night in the Islands, recreating the atmosphere of the Greek islands with monthly outdoor dining on the Sponge Docks. There will be performances by outstanding musical groups, Ellada and Odyssey, Greek dancing, and other arts. For further information, call: (727) 937-1130 or (727) 942-5605.

■ SEPTEMBER 19

BROOKLYN, N.Y. - Annual commemoration of the Hellenes of Thrace, Asia Minor and Pontos who perished in the Greek Holocaust at the hands of the Ottoman state and the Young Turk regime. The event will be held at the community center of the Three Hierarchs Greek Orthodox Church after the Divine Liturgy at 12 noon, 1714 Avenue P in Brooklyn, New York. For additional information call 718-339-0280.

■ SEPTEMBER 19 & 26

TARPON SPRINGS, FL. - The Greek Arts Initiative presents Kalymnian Traditional Songs with Irene Karavokiros on September 19 and 26 from 12:00-2:00 p.m. at the Heritage Museum. She will teach many of the older Kalymnian songs, including those sung for weddings and other important occasions. The event is free. 100 Beekman Lane, Craig Park, Tarpon Springs. Call: (727) 937-1130 or (727) 942-5605.



TNH/COSTAS BEJ

Making a Small Chapel Bigger on a Special Day

The Hellenic Cultural Center in Astoria has a chapel devoted to St. Kosmas the Aetolian, but it was too small to celebrate his feast day, so the auditorium was turned into a church. For a video: www.thenationalherald.com/video/967



Summer Pascha at Windham in the Catskills

With Fr. Ignatios Achlioptas chanting before an elaborate flowered bier for the Theotokos and 17 lambs on spits, guests at this year's festival at upstate NY's Church of the Assumption felt like they were celebrating Easter at their Greek villages.



TNH/COSTAS BEJ

Late Summer Festival: Greek School Looms

The proud parishioners manning the booth of the Greek Afternoon Day School and their pastor Fr. Demetrios Calogredes smile for the camera during the annual summer festival of the Church of the Assumption in Port Jefferson, Long Island.



TNH/COSTAS BEJ

Evrytanian Association Celebrates in Flushing

New Yorkers with roots in Evrytania celebrated the feast of the miracle-working icon from Asia Minor that their association is named after - Panagia Prousiotissa/Our Lady of Proussa. Bishop Philotheos of Meloa presided over Vespers.

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Vote on our website!

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

The question this week is: Are you in favor of a mosque near Ground Zero?

- Yes
 No
 Maybe

The results for last week's question: Are you satisfied with the quality of the sermons you hear in Greek Orthodox churches?

35% voted "Yes"
57% voted "No"
8% voted "Maybe"

Please vote at: www.thenationalherald.com

Joy of the Scoop: The Demetracopoulos Files Expose His Enemies

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got my kicks from scooping other reporters. It is often hard for people in public life to understand that this is what drives most reporters. Few reporters want to beat to death an officeholder or an institution so much as they want to beat the reporter next to them."

BATTLE LINES

Demetracopoulos, who was born in Athens in 1928, and imprisoned when just a teen in 1943 by the Nazi occupiers, began his reporting career in Greece, with political writing and editing at the leading newspaper Kathimerini. By the early 1950's, he had a formidable cache of key international and diplomatic contacts. It was on his first assignment in the U.S. in 1951 that he had the first of many run-ins with the Central Intelligence Agency. He recalls a CIA agent named John Zimmerman coming to his room at the National Hotel and inviting him to work for the agency. "I was angry," he recalls, repeating again, "I was angry, but I told him off and that was the end of it." He maintains that after he interviewed several top U.S. admirals, the CIA pressured the International Herald Tribune to stop working with him (he also wrote for Macedonia, Athens Daily Post, Ethnos and Thessaloniki.) A few decades later he proved the agency unlawfully tapped his phone in the U.S.

A series of interviews in the U.S. in 1966, with political figures such as Eugene McCarthy and Edward Kennedy led him to publish a prophetic book *The Threat of Dictatorship*, in which he revealed an impending military solution being concocted against Greece. Demetracopoulos says he briefed both Greek Center Union Party leader George Papandreu and Prime Minister Panagiotis Kanellopoulos, "who were really upset." Shortly afterward, however, the



Greek journalist Elias P. Demetracopoulos relocated to Washington, D.C. after the Greek military junta took power; from there he waged a campaign against them, with the pen and his investigative skills. Here he speaks in Greece in 2003, about his lawsuit against Henry Kissinger.

GIANNIS PANAGOPOULOS/EUROKINISSI

junta took over and the book was banned. Demetracopoulos similarly later tried to warn the U.S. and world into action against the invasion of Cyprus, to no avail.

From the start of the junta, Demetracopoulos was determined to leave Greece. Though his passport was taken by the Greek junta, Danish authorities helped him slip out of a United Nations conference in Warsaw, Poland to escape to Copenhagen and, finally, the U.S. on October 1, 1967. Sound like a movie? There are at least two plans for documentaries about Demetracopoulos in the works. Greek filmmaker Angelos Kovotos is working on a production with company Portolan Films, while U.S. writer James Barron, who is currently writing a biography on Demetracopoulos, also plans for a States-side film project. The Massachusetts-based Barron, who has interviewed the journalist extensively, and promises to reveal previously

unpublished information, calls Demetracopoulos "a fiercely independent person." He adds: "Because of his independence, he paid a very heavy price."

WATERGATE YEARS

After his arrival in the U.S., the savvy journalist made no secret of his opposition to the Greek junta. Before long, he established himself in D.C., and constantly fed meaty information from Washington to Athens and vice versa. He also worked for many years as a consultant at financial company Brimberg & Company. When Nixon announced that his running mate would be the Greek American governor Spiro Agnew, Demetracopoulos recalls feeling a false sense of optimism. After all Agnew, who Demetracopoulos met in 1966, and even considered a "good friend," said he'd stay neutral regarding the junta. But then at Agnew's first major public appearance, as a vice presidential candidate, at the National Press Club, "some-

thing funny happened." Demetracopoulos recalls - as if it were yesterday - that when asked about his position on the dictatorship, in his first big public address, vice presidential candidate Agnew "picked up a piece of paper from his pocket" and read a response "1,000% in support of the dictatorship."

The significance of the event, he explains - with a characteristic low, bitter laugh - is that just two days later, coup leader George Papadopoulos held his first plebiscite in Greece. From then on, says Demetracopoulos, referring to himself and Agnew, it was "one Greek against another Greek." He adds: "From then on, it was war all the way."

Fueled by the question of why Agnew so abruptly changed his mind, the journalist put "the Demetracopoulos Method" into action and discovered the Greek junta's funds for Nixon. The important thing was to feed the news to the right people. Finally, Democratic National Committee

Chairman Lawrence O'Brian of California - "an old friend" - issued a press statement asking Nixon and Agnew to come clean on the matter "and this led to the '72 break in," at the Watergate complex, says Demetracopoulos. In July 1971, he appeared as a witness in a House Foreign Affairs subcommittee investigation of the U.S. role in the Greek junta. Noted authors Seymour Hersch, Stanley I. Kutler and Christopher Hitchens are among those who have written about the Greek journalist's sleuthing. In the mid 1980's, Demetracopoulos' discovery set the groundwork for the revelation that Greek cash, via Pappas, paid directly for the Watergate burglars. Later, Demetracopoulos also revealed the shocker that past and future prime minister of Greece Constantine G. Karamanlis had also backed a U.S.-led junta.

KISSINGER VENDETTA

In an ominous side note, Kissinger, in whose honor Demetracopoulos had held a luncheon two decades earlier at the Grand Bretagne in Athens, seems to have wanted the journalist's head. In 1977, Demetracopoulos was able to obtain a document from Kissinger's files that read: "Mr. Demetracopoulos Death in Athens Prison." Fixing a steady gaze on his interviewer, Demetracopoulos speaks of himself in the third person: "First, Mr. Demetracopoulos is still alive. And second, he has not died in an Athens prison. Can you explain? We never got an explanation yet." Demetracopoulos is not in the habit of letting such injuries drop. He successfully sued both the C.I.A. and F.B.I., who revealed they had been unlawfully tapping his lines during the junta years. He also sued the CIA for circulating false information - most notably to the New York Times - that he was "associated with the Yugoslav and Israeli intelligence sources." His name was cleared

by the FBI in 1984 and Washington bank Riggs National Bank apologized in 1985 for unlawfully giving the FBI access to his accounts. "He won," says biographer Barron, pointing out that where others may have crumbled, Demetracopoulos triumphed. Demetracopoulos' most recent attempt to take action against Kissinger in the Greek Supreme Court in 2003 did not lead anywhere, however. "It was a pity so much time and money was wasted," Demetracopoulos says, sadly, of his countless court battles.

MORE REVELATIONS

Each name and story in Demetracopoulos' thick files leads to others. His work in the 1960's and 1970's has given way to more recent political revelations. It was Demetracopoulos who first uncovered the Greek business magnate Koskotas' tax problems in the U.S.; the Koskotas scandal would topple Andreas Papandreu's PASOK government in 1989. Demetracopoulos' name even appears in the 2001 book *The Hunting of the President: The Ten-Year Campaign to Destroy Bill and Hillary Clinton*. It turns out that Lucianne Goldberg, a literary agent linked to the Monica Lewinsky affair, started her career by circulating - back in the Nixon days - Georgia politician John P. Rousakis' slanderous statement that Demetracopoulos was "an obscure Greek Communist journalist." Looking back, Demetracopoulos says, "It has been an interesting life," though many of his enemies may have faded away, and a few may cringe at the knowledge that more scoops are to come. The journalist keeps adding clippings to his rich paper trail, while new works about him promise to air dark corners of history that others would prefer remain hidden. That's the Demetracopoulos list.

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Three Hierarchs Academy Now in Aristotle's Hands to Teach the Young

Continued from page 1

Program, thereby using the best and most current techniques in learning. Aristotle Academy Principal Josephine Merola introduced the school faculty and spoke highly about their training and teaching abilities.

Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz was also on hand for the event, and expressed his enthusiasm over the progress being made by the Three Hierarchs Community, noting that it supports education and is trying to innovate and do something that has not been achieved by other schools. He also praised the initiative being undertaken to keep local parochial schools in operation. Markowitz once again emphasized his love for Hellenism and Education, while adding that it was the Greeks who taught the world. He also presented a proclamation to the Three Hierarchs Community declaring the day as Aristotle Academy Day. The Education Coordinator from the Greek Consulate General in New York George Vlikidis was also in attendance and addressed the audience. The parish's Philoptochos chapter and the local Daughters of Penelope (Demetra Chapter) organized a reception which was held after



TNH/MICHAEL GIAKOUMELOS

V. Rev. Euguene Pappas shows the proclamation presented to the Three Hierarchs Community by Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, (R.) Three Hierarchs Parish Council President Gus Savaros is seen in the back with Rev. Andrianos.

the inaugural ceremony.

"I wish all the best to our school and education in general," Rev. Pappas said in a statement to the *The National Her-*

ald. "I am an educator too. I've taught at various schools for 44 years, and I've been teaching at our school as well as at Xavierian High School - one of the most

renowned high schools in the area - for the past 28 years, where I teach theology and Orthodoxy. It is my firm belief that young people are brought up

and educated according to what they were taught when they were young. They get all their values from home, school, and the Church," he said.

As previously reported in TNH's Greek language sister edition, as of the new school year in September, the Three Hierarchs Day School will operate under the name Aristotle Academy of Math and Sciences, in affiliation with St. John's University. The curriculum will place heavy emphasis on math, sciences, and language. The new academy will keep the same grades as the former school, running from Pre-K to Grade 8. St. John's University has sent Josephine Merola to head the Aristotle Academy. Merola is of Italian descent and has years of experience in the field of education. In addition, the academy's faculty members have all completed their Master's Degrees.

Greek will be taught at the Academy for at least one hour a

day. The Greek Department will be chaired by Sophia Schouris, who worked as a faculty member at Three Hierarchs Parochial School. A Greek Language Afternoon School will also operate in the community daily. Aside from classes in math, literature, arts and sciences, the Aristotle Academy features a variety of other programs including tennis, basketball, personal hygiene, music, dance, cooking. New and interesting courses will continue to be added to the curriculum as the academy grows. The Aristotle Academy also has two lunchrooms, a full sized gym, a library, as well as a TV and computer lab. The academy meets all the standards and regulations for student safety and protection.

A video of the inaugural ceremony is featured on TNH's website. The link is: www.thenationalherald.com/video/940.

National Hellenic Society Students Give Greece "A"

After what they said was an unforgettable time studying for three weeks at the American College of Greece, a group of 15 Greek American students selected by the National Hellenic Society (NHS) for its Heritage Greece had their chance to give out grades: to their sponsors, and their recommendations mean the number of students participating next year will double, to 30. NHS George Marcus said, "Now that we know Heritage Greece really does impact the next generation and have the research to prove it. If we are serious about preserving Greek heritage in this country, it is incumbent to support the National Hellenic Society's efforts to continue this and other programs which can scale and serve thousands and thousands of the next generation of young Greek Americans." NHS Programs Chairman, Fanis Economidis said, "Heritage Greece will quickly become one of the most important Programs in the nation for preserving Greek heritage. We are all very proud of this Program and grateful to our members for their support in making the vision become a reality in just a year."

Heritage Greece was launched this past June with 15 Greek American students

teamed-up with a peer group of five Greek students. The Greek American student participants gathered in New York for orientation and were given a comprehensive pre-arrival survey designed to gauge the students' motivation for attending the Program, notions and meaning of Greek heritage and their ancestry and perceptions about modern Greece. Following their participation in the Program, the NHS students were provided an exit survey that compared the responses. Gregory Katsas, Professor of Sociology at ACG, reported his findings in a comprehensive report prepared for the NHS. "The main goal of the Program as expressed by the National Hellenic Society is to ensure the permanence of the Hellenic heritage for the next generations of the Greek Americans. This goal was largely achieved as it becomes clear from the various sections of this report."

He said that the summary conclusion of the report best served in the words of the student participants themselves, with thoughts said as:

* "I am so grateful it is beyond words. I will maintain many of the relationships I have built here for all my life."

* "I feel so much better con-

nected to my ancestors and to my family. I am looking forward to sharing my experience with my family and friends. Unfortunately, I cannot find the words to express the feelings I have. It was undoubtedly an experience of a lifetime."

From the answers, he was able to put together a chart, including using their demographic background, to assemble highlights that concluded:

The following chart provides the student participants' demographic background information:

* Heritage Greece provided a better understanding and appreciation of Greek ancestry and a keener sense of self-identity

* Heritage Greece provided a better understanding of Greek culture and language and the peer group aspects of the trip were deeply appreciated by both Greek American and Greek students

* Student participants expressed closer ties to their Greek heritage

* As a result of Heritage Greece-student participants expressed a desire to return back to Greece and further explore their Greek ancestry

* As a result of Heritage Greece-student participants expressed a desire to become more

engaged with other Greek American students and the Greek community

The Greek American community has so many organizations it's hard to keep track of them, but in a little more than a year, the National Hellenic Society (NHS) has emerged as an important group with the mission of preserving Greek American heritage by developing and supporting programs targeting the next generation. Executive Director Timothy Maniatis stated: "The National Hellenic Society demonstrated its commitment to the next generation through the support of programs such as the AHEPA Journey to Greece Program, the Ionian Village Summer Camp and the development of Heritage Greece - a cultural immersion and educational program that is a gift from the National Hellenic Society to qualified Greek American students." The NHS partnered with ACG, Europe's oldest and largest American-styled college to implement Heritage Greece, which provides exceptional young Greek Americans an opportunity to reconnect with their Greek identity, learn about, appreciate and better understand their roots within the prism of modern Greece.

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ΕΘΝΙΚΟΣ ΚΗΡΥΞ

Will Ground Zero Mosque Battle Help St. Nicholas Church Rebuild?

Continued from page 1

ther south than the 1,200-square-foot lot it sat on, in exchange for financial help to rebuild it. "What about us?" asked Father Alex Karloutsos, public affairs assistant to the archbishop of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. "When I see them raising issues about the mosque and not thinking about the church that was destroyed, it does bother us."

Demos—with only a few weeks until the primaries - took credit for bringing the issue to the forefront. He pointed a finger at the Port Authority for dropping out of talks a year ago. "This church must rise again and it is our obligation to ensure it rises, it rises from the ashes," he said, adding: "All of our political leadership seems intent on assisting the mosque, at the same time they have taken no steps to make sure St. Nicholas is rebuilt." The candidate pointed out that 168 people from Suffolk County died on 9/11 and called on New York Governor David Patterson to speak out. Paterson has suggested that state land farther away from Ground Zero be used for the mosque. "Rather than focus his attention on the mosque, Gov. Paterson should step in right away to ensure that the state of New York and the Port Authority uphold the agreement with the Greek Orthodox Church so this project can go forward without further delay," state Sen. Dean Skelos said.

While the press needed help in identifying newcomer Demos and the Archdiocese's black-clad representative, Bishop Antonios of Phasiane, the Chancellor of the Archdiocese, the cameras automatically zoomed in on the familiar craggy face of Pataki, who had promised nine years ago the

church would be rebuilt. "We stand here at Ground Zero and you can hear the sound of construction. The master site plan, which was brilliantly designed, and is now being brilliantly implemented, is being constructed before our very eyes and I mean, you can see the Freedom Tower rising, you can see the plaza... for the memorial, being constructed..." He added: "Now almost nine years later, as the others take shape, there not only has been no progress made in the reconstruction and rebuilding of St. Nicholas, there is not even an ongoing discussion with the Port Authority officials." He added: "It's just wrong that the rebuilding of St. Nicholas Church, which was there, which was part of the master plan ... has basically been ignored." Referring to "a pledge made on September 11," the former governor urged Port Authority to "reach out and engage in a dialogue with the leaders of the church, so that we can resolve remaining issues have strong negotiations and get St. Nicholas Church rebuilt here at the World Trade Center site."

WAS THERE A DEAL?

The World Trade Center site's owner says it made a final offer in 2009 that was rejected. Karloutsos denied this, instead saying that Port Authority pulled the deal and has since ignored the church's attempts at dialogue. "This is about the Port Authority renegeing on a promise," he said.

While Pataki and Demos voiced strident opposition to the construction of the Islamic center, Bishop Antonios of Phasiane, kept his focus on St. Nicholas. Speaking in measured tones, with Karloutsos nodding approval at his side, Bishop Antonios thanked Pataki. He said he hoped for the Port Authority's re-



St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in New York, the 36-foot tall church, which was destroyed in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, stands near the base of the World Trade Center.

turn to the discussion. St. Nicholas, he noted, "was established in 1916 by Greek immigrants to this country and ... had become a haven for people of all faiths who would often stop by, light a candle and offer a prayer, regardless of their ethnic, religious backgrounds." Rebuilt, the church would be "a center of healing and reconciliation for all people," he said. Bishop Antonios adamantly denied - when asked - that talks were stalled by the church's excessive demands. "They gave us an ultimatum and gave us little time - and within that day, they withdrew the offer and walked away."

While Demos repeatedly referred to "Judeo-Christian values" and Pataki said, "I think building the mosque so close to this hallowed ground is the wrong thing to do," Bishop Antonios noted: "It's unfortunate that it took a controversy over a mosque to bring attention to St. Nicholas Church." But he pointed to a "silver lining" for St. Nicholas in the mosque controversy. Among those listening was Yiannis Costalas, whose Essex shop is a block away. Costalas, who had come to St. Nicholas since 1968, explained why the new Liberty Street plot is so much better than the old Cedar Street spot. "If it stays where it was before," he explained of the church, "they are going to make their parking station for buses and cars and they will hide our church." At the new spot, however, "Everyone who passes by, Greeks and non-Greeks, on their way to the (future September 11) memorial, will see St. Nicholas." He was optimistic that Port Authority would come around, noting: "They are sort of difficult, but they like us."

REACTIONS AROUND

The same day, Archbishop Demetrios of America, writing from the island of Imvros, in Greece, thanked Pataki. He wrote: "The Archdiocese and parish leadership of St. Nicholas remain firmly committed to the rebuilding of the church at 130 Liberty street, honoring the long-standing agreement with the LMDC and the Port Authority." He added that the new church will serve as "an appropriate memorial to the 3,000 innocent people of all Faiths who lost their lives that day." Following an August 18 Fox News report on the topic, organizations such as the Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater New York and politi-

cians like New York congressional candidate Nicole Malliotakis and City Council member Peter Vallone, of Astoria, backed the St. Nicholas effort. Vallone told TNH: "Negotiations break down all the time but you don't take the ball and go home. If you have to, bring in another party to resolve the issues." The President of St. Nicholas Parish John Couloucoundis said: "There is mounting pressure on Port Authority... I can't believe they are

going to be able to stay silent." He was glad the Archdiocese took the initiative last week to set up a phone line where people can donate funds. However he pointed out that the parish is not yet actively fundraising, because of so much uncertainty. "We haven't done much because we want to show people something finalized," he said.

For video coverage: www.thenationalherald.com/video/961

Port Authority: Greek Church Officials Turned Down \$60 million

After being battered by officials of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, who said their plans to rebuild the church destroyed in the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center had been stymied by city and authority officials, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey released a statement in its defense on August 25.

It stated: "St. Nicholas Orthodox Church has always had and will continue to have the right to rebuild on its original location. The question was whether significant sums of public money would be spent to build a church six times larger than the original at a separate location on the site, and making sure that effort wouldn't further delay the World Trade Center redevelopment. On that question, we worked for many years to reach an agreement and offered up to 60 million dollars of public money to build that much larger new church. After reaching what we believed was an agreement in 2008, representatives of the church wanted even more public commitments, including unacceptable approvals on the design of the Vehicle Security Center that threatened to further delay the construction on the World Trade Center and the potential for another \$20 million of public money. In 2009, we made our final offer, which again included up to \$60 million in public money and told St. Nicholas Orthodox Church that the World Trade Center could not be delayed over this issue. They rejected that offer... To now cancel existing contracts and go back and redesign that key facility, which is integral to the rest of the site, would delay the entire World Trade Center further and cost untold millions in public dollars. Moreover, St. Nicholas Church continues to retain the right to build on its original location and work could begin in 2013 in sequence with the completion of the Vehicle Security Center, just as it would have on the larger site."

Play (Soft) Ball, Manhattan vs. the Hamptons for Bragging Rights

Continued from page 1

the energy he brings to the community, and his focus on the youth programs. Fr. Constantine said he was pleased to inform The National Herald of the huge success of this summer's annual festival and was proud of the parish's Greek language immersion day camp for children. The camp, which is run by Anastasia Gavalas, filled the participants' day with arts and crafts, sports and other fun activities, all done while speaking Greek as much as possible. The new Presbyter is looking forward to Family Day on September 12, which focuses on welcoming back students to Sunday School. There will be a Noah's Ark theme, with a petting zoo and pony rides.

SWING FOR THE FENCES

The annual game itself is a friendly but serious affair. Each side is on the lookout for ringers ("Hey he doesn't look Greek, is that guy Greek?" - "His wife is Greek." - "Oh, O.K."). The parish membership rules were bent a little, however. John Shumway was visiting his aunt Julie Sakelariades, the wife of Annunciation President Nick Sakelariades. But an apparent ringer was no ringer: the hot shot kid who just spent seven weeks in baseball camp in Florida and homered for the landmark Upper West Side church was Julie's son, John.

Staz Tsiavos was an imposing presence on the mound for the City Mice - "That's a big mouse!" said one onlooker - and there were moments, trying to inspire his team, when he mistook his position for a pulpit. "Staz, pitching, not preaching," barked one team mate, but it appeared that the large pitcher knew what he was doing, keeping a Kimisis lineup filled with good hitters off balance most of the time through seven innings. The final score was 8-6 Country Mice over the City Slickers, but the game was competitive for the first time in a few years, earning Staz and his teammates appreciation, even in defeat. The hometown pitcher was Steve Jim Hatgastavrou, whose brother Dimitri is the PC President. The locals who came to cheer them on included choir director Bea Parash and Vice President Peter Nikites.

The game was won through a combination of home runs and balls hit through the left side of an Annunciation infield that did not seem too comfortable at their positions. "I'm really an outfielder," explained one, who was eventually moved to his greener pasture in center field, though the only action he saw there was a spectacular play made by his replacement, Chris Mose, throwing home to nail a runner from third for the final



Weekend warriors from the Annunciation and Kimisis churches line up for a commemorative photo at on Long Island. After the game there was a beach party at nearby Meschutt Beach.

out in the sixth inning to keep the game close. The Annunciation crew was led by their new pastor, Archimandrite Fr. Nathanael Symeonides, and PC President Nick Sakelariades, Tsiavos' ebullience notwithstanding. Fr. Nathanael, who served as a deacon of the Archdiocese until his appointment to his first

parish, also solidified the outfield by patrolling right field.

Dean Angelakos grew up in Brooklyn ND and now lives in Murray Hill in Manhattan, but attends the Upper West Side church. His wife Helen is the director of the Greek School program and he played an excellent first base last weekend.

But its all about the community. Leading off the fall calendar at the Annunciation is "Welcome Back Sunday" on September 12. The parish's annual stewardship gala will be held at the Harvard Club on October 22. You never know whom you'll meet or hear at the gatherings. Helen Papajohn was busy

keeping score when TNH interrupted her to see if she had a story to tell. The very friendly Mary told of coming to the Hamptons with her family since the age of two. Her husband eventually bought a house in the Hamptons after he retired and when they moved there she also started a travel agency of her own after working for years for a Greek stockbroker in Manhattan. Helen said she grew up in the Kingsbridge section of the Bronx, and when TNH asked if she knew legendary ad man George Lois, she said, "We lived on the third floor and his family was on the fourth. He was nice, but he used to ride his bicycle where I played and would tease me. When my mother saw me crying she would ask me 'Georgie again?'" It turns out Lois' sister Hariklia was her son's godmother and his other sister Voula was godmother to her nephew. It's a small Greek American world. Next year TNH will ask if anybody grew up with Maria or Charlie Callas, the unrelated singer and comedian - but you never know for sure, and if either could hit, they might have wound up in the lineup.

Visit the Annunciation Website at www.evangelismos.org and Kimisis' at www.kimisishampton.org.

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The New Politics: Facebook to Facebook? Vallone Says It Works

By Constantine S. Sirigos
TNH Staff Writer

NEW YORK - Peter Vallone Jr. loves to visit and talk with his constituents, but in a large New York City Council district filled with busy people, politicians and constituents don't often cross paths. Public servants are always looking for better ways

to be in touch with the people who have the power to vote them in and out of office, and Vallone, who represents the heavily Greek-American neighborhood of Astoria, said that he's thrilled with Facebook, the social networking website that was launched in 2004 and now has 500 million users around the world. A tool that powerful

and popular was sure to get the attention of politicians, and Vallone said that Facebook has been a valuable tool for communicating with people. He puts out frequent Facebook notices and people tell him all the time about community problems. One night this summer, Vallone himself sounded an alarm.

ANYBODY SMELLING THIS?

Every summer, residents of Astoria and other parts of Queens look forward to a pre-Fourth of July fireworks display in Astoria Park. When the weather co-operates, it's a beautiful night of neighborliness and patriotism in a corner of New York City that sports wonderful views of three bridges, the East River and the Manhattan skyline. It's a visual feast that also stimulates the other senses as some groups of people play music and host barbecues. And there is the pungent but not completely unwelcome smell of the burnt-out fireworks, a final reminder of the spectacular displays that never last as long as one likes.

This year, however, there was an unwelcome aroma. With a breeze from the Northwest, wafting across the park was a horrible odor, but longtime residents first thought it was the infamous "Astoria stink" that often emerges from the local Bowery Bay sewage treatment plant. The plant has been undergoing capital upgrades for

years and when they shut down tanks, the Steinway and Ditmars sections of Astoria cease to be a pleasant place to live. Vallone's office calls the authorities often and there is some mitigation. Soon it is the delicious smell of baked goods and souvlaki that once again dominates the multicultural neighborhood. This time was different, but apparently there were few initial complaints. "People are busy, they figure it was a problem with a local sewer and it will go away," he said, so it was good that Vallone initiated communication. When he got home he jumped on his Facebook and asked, "Is anybody else smelling this?" He said, "Facebook then exploded with complaints," reinforcing Vallone's impulse to get to the bottom of the problem. It turned out that for months a sewage treatment plant on nearby Wards Island had a broken aerator fan that inhibited the proper breakdown of the waste. When it got really bad, the operators released perfumed mists, an air-freshener for the borough of Queens. After Vallone called, there were some improvement.

BETTER THAN A PHONEBOOK

This summer, Vallone took the lead in responding to concerns about Astoria's rising homeless population. In July a homeless couple was arrested for the murder of a 32-year old

Astoria resident. In a press release he declared, "The safety of our community is my number one priority. I encourage our residents to keep calling and writing my office to keep our streets and parks safe," but the release also included invitations to contact him on Facebook. When constituents are angry, or if it's urgent, they are not shy about calling, but on other issues that are important citizens are not inclined to pick up the phone. "Facebook is a user-friendly way of being in touch with elected officials. Some people won't call, but they'll Facebook in a minute," Vallone said. Vallone says Facebook has proven very valuable in informing him about issues and concerns that are important to his constituents but that he was not aware of. He said it mainly "gives people a chance to express their opinions." He added: "It's a nice place to vent." With Facebook, even if a legislator only has exchanges with a fraction of his constituents, the rest can still get a sense of the personality and thoughts of their politicians by following the exchanges with their neighbors about the things that matter to them.

He said that Facebook would have come in very handy in the summer of 2006, when a string of steamy days and air conditioners running full blast put a strain on electrical grid that caused some local blackouts.

The power company claimed only 400 customers were inconvenienced but Vallone said he believes that up to 200,000 lost power for a time, and noted that the media had to rely on Con Ed's own numbers. This year Con Ed has told the press that the upgrades they have done since 2006 have kept this summer's problems to a minimum, but Vallone told TNH, "They lied through their teeth in 2006." He acknowledged that "there have been improvements to the Astoria grid - feeder cables have been replaced so we are in better shape than most neighborhoods," but Vallone added that the way Con Ed works is that "they wait for a breakdown and then do maintenance and upgrades."

TREES? WHAT TREES?

He also said that for some matters, the old-fashioned phone call still works best. He was informed earlier this year that "Amtrak, in the middle of the night" used economic stimulus funds to remove 10,000 trees along its tracks in Woodside, Queens. He said, "There was no community notice and no environmental review - in addition to their aesthetic value the trees were important for noise abatement." The neighbors were robbed of their trees - the calls started pouring in that morning.

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Craft, Not Only With Dough, But With Some Do ...Re ...Me ...Too

By Bob Nicolaides

Special to The National Herald

BROOKLYN, N.Y. - Entrepreneur Yianni Nikolopoulos has earned a living for his wife and his children by the sweetness of his products, spending a lifetime making a variety of delicious pastries, Greek, Italian and French at his Bay Ridge Bakery in Brooklyn's Fifth Avenue. Though Yianni put his heart and soul in his kneading, in recent years he

heeded his artistic nature's call, ultimately giving in to it by becoming a composer-lyricist-singer. Just four years into his new career-no, he hasn't quit his regular job yet - his bakery - but has scored almost unprecedented success in what he does on his spare time. He recently wrote the lyrics and put the music to 15 new tunes of Laiki music, the kind that nostalgic-starved Greeks devour as if it were a calorie-laden delicacy,

providing a feast to their listening palates. Just out is his latest CD, Ena Karavi Xekina, his third to hit the market in as many years, and he must be commended for the outstanding quality of the disc, not only from the point of view of his vocals, but of the entire production which he personally supervised from end to end. It provides folks who appreciate this type of native Greek music-much of which migrated to the Hellenic shores

with the displaced Anatolian population, with hours of listening pleasure which he recorded at the Christos Hatzoudis studio in Psihiko near Athens.

The numbers range from poignant pieces such as the first one called S'Ekana ki Efyges (I made you leave) to some downright blunt pieces such as Eima Trellos Ki Apotomos, (I'm mad and abrupt.) Christos Hatzoudis, an old hand in the music circles here and in Greece has

done the recording/sound mixing as well as conducted the orchestra during the recording aside from strumming the bouzouki. Panayotis Haligiannis was on the clarinet, Vassilis Patrikis on violin, Christos Tiktanidis on the Pontian Lyre. Vocalists backing Yianni were Sophia Petridou and Amanda Homi. Nikolopoulos' method of marketing the product is equally unique. If you go on the web, you find that you do not have

to buy the entire CD in order to enjoy the song you particularly enjoy. You can purchase each one as a single item for the price of 99 cents per song, which in times such as these we are living in, make plenty of sense. But if you opt to buy the entire CD, you should know that it comes with a booklet with the lyrics of each and every song featured in it. For more information call Echorama Sound at 917-923-7752 or 718-238-1779.

BIBLIA: A BOOK REVIEW COLUMN

In the Eye of a Metal Storm, Modern Turkish Myth Rules the World

By Alexandros K. Kyrrou

Special to The National Herald

BOSTON - After leading the lists of most popular books in Turkey for several years, Adolf Hitler's Mein Kampf was toppled from its lofty position in 2004 by another warped political fantasy which envisions a future new world order. Although the Turkish bestseller Metal Storm is not an overt ideological manifesto, this imagined narrative is, in a fashion, reminiscent of Mein Kampf, inspired by bizarre

paranoia and self-righteous nationalist indignation, which are to be answered by war and revenge against those who have humiliated Turkey and conspired to deny the country its destiny and greatness. In Metal Storm, a war erupts between Turkey and the United States in northern Iraq and spreads throughout the world. The conflict begins when Ankara stands firm to Turkish principles in defiance of American imperialist demands. In response, US forces unleash a massive attack against Turkey. Ankara is devastated by a horrific bombing campaign. After a swift invasion and vicious fighting, the Americans capture and hand Istanbul to occupying Greeks as part of a US Evangelical plot to restore Constantinople to a Christian city. After the completion of its initial "shock and awe" stage of action, the US initiates the second phase of its invasion plan under the codename Operation Sevres. Washington proceeds to establish an independent Kurdish state on Turkish territory and then unleashes beastly Armenian and Greek forces to ravage what is left of the hapless country. At this critical moment when all appears to be lost, a valiant lone Turkish secret agent saves the fatherland from the abyss by stealing a nuclear weapon, vaporizing Washington, and killing millions of Americans. With renewed resolve, the Turkish nation leads an international coalition against the US, crushing American power once and for all.

A WORLD RULED BY TURKS

The publication of Metal Storm sparked a national sensation in Turkey. Turkish bookstores were unable to keep the novel on their shelves. The thriller became an instant best-seller and a subject for media, political, and popular discussion, a development all the more remarkable given the lack of a culture of reading in Turkey. By appealing to the Turks' own official narrative that portrays themselves as a noble, victimized nation surrounded by violent, conspiratorial enemies, the book's authors, Burak Turna, a former Turkish defense correspondent, and science-fiction enthusiast Orkun Ucar, created a story and imagery that resonate deeply with their countrymen. While Metal Storm is a work of fiction, the Turkish hostility toward the US at the heart of the novel reflects real and widespread Turkish attitudes. Such sentiments help explain the overwhelming popularity of the many Turkish books, films, and television programs which demonize Americans and revile the US. The most well known of these countless vehicles, Valley of the Wolves Iraq, was also the most expensive Turkish film ever made at the time of its release in 2006, as well as the biggest blockbuster in Turkish film history. This strident anti-American and anti-Israeli cinematic diatribe depicts Turkish special forces avenging the humiliation of one of their officers by killing, in a veritable bloodbath, evil, atrocity-drenched American troops in Iraq who had dishonored Turkish pride.

While naysayers have dismissed the pervasiveness of antagonism towards the US in



The cover of the novel Metal Firtina, published in 2004. Metal Storm, as it is known, set off a storm of celebration among Turks for depicting the overthrow of the U.S. military and has spawned sequels.

Turkish popular culture as mere pulp entertainment, it is impossible to ignore its omnipresence and its political implications. In an interview with Al Jazeera, Ucar said, "This novel is not just another conspiracy theory; it is a possibility theory." Indeed, members of the Turkish government would also appear to think so. According to a Spring 2007 analysis published in the prominent scholarly journal, Middle East Quarterly, the book, Metal Storm, and its sequel, Metal Storm 2, in which Turkey, having vanquished America, attains a decisive victory over Europe and emerges as the world's dominant power, "achieved popularity not only among the general Turkish population but also among cabinet members, foreign ministry officials, and the Turkish officer corps."

Clearly, popular film and literature in this instance cannot be trivialized as meaningless or merely anecdotal. Indeed, the intensity and widespread character of Turkish anti-Americanism has been substantiated by empirical research and data. Such evidence indicates that Turkish anti-Americanism is not fickle, but serious, pervasive, decidedly political in nature, and increasingly belligerent in tone. For example, in the roughly decade-long studies conducted by the Pew Global Attitudes Project, the most comprehensive and systematic comparative analyses of global political attitudes, reveal precisely the depth and consistency of Turkish enmity towards the US.

TURKS HATE AMERICANS

According to the results of the Pew Project, Turkey ranks as the most anti-American country not only in the Middle East but in the world. The 2009 volume, the most recent, of the Project's annual surveys, indicates that only 14% of Turks have a favorable attitude towards the US. In contrast, all European countries, excluding Russia, with a 44% favorability figure, have majorities favorable to the US. Underscoring the extremism of Turkish feelings towards the US, the study found that even Palestinians and Pakistanis expressed a more positive attitude towards the US than did Turks. Unlike the citizens in any other NATO member

state, a majority of Turks, 71%, believe that the US poses a military threat to their country. Raising potential questions about Turkey's contempt for international cooperation and law, the Pew Project also documents the Turks' scorn for the United Nations. Just as Turkey leads the world in anti-American attitudes, it surpasses all other countries in anti-UN sentiments. Indeed, whereas most countries studied in the survey have a generally positive view of the UN, Turkey, at 18%, has the lowest UN favorability rating in the international community. Taking into account even highly critical Israeli and Palestinian attitudes towards the UN, both at roughly 32% favorability, Turkey stands apart from the rest of the world in how it perceives the UN.

In 2004, when State Department diplomats and other traditional US apologists for Ankara were asked about the Turkish nation's embrace of the deeply disturbing anti-American Metal Storm, they uniformly dismissed the popularity of the publication as an unrepresentative aberration. Responding as it has historically to any threat to Turkey's carefully-managed image in the US, Ankara's influential network of supporters in American government, the press, and the academy drowned out concerns over such virulent Turkish anti-Americanism by trotting out the familiar mantra of Turkey as an immutable "secular, democratic, important, and staunch ally of the US."

MASSAGING THE MESSAGE

This ritualized lexicon reserved for Turkey and the Ankara-Washington relationship has been so well embedded in public discourse by the US foreign policy establishment that Washington has been able, at least until very recently, to rely on academics and journalists alike to consistently and uncritically parrot this manufactured message whenever necessary. It has been necessary for US officials and others to continually report for decades to the American public, and to repeat to themselves, that Turkey is a "secular, democratic, important, and staunch ally" precisely because this description is inconsistent with the facts. The US does not obsessively identify Canada, Germany, Japan, or the United Kingdom, to cite a few examples, as "secular, democratic, important, and staunch allies" because there is no political need to do so. In the case of genuine secular, democratic, important and staunch allies - countries which do indeed share the same principles and values as the US - such a reality is self-evident and unquestionable. In the case of Turkey, however, such language is necessarily ubiquitous because a positive image of Turkey must be manufactured by the foreign policy establishment to blur the discomforting reality of a state in which "secular" actually denotes religious and cultural oppression, "democratic" means authoritarianism, and "staunch and important ally" masks unreliable opportunistic rogue.

The degree to which American diplomacy had become blinded by its own rhetoric

about Turkey was made abundantly clear when the US prepared to invade Iraq in 2003. When Washington finally needed to actually use Turkey's much vaunted strategic space, instead of loyal support from a staunch ally, the US was faced with a colossal extortion scheme. Ankara demanded \$92 billion from Washington to allow American forces to launch a northern front invasion of Iraq from Turkish territory. Reeling from the shock of Turkey's brazen behavior, Washington ultimately offered to pay Ankara \$36 billion but the Turkish National Assembly rejected the sum as unsatisfactory and summarily smothered US strategic planning. Although Turkey's foiling of the US Army's invasion plans for Iraq cost incalculable lives and resources, as well as considerable international embarrassment for the Bush administration, Ankara remained immune from any rebuke from Washington. Even as Turkey's frequent unilateral bombings and cross-border attacks against Kurdish guerrillas and civilians in northern Iraq threatened both regional stability and the security of American occupation

The most striking feature of this multitude of publications is its redundancy. Virtually all these works present identical versions of history, analytic arguments, and policy recommendations for dealing with Turkey. Their derivative and uniform views on all issues, significant and trivial, and their consistent conformity to official positions reflects an absence of critical and independent thinking. Yet, although the recent deluge of works on US-Turkish relations has not produced any notable rigorous scholarly or policy studies, these publications have become highly important. Because of these books' prestigious institutional affiliations and the supposed expertise of their authors, these works are read by the staffs of elected officials, they serve as the ideological foundations for policy debate, and they are held up by members of the State Department, some of whom are the selfsame authors of these publications, as serious resources for formulating US policy towards Turkey.

They are remarkable as political documents: propaganda. They are valuable because they demonstrate how the process of



A Turkish Army Leopard 1 tank, of the type that the supporters of the novel hope would be the kind of weapon to defeat the U.S. if there were an invasion, although it was just imaginary to the authors of the book depicting that notion.

forces, Washington did not respond to Ankara's blatant defiance of US interests and warnings to desist.

A few unofficial State Department pronouncements of surprise and disappointment aside, Turkey suffered no consequences for its actions. As the strain in relations between the two states appeared to fade, the US, under both the Bush and Obama administrations, returned to its traditional practice of publicly venerating Turkey as a "secular, democratic, important, and staunch ally," a role model for other nations in the Middle East and beyond.

Despite the seeming return to diplomatic normalcy, American policymakers remained troubled by Turkey's challenges to US interests in foreign affairs and by the country's seething anti-Americanism at home. These concerns and the consequent search to unravel the tensions in US-Turkish relations produced a rush of policy papers and think-tank studies, a veritable cottage industry devoted to rehabilitating the Ankara-Washington "partnership."

US foreign policy debate is often manipulated to manufacture a consensus and produce legitimacy for a predetermined course of action. The purpose of these publications is to justify the desperate, almost alarmist, escalation of Washington's traditional policy of uncritical support for Ankara to a new platform of full-fledged appeasement.

The basic conceptual categories defining the nature of the relationship between the US and Turkey have been changed by these foreign policy experts to reflect and affirm the need for this new approach. Whereas the US-Turkish relationship was historically understood as an alliance, reflecting the link between the two states through NATO, today a regional and global "partnership" supposedly exists. The significance of this new labeling is clear and deliberate. It is intended to appeal to Ankara by imply equivalency between the two states through enhanced importance for Turkey in spheres of foreign policy extending well beyond the pale of NATO.

GREEK POETRY

A Minute's Licence

By Kiki Dimoula

*The house a tiny neighbour to the sky.
Nearness' tendency built so high
on a peak's open wings like
a lectern that splendour might
read the dawning
the meridian the setting gospel of
the day.*

*I go out into the yard. Waiting
for me sparkling
with reins saddle harness is the
horizon's wild freedom
that I might mount and galloping
tame its verification.
Ah, only gaze and vision managed
to ride
this immaterial untamed conquest.
The heavens' overweening views
tumble are dashed
for the unhindered is of the
briefest duration.*

*See how it catches on a stretch of
barbed wire
round the property. Low, tame
and yet
if you look carefully consider it
carefully it divides
my good-morning from the
neighbour's
all day long fanaticising borders
quietly arming
the weeds against their brothers.*

*At night alone the unifying
fragrance of night flowers
cuts through it in places and
passes
in the demented glow of the
fireflies
- glowbums we called them when
alive.*

*Oh, inglorious heroics by
volunteer dreams. What's the point
in encroaching on two inches
more of moon dust
inheritance left by the summer to
its passing.*

*Let them observe a minute's
licence
those few illiterate widow
extensions
that the law doesn't cover*

*though no one knows
what hope still holds in store for
them.*

Summer, Platanos-Aigialeia

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DEATHS

■ ABAZIS, ANGELO

NEW YORK, N.Y. - Newsday reported that Angelo Abazis passed away peacefully on August 17. He was predeceased by his brother, Achilles Abazis. He is survived by his beloved wife, Ann; his children, Maria Cignarale, Steven, William and Evan Abazis; 9 grandchildren; and his siblings, Andonia Mellis, John, Peter and George. Angelo was the founder of Angelo's Restaurant and the Mediterranean Manor in Patchogue. Visitation was held at the Robertaccio Funeral Home Inc and funeral services were held at St. John's Greek Orthodox Church.

■ BALLAS, LOUIS

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. - The Connecticut Post reported that Louis S. Ballas, 91, passed away peacefully. Visitation and a Trisagion prayer service was held in the Commerce Hill Funeral Home and funeral services were held at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church.

■ BALOMENOS, JOHN

VANCOUVER, CANADA - The Vancouver Sun reported that John Balomenos, 86, passed away peacefully on August 15 with his family by his side. He was born on July 20, 1914 in Aglavista, Greece. John opened Helen's Grill Restaurant in Vancouver in 1961. After retiring at the age of 65, he devoted much of his time to his family and also did lots of traveling, fishing and long walks. John will be greatly missed by all. He is survived by his loving wife of 52 years, Helen; his children, Mary, Effie and Peter (Anastasia); and his grandchildren, Eleni, Pierce, Pamela, Claudia, Anthi and Ianni. Funeral mass and a Trisagion prayer service were held at St. George's Orthodox Church. In lieu of flowers, donations to the BC Heart and Stroke foundation will be appreciated.

■ CHARDALOUPAS, CHRISTOS

WINDSOR, CANADA - The Windsor Star reported that Christos Chardaloupas, 39, passed away suddenly in Montreal, Quebec on August 13. He is survived by his parents, Elisabeth Aspiotis and Dimitrios Loupas; his siblings, Gina Loupas, Mira (Jason) Perrone, and Ivana (Murray) White; his aunts, Maria, Joanna, Christine, Katerina and Anastasia; and by many cousins and friends. Peter graduated from Concordia University where he received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Sports Medicine. Visitation and a Thrice Holy Hymn service were held at the Anderson Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. Funeral services were held at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church with Rev Fr. Stavros Chatzis officiating. www.andersonfuneralhomewindsor.com

■ CHRISTOS, PHILLIP

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA - The Herald Sun reported that Christos Phillip passed away peacefully. Funeral services were held at the Greek Orthodox Church of Saint Haralambos.

■ COSTAKIS, JOHN

RALEIGH, N.C. - The News & Observer reported that John L. Costakis, 85, passed away peacefully on August 17. John was born on August 23, 1924 to the late Lefteris and Maria Costakis. He earned his degree in electrical engineering from Purdue University and put it to good use during a distinguished 33 year career at United States Steel Corporation. John and Matena retired to Raleigh in 1982. He was a devoted husband, father and friend. John was very active in the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. He is survived by his beloved wife of 55 years, Matena; his children, Mary Kay (Robert) Hulse and Tom (Julie) Costakis; and his beloved grandchildren, Kalli, John, Matthew and Grant. Visitation, a Trisagion prayer service and funeral services were all held at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Building Fund. Arrangements by Bryan-Lee Funeral Home in Raleigh.

■ DIAMANTI, CHRIS

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah - The Salt Lake City Tribune reported that Chris J. Diamanti, 92, passed away peacefully on August 16 with his family by his side. He was the last surviving child of ten born to John and Afthemia Agreda Diamanti on December 8, 1917. Chris happily lived his whole life in Carbon County where he graduated from Carbon High School in 1936. He later went on to work in the coal mining industry for 35 years where he owned and operated Carbon Fuel Mines with his brothers. He married Margaret Winkelreid on October 28, 1945 and celebrated life together with her for 62 years before her passing in 2008. Chris could be found most days at work in his garden among the

tomato plants or tending to the roses. Chris was preceded in death by his wife Margaret, eight brothers and one sister. He is survived by his daughters, Kristen (Ralph) Taylor and Karen (Deon) Kone; and his granddaughter, Nicolle (David) Jacobs. Funeral services were held at the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church. A Trisagion prayer service was held at Mitchell Funeral Home. Friends are welcome to sign the guestbook and share memories of Chris at www.mitchellfuneralhome.net.

■ GEORGEOU, ANGELA

HACKENSACK, N.J. - The Record and Herald News reported that Angela Georgeou, 90, passed away peacefully on August 16. She was born in Volos, Greece in 1920 and immigrated with her family to New York City in 1931. Angela was the devoted wife of the late Achilles Georgeou for 69 years and worked as the bookkeeper in his business. Angela lived her life in service to her family and became great in their hearts. She was a parishioner of St. John the Theologian Greek Orthodox Church and a member of its Philoptochos Society and the Kali Parea. She was predeceased by her sister, Catherine Kalamarides. She is survived by her loving daughters, Helen Nonas, Alexandra (Edmund) Kleiner and Athena (John) Papayani; her grandchildren, James, Christina, Christopher, Angela, Michael, Alexa, Constance, Kathryn, John and Anastasia; ten great-grandchildren; and her brothers John (Betty) Chokos and George (JoAnn) Chokos. Visitation was held at the Vander Plaats Funeral Home. Funeral services were held at Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, 467 Grandview Avenue, Wyckoff, NJ 07481 or St. John the Theologian Greek Orthodox Church, 353 East Clinton Ave., Tenafly, NJ 07670.

■ GROUGIOS, EKATERINI

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA - The Herald Sun reported that Ekaterini Grougios passed away peacefully. Funeral services were held at the Greek Orthodox Church Sts Cyril and Methodius. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Cancer Council of Victoria.

■ KLAPAS, EVANGELIA

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA - The Herald Sun reported that Evangelia Klapas passed away peacefully. Funeral services were held at the Greek Orthodox Parish of St Eustathios. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre would be appreciated.

■ LALIOTIS, ANTONIOS

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Washington Post reported that Antonios S. Laliotis, 90, passed away peacefully at his home on August 19. He was formerly a combat medic in Greece during WWII and immigrated to the United States in 1951 where he married, started his family and established a successful business career. He is survived by his beloved wife, Maria; his daughters, Deany and Effie; sons-in-law Dan Merlis and Christos Sarantis; his grandchildren, Maria and Sotirios Sarantis; step-grandchildren, Jonathan Merlis and Steven Merlis and his wife Maura and son Daniel; and many other relatives and friends in the United States, Canada and Greece. Visitation was held at the National Funeral Home and funeral services were held at St. Katherine's Greek Orthodox Church. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Katherine's Greek Orthodox Church. www.nationalfh-mp.com.

■ LEVANIS, KALLIOPI

BALTIMORE, Md. - The Baltimore Sun reported that Kalliope LeVanis passed away peacefully on August 14. She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Gregory Michael LeVanis. She is survived by her children, Michael (Elizabeth) LeVanis and Paul LeVanis; loving grandchildren, Katherine, Lily and Gregory; her siblings, Dimitra and Rose; her brother-in-law, George LeVanis. Funeral services were held at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation. In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions be made in Kalliope's memory to the Greek Orthodox Cathedral 24 W. Preston Street, Baltimore, MD 21201 or to the charity of your choice, or you may plant a tree in her memory. www.ruckfuneralhomes.com.

■ LUCACOS, HELEN

DAYTONA BEACH, FL. - The Daytona Beach News-Journal reported that Helen Lucacos, 85, passed away peacefully on August 17 at her home. She was born to the late Gust and Ourania Hantzes on July 16, 1925 in Pennsylvania. She and her husband were proprietors of the Royal Lunch Restaurant in Min-

ersville and Casino Bus Services until retirement in 2007. A member of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church and Daughters of Penelope, Lesvos Chapter 192 in Pennsylvania. She was predeceased by her daughter and son-in-law, Ourania and Konstantinos Patounas. She is survived by her beloved husband, Michael; her children, John Lucacos and Constantina Lucacos; her grandchildren, Ellie Patounas, Achilles Patounas and Eleni Patounas; and several cousins. Visitation and a Trisagion prayer service were held at Haigh-Black Funeral Home. Funeral services were held at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church. Flower donations may be sent to Haigh-Black. Donations can be made in her name to St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, 129 N. Halifax Ave, Daytona Beach, FL 32118.

■ MALOUHOS, ANTHONY

CHICAGO, Ill. - The Chicago Tribune reported that Anthony Malouhos, 81, passed away peacefully. He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Shirley. He is survived by his siblings, Angelina and Celia Malouhos. He was a retired CPS teacher, IL National Guard and member of Hellenic Link Society. Visitation was held at the Barr Funeral Home. Funeral services were held at the St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.BarrFuneralHome.com.

■ MANOLUKAS, ANN

SARASOTA, FL. - The Herald Tribune reported that Ann Manolukas, 83, passed away peacefully on August 18. She was born on November 24, 1926. Funeral services were held at St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church. Condolences and remembrances to her extended family may be sent to her cousin, Nick Manolukas of Sarasota. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church, 7671 Lockwood Ridge Road, Sarasota, FL 34243.

■ MANSOUR, FOTINI

CHICAGO, Ill. - The Chicago Tribune reported that Fotini Mansour passed away peacefully. Fotini was a member of the 19th Century Club, Oak Park Art League, Women's Auxiliary of Gottlieb Hospital and Women's Club of Assumption Greek Orthodox Church. She is survived by her beloved husband of 64 years, Dr. Chad N. Mansour; her children, Maria Kamberos, Melina and Nicholas (Dina); cherished grandchildren, Britany, Christ Jr., Lukas, Ashley and Xenia; her sister, Helen Gankas; and many nieces and nephews. Visitation and funeral services were held at the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory to Assumption Church appreciated. Arrangements by Nicholas M. Pishos, Funeral Director. (773) 745-1333.

■ NANOS, ATHENA

CHICAGO, Ill. - The Chicago Tribune reported that Athena Nanos, 88, passed away peacefully. She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Michael; her daughter and son-in-law, Maria and Alex Savvas and her siblings, Evgenia, Athanasios and Vasilis. She is survived by her son, Nicholas (Effie); her grandchildren, Alex, Dan, Constantine, Michael Savas and Michael and Nicholas Nanos; 11 great-grandchildren; her sisters, Evanthea and Irina; and many nieces and nephews. Visitation was held at the Cooney Funeral Home and funeral services were held at St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church.

■ PAPPAS, ZOE

PROVIDENCE, R.I. - The Providence Journal reported that Zoe Pappas passed away peacefully on August 16 at RI Hospital in Providence. Zoe was born in Providence, the daughter of the late Andrew and Helen (Christara) Vican. Zoe was employed in the Admissions Office of Rhode Island Hospital. She was a member of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Past President of the Daughters of Penelope and active member of the Good Samaritans. She is survived by her loving son, John M. Pappas; and her sisters, Olga Mihailides and Dora Pounaras. She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Marcos J. Pappas; her daughter, Andrea Pappas; and her siblings, Stella and George Vican. Visitation was held at the Nardolillo Funeral Home and funeral services were

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

held at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to: Vican Scholarship Fund, c/o Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, 175 Oaklawn Ave., Cranston, RI 02920. Visit www.nardolillo.com for more information and online condolences.

■ PAPAVALIOU, THEOFILOS

DELAWARE - NewsZap reported that Theofilos Papavasiliou, 67, passed away peacefully on August 16 in the Hospice Center of Milford. He was born in Ioannina, Greece, son of the late Christos and Arista Papavasiliou. Mr. Papavasiliou was a street vendor in New York for over 15 years. He loved to play backgammon and going to the slots. His grandchildren were his life, and he enjoyed getting together with his family whenever possible for a good time. He was a man of his word and loved to help people. He would give you the shirt off of his back. He will be remembered as a very caring and compassionate person who will be missed by his family and friends. He is survived by his loving wife of 45 years, Irini Papavasiliou; his daughters, Arista Ampatzidis and Sofia Hill; his brothers, Nick and James Papavasiliou; his sister, Mahi Papavasiliou; and his grandchildren, Olivia and Zoi Hill. Funeral services were held at Melvin Funeral Home. Arrangements are by the Melvin Funeral Home, Harrington.

■ PISTIKAKIS, PETER

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA - The Herald Sun reported that Peter Pistikakis passed away peacefully. A prayer service was held in the Le Pine Chapel and funeral services were held in the Presentation of Our Lord, Greek Orthodox Church.

■ RIGGINS, AMELIA

GREENVILLE, S.C. - The Greenville News reported that Amelia Riggins, 85, passed away peacefully on August 17 at the McCall Hospice House. She was born in Albania, daughter of the late Vasil Andon and Dhespina Rapometro. She was a homemaker and a member of St. George Greek Orthodox Church. She is survived by her husband of 65 years, Ralph Riggins; her sons, Paul, Bruce, and Michael Riggins; her daughter, Dianne Correia; her brother, Angelo Andon; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Visitation and a Trisagion prayer service were held at Robinson Funeral Home. Funeral services were held at St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral Church. Condolences may be expressed online at www.robinsonfuneralhomes.com or in person at Robinson Funeral Home, which is assisting the family.

■ SISKOS, DESPINA

BALTIMORE, Md. - The Baltimore Sun reported that Despina Siskos, 15, passed away on August 17. She was a very considerate and intelligent, loving girl who always overachieved at everything she did. A beautiful person inside and out who put everyone else first, with an inner strength that was second to none. She is survived by her parents, Stefanos and Dina Siskos; her brother, Stamati Siskos; her grandmothers, Despina Siskos and Despina Cornias; her Godparents, Kyriaki (Kostas) Kontoudias; her aunts and uncles, Theoni (George) Cornias and Angeliki (Dimitri) Mavromati; and many loving cousins and friends. Visitation was held at the Connelly Funeral Home of Dundalk. Funeral services and a Trisagion prayer service were held at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church.

■ SKOUFALOS, JAMES

READING, Penn. - The Reading Eagle reported that James Skoufalos Sr., 75, passed away peacefully on August 18 surrounded by his family. He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Mary Skoufalos on October 31, 2007. Born in Reading, he was a son of Dorothy and the late George Skoufalos. James was a 1952 graduate of Wilson High School. He was employed for 23 years as vice president in charge of sales with Hardesty Quttner until 1980. He was later employed as president of sales with Hi Products, a division of Hofmann Industries, until his retirement in 1999. James was the vocalist and band leader of The Townsman East Band for 25 years. He was a member of Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church, where he was a parish council president. James is survived by his children, George, James Jr., Michael, Gina Graham and Nicole Stephenson; his sister, Georgine Schlappich; his grandchildren: Chileen, Melissa, Jennifer, Michael and Carrie; and one great-granddaughter, Tessa. Funeral services were held in Sts. Constantine & Helen Church. In lieu of flowers, con-

tributions may be made to the church, 1001 E. Wyomissing Blvd., Reading, PA 19611. Edward J. Kuhn Funeral Home Inc., West Reading, is in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be recorded at www.kuhnfuneralhome.com.

■ SPYROPOULOS, GUS

WINDSOR, CANADA - The Windsor Star reported that Gus Spyropoulos, 83, passed away peacefully with his family by his side on August 16. He was born on September 8, 1927 in Greece and immigrated to Canada in 1952. He is survived by his beloved wife of 53 years, Maria; his children, Rita (Peter) Bastounas, John (Kim) Spyropoulos, Nick Spyropoulos and Betsy (John) Lausch; his grandchildren, Steven (Danielle) Bastounas and Mary (Michali) Petridis; his great-grandson, Yianni Petridis; and many nieces, nephews, sisters-in-law from Canada, the United States and Greece. Gus was a chef and retired from Grecian Gardens in Greektown, Detroit, Michigan. He was also a member of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church and a volunteer at the Hellenic Banquet Hall for many years. The family would like to thank the staff at Hotel Dieu Grace Hospital for the care and compassion provided. Visitation and

a Thrice Holy Hymn service were held at the Anderson Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. Funeral services were held at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church with Rev Fr. Stavros Chatzis officiating. Memorial tributes to Hotel Dieu Grace Hospital-ICU would be appreciated by the family. www.andersonfuneralhomewindsor.com

■ VOSNAKIS, NICHOLAS

BOSTON, Mass. - The Boston Globe reported that Nicholas Vosnakis, 84, passed away peacefully on August 16. Nick lived in Arlington with his family after immigrating to the United States in 1956. He is survived by his beloved wife of 57 years, Fotini Vosnakis; his son, Michael (Christina) Vosnakis; his grandchildren, Nicholas and George Vosnakis; Steven (Kelly) Vosnakis; Foster, Morgan and Liam Vosnakis; his sister, Magthali Boyiatzis; and many relatives and friends in the United States and Greece. Funeral services were held at the St. Athanasius the Great Greek Orthodox Church. Visitation was held at the Keefe Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the St. Athanasius the Great Greek Orthodox Church, 4 Appleton St., Arlington, MA 02474. For online guestbook, visit: www.KeefeFuneralHome.com.

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Team USA Players Wow Greek Youths, but are Wowed by Greece

By Andy Dabilis

ATHENS – They waited patiently in the hot sun of Syntagma Square, watching as tourists shuffled rapidly to snap photos of the changing of the Evzone guards, and when the boxes of basketballs were handed out, nearly 100 Greek youths, from elementary school age to teen-agers, started dribbling and talking, excited that they would get to meet members of the U.S. World Basketball championship team that was taking on the Greek national team in an exhibition game. But when the tour bus pulled up, it was the Americans who were wowed too, some walking off with their digital cameras, snapping photos of the Parliament and the guards, who were as tall as some of the U.S. point guards, the smaller players who control the basketball. As the Americans took photos and were introduced to the crowd, the youngsters stood shuffling, wanting their moment, and they got it a moment later as the players broke up from a squad and mixed with the youths. “They were very excited,” said Nora Stamoulis, a Greek who lives off and on in New York City and brought her 11-year-old son Theofanis and his 11-year-old companion, Haris Katsoulis, both boys decked out in the purple basketball uniforms of the school they attend, the Obradovic Academy of Panathinaikos basketball coach Zelimir Obradovic. The Greek youths – almost all boys, although



Young Greek basketball fans had a chance to meet the stars of the American national team for the World Basketball Champions when the U.S. squad came to Athens to play an exhibition game against the Greek team. Most of the American players showed up at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Syntagma Square to sign autographs

Greece has a thriving women's professional league as well – weren't dazzled, but you could see the excitement on their faces as they massed around the National Basketball Association players, who were dressed in their team uniforms.

It didn't much matter to the Greek youths that this American

team had no superstars or few recognizable names as the U.S. left behind the likes of Kobe Bryant and LeBron James, who were on the 2008 Olympic Gold Medal winning team. “They know that,” said Stamoulis, who said that her son and his friends also were too young to remember the stunning win by the Greek team

over a top-flight team of NBA players in the semi-finals of the 2006 World Championship, 101-95, although they had to play nearly a perfect game to do it and have been spanked in other matches against NBA players since. One of the most accessible American players, Kevin Love, 21, who plays for the Minnesota Tim-

berwolves and who, at 6-10 (2.08 meters) is one of the best rebounders in the league, said he remembered what happened to the 2006 U.S. team and that this squad had a lot of respect for the Greek and other European teams. “We feel we have to play hard every time we take the court,” he said, showing none of the swagger that used to mark NBA players who thought their attitude and slam-dunk style would easily prevail in international competition. Love said the players were eager to see the sights of Greece too, even though they were in Athens only for two days.

While the Greek kids swarmed around, more orderly and respectful than you might imagine they'd be in the presence of NBA players, some of the Americans couldn't resist kidding around either, which you probably would expect from the youngest international team the U.S. has put together, many of the players under 22 years old. Kevin Durant, a first-round draft choice out of the University of Texas, and a 6-9 star coming into his own in the league, posed playfully next to one of the Evzones, who, in typical fashion, didn't bat an eye because they are used to standing stock still while everyone from elderly Japanese women to rowdy Americans stand side-by-side with them to have photos taken. Andre Iguodala, a 6-6 shooting and high-leaping dunking guard for the Philadelphia 76ers, was all

smiles and walked around aiming his digital camera at the Evzones, Parliament, the Greek youths and anything that moved.

Greece's Assistant Tourism Minister George Nikitiades, a Greek-American from New York, welcomed the American team as Greek officials handed out boxes of basketballs for the young players and fans to have signed. When he was asked whose autograph he'd gotten, Stamoulis said, “I'm not sure,” but he showed it off anyway. This American team showed none of the attitude of superstars and seemed more like tourists, or kids waiting for stars to show up too, and were more anxious to see the Parliament and Evzones than prance around and show off, perhaps a testament to head coach Mike Krzyzewski, of Duke, and Assistant Jim Boeheim, who's the head coach of Syracuse and, like Krzyzewski, has won a national collegiate championship. Boeheim came out of the bus casually and looked around at the crowd of youths, none of who recognized him, of course. But another American official said while this team of young NBA players perhaps doesn't know the Greek or European teams, the veterans, such as Krzyzewski and Boeheim, do, thinking back to the 2006 upset. And perhaps at the 2016 Olympics or 2018 World Championships, you'll see Stamoulis and Katsoulis. But this time they'll be giving the autographs.

Greek Hoopsters Hope for World Rebound

Continued from page 1

Canada by 74 points, (yes, 74,) its once bete noire Russia, by 38, Germany by 28 and Croatia by nine, and in a brawl with Serbia in warm-ups before running into a US team with no superstars. If the 1992 American Olympic team was the Dream Team, this once is the Second Team, with half the American players under 22, but still showing they can win the Worlds while Greece could find itself steamrollered unless it amps up the attitude and belligerence.

Greece opens Aug. 28 with China and the next day faces Puerto Rico, and could be without several players who could be suspended for their part in the Serbian battle fest, and then takes on Turkey in front of a hostile crowd in Ankara in its first three games. And while Greece seems confident it can win its first two games with less than a full squad, Puerto Rico has shown it can be a formidable opponent and not to be overlooked or taken for granted. Greece also plays the Ivory Coast and Russia in the preliminary rounds. The coltish U.S. squad used its speed and athleticism to just run away from the lackadaisical Greeks in what amounted to a scrimmage romp for the Americans. There were a few inspired moments, particu-

larly from Nick Calathes, a Greek American former college All-Star from the University of Florida, and second-round draft pick in the National Basketball Association. He now plays for Panathinaikos, but hasn't dominated in the Greek league. He's played behind established stars Dimitrios Diamantidis and Vassilis Spanoulis for Panathinaikos, but will see more league playing time because Spanoulis has jumped ship to sign with Panathinaikos' cross-city archrivals Olympiakos. Spanoulis is a key player for Greece in the World Championships because of his experience and shooting ability from outside. He played in the NBA for one season with the Houston Rockets from 2006-07, but mostly sat on the bench and got so frustrated he walked away from a guaranteed \$2 million contract to return to Greece. “It was a very hard year, and I was disgusted with the direction of Houston and the fact that I had no opportunity for playing time,” Spanoulis told ESPN.com. “I was blinded by anger, and I couldn't see clearly because I was so pissed off.”

If Spanoulis is Greece's offensive threat, Diamantidis is the defensive gem, a three-time Euroleague choice as the best defender in Europe. “I love defense,” Diamantidis told Euroleague.net. “It makes me crazy

when I give my opponent the opportunity to score an easy basket. I always remember myself being like that. My philosophy is more defensive and creative than offensive: I don't think that defense isn't spectacular. Sometimes a good defensive play is more spectacular and attractive than an offensive one.”

ANOTHER RUN?

In 2006, after their spectacular performance against the U.S., Greece fell victim to one of its biggest problems, lethargy, losing 70-47 to Spain in a game that wasn't nearly as close as the score. It's a bugaboo that haunts the national team, alternating passion with going through the motions, especially if it falls behind against any of the world's best teams, such as Spain, the U.S., Brazil or Argentina. There is great talent in Greece, as the Under-19 team showed last year winning the European championship and losing by eight points, 88-80 in the final of the World championships against an American squad of elite High School All-Stars and teenagers. Nikos Pappas was chosen to the All-Tournament team and is on this national squad, although Greece generally doesn't pick young players. The 1995 Greek Under-19 team won the World Championship. Greece won the 1987 European championship – in Athens – behind Greek

American star Nick Galis and won again in 2005, but hasn't been able to get past Spain since.

What are Greece's chances in Turkey? In 2006, when it they reached the finals, the Greek players showed they could execute plays, demonstrating that – combined with almost perfect outside shooting that one game – could beat the U.S. and the world's top teams. “We have to learn the international game better,” U.S. coach Mike Krzyzewski said after the loss to Greece. “We learned a lot today because we played a team that plays amazing basketball and plays together.” In the Aug. 25 exhibition, all he had to do was sit on the bench and dispatch one young player after the other and watch them run Greece into the court, showing a key weakness for the Greek team: a lack of speed or athleticism. Even one of the team's most formidable weapons, 6-10, 342-lb. center, Sofoklis Schortsianitis – nicknamed Baby Shaq, and who bulled his way to 14 points on 6-of-7 shooting against the U.S. in 2006 is sometimes too one-dimensional for the international game.

The Greeks played the pick-and-roll game to near-perfection against the U.S. four years ago as no matter what defense Krzyzewski tried, the Greeks found open shooters beyond the 3-point arc or open lanes to the



Kevin Love (2nd L) of the U.S. national team snatches a rebound as Stratos Perperoglou of Greece (L) looks on during a friendly basketball match at Athens' Olympic stadium, Aug. 25.

basket, and shot 63%. “They ran like one play the whole game,” U.S. star Dwayne Wade said. After that monumental upset, thousands of Greeks gathered in the streets, waved flags and honked car horns to celebrate.

Traffic information screens flashed the final score, as motorists abandoned their cars to join celebrating crowds. Teenagers set off firecrackers and waved flags on mo-peds as they headed to the center of Athens. “This is the biggest thing we've ever done,” former Greek star Panayiotis Fasoulas said. “The Americans are the most talented players but we have a better team. Right now we're the best in the world. ... Beating the U.S.

is more important than the final.” The problem in 2010 is, of course, that they couldn't beat the Americans in an exhibition and their fans have to worry what game they will bring to Turkey: passion or the kind of perfunctory walk-through captured by one American fan who was swapping insults with Greek fans on the Internet. “Hey Costis from Greece, that fluke win when Greece beat USA was 4 years ago so why are you mentioning that. What happened the last time they played in 2008, the game was over by halftime and the USA won by like 25. Also, the USA has dominated Greece in Fiba basketball history. Besides Greece will not even get by Spain.”



AP PHOTO/GREEK ROYAL FAMILY, NIKOLAOS KOMINIS

Royal Wedding

Prince Nicholas of Greece and his wife Tatiana Blatnik smile during the religious ceremony at the church of St. Nicholas in Spetses, Greece, Aug. 25, 2010. Members of royal families from Sweden, Norway, Denmark and the Netherlands were also among the 380 guests. The monarchy was abolished in Greece in 1974, and while most of its descendants now live abroad, they remain one of the most well-connected royal families in Europe.

Is it a Depression Yet for Greece?

Continued from page 1

a survey that showed 375,000 businesses are generating losses, according to the survey conducted by the General Confederation of Small Businesses and Traders and published by the Greek daily newspaper Kathimerini. According to the survey, businesses are threatening to move their operations abroad in order to avoid higher taxes unless the government changes its tax policy, a move that would mean more than 300,000 job positions would be lost. As many as 64% of the 960 businesses interviewed said they will likely to shut down, with the risk of bankruptcy is greatest in the manufacturer sector, reaching nearly 50%, and in very small businesses.

There have been a half dozen major strikes during the summer, none of which have deterred Papandreou from forging ahead with his plans, although the government did back down from railroad and electrical utility workers whose businesses would have been partly privatized, leading to thousands of layoffs.

According to a poll earlier this month in Kathimerini, 92% of Greeks said both the jobs situation and the country's inflation rate had worsened during the 10 months of Socialist rule. Against rising joblessness, Papandreou has been meeting with top government officials to discuss how to ramp up tax collections. Tax intakes are 700 million euros (\$889 million) below the seven-month targets, government officials said. Greece's financial-crimes office said it will issue up to its targeting issuing up to \$6.35 billion in fines by year's end to clamp

down on rampant tax evasion and try to soothe widespread discontent that the rich have not been made to pay under the austerity program, as well as meet the EU-IMF bailout program's strict deficit-slashing revenue targets.

THE “D” WORD

And for the first time with any validity, the “D” word – Depression – is being used in some circles by analysts who say the figures show Greece is sliding past its deep recession into something worse. The National Confederation of Hellenic Commerce (ESEE) calculates that 17% of all shops in Athens have had to file for bankruptcy. “The entire country is in the grip of a depression. Everything seems to be going downhill. The spiral is continuing unabated, and there is no clear way out. The worse part, however, is the fact that hardly anyone still hopes that things will improve one day,” a report in the German news-magazine Der Spiegel said. The government is furiously trying to countermand that attitude and insisting its program is working, even while releasing a report last week that showed the economy will shrink 4% this year and that the government is giving banks more aid on top of two package totaling more than \$50 billion the last couple of years. “The economy is in recession but one that is more shallow than what was initially expected,” Finance Minister George Papaconstantinou told deputies in parliament.

Greece's recession has gained speed this year as austerity policies to shore up public finances and slash the deficit, including cuts in pensions and public sector pay and higher taxes, take a

toll. “There never was and never will be an issue of restructuring public debt,” the minister said will go (to finance) the real economy, to firms and households,” he said.

On the streets and in the shops, however, there are signs of worry. Even IKEA, the Swedish home goods chain, reported that its Greek franchiser, Fourlis, has seen a precipitous drop in profits, by 84%, because of a government windfall tax and austerity measures keeping people out of the stores. And, as Der Spiegel and other media have noted, the austerity measures that were supposed to fix Greece's problems are dragging down the country's economy. Stores are closing, tax revenues are falling and unemployment has hit an unbelievable 70% in some places. Frustrated workers are threatening to strike back, the German magazine reported.

This dire prognosis comes even despite Athens' massive efforts to sort out the country's finances. The government's draconian austerity measures have managed to reduce the country's budget deficit by an almost unbelievable 39.7%, after previous governments had squandered tax money and falsified statistics for years. The measures have reduced government spending by a total of 10 percent, 4.5 percent more than the EU and IMF required. But, that has meant a drastic drop in spending in a country which gets 70% of its revenues from consumers. At the same time, tourism has fallen as much as 15-25% in some places, leading to fears of more layoffs next month when the summer season ends.

JOBLESS LINES GROW

The country's unemployment

rate makes this trend particularly clear. In 2009, it was 9.5%. This year it may rise to 12.1% and economists expect it to reach 14.3% in 2011, according to the figures provided by the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). “We expect real unemployment to top one million workers by the year's end, which is a rate of 20%,” said Stathis Anestis, spokesman of the private-sector umbrella union GSEE, whose members have protested with public sector workers in the streets. This would put the unemployment rate as high as it was in 1960, when hundreds of thousands of Greeks were forced to emigrate. Meanwhile, purchasing power has fallen to its 1984 level, according to the GSEE.

Menelaos Givalos, a professor of political science at Athens University, has appeared on television, warning viewers that the worst times are still to come. He predicts a large wave of layoffs starting in September, with “extreme social consequences.” That was mirrored in the shipbuilding industry in the port of Piraeus, a business where unemployment is reportedly 70%. “If you take away my family's bread, I'll take you down – the government needs to know that,” Nikos Meletis, a shipbuilder told Der Spiegel. “And don't call us anarchists if that happens! We're heads of our families and we're desperate.” He predicts the situation will only become more heated. “Things are starting to simmer here,” he says. “And at some point they're going to explode.”

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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 St. Nicholas Quagmire

As the ninth anniversary of the events of September 11, 2001 - in which not only many members of our community, but also the St. Nicholas Church in the shadow of the World Trade Center - perished in the chaos and tragedy, there has been an uproar regarding the church's rebuilding. On the one side, the Greek American community and the Archdiocese is expressing outrage that while the fine points of the proposed Islamic Cultural Center near Ground Zero are being discussed on a national level, the issue of the St. Nicholas church is silently languishing. On the other, as the Port Authority reveals in a statement published in this issue in its entirety, the negotiators representing the church are being faulted for foolishly killing a plan last year that would give them a prime spot as well as up to \$60 million in American taxpayers' money to rebuild the St. Nicholas church.

Who is telling the truth? Why and how did the negotiations with the Port Authority - which were reputedly almost finalized - break down? And why has the authority been so uncommunicative with the St. Nicholas community and Archdiocese representatives after the negotiation breakdown? Many of our readers, as evidenced by letters, phone calls and emails on the topic, are furious that the St. Nicholas church has seemingly not gotten one step closer to rebuilding since September 12, 2001.

At the same time, still others worry that the failure of negotiations is due to our own community's lack of coordination, clever negotiation skills and possibly greed. Were the negotiators pushing the limits of the very difficult construction at Ground Zero - one of the most symbolic, dangerous and expensive pieces of real estate in New York - when they planned not for a modest little church on the scale of the old St. Nicholas, but for something grandiose? Is the failure of the St. Nicholas reconstruction to date a symptom, we wonder, of our institutions' aims and methods of expression? What is going on when representatives of a little church that used to stand under the towers are unable to pitch their case, while those representing a brand new religious center of a faith ripe with controversy, could dot their i's in such a way as to receive approval? Is everyone against us - as some believe - or are we ill-equipped for playing in the big league?

While last week's gesture by former Governor George Pataki - attending a high-profile press conference near the site of the old church - could be seen as an important move of philhellenism - it is notable that members of the St. Nicholas parish were not there. Where were they? If you are petitioning the state for millions to rebuild your church on Manhattan's most important site, is it not worth your trouble to show up, offering mainstream media faces and voices to go along with their story?

At the August 23 press conference, congressional candidate George Demos called for a resurrection, for the church to rise out of the ashes. For this to occur, the St. Nicholas community and the Archdiocese, in which it has put its faith, needs to act swiftly and intelligently, rallying the brains and resources of the community fully. And the Port Authority must break its silence and put some action behind its oft-repeated words that the church can always rebuild on its old site. There is no more room for mistakes, or time, as the earth under the old church is being prepared for a transportation hub.

Back to School

Two weeks ago we cited President Barack Obama's intercity rail initiative as an example of the care America must take in prioritizing and implementing investments vital to our future. This week, as the Back to School drumbeat builds to a crescendo, we spotlight the largest and perhaps the most important investment a society can make: education. But America is hearing next to nothing from its leaders about how to fix the parts of our education system that are broken and how to ensure that the parts that work keep up with the times and the foreign competition. And when the politicians do pull their heads out of the sand, we urge them to set aside partisan bickering and get down to serious debate on whether education reform is on track, and deal with the important issues. Schools in general face challenges, but public schools, which were the foundation of America's economic achievements and its ability to assimilate millions of people from all over the world, still present sad if not frightening prospects in many cities.

The summer media reports on the topic are depressing. On August 15 The New York Times wrote: "Two years ago, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg ... testified before Congress about the city's impressive progress in closing the gap in performance between minority and white children ... When results from the 2010 tests ... were released last month, they came as a blow to the legacy of the mayor and the chancellor, as passing rates dropped by more than 25 percentage points on most tests." NBC called it New York's Education "Miracle" That Didn't Happen.

There are many ways to look at the problem. Are our schools working with the proper mix of traditional methods and new approaches and technologies? Are we attracting the best possible teachers - or are low salaries or bad management keeping them away? Are parents, teachers and their unions, and politicians engaged in constructive dialogues that will lead to painful compromises for the sake of our children and our future? Is it still nearly impossible to take incompetent teachers off the payroll and to implement ways to give incentives to sub-par teachers to improve, and good teachers to become more like the great teachers many of us grew up with? Are more Charter schools the answer? The New York Post reported on August 21: "Black and Hispanic students in charter schools scored significantly better on this year's state math and reading exams than did Black and Hispanic kids in traditional public schools, according to a new analysis."

We will not only point fingers at politicians, school administrators and teachers. The home environment is a vital element in the academic success of our children. Are parents devoting enough time and energy to them? Are they able to? Is corporate America doing its part by giving its managers maximum authority to create work schedules that allow employees - fathers also - to raise their children? Perhaps there will be some productivity declines in letting them spend more time working out of sight of their bosses, but maybe only in the beginning. Or maybe the gains will accrue over time and across generations that are raised in a more healthy way. In the meantime, maybe cash that is being wasted elsewhere should go to employers as they get tax credits for implementing work at home programs. Let's ask our leaders.

Ground Zero Mosque a Victory for Muslims

To the Editor:

Your August 7, 2010 editorial supporting the building of a fifteen story high Mosque and Islamic Center just 600 feet from Ground Zero and characterizing those who oppose it as engaging in a "cheap political battle" both misconstrues and misses the whole issue involved.

Ground Zero is a monument to the 3,000 innocent victims of the 9/11 brutal and senseless attack upon the United States. It is not a monument to Religious Freedom. St. Nicholas Church is to be rebuilt at Ground Zero because that was its location before the destruction of the Twin Towers. Its presence there has nothing to do with religious freedom. Therefore there is no necessity to prove religious freedom in the United States or New York City by locating a mosque and Islamic Center in close proximity to Ground Zero.

The purpose of locating the Mosque and Islamic Center near Ground Zero is clearly confrontational. The proposed name for the Islamic Center "CORDOBA" is provocative and reminds all Muslims of the Great Mosque of Cordoba built in the eight century in celebration of the Muslim military victories in Spain. Locating the mosque at Ground Zero has nothing to do with any alleged purpose of the advancement of healing and in-

terfaith understanding. Such a lofty purpose may be achieved without locating the Islamic Center next to Ground Zero. However, the offer of other non-controversial sites has been turned down out of hand. The failure of Mayor Blumberg, Attorney General Cuomo and your editorial writers to understand that the Mosque and Center located at Ground Zero will be viewed by the Muslim world (as it is intended to be) as a victory

for political anti-American Islam is incomprehensible.

Evann Alevizatos Chriss
Baltimore, MD

Keep Up the Good Work, No Matter What

To the Editor:

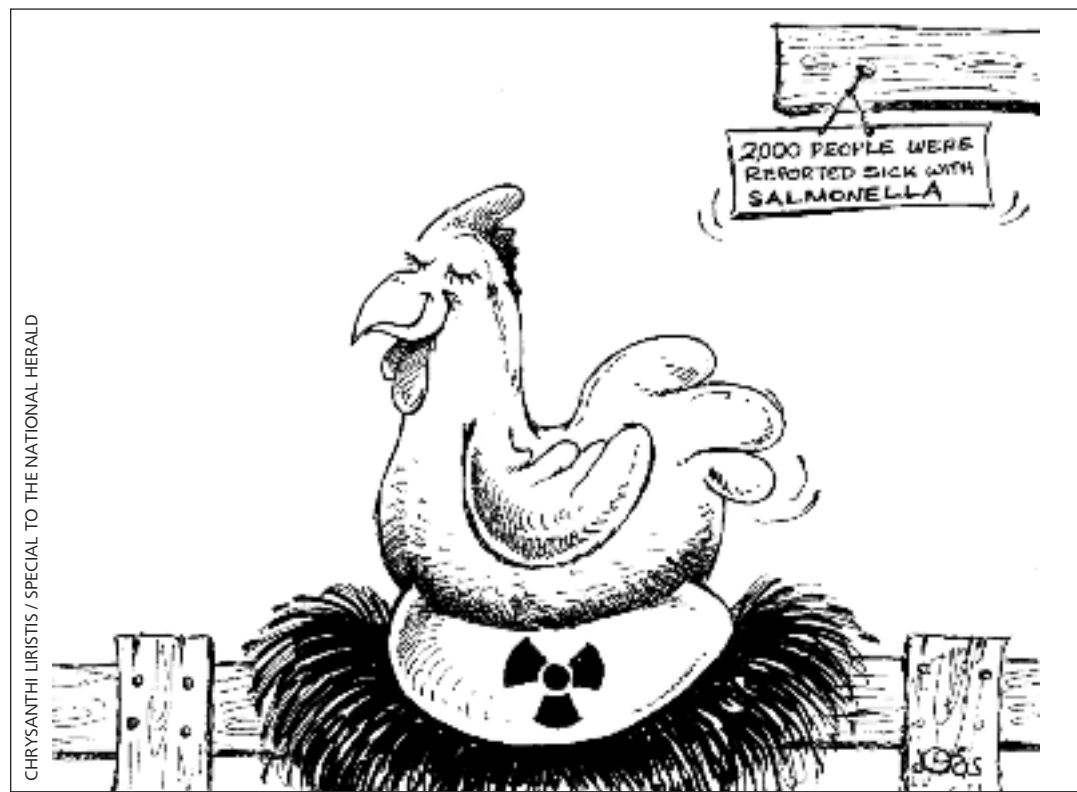
As a faithful reader of the National Herald, I encourage you to continue your policy of incisive, objective reporting, espe-

cially as it pertains to the hierarchy of the Greek Orthodox Church.

The letter from John Tsikalas in the 8/14-20 in which he took issue with your reporting is unjustified.

I can read all of that stuff in the Orthodox Observer. Your in-depth, investigative reporting is what make you what you are. Keep up the good work.

Mark Zigoris
Cincinnati, Ohio



ΛΟΓΟΣ

Please Don't Make Me Rant! I'm a Tolerant Person!

In a Saturday Night Live skit this season, cast member Kristen Wiig was featured as a woman whose ego puts her in an awkward position at a party in which she says repeatedly, "Don't make me sing!" During the sketch her character repeats this phrase 13 times, along with seven variations including three instances in which she says, "Don't make me dance!" The awkward position in this skit is that Wiig's character really wanted to sing (and dance) at the party even though she announced over and over again she didn't. I feel a lot like that character. Although I try to focus my commentary on those aspects of the human quest for meaning that resonate with readers as a "whole" and try my best to avoid unearthing issues that polarize, I'm in a similarly awkward position. I do not have any interest in ranting about topics that risk the chance of offending or alienating readers, but - please don't make me rant! Just as Wiig's character really wanted to sing and dance despite her protests otherwise, I feel compelled to get something off my chest, so I am going to rant! I do not pretend to have the predisposition or personality of the Dalai Lama, Mother Teresa, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I or transpersonal spiritual leaders. I am not nearly as tolerant of the attitudes and behaviors of others, especially when I see something happening that I consider wrong. While I've mellowed with age I also have become much more centrist, even conservative, in my way of thinking than when I was younger. There was a time when I was labeled a radical, a leftist, and even a Socialist, much to the dismay of my Horatio Alger-minded, staunch Republican, Greek-American father. Although my father is no longer with us, I know he would be proud of his

once rebellious son if he could see me now (I know in my heart and soul he does.) My shift in consciousness, I would like to think, has come from life experience, including many challenging courses in the College of Hard Knocks, and the blessing of time (as a Viet Nam-era veteran, many of my brothers and sisters were not so fortunate as their lives were cut short.) Walking alone my own labyrinth of meaning, a notion that I discuss in my book, Prisoners of Our Thoughts, was not an easy task. Treading through the darkness of life in search of the light, there were (and still are) many bumps and bruises along the way. I'd also like to think that I've grown through the process and that my shift in perspective and outlook on life is not simply the result of regressing toward the mean but discovering the deeper meaning in life's moments, and perhaps even the ageless wisdom that comes with it. It is against this backdrop that the origin of my rant must be considered. Even though I may now be one of those people who "cling to their guns and religion" (after all, my family is rooted in the Sfakian region of Crete!) I am not bitter nor do I consider myself ignorant. I'm referring to that contentious remark made by then presidential candidate Obama. It is interesting how some people's attitudes don't seem to change with experience and time, even among those who espouse change as their campaign slogan.

Over time, my experience has changed me; hopefully, for the



by Dr. ALEX
PATTAKOS

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better. Along the political spectrum, I've traveled many miles, literally and figuratively, from left to center to right and back to center. And while I have changed my vantage point and viewpoint on many occasions over the years, my authentic commitment to meaningful values and goals, that is, my "will to meaning," has not changed - at least not significantly. There is a saying in the political world, called Mile's Law, that "Where you stand is where you sit." I've changed my seat many times and, through the learning and growth that comes with such shifts in awareness, have changed my "stance" accordingly. As regular readers should know, I'm a compassionate guy even if I do believe that there is a distinction, albeit not always very clear, between the deserving and undeserving poor. As someone who has been called a "spiritual warrior," I have zero tolerance for behaviors that deliberately or consciously hurt or victimize (in mind, body, or spirit) the innocent. At the same time, I believe strongly in human potential and the defiant power of the human spirit. Given the freedom and opportunity, it is amazing what people are capable of doing to help themselves, one and other, and the planet in meaningful ways. In my life, I've been fortunate to see both sides of human behavior and the human condition, from the worst to the heights.

Sometimes we must draw a line in the sand if we are to realize our will to meaning. I've had to learn this lesson the hard way,

many times, before it sunk in. I'm perplexed by the Greek American community's tolerance of the current administration's positions and statement towards those things that should really matter. If I had a dollar for every time a person asked me why Greek Americans, known for their entrepreneurial spirit and business acumen, were so supportive of President Obama and his administration, I would be one of the wealthiest people on the planet. I don't have the space to elaborate about the many issues that concern me or the reasons why Greek Americans get a chill when Obama speaks, but let me raise one that should matter to all Greek Americans - the rebuilding of the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church destroyed on September 11, 2001. I can't understand how and why our community isn't in an uproar demanding that the Obama Administration and mainstream media focus their remarks and news coverage on this fundamental "justice as fairness" issue. Any plans to build a mosque near Ground Zero should be moot in comparison to the rebuilding of the church, as well as to finally moving forward with the rebuilding of the lost towers. Am I a heretic for believing this? Is it time to draw a line in the sand and stand up for what's right, not be "politically correct" or appeasers? Help me understand, and, please, don't make me rant

Dr. Pattakos, author of Prisoners of Our Thoughts, is working on a business initiative and book on how to live a happy, healthy, meaningful life inspired by Greek culture. Readers may contact him at: alex@prisonersofourthoughts.com or visit his web site: www.prisonersofourthoughts.com.

COMMENTARY

Why Won't New York State Support the Patriarchate?

by George Sava

My name is George Sava and I am a fiscally conservative Democrat running for New York State Senate in Nassau County, Long Island, 9th Senate District. I am running on a platform of alleviating the tax burden on New York residents and finally bringing accountability and transparency to Albany. However, there are other issues that are important to me as an American of Greek Orthodox heritage. These issues include supporting religious freedom in Turkey, particularly as it relates to the status and circumstances surrounding our Holy See, the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and rebuilding St. Nicholas church in downtown Manhattan. Sadly, these issues have largely been ignored by many elected officials in New York. Since the signing of Lausanne Treaty in 1923, which provides for the protection of the Greek Orthodox Christian minority in Turkey, the Turkish State has engaged in a systematic effort to exert control over and

weaken the institutions of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The efforts of the Turkish State continue and the Patriarchate is now in a time of crisis, facing its very extinction.

Specifically within the last half-century alone, Turkey has:

- Meddled in the process of succession of the Ecumenical Patriarch, including placing conditions on the citizenship of candidates and requiring that candidates be pre-approved by the Turkish State

- Refused to recognize the ecumenicity of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, despite centuries of tradition and the recognition of its ecumenical nature by virtually all other religious and civil officials globally

- Confiscated outright or refused building permits for structures on thousands of real properties belonging to the Ecumenical Patriarchate (including the famous orphanage on Pringipos island) and arbitrarily imposed absurd taxes on other properties, including a 42% retroactive tax on the Balukli

Hospital, which serves over 30,000 Turks annually

- Closed in 1971 the Heybeliada (Halki) Seminary, the primary and historic seminary for the instruction of Greek Orthodox clergy

- Organized, encouraged or simply ignored looting and other criminal acts against the Greek Orthodox minority community - including their private businesses, residences, cemeteries, and community and athletic centers - located in Istanbul, on the islands of Imvros and Tenedos and elsewhere in Turkey.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I boldly summarized the harassment and intimidation he, personally, and our Mother Church continue to experience in his interview on 60 Minutes this past December, saying: "(The Turkish State) would be happy to see the Patriarchate extinguished or moving abroad, but our belief is that it will never happen. . . . We prefer to stay here, even crucified sometimes." In recognition of the Turkish State's intolerant and atrocious

conduct, at this time 31 states have passed 36 resolutions supporting religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Unfortunately, New York is not among those 31 states. Moreover, despite a strong Greek Orthodox presence across our State and the fact that various politicians in the Assembly have fought for these issues, our State Senate has remained silent. Based on this apparent lack of political will these proposals have been unable to get off the ground. There has been a clear failure on the part of New York politicians to find a solution to the rebuilding of St. Nicholas church. While many politicians are busy taking sides on the issue of a mosque being built near Ground Zero, they seem to have forgotten all about the tiny church that had been a fixture in downtown Manhattan since the 1920s and which was the only house of worship destroyed in the September 11th attacks. As an Orthodox Christian, this lack of focus on so sensitive an issue is unacceptable.

LETTER FROM ATHENS

Greece Finally Gets a Real Hero – a Librarian

Who would have thought that in a time when politicians and business executives have failed Greece that a hero would emerge from the stacks of the little, but world class public library he runs, a man whose achievements and can-do attitude smack of American individualism mixed with the best attributes of Greek philosophers – ancient ones because there aren't any today. Ioannis Trohopoulos is a modest, unassuming man who has the same kind of humility as those ancient philosophers who knew that ego was the mind killer. And as politicians and business executives summered in their villas and island sanctuaries, content in knowing their lifestyles were unassailed by the pay cuts that public workers have suffered, Trohopoulos was in Sweden to accept a \$1 million award given by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to the Veria Central Library he operates in that northern Greek town in Macedonia. This has been a summer of sweltering heat and unlikely humidity in Greece and most workers are hunkered down, no place to go because their pay has been cut and taxes raised, but what Trohopoulos and his praiseworthy staff have done is more refreshing than a cooling



by ANDY DABILIS
Special to
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ing “shooosh” to tell you to be quiet because in one corner you're likely to find children engaging in a puppet show or being read to by a librarian while a computer screen shows the images on a screen so they can follow and use their imagination while seeing a vivid portrayal. Too many libraries now are mausoleums, but Trohopoulos and his staff have created one that is alive and puts those in many big cities – including Athens – to shame.

At his acceptance speech for the Access to Learning Award (ALTA), Trohopoulos gave a near-perfect presentation of why his library works and why humility, that most prized virtue of ancient philosophers and Greeks, has been replaced by hubris today. “Before I go any further let me warn you. You see I am a boring speaker. One of my favorite essays is that of Joseph Brodsky's In Praise of Boredom. I am afraid boredom may slip into the room ruining what I have prepared with great care and concern. I have the dubious honor of my extraordinary record, which probably qualifies me for the Guinness Book of Records for the number of places at which I have been invited to speak once only,” he said, words you'll never hear from politicians practicing self-aggrandizement. Trohopoulos said his hope is that the Veria Central Library will be a model of excellence for cultural and educational institutions in Greece, a country where high school classrooms look like World War II Albanian army barracks, bereft of maps, color, school libraries, computers that work or tools basic to most civilized countries.

He doled out credit even to those who don't deserve it. “There are plenty of capable political and economic leaders, but libraries like ours need to focus on creating the environment to nurture cultural leadership, something that is often neglected by the political and economic leaders in our countries,” he said, showing that the best way to damn is with faint praise, and then followed it up with the rest of the 1-2 punch to the gut of shallow, hollow, empty political non-leaders. “I would like to see Greek libraries up at the front of the agenda of the central government and of local authorities. Now it is time to link library services to national priorities and to big issues like social cohesion, digital inclusion, and cultural and educational development,” he said. Trohopoulos also said the idea that Greeks don't read and don't need libraries is a myth.

“The people of Veria proved that Greeks love reading, use libraries regularly and actually need them more in times of crisis such as today.” Even more importantly, he showed that smaller libraries with imaginative and innovative leaders can be the real model, not those behemoths with stuffy out-of-touch boards running them. “The use of new technologies in creative and innovative ways can certainly overcome barriers based on the old traditional structure. Let us face it. Small industries are replacing huge businesses all over the world. Small libraries too can become the spring board for recovery in our country. Look how micro-lending has challenged the domination of the big banks.” He added: “The story of Veria Central Public Library is a tale of realistic goals and mission, constant experimentation, collaboration with other libraries and experts, and of a relentless investment in digital innovation and technologies.” Trohopoulos noted that Plato, in his Republic, had perhaps the sagest advice for leaders. “And when they (citizens) have reached 50 years of age ... they will have made philosophy their chief pursuit, and, when their turn comes, they will also toil at politics and rule for the public good, not as though they were performing some heroic action, but simply as a matter of duty.” He's a hero who's done his duty, and the rest of those in Greece like him (there are some) should pick up the cudgel and do the same because no one else will.

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A Kind of Welcome to the Supreme Court, Justice Kagan

The prevalent news halfway through the summer was the daily update about containing and stopping the oil spill in the Gulf, and the on again, off again good news/bad news about the economy. But for those interested in a little political drama, there was the usual circus of events surrounding the confirmation of a Supreme Court Justice appointment – on the hot seat this time around was nominee Elena Kagan.

The hoopla surrounding her candidacy was nothing new, although most of us can recall a time when judicial appointments were confirmed sans partisan chicanery. Of the remaining eight judges (called Justices) who sit on the United States Supreme Court, all those who were confirmed even as late as the 1990's were approved by a margin of 90% or higher. Antonin Scalia, one of the Court's most conservative and most divisive Justices, was approved in 1986 by a Senate vote of 98-0. In early 1988, Anthony Kennedy was confirmed 97-0. Scalia and Kennedy, both appointed by a Republican president, Ronald Reagan, did not coast to confirmation by overwhelming majorities based on partisanship. In Scalia's case, the Republicans held a slim 53 to 47 margin in the Senate, while the Democrats actually comprised the majority, 55 to 45. With the exception of the extremely close vote confirming Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court (52-48) – tainted by allegations that Thomas had sexually harassed Anita Hill, a former employee of his – the Senate continued to proceed collegially throughout the 1990's. Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen Breyer, liberal-minded jurists appointed by President Bill Clinton, a Democrat, were easily confirmed by wide margins: Ginsburg, in 1993, 96-3, and Breyer, the following year, by 87-9. Again, partisanship did not play a sig-

nificant role. In each case, the Democratic senators had a majority no higher than 57 to 43 over the Republicans.

Eleven years later, however, everything seemed to change. George W. Bush, a Republican who had just been elected to a second term as president, appointed John Roberts to succeed Sandra Day O'Connor to the Supreme Court. Incidentally, O'Connor had been appointed by Reagan as well, in 1981, and became the first female Supreme Court Justice. She had been confirmed overwhelmingly, too; the vote was 99-0. Before the confirmation hearings were underway, however, the Court's ailing Chief Justice, William Rehnquist, passed away. Bush changed the nature of Roberts' appointment at that point, opting to nominate him to become the new Chief Justice, instead. Although Roberts was approved by a sizeable majority, the vote was 78-22, far closer than any of the confirmations over the previous quarter century.

As for the retiring O'Connor, Bush sought to fill her vacancy with Samuel Alito, who was confirmed in early 2006, a few months after Roberts, by an even more contentious vote: 58-42. The Democratic discontents were digging in their heels, no longer playing by the rules so admirably practiced by their predecessors. By 2008, the political tide would turn once again. The Democrats would regain control of the White House and their new president, Barack Obama, would have a chance to nominate a candidate to the Supreme Court early on. In 2009, Justice David Souter announced his retirement from the Court. Obama



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publicans squandered that chance, proving that they could be every bit as petty. And Obama's second appointee, Elena Kagan, was confirmed by an even closer vote, 63-37.

Why, then, are today's Democrats and Republicans incapable of working together to approve judicial appointees in a collaborative and collegial effort, rather than allowing their shallow and pathetic partisanship to poison to process? It is because even though the human race allegedly continues to evolve, the exact opposite happens in American government. Our politicians are increasingly demonstrating what pitiful sore losers they are. The party out of power no longer practices civil discord. Rather, nonstop bickering, deceit, and demagoguery are the norm. The rationale behind this shameful behavior is usually the notion that the candidate in question is unqualified. Why? Because according to the Republicans, a Supreme Court Justice should act like an umpire in baseball. Call balls and strikes, not change the strike zone. Enforce the laws, not make new ones. The Constitution provides that the legislative branch shall make the law: the president and the courts have to abide by it. Democrats, in turn, believe that Justices need to do what's fair, even if it means having to

change the law at times. As an attorney and Constitutional scholar, I happen to agree with the strict constructionist view espoused by most Republicans. But I also respect the Democrats' point of view as a legitimate one, even if I disagree with it.

Most importantly, every President – whether liberal or conservative, Democrat or Republican – has the right to appoint whomever he or she sees fit to serve as a judge. To be “fit” means to understand the law, have a background in it, and not present a clear case of conflict-of-interest (in other words, to not be the President's cousin or sister-in-law.) A nominee who is likely to be a strict constructionist should be confirmed 98-0, as Scalia was, not 58-42, like Alito. A candidate with a more progressive outlook should be voted in by a 96-3 margin, like Ginsburg was, not 63-37, like Kagan. The two major parties are in a close race to see which can embarrass itself more so than the other. At this point, they are neck and neck and losing voters in droves, as members are bailing out to become independents or join third parties. One does not have to look beyond the pitiful antics that both Democrats and Republicans display during judicial confirmations to figure out why. In the meantime, welcome to the Supreme Court, Justice Kagan. Here's to hoping that your future colleagues, whatever their judicial philosophy might be, have an easier time getting there.

Constantinos E. Scaros is a published author and expert in American presidential history, with a background in Ancient Greek history. He has taught history, political science, and law at New York University, and served as an Academic Dean at two other colleges in New York. He welcomes comments at his blog at scaros.blogspot.com

“The people of Veria proved that Greeks love reading, use libraries regularly and actually need them more in times of crisis such as today”

zephyr or an honest politician. The rest of Greece has been beset by strikes and protests and people throwing their hands in the air saying, “What's to become of me,” but Trohopoulos and his staff have continued to make their library a role model for those anywhere in the world – and that includes the United States where the once-venerable library system in Boston, home of the grand Boston Public Library, is shutting down neighborhood branches because of service cuts that officials said were necessary because of the lingering recession.

That attitude has prevailed in Greece, but Trohopoulos remade his library into a place of social interaction for children and teens and adults, mixing the use of books with computers and creating an institution so popular nearly half the residents in the town of 50,000 use it. “We have been well organized for many years because we see how the country is moving. We could see what was coming and anticipated it,” he said. Before he left office, former prime minister Costas Karamanlis' administration packed 29,000 people onto the payrolls even though they had no jobs and no offices and didn't even apply, taking money away from services such as libraries, including Veria, which lost the drivers for its mobile vans that go out into the community to reach people who can't get to the library. Trohopoulos didn't gnash his teeth and weep and moan and rail against the establishment because he knew there'd be no sympathy and no response so he solved the problem. “We had no drivers but we didn't complain about it. We went to the local authorities and said ‘You're going to give us drivers and we'll give services to your village. We got the award for our intention to find to find solutions while most people say they had to surrender,’” he said in a telephone interview. He must be part American. He's not stuck in the past and said the library will digitize all its books. “That's why we are transforming the library,” he said, into a place for learning and entertainment. “It's a center for getting experiences ... that makes it more interesting and attractive. People always need social interaction, they don't want to stay at home and read, they want to go out and share things and to discuss and to disagree. A library should be a place where people share interesting ideas.” You won't find librarians putting their fingers to their mouths mimick-



AP PHOTOJ. SCOTT APPLEWHITE

Elena Kagan (L) is sworn in as the Supreme Court's newest member as Chief Justice John Roberts (R) administers the judicial oath, at the Supreme Court Building in Washington, Aug. 7, 2010. The Bible is held by Jeffrey Minear, counselor to the

chief justice. Kagan, 50, who replaces retired Justice John Paul Stevens, becomes the fourth woman to sit on the high court and is the first Supreme Court justice in nearly four decades with no previous experience as a judge.

Turkey, The Sick Man of Europe, an Unveiled Threat

It is said that the phrase “Sick Man of Europe” was penned by Tsar Nicolas I, referring to the decaying Ottoman Empire in 1853. As a result of a carefully crafted campaign to beautify its image over the last 20 years, Turkey is now portrayed as a bastion of stability and it is regarded as the “only Muslim democracy” and, thus, a reliable ally. When President Obama visited Turkey he said Ataturk's greatest legacy “is Turkey's strong, vibrant secular democracy.” However, an evaluation of Turkey's recent actions should

“Within Turkey it seems that anti-American and anti-Israel sentiment has been ongoing for at least a decade and it has been largely ignored by the press”

lead the Obama administration to question the wisdom of treating Turkey as our staunch ally. First, Turkey has recently shown that it is a destabilizing force in the Middle East. Although the U.N.'s investigation is just getting started, it seems that the Gaza flotilla incident could have easily been prevented by the Turkish government. According to Israel's Prime Minister, the Israeli government had high-level discussions with the Turkish government over two weeks prior to the flotilla setting sail for Gaza. In reality, there seems to be little question that Turkey was well aware of the flotilla -

after all, the Cypriot government prohibited the flotilla from sailing out of Cyprus. By all appearances, the flotilla incident is the culmination of Turkey's efforts to distance itself from Israel and to curry favor with Iran and Syria.

Turkey's recent behavior should come as no surprise. Although Turkey and Israel have officially been staunch allies, within Turkey it seems that anti-American and anti-Israel sentiment has been ongoing for at least a decade and it has been largely ignored by the press. In 2005, the Wall Street Journal published an op-ed piece by Robert Pollock, Senior Editorial Writer, in which he stated:

On a brief visit to Ankara earlier this month with Undersecretary of Defense Doug Feith, I found a poisonous atmosphere - one in which just about every politician and media outlet (secular and religious) preaches an extreme combination of America- and Jew-hatred....

THE GENOCIDE QUESTION
Pollock goes on to note that Turkey has long taken America for granted and has forgotten that: “U.S. administrations continue to fight annual attempts in Congress to pass a resolution... on the Armenian genocide;” and Turkey forgot “America's persistent lobbying for Turkish mem-



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bership in the European Union.” Pollock forgot to mention that the United States has given Turkey a free pass when it comes to stationing 40,000 illegal troops in the occupied area of Cyprus; the harassment of His All Holiness, Patriarch Bartholomew; and the human rights abuses against Turkey's minorities.

Another reason the U.S. government should rethink its close relationship with Turkey, is that Turkey has shown little desire to improve its deplorable record on human rights. According to the Turkish Human Rights Association's (IHD) annual evaluation of human rights in Turkey, in 2009 there were no changes to Turkey's plethora of laws that severely limit rights considered central to any democracy: freedom of the press, freedom of speech and freedom of expression. To me, nothing symbolizes Turkey's style of democracy, like Article 301 of the Turkish Penal code, which makes it a crime to insult Turkishness. In an attempt to satisfy one of the European Union acquis chapters, this law was amended in 2008 and now it's only a crime to insult the Turkish Nation. According to IHD, there are over 25 criminal laws that restrict freedom of speech/press; there were 569 people charged with crimes under these laws; and 36 journal-

ists who were criminally charged. One of these laws criminalizes negative depictions of Ataturk. (As a side note, this plethora of criminal laws demonstrates the courage of His All Holiness, Patriarch Bartholomew when he expressed his criticism of the Turkey government on 60 Minutes.)

The protection of basic human rights has always been important to us as Americans and Saddam Hussein's violations of these same human rights was part of our government's justification for invading Iraq. As a result, Turkey's legislative restrictions on free speech and freedom of the press should be unacceptable to our government and positive changes to these laws should be a condition of our friendship with Turkey. It gives me no pleasure to note that the Greek American community has been telling our government for many years that our foreign policy needs to change vis-a-vis Turkey - to no avail. More than ever, what Turkey has proven is that America should never ignore violations of international law and failure to protect human rights. Israel made the mistake of befriending Turkey while at the same time ignoring its transgressions and Turkey repaid the favor by befriending Iran—the greatest threat in the Middle East. We should not allow our government to make the same mistake.

Aleco Haralambides is the President of the American Hellenic Institute.

GUEST EDITORIALS

The National Herald welcomes manuscripts representing a variety of views for publication in its View Points page. They should include the writer's name, address, telephone number and be addressed to the View Points Editor, The National Herald, 37-10 30th St., LIC, NY 11101. They can also be e-mailed to english.edition@thenationalherald.com. Due to considerations of space we enforce a strict 850-word upper limit. We reserve the right to edit.

The Best Beaches in Greece? Hint: Go Where the People Aren't

By Andy Dabilis

Now that Greeks have finished their summer siesta vacations that left Athens empty, and most tourists are gone, it's time to head to the beach in Greece. And, next to arguing over who makes the best spanokopita, one of the best ways to start a debate in Greece is which beach is the best. Everyone has their favorite. It depends, of course, on if you're taking the family, want one with a lot of amenities such as fixed umbrellas, cabanas, showers, and tavernas, prefer solitude or as few people as possible, and, of course, if you want to make sure you don't wander onto one of the handful of nudist beaches. First, you can pretty much dismiss anything near Athens, particularly the shallow, warm bathwater beaches along the rich areas of Glyfada and Vouliagmeni because the wealthy have already cordoned off their preferred spots to keep the riff-raff out, and most of the rest of the best available beaches running from Piraeus down past the southern coastal neighborhoods are occupied by unlawful private operators who will charge you about \$12.50 to enter a public beach. Every successive PASOK-New Democracy-Papandreou-Karamanlis government, and some interim administrations, for the last 36 years have promised to remove them but they're still standing and will be until someone takes a bulldozer and knocks them down and opens public beaches to the public.

Since there are virtually no municipal swimming pools in Athens or a country which bakes in the sun year round, people have to go to those beaches they can reach. In Athens, that means sitting cheek-by-jowl with people on blankets right next to year, screaming kids, loud radios and people playing paddle ball. Not exactly a vacation. Still, unless you have a car or a tourist with

transportation, Athens' beaches are the only option for many people. But, six years after a presidential decree ordered the opening up of Athens' beaches to the public, many remain blocked by a host of obstacles, some formidable. As the Athens News noted: "It's a situation that means taking a free swim in Athens can be anything but simple, and from Kallithea all the way around to Vari only small sections of the available beachfront are freely accessible to the public. All along the city's coastline, swimmers are, at best, confronted by commercially run beaches, where entry fees can cost an average-sized family up to 40 euros (\$50) for the day. That's for a free public beach, but they're not worth it even free and the rest of Athens' coastline is a hodgepodge of largely unlawful commercial developments and illicit businesses, some surrounded by wire fences and threatening security guards, who restrict access to the sea to fee-paying patrons." So skip them and head to the good ones.

U.S. OR GREEK BEACHES?

The best time to go is now, in September, when the weather is still warm but not searing, especially after one of the most humid periods Greeks can remember. The water is warm, too warm for New Englanders used to the chill beaches of Maine and the cool waters of some of the world's best beaches, particularly in Massachusetts, with Halibut Point in Rockport (no sand here, only glacial boulders and cool little pools of water and almost no people;) Good Harbor in Gloucester, Crane Beach in Ipswich, Singing Beach in Manchester-by-the-Sea, Martha's Vineyard, and Coast Guard Beach on Cape Cod, annually rated among the best in the world and a natural wonder. The New Jersey shore and along the Carolinas offer some of the best in the US, as does a number of



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places in Florida, such as Naples and Sanibel Island, the renowned beaches of California, and Hawaii is paradise, with beaches such as Makapuu and Hanauma Bay on Oahu. And there's South Padre Island, Texas. What American beaches have that many Greek beaches don't is sand. Be prepared to bring your water shoes because a lot of Greek beaches are stony, and that makes walking into and out of the water a delicate balancing act, especially if you step on a black, spiny sea urchin and get what amounts to needles the size of acupuncture weapons shivered into your feet. It hurts about the same as a jellyfish sting off Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, and I know because I've experienced them both.

SEPTEMBER SURPRISE

With vacations for most people over, now you can have a beach almost to yourself, although even during July and August, if you go to islands that tourists ignore you can discover

little coves where you can be alone and skinny-dip if you want. One of the best is on Tzia, but I'm not telling because it's about 75 yards across, has fine sand, a giant shade tree, calm water even in the roughest weather, and just around the next cove is a restaurant and small resort area when you need it, although you can't hear the noise. The best beaches, of course, are on the Greek islands, and range from pebbles to fine sand so bring those beach shoes. The Mediterranean is not like the Caribbean or Pacific - the water is cooler and the sand generally coarser, although if you're used to those New England waters the Greek waters will probably be too warm for you, and shade trees are difficult to find because most of the Greek islands, apart from those such as Skopelos (where they filmed *Mama Mia!*) and Skiathos and Corfu and some others are arid. Greek beaches are among the best in the world, although for some curious rea-

son they rarely make any of those fancy top 10 lists put out by a number of travel sites, and some, particularly on overrun Mykonos, are overrated and worth skipping. And, of course, it depends on whether you want to relax or want a beach with a thousand umbrellas and night clubs next to you. It's hard to imagine why anyone would go to Mykonos or Santorini in August, or even July these days because generally the purpose of a vacation is to go where people ain't, especially on a beach, but some say they still love a place like Red Beach on Santorini, named for its red sand and red cliffs. Paradise Beach and Super Paradise (nudist warning!) have their hardcore admirers although they seemed nondescript at best.

Many of the best beaches are on the island of Crete, and like those elsewhere, are among the least crowded and sometimes you need to talk or take a boat to them, such as Navagio Beach on Zakynthos (drunk British

hooligan warning!) or Lalaria Beach and the nudist Banana Beach on the verdant northern Sporades island of Skiathos, which also boasts one of those always rated among the best in Greece, Koukounaries, because it has trees and soft sand, although the port town has become overcrowded. With 13,676 kilometers of coastline, you can find - and name - your own beach, or choose from some of the best, such as the white sandy beaches with turquoise waters, Antipaxoi Voutoumi and Lefkada Kathisma, with crystal waters, small beaches under cliffs or pine and palm tree groves.

One of the best attributes of Greek beaches is that they are perhaps the cleanest in Europe and rank among the highest ratings of the European Union's Blue Flag Programme. The website GreekLandscapes.com notes that "Some beaches are well organized and offer many luxuries, while others are very secluded and isolated. Some offer clear water, some perfectly soft sand, while others are framed by incredible landscape." The national Greek tourist organization has its own top 10 beaches list based on the voting of its web site visitors, but the locals can give you one that's just as good, although every islander will tell you theirs are the best. The best way, of course, is to travel yourself and find what you like. I'm sticking with that secret little spot on Tzia, now called Yianna's Cove, where you can often swim au naturel if you want, or put up with three or four people not too close by, sit under that big shade tree in a beach chair or lie on your towel on fine sand, read or snooze, walk 10 yards into cool, calm water for a sweet swim and come out and sit with your partner and watch the sun set while you crack open a couple of icy cold Fix beers. You can't live better than that, naming your own beach.



MYRTOS, Kefalonia



ELAFONISSOS, Chania, Crete



SARAKINIKO, Elafonissos Island, Peloponnese

The Top Beaches in Greece: What Are Yours?

In the age of the Internet, you can search on-line for truth-in-advertising references from users and travelers who give their opinions on the best beaches in Greece, as well as a number of websites. This is rather like being the top 10 baseball or basketball or football or hockey players, but enough of the same beaches keep popping up on multiple sites so there's probably a reason. As the site GreekLandscapes.com put it: "Determining what the 'best' beaches of Greece are is obviously a subjective affair. Our family travels to Greece every summer and we never let a day go by without visiting a beach. We like going to different beaches every time because we have found that each one has something unique to offer ... to appear in this list, a beach must be extra-special. It must be a place that we would travel around the world just to swim in its waters and to lay on its sand. You will probably notice that the beaches we chose for our top-five, are all a bit 'out of the way.'" The list:

1. BALOS, CHANIA, CRETE

It's hard to describe the raw beauty of Balos beach. Its soft white sandy landscape is kissed by turquoise, crystal waters, while the whole landscape is framed by dramatic islets and mountains. It's out of the way but the several cruises that leave from Kissamos ensure easy and pleasant access.

2. SARAKINIKO, IN ELAFONISSOS ISLAND, PELOPONNESE

(Not to be confused with a beach by the same name on Milos.) For such a tiny island, Elafonissos at the Southern end of Peloponnese offers three of the best beaches of Greece (Simos and Panagia beaches are the others) and just about the best looking water in the world.

3. NAVAGIO, ZAKYNTHOS

Another isolated beach that is only served by boats. Coarse white sand, deep blue waters, dramatic vertical cliffs, and large caverns awaiting snorkeling exploration are enough to make this one of the best beaches of Greece, but the em-



NAVAGIO, Zakynthos

bedded and decaying shipwreck in the middle make this beach a special one.

4. ELAFONISSOS, CHANIA, CRETE

Elafonissos is way too crowded for being so far out of the way in the south-western coast of Chania, but it has been developed with much sensitivity to the environment to make it worth a spot in our top 10. A short walk through the narrow, sandy channel will bring you almost all alone through foot trails and less than saturated beaches in the island of Elafonissos itself.

5. EGREMNOI, LEFKADA

One of the best kept secrets of Greece. Beautiful scenery, crystal clear turquoise water, and soft white coarse sand make this beach one of the best to visit. Its out-of-the-way location on the West coast of Lefkada, and the thousand make-shift concrete steps down (and then up), separate the huge crowds

from this beach. Excellent by all measures.

6. MYRTOS, KEFALONIA

Myrtos was voted as the best beach of Greece a few years ago by the ministry of tourism visitors, and for good reason. Fantastic water and bright-white pebbles, nestled among steep cliffs on the west coast of Kefalonia.

7. FINIKAS, KATO KOUFONISI

The entire stretch of coast from Finikas to the northern tip of the island (Pori beach) is an Aegean dream for sunbathers, many of which prefer to swim the naturist way. Sand and rocks alternate seamlessly in this beautiful stretch of the tiny island.

8. PLAKA, NAXOS

This endless patch of sand starts near the town of Naxos and runs down the entire coast of the island, almost all the way to the southern tip (or so it seems). A dirt road follows it



SUPER PARADISE, Mykonos



KOUKOUNARIES BEACH, Skiathos

down as it turns from crowded patches of organized parasol squares, to more and more isolated patches framed by large sand dunes.

9. SUPER PARADISE, MYKONOS

One of Mykonos' more distant beaches, Super Paradise is a short fat strand of very coarse sand in a picturesque bay, with a steady onshore breeze and slightly rough water. It's quite a way from the main town and requires personal transport or there's a bumpy boat ride from the main town ... the beach is frequented mainly by young, fit travellers, many of them gay.

10. PARADISE (KOS)

Another site, Destination 360, offers this:

• PORTO KATSIKI, LEFKADA

Porto Katsiki is one of the most beautiful and impressive beaches in the Greek islands, whether you approach on a boat from the sea or arrive from inland. It is set at the foot of dramatic steep cliffs. If you're coming over land, you have to walk down 80 steep steps—and climb them again when leaving—so this is not a good beach for those with walking issues unless they arrive on a boat.

• PLAKA BEACH, NAXOS

Plaka Beach is one of the longest of the beaches on this island that is known for its long stretches of pristine golden sand. Plaka Beach Naxos is a natural extension of Agia Anna Beach ... Plaka Beach holidays

place you on one of the most unspoiled popular beaches on the island ... much of it is not developed at all, and a good portion of it is backed by large sand dunes.

• BANANA BEACH, SKIATHOS

The famous Skiathos Banana Beach is actually made up of three separate small beaches located on the southwest coast of the island, and named for the yellow color of the sand ... has been popular with naturists for decades.

• MYRTOS BEACH, KEFALONIA

Myrtos Beach is one of the most dramatic on the largest of the Ionian Greek islands ... like Porto Katsiki Beach on nearby Lefkada, Myrtos Beach Kefalonia is set at the foot of high, steep cliffs in a deep and wide bay.

• KOUKOUNARIES BEACH, SKIATHOS

Koukounaries, from the Greek word meaning pine cones, is a small community on Skiathos Island that is near one of the most beautiful and popular beaches in the Aegean Sea. Koukounaries Beach Skiathos is the most famous of those on the island, and can get quite crowded during the warm summer weather. It is known for its fine white sand and its border of fragrant Japanese umbrella pine trees.