

Calamos-Exin Predicts National Insurance Bid Hard to Match

ATHENS (Reuters) - An offer for National Bank's insurance business by Calamos and Exin will be hard to match, partly because of the cultural and commercial links they have with Greece, the investment duo's chief executives said.

The pair are up against three Chinese groups looking to buy at least 75 percent of National Bank's (NBGr.AT) insurance unit as part of a regulator-approved restructuring plan by Greece's second-largest lender by assets to exit non-banking operations.

John Koudounis, CEO of Chicago-based Calamos Investments, reckons a Greek-American background is a major advantage in taking on Chinese groups Fosun (0656.HK), Shanghai-based Gongbao and Wintime to buy National Insurance.

Greece's oldest insurer, which was founded in 1891, provides life and non-life insurance products, had a 16.6 percent share of the market last year and 2015 net profit of 98 million euros.

Greek media have reported that the deal, which has to close by year-end, could be worth around 800 million euros. NBG, which is being advised by Gold-

man Sachs and Morgan Stanley, is likely to make its decision on a buyer well before the deadline.

"We know the insurance market and we know Greece. We are long-term investors and will be in Greece to stay," Koudounis, whose Calamos fund has \$20 billion under management, said.

"We are very confident that the entire package we bring to the table in this process will be unmatched," he said, adding that the deal is being closely watched by other prominent Greek-American investors who were "ready to pile in" to Greece.

MONEY IN, NOT OUT

Exin Partners, a Netherlands-based investor focused on insurance, reinsurance and asset management, bought insurer AIG-Greece from AIG in December, partnering with founders Canelopoulos Adamantiadis Insurance Agency.

"We aim to bring investment into the country, not take money out," Matt Fairfield, founder and co-CEO of Exin Partners, said.

Mergers and acquisitions picked up in Greece last year, but remained at low levels as several privatizations were delayed, according business consultancy PricewaterhouseCoopers.

There were 38 M&A deals in Greece in 2016, nearly tripling in value to 4.4 billion euros from 1.4 billion in 2015, with 75 percent made up of the sales of Greek banks' non-core assets.

Other Greek banks have been divesting non-core assets and foreign subsidiaries. Eurobank (EURBr.AT) has sold an 80 percent stake in its insurance unit Eurolife to Canada's Fairfax Financial Holdings (FFH.TO) for 316 million euros.

Calamos-Exin is also looking

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Greece Agrees to New Bailout Terms and More



TNH/THEODORE KALMOUKOS

Hellenic Pride on Parade in the USA

Young parade participants in the traditional tsolia costume on a float at the Greek Independence Parade waved flags for the homeland. See the related story below and on page 2.

Grigos Named CEO of Bay Ridge Bank

By Demetris Tsakas

BAY RIDGE – Bay Ridge Federal Credit Union (BRFCU) executive VP Anthony Grigos has become the bank's President and Chief Executive Officer.

He succeeds Gene Brody, who brought him onto the Board of Directors approximately five years ago, and one year later entrusted him with the executive vice presidency and with the responsibility for leading (BRFCU) into the new era.

Brody is one of the bank's se-

niormost executives, having worked there for 53 years. According to BRFCU's press release, Brody will remain with the organization, in the treasury and as chief strategist. Brody praised Grigos and said, among other things, that "the time has come to hand over the reins."

Grigos expressed his gratitude, saying "it is an honor that comes with great responsibility to become President/CEO of BRFCU. And I am confident of the years that lie ahead for our credit union."

Previously, Grigos served as

Vice President of JP Morgan Chase's IT division. He also has years of experience in the real estate and mortgage industries.

Grigos was born in 1965 in the village of Vrontados on the Greek island of Chios and came to the United States at age three. His parents, Kostas and Lemonia (Kalamotousis) are from Vrontados and Kallimasia, also on Chios, respectively, and besides Grigos, they have two other children: Ioanna and Manolis.

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TNH ARCHIVES

John Calamos.

Catsimatidis Says No to Mayoral Run, Citing Difficult to Beat Incumbent

TNH Staff

NEW YORK – Greek-American billionaire businessman John Catsimatidis announced on Monday, May 1 that he will not run for mayor of New York City. He said it will be difficult to un-

seat incumbent Bill de Blasio, the New York Post reported. Four years ago, Catsimatidis ran in the Republican primary.

In a statement, Catsimatidis said "I have often said I have one more race for office in me. But, after careful consideration and consultation with my family, friends and advisers, I have decided the 2017 race for Mayor of New York will not be it. It was a tough decision to make because I truly love this city and its people. My decision was based in part on the fact that the power of an incumbency is extremely hard to defeat."

The owner of the Gristedes supermarket chain, Catsimatidis has increased his fortune in the oil production/energy business as well.

There is little opposition to de Blasio in the Democratic primary field, but there are three Republicans looking to win their party's nomination. Real estate executive Paul Massey, Harlem pastor Michel Faulkner, and Staten Island Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis all announced they would be running for mayor. Also seeking the GOP nomination is Independent Bo Dietl.

When announcing her bid, Malliotakis said, as reported in the New York Times, "My intention is to run, unless my good friend John Catsimatidis jumps into the race."

Catsimatidis was born on the island of Nisyros in 1948 and 6 months later his parents moved to New York City in search of a better life. A true son of New York, he was educated in both the parochial and public school systems earning his high school diploma from Brooklyn Tech. At NY University, Catsimatidis studied electrical engineering; going to school during the day and working in a grocery store on nights and weekends to help his parents pay the bills. With only 8 credits remaining, he dropped out to work in the grocery business full-time. By his 25th birthday, he was already a success with 10 Red Apple Supermarkets scattered along Broadway on Manhattan's Upper West Side.

Buying and Cooking in Bulk

By Eleni Sakellis

Saving food is probably not very high on many people's list of priorities, but it should be. Food waste is a terrible problem throughout the world and it is a particularly heinous problem when so many people go hungry even in developed countries and here in the US. With Mother's Day coming up, here are sensible, money-saving, and mom-approved tips for buying and cooking foods in bulk.

Shopping in bulk rather than buying prepackaged quantities allows the consumer to buy as much or as little as needed, making it easy to experiment with new ingredients while minimizing waste. Not paying for excess packaging may also save money. There are also plenty of options for buying foods in bulk. Flours, pasta, rice, grains, beans, cereals, soup mixes, trail mixes, sweeteners, dried fruits, nuts, and seeds are available in many

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Zeus+Dione Bring Greek Fashions to Bergdorf

By Demetris Tsakas

NEW YORK –On April 29, Greek fashion was on display at the Bergdorf Goodman department store in Manhattan, as the Greek company Zeus + Dione (ZD) showed their line of women's clothing and handbags.

The models presented the clothes and handbags, which impressed the discerning shoppers, who had the opportunity to view the collection and talk with ZD co-Founder and Director Mareva Grabowski-Mitsotakis and her colleagues, who came exclusively for the show from Greece. Mitsotakis is the wife of New Democracy leader Kyriakos Mitsotakis.

ZD handbags' accessories can change only the strap and create the impression of wearing a totally different bag. The bags and accessories are also named for mythological subjects and for places in Greece.

Mitsotakis impressed everyone with her humility and will-



TNH/COSTAS BEJ

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Zeus + Dione co-founder and director Mareva Grabowski-Mitsotakis.

New England Celebrates Greek Independence

By Theodore Kalmoukos

BOSTON, MA – The Greek Independence Parade on April 30 in Boston began beneath a pristine blue, sunshine-covered sky, but ended in rain that was not forecasted by meteorologists, thus leaving marchers and spectators alike unprepared for the elements.

At the head of the Parade was Boston Mayor, Marti J. Walsh, who praised the Greek-American community when he spoke to TNH. "I am very proud for this day and the parade. I have great respect and love for Boston's Greek-American community," Mayor Walsh said. Police Commissioner Bill Evans told TNH he was "happy to here with my all good friends from the Greek community." Evans was also present at the annual gala on April 29 at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral's Center in Brookline.

The Parade began at 1PM,



TNH/THEODORE KALMOUKOS

Young parade-goers admire their flags in Boston.

led by the police motorcycle corps and the Greek-American Evzones Guard, which belongs to the Federation of the Hellenic American Societies of New Eng-

land (HASNE). At approximately 1:45, a strong rain-shower ruined the Parade, although many marchers including Greek School students continued to march, praising Greece and the Greek-American community. More than 50 units marched. Many came from long distances such as Cape Cod and Holyoke; Saco and Lewiston ME; Cranston RI, and Manchester NH. According to police estimates, between 15,000 and 17,000 people were on hand.

Greek School students dressed in traditional ethnic costumes added enthusiasm and color, as did a number of Greek-American students from various colleges and universities from the Greater Boston area.

The cultural event in the Boston Common, which was scheduled immediately after the Parade, was canceled due to the rain. Parade organizers HASNE scheduled the Parade in late April, hoping to good weather

Greeks avoid another brush with bankruptcy

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greece struck a deal with rescue creditors Tuesday toward getting the bailout cash it needs to avoid another brush with bankruptcy this summer, though it leaves long-suffering Greeks facing years more austerity.

Following months of tough negotiations, the Greek government agreed to make another round of pension cuts in 2019 and commit to new tax increases after the current bailout program ends next year.

In return, creditors will resume loan payouts, and start talks on how to ease the country's debt burden, which stands at nearly 180 percent of the country's annual GDP.

The need for an imminent release of bailout funds was becoming increasingly important — Greece is expected to require some 7 billion euros (\$7.6 billion) to cope with a summer spike in debt repayments.

Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras' left-wing government is set to approve the new cuts in parliament by mid-May, in time for finance ministers from the 19 countries that use the euro currency to unfreeze the money at a meeting on May 22. At that meeting, discussions over how to ease Greece's debt repayments will commence — a key milestone for Tsipras.

Two years ago when the country was on the cusp of a euro exit — so-called Grexit — Tsipras signed off on the country's third international bailout. In return for up to 86 billion euros over three years, his government, which was elected on an anti-bailout mandate, agreed to further austerity and reforms. The money is only released after creditors agree that Greece has met its side of the bargain.

Though increasingly unpop-

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Hellenic Pride Marches on at Chicago's Greek Independence Parade

TNH Staff

The rain held off for the Greek Independence Parade in Greektown, Chicago, organized by Enosis. His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago led the parade again this year, joined by the Greek Minister of Maritime & Island Policy Panagiotis Kouroumplis, the Consul General of Greece in Chicago Polyxeni Petropoulou, members of the Presidential Honor Guard of the Hellenic Republic, and members of the Metropolis of Chicago's Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

RIGHT: The Evzones led off the Chicago Greek Independence Parade. FAR RIGHT: St. Demetrios Church of Elmhurst, IL float in the Chicago Greek parade.



New England's Greek Parade, State House and Gala Events

Continued from page 1

was introduced by his son Konstantinos, in fluent Greek. Konstantinos Travayakis was the Award Ceremony Gala Chairman.

The dance group Sons and Daughters of Alexander the Great gave a special performance under the direction of George Papadopoulos.

Seven scholarships of \$1,000 each were given to Greek-American college students, Vasilios Stefanopoulos, Eleni Blanas, Mary Kandaras, Jason Maresces, Nicholas Patsaouras, Nikos Eliades, and Olga Fotos.

The keynote speaker was Vasileia Pigidiki, Visiting Scholar FXB Center for Health & Human Rights, Harvard University, who spoke on topic "The Meaning of Freedom."

She said among other things that "the history of nations is filled with important events, great events in every respect, yet only a few of these have succeeded in capturing the soul of a people. Such events shake the very consciousness and move the spirit of nations, with a lasting impact that can still be felt today, even if the distance that separates us from them is often times very large. These are the events that stem from an idea, or they give birth to a new set of ideals, and shape the evolution of nations and their people.

"Such an event is the Greek revolution of 1821, which for decades has been a source of inexhaustible inspiration for many. And particularly today that our country faces a seemingly perfect storm of trials and tribulations from every conceivable angle. Today, that our country finds itself at the epicenter of a potential powder keg of conflict, with neighbors that are either in a fanatic frenzy or on the verge of internal upheaval, and in the middle of an endless deluge of displaced people seeking safety and a better life, the message of the revolution of 1821 is more relevant and louder than ever."

On April 28 , the annual celebration at the Massachusetts State House took place, organized and hosted by state representatives and senators of Greek descent and friends of the Greek-American community, attended by 200 people. Greek-American State Senator Bruce Tarr was the presenter. Kostas Bakoyannis, Governor of Central Greece, thanked the community for its "support to Greece during today's difficult times."

HASNE honored Vasileios Patsios for his longstanding support of the Federation and the Parade.

Nikolas Valayannopoulos



1. Young men and women of the Metropolis of Boston dance group carried reverently and honorably the flag of Greece. 2. Grand Marshals Metropolitan Methodios of Boston, Boston's Mayor Marti J. Walsh, Kostas Bakoyannis Governor of the Central Greece and Iphigenia Kanara, Consul General of Greece in Boston. 3. The group of the Greek-American Evzones of the Federation of the Hellenic-American societies of New England marched with pride and enthusiasm. 4. Greek-American spectators watch the Parade enthusiastically. 5. All generations from the historic parish of St. George in Lynn, MA marched in heavy rain.

Charls Baker issued proclamations marking the Greek Independence Day and also in honor of Consul General of Greece Iphigenia Kanara for her successful four-year tenure in Boston.

Methodios noted that "it was around this time of year, in March of 1821, that the torch of the Greek revolution was lit from the vigil lamp before the Icon of the Virgin Mary and passed quickly to every Greek Orthodox soul. United as one body, resolved in purpose, and nourished by their zealous faith, the Greek people rose up against their Turkish oppressors. After a long, bitter and bloody battle, the Ottoman Empire was crushed. News of the revolution

resounded instantly and loudly. People everywhere marveled at the small, heroic nation that stirred up an angry wave of opposition to expel an oppressive Turkish overlord."

Methodios also said "they were amazed that the heroic warriors of Greece – greatly outnumbered – rid themselves and all other subjugated nations around them of the onus that weighed heavily upon those who were held captive for centuries by the Turks."

Consul General Iphigenia Kanara in her greeting said "we are all here today to pay tribute to an important moment in our nation's history. 196 years ago, Greeks rose up against the oppression of the Ottoman's to re-

instate one of the world's pre-eminent nations. In doing so, they safeguarded not only their ancient heritage, but also the legacy of Western principals, those principals that have united our two nations for nearly 200 years.

"Just like the American Revolution, the Greek Revolution inspired Greeks and non-Greeks alike. Volunteers came from every part of Greece, but also from every part of the globe, including the United States. Some of the most famous and dedicated soldiers of the Greek War for Independence came from right here in New England."

A reception followed at the Greek Consulate, located a short distance from the State House.

Greeks in Salt Lake City Help the Needy

TNH Staff

SALT LAKE CITY, UT – More than 180 members of the Greek Orthodox Church of Greater Salt Lake volunteered for the inaugural Operation Brown Bag event at the Hellenic Memorial Cultural Center in Salt Lake City, UT.

The volunteers assembled sack lunches for those in need on April 29. Thomas Peters, president of the church, said the event was a success, as reported in Salt Lake City Weekly (SLCW). Parishioners from Holy Trinity Cathedral and Prophet Elias Church joined in the effort, as reported in the Salt Lake Tribune.

Modeled after the church's feeding the homeless on Thanksgiving, Peters said, "the parish council sat down and we said, 'These people are hungry and needy throughout the year. Can we do something more?'" as reported in SLCW. All ages

participated in the event including everyone from toddler and up. Peters said, "The 90-year-olds were bagging the lunches and the 3- and 4-year-olds were putting together the napkins," as quoted in SLCW.

The Crossroads Urban Center, Midvale's Road Home shelter, Bountiful Homeless Shelter,

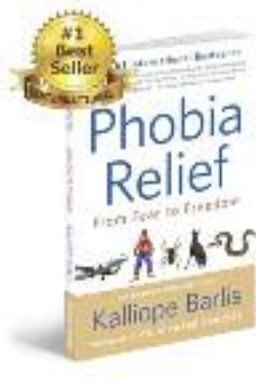
City Plaza Apartments, YWCA, St. Vincent de Paul, The Inn Between, Volunteers of America, The Road Home shelter, Homeless Youth Center, and Hildegard's Food Pantry were among the groups to receive the sack lunches prepared by the parishioners.

"We contacted them and said, 'What can we do to alleviate your burden for a day or two and provide a lunch or a meal to the homeless and the hungry?'" Peters said.


He continued, "We did over 1,600 sandwiches to the St. Vincent de Paul center just by itself. We'll do over 3,500 lunches total."

Ham-and-cheese sandwiches with lettuce, cookies, chips, oranges, condiments, and napkins were packed with care by the volunteers. The church delivered the food to the service organizations and half the total lunches were on their way before noon.





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Greece, Pathways to an Enchanted Land

Hosted by the Embassy of Greece in Belgium, an exhibition of the remarkable work of renowned American photographer Robert McCabe with vibrant and candid images of Greece opened in Brussels. McCabe and Ambassador Eleftheria Galathianaki were among those at the opening.



Sentiers vers un Pays Enchanté
Photographs of the Aegean Islands
Presented under the auspices of the
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Madame Eleftheria Galathianaki, Ambassadeur
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Le Petit Greek Hotel & Restaurant: Commitment to Health and Excellence

By Vasilis Papoutsis

LOS ANGELES, CA – Brothers Thomas and Dimitris Houndalas are continuing a family tradition in the hospitality business that started over a hundred years ago.

Older brother Thomas studied hotel management and arrived in the United States in 1982, and worked as the Maître' D at the exclusive Jonathan Club in downtown Los Angeles before opening Le Petit Greek restaurant in 1987 with Dimitri.

Located in the historic Larchmont Village that was developed at the late 1800s as a streetcar suburb of Los Angeles, it is now surrounded by the well-maintained historic homes in the nearby affluent neighborhood of Hancock Park.

The restaurant was very small then – thus the name Le Petit, with only 10 tables – but it quickly made a name for itself because of the tasty Greek cuisine.

Dimitris, who was raised in the restaurant business, had a love for music and studied classical guitar at the London School of Music and Drama, but eventually returned to the family business.

At the restaurant's tenth anniversary in 1997, it expanded,

and for the first time on Larchmont Boulevard an outdoor patio overlooking the cozy street was added, and the restaurant attained the aura of a Greek/European café.

The dining room is elegant and simple and the walls have black and white photographs from Greece, and family portraits. The main attraction is the cuisine, as the Houndalas' commitment to high quality food is the hallmark of their philosophy. Dimitris' passion for food is evident from the start. "We always strive to offer the healthiest, most organic version of food at the best possible price. After all our ancestors taught us that a healthy mind should reside in a healthy body." He writes a health blog that is educational and informative. "Everybody claims to serve organic food but that claim is not entirely true most of the time. Commercial beef is grass fed the first few months but grain fed afterwards. Cows cannot digest grain but it adds extra pounds and more money for the producer. True organic beef has to be grass finished and that is the only beef we serve here." That commitment in food excellence earned the restaurant the prestigious Open Table Diners' Choice Winner Award in

2016. Commitment to excellence of course requires hard work. Dimitri is up before sunrise every day to shop for fresh organic produce, meat and fish from carefully selected farms that he has done business with for a long time. He only buys chicken from farms that raised them outdoors. His calamari comes fresh from Santa Barbara and the whitefish from Lake Superior. One of his specialties dishes is the delicious plaki, with blue nose sea bass from New Zealand cooked with shallots, fresh tomatoes, rosemary and Robola white wine. "We cook a certain amount of these specialty dishes every day. When the last order is gone, that is it for the day" he said. The signature of the house is the delectable baby rack of lamb that simply melts in your mouth. The restaurant offers an award winning wine list from all over the world and an unparalleled selection of Greek wines. The history, menu, and extensive wine list can be viewed at lepetit-greek.com.

Because of the restaurant's location near the Paramount studios and production companies, spotting and even sitting next to a celebrity is a good bet.

A plethora of stars who have visited the restaurant include



Tom Hanks, Jennifer Aniston (and other castmembers of Friends), Sean Connery, Billy Zane, Adrien Brody, and the late Telly Savalas.

Actually, Le Petit Greek is not the family's first restaurant in the United States. Patriarch Thomas Houndalas came to the United States in the late 1890s. "He was 12 or 13 years old when he came here by boat. He paid half the ticket in advance and he had to work onboard to pay for the other half." From

those humble beginnings, the family accented to ownership of the famous San Francisco Cliff House with ocean views, great ambiance, and food. The restaurant today is part of the Golden Gate National Recreation area operated by the National Park Service. The family also owned a restaurant near the old town of the historic city of Nafplion, Greece's first capital. A taverna with a capacity of 1,000 seats and live music playing nightly that was operated by the family.

In the 1970s the taverna left the old neighborhood of Arvanitia for a picturesque new location on the bay.

Today the family has expanded to Santorini: "My father bought this old Catholic monastery from a businessman who had attempted to renovate it but could not finish it. We completed the renovations and it started as a Bed & Breakfast. With additional upgrades it now operates as a boutique hotel" Dimitris said. Thomas operates the hotel. It has direct views of Nea Kameni volcano and Thirasia Island and at the rooftop terrace guests enjoy healthy homemade breakfast while enjoying the incredible views. It is also a great spot to enjoy the famous Santorini sunsets, a huge attraction to newlyweds and romantics from across the globe. The guest rooms maintain the original architecture and no rooms are alike. The hotel is nearby the crowded cobblestone streets and shops but guests can still enjoy tranquility while enjoying the views.

Whether visiting the restaurant in Larchmont Village with a view of the Hollywood sign or the Santorini hotel, one will experience the warmth of Greek hospitality and the delicious taste of Greek food.

Zeus + Dione Bring Greek Fashions to Bergdorf Goodman in New York

Continued from page 1

ingness to explain the designs and the company's philosophy for producing and promoting high quality garments and accessories based on traditional techniques for the domestic and international market.

The ZD catalog offers excellent insight into the new season's collection.

Asked about the company name, Mitsotakis pointed out that she was inspired by mythology because Zeus and Dione were the parents of Aphrodite, the goddess of love and beauty.

Referring to the company's philosophy, she said, "we take a pattern from the embroidery of a traditional costume and use it on a bag. And we have made a selection from 52 prefectures and for each season we choose about six embroidery patterns and use them for the line of handbags.

"We are inspired by tradition and we turn it into something more modern. Everything is made in Greece, except for the skin, which we import from Italy. The same goes for the clothes we make at a factory in Soufli, Evros, which has a great tradition in fabrics. We do a lot of experiments to produce a very nice fabric," she said.

ZD was founded in 2012 amid the financial crisis. "We have the opportunity to penetrate the market and show that



LEFT: Zeus + Dione co-founder and director Mareva Grabowski-Mitsotakis with the models wearing the company's designs. RIGHT: On display at Bergdorf Goodman, the embroidered handbags of the Zeus + Dione collection as well as the clothing are inspired by Greek tradition and mythology.

we have tradition and culture and capable people with know-how and we put the bar very high. In New York, we are one year old and it is our third season. They offered us the opportunity to organize a show and present the collection of bags and show the embroidery as well," Mitsotakis said.

Asked whether there was more demand for bags or clothing, she said that "there is a demand for both. Last summer, there was a demand for clothes and everything sold. In the winter, the bags started and we reached the summer levels. We are quite pleased. We are thinking of expanding to other stores and

making proposals to expand to Los Angeles and California in general and other states in America."

Asked about starting a company in the middle of the crisis, she pointed out: "It was quite difficult and it is still difficult, but if you have vision and clear goals, patience and perseverance, you can do it.

"We have 27 employees permanently in the office and have created 150 jobs indirectly," she added. "These are studios which, due to the crisis, were about to close and to whom we offered work and hope, and that is very important."

Mitsotakis said that at this moment a significant part of the

clientele is the tourists who visit Greece and that this was a conscious choice. "We could produce everything in China and other countries with cheap labor and reduce production costs. But we preferred to make everything in Greece and create new jobs. It is a conscious choice to remain Greek."

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St. Iakovos Retreat Center Opens in WI

TNH Staff

KANSASVILLE, WI – Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago visited the St. Iakovos Retreat Center in Kansasville on April 21 for the official yearly opening of the St. Iakovos Retreat Center with the service of the Feast Day of the Chapel of the Life-giving Spring. The day began with Hierarchical Divine Liturgy officiated by Metropolis Chancellor Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos. A lunch followed the service.

The Center serves as the site of the Summer Fanari Youth Camp among other activities. It is a 137-acre facility featuring the 11-acre Friendship Lake with over 50 acres of pinewood forest.

The Metropolis' Archons held their 2nd Annual Archon Business Retreat at the Center on April 22. The guest speaker was James Skedros, the Dean of Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, MA, and the Michael G. and Anastasia Cantonis Professor

Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago visited the St. Iakovos Retreat Center in Kansasville.

of Byzantine Studies. Dr. Skedros centered his lecture on the importance of the city of Constantinople for the past, present, and future of the Patriarchate.

Grigos Takes the Reins at Bay Ridge Bank

Continued from page 1

Coming to the United States for a better life, they first settled in Ronkonkoma, NY and shortly thereafter moved to Dyker Heights. Kostas worked a carpenter and Lemonia as a seamstress and invested most of their earnings in their children's education.

Grigos graduated with honors from Fort Hamilton High School. He earned a bachelor of science degree from Brooklyn College and a MBA from Fordham University. Ioanna and Manolis, became pharmacists.

Grigos, who is now one of the leaders of the Kimisis tis Theotokou parish in Brooklyn, grew up in the Holy Cross parish in Bay Ridge where he met his wife, Dr. Maria Kapetanakis. The couple have three boys, Constantine, Vassilis, and Michalis.

Gene Brody, left, said it was time to hand over the reins of Bay Ridge Federal Credit Union to his successor Anthony Grigos.

HISTORICAL COMMENTARY

The Passing of a Generation: the Demographics of Greek America

By Steve Frangos
TNH Staff Writer

CHICAGO- Without word or whisper, the passing of an entire generation is nearly complete. The children of the 1880 to 1920 generation of Greek immigrants to the United States are almost gone from our midst. Not too far behind them are their cousins/extended family from Greece who they had sponsored immediately after World War II. This was the Greek-America, I knew and in which I grew up. Now, this world is on the very brink of disappearing forever. Any real historian would already have generated a series of articles on this moment in our collective experience. But, this simply has not taken place.

All this came to me because of the sheer number of funerals I have been attending in the last year or so. The Greek-Americans I know are those whose families are buried in the Elmwood Cemetery and Mausoleum in River Grove, IL, a suburb of Chicago. While no history has yet seen print on this particular cemetery it is, given the composition of the vast majority of graves, a cemetery with an extremely heavy presence of Eastern Orthodox graves. A small but well-appointed Greek Orthodox chapel is found within Elmwood, the Transfiguration of Our Savior. War memorials and graves beginning with the American Civil War are found throughout this cemetery. Two relatively recent war memorials dedicated to Orthodox Christians are also now found in Elmwood one for Armenians the other Greek veterans.

With the passing of this generation we lose eyewitnesses to the past.

The children of the 1880 to 1920 waves of immigrants was/is a generation of individuals who were known, for a time within academic writings, as the marginal men. A theoretical concern of the late 1940s and early 1950s the question was asked whether these individuals, with an immigrant past (and so metaphorically) a foot in both their parent's world and the everyday reality of America, could succeed in daily life. This was not a question unknown to the average Greek in Chicago. I heard many a lecture, growing up within the community, where the speaker inevitably brought up their own initial doubts about this same question. Given that I was listening to successful individuals the end of the talk always focused on how being Greek actually enabled one to succeed in American life. Whether this claim is/was/remains true or not is for future generations to decide.

These marginal men (as well as the Greek-American women of that same generation who the 1950s academics ignored) not only received the religious, cultural and social institutions founded by their parent's but expanded upon them. The mighty cathedrals we have today were largely conceived and built by this generation. The Hellenic Festivals which unquestionably raised the monies needed to build church buildings, well past one would have suspected given our demographic numbers, were only possible by the unselfish, tireless work and fundamental generosity of the men and women of this generation.

Today, these events as well as

the rest of Greek America is now under the care and daily attention of the generation known as the baby boomers. According to the U.S. Census this generation is composed of the demographic group born during the post-World War II era between (approximately) the years 1946 and 1964. Consequently this includes individuals who are now, themselves, between 53 and 71 years of age.

So what happened? Why didn't we receive a series of reports, articles, coverage of some kind about this generation's gradual passing of responsibilities to the baby boomers? All I can assume is that the very gradual nature of this process has kept it largely unnoticed. Now this is not to say news reports, conversations within the Greek communities around the nation, and/or even local American sources have not reported on specific individuals and unique situations where one generation was succeeded by another. It's just that connecting all these separate reports into a broader pattern has somehow escaped wider discussion.

Given that we have more Greek-Americans and native-born Greeks at literally every level of the American educational system than at any other time in history, one would think we would be in a golden age of written accounts, gathered documents and all the rest. Complimenting this situation is that according to the U.S. Census report of the 1980s Greeks, when counted among their own numbers, were among the foremost in education and economic status. If the Census is to be believed, then the generation now in daily control of our community received not only an education as a means to earn a daily living but was also provided a humanistic education by which they could see meaning in their everyday lives. So, given these two separate but obviously complimentary areas of modern American life one would think, the Greek-born academics would have forged a bond of common purpose with a very receptive generation.

With the passing of this very specific generation we lose eyewitnesses to the past. We lose not only their recollections but years of hard won skills. How many Hellenic Festivals, today, depend on only a handful of skilled individuals (females as well as males) to provide essential skills? Let's be frank, one of the areas where Greek-Americans and converts to Orthodoxy experience considerable difficulty together is over these festivals. Converts very often do not possess the skills to prepare and serve food.

As this Greatest Generation passes another form of loss occurs. All of us have photograph albums where, now that the older loved ones are gone, many individuals and events within these pages can no longer be identified. Photographs are exchanges between specific individuals. Not just memories, but an individual's own sense of self can be invoked by these images. What have you managed to preserve of your life and that of your ancestors (and valued others) to pass on to the future? Even if when you think of your future you again only think of your immediate family. What have you done so they will recognize everyone in your family photographs albums, if nothing else?

But have no fear historical revisionism is near at hand for the Greeks in the United States. Nearly a dozen academic book-length studies now exist on



Greeks in the United States. Unfortunately in these accounts we don't measure up to the expectations of these Greek-born or only-Greeks-born-in-Greece-are-really-Greeks point of view. And as George Orwell has already noted, he who controls the past controls the future. He who controls the present controls the past.

Still, cultural dopes don't exist. Those claiming to be Greek in North America are as Greek as the next guy. Greeks from Greece are not more Greek than anyone else. Greeks in Greece think of themselves as the cultural-core of Greek society. They are not more or better at being Greek than Diaspora populations. Since Classical times, the

historical experience of being Greek reports persons claiming to be Greek have been scattered across half the Mediterranean, across north Africa, the Balkans, Anatolia, and even parts of the Middle East. Present-day Greeks in what today are the boundaries of the Greek political national state do not possess some kind of cultural superiority to us.

In the end each individual, each generation is known by their accomplishments. The legacy of the Greek-American baby-boomers has yet to be determined. But whatever is to take place Greek-America is now, undeniably, within their care.

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Son of Sofia Wins Top Prize at Tribeca Film Festival

By Aria Socratous

NEW YORK – Son of Sofia (O Gios tis Sofias), written and directed by Greek filmmaker Elina Psykou took home the top prize for the Best International Narrative Feature at the 2017 Tribeca Film Festival.

The Festival has announced the winners of its 16th edition with Keep the Change (U.S. Narrative), Son of Sofia (International Narrative), and Bobbi Jene (Documentary) taking home the top prizes in their respective categories. This year's festival was comprised of 97 features and 57 shorts, the main lineup of which began on April 19 and ended on April 30.

The jurors for the 2017 International Narrative Competition were Willem Dafoe, Peter Fonda, Tavi Gevinson, Alessandro Nivola, and Ruth Wilson.

"When we were watching these movies, we were looking for something we hadn't seen before. We unanimously agreed that one film challenged us to see in a new way and we were seduced by the surprising humanity of its difficult character. The direction was assured and its tone was unique and we look forward to seeing Elina Psykou's next work. The Best International Narrative feature award



TNH/COSTAS BEJ

Filmmaker Elina Psykou at the Greek Press Office in New York spoke with The National Herald and other members of the Greek and American media.

goes to the Son of Sofia, the jury commented.

Psykou said that "it was very surprising. I didn't expect to take home the top prize. The competition was very hard, the movies so many, and I already knew how difficult it is to take home a prize. When I heard that Son of Sofia

was the winner for the International Narrative I got off my seat. Willem Dafoe was on stage and he presented the awards for Best Screenplay and Best Cinematography in an International Narrative Film, the Best Actor and the Best Actress, and last, but not least, presented Son of Sofia with

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ΕΘΝΙΚΟΙ ΚΗΡΥΞΕΙΣ

Petros Sofikitis’ First Solo Overseas Exhibition

By Eleni Sakellis

BROOKLYN – Greek photographer Petros Sofikitis presented his first overseas solo exhibition, *Hinterland*, which opened on April 28 in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn. Art lovers who visited the exhibition were impressed with the dramatic photographs. Dedicated to all things that lead to one's fall and rebirth, the exhibition took place in an atmospheric loft with the works suspended by ropes in an irregular manner, evoking a visual maze. Not only a feast for the eyes, 20% of every sale during the exhibition was donated to the charity organization Axion Hellas.

“What color is isolation? How are misguided journeys mirrored on one's face? How fine is the line that separates the beginning from the end?” are a few of the questions explored.

As the description of the exhibition explains, “five intriguing characters, with different experiences and theories of life, physically exhausted and psychologically drained, are identified in *Hinterland*, a land where life begins and ends, having one thing in common: an acceptance of their mental breakdowns.”

At the exhibition on April 29, Sofikitis, who was born and raised in Athens (his father hails from Andros), spoke to *The National Herald* about the inspiration for some of the photographs. He mentioned that the man in the photographs with the rusting ship is his uncle. Sofikitis also told TNH that he happened upon a place where all the floats from the carnival celebrations were discarded, and seeing the peeling paint and the decay among the smiling, strange figures that once decorated the floats, inspired him to use them in his work. The resulting photographs are evocative and the tragic-looking figure among the colorful, yet discarded objects creates a rich, thought-provoking, and powerful image. The pared-down, maze-like presentation in the intimate space of a Brooklyn loft only enhanced the viewing experience.

Sofikitis uses dramatic light sources and chose five locations across Greece as his backdrop,



COURTESY OF PETROS SOFIKITIS

Petros Sofikitis' first solo overseas exhibition took place in the intimate space of a loft in Brooklyn. RIGHT: The Sofikitis brothers.



ideal for creating an emotionally charged atmosphere. He targets five different characters and psychoanalyzes them through his lens.

The description notes: “Egoistic behavior that results in narcissism, careless decisions that wreck the soul, repetitive life patterns that push happiness away and hold firmly onto frozen smiles, unfulfilling love affairs that lead to the disorientation of one's emotional journey, and destructive habits that subordinate the soul. All this is flawlessly depicted on the heavily made-up faces of the heroes in *Hinterland*; providing that it is at this moment when man believes in his own downfall, that it will come unforgiving and raging.

“*Hinterland* is a mind game. A maze that traps one's thoughts within its intricate pathways, immersing them in darkness. And yet, the isolation experienced by these heroes is not real. It is an illusion. This realization is what leads to rebirth. Since there is always a silver lining that encourages you to follow the light, leaving the darkness behind you. There is always hope. Sofikitis magnificently captures this hope in the face of a woman and the red

balloon she holds, a symbol of both the soul's revival and rebirth.”

There is a haunting quality to the photographs, but the last image in the series offers hope for the future. Sofikitis told TNH that the last photograph hints at what he may be working on for his next project, though he observed there is no set plan, and sometimes the work just happens.

According to his biography, after graduating from Napier University, Sofikitis returned to Greece in 2008 and began his professional journey following in the footsteps of his father, the renowned photographer Dimitris Sofikitis. A creative and restless soul, he began his own photographic explorations, and in 2011, established, together with his brother Constantinos, a company that offers photographic services specializing mainly in travel and wedding photography.

Abstract and with a unique ability to tame natural sources of light to his advantage, Sofikitis manages, through the spon-

taneous subject matter of his images, to trigger strong emotions, and welcome the audience to accompany him on his photographic journeys.

He now collaborates with Google Greece and TedxAthens, and as of 2017, his photographs have captured the attention of both Eurobank and FoxHellas leading to collaborations with both. He has taken part and been awarded in a number of renowned competitions, among others the SWPP competition where he received the title of ‘Contemporary Portrait Photographer of the Year’ in 2011.

A member of the newly founded charity organization Axion Hellas, Sofikitis travels to remote areas of Greece in order to capture the pains, joys, hard work, and relief of all those fighting for survival, for a better life. His work has often been reproduced by some of the largest Greek online media channels, while his solo exhibitions have taken place in some of the most important galleries and renowned exhibition spaces in Athens.

Constantinides Hosts Rally for Climate Action

By Eleni Sakellis

ASTORIA – On a hot spring evening, emphasizing that temperatures have been setting record highs in recent years, New York City Council Member Costa Constantinides hosted a rally for climate action in Astoria Park on April 28. Held in honor of Earth Day and as a send-off for the People's Climate March on Washington on April 29, the rally brought together elected officials, community leaders, and concerned citizens who support efforts to clean up the environment and leave the earth in a cleaner condition for future generations.

Among the speakers at the event were Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, New York State Senator Michael Gianaris, Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas, Claudia Coger- President of the Astoria Houses Residents’ Association, Global Kids, and the Astoria Park Alliance. Local Girl Scouts also attended the event

and handed out reusable bags to help reduce the number of plastic bags used for carrying groceries and shopping.

Constantinides said, “As we approach the first 100 days of the Trump Administration, we are faced with the stark reality that our federal government will choose fossil fuels and special interests over protecting our environment. The proposed cuts to the EPA, the executive order dismantling the Clean Power Plan, and the administration's rhetoric show that they think combating climate change is not a valuable pursuit. This misguided policy goes against scientific facts- we know climate change is real and can already feel its effects. Our city has picked up the mantle of leadership on the environment and made sustainability a top priority. Our policies to reduce pollution and encourage renewable energy will go a long way but we cannot do it alone. It will take the cooperation of every New Yorker to improve our en-

vironment. Thank you to everyone who attended and who will put the action plan into practice. I also thank my colleagues in government and community advocates for their partnership on this rally.”

A flyer printed on recycled paper presented five things everyone can do to help protect the environment, including signing the petition demanding local power plants use clean fuel. Constantinides created the online petition with Council Member Ritchie Torres to cut down on the harmful air pollution that has caused a health crisis in many neighborhoods in the city where cases of asthma have skyrocketed. The petition may be viewed online at council.nyc.gov/costa and clicking on “Petition.”

Constantinides also encouraged everyone to use reusable bags, since New Yorkers use more than 9 billion plastic bags a year, which end up polluting the environment. Another way to reduce air pollution would be

to ban the use of 4 and 6 oil by New York State power plants and Constantinides asked those present to call State Senator Tom O'Mara to do so. Concerned citizens should also call the EPA and demand they preserve the Clean Power Plan. Joining local park groups is another way people can get involved in protecting the environment and the city's precious green spaces.

Senator Gianaris noted that “this is the fight of our lives, this is the fight for our planet and we are losing right now.” He continued, “climate change is happening, we see it on a regular basis and we don't have a federal government that is lending themselves to this fight right now. It's up to us on the state level; we're working to get ourselves to zero emissions as fast as we can.” “This is a global problem... this is important, thank you all for coming, the march tomorrow is important because that sends the word all over this country.”

GOINGS ON...

■ THRU JUNE 29

WESTON, MA – The Greek League Basketball Games presented by the Teddy Kariotis Foundation and greekboston.com. Enjoy a night out with fellow Greeks of Boston for some fun competition! Games will be hosted at the Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, 57 Brown Street in Weston. This season will feature teams from Arlington, Boston, Roslindale, Lexington, Norwood and West Roxbury. Games are played every Wednesday night. The season will conclude on Thursday, Jun. 29 with the Championship Game! Want to join our next season? Get in touch right away as we are already preparing our summer and fall seasons! Check out our Facebook Page: [@thegreekleagueboston](https://www.facebook.com/thegreekleagueboston) for news, pictures, scores, and sign up information! More information is available by phone: 781-237-5561.

■ MAY 5-7

AUGUSTA, GA – Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Spring Greek Festival, 953 Telfair Street in Augusta, features traditional foods and live music. Hours: Friday, May 5 and Saturday, May 6 from 11 AM to 10 PM, Sunday May 7 from 11 AM to 6 PM. More information is available online at www.holytrinityaugusta.org/spring-festival and by phone: 706-724-1087.

■ MAY 6

HERNDON, VA – Sounds of Cyprus with Peter Douskalis will perform on Saturday, May 6 at the TEDxHerndon, an independently organized TED event based in Herndon in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. The speakers are innovators, leaders, and social changemakers with great ideas worth spreading. The theme of this year's event is Difficult Conversations. Not all of the Talks will relate directly to this theme, but you can expect to hear ideas related to how we communicate, how we collaborate, and how we think about the future. The 3rd year of the event, this year promises to be the best TEDxHerndon yet. This community event takes place 2-6 PM. The full speaker lineup can be viewed online, and tickets are available on Eventbrite, www.tedxherndon.com.

TARPON SPRINGS, FL – Live Greek music with Ellada, dancing, and outdoor dining on Saturday, May 6, 6-11 PM presented by the City of Tarpon Springs will present Night in the Islands– a free event on the world famous Sponge Docks, Dodecanese Blvd. between Hope & Athens Streets in Tarpon Springs. We offer an hour of free Greek dance lessons by the Levendia Dance Troupe 6-7 PM. The event features live music by Ellada, an exciting band composed of three of the most accomplished Greek musicians in Florida—Leonidas Zafirris, bouzouki; Elias Poulos, vocals; and Dino Theofilos, keyboard. To reserve a table for dinner, please contact participating restaurants Costa's, Hellas, Mama's, or Mykonos. Night in the Islands will also be offered on Saturdays July 15, August 5, September 9, and October 7, 2017. Mark your calendar and make this a regular destination! More information is available from Tarpon Springs Arts by phone: 727-942-5605 or online at www.tarponarts.org.

WOBURN, MA – The 100th Anniversary Gala of Annunciation of the Virgin Mary Greek Church of Woburn takes place on Satur-

day, May 6 at the Andover Country Club, 60 Canterbury St in Andover. The dinner/dance will feature live music by Ta Dilina. Tickets are available in advance by phone: Kathy Yeomelakis 781-944-7589 or Mike Bibilos 617-519-7100.

■ MAY 6-7

CRANSTON, RI – The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, 175 Oaklawn Avenue in Cranston, hosts the 2017 Spring Food Fair on Saturday, May 6 from 11 AM to 7 PM and on Sunday, May 7 from 11 AM to 6 PM. The event will feature delicious Greek favorites and sweets. More information is available online at annunciationri.org and by phone: 401-942-4188.

■ MAY 6-14

LOWELL, MA – Clothing Drive Fundraiser at Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church, 25 Fr. John Sarantos Way in Lowell. Drop off clean, used clothing, shoes, and linens on Saturday, May 6 and May 13 from 9 AM-12 PM, on Monday, May 8 to Friday, May 12 during office hours (call ahead), and Sunday, May 7 and May 14 after the Divine Liturgy. More information is available by phone: 978-458-4321 or call to schedule a pickup on May 6 or May 13- Sandra Gulezian: 978-649-3387 or email: gulezians@gmail.com.

■ MAY 11-13

MANHATTAN – The first Greek Panorama exhibition focused on Tourism, Culture and Gastronomy exclusively for Greece is organized by Hellas North American Events Inc. in collaboration with the company North Events and will be held in Manhattan in the iconic Grand Central Terminal, 42nd Street and Vanderbilt Avenue in Manhattan, one of the most important historic buildings in Manhattan, on Thursday, May 11 through Saturday, May 13. The exhibition will take place in Vanderbilt Hall and will include presentations on each tourist destination in Greece and on luxury tourism, Greek gastronomy, real estate, shopping, yachting and cruises, etc. On Friday, May 12 and Saturday, May 13 the exhibition will be open to the public for free. More information is available online at greek-panorama.com.

■ MAY 11-14

WATERBURY, CT – Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Festival, 937 Chase Parkway in Waterbury, features free parking & admission, Greek food & pastries, live Greek music in the evenings, Greek dancing by the youth of the church, and church viewing & tours. Jewelry, raffle, and plants will also be on sale at the festival. Hours: Thursday, May 11 from 10 AM to 9 PM, Friday, May 12 from 10 AM to 11 PM, Saturday, May 13 from 10 AM to Midnight, and Sunday, May 14 from 11 AM to 3 PM. Raffle tickets are \$10 each and the raffle drawing is on Monday, May 15 at 7 PM, winner need not be present. More information is available online at www.holytrinitywaterbury.org/greekfest and by phone: 203-754-5189

■ NOTE TO OUR READERS

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

Logothetis Keynote Speaker at the Inaugural Alumni Awards ACS Athens in NY

By Eleni Sakellis

NEW YORK – On April 30, the American Community Schools of Athens (ACS Athens), a Pre-K-12 institution located in Halandri, Athens, honored two distinguished alumni with Achievement Awards, acknowledging their professional accomplishments, exemplary leadership with ethos, and service to humanity. The award recipients are Drs. Anna Kaltsas and Scott Parazynski. The honorees were recognized at the Inaugural Global Alumni Awards Dinner at the Loeb Boathouse in New York's Central Park.

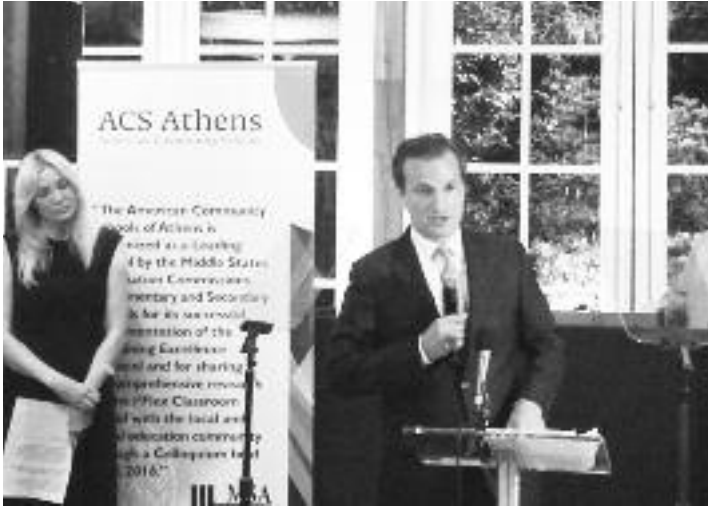
George M. Logothetis, Chairman and CEO of the Libra Group, the keynote speaker at the event, gave a memorable speech about the efforts to help refugees in Greece and his connection to ACS Athens through his father, who was himself a refugee and attended the school. He noted that through his father, the school's ethos and dedication to social responsibility reached him and his brothers. The pursuit of excellence and the exposure to the suffering of others “elevates empathy” Logothetis said. He spoke about his company's recently launched Home Project which is providing

shelter and support for refugees in Greece including many unaccompanied minors, children, who are suffering. ACS Athens is collaborating with the Home Project within the school's Youth to Youth program, which helps refugee children adapt to their new environment, developing language skills and encouraging social interaction beyond their fellow refugees. Logothetis noted that he is proud of the work they are doing together to relieve the refugee crisis.

Greece is on the frontline, he said, and ACS Athens is on the frontline of the frontline. The students are enriched through giving and have more gratitude for what they have, he observed.

Logothetis impressed the audience with his speech and his dedication to dealing with the refugee crisis. He told *The National Herald* that he had written the speech only that morning, but when you are passionate about a cause, the words come easily.

Yanna Darilis, President and Managing Partner of New Greek TV served as master of ceremonies, while Suheil Sabbagh-Chairman of the ACS Athens Board of Trustees, and Dr. Stefanos Gialamas- ACS Athens President were among the



TNH/ELENI SAKELLIS

George Logothetis, Chairman and CEO of the Libra Group, was the keynote speaker at the event.

speakers at the event. Also on the school's Board of Trustees, Tim Ananiadis- General Manager and Managing Director of the Grand Bretagne, presented the award to Dr. Kaltsas, and Nick Karambelas presented the award to Dr. Parazynski.

Dr. Kaltsas, ACS Class of 1996 (Clinical Research, Infectious Diseases, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian Hospital and Weill Cornell Medical College) received the Emerging Young

Leader Award which recognizes an alumnus, under 40 years of age, who shows promise in his/her field by providing inspiration and leadership to students and other young alumni. The recipient has to have shown significant leadership either in their professional career and/or community, public or humanitarian service. Kaltsas is the Infectious Disease Specialist at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. She attended and graduated with

honors from Albany Medical College, Union University in 2004, having over 12 years of diverse experiences, especially in Infectious Disease. She affiliates with many hospitals including Memorial Hospital for Cancer and Allied Diseases. Kaltsas also cooperates with other doctors and physicians in medical groups including Memorial Infectious Disease Group. She spoke movingly at the event about the school and the many teachers that shared her love of science and helped inspire her dream to become a doctor and a better teacher herself.

Dr. Parazynski, ACS Class of 1979 (CEO of Fluidity Technologies, Physician, U.S. Astronaut, Inventor, Speaker) will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award which recognizes an alumnus, 40 years or more of age, whose accomplishments in the public, private or non-profit sector, have made an outstanding contribution to the community and serve as an example both professionally and ethically.

Parazynski was inducted into the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame last May at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. He is a veteran of five space shuttle flights and has walked in space. A lifelong scuba diver and accom-

plished mountaineer, Scott is also a commercial, instrument, multiengine and seaplane-rated pilot with over 2,500 flight hours. In November 2014, Dr. Parazynski was designated University Explorer and Professor of Practice at Arizona State University. He is a prolific inventor and product developer, and serves on the Boards of several organizations and companies, and was also the first astronaut to summit on Mount Everest on May 20, 2009.

Parazynski said, “I gratefully accept this award on behalf of all the teachers who help me live out my dreams,” and then said thank you very much in Greek.

Also in attendance at the event were Consul General of Greece in New York Konstantinos Koutras, Rhode Island State Senator Leonidas Raptakis, AHEPA Supreme President Andrew Zachariades, John Metaxas, Argyris Argitakos, Dr. George Liakeas, Maria Galanou, Emilee Floor, Lou Katsos, Paul Kotrotsios and his daughter Aphrodite, Professor Nick Alexiou, New York Greek Film Festival President James Demetro, Marina Belesiss-Casoria, George Zapantis, and many of the school's alumni, staff, and benefactors.

OUR EVERYDAY GREEK

The Colors of the Greek Flag: Η Γαλανόλευκη Σημαία

By Dr. Dimitra Pontoporou

In Greek we have many words to describe the blue color, probably because this is the main color of our landscape, the color of the sea and the sky. Therefore for the light blue we have two adjectives ο γαλάζιος, -α, -ο and ο γαλανός, η γαλανή, το γαλανό. It comes from the ancient Greek word γαλήνη, which means calmness, tranquility. It is usually used to describe the calm waters and the color of our flag. The adjective that describes the Greek flag is η γαλανόλευκη σημαία. It is a compound word from γαλανή + λευκή (=white), because our flag has blue and white stripes, which are the colors of the sea and the sky. Another ancient Greek word for the blue is κυανός, ή, -ό.

In Modern Greek we quite often use the transliterated English word μπλε: ο μπλε ουρανός. This is not a Greek word and therefore it doesn't change in any case, gender or number. We say: ο μπλε ουρανός, του μπλε ουρανού, οι μπλε ουρανοί, η μπλε θάλασσα, της μπλε θάλασσας, οι μπλε θάλασσες.

VOCABULARY		
Greek word	Pronunciation	Meaning
Ο γαλανός	Ο yalaNOS	light blue (masc.)
Η γαλανή	EE yalaNEE	light blue (fem.)
Το γαλανό	TO yalaNO	light blue (neut.)
Ο καταγάλανος, -η, -ο	Ο kataYalanos, -i, -o	bright blue
Η γαλανόλευκη	EE yalaNOlefkhi	the blue-white flag
Μπλε	BLE	blue
Ο ουρανός	Ο ooraNOS	sky
Ο κόλπος	Ο KOlpos	golf, bay
Ο ωκεανός	Ο okeaNOS	ocean



Η σημαία	EE siMEA	flag
Η θάλασσα	EE THAlassa	sea
Η λίμνη	EE LEEmni	lake
Το νερό	TO neRO	water

Note that, when the stem ends in a vowel, the feminine adjective ends in -α: ο γαλάζι-ος, η γαλάζι-α, and when it ends in a consonant, the ending becomes -η: ο γαλαν-ός, η γαλαν-ή.

The masculine adjectives' endings in the cases are the same as those of the masculine nouns ending in -ος: ο γαλάζιος ουρανός. The feminine adjectives' endings are the same as those of the feminine nouns ending in -η: η γαλαν-ή θάλασσα. The neuter adjectives' endings are the same as those of the neuter nouns endings in -ο: το γαλάζιο.

Singular: Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
Nom.: ο γαλαν-ός κόλπ-ος Gen.: του γαλαν-ού κόλπ-ου Acc.: το γαλαν-ό κόλπ-ο Voc.: γαλαν-έ κόλπ-ε	η γαλαν-ή γραμμ-ή της γαλαν-ής γραμμ-ής τη γαλαν-ή γραμμ-ή γαλαν-ή γραμμ-ή	το γαλαν-ό νερ-ό του γαλαν-ού νερ-ού το γαλαν-ό νερ-ό γαλαν-ό νερ-ό
Plural: Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
Nom.: οι γαλαν-οί κόλπ-οι Gen.: των γαλαν-ών κόλπ-ων Acc.: τους γαλαν-ούς κόλπ-ους Voc.: γαλαν-οί κόλπ-οι	οι γαλαν-ές γραμμ-ές των γαλαν-ών γραμμ-ών τις γαλαν-ές γραμμ-ές γαλαν-ές γραμμ-ές	τα γαλαν-ά νερ-ά των γαλαν-ών νερ-ών τα γαλαν-ά νερ-ά γαλαν-ά νερ-ά

EXERCISES

1. The word color, το χρώμα, is neuter in Greek. Therefore, when we talk about the color, we put the adjective in the neuter gender, singular, γαλανό:
Το χρώμα του ουρανού είναι
Το χρώμα του ουρανού είναι γαλανό.
1.1. Το χρώμα της θάλασσας είναι κατα.....
1.2. Το χρώμα του νερού είναι
1.3. Το χρώμα του ουρανού είναι κατα.....
1.4. Το χρώμα της λίμνης είναι
1.5. Το χρώμα του κόλπου είναι

2. Choose the correct adjective (ο γαλανός, -η, -ο, ο καταγάλανος, -η, -ο, η γαλανόλευκη, μπλε) and put it in the correct gender, case, and number:
2.1. Τα νερά της θάλασσας είναι
2.2. Η λίμνη είναι
2.3. Ο ουρανός σήμερα είναι
2.4. Η θάλασσα σήμερα είναι
2.5. Η ελληνική σημαία είναι
2.6. Βλέπω τονουρανό και τη θάλασσα
2.7. Βλέπω τον ωκεανό.

PRONUNCIATION KEY

i (i-diom), ee (n-ee-dle), e (e-nergy), o (o-rganism), oo (b-oo-t), y (y-es), h (h-elium), th (th-eory), d (th-e), gh (w-olf). The capitalized syllables are accented.

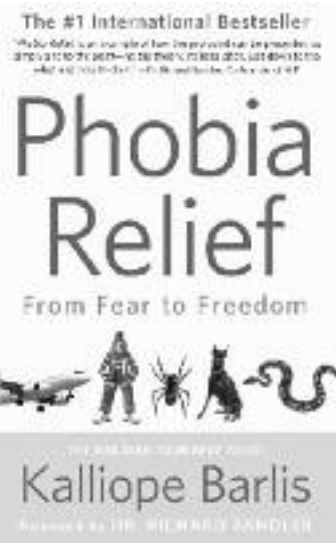
LITERARY REVIEW

Kalliope Barlis' Book Provides Phobia Relief

By Eleni Sakellis

Phobia Relief: From Fear to Freedom by internationally best-selling author Kalliope Barlis is a helpful book for those suffering from phobias and illogical fears. A step by step guide, the book contains exercises that use simple, yet tried and true techniques to free people from the endless cycle of fear. Part of the Building Your Best series, Phobia Relief uses Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP). The author of three books, Barlis is a Licensed Trainer of NLP, the same techniques her mentor, NLP founder Dr. Richard Bandler, used to rid Good Morning America personality Michael Strahan of his snake phobia.

Fear is a part of everyday life. As Barlis notes, we are born with two fears, falling and loud noises, but the rest “are learned and can be unlearned.” Among the fears that can be unlearned are the fear of dogs, clowns, spiders, flying, needles, close spaces, and getting sick. In the book, Barlis shares the way she helped countless people overcome their fears using NLP, but the story of one woman and her fear of clowns highlights the effectiveness of the self-help book. The woman's fear was so debilitating that she actually left her child unattended to flee after seeing a clown. She had missed spending time with her child at the circus out of this fear and



Phobia Relief: From Fear to Freedom by Kalliope Barlis.

had finally reached out for help. The results were dramatic and demonstrate the brain's plasticity. The exercises allowed the woman to learn the true cause of her fear, gain control over her uncontrollable thoughts, shrink her fears and reverse them. Using visualization, she was able to change the way she thought about clowns and free herself from the fear practically instantaneously, or within one session.

For many people, fear holds them back from living their best life. The fear of success, many have pointed out, is greater for some than the fear of failure, so they limit themselves and their

opportunities. How many times do we let opportunities slip by because we fear the outcome? How many wonderful people do we miss meeting because we let social anxiety get in the way and fear what might happen if we said a simple hello? The techniques in Barlis' book can apply to many aspects of life where fear intrudes and impedes our progress. The book empowers people with the knowledge to help them find their purpose and focus on what they want out of life instead of what they don't want.

On May 8, at the George Bilis Gallery in New York City, peo-

ple who suffer the shame, fear, and stress that accompanies phobias for such everyday things as snakes, clowns, spiders, public speaking, social anxiety and dentists can get relief as part of the first annual Phobia Relief Day.

The brainchild of Barlis, who has helped thousands of people overcome their fears, the special day will be marked by in-person phobia relief sessions in New York City as well as training that can be accessible anywhere in the world through the internet.

Tickets are required to attend the sessions in which Barlis will explain how people can shrink their fears, shed stress, and build their best lives ever. People can attend in person or virtually. Either way, all participants will receive free access to the audio book version of Phobia Relief: From Fear to Freedom. Some volunteers will have their phobias diminished in front of the audience. The special event is designed not only for phobia sufferers who are seeking relief, but also their friends and families looking for ways to help, and professionals interested in gaining a feel for phobia relief skills.

More information is available online at PhobiaReliefDay.org. The book is available online at Barnes & Noble and Amazon and the audiobook is available on iTunes.

GREEK AMERICAN STORIES

Privacy

By Phyllis (Kiki) Sembos
Special to The National Herald

“I just experienced the craziest thing,” Yiannis told those gathered round the table that Sunday at Dixon’s. “What’s that?” asked Dimos, watching him snatch up the last frosted donut before Kipreos could get it. “Well,” began Yiannis, looking up in wonder. “I used the men’s room at the bus terminal Friday. When I’d finish, the toilet flushed without me pressing any lever. It flushed, automatically.” That bit of news wasn’t news to the others. But, they decided to hear him out. “So?” said John, stirring his coffee. “That’s the newest technology.” Yiannis’ chin firmed. “But, how did it know when?”

Dimos looked seriously at his friend. “You really don’t know?” Yiannis shook his head. Dimos gave a quick wink up at the others. “It’s all done by long distance, now. There’s a huge big-screen monitor in central

headquarters situated in Albany that overlooks the millions of commodes over the city.” Yiannis crunched his face, “Why?” John, picking up the humor, added, “It’s for your protection, Yiannis. Suppose you get sick and faint... or, something. A bus terminal doctor gets notice and runs in to take care of you.” Kipreos said, assuredly, “We have that same technology at the hotel where I work. But, no doctor on hand, I don’t think.” Yiannis was not impressed. In fact, he felt violated. “But, what about my privacy?” Dimos shook his head, sadly. “No such thing anymore. A team of doctors at central headquarters study those screens, checking everything carefully. Someone, I’d heard, got a notice from one of those doctors telling him to take care of ‘those hemorrhoids.’”

Yiannis grew very uncomfortable. “But, I don’t want anyone checking my...me! It’s an outrage! Unheard of! Aw, you’re



kidding, right?” he hoped, his cheeks flaming, hotly. George saw a prime opportunity and jumped right in. “Yiannis is right! What’s this world coming to, anyway, when we can’t enter a public place without privacy? It’s disgraceful not to be able to...to... attend to our private functions without technology butting in.” Yiannis was pleased that the forthright George agreed with him on something, finally. “Hear that?” He told the others, turning to George to ask

his, usually, contrary friend, “What would you do about it, George?” George thought and thought. Then, slapping his hand on the table, said, “This is a democracy! We have rights! We can do something about it, Yiannis! Put a petition out and have people sign it. That’s how democracy works! If you get 5,000 signatures, or more, you can have a hearing. You’ve got five signatures right here. Right, guys?” They muttered agreement. “And, if the public agrees

GREEK GASTRONOMY

What Would Mom Do? Bulk Buying and Cooking

Continued from page 1

markets for purchase in bulk. Snacks, treats, herbs, spices, salts, peppercorns, teas, and coffees, too, are available as bulk items, depending on your stores selection.

Dried beans are a delicious and affordable source of protein. With no cholesterol and plenty of fiber, iron, and folic acid, they are a near perfect food. Select beans with smooth surfaces and bright colors, since dull, wrinkled beans may have

water and set aside to soak. After soaking, drain and rinse the beans, then add enough fresh, cold water to again cover the beans by at least two inches. Bring the pot up to a boil over medium heat then reduce the heat to a simmer and allow the beans to cook until tender, stirring occasionally. The pot may be partially covered, if preferred, but check occasionally to make sure there is enough water in the pot and add more if needed. Cooking time will vary depending on the soaking time,



been hanging around the shelf too long. Store the beans in an airtight container away from heat and use within six months for the best results. One cup of dry beans usually yields 2 to 3 cups of cooked beans. The cooked beans can then be used for a variety of dishes including soups and salads.

A Recipe for Beans

- Beans of your choice-cannellini beans, chickpeas, cranberry beans, great northern beans, navy beans, pinto beans, or red kidney beans
- Water
- Salt to taste
- Bay leaves (optional)
- 1 large onion, chopped (optional)
- 1-2 cloves garlic (optional)
- Greek extra virgin olive oil
- Red wine vinegar or fresh lemon juice to taste
- Freshly ground pepper to taste

Sort and rinse the beans, removing any shriveled beans and pebbles. Soak the beans for 4 to 12 hours to cook more evenly and in less time. Place the beans in a large, deep pot and cover with at least two inches of cold

age of the beans, and the variety.

Beans should be simmered gently since a hard boil can make them fall apart. If they are to be cooked again as part of a recipe, the beans should be cooked until barely tender to avoid overcooking.

Salt should be added to the beans about three-quarters of the way through the cooking process since adding it early on will prevent the beans from cooking through. Acids including tomato sauce, vinegar, wine, and lemon juice will also prevent the beans from softening, so they are usually added when the beans are tender in most bean soup recipes.

Adding bay leaves, onion, and garlic to the pot at the start of cooking will add flavor to simple boiled beans. Drizzle with Greek extra virgin olive oil and fresh lemon juice, or red wine vinegar as preferred. Add freshly ground pepper to taste.

Beans can be tough to digest for those not used to them, but soaking and discarding the soaking water will reduce the effects.

The more often you eat them, the easier it becomes to digest beans and their complex sugars. If preferred, use a pressure cooker to reduce the cooking time for beans.

with your outcry – and, there’s no reason not to - it’ll be abolished! A lot of people will thank you, Yiannis.” After some hesitancy, Yiannis found that his advice sounded fair and very reasonable. Besides! There’s a possibility that he’d be looked upon as an avid defender of people’s rights to privacy, a hero, a righteous citizen. He’d be in all the papers, maybe.

Dimos, patting George’s shoulder, “You know, George? I believe you’re correct! Doesn’t the Constitution say something like that? ‘The right to privacy.’ Article IV, I believe. The right of the people to be secure from unreasonable searches...or, something like that, I think,” Dimos shrugged. Convinced, Yiannis jumped to his feet. “Yes! I’ll do it! Why not! I’ll start up a petition right away.” Apprehensive, Kipreos reminding him, “But, Yiannis! Your English isn’t very...” Yiannis paused and asked George how he should word his petition. Concentrat-

ing, George waved a stern finger in the air, and announced, “We, the people, want the right to attend all public toilets without observation. It is against the Constitution.” Convinced, Yiannis nodded firmly and marched out into the crowded street, heading for a stationary store. John looked around the table, quizzically. “We were just having some fun. You don’t think he’s, really, going to go through with it, do you?”

Dimos shrugged, “I don’t know!” George, leaning back in his seat, pictured Yiannis going up and down streets asking people to sign a petition against automatic flushers, objecting to doctors in central headquarters observing them on giant screens. Kipreos, worried, said, “I don’t think he should be passing around a petition like that. Won’t people – or the police - think he’s... a little... maybe... ahh, disturbed?” George, leaning back, wearing a broad grin, said, “Yeah!”

CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of ALDO ALLEVA, M.D., PLLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/27/17. Office location: Kings County. Princ. office of PLLC: 162 Kamada Blvd., New Hyde Park, NY 11040. SSNY designated as agent of PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207-2543. Purpose: Medicine.

275763/17976

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of TIDY ROOM CLEANING COMPANY LLC (DOM LLC). Articles of the Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 04/10/17. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: Twendane White, P.O. Box 7870, Garden City, NY 11530. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

275764/20370

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of MONICA'S UNIQUELY'U VINTAGE BOUTIQUE LLC (DOM LLC). Articles of the Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/27/17. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC at: Monica Brooks, 139 E. Dean Street, Freeport, NY 11520. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

275761/20368

LEGAL NOTICE

MDCNY LLC. Art. of Org. filed w/ SSNY 4/25/17. Office in New York Co. SSNY designated for service of process and shall mail to: 250 W 50th Street Ste. 30C, NY, NY 10019. Purpose: Any lawful activity .

275758/18796

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of VENTURES OF MEDINA, LLC (DOM LLC). Articles of the Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 04/12/17. Office location: Kings County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC at: c/o United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

275757/20362

LEGAL NOTICE

Piq Too, LLC. Art. of Org. filed w/ SSNY 3/29/17. Office in Kings 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. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

275754/18796

LEGAL NOTICE

East 66th Street Anesthesiology, PLLC. Art. of Org. filed w/ SSNY 4/14/17. Office in NY Co. SSNY designated for service of process and shall mail to: 200 E 66th St A807, NY, NY 10065. Purpose: Medicine.

275751/18796

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of TECHNES LABS LLC Articles of the Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 03/01/2017. Office location: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC at: c/o PSI HOLDINGS, INC., 23638 Lyons Avenue, No: 223, Newhall, CA 91321. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

275743/20354

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF THE RESOURCES ART & APPAREL LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/17/2017. Office location: NASSAU County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. The Post Office address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him/her is: 2602 Inglewood St. East Meadow, NY 11554 The principal business address of the LLC is: 2602 Inglewood St. East Meadow, NY 11554 Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

275744/20355

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of AIVO WELLNESS, LLC (DOM LLC). Articles of the Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 03/22/2017. Office location: Kings County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC at: c/o United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

275741/20351

LEGAL NOTICE

Hawkins Roman Architects PLLC. Art. of Org. filed w/ SSNY 4/14/17. Office in Kings Co. SSNY designated for service of process and shall mail to: 38 Hicks St. #2, Brooklyn, NY 11201. Purpose: Any lawful activity .

275739/18796

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of STEWART PURCHASER LLC. Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 3/30/17. Office location: Kings County.LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 3/16/17. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 111 8th Ave, NY, NY 10011. DE address of LLC: 1209 Orange St, Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Formation filed with DE Secy of State, 401 Federal St. Ste 4, Dover, DE 19901. The name and address of the Reg. Agent is CT Corporation System, 111 8th Ave, NY, NY 10011. Purpose: any lawful activity.

275731/20349

LEGAL NOTICE

Essex Site 8 Builders LLC Arts. of Org. filed w/ SSNY 2/16/17. Off. in Kings Co. SSNY desig. as agt. of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, 150 Myrtle Ave, 2nd Fl, Brooklyn, NY 11201. Purpose: any lawful activity.

275714/19635

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of PLUTO ASTORIA LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/17/2017. Office location: NASSAU County. SSNY has been designated for service of process. SSNY shall mail copy of any process served against the LLC to PLUTO ASTORIA LLC 18 Prospect Avenue, Port Washington, NY 11050 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

275711/20251

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of EMDA Management LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York SSNY on March 07, 2017. Office located in Nassau County. SSNY is designated for service of process. SSNY shall mail copy of any process served against LLC to: 2 Rodney Lane., Kings Point New York 11024. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

275705/20330

LEGAL NOTICE

148 LIDA LEGACY L.P. Cert. of Limited Partnership filed with the SSNY on 03/16/17. Latest date to dissolve: 12/31/2117. Office: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of the LP upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LP, 148 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201.

275703/17973

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of D&G ARJUNE, LLC (DOM LLC). Articles of the Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 03/10/2017. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: Deonarine Richard Arjune, 7 Garland Lane, Valley Stream, NY 11581. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

275701/20328

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■ **CHICOURAS, MAGDA**
PENSACOLA, FL (from the Pensacola News Journal, published on Apr. 26) – Magda Butchikas Manolis Chicouras, 100, of Pensacola, FL, fell asleep in Christ on April 22, 2017. Born on April 13, 1917 to Elaine and Constantinos (Gus) Butchikas, Magda grew up in Glossa on the island of Skopelos in Greece. She married and settled in Thessaloniki, Greece, bearing three sons. During the German occupation of Greece, she and her family travelled back to the island of Skopelos, remaining there until shortly after World War II when they moved to Volos, Greece. In 1950, she immigrated to the United States. Settling in Pensacola, Florida, she found great joy in serving in the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church choir. She also served as a member of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptihos Society which promotes charitable, benevolent and philanthropic outreach to preserve the sanctity of life and fam-

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

ily and to perpetuate and promote the Greek Orthodox faith and traditions. Magda enjoyed traveling, dancing and knitting as well as spending time with friends and family. Magda is survived by two sons, John Manolis (Maria) of Fredericksburg, Virginia; and Dino Manoli (Toni) of Encinitas, California; along with 5 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren, 2 great, great grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by, her parents, her brother Angelo Butchikas (Mae) of Panama City Florida, her youngest son George Manolis, her first husband Christo Manolis, and her second husband Nicholas Chicouras. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, 1720 W. Garden Street, Pensacola Florida 32502.

■ **FOTOS, EUGENE**
SACRAMENTO, CA (from The Sacramento Bee, published on Apr. 21) – Eugene Fotos passed away peacefully at home with his family by his side on April 17, 2017 He was born in Sacramento to Greek immigrants on September 4, 1932. He was 84. Eugene graduated from Sacramento High School and earned his business degree as part of the

first graduating class of Sacramento State College in 1954. Eugene served in the U.S. Army in Korea, was a Real Estate Appraiser for 44 years, and served as President of the Northern California Chapter of the National Association of Real Estate Appraisers. Eugene was devoted to the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church and was an active member of the church virtually all his life. He was a member of the Parish Council from 1961-1971, and at the age of 32, was the youngest person to serve as Parish Council President. Eugene started the Annunciation Greek Food Festival in 1964, which is still going strong after 53 years. He served eight times as General Chairman, and held numerous other committee chairmanships. Eugene was General Chairman of Sacramento's International Day, a segment of the week-long Sacramento Camellia Festival in 1968. He was very proud that Greece was chosen as the "Honored Nation" during the downtown parade. Eugene started the parish's first monthly publication, "The Annunciation", in 1971 and was a beloved member of the church choir since 1946, interrupted only by his ser-vice in the military. He was also a member of the Annunciation Senior

League. For over 20 years, Eugene voluntarily photographed special church services, church sponsored social events and activities. He estimated that he took no less than 30,000 photos. A member since 1946, Eugene served as Supreme National President of the Greek American Progressive Association (GAPA) for nine years (1997-2006). He chaired three National GAPA Conventions in Sacramento and chaired the GAPA District Conventions in the early 1960s. He attended more than 16 national GAPA conventions, including one held in Athens, Greece in 1968. As Supreme President in 1997, he was invited to the Western States Orthodox Banquet honoring the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople. Eugene's humor and quick wit made him a legendary public speaker who was never at a loss for words. His energy and tireless commitment to the Greek community will be greatly missed. Eugene was preceded in death by his parents Dan and Despo Fotos, brother Manuel (Ruseta) Fotos, and sister Fotine (Chris) Jovalis. He is survived by his wife, Agnes, of nearly 60 years, brother Demetre (Rosie) Fotos, and sisters Maria (Tony) Stathos and Anthony Fotos. He is also sur-

vived by his sons, Dan Fotos and Cary (Brenda) Fotos, daughter Dessie (Charles) Pantages, and grandchildren Sophia Fotos and Carol Pantages, as well as several nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Annunciation Greek Church Building Fund, 600 Alhambra Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95816.

■ **HALKIAS, IOANNA**
CHICAGO, IL (from the Chicago Tribune, published on Apr. 21) – Ioanna Halkias, nee Kolokythas. Beloved wife of the late Nikolaos Halkias. Loving mother of Athena (Chris) Verveniots, Athanasios (Hariklia) and George Halkias. Proud Yiayia of 10. Great grandmother of 7. Dear sister, cousin, and friend of many. Memorial donations to St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox

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

Church or to Greek American Rehab and Care Centre would be appreciated.

■ **KARABOGIAS, EVANGELIA**
SYLVANIA, OH (from the Toledo Blade, published on Apr. 18) – "Angie" passed away peacefully with her family by her side on Sunday, April 16, 2017. She was born on March 25, 1939 in Makrihori, Greece to Vasilios and Eleni Mavridis. Evangelia came to the United States at the age of 19 after having lost both her parents. She met and then married her beloved husband Nondas "Pete" Karabogias on June 28, 1959 in Toledo, OH. Together they ran the Plantation Motel for over 25 years. She was a member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral and Young at Heart. She is survived and will be deeply missed by her husband of 58 years, Nondas; children, Georgia (Chris) Rongakis, Nick, and Elaine; grandchildren, Jim (fiancé Vicki), Leah (Matt) Simko, and great-grandson, Jackson whom she absolutely adored. Brothers, Kyriakos (the late Stella) of Athens, Greece, and Konstantinos (Argyro) of Southgate; extended family and long-time friends. Memorial tributes may be made to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral.

This Week in Greek History

Compiled by
Eraklis Diamataris

MAY 1: On this day in 1909 Greek poet Yian-nis Ritsos was born in Monemvasia. From the beginning of his life, Yiannis Ritsos faced trials and tribulations as he lost his eldest brother and mother at a young age. Additionally, Ritsos' father battled mental disease with Ritsos himself getting and then beating tuberculosis. In 1931 Ritsos became a member of the Communist Party of Greece (KKE), a political organization he would be an active member of until his death in 1990. Kostis Palamas praised Ritsos and his first publication called Tractor in 1934. His next noted work came a year after Tractor when Ritsos published Pyramids in 1935. Arguably Ritsos' greatest poem was Epitaphios published on June 8, 1936 and it was 32 pages long. The poem marked Yiannis Ritsos' rise to become a mainstream voice in the national conscious of Greeks. Epitaphios came about when a photograph published in the newspaper Rizospastis depicted a dead protestory in Thessaloniki in May 1936 with a woman screaming over the body of her slain son. The poem was wildly popular and a classic but when Ioannis Metaxas was announced as dictator in August 1936 copies of it were publicly burned at the Acropolis for being too antagonistic to the new regime. Ritsos joined the National Liberation Front (EAM) during the Axis occupation of Greece which lasted from 1941-1945 but didn't cease to write during that period. Due to his left wing beliefs Ritsos was exiled in 1948 to Kondopouli, Lemnos for four years and then again in 1967. In the early days of the dictatorship he was sent to prison camps in Gyaros and Samos. In 1975 Ritsos was awarded the Lenin Peace Prize by the Soviet Union an honor that Ritsos deemed more important than the Nobel Peace Prize which he was unsuccessfully nominated for 9 times. Yiannis Ritsos died on November 11, 1990 at the age of 81 in Athens and he was buried in Monevasia.

MAY 5: On this day in 1919 in Elaiohori, Greek colonel Georgios Papadopoulos was born. Papadopoulos was the head of the military coup d'état which took place on April 21, 1967 and leader of the junta regime that was in power from 1967-1974. Papadopoulos served in World War II against the Italians and Germans where he was promoted to lieutenant. After World War II he served in the Greek Civil War earning the rank of major in 1949. Following the Civil War, Papadopoulos went into training with the CIA in intelligence gathering during the 1950s where he was

rumored to have become a CIA agent during that time which would've made him the first and only known CIA operative to lead a European country in history. This is a rumor that has been kept alive in lore and intensified when the US admitted to helping the junta many years later but has never been officially proven. In June 1965 Papadopoulos sought to frame communist sympathizing officers under his command in Thrace but was found out. He was allowed to continue serving, a decision the government of Georgios Papandreou would soon regret. Not only was he not discharged but in 1967 Papadopoulos was promoted to colonel. Only days later on April 21, 1967 Papadopoulos would take advantage of the political turmoil existing between King Constantine II and George Papandreou and successfully carried out a coup d'état with other army officers. Under the leadership of Papadopoulos the press was harshly censored, thousands were made to be political prisoners and there were frequent reports of torture. Political parties were dissolved and labor unions were essentially shut down. On August 13, 1968 Alexandros Panagoulis attempted to assassinate Papadopoulos but failed. Panagoulis was arrested but was pardoned by Papadopoulos and served five years in prison. From the outset Papadopoulos wanted to enact reforms to the governance of Greece and didn't wish for a longstanding regime something that upset his more hardline colonel co-conspirators. Due to his attempted gradual easing of liberal beliefs after the Athens Polytechnic uprising on November 17, 1973 the Papadopoulos dictatorship fell on November 25, 1973. Dimitrios Ioannidis took over the dictatorship with Papadopoulos sentenced to house arrest. When democracy was restored in 1974 Papadopoulos, the other colonels along with their staffs were tried for high treason and torture and were sentenced to life imprisonment. The junta years remain a deeply divisive subject in Greece as others point to the political stability brought by the dictatorship as being the catalyst for high economic growth, extensive public projects and rural areas being modernized as positive things that came out of it. Papadopoulos died at the age of 80 in Athens after a three-year battle with cancer.

MAY 6: On this day in 1954, Theodora "Dora" Bakoyannis (née Mitsotakis) was born in Athens. Born to Former Prime Minister of Greece Konstantinos Mitsotakis and his wife Marika, Dora hails from the Mitsotakis political family dynasty. Apart from her father being Prime Minister her great-grandmother

was the sister of Eleftherios Venizelos and her brother is currently a member of parliament and the leader of New Democracy. During her youth Dora's family was exiled to Paris in 1968 by the military junta in Greece where she completed her secondary schooling at the German School of Paris. When democracy was restored she earned a degree in public law from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. Because of her schooling and living abroad Bakoyannis is fluent in English, French and German. While briefly studying in Munich Bakoyannis met and later married Greek liberal politician from Evrytania, Pavlos Bakoyannis in 1974. Pavlos was tragically assassinated by the 17th of November terrorist group on September 26, 1989 in Athens at the age of 54. Bakoyannis kept the last name even after the murder of her late husband and still after she remarried in 1998 to Greek shipping businessman Isidoros Kouvelos. Bakoyannis got her political beginnings as the head of the political office of her father from 1984-1989 who at the time was New Democracy's leader. In 1989 she successfully ran for her late husband's parliamentary seat from Evrytania and became the Minister of Culture in 1992 until October 13, 1993. In 1996 Bakoyannis decided to run for parliament from Athens first electoral district, a race she won and retained her seat in the election of 2000. In 2002 Dora Bakoyannis successfully ran for Mayor of Athens and in doing so became the first female mayor in the entire history of the city. In 2005 she won the award as World's Mayor for outstanding mayoral leadership from the City Mayors Foundation. From there Bakoyannis joined the Costas Karamanlis cabinet as the Foreign Minister again being the first female to ascend to that position in Greece and would remain in her post February 15, 2006 - October 7, 2009. At the time, Bakoyannis was the highest ranked female member of government in the history of Modern Greece. Following her stint as Foreign Minister she won election again in the first electoral district of Athens in 2009 and then challenged for New Democracy's leadership that was vacated by Karamanlis after a crushing electoral defeat but was beaten by Antonis Samaras and then promptly removed from the party in May 2010 for not voting along party lines. Bakoyannis retaliated by forming her own liberal party known as the Democratic Alliance which was a short lived project. Today she is once more a member of parliament with New Democracy where her brother Kyriakos is the party's head. Bakoyannis has two children, her son being Kostas Bakoyannis the governor of Sterea Ellada.

Former Defense Ministers Still Mired in Scandals

TNH Staff

ATHENS – They served right after each other in the 1990s and into the new century, but former PASOK Socialist stalwarts Akis Tsochatzopoulos and Yiannos Papantoniou's tenures as Defense Ministers have left a tainted trail of scandal and corruption. Greek investigators reportedly have learned from Swiss authorities that Papantoniou, and his wife had two more secret foreign accounts after already being convicted of hiding their wealth. A judicial investigation into defense contracts signed by Papantoniou is deepening, Kathimerini said, but that unless he can be tied to kickbacks or bribes or money laundering the statute of limitations has expired on other possible wrongdoing and he will walk free after buying out jail time for his previous convictions, common in Greece for people who can afford it. The probe is said to also have discovered a life insurance policy as Greek judicial authorities want the Swiss to break their banking privacy laws and release more information. A parliamentary committee investigating the defense deals signed by Papantoniou when he was minister 2001-2004 has asked Greek prosecutors to determine whether transactions involving his accounts during this

time period point toward money laundering. Greece's Parliament approved the investigation into alleged corruption involving contracts when Papantoniou was Defense Minister from 2001-2003 as the scandal-ridden agency remains in the spotlight. That was the period immediately after the 1996-2001 reign of Tsochatzopoulos, during which he was said to have stolen €50 million (\$53.48 million) from contracts, prosecutors said, leading to his arrest, conviction and receiving a 20-year jail sentence in 2013. But Tsochatzopoulos will serve only four years as he's set to be released from jail because of failing health after a triple bypass operation. It took him weeks to raise the €200,000 necessary to post bail, but then a last-minute glitch hit when his family couldn't find his passport, which he must surrender along with conditions of his release, including reporting to police regularly. The lawmakers unanimously backed a committee to look into €4 billion (\$4.28 billion) of contracts that were signed when Papantoniou, previously found guilty of failing to report his wealth but for which he was able to buy out jail time, was minister. Prime Minister and Radical Left SYRIZA leader Alexis Tsipras said earlier the investigation would uncover vast wrongdoing

including how the Athens stock market crashed in the late 1990s. While supporting the probe, rival parties said Tsipras brought it up now to distract attention from stalled talks with international creditors over terms of a third bailout of €86 billion, some \$93.7 billion. Papantoniou and his wife Stavroula Kourakou had been convicted for trying to hide €1.3 million (\$1.39 billion) in a Swiss bank account from Greek authorities. Papantoniou, 67, served as Defense Minister from 2001-04 and Economy Minister from 1996 to 2001. The deals he signed during that time have been under the scrutiny of corruption prosecutors for years. "In the past these issues [of

corruption] were covered up either by political interventions in the justice system or by a conspiracy of silence...We're going to unmask them," Tsipras said, the Financial Times reported. Under parliamentary rules, a bipartisan committee will examine thousands of pages of evidence before deciding whether Papantoniou should face trial before a special court composed of senior judges. The investigation is expected to take several months. Papantoniou denied wrongdoing. He said in a statement that "a dozen" previous judicial probes of defense and security contracts signed while he was minister failed to produce any evidence to support corruption allegations.

Calamos-Exin Bid Hard to Beat

Continued from page 1

at other sectors in Greece, including real estate, banks and non-performing loans, the CEOs said. They both declined to comment on pricing details due to non-disclosure agreements, but said the acquisition of National Insurance would be funded with equity capital and no debt. Koudounis said now is the

right time to be investing in Greece as long-awaited reforms get done, adding that foreign hedge funds had not timed their purchases of Greek banks well and were nursing losses. "Even if we are a bit premature, because you can never time the exact bottom, in our model of long-term investing it won't matter," Koudounis said.

Greek Poverty Deepens During Seven Years of Austerity

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Over the past seven years, austerity has left visible scars in Greece's capital.

A walk around Athens reveals more homeless people than ever despite some signs of a rosier economic outlook. Thousands of shops, mostly small businesses, are shuttered here and across the country. In what used to be a busy shopping arcade, closed stores are padlocked against a backdrop of hanging Greek flags.

Whole families can be seen lining up for free meals at a growing number of soup kitchens.

"Every day we feed 400 to 500 people, and this number has increased even more in the past two years," says Evangelia Konsta, organizer and sponsor of the meals offered by the Church of Greece in a run-down neighborhood in central Athens.

On Tuesday, International Monetary Fund and European negotiators bailout negotiators reached an agreement with Greece's government to continue rescue funding in return for a painful new round of cuts and higher taxes over the next three years.

High unemployment and a steady decline of living standards for most Greeks for seven consecutive years have had lasting effects.

Greece has survived on international rescue loans since 2010, granted by the IMF and other countries using the euro currency in exchange for drastic cut in public spending and benefits. Greece is now in its third bailout.

A few steps away from the church-run soup kitchen is a



Scenes from life in poverty-stricken Greece as austerity takes a harsh toll on the people. The homeless search through the trash, while whole families can be seen lining up for free meals at a growing number of soup kitchens.

homeless shelter also run by the church. Guests in its tiny rooms include one family with their

young children and a retired nurse suffering from cancer who is still waiting to get her pension



AP PHOTOS/THANASSIS STAVRAKIS

application approved.

Another shelter, the "Shelter of Love and Solidarity," has a

great view of the ancient Acropolis that's barely noticed by the hundreds of homeless and poor

As DryShips Value Sank, CEO's Fortune Rose

TNH Staff

Rising and falling like a ship in a storm, the fate of the Greek company DryShips is still in a storm but its Chairman and CEO, George Economou, may have made untold millions of dollars it was buffeted.

The wild ride was charted by the Wall Street Journal in a report which said there was no apparent wrongdoing or fixing, but that a series of fortuitous events made him rich while after the company's value initially soared 1500 percent right after the 2016 presidential elections, its shares quickly plummeted 99.9 percent.

It's a bizarre tale of how Economou, who owns only 0.01 percent of DryShips, made himself even richer through a series of tricky maneuvers before the company's shares were briefly suspended by Nasdaq.

The Stock Exchange overall saw a sharp rise after Republican Donald Trump's surprise win for the presidency but nothing like the meteoric soaring of DryShips for reasons still yet fathomable.

And despite its sinking share prices that saw small investors lose hundred of millions of dollars, individual investors remain obsessed with DryShips.

Since the mysterious surge in its price, there have been an average of more than 17,000 mostly bullish mentions a week of DryShips on social investing site StockTwits, a favorite of fast-trading small investors, the WJ said. That is more than 100 times its average weekly mentions before the mid-November frenzy.

Like many Greek shipping companies who don't want to pay taxes in their homeland during a crushing economic crisis, DryShips carries a foreign flag, from the Marshall Islands, although it is based in Athens, and specializes in carrying bulk cargo such as coal and iron ore and grains.

While the industry has been battered in recent years by weak commodity prices and an over-supply of ships - and just before the share-price surge, the company announced it was suspend-

ing principal and interest payments "to preserve cash liquidity" - Economou became King of the Waves through several tidal changes he helped engineer.

UPS AND DOWNS

He founded the company in 2004 and listed it on the Nasdaq in 2005. The report noted that small-company stocks, especially ones in financial distress like DryShips, are often highly volatile as investors try to profit from the big moves.

WSJ listed factors behind a rally seen unprecedented in the sector:

- Through a series of

verting loans to the company that he owned into a new series of preferred stock that confer 100,000 votes apiece. That stock wasn't affected by the share price run-up or collapse.

The rally between Nov. 9 and Nov. 16 led the company's market value to surge from about \$5 million to about \$80 million.

A day after shares peaked, the company embarked on a series of stock sales totaling more than \$500 million so far, according to securities filings. Those documents show the buyer was a British Virgin Islands company called Kalani Investments, but



NEWSBOMB

DryShips Chairman and CEO, George Economou.

transactions involving the company's debt, Economou gained voting control of DryShips without exposure to the common stock, according to securities filings

- The stock price soared, attracting the attention of thousands of fast-trading individual investors

- As the rally peaked, the company began issuing stock, which would total more than \$500 million, at ever-diminishing prices

- DryShips used the money to buy ships in deals that benefited Economou, who earns management fees on its vessels, according to securities filings

Economou solidified his control of DryShips two months before the shares took off by con-

DryShips's shareholder records don't list Kalani or any other institution, meaning the firm in turn sold the shares to small investors. DryShips says Kalani is independent of the company. Contact information for Kalani couldn't be obtained to request comment.

WHERE'S THE MONEY?

DryShips' shares would ordinarily be worth pennies following the big decline. The company has avoided that through repeated reverse stock splits that reduce the number of shares outstanding without affecting the company's value much at all.

Despite issuing over \$500 million in stock since November, DryShips's market value is less than \$70 million.

WSJ said the company has

used the proceeds from the share sales to buy or acquire options on several hundred million dollars' worth of ships, likely at attractive prices because of a glutted market, one way Economou has profited.

The rise-and-fall of DryShips brought him sharp critics after the one-week phenomenon. Giovanni DiMauro - who earlier called Economou "The Worst CEO in the World," wrote on the site SeekingAlpha: "Economou managed to completely destroy any shareholder value over the last several years with massive dilution. Believe it or not the share count went from nearly 700M earlier in the year to just over 1.1M today.

"In my history as a trader I have never seen so many reverse splits. The SEC should be ashamed of themselves for allowing this company to be publicly traded."

DiMauro earlier had written that Economou "is possibly the most arrogant and uncaring CEO of all time. He is a habitual diluter of shareholder value and not to be trusted."

Economou, 63, is also owner of Cardiff Marine, which manages his dry bulk ships. He has ranked 707th on Forbes' list of billionaires with an estimated worth of \$1.7 billion.

He was born in Athens, where his father owned a small paper-products company. He studied at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, earning degrees in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, and a master's in Shipbuilding Management, but has been accused of running DryShips like a private company for personal profit at shareholders' expense, destroying any shareholder value over the last several years with massive dilution and dubious forms of financing.

The WSJ said he controls entities that manage the vessels for DryShips for fees that earn him several million dollars a year, according to company filings. He also consolidated over 90% of its debt with a further provision that gives another company he controls 30% of any gains earned by the company if certain vessels are later sold.



AP PHOTO/THANASSIS STAVRAKIS

Ilias Papadopoulos, right, and his brother Leonidas, center, speaks with the unemployed resident Yiannis Kaplanis after the power reconnection at his home in Athens. The bearded brothers have created a nationwide protest network of several hundred volunteers to disrupt the auctions across Greece and to help illegally reconnect homes of unemployed people who have had their electricity cut off. In its fourth year, the campaign is intensifying as the country faces pressure.

Greece Agrees to New Bailout Terms and More

Continued from page 1

ular in opinion polls, Tsipras can get the latest agreement throughout parliament but there's not much room for maneuver as his governing coalition with a nationalist right-wing party only has a majority of three seats in parliament.

"Tsipras has been able to command remarkable discipline in his party up to now," said Joan Hoey, regional director for Europe at the Economist Intelligence Unit. "We will see whether that continues to apply in coming weeks."

Officials in Athens conceded that a more comprehensive agreement needed for the release of funds could take longer.

"This is not a deal that closes the second (bailout) review, but another painful step toward that end," Hoey said. "We do not know all the details, only that those prior actions will include some very unpopular reforms ... (It) seems like another case of deal doublespeak."

Greece has been surviving on bailout loans since 2010 in return for harsh spending cuts and tax increases that have contributed to a sharp rise in unemployment and left more than a third of the population living in poverty or at risk of poverty.

"This is a painful compromise," Interior Minister Panos Skourletis told state-run ERT television.

Tsipras, whose Syriza party is trailing badly behind rival conservatives in the polls, has insisted it will not seek elections until his term ends in 2019.

"We are paying the price of Mr. Tsipras' deception," conservative opposition leader Kyriakos Mitsotakis said. "He promised us more funding without austerity, but what we ended up with is more austerity and no additional funding."

The agreement with creditors was reached after a night-long session of talks at a hotel in Athens and after big May Day rallies in the capital that required riot police to prevent protesters from entering the building.

Greek government officials said lenders dropped their demands to abolish a long list of

who come twice a week to wash their clothes and take a hot bath.

"The shelter is the best option for us because the government doesn't really do anything for us," says Ilias Kosmidis, 38, who has been sleeping on the street for the past two years.

While waiting to wash their clothes, people at the shelter have developed friendships, and catch up on the news, including the French presidential election.

Sofia Vitalaki and her husband Costas, both retired civil servants, have run the shelter since 1991.

"It's not just the food," she says. "Most people want their dignity back and here we try to support them."

On a corner of Monastiraki Square full of tourists and passers-by, a group of volunteers from the soup kitchen "O Allos Anthropos" (The Other Man), cook chicken with rice. In less than 20 minutes, 230 hot meals were delivered to people who waited more than an hour to get them.

At the end of every month, it's become a familiar sight outside banks: pensioners waiting in huge lines to collect their monthly checks. Few know how to use ATMs.

While in line, they fret over how to make ends meet after years of cuts to their earnings, worrying about more austerity being planned.

They won't have long to wait till the next round of cuts. The government Tuesday finalized its agreement with bailout lenders to ax pensions further, starting Jan. 1, 2019.

Anastasiades- Unity Talks Won't Cede Cyprus' Rights

TNH Staff

NICOSIA - Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades said at the resumption of unity talks with Turkish-Cypriot leader Mustafa Akinci that he won't give up sovereign rights.

Acting Government Spokesman Victoras Papadopoulos said, in a written statement, that Anastasiades, on his return from Brussels, said Turkey's request for a conference in Geneva to discuss Cyprus' push for energy drilling off the island depends on whether there is progress in negotiations to unify the island, which has evaded a host of diplomats, envoys, politicians and power brokers since Turkey's unlawful invasion in

1974.

Papadopoulos said Cyprus is going ahead with its plans to find oil or gas off the island even as Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he wants a share and is set to send in a research vessel again, as he did before, to join the hunt even in Cypriot sovereign waters.

Anastasiades repeated that he will not stop negotiating to find a solution but won't back down to Turkish demands, the Cyprus News Agency reported.

Undercutting the effort is Turkey's plan to go ahead with energy research in Cypriot sovereign waters as Erdogan becomes more aggressive after narrowly winning an April 16 referendum giving him near-dictatorial powers.

The Cyprus Mail said Turkey was pushing for a new conference in Geneva to get Cyprus to stop drilling offshore in its own waters.

The agenda for the meeting was set last by technical negotiators of the two sides along with UN Special Adviser Espen Barth Eide who was accused by Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Kotzias of favoring Turkey.

Eide, whose constant predictions of imminent breakthroughs were all wrong, again said the talks are going well even though they aren't, the two leaders said, disagreeing with their own broker.

The Cyprus News Agency reported that during the meeting the leaders are expected to discuss how to govern the island if

there's a deal and issues relating to the European Union, to which Cyprus already belongs, excepting the occupied northern third settled by Turks, who subsequently stole homes and properties.

The newspaper Phileletheros and other media said Turkey wants the Geneva conference as a means of presenting the Cypriot government with "blackmail and dilemmas" and that this was primarily being orchestrated to freeze the energy plans.

The Turkish seismic survey vessel Barbaros has been sitting offshore for a week, ready to enter Cyprus' Exclusive Economic Zone.

Read the full story online.

The National Herald

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Emerging Greek-American Leaders

With the retirement of the great Paul Sarbanes and Olympia Snowe, there is not even a single Greek-American in the U.S Senate for the first time after many decades. And constituting 2 percent of the Senate was no trivial matter.

There is also no Greek-American governor, following Michael Dukakis, and also the late John Brademas, whose death left a void in general, as did the passing of U.S. Senator Paul Tsongas who, like Dukakis, was a presidential candidate.

Moreover, we once had great philhellene politicians such as Ben Rosenthal, Thomas Eagleton, Joe Biden, and others. Fortunately we still have a few, such as Bob Menendez and Carolyn Maloney.

Meanwhile, we also lost generous donors such as Michael Jaharis, George Paraskevaides, Andrew Athens, George Livanos, and Theodore Spyropoulos, and thus the erosion of the Greek-American community seems even greater.

And so, it generally seems that we are going through a prolonged period – which could be describe as the post-(Archbishop) Iakovos era – in which there is an absence of significant expatriate leaders both in politics as well as regarding our community's issues.

However, despite the temporary void that has been created, there is no reason to be overcome by despair, because there is an array of several young politicians, such as John Sarbanes, Gus Bilirakis, Michael Gianaris, Aravella Simotas, Costa Constantinides, and Leonidas Raptakis, to mention the best-known, and others.

Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis, a Republican who represents parts of Staten Island and Brooklyn, has now been added to the list, after declaring her intention to run for mayor of New York City, provided that her friend and fellow Greek-American John Catsimatidis does not jump into the race. However, the billionaire has confided during various discussions that he does not intend to run for mayor at this point in time.

Therefore, if Malliotakis is able to secure the Republican nomination, and if she avoids taking an extreme stance on certain issues, such as immigration – which would not serve her well as a daughter of immigrants – then she can make it to City Hall, since Bill de Blasio is not considered a strong candidate, despite the millions of dollars that he has raised.

Regarding our community, and despite the obvious weaknesses in the church and elsewhere, the leadership of Andreas Dracopoulos, the co-President and Director of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, creates conditions for a true revolution mainly, but not exclusively, in the crucial sector of our Greek-American education, the likes of which did not exist until today.

Thus, during a difficult time for Greeks, there are several signs that the emergence of new leaders in politics and in the community is far from over: On the contrary, one could say that the best is yet to come.

Last Chance for Greek Investment?

Despite the blood ties and alliances that unite Greece and the United States, and despite the good start made in the 1960s, any serious investment in Greece by Americans – of Greek and non-Greek descent alike – is now absent.

Even tourism, that God-given competitive advantage that Greece has over other countries, has been through hell and high water, to such an extent that President Reagan had even issued a travel advisory against Greece.

It is obvious, then, that the economic relations between the two countries are directly linked to the general climate between them. Therefore, the period of anti-Americanism created by Andreas Papandreou has also depleted American investments in the country.

But the two countries' relations have improved greatly, leading to one of the best periods in their history. Thus, the appropriate political climate for American investment in Greece has now been created.

Of course, what remains to be done, as we all know, is to tackle the issue of red tape and to implement the regulations already been agreed upon and in many cases been voted into law, but which the government does not apply.

However, these did not prevent John Calamos and his partners, whose company operates under the name EXIN Partners, from submitting a bid valued at approximately \$1 billion for the acquisition of Ethniki Insurance, a subsidiary of the National Bank of Greece (NBG). If they prevail, it will possibly open the way for other investments by Greek-Americans and, by extension, American interests.

But there is another general but equally important reason why their offer should be carefully examined by Greece: for geopolitical purposes. Specifically, Calamos' competitor is a Chinese company with government support, of course. As we know, the Chinese have already made significant investments in Greece, the most important one being the Port of Piraeus.

So, if they buy Ethniki, it is very likely that they would also be able to buy NBG, and thus control the banking system and exert considerable influence on the country and the region in general.

Calamos, a prominent Greek-American, founded a global investment firm based in Chicago, and one of his partners, John Koudounis, is considered a financial services expert. Another partner is considered an extremely knowledgeable insurance executive. Moreover, their local partner is the well-known Kanellopoulos family. So, besides their financial standing, they also have the expertise necessary for managing such a large company.

It should be evident, then, provided that Calamos' proposal is competitive, that selecting them as the preferred bidder for Ethniki will be beneficial for both the company as well as for the overall relations among Greece, the Greek-American community, and the United States.

However, if other criteria prevail in selecting which company will acquire Ethniki, then the message toward the Greek-American and American business circles, in general, will be: "you are not wanted in Greece."

On Holocaust Remembrance Day Coverage

To the Editor:

We thank you very much for your coverage of our synagogue's Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day program on April 24.

It was a pleasure meeting your photographer, Kostas Bej,

and viewing his video.

We think he did an excellent and professional job reporting the important highlights of the annual event.

Robert Kalfus
Yonkers, NY

Robert Kalfus is President of the Lincoln Park Jewish Center.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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 e-mailed to eleni.sakellis@ekirikas.com. We reserve the right to edit letters for publication and regret that we are unable to acknowledge or return those left unpublished.

PRESS CLIPPINGS

Why Presidents Meet Annually with Only Greeks & Irish

By Andy and Mike Manatos

Why has every US president invited only the Greeks and Irish to meet at the White House for each of the last 31 years, and what good does it do? The answer may surprise you.

In a president's first term, the value of this meeting is particularly significant as his administration's new officials jockey to impress. Quickly realizing the difficulty behind securing a place on the president's schedule, even as White House staffers, they see this invitation to Greek Americans as a designation of importance. Consequently, doors of top Washington officials open for our issues and us.

Businessman and political insider Dennis Mehiel sees our meeting with the president as extraordinary political power appreciated by senators and members of Congress who realize it can potentially help them. This, coupled with our constant support of the key senators and members, gives us direct access to these leaders, not simply their staff. It motivates their connection and commitment to Hellenic and Orthodox policies.

The millions of dollars of work our office contributes, in close cooperation with the Church, to establish and maintain this annual White House meeting, in addition to events for senators and members, has paid significant dividends for our issues – enabling us to: (1) move one White House to switch Germany and France's

objection to Cyprus's early EU accession and stop another from pressing the EU to require a Turkish-agreed-to Cyprus settlement before accession; (2) move Assistant Secretary Dick Holbrooke to spend major American political capital demanding the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) remove threats to Macedonia from its constitution; and (3) with the Archons, move

The answer involves

Greek ingenuity,

Orthodoxy, and philotimo

– the love of honor.

Turkey, through our government, to grant citizenship to our metropolitans, without which Ecumenical Patriarchal succession could halt in the absence of qualified citizenship.

Behind-the-scenes Washington effectiveness is barely visible from Athens and Nicosia. Some years ago, Cyprus bypassed our relationships and spent \$1.5 million a year on Washington's top lobby/law firm. Sadly, they discovered that large firms: (1) spend their top White House and Congressional chits on their longest-term mega-clients and (2) do not contribute 1 to 5 million dollars in annual pro bono advocacy. In our absence, the half of Congress we made advocates for Cyprus virtually disappeared and the State Department pressed the Annan Plan Greek Cypriots rejected.

Why have US presidents met

only with the Irish and Greeks for the past 31 years? Owner of one of the world's largest short-selling firms and historian Jim Chanos notes: 70 percent of modern presidents trace their ancestry to Ireland, the second largest nationality in America. Political powerhouse Senator Teddy Kennedy established this meeting. Yet there has never been a Greek-American president and Greeks account for one-half of 1 percent of Americans, ranking 32nd among US diasporas.

The answer involves Greek ingenuity, Orthodoxy and philotimo – the love of honor. These uniquely Greek characteristics enabled our leaders to develop extremely close relationships with America's top officials. This moves our deeply spiritual and intelligent Archbishop Demetrios to lead our national community to the White House and make our case with presidents. And, it allows for the genius of Father Alex Karloutsos to lend his magic behind the scenes.

Our philotimo and Orthodoxy contribute to the universal admiration for our people across US locales, according to Michael Psaros, who runs the world's leading private equity firm focused on manufacturing and industry – a feeling not unnoticed by members of Congress, senators or the White House. Our annual Greek festivals at churches across the country, which are very popular with non-Greeks, keep Hellenism and Orthodoxy's profile positive and

high. Members of our community's leading organizations, like AHEPA, AHI and Cypriot groups, also help our image.

Through the rapidly growing National Hellenic Society that he founded and now chairs, Silicon Valley real estate titan George Marcus has discovered a way to reverse the dilution of Hellenism in America. From Boston to Los Angeles, NHS brings together our most successful Hellenes to celebrate and enjoy our heritage.

We owe much to a handful of our most generous Hellenes/Orthodox who match Father Karloutsos's ultimate standard – "I am not impressed by how much money you have, but what you do with it." Without the exemplars of philotimo highlighted above digging deep within their pockets, none of these accomplishments would be possible. They are following the charge of George P. Livanos, Andrew A. Athens and George Paraskeviades. Decades-long supporters of senators and members key to our efforts also include Nikos Mouyiaris, Philip Christopher, John Catsimatidis, Angelo Tsakopoulos, Eleni Kounalakis and Alex and Dean Spanos, among others.

Andy Manatos is CEO and Mike Manatos president of Manatos & Manatos, a government relations and public policy company which deals also with Greek and Orthodox issues in Washington.

Reprinted from Kathimerini

Observations By Antonis H. Diamataris

Why is the Prime Minister Smirking?

I have been observing him for a while now, and not only do I wonder, but uncomfortably so...

Why does he smirk and break out laughing? What good news has he received that makes him so cheerful, carefree, and happy that even those near him seem to wonder in a restrained yet obvious way?

And this has not happened just once, as that certainly would not have been noteworthy. Lately, it happens whenever he is abroad.

I am referring to the prime minister of



AP

Greece who, during his last visits abroad within the framework of his meetings in the European Union, seems like the most carefree, content person in the world, who has achieved his most difficult objectives. He appears to be joking with his colleagues, to be shaking hands in an unusual manner for a prime minister and, mainly, to burst out in laughter – to the apparent surprise of those with whom he is speaking.

Conversely, when the prime minister is in Greece, in Parliament for example, he is somber, angry, troubled. He gives off an image of someone who is carrying the fortunes of the world's people on his shoulders, but whom no one understands.

But, one might ask, it is bad for the prime minister to burst out laughing? No, not when it is appropriate and based on information he received. If, for example, he had learned that the IMF would participate in the memorandum, that they would provide a debt haircut, that the surplus target would be reduced, that the unemployment and extreme poverty rates are falling sharply, that the Turks have agreed to stop their violations in the Aegean, etc. Are any of those things actually happening? If so, wouldn't it be good for us to know so that we could laugh too?

Does he learn some gratifying news – during every visit – that pertains to him personally? Has he, for instance, perhaps ensured the support of German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble, for whom he chooses his words carefully lately? Have they told him it is okay to hold elections later rather than now?

Again, he has not burst out in laughter only once. Lately, he's been doing it every time. And it is so inconsistent with Greece's events that it raises questions.

Is he so isolated from the country's prob-

lems that he is not aware of the actual situation? That, for example, 13.6% of the population (1,488,714 individuals) is living in extreme poverty, i.e., a single-person is living on 176 euros/month and a four-person household on 879 euros/month?

Is he that oblivious? If not, then why does he smirk?

Obama's Disappointing \$400,000 Speaking Fee

Should we care that former President Obama has agreed to give a speech for which, essentially about an hour's worth of work, he will receive \$400,000, which is as much as was his annual salary as president?

Should we be concerned that they are paying him so much money just for a speech?

Furthermore, must we be opposed to presidents becoming wealthy, if they weren't already wealthy when they rose to power?

Let us attempt to answer to these questions.

First of all, yes, we should care that Obama will be paid and indeed that much money, because that was not the impression he gave when he was president.

Instead, he presented an image of being relatively indifferent to wealth, that although he wasn't poor – he had earned about \$6 million from his books – he would not follow the path chosen by Bill and Hillary Clinton, for example, who were both blasted about their campaign speeches to Wall Street firms.

It seems strange. And the size of the amount he will receive, \$400,000, also seems odd.

Perhaps the hefty fee is related to the fact that he is still very popular, but...

Comparing apples to apples, note that Bill Clinton was paid \$200,000 per speech and George W. Bush about \$100,000-\$175,000. And in 1989, Ronald Reagan was paid \$2 million dollars for a week's worth of speeches in Japan.

As to whether we should be opposed to presidents becoming rich while it is acceptable for any other person to do so, and considering that the rich earn the general public's admiration because of it, we should not be opposed. They and their families also need to earn a living.

But there is something that is troubling. Something that does not suit a former American president, who in that role struggles day and night with mankind's most fundamental problems, even issues of war and peace, at times.

It debases and diminishes him; it makes him an average human being. And I do not think we want our presidents, those on whom the fate of planet earth depends, to behave as mere mortals.

Finally, regarding the reason they are paid so much money for an hour's work, one possible explanation is that their presence attracts clients or potential clients for the companies that pay them. But is it just that, or do former presidents present analysis and provide information that is not available on the market and thus uniquely benefit their "employers"?

Finally, although it is not possible to "treat themselves" to state funds while they

are president, perhaps they lay the foundations for return services at the end of their term, at which point it is perfectly legal?

Savvidis' Counter-Democracy Statement

Although the interview with Greek-Russian businessman Ivan Savvidis – who was one of the two Grand Marshals of New York's Greek Independence Parade this year – in the Greek newspaper Proto Thema is 8,500 words, I considered it my duty to read it in its entirety.

And I did so to avoid doing him an injustice – even more so since he is a fellow Hellene abroad – as well as to ascertain if he indeed made the provocative statements as reported.

Thus, while reading the interview, the impression I got, on the one hand, is that to his credit, he is proud of his Pontian origin. And, on the other hand, that the excerpts presented from the interview are accurate.

I was alarmed, therefore, because it is clear that he is governed by a spirit that is foreign and dangerous to the functioning of democracy. He conveys a world that is ostensibly democratic, but is glaringly and disturbingly controlled by today's "bosses." It is Russian President Vladimir Putin's model of authoritarianism, of controlled democracy and the peculiar corrupt relations between the state and entrepreneurs.

Apparently, Savvidis himself does not understand that this model is not consistent with Western democracies, which is why he preaches it. That makes him even more dangerous.

That is why his "thesis" on Greek politics and...journalism goes beyond the beaten path. It is a case like no other before it. It adds something unacceptable, namely, the threat of the alteration, if not diversion, of the will of the people.

He considers his emergence as a political "godfather" – entitled and able to decide who will become prime minister of Greece and who will not – to be legitimate. Which is why he dared to make the unprecedented statement that Greece's main opposition leader Kyriakos Mitsotakis "will never become prime minister!"

The issue is not whether in fact Mitsotakis will or will not ever become prime minister, but rather who makes that decision: the people, or Savvidis.

And with what means does he intend to prevent Mitsotakis from becoming prime minister? By influencing the popular vote or the members of Parliament? And how?

Of course, Savvidis' statement does not only concern Mitsotakis. It is a major issue of democracy in Greece. It is a blot for the people and Parliament.

He possesses the same mentality with regard to media outlets, some of which he intends to buy. Not to reinforce pluralism and objectivity, which are truly necessary, but to impose his opinions and to use them for his business deals, as he so bluntly states.

Thus, there is a long way to go in tidying up the situation in Greece, such as Savvidis' interview reveals. But the benefits are also great: a new, healthy Greece that looks toward the future instead of the past.

They are Not “Immigrants,” Start Calling Them “PHIs”

On April 26 I was a guest on Sean Hannity’s radio show, which attracts a daily audience of about 2.5 million. I hope that they all paid careful attention when I introduced what I hope will become a new term in the American political lexicon.

A term that will not, by itself, solve America’s litany of problems regarding immigration matters, but will go a long way toward understanding what those problems are and revealing underlying agendas and motives therein.

The term is PHI: Person Here Illegally. And the reason its introduction into the conversation is long overdue is because persons who are here (in the United States) illegally are called everything but that.

The terms “illegal immigrant,” “undocumented immigrant,” “undocumented alien,” “illegal alien,” and even “undocumented person” are subjected to criticism whose root cause is often in question. PHI would clear things up, once and for all.

To begin, it is important to understand what an “immigrant” really is. Colloquially, it may refer to any foreign-born person in a particular country. By that definition, not only are PHIs immigrants, but so were slaves brought over on ships centuries ago, as Dr. Ben Carson recently pointed out, to heated objections. “They were involuntary immigrants,” Dr. Carson later explained. Of course, his definition has no more or less legal bearing than the attribution of “immigrant” status to PHIs.

Any person in the US who does not fit into those two categories –permanent resident or naturalized citizen– is not an immigrant.

As defined by federal immigration law, a U.S. immigrant is a person who successfully completed the formal immigration process and became a permanent resident (also referred to as Legal or Lawful Permanent Resident, LPR for short, and colloquially, as the holder of a “green card”; the identification card was green-colored decades ago). Permanent residents who exercise their option to apply for citizenship, and upon a successful application become naturalized U.S. citizens, may also correctly continue to be called immigrants.

Notably, any person in the United States who does not fit into those two categories – permanent resident or naturalized citizen – is not an immigrant. That includes the student currently enrolled in an American university, the basketball player in the midst of a multiyear contract with an NBA team, and the nuclear physicist who was hired to work on a new project by the U.S. Department of Defense. They are all nonimmigrants.

Accordingly, the terms “illegal immigrant” and “undocumented immigrant” are oxymoronic, because one cannot be an immigrant illegally and/or without documentation. That would be like calling someone a “carnivorous vegetarian.”

Next, there is the word “alien.” Again, strictly abiding by the definition found in federal immigration law, anyone physically present in the United States who is not a citizen (natural-born or naturalized), is an alien. Noncitizen immigrants, as well as those with valid nonimmigrant visas (or authorized visaless travel) – such as the aforementioned student, ballplayer, and physicist – are legal aliens. Those here without valid authority, whether they arrived illegally to begin with (such as by sneaking across the border or jumping ship at a port), or came legally but are now illegal because they stayed beyond their permitted duration, are illegal aliens. That term



by CONSTANTINOS E. SCAROS

Special to The National Herald

is technically and legally correct, but because it is politically incorrect, it is often met with severe backlash.

First, there is the problem with the word “alien.” In the minds of some, it conjures up images of creatures from outer space, thereby perpetuating nativism and jingoism at the expense of our foreign-born fellow human beings.

That is why some substitute “immigrant” for “alien,” but in doing so misrepresent the entire meaning of the word.

Analogously, those who find it demeaning to call a 30-year-old human female “girl” could very easily replace “girl” with “woman.” But to refer to her instead as “giraffe” would be not only absurd, but entirely outside of the meaning of the word.

How about “illegal person” then? Well, that takes care of the objection to “alien” but not to “illegal.” As many holler, “a person cannot be illegal.”

Would “undocumented person” be acceptable? Perhaps to the politically correct crowd, but not to those who want to end illegal entry and stay in the United States. Just as “illegal alien” sounds cruel and condescending to some, “undocumented person” sounds like what one might call licensed drivers who forgot their wallets at home while going for a quick ride to the grocery store to buy milk and bread. And that is a lot different than those driving cars who are not licensed to do so in the first place, and are thus, if not “illegal drivers” (if, after all, “a person cannot be illegal”), then persons driving illegally.

Which brings us to PHIs. By actually referring to persons here illegally as Persons Here Illegally, and inserting the term PHI into our everyday vocabulary, we can solve an array of problems:

It would become increasingly apparent even to those without a background in immigration law that immigrants, nonimmigrants, and PHIs are three distinct categories of non-U.S.-born Americans.

No one would be referred to as an “alien.” Even as that continues to be a term used throughout federal immigration law, the unequivocal classification of a person’s immigration status can easily be ascertained without it.

“Illegal” would not apply to a person, but instead to a status.

PHI treats individuals with the utmost respect by referring to them as “persons” but does not ignore that their presence in the United States without authority is a violation of the law, and therefore an “illegal” act.

When statistics about “immigrants” are presented (such as levels of crime rate as compared to the general U.S. population), the appropriate request for clarification would be: “does this mean actual immigrants, or nonimmigrants and PHIs as well?”

Those objecting to the term “PHI” as being derogatory essentially would be arguing that identifying criminal wrongdoers as such is less important than not speaking offensively about them. Following that logic, they might also prefer to call burglars “unauthorized houseguests.”

It is time for the media, academia, elected officials, and the public as a whole to begin using the term PHI right away. As more and more Americans begin distinguishing among immigrants, nonimmigrants, and PHIs, we can have a truly informed national conversation about immigration matters, and bring about meaningful change that all but the most obstinate extremists would accept.

Constantinos E. Scaros’ latest book, Grumpy Old Party (about the 2016 presidential election), is available for purchase on amazon.com and in bookstores nationwide.

Drilling Ideas for Greece’s Archaeological Attractions

By Dimitra Pontoporou

The fact that the Greek state lacks at the moment the resources to support cultural actions could turn into an opportunity for more public engagement in heritage conservation and management.

Is it desired, is it feasible? Synergies between sponsors, grass root organizations, local authorities, specialists and individuals, always under the umbrella of the Ministry of Culture, are essential for the development of an integrated heritage approach and the revitalization of the sites.

For many Greeks, the sites are just ruins. For them the crucial, question is: beyond the Ministry of Culture, the tourist agencies, the hotels, and the restaurants, can the local communities benefit from the revitalization of the sites?

A plan is needed, which will create direct links between the local heritage and the region’s enterprises by designing cultural routes that connect archaeological sites with local producers, handicraft artists and sustainable tourism services. Cultural tourism initiatives can empower local communities and change people’s perceptions. They can reinforce their sense of belonging in a place, and their sense of self-worth. These cultural products have been created by their ancestors who lived in this very same place they live today. By opening them to visitors as preserved landmarks of their history adds value to both local and world community. There are ways to integrate the sites in the local cultural life, always with respect to their role and their preservation. Education, programs for schools and university students, and training have an inevitable role to play.

Yet, today many archaeological sites and museums remain closed to the public due to lack of staff. In the land of antiquity and archaeology, the number of employed archaeologists and museum staff is very low. Is there a way to make the reopening of the sites profitable? Yes, if we invest on their revitalization.

What does the revitalization



of the sites may mean? Every summer during August’s full moon night, some ancient theaters get permission to open and organize concerts. Instead of once a year, wouldn’t it be more attractive and beneficial for both locals and visitors to open the theaters more often, even for day and evening activities and performances? Can we not design and offer experiences beyond the verbal guidance? If controlled participation in excavations sounds too innovative or dangerous, why couldn’t visitors and locals attend them as observers? Couldn’t local archaeological Ephorates organize open to the public lectures and seminars on each year’s archaeological campaigns?

The National Archaeological Museum of Athens, among other collections, hosts the Mycenaean treasures, masterpieces of sculpture and vase painting from all eras of the antiquity and the impressive Thera frescoes. Yet the numbers of visitors who prefer to visit it hardly reach 3 percent of the number of visitors that prefer the New Acropolis Museum. The National Archaeological

Museum of Athens is run like a government agency, while the New Acropolis Museum is run like private business. A Museum marketing policy would first try to answer the question what would attract a visitor.

Modern Museology provides an array of answers and ideas. The artifacts don’t talk and visitors often get bored to read labels. Facilitating interpretation is one answer. How? By the thematic organization of the museum exhibits and by the comprehensive and attractive labeling that fosters story telling: references to the world known Greek heroes and mythology, digital reconstructions, use of multi media, combination of visual and acoustic presentation may surprise the visitor and challenge his/her thoughts. Exhibiting the artifacts’ use in the daily life context of their time adds a value of familiarity to them and of connection with our lives. Labels restricted to a scientific description, chronology and date of construction are not very attractive to visitors. More attractive is to combine the artifacts’ uses with the purposes

they served, the ideas people had, and the development of their society.

Enriching museum shops with a variety of gifts aimed at different target groups, children, well or less educated people and visitors who just want to carry something unique back home can not only be profitable for the museum. These souvenirs remain abroad, in the tourists’ living rooms, as a permanent advertisement of the museum.

Creating and improving museum cafes can repeatedly bring visitors to the museum. People like to sit and spend some time in the museum cafes. They are so different from the commercial cafes and so unique. Quiet places to talk, relax and reflect surrounded by precious works of art. Only recently the National Archaeological Museum created its own impressive museum café. In the neoclassical patio, colored by blooming flower strokes, we can enjoy our coffee and chat with marbleized Hercules, who is standing among statues of horses emerged from the Antikythera shipwreck and under the gaze of a mosaic Medusa head.

LETTER FROM ATHENS

Greek Terrorist Group Rouvikonas is Stepping up Acts

It’s a knee-jerk reaction to dismiss anarchists as loonies, spoiled layabouts and hooded Molotov Cocktail tossing cowards, such as the murderers of three Greek bank workers during a 2010 anti-austerity rallies.

Anarchists pretty much control the Athens neighborhood of Exarchia, the scene of two weeks of violence in 2008 after the shooting death of 15-year-old Alex Grigoropoulos, for which two police special guards were convicted, and at nearly every protest the anarchists take over and battle riot police in a common script.

Unlike Greece’s many terrorists, such as the notorious Conspiracy of Cells of Fire, whose violence is targeted, the anarchists go mostly after symbols, the capitalists and bankers and politicians and business executives they despise - properly so - for selling out their country and prospering while others are suffering.

Against a backdrop of endless - and in vain - protests against big pay cuts, tax hikes, slashed pensions and worker firings demanded by international creditors in return for 326 billion euros (\$355.2 billion), the more organized anarchists group Rouvikonas has emerged as a voice for the voiceless and the real champions of workers, pensioners and the poor, not the phony Radical Left SYRIZA of Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, who could have been Richard Nixon’s running mate he’s such a heartless capitalist and hypocrite.

Rouvikonas has been behind a siege of assaults, going after the courts, government, and targets it believes are the oppressors of the disenfranchised who’ve been beaten into the

ground while politicians, the rich and tax cheats are living the high life and drinking wine out of the skulls of the country’s real victims.

The problem is that violence - while it may work for the mob and to intimidate most people - doesn’t work against Greek governments and the oligarchy who control the country because they are so far above the fray they can’t see down that low.

Gandhi couldn’t save Greece, civil disobedience can’t and nor can violence because the truth is that Greece is a hopeless case and those who run it are untouchable, but as long as no one’s getting hurt there’s a sense of justice being delivered here. SYRIZA is riddled with anarchists and terrorist sympathizers and has done almost nothing to stop the attacks on targets it had verbally criticized itself while out of power.

Seemingly unstoppable, Rouvikonas is directing more attacks at government and establishment symbols, this time breaking into the office of a company that collects apartment building maintenance fees, causing damage, officials said.

The group threw flyers around the office on Psarron Street in Omonia on March 22 before leaving the premises and later posting online it was angry that the home of a family had been seized after it was unable to pay a 3,870-euro (\$4170) debt to the company.

Two days earlier, the group



by ANDY DABILIS

Special to The National Herald

smashed its way into the office of the Independent Power Transmission Operator (ADMIE) where a top executive, with most people seeing big pay and pension cuts during austerity measures, gave himself a promotion and retired to get an additional 100,000 euro (\$107,770) retirement bonus on top of his big lump sum and monthly package.

According to reports, the assailants smashed windows, threw paint and damaged a parked car.

In a statement on an anarchist website, the group said it carried out the attack in protest at ADMIE executives being granted salary hikes while thousands of families were deprived of electricity due to their inability to pay their bills.

Earlier in March, the gang forced its way into the head office of the Athens Law School in central Athens and said it was protesting cancellation of an event and called on the government to grant a furlough to convicted terrorist Dimitris Koufodinas, a leading member of the now defunct urban terror group November 17 who is serving a life sentence.

Other recent targets included a notary office responsible for helping banks foreclosure on homes, another promise broken by Prime Minister and Radical Left SYRIZA leader Alexis Tsipras who vowed to help the country’s most vulnerable before he imposed more austerity,

including an avalanche of tax and utility bill hikes.

In January, a group of 30-40 Rouvikonas members stormed and occupied the Athens offices of the SYRIZA-affiliated Avgi newspaper, after an earlier protest where they shouted slogans and scattered flyers protesting government-led pension cuts and higher social security fees.

The group posted a message on an anarchist website claiming it organized the protest because the “Labor Ministry is the main conductor belt via which these decisions are transferred to the populace.”

“There is no reason why we should watch the same scene repeating itself. Institutions, government, opposition, (bailout) review, new measures. There is no reason why we should even take this piece of shadow theater seriously,” the message added.

They’ve been successful enough to ire judges who’ve backed austerity measures - emptying themselves - and who needed a wakeup call.

The government coalition is not protecting the country’s institutions, the union representing the state’s highest administrative court said after its premises were attacked by anarchists, rattling the high and mighty in their robes.

The union said it feared the attempted raid, by some 15 members of Rouvikonas who scattered leaflets, was the “harbinger of even worse undertakings in the future against an institution committed to serving the citizen.” That would be Rouvikonas.

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