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Gay Day Finally Comes to Greece

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Greek Parliament legalizes same-sex civil partnerships

ATHENS, Greece (AP) Greece's parliament has overwhelmingly approved legislation legalizing civil partnerships for gay couples, two years after the country was condemned by a European human rights court for discrimination.

In a result announced early Wednesday, lawmakers voted 193-56 in favor of the bill to extend civil partnerships to samesex couples, but provisions regarding family law that could pave the way for adoption applications by gay couples were dropped before the vote.

Conservative bishops in Greece's powerful Orthodox Church vehemently opposed the law, arguing that it undermined the institution of family.

"Homosexuality is a deviation from the laws of nature. It is a social crime, a sin. Those who experience or support it are not normal people," said Bishop Amvrosios of the southern town of Kalavryta, where church bells tolled in opposition to the bill.

In a 2013 ruling, the Council of Europe's Court of Human Rights found that Greek legislation was discriminatory and ordered Greece to pay damages to the gay couples who brought the

Civil partnerships, introduced in 2008, are favored by couples seeking legal rights without getting married or who are deterred by lengthy divorce procedures. But same-sex couples were barred from civil partnerships.

Lawmakers from the governing leftist Syriza party backed the bill, standing to clap when it passed, while the main opposition conservatives were split on the vote. The human rights group Amnesty International called the new law a "significant and historic step in the right direction."

Several hundred pro-gay rights protesters gathered outside parliament before the vote, under a large banner that read "Love is the law." "This is a good start, even though this law doesn't cover everything," Philippos Paganis, a 21-year-old member of the gay rights group Colour Youth, told the AP. "We want to keep up the pressure ... for samesex marriages to be allowed that gives you more rights — and to make it easier for people to declare their gender," he said.

The new legislation allowing civil partnerships for same-sex couples is expected to take effect early next year once it is published in the government gazette.

Archdiocese Spotlights SNF Gift

NEW YORK - The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America issued a special announcement about two gifts honoring the memory of the late Archbishop Iakovos. The Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) has donated more than \$2 million, and its co-President Andreas Dracopoulos made a personal donation exceeding \$1 million for the Reflection Area of the National African American Museum of History & Culture, in Washington, DC, to be named after Archbishop Iakovos.

Dracopoulos told TNH that he and SNF made the donations in Iakovos name, "who dared under very difficult conditions of that time to march alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the 1965 Selma, AL civil rights march.

The Iakovos area will be a

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The Cathedral School's Children Light Up Upper East Side

The Christmas pageant of The Cathedral School of the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity had delightful students filled with holiday spirit in the spotlight in Manhattan.

TNH/COSTAS BEJ

Antonellos' Entrepreneurial Spirit

By Constantine S. Sirigos TNH Staff Writer

NEW YORK - The Greek-American community's youth is not only its future - it is its most dynamic present element. New Jersey's Greek American Chamber of Commerce, whose slogan is "connecting and promoting Hellenic Professional and Businesses, knows that, and it recently presented its Young Entrepreneur Award to Nikos

The 25-year old founder and President of Sidekicks Support Service, whose services to special needs children is life enhancing for them and virtually life-saving for their parents, shared the story of the remarkable firm he established as a college student three years ago.

His upbringing is typical, but his success at such a young age, even in the high achieving Greek-American community is extraordinary in both commercial and humanitarian terms.

His parents, George and Kathy, raised him and his younger brother Stefano in Hamilton, near Trenton, NJ. He grew up in the family restaurant and told TNH "we were always involved with the Church; we would always help out at the Greek festival – I would cut the

Growing up he was heavily into soccer. "I lived and breathed soccer." His passion and ability earned him a partial scholarship to play four years on the varsity team at Elizabeth-

town College in Pennsylvania. He majored in business administration with a concentration in entrepreneurship, so he had plan in case he did not

Antonellos enjoyed courses like New Venture Creation and Business and Society in addition to the basic marketing and management classes which he also

While his professors were full timers, he agrees that some of the many successful Greek-American business persons should consider sharing their knowledge and experiences with young people as adjunct professors. REAL WORLD THRIVING

Sidekicks was actually born in college. "It was a final project," he told TNH, and originally he was going to establish a breakfast sandwich place, deep in his comfort zone.

But said to himself "Why not venture out? I have been doing the food thing all my life."

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Mitsotakis Has ND Momentum as Jan. 10 **Runoff Looms Big Now**

ATHENS - An election for the leadership of main opposition New Democracy Party (ND) has failed to produce a clear winner and a runoff will take place on January 10, Party officials said.

ΕΘΝΙΚΟΣ ΚΗΡΥΞ

Evangelos Meimarakis, 62, a former Parliament speaker and minister and the Party's acting leader from July to November 2015, won some 40 percent of the party members' vote. Kyriakos Mitsotakis, 47, a former Administrative Reform Minister whose father was a Prime Minister, won second place with about 30 percent.

Turnout for the Dec. 20 elections was unusually high, with more than 400,000 party faithful turning out as the Conservatives try to reassemble them-selves after taking twin beatings this year at the hands of the ruling Radical Left SYRIZA, which triumphed in January and then again in snap elections on Sept. 20, when Meimarakis was the interim chief.

The leadership rivals are considered moderate, with Mitsotakis seen as the reform candidate and Meimarakis representing the entrenched party interests but maintaining strong sup-port despite being trashed by Prime Minister and SYRIZA leader Alexis Tsipras.

The runoff is required because no candidate got the 50 percent needed to win outright, with the other challengers, Central Macedonia Regional Governor Apostolos Tzitzikostas, at 20 percent, and former Health Minister Adonis Georgiadis, at 12 percent, winding up as also-

Georgiadis immediately declared his support for his former cabinet colleague Mitsotakis. "I will support his candidacy for three reasons," said Georgiadis.

"Firstly, because I feel the time for renewal has come. Secondly, because it is important for two people with different ideologies to cooperate and help the entire party express itself. And, thirdly, because Kyriakos and I have already worked together perfectly and imple-

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Greek Lights up Bay Ridge for Christmas

Isidoros Bilarikis from Chios, the owner of Athens Home Contracting, also known as Sam Bilas, is known as well for having the best-decorated house in Brooklyn for Christmas. His Bay Ridge residence attracts admirers from near and far.

Constantina Rhodes: The Power of Intuition

By Penelope Karageorge

Remember when you got that vibe, followed your instincts - rationality had nothing to do with it -- met that person and lived happily ever after? Or did not follow a hunch and lived to regret it. Human beings are gifted with intuition. The famous Oracle at Delphi clued in Solon, and he listened. Constantina Rhodes, a charming, hyper-perceptive Ph.D., is a certified intuitive. She walks the talk, teaching others how to develop their intuitive powers, and gives private readings. "People come for a psychic reading often when they've exhausted all the regular avenues," Constantina

says. "The most frequent questions I'm asked have to do with major changes regarding love, career and where to live. Ninety-nine percent of the peo-

ple I consult with say it's great." Science has begun to take intuition seriously. Innovator Steve Jobs called it "more powerful than intellect." The U.S. Military is investigating the power of intuition, how it helps troops to make decisions and save lives. Arianna Huffington, author of Thrive, wrote: "Even when we're not at a fork in the road, wondering what to do and trying to hear that inner voice, our intuition is always there, always reading the situation, always trying to steer us the right way. But can we hear it?"

Savs Constantina: "Many people get psychic impressions like you know somebody is going to call you. But there's a way to train yourself so that you can tap into that, pay attention to how your body feels with information. So when I teach, I tell people it's like art or music. Some people are born with an exceptionally beautiful voice, some with an ordinary voice, but at whatever the starting point, if you train, if you learn the grammar of it, and the basics, and how it works in your human instrument, you can de-

Constantina's main professional focus is teaching the His-

tory of Religion at New York City's Hunter College. She's the author of several books, including those based on her own Sanskrit translations. She did not come immediately to her call-

"I've always been intuitive, but I'm also very intellectual and rational. I had a lot of spiritual experiences growing up, but I never really connected them."

Living in Tampa, FL with her husband and daughter, she was

"There were so many things I was trying to figure out. I was teaching world religions there. For my doctoral work, I had

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Guatemala is a rapidly-chang-



AP PHOTO/PETROS GIANNAKOURIS

It's Winter in USA and Greece – But it Feels like X-Mas in Rio

A man reads a newspaper in front of changing cabins on Alimos beach near Athens, on Wednesday, Dec. 23. Temperatures have been unseasonably warm across many parts of Europe in the past few days, and temperatures in Athens were expected to reach 17° C (63° Fahrenheit).

10 Books for Greek-Am. Bibliophiles

By Stephanie Nikolopoulos

Whether you're looking for a stocking stuffer or a stack of books for a bibliophile, here is a diverse selection of books written in English by Greeks and Greek-Americans. All were published or reissued in 2015.

For the person with opinionated family: Exploring themes of dysfunction and food, Annie Lionatas's novel Let Me Explain You (Scribner) tells what happens when irascible diner owner Stavros Mavrakis emails his former wife and three grown daughters about how they can improve their livesand then disappears.

For the sunbather with a taste for scandal: A bored married couple in the Midwest test the tipping point between fan-

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Poulias Bros. Enlighten the Guatemalans

By Maria Iliou

In the context of a recent trip to Latin America, I found myself a few weeks ago in Guatemala, a country that impressed me both for its natural beauty and interesting environment and also for the presence of a vibrant Greek community and the existence of a unique foundation established by the Poulias Broth-

ing society. The locals like to emphasize that Guatemala is a country in the process of redefining itself. There is the feeling in the air that its social and political life in now evolving fast for the better. A new middle class is in the process of being formed and the political environment has become much more openly democratic in nature since the end of the civil war in 1996. And it has started to make visible steps toward shedding past phenomena of substantial corruption, particularly after the recent presidential vote and the events that preceded it.

Guatemala, Costa, Rica and Panama are the only countries in Latin America that enjoy a high rate of growth, and this, despite that a very substantial part of the population continues to live in a condition of abject poverty and social isolation.

Its capital, Guatemala City, is home to many foreign nationals and organized minorities among which the Greek Community, though very small in overall numbers, has already been noted for substantial accomplishments.

The first Greeks to arrive in the country were the Papahiou family more than 50 years ago, soon followed by the Dimitraki family from Crete, successful in mattress manufacturing. There

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Special Tour for Special Donors of the New Saint Nicholas at WTC

By Constantine S. Sirigos
TNH Staff Writer

NEW YORK - While the dollar amount of the pledges to the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox National Shrine is impressive -\$35.76 million to date - communities rooted in humble origins in homelands like Greece are still touched by in-kind contributions, and on December 21 the principals and families of the Titan Group and Corona Ready Mix received a special tour of the construction site at Ground Zero in appreciation of their donating all the concrete for the new Church.

Father Alexander Karloutsos, Protopresbyter of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Archdiocese's Executive Director of Administration Jerry Dimitriou led the tour on a crisp winter's day and St. Nicholas project assistant Andrew Veniopoulos was also present to answer questions.

Fr. Karloutsos noted that since the new church will rise from ground 25 feet above the rest of Ground Zero, it can be properly called an acropolis, which brought to mind another noble donation. The Venus Marble Group is providing the Church with its translucent outer skin, marble from Mount Pentelikon, the source of the Parthenon's marble.

Chairman P.J. Mechanical Corp. Peter J. Pappas Sr. can be said to have provided the guts of the building, all the heating and ventilation systems.

"This will be one of the most unique churches in the Archdiocese and it will become a national shrine," Fr. Karloutsos said, because it will be a symbol of religious freedom, tolerance, righteousness and reconciliation. There will be a bereavement center...and there will be interactive technology that will give people the opportunity to learn about our Church history and the legacy of the Greeks in America."

He noted that Ellis Island was nearby and that for decades when Greek immigrants arrived, crying at the sight of the Statue of Liberty, the first place they went to was St. Nicholas to light a candle.

"We are carrying on a great legacy," he said, and turning to the guests he told them "you are literally building the foundation with your concrete, and I want to express the gratitude of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios and all the faithful."

Among the guests was George Stamas, co-Founder of The Hellenic Initiative.

CONCRETE FLOOR TO BE LAID IN JANUARY

Dimitriou told TNH the concrete for the Church's floor will be poured in second week of January and explained that the delay was due to the decision to take extra care with and build some redundancy into the HVAC systems and to add pipes for possible future wiring needs since the interstitial space housing them between the floor and roof of the VSC will be difficult to access once the concrete is







Guests were delighted to see that Liberty Park, which will be the Church's court yard, is nearing completion, most trees, bushes and paving stones in place.

Karloutsos pointed to all the activity and structures and declared "this is our community" and noted with pride that Greek-Americans are the only

ethnic group that has been permitted to build a church on government land, due to the fact that St. Nicholas was the only house of worship destroyed on 9/11.

9/11.
Corona Ready Mix co-owners
Paul Melis and John Vasilantonakis were present, the former
with his children Ariana and
Nicholas latter with his wife Eve

ABOVE: Officials of the Titan Group and Corona Ready Mix, which donated the concrete for St. Nicholas, with family members, proudly line up behind banner created for the special event. LEFT: Meticulous care is being taken with the heating and cooling systems of the St. Nicholas Shrine at Ground Zero before the concrete floor is laid as planned in January 2016. LEFT BOTTOM: Twenty stories high, one can see Santiago Calatrava's new St. Nicholas taking shape. The main part is round, supporting a dome modelled on that of Hagia Sophia in Constantinople.

and children Steven, Stella Marie, and Gabriele.

They hosted a luncheon afterwards where Melis acknowledged the presence of Frs. Paul Palesty, Pastor of St. Nicholas in Flushing and Fr. Damaskinos Ganas of Kimisis in Brooklyn "who have always been there for our families...and we appreciate all the hard work you do."

Melis is proud to help build "a national shrine of Greek Orthodoxy...and a sanctuary to remember the souls lost on 9/11. May it stand proudly for generations to come."

Asked why they gave the gift, he told TNH that he and Vasilantonakis "are thankful for the good blessings we were given as a family, and the opportunity to give back to the community and pass down our traditions to the next generation is the greatest legacy anyone can have."

Titan Group CEO Dimitri Papalexopoulos participated with his wife Amy Galanos and daughter Marina, and expressing appreciation was also a factor for Titan.

Papalexopoulos revealed that Aris Papadopopulos, past CEO of Titan America, was at Ground Zero on September 11, 2001. "His survival was a miracle. He had a 9:00 AM appointment with the Port Authority on the 85th floor...but a colleague told him 'let's get a cup of coffee. It's OK to be five minutes late."

CEO Titan America Bill Zarkalis was accompanied by other top company officials and his wife Colleen. He told TNH "this is a remarkable day for us. We are very proud to participate in the rebuilding on St. Nicholas. Titan is an international company and wherever we conduct business we want to be members of the community."

Melis told TNH that Titan sends the material and Corona Ready Mix produces the concrete and delivers it. Despite being a non-union company, by working closely with the Archdiocese's representative, Peter Karamitsanis, and they were able to get their truck onto the Port Authority site.

HOW IT IS DONE AND KEPT ON TRACK

Karamitsanis, the President of Lighthouse Advisors, provided TNH with some details about the construction process. He and David Puza of Merritt Construction Services of Connecticut oversee the construction of St. Nicholas. "We make

sure the schedules and the budgets are kept," a major responsibility on a Santiago Calatrava construction project.

The reason being that the spectacular effects the renowned architect creates – St. Nicholas will glow and literally light up the night sky at Ground Zero – are the result of intricate parts and processes.

Working with Calatrava and Nicholas Koutsomitis, the architect of record, Karamitsanis told TNH the company oversees "the whole design and technical team and construction." His company has 17 years' experience in specialty construction, including another Calatrava project

He explained that "Calatrava buildings have no tolerances. They are designed to exact measurements, so the form work the Church is very complicated...we will have fulltime surveyors laying out every bolt, piece, and form to makes sure when everything comes together they actually fet."

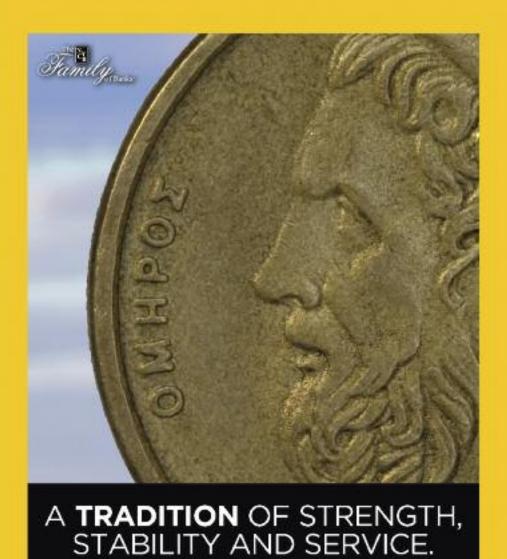
"What Calatrava presented to Archbishop Demetrios is a church that will glow at night like 10,000 candles," he said, and to make that happen, the church's translucent outer shell that is attached to the concrete inner structure will be back lit, and its creation is a complex undertaking.

"It is made of a piece of glass, a piece of marble and another piece of glass. The marble is cut in Mount Pentelikon; it goes to Germany to be cut down to three millimeters thickness and is polished, then it goes to Austria where it is fused with the glass," he said.

The pieces then go to Minneapolis, where they are put onto panels, which are then brought to New York. After the supporting metalwork is applied to the inner concrete shell, the panels are attached.

Karamitsanis, whose parents are from near Corinth – he grew up in Athens and earned his architecture degree at the University of Michigan – says the concrete inner shell should be up within 10 or eleven months, and then the interior work will begin and the marble/glass panels will be attached.

"The dome will probably be ready by the end of 2016 and... we expect to finish in late summer, early fall 2017," he said.





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Catsimatidis Family Hosts Christmas Party

ABOVE (TOP): The Fifth Avenue home of the Catsimatidis family is filled with friends and family enjoying Christmas fellowship - and the spectacular orchids, welcome any season.

ABOVE: Left to right: John, Margo, John Jr., and Andrea Catsimatidis excuse themselves from their many

selves from their many friends to pose for a special holiday photo during their annual Christmas party. LEFT: Businessman and philanthropist John Catsimatidis greets a guest and offers to take her photo in front of a doorway in his Manhattan home festooned with Christ-

mas decorations.



Happy Holidays and a Happy and Healthy New Year

George and Olga Tsunis and Family

CHARTWELL HOTELS



Where's the Beef? The IRS Says It Was in Nicholas Koudanis' Safe

A family which for 40 years has run a popular eatery – Nick's Famous Roast Beef – in a city north of Boston, has been charged by the Internal Revenue Service with hiding more than \$1 million a year in cash to avoid

The IRS said that Nicholas Koudanis, 65, and his wife Beverly, 60, had some \$1,635,658 in cash stashed in a safe in their home in nearby Topsfield, and that their son helped them in a conspiracy to defraud, according to an indictment against them, the Boston Business Journal and Boston Globe reported.

The allegations are that the family, with the assistance of Nick Markos, skimmed the money from the cash-only business in a backroom and split it up while the husband and wife tucked it away for the last six years. The

charges include that they doctored tax returns to hide their criminal activity.

Steven Koudanis, 39, of Peabody, was charged with endeavoring to obstruct and impede the due administration of the Internal Revenue Laws.

The lawyers representing Nick Koudanis and Eleni Koudanis, Robert Weinberg and Robert Goldstein, said in a joint statement via email: "Nicholas and Eleni Koudanis each clearly asserted in court (Monday) that they were not guilty while denying the tax allegations brought against them. These tax charges are just allegations — not proof, not evidence. Mr. and Mrs. Koudanis are presumed innocent and each intends to strongly contest the current claims."

Lawyers for Markos and Steven Koudanis couldn't be reached for comment.

The IRS said the family would report an amount far less than the actual total as revenue for the cash-only business, a common practice in Greece where tax cheats often go uncaught and lightly punished when they are, rarely going to jail.

The government alleges Nick Koudanis and Markos also paid some vendors and employees in cash to reduce their tax costs.

The indictment states that over six years, Nick Koudanis and Markos "diverted approximately \$5.9 million in cash from Nick's to themselves, their wives and their employees."

Nick and Eleni Koudanis avoided paying \$992,821 in federal taxes, the indictment alleges, and Markos avoided paying \$1 million in federal taxes.

Steven Koudanis is accused by



The sign could soon read "Nick's Infamous Roast Beef." The Beverly, MA restaurant's owners were indicted in Federal Court for skimming nearly \$6 million in cash receipts.

the government of "creating false cash register receipts in amounts generally consistent with the cash deposited to Nick's bank accounts, for the purpose of being used in any audit by tax authorities"

The charge of conspiracy to defraude carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a fine of \$250,000; each tax charge carries a sentence of up to three years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

The business hit the 40-year milestone this year and has built a loyal clientele for its sandwiches and late hours of operation, up to 10PM and sometimes later.

Photos throughout the restaurant depict tourists holding their "Nick's Roast Beef" bumper sticker at locales ranging from Mt. Everest to the Sydney Opera

House, Forbes magazine reported.

An IRS audit in 2013 showed sales of about \$1 million when the government claims that it was really over \$2.3 million. There were similar ratios of real income versus the alleged doctored amounts in other years.

Joel Androphy, a defense attorney not involved with this case told Forbes that the Federal government can easily target small businesses that tend to be less sophisticated in their business practices and financial controls.

"Businesses like this are low hanging fruit for prosecutors," Androphy said, "which is a shame because large corporations are skating around paying taxes because of the inefficiency of the IRS Whistleblower program.

The charges, in the case of Nick's filing false tax returns and

obstruction, do not carry long prison terms, but prosecutors are known for adding more charges later in order to pressure defendants into a guilty plea, the magazine said.

In cases involving large amounts of cash, that could mean money laundering charges and that could lead to more than a decade in prison. "Nobody should cheat," Androphy said, "but the rich and large corporations can fight the government in a way the small businessman cannot."

Cash-based businesses face tighter looks from the IRS than do large corporations with legions of lawyers to defend them.

Nick's is a popular spot for its roast beef sandwiches and a gathering spot for a wide array of customers, including cops, firefighters, doctors, and others.



It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like... Kalymnos

The red, green, and silver tinsel indicate that Christmas is in the air, but the sponge boat captains unloading their latest catches reveal the unmistakably Greek quality of Tarpon Springs, FL - more specifically, a flavor of the Dodecanese Islands, and most specifically, the sponge-industry-immersed island of Kalymnos.





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Conductor Yorgos Kouritas Shines in a Feast of Lights

By Vasilis Papoutsis

MISSION VIEJO, CA - A Feast of Lights is a traditional Christmas concert offered by the Saddleback College Choirs and Symphony department in Mission Viejo, CA for more than 25 years. The concert is a community institution and regularly sells out its performances as it features old and new Christmas classics for chorus and orchestra.

Dr. Yorgos Kouritas and Dr. Scott Farthing were the two conductors who led the more than 100 members of the orchestra and chorus. The result was an inspiring and uplifting Christmas concert that ended with a singalong that included some crowd favorites such as Here Comes Santa Claus, Twelve Days of Christmas and Jingle Bell Rock. Kouritas joined Saddleback College in 2012, bringing a wealth of experience in having conducted both in Europe and

He hails from Volos and talk-



More than 100 members of the orchestra and chorus led by conductors Dr. Yorgos Kouritas and Dr. Scott Farthing presented "A Feast of Lights" in Mission Viejo, CA.

ing about his decision to follow a path in classical music at a time when classical music was not very accessible to most kids in Greece in the 1990's. He told TNH that "when the new music academy opened in Volos my parents signed me up for violin lessons there. Shortly afterward,

I decided that I wanted to become a conductor." He continued his studies with the Russian pedagogue Rimma Sushanskaya at the Birmingham Conservatoire in England. As a conducting fellow at the Castleton festival he received great reviews by the Washington Times and the Washington Post. He has since conducted various orchestras among them the Richmond Symphony, Winnipeg Symphony and the Manhattan School of Music Symphony.

Prior to arriving here, Kouritas was the Assistant Conductor of the Boise Philharmonic and

the Music Director of the Boise Philharmonic Youth Orchestra. His impressive credentials were undoubtedly the deciding factor when he applied for the position of Director of Instrumental Studies at the Saddleback College, as he had to compete against 300 other applicants for the position! Speaking about the college the conductor said that "it is a great honor to be part of an institution with such fine musical tradition." The college is proud to call some of the finest musicians of the Pacific Symphony as its instructors and some distinguished violinists such as Eric Silberger and Martin Beaver have hosted master classes

Kouritas teaches violin and viola and performs violin recitals. Saddleback College is also one of the few colleges in the state that offers the students the opportunity to perform in operas and opera scenes each semester. The complete list of concerts is available at www.saddleback.edu.

AGAPW Holiday Loft Party Raises Scholarship **Funds**

By Constantine S. Sirigos TNH Staff Writer

NEW YORK - The wonderful studio loft of artists Michael and Niki Kapsalis was the scene of the 2105 Holiday Benefit Celebration of the Association of Greek Amer-Professional Women (AGAPW) on December 11 where guests were welcomed by its President and Founder, Olga Alex-

People came and went throughout the evening enjoying food, fellowship - and art. The warm space was decorated with the work of Niki and Michael Kapsalis, jewelry, and abstract expressionist paintings respectively

Exceptional paintings grace the walls, but dozens of canvases tucked into the stalls at the end of the huge living room/studio beckoned and some guests said they hoped to see them one day.

The party was also the occasion for raising funds to benefit the AGAPW Excellence Tuition Scholarship fund. Among the items available for auction were photographs by AGAPW Vice President/Community Liaison Aphrodite Désirée Navab.

Guests who bought raffles won jewelry created by Niki Kapsalis and designer scarves made by Sopia Alimonos.

Niki Kapsalis has been creating jewelry for a long time, but she made a radical break -literally and figuratively– after a trip to Croatia for years ago, where jewelry making is taught in its schools on a high level. "I told my sister I wanted everything I saw, and when she returned to Greece she destroyed what she had created up to that point and began anew. She also makes clothing which is both for personal use and commercial purposes.

Niki is also passionate about AGAPW and its mission. "I met Olga by a stroke of luck through a good friend who brought her one day to our loft," she said, and they immediately became close friends. She was thrilled to host

Alexakos told TNH "We were blessed to celebrate another Holiday Season with family and friends! Our generous hosts and supporters Niki and Michael Kapsalis opened their Soho Studio loft for us so we were surrounded

by great art!" She summarized what she called "another active year for AGAPW" - among the many things she said she is thankful for during the holiday season - and has been busy with the Board planning for 2016. "Our events have become great networking opportunities for women as well as for men, of various professional backgrounds. We share information and support one another,"

AGAPW events, Alexakos said, also enable Greek Americans "to connect with their heritage and build their professional relations within the community." "The Association of Greek American Professional Women (AGAPW) is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt, charitable and educational... and is an independent organization, started by and run by women on a volunteer, pro bono basis. Its mission is to expand career opportunities and promote community and leadership building among Greek-American professional women by forging collaborations among ourselves and establishing partnerships with other organizations," according to agapw.org.

The Byzantine Choir and School of Byzantine Music Sings Out

By Theodore Kalmoukos

NEW YORK. The year 2010 marked the establishment of the men's Byzantine choir of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, which possesses an authentic ecclesiastical character and performs hymns solely in the Greek language. The choir was the initiative of Archbishop Demetrios. It is comprised of young Greek-Americans who possess a mastery of the Greek language and Byzantine music, being cantors at various communities of the Direct Archdiocesan District in New York. The choir is under the care and promotion of Archdeacon Panteleimon Pa-

In speaking with the National Herald, Archdeacon Panteleimon, who has been serving as Archdeacon to Archbishop Demetrios with exemplary faithfulness and dedication for fifteen years, and is himself both vocally gifted and well-versed in Byzantine music, said that "His Eminence, our own Archbishop, is the one who inspired and created the choir." He underscored that "since we were noticing in our communities various cantors who had mastery of the music, and since I myself have a particular love and zeal for Byzantine music, the Archbishop said, 'Why don't we try to organize all these cantors and see what we can accomplish?' And so I invited some young cantors whom I knew, students of Archon Mousikodidaskalos of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Nicholas Steliaros, and these cantors became the nu-

He added that "we have as our choir director Dr. Demetrios Kehagias, who is a native of Astoria, a pharmacist, having completed studies at the Conservatory of Athens earning the distinction of 'Excellent' (Arista), a multi-talented individual and chief cantor of Kimisis parish in Brooklyn,

The choir is comprised of thirty young people. Archdeacon Panteleimon is responsible for co-ordinating the choir's appearances and events at places such as: Constantinople, in honor of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew; the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York; Carnegie Hall in NYC, the Archdiocesan Cathedral of Holy Trinity in Manhattan; and most recently on December 12 at the church of St. George in Hartford, Connecticut. They are now preparing for an event at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, which will be officially announced in the near future.

They meet weekly at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New York for re-

According to Fr. Panteleimon, The choir is comprised of only men because, as you know, Byzantine music is monophonic and it is difficult to have female voices participate." He indicated that "an effort is underway to create a female Byzantine choir.'

Fr. Panteleimon has a deep appreciation for Byzantine music. He remarked, "I first heard



The Archdiocesan Byzantine Choir with His eminence Archbishop Demetrios.

Byzantine music from my father, who was a 'practical' cantor at St. George Church in Norwalk, Connecticut, being originally from Greece (specifically Ptolemaida). But I saw musical scores for the first time with Mr. Photios Ketsetzis during the three years I spent at Holy Cross Theological School, and from the time of my ordination in 2001 until 2013 I was the student of Archon Nicholas Steliaros. We went through all the major books and musical pieces of Byzantine music. He is a great person and teacher." Fr. Panteleimon had ini-

tially studied biology and later studied Theology because, as he shared with us, "from a young age I always wanted to be a

He was born in Norwalk, Connecticut, but also told us, "I used to spend the summers with my grandmother and grandfather in Ptolemaida, and Ĭ have a firstcousin who is a priest who took me to Mount Athos and other religious sites throughout Greece."

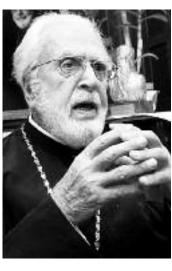
Fr. Panteleimon works as closely with Archbishop Demetrios as anyone has. When we asked him what kind of person the Archbishop is, he replied, "He is a man who teaches by his example. I have been by his side for fifteen years and I never once heard him raise his voice. He has never scolded me. I have never seen him lose his composurenot that he is indifferent, but that nothing disrupts his peace which is derived from his faith in God."

When we asked him how the Greek-Americans react when they hear the choir chanting and only in Greek-he said, "They tell us that it's excellent; all the people are enthused by the power of the music."

Alongside the choir is the Archdiocesan School of Byzantine Music, which is housed at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. Archdeacon Panteleimon told us, "the school was by founded Archbishop Demetrios and basically began in September of 2010. From there came the idea of having the choir. Thus, as the young people from the music school advance, they participate in the choir as well." He also added, "We are at present offering lessons via Skype to five young people from different parts of the U.S., such as California, the Midwest, and Florida."

Thirty students are currently studying at the school and pay a tuition of \$500 per year. They are taught by Antonios Kehagias, Athanasios Minetos, and Fr. Panteleimon, who is also the school's director. The lessons take place all day on Saturdays, and Kehagias also offers weekday lessons at the Cultural Center of Astoria.

Archdiocese Spotlights SNF Donation in Iakovos' Honor



The late Archbishop Iakovos.

is an adventure in taste, quality and

reshness designed to please every customer.

Continued from page 1

place for reflection which 'should make us reflect where we are as a community," Dracopoulos added, regarding Greek-Americans and Greece.

The News Release of the Archdiocese dated December 21st has as follows:

"The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America announces with appreciation and joy the creation of a special Reflection Area, named after our late Archbishop Iakovos, in the newly built National African-American History and Culture Museum in Washington, DC. This is made possible by the significant contribution of the Stavros Niarchos

Foundation for two million dollars and the personal contribution of Andreas Dracopoulos the SNF's Co-President, for one million. These grants were made in honor of Archbishop Iakovos' leadership and legacy in the area of civil and human rights.

The Museum, currently under construction, is expected to open in 2016, and it aspires to become a landmark that will house the African-American history.

In the middle of last month the museum featured a high-tech projection of images on its outside walls with the title "Commemorate and Celebrate Freedom," featuring the period from the ratification of the 13th Amendment, which ended slavery in 1865, to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The images featured Archbishop Iakovos with Martin Luther King Jr. and The Washington Post published a first-page photograph of that moment in the pro-

jection, on Nov. 16, 2015. The Greek Orthodox Church in America and His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios continue the longstanding legacy of Archbishop lakovos to fight against racism and to defend human rights. The Greek Orthodox Church has always been an advocate for equality and continues to fight against racism, prejudice, and discrimination, while advancing reconciliation, love and justice for all."





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HAPPY NEW YEAR, HEALTHY, BRIGHT and PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

To my patience, colleagues and Hellenes

wishing you all

Nikos Antonellos – Entrepreneurial and Philanthropic Passion Leader

Continued from page 1

He had been involved in volincluding with autism organizations and others with special needs, giving him experience in another field and an appreciation of the needs of people less fortunate than himself.

"We all need mentors and people to look up to, and people with special needs don't have the social skills to make friends and mentors...and they go through a lot every day, physically, mentally, and socially," he

He also feels compassion for

"It's tough to find a support outlet. They go day by day looking for the right support and I thought many problems could be solved by placing families with someone who has a background in the field, who wants to be there, and is understanding of the situation – and that's

what Sidekicks does," he said. "We solve the problem of providing mentorship and parents have an extra support outlet that they can support and

KICKSTARTING SIDEKICKS

He and his classmates presented their ideas in class and the students with the top three ideas were picked to be project

"Everyone voted for my idea and I was blown away by that," he said. "Then I talked to some families about it and received nothing but amazing support. They said 'you should really do this - this is such a big need and it would change our lives.'

When the typical students' job market frustrations began to gnaw at him, he refused to let it get him down.

"I always knew I wanted to do something meaningful and with a purpose and in college I decided one day just to do it," he said, and one day after being denied another job he went to the school store, bought a notebook and began to plan.

That was about than three

"The company has really grown. We provide services to over 30 families, all different ages and types of disabilities. Over the course of our two years we have helped more than 60 families," he said.

Sidekicks now has a contract with the State of New Jersey to provide individual support services and there is an agreement with Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield to provide certain thera-

To manage the growth he has recruited more supervisors and are up to 50 total employees.

They are exploring expansion into New York. Once he is comfortable with the model in the current location, he plans to work on it with the aim of transplanting it elsewhere.

"Growth is tough. It's a new beast to handle and I am taking my time," he said.

"People who start a business forget the fact that what worked in the beginning" will require changes once it starts to grow. He added, "There are more issues, and people to manage, more things on your plate in the same 24 hours of the day," plus provision must be made for the unexpected, emphasizing that one cannot always be on the de-

"You must remain on the offensive" said the young soccer

His grandfather George Garliaros came to the United States in 1969 to work at the Hightstown Diner after marrying his grandmother Aglaia. His mother Kathy also worked there and they eventually became the owners.

She met George Antonellos in Greece – they both have roots in Andros – and they decided to live in the United States

Antonellos' father came here with \$500 in his pocket and not knowing English. He was so amazed at technology he never

Nikos Antonellos receives the Young Entrepreneur Award from Chairman of the Board and CEO Michael Hadjiloucas of the Greek American Chamber of Commerce at its 2015 gala.

saw on his beautiful Aegean island that he spent in it on a stereo the first day.

What followed, however, was incessant hard work, and that ethic was passed to the next generation.

"I started working in the family business when I was 11 or 12 doing whatever my family needed me to do. I moved up and became manager and that was the best business school for me, learning all aspects of providing quality products and

His brother Stefano will be19 next month who is also excited about college and going into business. "He is the president of the business club at his school," he said.

Eventually he would like help establish group homes. The challenge for the families once their children grow up is to find a place for them to live. "Down the line I would like to invest in some real estate and create homes for these individuals with Sidekicks nearby - so they can live a meaningful life."

Antonellos is very passionate about his work. He dedicates to Sidekicks about seven days a week up to 10 -12 hours a day, but they are not chores. He takes the sacrifices philosophically: "Anything worth doing takes time. You have be patient.

PATIENCE IS ALMOST

EVERYTHING

Patience, he said in closing, is the essence of entrepreneurial success. All the elements can be there, great ideas, a fantastic team, but it does not happen overnight.

"I would say patience is a very underrated characteristic. It is a very undervalued thing to have," he said. "If you can be patient, everything that you want can be yours."



Alexandros Poulias, Arturo Gandara, who is a friend of the Poulias Foundation, and Ilias Poulias with children of the Foundation who took part in a race in Guatemala City. Family patriarch George Poulias is an American-educated doctor.

Poulias Foundation Gives Light to the Children

Continued from page 1

are the Pitsakises from Laconia in plastics, and the Molyviatises from Mitylene, who own a chain of restaurants.

All of the local Greeks retain a vibrant Hellenic ethnic identity despite that, to date, the community does not have its own church and dedicated Orthodox

The Pouliases are among the most recent arrivals, immigrating to Guatemala about 15 years ago. Family patriarch George is an American-educated doctor and considered a trailblazer in angiosurgery in Greece. The matriarch, Maria, after studying in Switzerland, devoted her life to raising their two sons, Ilias and Alexander, who after graduating from Athens College continued their studying abroad in the United Kingdom as well as in the

United States. Ilias earned a master's degree in engineering from Imperial College in London, and Alexander has degrees in comparative literature from Princeton University and a MBA from Harvard Business School.

After 9/11 and a chain of coincidences, academic research and business ventures brought

them to Guatemala. Alexander and Ilias thought at the time that their stay there would be of a short duration, but this was not to be. After a few months they came to appreciate what the local market offered, grew to love the people, and decided that they would buy out their partner and settle in Guatemala City.

A few years later, they launched a telecommunications business with almost immediate success. This venture, Televida SA, has over 70 employees and operates in 16 Latin American markets as well as in Africa.

THE POULIAS FOUNDATION

About twelve years ago and totally by accident, the Pouliases came in contact with a group of very young children who were using the area in front of the company warehouse as a playground. A precious bond quickly developed between the Imperial- and Harvard-educated executives and the very underprivileged local youth, and this bond created in the Pouliases the desire to help, to somehow contribute toward a better future for these poverty-stricken chil-



Alexandros Poulias with some of the children who have benefited from the Foundation.



The Foundation stresses education. Eduardo and Valery celebrate the awards they received as the trimester's superstars.

The Pouliases came to appreciate that their contribution would be much more productive if they would identify gifted children in the poorest neighborhoods of Guatemala City and use them as influential leaders in their own schools and local society. In due course, these kids would hopefully act as role models and become leaders in their communities. That is a concept similar to that which some companies use both in Europe and in the United States, but is something groundbreaking with regard to the poverty and illiteracy

of Guatemala City. The Pouliases decided to offer these children free educational support between ages 4 and 18, complementary to their public school education. They provided free lunch and dinner for them

The brothers' dream evolved into what is today the Poulias Foundation.

The Foundation adopts a holistic approach to the development of each child's personality. Emotional intelligence, self-confidence, basic human values, a clear, analytical process of thought and judgement, foreign languages, the use of technology and programming, sports, music, and many other forms of art (theater, poetry, sculpture, painting history of art, and cinema).

As future leaders, the children are trained to possess all the attributes that will allow them to

grow to the limit of their abilities and their natural gifts, and to guide their less fortunate counterparts to a brighter future by their own example.

The Poulias Foundation also covers all its children's medical expenses.

Within the span of a very few years, the Foundation has continued to grow and today, in addition to the one in Guatemala City, a second branch exists in the city of Panajachel, and there are plans for two more.

The Poulias Foundation works with a number of international organizations, including the International Education Funders Group (IEFG) and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF).

Unlike some other organizations of its kind, the Poulias Foundation is completely funded by the two brothers.

The Foundation has lifted 55 exceptional children by giving them the light - fos of knowledge, and they, in turn, can enlighten others.

They are taught the true essence of humanity, of kindness, and the value of education. Of spiritual growth, and the pride of belonging to a society of val-

The Poulias Brothers, in establishing the Foundation that bears their name, have shared with the children of Guatemala City the values by which they were raised in their own Hellenic

With Ph.D. and Her Gifts, Constantina Rhodes Shows Power of Positive Intuition

Continued from page 1

spent two years in Delhi, India, studying Sanskrit. I had started doing meditation. It opens you up and opens up your intuition. In Florida, I met different people who were teaching how to develop intuition incrementally, and how to do exercises connected with spirituality. I found it fascinating and started doing

One of my teachers was a Greek woman. I said: 'We're allowed to do this?' It became part of my personal practice. I also found that I was very good at it. I saw it as really gratifying

and a way of helping people.' Constantina brings intense concentration to her readings. "After a reading, I feel really elated, and the more open a person is, and if we're really flowing, the more beautiful it is. It's like going to this sacred space. It takes a lot of energy, and it makes me very hungry, and very tired afterwards. If a person comes for an hour reading, I might spend a half hour before praying and meditating, and a half hour afterwards sleeping and reading. The most I like to

do a day is three readings. "I do most of my work on the phone. I go into a meditative state. If I do a reading on the phone, I ask people to send me their questions the night before. I pray and meditate the night before. I print the questions out, and use that as an anchor, so then when we get on the phone, the energy comes through their voice. Some people like to be there physically. When I read in person, in addition to the questions, I like to hold an object of theirs. Metal is the best because it conducts electric energy and carries information about what's

going on with the individual." She discourages her clients from becoming consultation addicts. "My personal intention when I do a reading for someone is to make them feel good about their life, to empower them, so they can move on to wherever they need to go. I have strong guidelines. I never drop gloom and doom on people. My readings are an hour long. Maybe we'll meet two or three times. But other than once or twice a year, you don't really need more than that."

Constantina comes down hard on what she terms "sidewalk psychics. There are some really bad people out there. They will lure you in and then escalate the price and it's very bad news. I don't operate like

She grew up in Cherry Hill, NJ, the eldest of four youngsters of Peter and Mary Rhodes. Both of her parents were born in the USA, and were introduced by Archbishop Iakovos, when he was a priest at the Boston Cathedral.

Her father, a Harvard graduate and electrical engineer, had a job that moved them throughout the country. When Constantina was born, they returned to Boston so that Iakovos could baptize her.

She earned an undergraduate degree at Rutgers University, and a Ph.D. at Columbia Uni-

versity. A deeply committed Greek Orthodox, she points out that her mother and father, with a

few other people, founded St. Thomas Church in Cherry Hill. 'My mother got out the phone book and called everyone with a Greek name." Her grandparents were from Crete and Arcadia in the Peloponnesus. Her grandfather shortened their name from Rhodopoulos to

Some of her most profound intuitive and spiritual experiences were in Greece, including at the monastery in Aegina while studying at Duree College.

"To me, intuition has always been involved with a spiritual experience, connecting to God."



A gifted intuitive, Constantina Rhodes helps others develop their own powers of intuition and advises them in private readings.

At age 15, while a camper at Ionian Village, she had "an extraordinary experience going to Delphi. I didn't know much about Delphi, but something was churning in me. There was something so powerful in this place. It was years later that I found out about the Pythia, the famous Oracle at Delphi, and what she did.

"I teach a whole unit about the Pythia in my class at Hunter. I personally reject the theory that she was intoxicated by drug-like vapors. From what I understand, the whole phenomena of connecting with deities was a very ancient practice. It was a way for them to allow their consciousness to open up and receive information from the gods."

Divorced now, Constantina is devoted to her young grandsons, ages 3 and 5. She does not own a TV, and to relax enjoys dancing - Greek, folk, and Latin. "I'm so much in my head that it's good to do something phys-

Looking to 2016, Constantina weighed in on the New

"It's getting scary out there. We are being pushed to the tipping point. The spin is so loud! We need to pull inward and get back to basic values. People are reassessing and thinking on their own, starting to tune out the noise.'

Anyone interested in a private reading can consult Constantina's web site, or email her at nycpythia@aol.com. She will be teaching a course in Intuitive Development at the Open Center starting in February.

Artist, Curator, or Theme Park Owner? Spiro Drake's Greek Playland

By Steve Frangos

TNH Staff Writer

CHICAGO- To be completely honest I have no idea if Spiro Drake is a folk artist, museum curator or theme park owner. He could, in fact, just be a stone worker gone wrong, too. I will leave it up to you to decide. My own interest in the man is how the society around him understands him and identifies him as "The Greek."

Far from a mere roadside attraction, those tale is told in a few paragraphs in fringe books such as Weird New Jersey or in a few pictures on Roadside America's website, the story of Spiro Drake and his unique "Playland" are the subject of dozens and dozens of newspaper stories, television broadcast reports, Internet accounts and even the object of at least one and perhaps two documentaries. Just to make life interesting few of these reports and descriptive accounts seem to agree with one another. Drawing on as wide a preview of these assorted sources as possible I offer you the following.

Drake's core tale is that he was: "a Depression-era baby abandoned in a coal bin, [raised first at] an orphanage, a vow to spend half of any riches he attained to help the poor. He's ful-filled that vow, giving much of his money away to charity and spending the rest to build Playland and Display World (www.roadsideamerica.com.sto ry/2163)." This unique Playland first opened in 1972. An important point, we need to address immediately is that no collection of sources I've encountered even agrees on the precise name of Drake's outdoor creation. By all accounts, the Playland is a 65 (other sources cite 68, some 87) acre complex directly adjacent to Drake's stone yard supply business, which was known as the Wholesale Nursery. Many accounts and newscasts refer to his creation as the "Greek's Playland, Stone Museum and Clown" while others call the place "The Stone Museum, Display World, and Greek's Play-

Quickly noted, the "Clown" in question here is none other than "Cyclown," a currently armless work of art. Drake made





halves chime like ancient Ti-

betan bells. The "Great Wall of

the Greek" is a mile-long stretch

of many small walls constructed

from different building materi-

als, meticulously labeled with

the names of every marble tile,

cinder block, and paved stone

(and the price-per-square foot).

The Greek [claims] "It's the largest display like this in the

(www.roadsideamerica.com.sto

ry/2163)." No one has ever

been (or will be) charged ad-

mission upon entering Playland.

By one estimate, since 1973, the

Greek's Playland has already

hosted well over 100,000 un-

derprivileged and handicapped

children and adults. Over 800

free tours have been conducted

at The Stone Museum, alone.

No fees or donations of any kind

have ever been accepted from

visitors. The location for this

park is 608 Spotswood-English-

this 40 foot wonder himself and claims it is nothing less than the World's Tallest Clown. Cyclown is composed entirely of recycled junk, including a 10,000 gallon oil tank torso and telephone pole legs. Cyclown used to have arms made from irrigation pipe, but an ice storm caused them to snap off. His hat is a huge exhaust hood, with (now) a flashing beacon atop to warn off air traffic. Somehow a lightening rod-type apparatus is also, now, attached to Cyclown since a 1997 fire, caused by lightening destroyed large sections of the Playland.

So what does one find at this unique place: "The entrance to Display World is guarded by "Monroe the Trackhoe-saurus," a roaring dinosaur fashioned from gunnite and the body of a heavy construction hoe. It slobbers and drools at the touch of a hidden button. Display World is a pleasant labyrinth of sheltered walkways, waterfalls, lakes, and Japanese-style bridges. Hanging acetylene tank





town Road in Jamesburg, New Jersey. The complex is open to the general public Monday through Saturday 8AM-4PM, Sunday 10AM-4PM (call 732-521-2232 to verify).

The Greek's Playland, Inc. is a nonprofit organization (#226-289-923/000) with no paid employees, its Board of Directors, are all volunteers with Spiro Drake, as president. Drake has also been the sole financier of Greeks' Playland, Inc. for 50 years. In August 2013, Drake closed his Wholesale Nursery. Then, in his 80s, Drake could simply no longer conduct this business. Given that this would mean the end of any financial support from the nursery/landscaping business such a decision should also meant an end to the Greek's Playland. But that was far from the case!

Now, let's step back a moment here. I must admit I was confused, at first, by the flurry of published accounts. Rather than clear concise journalistic accounts most of what I read was little more than sarcastic jabs at Drake's sustained efforts to create a barrier-free playground for mentally handicapped adults and children. Many of the accounts, rather than bothering to report and describe Drake's ongoing creation spend their time lampooning the Playland and/or focusing their accounts on zoning violations Jamesburg officials claimed the Greek had transgressed. Leaving all this legal hubbub aside it is important to note, a point often ignored in most published or broadcast accounts---Drake was a much sought after landscape artist.

For fifty years, Spiro Drake was never simply a stone mason or seller of garden goods he was a landscape artist of stunning abilities. Across three states Drake created vast landscapes of stones, trees, bridges, built lakes and pools, buildings of many parts and visions-- all as part of his re-imaging of nature's wonderment. True, a handful of published accounts discuss Drake's work for specific celebrities such as Jon Bon Jovi (e.g. Bongiovi, b. 1962) and/or Bruce Springsteen (b. 1949). But they do not make that critical link between Drake's long career as (what one sees in print) a "Zen landscaper," "a philosopher in stone" or "sculptor of celebrity pools" also the gifted creator of The Greek's Playland. With the profits from these creations Drake built, over a period of 50 years, Playland.

But Drake is no fool. He could not continue in this line of strenuous work forever. So he built Garden Falls immediately adjacent to the Playland. Garden Falls is a place to have weddings that would financially maintain the Playland. Garden Falls has 4 Banquet Halls which are used for weddings and other special events.

Drake's thinking was "As long as there are weddings Garden Falls will be able to continue funding Greek's Playland and The Stone Museum. The price (of each wedding) includes the room rental, large barrier free restrooms with attendants, trash containers, tables & chairs, 400 blacktop barrier free parking spaces for cars and vans and a stone parking lot for 300 cars and buses (all on site). Also a heliport, a large undercover barrier free play-ground, 10 waterfalls, 2 lakes, 4 bridges, etc., a great place for photos. Catering is not included. All catering, decorating, DJ, event planners, helicopter & limo services, etc., are done by offsite vendors. Vendors are welcome to visit and use the facility. We do not charge them anything, all they have to do is do a good job, if not - they can never come back (www.gardenfalls.com)."Garden Falls gives 10% of all rentals to Greek's Playland and does all of the maintenance.

As one ages, questions arise—"how did I spend my life?" "Did I give back more than I was given?" "Or was I a fool who played about life's edges rather than engaging in it for all that I could?" Spiro "The Greek" Drake has clearly created a wonderland for the meek of the earth. Can you even imagine a more wonderful way to have spent your life's work?

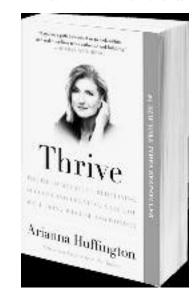
hellenenow1@yahoo.com

Ten Books Ideally Suited for Greek-American Bibliophiles

Continued from page 1

tasy and immorality as they dive into other people's lives during a summer of lust, drugs, and escapism in Dean Bakopoulos' humorous novel Summerlong (HarperCollins).

For the type-A personality: Arianna Huffington's bestselling Thrive: The Third Metric to Re-



defining Success and Creating a Life of Well-Being, Wisdom, and Wonder (Potter/Ten Speed/Harmony), about the media mogul's hard-won lesson on balance, is now in paperback.

For the sleuth: Famed crime-fiction writer George Pelacanos debuts his first collection of short stories, The Martini Shot: A Novella and Stories (Little, Brown and Company). In the title novella, a writer discovers the reality behind a television police show.

For the historical-fiction fan: The fate of the United States will be determined by new technologies in Peter G. Tsouras' riveting reimagining of the winter of 1863, Bayonets, Balloons & Ironclads: Britain and France Take Sides with the South (Skyhorse Publishing).

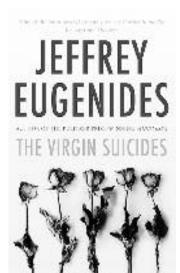
For the person who likes a political thriller: U.S. President Charlotte Kramer thought it would be a routine day when she permits camera crews to document her and her staff but then terrorist attacks break out across the country. Secrets emerge in Madam President (Atria/Emily Bestler Books),

written by former White House Communications Director Nicholle Wallace.

For the outsider lost in a crowd: Dean Kostos, editor of Pomegranate Seeds: An Anthology of Greek-American Poetry, explores New York's "Other"the disenfranchised, the censored, the immigrant—in his new surrealist poetry book This Is Not a Skyscraper (Red Hen

For the dramatist who likes absurd dark comedy: Critically acclaimed writer Peter Carlaftes pushes drama to its next level with Teatrophy: Three More Plays (Three Rooms Press), a trio that deals in the intense subject matter of government surveillance, psychosexual relationships, and vacillating sexual orientation.

For the modern classicist: Jeffrey Eugenides' 1993 novel The Virgin Suicides about the five Lisbon sisters who commit suicide one by one over the course of a year was republished this year as a Picador Modern



For the family genealogist: Eighteen years after orphaned sisters survive the slums of Athens during the 1922 Greco-Turkish War, one leaves the other behind for the hope of a new life in America. Years later, a third-generation Greek American seeks the truth of his family history in Fotini Tsalikoglou's English-language debut The Se-

cret Sister (Europa Editions).



Poume by Kikis Kapsaski is a wonderful book and CD set. With 28 traditional Christmas and New Year's carols this book makes an excellent gift to entertain the entire family. The songs on the CD are sung by a Greek children's choir. The book and CD set is available online.

The Lucky Cake by Anna Prokos and illustrated by Christina Tsevis is a delightful children's book explaining the tradition of the Vasilopita for young readers. Charming illustrations highlight the story of a family enjoying Yiayia's delicious cake while learning about the meaning of the tradition. The book is available in a Greek edition as well.

Ta Christougenna tou Pastelaki, or Christmas with Pastelakis, by Lina Giannos and illus-



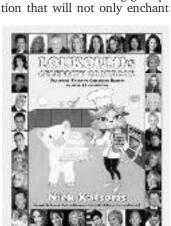
Start off the New Year with New List of Good Readings

trated by Alexandros Laios, is a fanciful tale featuring a journey to Bethlehem with the Little Drummer Boy. The book includes the lyrics to Greek Christmas carols for the whole family to en-

Also by Lina Giannos and illustrated by Alexandros Laios, Mathaino tin Alphavita me ton Pastelaki or I Learn the Alphabet with Pastelakis is another educational and entertaining children's book. The character of Pastelakis returns to help young readers with the Greek alphabet. Part of the children's book series O Pastelakis o Kollitos Sou, the

young readers.

The wonderful children's book series Loukoumi by Nick Katsoris is an endearing gift op-



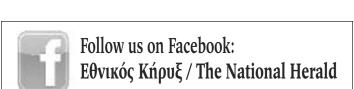
young readers, but also gives back. Written in English, the books follow the little lamb named Loukoumi on various adventures with her friends including Fistiki the cat and Dean the dog. The CD narrations of the books feature celebrities including Olympia Dukakis, Jennifer Aniston and her father John Aniston of Days of Our Lives

books make a great gift set for fame. A portion of the sale of the Loukoumi books is donated to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Loukoumi's Celebrity Cookbook, also by Katsoris, presents favorite recipes from celebrities. Among the contributors, Ernie Anastos, Melina Kanakaredes, George Stephanopoulos, Betty White, and Oprah Winfrey. Winner of the Gourmand World Cookbook Award, the book was first published in 2011 and a portion from the sale of each book is donated to charity.

The Bible is one of those books we may or may not have on our shelf but have probably not read consistently throughout our lives. The end of the year and the start of a new one is an excellent time to remember the true meaning of Christmas by reading the Ğospel. If concerns about understanding the language of the Bible have kept you from reading the Good Book on your own, there are new translations available in all languages and even versions for young readers to understand. A Daily Readings app is also available on the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America website goarch.org.







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saved lives, gave meaning to

DEATH NOTICES

■ CASSIS, DIAMANTIS HOUSTON, TX (from the Houston Chronicle, published on Dec. 16) - 1934-2015. Our dad always hated eulogies. Thus, we won't tell you he is a retired Lt. Colonel of the United States Army who loved his country. We won't say that he was a gifted and renowned artist who created icons for Orthodox Churches around the world. We won't tell you he was a talented art teacher at Galena Park for 35 years and then at the Kinkaid School for 12 years who inspired his students to excellence and loved them all. Nor will we tell you that he was an Archon of the Orthodox Church - one of 700 hand-picked defenders of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople and the Orthodox Christian Faith which he loved, a Sunday school teacher of over 40 years, and a devoted servant of the Lord our God. But, above all, he was one of those rare people who truly changed the lives of scores of people while he was on this earth. He would be so upset if we said all this about him. So let's just say that we have lost the most incredible husband, father, and grandfather ever. Ever. We will miss him terribly, starting from his wife of 54 years, Irene, to his children, Joni and her husband John Zavitsanos, Crissi and her husband George Gianakopoulos, and John Cassis his beloved son. His grandchildren adored him almost as much as he adored them. Anastasia, Socratis, Diamantis, and Irene Zavitsanos, John, Jim, Marina, and Alexis Gianakopoulos were the apple of his eye. Diamantis (who was called "Dan" by all those that knew him) was born in the picturesque town of Galaxidion, Greece on August 20, 1934. He and his mother Chrisafo immigrated to Shreveport, Louisiana to be reunited with his father John (Kassidoyiannis) Cassis after World War II at the age of 12. Thank you for your wisdom and guidance. Thank you for your kindness and your loving care for everyone who crossed your path. Thank you for your leadership and your humble and courageous honor. May your memory be eternal in God's eyes. May your life be lived through all of us. We love you. Friends are cordially invited to a visitation with the family from five until eight o'clock in the evening on Wednesday, December 16, 2015 at the Bradshaw-Carter Home, 1734 West Alabama Street in Houston, with the Trisagion Service at seven o'clock. The funeral service will be at ten

vard in Houston. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral Altar-Benevolent Fund (3511 Yoakum Blvd. 77006).

o'clock in the morning on Thurs-

day, December 17, 2015, at An-

nunciation Greek Orthodox

Cathedral, 3511 Yoakum Boule-

■ CATSIS, FRANCES J. HOUSTON, TX (from the Houston Chronicle, published on Dec. 2) – Frances (Fotini) Catsis, born on Mar. 21, 1927, in Karpenisi, Greece, in the little village of Karitsa, to Vasiliki and Dionysios Papaxoinis, passed away at the age of 88 after a short illness, on Sunday Nov. 29. A devoted wife, sister and aunt, she is survived by her beloved husband James Catsis (Katsigianis) of 63 years of marriage, her brother Pete Pappas, and several nephews and nieces. Fotini is preceded in death by her brothers John Pappas, and George Papaxoinis. She was a loving wife, sister, aunt, parishioner and volunteer, and a friend to many. In 1953, in North Carolina, Fotini married her neighbor, classmate and childhood friend Jimmy, who she grew up with in Karitsa. Although married for 63 years, Fotini and Jimmy have known each other from childhood for over 85 years. When her mother was so brutally murdered by the Greek junta in 1946, Fotini went to stay with the Catsis family in Karitsa, and later came to the United States. She volunteered at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral for many years serving her community. With humility and reverence she made the Prosphoro (holy bread) for the church services throughout the week. With great pride, Fotini wore a 25-year service pin from the Emergency Aid Coalition for preparing food for Houston's homeless. She is also a 50-year member of the Daughters of Penelope, and held the Office of Marshall for 18 years for Achaia Chapter 54, recognized for three of those years with a certificate of best Marshall of the Year. Friends are cordially invited to a visitation with the family from half-past twelve o'clock until half-past one o'clock in the afternoon on Thursday, Dec. 3, at An-

Days and dates of funerals, memorials, and other events directly correspond to the original publication date, which appears at the beginning of each notice.

nunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 3511 Yoakum Boulevard in Houston. The funeral service will be at half-past one o'clock on Thursday, Dec. 3, at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Burial for our beloved sister Fotini will follow the funeral service, at Forest Park Lawndale cemetery, 6900 Lawndale, Houston, Texas.

■ DOULAVERIS, VASILIOS SILVER SPRING, MD (from the Washington Post, published on Dec. 2) - On Monday, Nov. 30, 2015, Vasilios Doulaveris of Greece. Beloved husband of Stavroula Doulaveris; loving father of Constantine (Phyllis), Joanna, Agapi and Andreas (Dena) Doulaveris; cherished grandfather of Zisimos. Stavroula, Vasilios, Constantine and Anastasia Doulaveris; loving brother of Georgia, Dimitra, Koula, Eleni, Nick and the late Yiota, Kostas and Yiannis; dear son of the late of Zisimos and Giannoula Doulaveris. Friends may call at the HINES-RINALDI FU-NERAL HOME, 11800 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, MD on Thursday, Dec. 3 from 6PM to 8PM. Trisagion prayers will begin at 6:15PM Funeral services will be held at St. Andrew's Ukrainian Church, 15100 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, MD on Friday, Dec. 4 at 10:30AM. Interment Gate of Heaven Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church Building Fund, 701 Norwood Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20905.

■ HARTAS KARABELAS,

STAVROULA MEDIA, PA (from the Daily Times, published on Dec. 3) -Stavroula "Voula" Karabelas Hartas, of Chester died Nov. 30, on her 90th Birthday at home. Born in Patras, Greece, she was a daughter of the late Sotirios and Kanela Panagopoulou Karabelas. Voula came to the U.S. in 1972 and has been at her current residence for 44 years. Voula was a member of St. George Greek Orthodox Church. She was an excellent cook and loved her time with her family. Voula was predeceased by her husband of 60 years, Spiros Hartas, who died Mar. 1, 2005. She was the mother of Giota Giannopoulos (Antonios), Harry Hartas, Fotios Hartas (Giota), Sotirios Hartas, Altani Papapetridis (Paul), Andrew Hartas, Maria Spiridakos and George Hartas; 14 grandchildren and 33 great grandchildren; also survived by three sisters and one brother in Greece. Funeral Service: 11AM Monday, Dec. 7, at St. George Greek Orthodox Church, 30 E. Forge Road, Media, PA 19063 (Middletown Twp.) where friends may call after 10AM. Burial: Chester Rural Cemetery. Memorial gifts to St. George Greek Orthodox

Church Building Fund.

■ HRISOMALOS, FRANK N. BLOOMINGTON, IN (from the Indianapolis Star, published on Dec. 4) – Frank Nick Hrisomalos, MD, age 86, passed away peacefully on Wednesday Dec. 2, at IU Hospice House in Bloomington, Indiana, in the city of his birth, in the presence of his family and beloved wife Becky who selflessly cared for him day and night during his year and a half battle with cancer. He worked up until the day he fell ill. Frank was born Apr. 1, 1929 to Nick and Katina Hrisomalos, from Rapsani and Larissa, Greece. Frank spent his childhood growing-up in and around his parent's establishment, Nick's English Hut, which has now become a college institution as well as a city landmark. He spent his childhood as the only son of two Greek immigrants who came to America to start a better life and seek the American Dream. He graduated from Bloomington High School in 1946, and then attended Purdue University, and was a member of Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity, graduating with a pharmacy degree in 1951. He returned to Bloomington, Indiana and practiced pharmacy for a short while(at Brummett's Pharmacy on Third Street) while at the same time taking classes at Indiana University to meet the requirements to apply to medical school. He married Athena "Becky" Anton in 1954 at St. Andrew's Greek Orthodox Church in South Bend, Indiana, moved to Indianapolis and graduated from the Indiana University School of Medicine in 1957. He moved back to his hometown with his beautiful wife and two young children (which would soon grow to four) in tow and started his solo Family Medicine practice on Kirkwood Avenuejust a few blocks from their home-now "People's Park", with Nick's being in between the two. He took care of patients seven days a week for 57 years, until he fell ill at work, necessitating his retirement grudgingly in 2014.He always said he would never stop working, but he finally had no choice. Roles re-

versed themselves, and the doc-

tor became the patient. Over a

lives, and made a difference in so many lives. Frank became the longest practicing physician in Monroe County and was very proud of that accomplishment. Dr. Frank" as they would call him, began taking care of the grandchildren of patients he had actually delivered decades ago. He had a true love and tremendous enthusiasm for Medicine. He practiced during the grand days of the Family Practitioneradministering anesthetics before the subspecialty of anesthesia became further developed, and delivering thousands of babies, at all times of the day and night (even including one of his own daughters). He was exceedingly kind, dedicated, generous, wise and humble-he always wanted to talk about others, not himself. He sacrificed his own life and personal time to help others, and spent years on the Bloomington Public Board of Works, under several different Mayors, and the Director of Public Investment Corporation and Chairman of the Board for decades. He spent years as Director of many local nursing homes and had a special place in his heart for those patients. He believed in the dignity of all people, young and old. He was awarded the Sagamore of the Wabash as well as becoming a Kentucky Colonel, and on his 80th birthday, celebrated in a place of great significance in his life, Nick's English Hut, Mark Kruzan, Mayor of Bloomington proclaimed on April 1, 2009 "Dr. Frank Hrisomalos Day". Frank had a passion for so many thingsfrom the Arts to IU Athletics; he had a fantastic memory-his knowledge of history was remarkable; he inherited his love of property and investing from his father, who many years earlier with foresights had purchased the farm land where Frank would later build his family home-where he lived, entertained and enjoyed his family and friends since 1963. Frank lived a magical and wonderful life, and left a legacy that will live on forever within all of us, and inspired all of his children to pursue the same passion of helping and healing. He will always be here, inside of us all, until the end of time. Frank is survived by his wife of 61 years, Athena "Becky" Hrisomalos, sons Nick Hrisomalos (Joni), Tom Hrisomalos(Debbie), daughters Karen Hrisomalos(Gary Get-Elaine telfinger), Coghlan(Kevin) and grandchildren Frank Hrisomalos, Emily Hrisomalos, Matthew Coghlan, Sarah Coghlan, Megan Coghlan, Nicholas Shirley, Alexandra Shirley, Addison Ahrendts, Olivia Gettelfinger, Christian Gettelfinger, Alex Jerden and Scott Jerden(Brittany). Preceding him in death were his father Nick Hrisomalos of Rapsani, Greece, his mother Katina Hrisomalos of Larissa, Greece, and his granddaughter Faith Coghlan of Bloomington, Indiana. Visitation will be from 5PM to 9PM with a Trisagion Prayer Service at 8:45PM on Sunday, Dec. 6, and 10AM to 12PM on Monday, Dec. 7 at Sherwood Oaks Christian Church, 2700 E Rogers Rd. The Orthodox Christian Funeral Service will he held on Monday, Dec. 7 at 12PM at Sherwood Oaks Christian Church with Reverend Father Peter Jon Gillquist officiating. Burial will follow in Valhalla Memory Gardens. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the All Saints Orthodox Church of Bloomington, Indiana 6004 S Fairfax Road Bloomington, Indiana 47401. Arrangements are under the direction of Day & Deremiah-Frye Funeral Home.

■ KOLIATSIS, PEGGY

The family would like to extend

a sincere thank you to Sherwood

Oaks Christian Church for allow-

ing them to use their facilities

for the Funeral Services. SAN FRANCISCO, CA (from the San Francisco Chronicle, published on Dec. 3) - Peggy "Panagiota" Koliatsis, 64, passed away surrounded by her family on Nov. 29, in San Francisco, California unexpectedly due to heart complications. Peggy was born in Corinth, Greece on August 10, 1951. Peggy is preceded in death by her parents, George and Eleni Metrou; and husband Nikolaos "Cowboy" Koliatsis. Peggy is survived by her sisters Georgia Psomas, Maria Paplos, Dimitra Balakas and brother Prokopi Metrou; her sons George, Theodoros, son in law Heriberto and daughters Yanna and Eleni; two grandchildren Nikolaos and Isaac. She was a loving mother and grandmother who dedicated her life to her children and deceased husbands memory. She welcomed everyone with her smile and warm heart, and touched many people with her charisma and strong spirited personality. She was full of life and loved to live life to the fullest. Her beauty in and out will be cherished and remembered by her beloved family, friends, and customers of 4th & Geary Farm-

ers Market. Trisagion will be held

at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church on 999 Brotherhood Way in San Francisco on Dec. 3, at 7PM. Funeral service will be held at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church on Dec. 4, at 12PM. Burial will follow at 1:25PM at the Greek Orthodox Memorial Park in Colma, Memorial donations may be made to Disabled Childrens Relief Fund 402 Pennsylvania Ave, Freeport, NY 11520.

■ MANIS, EMANUEL

POUGHKEEPSIE, NY (from the Poughkeepsie Journal, published on Nov. 29) - Emanuel (Mike) Manias, 79, of Poughkeepsie, NY and previously of Catskill, NY passed away on Nov. 26, at Mid Hudson Regional Hospital of Westchester Medical Center. Emanuel was born on Sept. 15, 1936 in Rhodes, Greece to the late Georgios and Efrosini Manias. On Sept. 17, 1960 in Baltimore, Maryland Emanuel married Constance Polis and was blessed with 55 years of marriage. Emanuel was the Executive Chef at the Friar Tuck Inn in Catskill, NY from 1969 and retiring in 2008. He was a member of the Kimisis Greek Orthodox Church in Poughkeepsie, NY. He is survived by his wife; Constance "Dena", a daughter; Fran Viney, a son; George Manias, 5 siblings residing in Greece, grandchildren; Stephanie Purman, Jenna Viney, Jordan Manias, Jason Manias, Nicholas Graziano, and Vincent Graziano. He was predeceased by his daughter; Maria Graziano. Visitation is Monday, Nov. 30, 5PM to 7PM at the Joseph J. Darrow Sr. Funeral Home Inc. 39 So. Hamilton St. Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 845-452-1840. A funeral service is Tuesday Dec. 1, 10AM, Kimisis Greek Orthodox Church 140 So Grand Ave Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 with Father Gregory officiating. Burial will be private in Forest Lawn Cemetery in Norfolk, Virginia. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations to be sent to the St. Michael's Home 3 Lehman Terrace Yonkers, NY

■ PANOS, ANGELO L.

MILWAUKEE, WI (from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, published on Dec. 3) – Panos, Angelo L. Born into Eternal Life on Nov. 30, at age 79. Beloved husband of Maria for 57 years. Loving father of Effie (Thomas) Zacharias, Joann (Cliff) Wagner, and Georgia (Brian) Larsen. Proud grandfather of Nicholas (Kelly) Zacharias, Brian, Jr. (Chelsea) Larsen, Amanda (Aaron) Munson, and Angie Zacharias. Adoring great-grandfather of Scarlett, Lincoln, Jackson, Loralei, and Quinn. Dear brother of Chrisanthi (the late George) Zarras, Vasiliki (the late George) Antonopoulos. Preceded in death by siblings Eleni Panzazopoulos and Nikolaos Panagiotopoulos. Also loved by many family and friends here and in Greece. Visitation at the Funeral Home on Friday, Dec. 4, from 4PM to 7PM. Trisagion at 7PM. Additional visitation at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, 9400 W. Congress St., on Saturday at 9:30AM until time of Funeral Service at 10:30AM. Burial at Pinelawn Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, memorials appreciated to the

■ PAPAZIDES, FOTINE SYRACUSE, NY (from the Syra-

cuse post, published on Dec. 13) - Fotini Papazides, 78, of Camillus, passed away Saturday at St. Joseph's Hospital Heath Center. Born in Kozani, Greece, she moved to the U.S. in 1958. Fotini and her husband owned and operated John's Restaurant in downtown Syracuse for more than 30 years. She was a communicant of St. Sophia's Orthodox Church. A devoted wife, mother and grandmother, she enjoyed spending time with her family and friends. Surviving are her husband of 60 years, John; son, Ernest (Nancy) Papazides of Las Vegas, NV; daughters, Nikki (Cristos) Stamoulacatos and Joy Zoe Papazides, both of Camillus; brothers, George and Nicko, both of Greece; sisters, Sofia of Australia, Afrula of Greece, and Noula of Bayberry, Syracuse; Johnathon, grandchildren, Leeann, Stefanos, George and Nickos; great-granddaughters, Sofia and Christina; and other survivors, including Panicha Papazides of Fairmount, several nieces, nephews and cousins. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church, 325 Waring Rd., Syracuse, NY 13224.

■ PAPPAS, STEVE

CHESIRE, CT (from the Record-Journal, published on Dec. 2) -Steve Pappas, 90, husband of the late Anastasia Siavrakas Pappas died unexpectedly on Sunday, Nov. 29, 2015, at Yale New Haven Hospital. Born in Eressos, Lesvos, Greece on Jun. 1, 1925, he was the son of the late Eakovon and Kalliroy Papaefstathiou. Mr. Pappas resided in Cheshire for the past 43 years and was the retired owner of S.J. Pappas Cabinet Manufacturing of Meriden for over 60 years. He

CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICE

Ingredient Happy Snack and Garden, LLC. Art. of Org. filed w/ SSNY 7/28/15. Office in New York Co. SSNY designated for service of process and shall mail to Reg. Agent: Shazia Choudri, 315 W 36 St. Apt. 12C, NY, NY 10018. Purpose: Any lawful activity

274921/18796

NOTICE OF FORMATION of ProAVS, LLC Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/28/2015. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY is designated agent upon whom process may be served against LLC to: 13th Avenue #202 Brooklyn, NY 11228. Principal bus, address: 2088 Stuyvesant Avenue East Meadow, NY 11554. Purpose: any lawful act.

274919/19799

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

Formation WYNTER PROPERTIES, LLC (DOM LLC). Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/04/2014. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Neil Wynter, 541 Putnam Avenue, Unit 1, Brooklyn, NY 11221: Any lawful purpose.

274917/19797

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of 8805 23AVE LLC (DOM LLC). Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/08/2015. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: 8805 23 AVE LLC, 8805 23rd Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11214

274913/19793

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of 1454 Leland, LLC (DOM LLC). Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SS-NY) on 08/19/2015. Office location: Bronx County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Mirely Felicitas Alvarez Puebla, 1454 Leland Ave, Basement, Bronx, NY 10460. Purpose: Any

274911/19792

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of BUKH LAW FIRM, PLLC (DOM LLC). Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/04/2015. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Bukh Law Firm, PLLC, 1123 Avenue Z, Brooklyn, NY 11235. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

274906/19788

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of OLEAR SCENTS, LLC (DOM LLC). Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/24/2015. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: c/o United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

274905/19787

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of MINDFULLY ACTIVE PEOPLE, LLC (DOM LLC). Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/03/2015. Office location: Bronx County, SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it by be served. SSNY shall mail copy of to: Cristian Largo, 1234 Colgate Avenue, Bronx, New York 10472. Purpose: Any lawful

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of MCKEEN ST CAPITAL LLC (DOM LLC). Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/20/2015. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Robert F. Sheehy, 305 Split Rock Rd., Syosset, NY 11791. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

274894/19778

LEGAL NOTICE

VIP Student Services, LLC. App for Auth filed w/SSNY 8/24/15. Formed in AL 4/1/15. Office in NY Co. SSNY designated for service of process NY CO. SSNY designated for service of process and shall mail to Reg. Agent: U.S. Corp Agents, Inc, 7014 13th Ave. Ste. 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Auth Officer: AL Sec of State, PO Box 5616, Montgomery, AL 36103. Purpose: Any

274874/18796

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of Top to Bottom Home Inspections, LLC (DOM LLC). Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 09/23/2015. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Top to Bottom Home Inspections, LLC, 664 East Walnut Street, Long Beach, NY Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 11561.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of 236 GRAND STREET LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/12/15. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207, regd. agent upon whom and at which process may be served. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of STONEBOTS, LLC (DOM LLC). Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SS-NY) on 22/06/2015. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Spiegel & Utrera P.A., P.C., 1 Maiden Lane, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10038. Purpose: Any lawful

274869/19762

274876/19769

274875/17976

LEGAL NOTICE

FOURPOINT BOXING LLC. App for Auth filed w/ SSNY 10/30/15. Formed in DE 8/7/15. Office in NY Co. SSNY designated for service of process and shall mail to: The LLC, 150 W 56th St. Apt. 4103, New York, NY 10017. Auth Officer: DE Div of Corps, PO Box 898, Dover, DE 19903. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

274854/18796

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of SBRE VENTURES, LLC (DOM LLC). Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/05/2015. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: SBRE VENTURES, LLC, 6851 Jericho Turnpike, Suite 200, Syosset, NY 11791. Purpose: Any lawful

274867/19760

LEGAL NOTICE Notice of Formation of PACKAGE DELIVERY

SOLUTIONS, LLC (DOM LLC). Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/15/2015. Office location: New York County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Mr. Sorin F. Iancu, P.O. Box 290561, Brooklyn, NY 11229. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

274868/19761

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was a member of St. George Greek Orthodox Church. Steve was a member of AHEPA. He is survived by his children, Stratos Pappas and his wife, Karen, of Cheshire, Jack Pappas, of Meriden and Kalliroy Greenberg and her husband, Alan, of East Haven; his grandchildren, Jacklyn Greenberg and Chris Brown, of Hamden, Kathryn Greenberg Clark and her husband, Chris, of Seattle, Wash., Michael Greenberg, of Nice, France, Stathis Pappas and his wife, Kimberly, of Meriden, Jacob, Damara and Andreas Pappas, of Meriden and Kristina Pappas, of Berlin, Mass.; his great-grandson, Oliver Clark; and his sister, Maritza Anastasion and her husband, Peter. In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to St. George Greek Orthodox Church, 301 W. Main St., New Britain 06052.

■ TSAGARIS, RENA SPRINGFIELD, MA (from the Re-

publican, published on Dec. 17) Rena (Tougias) Tsagaris, 99, beloved mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend to many.

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 passed away peacefully with her family at her side on December 14, 2015. A life-long Springfield resident, Rena was born to the late Elias and Artemisia (Sfika) Tougias. After graduating from the High School of Commerce, she embarked on a long career in retail having worked at Arden's Dress Shop, Forbes & Wallace Department Store and The Arkay Shop. With her sense of style and flair, Rena was a sought after sales clerk by her loyal band of customers throughout her 50+ years on Main Street. She was preceded in death by her loving husband of 46 years, Theofilos Tsagaris, whom she met and married in three weeks time while on vacation in Greece. Also preceding her in death were her sister Potoula Daskalopoulos and her brothers George, Peter and Angelo Tougias. She leaves her son, Basil Tsagaris and his wife Catherine of Chicopee; her daughter Artemis Tsagaris and her husband John Bruno of Simsbury, CT; four grandsons, Nicholas and Alexander Tsagaris and Philip and Peter Bruno; two brothers, Pons Tougias and his wife Angie of Springfield and Arthur Tougias of Naples, FL and 18 nieces and nephews. Rena's funeral Liturgy will be Monday, December 21st at 10:00 a.m. at St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 22 St. George Rd., Springfield, MA 01104, followed by burial in Oak Grove Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral at the address

OUR EVERYDAY GREEK

Babas, Mama, Paidia – Common Members of Greek Family

By Dr. Dimitra Kamarinou

The core of the Greek social life is the family. The word πa τέραs comes from an Indo-European root and occurs in similar forms in the European languages: father in English, Vater in German, padre in Spanish. In Greek from the word πατέρας derives πατρίδα, the homeland. This etymological relationship probably indicates the masculine power of the land that brought us up. Though it etymologically derives from the father, the noun itself is female, n πατρίδα, indicating the maternal element of the place that gave us birth. Consequently in the etymology and the gender of πατρίδα are included both the paternal and the maternal elements. Both needed for us humans to exist and grow up. This association does not exist in English or in German, illustrating probably how the Greeks feel about their country.

The word μπτέρα, mother, has also an Indo-European root and is found in most Indo-European languages in similar forms. Mother, Mutter, madre. In Greek with the omission of ϵ derives n μήτρα, the womb.

In spoken Greek the father is called μπαμπάs (daddy) and the mother μαμά (mammy). The grandfather is o παππούs and the grandmother is n γιαγιά.

The Greek word for the siblings is αδέλφια. This word is to be found as the second part of the compound city name Phil+adelphia. The first compound is the verb, which in ancient Greek meant I love. From this verb derive the words o φίλos=the male friend, n φίλη=the female friend, and το φιλί=the kiss, indicating thus a serious emotional investment. The Philadelphia city's name means the brotherhood.

The brother is o αδελφόs and the sister is n αδελφή. If we add a ξ in front of these words and we remove the tonos to another syllable, we get the word ξάδερ-

GREEK VOCABULARY

GREEK WORD	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
		Father
Ο πατέρας	0 pateras	
Ο μπαμπάς	0 babas	daddy
Η μπτέρα	Ee mitera	mother
Η μαμά	Ee mama	mammy
Ο παππούς	O papoos	grandfather
Η γιαγιά	Ee yiayia	grandmother
Τα αδέλφια	Ta adelphia	siblings
Ο αδελφός	O adelphos	brother
Η αδελφή	Ee adelphee	sister
Ο ξάδελφος	0 xadelphos	Male cousin
Η ξαδέλφη	Ee xadelphi	Female cousin
0 θείος	0 theeos	uncle
Η θεία	Ee theea	aunt
O vovós	0 nonos	godfather
H vová	Ee nona	godmother
Потоѕ	Pios	Who male
По1а	pia	Who female
Eívaı	eene	i s
μου/σου	moo/soo	My/your
Η πατρίδα	Ee patreeda	country
Η μήτρα	Ee meetra	womb
WORD CLUSTERS		

ikoyenia

ikoloyeea

0 feelos

Ee feeli

ikonomeea

10 ψιλι	10 mee	The Kiss
COMMON GREEK NAMES		
GREEK	PRONUNCIATION	ENGLISH
Χρήστος	Hreestos	Chris
Κατερίνα	Katereena	Catherine
Σωτήρης	Soteeris	Sotiris
Δήμητρα	Deemitra	Dimitra
Γιάννης	Yiannis	John
Δημήτρης	Dimeetris	Dimitris
Κώστας	Kostas	Kostas
θωμάς	Thomas	Thomas
Πέτρος	Petros	Peter
Παύλος	Pavlos	Paul
Μαρία	Mareea	Maria
Άννα	Ana	Ann
Ελένη	Eleeni	Helen
Αντιγόνη	Antiyoni	Antigone

φos, the male cousin and ξαδέλφη, the female cousin.

Η οικογένεια

Η οικολογία

Η οικονομία

Ο φίλος

Η φίλη

Greek families include a network of relatives the most important of which are: o θ είοs=the uncle, n θ εία=the aunt, o vovós=the godfather and n vová=the godmother.

family

ecology

economy

Male friend

Female friend

They are all essential members of the Greek family, n oi-

κογένεια. The first compound of the Greek word for the family, οίκοs means the house and is found in English in the words eco+logy = deal with our house, the planet earth, n οικο+λογία in Greek and eco+nomy= the house rules, n οικο+νομία in Greek. **DIALOGUE**

Ποιοs means who for male persons and ποια means who for female persons. The article for the male persons is o (ο μπαμπάs) and for the female is n (n μητέρα). Είναι means is. Mou is the possessive pronoun my and oou is your. In Greek the position of these possessive pronouns is right after the noun. The Greek question mark (;) is

like the English semicolon. -Ποιος είναι ο πατέρας σου; (Who is your father?)

-Ο πατέραs μου είναι ο Χρήστος Καμαρινός. (My father is Hristos Kamarinos)

 Ποιος είναι ο παππούς σου; (Who is your grandfather?)

-Ο παππούs μου είναι ο Σωτήρης Καμαρινός. (My grandfa-

ther is Sotiris Kamarinos). -Ποια είναι η μπτέρα σου; (Who is your mother?)

-Η μπτέρα μου είναι η Κατερίνα Ασπροποταμίτου. (Μу mother is Katerina Aspropotami-

-Ποια είναι η γιαγιά σου; (Who is your grandmother?)

-Η γιαγιά μου είναι η Δήμη-τρα Καμαρινού. (My grandmother is Dimitra Kamarinou).

PRONUNCIATION KEY:

i (idiom), ee (needle), e (energy), o (organism), oo (boot), y (yes), h (helium), th (theory), d (the). The accented syllable is

Dimitra Kamarinou, PhD, has studied philology and archaeology at the University of Ioannina,Würzburg and Bochum in She has been Germany. honored with the Academy of Athens Award in Archaeology and Homeric Philology.

GREEK GASTRONOMY

The Greek Origins of Gingerbread Produce Taste

By Eleni Sakellis

Most historical accounts trace the history of gingerbread back to ancient Greece and the recipe for spiced honey cakes or melomakarona though the original recipe itself contained no ginger at the time.

Wealthy Ancient Greeks would travel to the island of Rhodes for the honey cakes, which would often be used as religious offerings. Later on, the honey cakes became a symbolic gift for loved ones much like • 1 large egg

In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, ginger, cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg, baking soda, and salt, and set aside. In the bowl of a stand mixer with the paddle attachment, beat the butter and honey together at medium to high speed until well blended about 30 seconds. Scrape down the sides and bottom of the bowl with a rubber spatula. Add the egg and beat well. Add about half of the flour and spice mixture and beat until

combined thoroughly. Stir in the

remaining flour mixture. Divide

the dough in half and cover with

plastic wrap. Refrigerate for at

least one hour or freeze for half

an hour until the dough is firm

enough to roll out. The dough

can be left in the refrigerator for

three days, just allow it to thaw

at room temperature until it is

easy to roll out. On a lightly

floured surface, roll out one half

of the dough to 1/4 inch thick-

ness. Cut out your gingerbread

men using cookie cutters about

3 or 4 inches in size. You can

also cut out shapes using a sharp

knife or the cookie cutters of

your choice. Use an offset spatula

to transfer the cookies to a

greased baking sheet, or a baking

sheet lined with foil or parch-

ment paper, placing them one

inch apart. Bake in a preheated

375 degree oven for 10-12 min-

utes depending on the size of

your shapes and until the edges

are golden brown. Allow the

cookies to cool on the baking

sheets for about 5 minutes then

transfer to wire racks to cool

completely. Roll out the remain-

ing dough, continue cutting out shapes and baking as above. Dec-

orate with a simple powdered

sugar icing and colorful candies,

if you prefer. Makes about 30

cookies depending on the size of

the cookie cutters.



chocolates on St. Valentine's Day. The Ancient Egyptians also used spiced honey cakes in religious ceremonies and as gifts for loved ones. Gregory of Nicopolis, an Armenian monk, brought the recipe for honey cakes to France in the year 992. He taught the French priests to make the confection flavored with honey and spices and by the 11th century ginger was added to spice mixture. Brought home by returning Crusaders, ginger and many other spices became highly sought after throughout Europe for medicinal purposes and as flavoring for foods. By the 15th century, you had to belong to the gingerbread guild in order to bake gingerbread in many regions of Europe, including Bohemia and parts of what is now

ity, Emperor Frederick III had 4,000 gingerbread cookies made in his likeness and distributed to children in the year 1487. Gingerbread cakes and cookies continue to be a special treat at Christmastime, especially when built into fanciful houses or cut out into tasty and adorable gingerbread men. Here is a recipe for gingerbread cookies you can make at home and share with family and friends. In keeping with the origins of this sweet and spicy cookie, use your favorite Greek honey.

Gingerbread

nutmeg

• 3 cups all-purpose,

unbleached flour

• 2 teaspoons ground ginger

• 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

• 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves

• 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground

butter, at room temperature

1 teaspoon baking soda

• 1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted

• 1/2 teaspoon salt

• 1/2 cup honey

In order to boost his popular-

Powdered Sugar Icing

- 2 cups sifted powdered sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla
- extract • About 2 tablespoons milk

Whisk together the sifted powdered sugar, the vanilla and a little of the milk at a time until the icing is the desired consistency. Use less milk for a thicker icing to pipe decorations on the cookies. Use a little more milk for a thinner icing to drizzle on cookies.

Chef Costas Spiliadis Will Bring His Talents to Hudson Yards

When the Hudson Yards project - the biggest commercial project in U.S. history - opens on New York's West Side in 2018, one of the prime restaurants will be operated by noted Greek chef Costas Spiliadis.

He's already a fixture in New York with his upscale Estiatorio Milos restaurant, a chain of Greek seafood-themed places with branches in Las Vegas, Miami, London, and Montreal, which have drawn rave reviews and features fare flown in from Greece, which makes it out of range for some customers or those who've eaten fish at family restaurants in Greece.

Not everyone's a fan, though, and after chef Sean Bernal quit only two weeks after joining the Miami branch, Miami.com reported that the staff characterized Spiliadis as "repugnant" and said he had a slave-driving mentality, threatened the staff with "public humiliation" and that workers aren't allowed to sit or rest even when the facility isn't open yet or they are doing set-up work. He wouldn't respond to the allegations.

The project will feature restaurants by famous chefs but in a more casual setting and less expensive than their branches.

Also a feature there will be famed Spanish-born chef Jose Andres, who's well known for his Washington, DC facility, and



Thomas Keller, a Michelinstarred chef who operates Per Se in New York's Time Warner Center. His dishes can run you up to \$400 or so per person but the target at Hudson Yards is for lower, relatively speaking,

"We've already done our thing at the top," said Himmel, referring to the Time Warner Center, which his Related Cos.

firm also developed. "The idea here is to be much more engaging, much more affordable," he told the Wall Street Journal.

He'll open an American-style grill there and lunches at the restaurants in the complex could be as low as \$20 per person in some places.

"People are looking for more casual but still premium experiences," Bret Thorn, an editor

with Nation's Restaurant News, a trade journal told WSJ, an approach called "polished casual." Hudson Yards will also in-

clude 5,000 residential units, a hotel, a cultural center and a public school. The complex, currently under construction, is situated between West 30th and West 34th Streets and 10th and 11th Avenues.

GREEK AMERICAN STORIES

Will the Real Santa Please Stand Up? Little Kids Need You Now

By Phylis (Kiki) Sembos Special to The National Herald

In 1897, a little girl named Virginia O' Hanlon sent a letter to the New York Sun, a newspaper whose motto was, 'If the Sun prints it, it's true', asking the question, "Is there really a Santa?" The editor responded, Yes, Virginia, there really is a

Well, let's discuss it. I wish to explain why I never wrote Santa Claus a letter as a kid. Growing up in the Depression, who could buy us kids anything? When I was about eight my friends, my brother and I went to the old Madison Square Garden with our passes from the P.A.L. where Santa was coming to hand us kids presents. But, no Santa appeared. Instead, policemen handed out the gifts. I got an uninspiring rag doll. My brother got a game we never played because we didn't know how to play it. I asked, 'where's Santa Claus?

A reporter standing by told me he was waiting for Christmas Eve. 'Nah!' said a kid next to me in line. "He's, probably out with a bunch of other Santas in some bar along Eighth Avenue boozing it up." When Christmas Eve came and went there was neither a tree nor any

My father, a no-nonsense, realist, explained that the real Saint Nick did those things about 1,600 years ago, and that today's Santa, who would be only about 127 years old, is a concocted contrivance invented by the Germans who tried to pronounce his name. It began: Sant-nik-laous that became Santa Claus, a variation on Saint Nicholas. There the similarity ends. The original Santa had parents called Theophanous and Nonna. He didn't wear a twopiece, red outfit with fur trimmings, wasn't that fat and jolly and didn't have a sleigh or rein-

Yet, somehow he became



multinational when history says he was Greek. Nicholas wore a long, dark red coat, black boots, maybe fur trimmed, had a wide belt to keep it closed, sported a long beard being a priest who later became a bishop. Today's Santa lives in the North Pole. Our Santa was born in Myra, in a place called Lycia, (pronounced Lee-kee-a) in the south coast of Asia Minor that is now a part of Turkey. When his parents died he was left lots of money. Having no interest in self aggrandizement, he used the money to help the poor, the hungry and the sick, especially children. He'd toss gold coins through windows for the dowerless girls and never let on who was the gift giver. He wanted no fame, praise or thanks. But, thanks to him many girls were able to marry and were saved from poverty and humiliating

circumstances. Then, he'd gift their children, again in secret. When someone witnessed what he was doing, word spread and he became known as the cheerful giver of gifts to children. In return, he asked only that the children be raised as good Chris-

His birthday was in December – with Jesus' birthday, supposedly, in the same month. Now, let's get serious. If good, ol' Saint Nick was fat and jolly how could he get down chimneys and not get stuck and have to call the fire department? His red suit was never covered with ashes, either. His whiskers remained white. When did reindeers know how to fly - unless they were really disguised drones? And, with all that weight on those roofs - reindeer, sleigh, an overweight Santa loaded with toys, didn't any of those roofs collapse? Think of the racket those hooves would make! Being realistic, if you heard someone, especially,

in these days, calling out, 'Ho ho ho' on the roof, wouldn't you think of calling the cops? If elves made all those toys during the off months, who paid them? Were they union? Sounds like slave labor to me! Then, we're told that the toys, then, got distributed to various department stores like Macy's or Toys R' Us. My point is that we have long been inundated with tall myths that are improbable, unrealistic and so untruthful that the real purpose of Christmas has gotten lost. No wonder children become disenchanted when the truth is uncovered! The modern Santa doesn't act saintly, either.

Shouldn't we be honoring the real saint and be giving gifts in his name because he is no longer here to do it; something that would have greatly pleased him? If we were to remind people that the real Santa was Greek we'd be accused of being prejudice. Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa – but not the one you believe in.

HELLENIC HAPPENINGS FROM COAST TO COAST

TNH Staff

NEW YORK, NY - Greek-American comedienne TINA FEY and her professional and personal BFF AMY POEHLER cohosted the December 19 episode of SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE (SNL), and the hilarious duo reprised their iconic characters of SARAH PALIN and HILLARY CLINTON, respectively, which they made famous during the 1988 presidential campaign. The skit began with current SNL cast member KATE MCKINNON, who often plays the Hillary Clinton character nowadays, as the 2015 version visited by Poehler, the 2008 "Ghost of Hillary Past." As the two strategize on the 2016 campaign, in comes Fey as Sarah Palin in a cloud of smoke to thunderous cheers. Fey was flawless, not missing a beat from the characterization she made so famous seven years ago: "Ya gotta do what you believe, but also, America, but not teachers and their fat liberal books, but also, and even why worry about fast food wages, with their status quo, which is another Latin word, status quo, and also, Americans are being taken for a ride...

When 2015 Hillary said she was taking advice from "the smartest woman I know," to which 2008 Hillary said "me." Sarah then said "you should be taking advice from me, because I got a heck of a lot closer to the White House than this gal did," at which point 2008 Hillary

New Democracy Party?

email

sponses as Letters to the Editor in a future issue.

Please

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Who would you like to see become the next leader of the

your

scaros@thenationalherald.com We may publish some re-



L-R: Tina Fey (as Sarah Palin), Kate McKinnon (as Hillary Clinton 2015), and Amy Poehler (as Hillary Clinton 2008).

charged at her, while 2015 Hillary held her back. "Oh, you poor thing," Fey/Palin continued, "I heard that after you lost you had to become a secretary." "Of state!" the two Hillarys fumed back.

MISSOULA, MT - MONTANA STATE SENATOR CHRISTINE KAUFFMANN (D-Helena) appealed to her fellow Montanans welcome SYRIAN REFUGEES, citing her own experience while visiting GREECE this fall. "A week before the Paris attacks, I was on the Greek Island of LESBOS, volunteering alongside young people from across Europe, welcoming overloaded rafts of refugees to safety," she told the Missoulian.

response

THE HERALD SQUARE

TNH's Crossword Challenge

to

"Up to 5,000 a day were attempting the treacherous crossing. We served wet, cold families tea and soup and distributed dry clothing. As I considered what I was thankful for this season, I thought of those fellow humans who have been forced from their country and homes, given up their professions and possessions, and risked death crossing the Aegean Sea with their children.

"I met them for one small interlude somewhere toward the beginning of their long journey to find a place of safety to begin to build a new life. I fear their journey has gotten longer and less safe in recent weeks. Increasingly they are met with suspicion, fear, and outright hostility and hatred."

Kauffman then turned the focus to Montana, proclaiming that she was "saddened and ashamed" that 55 of her Republican colleagues in the Montana Legislature urged

Montana GOVERNOR STEVE BULLOCK not to facilitate admission of any Syrian refugees into the state.

to the faith teachings that many of us espouse. Indeed, Jesus provided a litmus test for faithfulness in Matthew 25 based on our treatment of those who are hungry and homeless: 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance... For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in ... whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

"I beg you to remember that terrorism has no religion. Islam is no more related to ISIS than Christianity is to the Ku Klux Klan, or the Aryan Nation. The Paris attackers were extremists acting in perversion of the Muslim faith, just as Tim McVeigh and Terry Nichols, who killed 168 Americans in the 1995 bombing in Oklahoma City, were extremists acting in perversion of the Christian faith. Just as those who attack health clinics that offer abortions are extremists acting in perversion of the Christian faith.

"I beg you to remember the most shameful periods of our history and not repeat them. When Europeans came here as refugees and committed welldocumented atrocities against our native population; when Montanans participated in interning Japanese refugees and U.S. citizens in concentration camps; when Montana passed the broadest, harshest and most notorious sedition law and imprisoned scores of Montana citizens of German descent for making comments critical of the war.

"I beg you to remember our shared humanity in this time of turmoil."

GOINGS ON...

■ DECEMBER 31

CHICAGO, IL – Pegaus Restaurant's New Year's Eve Party! Celebrate New Year's Eve Greekstyle! What does that mean? Oh... lots of eating, drinking, dancing (perhaps on the tables), laughing and fun! Live Greek Music - band starts about 10pm. We will be offering our full menu & specials. \$25 cover per person for those seated at or after 9pm (added to your final bill at the end of the evening). Champagne toast and party favors we will be given. We offer complimentary valet parking. Pegasus Restaurant & Taverna, 130 South Halsted Street in Chicago. Come join the celebration! We hope you join us in ringing in 2016! OPAA!!!!

She continued, as the Mis-

soulian reported: "Rejecting

refugees runs directly counter

NEEDHAM, MA - The Boston Sons of Pericles cordially invite you to Ring in the New Year at the 3rd Annual Boston SOP New Year's Eve Party. Check us out on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/events/16331282802 77260/ Purchase Tickets Here: https://ticketriver.com/ event/17725 Boston's #1 Greek Night on New Years Eve in the Grand Ballroom at the Sheraton Needham. Doors Open at 9PM, Cash Bar and Light Appetizers. DJ Thrilla and DJ 7 Spinning All Night! Sheraton Needham 100 Cabot St., in Needham. Phone: (781) 444-1110 Room Block Available at the Sheraton, \$109/Night. For more info see starwoodmeeting.com/Book/son sofpericles.

MANCHESTER, NH – Join us at AssumptIon Greek Church, 111 Island Pond Road for countdown to 2016. There will be hors d'oeuvres and a Buffet Dinner at 7:30PM, Live Greek Band at 8:30PM and Door Prizes. At midnight there will be a Champagne toast. For tickets please contact: Mike Rokas: (603)620-4144 Teddy Rokas: (603) 620-2228 Tasos Karatzoulidis: (603) 203-3799. Advance cash bar tickets available for purchase, \$35 for adults and for \$15 children (18 and under). There will be tickets available at the door, \$45 for adults and \$25 for children.

SAN DIEGO, CA - Celebrate New Year's Eve at Meze! Thursday December 31st, 4-course dinner, live entertainment, and midnight celebration. 5PM-5AM. The fourcourse dinner begin with a first course of an array of appetizers, including pikilia, saganaki, and shrimp. The 2nd course is an heirloom village salad. The 3rd and main course is a choice of entrée among filet mignon souvlaki, rack of lamb, half a lemon chicken, salmon, or vegetarian gemista. The 4th and final course, dessert, is loukoumades and flourless chocolate cake. Meze is located at 345 6th Avenue. For Reservations, call (619) 550-1600 or email info@gaslampmeze.com.

■ JANUARY 5

TARPON SPRINGS, FL - The George Washington Chapter 16

of AHEPA will host the Annual Epiphany Banquet on Tuesday, Jan. 5 at the Tarpon Springs Yacht Club, 350 North Spring Boulevard, in Tarpon Springs. Cocktail hour is at 6PM, followed by dinner at 7PM. Invited guests include His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, AHEPA Supreme President John Galanis, and Daughters of Penelope Grand President Connie Pilallis. Tickets are \$60 which includes a dinner choice of Grilled Shrimp and Scallops over Rice, Prime Rib of Beef, or Vegetarian Pasta. To order tickets, please contact Jim Miller at (727) 243-4546 or at amiller745@yahoo.com, or Tim Keffalas at (727) 510-9394.

■ JANUARY 8

ROSLINDALE, MA - Dancing Zorbas presents Greek Dancing Zumba style at the St. Nectarios Greek Orthodox Church, 39 Belgrade Avenue, in Roslindale. Your first time is free so come have some fun while relieving stress and exercising to Greek music. The event will be from 7PM to 10PM.

■ JANUARY 9

BOSTON, MA - Due to high demand Spasta is back for round two. Please join the Spasta crew at ICON, 100 Warrenton Street, in Boston, in the main room. DJ Greek-O will be spinning New Greek music you have not heard before. 21+ older and dress to impress. For Guest List & Tables Please Contact: Rhea T. 781-346-2804 Kristina T. 781-346-5136 Dimitri D. 978-761-5007 Socrates E. 857-869-7086 George A 617-997-7615.

■ JANUARY 13

WASHINGTON. DC DCGreeks.com invites you to come watch the Washington Wizards take on the Milwaukee Bucks at the Verizon Center 601 F St NW, in Washington, on Wednesday, Jan. 13th at 7PM. We have reserved a block of tickets in the lower level (Section 106) starting as low as \$51 per seat as well as the upper level (Section 432) for only \$28 per seat. Purchasing discounted tickets in DCGreeks.com block gets you (1) discounted ticket to the game (1) Custom-Ink Wizards T-shirt! The first 50 people to purchase their ticket(s) get a chance to stay after the game to see "Greek Freak" Giannis Antetokounmpo of the Milwaukee Bucks and Greek National Team during a post-game appearance (subject to availability). Ticket sales are handled through our page on Groupmatics https://groupmatics.events/#/ev ent/DCGREEKS. To purchase tickets, create an account, select from the seats available, and checkout. For any questions, please contact TheGuys@DC-

■ JANUARY 15-18

Greeks.com.

ORLANDO, FL - The Hellenic Dance Festival will take place in Orlando, FL Friday through Monday, January 15-18. Join the fun as a spectator, volunteer, dancer, or director and you won't leave disappointed. With over 35 groups performing traditional dances of Greece, spiritual enrichment activities, and dances every evening, you won't want to miss this event! The event and meeting facilities at Rosen Shingle Creek, 9939 Universal Boulevard in Orlando, combine cutting-edge technology with superior service - all within minutes of the Orlando International Airport, the Orange County Convention Center, Universal, and Disney. For more info please visit hellenicdancefestival.com.

■ JANUARY 22-24

BELLEVIEW, FL - The St. Mark's Greek Orthodox Church, 9926 SE

tion@thenationalherald.com

36th Avenue in Belleview, will hold its annual Greek festival Friday, Jan. 22 through Sunday, Jan. 24. If You Love Entertainment and Exceptional Greek Food with an international flair, Ocala's Greek Festival is an event you won't want to miss! Three Fun Filled days of All Things Greek including Food, Music and Dance. There will also be A World Bazaar, Clowns, Live Music, featuring Nick Trivelas with George Antonopoulos & Joanna Kartsonis, presenting "A Night in Athens," Outdoor and Inside Taverna, and free hourly Door Prizes and much, much more. A Great Time for the Entire Family! There will also be a variety of vendors, ongoing chapel tours, a children's activities tent. While you enjoy yourselves at The Greek Festival, you can also feel good knowing that your participation serves an automatic contribution to several area charities and community programs! Come visit our outdoor & indoor Taverna where we offer Greek wine, beer and ouzo! Opa! About St. Mark's: St Mark Greek Orthodox Church is a community of believers from many walks of life seeking salvation through the Gospel of Jesus. In our Parish you will meet Orthodox Christians of diverse backgrounds, and converts who have joined our community. Come and hear the Scriptures sung by our members. Smell the fragrant incense as it lifts our prayers to God. See the Gospel taught through our iconography displayed throughout the Church. Participate in worship that has remained unchanged by the world around us, celebrating the Divine Liturgy as it has been handed down to us by the Holy Church Fathers. And most importantly, discover that Christ is in our midst as you make a life changing commitment.

■ 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 info regarding the event 3-4 weeks ahead of time, and no later than Monday of the week before the event, to english.edi-

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10 Third Greek letter

22 First Greek letter

28 Fourth Greek letter

42 Island near Taiwan

43 Pappas of baseball

49 Tenth Greek letter

56 Digital audio tape

59 DDE's predecessor

60 Morse code "T"

50 Nail filing board

11 Affirmative

12 Golfer's goal

13 Dynamite

21 Medal

24 Depend

25 Winged

26 Warble

27 Put up

33 Step

34 Garret

46 Trugh

48 Repute

51 Gushed

53 Worker 55 Ascend

57 Anger

58 Music

30 City in Ohio

32 Back porch

38 Groom's need

39 Snaky fish

40 Go boating

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- 14 Healing plant 15 Mr. Donahue
- 16 Encomium
- 17 Trends 18 Chose
- 19 Dapper 20 Vane direction
- 21 Grk. soccer team 22 Point
- 23 Ethics 25 Slaked
- 29 Building addition
- 30 Dog food brand
- 31 Lode yield 32 Sacred poem
- 35 Genghis
- 36 Delaware 37 Lawyer (abbr.)
- 38 Baseball player Yogi 40 Cult
- 41 Make lace 42 Dunking cookies
- 43 Mediterranean island 44 3, to Nero
- 45 Oven
- 46 7, to Nero 47 Beautiful flowers
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- 56 Goddess
- 59 N.A. Indian 60 Hindu goddess, consort of Siva
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- 62 September (abbr.) 63 Greek god of war
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DOWN

1 Unhurt

- 2 Plasma
- 3 Cowboy show
- 4 Affirmative
- 8 Moose relative
- 5 Outrage
- 6 Island of masticha 7 Rangers' Fotiu
- Solution to last week's puzzle E N O C H P E P S I A L I G N Y E **S** S K E W R E G A L P R E M O O N R U L E S
 V A G U E B U L L E T E P S I L O N C E L L G G A M M A C N N I N E H S T Y E A R A Z O R R O O M Y P A R I S A A C S N O O P EDGE A L P H A

This Week in Greek History:

Zosimus, the Greek Became Fallible Pope

This week in Greek history, Pope Zosimus, a Greek-born theologian who became Pope of Rome, died, on December 26,

Zosimus died after a brief papacy mired in controversy. Shortly after ascending to the papacy in March 417, Zosimus shocked the Orthodox world by espousing Pelagianism, the doctrine of Pelagius, which declared that human beings are able to achieve moral perfection without divine intervention, thereby contradicting the concept of Augustine's original sin and that human beings are inevitably destined to be sinners and are saved only because of Divine

Although Zosimus eventually turned away from Pelagianism,



Pope Zosimus

he embraced a doctrine considered heretical by the church while he headed it, which goes against the notion of papal infallibility, a doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church. To make matters worse, when Apiarius was convicted by the African Bishops of certain

crimes and appealed to Zosimus, the latter invoked the following canon "When a bishop thinks he has been unjustly deposed by his colleagues he may appeal to Rome, and the Roman bishop shall have the business decided by judices in partibus," mistakenly identifying it as a Nicene Canon, when in fact it was a Sardica Canon

Zosimus died while this matter was under review, and was succeeded by Pope Boniface.

More Tough Greek Reforms Open Door for 1B Euro Installment

ATHENS – After bowing to international lenders and completing long-delayed reforms, Greece's shaky coalition government is expecting the release of a one billion euro installment, buying time before implementing more tough conditions.

The Parliament that is narrowly controlled by Prime Minister and Radical Left SYRIZA leader Alexis Tsipras' party and his partner, the formerly antiausterity far-right Independent Greeks (ANEL) passed 13 socalled prior actions that had been undone for the past few years.

Among the reforms are lower state subsidies for diagnostic tests paid by the country's main healthcare provider EOPYY, lowering the benefit 43 percent for the 51 most expensive tests and

lab tests by 9 percent.

The Health Ministry said that it will examine the impact of the measure in two months, giving the government time to draft a more comprehensive plan for EOPYY to rein in its spending.

"The decision was taken under the pressure to fulfill the prior actions," said the Health Ministry in a statement. "It is the result of the institutions' inexplicable insistence solely on reducing prices as a way of controlling costs."

Despite the ministry's skepticism about the measures, the decision meant Greece would receive the loan installment imminently. While he's griped fiercely about the pressure from the Quartet of the European Union-International Monetary Fund-European Central Bank-

European Bank (EU-IMF-ECB-ESM) that is putting up a third bailout of 86 billion euros (\$94.43 billion) Tsipras hasn't offered any acceptable alternatives.

"The Greek authorities delivered all the outstanding input to complete the second set of milestones to the institutions for their final assessment," European Commission spokeswoman Mina Andreeva said in Brussels, adding that the go-ahead was subject to the lenders' "positive assessment, a veiled warning that Tsipras couldn't back away from promises to the lenders as he did to voters.

But Tsipras still doesn't want the IMF taking part. In an interview with the Financial Times published Dec. 20, Tsipras said he was "puzzled by the unconstructive attitude of the fund on fiscal and financial issues."

He said the Eurozone was now in a position to take full responsibility of supervising

"We think that after six years of managing in extraordinary crisis, Europe now has the institutional capacity to deal successfully with intra-European issues," Tsipras said. That view has already been rejected by the other participants.

ANOTHER RED LINE

But while the lenders are pushing for yet more cuts, Tsipras said there won't be further reductions to pensions but didn't say how he could avoid it.

He previously said he wouldn't impose austerity or privatization but broke those promises along with virtually every campaign pledge he made.

"This red line is non-negotiable: we will not reduce main pensions for a 12th time," Tsipras told his cabinet on Dec. 23 without mentioning he stepped over every previous red line he drew after demands from the Quartet.

Tsipras said the bailout agreement did not mandate fresh cuts to pensions although the lenders said it does and he continues to both defy and obey them. "What the agreement calls for is cuts in spending; it does not say that these will come by reducing pensions," he said, without offering from where else the cuts would come

Previous cuts, Tsipras said, had brought Greek pensions down by an average 45 percent but had done little to stop the bleeding of the system. His words came a few days after a humiliating comedown when he had to withdraw so-called "parallel programs" that would protect pensioners and the country's most vulnerable sectors.

Tsipras said that pension reform is the final prerequisite for wrapping up the assessment of the Greek program so that talks on debt relief can proceed.

"The goal is to complete the first review as soon as possible while keeping in place a safety net for the weakest," he said without explaining how he would do either.

FARMERS AREN'T HAPPY

Angered they will be hit with tax hikes, Greek farmers from Thessaly said they will again protest and warned lawmakers not to proceed.

"Greek MPs, why do you have to condemn us to poverty with your vote?" the farmers said in a statement, adding they would demonstrate in January, after the holidays. They had previously used tractors to block roads.

"Why must we be prevented from cultivating the land? Why should we not be able to live? Why should we lose our fields, our homes and our machinery? We reject these policies. We condemn them and vow to fight them."

them."

Previous protests have all failed in the face of new austerity measures implemented by successive governments, as the ruling SYRIZA-led coalition is planning to do on orders of

international lenders. TSIPRAS RALLIES THE TROOPS

Tsipras is trying to focus on the few campaign promises he has been able to keep.

He visited the area of Keratsini, near Piraeus, where he met with Mayor Christos Vrettakos to discuss the handing over from the central government to the local authority of the Drapetsona shorefront, which the coalition has removed from the land parcel that is to be sold as part of the Piraeus Port Authority pri-

vatization.

Tsipras stressed the move was promised by SYRIZA in the runup to the September 20 elections. "We are providing [local residents] with fresh air and a sea front," he said, according to Kathimerini.

ESM Chief Klaus Regling said acquiescence has removed for now the likelihood of Greece being forced out of the Eurozone, but only as long as Tsipras keeps following the Quartet's orders.

"Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras is currently delivering – this week all the reforms still needed this year went through Parliament," he told the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung. "But, of course, I can't guarantee that this will always be so."

Regling also denied the lenders had taken it easy on Athens, delaying some crucial reforms for 2016.

"It was always clear that pension reform and the next steps on Greek debt would only be tackled with the first comprehensive review of the reforms, the so-called first review," he said.

Greek Parliament Calls On country to Call For Palestinian State

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, gives a speech inside the Greek parliament, on Tuesday, Dec. 22, 2015. Greek lawmakers have unanimously approved a resolution calling on the country's left-led government to formally recognize Palestinian statehood.Prime **Minister Alexis Tsipras has** declined to say when Greece could adopt the parliamentary resolution. Tsipras' government is trying to balance improved relations with Israel with his party's longstanding support for a Palestinian state.



Mitsotakis Eyes Momentum In ND Leader Race

Continued from page 1

Tsipras visited Israel last

Abbas in Ramallah, West

Minister Benjamin

month, meeting with Prime

Netanyahu. He also met with

mented a series of successful reforms."

Having upset the opinion polls on who would make it into the runoff vote, Mitsotakis stressed that his candidacy rather than that of older party veteran Meimarakis is the one that offers the conservatives hope for the future.

"In the first round, the message from 60 percent or more of new and old members was clear," he said, referring to those who didn't back Meimarakis. "Our duty is to put their mandate into practice. The wave of creative renewal will grow and be victorious on January 10."

While the far-younger Mitsotakis is seen as a fresher face despite his family's dominance in the party, Meimarakis has shown a surprising ability to rally the Conservatives, even though he got trounced by

Tzitzikostas is not expected to publicly support either candidate but will probably indirectly back Mitsotakis, the newspaper Kathimerini said.

The party has been in disarray after it failed in November to have an election because of a technical software snafu, leading the candidates to snipe at

each other and officials, including former leader Antonis Samaras and Costas Karamanlis, two former Greek Premiers.

Efforts by Yiannis Plakiotakis, ND's interim chairman, and Yiannis Tragakis, the new head of the party's central election committee, to arrange a joint appearance of the four in a show of unity ahead of the vote fell through.

Mitsotakis reacted to media reports that Karamanlis has had a series of contacts with Greece's leftist Prime Minister and SYRIZA Alexis Tsipras, the Conservatives' arch-enemy.

"ND does not need and should not have a totem. Every ex-premier has something to offer the nation, but that's it," he said.

Sources close to Karamanlis told Kathimerini that he communicated with Tsipras once, to urge him to avoid a Greek exit from the Eurozone.

The party is trying to regroup after the SYRIZA beatings although its agenda is uncertain as its backing for austerity measures since Samaras won the June, 2012 elections sent its popularity plummeting.

Meimarakis, during his short time heading the party, continued the same austerity drumbeat and has offered no alter-



Chit-chat is nice but a debate between Evangelos Meimarakis and former minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis would be better.

native to perpetuating that if he wins, while at the same time denouncing SYRIZA for doing what he and ND did.

New Democracy's languishing may have cost it a chance to move up on SYRIZA with polls showing that 80 percent of Greeks are disappointed in the coalition government, which includes the formerly anti-auster-

ity far-right Independent Greeks

Some 67 percent of respondents who voted for SYRIZA now say they are disappointed that Tsipras has continued to renege on anti-austerity promises and is about to deliver punishing new cuts to pensions unless he can find some offsetting revenues

Eyeing Cyprus' Ports, China Jumps into Unity Hopes

NICOSIA – China's Foreign Minister says his country is interested in operating Cypriot ports and to help turn the small east Mediterranean island nation into a regional shipping hub.

Wang Yi also said after talks with his Cypriot counterpart that China is looking to develop industrial zones around the ports. He also pledged support for talks aimed at reunifying ethnically divided Cyprus, saying his country welcomes progress made in negotiations so far.

Cyprus issued tenders earlier this year for a new operator to manage its largest port in the town of Limassol as a container hub, a cruise liner port of call or to offer sea services.

Cypriot Foreign Minister Ioannis Kasoulides said he conveyed his government's "great wish" that Chinese companies succeed in the tender.

Kasoulides pointed to the "successful participation" of China's Cosco in Greece's main port of Piraeus, where it has a concession to operate two of three container terminals.

Yi said that China would continue to play a constructive role in supporting the reunification

Wang's visit follows recent trips to Cyprus by his counterparts from the U.S., Russia and Britain as peace talks gather

Cyprus was split in 1974 when Turkey invaded after a coup aiming at union with Greece. Cyprus wants the United Nations Security Council to ensure the adoption of any peace accord and to oversee its implementation.

Kasoulides said "there's understanding" from China on this, but that Security Council members will determine the body's post-solution role after consultations.

Wang also said that "cooperation and friendship between the two people" could be strengthened in the areas of shipping, the expansion and management of ports, infrastructure, hydrocarbons, tourism, and agriculture.

"Cyprus is a major shipping player, and we are willing to strengthen cooperation," Wang said, the Cyprus Mail reported.

"We are also willing to talk about cooperation in ports, and help in the upgrading of Cypriot ports so that Cyprus can play the role of hub better," he added, as China is trying to up its stake in the Mediterranean and Southeast Europe at the same time.

In terms of infrastructure, Wang said that, as a settlement to the Cyprus problem nears, Cyprus and China can discuss further cooperation.

Wang said 120 million Chinese tourists travelled abroad

this year, and, if Cyprus were to absorb just 1 per cent, 1.2 million tourists would visit the island where tourism almost alone helped lift the country out of an economic crisis.

Wang noted that olive oil.

Wang noted that olive oil, wine, and dairy products, are very popular in China. Kasoulides said Cyprus fully supported China's Silk Road Initiative and that, "A tangible sign of Cyprus' commitment is its application to become a regional member of the Asian Infrastructure and Development Bank," the Mail reported.

Wang made a point to note how development and investment are linked to Cyprus reuniting at some point.

"China follows developments of negotiations in the Cyprus problem and supports Cyprus' efforts in safeguarding its sovereignty and territorial integrity," he said.

He also met President Nicos Anastasiades and discussed strengthening bilateral ties, particularly in investments.

"Good discussion with Foreign minister of People's Republic of China, Mr Wang Yi," Anastasiades tweeted after the meeting, hashtagging the words 'CyprusProblem,' 'BilateralRelations', and 'Cooperation."

Anastasiades also told Wang of the role the UN Security Council could play if the Cyprus problem is ever solved, the paper added, in facilitating agreement and implementation oversight.

Wang met House Speaker Yiannakis Omirou discussing relations between the countries which go back to the 1970s, when then-president Archbishop Makarios visited China and met with Chairman Mao Tse-tung. "China always follows the

"China always follows the diplomatic practice of equal treatment of large and small countries, and relations between China and Cyprus can become a model for the good relations between large and small countries," Wang said.

Anastasiades was in China in October to boost ties and came away with the message that there was willingness on the part of Beijing in investing in Cyprus.

It was also announced during the visit the government was implementing a series of measures which included the simplification of procedures for the faster issuing of permits and licensing of investment projects and operation of businesses, as well as the speedier granting of residence permits to foreign investors, and visas for visitors that would help in securing more investment and visitors from

(Material from the Associated Press was used in this report)

Another 13 Migrants Drown

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greek authorities say a small plastic boat carrying migrants from Turkey to Europe has sunk off an eastern Greek islet drowning at least 13, mostly children.

The coast guard says another 15 people have been rescued, while a search is underway to locate one missing person. The dead were identified as seven children, four men and two women.

The accident occurred before dawn Wednesday off the small Aegean Sea island of Farmakonissi. The cause of the sinking was not immediately clear.

A day earlier, Turkey's staterun Anadolu news agency reported that 11 migrants attempting to reach the Greek island of Samos drowned after their boat capsized, including three children. Seven others were rescued.

The agency says Turkish coast guards spotted the refugees during a routine patrol.

The Geneva-based International Organization for Migrants says more than 1 million people have entered Europe as of Monday. Almost all came by sea, while 3,692 drowned in the attempt.



Uneasy Lies the Head

A visitor from Greece touches the damp stone of a pillar named 'Weeping Pillar', where tradition says Emperor Justinian rested his aching head and was instantly cured, inside the Byzantineera Hagia Sophia, in the historic Sultanahmet district of Istanbul, Monday, Dec. 21, 2015. Istanbul is a thoroughly modern place, but it traces its roots back to 660 B.C. It's the former seat of the opulent Byzantine and Ottoman empires and is divided into European and Asian sides by the Bosporus Strait, offering a wealth of history and stunning scenery.

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Let's Change the Community

A few decades ago, responding to the needs of our community, we embarked on a fundraising campaign to relieve the pain of our poverty stricken, fellow Greek-Americans.

The total amount raised – and donated – over the years is more than \$600,000 and the list of names and the amounts each one donated were published meticulously.

It is impossible for those who are comfortable financially to understand the depth of the despair of a patient who cannot afford to buy his medication, or of a divorced woman who cannot give Christmas presents to her children.

Stories like these are kept from the public eye because our people are proud and in no case do they wish their condition to

Unfortunately, in our days we see a criminalization of poor people. Sometimes they are responsible, other times, however, they are not – as in cases of illness.

While the individual needs can be very large, the total needs of our community are equally great. With regard to general needs, i.e. mass transportation, police, the post office, these are public services offered by the state.

However, for those needs related to our Community, we are the ones who bear the responsibility exclusively. We are responsible for our churches. We are responsible for our schools.

Thus, we are the ones called upon to decide whether we are interested in preserving our religion our language and traditions. With regard to the Church, despite many problems, we are doing tolerably well. With regard to our schools, though, we are still a long way from a satisfactory state.

Since the issue of the Greek-American Education is the "orphan of our community – and this despite its tremendous importance in the lives of our children and on our future as a Community – those who offer voluntarily and the benefactors are relatively few.

For this reason, and because TNH's deep sense of mission in the Greek-American community, and at the urging of many of its members, we decided to establish an official and IRS approved non-profit 501 (c) (3) foundation. Its goal is "to ensure the improvement and promotion of our language, culture, civilization,

This announcement has already been made in the form of advertisements in both our Greek and English editions. Reactions varied.

Some expressed enthusiasm but others expressed doubt with regard to the realization of our potential in this area. "No one has been able to do something significant until now on this issue," we were told by a Greek-American friend.

First of all this is not correct. Look at what a few people did under the leadership of Mr. Nick Andriotis in Astoria or what Mrs. Stella Kokolis continues to offer.

Secondly – and I quote – "never doubt that a small number of determined people can change the world."

Never! Of course, we will not shut the door to anyone who is proven to be in need.

However, the objective of the Foundation is to specialize in the field of Education. This way it will acquire the necessary know how, and thus will be able to make a difference.

It will take time. But do not doubt that in time we will change the face of Greek-American education.

I call on you to be alert and supportive. Every donation, big or small, shall contribute to the achievement of our ambitious goals. As always, under complete transparency and zero costs.

New Democracy Masses Rise

A political revolution took place in Greece on December 20. It was a peaceful, democratic, revolution but powerful. One that offers the first substantial ray of hope for the reconstruction

The Greek voters surprised everybody; both experts and nonexperts; they showed up en masse to vote for the new leader of the New Democracy party, as opposed to the absenteeism and protest of recent elections.

They finally took their fate in their own hands; they said 'that's enough!'; enough with incompetence - we've paid dearly for it! And they provided a strong momentum to Kyriakos Mitsotakis.

Many people realized – the thirty percent who voted for him, and perhaps many more - that Kyriakos was the best candidate in the sense of being the most competent, the most knowledgeable on the subject of the economy, and not being a demagogue - in fact, by a big margin.

They realized that he is the best hope for a different kind of Greece. They ignored the old mindset that holds that it would be impossible for him to be elected because his party would not allow him to win. Furthermore, because his last name is Mitsotakis (more about this below).

The voters imposed him on the system. Despite the fact the he came in second, the percentage he received is considerable more than expected, and his distance from the third ranking candidate is so large, that it constitutes a victory.

To be exact, the people on Sunday upended New Democracy's landscape. In addition, everything points to the fact that all will be sealed and delivered during the second round elections on January, 10 2016.

Kyriakos is now on his way with the air of a popular leader, with the momentum of a reformer and of an infusion of new blood. That is the type of leader that New Democracy really needs;

but also the kind the country needs. This is why he is expected to triumph.

And such a clear, significant victory will until his hands within the ranks of his party. This way, he will be able to modernize it, in the context he has announced, and he will also be able to present a reliable, constructive major opposition party that the country needs so desperately.

One more thing: It is clear that Kyriakos' last name, Mitsotakis, did not cause him any damage, as some people predicted. Instead, it actually helped him.

The reason is that more and more Greeks are realizing that Kyriakos' father, Constantine Mitsotakis, as prime minister would have prevented the deep economic crisis the people are experiencing over the last five years, had he not been overthrown. That makes his vindication even greater.

I would also add even that several people see in Kyriakos elements of his father's personality: the capabilities, the courage, the

realism, the straight talk, which so many people reminisce about. So a beginning was made towards change. A first hope was born. Maybe this indicates that the country has reached rock-bot-

tom and its upward course is now beginning. Let us hope so. Of course, it had to pay a dear price first, with the dema-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Spoiling Kids is a Form of Child Abuse

To the Editor:

I read with a mix of sadness and fascination the articles in the paper and online - and in the "American Media" about the fall – we were once proud of the rise – of Dean Skelos. The newspaper's commentary and editorials, as always, whether I agree with them or not, were a valuable complement to the hard news.

One of the most fascinating items was the editorial, which was stinging in the Greek, about the modern Greek tendency to spoil our children. It has made for interesting discussions in my family and circles, but inevitably,

TO OUR READERS

The National Herald welcomes letters from its readers intended for publication. They should include the writer's name, address, and telephone number and be addressed to: The Editor, The National Herald, 37-10 30th Street, Long Island City, NY 11101. Letters can also be faxed to (718) 472-0510 or emailed to scaros@thenationalherald.com. We reserve the right to edit letters for publication and regret that we are unable to acknowledge or return those left unpublished.

the talk came round to the other side of the issue of how we raise our children - child abuse in var-

That includes verbal, emo-

tional, and yes, this was even at the core of a recent novel by a famous Chicago novelist, who must have many Greek friends: sexual abuse. The discussion was cut short both by time constraints and shyness, but one person wondered out loud why we don't hear about these things from our parish priests and community school principals. It is impossible address this in a few hundred words, but I will say this: I believe both problems flow from a single source, the tendency of many Greek parents - even with positive conscious intentions, to treat their children like property. When I read, for example, of successful Greek-Americans who say their parents did not force them into one life or career path or another, I am pleased, but I also wince, because I know too many of the other stories, especially the pressures to marry - or not marry certain kinds or particular people. Is there a connection with our community's other dark se-

cret - reportedly high rates of

drug abuse among our youth?

Twenty years ago I first heard of

the idea of our priests and psy-

chologists working together on

these things. Twenty years is a

long time for nothing to happen

in a crisis. Is it a Greek thing? Anastasios Karadimitriou New York, NY

New TNH Foundation A Great Initiative

To the Editor:

As an avid reader of your newspaper I read with interest the announcement of the formation of the Ethnikos Kirix/The National Herald Foundation and want to applaud you for that. Indeed the community needs to have a "We choose to go to the moon" moment about our

school system and commit to making it second to none. This is a major failure in our part that needs to be corrected for the sake of both ourselves and our children. I hope therefore that vou will be able to form a determined, high minded group of Greek Americans that will take our education system to a new level, like other ethnic groups have done. In addition, on a related subject, thank you for your new column "Our every day Greek." It definitely helps me in polishing up my Greek.

Alexander Korifos Long Island, NY



By Dan Georgakas and **Constantinos E. Scaros**

From time to time, an issue emerges and inspires various minds to converge, often at odds with one another, to discuss it. Hopefully, collective enlightenment will result from such conversations. The Ancient Greeks did that in

the Agora, the original marketplace of ideas, and we, their modern-day descendants, aspire to continue that tradition.

AGORA – THE ORIGINAL MARKETPLACE OF IDEAS

We respect one another's opinion very much, but often times we will disagree on particular issues. We would never fabricate a difference of opinion for the sake of writing an interesting

Rest assured, anything we write here are our sincere, heartfelt thoughts.

We will share them with you every two weeks. We hope you enjoy them, and we look forward to your taking part in the discussion as well – by contributing letters to the editor in response, and/or commenting on our website: www.thenationalherald.com

Time to Stop Politically Correct Whining and Face Facts?

SCAROS PRESENTS HIS POINT OF VIEW

Dan, I think the only way we can get some of our fellow Greek-Americans to understand that Donald Trump's ban on Muslims is neither anti-immigrant nor anti-Muslim is to apply it to our own ethnicity and religion.

Suppose that Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda was not behind 9/11 and instead it was a Greek terrorist group called 11 September: 11S, for short (I got the idea from the actual Greek terrorist group 17 November – 17N).

Suppose, then, that 11S knocked down the Twin Towers and tried to do the same to the Pentagon, based on a "perverse radicalization," as President Obama recently called it - not if Islam, but of Greek Orthodoxy.

Imagine this 11S band of heinous savages hated the United States because of a litany of activity they considered to be an anathema to Orthodoxy, such as: the legalization of marijuana, the sanctioning of same-sex marriage, and even the concept of women wearing pants, not to mention bikinis, and being allowed to work outside the home.

Imagine, further, a presidential candidate, oh, let's call him "Ronald Thump," who called for "a ban on Greek Orthodox immigrants until our authorities can find out what the hell is going on." Finally, let's say that Mr. Thump, and other 2016 presidential contenders, identified the crisis as "a war on radical Greek Orthodoxy," and criticized President Obama and Hillary Clinton for not coming clean with what it re-

Does that mean, Dan, that you and I, as well as countless numbers of people who share our ethnic and religious heritage, should be offended?

Would we be that blind not to understand that Mr. Thump's proposed ban on radical Greek Orthodoxy would not mean that he is a "bigot," a "racist," a "jingoist," or otherwise "the Ugly American"? Would we be so obfuscated by reflexive and defensive emotion not to understand that certainly Mr. Thump does not in any way demean or diminish the

tremendous accomplishments of the Greek and Greek-American people, from the dawn of civilization in Ancient Greece, to the intrepid heroism of the Greeks in WWII, to the countless accomplishments of Greek-Americans in medicine, education, politics, business, arts, culture, and entertainment?

Would we really be so myopic as to think that Mr. Thump's "ban on radical Greek Orthodoxy' would mean, for even a second, that he would have included the likes of Dr. George Papanicolaou, Archbishop Iakovos, or Michael Dukakis? Would we really think that he meant to slander Pete Sampras, Jennifer Aniston, or Kelly Clarkson?

Moreover, would we not understand that, because a scant fraction of our brethren besmirched our good name, there might have to be a period of adjustment, whereby we are looked upon with suspicion, and even

Would we not understand that, if, indeed, a terrorist group named 11 September brought down the Twin Towers, then if weeks, months, or even years later, a fellow named "Constantinos Scaros" or "Dan Georgakas" boarded a plane, their fellow Americans might silently pray: "dear Lord, please let him be one of the good ones"?

Certainly in an ideal world, where hindsight is 20/20, people can behave in a manner that is completely sensitive to others' feelings, all the while ensuring self-preservation. But the world isn't perfect and people are not mind-readers! Accordingly, we can't blame them if their mindset is: "sorry to offend you, but I don't have time to be politically correct when I'm trying to stay alive!"

Accordingly, Dan, I think that the current political feud – either you're "with Obama" or "with Trump" – is ludicrous. Neither Obama nor Trump is the bad guy. Both want to protect Americans against further acts of terror, and the only distinction between them is a sincere difference of opinion about how to accomplish that.

Those who say "Obama hates America" or "Trump is a bigot" do nothing but enable the real bad guys - the terrorists - who survive only when America is divided rather than united.

GEORGAKAS RESPONDS

Dino, Donald Trump has the amazing ability to put his finger on problems that conventional politicians are dodging but airing them in a degraded manner that ignites some of the baser aspects of American culture.

The United States is partially responsible for the existence of millions of Syrian refugees. The disastrous Iraq war begun by Bush II gave wings to extreme Muslim organizations and Obama's bumbling has allowed the emergence of the Islamic

State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). As the New York Times has noted, ISIS has annual revenue of at least two billion dollars and controls territory the size of many small nations.

The basis of ISIS is based on an interpretation of Islam that is intolerant of other faiths. Syrian refugees are from a Muslim tradition far different than that of ISIS. They flee ISIS whenever possible just as they flee the Assad regime in Syria. There is no practical way to vet these refugees. ISIS has already created the means for creating false passports and even valid passports offer only scant data to begin with. We can only assume that in the avalanche of refugees, there are ISIS agents.

The record of American security in spotting fanatics has not been admirable. Trump's solution of delaying any Muslims entry until there are effective vetting methods is simple immediate response, but it does not deal with broader long-term problems.

The US has an obligation to deal with the problems it has helped create. It cannot ask other nations to accept refugees while denying entry to America. But resettlement is just a first step. There must be mechanisms to integrate the refugees into American society or we will surely see the same angry Muslim ghettoes now found throughout Europe that breed ISIS supporters.

Trump has hopelessly complicated the issue by citing the incarceration of Japanese-Americans during World War II. The incarcerated Japanese were not immigrants but American citizens. These were stripped of all their constitutional rights and financially devastated by having to abruptly sell their homes and properties.

The underlying racism of this illegal action is evident when we compare the treatment of Japanese with that of Italian-Americans and German-Americans.

Thousands of Italian-Americans and German-Americans were placed in internment camps. The reason, however, was that these Americans had been affiliated with pro-Hitler and pro-Mussolini organizations. Their offense was support of regimes at war with the United States, not their ethnicity. There was no mass roundup of Italian-Americans and German-Americans.

By citing the Japanese incarceration, Trump implies, without openly stating so, that the same could be done to Muslim Americans. There are some 6 million Muslims in the United States. Arab Muslims are generally welleducated and prosperous. Muslims are in Congress and are mayors of large cities. In a place like Detroit, they are one of the most positive elements in a beleaguered city. Americans who can't accept that reality are religious The injustices committed

against Japanese-Americans were openly acknowledged by our government in 1988. Then-President Ronald Reagan signed a Congressional bill that officially apologized for what Japanese-Americans had endured and provided some monetary compensation for their suffering.

Which bring us back to the real problem. There are many Muslim fanatics who want to strike within the U.S. Until the caliphate is destroyed, self-organized groups and planted agents will be a threat to public safety. Our ineffective Middle East policy needs to be altered, and we have to set up mechanisms that will provide valid refugees entry into

WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?

Observations By Antonis H. Diamataris

Tsipras' confession to an American journalist

Over the years several Greek politicians decided to make significant disclosures to foreign correspondents and nearly always to the New York Times. From the Greek Royal Palace during the 1960s (C. L. Sulzberger), through Andreas Papandreou's statement regarding the seeking of "calmer waters" in his relations with the USA.

Alexis Tsipras seems to be continuing this tradition. He spoke to journalist Jim Yardley of the Times, who wrote the cover article on last week's New York Times Magazine titled: "Has Europe reached the Breaking Point?"

The editors 's view on the issue is that yes, it has reached "the breaking point" and Yardley uses, among other things, Mr. Tsipras' words to prove it.

The economic situation in Greece is after all one of the reasons for Europe reaching this point, on the verge of breaking apart.

But because a well-written article, as this one, approaches the poetic, I will present ex-

"Ten days after the Paris attacks, I went to Greece to visit Alexis Tsipras. He adjusted the two wing chairs in his office, catching the light through the window, and invited me to sit down. Tsipras wore a blazer and khakis, still tieless, still prime minister. He seemed weary, even a touch forlorn, staring down at his lap. Can an entire country seem exhausted?

"I think it's not so easy to change Europe when you are alone," Tsipras said, speaking in practiced English.

"Tsipras is beaten, but he still thinks he is right... His job now is to administer what he

regards as the wrong medicine, hope his country doesn't implode while he makes it attractive to private investors and then try to recover and "regain our sovereignty."

"We saw that there is no other way," he said. "Our European partners and Germany were very, very tough.

'Tsipras said he still considers himself pro-Europe, as most Greeks are, and took heart from rising leftist parties in Portugal and Spain. 'Greece is not alone anymore,' he noted. But he described Brussels as 'the kingdom of bureaucracy,' a place where 'there is a lack of democracy — the most important decisions are taken behind closed doors.'

Tsipras seemed to capture the European moment. "I am very, very skeptical for the fu-

If that's not a confession, I don't know what is.

The Refugee Conundrum: Look at History's Lessons

Historically, war and the upheavals caused by nature have generated armies of refugees. The Great Depression in America, triggered by the stock market crash of 1929, and the drought that occurred in the 1930s, forced two million people from their homes to other parts of the United States in search of work and

food. The displacement caused waves of crime as individuals and groups tried every means possible to secure provisions and protection from the elements for their families.

Desperation forced some to rob banks while others committed petty crimes. Those better off resented the arrival of the migrants and did little to provide assistance. However, in situations where help was forthcoming, crime was negligible. The vast majority of these economic refugees found subsistence as migrant workers or relied on the state's limited resources for sup-

From 1922-1924, the impact of the Treaty of Lausanne, which dismantled the Ottoman Empire, resulted in the forced expulsion of over one million Asia Minor Orthodox Christians, and, driven by fear and persecution, had no choice but to accept the frightening and tenuous existence of

The Greek state, itself undergoing a major political and economic upheaval, was incapable of addressing the human catastrophe. One strategy adopted by the newly Greek Republic was to settle large numbers of refugees in Macedonia and Thrace to increase the Hellenic population of these territories.



Prior to 1923, Greek Slavs and Muslims were the majority in some villages and represented about fifty percent of the population of Northern Greece. A large percentage of the refugees transplanted into Macedonia ended up as impoverished tobacco workers, while their counterparts in Athens and other large towns were consigned to shanty neighborhoods.

The refugees brought to Greece a great number of professionals, intellectuals, and political organizers who helped establish labor unions and made up the majority of the Central Committee of the Greek Communist Party. Increased crime and political radicalism in leftwing organizations were a byproduct of the refugee crisis. By the 1940s, refugees, along with many other Greeks who fought in the resistance, represented a significant part of the Greek Communists who led

After the end of the occupation in 1944, refugees formed the backbone of the KKE and

GUEST EDITORIALS

later on, the Greek Democratic Army. Although a handful of the refugees were radicals and hardcore communists, such as Nikos Zachariadis, many joined the Greek left because they had been abandoned by or rather, were never assisted by the Greek estab-**GEROLYMATOS** lishment. It remains an open Special to question that if The National Herald

these refugees had not opted to support the communist movement would civil war have been averted?

The end of the Second World War triggered waves of refugees. Jewish survivors of the death camps, the victims of slave labor, Germans fleeing the Red Army, a host of East Europeans running ahead of the shackles of Soviet communism, who were defined as stateless persons.

Over eleven million people crowded the refugee and transit camps awaiting an uncertain future and hoping for a new home away from the violence and destitution of the war. Some of the displaced people were not hapless victims, many, in order to earn a living, became expert forgers and information peddlers. The United States and the West in general had a great appetite for any intelligence on the oviet Union and its satellites.

The claustrophobic security of the Eastern Block had made it extremely difficult for the West's intelligence services to penetrate Moscow's machinations or even gather basic information on daily life. The refugees could offer such services because they either actually had experience from within the Soviet system, or they could imagine how the totalitarian regime operated because they

had escaped from a similar system.

The Soviets, conversely, took advantage of the inundation into the West of millions of refugees, and used the population movement to plant their own agents and sleeper cells. Some of the KGB's and GRU's spies, for example, even penetrated Israel's Mossad by entering the country under the pretense of being Russian Jewish refugees.

It should not be surprising then that ISIS exploits the current refugee own agents/terrorists to enter Europe. The chal-

lenge facing the West is how to pick out the handful of terrorists from the hundreds of thousands of refugees.

In this context, Greece is a frontline state with responsibility for Greek security as well as that of its European partners. If, as it happened with some of the Paris terrorists, ISIS continues to manipulate the fear of refugees being terrorists, it is only a matter of time before Greece will be painted in the media as a conduit for terrorism.

In the course of the refugee crisis, Germany has regained the moral ground lost with the imposition of harsh economic terms on Greece, while the Greek state lost whatever high ground they had gained because of the failure of Greek authorities to deal with the massive influx of refugees upon their shores in an effective manner.

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Greek Language Education and the John Rassias Report

The eulogies for John Rassias who died earlier this month should not be the last thing we remember about his extraordinary career and contributions to foreign language instruction.

Professor Rassias, a son of Greek immigrants who became a professor at Dartmouth College, pioneered an acclaimed theatrical and immersive approach to language teaching. Even those of us who are not experts know that Greek education in this country is sorely in need of such innovative ideas.

The Greek language is not only a means of communication it is a cornerstone of Greek identity, on a par with the Greek Orthodox religion and a belief in

a Hellenic continuity that stretches from Classical Greece through the present. And the endurance of the language through the ages, albeit in different forms, is regarded as proof of the resilience of Greek culture and the Greek people.

Bearing all this in mind, teaching and learning Greek is no laughing matter. But that does not mean it should not be especially for the children. In fact, if it is not done in both a thoughtful and entertaining way, the chances are it will not achieve its goals.

Rassias suggested as much in a report he produced as chair of a Commission on Greek Language and Hellenic Culture in

The Commission, which included several prominent Greek Americans and several university professors, engaged in a wide-ranging investigation of the state of Greek language education in the United States. The Report that came out in a booklet was sixty-six pages long not counting the data filled appendices. It remains one of the most sophisticated analyses ever compiled about Greek America.

The investigations involved commission members sitting in many classes and monitoring the instruction methods of teachers. The successful classes they observed stressed active participation on the part of students and elicited the sheer joy The commission also noted

that the role of drama or playacting in the classroom is essential. Drama enables students to unlock their potential for language and to experience what it can accomplish.

The Commission's emphasis on drama was inevitable with Rassias as chair. Each of his classes was a performance that drew in the audience. Those not familiar with his methods of teach-

ing should watch him on several video clips available on YouTube in which he speaks eloquently and, yes, theatrically about the significance of drama in the teaching of lan-

There is much more about language teaching in the Rassias Report, ranging from the need for better pedagogy to the usefulness of better teaching materials, to the teachers and their

It mentions that teachers from Greece do not necessarily know how to teach non-Greek speaking Greek Americans. It also notes that teachers' salaries are grossly inadequate. There is even a suggestion that Greek



Special to The National Herald

language should not be used all the time, and that there is a need to teach about the Hellenic heritage at first through English.

And as it behooves a report of commission chaired by such a visionary, it also invites us to think big and think intelligently. The commission remarked that next to estab-

lishing excellent schools the Greek-American community has the ability to create a distinguished institution of higher learning "that would stand proudly beside a Catholic Georgetown, a Jewish Brandeis, and a Quaker Haverford!" I found that phrase especially moving because I have taught at Haverford for almost two decades and I know what a special place it is. How nice it would be if the Greek Orthodox could match the Quaker accomplishments in education!

Judging by the difficulty I had in finding a copy of the Rassias Report it is possible we have collectively forgotten about this landmark study of Greek language in the United States. It was Archbishop Spyridon who created the Commission and it is one of the very few positive things produced during his troubled tenure as leader of Greek Orthodoxy in America between 1996 and 1999.

Presently, there are a lot of good people laboring very hard to keep Greek language education afloat. U.S. census figures show that the numbers of persons that speak Greek at home is decreasing steadily. From 401,443 in 1980 the number was down to 307,178 in 2010.

A silver lining is that the percentage decrease in the use of Greek, 23.5%, was smaller than the percentage in the decrease in the use of German, Italian, Yiddish and Polish. Someone is doing something right in our schools. But the overall trend does not inspire confidence in the future. Maybe we can revisit the Rassias Report.

Professor Alexander Kitroeff teaches history at Haverford College and is writing a book on the history of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Follow him on America. Twitter @Kitro1908 or email him at akitroef@haverford.edu



John Rassias demonstrates the Rassias method to a group of English teachers from Mexico as part of the Inter-American Partnership for Education.

LETTER FROM ATHENS

Let's Play Greek Version of FYROM! Name that Country!

It's not quite as tedious as the international open dialogue on should take down Alexander's the battle over Cyprus unity (41 years) or Middle East peace (some centuries old) but the question of what will be the name of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – the key word being Macedonia – has been going on 24 years and shows no signs of ending with Greece.

Or has it?

A Greek government in 1991, for reasons unknown still, agreed to let its northern neighbor during the breakup of Yugoslavia, append the word 'Macedonia" to its indigestible acronym, not knowing obviously that headline writers would defer to that singular name.

Since then, successive governments in both countries have wrangled over that single word without making an inch of progress, frustrating so many diplomats that they just threw up their hands and walked away, but not before declaring progress as they are wont to do.

First of all, FYROM sounds like a lubricant ("I can't get this screw out, honey, hand me the FYROM") and if you have even a hint of dyslexia or type too fast for a news story or column it sometimes comes out FRYOM.

Greece gave the name away and has been trying to get it back ever since. It holds the advantage, being able to veto FY-ROM's hopes of joining NATO or the European Union until there's a resolution.

Given that, you'd think the Fyromians would be more willing to compromise but have shown a peevishness that's kept them from having any hope so far, provoking Greece by naming

airport in Skopje for Alexander the Great they think he was from their land, sigh and even erecting a statue of him.

That's an irredentist for you, he keeps taking out the same tooth and declaring it's his, but when it involves a whole country there's just too much at stake to be left to politicians who don't have a

leg or argument to stand on. What's FYROM's case beyond revisionist history? Macedonia, the Northern Province of Greece, and from which Alexander came, is Greek. Still is, always will be, no matter what FYROM calls itself in a fervent sense of jealousy and desperate bid to have some sense of iden-

Maybe FYROM officials can play the Bruce-Caitlyn Jenner card and identify as Greek or Macedonian or whatever else they think will work so they don't have to steal other people's culture and say it's theirs, right down to flags with FYROM stealing it from Greece, the sun symbol of Thessaloniki.

While from time-to-time the Fyromians use international events to call themselves Macedonia, it rings hollow because in diplomatic circles and most countries around the world it's still that silly acronym.

FYROM's Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski, apparently finally seeing the handwriting on the wall will otherwise spell FY-ROM, says he is willing to re-

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by ANDY

the issue with Greece, but that it would have to go to a referendum in his little country.

'We are ready to discuss, to open dialogue them, and to find some solution," Gruevski said in an interview with the Guardian. course, he's said that before and nothing has happened and nothing

will until FYROM realizes it's firing blanks.

Greece too will lose once the name game is settled because every option on the table has included the use of the word Macedonia, albeit with a geographical qualifier such as Republic of Upper Macedonia or Inner Macedonia.

Why stop there? In the interest of diplomacy, let's offer some other solutions so that Gruevski can save face and persuade his people that he's beaten Greece and moved the country toward NATO and the EU.

How about Upper-Inner Macedonia? Outer Limits Macedonia? Slavs-Who-Are-Jealousof-Greeks Macedonia, otherwise known as SWAJOGM. Outsy-Insy Macedonia? Slavakiland? New Macedonia? Old Macedonia? New-Old Macedonia? Nextto-Greece-Macedonia? Faux Macedonia? Not Really Mace-

Greece should first insist that FYROM change the name of its airport and try to find a Slavic hero, if there is one, or some other name that's not Alexander,

statue, and change the stolen

The Fyromians keep raising and dashing hopes at the same time though so don't hold your breath because they are a fickle bunch. Just days ago, FYROM's Foreign Minister Nikola Poposki came to Athens beaming that "conditions are more than ripe" for talks to resolve the 24-yearold debacle - even though Gruevski said they weren't - before changing his mind.

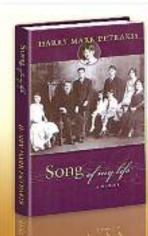
Keep in mind this is the same Gruevski who in 2008 sent a letter to the then-United Nations mediator Matthew Nimitz calling for the recognition of the socalled Macedonian Orthodox Church and for Greece to rename Thessaloniki's Macedonia airport to suit him, drawing a response from Athens that the FYROM leader was "hysterical" which was pretty much on target with that guy.

After he met with Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Kotzias, Poposki admitted he'd put his foot in his mouth when he was optimistic and the two sides were nowhere close to a resolution after all.

"There are huge mountains between us," he said, adding that, "The creation of false expectation is in no one's interest." He skipped the part that he was the one creating the false expectations.

He said his government has "the political duty not to agree to just any solution," although it will, and it will win because the last word will be Macedo-

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