

Bishop Vikentios Levels Shocking Sex Charges Against Paisios

Greeks Take To The Streets Again

ATHENS – Beleaguered Greek workers, and even some families, paraded before the Parliament in vain again, failing to get the government to stop its austerity program that has cut public worker salaries, raised taxes and slashed pensions. During a 24-hour general strike there were clashes with police in protests by nearly 20,000 people – about one-fifth the number that demonstrated on May 5 in the first of seven general strikes this year – the Socialist government of Prime Minister George Papandreou's PASOK party succeeded in extending to private businesses the right to get around collective bargaining agreements with unions and deeply cut private worker salaries too, and moved to cut the pay and benefits of workers in state-run companies such as the debt-ridden railways. That set off a firestorm of protest in which hundreds of demonstrators tangled with riot police across central Athens, smashing cars and hurling gasoline bombs and sending Christmas shoppers fleeing in panic during a massive labor protest against the government's austerity measures. A bodyguard, had to leads Costis Hatzidakis, former development minister in the previous New Democracy conservative government, away after he was attacked by protesters in Athens, punched and smashed in the head with an umbrella, bloodying his face, showing the level of anger at political leaders, even those not in the ruling party.

Police fired tear gas and flash

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AP PHOTO

A bodyguard, left, leads Costis Hatzidakis, former development minister in the previous, conservative government, away after

he was attacked by protesters in Athens on Dec. 15, 2010, showing the rising level of anger against austerity measures.

Calomiris' Good News: Greece Should Default

By Constantine S. Sirigos
TNH Staff Writer

NEW YORK – Charles Calomiris didn't get to be the Henry Kaufman Professor of Financial Institutions at Columbia University Graduate School of Business without knowing math, and he's added up the numbers for near-bankrupt Greece and come to what he said is the inevitable conclusion: default or die. In an interview with The National

Herald, Calomiris said "My analysis suggests that Greece cannot pay back its debts," including the \$146 billion lent by the European Union and International Monetary Fund (IMF) to stave off economic collapse and will either have to restructure or go under anyway and should accept the painful consequences instead of pretending the country can survive the way it's going, awash in corruption, tax evasion, faltering revenues

and lacking the productivity to compete on the European or world stage. He said the drastic austerity measures, deep wage cuts for public workers, big tax hikes and slashed benefits for pensioners, imposed by Prime Minister George Papandreou under the aegis of the EU and IMF as a condition of getting the loans are having only limited effect, as underscored by the statistics that frightened Greeks have stopped spending and

scores of thousands of businesses have either closed and international investors fleeing or avoiding country, a recipe for financial disaster as sure as the Titanic going to sink. With Greece like a terminally ill patient fending off a frightening treatment option, TNH asked Calomiris for a clear account of where Greece stood after a year of efforts by the Papandreou

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Leo Brings N.Y. Bagels to Greece

By Andy Dabilis
TNH Staff Writer

ATHENS – Americans living in Greece get cravings for their favorite foodstuffs that are difficult to find here: limes, ginger ale, root beer popsicles, key lime pie, Boston crème pie, and all those comfort foods and cravings that sometimes the best moussaka or horiatiki can't satisfy. The worst jag for many may be missing a good bagel, plain or toasted, with Philly cream cheese, or salted or with sesame seeds or stop, it's enough to make you want to fly back to New Yawk City! Now, you don't have to because they're available in Athens– if only for now in cafes and restaurants – brought to you by Leo Gavallias, a native New Yorker who moved here six years ago, along with his expertise in the restaurant and bagel business.

Based in a revamped bakery-

turned bagel making facility in Ano Liossia, Leo's House of Bagels distributes its products to various food outlets dining providers in Greece and also handles special catering and wholesale orders. Gavallias, 37, whose family is from Brooklyn, has been obsessed with the idea of bringing the New York breakfast staple to Greece since working in the Greek restaurant business in New York at age 15. And while it's tough for Boston Red Sox fans to swallow him wearing a New York Yankees cap while preparing batches of bagels boiled the traditional way, his products go down a lot easier, especially when you haven't had one for a long time. Gavallias said he thought there was a niche market in Athens for bagels, although other American standbys such as Wendy's have failed to capture the stomach of Greeks used to their traditions such as souvlaki. But he

said he knew Greeks had a penchant for another food they eat at most meals.

"Greece loves bread," he said, although he knew others had tried to persuade Greeks to try bagels too. "People have attempted it here and failed but I was curious to see if I could do it," he said, convinced that using traditional methods – particularly boiling, which has thoroughly confused Greeks when he told them how it's done – would be successful. Coming to Greece with bagels, he said, was a combination of working in his ancestral homeland and doing what he does best. "This has been on my mind for years," he said, with barely a trace of New Yawker accent.

Having worked at the famed Murray's Bagels on 6th Avenue and 13th Street, in New York, and the Eric Kayser boulangerie

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Leo Gavallias shows off a tray of some of his best boiled and baked bagels made in a renovated facility in Athens.

The Greek Doctor Who Exposes Bad Science

Don't tell Professor John Ioannidis – formerly of the University of Ioannina in Greece and now at Stanford in California – that he's a hero to science deniers because he exposes faulty research among his peers and in his field: which still haven't kept him from earning the praise of his colleagues and renowned as one of the greatest scientists in the world. "I definitely want nothing to do with science deniers ... I don't think science would be harmed by its ability or desire to check facts or improve on these facts," he said in a radio interview. "Science is a noble endeavor, but

it's also a low-yield endeavor," he says. "I'm not sure that more than a very small percentage of medical research is ever likely to lead to major improvements in clinical outcomes and quality of life. We should be very comfortable with that fact."

Nonetheless, his debunking of bad scientists and discrediting their alleged work in his 2005 paper Why Most Published Research Findings Are False is the most-downloaded article in the history of Public Library of Science and elevated him to the position of cult hero – which he said he despises – to those who have little regard for science. He says they missed the point of his paper, but the humble scientist, who was born in New York City in 1965 and grew up in Athens, where he was first in his 1984 graduating class, can't escape the fame that has come with his remarkable work, especially after a recent



TNH/COSTAS BEJ

Niarchos Foundation Learning Center Inaugurated at NY Cathedral

Teachers and administrators at the Cathedral School in NY look on at inauguration ceremonies for the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Learning Center. Created with a \$750,000 grant, it includes a library, art facility, offices and early education play area.

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Alleges Metropolitan Abused Young Men, Women; Group Sex

By Theodore Kalmoukos
TNH Staff Writer

NEW YORK - Bishop Vikentios of Apameia has made stunning allegations about Metropolitan Paisios of Tyana tenure at the Saint Irene Chrysovalantou Monastery and its Dependencies in Astoria, N.Y., including charges that the Metropolitan sexually abused the Bishop's brother, Spyros Malamatenios, who was 17 at the time. In a long interview with The National Herald, Bishop Vikentios (Malamatenios), a close associate of Metropolitan Paisios (Loulourgas) for 40 years and co-founder of the Monastery, outlined a sordid tale of sex and other alleged wrongdoings. In the lengthy interview - which was taken on tape - live and unconditionally at the headquarters of TNH in New York, Bishop Vikentios made revelations of alleged serious excesses by the Metropolitan, including that he was involved with people of both sexes, including the young nun, Christonymphi, who now has given up the Monastic vows and talked to the police. Bishop Vikentios also revealed that, according to his information, the former nun had been pregnant but did not know by whom. Simultaneously, Bishop Vikentios asked "forgiveness from the victims' of Paisios," at least one of whom, Andreas Georgiou, is already launching a lawsuit against the Monastery and the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Other alleged victims are expected to follow.



TNH/COSTAS BEJ

Bishop Vikentios during his interview with TNH.

The Metropolitan left the Monastery after submitting two letters of resignation in October, citing health reasons, and returned to Athens, Greece. TNH called him at his residence there on Dec. 11 to give him the opportunity to comment on the allegations and the Bishop's entire interview, but when the Metropolitan heard who the call was from he hung up the phone.

Bishop Vikentios confirmed reports that a gun was found by the Patriarchal Exarchy in the room of Metropolitan Paisios

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Dr. Linda Katehi: Superwoman

By Aphrodite Matsakis
Special to The National Herald

(First in a series of profiles of Greek American scientists)

Greek born Dr. Linda Katehi was so good at math and science in elementary school that her teachers encouraged her become a high school teacher, a traditionally feminine but respectable position. But when, at age 12, Katehi saw video clips of the Apollo Space Program during the late 1960's moon landing, she realized that she wanted to become something different – an electrical engineer. "I was thrilled to see the space capsule guided by the control room at the Houston NASA base, and I decided that I wanted to become like one of

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Holiday Serenade by Students at TNH

Students of the afternoon Greek School of St. Demetrios in Astoria sing Christmas carols for the staff of the National Herald. The school's director, Timoleon Kokkinos is on the right with teacher Koula Christodoulou and Vasiliki Yioupis is far left.



Jamaica Day School of St. Demetrios Orchestra at TNH

The National Herald's offices were the venue for a wonderful holiday concert by the talented young musicians of the Jamaica Day School of St. Demetrios. Music teacher John Dooley is at the piano and teacher Stavros Kilimitzoglou is standing left.

In the Spotlight: Taso Pardalis, Litigator

By Constantine S. Sirigos
TNH Staff Writer

NEW YORK - Taso Pardalis is a first-generation Greek American attorney. That's no longer news. Greeks are thriving in the profession. What is significant is that unlike many Greek American professionals who have allocated their limited spare time to non-Greek pursuits and are not devoting themselves to the traditional Greek American organizations, Pardalis makes sure to work in behalf of the community he benefits from. He serves as Secretary for the prestigious Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce (HACC), where he founded the Young Professionals organization which now counts more than 2,000 members which hosts monthly networking events at some of New York City's top venues. He also founded and heads the Chamber's Construction, Architecture, Design and Engineering Committee which serves as an organization where professionals in those fields meet to exchange ideas and business information. His interest in that field stems from the construction company his father started and where he worked while attending law school.

He is now the managing partner at Mavromihalis, Pardalis & Nohavicka, LLP, based in Astoria, New York, which has a satellite office in Athens, Greece. His firm represents individuals and corporations in all aspects of Federal and State Criminal and Civil Litigation. Pardalis said he appreciates that to fully benefit from the community, people like himself must be committed to the time and work required to maintain and support the community's institutions and organizations, and to bring them into the 21st Century. That entails endeavors as simple as using the resources of the Internet to turn them into powerful and efficient networking organizations.

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

TP: I am dedicated to maintaining and growing a power firm that can compete with any long-established big-name firm at a cost to clients commensurate with market realities. Our firm strives to make our clients realize that their case receives our full attention and that we are there for them at all times for purposes of answering their questions and keeping them up to date with the status of their matters.

In the last year alone my firm litigated two matters in the Appellate Divisions if N.Y.; both



Taso Pardalis is a first-generation Greek American attorney.

were successful. We also handled matters successfully in Federal Court, NY State Supreme Court (Civil and Criminal Term), the N.Y. State Division of Human Rights; N.Y.C. Commission on Human Rights, and the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. We have also represented individuals during investigations conducted by the Exchange Commission. Currently, the firm is litigating white-collar enterprise corruption cases, trade secrets cases, non-compete cases, shareholder oppression disputes, discrimination claims, multiple construction cases and scores of other matters.

TNH: What do you bring to your practice on a personal level?

TP: My goal is to be the attorney in our community that people trust with their most serious personal matters. At our firm we view ourselves as a partner with every family and business that we represent.

TNH: Has your life path been influenced by your Greek heritage?

TP: Every aspect of my life, family and business, has been influenced. In fact, the first thing you see when you walk into my Law Office in Astoria is a Spartan war helmet. I am extremely proud that our people laid the foundations of the modern world and that the ideas of their great thinkers are still relevant. From government to science, to the arts, modern life is informed by contributions by Ancient Greece.

TNH: What are your interests in modern Greece?

TP: I try to take that rich past and stay focused, however, on Modern Greece. We often hear discourses on our ancient history, which is important, but I believe that, given the current

economic state of Greece, it is the responsibility of every person of Greek descent to help restore the strength of our motherland and our people to what it once was before we lose it completely. That is why I am so active in our community.

TNH: What has been your greatest achievement so far?

TP: Being where I am right now; that is, in a position, both professionally and within the community, where I can help people grow. I have just started working within the HACC on a job placement program for young Greek professionals here in New York City. With all the Greek owned businesses involved and our huge list of young professionals it will be one of my greatest personal achievements to be able to place hundreds of young people within Greek-owned organizations. With that said, whoever is reading this should inquire about how to hire from our talented pool. They can email the Chamber at hellenicamerican@gmail.com.

TNH: How are you involved in the growing community of Hellenic American attorneys?

TP: For the people I work with my goals are as follows: to educate and employ young Greek attorneys and make them proud to work for a Greek firm. I also work to enhance the perception of attorneys in our community in general.

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

TP: To be more self aware, to be mindful of my fears and uncertainties, to control them, and to continue to move forward. Most obstacles are self imposed or put in our way by people who do not want us to succeed. We must not dwell on them; we must let go, not take

things personally, and move on.

TNH: Do you have a role model?

TP: I have two: First, my parents who always put up with my stupidities as a kid. I can't imagine ever being that patient. Second, every immigrant who came to this country with nothing more than their roots and an indomitable desire to succeed. My grandparents and parents came here with nothing. They were dishwashers, furriers and taxi drivers. Only one generation later I am an attorney, representing this community, being interviewed by a prominent newspaper. It is almost unbelievable. America enables immigrants to take their values and use them to reach as far as their imagination will take them. I try to keep that spirit in whatever I do.

TNH: What's your ultimate goal in life?

TP: To have kids and see them succeed in whatever they do.

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

TP: Patience. I have trouble allowing things to run their natural course; but I am working on that.

TNH: What's your most enjoyable pastime?

TP: Being with my wife Maria anywhere, and with my family, and our friends. I practice Tae-Kwon Do and find it very fulfilling, physically and mentally; but I am hesitant to discuss that because Father Jim Kordaris, at St. George Church on West 54 Street always jokes that I go to my classes on Sunday instead of going to church. I am a work in progress – what can I say?

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GOINGS ON...

■ **DECEMBER 17**
FAIRFIELD, Conn. - Fairfield University's new Bellarmine Museum of Art presents its first temporary exhibition, Gifts from Athens: New Plaster Casts from the Acropolis Museum and Photographs by Socratis Mavromatis. The museum is free and open to the public. The last day of the exhibit is Friday, December 17, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. It is located at the lower level of Bellarmine Hall on the campus of Fairfield University. "Gifts from Athens" features eight plaster casts given to the Bellarmine Museum of Art from the First Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities—Acropolis Museum. Six of the casts represent sculpture from the Parthenon. Other casts include a diminutive kore (maiden) from the late Archaic period and the renowned "Sandalbinder" from the Nike Parapet. The original sculptures, after which these casts were taken, can be seen in the new Acropolis Museum in Athens. Web link for directions: www.fairfield.edu/about/about_directions.html. or call: (203) 254-4000.

■ **THRU JANUARY 3**
NEW YORK, N.Y. - The Onassis Cultural Center explores the role of heroes in society in the exhibition, Heroes: Mortals and Myths in Ancient Greece, on view in Manhattan from October 5, 2010 to January 3, 2011. The exhibition is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and Humanities. Highlights of the exhibition include a bronze Corinthian helmet from 700-500 B.C.; a black-figure amphora depicting Achilles and Ajax playing a board game outside Troy (late sixth century B.C.); a black-figure column krater (c. 510 B.C.) depicting Odysseus escaping from the cave of the Cyclops Polyphemos; and a gold medalion with the bust of Alexander the Great (c. 218-235 A.D.; among many more. Guided tours of the exhibition will be offered to the public every Tuesday and Thursday at 1:00 p.m. Tours can also be organized upon request for school groups. A comprehensive brochure will also be offered free to visitors. For additional information, contact: Lillian Goldenthal at (212) 593-6355 or email: goldenthal@ruderfinn.com.

■ **DECEMBER 18**
NEW YORK - The Little Orchestra Society presents its latest Happy Concerts for Young People Ages 6 to 12: An exciting new production of "AMAH! AND THE NIGHT VISITORS". Dino Anagnost, Conductor. Saturday, December 18, 2010 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center, 1941 Broadway at 65th Street, New York City. One of New York's most anticipated holiday events, this glittering presentation will enchant audiences of all ages. An entirely new production of Gian Carlo Menotti's musical masterpiece about universal love and generosity is directed by John Sheehan (director/producer of international opera; co-founder of The Opera Ensemble of New York) with set design by Tony Straiges (award-winning set & costume designer for his work in Sunday in the Park with George and Into the Woods) and highlights the colorful excitement of the Three Kings Day celebration important in Latin American cultures throughout the world. This heartwarming opera speaks to children and adults of all backgrounds with its spirit of hope, joy and human kindness – a perfect holiday treat for the entire family. Ticket information: \$12 to \$50. Contact: The Little Orchestra Society at 212-971-9500 or the Avery Fisher Hall Box Office at 212-721-6500 or buy tickets online at www.littleorchestra.org.

■ **DECEMBER 20**
NEW YORK -The American Hellenic Institute (AHI) Business Network invites you to our annual Christmas Party at the Lafayette Grill & Bar on Monday, December 20, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. \$30 admission includes buffet, dessert, wine, soda and

mixed drinks. Please make checks out to: Lafayette Grill & Bar. The Grill is at 54 Franklin Street, 3 blocks south of Canal Street, convenient to most subway lines. YOU MUST RSVP to Dean Sirigos at csirigos100@aol.com by December 18. PLEASE NOTE: Monthly networking receptions resume at AVRA on January 10.

■ **DECEMBER 29**
NEW YORK, N.Y. - The Rubin Museum of Art presents the George Stathos Trio on December 29 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. This free concert features George Stathos, a native New Yorker and third generation Greek American, on clarinet, Saki Antonopoulos on bouzouki and vocals, and Thanasis Gianoutsos on accordion. The Museum's current exhibit, which features the art of Orthodox Christian and Buddhist iconography is titled: "Embodying the Holy: Icons in Eastern Orthodox Christianity and Tibetan Buddhism." The Rubin Museum is located at 150 West 17 Street at 7th Avenue in Manhattan. For further information, visit: www.rmanyc.org or call: (212) 620-5000.

■ **JANUARY 9**
OAKBROOK TERRACE, Ill. - The Greek Women's University Club is hosting a special Annual Scholarship Luncheon, "Celebrating 80 Years of Greek Women's University Club - Promoting the Arts, Culture, and Education," at Mike Ditka's Restaurant on January 9 at 12:00 p.m. Guest speaker will be NBC Channel 5 Reporter Kim Vatis. The Restaurant is located at: Two Mid America Plaza (22nd St & Rte 83), Oakbrook Terrace, IL. It will be \$45 per person. For further information, contact: Maria Kallis at: (630) 455-1688.

■ **FEBRUARY 9-JULY 13, 2011**
NEW YORK, NY - A major exhibit will be held on groundbreaking Greek American artist Lynda Benglis at Manhattan's New Museum. It will be the renowned American artist's first museum retrospective in over twenty years. The museum notes that in addition to Benglis's poured latex pieces from the 1960s and 1970s, the exhibition will include early bronze casts, wax reliefs, and videos, revealing the creative universe of an artist who has radically reinvented the language of contemporary sculpture. Benglis is an artist whose work continues to challenge artistic norms and exceed easy definition. Initially developed in the 1960s, her singular practice did not fit clearly within the sharp aesthetics of Minimalism or in the overtly political gestures of feminist art. Unlike Minimalist sculpture, Benglis's works are steeped in the organic, with rivers of vibrant colors and erotic melting forms populating her sculptures. Rejecting the formalist influences of modernism, Benglis takes painting off the wall and brings color back into sculpture. With this unique combination of sensuousness and punk attitude, Benglis has influenced many generations of artists. The exhibit spans forty years of work. It was organized by the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, in collaboration with Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, the Netherlands; Le Consortium, Dijon; Museum of Art, Museum of Modern Art, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence; and the New Museum. A 450-page fully illustrated hardcover monograph accompanies it. It will be held on the Second Floor and Lobby Gallery of the New Museum, 235 Bowery St., New York. Tel. (212) 219-1222. Web: www.newmuseum.org.

■ **NOTE TO OUR READERS**
This calendar of events section is a complimentary service to the Greek American community. All parishes, organizations and institutions are encouraged to e-mail their information regarding the event 3-4 weeks ahead of time, and no later than Monday of the week before the event, to english.edition@thenationalherald.com

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Vote on our website!

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

The question this week is: Should Metropolitan Paisios have been given ecclesiastical leniency?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe

The results for last week's question: Should Greece give up its rights to the Parthenon Marbles in return for a long term loan from the British Museum?

5% voted "Yes"
92% voted "No"
3% voted "Maybe"

Please vote at: www.thenationalherald.com

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Bishop Vikentios Levels Some Shocking Sex Charges Against Paisios

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and that he also sold the golden offerings known as tamata of the faithful at the Monastery's Greek festival, also taking much of the gold to Greece, which was melted and made into hierarchical crosses and pictorials. Bishop Vikentios alleged that even his own life is at risk. He stated that based on the Charter granted by the Ecumenical Patriarchate to the Chrysovalantou Monastery, and also according to New York State's regulations governing the Legal Corporation of the Chrysovalantou Monastery, both interim Abbots appointed by the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey and Bishop Elias of Philomilion, are considered illegal. Vikentios said he believes that the Monastery will be driven into bankruptcy due to economic decline, and called Metropolitan Evangelos' behavior toward him as "completely unbecoming" upon Evangelos' coming to his residence at the church of St. Nectarios in Brooklyn, on Dec. 6, which he said could result in the arrest of Metropolitan Evangelos by the police.

Bishop Vikentios also said that the money delivered by the former nun Christonymphi to the Astoria Police Station he believes belongs to the Monastery and not Paisios.

He also talked about the role of a man identified as Konstantinos B., said to have uncovered the scandal, and who allegedly also participated in group sex events with Metropolitan Paisios. The man was said to have given that testimony to the police and the FBI. Here are some excerpts of the extensive revelatory interview of Bishop Vikentios, which will be published in its entirety in Greek in the weekly Magazine of The National Herald's edition of Dec. 17-18.



Bishop Vikentios became especially demonstrative at some points in making revelations against his former associate.

TNH: Your Grace, I am tempted to ask, you Bishop Vikentios today and the then small teenage boy of 17 years old, Vasillios Malamatenios, going back to 1971, if you had any involvement in these pedophile, homosexual, sexual orgy activities with the Abbot or other participants including Mr. Konstantinos B.?

VIKENTIOS: No, never, never.

TNH: Did Paisios make any suggestions or erotic lure type your Grace to become his partner?

VIKENTIOS: I would define such a thing when I first came to America when I was a young boy in 1971.

TNH: What did Paisios tell you?

VIKENTIOS: I saw his attitude towards me and I sat down and explained to him "I see you as spiritual father and nothing more."

TNH: Why, what did his attitude show?

VIKENTIOS: Look, you can tell when a man wants other relationships, you see it.

TNH: Did Paisios show that?

VIKENTIOS: Although I was underage, a 17-year-old child, I could sense this thing, so I sat down and explained to him that, "I came here to America with you whom I met in Jerusalem in 1969 as a spiritual man who listened to a sermon there in Jerusalem and lost my mind because we were not accustomed to such sermons. Initially I thought that Paisios' approaches might were a trap; that he wanted to test me. We had read in Jerusalem that the spiritual fathers set these types of traps to supposedly try to test their subordinates.

TNH: Now, having all this knowledge and experience of these events, does the mind of Bishop Vikentios identify with the mind of the then 17-years old Vasillios Malamatenios?

VIKENTIOS: Absolutely yes. Now, yes, but now I'm 57 years old, I'm not 17.

TNH: After all these that have transpired, the testimonies and the revelations about the pedophilia do you have any doubt anymore about Paisios?

VIKENTIOS: Now there's an issue that hurts me.

TNH: What do you mean, what is it?

VIKENTIOS: Now that I was in Greece, or rather I was in exile



Bishop Vikentios (L) during his exclusive interview with TNH's Theodore Kalmoukos, a wide-ranging discussion in which he alleged sexual wrongdoings at the Chrysovalantou Monastery.

in Greece for a month, I found out that one of the victims is even my brother, Spyros Malamatenios.

TNH: What happened?

VIKENTIOS: He revealed to me everything since he came to America at age of 17, of what had happened to him. Unfortunately very bad experiences with sexual harassment by the Abbot and that's why he had left after the death of my mother. He had disappeared, and I did not know where he had gone. Now that I was in Greece he told me that he was in Florida and did not want to see and hear anything about the Church and the clergy, nothing whatsoever.

TNH: Didn't he tell you anything all these years?

problems. He did not get married. He lives in Greece alone, deserted. Every time he attempted to establish a family he failed because of his trauma he has experienced. He recommended me and I went and saw his psychologist to make me believe. I sat with his doctor and he told me that indeed, "Things are exactly as your brother has you recounted them."

TNH: Didn't you suspect anything?

VIKENTIOS: He never told me anything of what was happening between him and Paisios. It has happened in the years 1979 to 1980 since my brother came to America at the age of 17 years old.

TNH: Do you have any doubt now about Paisios?

VIKENTIOS: If I take into account the issue of my brother, I do not. He had no reason to lie to me, and when his psychologist told me that he has been taking these drugs and told me how the abused children feel after the abuse, I have no doubts. Paisios had said to my brother, that, "If you reveal of what is happening between us to Vikentios, the cooperation with Vikentios will be ended.

MORE REVELATIONS
(Meanwhile, in July of 2009, Konstantinos. B., who lived for 13 years in the Monastery, revealed to Bishop Vikentios group sexual encounters in the room of Metropolitan Paisios on the Monastery's third floor. Here is the story by Bishop Vikentios)

TNH: Are the persons named by the complainant, Mr. Konstantinos B. who had participated in group sex activity known to you?

VIKENTIOS: Absolutely.

TNH: Are they parishioners of yours?

VIKENTIOS: No one from St. Nectarios, they all are from St. Irene; people whom I know; who have grown up in the church, boys and girls.

TNH: Did the complainant, Mr. Konstantinos B., tell you about Nun Christonymphi?

VIKENTIOS: Of course, he told me.

TNH: What did you say?

VIKENTIOS: He told me about her relationships with the abbot and with him.

TNH: What kind of relationships?

VIKENTIOS: Sexual relations with the abbot and him (Konstantinos).

TNH: You mean all three together?

VIKENTIOS: In his words, of course.

TNH: Did you ever confront

able. I was expecting it after all that has been revealed that this girl is now liberated; she is no longer under the threat. She certainly came to her senses and said how is it possible to be a nun and get to this point?

TNH: Did she become pregnant?

VIKENTIOS: I heard that, but she has never told me.

TNH: Where did you hear?

VIKENTIOS: From the complainant himself, Mr. K.B. who told me that the nun was pregnant and had an abortion.

I asked him how do you know this thing, how can you certify that it is true and he replied, "I have evidence."

TNH: At what age was she impregnated?

VIKENTIOS: I do not know, he did not tell that?

TNH: Who impregnated her?

VIKENTIOS: I do not know that either.

TNH: What happened to Christonymphi's brother, Nektarios, who had come to your Monastery to become a monk?

VIKENTIOS: He had come at some point when she had come to Monastery. He was wearing an anteri (esoraso.) Often he had left, sometimes left to go home and he came back on the weekend with his father.

TNH: How old was he?

VIKENTIOS: Minor, in other words he is one year older than Christonymphi. If Christonymphi was 14 years old when she came to the Monastery, her brother was 15. Of course I had seen him many times going up to the third floor.

TNH: In Paisios room?

VIKENTIOS: Yes, especially on Saturdays after Vespers. I was calling Paisios on the phone asking him that "Nektarios is coming up, for what reason is he coming?" Paisios replied that he comes "for confession." I told Paisios couldn't he go to confession down in the chapel? Is it necessary to hear his confession in your room? And he answered me, "Why are you a tyrant, why torture me, can't hear confessions in my room? Do you doubt me?"

TNH: Why you were saying to Paisios all these? Did you suspect him?

VIKENTIOS: Well, seeing a minor child to climb in the Abbot's room at 10 o'clock at night to go to confession when there is a church inside the Monastery

where the abbot could hear the confession.

TNH: Why Nektarios left and he did not become a monk?

VIKENTIOS: I do not know, I heard because of sexual harassment.

TNH: Where did you hear that?

VIKENTIOS: I think his father has said it to somewhere and they told me; I personally have not talked at all with the father of the child.

TNH: Is it true Paisios took Christonymphi with him on trips to Greece and that they lived together in your apartment in Athens?

VIKENTIOS: Of course it is true. Even during his last trip to Greece when I came back and he left on August 30 to Greece, he sent me a message to send Christonymphi to Greece. The message was sent to me by nun Christodouli of blessed memory who had returned from Greece. I immediately told her to, "Tell greetings to Paisios because we were in non-speaking terms due to my interview to TNH about the situation at the Florida Dependency, that if the Abbot wanted something let him call me, and since I am the Deputy Abbot I will not allow Christonymphi to go to Greece.

TNH: Why Paisios wanted Christonymphi there?

VIKENTIOS: I was told she wanted her to drive his car and go to Kyllini where he used to go every summer and have warm baths and inhalations.

TNH: Is it true that clergy of the Church of Greece had informed the Ecumenical Patriarchate that nun Christonymphi accompanied Paisios in Greece?

VIKENTIOS: It is true, because those clergy had spoken to me that the picture is anything but good for an abbot of a Patriarchal Monastery. Not only that, but there were visits at various restaurants with the abbot which were attended by the Nun. It was something that had created conflict among us several times, because it was not appropriate.

On Dec. 2, the Holy Synod in Constantinople, presided over by Patriarch Bartholomew heard the charges against Paisios from the Exarchy team sent to New York and decided not to punish him but only accept his resignation and remove him permanently from the Monastery post.

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Global Greek Medical and Biosciences Network Meets in New York

By Constantine S. Sirigos
TNH Staff Writer

NEW YORK – Medicine, Science, Religion and Politics met at The Global Hellenic Medical and Biosciences Network's 4th annual conference at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York on Dec. 3 and 4. Its mission was to link Greek physicians and bioscientists professionally, to mentor new practitioners among them and to assist in the upgrading of the national health care systems of Greece and Cyprus. The Conference was sponsored and organized by the Federation of Hellenic Medical Societies of North America. Marking the importance of this endeavor for Hellenism in America and throughout the world, the opening ceremony was attended by Archbishop Demetrios of America, the Consul Generals in New York of Greece and Cyprus respectively, Ambassador Aghi Balta and Koula Sophianou, Dr. Olga Sarantopoulos, Secretary General of the Federation of Greeks Abroad (SAE) and Pavlos Kotrotsios, President of the Hellenic American National Council (HANC). Ekaterini Mallas of the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services read a letter from HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, who noted the importance of endeavors like the global network.

Archbishop Demetrios gave the invocation, asking God to “bless and strengthen all those who labor for the health of body, mind and soul,” and praised the participants for promoting universal Hellenic values and advancing medicine and science.

Balta praised the participants for their effort in what she called challenging times for Hellenes and Humanity that have exacerbated by skepticism, and declared that the Network “constituted a ray of optimism and an inspiring example that proves that only through cooperation and by investment in science and education in our globalized world can all nations emerge from this current crisis. Sophianou also expressed appreciation and thanked the group for how strongly its leadership cares about Cyprus and the needs of the Cypriot people. Sarantopoulos echoed the thought of the others and declared that “now is the time for action through new ideas and initiatives.” A message from Ted Spyropoulos, Coordinator of SAE USA was read which praised the doctors and scientists for their “shining example of unity and cooperation” during the crisis of Hellenism.

Dr. Spyros Mezitis, Chairman of the global Network and of the North American Federation, welcomed the guests and gave an overview of the organization and the conference. The Network began in 2007 on the Greek Island of Kos, the culmination of efforts on both sides of the Atlantic. Its first conference was held under the auspices of the President of Greece, Karolos Papoulias, and then-minister of health Dimitris Avramopoulos, who engineered the compromise location for the first conference by inviting the representatives of Greek communities from many countries to meet at the birthplace of the



At the opening ceremonies. (L-R) Dr. Elias Iliadis, Dr. George Tsioulas, Dr. Thomas Thomou, Pavlos Kotrotsios, Dr. Olga Sarantopoulos, Consul General Koula Sophianou, Archbishop Demetrios, Amb. Aghi Balta, Dr. George Dangas and Dr. Spyros Mezitis.

renowned ancient Greek physician Hippocrates, of Hippocratic oath fame.

Mezitis said he was pleased to relate to the guests and participants that Hellenes around the world have risen to the occasion as the Greek government was unable to provide the funds for this year's gathering. Private sources of funding were tapped including the sponsorships of pharmaceutical corporations, demonstrating that, “When Greeks are united we can do it all, showing the world that as we taught medicine to the ancients we are (at the forefront) of teaching” and practicing contemporary medicine. He ex-

plained that the mission of the global network includes facilitating the continuing medical education of its members, networking and collaboration with the Greek and Cypriot governments and with international health organizations. He told The National Herald that members have already approached the Greek government about helping to rebuild its beleaguered health care system, including the sharing of medical and management know how. To date, the government has been too overwhelmed by the fiscal crisis to focus on the offers.

Dr. George Dangas, Honorary President and founder of

the Network in 2007, thanked Mezitis for his personal efforts in putting the conference together. He declared the view shared by many in the audience that Greek Scientists are an army for global Hellenism, “A sleeping giant that has yet to realize its strength and potential, noting that in the U.S. Alone there are 7000 physicians and bio-scientists, only a fraction of whom have been organized, and that globally there are many more. He believes that their efforts are demonstrating how Hellenism will be able to not merely survive but thrive at a global level through the initiative and resourcefulness the

Network has demonstrated. Dangas told TNH that he was happy to witness the Network's progress under his successors and proud of the Hellenic Medical Society of New York, which he served as president in the past, and which will celebrate its 75th Anniversary in 2011.

Dr. Thomas Thomou, President of the Hellenic Bioscientific Association in the U.S., suggested that one way his colleagues could contribute to Greece's recovery was through exchange programs where professionals from the U.S. could spend time teaching in universities in Greece. The bioscientists' efforts began as a separate network in London in 2007 and has since joined with the physicians. Mezitis believes the network can help Greece to heal from its social and economic problems in many ways, including the demonstration of how to bring together leaders in all the sciences and professions and in the realm of culture. Participants noted that the professional habits necessary to the practice of science and medicine – collaboration, information sharing, etc. - can show other groups of Greeks the way to move forward by moving beyond the extreme individualism and rivalries that have often plagued Greek endeavors through the centuries. Paul Kotrotsios of HANC said he also was impressed with the Network and declared that the doctors' organizations are the intellectual strongholds of the Diaspora communities.

sirigos@thenationalherald.com

Dr. Linda Katehi: Scientific Superwoman Engineer Put it Together

Continued from page 1

these men: to work with electronics. It was then that I told my parents that I wanted to become an electrical engineer. My dad became very upset. He said that two things would happen to me: no one would marry me and no one would hire me,” Katehi recalls. But her father, now one of her “biggest fans,” was proved wrong. After earning her degree in mechanical and electrical engineering from the National Technical University (NTL) of Athens in 1977, not only was she hired as a senior engineer by the Naval Research Laboratory in Athens, but also she became engaged to Spyros Tseregounis, also an engineer.

She now holds 17 U.S. patents (with five more in the application process.) Among Katehi's dozens of awards are the Presidential Young Investigator Award from the National Science Foundation, the URSI Booker Ward, a Humboldt Research Award 1994, the IEE MTT-S Microwave Prize, IEEE Third Millennium Medal, the IEEE Marconi Prize, the Distinguished Educator Award from the IEEE Microwave Theory and Techniques Society and the Leading Light Award for Women in High Tech from the state of Indiana. She is an IEEE Fellow and was elected to the National Academy of Engineering.

In 2007, then President George W. Bush appointed her to be one of the 12 select scientists and engineers on the President's Committee on the National Medal of Science. During her years as Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Katehi played a key role in shaping the future course of this prestigious institution. She was named Chancellor of the University of California at Davis on Aug. 17, 2009, giving her a chance to shape the direction of yet another prestigious institution.



Dr. Linda Katehi (C), her husband Spyros Tseregounis (R) and their son Erik Tseregounis (left) are pictured during a 2008 visit to Zakynthos. Katehi views her strong family ties as a major source of her professional success.

BEING GREEK

Katehi's father is from Corfu; her mother, from Salamis. Katehi was born in Athens, but grew up on Salamis because her father was in the navy band. She describes her father as “a trained musician who learned music before he learned how to read and write,” her mother, as a housewife who eventually started her own business; and both parents, as being “very supportive” and as having given her a strong set of values. “My mother taught me to try to finish an effort before I start something new ... to never lie and never take advantage of anyone. When I was young, my parents told me that the only way not to be punished for any bad deeds was to ... tell them everything I did wrong. So every night ... my dad would ask me what I did wrong and I would tell him. I would also argue with him if I felt that his judgment was unfair. He would give me only one pass. I was told never to make the same mistake twice.”

Katehi began learning English

in the second grade when her father was assigned to the naval base in Crete where the wives of many Americans in the NATO base taught English at school after hours. “So I started fairly early and I continued until after I entered college. I spent many years attending classes at the Greek American Union in Athens.” Katehi and her husband are the only engineers in their families. Their son is a microbiologist; their daughter, a law student; and the members of their extended family include doctors, architects and lawyers. At home, Katehi and her husband speak mainly Greek, but use English when discussing work.

From 2006 to 2008 this dedicated couple helped organize events and raise funds to promote a new Modern Greek Studies Program at the University of Illinois, which Katehi said she intended to be “one of the best in the country.” In addition, due in part to her efforts as chancellor, the University of Illinois began working with the Cyprus Institute. Part of this program includes a faculty and student exchange. Although she does not collaborate with any specific scientific or other institutions in Greece, she has many colleagues there. Katehi is also a board member of the EU of Cyprus, and she and her husband visit Greece at least once a year.

“My husband and I came to UCLA to get a master's and then go back to Greece. We ended up staying to get our Ph.D.s as well, so our dream to go back to changed to a dream to stay here. However, our love for Greece has remained strong,” she states.

When asked what her Greek heritage means to her, she replied, “Being Greek is a gift that we are given at birth. We carry a tremendous history of many mistakes and achievements. We have an attitude towards life that is marked by pride and endurance. The skill for survival is very deeply embedded in our culture, and this is what makes us strong and successful. We have very strong family ties, and we draw strength

from them.” She added: “I believe we can be both Greek and Americans at no expense to each other. We have the capacity for being both and combining the best of both. The Greek culture has been attuned to multi-nationality since Greeks left their homeland for the first time to explore other places thousands of years ago. It is part of our identity and a skill we should be proud of.”

IT DON'T COME EASY

Nevertheless, at the outset of her career, as her father had predicted, Katehi did encounter negative attitudes. During the 1970's, in Greece, as in the U.S., increasing numbers of women were entering higher education. Yet few were encouraged to pursue traditionally masculine occupations such as engineering. As a freshman at the NTL, Katehi was one of two women in a class of 180. “During my first week, the class President called privately and asked me why I decided to go to the Polytechnic and take away the position from another male student who could put the profession in use, as opposed to me who would graduate and stay home to raise a family. That discussion shook me up. It took ... a tremendous effort ... to decide to stay ... and finish despite the hostility that I felt early on,” Katehi remembers. But she did finish. Afterward, she and her fiancé came to the U.S., married and enrolled in the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA,) one of the top engineering schools in the U.S. and they completed their master's and doctoral degrees in quick time.

In 1984, Katehi became an Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. By 1994 she had achieved full professor status. During her 18 years at Ann Arbor, she taught electrical engineering and advanced to a series of increasingly influential administrative posts, which culminated in her becoming Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. In 2002 she went to Purdue University where she was Dean of Engineering at the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department. In 2006, she became Provost at the University of Illinois. All the deans and directors of every academic department reported directly to her and she oversaw all academic and financial programs and policies. She has mentored and graduated more than 70 postdoctoral fellows, Ph.D. and M.S. students in electrical and computer engineering. In line with her Greek heritage, Katehi holds the twin passions of advancing knowledge and effecting social justice, goals she has worked tirelessly to achieve throughout her academic career. Indeed, one of her motivations for accepting the positions of Provost at the University of Illinois and Chancellor at the University of California-Davis were that these roles would expand her opportunities to promote interdisciplinary research and ethnic, religious, racial, gender and intellectual diversity on campus.

During her first year as provost at the University of Illinois (2006) she helped create a

campus Gender Equity Council, which addressed gender inequalities not only on campus, but also throughout the world, especially in the area of education. Katehi also started an annual lecture series on gender equality, which hosted a brilliant array of men and women. “This recognition of their contributions,” Katehi reports, “helped create a wonderful intellectual dialogue around the status of women and the slow progress we have seen in improving the conditions of work and recognition of their contributions.”

THE NAKED TRUTH

That year, a calendar was published which displayed “hot not nerdy” women University of Illinois engineering students in Playboy attire and poses. “It's not brains or beauty, but brains and beauty,” one of the models naively stated, not realizing that the calendar was selling female submission in the guise of liberated sexuality, critics said. “It is difficult enough to be treated as equals. I don't think posing half-nude in the calendar helps us any,” protested the president of one of the campus' professional and social sororities for female engineers. Katehi agreed. “As a female engineer, I feel this act is demeaning,” she stated. “Women engineers do not fit the stereotype of a ‘nerd’ just because of who they are and what they stand for. ... in fact promoting their sexuality emphasizes yet another stereotype of women as the ‘less intelligent.’” Although Katehi could not ban the calendar out of existence, she ordered that the university name be stricken from its cover, and it was.

As Provost, Katehi dealt with politically complex and heated issues, such as pressure for more Islamic studies and the presence of Blackwater private security contractors on campus. As Chancellor at UC-Davis, she continues to confront controversial issues, such as those attending global climate change, state budget cuts, and hate crimes. “Universities are a microcosm of the broader society. We deal with complex issues all the time,” Katehi explains.

She also must cope with another complex dilemma which commonly confronts women who chose traditionally masculine professions or who hold positions of power whether in academia or in other institutions. Often such women are expected to meet the usually opposing requirements of the stereotype of the ideal man and that of the ideal woman. However, when they act like the ideal man, that is, decisive, self-confident, self-reliant, rational, assertive and emotionally controlled, they run the risk of being labeled “controlling” or “unfeminine.” Yet, when they act in a submissive or an emotional manner or in other ways like the stereotype of the ideal woman, they may be viewed as “touchy” and less competent as leaders.

SEXISM HURTS

Although not as explicit as in the past, Katehi notes that these and other forms of sexism still exist in the male-dominated profession of engineering. “You re-

ceive many comments that make you feel different and at times, you feel your colleagues doubt your ability. For example, a female engineer will qualify as either ‘too soft’ or ‘too aggressive’ ... or as ‘too irrational’ or yet ‘too young’ or ‘too old.’ It seems there is no middle ground for anything.” When asked how she handled this situation, she replied, “By just doing your best work and moving forward. I've learned not to worry about innuendos and comments that may challenge my competence. I ignore them and keep working towards my goals.”

She describes her extensive electromagnetic work in reduc-



Katehi with her father, Vassilios Katehis, in Salamina.

ing the size and cost of communication systems as “similar to what we have in cell phones, miniature radars and miniature sensors. My work led to new technologies that are now widely used by civilian and military communication systems.” When asked which of her many scientific innovations are the most meaningful to her, she replied, “I have a few papers that really change the way we do circuit design in miniature communication systems and sensors – these are the ones I value the most.”

She seems like a superwoman, handling a myriad of professional responsibilities and the social obligations that go along with your various academic roles and still finds time be involved in science and meet family responsibilities, but she downplayed the comparison. “There are no superheroes; just simple people who are driven by the desire to make an impact. I am one of them,” she replied. “What was unique about me is the support I have from my husband, my children, and my parents. They have been my greatest fans, and they always tell me that everything is possible.”

Aphrodite Matsakis, a counseling psychologist, is the author of **Back From the Front: Combat Trauma, Love and The Family** as well as 13 books on a variety of psychological topics and **Growing Up Greek** in St. Louis. (Arcadia Publishing, 1998). Visit www.matsakis.com for further information.

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Calomiris Has Good News for Greece: Default and Save Yourself

Continued from page 1

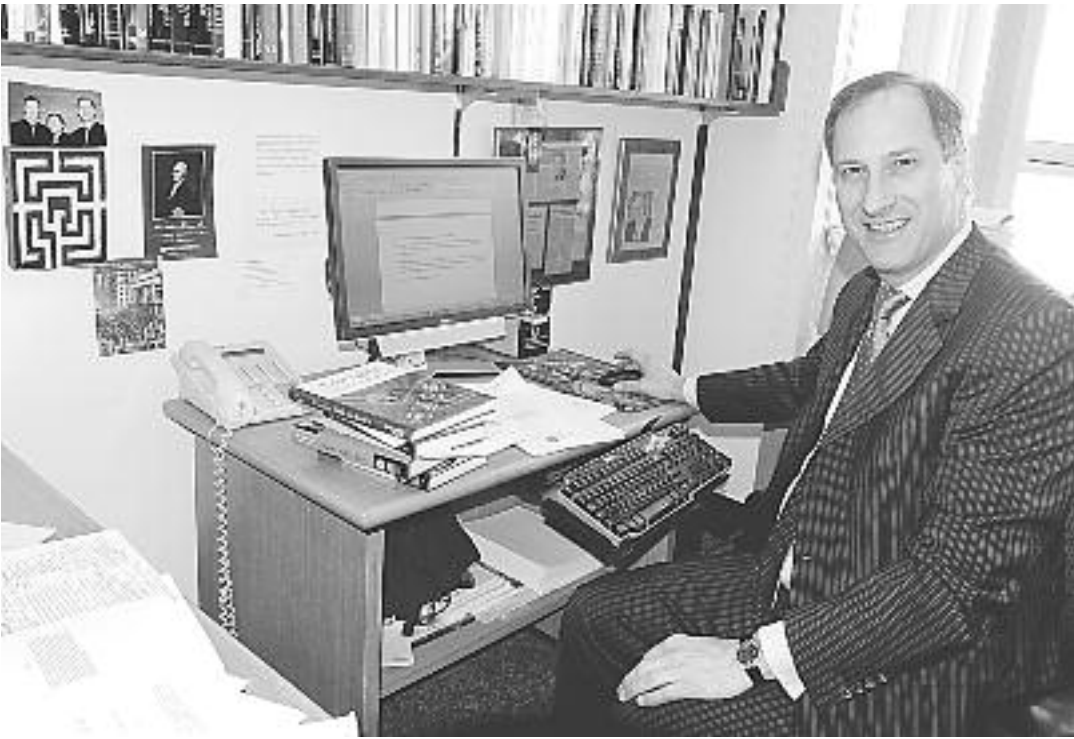
government. He replied: “You have to give Greece a little bit of credit. They certainly took a stab at it. Some people would say, don’t count them out, there’s still options.” But looking at the numbers, he said, “It’s not good news.”

Talking with Calomiris about the Greek Condition can be a bit surreal because even the “good news” is bizarre if not frightening. As difficult as it is to believe that a country, at all levels, for so long could have made such mistakes, it is more difficult to accept that there is a reset button labeled “default” even if he says there’s perhaps no other choice unless the government waits for the country to implode. Giving up the fight and defaulting – not repaying its creditors - he said, will hurt for years but will at least enable Greece to heal and ultimately, to prosper, as Argentina has since its 2002 default. The alternative, the belief that a country in Greece’s situation can ever pay back its massive debts and attract the investments it needs to grow out of the crisis, is, in his clear-thinking but sympathetic mind, a fairy tale.

Where Greece is probably heading, despite the denials from Papandreou and the EU is “All very predictable and designed to minimize the fallout for themselves.” He said the good news for Greece is that 90% of its outstanding debt is subject to Greek law, which means that it can restructure their debt in terms that will be painful, but will enable healing. In a paper published in May this year, entitled How to Restructure Greek Debt by Lee C. Buchheit and G. Mitu Gulati, Greece’s situation and the default scenario was laid out. Calomiris cited Buchheit, a noted international sovereign debt default attorney, and suggested that, “Through legislative changes Greece can write down very successfully a huge amount of that debt.” Papandreou is starting to pay attention to the doomsayers too, having met recently with Nouriel Roubini, a Professor at the Stern Business School at New York University, who told the premier that the only solution for the restoration of the Greek economy is the devaluation of its currency, which means leaving the Eurozone of countries using the euro as a currency and returning to the drachma.

SOME REAL NUMBERS

Calomiris has served as a consultant or visiting scholar for the governments of Mexico, Argentina, Japan, El Salvador, Brazil and Columbia. He is paid to see a chaotic world clearly. What he is referring to when he puts up the numbers on his computer is the future, however, one as unwelcome to everyone as it is inevitable according to those numbers. He says the numbers are the reality, as real as anything visible through the window of his office with a spectacular view of a crystal-clear wintry evening in Manhattan. But they just don’t feel real, so like a scene in a TV sitcom, he starts punching you with the facts: “Do you feel THAT?” The first blunt assessment of Greece’s prospects pertain to additional sources of funds and aid: “The EU is going to have to make a massive investment in Greece, a fiscal transfer – not a loan but a massive subsidy to Greece of hundreds of billions of euros -



For a Columbia Finance Professor with a big following, Charles Calomiris has a modest office, but a big reputation. You could ignore what he says, but influential people are listening.

which is almost impossible to conceive under the current circumstances. If I were a German taxpayer I wouldn’t want to bail out Greece.”

As things are now, he said, “Greece can kick the can” of paying its debts down the road for one or two years,” while driving away foreign direct investment, but although default can be delayed, the incomes of its citizens will continue to decline. That appeared to be a prediction of the social unrest people have long expected will manifest itself - commentators note that it is admirable if not spooky that except for those horrible days last May when three bank workers were killed in their office by firebomb-tossing anarchists, violence has not reared its ugly head. That could change.

It appears that all that’s standing between a real chance for Greece and its people to recover and heal and avoid going off a cliff is pride, their unwillingness understandable – to go through life, as bankers, businessmen and individuals, being called dead beats, liars, thieves etc. by the media, their international colleagues and snarky tourists. But other countries, including Argentina in 2002, have gone through it, survived and regained respecter to them. It will be harder to persuade investors to trust Greece again but Calomiris suggests it will get easier over time. He said large-scale debt restructuring is needed urgently, since the debt has become unpayable. When Argentina capital flow to the country ceased almost completely, the Argentine government remained firm and finally got a deal where the defaulted bonds were exchanged by others of a much lower nominal value and at longer terms.

NO SURPRISES HERE

In March, Calomiris declared at a lecture at New York’s Holy Trinity Cathedral that: “It is very difficult if not impossible for Greece to do what it would take arithmetic doesn’t lie. It says if you have a Debt-to-GDP ratio that is very high and is already pushing up interest rates, the kind of fiscal austerity you must do to reduce government expenditures has to be done so drastically and so immediately that it actually will make your ratio rise even more ... so you get into a trap where there is no way out.

Currently Greece has a 150% Debt-to GDP ratio and rising.” He said that economists typically look at a country like Greece and say 90% would be considered not sustainable. Part of the problem, he added, is that the austerity measures were not combined with other reforms needed to make them successful, the kinds of long run reforms that would have attracted investments and other long-term growth initiatives that would have made the austerity program much less disastrous, as he also said in March. It was a long shot even if done right, but Calomiris does not only point a finger at Greece.

In describing the role of the IMF and the EU he said, “If I were going to do a cartoon version of the story it would be people showing up pretending they are the ambulance when in fact they are the undertaker. They make things worse.” In the case of Ireland, which has just been bailed out as well, he says its actions have been cynical and purposeful, because their aim was to “kick the can further down the road for the German banks,” by putting the debt on the back of Ireland’s taxpayers, which he said Greece didn’t do. Calomiris gives Papandreou credit for having the courage to do what they have done so far, “but we are now beyond the point,” where further cuts can help. “They only did about one-third of the spending cuts that were necessary. Even if the nation’s growth hadn’t dived they didn’t even come close to the adjustment that was needed.” Given the unlikelihood of a massive European bailout, Calomiris returned to Buchheit’s analysis. “If Greece wrote down 60%” of the 90% of the debt that is under Greek law – and paid in full the 10 percent that is not under its jurisdiction, then they can get their debt to the right level.” He explained that doesn’t solve all of Greece’s problems because it still has a \$360 billion debt and huge budget deficit, and he explained “It’s very hard to find private sources to finance their deficit when they’ve just defaulted and seek EU and IMF relief in the middle of a default and exit from the Euro.”

If Greece continues its policies, he said it will play out this way: “One or two years from now when they are cut off from

their incremental sources of funding, they will have to start issuing some kinds of IOU’s or scrip – in Argentina they were issued by the regional governments – as soon as they are issued, banks will have to suspend convertibility – the ability to convert the new currency into others - because their deposits are denominated in euros – everyone will want to immediately get their euros out,” and there will be a run on the banks that will destroy the banking system, which is not something for bank-haters to cheer: it means most bank accounts will have been wiped out. Calomiris insists: “This is a very predictable arrangement and has been played out over and over in history. It’s very much the most likely outcome for Greece.”

SOME SCENARIOS

“If I were the PM I’d get ahead of the curve – I’d suspend convertibility of bank deposits and then redenominate the deposits.” He said the government would declare a bank holiday while the Parliament passed the legislation that redenominates the deposits into the new currency that will be issued, and also passed legislation to redenominate the debt into the scrip – noting that this is what Argentina did in 2002. He told TNH, “This is the obvious way out: The arithmetic is unavoidable,” and other countries have gone through it, noting, “Eng-

land did this during the Napoleonic wars and the US during the Civil War. We suspended convertibility and redenominated into a new standard, the greenback. The notion of bailing out the banking system when they are stuck with a government’s financial problem that’s making them insolvent is very old. Argentina has done it twice, Mexico, once, partially.” What’s the downside? Calomiris was again blunt: “There is no such thing as a downside if you are forced to do something by arithmetic.” He said if Papandreou is not going to get hundreds of billion of euros from the rest of the EU – not in loans but in transfers - there is no other side. He said there are some unanswered questions too, such as how EU creditors would be treated under the new Greek law and what to do about interbank debts that are not adjudicated in Greece. There will be a legal mess. “This is something you do in the middle of the night,” Calomiris said. “But you had better prepare – you had better have your investment bankers and attorneys and an inside group of legislators with bills already drafted and ready to go. The moment that you realize that the laws of arithmetic are beyond your ability to fight and that you will not get a bailout, there will be a run on your banks, to try to get the euros. Any discussion of this has to go from the black of full denial to the white of acceptance.” The price of salvation will be more shame. “The perception of Greece as a country of law and her status within the EU will be suspect,” he said, but added that he is optimistic about the results. He said in Argentina the banks recovered quickly and there was not large-scale bank failure there. Calomiris said he believes people will realize that Greece’s fiscal problems will have made this unavoidable and that it’s better to have a clean redenomination of everything. He said Greeks are practical and would manage under new circumstances. One positive side is that Greece’s exports will now have a price advantage under a devalued currency. They cannot do that now under the euro. “It will be the beginning of Greece’s recovery, as Argentina did,” he said, while being clear that, “It’s not a great story – it’s still a story of lost opportunities, suppressed long term growth and political populism gone wild. The question is what will be the

political outcome of this.” The answer may be, the end of the Greek political system – which many might say is not a down side at all – but chaos is not a welcome substitute, he said.

Greek banks the day after will be fine, Calomiris said. Loan portfolios default risk will go down dramatically since their debts will have been re-denominated. All will be able to repay debts redenominated in the new scrip so the banks’ loans are not going to go bust. There will be no more reason for runs on banks by people to get their euros out because they will no longer be available, but they will be able to use the scrip to transact business in Greece. Calomiris is not at all glib about the pain involved but said, “If you do what Greece did in the last decade, you put yourself into a position where you don’t have a lot of choice.”

REALLY?

“What is making this happen is not some Greek politician’s or German politician’s decision,” he explained. “What will bring this crisis to a head will be people deciding to start withdrawing massive amounts from their banks and Greece. At some point (the health of) Greek banks become the issue. Greece is not going to fall on its sword, destroy its entire financial system and continue in a recession for year upon year.” In a more plaintive tone he declared that without debt restructuring “Greece is not going to have a recovery, the economy will keep shrinking the banks will lose deposits and interest rates keep skyrocketing. All this bad stuff will keep happening until the reality of the arithmetic takes hold.”

How did this happen to Greece? “Greece is the most corrupt country in the EU – by Transparency International’s score – and has the largest shadow economy ... it has one of the highest ratios of consumption to output – the Greeks don’t save much, they have one of the most generous pension systems and one of the lowest labor participation rates among the poorer countries in the Euro-zone. Greece has designed its public policy to reward consuming instead of thrift, leisure rather than work and to reward excessive public spending.” Amidst those realities, entry into the Eurozone was to prove the country’s undoing rather than its salvation. The temptation to continue doing all the wrong things increased.



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EORTOLOGION FOR CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY

December 2010

19 SUNDAY

BEFORE CHRISTMAS /BONIFACE THE MERCIFUL OF TARUS

Orthros: 7:30 a.m., First Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom: 8:45 a.m.
Second Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom: 10:45 a.m.
CHURCH SCHOOL: 8:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

20 MONDAY

IGNATIUS THE HIEROMARTYR AND THEOPHOROS

Orthros and Divine Liturgy: 8:00 a.m.

21 TUESDAY

MARTYRS JULIANA AND THEMISTOCLES

Orthros and Divine Liturgy: 8:00 a.m.

22 WEDNESDAY

ANASTASIA GREAT MARTYR AND PHARMAKOLYTRIA

Orthros and Divine Liturgy: 8:00 a.m.

23 THURSDAY

TEN MARTYRS OF CRETE

Orthros and Divine Liturgy: 8:00 a.m.

24 FRIDAY

EUGENIA THE MARTYR - The Great Hours of Christmas: 7:30 a.m.

Great Vespers and Liturgy of St. Basil the Great: 8:45 a.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE: The Christmas Orthros: 6:15 p.m.
Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom: 7:30 p.m.
The Christmas Eve Carols will be sung in both English & Greek

25 SATURDAY

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND GOD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST

Orthros: 7:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom: 8:45 a.m.

26 SUNDAY

THE SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS, SYNAXIS OF THE THEOTOKOS

ST. JOSEPH THE BETROTHED, DAVID THE PROPHET

AND ST. IAKOVOS THE BROTHER OF THE LORD
Orthros: 7: 30 a.m., Divine Liturgy: 8:45 a.m. (only one Liturgy)

27 MONDAY

ST. STEPHEN THE ARCHDEACON AND FIRST MARTYR

Orthros: 7: 30 a.m., Divine Liturgy: 8:30 a.m.

29 WEDNESDAY

14,000 CHILDREN MARTYRS SLAUGHTERED BY HEROD (chapel)

Orthros and Divine Liturgy: 7:30 a.m.

January 2011

1 SATURDAY

CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST - ST. BASIL THE GREAT

Orthros: 9:00 a.m., Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great: 10:00 a.m.

2 SUNDAY

SUNDAY BEFORE EPIPHANY - Only one Liturgy today

Orthros: 7:30 a.m., Liturgy: 8:45 a.m. Chapel Liturgy (English): 8:45 a.m.

5 WEDNESDAY

FOREFEAST OF EPIPHANY - The Great Hours: 7:30 a.m.

Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil and blessing of Waters 8:45 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

6 THURSDAY

THE HOLY THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD & SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

Orthros: 7:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy and Great Blessing of Water 8:45 a.m.

7 FRIDAY

SYNAXIS OF ST. JOHN THE PROPHET, FORERUNNER AND BAPTIST

Orthros and Divine Liturgy: 7:30 a.m.

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Famine, Death and Despair on the Island of Ikaria during WW II

(This is from the author’s book *Beyond the Blue Ikarian Sea*, an excerpt of which is available at www.RoseDogbookstore.com , at several other online sites, and at some bookstore chains.)

By John Chrysoschoos

Following the collapse of the depleted Greek Armed Forces in the spring of 1941, due to their engagement in fierce battles on two different fronts against the combined Italian and German assault, Ikaria and the rest of Greece braced for a period of occupation that lasted nearly four years. Although the first year of occupation by the Italians was difficult indeed in Ikaria, the suffering experienced by many Ikarians in 1941 was nothing compared to what was to follow. The winter of 1942 had arrived with very bleak premonitions. The resulting shortage of basic necessities and food required for the survival of the inhabitants, brought about by the occupation of the island in 1941, led to outright hunger and, before long, starvation and famine spread throughout the island. Ikarians tried to survive by eating whatever they could scavenge outdoors. They searched the fields which were blessed in the past with a large variety of wild greens, the mountain, and the surrounding sea for anything edible. Every

tiny piece of arable land was exploited to its limit. Wild mushrooms turned into a delicacy and the locals became experts in locating them and in distinguishing edible mushrooms from poisonous ones. The tender vines of young fern bushes, mixed with some form of flour and fried, resembled asparagus with a little imagination. Wild lupines that were avoided completely in the past by people and animals alike turned out to become a rare delicacy; the inhabitants of the island learned quickly how to remove their bitter and unbearable taste by keeping them for a couple of days in sea water mixed with hot spring water, abundant from Ikaria’s well-known hot springs.

The mountain provided items that became crucial for the survival of the locals, items mostly ignored in the past. Arbutus-berry bushes, which were indigenous on the island, were loaded with their wild strawberry-like fruit (koumara). This wild fruit that was consumed in the past by the animals and the birds only, turned out to be quite tasty. The locals learned quickly how to ferment them and produce brandy in makeshift distillation units. It was excellent as a drink and priceless for its medicinal use. Mulberry trees, which were abundant everywhere on the island, provided sweet mulberries to the children. The mountain and the fields provided the locals with a large variety of wild greens and vegetables such as wild chicory, endives, dandelions, and a lot of other wild greens known to the Ikarians by their local names. One of the main food items used by the locals, fish, was in relatively short supply because the Italian occupiers of the island had confiscated most sea-worthy boats, lest they would be used against them, leaving only tiny and unsafe fishing row boats to their owners. Such unsafe boats were used for fishing very near the shore, whenever the weather allowed it, providing some protein nourishment to their owners and their relatives. Tiny smelts became a main food item—both fried and salted (anchovies.) Items such as soap, medicine,



and other necessities were nonexistent. Herbs and little plants were constantly used to combat infections. Leaves from certain flower bushes were used to treat boils that were quite common. Lice and other parasites were causing havoc among the children. Adults and children were suffering from tiny parasites that had infested their mattresses.

“Before long, there was no room left in the village cemetery for their burial”

Famine started spreading like a plague on the island at the end of 1941. Whatever provisions were somehow saved by the locals were gone by now. The very old and the very young were the first victims. People used to take care of the elderly, relatives and non relatives alike; however, with the spread of hunger and starvation, the instinct of self-survival took over, pushing philanthropy aside. Many elderly people died during the first few months of the terrible winter of 1942. Before long, there was no room left in the village cemetery for their burial. A temporary cemetery had to be set up in the churchyard. The same happened in all other villages of the island. It was not unusual for anyone to hear the church bell tolling day after day announcing more deaths.

People got used to the mournful sound of the church

bell. They got used to the daily funerals as a fact of life. Even the children were desensitized to such a macabre sight. Infants and young children followed the older generation in the same manner. Parents were tormented watching their young slipping through their fingers, unable to help them. Although exact statistics were not kept during such a miserable time period, an estimated 20% of the population of the island, mostly old and very young, died during that terrible winter of 1942; a staggering loss of human life during the beginning of the period of famine. As the resources on the island were getting scarcer and scarcer, and death was spreading everywhere, several families started looking toward the horizon in desperation. Beyond the Greek islands that formed the fixed horizon the author was familiar with, there was the land of Turkey, which from all indications had remained neutral during the war. A daring escape at night could possibly give the locals a chance of traveling those 15 to 20 miles undetected by the PT-boats and reaching the shore of Turkey. Once there, they hoped that Turkey’s neutrality was for real, in spite of rampant rumors to the contrary since the axis powers appeared to be winning the war at the time.

Some of the locals started such daring escapes in the spring of 1942, using fishing rowboats that were hidden in several ravines to avoid their confiscation by the Italians. Such escapes were very dangerous indeed. The sea could turn suddenly very rough, threatening their lives in such unsafe boats. In addition, the locals had to deal with the uncertainties lying ahead. Nevertheless, the hope that the Allies would be there for them gave them all the encouragement they needed. A few locals escaped at the beginning. Some were lost, but most of them made it across to Turkey and they finally reached refugee camps set up by the Allies. People in the village would stay mum after each escape. They understood. They were praying for the safety of the family that had escaped. Deep in their hearts they were contemplating

their own eventual escape. Life went on. People got used to the famine, used to the pain they felt in their empty stomachs. They got even used to the death toll, so common by now. Their eyes were dry. They did not have any more tears to shed. They did not waste any effort on anything other than the essentials needed for their survival. And they kept hoping they would also escape from the island, hoping the nightmare they were experiencing would be over soon, before it was too late. Unfortunately, the war kept going on. Despite the despair the locals had experienced during the years of 1942 and 1943, their suffering was bound to get much worse in the foreseeable future, particularly after the end of 1943 when the Italian occupiers of Ikaria were replaced by the Germans, following Italy’s surrender to the Allies.

Following a brief period of euphoria during which the island of Ikaria was free of any

occupiers, the nightmare resumed. The nightmare this time was much worse than before. The German occupiers were in a very ugly mood since the war was tilting in favor of the Allies. Their fear that they could be sent to the Russian Front if they did not follow orders to the letter made them meaner and more dangerous. People started losing hope altogether. That was the time that my father started contemplating their escape from the island, although he was adamantly against such an action before. One late evening in early March, the author’s family fled the island, together with two other families from the village, to spend eventually a year and a half in Gaza (current Gaza Strip), Palestine.

John Chrysoschoos, Ph.D. is professor emeritus of chemistry at the university of Toledo, Ohio, and author. He may be reached at: jchryso@utnet.utoledo.edu



Street in Raches village on Ikaria.

GREEK POETRY

Z213: Exit (extract)

The sun leaves the station chases you, goes up, moves in front of you, find where you had stayed, there or elsewhere, on the grey facades that do not recognise you, what do you remember of the road that is lost, turn back to a corner sit down a while, and once again, the roads you are changing, hours that you wander, old women who look at you from behind the window grow bigger grow smaller you walk without coming out anywhere, the roads grow bigger grow smaller bend beneath your feet rise go up again, you get up sit go a bit further, ask someone, go in, a church crowded, did somebody die, you rest a little, closed knees, eyes closed, remember something go out again, others along with you, the bell, the door unlocked, porter, you go in behind them into the corridor, then on the right and up the staircase, thick glasses, and a red stain under his nose, he did not notice you took you for someone else, how could he see you looking from the light into the dark, he does not see well, go up the stairs, to the top, lie down, cover yourself, it is still too early to go to sleep. You are cold, cover yourself, you snuggle down, tremble, stretch out, from feet to body to hands a clammy fluid covers you, he took you for someone else and let you in, who else lives here, it covers you, you awake in a dream empty, the eyes that open and separate us again, you cannot pull her to you, you get up, you fall, you are thirsty, you wake up for water, many times the same story, what time is it, the lights outside, count how many on how many off, the tired plaster above waiting, like a cockroach, alone and still like a cockroach, seeking here and there a warm spot to hide in, from the heat you sweat, the roof comes down to your feet the window comes down to your feet, what can you see from there, only sky, sky without nothing, nothing above the roofs, from your feet right up to your knees, you get up go out into the corridor, the other rooms empty, apart from where sleeping can be heard, you go back to your bed with eyes open, in the dark you wait in order to sleep

Dimitri Lyacos (1966-) Translated by Shorsha Sullivan

Alexia Vassiliou – The Cypriot Voice Now Soars Over L.A.

LOS ANGELES - If you have not heard Alexia Vassiliou sing, then please hurry up and get her CD immediately. You will not be disappointed. Composer, lyricist, singer – she is a triple talent. Her message is all about love – love of humanity. The kindness, caring and nurturing of people everywhere is what Vassiliou strives for, and through her music she more than succeeds. She sings in Greek and in English; she sings jazz, classical and demotika. Her voice soars and purrs; it reaches out and hugs you; it makes you cry and it makes you sing! Born in Famagusta, Cyprus, she and her family were forced out of their home in July 1974 by the Turkish invasion and occupation of the northern part of Cyprus. Her early love of music and her family’s support and encouragement gave her a focus during this turbulent time. In 1981, as a teenager, she was part of a group that entered the Eurovision Song Contest and that was the moment she knew that music was going to be her career. While still in high school, CBS New York selected her to record the theme song for the album I Am Siam that reached the Billboard’s Top 100. A contract was offered, but she and her parents decided that more serious study of music was needed, so she took off for Boston’s Berklee College of Music, where she obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Performance. She’s a star in Greece and Cyprus but Los Angeles was always on her mind, especially after getting the chance to work there with the



Alexia Vassiliou, the Cypriot siren.

great jazz musician Chick Corea in 1984.

“The idea of Los Angeles was in my daily thoughts” Alexia explained, “no matter what I was doing or where I was going. It attracted me and it frightened me as well – I was afraid to give

up, to change my life in Greece.” And then, one day she decided to “honor and trust her great and deep desires ... to let the wave take me where it takes me.” Having 20 close friends in L.A. she went back there last year and now is busier than ever working

on several projects. Her Triple Album called RE-BE, her own music compositions, lyrics, narratives and improvisations, are aimed at renewal and learning how to begin anew. The album was released in Greece in October and is set for worldwide release early next year. The second project is a jazz album called Birds Have to Fly, for which she wrote the lyrics. Both albums are with Track7music in Athens. She has also composed the music and sings every performance in a play by Mario Stilianakos entitled Water, which played at the Lounge Theater in L.A.

During her college years, she also met and had the chance to be taught by other famed musicians such as Ken Greenhouse, B.B. King, and Quincy Jones. Upon her graduation, in 1985, she moved to New York and performed as the lead singer of four different Jazz and Fusion bands. In 1987, she represented Cyprus at Eurovision as a solo performer with the song Aspro-Mavro, and then again in 1991, where she won first place with the song Ela. From the late 1980’s and throughout the 1990’s, while living in Greece, she produced more than 20 albums, most of which went gold and platinum, first with BMG record label and then with Universal Records. Collaborating with producer Makis Delaportas and orchestrator, the late Kostas Kapnis, she performed the best-selling Ta Klassika (the Classics.) Famagusta, a tribute to birthplace was presented at the ancient theatre of Herodus Atticus before it was released

worldwide. For more than seven years, she worked with Mikis Theodorakis and released a double album with him entitled Alexia - Mikis Theodorakis. Performance Street, her production company, is based in Greece and has worldwide distribution. The Foundation of Michael Cacoyannis is undertaking media responsibilities for her albums handling public relations and press communications.

When I asked her what her favorite type of music was, she smiled brightly and her whole face lit up. “Love” was her response, “I remember clearly back in 2007, I sang in empty rooms just listening to my voice. I began to deconstruct what singing meant to me and not what singing meant to society. Through voice improvisation and my own creativity, I found my true voice. I want to use my voice to empower people and give them hope.”

She said she is “Blessed to be from the part of the world – Cyprus and Greece – where we know who we are as an ethnic group and as individuals. I always carry this with me ... I want to be their voice. By bringing the message of love to others and they in return give it back to me, they then love Cyprus and Greece. I am therefore a gracious ambassador and this is how I remind myself as to who I am and where I come from. I want to be of service to others through my music - that is the talent that I have that I want to share.”

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ΕΘΝΙΚΟΣ ΚΗΡΥΞ

Από το 1915 για τον Ελληνισμό

The National Herald

Bringing the news to generations of Greek Americans

Vermont Gets A Greek American Secretary of State

By Angelike Contis
TNH Staff Writer

MONTPELIER, VERMONT – It's a few days before Thanksgiving and Jim Condos, Vermont's next Secretary of State, is quietly on top of the world. On January 6 he will assume office in the petite capital that is sleepily waiting a changing of the guard. Democrats Condos and Governor elect Peter Shumlin will be among those sworn in. There are lawn works underway in front of the Statehouse and little traffic in the upscale local shops. At a nearly empty coffee shop on the main drag, State Street, Condos is dressed in casual Vermonter gear (red sports jacket, loafers), with a content victory grin framed by a large moustache. "I was advised by all my friends and my campaign team to stay positive, positive, positive," Condos says of his winning strategy. On November 2, the Democrat won 53.7% of the vote, with his younger opponent, Republican Jason Gibbs, 34, earning 44%. He describes Gibbs, who was outgoing Republican Governor Jim Douglas' spokesperson as "a very smooth talker." But Condos adds: "His radio ads targeted me. Mine didn't even mention him."

In debates such as one held on Vermont Public Radio, however, Condos held his own, emphasizing his longer experience in public office. When Gibbs questioned Condos about his handling of a \$9 million pension shortfall in South Burlington, where Condos had been Chairman of the City Council, Condos urged Gibbs to learn more about how local government works. Nonetheless, "down to earth" is a better term than "smooth" to describe Vermont's next Secretary of State. The self-described Vermonter - who came to the state from New Jersey at age four, speaking only Greek - was first bitten by the political bug in 1989 when he ran for City

Council in South Burlington, Vermont's fifth-largest city, after being inspired by a neighbor's involvement in a zoning issue. Then, in 2001, he was recruited by then-Governor Howard Dean to run for State Senate. He's been on the council for 18 years, and in the state senate for eight years.

FRIENDS MATTER

Though he shows his Democratic colors when describing Vermont as "a beacon of light, for its lack - unlike the rest of the country - of major Republican or Tea Party inroads in the latest election, Condos said he prides himself on building friendships across party lines, a smart move in a state with a population of just 600,000. "It's really different from a lot of other places," he says of the Green Mountain State. Condos reflects: "The best advice I received was when I first got to Senate, was to never get mad at somebody, because there will come a time when you need them to help you ... never alienate yourself from others." He points out that he was a friend of all six candidates (five Democrats and a Republican) running for Governor Douglas' seat. Among the friends running for governor was outgoing long-term Secretary of State Deborah Markowitz. She first suggested he run for her post when they were on a flight together. At Condos' victory event, attended by Markowitz, Condos promised to follow in her footsteps. He vowed to put "fairness and honesty before economics" and to be a "secretary of state whose door is always open and will always listen."

Friends too are the team of Gail Zatz and Virginia Renfrew, the local consultants who took over running his campaign after he decided to drop a young out-of-state campaign manager from the South whose style didn't translate well to small town New England. Importantly, Con-



Jim Condos, Vermont's next Secretary of State, is right at home outside the State Capitol Building in Montpelier.

dos' friends put their money behind their support. As the Burlington Free Press reported, Condos raised \$95,587 in contributions, versus Gibbs' \$70,282.

Condos says he'll bring his knack for leadership and non-partisan governance to the new role. "I had the track record of being able to show people that we could get things done without being labeled Republicans or Democrats." Some of the State Senate accomplishments he said he's most proud of include legislation to prevent storm water pollution and that boosted early childhood education. Condos, who chaired the Education Committee, explains:

"Early childhood education is not a problem for the well-to-do, but for those who are low income, it is... by the third grade, they have a problem catching up."

WHAT DOES HE DO?

What exactly does the Vermont Secretary of State do? Letting out a rolling laugh, Condos says: "That's the number one question I got." He happily rattles off his new office's five areas. Though the office is best known for its prominent role of overseeing elections, it also oversees all state archives and public records, maintains a corporations office where business are registered and Office of Professional Regulation (a con-

sumer-protection office listing 45 registered professions) and provides municipalities and towns legislative and other information.

Condos' business experience will come in handy, he says. This experience includes working for 17 years for manufacturer Warner Lambert, for a grocery wholesaler and, most recently, in management positions at Vermont Gas Systems utility. Condos campaigned to bring greater transparency to the Secretary of State's office. He notes that the state ranks 47th when it comes to campaign transparency; he'd like, for instance, to make it mandatory to list donors' employers. He explains: "Two of three vice presidents may give \$2,000 each, which is fine, but don't you think the people should know? People need to know where the money is coming from." He'd like to see such info available to the public in a searchable database online. He also wants to make more public records available to the public and to create a more user-friendly Secretary of State website, with online forms. On his list too are education programs for local civil servants.

Condos criticized Douglas for shutting out the public, limiting the testimony, for instance of state employees in front of the State Senate. Condos says he aims to "knock down the walls and closed doors and let the sunshine in." More generally, Condos said he would like to demystify politics and wishes every Vermonter could spend two years in Montpelier, to understand its workings, instead of seeing politics and politicians as removed from them. In city government, he noted, even when the doors were open, people didn't always enter. For instance, far fewer people would attend meetings for South Burlington's \$10-15 million city budget than they would talks about new leash laws. He

doesn't hold it against people, but shrugs, figuring that either people trust their elected officials, or assume that certain things are outside of their experience. He says: "Some people just don't relate to a \$10 million dollar budget. They don't understand it or whatever. But when you're talking about their dog, they understand leash laws and things like that."

Walking around Montpelier, Condos is clearly at home. He is greeted by the few well-wishers left in town by first name and he points out all the local historic spots as well as the new building the Secretary of State's office will move to in a few months. Yet Condos notes that the growing demands of public life have taken a toll on his private life, crediting it for the breakup of his marriage three years ago. He also hasn't had a chance to pursue his love of gardening, noting: "The weeds took over the gardens." He plans, he says - after spending Thanksgiving with his daughter, up from Atlanta, and his parents, in town from Florida, to work side-by-side with Markowitz in December, learning the ropes and overseeing a staff of 66 (including one of two of his new appointments, deputy secretary Brian Leven). First task at hand: the budget. Does Condos have greater ambitions, such as running for Governor? He says no, pointing out that the Secretary of States in Vermont may be a two-year term, but people tend to be in the office for the long run. There have only been, he says, four Vermont secretaries of state in the last 24 years. He concludes: "I never thought I'd run for City Council. I never thought I'd run for State Senate. I never thought I'd run for Secretary of State. But I'll be 60 next month in January, right around retirement age, so this may be it for me."

angelike.contis@ekirikas.com

The Greek Doctor Who Exposes Bad Science, and Debunks His Peers

Continued from page 1

lengthy article in the prestigious Boston-based magazine The Atlantic, which lauded him for a career challenging his peers by exposing their bad science, noting that much of what medical researchers conclude in their studies is misleading, exaggerated, or flat-out wrong - and even worse - the results are still being used despite being false.

The Atlantic article, Lies, Damned Lies, and Medical Science, noted that Ioannidis analyzed 49 of the most highly regarded research findings in medicine over the previous 13 years, and found 34 had to be retested while 14 were wrong or significantly exaggerated, a remarkable standard of failure in a field which uses trial-and-error trying to reach conclusive results. He certainly has the standard to raise questions. Besides his teaching in Greece and now at Stanford, where he is director of the Prevention Research Center, he got his medical degree at Harvard and then did a fellowship in infectious disease at the highly-regarded Tufts Medical School in Boston, won the National Award of the Greek Mathematical Society and held appointments at the National Institute of Health and Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Just as Houdini exposed frauds posing as fortunetellers, Ioannidis reveals bad scientists.

The Atlantic article, by David H. Freedman, opened with a chilling anecdote about empirical evidence and the work of medicine and science. "In 2001, rumors were circulating in Greek hospitals that surgery residents, eager to rack up scalp time, were falsely diagnosing hapless Albanian immigrants with appendicitis. At the University of Ioannina medical school's teaching hospital, a newly minted doctor named Athina Tatsioni was discussing the rumors with colleagues when a professor who had overheard asked her if she'd like to try to prove whether they were true—he seemed to be almost daring her. She accepted the challenge and, with the professor's and other colleagues' help, eventually produced a formal study showing that, for whatever reason, the appendices removed from patients with Albanian names in six Greek hospitals were more than three times as likely to be perfectly healthy as those removed from patients with Greek names. "It was hard to find a journal willing to publish it, but we did," recalls Tatsioni. "I also discovered that I really liked research." Good thing, because the study had actually been a sort of audition. The professor, it turned out, had been putting together a team of exceptionally brash and curious young clinicians and Ph.D.s to join him in tackling an unusual and controversial agenda." And Ioannidis



Professor John Ioannidis

was off and running.

During one meeting at the Greek medical school's campus, there was a lively discussion about a study considering whether drug companies were manipulating published research to make their drugs look more effective. After a lot of back-and-forth and give-and-take that seemed to be missing the point, Freedman - who attended the meeting - wrote that, "Ioannidis, who had mostly been listening, delivered what felt like a coup de


grâce: wasn't it possible, he asked, that drug companies were carefully selecting the topics of their studies—for example, comparing their new drugs against those already known to be inferior to others on the market—so that they were ahead of the game even before the data juggling began? "Maybe sometimes it's the questions that are biased, not the answers," he said, flashing a friendly smile. Everyone nodded. Though the results of drug studies often make newspaper headlines, you have to wonder whether they prove anything at all. Indeed, given the breadth of the potential problems raised at the meeting, can any medical-research studies be trusted?"

That's what Ioannidis work has been questioning as well and that question, as the article noted, has been central to his career as what's known as a meta-researcher who has become one of the world's foremost experts on the credibility of medical research. He and his team have shown, again and again, and in many different ways, that much of what biomedical researchers conclude in published studies—conclusions that doctors keep in mind when they prescribe antibiotics or blood-pressure medica-

tion, or when they advise us to consume more fiber or less meat, or when they recommend surgery for heart disease or back pain—is misleading, exaggerated, and often flat-out wrong. He charges that as much as 90% of the published medical information that doctors rely on is flawed.


His work has been widely accepted by the medical community; it has been published in the field's top journals, where it is heavily cited; and he is a big draw at conferences. Given this exposure, and the fact that his work broadly targets everyone else's work in medicine, as well as

everything that physicians do and all the health advice we get, Ioannidis may be one of the most influential scientists alive. He worries that the field of medical research is so pervasively flawed, and so riddled with conflicts of interest, that it might be chronically resistant to change.



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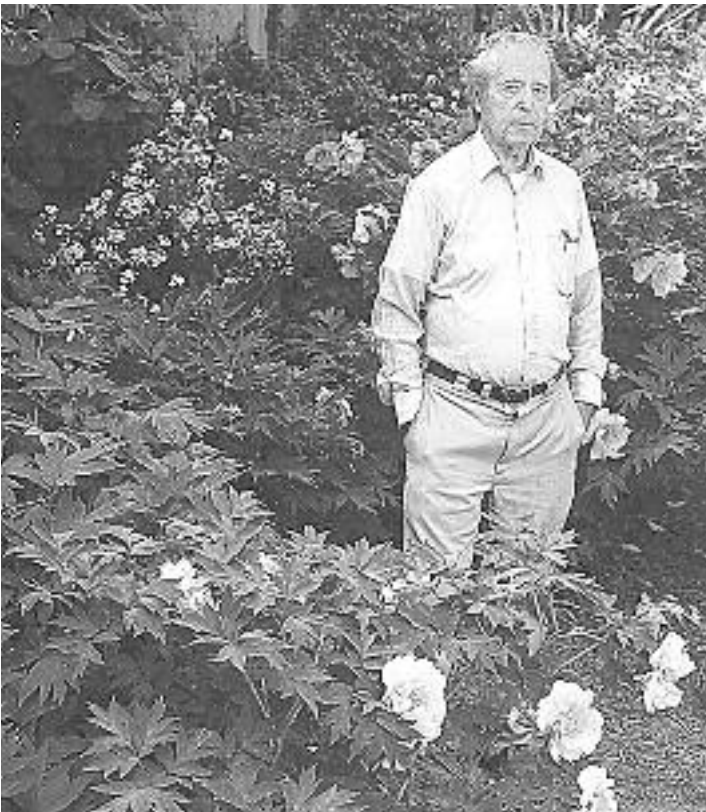
*Kali's ηρθατε
Dimitrios*

Nassos Daphnis, a Modern Artist of Geometry and Noted Gardener, Dies at 96

By William Grimes
New York Times

Nassos Daphnis, a Greek-American artist who deployed brilliantly colored geometric forms in precise formal relationships to create nervous, dynamic paintings on a heroic scale, died on Nov. 23 in Provincetown, Mass. He was 96 and lived in Manhattan. The cause was Alzheimer's disease, his son, Demetri, said in announcing the death. Mr. Daphnis, a florist by early training and a renowned cultivator of hybrid tree peonies, drew on his sensitivity to color and his keen understanding of nature's geometry to develop a precise, hard-edged painting style that harked back to Mondrian and looked forward to minimalism. Its dynamism depended on the tense juxtapositions of primary colors arranged in rectangles, squares and curved lines to create what he called "vibrations."

The critic Brian O'Doherty, reviewing a 1961 show at the Leo Castelli Gallery in The New York Times, called Mr. Daphnis "a modern purist concerned with the almost scholastic dialogue of pure colors imprisoned in bands and rectangles." Nassos Panagiotis Daphnis was born on July 23, 1914, in Krokeai, near



Nassos Daphnis in a beloved garden he loved to cultivate. PAEONIA.CH

Sparta, in Greece. He emigrated to the United States as a teenager and worked at his uncle's shop in Manhattan's flower district, where, in his spare time,

he drew the plants around him. He struck up a friendship with another florist's assistant, the sculptor Michael Lekakis, who offered him the use of his studio.

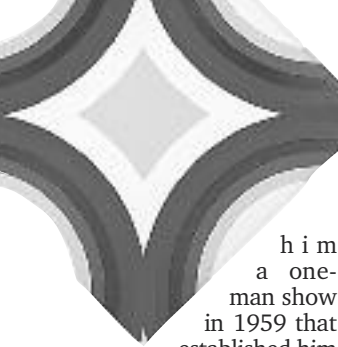
His first works were naive paintings of remembered Greek scenes and episodes from classical myth, on display in his first show, at Contemporary Arts on 57th Street, in 1938.

In 1942 he was drafted into the Army, which put him to work camouflaging trucks in Italy and making large-scale topographical maps in Germany. The devastation inflicted on the Italian countryside inspired him to create dark, surreal landscapes, thickly painted with a palette knife, after his return to the United States. While spending summers at artists' colonies in Rockport, Mass., and Provincetown, he began painting biomorphic abstractions, with a Technicolor palette, based on the marine life he observed.

On a visit to Greece in 1950, Mr. Daphnis underwent a kind of visual conversion, dazzled by the intensity of light that seemed to transform color into flat planes. At a time when Abstract Expressionism placed a premium on psychological intensity and spontaneous mark making, he coolly arranged color in precise, controlled patterns on the canvas. In his color-plane theory, black commanded a forward position, with blue, red and yellow progressively receding toward

white, which represented infinity. "The important thing for me was to place the color in its proper plane, which I feel is the only way that a color can exist," he said in an oral history interview for the Smithsonian Institution's Archives of American Art in 1964.

His work was ignored until Leo Castelli gave



him a one-man show in 1959 that established him as a leading exponent of geometric abstraction. In the mid-1960's Mr. Daphnis embraced curves and spheres, whose possibilities he exploited with unflagging invention. The Continuous Painting, first exhibited in 1975, created a gallery-filling environment of modular paintings of four-pointed stars. The canvases, each more than

nine feet high, formed an unbroken series that measured more than 86 feet in length. In the mid-1990's, Mr. Daphnis put his spheres into visual orbit. In "Energies in Outer Space," a show at Castelli, saucer-shaped disks hovered over pinstriped fields. In a simultaneous show at the Andre Zarre Gallery, Matter in Outer Space, solid-seeming discs, like the rings of Saturn, floated near black and turquoise planetary forms.

Mr. Daphnis enjoyed equal fame in the gardening world. Indeed, he often said that he had two careers, as an artist and as a horticulturist, a pursuit that began in the late 1930's when William Gratwick, a renowned breeder of hybridized tree peonies, bought one of his first paintings. Mr. Gratwick invited him to paint the tree peonies at his experimental nursery in Pavilion, N.Y., and Mr. Daphnis soon became a partner in developing new crossbreeds, which he named after artists or characters from Greek mythology. His work yielded some of the most esteemed varieties grown today, including Hephestos, Nike, Pluto and Gauguin. In addition to his son, of Manhattan, he is survived by a daughter, Artemis Daphnis of Ossining, N.Y., and a brother, Demetrios, of Jamaica, Queens.

DEATHS

■ **BOZA, DIMITRA**
NEW BEDFORD, Mass. - The Standard-Times reported that Dimitra Boza, 84, passed away unexpectedly on December 7 at St. Luke's Hospital. She was born in Megapolis, Greece. She was a member of St. George Greek Orthodox Church. Dimitra was formerly employed as a lunch aide for the New Bedford Public School Department for many years until her retirement. She was a member and Past President of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society. She was a devoted grandmother and a talented cook. She was predeceased by her parents, her brothers, John and George and her beloved husband Stephen. She is survived by her children, Stratis Boza, John Boza, Mary Boza and Zoe Boza; her loving granddaughter, Stephanie Mary Boza; her siblings, George Broufas, Peter Broufas and Katina Kapsoulia; and numerous nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held at St. George Greek Orthodox Church. Visitation was held at the Saunders-Dwyer Funeral Home. To sign the guestbook, visit: www.saundersdwyer.com.

■ **DARRAS, DIMITRIOS**
PALM BEACH, Fl. - The Palm Beach Post reported that Dimitrios Darras, 62, passed away peacefully on December 3. He was born in Greece and moved to the South Florida area in 1983. He was a member of the Greek Community and enjoyed music, fishing and reading. Dimitrios was also a musician in his own Greek Band. He is survived by his beloved wife of 34 years, Konstantina; his son, Christos; his sisters, Ritsa (Apostolis) Karakostanti and Panagiota (Vasilios) Valis; and many nieces and nephews. Visitation and a Trisagion prayer service were held at St. Catherine Greek Orthodox Church with Father Andrew Maginis officiating. To express condolences and/or make donations, visit: PalmBeachPost.com/obituaries.

■ **GAVARIS, PANOREA**
CHICAGO, Ill. - The Chicago Tribune reported that Panorea Gavaris, 83, passed away peacefully. She was born in Petrina, Laconia, Greece. She was predeceased by her beloved husband John and her brother and sister-in-law Elias and Konstantina. She is survived by her step-daughter, Voula (Jim) Theoharis; her siblings, Christ (Voula), John (Antonia) Chloarakos, Garafalia Kakourous, Demetra Kapasouris and Voula (George) Panoutsos; her sister-in-law, Stavroula Gavaris; and numerous nieces and nephews. Visitation was held at the Smith-Corcoran Funeral Home and funeral services were held at the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to St. Demetrios Church, 2727 W. Winona St. Chicago, IL 60625, would be appreciated. Arrangements will be handled by John G. Adinamis, Funeral Director, LTD. (773) 736-3833.

■ **GLYNOS, NICHOLAS**
NAPLES, Fl. - The Naples Daily News reported that Nicholas Glynos, 89, passed away peacefully on December 6 in Naples, Florida surrounded by his family. Nick was born on December 31, 1920 in Andros, Greece. He immigrated to the United States in 1947 and opened his first restaurant in Jersey City. He

married his beloved wife of 57 years, Athena Mendrinos, on January 4, 1953. Nick purchased the Circle Diner in Flemington, NJ in 1955, which he owned and operated for 30 years. Soon after his retirement, he moved to Marco Island, Florida where he enjoyed deep sea fishing and golfing. He was an active member of St. George Greek Orthodox Church and the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church. Nick was a long time member of Copper Hill Country Club, Island Country Club, a member of Rotary and received the honor of Rotarian of the Year in 1980, a 33rd degree Mason and member of the Order of AHEPA. Nick had a remarkable passion for life and an amazing spirit of generosity. His never ending eagerness to help others will be his legacy. He touched countless lives with his compassion and big heart. Nick is survived by his wife, Athena; his children, Irene (Michael) Sorich, Frances (Chris) Gacos and Peter (Cynthia) Glynos; and his grandchildren, Stephanie, Alexis and Elena Sorich, Nicoletta and Christopher Gacos, and Nicholas and Sofia Glynos. Visitation and a Trisagion prayer service were held at Fuller Funeral Home. Funeral services were held at St Katherine's Greek Orthodox Church. The family asks that any donations be made in Nick's name to St. Katherine's Greek Orthodox Church in Naples, Fl. For online condolences, visit: fullerfuneralhome.com.

■ **KEZIOS, CONSTANTINOS**
CHICAGO, Ill. - The Chicago Tribune reported that Constantinos Kezios, 63, passed away peacefully. He was predeceased by his parents, George and Maria Kezios. He is survived by his children, Amanda, Renee and Jason Kezios; his siblings, Spiro and Elena Kezios; and numerous cousins in Chicago and Greece. Visitation was held at Smith-Corcoran Funeral Home and funeral services were held at the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church. Arrangements will be handled by John G. Adinamis, Funeral Director, LTD. (773) 736-3833.

■ **NIKOLOPOULOS, NIK**
MUNSTER, IN - The Times reported that Nik Nikolopoulos, 82, passed away peacefully on December 11. Nik was born in Greece and immigrated to the United States. He worked at LTV Steel for many years. He was also a member of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church. He was preceded in death by his parents; his brother and a brother-in-law. He is survived by his beloved wife, Kaliopi; his children, Dino (Nancy), George Nikolopoulos, Chris (Jim) Aneziris and Joanne (Frank) Vega; his grandchildren, Kathy and Kosta Aneziris and Niko Nikolopoulos; his sister, Kathy Dousias; and numerous nieces, nephews and in-laws. Visitation and a Trisagion prayer service were held at the Burns-Kish Funeral Home. Funeral services were held at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church Fr. David Bissias officiating. For further information, visit: www.burnskish.com

■ **PARAS, THOMAS**
CLEVELAND, Ohio - The Plain Dealer reported that Thomas Paras passed away. He was born in a mountain village in Greece and as a teenager he became a soldier resisting the communists in the Greek Civil War. He immigrated to the United States to

study medicine in Cleveland. He became a cardiothoracic surgeon and installer of the first pacemaker in Northeast Ohio. He was Chief of Staff at Parma General Hospital, a sailor and journeyman who attempted a solo crossing of the Atlantic as an octogenarian and subsequent survivor of a maritime incident in the Bermuda Triangle. He was also an extraordinary gardener, political debater, lamb roaster, tale spinner, dog enthusiast, brother, husband, father, grandfather, uncle, mentor and friend. For further information, visit: www.buschfuneral.com.

■ **REED, IRENE**
SEATTLE, WA. - The News Tribune reported that Irene Reed, 52, passed away on November 29 surrounded by loved ones. She was born on March 22, 1958 in Corfu, Greece. Irene worked for Madigan Army Medical Center for 31 years. She loved spending time with friends and family and playing Bingo and traveling. Irene was the strength of her family and will be greatly missed. She was loved by all who knew her and she leaves an empty space in their hearts which can never be filled. Irene is survived by her mother, Georgia Scafturon; her daughters, Tonia and Jessica Reed; her grandchildren, Larissa Knighten and Khacia Berry; her significant other, Steve Fijalka; and extended family in Greece. Funeral services were held at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church.

■ **SEMERZAKIS, NICHOLAS**
HARTFORD, Conn. - The Hartford Courant reported that Nicholas Semerzakis, 87, passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by his beloved family and friends. He was born in Brooklyn and spent most of his childhood in Rhodes, Greece. He returned to the United States after World War II. He went back to Rhodes to marry his childhood sweetheart, Stratoni Kambouris, with whom he shared 57 wonderful years. Nicholas enjoyed the company of many close friends through his years as a tradesman, entrepreneur and, in retirement, a philanthropist. His professional career included years as a Pipe Inspector at Electric Boat and the owner/operator of Ashford Pizza. After retiring to Greece with his wife, they enjoyed traveling back and forth between their two beloved countries, frequently enjoying visits from their children, grandchildren and just recently, a great grandchild. Nicholas was an avid violinist and loved classical music. He served as a member of AHEPA, and the Parish council in Bati, Rhodes, Greece. In Greece, he also took it upon himself to restore the iconography of the Panagias tis Kimisis monastery and portions of the architecture of the Yiannis Theologos Church. He is survived by his beloved wife, Nicki; his children, John (Teresa) Semezakis, Carrie (Gary) Stevens, Vasilios Semerzakis and Mary (Anthony) Semerzakis-Tolokan; and his grandchildren and a great grandchild, Vasilios (Eleni) Diakogeorgiou, Jesse (Katie) Stevens, Nikki Stevens, Niko & Peter Semerzakis, Marissa Grant, Erianthi Semerzakis, Yanni and Alek Tolokan and Kyr-iakoula Diakogeorgiou. Funeral services were held at the Three Hierarchs Greek Orthodox Church. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Three Hierarchs Greek Orthodox Church, 28 Dog Lane,

Storrs, CT 06268. To offer memories or words of sympathy, visit <http://www.potterfuneral-home.com>.

■ **THEODOROU, GEORGE**
ROCHESTER, NY - The Rochester Democrat and Chronicle reported that George Theodorou, 50, passed away suddenly on December 7. He was an Air Force Veteran. He was predeceased by his father, Thomas. He is survived by his beloved wife Suki; his children, Michelle, Jason and Paul; his mother, Agapi; his brothers, Dimitrios (Athena), Paul (Vasiliki) and Ioannis (Dafni); his nephews and nieces, Thomas (Giusi), Chris, Agapi, Julia (Mike), Minas (Dora), Polixeni and Damianos; and many uncles, aunts, cousins and friends. A 40-day memorial service will be held on January 16, 2011 at the Greek Orthodox Church. Contributions in George's memory may be made to the Greek Orthodox Church, 962 East Ave, Rochester, NY.

■ **TZANAKOS MARIA**
PITTSBURGH, Penn. - The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reported that Maria Tzanakos, 74, passed away peacefully on December 6. She is survived by her beloved husband, George Tzanakos; her children, Metanthi (Vicki) Tzanakos and Evangelia (Lisa) Tzankaos and by her brothers and sisters in Greece. Visitation and a Trisagion prayer service were held at the Stephen M. Brady Funeral Home. Funeral services were held at the St. George's Chapel. For further information and to send condolences, visit: post-gazette.com/gb.

■ **ZALIARES, COULA**
DENVER, CO - The Denver Post reported that Coula Zaliars, 99, passed away peacefully. She was born in Kalamata Greece in 1911. She was united in marriage to Theodore Zaliars on June 18, 1932 in Kalamata. The couple immigrated to the United States and settled in Alliance, Nebraska. In 1961, the family moved to Denver, Colorado where she owned and operated Quality Draperies for 35 years. Coula was preceded in death by her daughter, Janice in 1942 and her husband Theodore in 1973. She is survived by her daughters, Georgia Stavropoulos and Connie Armatas; her grandchildren, John (Amy), Ted (Cynthia), Mark (Lisa), Georgia Marie, Kyrie (Scott), Andrea (John) and Sam; and her great-grandchildren, Nicholas, Gabrielle, Katiana, Demitra, Danielle, Ellie, Yanni, Antigone, Ariadne, Constantina, Ezekiel and Michael. A Trisagion prayer service and funeral services were held at the Assumption Greek Orthodox Cathedral. In lieu of flowers, donations are suggested to: The Assumption Cathedral Benevolent Fund.

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

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Greeks Take To The Streets Again, Violence Erupts

Continued from page 1

grenades as the violence escalated outside Parliament and spread to other parts of the capital, but it was over in a matter of a couple of hours. Angry unions triggered the 24-hour strike to protest new labor reforms and pay cuts as Greece struggles to reshape its economy under conditions set by a \$146 billion international bailout. The strike also grounded flights, closed factories, disrupted hospitals and shut down trains, ferries and buses across the country. In Athens, youths wearing black masks and ski goggles used sledgehammers to smash paving stones and hurled the rubble at police. A post office near Parliament briefly caught fire, forcing employees and bystanders to run for safety. Christmas shoppers fled as rioters hurled petrol bombs wrapped in bundles of firecrackers, causing small explosions when they landed. Rioting youths torched several cars, overturned trash bins and vandalized storefronts, tossing Christmas decorations into the street.

At least 10 people were detained and five were hurt, including a conservative politician who was beaten in the street by protesters. Two people were injured in Athens and three in Greece's second largest city, Thessaloniki, where another anti-austerity protest turned violent. The violence erupted after 20,000 protesters marched to Parliament, chanting "No sacrifice for the rich!" Crippled by high budget deficits and a mountain of debt, Greece was saved from bankruptcy in May by an international rescue loan package. In return, the Socialist government slashed pensions and salaries, hiked taxes, raised retirement ages and eased restrictions on private sector layoffs. The government won a key vote in parliament on new labor reforms that include deeper pay cuts, salary caps and involuntary staff transfers at state companies. The new law also reduces unions' collective bargaining power in the private sector, allowing employers to substantially cut salaries.

Unions said the strike was aimed to pressure the Socialists into slowing down the spending cuts they said were hurting average Greeks. "There is huge participation in this strike ... I believe it will put pressure on the government," Stathis Anestis, deputy leader of Greece's largest union, the GSEE, told The Associated Press. "We want the government to take back the latest labor law that will hurt workers' rights." Journalists also didn't work, so Greeks who couldn't get the news on the Internet were unaware of what was happening. All the minority opposition parties opposed the reforms, which left-wing parties claim will take labor relations "back to the Middle Ages." Papandreou's Socialists insisted they needed to turn around loss-making public corporations while saving private sector jobs by allowing struggling businesses to cut costs.

SOME DISSENT

Despite the approval of measures aimed at cutting private workers salaries now too, there were reports that PASOK's consensus was dwindling. Finance Minister George Papaconstantinou received a verbal battering when he appeared before a group of PASOK MPs, and the attack continued when he later responded to questions from a parliamentary committee. The PASOK deputies expressed concern about the latest set of measures, which include legislation that would allow companies to bypass collective contracts, but also vented their anger about the government's apparent failure to consult with them before drafting the changes. "This process is nullifying the role of Parliament," said Socialist MP Yiannis Amoirdidis. "It is nullifying the



5



EUROKINISSI

After months of relative calm – undemonstrative protest marches and strikes – Athens erupted into violence again during another strike on Dec. 15 when 20,000 marchers took to the streets to vent their anger at government austerity measures. The most frightening event (1) was the attack on Costis Hatzidakis, (C) former Greek Minister for Development, despite his bodyguard putting a protective hug around him. (2) A petrol bomb explodes among riot police during clashes with protesters. (3) A jeep burns outside a luxury hotel. (4) Christmas shoppers were caught in the fracas, one being helped here. (5) The long line of protesters parading through the center of the city. (6) Greek protests are often peppered with anarchists and fringe elements and here some protesters toss petrol bombs at police.

PHOTOS: AP PHOTO/THANASSIS STAVRAKIS

Panayiotis Kouroubilis. Despite the harsh talk, Papandreou got what he wanted from his party.

PESSIMISM GROWS

The measures came amid new evidence that Greeks believe their country and economy is sinking, and as nearly 70% of young Greeks say they want to leave the country and find work elsewhere. Another poll found that 70% of Greek citizens think the economy won't recover for a long time, leaving them in dire straits. Under the strain of a debt that reached 127% of GDP, Greece narrowly escaped default this spring, prompting the government to impose a three-year austerity program that has led to scores of thousands of businesses going under. A poll in the newspaper Kathimerini found that 80% of people are not satisfied with the way the government has managed the

main opposition New Democracy conservatives, which is floundering. The survey was conducted after November's local elections, which the ruling PASOK party won with minor losses. Papandreou remains Greeks' favorite for the post of Premier. He leads New Democracy leader Antonis Samaras by 42-20% but 34% of residents said neither is suitable to run the country, a telling figure.

WILL GREECE MAKE IT?

Papandreou earlier turned to a noted economic doomsayer, New York University business Professor Nouriel Roubini, who met with the Greek leader for nearly two hours in Athens and told him that Greece must restructure its debt and devalue its currency and abandon the euro and return to the ancient drachma, which the country gave up a decade ago to join the

economy prior to 2008, noted that no matter how skillfully the budget harmonization in Greece will be made, the country will not solve the huge state debt problem. IMF Chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn also came to Athens earlier and met with Papandreou, telling him that Greece needs to restore growth, a near-mathematical impossibility as the country's economy is shrinking in the face of the austerity cuts that have led to less-than-expected tax revenues and little signs the country's notorious tax evasion problem is being solved. Some 300 pensioners marched towards the finance ministry ahead of Strauss-Kahn's visit to protest the wave of austerity measures imposed by the Greek government, but they too, like all the others who've been marching this year, were ignored.

Leo Brings N.Y. Bagels to Greece, a Welcome Taste For Hungry Customers

Continued from page 1

chain in Athens, Gavallias said he had the ingredients necessary to bring his dream of bagels in Athens a reality.

A coming-out party last Spring brought out hungry Americans as well as Greeks and eyes widened and stomachs growled at the sight of all those delicious bagels on trays, many stuffed with cream cheese, although some aficionados prefer to toast them at home with just sweet melted butter.

Greeks, who thought bagels were just bread with holes in it, are getting used to the idea of them, he said. In the beginning

they think it's bread but once they eat it and it's explained that it's boiled, that gets to them, like 'Why is it boiled,' and I tell them it makes it chewy and gives a thick exterior crust." He said: "It's moving along once they eat it, the order it." Attempts by others failed, he said, because they didn't boil them first. "You chew on it and you know it hasn't been made the right way, it's offensive," he said, adding that he takes his time, uses quality ingredients and produces bagels that are just chewy and yet crispy enough. "Baking is a really complicated process: the standing time ... the products that we use play a role in a good

product. A lot of people don't do that because it's more costly. I don't use preservatives, and they are frozen fresh, it's a good product and tastes better after it's frozen and heated up again," but, he says, with a caveat: "Not in a microwave but an oven," a trick Greeks don't know yet.

THE GREEK INFLUENCE

Gavallias said his parents, father John and mother Vivian, raised him in a Greek household, but were more liberal than most. "They weren't the totally traditional Greek parents, they are open-minded people and we had a lot of freedom," he said of himself and his two brothers living in the United States, one

working in construction and the other an actor. They were a little wary of restaurant work, though. "I liked the restaurant business but they told me not to do it because it was tiring, but I kind of enjoyed it," he said. He made his bones before his bagels, starting as a part-time delivery boy at Bridge Deli in New York City where he had a good mentor, his stepfather.

"I did everything in the restaurant business, serving, managing," he said, before moving to Murray's Bagels where he learned the real craft. While bagels are almost always assumed to be a traditional Jewish product, he said that Greek

Americans have a large hand in the business in New York City. In Athens, he makes all the classics favorites: plain, sesame seed, cinnamon raisin, poppy seed, sun dried tomato, olive, the Everything Bagel and a Fitness bagel made with whole wheat flour.

He's getting noticed. The Greek media has picked up the story and now he said he's trying to persuade big supermarket chains to put Leo's Bagels on their shelves instead of customers having to go to the few cafes where they are available. He's even thinking of opening small shops himself.

"We're looking to open a

shop and doing a design what the store might look like and we're going to try it. We're looking at a franchise that's small where it could be run by one person and have a second person to help them out," he said, and big enough to offer cold cuts and spreads and other products too.

He got to know Greece by frequent visits with his family. "We used to come every summer and spend a lot of time here. Things were different then. This is something new and I hope that as Greeks love bread they take to the products well." Americans might hope not so there's plenty left over for them.

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Bonds for the fools?

Due to the fact that the idea for issuing a bond especially tailored to Greeks abroad has been coming up so often recently, we feel the urgent need to present our views on this issue: We think that it is a bad idea. In fact it would be tantamount to taking us for fools.

Let's make ourselves perfectly clear: We believe every Greek American feels bad about the dire financial situation of the country and for the suffering of our brothers and sisters there. And we are certain that once again we will all do anything that we can to help out our relatives and friends in Greece.

We would like to remind everyone - and especially our brothers in Greece - that ever since the first immigrant stepped on this land, more than 100 years ago, he always made sure that his family had bread on the table before serving himself. He preferred seeing hospitals, schools and churches built there instead of in his new land. Not to mention the fact that thousands of young immigrant Greeks returned to fight in wars, and often died for the homeland. Let us also remind everyone of the War Relief Fund, the huge demonstrations for Cyprus, Macedonia, our fights for the rights of the Patriarchate.

However the present day crisis bears no similarity at all to the aforementioned crises. This is a pure and simple economic crisis. The sovereignty of the country is not at stake. If it were, then things would be quite different, then every sacrifice would be contemplated and justified.

In a recent Bloomberg report on the issue of the Bond for Greeks abroad, a reference is made comparing us with the Jewish American community reporting that Israel raised over 31 billions dollars from them.

This kind of comparison is wrong for two reasons: First the Jewish American community is much larger than we are and second, because the State of Israel lives under constant threat- for example the threat of a nuclear Iran- that justifies and explains their coming to her support.

In addition to that Israeli leaders are close to their American community, keeping them informed, seeking their advice, reciprocating with support.

Not so with Greek politicians. In fact a number of them have been to New York in the past year and only one or two took the time to meet with Greek Americans.

Nor did they show their appreciation for this community in the past when money, being of the borrowed variety, was not an issue...

So now, when the markets have all but discounted some kind of rescheduling for Greece, they are asking the hardworking Greek American to "invest" in Greek bonds?

Now that the Greeks of Greece send out billions of euros a month for safekeeping, they request us to sink our retirement funds there?

It is possible that these officials in Athens think our community earns its money by being appointed to a public job, with a high salary, little work and retirement in our 40's.

They probably cannot understand that our hard-earned money is not intended for gambling...

As Michal Patmios told Bloomberg: "I love Greece but I am not stupid."

Hero worship among modern Greeks

Greeks love heroes. But Greek hero worship has a dark side. The recent celebration of the 2500th anniversary of Marathon and the fate of the Athenian general Miltiades who won the battle reminds us of it.

A year after his victory Miltiades led a failed Athenian expedition against the Greek islands that supported the Persians. His rivals exploited his fall from grace. He was charged with treason and sentenced to death, but the sentence was converted to a fine he could not possibly pay, so he was sent to prison instead, where he died.

Many Greek leaders have tasted such ingratitude. John Capodistrias became the Governor-General of the newly independent Greek state in 1830. He had a brilliant vision based on education for a Greece that would be a thriving, a modern nation state. He was assassinated for his trouble. Eleftherios Venizelos had analogous dreams for Greece after his triumph at the Versailles Peace conference in 1920. Two assassins failed to kill him in Paris, but the citizens of Greece finished him off – to return later – in elections two months later.

Ingratitude seems to be such a basic, if unseemly emotion, that it might be rooted in our family experiences. Ultimately, these men and women who we make leaders and heroes are our parents writ large. Growing up, many of us go through periods of anger and disappointment with our parents, but as we get older and take up our adult responsibilities, if we are blessed with insight, we no longer dwell on their imperfections, but come to marvel at the pain they endured for their families, values and community.

Just as we mature as individuals by learning to honor our own parents, perhaps we mature as a community by honoring the contributions of the parents of others, no matter how humble their station.

They may never receive even a paper certificate for their efforts, as Sunday School teachers, members of the PTO, festival volunteers, or simply for taking their children to Greek and Sunday school, but they are nonetheless heroes, for without them our lives would have been impoverished, and our community could not exist.

It seems that since September there has been an endless string of gala dinners where we honor the rich and famous among us. Our heroes and geniuses. Genius, in its statistical description, means one in one hundred, but is there no genius and nobility in the lower 99th percentile?

A recent Question of the week in this paper asked: Should more awards to Greek Americans go to people who aren't just rich and famous?

The response was staggering, a ringing message to all those committees who select our honorees: 97 percent said we must remember people of more humble circumstances.

Here is a suggestion: Continue to honor the brightest lights among us, but at future events, shine a spotlight on the others too. A one-to-one ratio of Greek celebrities to the footsoldiers for Hellenism seems about right.

Bravo for New Greece-Israeli Friendship

To the Editor:

It appears that Greece and Israel are engaged in a new strategic relationship expressed in more frequent high level diplomatic meetings, in increased trade and in military co-operation. This development is good for Greece and good for Israel. Greece gains a stronger relationship with the only true democracy in the Middle East with advanced commercial and military technology to sell and an expanding market familiar with Greek products and eager to consume more. Israel gains the friendship of a strong EU member state with the geographic area the Israeli military needs to stage exercises against potential enemy weapons systems as well as a base of operations for military strikes in the region.

While Greece has ties to most of the Arab states, those nations are not democracies – in fact many are despotic tyrannies. It is appropriate for the country which originated democracy to have an alliance with another democracy and to beware of oppressive regimes based on the rule of the mighty not the rule of law. The Greeks and the Israelis are ancient peoples who have faced both glory and hard-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ship throughout their long histories, but who have managed to give great wisdom to the entire world. Greece and Israel are

strong democracies which share many of the same principles. This alliance is right for both countries and should be fostered

so it can grow and benefit both peoples.

Dionysios Markopoulos
Whitestone, New York

FOTOGRAFFITI



AP PHOTO/CHRISTOPHE ENA

Song and dance man

Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou surprised everyone when he said since nothing else is working to save Greece, he decided to try singing “That Old Black Magic.” The Church denounced him.

ΛΟΓΟΣ

Tis the Season to Manifest the God Within All of Us

It's that time of year again; time to free us from the shackles of the ego and extend beyond ourselves. Following so soon a holiday that ideally should remind us to be thankful and count our blessings, we now are approaching another special time that gives us reason to turn our attention to others. With everything that has been going on in our country and the world, including economic crises and social/political discord, it may be difficult for some to keep the spirit of Thanksgiving in their hearts and minds, let alone consider the plight of those around them. Yet if there ever was a time to “reach out and touch someone” with the kind of joy, love, and enthusiasm for other human beings like that exhibited by the “reborn” Ebenezer Scrooge in Charles Dickens’ 1843 novel, A Christmas Carol, this is it.

Lest we risk being haunted in the middle of the night by the spirits of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet to Come, we better learn from Scrooge's legacy of personal transformation and be willing to follow suit. Lately, however, I seem to be encountering people who are intent on retreating from life, sitting on the sidelines and reluctant to engage with others in meaningful ways, even during what should be a festive holiday season. While being interviewed on a popular radio show recently, my host, who appeared dejected and not very enthusiastic about having to go on the air, asked me if I had observed an increase in existential angst, boredom, disengagement, or disillusionment among people recently. Apparently the host had seen an

increase and wanted me not only to confirm her hypothesis but also justify her personal plight. I hope that such a pessimistic attitude and lack of enthusiasm for the miracle of life does not extend too far and that we end 2010 and begin the New Year with optimism. While the holiday season may not be a time of joy and happiness for everyone, this is not the case for most people, especially those able to shift their focus of attention from themselves to those in need or who are less fortunate. Greeting the holidays with enthusiasm by exercising the freedom to choose one's attitude - a core principle behind the search for meaning - allows the human spirit to work its wonders, especially during hard times. Rather than suffering under the crushing weight of Jacob Marley -like in chains - enthusiasm, which to the ancient Greeks was considered a form of divine possession, provides us with an antidote to despair and related symptoms along with the keys to true freedom, happiness, and well-being.

This holiday season is also a good time to talk about another topic that usually gets ignored when we feel like a victim, when life just happens to us. I'm talking about forgiveness. Getting to forgiveness is perhaps the most difficult and challenging thing that we can do to go beyond ourselves when we are so fixated on our problems,



by Dr. ALEX PATTAKOS

Special to
The National Herald

needs and demands. When things are spinning out of control it's at least comforting and cathartic, even if it doesn't really resolve anything, to be able to point the blame on others for our situation. Getting to forgiveness under such circumstances is much easier said than done. But it can be done. Our capacity to forgive provides us with yet another pathway to true freedom and self-empowerment that, at the same time, is a platform for healing what ails us and for confronting what challenges us.

Forgiveness means letting go of our suffering. It has much more to do with our own well-being than that of the person or persons we forgive. When we hold on to our suffering, resentment, hurt, or anger, we are inside ourselves with self-pity. It becomes a veil through which we see others and ourselves; it becomes something we have to feed, keep alive, and justify. If we don't, we think we allow the other person or people to be “right” in their unjust treatment of us.

But forgiveness can be one of the most powerful things we do. Like any muscle, it has to be exercised to work well. Forgiveness can be very complicated. Sometimes we think that it equates forgetting, diminishing, or condoning the misdeed, but it really doesn't. It has much more to do with freeing ourselves from its hold. Our ability

to live our lives with love, understanding, and generosity is impeded when we don't forgive. It doesn't mean that we have to love and be generous to the woman who was disloyal to us at work or the man who belittled our ideas at a staff meeting. Neither does it mean we have to love and be generous to those government officials who dropped the ball by not managing the public's business with integrity, transparency, and accountability or to those corporate executives on and off Wall Street who dangerously let the will to money trump the will to meaning at the public's expense. This is not it. But what it does mean is that we forgive them and liberate ourselves from further captivity. Love and generosity, as well as understanding, will return and on their own terms (the same holds true for things that happen to us in our personal lives and relationships.) When we authentically and enthusiastically go beyond ourselves, whether to forgiveness, unselfishness, thoughtfulness, generosity, and understanding toward others, we enter the spiritual realm of meaning. By giving beyond ourselves, we make our lives richer. This is a truth long understood at the heart of meaningful spiritual traditions. It's a mystery that can only be experienced, and when we do, we are in the heart of meaning.

Dr. Pattakos, author of Prisoners of Our Thoughts, is co-founder of a business initiative on how to live a happy, healthy, meaningful life inspired Greek culture. Readers may contact him at: aleko@theopaway.com

COMMENTARY

Being Greek-American in Palestine Means Struggling

By Maria C. Khoury

I drive down the hillsides and country side of Biblical Judea and Samaria and I blast my Greek music as I view the most spectacular of sites, especially going out of my husband's village of Taybeh, which is technically Biblical Ephraim. I can see a clear and crystal sparkle of the Dead Sea. You might guess that I have too many Greek tapes because I am a Greek by birth and an American by upbringing. One might say I am a Palestinian in spirit and by choice. My mother will not be very happy to accept this identity because she did not realize that if she uproots me from Tripoli, Greece at five years of age, I might turn out to be other than a pure Greek. The worst problem is failing to have been a perfect mother myself to three adult children who do not exactly speak Greek but know a few words. Thank God for girls, they are a bit more cooperative so I would like to confess that according to my standards, my daughter does actually speak Greek. Unfortunately, nothing is ever good enough for the traditional, closed-minded and old-fashioned Greek parents from Arcadia. My father has passed away but my mother keeps nagging why I married “an Arab,” and not just any Arab, but a

Palestinian without a homeland. I am a Greek-American in the middle of the wilderness in the West Bank, sometimes literally deciding if I should have coffee or a Taybeh Beer for breakfast. I struggle psychologically, emotionally and spiritually with each and every single day just to survive and keep my sanity. The husband owns the brewery on the side of the wall where the women own nothing at all. Since the 26 feet high separation wall was built by Israel, it is truly an open prison.

I do not even have to struggle like the regular population since just having a roof over my head, food to eat and a car to drive, I have already jumped up to being part of the top 10% of the population. In Gaza, 80% of the people cannot survive without humanitarian aid. Taybeh suffers from 50% unemployment and most Christian people run away from the miserable occupation policies to give their children a better place to live, be educated and have a future instead of the current Israeli occupation since 1967 when Israel invaded the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

It was my fate that as a Greek-American at Hellenic College in Brookline, Massachusetts, I met one of the very few non-Greek students on the campus. And what a huge big problem that he

did not marry a nice traditional Palestinian girl from his village so that my whole life I must be challenged to try and be accepted in this image. And no matter what Palestinian food I cook or Palestinian traditional dress I wear or over two hundred articles that I have written to bring awareness of the struggle for Palestine in general and the Christian Palestinian presence in specific, well, it's simply never good enough. People always identify me, as the “foreigner.” How foreign can I possibly be? I seem to look like them, talk like them but I guess will always be an outsider until the day I die. I have specifically asked my children to include the word “foreigner” following my name on my gravestone. It seems to make sense to me since as an Orthodox Christian woman I feel I am not of this world so I guess I am a

foreigner since I constantly promote the love and peace of Christ My Lord and Savior in a very violent land. I am trying to listen to the Church Fathers who say that it is through suffering we will gain our salvation. My patience has been maximized since my husband returned to invest and boost the Palestinian economy in 1995. My experience is that we are back two thousand years ago in terms of how Christians are treated in the Middle East.

I feel isolated and I am literally in the only Christian village that still exists in Palestine today and technically out of the four million Palestinians that live in the West Bank and Gaza, we are less than 2% who are Christian and even a much lower number of us actually practicing our Christian values.

Correction

In a photo caption on Page 1 of the December 11-17 edition, we incorrectly referred to the wrong Navios group company. It was the third-quarter results of Navios Maritime Acquisition (NNA), and not Navios Maritime Partners, that were celebrated at the New York Stock Exchange. Also Chairman and CEO Angeliki Frangou did not in fact ring the opening bell, but was present with his father Capt. Nicholas Frangou and company leaders for a luncheon with NYSE officials.

LETTER FROM ATHENS

Greeks Have Learned That They Are Striking Out

If the deaths of three innocent bank workers, including a young pregnant woman, firebombed in their office on May 5 during a violent uprising against the austerity measures imposed on Greece by the European Union, International Monetary Fund and European Central Bank to ensure bankers stay rich and the working class, elderly and poor remain indentured servants didn't move the slugs posing as parliamentarians in Athens to help them, why do Greek workers think an occasional ho-hum demonstration or strike will? May 5, Day of the Dead in Mexico, can now be celebrated in Greece the same way because that's the Day Democracy Died here too, and when all the steam went out of the false glory of the anarchists movement because those murderers were discredited once and for all for what they are, Molotov Cocktail-tossing cowards who rant and rave against the establishment while hiding behind hoods and gas masks, pretending to be on the side of workers while killing them. Even the tiny tangent of Greeks who thought these pusillanimous poltroons were some



by ANDY DABILIS
Special to The National Herald

find Greek Parliamentarians drawing down the likes of \$100,000 a year while real workers are paid five times less stopping at souvlaki stands because they're eating rich in Kolonaki and being chauffeured around. Greek teachers try work stoppages every so often, but many don't walk out, leaving it to the really principled to stand up for the craven, so those strikes are useless. Doctors and nurses occasionally strike for a day but come back faster than you can say, "I'm not missing any more paychecks." Unless workers go to the mattresses and stay out until they win, they lose, and that's what happens almost every time in Greece because who cares if there's no subway for four hours? Who cares if civil servants strike because so many of them are so lazy and redundant you wouldn't notice, even if they died at their desks, so a one-day work stoppage gains them nothing. Tipota. They lose.

So all those parades up and down the main streets of Athens, workers supposedly in solidarity holding hands and signs and shouting slogans, not really having to care anymore about the



Greek students and workers fighting Greek police, just the way politicians and the rich prefer.

kind of Che Guevaras had to turn away in disgust, although not as fast as the witnesses who saw the killings at the Marfin Bank and have kept quiet, to their everlasting shame and disgrace.

Since then, there have been seven general strikes, each weaker than the other, and even the routine sight of squads of riot police walking the streets like African sellers of counterfeit goods that are so prevalent here are largely ignored because once you've seen one riot cop, you've seen them all. A poll shows that 70% of Greeks believe the economy is in the toilet and they have no hope, so the other 30% are either the rich who would step over the dead and on the living, or are watching Star TV, the Greek station that shows dog singer celebrities as headline news, and those people's heads are emptier than Paris Hilton's, when it's not otherwise occupied. While the minority of decent, hard-working Greeks who care that the greatest country of Ancient Civilization has become the Zimbabwe of Europe have no standing, the rest of those who can count past one realize strikes are futile because The Troika – the EU, IMF, and ECB – hold the mortgage note on Greece's future and could foreclose any time by shutting off the flow of loans set to total \$146 billion over the next couple of years. Since Prime Minister George Papandreou is now just the errand boy for the EU-IMF-ECB, all he can do is issue the orders they give him, which means the four-hour Metro strikes, the days of garbage collectors not collecting anything except paychecks, the legions of redundant civil workers sitting at their desks waiting for death or retirement, whichever comes first and pays better, schoolteachers working for 25 years to see their pay and future shrivel and hung up like an octopus to dry before being eaten (not by them, but by the rich, the only ones left who can afford seafood), can set themselves on fire in front of the Parliament without drawing so much as a ho-hum, never mind an extinguisher.

DON'T FEAR THE REAPER

Strikes don't work unless they are to the death or victory, and the reason why the working class always loses when taking up arms against the rich and politicians is that people who work for a living never understand their opponents are ruthless, merciless people who want to win at any cost, and what they want now in Greece, Europe, and the United States is the annihilation of the middle class and putting pensioners on starvation diets. You won't

fringe anarchists who are now in the dust bin of history are just sad shows because they're not going to work. Even if they did, they'd still lose because the US, through its long arm in the IMF, and the EU won't allow it unless Greece defaults because they want your money and they don't care what it takes to get it. As the Mafia says after they loan you money: Your kid's sick? Tough! Pay us! You can't buy groceries? Tough! Pay us! The history of strikes shows how often workers, even if they have righteous causes - unlike most Greek civil servants - rarely win. In 1919, Boston police officers, including many veterans of World War I, went on strike to protest demeaning working conditions. They were right. What happened? They were fired and their replacements got much of what they demanded and the strikers found out you can't eat principle. In 1981, American air traffic controllers, who had a feeble argument dooming them from the start, went on strike and President Ronald Reagan replaced them like the replaceable integers workers really are. The police were bolstered by the victory of Boston firefighters who threatened mass resignations in August 1918 and won raises, but Massachusetts Governor Calvin Coolidge, who talked so seldom he was called "Silent Cal," opened his mouth long enough to call the strikers "deserters" and "traitors," and his reward was the U.S. Presidency, a job reserved for the truly unprincipled, and the defeat of the police set back the American labor movement for two decades, and now the rich and politicians would like to end it for good. If police officers and air traffic controllers can lose their jobs without a government blinking, what chance do redundant pencil pushers in Greece have?

In 1836, women (some as young as 10) working in the textile mills of Lowell, Massachusetts - which early in the 20th Century would become a big Greek enclave - went on strike because their pay for working 73 hours a week was being reduced 15% to \$3 a week. They organized, held hands and stood firm, saying they believed: "When you sell your product, you retain your person. But when you sell your labour, you sell yourself, losing the rights of free men and becoming vassals of mammoth establishments of a monied aristocracy that threatens annihilation to anyone who questions their right to enslave and oppress." They lost just like Greek workers today.

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The 2010 Election Results Provide Greek Opportunities

The November 2, 2010, mid-term elections, in which the Democratic Party lost control of the House of Representatives, provide the Greek American community with an opportunity to advance its issues with both major parties in the best interests of the United States. Why do I say this? My reasoning is based on the fact that when the Democratic Party had control in 2009-2010 of the White House and both chambers of the Congress, the House and the Senate, they did not take any action on our issues. The Democratic Party was all talk and no action. It was the same for the Armenian community and its issues. With the Republican Party gaining control of the House of Representatives the situation for most

The opportunity for Greek Americans to advance our issues is available if we concentrate on the Democratic and Republican leadership

interest groups changes substantially. For the Republicans, their aim in the 2012 congressional elections and presidential election will be to keep control of the House and to gain control of the White House and the Senate. The Democratic Party, in like manner, will seek to hold the White House and the Senate and regain control of the House of Representatives.

With that background the opportunity for Greek Americans to advance our issues is available if we concentrate on the Democratic and Republican leadership in the House and Senate, and on those districts and states where Greek American voters can make a difference. Greek Americans are a

recognizable minority in several key swing states such as Ohio and Pennsylvania. In swing states, the votes of interest groups are more important than in states which normally go either Democratic or Republican because each interest group's votes can determine the outcome in the state in close elections. The new Republican leadership in the House is: Speaker-Elect, Rep John Boehner (R-8th) of Ohio. The GOP Majority Leader-Elect is Rep. Eric Cantor (R-7th) of Virginia and the Majority Whip-Elect is Kevin McCarthy (R-22nd) of California. The GOP Conference Committee Chair is Rep. Jeb Hensarling (R-5th) of Texas; the Conference Vice-Chair is Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-5th) of Washington; the Conference Secretary if Rep. John Carter (R-31st) of Texas; the Republican Policy Committee Chair is Rep. Tom Price (R-6th) of Georgia; and the GOP Campaign Committee Chair is Rep. Pete Sessions (R-32nd) of Texas. The Democratic Leadership in the House is Minority Leader Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-8th) of California; the Minority Whip is Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-5th) of Maryland; the Assistant Minority Leader is Rep. Jim Clyburn (D-6th) of South Carolina; the Democratic Caucus Chair is Rep. John Larsen (D-1st) of Connecticut; the caucus Vice Chair is Rep. Xavier Becerra (D-31st) of California; and the Democratic Campaign Committee Chair is Rep. Steve Israel (D-2nd) of New York.

In the Senate, the Democrats



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kept control. The Senate Majority Leader is Harry Reid of Nevada; the Majority Whip is Senator Richard Durbin of Illinois; Senator Chuck Schumer of New York is Conference Vice Chair and Policy Committee Chair. On the Republican side the Senate Minority Leader remains Mitch McConnell of Kentucky who has not been helpful in the past. The Minority Whip is Senator Jon Kyl of Arizona; the Senate Republican Policy Committee Chair is Senator John Thune of South Dakota; the Conference Chair is Senator Lamar Alexander of Tennessee; and the Vice Chair is Senator John Barrasso of Wyoming; and the Campaign Committee Chair is Senator John Cornyn of Texas.

Ohio is an example of a swing state. In 2012, both parties will fight hard to win Ohio's electoral votes. Ohio takes on even greater significance because Rep. John Boehner, the Republican speaker-Elect of the House is from the 8th congressional district of Ohio. Virginia is a key state. The Republican Majority Leader-Elect, Eric Cantor (R-7th), is a rising star in the Republican Party. Illinois is another key mid-western state. The number two leader for the Democrats in the Senate is Senator Richard Durbin of Illinois. In dealing with our elected officials and their staffs, we should never attack their motives. We should be firm in our presentations and stress that our views are based on what we believe is in the best interests of the United States. Stress that we

support the rule of law in international affairs as in the best interests of the United States regarding the core issues of Cyprus, the Aegean, the Ecumenical Patriarchate and religious freedom in Turkey, and FYROM.

Ask for legislation withholding benefits to Turkey and placing sanction on Turkey until Turkey:

- Removes its 43,000 illegal troops and 180,000 illegal settlers/colonist from Cyprus and returns Famagusta for the resettlement of Greek Cypriot refugees;
- Returns the several thousand church properties illegally taken from the Ecumenical Patriarchate, authorizes the re-opening of the Halki Patriarchal School of Theology and provides full religious freedom and protection for the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Also ask for legislation giving American the right to sue Turkey for damages for taking and using their property in the occupied territory. Every effort should be made to visit your elected member of the House and Senate when they are in their districts and state. Call their district and state offices for appointments and also write for appointments. You can find their district and state phone numbers on <http://www.contactingthecongress.org/>.

If you want to be part of the American Hellenic Institute's grass roots leadership team, contact Executive Director Nick Larigakis by phone at 202-785-8430 or email nlarigakis@ahi-world.org. Act today, you can make a difference.

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

To Greeks, The Government is the Mortal Enemy

By D.P. Marchessini

I was most interested in your recent article about the problems in Greece, entitled Letter from Athens: Turn Out the Lights, including quotes from Mr. Michael Lewis in Vanity Fair. You raise several important points. With respect, however, I think that too many different points were mixed together, making it difficult to understand exactly what the basic problems in Greece are. There are three important points that must be addressed separately. The first is politics, which are completely different in Greece from any other country. One fact illustrates this point very clearly. The U.K. has a population of more than 60 million people, and it employs 500,000 civil servants. Greece has a population of 11 million people, and it employs exactly the same number of civil servants as the U.K., 500,000. This is, of course, outrageous, but nothing is ever done about it. To have a similar proportion of civil servants as the U.K. (which is by no means the most efficient country in Europe), the number of Greek civil servants would have to go below 100,000. Do you think the Prime Minister of Greece will ever sack 400,000 civil servants? Obviously not. The situation in Greece is never going to change. It is important to understand that this is not a question of any one political party, or of any one period of time. Civil servants took control of Greece as soon as the country became independent in 1829, and they have been there ever since, continuously growing in number. No political party can do anything about it. What Greece would need is a leader like Alexander the Great, to cut the Gordian knot. There was another incident that illustrates Greek politics. There is a lake near Thebes, and about 50 years ago the Greek government decided to drain this lake, and use the land for development. The government established offices at the lake, and hired dozens of civil servants to work out what would be the best way to accomplish this project. Amazingly enough, however, before the government did anything at all, the lake drained itself naturally. You might think that the government project would be abandoned. Not at all. They are all still there after 50 years, still being paid by the government. No one knows what they are there for. There is no attrition rate because whenever anyone retires, he is replaced. The second point is the question of culture. It is important to remember that the Anglo-Saxons - the English and the Americans - differ from Europeans. Now there is nothing wrong with that. Everyone should be free to think and behave as they like. The problem is that the Anglo-Saxons do not realize that they are different from Europeans, and they think

that everyone agrees with them, and behaves like them. This causes misunderstandings. It causes friction when the Anglo-Saxons try to impose their views on others, as they often do. There is a very important difference in life between legality and morality. If you park your car in a No-Parking Zone, or on the pavement, it is illegal, but it is not immoral. If you betray your greatest friend, that is immoral, but not illegal. When the Americans had Prohibition in the 1920's, drinking alcohol was illegal, but certainly not immoral. The Anglo-Saxons do not understand this difference very well, and they think it is immoral to break any law. The Greeks do understand the difference very well, and to them taxes may be legal, but they are certainly not moral. The income tax is a recent arrival in the world, appearing about 100 years ago, and beginning to make a difference only after the Second World War. Governments have always levied taxes, and governments have always dealt with the infrastructure of their coun-

Greeks consider paying taxes to rascals as unmanly, the same as if they gave up all their money to a mugger in the street

tries, but until relatively recently there was no income tax. Income tax was introduced for the purpose of being able to make what the Americans call "transfer payments" - that is taking money from one person or group, and giving it to another person or group. In short, robbery. In order to pass the income tax in 1913, the Americans had to amend their Constitution, because income tax was clearly against the principles of the U.S. Constitution. Income tax exists for government's convenience, not the convenience of their citizens. As the Anglo-Saxons give respect to every law, they have adopted the income tax and they think it is right and patriotic to pay taxes, and that anyone who does not do so is a bad person. Of course, they suffer from guilt, and they are also somewhat naive about their politicians. Europeans, and especially Mediterraneans, have much older civilizations, and they are much less naive. They are aware that their politicians are unprincipled rascals, who try to grab as much money as they can in order to buy votes. Greeks have no desire to pour money into this black hole. Greeks have no respect for any law unless it makes sense. Laws passed for political principles are ignored.

People who avoid paying taxes in Greece are not just the rich people, but everyone - the taxi cab driver, the shopkeeper,

the doctor, the lawyer. It is difficult for Anglo-Saxons to understand, but Greeks consider paying taxes to rascals as unmanly, the same as if they gave up all their money to a mugger in the street. For them, it is manly not to pay the rascals. Mr. Michael Lewis talks about the collapse of "civic life." What he means by "civil life," is doing what the government wants you to do. But people in Europe generally, and in Greece particularly, do not trust the government, and certainly do not respect it. Why should anyone take any notice of it? When I was in Greece some years ago, I had to go to the police station for some documentation. In the police station, every room had a big sign that said "No Smoking." But everybody in the station, including the police, were smoking. As you see, the Greeks are not too interested in Mickey Mouse rules made by politicians. Mr. Lewis does not realize that in Europe, the government is considered an enemy, who must be fought and outwitted. England is considered one of the bastions of law-abiding behavior, but when I lived in the English countryside for five years, every single workman who came to the house to do work - carpenters, builders, electricians, gardeners etc - all asked to be paid in cash. They gave the justification that in that way I would not have to pay VAT. But what they really meant was that they would not have to pay income tax. Every single person who lives in the country in England gets paid in cash. There is one thing about which I would agree with Mr. Lewis, namely that the Greek character has changed considerably since Ancient Greece. In Ancient Greece, there were principles and ideals, which everyone sought to emulate. But they had nothing to do with "civic" responsibility, as Mr. Lewis seems to think, only with personal responsibility. Most people know the story of Thermopylae, when the Spartans sent 300 warriors to hold the Straits, knowing they would all die. It was an honor to be chosen. But because the Spartans believed in family lines, they did not send men who had no sons (nor) send a father and son from the same family. Except for one family. The wife/mother of that family went to complain to the Elders, asking why she should lose both her husband and her son. Their reply was "Because you are the bravest."

After the fall of Greece to the Romans, the Ancient Greek cities eventually became part of the Byzantine Empire, which was more or less Greek. But after the fall of Constantinople in 1453, all the Balkans, including Greece, was conquered by the Ottoman Turks. Yet in 1829, an independent Greek country re-emerged. There is no other example in the history of mankind of a country being subjugated for 400 years, and yet surviving as an independent country. For this to happen, the Greeks needed great qualities of character, although not necessarily qualities that can be admired. They were clever, but to survive against the Turkish oppressors, it was necessary to deceive them, and the Greeks became very good at deception and lying. So, the Greek character changed. They could not have survived otherwise. We cannot expect the Greek character of today to be like that of Ancient Greece. It is true that there is deceit in Greek life today. But, as usual, Mr. Lewis confuses civic life and private life. Greeks do not lie, cheat or steal from each other any more than the citizens of any other countries do. But they do cheat, and believe they have the right to cheat the government. This is the opposite of the Anglo-Saxon countries, where everyone scrupulously adheres to anything the government says, but does not hesitate to lie and to cheat their own friends. Another difference between the Anglo-Saxon countries and Europe is the question of hypocrisy. In the Anglo-Saxon countries, it is not acceptable to mock or make fun of anybody. As a result, people can get away with outrageous lies. But in Europe, and especially in Greece, although people lie more than the Anglo-Saxons, everyone knows they are lying and people fall about laughing. In America, they do not laugh, they swallow it. Mr. Lewis says that Greeks "lead the party." What party? The Greeks are no more dishonest than the Italians, and they are not nearly as dishonest as the Russians. Middle Easterners are vastly more dishonest than Europeans, and so are Indians and Pakistanis. If anyone brings up the subject of honesty in the African countries, everybody falls about laughing.

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GUEST EDITORIALS

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Greek Australians Share The Undying Greek Passion for Football

By Stavros Stavridis

MELBOURNE - Greeks love their football, what Americans call soccer, as is evident from the raucous crowds at stadia around the country, full of screaming fans despite the economic downturn. And everywhere they go into the Diaspora, Greeks bring their game with them. Greek migrants to Australia have a passion for sport especially football. They established football clubs as way of maintaining their language, culture and identity in their new adopted patrida. It gave them the



The Fitzroy United Alexander Soccer Club (aka heidelberg United FC) in 1975, the year the team won its first ever Victorian State league title under senior team coach Manny Poulakakis.

opportunity to meet friends and fellow countrymen at these football games. The Greek Aussies put their own singular stamp on the game too and have provided some of the country's best players, from club to national level. Australian football is administered at a national, state and territory level. Each football jurisdiction has its own football federation with Football Federation Australia (FFA) being the prime body for the administration of the sport. FFA is a member of FIFA (the world governing body of football) and Asian Football Confederation (AFC.) It hires and fires the national team coaches, is responsible for the national team's participation in the World and Asian Cups and administration of the A-League, which replaced the former National Soccer League (NSL) from 2005.

In the state of Victoria, Football Federation Victoria (FFV) is responsible for the administration of the game within its jurisdiction. The Victorian Premier League (VPL) is the major state based competition composed of 12 teams who once represented different immigrant communities. Since the mid-1990's all football clubs throughout Australia dropped their ethnic names and national symbols to make the sport more attractive to Anglo-Australians. A number of riots involving Serbs vs. Croatian and Greek vs. "Macedonian" clubs tarnished the image of the game during the 1980's and early 1990's. The mainstream Australian media considered it an ethnic sport for migrants. In the end, the predecessor of the FFA, the Australian Soccer Federation (ASF) including the State and Territory federations in consultation with all clubs agreed to drop ethnic names and national symbols for the good of the sport in Australia.

ORGANIZATION OF VICTORIAN FOOTBALL
The current structure of the Victorian football leagues is:
1. Victorian Premier League has 12 teams
2. State League Division 1 has 12 teams
3. State League Division 2 is divided into North-West and South-East competition composed of 24 teams with each league having 12 teams each
4. State League Division 3 is divided exactly as State League Division 2
5. Provisional leagues
There is promotion and relegation between all leagues. For instance the bottom two teams from the VPL are relegated to State League Division 1 and the champion and second placed teams from State League Division 1 are promoted to the VPL. A regular VPL season involves 22 home and away games with the team finishing in first place winning the minor premiership. Then the top five teams at the end of the regu-

lar season are involved in a finals/or play-off series. Two teams play in the grand final and whoever wins this game is crowned VPL champions for that year.
GREEKS' TEAMS IN THE VPL
There are five Greek teams South Melbourne Football Club (Hellas), Heidelberg United FC (Megas Megas Alexandros,) Bentleigh Greens (Pan Kyprios,) Northcote City (Iraklis) and Oakleigh Cannons in the VPL. The team names in brackets are how they reported in the local Greek press and how their supporters call them, the Greek and English

old Victorian State League 1961-1976 and former National League 1977-2004. After the NSL folded up in 2004, Hellas returned to the VPL. These two teams attracted between 15,000-20,000 fans when they played against each other in the former glory days. Now they are lucky to attract between 2, 000-3,000 at their local derbies.

Northcote City was established in 1960. It won the State League Division 1 title in 2009 and was promoted to the VPL for the 2010 season. In its first season back in the VPL since 1990, it finished 5th and also made the finals. They lost the first elimination final to Heidelberg United 3-1. It was Megas Alexandros' finals experience that proved the difference between the two teams. Peter Tsolakis is the senior coach who had distinguished playing career with Port Melbourne Sharks (Nea Hellas,) Megas Alexandros and Hellas. Northcote City has allowed Hellas use of its home stadium, John Cain Reserve to play their home games until the upgrade of Bob Jane Stadium is completed in some 18 months time.

Heidelberg United was founded by Greek-Macedonians in 1958. It had an excellent 2010 season despite all its setbacks from the end of 2009. All the first team squad of 17 players walked

the past VPL season, Megas Alexandros was on the bottom of the competition ladder and had not even won a game. It had only managed a few draw results and looked like a relegation candidate. The next 13 weeks was a remarkable turnaround with the team finishing fourth on the league table. During the regular season, Northcote City twice defeated Megas Alexandros 5-1. It avenged these losses during the finals. Unfortunately Megas Alexandros did not make this years grand final.

Pan Kyprios was established by Greek-Cypriot migrants in the late 1970's. It was promoted to the VPL for the 2010 season after finishing 2nd to Northcote City in State League Division 1 in 2009. This club played in the VPL from 1995-2005 and State league Division 1 2006-2009. Some of the discontented Heidelberg players joined this club and helped it to survive in the VPL. During one stage of the season, Pan Kyprios looked like making the finals but a string of bad results pushed it into the relegation zone. They survived by the skin of their teeth. The major consolation was when it won the Hellenic Cup tournament by defeating Hellas in the final back in February 2010.

Oakleigh Cannons was founded in 1972. It won promotion to the VPL in 2004 and has been a consistent performer finishing usually in the top half of the competition table. They played in the finals during the years 2004-2007. Unfortunately Oakleigh finished seventh on the league table just missing out in the 2010 finals. At one stage of the season, Oakleigh was in 1st place but a string of losses saw it drop down the league table. It is a well-administered club, which receives lots of support from the large Greek community of Oakleigh, a suburb located in the south-east part of Melbourne. John Anastasiadis is the current senior coach who played for Megas Alexandros during the late 1980s. He signed for POAK, Thessaloniki for whom he played from 1988-1998 and joined Hellas as player in 1998.

Three football clubs: South Melbourne United, Hellenic and Yarra Park Aias (Ajax) merged to form South Melbourne Hellas in 1960. They failed to make the 2010 finals. Hellas is a famous club with a proud 50-year history where a number of great players have worn the blue and white jersey. Famous senior coaches such



The Heidelberg United team that won the Victorian Premier League grand final in 2001.



The Northcote City team squad.

as Kostas Nestoridis 1966-67, Ferenc Puskas 1990-91 and Manny Poulakakis at various times have coached this famous team. It signed a number of discontented Heidelberg players in 2010. At one stage of the 2010 VPL season,

Alexandros goalkeeper. This was the first time that such an incident happened between these two teams.
In accordance with FFV rules, its disciplinary committee deducted six points from Hellas for



The South Melbourne Hellas team in the early 1960's at Melbourne's Olympic park.

Hellas seemed a potential relegation team but got its act together and just missing out making the finals. During the 2010 VPL season, Hellas played Megas Megas Alexandros at its home ground known as the Bob Jane Stadium. Some Hellas fans invaded the pitch and attacked the Megas

crowd violence. Under FIFA and FFV rules, a team is responsible for security and behavior of its fans at its home ground. Hellas took this matter to the Victorian Supreme Court arguing that the decision of the FFV disciplinary committee wrong. However the Supreme Curt upheld the original FFV disciplinary committee decision. If Hellas had these six points reinstated, then it would have made the finals.

OTHER DIVISIONS

Briefly looking at State League Division 1 and State League Division 2 North West where other Greek teams: Western Suburbs (PanHellenios) and Port Melbourne Sharks (Nea Hellas) compete. Panhellenios have just missed out on promotion to the VPL for 2011. Former great Greek international Mimi Papaionnou played for them back in the late 1970s. They had previous stints in the VPL in 1980, 1984-88 and 2007-08 and have been a consistent team in State League Division 1. Nea Hellas is 2010 State League Division 2 North West champions and is promoted to State League Division 1 for the 2011 season. Former Alexander player, Eric Vassiliadis has re-energized this club by winning promotion in his first year as player/coach. This team was in the VPL from 1994-2003 and made the finals on several occasions. It lost the 2001 VPL grand final to Megas Alexandros on a penalty shoot-out. It was relegated to State League Division 1 in 2004 and State League Division 2 North West in 2008. There could be seven Greek teams playing in the VPL in 2012 providing none of the present 5 teams are relegated to State League Division 1.

Stavros Stavridis worked at the former national Hellenic center (EKEME) at Latrobe Univ in Melbourne and co-authored a book on the history of Greek-Australian soccer clubs 1930-2007 that remains unpublished due to a legal battle dispute between the friends of EKEME and Latrobe University.

Greek Players in the Australian Football Leagues

While Greeks and Greek Australians have excelled in soccer, which is called football, they've also done themselves proud in Australian rules football, a sport played between two teams of 22 players (18 on the field, and four interchanges) on either an Australian rules football ground or a modified cricket field. It resembles rugby. Here are the most noted of the Greek players over the years.



Beveridge

LUKE BEVERIDGE

- In 2002 Beveridge was elected in the AFL Greek Team of the Century reserved for players having full or partial Greek heritage since his grandfather originates from the island of Samos

PAUL BULLUSS ANG CHRISTOU

- Christou played for the Carlton Football Club and along with Anthony Koutoufides was a popular figure as a Greek Australian. Christou will always be



Christou

membered for his thumping left foot kick, upwards of 60-65 metres. Whenever taking a kick, short or long, a chant from the Carlton crowd of "WOOF!" would always be heard

PETER DAICOS

- He is one of the greatest players in the history of the Australian Football League, being a member of the AFL Hall of Fame and was renowned for his consistent ability to kick freakish goals from seemingly impossible angles. During his 250 game career his league honours include a premiership, being named All-Australian three times and kicking the Goal of the Year. He also represented his home state of Victoria a total of five times

Andrew Demetriou
Josh Francou
Gary Frangalas

re - John Georgiades
John Georgiou
Con Gorozidis
Athas Hrysoulakis
Peter Kanis
Arthur Karanickolas
Paul Koulouriotis
Spiro Kourkoumelis
Anthony Koutoufides

- Played with with the Carlton Football Club. One of the most powerful and athletic players of all-time, he played in almost every position and was often called the prototype of the modern footballer. Of Greek and Italian descent, Koutoufides has been an Australian celebrity making numerous television appearances both during and after his football career

Angelo Lekkas
Stephen Malaxos
Spiro Malakellis
Tony Malakellis
Alex Marcou
Daniel Metropolis
Russell Morris

- In 2004, chosen as a member of the AFL Greek Team Century.

Albert Pannam
Charlie E. Pannam
Charlie H. Pannam
Chris Pavlou
Phil Poursanidis
Lou Richards
Ron Richards
John "Spiro" Rombotis
Tony Spassopoulos
Jason Triainidis
Zeno Tzatzaris
Vasil Varlamos

- Played for Carlton in the Victorian Football League (VFL) during the early 1960's. He is a half back flanker in the Greek Team of the Century
David Zaharakis



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