NEWS

Ο ΕΘΝΙΚΟΣ ΚΗΡΥΞ ΓΡΑΦΕΙ ΤΗΝ ΙΣΤΟΡΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΣΜΟΥ ΑΠΟ ΤΟ 1915

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Cyprus Will Nix Turkey Bid for EU Inclusion

TNH Staff

NICOSIA — European Union member Cyprus will oppose any progress in Turkey's ongoing talks to join the 28-nation bloc in response to a Turkish gas search in waters where Cyprus has already licensed companies to drill, an official said.

The move is one of several new measures that the Cypriot government unveiled after accusing Turkey of stepping up its violation of the small country's sovereign rights by dispatching a research ship off its southern coast.

Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades will also lodge a formal complaint against Turkey at an EU leaders' meeting later this week, government spokesman Nicos Christodoulides said.

Formal complaints will also be lodged with the U.N. Division for Oceans and Law of the Sea, the International Maritime Organization and possibly with the U.N. Security Council, Christodoulides said. The Attorney General and international law firms will look at possible legal action against anyone involved in the Turkey gas search.

Cyprus will also take actions at international organizations that would force "Turkey to incur a cost for its illegal actions," Christodoulides said. He didn't elaborate. He said more measures will be announced "according to developments."

Cyprus was split along ethnic lines in 1974 when Turkey invaded after a coup by supporters of a union with Greece. Turkey doesn't recognize Cyprus as a state and opposes an offshore energy search by the internationally recognized Greek Cypriot government, saying that it ignores the rights of breakaway Turkish Cypriots.

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A Day of Memory, Hope, and Glory at Ground Zero

Three thousand people, including friends and family of 9/11 victims, made the pilgrimage to Ground Zero for the new St. Nicholas Shrine ground blessing ceremony, in an event covered by the media worldwide. Many participants signed their names and left messages on the wall of the Church's foundation. Numerous Greek names, seen here, adorn a portion of the wall.

Ground Blessing Ceremony for the New St. Nicholas

By Constantinos E. Scaros and Constantine S. Sirigos

NEW YORK – The images of the ground blessing service of the new St. Nicholas Shrine at Ground Zero on October 18, presided over by Archbishop Demetrios of America, will become iconic for the Greek-American community.

First and foremost, since it was a day to mourn the loss of those Greek-Americans who perished on 9/11, there was the moving scene of their relatives bearing vessels filled with water from the pools of the nearby 9/11 Memorial, which they poured into the crystal bowl on the on the altar.

Second, but no less importantly, because of the scene of harmony and unity among the leaders and members of the community: Seven Metropolitans traveled from across the country to be present, and four busloads of parishioners followed Fr. Nektarios Papazafiropoulos, Dean of St. Demetrios Cathedral in Astoria to Ground Zero.

Each of the estimated 3000 people who attended were deemed VIPs, received commemorative candles, and were thanked by the archbishop and Anthoula Katsimatides, who served as Emcee for the internationally-broadcast event, and for whom the day had especial significance.

Anthoula's mother, Kalliope, participated in the water procession to honor the memory of her son and Anthoula's brother John, one of the victims. She expressed the universal feeling that "It was a special and important day that will go down in history and remain in our souls…I am very touched. May God grant all of the departed peace and health to everyone."

UNITY, THEN AND NOW

In the aftermath of one of the most horrific tragedies to devastate the United States, the nation came together in unity right away: then-President George W. Bush, a Republican, and then-Senate Majority Leader, Democrat Tom Daschle, at odds with one another nearly constantly since Bush's inauguration only eight months earlier, set the tone for the entire country with a heartfelt embrace inside the U.S. Capitol.

Though the names and faces were different at Ground Zero 13 years later, that same spirit of unity and cooperation resonated, and was necessary for the first steps the ceremony constituted, and will be required moving forward to raise the $38 million needed to complete the Church. Designed by Santiago Calatrava and evocative of the Hagia Sophia and other Byzantine monuments, the Shrine will literally glow in the evening and become an instant New York landmark.

The procession led by altar boys included the Archdiocesan Byzantine choir, local Orthodox clergy and representatives of numerous denominations. It fol-

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Greece's "Oxi" Was U.S.' "Nai" to the Diaspora

TNH Staff

This week we devote a special insert to OXI day – a holiday celebrated on October 28 in Greece and by Greeks throughout the world, commemorating Greece's historic response of "Oxi – No!" against Italian Dictator Benito Mussolini's demand that Greece allow Italian forces to enter its territory in order to occupy strategic positions as WWII continued.

That initial resistance, along with courageous battles to thwart Italy's and Germany's advances, prompted Winston Churchill to declare that from that point forward, "we will not say that Greeks fight like heroes, but we will say that heroes fight like Greeks."

But international regard for Greece's valor was not limited to Churchill. Quite notably, it was a boost for the image of Greek-Americans, who only decades earlier began to immigrate to the United States in large numbers.

In the eyes of their non-Greek fellow Americans, Greeks in the United States were associated with bravery and considered valuable allies. With virtual unanimity, editorial boards throughout the country praised Greece for its heroic feat.

The New York Herald Tribune aptly encapsulated the sentiment:

"The repulse of a large and thoroughly equipped Italian force by a small band of Greeks assumes the proportion of a modern Thermopylae…the Greeks have clung on with hope and even optimism. In so doing they have won the admiration of the world."

Oxi Day, therefore, is a particularly significant holiday not only to honor the valor of the Greeks, but to appreciate its positive effect on Greek America.

AP PHOTO/GREEK CULTURE MINISTRY

More Findings in Amphipolis Dig

A photo by Greece's Culture Ministry shows the broken marble head of one of the two sphinx statues that decorated the entrance of a large ancient tomb in Amphipolis. The head was discovered in the third and deepest chamber of the late 4th century BC tomb, which archaeologists claim is unplundered.

Rita Wilson – from Acting to Singing

By Penelope Karageorge

Greek-American Rita Wilson, 56, best known as an actress and power behind My Big Fat Greek Wedding, has launched a triumphant new career as a singer/songwriter, realizing a lifelong dream. She recently opened at New York's prestigious Carlyle Café to audience huzzahs and standing ovations. For those who missed her, they can tune in to her original song album due out early in 2015. Her compositions range from joyful to nostalgic to moving and vulnerable. Wilson has a smoky, sensual voice, and her genuine enjoyment of performing shines through every number.

"I'm here to tell you that great things can happen after age 50," Wilson exulted to an enthusiastic crowd. "Thank you for sharing the start of my new life with me."

One of Wilson's strengths as a performer is her charm and ability to communicate. She makes every audience member feel she's talking to them directly.

According to Wilson, being Greek helped her get where she is, and also held her back. "My Greek mom had to flee her village in the middle of the night. Both she and my father took extreme risks to come to America. Not a day went by without my father saying 'God Bless America.' Their risk-taking made me risk-averse, so this career came later for me. I finally took the risk to get out on the stage and sing. Maybe I didn't want to lose control. I wanted to be the good little soldier."

In person, Wilson is a stunner, moving to the musical beat in a silver and black fringed outfit. She's sexy and sensuous, without losing her ladylike persona.

In her performance, she refers often to her Greek roots, even noting that "Aristotle – he's a Greek – said that friendship is a single soul living in two bodies." This preceded the lovely song Talking to Me. She confessed that she lost her father and two close friends during the past year and "I like to think the conversation continues after the person is gone."

"I'm very proud of my Greek heritage. Greeks can be stubborn, and that's me." With her new career taking off, Wilson's counting her blessings. "My mother is my best friend. She has Alzheimer's but I'm so happy to have her with me. I feel blessed and appreciate all I have, my husband and children. I'm even happy for the bad things that happened along the way, even for the people who said I would never amount to

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Congressman Bilirakis Leads A U.S. Delegation to Cyprus

TNH Staff

NEW YORK – Congressman Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) is a champion of the foreign policy issues that concern the Greek- and Cypriot-American communities. He works hard to develop support among his colleagues on those issues, but because experience has taught him the value of getting officials to visit Greece and Cyprus, he recently lead led his first Congressional delegation (CODEL), which opened the eyes of Congress members about everything from the progress those countries are making and their value to the United States.

He is happy to help negate the negative publicity Greece has been receiving, and told TNH "Even though the Greek people have not felt it yet, the numbers are good and I hope recovery is around the corner."

CODELs are required to have a formal leader and to be bi-partisan. Bilirakis' delegation, which included Michelle Bachman (R-MN), Gregory Meeks (D-NY) and Jack Kingston (R-GA), met with Greek Premier Antonis Samaras for more than an hour and a half, and with President Nicos Anastasiades of Cyprus.

The Cyprus trip took place amidst of Turkish military provocations, and at an impromptu press conference there, Bilirakis condemned the illegality of Turkeys intention to violate Cyprus' Exclusive Economic

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Moose Tracks: Royals-Giants Tied 1-1, Series Heads to San Francisco

Greek-American Mike "Moose" Moustakas, seen here introducted for the start of the World Series between his Kansas City Royals and the San Francisco Giants. Thus far, Moustakas is batting .333, with a hit in each of the first two games.

A Toothless Corruption Crackdown

TNH Staff

ATHENS – Buried deep in the text of laws, such as the "Measures of Support and Growth for the Greek Economy" passed in March, are provisions granting immunity from corruption to thousands of workers in state-funded organizations, the New York Times reported.

Parliament conducted the practice – slipping such measures into complex bills that have nothing to do with corruption – sparking outrage from law enforcement agencies and the public that Greece's vaunted pledges to clamp down on corruption are being thwarted, the Times said.

Critics include New Democracy leader Kostas Tzavaras and the Greek Inspector General Le-

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The Greek

When the Duce with his legions
Knocked at Greece's ancient gate,
He had forty million people
And the Greeks had only eight.
With his Fascist banners gleaming
From the highest Albanian peak
"I am coming," cried the Duce.
"Come ahead," replied the Greek.

"Forward!" shouted the commanders
With a good old Roman curse;
And the legions started rolling,
Rilling swiftly – in reverse,
And throughout the startled nations
The news began to leak
That the Duce had been walloped
By the sturdy little Greek.

Then the poor moth-eaten Caesar,
What a different song he sang!
"This great big bully licked me!"
"Hey, Adolf, get your gang!"
"You're a Dumkopf," cried the Fuehrer,
As he pulled his trusty gun;
"You don't know how to murder kids;
I'll show you how it's done."

And then the tanks began to roll
With clank and roar and groan;
The great planes blacked the sky
and filled the air with ceaseless drone.
In endless ranks with flame and bomb
And gray guns long and sleek;
The mighty German war machine
Moved down upon the Greek.

And still that fellow wouldn't run –
He didn't quite know how.
"We've got some help," he said, "and that
Just makes it even now.
Bring on your millions, Adolph dear,
We're neither scared nor meek.
The British sixty thousand strong,
Are standing with the Greek!"

They fought a fight like Homer's song;
They died as brave men must;
Their ranks, neath dark and fearful odds,
Were beaten to the dust.
And then heroic chivalry
Attained its highest peak,
As the victors clasped their bloody hands
Above the fallen Greek.

Someday, beyond this vale of tears,
We'll all stand on the spot
To tell the Judge of all the world
Just who we are – and what.
I wouldn't be a Fascist then,
Or Nazi grim and bleak;
But I'd be proud to tell my God
That once I was a Greek!

John Dennis Mahoney
Published in The AHEPAN, 1941

AHEPA Salutes the Heroes of OXI Day

1940-1941 Albanian War: Strategic Implications of the Greek OXI

By Alexandros K. Kyrou
Special to The National Herald

Greek soldiers heading for the Albanian front, 1940

The first aggression in 20th century history perpetrated by a fascist state was carried out against Greece, 12 years before the Italian conquest of Ethiopia, and 16 years before the German invasion of Poland. In August 1923, ten months after coming to power in Rome, Mussolini used the pretext of an Italian-manufactured Greek-Albanian border incident to bombard and occupy the island of Corfu. After killing at least 15 Greek civilians – the world's first victims of fascist war making – the Italian forces withdrew from Corfu a month after the start of their occupation. Although world opinion and Greek diplomatic magnanimity forced the Italian withdrawal and prevented Mussolini from annexing Corfu, the Italian leader's actions revealed fascism's menacing character, an ominous threat to international stability and peace that would be ignored by the Western powers until the outbreak of the Second World War.

Much as the Corfu Crisis of 1923 has been largely overlooked in most histories of fascist aggression, the first defeat suffered by fascist forces in Europe has been one of the most ignored, but important, events of the Second World War. Ironically, the first defeat of fascism, like the first fascist aggression, involved Greece. Nineteen months before the Axis setback at El Alamein, North Africa and 26 months before the German disaster at Stalingrad, Greece inflicted an astonishing defeat against Mussolini's fascist empire, a humiliation from which the world's first fascist leader and first fascist state would never recover.

The Greco-Italian War of 1940-1941, known to most Greeks as simply the Albanian War, would have significant strategic implications for the course of the wider, gargantuan conflict throughout Europe and the Mediterranean. Yet, the rout of Italy's army by the Greeks in late 1940 marked more than the first Allied military victory of the war in continental Europe. For the Allied war effort, the outcome of the Greek campaign constituted an important moral triumph which would have enormous ideological consequences for the global battle of ideas between democracy on the one hand, and the anti-democratic forces of fascism and totalitarianism on the other.

DISTORTING GREECE'S ROLE IN THE WAR

Despite the significant consequences arising from Greece's participation in the war, Greece's role as an Allied power is typically either ignored or trivialized by most historians. The English-language writing on the war, dominated largely by British authors and uncritically reproduced by American scholars, has led to a popular, distorted view of the Second World War. Inasmuch as most such works have tended to elevate Britain's role in the conflict by marginalizing the importance of other actors, the contributions of smaller Allied co-belligerents have been largely ignored. In this sense, the historical importance of no other Allied country has been perhaps as willfully ignored as Greece.

British national pride cherishes the myth that "Britain stood alone" defiantly and heroically against fascism from the fall of France in June 1940 to the Axis invasion of the Soviet Union a year later. This fallacy is compounded by the fiction that the British army's victories in 1941 in Ethiopia and North Africa represented the first Allied victories against the Axis.

Moreover, to the extent that the major extant literature acknowledges Greece's role in the war, the relevance of Greece's role is largely reduced to drawing Britain's involvement in the Balkans, dispersing Commonwealth forces to Greece, and thus supposedly undermining the British from securing a decisive, early victory against the Italians in North Africa. In short, most histories of the Second World War address Greece as merely a peripheral theatre of operations for a failed, minor British campaign, culminating in an interesting, but tangential, German airborne assault against Crete. In short, the substance and analysis of Greece's participation in the war is largely ignored and the importance of the Greek victory against fascist Italy is either omitted or trivialized in most such works.

These widely recycled renditions of events are, however, entirely inconsistent with the actual historical record. First, the rhetoric of "Britain standing alone" against fascism ignores the many Commonwealth nations, as well as Czechs, Free French, Poles, and others who fought alongside the British after the fall of France. This approach also omits Greece – whose armed forces resisted aggression longer than any other Allied country eventually conquered by the Axis – a country which fought tenaciously during seven of the twelve months that Britain supposedly stood alone.

Furthermore, the Greek army's daring reversal of the Italian invasion proved to be not only the first Allied victory of the war, well ahead of Britain's first cautious counteroffensives against the Italians in Ethiopia and North Africa, but colossal in its symbolic and ideological importance.

Finally, rather than coming to terms with and analyzing the incompetence of British military leadership, which produced an uninterrupted string of Allied disasters during the first two years of the war, most historians have been content to repeat the hollow apologia of the British command in the Middle East, which deflected its failures in North Africa by attributing them to the dispatch of resources to Greece. This well-entrenched Anglo-centric perspective has impeded the development of a more thorough understanding of Greece's participation in the war and the seminal strategic consequences and meaning of Greece's victory against Italy in the early stages of the war.

THE ITALIAN INVASION AND FAILURE

Greece was forced to enter World War II on October 28, 1940, when an Italian army launched a cross-border invasion from positions in Albania – Mussolini chose the date to commemorate the 18th anniversary of his ascendancy to power as Italy's prime minister. Three hours before the invasion began, Greece's head of state, Ioannis Metaxas, was given an ultimatum by Italy's ambassador in Athens to surrender Greece to Italian occupation. Metaxas' immediate and resolute rejection of Mussolini's ultimatum inspired the Greek people, who were already outraged by months of Italian provocations, to popularly express their will to resist in one word: Oxi! (No!). The Metaxas government's immediate order for military mobilization was met by an instantaneous wave of patriotic fervor and unprecedented national unity, as Greeks, regardless of past opposition to or support for the Metaxas regime, rushed forward to defend their country against fascist aggression.

The Italian invasion of Greece was motivated by strategic, political, and ideological objectives. Conquest of Greece was crucial to Mussolini's goal of establishing Italian hegemony in the Mediterranean and the building of a fascist, revived Roman Empire. Furthermore, irritated by Berlin's lack of consultation with Rome before precipitating war against Poland in 1939 and invading France in 1940, as well harboring envy of the Germans' astonishing military successes, Mussolini sought to match Hitler through a victorious, unilateral campaign against Greece. Moreover, the anticipated defeat and subjugation of the Greeks was intended to demonstrate to the world the primacy of Italian fascism and the superiority of the Italian nation.

The Italian invasion plan envisioned a decisive defeat of the Greek army to be completed within two to three weeks. Greece would be invaded and occupied in three stages, or phases. The first phase of operations would eliminate Greek border defenses and secure the seizure of Epirus and the Ionian Islands. The second phase, fueled by the arrival of a large wave of reinforcements from Italy, would pro-

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Greek artilery shelling in the Morava height, Greco-Italian War, November 1940

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1940-1941 Albanian War: the Strategic Implications of the Greeks' "OXI!"

Continued from page 5

duce the destruction of the remaining Greek field forces in a thrust across western Macedonia, culminating in the capture of Thessaloniki. The final phase of the invasion would involve the rapid, effortless occupation of the rest of Greece, to be crowned by a triumphal march of Italian troops into Athens.

Placed under the command of General Sebastiano Visconti Prasca, the more than 100,000-man Italian invasion force consisted of one armored, one alpine, and four infantry divisions, plus ancillary armored, artillery, blackshirt, cavalry, and infantry units, as well as six Albanian battalions, all of which were supported by roughly 500 artillery pieces, 460 planes, and almost 200 tanks. In order to quickly reinforce and nearly double the initial invasion force, six additional divisions were earmarked for rapid deployment from Italy within two weeks of the commencement of hostilities.

Facing this formidable concentration of men and material, the Greek forces positioned in the first line of defense along the frontier with Albania, amounted to only 10,000 troops, a figure which would increase to barely 35,000 troops during the first week of fighting. The Greek army lacked any tanks, and the entire air force counted fewer than 80 planes.

Given the enormous disparity of forces in Italy's favor, as well as the factor of a surprise attack, the Italian High Command was predictably optimistic about the outcome of their forthcoming campaign. Mussolini had every reason to expect success. He was not alone. In fact, once news of the Italian invasion broke, the international media and the world community universally anticipated a quick defeat and occupation of Greece by fascist Italy, a large, powerful country with a significant industrial arsenal, a colonial empire, and a population seven times larger than its prey.

World opinion had been justified in expecting that Greece would be quickly vanquished and occupied. The poorly armed and antiquated Greek army was greatly outnumbered. Conversely, the modern and well-equipped Italian military enjoyed comparatively limitless reserves of manpower and material, as well as total air superiority and the initiative of the offensive. Yet, the Greeks would overcome these staggering disadvantages by effective concentration of force, tactical deftness, and the intangible of extraordinary will – in short, with stubborn determination, the Greeks outmaneuvered and outfought the Italians.

During the first few days of the attack, the massed Italian forces in Epirus moved forward but were slowed by the Greeks' screening units. On November 1, the Italians collided into the Greeks' main line of defense, running from Igoumenitsa along the Ionian coast, to the border towns of Kalpaki and Konitsa in the center, north through the Pindus Mountains, and descending west of Kastoria and Florina. Backed by intensive bombing sorties, the primary thrust of the Italian offensive was directed toward the city of Ioannina through the vital crossroads near Kalpaki.

In support of the main push towards Ioannina, a deep flanking maneuver to the north and east of the Kalpaki sector was spearhead by the elite alpine Julia Division. The powerful, well-equipped Julia Division was tasked with securing control of the Pindus Range and capturing the strategic town of Metsovo, thereby isolating Greek forces in Epirus from those in Macedonia and Thessaly, cutting off their supply and retreat route, and encircling them for annihilation.

THE GREEK COUNTEROFFENSIVE AND VICTORY

To Mussolini's horror, and the world's astonishment, the Italian invasion was halted and beaten back by the Greeks. After almost a week of repeated, frenzied Italian attempts to break through the Greek lines, the Greeks had defeated the Italians in several near-border engagements, including the critical Battle of Kalpaki, the first Allied land victory in Europe, in which two under-strength Greek regiments badly mauled and defeated two Italian divisions and a large armored formation. At the same time, the Julia Division was decimated. The Julia Division's advance across the Pindus Range was harassed by constant, daring attacks from Greek cavalry, which outmaneuvered the Italian unit, forced it to fall back towards Albania, and crushed it in a series of bold actions.

The defeat of the Italian invasion force and the steady arrival of Greek reserves enabled the Greek army's commander-in-chief, General Alexandros Papagos, to launch a counteroffensive along the entire front on November 14. The main push of the Greek assault came from five divisions, which Papagos had concentrated near Kastoria in western Macedonia, along a sector of the front where the Italians, waiting for the first phase of the anticipated victory in Epirus before

"AERA," the Greeks' war cry during the Albanian War, on a circa 1940 poster depicting "The Heroic Tsolias."

starting the planned second phase of the invasion, had remained largely inactive.

Breaking through the Italians' forward defenses, and after a large scale, week-long battle against eight Italian divisions, on November 21 the Greeks captured Koritsa, Albania's then largest city. Koritsa thus became the first Axis-occupied city to be liberated by Allied forces during the Second World War, an event that, much to Mussolini's humiliation, drew extensive international media attention.

The Greek victory at the Battle of Koritsa, which nearly ruptured the Italian front, had the effect of forcing the Italians to begin a headlong retreat deep into Albania. By November 22, the last Italian troops had been swept from Greek territory. During the next six weeks the Greek counteroffensive pressed steadily deeper into Albania, producing an uninterrupted stream of victories as one Italian defense line after another, and as one town after another, fell to the advancing Greek army.

By the close of 1940, virtually all of southern Albania, including predominantly Greek-populated Northern Epirus, had been liberated. Although the Greeks continued to make local gains by capturing strategic points along the newly established front in January and February 1941, the onset of extremely harsh winter conditions and logistical limitations forced General Papagos to halt the general advance at the close of December 1940. In desperation, Mussolini had by that time changed his commanding generals in Albania twice and had poured enormous numbers of troops into the country, all with no effect. The front may have stabilized, but the Italians could not reverse their staggering defeat.

In response to the Italian disaster, Hitler ordered the German General Staff to prepare for an invasion of Greece. Although Hitler did not want to go to war against Greece, he saw no means of avoiding such action. Larger strategic interests demanded that Greece be neutralized. Hitler concluded that the success of his impending invasion of the Soviet Union would be complicated if the Axis Powers' southern flank in the Balkans was not secure, a view cemented by the arrival in Greece of a token British expeditionary force in March 1941. Thus in April 1941, the Germans invaded and overran Greece, beginning the country's horrific ordeal of occupation and resistance.

Even in the midst of defeat and conquest by the Germans, the Greek victory against the Italians continued to resonate among both Allied and Axis camps. Mussolini attempted one last time to salvage Italian fascist pride by launching a "Spring Offensive" aimed at defeating the Greek army in Albania ahead of the impending German invasion

American 1940-41 cartoon depicting Mussolini asking Hitler for help against Greece.

of Greece. After months of rebuilding and reinforcing the Italian forces in Albania, ultimately amassing a vast army of almost 600,000 troops (the largest single field army the Italians would deploy on any front during the Second World War), on March 9 Mussolini launched a carefully prepared offensive against the Greek forces, which numbered fewer than 300,000 troops. With the support of massive aerial bombing and sustained artillery barrages, tremendous waves of ground assaults were thrown against the Greek lines.

Despite suffering enormous casualties, the Italian attackers did not gain an inch of territory and the vaunted "Spring Offensive" ended in total failure by March 25, fittingly, the Greeks' Independence Day. Mussolini, who had arrived in Albania to observe in person the opening of the offensive, left Albania in disgust. Adding to Mussolini's humiliation, following the Germans' invasion of Greece, Greek forces surrendered to the Germans but refused to capitulate to the Italians. In fact, impressed by the Greeks' show of bravery and tenaciousness in combat against German forces, Hitler, half-sympathizing with the Greeks, momentarily gave consideration to concluding a separate peace with Athens and to leaving the Italian forces in Albania to fight the Greeks alone.

THE STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS OF GREEK VICTORY

The Greek victory over Italy had significant consequences for the course of the Second World War, but in ways rarely understood by most historians. Indeed, the standard narratives on Greece have tended to promote more misunderstanding than accurate awareness of the country's role in the larger conflict. For example, according to a narrative intended to mitigate the failure of their Greek campaign, several British apologists posited that London's decision to deploy 60,000 British and Commonwealth troops in Greece in March 1941 was determinant in producing the postponement of the Axis invasion of the Soviet Union by six weeks, a delay that proved fatal for the Germans because it stopped them from reaching Moscow before the arrival of the dreaded Russian winter. This argument was happily repeated by several German generals who found in the British narrative a convenient means to absolve themselves of responsibility for their own military failures in Russia and to deny the Soviets any credit for their own respective successes.

Interestingly, the British master narrative was eventually adopted and modified by Greek writers, who presented Greece's admirable victory as a case of a small state exercising an asymmetrical effect on Great Power geopolitics and military actions in the international system. Greece's victory against Italy in 1940 was thus explained as the catalyst that set into motion the sequence of events that produced the Axis failure against the Soviet Union, and hence made possible the Allied victory in Europe, a view widely popularized in Greece and the Greek diaspora.

Despite its appeal to Greek pride, the proposition that the Greek army's victory against Italy in the mountains of Epirus and southern Albania determined the outcome of the gargantuan struggle between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union is without substance. Moreover, this entire interpretation is premised upon the uncritical assumption that were it not for merely poor timing and bad weather the Germans would have crushed the Soviet colossus in a single, swift campaign – a conjecture that is as fatuous as it is simplistic. Rather, the Germans lost their war against the Soviet Union for the same reasons the Italians lost their war against Greece – the fascist racism of the Germans and Italians caused them to underestimate the ability of their enemies, and this outlook led them to plan unrealistically and inadequately for the determined resistance they believed a supposedly inferior people, such as the Slavs and Greeks, were incapable of mounting. In this sense, the Greco-Italian War was important not because it determined the outcome of the German-Soviet conflict – it did not – but because it was the forerunner, one with remarkable parallels to the latter, larger conflict.

The conventional narrative has obfuscated historians' understanding of the significance of the Greco-Italian War in two respects: the strategic consequences of the Greeks' success for the Mediterranean theatre of war; and the ideological consequences associated with the triumph of democratic ideas over the supposed superiority of fascism. The preoccupation with linking Germany's defeat in the Soviet Union to the Greek victory in Albania has been counterproductive to a rigorous understanding of the real impact of the Greco-Italian War on the strategic contours of the larger war.

To be precise, although the Greek victory in Albania was not important to the ultimate military outcome of the German-Soviet conflict, it was crucial to the survival of the British war effort in the Mediterranean. In short, the Greek victory against Italy contributed decisively to the failure of the Axis to vanquish Britain, not the Soviet Union.

In this sense, the Greeks' victory in Albania was of particular importance because it diverted crucial Italian land, air, and sea forces at a time when they were desperately needed in North Africa to defeat the British forces in Egypt. From October to May 1941, the Italians dispatched five times as many troops and supplies to Albania as they did to North Africa. Albania had the first call on armor, artillery, aircraft, motor vehicles, and munitions. As a result of the Greek crisis, the Albanian front monopolized the attention of the Italian High Command and remained Rome's all-consuming concern at the expense of other operations, especially those in North Africa.

Had Rome defeated and occupied Greece, and not been tied down fighting a desperate defensive war in Albania, the Italians would have been able to concentrate an enormous, mobile, and far more lethal force in Libya with which the Axis might well have taken El Alamein and successfully advanced to the Suez in 1941, rather than failing to do so in 1942. In short, the Greeks' victory against the Italians in 1940 probably saved the not-yet-firmly organized, poorly led, and still underperforming British forces in Egypt from defeat, a development which would have had disastrous consequences for Britain's position in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Furthermore, it is clear that Italy's failure in Greece persuaded Spain's fascist leader, Francisco Franco, to remain neutral in the European conflict. Conversely, had the Italians defeated the Greeks, Spain would have likely entered the war on the side of Hitler and Mussolini, Franco's ideological partners. With Spain as a member of the Axis camp, Gibraltar would have been easily overrun and the British presence in the Western Mediterranean would have been wiped out. Such simultaneous strategic losses for the British at the opposite ends of the Mediterranean – Gibraltar and Suez – would have been catastrophic for Britain and its ability to continue the war against the Axis.

THE IDEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF GREEK TRIUMPH

Fascist thinking led the Italians to assume that the Greeks would be easily defeated. Once the Greek army devastated the fascist invasion force it produced not only military panic within the Italian High Command, but an existential crisis within Italian state and society writ large. Mussolini was stunned and bewildered by the seemingly incomprehensible developments in Greece and Albania. He had carefully and deliberately singled out Greece as a much weaker country, and he believed the Greeks to be racially inferior to the Italians and therefore incapable of resistance. Indeed, shortly before the outbreak of hostilities, Mussolini was so confident of an effortless victory that he remarked, "If anyone makes any difficulties about beating the Greeks I shall resign from being an Italian."

In the whole of almost twenty years, nothing did more harm inside and outside Italy to Mussolini's reputation and the ideology of fascism than the Greek victory in Albania. Military morale and Italian public confidence in Mussolini's regime hit bottom, and the debacle in Greece disoriented and demoralized the fascist party. In fact, it was the defeat at the hands of the Greeks that effectively lost fascism the overwhelming popular support it had enjoyed among Italians before October 1940. Furthermore, Mussolini's international prestige and clout were destroyed. Ultimately, Mussolini's position even within the Axis camp was marred and belittled as a result of the Italian defeat in Greece. Mussolini, in short, could no longer cling to his early conviction that he was the greatest of the fascist dictators, the leader of the more dynamic movement with a right to equal consultation, if not actual leadership of the Axis. Instead, from the Greek debacle onwards, Mussolini was forced to become more and more dependent on Germany, while German regard for Italian interests declined correspondingly. Indeed, whereas Mussolini's recognition and importance as a major world leader were never in doubt before 1940, the Greek fiasco transformed Mussolini and fascist Italy into an international laughing stock.

In retrospect, the most important consequences of the Greek victory against Italy extended beyond the military sphere to the arena of ideas. Greece's victory ended the myth of Axis invincibility and, even more importantly, it revealed the falsehood and futility of fascism. Any illusion that fascism heralded a New Order, a greater civilization based on an entirely new hierarchical idea of man, society, and nation was shattered by the Greeks' success in battle against the larger fascist, supposedly racially superior, invader – the triumph of a veritable David against a modern-day Goliath. Consequently, the Greeks' military victory was also seen as a moral and ideological victory for the Allies and democracy because it affirmed the noble principle that all nations which abide by the rule of law, no matter how small or lacking they may be in might, have a right to exist and to be free to determine their own destinies in peace.

Greece's defeat of fascist Italy was a defeat of the brutal idea that only powerful nations have a right to a future and that the future should be determined by force. Many historians emphasize that the lack of sufficient preparedness doomed the Italian invasion of Greece to failure. Such historians miss the point – they do not grasp the fact that the cause of a lack of sufficient preparedness in Rome for war was fascism itself, which, as much as the Italian army, was demolished by the Greeks on the battlefields of Epiros. Rome's fascists had been confident that Italian genius and energy were bound to bring success against the inferior Greeks, and this would be true even if the Greeks were a hundred times more numerous and well-armed. Italians could rest assured that they would be victorious because they were more intelligent, cultured, robust, and braver than other nations. Therefore, true to the logic of its racist nationalism, Italy welcomed the war against Greece and judgment by battle as an entirely proper test by which the superior quality of the Italian nation and fascism could be demonstrated. Both Italy and fascism failed this test.

In this sense, Greece's triumph against fascism was, like so many other Greek achievements before it, a victory and a moral lesson for the world – one that is strikingly prescient for both Greece and the world in our times.

Alexandros K. Kyrou is Professor of History at Salem State University in Salem, Mass., where he teaches on the Balkans, Byzantium, and the Ottoman Empire.

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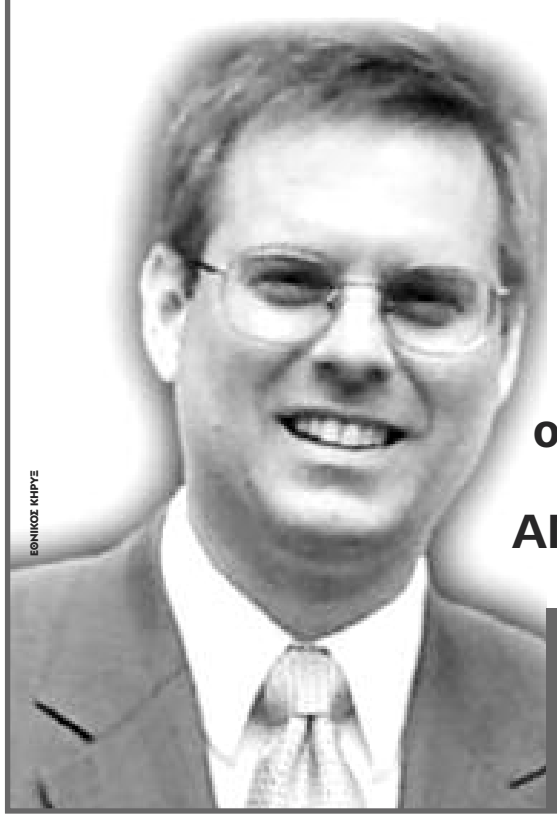

Long Live the Heroes and the Memory of October 28th of 1940

ANTHONY XANTHAKIS

ΖΗΤΩ Η ΕΛΛΑΣ!
GOD BLESS AMERICA!

A Bishop's Courage

Archbishop Damaskinos and Athens Police Chief Angelos Evert Saved Thousands of Greek Jews from the Holocaust

By Margie Burns and Sophia S. Huling
Special to TNH

An estimated 87 percent of the Greece's Jewish population – 60,000 to 70,000 people – perished during the Holocaust. Thanks to the refusal of some Greeks to cooperate with German plans for deportations, 10,000 survived. The man who led those efforts was the Church of Greece's leading hierarch, Archbishop Damaskinos (1891-1949), appointed archbishop of Athens in 1941.

The Romaniote Jews of Greece were the first Jews in Europe, arriving around the time of Alexander the Great. In 1492, thousands of Sephardic Jews fled the Spanish Inquisition and found refuge in Greece, then ruled by the Ottoman Turks. Many Sephardim settled in Thessaloniki – a city that, before World War II, had one of the largest Jewish populations in the world.

With the advent of the Nazi occupation in April 1941, deportations from cities like Thessaloniki proceeded at a rapid pace. Many Jews fleeing persecution in the north found a safe haven in Athens.

On September 20, 1943, Dieter Wisliceny – a deputy of Adolph Eichmann, the administrator of the Nazi Final Solution – arrived in Athens. Wisliceny ordered the city's Chief Rabbi Elias Barzilai to appear before him, to provide accurate figures about the Jewish population in Athens and to create a Judernat. Made up of Jews who were coerced into joining, a Judernat made compliant Jews "responsible" for keeping law and order in a Jewish community, and used them as a liaison between the German authorities and the Jewish population.

Wisliceny ordered Barzilai to provide the names and address of all members of Athens' Jewish community, the names of all foreign Jews living in the area, the names of Italian Jews in Athens, and the names of those who had assisted Jews to escape to Palestine. He also commanded Barzilai to compile a list of individuals willing to serve on a new council – of which Barzilai was to be president – that would create a Jewish police force to carry out Nazi demands, and unveiled plans to create identity cards for all of Athens' Jewish population.

Shaken by his encounter with the Nazi commander, the Rabbi contacted Archbishop Damaskinos and told him about the meeting.

Since Damaskinos knew what had taken place in Thessaloniki, he suggested the entire Jewish community take flight, because it could not be protected.

Barzilai asked the Germans for more time to compose the requested lists, and then, after meeting with other leaders of the Jewish community, he destroyed the community records and advised the Jewish people to flee. A few days later, the Rabbi himself left the capital and joined the resistance.

The Church of Greece, under Damaskinos' leadership, condemned Hitler's plans for the country and instructed priests to announce its position in their sermons.

As they prepared to implement the deportation and mass murder of their Final Solution, the Nazis compiled intelligence reports about the Jewish population of Athens. Damaskinos' and the Rabbi's work had transformed Athens into a safe refuge. Since many of the newly arrived Jews had no fixed place of residence, German intelligence about the Jewish population was often wrong.

The Nazis chose important Jewish holidays for their monstrous acts, beginning with an order on the eve of Yom Kippur, signed by the German military commander in Athens, S.S. General Jurgen Stroop, designed to organize the city's Jewish community under Nazi supervision.

Under the order issued by Stroop, Jews were commanded to appear at community offices within five days to declare their residences and register their names. Despite the threat of dire consequences for failing to appear, only 200 showed up.

In a similar instance, the German authorities announced that they were planning to bring a special flour to Athens for Passover, so the Jewish population could prepare matzo – provided they were willing to reveal themselves and register with the authorities. Although the false act of kindness tempted some, many more Jews registered because they were afraid the Nazis would enact reprisals on their Christian neighbors, who had been shielding them from the persecution.

When the Germans began rounding up Jews, over 600 Greek Orthodox priests were arrested and deported because of their actions in helping Jews, and many Jews were saved by the Greek police, the clergy and the resistance.

Registration of the Jews of Thessaloniki by the Nazis.

There were several means of escape. Many left by boat from Oropos in Attica, where they were frequently forced to pay enormous fees for a three-week journey to Turkey. Some young men without families escaped to partisan camps in the mountains. A false baptismal certificate and new identity papers from the Greek Orthodox Church could also help a desperate fleeing Jew.

Archbishop Damaskinos oversaw the creation of several thousand such certificates, and Athens Police Chief Angelos Evert provided more than 27,000 false identify papers to desperate Jews seeking protection from the Nazis.

The Archbishop also ordered monasteries in Athens to shelter Jews, and urged his priests to ask their congregations to hide Jews in their homes. As a result, more than 250 Jewish children were hidden by Orthodox clergy alone.

Damaskinos and Evert would surely been killed if the extent of their assistance had become known to the Germans.

When all official appeals to stop the deportations failed, Archbishop Damaskinos spearheaded a direct appeal to the Germans, in the form of a letter composed by the famous Greek poet Angelos Sikelianos and signed by prominent Greek citizens, in a bold attempt to appeal to the hearts and minds of the occupying authorities, in defense of the Jews who were being persecuted.

The letter incited the rage of the Nazi general Stroop, who threatened the Archbishop with death by a firing squad. Damaskinos' response was, "Greek religious leaders are not shot; they are hanged. I request that you respect this custom." He was referring to the lynching and hanging of Patriarch Gregory V of Constantinople by a Turkish mob in 1821, in retaliation for the Greeks' launching a war of independence. The simple courage of the religious leader's reply caught the Nazi commander off guard, and his life was spared.

The appeal of the Archbishop and his fellow Greeks is unique; there is no similar document of protest of the Nazis during World War II that has come to light in any other European country. It reads, in part:

"The Greek Orthodox Church and the Academic World of Greek People Protest against the Persecution… The Greek people were… deeply grieved to learn that the German Occupation Authorities have already started to put into effect a program of gradual deportation of the Greek Jewish community… and that the first groups of deportees are already on their way to Poland…"

Archbishop Damaskinos of Athens (1891-1949)

"According to the terms of the armistice, all Greek citizens, without distinction of race or religion, were to be treated equally by the Occupation Authorities. The Greek Jews have proven themselves… valuable contributors to the economic growth of the country [and] law-abiding citizens who fully understand their duties as Greeks. They have made sacrifices for the Greek country, and were always on the front lines of the struggle of the Greek nation to defend its inalienable historical rights…"

"In our national consciousness, all the children of Mother Greece are an inseparable unity: they are equal members of the national body irrespective of religion… Our holy religion does not recognize superior or inferior qualities based on race or religion, as it is stated: 'There is neither Jew nor Greek' [Galatians 3:28] and thus condemns any attempt to discriminate or create racial or religious differences. Our common fate both in days of glory and in periods of national misfortune forged inseparable bonds between all Greek citizens, without exemption, irrespective of race…"

"Today we are… deeply concerned with the fate of 60,000 of our fellow citizens who are Jews… we have lived together in both slavery and freedom, and we have come to appreciate their feelings, their brotherly attitude, their economic activity, and most important, their indefectible patriotism…"

Source: The International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation

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The following distinguished individuals and organizations will be receiving the
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Dr. Panagiota Andreopoulou - *Cosmos FM*
Dr. Despina Komninou - *Cosmos FM*
Mr. Gus Lambropoulos - *Partners in Medical Practice*
Dr. Stella Lymberis - *Dr. Maria Kalopothakes*
Distinguished Female Physician Seminar and Award
Dr. Demetrios Markouizos - *Child Vaccination Program in Greece*
Ms. Nancy Papaioannou - *Atlantic Bank*
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GREEKS AROUND THE US

Tastes Abound at Hellenic Museum's Kouzina

By Anthe Mitrakos

PHOTOS: NATIONAL HELLENIC MUSEUM, CHICAGO, IL

Chefs and tastes abound at the National Hellenic Museum's 7th annual food and drink fundraiser in Chicago last week, where some 400 guests gathered to try traditional Mediterranean dishes with a "Twist on the Classics."

CHICAGO, IL – Over a dozen of Chicago's finest chefs greeted some 400 guests for the National Hellenic Museum's (NHM) celebration of gastronomy at the annual Kouzina food and wine fundraiser the evening of October 16.

Clanking stainless steel warmers, unique floral arrangements, bright lighting, chic black tablecloths, shiny drinks glasses, and suited chefs serving delectable mini dishes amidst the modern-designed Greek Monsters exhibit set a rich tone for the evening. "Kouzina has definitely evolved into an event that goes beyond the scope of the Greek community," said celebrated cook and author Diane Kochilas. "Just by looking at the range of restaurants represented here tonight... it's become a Chicago event," she added.

A night of fine dining and mingling, Kouzina is one of NHM's most anticipated events of the year. The $100 in advance, $150 at the door ticket bought four hours of dining experiences with a twist on the classics.

Participating in Kouzina for the first time this year was Chef Cleetus Friedman of the Fountainhead Restaurant in Chicago's Ravenswood neighborhood. Serving up a fried dish, green lentils and cauliflower with tzatziki sauce pita chips, Friedman advised attendees on where to get the best tips on cooking up some of the tastiest dishes. "Don't watch the television shows," he suggested, "Get into the restaurant and start from the bottom up to see how things are made. Get in and train with chefs," he added.

In the sweets section, frying up traditional loukoumades with pumpkin accents was Athena Manolakis of the Pan-Hellenic Pastry shop located just across the street from the NHM. "I love it when people try to think outside the box with twists on traditional recipes," she said.

Frank Georgacopoulos of Meli Café and Juice Bar just up the street in Greektown offered breakfast and lunch tastes with pure milk and honey ingredients. John Gatsos of the famous Tavern on Rush contemporary steak house said his "yiayia" inspired him to take on cooking, serving up her very own "dolmades" recipe at Kouzina in her honor.

"Comparing Greek cuisine to the American diet… it seems like there isn't as much fast food. Things take a little bit longer to cook, but they taste better and they are good for you," Gatsos said.

Executive Chef at Avli Restaurant Louie Alexakis who says he's been the only Greek eatery representative at the Chicago Gourmet Fest for the past five years served up sweet cheesecake balls with "melomacarono" crust.

"Traditions are important and we have many of those," Alexakis said. "Greece just has a wonderful variety of good foods and in general was blessed in some ways by having such a harsh environment. We have our olives, we have our seafood… these hardy wild greens called "horta" and it turns out that they are very good for you. It's fortunate that this is our background and that people have learned how healthy it is for everyone," he added.

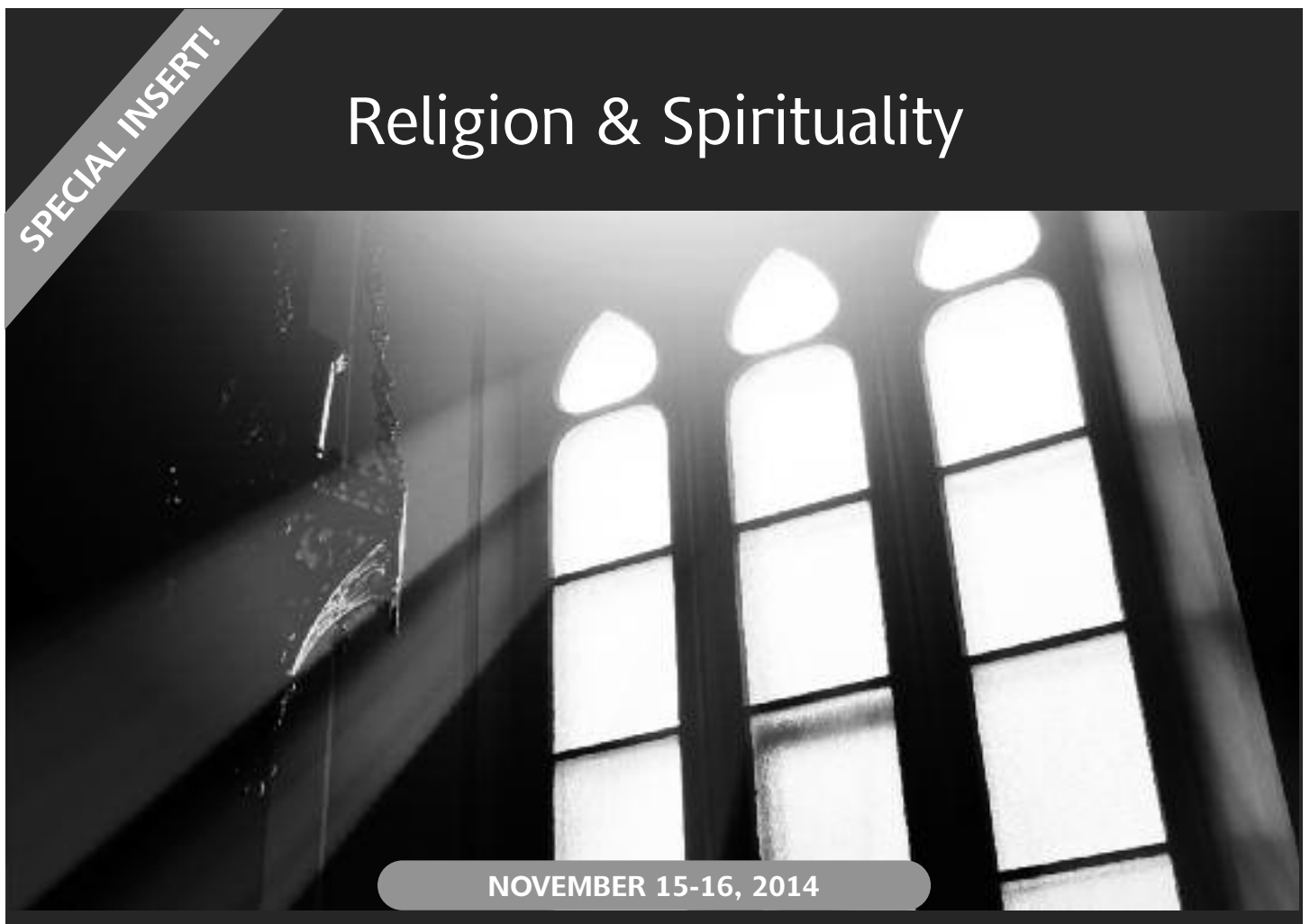
Popular globally, the Mediterranean diet has indeed in recent years gained much attention in the United States as a healthy alternative to many foods. "The Mediterranean diet has been known for a long time for being one of the healthiest diets on the planet, and the Greeks have it in their DNA," said Kochilas, whose family originates from the island of Ikaria, known for the remarkable longevity of its inhabitants. "I think it's this marriage of health and pleasure is something uniquely Greek and we celebrate that around the table every day," she added.

The Ikarian secret to a long and healthy life, Kochilas explained, is having a very healthy take on life as a whole. "What I found was that [Ikarians] eat very little because there was very little to eat. A lot of what they ate maybe up until the early 1960s and 1970s was plant-based…very little meat, and a lot of it was wild. Ikarians have a very healthy take on life. They shun stress and they enjoy themselves without a lot. They have this uncanny ability to just be here now," she said.

Greece to this day produces a number of unique and bold-tasting fresh foods whose aromas, flavors, and healthy attributes cannot be found elsewhere in the world. As for local dishes, Chicago is famous for its stuffed pizza, and juicy steaks. But how does it compare to other major U.S. cities? "I just got back from New York this past weekend and it's easier to find good restaurants in Chicago in my opinion," said Devon Quinn, executive chef at Paramount Events, a catering group which cohosted Kouzina. "I think Chicago has an amazing cuisine with some amazing chefs from around the world that have made the city a hub for all different kinds of food," he added.

From chefs who love to cook at home to those that serve the taste buds of hundreds daily, food is what you put into it, and making a good dish takes effort and passion. "It's the satisfaction of making something from scratch, but it's also the satisfaction of sharing that is a big part of cooking," Kochilas said.

This year's Kouzina marked the museum's 7th annual food and drink fundraiser. "The event has come alive over time," said Angelo Petropoulos of the Greek Islands Restaurant. "We see a lot of new faces, which is wonderful for Greektown."



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GOINGS ON...

■ THRU NOV 1
TARPON SPRINGS, FL – Night in the Islands returns to the world-famous Sponge Docks of Tarpon Springs for 2014! Saturday, 6-11PM Nov. 1. A free event of Greek music, dancing, and dining! And we will offer an hour of free Greek dance lessons by the Levendia Dance Troupe from 6-7 PM. The festival is supported in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Come join us for authentic island fun in the warm Florida sun and mark your calendar and make this a regular destination! And if you're just in town for a week or two, make sure to mark your calendar as you will not want to miss this! Tarpon Springs is a unique Greek experience in the United States, one unlike any other Greek community. Come be part of this one-of-a-kind American experience that will make you feel as if, truly, you are back in the homeland!

■ OCTOBER 25
MANHATTAN – Join us for the lust for life, and that famous dance on the beach, as "Movie Night @ the Annunciation" offers a special 50th Anniversary presentation of the Oscar-winning classic Zorba The Greek, starring Anthony Quinn (in the role he was born to play), Alan Bates, Irene Pappas, George Foundas, Lila Kedrova. Direction / screenplay by Michael Cacoyiannis from Nikos Kazantzakis' novel. A suggested donation of $15 supports the philanthropic work of our Philoptochos. Refreshments. 6:30pm, Demas Hall, Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, 302 W. 91st Street, (at West End Ave.) in Manhattan. (212-724-2070.)

■ OCTOBER 30
FLUSHING – The Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies (CBMGS), Queens College, and the "Odysseus" Federation Of Cephalonian And Ithacian Societies, are organizing a book presentation in honor of the famous 16th century Greek explorer Ioannis Fokas from the Ionian island of Cephalonia. He was known as Juan de Fuca and became the first European to discover the Vancouver Island Straits (1592) that took his name as "The Juan de Fuca Straits." Thursday, Oct. 30, 12:15-1:30pm at the Rosenthal Library, Rm 230, Queens College, in Flushing. The book presentation is as follows: Book title: The Straits of Chimera: The Adventures of the Greek Navigator Juan De Fuca, by Evridiki Livada Duca, who will make introductory remarks. The book will be presented by University of Athens Professor, Louka T. Katseli, former Minister of National Economy and later Labor Minister. Professor Katseli is an internationally acclaimed economist; among others, she was professor at Yale (1977-85) and Director of the OECD Development Center (2003-07). The book has been published by the "Odysseus" Federation of Cephalonians and Ithacians under the auspices of the CBMGS, while the translation was funded by the Maria Tsakos Foundation. RSVP: email: qc.byzantine.center@gmail.com. Center Tel: 718-997.4520; Federation Odysseus Tel. (718)415-7101.

WASHINGTON, DC – Thursday, Oct. 30, 6:30 to 8:30 PM, at the Embassy of Greece 2217 Massachusetts Ave NW, in Washington. In celebration of El Greco's 400th anniversary, the Embassy of Greece and SPAIN arts & culture present the National Gallery of Art's El Greco: An Artist's Odyssey in an exclusive premiere. This film screening, with the attendance of filmmaker Carroll Moore from the NGA, is presented as part of the exhibition El Greco in the National Gallery of Art and Washington-Area Collections: A 400th Anniversary Celebration. This documentary includes original footage of his paintings, the locations where he lived and worked and interviews with El Greco scholars from Spain and the United States. This film was made possible by the HRH Foundation. Spanish and Greek wine to follow.

NOVEMBER 1
FLUSHING – Hellenic Public Radio COSMOS FM 91.5 invites the community to the Phidippides Award Gala Dinner on Saturday, Nov. 1 at 7PM at Terrace on the Park, 52-11 111th St. in Flushing. The Award for Passionate Advocacy of Hellenism will be bestowed upon Mario Frangoulis, the world renowned tenor. Television Journalist Andrea Stassou will serve as Gala Chairperson. For tickets and sponsorship packages call 718-204-8900 or visit cosmosfm@gaepis.org

■ NOVEMBER 2
MANHATTAN –The community is invited to a concert to benefit HPR –Cosmos FM 91.5 by the internationally acclaimed tenor Mario Frangoulis on Sunday, Nov. 2 at the Tribeca Performing Arts Center, 199 Chambers St. in Manhattan at 5PM. Frangoulis, who was also trained as an actor, will recite and perform music set to the poetry of Nikos Gatsos. Tickets: VIP, $150, $100, $75, $40. Call 718-204-8900 (Cosmos FM) or 212-220-1460 (box office). Email: cosmosfm@gaepis.org. Online www.cosmosfm.org (PayPal) or tickets.tribecapac.org.

■ NOVEMBER 5
MANHATTAN – The Association of Greek American Professional Women (A.G.A.P.W.), Under the auspices of the Press and Communication Office Permanent Mission of Greece to the UN, is pleased to invite you to join us at our upcoming Conversation with Women Leaders Series featuring Judge Harriet Pavles George (emerita). Wednesday, Nov. 5 6-8PM at the Press and Communication Office Permanent Mission of Greece to the UN 305 East 47th Street, 2nd Floor, in Manhattan. Master of Ceremonies Constantina Koulosousas Spatola, Esq. We will be honoring Judge George and presenting her with a Distinguished Life Achievement Award. Judge George will share her insights and experiences as an attorney in private practice and as a Judge of the Housing Part of the Civil Court of the City of New York during some of the city's most stressful decades, while rearing six children along with her husband Judge Norman George. This is a complimentary event, but RSVP is required as space is limited. For further information, please contact Dr. Olga Alexakos at oalexakos@nyc.rr.com. We look forward to welcoming you!

■ NOVEMBER 6-8
BROOKLINE, MA – The Executive Board of the Orthodox Christian Association of Medicine, Psychology and Religion is pleased to announce that our Annual Conference will begin on Thursday, Nov. 6, at 7:30PM, and continue until Saturday, Nov. 8 at 6PM. We are honored to have as our Keynote Speaker Thursday evening His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios of America. The Conference is co-sponsored by and will be held at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, 50 Goddard Avenue in Brookline. It is titled, "Exploring the Mind-Body-Soul Connection: Spirituality in Illness and Healing." An extensive Program with numerous distinguished speakers is attached. Hotel information will follow soon. We invite you to join us for this exciting Conference, a unique opportunity for Orthodox clergy, theologians, and healthcare professionals to come together to discuss how the Orthodox healing traditions interface with contemporary theories and practices of care. Registration fees are as follows, which include all meals except the Friday dinner with speaker, which is an additional $25 (complementary for Clergy): Professional Members/Nonmembers - $50, Students/Clergy - $25. Until we are able to get set up on our website to register via PayPal, you may send a check with your registration information and email address to our Treasurer at PO Box 206125, Louisville, KY 40250-6125. Abstracts for 20 minute paper presentations and case studies on topics related to Orthodoxy and healing are due by September 15 to Michael Christakis at kphth9@mac.com. Submittals traditionally include current work on theories and practices of Orthodox care by clergy, physicians, mental health professionals and other healthcare workers. Please support our mission by joining OCAMPR. You will see from our website, www.ocampr.org, that recommended dues for professionals are $100, but that voluntary dues of any amount are welcomed for professionals, clergy and students. We also encourage interested members to attend the Open Executive Board Meeting on Thursday from 1-4PM. Those who wish to become more involved in OCAMPR, and/or are willing to serve on the Executive Board (new officers will be elected at our Annual Business Meeting on Saturday) would benefit from coming to this meeting.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

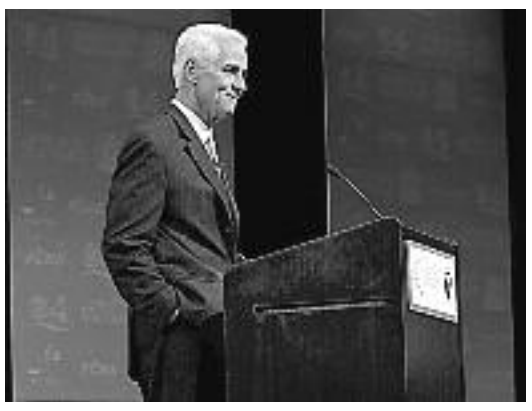
Are you more interested in this year's World Series because Greek-American Mike Moustakas is playing in it?

Please email your response to scaros@thenationalherald.com

We may publish some responses as Letters to the Editor in a future issue.

Beware of Greeks Bearing Fans: Sleight of Hand at Gov. Debate in FL

By Constantinos E. Scaros



Charlie Crist stands at his podium awaiting Rick Scott, who purportedly refused to take the stage because Crist brought a small fan to the event.

Much was made about Richard Nixon sweating profusely in first debate with John F. Kennedy. Maybe that is why Crist insisted on having a fan.

DAVIE, FL – Since the infamous monthlong recount following Election Day 2000, Florida has earned the unenviable reputation of being arguably the nation's most bizarre state when it comes to elections. Last week was no exception, with the onset of what casual observers – which describes most voters – call "Fangate."

Greek-American Charlie Crist, then a Republican, who was governor of Florida for a term, did not run for reelection in 2010. Rick Scott, also a Republican ran and won. Crist, now a Democrat, is challenging the incumbent Scott for the governorship. The reason Crist declined to run for reelection in 2010 is because he vied for the U.S. Senate instead, but he lost in the Republican primary to Marco Rubio, at the time of Rubio's meteoric rise to national political prominence (currently, Rubio is mentioned as a possible presidential candidate in 2016). After losing to Rubio in the primary, Republican Crist stayed in the race, running as an Independent.

Within these past four years, then, Crist has gone from Republican to Independent to Democrat. The double switch prompted many to accuse Crist of being a political opportunist, but he defends himself in: The Party's Over: How the Extreme Right Hijacked the GOP and I Became a Democrat, a book he wrote that was released earlier this year.

If nothing else, Crist has shown he is a political survivor, but his party-switching pales in comparison to his masterful October 15 debate performance – before he even opened his mouth. It wasn't Crist's words that won the day, but rather a well-placed prop: a small electric fan underneath his podium.

FANDEMONIUM

In fairness to Crist, it was not – or at least, should not have been – entirely a surprise that a fan would emerge. The pre-debate rules indicated that fans were not permitted, but Crist's campaign signed the agreement with an asterisk: that should conditions make it necessary, a fan would be provided.

The National Herald obtained copies of the document originally sent to both campaigns in July, describing the debate rules, and subsequent letters sent on October 6. The July letter stated that "candidates will be fitted with lavaliere microphones and will stand at podiums. Candidates may not bring visual aids, notes, or electronic devices to the debate, but will be provided with a pad and pen to take notes during the debate." Clearly, that letter makes no mention of a fan or anything of the sort.

The October 6 letter, however, clearly specifies that "candidates may not bring electronic devices (including fans), visual aids or notes to the debate, but will be provided with a pad and pen."

Because Crist is known to bring a personal fan to his public appearances as a recurring habit if not general rule – prompting the Miami Herald to refer to it as his "security blanket" – it is evident that the Scott campaign pressed for the fan's exclusion.

TNH also obtained a copy of the signed agreement, that Crist specifically requested a fan if climate conditions necessitated it.

What followed on debate night was bizarre, indeed: Crist walked onto the stage and was asked about the fan – all before Scott even took the stage himself.

After a bizarre delay by Scott, which triggered concerns that he might balk on the debate altogether on principle, because of Crist's unilateral decision to tailor the rules to his own liking, he finally relented and the debate began – with Crist's fan at his podium.

At the end of the debate, Moderator Elliot Rodriguez asked: "Gov. Crist … why did you insist on bringing a fan here when your campaign knew this would be a contentious issue?" Crist replied: "Why not? You know, is there anything wrong with being comfortable? I don't think there is. Having compassion with other people."

Rodriguez then asked Scott: "why the delay coming out over a fan?" Categorically denying that his delay had anything to do with the fan, Scott replied: "I waited till we figured out if he's going to show up. He said he wasn't going to come to the debate. So why come out until he's ready?"

PERCEPTION IS PARAMOUNT

As debate history indicates, perception is paramount. And in this debate, hardly anyone remembers the substance of the discussion. Instead, it is all about two points around the same issue: Crist brought a fan to the debate, and Scott objected to it. At least in the immediate post-debate period, it is Scott who, to his detriment, appears petty.

Interestingly, this debate conjures memories of a transformational debate – on the national level – the first between presidential candidates John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon in 1960. Prone to excessive sweating, Nixon, by all accounts looked awful on television in the first ever major party presidential debate, which propelled Kennedy's momentum and ultimately led to his narrow victory that November. Perhaps learning from Nixon's downfall, Crist wants to ensure he is not caught sweating on television.

Who is right in all of this? Should Crist be entitled to a fan? Is Scott being petty by not allowing it? After all, opponents of debaters with particular challenges traditionally accommodate them. Bill Clinton in 1996, for instance, allowed Bob Dole all necessary provisions to compensate for Dole's paralyzed arm. Joe Lieberman and John Edwards in 2000 and 2004, respectively, complied with Dick Cheney's request in the vice presidential debates of those years to sit in a chair rather than stand at a podium, respecting the fact that Cheney had a heart condition.

Whether or not Fangate ultimately favors Crist, or Scott, remains to be seen, but one thing is clear: round one of the political maneuvering goes to the Greek.

Consulate Honors Nobel Laureate in "Odysseas Elytis and Cyprus" Lecture

TNH Staff

(L-R) Prof. Marinos Pourgouris, Nikos Mouyiaris, Anna Vissi, Amb. Vasilios Philippou, Prof. Thomas Papathomas, Prof. Panos Georgopoulos, chairman of the Elytis Chair Fund.

NEW YORK – The exhibition space of Cyprus' Consulate General was packed on October 21 for a lecture titled "Odysseas Elytis and Cyprus" by Prof. Marios Pourgouris.

Amb. Vasilios Philippou, the Consul General of Cyprus, welcomed the guests and spoke of the life and works of the Nobel Prize-winning writer and his special relationship with Cyprus. He quoted Elytis' apology when he was not able to keep his first promise to visit the island: "I want to go and worship its soil."

The Consulate's Lambrini Giannatsou was Emcee, and there were greetings by Thomas Pappathomas, Busch Campus Dean and Professor of the Department of Biomedical Engineering, Rutgers University, and by Fr. Nicholas Samaras representing Archbishop Demetrios.

Fr. Samaras said that the Archbishop "always taught us that poetry, and literature, and music is essential to the higher aspiration of humanity, which is coming closer to God."

The guests were delighted by a greeting by Cypriot singing star Anna Vissi.

Papathomas spoke about the Elytis Chair Fund, represented at the event by its chairman, Prof. Panos Georgopoulos, and the Modern Greek Studies Program of Rutgers University, which cooperated with the consulate in the presentation of lecture along with the Cyprus Federation of America, PSEKA and with the Hellenic American leadership Council (HALC).

Papathomas thanked HALC founder Nikos Mouyiaris for his $400,000 grant for the Elitis chair, which was matched by another $200,000 by the community.

Pourgouris was visibly moved to return to the space and the people he knew well during his tenures teaching at Rutgers and Brown Universities. He noted the political dimension of the relationship to Cyprus of an artist who tried not to be tangled up with politics. Elytis found refuge during his first two trips to the island during the Greek Junta period. Greek intellectuals associated the disputes of Cyprus's President Archbishop Makarios and Athens with opposition to the dictatorship.

After Makarios' death, the poet declared that "his fighting spirit and perseverance and beauty is drawn from the great reservoir of the Cypriot people." Elytis also protested the junta by rejecting a prize with the then-substantial sum of one million drachmas, and turning down membership in the Academy of Athens.

After winning the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1979, Cyprus was one of the two countries whose invitation to visit he accepted. He also went to Spain because "they celebrated my award as if I were Spanish. "

Pourgouris devoted a portion of the lecture to Elytis' literary achievements - "he pushed to the limits the Greek language. He did what nobody had done before."

He also mentioned Elytis' theories of art. The latter meditated on the resilience of nations through the millennia and concluded that language is a powerful tool and weapon for survival. He also believed that a nation's art and literature is inspired by its geography, a theory he developed in the 1950s when we spent time with artists like Picasso.

The physical environment of a people is internalized, and externalized again in its architecture, a process responsible for its authenticity. The great French Cathedral of Notre Dame at Chartres would look completely out of place in Greece, he said.

Elystis also thought deeply about the criteria by which continuity and discontinuity are judged to hold diachronically in cultures. He did not believe that the neo-classical buildings of America and Europe have substantial connections with ancient Greece – they are mere imitations. It is in the folk traditions of the Greeks, especially their poetry, where the soul of the Ancient Greece can be felt.

The lecture was followed by moving readings of Elytis' writing by Amb. Philippou, Cypriot-American poet Polys Kyriakou, and retired Cypriot ambassador Achilleas Antoniades. The reception was provided by the Pan Gregorian Enterprises.

Concerns about Housing Affordability and Jobs Stall Astoria Cove Project

By Constantine S. Sirigos
TNH Staff Writer

NEW YORK – The Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises of the New York City Council sent the Astoria Cove real estate development project in Western Queens back to the drawing board – in the economic sense – after a hearing on October 20, one of the last steps in the City's approval process.

Astoria Cove will be is the first development that is subject Mayor Bill de Blasio's mandatory inclusionary housing rules which call for projects that require a zoning change to make of 20 percent of its units permanently affordable.

Despite an architectural design that promises to be a welcome addition to the New York City waterfront, the hearing revealed substantial concerns remain over the level of affordable housing and the quality of jobs it will generate, transportation, and the safety of its construction process.

Costa Constantinides, Astoria's new City Councilman, took the lead in expressing the virtually unanimous calls for changes in the project by 2030 Astoria Developers LLC.

Constantinides and developer John Maurodis, reportedly childhood friends in Astoria, clashed on matters like the definition of affordability and the number of affordable units that will actually be built.

City Council members and top city officials like New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer and Queens Borough President Melinda Katz weighed in with their opposition and expressed their appreciation for the way Constantinides was handling the matter, and emphasized that the project will be reviewed again after the developers resume negotiations with him.

The project is expected to be brought before the subcommittee again the week of Thanksgiving.

Constantinides said in his opening statement at the hearing, "Over the last several months Community Board 1 and the Queens Borough President voiced their concerns about this development. Today the public was given the opportunity to be heard on the Astoria Cove proposal. It is clear that the framework for 21st century development dictates that when public resources are used for a project, the community must benefit as a result.

The plan for Astoria Cove features a tree-lined waterfront in place of a now-dilapidated fenced-off area. Architect Jay Valgora presented the plan to the subcommittee on October 20.

As the process moves toward our November vote, we will work with the developer to provide ample affordable housing, good jobs both during and after the construction process, and dramatically increase public transportation options on and off of the peninsula."

A key part of the discussion revolved around the feeling of obligation the public officials felt the developers should have to towards the housing needs of the citizens of New York.

The developer's representatives repeatedly voiced the view that the number of affordable housing units they are promising – 345 out of 1723 or 20 percent, is appropriate given that they are not receiving subsidies.

They are however, receiving tax abatement and there were audible gasps in the council chamber at the developers' response to a question about how long the project's tax exemptions would last: "15-20 years."

The members of the City Council insisted that the tax abatement constituted a subsidy, but 2030 Astoria Developers LLC disagreed, saying it did not offset construction costs.

Since was attached only to the costs of the below-market apartments, they said it was not a building subsidy.

Council members and community groups whose testimony followed the presentations of the developers and other interested City officials were most concerned about the affordability numbers.

The project's affordable housing units would rent for $2,700 a month for a one bedroom apartment, and $3,800 for a three bedroom unit.

Constantinides said "Not only is this not affordable, but these rates are actually above market for the vast majority of my community…Until Astoria Cove is made affordable for actual Astorians, I cannot support this project."

There was another issue in the background. Alma Realty was recently condemned by elected officials for its decision to convert the majority of rent stabilized apartments at its Brooklyn Jewish Hospital apartment complex to market rate value.

Today, we are celebrating with Greek pride
"OXI" day and remembering
all those Greek brave men and women
who fought and gave their lives
for Freedom and Democracy for GREECE.

ΖΗΤΩ Η 28 ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΥ 1940!

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All Attendees Shine at Hellenic American Chamber of Commerce Gala

By Constantine S. Sirigos
TNH Staff Writer

LEFT: Nancy Papaioannou, the first woman to serve as president of HACC and Atlantic Bank, is greeted with warm and enthusiastic applause.

RIGHT: The Pierre Hotel's Grand Ballroom was filled with HACC's stalwarts and friends on Oct. 17 for HACC's 66th Annual Award Dinner Dance.

NEW YORK – Venerable institutions like the Hellenic American Chamber of Commerce (HACC) can continue to make an impact on their communities by building on the achievements of their longtime members, but the real challenge is to attract young talent and energy to secure the future. The Chamber's 66th Annual Dinner Dance and Young Professionals Gala at the Pierre Hotel on October 17 were proof they are capable of both.

The Pierre's Grand Ballroom was the scene of the banquet for the Chamber's "Person of the Year Award," which was presented to Robert D. Somerville, the former chairman of the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS), and down the hall the Young Professionals event was packed with people and kefi.

Lou Katsos served as the Emcee and welcomed the guests on behalf of the Executive Board. He presented an overview of the Chamber's history and its development from its founding by ship owners to its expansion under the leadership of exceptional presidents into a multifaceted organization representing the many fields in which the Greek-Americans excel.

Katsos acknowledged the presence of dignitaries, including George Iliopoulos, the Greek Consul General, whom the guests were delighted to learn has just attained ambassadorial rank, Vasilios Philippou, Consul General Cyprus and Manos Koubarakis, the Greek Consul.

The invocation was offered by the Very Rev. Sylvester Berberis, pastor of the Church of the Zoodohos Peghe.

After the gathering greeted Nancy Papaioannou, the Chamber's first woman president, with enthusiastic applause, she declared "I am determined to bring the Chamber to new levels following its 66 year history," and she spotlighted upcoming events such as the 8th annual New York City Greek Film Festival that runs from October 18-30.

Papaioannou then shined the spotlight on the Young Professionals – by "our pride and joy. The Chamber's future," and thanked all those responsible for the evening's success, such as dinner chairman Ted Sogotis.

Katsos told TNH that one of the purposes of the event "is to acknowledge certain special people who have helped the chamber over the years," like the honoree.

Clay Maitland, the Chamber's Chairman, introduced Somerville, who began his acceptance speech by saying "It's quite humbling to be up here. I am retired and I did not expect that such opportunities would come up."

He expressed gratitude for the honor and for those he worked with through the years, especially ABS's scholarship committee, which helps supply the industry with people with the qualifications that are difficult to find. "Investing in our young people," is vital he said.

In the evening's most touching moment, Somerville spoke of his love affair with Greece and "the joy of all those friendships," born of it.

Robert Shaw, last year's recipient, then passed on the handsome award – a nautical clock – to Somerville.

Guests were impressed with the little-known story, shared by a number of speakers, of the Greek shipping industry's contributions to the allied victory in WWII as the lifeline of Europe – at a price of the lives of 2000 Greek merchant seaman and the destruction of 70 percent of the Greek fleet.

They also learned of the industry's revival with the help of a grateful United States.

George Zapantis and Dr. Ananea Adamidis, HACC Board Members serve as liaisons and hosted the event of the Young Professionals group. Zapantis said "today we brought together 200 of the most diversely accomplished, intelligent and dynamic young Hellenes in the community." He said HACC is committed to fostering their professional development and Dr. Adamidis said in return they are expected "to develop into active and productive members."

Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney told TNH "I am proud to be here with the Chamber of Commerce…and to represent the vibrant Greek community… and I am so thrilled that Nancy was elected the first woman president of Atlantic Bank and the Chamber. " Maloney told TNH, "The DNA for Greek entrepreneurship is here tonight and this group will help rebuild and make Greece stronger and better than ever, and I will be there as part of the team and help in any way I can."

Asked why he came all the way from Philadelphia, Paul Kotrotsios, the founder of the annual Hermes Expo trade show that has been presenting companies and products from Greece since 1992, told TNH "When the president of the Chamber calls and tell me to be here, I am here. Nancy Papaioannou is a terrific person and professional and she deserves our support. She and people like Kimon Bakos at Atlantic Bank have been great supporters of community events and we need more of them."

Aphrodite Kotrotsios, who travelled with her father and sister Stavroula, congratulated Zapantis and Dr. Adamides for organizing "a fabulous event. I am proud to be here to support my good friends." Her exuberant friend Fay Papadakis, who declared herself shy, told TNH with a smile, "I agree with everything Aphrodite said."

Music and dancing followed the ceremonies in the ballroom, fired up by Power Station Entertainment, founded by Christos Lambropoulos, who played the bouzouki and was joined by instrumentalists and singers including Rena Tsapelas. The Young Professionals got a head start down the hallway with kefi supplied by Asteri Entertainment led by bouzouki player Spiro Papavlasopoulos and featuring singers Anthi Aggelou and Fotis Dimitratos.

Archons Honor Religious Freedom Champion and Defender of Patriarchate

TNH Staff

NEW YORK – Still basking in the glow of the ground blessing for the St. Nicholas shrine at Ground Zero at noon – Archbishop Demetrios of America called it a great day from Alpha to Omega – clergy, laity, and friends of the Greek Orthodox Church gathered at the New York Hilton for the banquet of the Order of St. Andrew, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, on October 18.

The annual dinner, as always a tasteful affair, is the occasion for the presentation on the Athenagoras Human Rights Award. This year's recipient was distinguished attorney Jan Alan Sekulow, founder of the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ), which Time magazine called "the leading advocacy group for religious freedom."

The night before, the Archons presented the Nicholas J. Bouras Award for extraordinary Archon Stewardship award to Christopher Stratakis, Esq.

Sekulow was introduced by Dr. Anthony Limberakis, National Commander of the Archons. A brief tribute video was also screened and the banquet program revealed that "…on innumerable occasions, he has supported and championed the cause of the Orthodox Christian world by his endeavors on behalf of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Patriarchate of Jerusalem."

The irrepressible Dr. Limberakis put the event in the context of the recent deepening of relations between the Greek and Jewish-American community by noting their many common values, such as devotion to family and education. He reminded that Greek and Jewish-Americans are ranked first and second respectfully among immigrant groups in education. He added that the rankings are reversed for income, but noted to laughter, "that's only because they are based on reported income."

Sekulow began his acceptance speech by thanking his family and his law partners "who are like my own brothers." He then read a 1969 statement by Patriarch Athenagoras about the turmoil in the world that puts our common values to the test that remains only too appropriate today.

He was humbled by the awards, he said, just as he felt when he argued the first of the 12 cases – all of which he has won – before the U.S. Supreme Court as the grandson of an immigrant who fled religious persecution in Russia in 1914.

His Eminence concluded the evening with an Archiepiscopal Exhortation, and referred to the importance and splendor of the whole day. He emphasized the importance of the efforts of the Archons, which he said "are even more worthy of recognition" given the often frustrating responses of the Government of Turkey.

Archbishop Demetrios declared that Sekulow's achievements are a tribute not only to his brilliance as a lawyer, but to his dedication to Truth and Justice.

The guests were welcomed by John Halecky, National Secretary of the Archons and Archon John Zavitsanos served as the evening's Emcee and acknowledged the dignitaries and the diplomatic corps. Limberakis thanked all who fight for the causes championed by the Archons, especially the Order of AHEPA, represented by Philip Frangos, its Supreme President, "which support the Ecumenical Patriarchate with such energy."

Limberakis expressed special gratitude from to Fr. Alex Karloutsos, Protopresbyter of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, "who works indefatigably on both sides of the Atlantic and today on both ends of Manhattan," referring the St. Nicholas event. Limberakis also acknowledged the work of Presbytera Xanthi Karloutsos, whom he said avoids outside the spotlight, and asked to stand up to receive appreciative applause.

John Metaxas, Archon and CBS News correspondent, welcomed the guests and introduced the dais. The Invocation was offered by Archbishop Demetrios of America assisted by Fr. John Vlahos, Dean of Holy Trinity Cathedral, who was the first to refer to the ground blessing and it's symbolizing of the triumph of good over evil when he closed his prayer by invoking St. Paul: "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

The musical entertainment was provided by Grigoris Maninakis accompanied by Glafkos Kontemeniotis on piano.

(L-R) John Halecky Jr. Archbishop Demetrios, Jay Alan Sekulow, receiving the redesigned Athengoras Human Rights Award, Dr. Anthony Limberakis and Bishop Sevastianos of Zela.

Stratakis Receives Extraordinary Archon Stewardship Award

Archbishop Demetrios of American and Dr. Anthony Limberakis, National Commander, Order of St. Andrew, present Christopher Stratakis with the Nicholas J. Bouras Extraordinary Archon Stewardship Award on Oct. 16. (L-R): John Stratakis, Erene Stratakis, Sophia Stratakis Huling, the honoree, Archbishop Demetrios, Dr. Anthony Limberakis, Father Alexander Karloutsos.

Rep. Gus Bilirakis Leads Congressional Delegation to Greece and Cyprus

Continued from page 1

Zone. "We must be firm and take a strong position and denounce those moves," he said.

Bilirakis said the State Department statement about Turkey's provocations had to be stronger. "It was good that I was there," to make a stronger condemnation, he said. "The United States has to support Cyprus," but he added the Obama administration has been good in that regard.

When he was on the Foreign Affairs Committee, Bilirakis got a high State Department official to say on the record that Cyprus and Israel have the right to enter into bilateral agreements in the EEZ without Turkey's interference,

He is very excited, as are the three countries themselves, about the increasing cooperation between Greece, Israel and Cyprus.

In addition to discussions with Evangelos Venizelos, Deputy Prime Minster; Foreign Minister, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Minister of Administrative Reform and e-Governance; Yiannis Maniatis, Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change and Dimitrios Avramopoulos, the Greek Defense Minister, the trip included visits to U.S. military personal at the vital base at Souda Bay in Crete.

There was also a briefing at the Greek Pentagon which one participant called "absolutely fascinating." A 4-star general referred to Greece (and the alliance with Cyprus and Israel) as the last line of defense for the Christian World, a statement that moved Rep. Bachman.

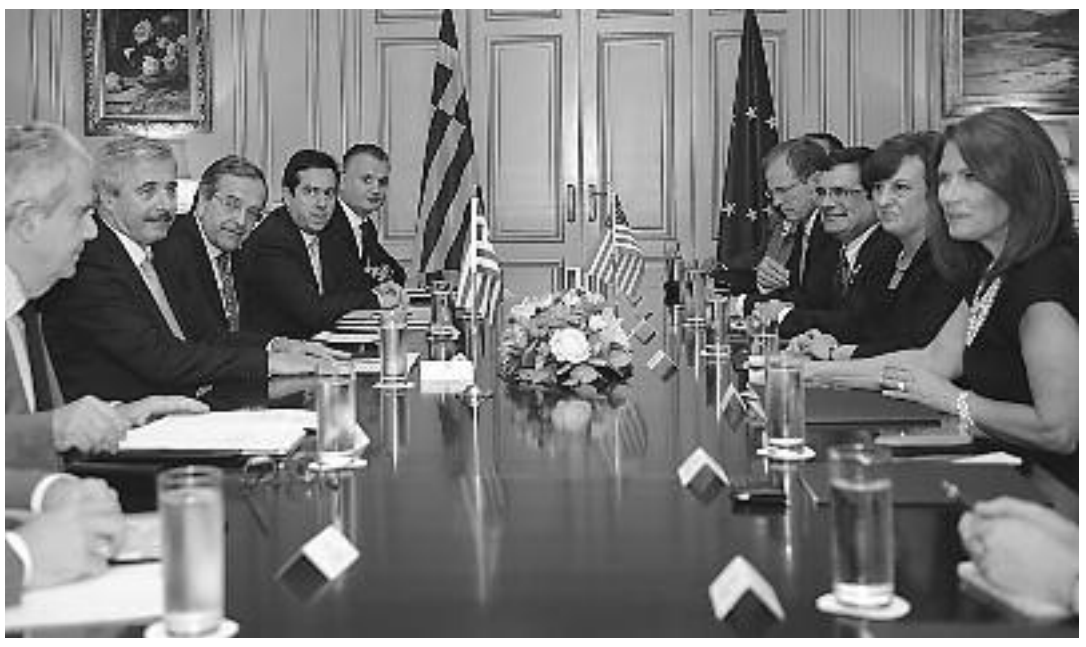
A GREEK-AMERICAN GOES HOME

The trip's personal highlight for Bilirakis came when he addressed the Greek Parliament. "It was an honor…to represent the U.S. as a Hellene," he told TNH.

The emotional experience made him think of his grandparents, all of whom were born in Greece and who instilled their love of Greece and its cultures and traditions in him.

He said the first few paragraphs of his presentation were in Greek, but even when he was reading his English text, "when I felt it in my heart, I said it in Greek."

Bilirakis said "The people are suffering and I feel for them,"



Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras (third from L) meets with the Congressional Delegation (CODEL) led by Congressman Gus Bilirakis (4th from R).

but he and Bachman were very impressed with the ability of the members of the coalition to work together despite their philosophical differences to overcome the crisis despite decades of hostility.

Bilirakis said "they are working hand in hand to save the country and make the reforms."

He was especially impressed by Mitsotakis, who "showed us a chart of what he is doing and it is outstanding.…he is a statesman…making some tough decisions on reforms and transparency in the government, giving citizens access to services through the internet."

Bilirakis said "The MPs were also pleased," with the visit, and noted they were also concerned about ISIS, which threatens regional stability. They told him, "Please do everything you can to destroy ISIS."

He said Michelle Bachman "has always wanted to travel with me officially to Greece… she is a Philhellene - she named one of her children Sophia – as a result of her studying history.

"Bachman came out of the meeting very pro Greek," he said, and noted that although she is retiring from the House, she will remain an important conservative opinion leader.

Bilirakis is very excited about energy exploration in Greece, and noted the important Trans-Adriatic Pipeline, which passes through Greece and Albania, where they spent the trip's last day and met with its Deputy Prime Minister. Bilirakis called Albania a strong ally of the U.S. and noted Greece has supportive its EU candidacy, but in Albania he brought up the issue of the rights of Albania's Greeks in Northern Epiros, where his wife Evdoxia has roots.

"There is dialogue there," and they know they must respect minority rights to enter the EU.

Bilirakis was also impressed with Archbishop Anastasios and the new Cathedral of Tirana.

Top left: Almost 3000 people including numerous public officials and community leaders made sure to be present at Ground Zero for the ground blessing of the new St. Nicholas Shrine. (L-R) Andy Manatos, retired U.S. Senator Paul Sarbanes, U.S. Senator Charles Schumer. Top right: (L-R) In the back ground: Metropolitans Evangelos of New Jersey, Savas of Pittsburgh, John of Atlanta, Iakovos of Chicago, Archbishop Demetrios of America, Metropolitan Methodios of Boston (obscured) and Nicholas of Detroit. Foreground: Fr. John Touloumes, Archdeacon Panteleimon Papadopoulos, Deacon Eleftherios Constantine and Fr. John Romas. Bottom Left: Hundreds crowded onto the platform on which the new St. Nicholas will rise. Bottom right: George and Zoe Kousoulis, bearing water from the 9/11 memorial in honor of their daughter Danielle, participated in the procession of those who lost family members in 2001.

A Day of Memory, Hope, and Glory at Ground Zero

Continued from page 1

lowed a brief video that presented the Calatrava design and the parish's history.

Fr. John Romas, the longtime pastor of St. Nicholas participated in the service, which had an ecumenical dimension. The Old Testament reading was offered by Harriet Schleifer of the American Jewish Committee and NYPD police Sgt. Steven Jerome read the epistle. Demetrios read the Gospel, and Metropolitan Methodios of Boston read a message from Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. "May your labors, perseverance, dedication and faith manifest in the construction of this sacred temple. We pray it will truly become a haven of the tempest-tossed, a comfort for mourning , a healing of passion, a refuge of the weak, a sign of victory over evil, and a pouring of the heavens on the Earth," wrote the patriarch.

Thanking all who made this historic rebuilding and ground blessing possible, Demetrios said "this resurrected St. Nicholas Church will be a monument declaring the victory of good over evil, of love over hate, of the ultimate power of life over death and destruction." Quoting Psalm 118, he said "this is the day the Lord has made, let us give thanks."

LOCAL AND COMMUNITY LEADERS

One of the day's highlights was the construction of two memorial cairns symbolizing the Twin Towers, consisting of blocks of stone that will be incorporated into the new church.

Benefactors and representatives of major community organizations were called upon to place the stones, including John Papajohn, Michael Psaros, Peter J. Pappas, Sr., Peggy Sotirhos representing the Jaharis Family Foundation, George S. Tsandikos representing Leadership 100, Dr. Anthony Limberakis – National Commander of the Archons, Andrew Liveris, Dennis Mehiel representing the Faith endowment, Aphrodite Skeadas – Philoptochos National Philoptochos President, Louis Koumoutsos – Chief of the Port Authority (PA) Police Department, who honored the memory of the 37 officers who died on 9/11, and Regina Katopodis, whose family were among the parish's founders, representing the community of St. Nicholas.

Liveris, Chairman of The Hellenic Initiative (THI) told TNH "hundreds of years from now people will look back at the resilience of humanity and the importance of the monument we have created for those who died, and those who lived."

Dennis Mehiel, was praised for being instrumental in the resolution of the dispute with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey that threatened to exclude the historic parish from the new World Trade Center, as was New York State Senator Dean Skellos, who was accompanied by New York State Senator Nicole Malliotakis, structural engineer Emanuel Velivasakis, and the late Emanuel Demos.

Demetrios shared his thoughts about Sept. 12, 2001, when he and clergy visited the spot where St. Nicholas was crushed in the collapse of the Twin Towers. "We stood there frozen, paralyzed," said Archbishop Demetrios. "There was a big hole instead of a church. It left a terrible kind of impression."

George Pataki, who was governor of New York in 2001, recounted reassuring His Eminence, saying "Do not worry. You have my word," about its rebuilding. Pataki acknowledged "it was easy to say but hard to do," but praised the efforts of the "influential and powerful Greek-American community, including George Demos, who shined a national media spotlight during his Congressional campaign on the PA for reneging on its agreement with the Church.

Patrick J. Foye, the PA's current Executive Director, representing Governor Cuomo, whose election in 2011 gave him the opportunity to ensure the final agreement, alluded to the conflict that added insult to the tragedy of 9/11: "thirteen years ago the church lay in ruins – today, we will witness the reversal of that sacrilege. Five years ago, sadly and unimaginably, the Church had no choice but to sue a then-recalcitrant Port Authority to assure the rebuilding of St. Nicholas…our governor and the entire state of New York looks forward to the future consecration of what will be an iconic

Among the officials who honored the community by participating were Assemblywomen Aravella Simotas and Nicole Malliotakis, State Senator Michael Gianaris and Rep. Carolyn Maloney.

house of worship."

Pataki noted that the Church was an important addition to what has been rebuilt so far. "We had remembrance, we had commerce, but without St. Nicholas, we did not have faith," he said.

Calatrava revealed to the gathering that he was in Greece working on his Greek Olympics projects on 9/11, among the reasons that made him very much want to design the new church. He called the Hagia Sophia of Constantinople the Parthenon of Byzantine architecture, and made a poignant connection with St. Nicholas: the original Parthenon was destroyed in a wanton act of state terror by the Persians, and the devotion of the people of Athens to its resurrection shaped the City's destiny.

The renowned architect asked for God to bless his hands and those of his colleagues and all the workers who will build the new shrine, which he designed as "a place of prayer, love, peace and reconciliation."

U.S. Senator Charles Schumer began his address by noting the presence of his distinguished colleague, retired U.S. Senator Paul Sarbanes, and then declared that "Like a phoenix rising from the ashes, this church will show the resilience and fortitude of St. Nicholas and of all New Yorkers."

Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney was also present, as was NY State Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas, who told TNH "today is important for Orthodox Christians and all New Yorkers… we are filling a hole that was left in our hearts and all New York."

New York State Senator Michael Gianaris echoed Simotas' words and added St. Nicholas' had significance for all America and the whole world. "People will come, say a prayer, and remember those we lost and make it part of the experience of visiting Ground Zero."

For Effie Lekas, like make members of the community, it was an emotional day filled with memories and hope. She was baptized at Sts. Constantine and Helen in Brooklyn, which under its pastor Fr. John Lardas has been the home of the St. Nicholas parish since 9/11, and she and her husband, journalist Panikos Panagiotou, spent every good Friday at St. Nicholas. "It was very special to us. We loved the humility of the church and its message…today is a new beginning."

Philip Frangos, the Supreme President of AHEPA said "it is impossible to put in just a few words what this day means for the Hellenic community and AHEPA. I am delighted and humbled to be here on behalf of AHEPA, which has contributed and will continue to contribute to the resurrection on this magnificent Church. "

Zoe Kousoulis lost her daughter, Danielle who worked with John Katsimatides. "The people who organized this event did a fabulous job." Her daughter Eleni is very happy that the families were included in the ceremony.

MISSING MAYORS

The only symbolic shadow cast on the glorious Indian Summer day was disappointment over the absence of notables, including Governor Andrew Cuomo. David Dinkins, who left office more than 20 years ago, was the only former mayor present, and guests thanked him for his attendance. Mayor de Blasio was represented by Greek-American Emma Wolfe, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, and Marco Carion, Commissioner of the Department of Cultural Affairs. Rudy Giuliani, who was mayor on the day of 9/11, was also not there, and his presence would have been particularly fitting: his leadership in calming the city that day – the entire country, actually, as he was dubbed "America's mayor" – was particularly well-received, and in his short-lived 2008 presidential bid, his actions that day eclipsed his achievements in bringing down the city's crime rate as his most electable aspect on a national scale.

INTERNATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

The media presence was extraordinary, a tribute both to the significance of the day and the work of the organizers, including Fr. Alexander Karloutsos, Protopresbyter of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The story was the international lead on the Associated Press website that afternoon. Georgia Linaris' beautiful rendition of Bless America was the perfect ending for the special event, which can be viewed at http://www.stnicholaswtc.org/video and at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3UOo8R5DX5g.

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Ζήτω το Εποζ του '40

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ΜΙΛΑΜΕ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ

Archbishop Demetrios Speaks with TNH about Official Visit to Cyprus

By Theodore Kalmoukos

NEW YORK – Archbishop Demetrios of America in an exclusive interview with TNH called his official visit to Cyprus one of "love, respect and honor for the great heroic island and its suffering people."

The archbishop was officially invited by Cyprus President Nicos Anastasiades during the latter's recent visit to New York for the U.N. Conference. It is Demetrios' to Cyprus, of which a huge part continues to be under Turkish occupation. The archbishop visited Cyprus under the presidencies of the late Tassos Papadopoulos and Demetris Christofias.

The message that Demetrios will bring to Cyprus "is clear," and "as a Greek-American Community, as an Orthodox Church we are with the Cypriot people. We share and sympathize with their pain, agonies and hopes and we are fighting with the means we have towards the solution of the Cyprus issue," he said.

"I can't foresee" what the message he would bring back would be, "but I am sure I will be back even more determined to fight for the unification of Cyprus."

Regarding the recent provocations by the Turks, the archbishop said those "have never stopped, they appear to be a way of life. It is exactly for this reason that we should always be ready for the continuous increase of our efforts to help Cyprus based on the principles of justice, truth, and the right for life and freedom of all the people."

Demetrios said that in his visits to Cyprus, he has "always departed with a strong sense of responsibility to be supportive in any possible way. It has been a 15-year continuously-strengthening relationship with Cyprus and its people, especially with the onset of the economic crisis there." He spoke about many opportunities there, such as "the special annual seminar of the Greek School teachers in Cyprus, has been operating with much success for a number of years now."

Arch. Demetrios (R) in Cyprus with Greek Amb. Vasilis Papaioannou (L), Bish. Sebastian, Archdeacon Panteleimon (rear).

So, why is there still no Cyprus solution after 40 years? "It is clear that the issue is connected with politics and programs that emanate from the Turks," Demetrios said. "Without getting into the area U.S. politics regarding Cyprus, I am of the opinion that America wants a solution of the Cyprus problem. A careful researcher knows very well that quite often, history reveals surprises and unexpected developments. We have experienced such surprises and developments in the 20th century. Furthermore, beyond the human plans for us, there is also God's intervention into historic events and developments and we have experienced such intervention. We believe that God will grant the just and correct solution to the great dream of our heroic and beloved Cyprus."

Leading in the Polls, SYRIZA Moves to Block New President, Force Elections

ATHENS – Widening his lead on Prime Minister Antonis Samaras' New Democracy Conservatives, major opposition Coalition of the Radical Left (SYRIZA) leader Alexis Tsipras is trying to pressure lawmakers outside the ruling parties to make their intentions known on how they will vote for a Greek President in February.

New Democracy and its partner the PASOK Socialists have only 155 votes in the 300-member Parliament, a bare majority, but need 180 to elect their choice for a President or early elections will be called more than a year before their term runs out.

With surveys showing the anti-austerity SYRIZA opening its gap, Tsipras is moving to squeeze Members of Parliament and has already succeeded in getting Independent Greeks (ANEL) leader Panos Kammenos to pledge his party's 14 votes to the Leftists' 71.

With the Democratic Left (DIMAR), a former member of the coalition already indicating it would also not vote for the ruling parties' nominee, that gives the SYRIZA alliance another 10 votes for a total of 95. That means Samaras and Tsipras will be wrestling over the remaining 50 and the coalition needs 25 of them.

Speaking at a meeting of SYRIZA's central committee on Oct. 18, Tsipras claimed that by maintaining an "equivocal stance" on whether they would back the coalition's candidate to succeed President Karolos Papoulias, MPs are fueling fears of last-minute back-room deals to ensure that the nominee is elected and early elections are avoided.

"For us the issue is not numerical, it is political," he said. "It does not have to do with who is president, it has to do with the government no longer having the democratic legitimacy to continue destroying the country."

Tsipras' comments came as a survey conducted by the University of Macedonia showed that the Leftists are now 7.5 percentage points ahead of New Democracy after another poll last week gave them a 6.5 percent lead, and one earlier put it as high as 11 percent.

Tsipras is riding the crest of anger at the big pay cuts, tax hikes, slashed pensions, and worker firings that Samaras implemented on orders of the country's international lenders, the Troika of the European Union-International Monetary Fund-European Central Bank (EU-IMF-ECB) that is putting up 240 billion euros ($306 billion) in two bailouts.

The opinion poll put SYRIZA at 27.5 percent, New Democracy with 20, To Potami 7.5, the extremists Golden Dawn 6.5, the Communist Party KKE 5.5, the Olive Tree alliance, which includes PASOK 4, ANEL 2.5 and Democratic Left (DIMAR) 0.5.

Compared to the previous survey by Macedonia University, which was a month earlier, the gap between SYRIZA and New Democracy has grown by 1.5 percent.

A Metron Analysis survey for Parapolitika newspape showed that support for SYRIZA is running at 32.9 percent against 26.1 percent for New Democracy, indicating how much Samaras and New Democracy are paying the price for changing his opposition to austerity while out of office to embrace it after he won in 2012, but without enough of the vote to rule outright.

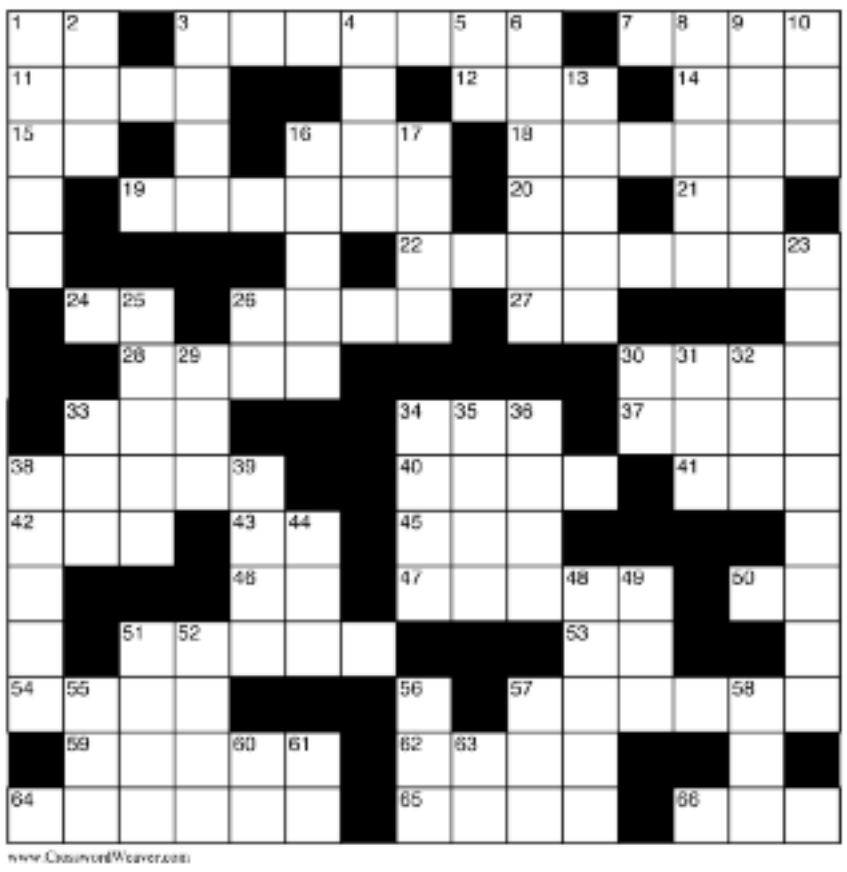
The Macedonia University poll also found that a slightly larger proportion of Greeks (49.5 percent) believes that Parliament should not elect a new President than those (43 percent) who want it left in the hands of MPs, although the lawmakers are told how to vote or face ejection from their parties.

PASOK leader Evangelos Venizelos, who is also Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister, argued it's in the interest of voters to keep supporting the parties who ruined many of their lives.

He said that early elections and a subsequent SYRIZA-led government would be damaging for Greece. "At best it will prove to be a political fraud but there is the possibility of total disaster, the canceling out of people's sacrifices," said Venizelos. "It does not take a lot for the system to collapse."

THE HERALD SQUARE

TNH's Crossword Challenge



ACROSS

1 Strrd. in American Pie (init.)
3 Arthur of the White House
7 Big Red Machine's Concepcion
11 Hawaiian Island
12 George W's brother
14 Greek Island also known as Tzia
15 Plyd. by Buscemi on Boardwalk Empire (init.)
16 Visiting Int'l. Faculty (abbrev.)
18 A Kennedy
19 Bobby Ewing's first wife
20 Ralph Kramden's BFF (init.)
21 Cowboys' record-setting RB (init.)
22 Former NYU President John
24 Cincinnati's st. (abbrev.)
26 Starred in original Scarface flim
27 Hutch of TV's Starsky & Hutch (init.)
28 Love god
30 Ocean Data Inoperability Pltfrm. (abbrev.)
33 Football team, with Green or Tampa
34 Oper. Support Facility (abbrev.)
37 Foot subdivision
38 St. Constantine's mother
40 A Beatle
41 Jewish Student Org. (abbrev.)
42 Whichever
43 Not out
45 Type of retirement acct. (init.)
46 Negative
47 Square root of sixty-four
50 Civil War pres. (init.)
51 Eighth Greek letter
53 Open Int. (abbrev.)
54 Toy on a string
57 A Karamanlis
59 Doherty of the Mamas and the Papas
62 Bee-like insect
64 Atone
65 Lane of Superman fame
66 Railway Express Agcy. (abbrev.)

DOWN

1 Charles Liston's nickname
2 Consume food
3 Castro Country
4 What a ship does
5 "At Last" singer (init.)
6 Examine a document again
8 Eddie Murphy's character in Coming to America
9 Nissan Model
10 Earnings Aft. Tax (abbrev.)
13 Stocks alternative
16 Aphrodite, in Rome
17 Teo of Indy 500
23 Wrote Oedipus
25 Nelson's best friend on I Deam of Jeannie
26 The "Show Me" State (abbrev.)
29 Type of whiskey
30 Greek diphthong
31 Drone Noise Jmmr. (abbrev.)
32 Info. and Computer Science (abbrev.)
33 A Cartwright
34 Sheriff Andy Taylor's son
35 Indian female garment
36 Federation of United Ancient Geologists (abbrev.)
38 Sold Oliver Douglas his farm in Hooterville
39 Square root of eighty-one
44 What the opposite of is, is
48 Basketball, in slang
49 "___ the season to be jolly..."
51 Tenured Young Educators Div. (abbrev.)
52 Cultivate
55 Tribute
56 Tool used to punch holes in a belt
57 Kinematic Sciences, Inst. (abbrev.)
58 Devoured
60 Omaha's st. (abbrev.)
61 Swed. hard rock guitarist (init.)
63 The Greek Tycoon (init.)

Solution to last week's puzzle

A	D	A	M	S	■	C	A	■	■	E	S	L	I	■
T	E	A	M	■	G	A	L	I	S	■	O	O	R	P
E	T	A	S	■	■	R	■	K	E	■	P	A	A	R
■	R	■	■	T	I	S	■	E	■	■	H	D	N	A
F	O	S	T	E	R	■	H	A	R	R	I	S	■	T
O	I	■	■	■	E	N	U	■	A	B	A	■	■	■
R	T	■	B	A	N	■	D	E	■	■	■	■	R	E
M	■	C	A	V	E	■	S	■	S	M	O	K	E	R
E	■	U	S	O	■	■	O	P	R	A	H	■	T	■
R	■	Z	I	N	F	A	N	D	E	L	■	A	S	A
■	■	■	L	■	R	R	■	■	■	P	A	L	I	N
J	A	B	■	E	A	T	■	G	I	H	A	■	N	■
U	■	B	E	N	C	H	■	A	■	■	■	J	A	Y
R	E	A	■	A	■	U	■	H	O	O	P	S	■	E
Y	A	K	■	B	A	R	B	A	R	I	N	O	■	S

Greece Prepares for Golden Dawn Party Trial

ATHENS — A prosecutor handling the criminal investigation of Greece's Nazi-inspired, far-right Golden Dawn party on Thursday sought to have 70 party members, including the jailed party leader and 17 other lawmakers, stand trial on charges ranging from running a criminal organization to murder and weapons offences.

In a 700-page document, prosecutor Isidoros Doyiakos describes Golden Dawn as a strictly hierarchical criminal organization that aimed "to propagate and impose its political beliefs and theories through violence."

Doyiakos added that the party sought to "violently confront foreigners, dissidents and anybody else it considered as a serious ideological opponent."

Once marginal, the unabashedly nationalistic, xenophobic and anti-Semitic Golden Dawn erupted onto Greece's political scene in recent years targeting voters disaffected by the country's acute financial crisis and a wave of uncontrolled illegal immigration.

It won 18 of Parliament's 300 seats in 2012, and is currently polling fourth, amid political uncertainty generated by the prospect that Greece may be forced to hold early elections in March.

A three-member panel of judges is expected to issue final indictments within weeks. If it upholds Doyiakos' recommendations, Golden Dawn leader Nikolaos Michaloliakos and the party's 15 other lawmakers, as well as two more that have left the party, face a maximum 20-year prison sentence should they be convicted.

Michaloliakos and another eight party lawmakers are in pretrial detention. All the suspects have denied any wrongdoing.

Doyiakos also recommended that another 13 initial suspects should be cleared of any charges.

The crackdown on Golden Dawn followed the 2013 fatal stabbing of a leftwing musician, over which Golden Dawn supporter Giorgos Roupakias has been charged and is included in the proposed indictment.

Roupakias has denied the charges, and claimed he had little connection with Golden Dawn, which has also greatly distanced itself from him.

The American Jewish Committee issues a statement on October 16 applauded a Greek state prosecutor's decision to try the party leaders, who've been accused of anti-Semitic activities, which it has also denied.

"Prime Minister Samaras and Greece's law enforcement and judicial authorities have pursued Golden Dawn with admirable courage and determination, demonstrating principled leadership," said AJC Executive Director David Harris.

Cyprus Plans Block of Turkey's Bid to Join EU

Continued from page 1

Tensions flared earlier this month when Turkey announced its gas search plans, prompting Anastasiades to suspend U.N.-mediated reunification talks a few days before they were supposed to enter a more intensified phase.

Anastasiades said Oct. 20th that he would be "unworthy of his public mandate" if he continued to negotiate "under threat."

Cyprus was split along ethnic lines in 1974 when Turkey invaded after a coup by supporters of union with Greece. Turkey doesn't recognize Cyprus as a state and opposes its offshore energy search.

Anastasiades suspended reunification talks earlier this month after Turkey announced its gas search plans. Cyprus condemned the move as a breach of its sovereign rights and international law.

The Turkish ship entered Greece's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) to explore off Cyprus on the morning of Oct. 20 accompanied by a warship, the government in Nicosia said.

Russia was also conducting military exercises in the same area but with Cyprus's permission.

Moscow has said it would stand by Anastasiades in what he called Turkish provocation. The Cypriot leader met with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in Milan.

With international companies getting licenses to explore for oil and gas off Cyprus, the Turks have said they want a share of whatever is found and plan to do their own research.

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

Greece's Toothless Corruption Crackdown

Continued from page 1

andros Rakintzis. "We cannot estimate how many individuals have been saved from criminal investigations and the money it involves," said Tzavaras. "It's billions."

The government's response was that the March clause was a mistake, and would have no bearing on the effectiveness of future prosecutions.

As it stands, understaffed law enforcement has helped to make a dent in the long string of corruption charges plaguing Greece, said the Times. They have already had some marked success, despite operating on a paltry budget.

One of the most celebrated victories of this sort was last year's landmark verdict against former Greek Defense Minister Akis Tsochatzopoulos, who was found guilty of establishing an elaborate network to launder money he received in bribes.

While international lenders have pressured the government to do more to weed out corruption and bribery, which are commonplace in Greece in virtually every sector, including paying off doctors in hospitals for operations and better treatment, relatively little has been done.

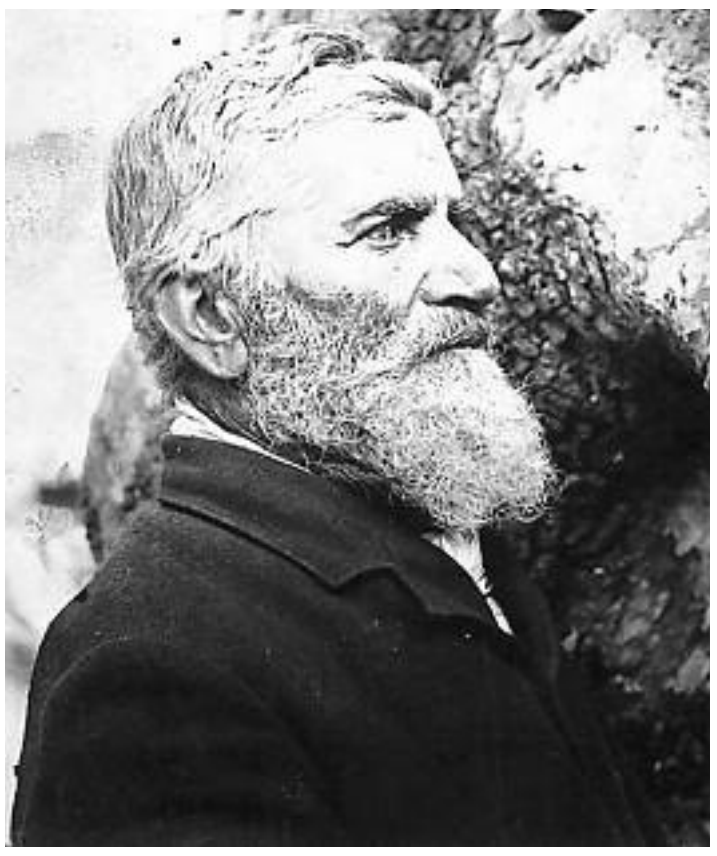
There have been a few high-level prosecutions, such as the life sentence given former Thessaloniki Mayor Vassilis Papageorgopoulos for embezzling 18 million euros, but that was reduced to 12 years and now he's seeking an even lesser sentences. Cohorts convicted with them were also shown leniency.

The government also is mulling proposals for lesser sentences for corruption and wrongdoing and to let those convicted of those crimes to buy their way out of jail time.

ALL HISTORY

The Hellenic Music of Yesteryear: 1st Greek Singers in the United States

By Steve Frangos
TNH Staff Writer



1903 photo of Greek George taken by Charles Fletcher Lummis, who centered his home's patio around the sycamore tree.

CHICAGO- Who was the first Hellene in the New World to raise his or her voice in song? Far from an imponderable question we can easily chart, in broad terms to be sure, Greek singers in North America from the 1830s onwards. There is no telling what future research and writings will provide. With publications such as Gaspar Papi and Ana Pons Their Lives and Descendants by Latrell Pappy Mickler (Media, PA: Infinity, 2008) appearing on the New Smyrna Colonists, by one of their descendants, we may yet hear family tales that involve song.

For those of you sick the day they taught about the New Smyrna Colony in Greek school it was the largest British colony every established in the New World. Andrew Turnbull (1718–1792) a Scottish physician organized this venture by founding New Smyrna, Florida, named in honor of his wife's birthplace, in 1768. Turnbull was married to Maria Gracia Dura Bin, the daughter of a Greek merchant from Smyrna. His colony was located in the province of British East Florida, and encompassed some 101,400 acres; it was nearly three times the size of the colony at Jamestown. More than half of the 1,225 immigrants were Greeks or of Greek descendent.

One of the indentured servants among these colonists was the 17 year-old Gaspar Papi. Surviving the failure of the colony Papi moved to St. Augustine and today his descendants live throughout the United States.

By the 1830s, according to the research of Archimandrite Alexander Doumouras (1936-1987), Greek and other Orthodox merchants had found each other and gathered together in port cities across the United States. Doumouras contends that these collectives of merchants sought to maintain their Orthodox faith and did so but in the English language. With no priests, it is unclear in Doumouras' account, as to the manner in which these Orthodox faithful observed their faith together. On one point Doumouras is crystal clear, they sang together, and again did so in English. I look forward to church histories providing us more detailed accounts of these early meetings of Orthodox in America.

On May 4, 1896, Michael Arachtingi recorded eight songs for Berliner records in New York City. Berliner Gramophone was the first flat disc record label in the United States. Its records were played on Emile Berliner's invention, the Gramophone, and therefore not cylinders as were more common in the recording industry of the 1890s. I have never heard these recordings. From the names alone it would seem that the first Greek recordings made in North America were Anatolian in origin. I say this given the titles of individual songs such as "Smyrna Serenade," "Great Constantinople Song" and the fact that one of them is said to be in Turkish.

The late Dino X. Pappas, one of the leading collectors on Greek and Balkan commercial recordings, contended that many of these very first commercial recordings, made in the United States, were of musicians who worked on the ocean liners then crossing back and forth endlessly over the Atlantic ocean. Upon landing the musicians would disembark and play in various city venues until their ship set sail for Europe once more.

The first documented occasion, that I have been able to locate, when Americans heard us sing, was in 1903. It was a singular event.

Charles Fletcher Lummis (1859-1928) is a striking romantic figure of the old Southwest. A man of many parts Lummis was, at different moments in his life, City Editor of Los Angeles Times, librarian at the Los Angeles Public Library, and founder of the Southwest Museum, Indian rights activist, magazine publisher, and home builder. Lummis was never able not to write and given that he played host to any and all visiting (and all local) intellectuals and eccentrics he unintentionally left a vivid and unique record of Los Angeles and many parts of the Southwest.

I do not wish to make Lummis' life sound like an archival project. A man of large parts Lummis regularly hosted dinner parties at his home. Lummis had named his home, "El Alisal," after the property's sycamore grove. He had constructed his home such that its patio was centered about the most majestic tree. This endless stream of parties, which Lummis termed "noises" by the way, proved to be a magnet for musicians, poets, writers, artists and assorted others.

This movable feast of bohemian and intellectual culture often saw inclusion in Lummis' writings. Given Lummis' many enthusiasms these same individuals (and groups) were often the subjects of a portrait in front of his camera. Today, the Autry National Center in Los Angeles holds the vast majority of his private papers, photographs and other artifacts.

It was in 1903, that Lummis was introduced to George Allen. Allen had changed his name from Yiorgos Caralambo (d September 2, 1913) and was in fact better known throughout the Southwest, simply as Greek George. This encounter sees extensive description in a chapter of Lummis' book, Mesa, Canon and Pueblo (New York: Appleton-Century Co., 1938). It seems mutual friends brought the two men together. Allen had served as a scout, guide and camel drover for the United States Army before and during the Civil War. Allen had been brought to Lummis in an effort to help Allen secure a military pension.

Again, for those of you unfamiliar with American as well as Greek-American history, Allen was part of the United States Army's efforts to introduce camels into the west. American military officers visited western Anatolia in an effort to purchase camels and to hire experienced drovers. On February 10, 1856, Caralambo and seven other drovers arrived at the Port of Indianola in Lavaca County, Texas with their animals aboard the USS Supply. The most cited account of this venture is Steven Dean Pastis' article, "Go West Greek George," which first appeared in Greek Accent (July-August 1984) a magazine published by the National Herald.

The eight men are identified: Caralambo, Hi Jolly (later known as Philip Tedro), Mimico Teodora (Mico), Hadjiatis Yannaco (Long Tom), Anastasio Coralli (Short Tom), Michelo Georgios, Yanni Lliato and Giorgios Costi. Needless to say the handling and care of these great beasts of burden required special knowledge and abilities. Greek George, Hi Jolly and the others were hired to teach the soldiers how to handle and pack the animals. In time 100 camels were brought to the United States by the government. This is a complicated topic since private citizens and various companies also brought camels as pack animals to North America during this same time period. Innumerable government reports, books and popular articles now exist of this army experiment and its ultimate abandonment in 1862. What happened to these eight Greeks, after 1862, is now not simply American history it is the stuff of Western legends and lore.

Caralambro, soon nicknamed Greek George remained, for the most part, in the Los Angeles area. Aside from his own exploits and legends Caralambro is most associated in western history with the capture on May 5, 1874, of Tiburcio Vasquez, the most notorious of the Mexican banditos to terrorize California in the 1870s and 1880s. A debate still rages around Caralambro's exact involvement in this affair. Caralambo eventually later moved to Montebello, CA where he became a U.S. citizen in 1867, changing his name to George Allen. Descendants of Caralambro/Allen still reside in California.

As it so frequently happened on the day Caralambro met Lummis a dinner party was planned. Here is a section of Lummis' account of that evening: "I coerced Greek George to stay. The bath removed his stains of farming, and his blue jeans were cleaned. He had never before sat to such a table and such a company; but he carried himself irreproachably, with the modest poise of his patriarchal kind, and gave a good account of himself in conversation, I interpreting (Lummis and Caralambro spoke to each other in Spanish). He sat beside Francis Fisher Browne of The Dial, and opposite was that queen of the American stage, Helena Modjeska, and her husband, Count Bozenta, all of whom asked him many questions. When we had come well along in community singing, I begged Greek George to sing. 'Surely…you must remember the songs your mother taught you, the songs of when you were a boy.' Timidly, leaning against the door-jam, he began; and one by one, as he sang, the old folksongs of his native land came back to him. And tears ran down into his huge beard – and tears trickled down the cheek of Modjeska, and many others of that brilliant company were wet-eyed. He was no singer; but, lost in memory and emotion, he held us spellbound for half an hour."

The arrival and presence of Greeks in North America is not simply a matter of raw demographics. There is no denying that we represent and have always represented much more to those among whom we live in the Diaspora. And they listen to us far more carefully than most among us now imagine.

hellenenow1@yahoo.com

Strong Community Support for Rep. Niki Tsongas

TNH Staff

(L-R) Vassos Vassiliou, Philip Christopher, Savas Tsivicos, Tasos Pardalis, John Metaxas, Theoharris Christou, Nicolas Nicolaou, Carol Kanin, Andrew Gounardes, Nick Kolovos, Rep. Niki Tsongas, Andreas Akaras, Sophia Cotzia, Bill Matsikoudis, Andreas Comodromos, Mike Hadjiloucas Constantine Bardis, Michael Apostolides, Petros Mavromihalis, Anthony Kammas

NEW YORK – Greek- and Cypriot-American community leaders, including a heartening turnout by young professionals, gathered for a fundraiser in Manhattan in support of the re-election of Congresswoman Niki Tsongas.

Greetings were offered by Philip Christopher, a member of the host committee that included Dennis Mehiel and Nikos Mouyiaris.

The veterans reminisced about Tsongas' husband, the late Senator Paul Tsongas, who ran for president in 1992 and was a stalwart in the community's efforts to strengthen U.S. relations with Greece and Cyprus and to end the illegal Turkish occupation.

The guests encouraged Tsongas to be a champion for the community on issues such as support for Greece, the plight of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the name dispute with FYROM, and to shine a spotlight on Turkey's current actions, including recent provocations in Cyprus, that demonstrate its unreliability as a U.S. ally.

Tsongas agreed with Christopher that Turkey is "taking advantage of the moment," when the world is focused on the ISIS crisis, though a number of guests noted that has long been Ankara's modus operandi.

Savas Tsivicos, President of the Hellenic Federation of NJ said "we are not saying America should cut off relations with Turkey…but they should be even-handed. We cannot call someone an ally," and ignore them when they take action opposing the U.S. over and over again.

Andreas Comodromos, Founding President of the Cyprus-US Chamber of Commerce, expressed everyone's disappointment in the lukewarm statement of the State Department:

"They did not say 'Turkey get your warships out of there are go home.'"

In response to the request to send a letter to Secretary of State John Kerry, she said I can't promise the State Department is going to be receptive given the many issues it is dealing with at this moment in time but that doesn't mean we shouldn't make the case, and thanked the participants "for keeping an important issues alive. Your role is invaluable."

Rita Wilson Takes Turn from Acting to Singing

Continued from page 1

anything. They all led up to my new beginning." Wilson has two grown sons, and two step-children from her husband actor Tom Hanks' first marriage.

As for My Big Fat Greek Wedding, Wilson said, "When I showed it to my mother, she loved it. But she said, 'Of course, we're not like them.' Then my sister Lily, who lives next door, came over!" Wilson is widely credited with landing Nia Vardalos the movie deal for the film in 2002, now the top money-making independent film of all time. After seeing Vardalos perform her one-woman show, she urged her husband to set up the film at his company, Playtone, which shopped it around to financiers and distributors on the strength of the Hanks-Wilson seal of approval. Wilson's now involved with production of the sequel to My Big Fat Greek Wedding, set to start filming in January.

Wilson's won many new fans including Pedro Caballero, the Carlyle bartender who has seen them all including a Woody Allen jazz performance, when the arrival of Carla Bruni, wife of the former French president, caused a traffic jam of security men. Before the Rita Wilson show Caballero said: "You're going to love this show. It's completely different. Wilson's one of the best. In my opinion, she has class. Her personality is awesome."

Rita Wilson performed original songs from her upcoming album in her musical debut at Manhattan's Carlyle Café where she played to sell-out audiences.

GREEK AMERICAN STORIES

Finding Paradise

By Phylis (Kiki) Sembos
Special to The National Herald

Living in the suburbs has drawbacks. But, so does living in the city. In fact, living anywhere has disadvantages whether in New York, New Jersey, Florida or Greece. When I had asked a replanted Greek, now living in Athens, if he was happy to have returned to Greece after years of living and working in New York, he said, "Well, it has its disadvantages. I miss certain things." Yet, that's exactly what he'd told me when he had just come to Astoria from Greece. And, I told him as much. He laughed, telling me I was right.

I remember living in Hell's Kitchen as a little girl, across the street from the old Madison Square Garden. We were very poor, heat came from a pot belly stove, we boiled water for baths and were a little hungry, too, at times, being in the midst of a Depression. Yet, our Italian and Greek neighbors were so very friendly, helping one another; doors in the hallway were kept open during the summer. We never knew fear from unwelcome intrusions. Us kids, about six of us, played on those city streets, roller skating, playing hide n' seek, Ringolevio, Kick the can, Hop Scotch, never worrying about predators. And, those streets were always full of strangers, visitors and tourists. The circus, rodeo and ice skating shows were wonderful to see when we stood aside, waiting for the African-American guard crook a finger at us and sneak us in to see a free show. I recall Mayor LaGuardia reading the comics over the radio when the newspapers were on strike. He didn't want the kids to miss out on our favorite comic strips like Little Henry and Dick Tracy. From how I remember it, we were happy kids, despite the hardships.

Moving to upper Manhattan, later on, where the neighborhood sported a public, Olympic sized, salt-water pool that cost a dollar fifty to get in, (Miramar), five movie houses, a beautiful church, (St. Spyridon), four spacious parks overlooking the Hudson River and wide, clean, tree-lined streets, I recall a gang of young trouble makers being chased down the streets and over roof tops by police, periodically, on misdemeanors charges - being drunk and disorderly, shop lifting for thrills, starting brawls in one of the 23 Irish pubs that spotted the neighborhood. It was the first time I'd seen such actions - excepting in the movies.

Every place will have drawbacks because, truly, there is no such place as paradise. Paradise can be created, however, within ourselves. Each of us has the ability to make our own lives better or a living hell. It all depends on our attitude and outlook – to a certain degree. We've seen people with awful disabilities do beautiful art work, or succeed in some kind of sport despite their hard disadvantages. I remember an old woman planting bulbs around city trees that sprung up into daffodils and Tulips come springtime, a janitor that repaired bicycles for us kids when our bikes had problems. He was the neighborhood grandpa.

In all, we can make peace with whatever plagues us, overcome a disability, and learn to forgive, turn away instead of arguing, and brush off an insult with a laugh. I'd discovered that every person that had, deliberately, tried to hurt me, were individuals with little self confidence and a sense of their own failures that they were, probably exaggerating. Their hurting me was a way of trying to push me down to join them because of their own ineptness, misery wanting company.

I, strongly, believe that how you live means a whole lot more than where you live. Whether you see blue skies or gray, city streets or tall trees, you can carve out a slice of the good life where ever you are, with whatever you have. It's all there. You just have to find it. Boredom is inexcusable. By helping just one kid find their potential or talent we'd have lived a purposeful life, been a better person for having done it and that one kid would be enriched and may do the same for others later on. Thoughtfulness and kindness is infectious. I have little patience for those who look to others for their own enjoyment or fulfillments. They're like parasites - to be avoided as toxic and are headed for a uselessness that will affect others. We each need to find our own paradise and not expect someone to find it for us. But, like medicine, when you find your paradise it comes with a warning label: "when taken regularly, it can be habit forming." But, it can cure what ails you!

Remembering Benefactor George (Parry) Paterakis, 86

TNH Staff

CHICAGO, IL – A 40-day memorial service was held at the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Chicago, IL in remembrance of George (Parry) Paterakis, who passed away on September 1 at age 86.

According to the Chicago Sun-Times, Paterakis – a seasoned investor and benefactor – had donated $10 million to nonprofit organizations.

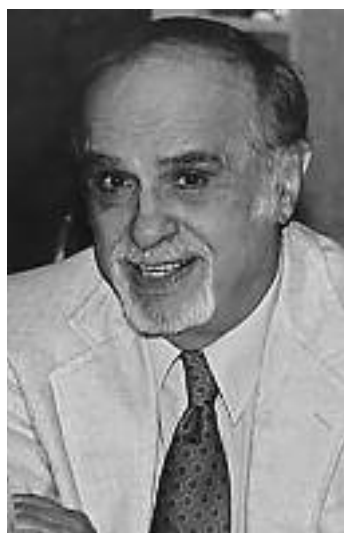
He left generous amounts to Chicago's National Hellenic Museum and the School of Art Institute, where his late wife, Angela, was a professor.

A local newspaper in Paterakis' community, the Wednesday Journal, published a short biography of him: "Paterakis was born in 1928 and grew up in the North Austin community, and graduated from Austin High School in 1945 after just three years. He was accepted to Northwestern University, where he earned degrees in finance and marketing.

"Between 1952 and 1954, he served in the U.S. Army, stationed at Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington D.C. For more than 40 years he ran his own business specializing in mergers and acquisitions. For decades Paterakis was known for his tireless civic engagement and volunteering. Over those years he also developed a reputation as the unofficial repository of River Forest's institutional memory.

"Paterakis became active civically soon after he and Angela moved to River Forest in 1958. He helped run numerous political campaigns and organized several referenda, including one for a District 90 property tax hike and two referenda authorizing the sale of liquor in the village.

"For 22 years Paterakis was a trustee and advisor to the River Forest Police pension fund, and friend and advisor to numerous police officers. Paterakis was instrumental in the 1985 election of Realtor Thomas Cusack as village president, and later helped then-trustee Frank



George (Parry) Paterakis

Paris win election to his first term as village president.

"His final hurrah was in 2013, when he advised Cathy Adduci in her successful run for village president. Adduci, who attended the funeral services, expressed admiration for Paterakis's commitment and dedication to River Forest.

"'He was a big supporter and very involved in our community," Aducci said. "He cared about our community, about the police department, about their pensions. He cared about everything that mattered.'

"Reflecting the esteem in which Paterakis was held in the village, two former village trustees, Steve Hoke and Michael O'Connell served as his pallbearers, and a River Forest police car took part in his funeral procession. Paterakis was also an amateur historian and proud of his Greek heritage. He traced his family history back to 1196 and the Ottoman Empire. Or, as he put it in a 2008 interview with Wednesday Journal, 'around the time the fourth Crusaders decided to make a left turn and ransacked Constantinople in 1204.'

"His life-long friend, journalist Paul Zimbrakos said Paterakis will be dearly missed. What can I say, he's a man for all seasons," said Zimbrakos. "A great friend and just a good, trusted person."

DEATH NOTICES

■ ANTONOPOULOS, CRISTUS

DAYTONA BEACH, FL (From the Daytona Beach News-Journal, published on Sept. 30) – Cristus Antonopoulos, 87, passed away on September 27, 2014. A visitation will be held on Tuesday, September 30, 2014 from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. with Trisagion Prayers at 6:30 P.M. at Cardwell, Baggett and Summers Funeral Home, 3571 S. Ridgewood Ave, Port Orange, FL 32127. A service will be held on Wednesday, October 1, 2014 at 1:00 P.M. at St. Demetrius Greek Orthodox Church, 129 N. Halifax Ave, Daytona Beach, FL 32118 followed by interment at Daytona Memorial Park. Cristus was born in 1927 in Rockaway Beach, New York to the late Vassili and Filomila Antonopoulos. He served in the United States Navy during WWII. Cristus was a letter carrier for the United States Postal Service for 35 years and a member of the American Legion. He enjoyed trips overseas with his wife to Skala Kephaloni, Greece where he enjoyed the beach and visiting with family and friends. Those left to cherish his memory are his wife of 61 years, Per-sefoni; children, William (Deborah) Antonopoulos, Filomela (Joseph) Marshall; grandchildren, Annie, Christopher, Alexis; great-grandson, Hudson and many loving cousins, nephews, and nieces. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Demetrius Greek Orthodox Church, 129 N. Halifax Ave, Daytona Beach, FL 32118. Condolences may be shared with the family at www.cardwell funeral.com.

■ CALTIS, JOHN

CHARLOTTE, NC (From the Charlotte Observer, published on Oct. 17) – John Demosthenis Caltis passed on Wednesday, October 15th, 2014, at home, surrounded by his loving family following a short illness. He was born on December 26, 1928 in Kapsia, Arkadia, Greece, the youngest of four children of Demosthenis and Hariklea Kalteziotis. He attended high school in Tripolis, Greece during the German occupation but left before graduating to enlist in the newly reconstituted Greek Air Force. John was an accomplished athlete, winning many awards in the decathalon, in which the discus was his best event. He was an avid outdoorsman and loved nature and wildlife. Well known as an expert marksman, he was a fervent hunter his whole life. John came to Charlotte in 1955 to attend the wedding of his sister, the late Connie Caltis Kokenes. During his visit he decided to make the United States his home. He first worked at the Picadilly Grill on Morehead Street and then at the Open Kitchen Restaurant for his brother-in-law, Speros G. Kokenes. In 1961, he opened the KC Drive-in with his uncle Costa Kontos at 2221 Central Ave. which later became The Little Italy Restaurant. John returned to Greece in 1963 to marry Georgia Rempas in Agios Konstantinos, Arkadia, Greece. They returned to Charlotte to raise their two daughters. They are active members of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox and St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox communities of Charlotte. John owned and operated the Little Italy with his wife Georgia for 49 years. The Little Italy, a Charlotte landmark, finally closed in March 2008, leaving behind many devoted patrons. Known for Italian and Greek cuisine, the Little Italy was a family restaurant, and became a traditional spot for holiday and personal celebrations. The regular customers became a second family for John and Georgia, even starting up a Facebook page devoted to keeping in touch with one another and the Caltis family after the ultimate closing of the restaurant. John is survived by his wife of fifty-one years, Georgia Caltis and their two beloved daughters, Lilly Caltis Huffman (Brad) and Kate Caltis. Funeral services will be held at 12 noon, Saturday, October 18th, at St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Foundation of Charlotte, 600 East Blvd., Charlotte NC 28203 and to St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church Building Fund, 5108 Kuykendall Rd., Charlotte, NC 28270.

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

■ GOLFIS, JAMES

DYER, IN (From the Times, published on Oct. 14) – James Golfis, 93, of Dyer, IN passed away on Sunday, October 12, 2014. He is survived by his sons and daughters: George (Penny) Golfis, Tom Golfis, Charles (Denise) Golfis, Pauline (Tim) Cleland, Anthony (Mariellen) Golfis, Vivian Golfis, John Golfis; grand children: Dimitri-George, Dimitri-, Charles (Kristen), Sam, Jenna, Anthony-James, Jennifer, Ruben; great grand children: Imani, Alex, Abel-Dimitrios; brothers: Bill (Maria) Golfis, Kostas (Ritsa) Golfis; brothers and sister-in-law: Athena Golfis, Andreas (Mary) Cappos, John (Zina) Cappos, Asimo (Pantelis) Moiras; nieces and nephews: Jim (Peggy) Strouzas, Kosta (Jan) Strouzas; and numerous others in Greece and in the U.S. He was preceded in death by his parents Georgios and Efrosini Golfis; wife, Froso (Frances); brothers: Ioannis (Helen), Antonis; sisters: Tasoula (Georgios) Strouzas, Asimo (George) Golfis; brothers-in law: Kostas Cappos and Dimitrios Cappos. James was born in Egitio, Fokida Greece. He came to the United States in 1951 after serving in the Greek Army. He met Froso Cappos and was married for 56 years. They raised a family in Hammond before finally settling in Dyer, IN. James was employed for over thirty years and retired from Blaw-Knox Co. where he worked as a painter, bricklayer and pipe-fitter. James was member of St. Demetrios and St. George Greek Orthodox Churches for over 50 years and also a member of the Federation of Sterea Hellas (Makrygiannis-Lidorikioton Society). James was a loving and dedicated father, who also sponsored and assisted many immigrating to the U.S. Funeral service will be Wednesday, October 15, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at St. George Greek Orthodox Church, 528 W. 77th Ave. Schererville, IN. In lieu of flowers, donations to St. George Greek Orthodox Church, in his memory would be appreciated.

■ IOANNIDIS, CHRISTOS

LIMA, OH (From the Lima News, published on Oct. 17) – Christos B. Ioannidis M.D., 75 passed away at 9:15 a.m., October 14, 2014, at his residence. Christos was born on June 14, 1939 in Koritsa, Albania to Basilios Ioannidis, originally of Premeti, Albania and Sophia Pollatou, originally of Cephalonia, Greece who preceded him in death. On December 16, 1976 he married Deborah N. Covell who survives in Lima. From 1957 to 1965, he attended medical school at the University of Athens, Faculty of Medicine, School of Health Services, National and Kapodistrian University. He practiced medicine in both England and Wales, before completing his training with a Neurology residency at The Ohio State University. He was a neurologist in Lima for many years until his retirement. He was a member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Toledo. Survivors include a son, Glenn Bauman of Delaware, OH.; a granddaughter, Avery Bauman of Delaware, OH.; a sister, Chrysanthi Lefas-Tetene of Athens, Greece; a niece, Mariani Lefas-Tetene (Jason) Patch of Providence, RI.; a nephew, Vasilios Lefas-Tetene of Athens; a niece, Cara Dafoe of Athens; brother-in-law, Michael D. Covell of Alto Pass, IL.; a sister-in-law, April (Jim) Pemberton of New Jersey.; and numerous family and friends. A private family graveside will be held at Woodlawn Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church building fund, 750 N. Superior St., Toledo, OH 43604; The Salvation Army or The Humane Society of Allen County, attention Lisa Harding 3606 Elida Rd., Elida, OH. 45807.

■ KATRIS, THOMAS

MUNSTER, IN (From the Post-Tribune, published on Oct. 8) – Katris, Thomas C. 87, of Munster, IN passed away on Monday, October 6, 2014 after a courageous battle with cancer, with his loving wife of 55 years, Kathryn by his side. Born to Chris and Theofania Katris on June 21, 1927 in the village of Nestani, Greece, just outside of Tripoli, Thomas was the third youngest of nine siblings. As Thomas experienced the many hardships, dangers and struggles before, during and after World War II in Greece, he developed the strong determination, hard work ethic, entrepreneurial spirit and the love of and faith in God and family that would shape the rest of his life. After immigrating to the United States in 1951, Thomas worked at a factory on a production line where he developed a very cost saving and efficient method of production that earned him high praise and a hefty bonus. He later formed Katris Brothers Builders Inc. with his younger brother Danny in the 1950's. Together they built many new homes in northwest Indiana. They purchased the old Knights of Columbus Hall in East Chicago, IN and converted it into the Wishing Well Restaurant and added several apartments above it. They then purchased the Vogue Movie Theater also in East Chicago, IN. Thomas briefly returned to Greece to find and marry Kathryn on February 15, 1959, which he referred to us "the greatest moment of his life." He always considered himself lucky to have found such a loving wife and mother to their children. In 1968, Thomas became a pipefitter and a proud Local 597 Union member until his retirement. In 1984 he and his wife purchased and operated what was later named Kathy's Kitchen Restaurant. While a resident of Munster, IN from the 1950's to the 1970's,Thomas was a member of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Hammond, IN. From the 1980's to 2004 he lived in Crown Point, IN and attended the St. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Merrillville, IN. He was also a member of Sts. Peter and Paul Greek Orthodox Church in Boulder, CO from 2009 to 2014. Thomas became a Freemason in the early 1970's and was a member of AHEPA since the 1950's. Thomas has a variety of hobbies. He made his own wine from grapes he pressed himself. His life-long enjoyment and passion for gardening provided loved ones and friends a never ending array of delicious vegetables. He composed poetry and many songs and was complemented for his great singing voice. He also loved to chant in church from the time he was a child. Thomas is survived by is wife, Kathryn (Eliopoulos) Katris; sons, Chris Katris of Munster, IN, John (Georgia) Katris of Munster, IN and Frank Katris of Plainfield, IN; his daughter, Frances (Louis) Gonis of Louisville, CO; his grandchildren, Marianna Gonis, George Gonis and Katherine Katris; his brother, Danny Katris of Chico, CA. Funeral service and interment will be at St. Anthony Greek Orthodox Monastery in Florence, AZ In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Athony's Greek Orthodox Monastery, 4784 N. St. Joseph's Way, Florence, AZ. 85132.

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*

■ PETRAKOS, PAT

GREENVILLE, NC (From the Greenville News, published on Oct. 2) – Pat Conits Petrakos, passed away early Wednesday morning, October 1, 2014. Born in Sparta, Greece on October 20, 1910, she was a daughter of the late Spero and Kanella Anatonakos Conits. Pat immigrated to the United States in 1928. She enjoyed gardening, baking, knitting and always being with her family. She was a member of one of the original founding families of St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral where she was a member of the Philoptochos Society. She will be remembered for her loving nature and deep abiding faith. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Steve G. Petrakos in 1979 and son, George S. Petrakos in 1968. She is survived by her loving family, son, Spero "Speedy" S. Petrakos; daughter-in-law, Margaret Petrakos; grandsons, Steve and Nick Petrakos; sister, Bessie Kefalos; and brothers, John Conits, Pete Conits of Baltimore, MD, and Elias Conits of Sparta, Greece. The Funeral Service will be Friday, October 3, 2014 at 11:30am at St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral with Father Tom Pistolis officiating.

■ PRIBAS, JOHN GEORGE

CHARLOTTE, NC (From the Charlotte Observer, published on Oct. 6) – John George Pribas 81, of Charlotte, passed away on Saturday, October 4th, 2014. He was surrounded by his loving wife and family. John was born on July 25th, 1933, to the late George and Maria Pribas in Agios Nikolaos, Evrytania, Greece. John immigrated to this country in 1954 and was sponsored and warmly welcomed by the family of his late Uncle Nick and Aunt Demetra Dross. John was a long-time member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral and an active member of the Evrytanian Association. Many in the Charlotte area knew him as the owner of the Ole Smokehouse restaurant for over 35 years. After retiring in 2001, he was able to further his entrepreneurial spirit by marketing his famous barbecue sauce. He was also able to spend more of his time on his lifelong enthusiasm for financial investing. His dealings with others were always characterized by his strong work ethic and character, integrity and kindness. John was most proud of his family and the life he built with his loving wife of 50 years, Vasiliki (Koula) Pribas. He was a constant source of inspiration to his children and grandchildren. John is survived by his adoring wife, Vasiliki (Koula) Pribas; children, Maria Pribas Diamantis and and her husband Michael of Charlotte, NC, Ann Pribas Papastrat and her husband Jon of Atlanta, GA and George Pribas and his wife Carrie, also of Atlanta, GA. His surviving grandchildren, Dean, Jonathan, Matthew, Christina Pribas, Christina Diamantis and John, who were blessed to have the most loving and wonderful Pappou. Survivors also include Nick and Demetra Sitaras and family, Demetra Sitaras and family, John and Fran Dross and family, Nick and Stella Matalas and family and Koula Litchos as well as many godchildren, nieces and nephews in Charlotte and Greece. Funeral service for John will be held at 11:00 am Tuesday, October 7th, 2014, at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. 600 East Blvd. , Charlotte, NC, 28203.

CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICE

PLG-VYNE, LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 6/24/14. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC, 296 New York Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11216. General Purposes.

274072/10709

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of MICH-MASH PRODUCTIONS LLC a (DOM. LLC). Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York, (SSNY) on 08/12/2014. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Micheline Heal, 218 S 3rd St., #12, Brooklyn, NY 11211. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.

274066/19249

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of MANHATTAN EATS LLC a (DOM. LLC). Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York, (SSNY) on 08/11/2014. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Laura Araujo, 2160 Jerusalem Avenue, North Merrick, NY 11566. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.

274065/19248

LEGAL NOTICE

EMC 2 Bushwick LLC Arts of Org filed with NY Sec of State (SSNY) on 7/23/14. Office: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 12-01 Estates Ln, Bayside, NY 11360. General Purposes.

274064/18351

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of DCAP Of ALBANY AVE LLC a (DOM. LLC). Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York, (SSNY) on 08/06/2014. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to:State of United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.

274049/19176

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of JUSTIFIED JIMMY LLC a (DOM LLC). Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York, (SSNY) on 02/18/2014. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 335 Nassau Blvd., Garden City, NY 11530. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.

274047/19240

LEGAL NOTICE

1871 86TH ST., LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/12/2014. Office loc: Kings County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 1873 86th St., Brooklyn, NY 11214. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.

274046/16818

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of SHIFT CAMPANARIO LLC
Authority filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/01/14. Office location: Kings County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 09/24/14. Princ. office of LLC: 362 Pacific St., Ste. 2, Brooklyn, NY 11217. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Law Offices of M.W. McCarthy at the princ. office of the LLC. DE addr. of LLC: 2711 Centerville Rd., Ste. 400, Wilmington, DE 19808. Arts. of Org. filed with The DE Secy. of State, 401 Federal St., Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

274037/17976

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of SOL IMPORTS LLC a (DOM. LLC). Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York, (SSNY) on 09/19/2014. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: SOL IMPORT LLC., 936 51st Street 1, Brooklyn, NY 11219. Purpoce: Any Lawful Purpose.

274026/19225

LEGAL NOTICE

Blazer Capital Fund II LP filed an App. for Authority with the Department of State of NY on 9/10/2014. Jurisdiction: DE, and the date of its formation is 9/9/14. Office location in NYS: Kings. The Secretary of State of NY ("SSNY") is designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. The address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of such process is: c/o Harvey R. Hirschfeld, 26 Court St., Ste. 1104, Brooklyn, NY 11242. The address in DE is 615 S. Dupont Hwy., Dover, DE 19901. A copy of the Articles of Organization may be obtained from DE Secretary of State, 401 Federal St., Dover, DE 19903. The list of names and addresses of all general partners is available from the Secretary of State. The purpose of the LP is any lawful act.

274025/11629

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of OVER THE EIGHT LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/13/13. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of llc upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to c/o U.S. Corp. Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Ave., Ste. 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228, regd. agent upon whom and at which process may be served. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

274024/17976

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Application for Authority of ROCKSTEADY GAMBIT LLC, a foreign LLC. Application for Authority filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 9/10/2014. LLC organized in DE on 8/29/2014. NY office locations: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: 250 N.10th St., Apt.#640, Bklyn, NY 11211. Office address in jurisdiction of organization: ROCKSTEADY GAMBIT LLC copy of articles of organization on file with Secy. of State of DE, 401 Federal St. Ste.#4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose of LLC: Web site consulting .

274020/19219

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of A-Z NY SERVICE, LLC a (DOM LLC). Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York, (SSNY) on 03/26/2014. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 155 Middle Neck Road, Suite 125, Great Neck, NY 11021.Purpoce: Any Lawful Purpose.

274003/19201

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of RIVER T10 ENTERPRISES, LLC. Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 06/17/14. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, 979 Port Washington Boulevard., Port Washington, NY 11050. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

274001/19196

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of MOUNTAIN T5, LLC. Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 06/17/14. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, 979 Port Washington Blvd., Port Washington, NY 11050. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

274000/19196

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of DEEP HOTELS, LLC a (DOM. LLC). Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York, (SSNY) on 05/12/2014. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Manmeet Singh, 134 Wheatley Road, Unit 3, Glen Head, NY 11545. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.

273999/19198

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of BJMK REALTY LLC a (DOM. LLC). Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York, (SSNY) on 07/22/2014. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpoce: Any Lawful Purpose.

273998/19197

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of Cameron McCrodan, O.D., PLLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 09/05/14. Office location: Kings County. Princ. office of PLLC: c/o Ruskin Moscou Faltischek, PC, 1425 RXR Plaza, Uniondale, NY 11556. SSNY designated as agent of PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the PLLC at the addr. of its princ. office. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

273992/17976

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Debunking the "Men Paid More than Women" Myth

by CONSTANTINOS E. SCAROS

Special to The National Herald

As Election Day 2014 nears, it is still not too late to debunk a myth that has been furiously circulating over the past year or two, that "men are paid more than women for the same work." Of course, this argument has been made for decades, but the more recent version is predicated on a statistic that for every dollar a man is paid, a woman is paid only 77 cents.

There is a good chance that statistic is true – that women, in fact, on the whole earn 77% less than men do for the same job – so for the purposes of this column, let's accept it as completely accurate. Even so, that does not mean men are paid more than women – at least not in the way that the argument suggests.

A simple illustration: you are sitting around the table during Thanksgiving dinner with ten family members: five women and five men. The women, on average, earn only 77% of what the men earn. That does not automatically mean that upon being hired, the human resources office said: "Oh, this candidate is a man, so we'll pay him $1000 per week. But this other one is a woman, so pay her only $770."

But that is the implication liberals/Democrats are peddling: that we live in a nation in which employers decide how much they will pay specific applicants directly based on their gender. (Conservatives/Republicans are every bit as shameful in terms of what they will distort to try to gain votes, by the way, but this particular atrocity is not their doing.)

> Employers simply cannot pay anyone more or less money specifically based on gender. That has been illegal since 1868

That contention – that prospective employers say or think: "he's a man, pay him more – she's a woman, pay her less" is absurd beyond belief. First of all, doing that would be illegal. Yes there's a law – a federal one, in fact – that says you can't pay a man more money just because he's a man. It's been around for quite a while. One hundred forty-six years, to be exact. Actually, it is a Constitutional amendment – the Fourteenth – which guarantees equal protection under the law. Simply put, if McDonald's, Walmart, the local grocery store, or a small accounting firm down the road risked discrimination of employee pay rates based on nothing but gender, they would be out of business.

Losing one's livelihood is a very serious consequence, one that most people would go to great lengths to avoid. Logically, then, it would seem that only something so fundamental to the core of one's belief system would be worth the risk.

To a great extent, fanaticism/extremism falls into that category. Islamic fundamentalists kill themselves by flying planes into buildings, just as Japanese kamikaze pilots did for their emperor in World War II. Racists burn crosses on other people's lawns, and pro-life extremists bomb abortion clinics – both acts that can lead to very long jail sentences. These extremists have such a deep-seated passion, a hateful one, and so they are blind to any consequences, including their own demise.

But is there really such hatred for women?

Though I have argued many times on these pages that the bad "isms" (racism, anti-Semitism, religious fundamentalism, etc.) are the exception, not the rule, there is no doubt that they exist, to an alarming extent. For example, even if we say that just 1 percent of people in America are racists, that's almost 3.5 million people. So, even though, percentage-wise, it is negligible, it is still a problem. The same holds true for Islamic terrorists – they may constitute a small portion of all Muslims, but even one suicide bomber on this earth is too many.

But misogynists are a far, far rarer breed. What man could possibly hate women as a whole? Does that man hate his own mother, wife, daughter, grandmother, aunts, cousins, etc.? People who hate others for what they are, usually don't count members of that group as the people in the world they love most. Hitler, for example, could not say: "I hate Jews, but my parents are Jews, my wife and children are Jews, and I love them all very dearly." So, I ask again: are there really people out there who would say: "if I hire a woman, I will pay her less than a man, even if it means losing my business for violating the Constitution and all ensuing laws that stem from it"?

Are there some jobs for which we are more likely to hire a man than a woman, or vice versa? Of course! Let's not be foolish and pretend otherwise. Consider two easily-recognized characters from popular culture: Tony Soprano and his daughter, Meadow, from the HBO smash hit of a decade ago, the Sopranos. Big, burly Tony would make a better bouncer in a bar, and petite Meadow a better bikini model. The point is, no one in his right mind would hire Tony to model bikinis, or Meadow to intimidate loud, belligerent drunks. So in that case, it would never get to the point of paying the man more than the woman, because the man – or woman – in question, depending on the particular job, would not be hired in the first place.

For any job, therefore, it's all about qualifications. If the qualifications are equal, why on earth would anyone even think to pay the woman less money than the man?

If all of this true, and employers do not routinely pay men more to do the same jobs, then were does this "women earn 77 cents for every dollar men earn" statistic come from?

Purportedly, if you take a particular profession (let's say, accountants) and you add up the total earned by men, and divide that by the number of men in the field, you can calculate the average salary for a male accountant. Then, if you do the same for female accountants, you may wind up with that .77/1.00 ratio. Aaah, statistics – how misleading they can be.

That statistical analysis conveniently leaves out a number of factors, such as: maybe in a particular field, the male applicants have more experience, or demand more money, or are willing to work overtime. Maybe some of the women recently had babies and reduce their working hours (I know countless women – friends and family members, who have done that), and therefore accept less pay. And, yes, some of it does have to do with institutional sexism. Fifty years ago, there were certainly more male accountants than females, by an overwhelming margin. So, a lot of the top echelon accountants whose earnings are in the millions, because they have been doing this for half a century, are overwhelmingly men.

Do men still "have it easier" in the workplace overall, as compared to women? Probably. Institutional discrimination does not go away easily, after all. But none of that suggests that an accounting firm – or any other employer – that needs to hire two applicants, decides to hire John and Mary, whose credentials are identical, and pay Mary 77 percent less than John. And shame on those who perpetuate such falsehoods for political manipulation.

"Philotimo" and "Aera": Virtuous Words Honoring "OXI"

by Christopher TRIPOULAS

Special to The National Herald

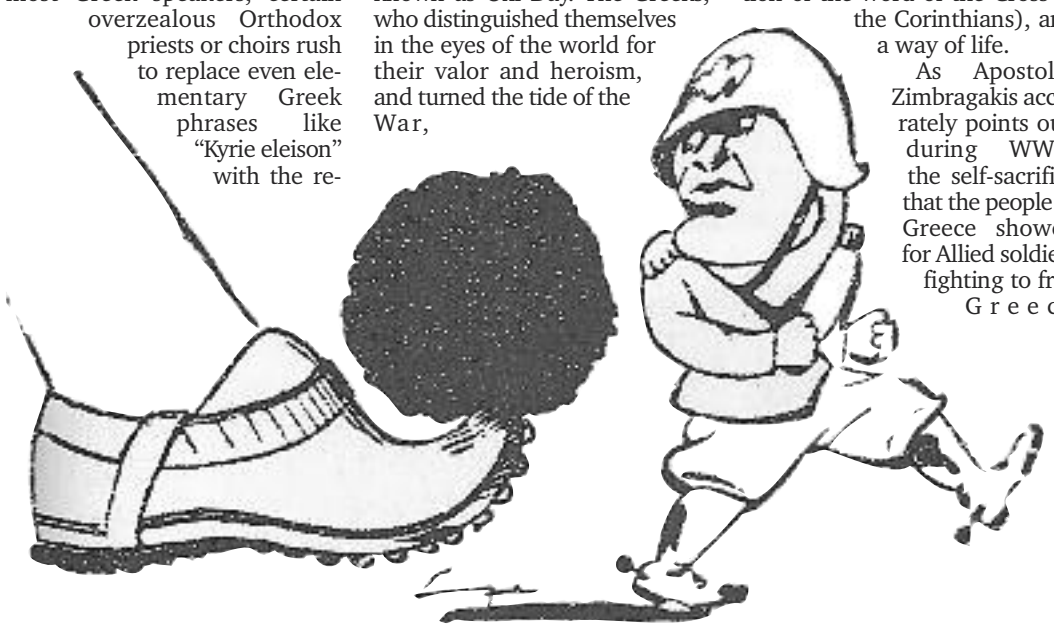
There are some words or terms that just don't translate well into other languages, because the translation can in no way capture the content or relational component embodied in the meaning of the initial term. As a result, rather than weaken the attempted transference of meaning through a watered-down translation that is lacking, we usually just borrow the word from its original language and use it as is.

According to the theory of linguistic relativism, the structure of a language affects the ways in which its respective speakers conceptualize their world or otherwise influences their cognitive processes. Many scholars have argued that large differences in language lead to large differences in experience and thought. They hold that each language embodies a unique worldview, with markedly different languages embodying markedly different views, so that speakers of different languages think about the world in quite different ways. Therefore, the grammar, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics of a language all play their particular role in cognition and the formation of concepts, notions, and general understanding.

This is most apparent when we see the phenomenon of languages borrowing terms directly from other languages for lack of an accurate translation. English does this quite often, most frequently from Greek. Oddly enough, much to the chagrin of most Greek speakers, certain overzealous Orthodox priests or choirs rush to replace even elementary Greek phrases like "Kyrie eleison" with the response "Lord have mercy," even though the original Greek is usually even retained in Roman Catholic and other denominations – but that is another story for another day.

Today's column focuses on two Greek phrases that are most appropriate for the occasion of the Greek National Day of October 28th, also known as OXI (pronounced Ochi) Day – the day that the Greek nation resoundingly refused fascist Italy's demand to allow Axis forces to enter sovereign Greek territory and occupy key strategic sites, in the interests of avoiding the outbreak of war.

And despite the fact that Mussolini's ultimatum, delivered by Italy's ambassador to Athens Emanuele Grazzi to Greece's then prime minister Ioannis Metaxas, was reportedly conveyed and subsequently rebuffed in French (the diplomatic lingua franca), with the phrase "Alors, c'est la guerre" (Then it is war), this action was succinctly summed up by one laconic word: "Oxi," or No! The subsequent modern-day miracle that followed, during which tiny and destitute Greece defeated the far larger and wealthier fascist Italy, stunning the world and dealing the Axis powers their first loss of World War II, henceforth came to be known as Oxi Day. The Greeks, who distinguished themselves in the eyes of the world for their valor and heroism, and turned the tide of the War, drew the praise of nations from all around the world, from the United States and Great Britain to Soviet Russia.



Two of the loanwords that stand out from this glorious moment in modern Greek history and are closely associated with the Greek miracle of 1940 on the mountainsides of Northern Epirus are "philotimo" and "aera." The first word, which literally means love of honor, has been a quintessential ideograph for generations upon generations of proud Hellenes, serving as the intrinsic activating force for acts of valor, virtue, and courtesy. Reference to this cardinal Hellenic virtue dates back to Thales of Miletus, one of the Seven Sages of Ancient Greece, who is attributed as saying "Philotimo to the Greek is like breathing. A Greek is not a Greek without it. He might as well not be alive." Central to this term are concepts like dignity, honor, pride, self-respect, conscientiously going above and beyond your duty to meet your obligations, eagerly taking on your responsibilities, displaying unconditional love for family and friends, manifesting your gratitude for kindnesses and favors, and appreciating your heritage and ancestors. Philotimo is self-sacrifice (like St. Paul's explanation of the word of the Cross to the Corinthians), and a way of life.

As Apostolos Zimbragakis accurately points out, during WWII, the self-sacrifice that the people of Greece showed for Allied soldiers fighting to free Greece from Nazi occupation, aiding and abetting them at the risk of losing their own lives, is indicative of Philotimo.

Moreover, the reaction of the Greek people, who left for the Albanian front to take on Mussolini's forces with smiles on their faces, singing and chanting, ready to sacrifice themselves for their motherland and their families, speaks volumes. Not even the horror of war or the ominous threat of death could dissipate their exuberant display of Philotimo, which manifested itself with an outpouring of enthusiasm at a truly daunting moment.

The immense contribution of the Greeks of America should also not be forgotten. Just like they had done during the Balkan Wars, the Greeks of the U.S. united and put together a truly astounding humanitarian relief effort. The aid they managed to raise for their fellow countrymen is estimated to have surpassed over $100 million in today's currency! This amazing display of solidarity also proved that the virtue of Philotimo was certainly not lost during the long trans-Atlantic journey or the difficulties awaiting these newly arrived Greek immigrants.

As for the phrase "aera," it was the signature battle cry of the Greek army during WWII. According to Giorgos Damianos, although first used by the Cretan state guard in 1908 to introduce a note of levity following a drill, it began to take on the form of a war cry during the Balkan Wars of 1912-13, and became synonymous with the bravery, vigor, and heroism of the Greek soldier by 1940. In its simple English translation, it just means "air," but the cry of "aera" – the modern version of the ancient Greek battle cry of "alala" – instilled courage and joy in the hearts of the charging Greek soldiers, who would cry out "aera" to assure their fellow soldiers that the enemy's fire was missing the target and hitting only the air!

If Greeks, in the motherland and abroad, are to once again play a leading role worldwide, let us not forget the meaning of "philotimo" and "aera." And let us remember that our Noes may be immensely more important that our Yeses.

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LETTER FROM ATHENS

Samaras Opens The Candy Store, Hits Panic Button Too

by ANDY DABILIS

Special to The National Herald

Thank Zeus we have politicians and generals to remind us that those who cannot remember history are condemned to repeat it. Apparently Greek Prime Minister and New Democracy Capitalist leader Antonis Samaras, a pretty smart guy, didn't pay attention to what his failed predecessor, then-PASOK Anti-Socialist leader, George Papandreou did during his brief two-year tenure.

That ended ignominiously in 2011 when Papandreou, just shy of being tarred and feathered for betraying the principles of the party founded by his late father and former Premier, Andreas Papandreou, resigned after ceaseless protests, strikes and riots against austerity measures he imposed on orders of the country's international lenders, the Troika of the European Union-International Monetary Fund-European Central Bank (EU-IMF-ECB).

When he was campaigning in 2009 against the Invisible Man, former New Democracy non-leader and then-Premier Costas Karamanlis, Papandreou told voters (echoing his dad, famous for giveaways and runaway patronage) that, "The money is there," to sustain their lifestyles of easy work and early retirement, they followed the Pied Piper at their peril.

When they told him, "show me the money," he admitted the country was broke and then turned hat-in-hand to the Troika asking for a bailout, and defended the big pay cuts, tax hikes and slashed pensions that had always been antithetical to PASOK.

Samaras was sitting on the sidelines then and railed at austerity and Papandreou's policy of appeasing the lenders even at the cost of accepting the measures that created record unemployment, deep poverty and misery for millions, apart from the rich and politicians who prospered as usual.

As soon as he was elected, and even before he got the chair warm, Samaras did a Political Flop, the 180-degree turn that is the only one they know how to make, and said austerity was the savior of the country. That was a few months after he said it was its ruination.

Papandreou learned the hard way what happens when you promise what you can't deliver, and now Samaras is in the same sinking boat, and for the same reason – not austerity, much of which was needed, but injustice.

Samaras put Draconian conditions on people who were easy targets: workers, pensioners and the poor, destroying many of their lives while he exempted everyone from Parliament workers to politicians who largely escaped, and businessmen not paying their fair share at the same time they beat their breasts and proclaimed to be patriots (see Greece: Shipping Owners, Tycoons).

But now, with that having driven down support for his party, which has been overtaken by the anti-austerity Coalition of the Looney Left (SYRIZA) that doesn't have a clue how to govern but has still opened a lead of as much as 11 percent in polls, Samaras is taking out the Papandreou Black Lining Playbook.

The Capitalist leader is telling Greeks he will cut their taxes, even though the Troika won't allow it, and will pay the military, police and emergency services personnel 500 million euros in retroactive pay ordered restored by the courts, and bring their salaries back to pre-austerity levels.

He has put forward a plan for a guaranteed minimum income of 200-400 euros a month for the unemployed, of which there are still more than 1.3 million, not including those whose benefits have already run out.

He said he will cut the heating oil tax that he increased so much that not many people could buy the fuel to stay warm and turned instead to burning wood, plastic, construction debris, the furniture and even using charcoal, which killed a few of them while it was toasty in Maximos Mansion and the Parliament in the dead of winter.

He said he will cut the Value Added Tax to 13 percent for many goods and services, after he raised it to 23 percent and cut it 13 percent previously for restaurants in a bid to boost tourism, which helped create a second-straight record season and big euros for the cash-strapped country.

He authorized 500 euro "social dividends," which were really just disguised bribes to voters to support him. He's opened the candy store and with all signs showing New Democracy fading faster than the Chicago Cubs in August, he's likely not done yet with the giveaways and has done everything except to say, "The money is there."

But then he compounded the problem with irrational fear and spooked markets too when he declared that Greece, still as wobbly as someone hit by Mike Tyson, was going to take an early exit from its deal with the Troika even though everyone knew it wasn't ready.

Samaras, with SYRIZA leader Alexis Tsipras bearing down on him, panicked and looked all the while like Papandreou, who dealt with the country's crisis with the glazed-over thousand-yard stare of a man who sees a shell coming but is too afraid to move.

When the Greek stock market fell off a cliff for a few days with investors spooked that an early exit would leave the country vulnerable, Samaras was backed into a corner and – like Papandreou again – had to bow to the IMF which insisted Greece had to remain tethered until its loan monies ran out in 2016, when the next national elections are scheduled.

What Greece needs is a good man in a storm, not someone throwing the crew overboard to save the sinking ship.

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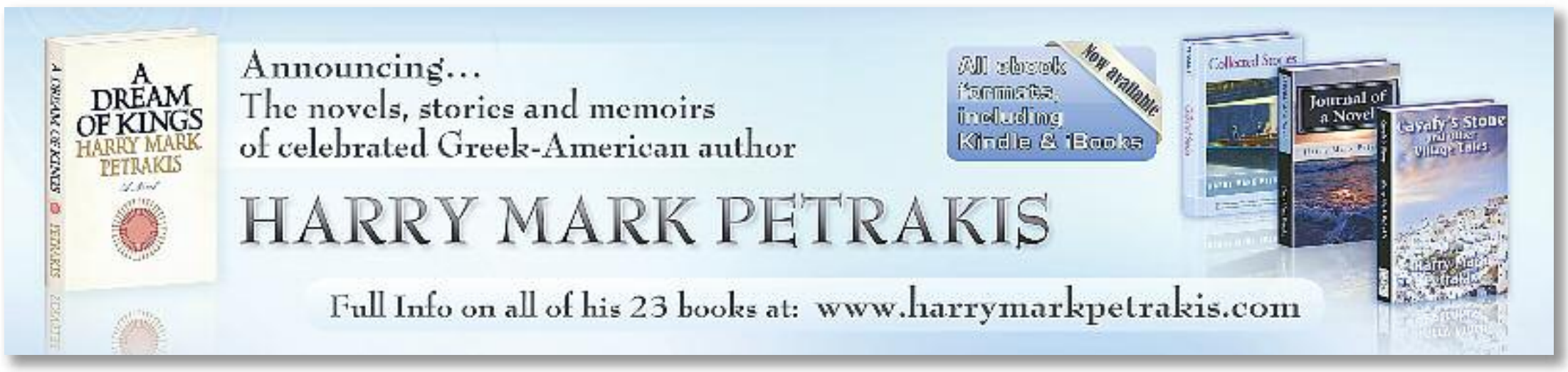

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Let's Be Vigilant

The attention of the Diaspora has turned once again to Cyprus, where recent events – which could be the most dangerous since the invasion and occupation forty years ago – may have historic significance.

The overt violation of the sovereignty of one state by another is an act of major importance. Under some circumstances, it would be tantamount to a declaration of war.

Turkey, in particular, is disturbing the "world order," to borrow the title of the latest book by former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. It is an act with potentially serious consequences not only for Cyprus, but for the whole world.

The inviolability of the sovereignty of countries has been safeguarded – by and large – after the Second World War.

The most recent infringement of this "red line" was Russia's annexation of Crimea.

Unfortunately, the price Russia's Vladimir Putin has had to pay thus far has not been sufficient enough to change his mind. Now, it seems that Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan has borrowed a chapter from Putin on such issues.

The Diaspora is following with great interest and concern the events unfolding in Cyprus. It is very aware of the threat posed by the Turkish research vessel and the accompanying warships.

We have not missed the clear message that Turkey sent to the Republic of Cyprus: interfere with them if you dare. The message, however – do not have the slightest doubt about this – is meant not only for the Greeks of Cyprus: it is also aimed at the Greeks of Greece. Indeed, even at Greeks all over the world.

Everyone knows that Greece and Cyprus are going through a financial crisis that certainly affects their armed forces. That is obviously being taken into account by the Turks. But that is just one of the issues. Another is the silence that has prevailed.

Indeed, silence is the worst sign of weakness. And in this case, it amounts to an acceptance of provocations of shocking and historic importance. It is equivalent to complicity in the commission of a crime.

Surely the last thing the United States needs is a crisis between two NATO members.

Perhaps the edge can be taken off that side of the issue by encouraging Israel to take action – its own interests are also being threatened by Turkey.

But it is also true of ourselves. Much will be judged by our response. The reaction of the of the Greek-American community.

Let us start preparing for mobilization of the Diaspora. Let us begin preparations for a summit with officials in Washington.

Its best to take preventive measures. Hopefully, nothing further will be necessary. Although there is a good possibility that stronger action will be required.

Five Worldshaking Days

"Five Days That Shook The World" is not an original title. It is an adaptation of John Reed's famous book Ten Days That Shook the World, about the Bolshevik revolution.

But it is relevant, because of five recent days that shook up the people of Greece, and, in turn, America and the world.

These five days certainly have brought us back to reality. We hope they have taught us a lot.

One lesson that ought to be evident is the supreme moral and practical advantage of credibility – a virtue we must guard with our lives. There is no substitute for action and results – consequences cannot be hidden. Sooner or later, they can and will come to light.

When Antonis Samaras became prime minister, Greece's credibility had literally hit rock bottom. It was the result of Greece cooking its books, the so-called Greek statistics, in order to get into the Eurozone.

Greece's credibility was also harmed by the fact that its leaders' statements were not in line with the facts; they were not trustworthy. It was an explosive combination, the results of which are well-known.

It took time and effort on Samaras' part to mitigate those impressions and gradually improve Greece's image. He achieved all this despite originally having been opposed to the memoranda, for political reasons.

It was a success that generated satisfaction that the prime minister did not conceal. In fact, he referred to it constantly. And it helped him achieve a lot. Such as the support of German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who finally found a reliable interlocutor in Greece.

But then, Samaras undertook a very risky political gamble in order to prevent the rise of SYRIZA. The government invested its credibility on the project of gaining Greece's early exit from the Memoranda. That became the coalition's banner. Ireland and Spain had done that, but Greece was not yet ready. It is impossible for Samaras and his advisors not to have known that.

Thus, a toxic combination of SYRIZA's rise in the polls and the "new strategy" about an early Memoranda exit acted as a catalyst for the explosion that occurred in international markets last week. And of course, Greece – the weak country – paid a huge price: it saw its borrowing rates on 10-year bonds soar to 9 percent.

The market had spoken. What it said dashed the dreams of an early exit. But the escapade also injured the Greek government's credibility, with all the consequences that entails.

Under these conditions, both the government and opposition played the mute. But the government sent its finance minister into Parliament to mumble something somewhat reminiscent of the hapless George Papandreou's attacks on the markets. But only somewhat.

The government's credibility was harmed. The precious commodity of credibility injured. Moreover, it will take time now – more time than would have been the case before – to get the people excited down the road about another early exit from the Memoranda.

All these bad decisions, with such negative consequences. And for what?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No Longer a Priest? A Canonical Anomaly

To the Editor:

In every issue the Orthodox Observer provides a brief "Clergy Update" about recent ordinations, transfers, and new assignments, including a curious item on "clergy returning to the status of layman."

What does that mean? How and why can a priest become a layman again? Is that possible? The Church's answer, dogmatically, is an emphatic no!

Really? Can you take away the grace of Baptism and declare a person non-Christian? To use analogies from the secular world, can a suspended doctor or lawyer lose his identity of being a doctor or lawyer? How, then, may a priest, invested with special grace by God, "return to the status of layman?"

The answer reveals a tragic problem facing our Church, created by outdated notions and ideas that ruin and literally destroy the lives of (most) of those "returning to the status of layman."

To illustrate, consider my very own painful story. I served our Church as a dedicated priest for 48 years. About five years before my retirement, my presbytera was afflicted with cancer, and just a few months before my retirement date, quite unexpectedly, she passed away.

The retirement years that followed were extremely difficult and lonely for me, to say the least. Then, I decided to remarry only to face the catapult from Constantinople: "You are no longer a priest." But why?

Although historically the answer is rather complicated, the simple truth is very plain: it is because our church is governed by some archaic, unrealistic, misanthropic rules called "canons." I spell the word with small "c" because these are not "Holy Canons" by which the church should be ruled. These forged "canons" have been imported by myopic scribes and writers to serve their ultraconservative agendas. Such as "Apostolic Canons" prohibiting widowed priests to remarry. What blasphemy!

Our church historians have proven they were written by the late fourth century, and, for obvious reasons, the writers assigned them to the Holy Apostles for prestige and validity. A kind of conspiracy not unknown in those days, when manuscripts were altered to comply with the beliefs and ideas of heretical individuals and groups.

Back to my case: I am penalized for remarrying by application of laws that betray not only the Spirit of the Lord, but also contemporary understanding of human nature. Our Church, governed by celibate hierarchy, has not been able to reconcile Herself with the issue of human sexuality and the purpose of marriage. We have, therefore, cases of widowed or divorced priests, who scandalize communities and congregations with their sexual discrepancies and escapades, but they continue being priests (even bishops) as long as they remain "celibate."

Another aspect of this anomalous situation is the fact that our hierarchy, from the patriarch down to assistant bishops, violate actual Church Canons at whim, thus creating problems and schisms among Orthodox Churches, but insist on applying fake and forged rules for me, depriving me from my fervent oath to be a priest forever. Am I wrong to characterize this treatment as outright criminal?

I have written numerous letters to our church authorities about the wrongful interpretation of the "canons" and the deep agony and depression I am experiencing, but my voice falls on deaf ears! I wish I knew the names of all the widowed and divorced priests in our own Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, so we could join hands and demand that our respected leaders pay attention to our plea!

Fr. Basil Papanikolaou
Davenport, IA

TO OUR READERS

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GEORGE SARAFOGLOU / SPECIAL TO THE NATIONAL HERALD

ECONOMY & POLITICS

Income Inequality: What are its Effects on Capitalism?

by STEFANOS KASSELAKIS
Special to The National Herald

Whether you are a business owner, a doctor, an engineer, a student, or anything else, this is a column you must read – because occasionally, stuff happens that affects our societal discourse for decades to come. For example, think about "trickle-down economics" and how that theory has affected pretty much 50% of the country's economic persuasion (ironically, political campaign slogans have remained eerily consistent across the decades on the subject of income inequality). This year has seen a book on our adopted economic arrangement, capitalism, which will undoubtedly affect how we think about it (and about ourselves) for decades to come.

I am referring to the French economist Thomas Piketty and his book, Capital in the Twenty-First Century, which was released in English six months ago and has stirred a deep debate since. In a world where the vast majority of financial commentary revolves almost exclusively around monetary policy (Quantitative Easing here, currency devaluation there), Piketty has managed to bring growth theory back to the forefront. And he has done so with a brutally simple equation: r > g. This equation says that, when the rate of return of capital exceeds economic growth over the long term, wealth concentration increases and, along with that, the potential repercussions of social and economic turbulence.

Sounds simple? That's the point of a discourse-changing theory! Backed by extensive empirical evidence, Piketty has delved into the differences between causality and simple statistical relationships. You can imagine the onus of the proof. Piketty's core argument also bears an important side-effect, namely, that "economic inequality" as a whole is not an inherently negative outcome (going back to the political campaigns) but an integral economic parameter society needs to calibrate in order to be successful in the long run. This, again, accentuates the difference between facts and norms, one that all of us should be cognizant of as educated voters.

Of course, there will be many commentators who will cast doubt on Piketty's (well-documented) argument and particularly his proposal for high-net-worth taxes. It ultimately comes down to a balancing act. On the one hand, you do want wealthy people to invest their money productively because that allows "labor" to increase its own productivity, to take advantage of the learning curves. As a result, workers will be able to enjoy a higher real (inflation-adjusted) wage than otherwise; it is the real wage that gives people higher living standards, not the share of national income per se. On the other hand, societies are ever-changing, dynamic cultural and political systems, and as such they always react to their top-down strategic design. A certain degree of redistribution, therefore, should be periodically considered, not because of an inherent inequality in capitalism but because of the inherent humanity in any economic system.

Granted, Piketty's analysis is far from irreproachable. Classical growth theory, for example, holds that r = g on average, undermining Piketty's claim that the gap between rich and poor will continue to widen. To his credit, Piketty tries to counter this longstanding theory with both classical arguments and real-life evidence. Perhaps a more tempered approach is offered (independently) by two other famed economists, Lawrence Summers of Harvard and Robert Solow of MIT: there are times when r > g (as in the past several decades) and times when r < g (such as between 1910 and 1960). So, over the very, very long run, classical theory (and not Piketty's theory) may be true. Whatever the ultimate reality, Thomas Piketty has managed to frame the subject of the right amount of inequality – or its corollary, the right amount of redistribution – into tangible, relevant terms.

But can we make actual decisions on this last subject (redistribution) without consensus on Piketty's premise first? Another well-regarded economist (and dear friend of mine), Woody Brock, argues that we can base it on two different justifications: an economic one and a moral one. The economic one integrates the concept of "uncertainty" into the classical "efficient" economy framework. An efficient economy, from this prism, is one that offers perfect risk markets, i.e. insurance options, to every consumer in the economy. In other words, everyone should be able to go to bed at night fully insured against all risks of the surrounding economic environment. Clearly this is not the case, whether due to asymmetrical information or due to transaction costs. Considering therefore the role "luck" plays in human affairs, a redistribution of income in inefficient markets is a way to correct that inefficiency.

The second and more compelling argument is moral. The flat tax rate, long advocated by conservatives, simply does not capture the pain of lost consumption. A family making $20,000 and paying the same tax rate as a family making $200,000 has an exponentially reduced ability to pay, especially in an uncertainty-infused world. Therefore, as Woody has long argued, our tax code needs to reconcile an "ability to pay" with the "relative neediness for money."

Now this would be a really good debate for Members of Congress to have. Alas they can't even discuss our Syria strategy…

Measuring incomes by themselves does not reveal the complete picture of an economy's health and stability. There is also the wealth gap to consider.

Follow me on Twitter: @StefanosNY
Stefanos Kasselakis has traded commodities at Goldman Sachs and founded cvfromgreece.com.

Observations By Antonis H. Diamataris

Rising from the Rubble

It was an important day in the history of the community. A day when the bugle sounded truly marking the "arrival" of the Greek-American community.

A day on which many elements conjoined: the blood, toil, and sacrifices of a humble but high-minded immigrant community with a noble mission, to build a better future for their children.

Make no mistake about it: The community's success rests on their shoulders.

It was a day to remember thanks to the efforts of talented and capable clergy, those who gave expression to and made possible the community' s dream to rebuild what it was destroyed.

Our people responded to the call of their heritage and flocked, on a beautiful Saturday, to be present, to be witnesses to history. In harmonious cooperation, everyone contributed to this special day. But it was also a day of grief and anger, for the people who were lost on 9/11. Friends and relatives of the victims, consumed in deep thoughts about their departed loved ones.

It was also a great day for St. Nicholas, the "charming little Church" as Archbishop Demetrios called it.

After 13 years, from the ashes and mountains of debris that resulted from that disaster of biblical proportions, new hope emerges in the form of a Church at Ground Zero, at a new World Trade Center, next to the evocative pools and fountains located on the footprints of the fallen towers. In the shade of taller, stronger, more majestic skyscrapers, monuments of human imagination and endeavor, a sacred space will be created for members of our community, employees who work in the area, and for millions of visitors.

It is a new center for the community, for Hellenism.

The journey was long and hard. Opponents tried to push us around, and we made some mistakes. It took 13 years: the last Ground Zero project to begin.

But it happened, and that is what counts. Now we must hope, and work, for a good finish. And let us also hope that that when the Church' s doors open, expectedly within two years, there will be – as is certainly befitting – greater use of our Greek language.

King Alexander shown with his dog, Fritz, whose battle with a monkey caused the king's fatal wounds.

This Week in Greek History:

King Alexander Dies from a Monkey Bite

TNH Staff

Unquestionably, the most famous Hellenic ruler named Alexander was Alexander the Great. Another Alexander, however, a monarch of Greece in the early 20th century, was known as "the Puppet King." On October 25, 1920, King Alexander died in a tragic and bizarre accident.

Alexander was installed as King at the young age of 24 in 1917 after his father, King Constantine I, was exiled, along with Alexander's older brother, Crown Prince George. Stripped of his power by the Venizelists, Alexander was essentially confined to his own palace. His seemingly powerless status rendered him the nickname "Puppet King."

Nonetheless, Alexander's troops' military advances against Bulgaria were successful, resulting in territorial gains for Greece.

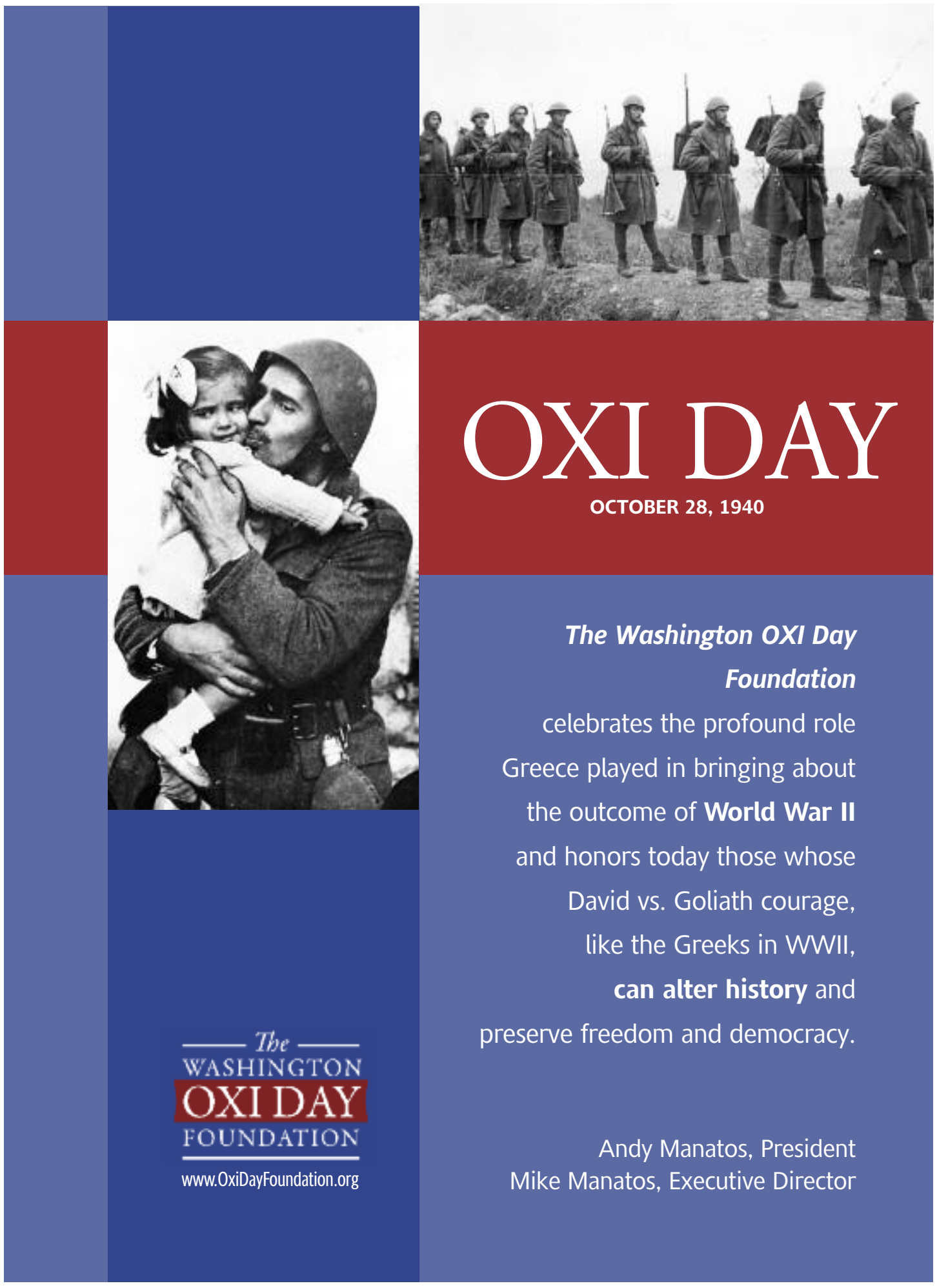
On October 2, 1920, the king was walking on the palace grounds when his German Shepherd Fritz and a monkey owned by the caretaker of the palace vineyards began battling. Alexander tried to separate the two animals, but the monkey bit him severely.

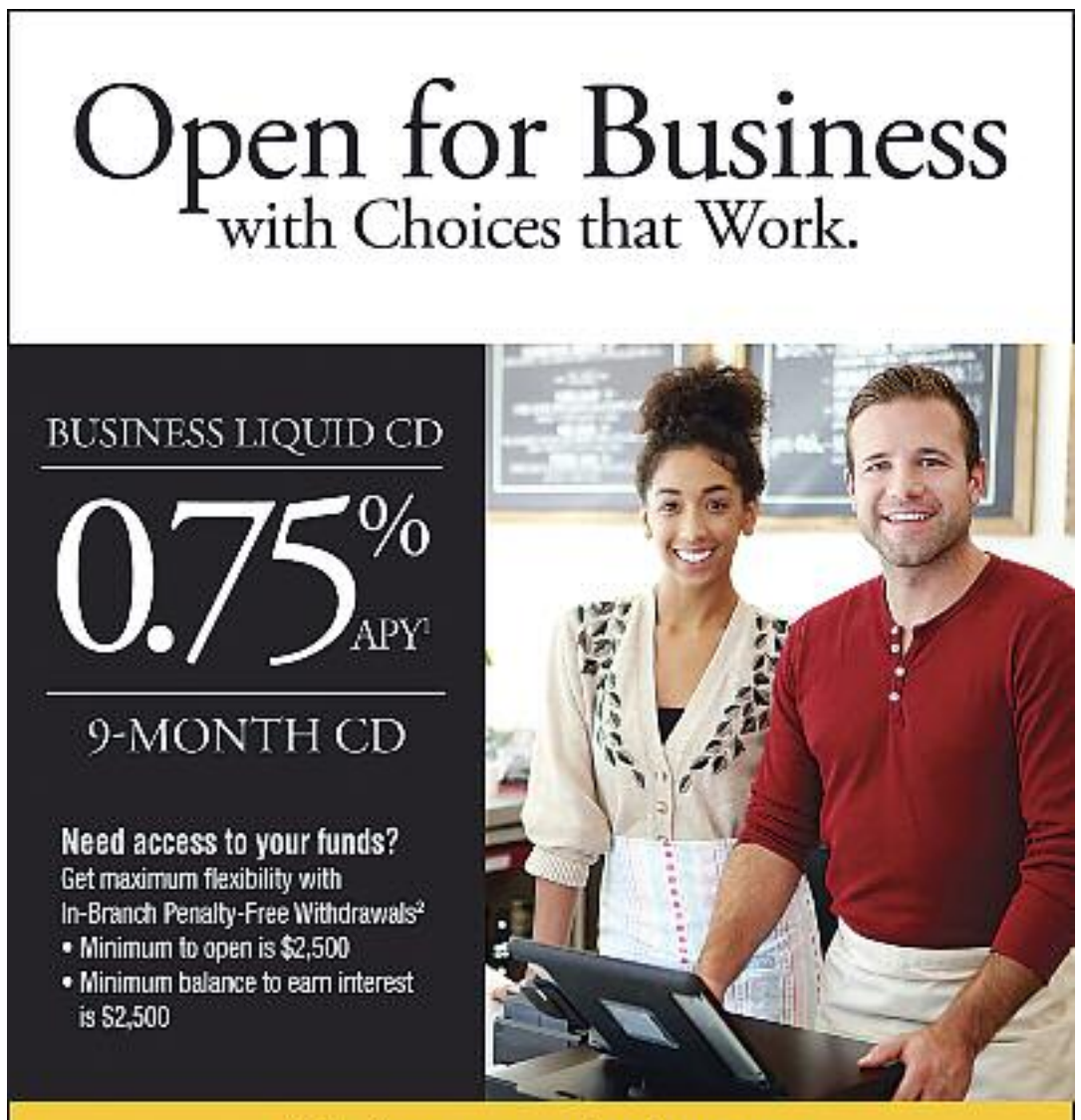
The king's wounds were dressed, though not properly cleaned, and became severely infected. By October 19, he was so delirious he was calling out the name of his mother, Queen Sophia, who was also in exile with her husband and oldest son. Despite her pleas, the Greek rulers would not allow Sophia to reenter the country to be at her son's side. They also would not allow any other family member to reenter, except for Alexander's grandmother, Queen Olga, widow of King George I.

But by the time Olga made it to Greece, Alexander had died, on October 25.

Again, the Greeks refused to allow anyone from the family, except Olga, to attend his funeral.

After Alexander's death, concerns that the monarchy would crumble led to the eventual restoration of Constantine I to the throne. Ironically, Greece lost all the territorial gains it had made during the "Puppet King's" reign.





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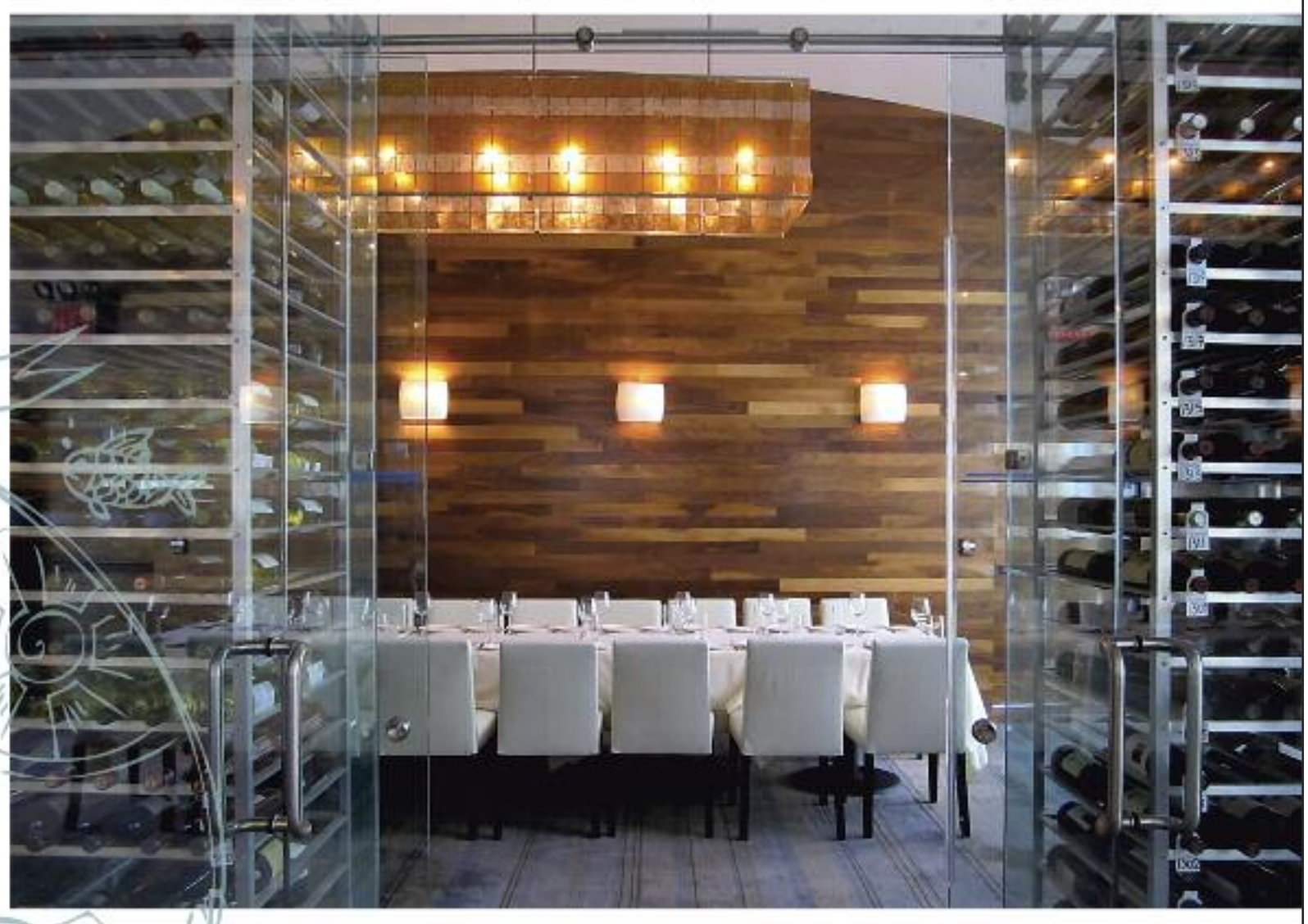

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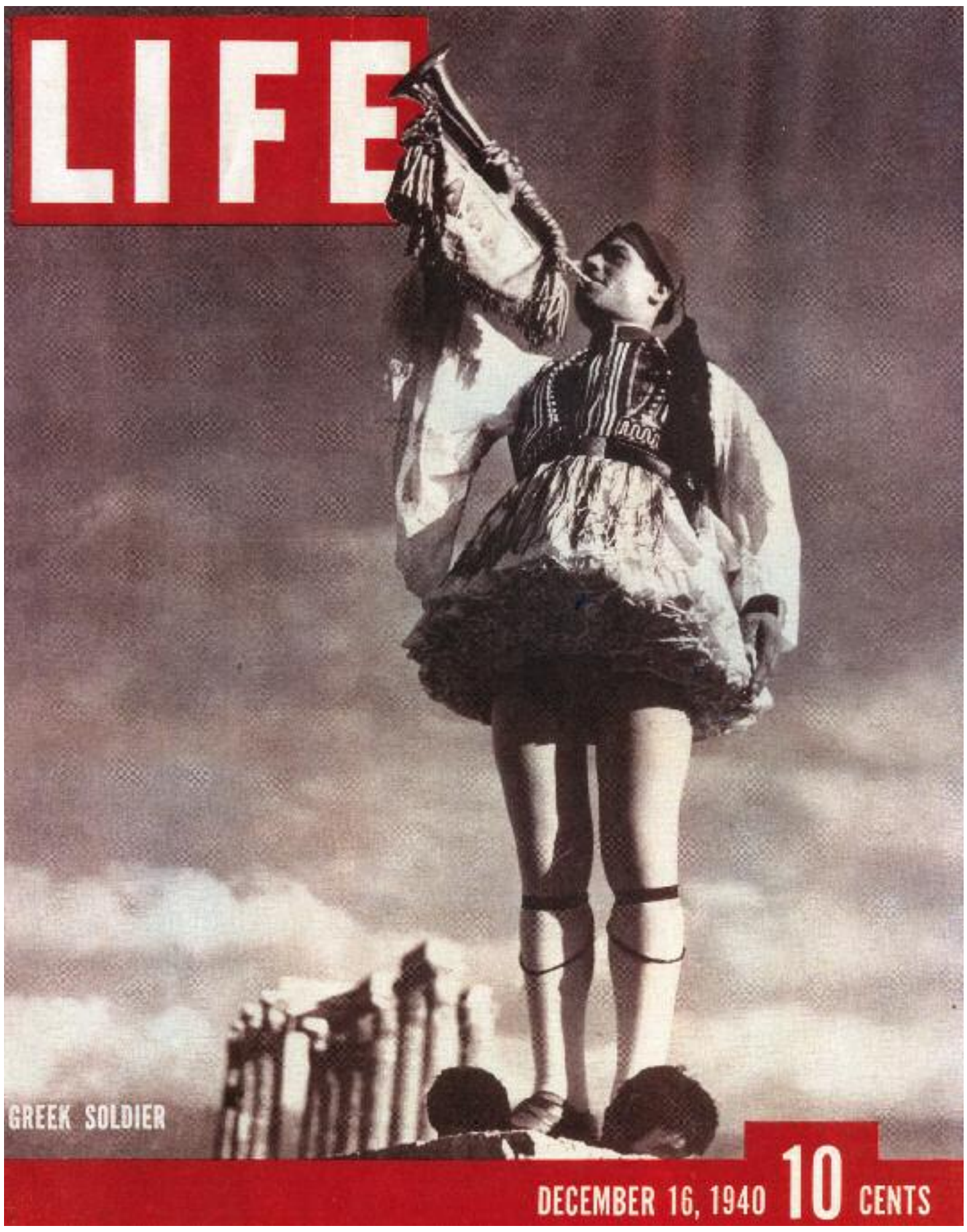

With Greek pride we are celebrating
the 'OXI' day of October 28, 1940
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