

Celebrating 106 Years of Ethnikos Kirix - Together

By Eraklis Diamataris

As much as we shrug our shoulders and try to carry on about our lives, this past year has been a trial for us all. The COVID-19 pandemic has flipped all of our lives upside down. Amidst all the chaos though, if one peels away how abnormal life has been over the last 12 to 14 months, we can start to see and appreciate things that we otherwise

might not have. With uncertainty all around us, one thing remained steadfast: the delivery of the news that matters to you, the Greek-American community and the Diaspora at large. There were times where people could have canceled their subscriptions or dropped their advertising, and our staff could have said that they were just too mentally overwhelmed to perform at work and that they needed time off. Through it all the community rallied behind

our newspaper, and our staff both here and around the world, despite more distance than we are accustomed to, stood tall and stayed true to the mission.

Ethnikos Kirikas turns an astounding 106 years old this week. Through our pages, we have seen immigrants arrive en masse from Greece and Cyprus, oftentimes not knowing the language and the only thing in their pockets was a fistful of hope. Our community has come

a long way in a relatively short amount of time and it's been our pleasure and honor to have been with you through the generations, each and every step of the way, as the catalogue of our triumphs, tragedies, and everything in-between. My sister Vanessa and I are the stewards of a profound publishing legacy that began 106 years ago and the fact that we publish a Greek-

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AP PHOTO/PETROS GIANNAKOURIS

Record Levels of COVID Cases, Frightening Number of Deaths This Week in Greece

Greek presidential guards wearing protective face masks perform a shift change in central Athens on March 30. This week, COVID-19 infections hit new records in Greece, with 4,340 new cases, and 72 deaths in one day. Related stories on pages 15-17.

The Greek Revolution through American Eyes

BOSTON – On Tuesday, March 30, a major exhibition, The Greek Revolution through American Eyes, opened with a celebratory event at the Maliotis Cultural Center of Hellenic College and Holy Cross School of Theology. In addition to the invited guests present at the Center, Greeks and Hellenophiles everywhere were able to watch the live-streamed opening on the exhibition website, www.greekrevolution.org.

This traveling and online exhibition is the fruit of a partnership between the Maliotis Center and the Dean C. and Zoe S. Pappas Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies of Stockton University. Consisting of 22 large panels with images of seminal documents and artifacts, it explores the common themes binding Greece and the United States in Greece's pursuit of liberty and also examines the formation of U.S. identity in the nation's first fifty years. Drs. Tom Papademetriou of Stockton and Nicholas Ganson of Hellenic College are co-directors of the exhibition, which will remain on view at the Maliotis Cultural Center through October 15, 2021.

The ceremony began with the singing of the American and Greek national anthems, followed by 'Ti Ypermachō', chanted by HCHC's St. Romanos the Melodist Byzantine Choir

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Designer Andrea Smith on AMS

By Eleni Sakellis

NEW YORK – Designer Andrea Smith was featured in Vogue on March 16 for her recently launched AMS fashion label showcasing Smith's "thoughtful designs using vintage denim painted with natural dyes."

Born in Minneapolis and now based in New York, Smith is a third generation Greek-

American and spoke to The National Herald about her work, her Greek roots, and her upcoming projects.

TNH: Where in Greece is the family from originally?

Andrea Smith: I'm third generation Greek-American, and was raised in Minneapolis where my great-grandparents settled. Both my maternal and paternal grandmothers' families

were from the village of Niata, in the Peloponnese. My maternal grandfather's family was from the Island of Samos, and otherwise the Smith in me comes from an American great-grandfather who met his Greek wife in Constantinople. When he brought her back to the states, she met my other two

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EMPIRE STATE REALTY TRUST

A Grand Building Never Looked So Glorious

Monuments all over the planet, including the Empire State Building, were lit in honor of 1821 thanks to Hellenes and Philhellenes. See related editorial on page 18.

Gino Cafarelli's Athena Visits the Marina

TNH Staff

NEW YORK – Athena Visits the Marina is the first children's book written by Gino Cafarelli, a multitalented Italian-American actor and filmmaker from Queens. He was inspired to

write the book by his daughter Athena, who was born with a hearing loss and now shares her name with the book's title character and protagonist.

The book tells the story of Athena, a little girl who was born with a hearing loss and has a daily routine that she follows every day, including putting in her hearing aids.

Her routine changes slightly, however, when she takes a trip with her parents to the marina. Athena's amplified hearing introduces her to a few fun friends by the water, turning the trip

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Raptakis Blasts Turkish Consulate for Letter

TNH Staff

COVENTRY, RI – As an Hellenic-American legislator, Rhode Island State Senator Leonidas (Lou) Raptakis (D-33) annually introduces a resolution recognizing Greek Independence Day, March 25, and celebrating the strong relationship between Greece and the United States. But this year, his work has attracted the attention of the Turkish Consul General in Boston, Ceylan Özen Erişen, who wrote to the Senate President asking to block the measure.

"This is a play right out of the authoritarian playbook of the Erdoğan regime, which is quite

comfortable engaging in purges and attacks on freedom of the press," said Sen. Raptakis. "In the past, the Consul General has attacked Brown's Greek program and criticized American media outlets for reporting on the anti-democratic actions of the Turkish government, but this displays a fundamental contempt for our democracy and the notion of freedom of speech."

In a letter to the Consul General, Raptakis noted that just last week, President Erdoğan shocked the world by withdrawing from the Council of Europe's Convention on preventing and

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EU Sidelines Greece, Cyprus; Carrots, not Stick for Turkey

Brussels seeks 'moderate behavior' from Ankara, warns sanctions are still in play

TNH Staff

Setting aside talk of sanctions for a third time, European Union leaders instead offered Turkey incentives for not invading waters around Greek islands to drill for energy but said penalties might someday be thought of if there are violations.

This time, Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis – who in October 2020 called for penalties for Turkish provocations – backed off and went along with an EU report that pushed a "positive agenda" – as did Cyprus, where Turkey is already drilling for oil and gas offshore.

European Council President Charles Michel, representing the 27 heads of state for the bloc, defended the lenient dual approach of offering Turkey rewards mixed with a warning that sanctions were still on, if not under, the table.

He said Turkey, which pulled an energy research vessel and

warship off the Greek island of Kastellorizo – but said it would return – should stick to what he called its "moderate behavior," the EU backing off going tough again.

"We really hope it will be possible to improve the relationship with Turkey, but at the same time ... for us it is important that Turkey keep a positive behavior, a moderate behavior," said Kathimerini.

"But we remain cautious and we remain careful, and indeed we are in contact with the Turkish authorities in order to pay a visit probably in April to Turkey," he said after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan again made the EU back away from penalties he said he would have ignored anyway.

A Greek government official not identified by the paper insisted that the EU is not giving Turkey a "blank check" for not

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Prof. Arvanitopoulos Speaks at Cathedral of Boston

By Theodore Kalmoukos

BOSTON – The former Minister of Education and Religion of Greece and currently professor of the 'Karamanlis' Chair at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy Constantine Arvanitopoulos, delivered an exceptional speech titled 'The Flame of Freedom 1821 and Making of Modern Greece' the Cathedral of the Annunciation Cathedral in Boston.

Metropolitan Methodios of Boston officiated at the Doxology assisted by Fr. Demetrios Toniais,

Dean of the Cathedral and present were Stratos Efthymiou, Consul General of Greece in Boston, Vasilios Kafkas, president of the Federation of the Hellenic-American Societies of Boston with members of the board of directors of the organization, and a group of Greek-American Evzones under the supervision of Demetrios Pappas, former president of the Federation.

Professor Arvanitopoulos in his speech said that "the Greek

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Greek Women's UC Hosts Talk

By Anthe Mitrakos

Special to The National Herald

After a pause due to the ongoing pandemic, the Greek Women's University Club held its first in-person event of the year in March, featuring attorney Sofia Sofou, who spoke on the hot topic of dual citizenship. The sold-out event was capped at just over 40 attendees to respect social distancing measures during this time.

"Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, our club suspended virtually all of its activities, following the successful lecture by Karen Batshaw in February of 2020, GWUC Co-President Harriette Condes Zervakis said. "The club will gradually begin to get back to a vibrant schedule of events," she said.

The nationality law of Greece states that Hellenic citizenship is acquired by descent or by other officially recognized means. For many in the United States, the process of official Hellenic documents was for a long time seen as an unnecessary hurdle, but in recent years, Sofou said she has seen an increase in interest in dual citizenship. "There is a tremendous increase of applications for

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Doctors Group on EU's Plan for Ref. Camps

TNH Staff

ATHENS – The medical aid group Doctors Without Border (MSF) said European Union plan to put up 276 million euros (\$323.87 million) for new refugee and migrant camps on Greek islands won't work or alleviate suffering.

The group said visiting European Commissioner Ylva Johansson, who went to the islands of Lesbos and Samos that have existing detention camps, was putting a "positive spin on what is in reality a disastrous situation."

It added that the EU was planning "to implement the same policies that have created only suffering for the past five years since the EU-Turkey deal," referring to an essentially suspended 2016 agreement.

That was supposed to see Turkey contain some 4.4 million refugees and migrants who went there fleeing war, strife and economic hardships in their homelands, and also take back those who made it to Greece but deemed ineligible for asylum.

MSF's medical coordinator for Lesbos, Hilde Vochten, wrote in an open letter that people seeking sanctuary in Greece af-

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THE BICENTENNIAL OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE COINCIDES WITH THE REEMERGENCE OF NEW YORK FROM THE PANDEMIC



Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce

The **Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce** wishes the best for Greece on the 200th anniversary of Independence! The Chamber was formed over seventy years ago and actively works to strengthen commercial relations between America and the Hellenic Community.

www.hellenicamerican.cc



HELLENIC-AMERICAN CULTURAL FOUNDATION

The **Hellenic-American Cultural Foundation** celebrates the Bicentennial of Greek Independence!

The Foundation is a not-for-profit organization that produces concerts, exhibitions, lectures and cultural programs for all interested in the history and culture of Greece and the Greek Diaspora.

www.hacfoundation.org

As the **Empire State Building** symbolizes the financial strength of the City and is an icon of New York culture, so too is the Hellenic Community, through its industriousness and innovation, and shared Greek culture, woven into the fabric of what makes New York City a global capital. The Chamber and the Foundation thank the Empire State Building for illuminating the building in the blue and white colors of the Greek Flag to honor the Bicentennial in solidarity with Greece and the Hellenic Community.

As New York emerges commercially and culturally from the pandemic, the Chamber and the Foundation stand ready to support the Hellenic Community in the collective effort to revitalize New York City.

Ζήτω η Ελλάς!



Photo Credit: Empire State Realty Trust

“The Empire State Building has always stood tall
as a beacon of light and progress at the heart of New York City.

The lighting of the Empire State Building’s colors
in the blue and white of our Greek Flag
on this Bicentennial Anniversary of Greek Independence
is a great gesture of friendship
from the Empire State Building towards Greece
and to the vibrant Hellenic community
in New York and the United States.”

AHEPA District Six & Delphi 25 Reenact First NYC Hellenic Parade

TNH Staff

NEW YORK – AHEPA Empire State District Six and the Manhattan-based AHEPA Delphi Chapter #25, upon the occasion of the Hellenic Flag raising at Bowling Green in Manhattan on March 24, re-enacted the First Hellenic Independence Day Parade in New York held on April 6, 1893.

Following the Hellenic flag raising at Bowling Green, members of AHEPA Empire State District 6 and the Manhattan-based AHEPA Delphi Chapter #25, (the largest District and Chapter, respectively, in AHEPA's national and international domain) reenacted the original Hellenic Independence Day Parade that took place on April 6, 1893 (and also in 1894, etc.) in the downtown Manhattan Broadway-City Hall area.

On that day 300 Hellenes who had settled in New York, most of whom lived by the docks that at the time studded lower Manhattan, marched on Broadway by way of Chambers Street to City Hall. Then-New York City Mayor Thomas Gilroy allowed the Hellenic Flag to be flown over City Hall with a flag also raised by the Hellenes over nearby Reiner Hall at 475 Pearl St. Solon J. Vlastos, the President of the Brotherhood of Athena (the first Hellenic fraternal society in New York), who also later in 1894 founded the Atlantis newspaper, helped make the arrangements. In a letter to the mayor, he wrote that "on the Acropolis of Athens, above the noble ruins of the Parthenon, every Fourth of July, the Stars and Stripes float as a remembrance of the debt of Greece to America."

This was the very beginning of the grand Greek Independence Day Parade which later became an annual event along Fifth Avenue and the largest Hellenic Independence Parade in the world. Regrettably, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the parade was not held in 2020 and 2021.

The press reported at the time that "it was a great day for the Greeks of New York." Coverage of the parade appeared in the April 6 editions of the New York Times, the New York Herald, the New York Daily Tribune, the New York World, and the Brooklyn Daily Eagle.

It should be noted that in 1891 about 450 members of the Brotherhood of Athena, the first Hellenic fraternity in New York, raised funds to establish the Church of the Holy Trinity.

Among several AHEPA Brothers that were present during the March 24 Hellenic Flag raising event were AHEPA Supreme Vice President Jimmy Kokotas, Empire State District Six Governor Louis Katsos, District Six Marshal Paul Macropoulos, District Six Director of Operations and Family Excellence Anastasios Stampolis, President of the Delphi Chapter Theodore P. Klingos, Past Presidents of Delphi Chapter #25 Michael Papaphotes and Argyris S. Argitakos, as well as several members of Delphi Chapter #25.

For any further information on AHEPA Empire State District Six please visit: www.ahepad6.com and for AHEPA Delphi Chapter #25: www.ahepa25.org.



AHEPA District Six and Delphi Chapter 25 reenacted the first Hellenic Independence Day Parade in New York. Left to right: Kriton Pantelides, Paul Macropoulos, Konstantinos Prentzas, AHEPA Supreme Vice President Jimmy Kokotas, PDG Michael Papaphotes, District 6 Governor Louis Katsos, Delphi 25 President Theodore P. Klingos, Argyris S. Argitakos, Nicholas Bardis, Anastasios Stampolis and Zikos Tsokas.



PHOTOS: ARGYRIS S. ARGITAKOS

Left to right: Paul Macropoulos, Anastasios Stampolis, Konstantinos Prentzas, AHEPA Supreme Vice President Jimmy Kokotas, Delphi 25 President Theodore P. Klingos, Zikos Tsokas, PDG Michael Papaphotes, District 6 Governor Louis Katsos, and Argyris S. Argitakos.



Annunciation Church Celebrates Feast Day and 200 Years of Greek Independence

The Annunciation of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church in Elkins Park on March 25 celebrated its feast day and the 200th Anniversary of the Independence of Greece with the Orthros, Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, and Doxology. The services were presided over by His Grace Bishop Apostolos of Medeia who was assigned on February 3 of this year by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America with the liturgical and pastoral responsibilities and needs of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey.

TNH/STEVE LAMBROU

A Ribbon of Blue and White from Coast to Coast for Greek Bicentennial

TNH Staff

SAN FRANCISCO – From the Atlantic to the Pacific the United States is honoring the freedom fighters who 200 years ago rose to break their shackles, shocking the world and inspiring Americans reminiscing about their own revolution half a century earlier, with many planning the end of slavery in their own country.

On the west coast, California is celebrating the 200th anniversary of Greek Independence in a variety of ways. From Greek flags flying over various cities and landmarks lit in blue and white, Greek pride in the historic bicentennial of 1821 is on view up and down the state, while in New York, the point of entry for hundreds of thousands of Greek immigrants, the Kosciuszko Bridge was lit in Blue and White on March 25.

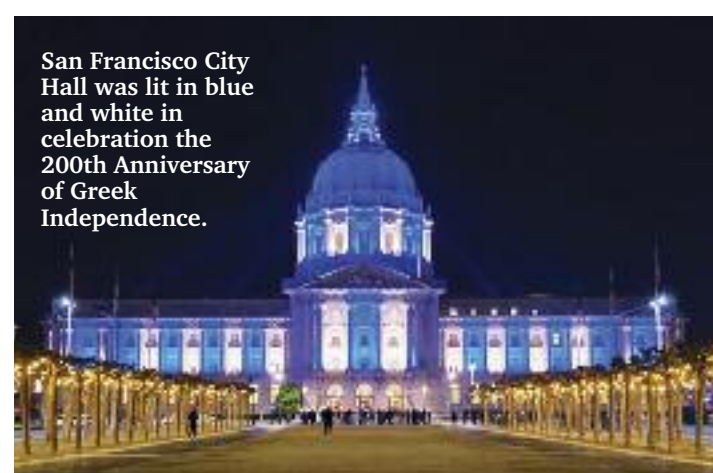
At the nation's northern border, Niagara Falls was also lit in blue and white. George Paralemos told The National Herald that he is "working to see if more New York iconic landmark buildings and bridges can participate in this historic celebration."

United Hellenic American Societies (UHAS) (UHAS President Taso Zografos shared how the Greek community of San Francisco honored 200 years of freedom, saying via email, that "on the evening of March 25, 2021,

about 200 people randomly gathered at Civic Center Plaza in front of an illuminated San Francisco City Hall in blue and white lights to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of Greek Independence. At one point the crowd spontaneously began to sing the Greek National Anthem in unison followed by cheers of 'ZITO HELLAS, ZHTO H ELLAS.' Someone in the crowd then turned on a portable Bluetooth speaker, started playing Greek music, and everyone was dancing with joy, pride, and high spirits. It was truly



A patriotic young man dressed as an Evzone stood guard by the Greek flag at the top of the Mark Hopkins Hotel in Nob Hill.



San Francisco City Hall was lit in blue and white in celebration the 200th Anniversary of Greek Independence.

COURTESY OF TASO ZOGRAFOS



COURTESY OF TASO ZOGRAFOS

a special moment of unity, reflection, and celebration to what otherwise was a glorious and proud day."

In another part of the city a patriotic young man dressed as an Evzone carried a large Greek flag on Lombard Street and stood guard by the Greek flag at the top of the Mark Hopkins Hotel in Nob Hill.

In Southern California, at the

famed Santa Monica Pier, the Pacific Wheel was lit blue and white and featured a waving Greek flag on Thursday, March 25.

In partnership with United Hellenic American Societies (UHAS) and the Greek Consulate, the Pacific Wheel shined blue and white with a 90-foot tall animated representation of the Greek flag 7 PM to midnight on Thursday, March 25.

City of San Jose Honors 200th Anniversary of '21

TNH Staff

SAN JOSE, CA – In commemoration of Greece's Bicentennial, the iconic glass rotunda of San Jose's City Hall was illuminated in blue and white lights from March 23-28. This special tribute to the Greek-American community was spearheaded by San Jose Councilmember Pam Foley of District 9.

Councilmember Foley also honored Greek Independence Day at the Tuesday, March 30 City Council meeting where she presented a proclamation signed

by Mayor Sam Liccardo and full council.

This was made possible by the combined efforts of the San Jose Chapters of AHEPA and the Daughters of Penelope with the United Hellenic American Societies (UHAS) of California.

The team includes AHEPA District 21 Governor Alex Mallas, AHEPA Silicon Valley Chapter President Bill Christie, DOP District 21 Governor Linda Belba, DOP Daphne Chapter #29 President Laurie Sahines, and UHAS President Taso Zografos.



VICTORIA PANAYOTOPOULOS

In commemoration of Greece's Bicentennial, the iconic glass rotunda of San Jose's City Hall will be illuminated in blue and white lights from March 23-28.

Ft. Lauderdale Mayor Dean Trantalis Shares 1821 Bicentennial Proclamation

TNH Staff

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL – The City of Fort Lauderdale celebrated the 200th anniversary of Greek Independence with a proclamation and the lighting

in blue and white of five buildings, the Las Olas Parking Garage, AutoNation, The Main Las Olas, New River Center, and the Stiles Corporate Office.

Greek-American Mayor Dean J. Trantalis posted on Facebook about the illumination of the five buildings along with a photo of the Las Olas Parking Garage and the message, "our very best wishes go out to all Greek-Americans in our city."

Mayor Trantalis also posted the proclamation recognizing the bicentennial of the Greek Revolution. The text of the proclamation follows:

Office of the Mayor, City of Fort Lauderdale Proclamation

In Recognition of the 200th Anniversary of Greek Independence Day

WHEREAS, The Founding Fathers of the United States of America based their hopes and ideals of a democracy for the people and by the people from the Hellenic principles of ancient Greece; and

WHEREAS, Nearly half a century after America's founding, Bishop Germanos of Patras raised the flag of the Greek revolution over the Monastery of Agia Lavra in the Peloponnese on March 25th, 1821; and

WHEREAS, this public act against the Ottoman Empire ignited the war for Greek inde-



MAYOR DEAN J. TRANTALIS / FACEBOOK

The Las Olas Parking Garage in Fort Lauderdale was among the buildings lit in the colors of the Greek flag in honor of the 200th anniversary of Greek Independence.

pendence and the fight to return democracy to its global birthplace; and

WHEREAS, for eight years, the serene Mediterranean was engulfed in the flames of war as the Greeks were aided by Great Britain, France, and Russia in their [fight] for freedom; and

WHEREAS, in 1829, the bloodshed ceased with the Ottoman Empire's defeat, and Greece's autonomy recognized with the Treaty of Adrianople; and

WHEREAS, on this 200th anniversary of Greece's Independence, the City of Fort Lauderdale celebrates the cultural

history of its residents of Hellenic descent and remembers the contributions that Greek-Americans make to every aspect of our community's fabric.


NOW, THEREFORE, WE, as City Commissioners of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, do hereby proclaim March 25th, 2021 as:

THE 200th ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

in the City of Fort Lauderdale, Dated this, the 16th day of March 2021

Signed:
Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

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FL's CFO Jimmy Patronis Issues Proclamation Honoring 1821

TNH Staff

TALLAHASSEE, FL – The State of Florida Chief Financial Officer and State Fire Marshal Jimmy Patronis shared the proclamation he issued on March 25 in honor of the 200th Anniversary of Greek Independence. The text of the proclamation follows:



The State of Florida Chief Financial Officer and State Fire Marshal Jimmy Patronis shared the proclamation he issued on March 25 in honor of the 200th Anniversary of Greek Independence.

WHEREAS, the Ottoman Empire ruled almost all of Greece over the course of the 14th and 15th centuries and the power of the Ottoman Empire declined in the 18th and 19th centuries as revolutionary nationalism grew across Europe and Greek nationalism began to assert itself; and

WHEREAS, the desire for some form of independence and the survival of the Greek language was common among Greeks of all classes, fostered by the Greek Orthodox Church; and

WHEREAS, the Greek War of Independence also known as the Greek Revolution was a successful war waged by the Greeks to win independence from the Ottoman Empire; and

WHEREAS, the Greeks were the first of the Ottoman Empire to secure recognition as an independent sovereign power and the Greek Revolution was the first of many that led to the eventual break-up of the Ottoman Empire; and

WHEREAS, Greek culture influenced the Roman Empire and many other civilizations, and continues to influence modern cultures today; and

WHEREAS, due to strong historical, political, cultural and religious ties between the two nations, Greece and the United States today enjoy excellent diplomatic relations and are considered great allies; and

WHEREAS, as a leader in the region and longstanding NATO ally, Greece has been an important partner to the United States in promoting regional security, stability, and economic development; and

WHEREAS, Florida has deep ties to the Greek community including, Tarpon Springs, a city in Pinellas County with the highest percentage of Greek Americans of any city in the United States; and

WHEREAS, March 25th of 2021 marks the historic 200th anniversary of the 1821 Revolution against the Ottomans, which eventually led to the formation of the modern Greek State.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer and State Fire Marshal of the State of Florida does hereby commemorate

GREECE'S 200TH INDEPENDENCE DAY and acknowledges the important role that Greece played on the global stage and their strong relationship with the United States.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF the Chief Financial Officer and State Fire Marshal of the State of Florida has hereunto subscribed his name and has caused the Official Seal of the State of Florida to be hereunto affixed in the City of Tallahassee on the 25th day of March 2021.

Signed Jimmy Patronis, Chief Financial Officer and State Fire Marshal.



Michigan State Senator Jim Stamas presenting the Greek Independence Day proclamation on the Senate floor at the State Capitol in Lansing.

GID Celebrated at the Michigan State Capitol

TNH Staff

LANSING, MI – The celebration of the 200th anniversary of Greek Independence continued from the State Capitol in Lansing, Michigan State Senator Jim Stamas presented the Greek Independence Day proclamation on the State Senate floor for a vote to proclaim March 25, 2021 as Greek Independence Day in the State of Michigan. The Michigan Senate voted unanimously in favor.

Community members expressed their thanks to Senator Stamas, former member of the Michigan House of Representatives Lynn Afendoulis, and Bryce Webster, staff member for Senator Stamas.

Among the Greek-American community members present were Larry Stassinis and his grandson Anthony Davis, Craig Theros and his wife Hongyun, and Nick Phillips.

AHEPA Celebrates Greek Bicentennial by Honoring Ypsilanti Statue in Namesake City

TNH Staff

YPSILANTI, MI – On March 22, in Michigan, AHEPA continued its Greek Bicentennial celebration by honoring a marble statue of Demetri Ypsilanti, the Greek revolutionary hero. The event was attended by His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit and Ypsilanti Mayor Lois Richardson. The chair and Master of Ceremonies was Past Supreme Governor Craig Theros of Ann Arbor Chapter 195. Supreme Governor Nick Regopoulos, District 10 Governor Demetris Papageorgiou and many past District 10 Governors also were in attendance. Attendees from all over the Automotive District participated including its Daughters of Penelope and Sons of Pericles.

The anthems of both Greece and the United States were performed by Yan W. Theros and Socrates D. Papageorgiou. A historical reflection was presented by AHEPA historian Nicholas Stamos. A Daughters of Penelope presentation on the women of the Greek revolution was given by Professor Eleni Tratras Contis. Supreme President Horiates spoke on the significance of AHEPA and its role in the alliance between the two nations, noting the forefathers of today's AHEPA understood the need to promote and preserve the contributions and sentiments of the American philhellene.

Addressing Mayor Richardson, the Supreme President said, "to America, people like Demetri Ypsilanti were revered as defenders of Hellenism. To rename a town in his honor, and to have AHEPA forever memorialize this decision, is truly remarkable. AHEPA is here today in this the Bicentennial year of Greece to historically record and celebrate these stories – of heroism and of your most honorable residents of Ypsilanti of almost 200 years ago, which forever stands as a testament to the contribu-



Ypsilanti, Michigan commemorates the 200th Anniversary of the Greek Revolution.

tions of Greece to our culture and the inspiration Greece served during its heroic stance for freedom."

The book, titled The History of Ypsilanti, notes:

"Among the notable world events of the times was the Greek revolution. In this splendid struggle of the Greek people against Turkish tyranny appeared a historic figure, Demetrios Ypsilanti. With 300 men he held the Citadel of Argos for three days against an army of 30,000. Then, having exhausted his provisions, he had escaped one night beyond the enemy lines with his entire command, having not lost a single man. Such an exploit was calculated to touch the world's fancy, and in America the name was lauded, while quantities of clothing and provisions were gathered for the destitute Greek people."

The city was renamed after Ypsilanti as an honor by the philhellenes of the area. Originally named Woodruff's Grove, this Michigan community

changed its name to Ypsilanti in 1829, the year its namesake effectively won the war for Greek Independence at the Battle of Petra. The AHEPA monument of Demetrios Ypsilantis stands between a Greek and a U.S. flag at the base of the landmark Ypsilanti Water Tower.

Supreme President George G. Horiates elevated the status of AHEPA's first public work, listing it as first on the AHEPA Monument list as AHEPA begins to chronicle its almost 100-year history.

The monument dedication occurred at AHEPA's 6th Supreme Convention, held in Detroit in 1928. The following is an account of the Detroit Free Press of August 27, 1928:

"The opening in Detroit today of the convention of the National Order of AHEPA will be marked by the arrival of hundreds of Greek-Americans, who, during the course of the meeting will dedicate at Ypsilanti a monument to General Demetrios Ypsilanti, in whose honor the city was named ... The unfurling of

the Ypsilanti monument, which is from the same ancient quarries from which the Parthenon was built, touches the history of Michigan and Detroit, as well as that of the city of Ypsilanti ... The Order of AHEPA throughout the United States contributed funds for the purchase and presentation to the city."

After the Greek Bicentennial celebration at Ypsilanti, the Supreme President was given a tour of adjacent Eastern Michigan University, escorted by Eastern Michigan University Professor Eleni Tratras Contis, members of District 10 and the local Evzones. There they honored the Supreme President at the monument of Icaros donated by the Pan Icarian Brotherhood, in honor of the Supreme President's ancestral roots.

AHEPA will continue providing these timely remembrances and stories that need to be told, commemorating the brave Greeks and their friends who fought for freedom 200 years ago.

Malatras on SUNY's Building Lit in Blue and White

TNH Staff

NEW YORK – The State University of New York (SUNY) Chancellor Dr. Jim Malatras, a proud Greek-American, released a statement on the H. Carl McCall SUNY Building in Albany being lit in blue and white, the colors of the Greek flag, in honor of the 200th anniversary of Greek Independence.

Dr. Malatras' statement follows:

"For the first time ever the H. Carl McCall SUNY Building, where my office sits as chancellor of the nation's largest higher education system, shines brightly in the colors of Greece as the world celebrates the 200th Greek Independence Day. As a descendent from the people of Kastraki, this is a day when I proudly reflect on their heroic fight for independence – to regain their identity and their way of life as Greeks. To my family in Greece and here in the United States 'χρόνια πολλά. Χαίρε, ω χαιρε, ελευθεριά! Ζήτω η Ελλάδα!"

Dr. Jim Malatras was named the 14th chancellor of The State University of New York on August 21, 2020. Prior to his role leading the SUNY system, Dr. Malatras served as the fifth president of SUNY Empire State College. Prior to joining SUNY Empire in May 2019, he served as



LEFT: The H. Carl McCall SUNY Building lit in blue and white, the colors of the Greek flag, in honor of the 200th anniversary of Greek Independence. RIGHT: Dr. Jim Malatras, the State University of New York (SUNY) Chancellor.



COURTESY OF SUNY

president of the Rockefeller Institute of Government, where he led the Institute's modernization effort to offer policymakers evidence-based policy analysis and recommendations on timely topics.

Dr. Malatras has held several high-ranking positions in New York State government, including director of state operations to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo,

where he managed the day-to-day operation of state government and served as the administration's point person on policy development and implementation.

An education policy expert, Dr. Malatras served as the executive director of the governor's New York Education Reform Commission from 2012-2014, executive director of legislative

affairs and state policy to Attorney General Cuomo, and legislative director to former assemblyman Richard L. Brodsky. Dr. Malatras served as Chief of Staff for Chancellor Nancy Zimpher from July 2013 to August 2014.

Dr. Malatras received his bachelor's degree, master's degree and doctorate in political science from the University at Albany.

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LADY HOPE

(Greek Situation 1821 – 2021 Economic Perspective)

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Portrayed as humore but maybe a little serious

By Ioannis Lamprou

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PIASA Auction House Exclusive Sale of Works by Greek Artist Pavlos

TNH Staff

PARIS – PIASA Auction house presents, on Thursday, April 8, 5:30 PM Paris time, an exclusive sale of works by the Greek artist Pavlos (1930-2019).

Prefacing their Modern and Contemporary sale, this monographic auction is centered on 28 lots. Exceptionally, the works presented are all directly from the artist's family.

Having all been shown in major exhibitions in France and abroad, these works epitomize Pavlos' oeuvre from the 1960s to the 2000s, and benefit from an impeccable provenance.

Pavlos Dionyssopoulos, better known by his artist's moniker Pavlos, was born in 1930 in Filatra. Aged 19, he left his native Greece for the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris, which became his lifelong home.

In Paris in the 1950s, home

of the Nouveaux Réalistes, Pavlos mingled with sculptors Alexander Calder, Alberto Giacometti, and César, as well as famous art critic Pierre Restany, whom he met at the Salon des Réalités Nouvelles in 1963. In his studio next door to Jean Dubuffet, rue Vaugirard, he progressively relinquished painting and began working with paper collages of cut strips of posters. Guided by the plastic potential of this medium, Pavlos elaborated a singular formal vocabulary. Mischievously drawing from the iconography of classical painting, the artist trimmed thin strips of multicolored papers, which he first assembled into abstract compositions. The near-organic shapes of his works capture the viewer's attention and distort his relationship to a reality turned strange. In this manner, Pavlos set himself apart from the Parisian 'Affichistes'

such as Raymond Hains and Jacques Villeglé.

Later on, Pavlos' abstract compositions gave way to works evoking objects from daily life, such as clothes and accessories. Somewhat echoing Pop Art, Pavlos' work found success during his first American show in 1967, at New York's Fischbach Gallery. The early 1970s saw him create a series of paper installations, including a set of 26 trees (La Forêt), presented during his first individual exhibition in Hanover. Free-spirited, Pavlos was instrumental in uniting art and life, the work and its audience, and enthusiastically embraced the art of the performance. One of the works presented here (Le Jeu – Happening de basket) is the sole witness to such an event.

In 1967, Fischbach Gallery in New York organized one of Pavlos' first shows in the United



XAVIER DEFAIX / COURTESY OF PIASA AUCTION HOUSE

Congress, 1967, by Pavlos (Pavlos Dionyssopoulos) (1930-2019), is made of trimmed papers and pieces of fabric on Formica chairs. Signed and dated on the seating (on one chair), the work's provenance is from the artist's family and the auction estimate is 30,000-50,000 €.

States. The artist had the innovative idea to recreate a shop. Thus, when spectators entered the gallery space, they discovered simple Formica chairs on which were displayed coats of trimmed paper (Le Congrès, 1967). The effect produced was unsettling and deceptive, as Pavlos explained: "when people walked into the exhibit, they would come back out thinking they had mistakenly entered an actual shop. Some sat on the chairs, others put their coats on the back of the empty chairs. There was really no more distance between the work and the viewer."

In this entirely neutral décor, where any form of pathos was removed in favor of a voluntarily empty and neutral demonstration, the spectator was caught off-guard.

More information is available online: piasa.fr/en/home.

Capital Link Webinar: 'Culture & Education among Greek-Americans'

TNH Staff

NEW YORK – On the occasion of the establishment of the Miltiadis Marinakis Endowed Professorship for Modern Greek Language and Culture at The Ohio State University and of the appointment of the first Professor, Yiorgos Anagnostou, Capital Link presents the webinar discussion on Culture and Education among Greek Americans on Wednesday, April 7, 12 PM EDT/7 PM Athens.

Academic departments in the humanities have been dwindling in the past decades worldwide, as part of a wider shift of interest from the arts and humanities to the sciences.

This shift is more practically oriented, but can endanger knowledge of cultural diversity, language, and tradition both for individuals and societies.

To preserve access to higher education about Modern Greece abroad, with Evangelos Marinakis as lead sponsor, Ohio Hellenic Paideia (OHP, Columbus, Ohio, USA) initiated and completed a

new round of fundraising between 2015-2020, in order to safeguard the continuing operation of the Modern Greek Studies Program at The Ohio State University in Columbus.

The chair of the program has been named after Marinakis' late father, Miltiadis Marinakis, a well-respected philanthropist, who instilled in Marinakis a sense of duty toward his fellow man and pride in his Greek heritage.

The Miltiadis Marinakis Endowed Professorship for Modern Greek Language and Culture was established by The Board of Trustees of The Ohio State University (OSU) on March 25, 2020.

This webinar will highlight modern Greek language and culture, in the wider context of the Greek-American experience, preserving tradition throughout history, while absorbing and reshaping enriching influences, and evolving with global popular culture.

The webinar will consist of a 90-minute expert discussion, which will



be followed by a live Q&A session lasting for 15 minutes.

This webinar will be archived and available for replay on demand upon registration.

Speakers for the event include His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, Ambassador of Greece to the

United States Alexandra Papadopoulou, Capital Link President Nicolas Borzois, Chairman - Capital Maritime & Trading Corp. Evangelos Marinakis, Yiorgos Anagnostou - the Miltiadis Marinakis Professor of Modern Greek Language and Culture at OSU, and moderator Gregory Jusdanis,

OSU Modern Greek Humanities Distinguished Professor.

Panelists include: John P. Calamos, Sr., Founder, Chairman & Global CIO-Calamos Investments, Chairman - National Hellenic Museum; Drake Behrakis, The Behrakis Foundation, Board Chairman - National Hellenic Society Organization, President- Marwick Associates; Robert Buhler, Chairman - PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation, President and Chief Executive Officer - Open Pantry Food Marts of Wisconsin, Inc.; AHEPA Supreme President George G. Horiates; and Artemis Leontis, C.P. Cavafy Professor of Modern Greek and Comparative Literature Department of Classical Studies at the University of Michigan.

Participants can submit questions to the panelists live during the event through the special feature on the event page (Q&A button), or they can email them prior or during the event to Capital Link at questions@capitalink.com.

More information is available online: <http://webinars.capitalink.com>.

Transatlantic Art Exhibition, Faces of the Hero, to Premiere in NY and Athens

TNH Staff

NEW YORK – Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center (SNFCC) on March 17 announced Faces of the Hero, a transatlantic visual arts exhibition to be presented in both New York City and Athens this summer as the inaugural collaboration of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation-Lincoln Center Agora Initiative (SNF-LC). Works by students from the Parsons School of Design and Athens School of Fine Arts that examine the meaning of a 'hero' and 'heroism' through

part of Restart Stages, an outdoor performing arts center being created on Lincoln Center's campus and launching on World Health Day, April 7. Faces of the Hero is also the title of the themed events programming of SNFCC on the occasion of the 200-year anniversary of the beginning of the Greek Revolution. Additional events, including plays, concerts, and educational programs celebrating the Greek historical milestone will take place on the SNFCC campus in Athens.

Faces of the Hero is the first major collaboration of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation-

public space. We hope the 'Twin Agoras' in Athens and New York City serve as a creative catalyst and valuable reminder of the importance of connection across people and cultures, and the many forms this can take. We look forward to the students' interpretations of heroism, from the past to its new implication in the present," said Andreas Dracopoulos, SNF Co-President.

"Finding innovative ways to offer accessible, public space to artists and community members is central to our work. With the first project of this new partnership, we are putting the arts at the center of timely civic discourse. This is the first of many activations we will undertake through the SNF-LC Agora Initiative with our friends at the SNFCC, alongside artists and community members here in New York and in Athens. These connections are so essential to the vitality of our city, never more so than as we come back from this pandemic," said Henry Timms, President and CEO of Lincoln Center.

"This inaugural project of our partnership with Lincoln Center kicks off a promising collaboration, one that builds strong ties with the art community internationally, this time with the young creative talent at the Parsons School of Design in New York and the School of Fine Arts in Athens. We are thrilled that this exhibition is inspired by the SNFCC exploration of the Faces of the Hero, on the occasion of the 200-year anniversary of the Greek Revolution, as well as by the heroes that have emerged in our current times, and we are



grateful to the Stavros Niarchos Foundation for envisioning and enabling this collaboration through its grants to Lincoln Center and the SNFCC," said Elly Andriopoulou, Managing Director SNFCC.

The necessity of accessible public spaces that enhance civic life and meet artistic needs has only been heightened by the effects of the pandemic. Throughout 2021, the cultural centers in both New York City and Athens will be enlivened by a substantial knowledge-exchange link and varied artistic collaborations. Lincoln Center and the SNFCC's shared vision will allow benefits of the collaboration to flow in both directions across the Atlantic, creating 'Twin Agoras'.

The two institutions will provide artists, thinkers, and creative professionals with the space to create new work that responds dynamically to current events, to foster the exchange of ideas, as well as to experi-

ment with and investigate the notion of mirroring events and sparking conversations across

continents. For more information, visit LincolnCenter.org/Hero.

The inaugural collaboration of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation-Lincoln Center Agora Initiative will feature artwork that examines the meaning of a 'hero'.

time will be displayed in outdoor public spaces on both sites for free beginning in July.

The project is made possible by the generous support of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF), as part of the SNF-LC Agora Initiative, a collaboration that reimagines and reactivates public spaces for a new era through international Twin Agoras at Lincoln Center and the SNFCC.

Faces of the Hero invites student artists to submit their works interpreting heroic figures or facets of heroism from the past until the present day. A jury comprised of art professionals and leaders from Athens and New York City will choose 20 works for display, 10 from each city.

The free exhibition will be

Lincoln Center Agora Initiative, a partnership that prioritizes meaningful artistic and community-focused activations of public spaces.

With the partnership, Lincoln Center's iconic 16-acre Manhattan campus will welcome the public to reactivated outdoor spaces, to be utilized as an 'agora', a public gathering place at the center of civic life. A desire to give Athens a similar space, one that truly belongs to the public, guided SNF in both creating the SNFCC through its largest grant to date and in giving it over to the people of Greece in 2017.

"Particularly vital at a time when travel is limited, the SNF-LC Agora Initiative endeavors to build bridges across the ocean, connecting us through art and

Georgetown University Hosts Virtual Celebration of 1821 Bicentennial, April 8

TNH Staff

WASHINGTON, DC – The Hellenic Society and The Modern Greek Studies Program of Georgetown University on Thursday, April 8, 7:30 PM EDT, hosts a virtual celebration of the Bicentennial of the Greek War of Independence with a presentation on America and Hellas: A History Forged during the Hellenic Revolution of 1821 by Lou Katsos, President of the East Mediterranean Business Culture Alliance (EMBCA) and Chairman of AHEPA's Hellenic Cultural Commission.

Register online for the event via Zoom: shorturl.at/cnNSU.



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GREEK GASTRONOMY

By Eleni Sakellis

Healthy Shrimp Recipes to Enjoy This Time of Year

Shrimp are a versatile ingredient and a relatively quick cooking option for weeknight meals. With calcium, iodine, and omega-3 and omega-6 essential fatty acids, important for brain and immune system health, shrimp are often the most affordable and readily available shellfish in local markets. Choose wild American shrimp, large or jumbo size, for the recipes that follow. Peeled, deveined shrimp can be purchased for a shortcut. With just 60 calories for a 3-ounce serving, shrimp are also relatively low in calories.

Grilled Shrimp

- ▶ 24 jumbo shrimp (about 2 pounds), peeled and deveined with tails intact
- ▶ 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- ▶ 1 teaspoon Greek oregano
- ▶ 1/4 cup Greek extra virgin olive oil
- ▶ 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- ▶ Greek sea salt and freshly ground pepper, to taste

Stir together the shrimp, garlic, oregano, oil, and lemon juice in a large baking dish or bowl. Cover, and refrigerate, stirring occasionally, for 30 minutes. While the shrimp are marinating, soak 8 wooden skewers in water for at least 20 minutes, or if preferred, metal skewers can be used without the need for soaking.

Preheat grill to medium-high. Skewer the shrimp and season with salt and pepper to taste. Grill until shrimp are opaque about 3 minutes on each side. Serve with a salad such as the following which is topped with walnut dressing.

Salad with Walnut Dressing

- ▶ 2 cups Romaine lettuce, shredded
- ▶ 1-2 medium tomatoes, chopped
- ▶ 1 small red onion, chopped
- ▶ 1 cup raw chopped kale
- ▶ 1 cup shredded red cabbage
- ▶ 1 cup arugula, watercress, or baby spinach
- ▶ 1 medium red bell peppers, sliced
- ▶ 2 small cucumbers, chopped
- ▶ 1-2 medium carrots, shredded

For the Walnut Dressing:
▶ 1/4 cup red wine vinegar



- ▶ 1/2 cup water
- ▶ 1/4 cup walnuts
- ▶ 1 garlic clove
- ▶ 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
- ▶ 1/4 teaspoon dried oregano
- ▶ Greek sea salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

Add the vegetables to a large salad bowl. To make the dressing, combine all the ingredients in a blender or food processor and process until smooth. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Store any leftover dressing in a tightly covered container in the refrigerator to use later. Add two tablespoons of the dressing per person to the salad and toss. Serve immediately, topped with cooked shrimp.

Garlic Shrimp

- ▶ 2 pounds shrimp, peeled and deveined, tails left on, if preferred
- ▶ 4 tablespoons Greek extra virgin olive oil
- ▶ 3-4 garlic cloves, sliced
- ▶ A pinch of red pepper flakes
- ▶ 1 tablespoon dried oregano
- ▶ Salt and freshly ground pepper
- ▶ 1 medium-sized lemon, zested and juiced
- ▶ 2 tablespoons chopped, fresh parsley
- ▶ Cooked rice

In a large saucepan over medium high heat, cook the garlic in the olive oil for 1 minute. Add the red pepper flakes, oregano, shrimp, salt, and pepper to taste. Stir in the lemon zest and juice and continue cooking over medium heat. Cover the saucepan, reduce the heat, and simmer until the shrimp are cooked through. Sprinkle with chopped parsley. Serve immediately over cooked rice, bulgur, or pasta with fresh bread and a side salad.

OUR WEEKLY BOTANIST

By Evropi-Sofia Dalampira

The King of Vitamin C: Freshly Squeezed Lemons

The origin of lemons is still a great mystery. Lemons are actually natural hybrids between bitter oranges and citron. Some studies revealed that they came from India or China. In Europe, lemons were first cultivated by Romans and then distributed and cultivated throughout the Mediterranean Region. In the rest of Europe, like the UK, lemons existed only in indoor gardens (orangeries) mainly as ornamentals, due to their sensitivity in cold. Later, Columbus brought lemon seeds to the Americas and now Florida and California are among the top producers thanks to the ideal weather conditions.

Many scientific studies revealed the flavonoids in flesh lemons, juice, and flowers which protects blood vessels. In lemon juice citric acid (vitamin C) is what made lemons so famous. Scurvy, a condition due to malnutrition from vitamin C was a common disease of sailors. This is why British and other ships were required by law to carry large quantities of lemons. Vitamin C is a very sensitive vitamin and fresh lemons maintain it with proper storage.

Lemons are rich in nutrients, including vitamins, minerals, and carbohydrates but also essential oils and flavonoids. These make it a powerful antibacterial and antiseptic fruit. It is true that many DIY environment-friendly cleansers that include lemon juice, can be really effective in places like the kitchen. Also, lemon juice is a very effective treatment for indigestion. Soda water with lemon juice can bring relief after a big meal. Also, the juice can reduce one's diabetes index. Lemon juice also helps con-

ditions like the common cold, coughs, or sore throats. A luke-warm herbal tea like linden or Greek mountain tea with half a cup of lemon juice and a teaspoon of good honey is ideal for this. But always remember that if you use a citrus juice (i.e. orange, lemon, mandarin), it must be freshly squeezed (use it no more than 10 minutes later) and do not heat or chill it too much. Temperature change and the passage of time destroy vitamin C. You may take the rest of the valuable ingredients, but why not exploit all the power of lemons! In Greece almost all Greek salads are served with a slice of lemon. And meat is also accompanied with some lemon, specifically barbecue, because of its antioxidant activity. Avgolemono is a delicious sauce made from egg and lemon juice in many casseroles like stuffed zucchini or frikase. It is truly magnificent how a native plant from other countries got into our cooking tradition and became the King of Vitamin C!

** The above is not medical advice but mere suggestions for improving your diet. Before reach herbal use you should consult your doctor, especially those who have health issues, are pregnant or are under the age of 6.*

Evropi-Sofia Dalampira is an Agriculturist-MSc Botany-Biology and PhD Candidate in Agricultural-Environmental Education and Science Communication.



LITERARY REVIEW

By Eleni Sakellis

Christina Pishiris' Charming Debut Novel: Love Songs for Skeptics

Reading novels offers a wonderful opportunity to experience a world unfamiliar to us, through the eyes of characters who can be as different from us personally as you could possibly imagine. In some rare cases, a novel and its characters can be so close to our own experience, however, that it can be jarring and almost too familiar. *Love Songs for Skeptics: A Romantic Comedy* by Christina Pishiris is a delightful debut novel which manages to enchant and entertain the reader while balancing between the two extremes.

Greeks, Greek-Cypriots, and philhellenes will definitely recognize some of the characters who inhabit this novel, while the world of music magazine publishing might be a bit unfamiliar to most readers. Those of us who write for newspapers and magazines and interview people regularly will also find realistic and amusing details in the book which are undoubtedly drawn from the author's own experience as a journalist.

Born in London to Greek Cypriot parents, Pishiris studied English at the University of Sussex and went on to become a journalist reporting on the television industry. Her

main character, Greek-Cypriot Zoë Frixos is an editor at a major music magazine in London. While Zoë "gets the whole love song thing," as the book's description tells us, her own love life is "a bit off-beat."

After falling hard for her best friend, Simon, at age 13 and missing every chance to tell him how she felt before he left town,

Born in London to Greek Cypriot parents, Pishiris studied English at the University of Sussex and went on to become a journalist...

Zoë came to one grand conclusion: Love stinks. Twenty years later, Simon is returning to London, newly single and as charming as ever, and Zoë vows to take her second chance. But Zoë's got other problems now: In order to save her magazine from closing down, she has to land the biggest interview of her career with a notoriously elusive rock idol. There's just one problem: Nick, the arrogant publicist who seems determined to stop the story and ruin Zoë's life.

With her brother's big(ish) fat(ish) Greek wedding on the horizon, Zoë begins to wonder if her first love is the right love. In the wake of a life-changing choice, Zoë must decide if she's right to be skeptical about

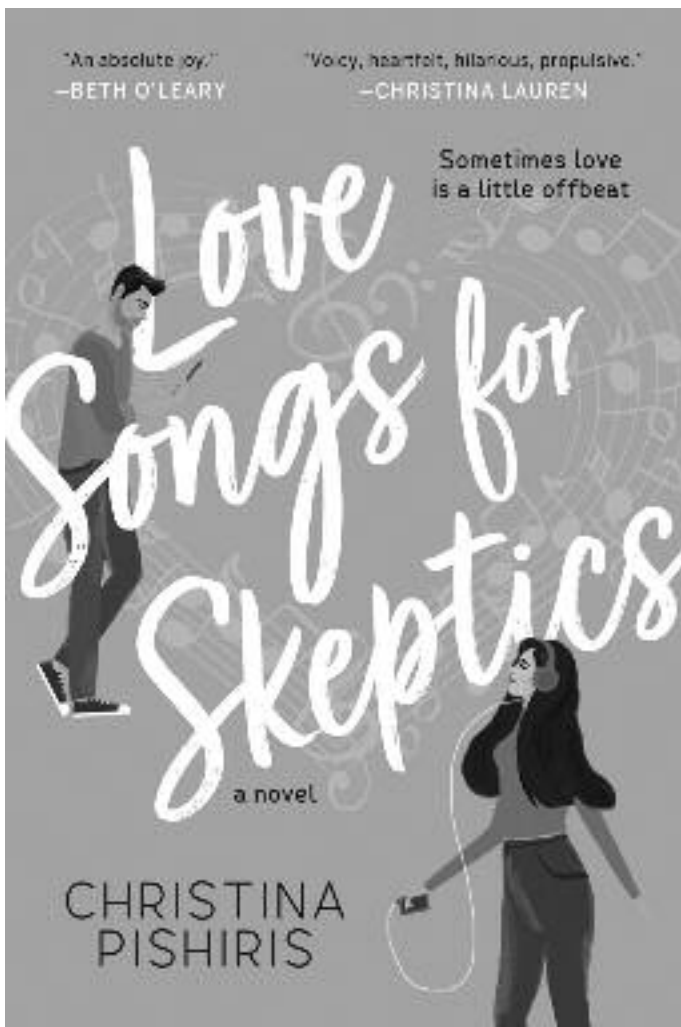
love, or if it's time to change her tune.

Pishiris draws the reader in from the very first sentence of the book, "I'm not saying I don't believe in love, but my last relationship ended after twelve days." From that sentence onward, the author carefully crafts a charming and compelling story with strong characters, touches of humor, and a carefully compiled playlist for musical accompaniment.

Music is a major part of this story and is beautifully incorporated into the storytelling, from the chapter titles, which are all from well-known song titles, to the musical references throughout the book and the handy *Love Songs for Skeptics* Playlist included at the end.

The scenes with Zoë's family are priceless and Pishiris said in an interview included in the paperback edition of the book, "I love my Greek Cypriot heritage, although like Zoë, I was a bit embarrassed by it when I was younger. My parents forced me and my sister to go to Greek school on Saturday morning for 10 years, and although I hated it at the time (or at least, until I was about 13 and discovered boys), I'm so grateful I learned the language and made Greek friends that I still have to this day."

Love Songs for Skeptics: A Romantic Comedy by Christina Pishiris is available online and in bookstores.



AMAZON
Love Songs for Skeptics: A Romantic Comedy by Christina Pishiris.

GREEK AMERICAN STORIES

Winter's Adventures

The weather outside is frightful, and the fire is so delightful ... Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow – so goes the song. Well, the snow is falling softly outside my large picture window, and I watch winter's stillness paint my yard a bright white. The temperature has dropped to freezing and the weatherman predicts record inches overnight. The ceramic pots that held Geraniums and Aster are buried under the thick carpet of snow. Before now, I watched the chipmunks and squirrels scramble for food to store away before the arrival of these snow days. They have no calendars yet they sense more than we realize. I only feel sorry for the forest animals like foxes, deer, and stray cats that can only hover in some form of shelter and wait, insecure and hungry. I wonder if there are people like me who await the snow with such a mixture of sadness and excitement.

I imagine that most people are dreaming of green grass, sunshine, and work in the garden. I embrace this peaceful, tranquil solitude. This white silence will end soon; the only downside to these snow days is the early dark and the slush, icy roads.

I remember sledding with my brother and meeting other kids in Inwood Hill Park in upper

Manhattan, armed with sleds and discs that were good, too. School was closed. We'd slide down the slopes repeatedly; we'd laugh and race one another as if a prize was waiting for us if we won. We stayed until our fingers were frozen and our feet felt the iciness despite the boots and gloves. My cheeks were rosy red as were my brother's. Some kids built forts and made snowballs preparing for a war, one team from Sherman Avenue against the kids from Academy Street. Laughter and screams went up until a truce was negotiated. I wonder if kids go sledding now. Or, are they all holding those phones and fingering pictures and information on them.

Even before the snow I don't see kids playing tag or 'kick the can' or hide and seek or jumping rope anymore. Huh! Technology has corralled everyone, I guess. Well, I come back from the memories of my youth and am grateful for them. At least, my kids enjoyed times like that. The snow is still falling and I will make lunch for husband and myself, take my cup of tea to the picture window and watch the trucks trundle down the street in their attempts to clear the roads while blocking up my driveway in the process, which means I have to take out my shovel now and start tossing aside all that white stuff. But, hey! There



are a couple of young men approaching, armed with shovels. In their broken English they offer to do the work for a price. "How much?" ask I, welding my shovel and trying to look as if it was doing something I enjoy doing. "Sixty dollars," says the young, dark eyed, handsome Latin, looking hopeful. I look surprised! "SIXTY DOLLARS?"

By Phyllis (Kiki) Sembos / Special to The National Herald

He studies my shocked expression. "Senior! Mucho pesos!" Hoping he'd agree, he says, blinking. "Fifty?" "Ok," I say, looking as if he'd just spoiled all my fun.

But, these 18 inches of snow is nothing compared to another time. There was the greater blizzard of 1888, (no, I don't remember it!) lasting from March 11 to 14, reaching from the Chesapeake Bay to Maine, where 45 miles an hour winds piled 50 feet of snow drifts onto roads. Twenty to fifty-eight inches fell in New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut. In Brooklyn, three storey houses were completely buried for a week. Altogether, 200 people died in New York and 200 elsewhere. The East River was frozen solid while 15,000 people were stranded in the elevated trains. The Stock Market was closed for two days. The fire departments were completely immobilized. So, you see? This isn't so bad.

Well, the job was done for fifty dollars. Feeling like an auctioneer who'd just got the better of the deal I went inside, and hot tea in hand, I sit at the window again and look outside. Guess what! It's snowing again. The radio says another ten inches expected tomorrow. Guess I didn't win the financial battle after all. Another 50 pesos! Av

CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of EAST COAST BOX DESIGN LLC Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/07/2021. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC 238 Franklin St. Brooklyn, NY 11222. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

280919/22113

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Notice of Formation of EV MAKEREADY LLC Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/29/2020. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC 28 Park Place #4 Brooklyn NY 11217. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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280884/20965

LEGAL NOTICE

HS92 Publishing LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/05/2020. Office: New York. Kenneth Arias designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. Kenneth Arias shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 2758 Broadway #503. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

280882/22097

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of DJPHAZE LLC Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 1/5/2021. Office location: Bronx County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC 1116 Jackson Ave, Apt 1 Bronx NY 10456. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

280881/22096

LEGAL NOTICE

J. Frenel Physician Assistant Care PLLC. Art. of Org. filed 3/15/21. Office in Kings Co. SSNY designated for process and shall mail to Reg. Agent: Thomas Law Firm, 175 Varick St, NY, NY 10014. Purpose: P.A.

280880/18796

LEGAL NOTICE

Hudson Psychiatry Practice PLLC. Art. of Org. filed 3/15/21. Office in NY Co. SSNY designated for process and shall mail to Reg. Agent: Thomas Law Firm, 175 Varick St, NY, NY 10014. Purpose: Psychiatry

280879/18796

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of MODERN INTERIOR CLEANERS LLC Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 3/9/2021. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to Corporation Service Company 80 State St Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

280875/22095

LEGAL NOTICE

Avena Psychological Services PLLC. Art. of Org. filed 3/15/21. Office in NY Co. SSNY designated for process and shall mail to Reg. Agent: Thomas Law Firm, 175 Varick St, NY, NY 10014. Purpose: Psychology

280878/18796

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of Access Biotech Consulting, LLC Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 3/3/2021. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC 37 Leslie Place New Rochelle, NY 10804. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

280874/22094

LEGAL NOTICE

240 DeGraw LLC, Art. of Org. filed with SSNY 2-03-21. Office Location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC for service of process. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to c/o Jed Cairo/Juxtapose, 30 Cooper Square, FL 10, NY, NY 10017. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

280871/12347

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of IMPECCABLE IRON WORKS LLC Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/20/2020. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to Law Offices of Lorna A. McGregor, PLLC 769A East 236th St. Bronx, NY 10466. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

280870/22087

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of LITTLE SHADOW PRODUCTIONS LLC Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/28/2020. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to Jean Marie Keevins 101 Lafayette Ave Apt 9K Brooklyn NY 11217. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

280864/22090

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of EUGENIE PARTNERS LLC Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 2/22/2021. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC 420 Clinton Avenue, Apt. 4E Brooklyn, NY 11238. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

280856/22083

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of MIDDLESON LLC Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 8/26/2020. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to Bryan McCormick 1506 Westerville Ave North Baldwin, NY 11510. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

280855/22085

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of OUTPIN LLC Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/08/2020. Office location: Richmond County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC 140 Browning Ave. Staten Island NY 10314. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

280854/22086

LEGAL NOTICE

ZMK Law, PLLC. Art. of Org. filed 3/4/21. Office in Nassau Co. SSNY designated for process and shall mail to Reg. Agent: Thomas Law Firm, 175 Varick St, NY, NY 10014. Purpose: Law

280852/18796

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of ZURIT'S CLOSET NY LLC Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 03/03/2021. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC 523 Franklin Ave, Apt 6P Brooklyn NY 11238. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

280850/22082

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of LUXURY CRATES LLC Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 02/16/2021. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to Sadia Pericles 41 Flatbush Ave Brooklyn NY 11217. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

280820/22073

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of NYC FILM LAB LLC Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 02/22/2021. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC 203 Harrison Pl. Brooklyn, NY 11237. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

280809/22039

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of MANIFESTED CONSULTING LLC Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 1/27/2020. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to Senemeh Olatunji 55 Ocean Ave E4 Brooklyn NY 11225. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

280808/22049

LEGAL NOTICE

Street Lawyer Services NYC LLC. Art. of Org. filed 2/19/21. Office in NY Co. SSNY designated for process and shall mail to Reg. Agent: Thomas Law Firm, 175 Varick St, NY, NY 10014. Purpose: Any lawful activity

280802/18796

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LONE PINE FARM HV, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/16/2021. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: The LLC, 1 Renaissance Square, 14F, White Plains, NY 10601. Purpose: any lawful activity.

280798/22054

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of BROOKLYN ICE WATER LLC Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/27/2021. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC 2938 Avenue W Apt 2E Brooklyn, NY 11229. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

280794/22064

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of BOATSWAIN REALTY LLC Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/27/2021. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to Theresa Boatswain 53 Austin Avenue Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

280788/22059

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of EMJ GLOBAL LLC Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/26/2021. Office location: Richmond County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to Precious Joseph 255 Mill Road Apt 3U Staten Island, NY 10306. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

280795/22056

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Nancy P. Kacoyanis: February 23, 1930-March 18, 2021

BOSTON – Nancy P. (Petropoulos) Kacoyanis of Watertown passed away on March 18, 2021. Mother of Charles Kacoyanis & his wife Josephine, Jason Kacoyanis and his wife Theresa, and Laura Sikalis and her husband Steven. Wife of the late Nicholas C. Kacoyanis. Sister of Andromache Shee, the late Larry Petros, the late John Petropoulos and the late Frances Petropoulos, and the late Constance Couloupoulos. Grandmother of Nicholas Kacoyanis and his wife Catherine, (the late) Kristen Kacoyanis, Cassandra Bazarian and her husband Matthew, Karissa Leone and her husband Nicholas, Jason Kacoyanis, Jr., and Alexa and Peter Sikalis. Great grandmother of John, Fiona, and Charlotte Kacoyanis. Also survived by many nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends. Nancy more than anything loved spending time

with her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. She loved spending time at her house on Cape Cod where she enjoyed going to the beach, bowling, and her quilting group. She enjoyed travelling on her many European excursions with the Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church group. She had a giving nature in her unassuming way, donating to many charities by knitting hats and blankets and sewing quilts for babies. For many years, she volunteered for the United Cerebral Palsy Foundation in Watertown. She achieved her goal of graduating from Northeastern University with a bachelor's degree in science. Nancy was an avid Boston Celtics fan. She will be forever cherished and missed so very much. Funeral service was held on Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church, Cambridge, MA. Visitation was held in the church prior to the service. In lieu of flowers donations in her memory may be made to the above named church or the American Heart Association. Burial in Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, MA.

Peter Spillis, Helped Build a Miami Architectural Powerhouse, 88

MIAMI, FL – Peter Spillis, who helped build a nationally recognized architectural powerhouse in his native Miami, passed away at the age of 88 on March 24, the Miami Herald (MH) reported.

For over 30 years, Spillis “helped lead a firm that attained its highest renown as Spillis Candela and Partners, a name once virtually synonymous with modern Miami architecture,” MH reported, adding that “the firm, the oldest in continuous operation in Miami-Dade County, was later absorbed by global architectural and engineering giant AECOM and took its name. The local office remains at the Douglas Entrance building the firm designed in the 1980s in Coral Gables.”

Spillis “handled the business and production side of the firm, longtime partner Hilario Candela said, while he headed design,” MH reported, noting that “both shared the responsibility of nurturing client relationships, making lifelong friendships in the process, Candela said.”

“We had a wonderful relationship,” Candela told MH. “He was very thorough, very organized and very much focused on making sure the firm delivered.”

“At its peak, the firm had about 250 architects and engineers, having grown from a total staff of at most a dozen when he joined in 1961,” Candela told MH, adding that “Spillis was already at the firm when Candela was hired. Both retired in the mid-2000s after AECOM acquired the firm.”

Spillis was a founding member of St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church in Kendall and attended devoutly until his death, the family said. He was also active in philanthropy for the Children's Home Society and Big Brothers Big Sisters, among others.

Spillis was born in 1932 to John and Melpo Spillis, Greek immigrants and early Miami settlers. He attended Miami High and studied architecture at the University of Florida before serving in U.S. Army intelligence during the Korean War, his family said, MH reported.

He then took a job as architect at the storied Miami firm Pancoast, Ferendino, Skeels & Burnham, founded in 1926 by pioneering Miami Beach architect Russell T. Pancoast, grandson of city founder John S. Collins. In 1971, Candela said, he and Spillis purchased the Pancoast shares and became name partners.

During their 40-plus year tenure at the firm, it was responsible for numerous Miami architectural



PETERJOHNSPILLIS.COM

landmarks, including the Miami Marine Stadium, the University of Miami Mailman Center for Child Development at the Jackson Memorial Hospital campus, several buildings at Miami Dade College campuses, and Museum Tower office high-rise in downtown Miami, as well as the Douglas Entrance office building, which helped save the historic 1920s Coral Gables entranceway.

AECOM acquired the partnership in 2000 and both continued working at the firm until 2004, Candela said. But while he kept working as a consultant, Candela said Spillis, an avid golfer, boater and fisherman, did not.

“Pete knew how to enjoy himself in retirement,” Candela told MH.

Spillis died March 24 in Miami, his family told MH. No cause of death was released.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, the former Electra Varkas; children John, George, Joy and Peter; thirteen grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and sister Frieda Mookas. The funeral service will be private.

A public celebration of his life will take place May 15. Details are available online: peterjohnspillis.com.

Donations in Spillis' honor may be made to St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church.



PIXABAY

The Passing of a Patriot: Arthur J. Gartaganis, 95

By John J. Yiannias and Peter N. Marudas

NEW BEDFORD, MA – With the passing of Arthur J. Gartaganis, 95, of New Bedford, MA on January 23, 2021, our country and the Greek-American community lost a true patriot. Arthur (Athanasios) was the son of John A. and Maria J. (Moutsopoulou) Gartaganis, both from the village of Stemmitsa, in Gortymia, Arcadia.

Although born in New Bedford, Arthur came to know his parents' birthplace very well. But first came a time of trial only too familiar to young Americans of the early 1940's. Upon graduation from New Bedford High School, he entered service with Company G, 310th Infantry Regiment, and fought in the Battles of the Rhineland (including that of the Bridge at Remagen), the Ardennes, and Central Europe. Wounded in action, he received a Purple Heart and several other decorations, including the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Campaign Ribbon, the Army of Occupation of Germany Medal, and the Victory Medal.

At war's end, Arthur earned an undergraduate degree from Harvard and served for three years in the U.S. Foreign Service in Athens (although the sequence of these events may have been the reverse). Subsequently, Arthur did graduate work in economics at the University of Michigan. It was in Ann Arbor that the authors, undergraduates at the time, had the pleasure of meeting him and spending hours in his company. (The brother of one of us, coincidentally, had already met Arthur at Harvard.) It was reflective of Arthur's innate modesty that he never once, in our innumerable conversations with him, made any allusion whatsoever to his wartime achievements, of which we remained ignorant until recently.

From Michigan, Arthur moved to Washington, DC, where he was employed for many years as an economist in the Department of Labor. There

he had the important responsibility of preparing the monthly national employment report. It became his custom to spend part of each year in Greece, where his sister Christina lived with her husband Peter T. Gargas.

Arthur loved Athens and his family village in Arcadia, and he could often be seen there tooling about in the Citroen 2CV that he bought while in the Foreign Service and sentimentally managed to keep running for decades. He made use of his time in Athens to assemble probably the largest private collection anywhere of published scholarship on the history of Arcadia; the booksellers of Athens knew him well. Rarely mentioned by him were the three research projects of his own that led to his publication of five volumes, three in English (a history of the Greek community of New Bedford in 2 vols., 1993 and 2000, and a history of the movie theaters in the New Bedford area, 2005); and two studies in Greek of the family names recorded in the villages of Stemmitsa and Dimitsana (Athens, 2008, 2009). On one occasion, breaking his habit of avoiding any self-congratulation, he referred to his history of the New Bedford Greeks as "a model of its kind" – and it is.

Arthur spoke and wrote Greek flawlessly. He was Greek Orthodox and an active member of the Arcadian Society of Massachusetts.

Arthur's life came to an end, much to our sorrow, on January 23 of this year, in New Bedford, just three days, tragically, after the death of his widowed sister Christina, 93, also in New Bedford, with whom he had spent his final years. Their funerals (his with military honors) took place on the same day, at the same cemetery.

Those who knew Arthur will remember him fondly as a colorful, multi-faceted American-born embodiment of the highest values cherished by the first large wave of Greek immigrants to this country. We will miss him. May his memory be eternal.

John J. Yiannias is Professor Emeritus of Art History at the University of Virginia. Peter N. Marudas is the former chief of staff to the late Senator Paul Sarbanes of Maryland.

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TNH/ELENI SAKELLIS

New York City Council Member Costa Constantinides.

Constantinides on Greece's 200th Anniversary

TNH Staff

NEW YORK – New York City Council Member Costa Constantinides, of Greek-Cypriot descent, shared the following statement in honor of the Bicentennial of Greek Independence on March 25:

"Two hundred years ago the Greek people began the struggle to break the chains of Ottoman oppression and reclaim their birthright as the guardians of the spark of democracy. While great military leaders like Theodoros Kolokotronis fought valiantly to repel the occupying forces, men and women around the world rallied to the Greek battle cry of freedom. Today, we honor those who struggled and died to liberate our homeland, the homeland of Socrates and Plato, the homeland of Euclid and Pythagoras, and the homeland of Aeschylus and Aristophanes. They ensured that Greece, the cradle of so much of Western civilization, could rise up and take her place among the family of nations once again. To them, and to all of you, I wish a happy Independence Day. Ζήτω η Ελλάδα!"



DAVID GROGAN

Michelle Caruso Cabrera.

MCC Shares Thoughts on the 1821 Bicentennial

TNH Staff

NEW YORK – Michelle Caruso-Cabrera, a Democratic primary candidate for New York City Comptroller, attended the Doxology celebrating the Bicentennial of the Greek Revolution on March 25th at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity at the invitation of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America. Caruso-Cabrera, shared her thoughts on the historic Bicentennial in the following statement:

"The significance of Greek Revolution 200 years ago can never be overstated. Like the Fourth of July, it continues to remind all of us to honor freedom and democracy regardless of the price.

"What makes it so extraordinarily valuable to me is that Greek New Yorkers have similarly displayed the same resilience and energy to make our City successful and our democracy flourish.

"As someone who spent years reporting from Greece as Chief International Correspondent for CNBC, Greece and the Greek people have always held a special place in my heart. Today, we are all Greek and I congratulate Greece and all Greek-Americans on its bicentennial."

More information about Michelle Caruso-Cabrera is available online: <https://mcc-forn.com>.

Delaware State Senate Passes Resolution in Honor of 1821 Bicentennial

TNH Staff

DOVER, DE – The Delaware State Senate passed a resolution honoring the bicentennial of Greek Independence. State Senator Spiros Mantzavinos who authored the resolution, shared the text which follows:

DELAWARE STATE SENATE
151st GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 8
CELEBRATING MARCH 25,
2021, AS THE 200TH
ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK
INDEPENDENCE DAY AND
CELEBRATING DEMOCRACY
IN GREECE AND THE UNITED
STATES.

WHEREAS, on March 25, 1821, the Feast Day of the Annunciation, the Greek nation reclaimed its ancient heritage as the 'Cradle of Democracy' by overthrowing the yoke of oppression which had enslaved its people since the fall of Constantinople in 1453. Conquered by the Ottoman Turks in the 15th century, Greece waged a successful War of Independence (1821-1829) and re-instituted a democratic form of government; and

WHEREAS, the People of the United States generously offered humanitarian assistance to the Greek people during their struggle for independence; and

WHEREAS, the price paid by the Greek people to hold on to the values our nations hold in common was high, as hundreds of thousands of civilians were killed in Greece during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Greece is one of only three nations in the world, beyond the former British Empire, that has been allied with the United States in every major international conflict over the last 100 years; and

WHEREAS, Greece, located in a region where Christianity

meets Islam and Judaism, maintains excellent relations with Muslim nations and Israel, and demonstrates religious tolerance; and

WHEREAS, Greece and the United States are at the forefront of the effort for freedom, democracy, peace, stability, and human rights; and

WHEREAS, on October 4, 2019, the United States and Greece signed the Mutual Defense Cooperation Agreement; and

WHEREAS, Turkey has continued to destabilize the Aegean Sea and the Eastern Mediterranean Sea region. As a result, Greece, Israel, and Cyprus have formed a trilateral cooperation agreement against the aggressive regional policies of Turkey. Each nation's strong relationship with the United States, as well as the prospect of an Eastern Mediterranean pipeline enabling safe transmission of gas to Western Europe are critical to security and energy stability. Passage of the Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership

Act of 2019 will facilitate energy and security cooperation between the United States, Greece, Cyprus, and Israel; and

WHEREAS, a high-level review of the United States-Greece Strategic Dialogue took place in Greece on September 28, 2020, which underscored Greece's importance to the United States as a geostrategic partner in the Eastern Mediterranean and Balkans and as an important NATO ally; and

WHEREAS, in support of the Greece 2021 Committee established by the Government of Greece, the United States Mission in Greece has launched a campaign to celebrate the bicentennial of the Independence of Greece and the 200 years of friendship between the United States and Greece; and

WHEREAS, it is proper and desirable for the United States to celebrate this Anniversary with the Greek people and to reaffirm the democratic principles from which these two great nations were born.

NOW, THEREFORE:



COURTESY OF SPIROS MANTZAVINOS' OFFICE
Spiros Mantzavinos, Delaware State Senator, with his family, (left to right) daughter Katherine, Spiros, wife Megan, daughter Sophia, and Pepper the dog.

AHI Statement Marking the Historic Bicentennial of the Greek War for Independence

TNH Staff

WASHINGTON, DC – American Hellenic Institute (AHI) President Nick Larigakis has issued the following statement on March 25th to mark the historic Bicentennial of the Greek War for Independence:

"Today, we commemorate the 200th anniversary of Greece's Independence and remember the heroes who fought and sacrificed to defeat Ottoman rule in a triumph for liberty. Each year, the Hellenic spirit reverberates strongly, but perhaps never as much as in 2021. Despite the conditions placed upon us by the coronavirus pandemic that still limit our traditional celebrations, parades, and gatherings in our community halls, we have found creative and safe ways to proclaim resoundingly our collective pride and joy in celebration of Greece's Bicentennial.

Ancient Greece gave birth to the ideals and principles that are the foundation of western democracies. As such, all Americans share in the Hellenic spirit which is embedded in the DNA of our constitution and at the core of our cherished liberties.

As Americans of Greek heritage, we take special pride in the success of our great nation knowing that these Hellenic principles have provided the basis for the unprecedented prosperity of our country.

The American Revolution was inspired by the same ideals



Members of the Presidential Guard raise the Greek flag in front of the Parthenon on the Acropolis Hill as Greece's Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis and President Katerina Sakellaropoulou attend the ceremony in Athens on March 25.

AP PHOTO/PETROS GIANNAKOURIS; POOL

of the Enlightenment which inspired the Greek War of Independence.

The American people manifested their adherence to these ideals through their ardent vocal and humanitarian support for the Greek cause. In fact, this vital role of support from American Philhellenes is one facet of an inspirational campaign launched by the U.S. Embassy in Athens to celebrate the 200-year friendship between the United States and Greece. Today, we must also look to the future and ensure the friendship

and strategic partnership between these two longstanding allies remains strong and continues to flourish.

The celebration of Greek independence is an important reminder for free citizens around the world: Hellenism and the rule of law must be defended or else we can expect the slow erosion of the very principles that provide the underpinning of our society. Despite the heroic sacrifices and battles our ancestors have fought, the struggle continues.

We must not lose sight of the

danger Turkey presents in the Eastern Mediterranean and to United States interests in the region. The community must engage our policymakers, educate them on these facts, and urge them to act.

Although commemorations for Greek Independence Day will again look different in this special Bicentennial year, we all look forward to celebrating future Greek Independence Days in a world free from the threat of coronavirus and amid an Eastern Mediterranean region that is stable and at peace."

Raptakis Blasts Turkish Consulate for Letter Seeking to Reject His Annual Resolution

Continued from page 1

combating violence against women and domestic violence. Turkey was the first country to sign onto this important effort and it was named the Istanbul Convention.

"It seems to me the Consul General's time might be better spent fighting for the freedom of her own people rather than trying to undermine the rights and freedoms American citizens enjoy," said Raptakis. "While the Consulate was sending out tweets highlighting the presence of Turkish women in the Consulate's office, the Turkish ruler was rejecting a cooperative, global effort to prevent domestic violence and protect the rights of women. It's a shocking act of bad faith for the Consul General to lecture the Senate President about peace and harmony while her own government is again

turning its back on basic human rights measures."

Raptakis' letter concluded, "we've seen the damage done by the thuggish tactics of the Erdoğan regime and I would respectfully suggest trying to get the elected officials in this country to silence your critics, seeking to shut down academic programs that rightfully question the tactics of your government, and using strong-arm tactics to challenge American media outlets is not an effective strategy in our country. And it is certainly not reflective of 'a vision for a world in peace, cooperation and harmony' you claimed to be interested in promoting."

Rhode Island State Senator Leonidas Raptakis introducing the annual resolution celebrating Greek Independence Day on the Senate floor last year.



COURTESY SENATOR LEONIDAS RAPTAKIS

SMALL TAKES

Community

Mall Closing Pushes Mom's Greek Touch Pizza Out After 32 Years

TNH Staff

John Hosein didn't want to close Mom's Pizza in Arlington, Virginia because the shop's been there 32 years and in the end it wasn't COVID-19 that did it, but the small mall it's in being renovated into other uses.

Mom's is named for his mom, Rahma, who's from Athens, where she met his father and the family came to the United States in the 1970's, to New York but then Hosein attended George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia.

He told ARLNow that opening a restaurant, with his brother, was his dream and that all he had to do was rely on his mother's menus and inspiration and what he learned from starting life in Greece, which soaked in.

"If you watched 'My Big Fat Greek Wedding,' that's exactly us," he said, the Greek influence in a Jordanian family carrying over into the United States.

"My mom was a really great chef. So, we named it (after her) and have continued calling it that since," said Hosein, who now owns the restaurant with his wife Manal, showing you don't have to be Greek to be Greek.

Gus and Calliope Bacogeorge Gone, But Their Restaurant Lives On

TNH Staff

One of Charlotte, North Carolina's best-loved diners is Gus' Sir Beef, with the tag line 'Fresh, My Farm,' the unusual way that the late Gus Bacogeorge, who opened it, used to let customers know he grew most of the vegetables they'd eat.

His wife Calliope died in January at 88, and as her funeral procession passed the place she and her husband created, a line of people stood outside, cheered and released balloons in her honor, said Charlotte Magazine.

Their family is carrying on the tradition of their dad Constantine and Mama Gus as she was affectionately called.

"She was as much a part of this as Dad was," says their son Thrace Bacogeorge, 55, who grew up working in Gus' and has run it since 2000 with help from his brother, George, 58. "It was their legacy."

Gus was born in Greece, where he worked as police officer before coming to the United States in the 1950's, to New York and then Washington before a cousin told him in 1957 to move to Charlotte.

"Three hundred bucks in his pocket," Thrace said.

"He lived the American dream."

Jimmy Soursos' Sea Bar Set Sea Food Bar High in Great Neck

TNH Staff

The COVID-19 pandemic has ended untold numbers of restaurants, including on Long Island, New York but Jimmy Soursos' Sea Bar in Great Neck said his business didn't fall off because people wanted his Greek style of making fish: think of a taverna on a Greek beach site and flash-fried barbounia, red mullet.

Soursos is also the owner of Greek Xpress, a fast-casual chainlet with four locations on Long Island and he opened in Great Neck in 2018, Newsday said in a report about how he has continued to do well. Customers asked, he said, "can you add more seafood?"

Soursos' Greek family is from Sparta and his partner at Sea Bar, chef Gregory Zapanatis, was born on the island of Kefalonia but didn't go with a Greek restaurant at first until deciding to pool their expertise to go fishing. Sea Bar has a raw bar and global starters such as popcorn shrimp and fish tacos.

They complement a range of fish from Chilean sea bass to lemon sole, Arctic char and cod with the touch of braised green beans (fasolakia) and the classic rustic Greek salad horiatiki.

Conroe Symphony Orchestra Welcomes First Female Conductor

TNH Staff

CONROE, TX – Athens, Greece-native Anna-Maria Gkouni was officially welcomed as the Conroe Symphony Orchestra's first female conductor by the Board of Directors at a small reception March 16 at the Conroe Symphony Centre, Hello Woodlands (HW) reported.

Board of Directors Chair, The Honorable Kathleen Hamilton announced that Gkouni "takes the reins as the Symphony's new Conductor and Music Director," HW reported, adding that "Gkouni is set to lead the all-volunteer Symphony in its 24th Season, which hopes to begin performing again this summer."

Gkouni, a Greek orchestral conductor, pianist, and piano instructor, has musical interests spanning genres "from classical to jazz and traditional music to more electronic and progressive sounds," HW reported. She

earner a piano performance and a music theory degree from Philippos Nakas Conservatory. After earning her BA from Ionian University in Corfu, Gkouni "moved to Nebraska to pursue her MA in Orchestral Conducting from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and currently is pursuing her Doctor of Musical Arts in Orchestral Conducting at the University of Houston," HW reported, noting that "Gkouni has attended masterclasses with international pianists and conductors, such as pianist Lucas DeBargue and the conductor of Boston Pops, Keith Lockhart."

Her awards and honors include the Schissler Foundation Fellowship, the University of Houston Graduate Tuition Fellowship, and the Hellenic Professional Society of Texas Award.

Professor Franz Anton Krager has said that "Anna Maria is a natural talent ... As a young and



aspiring conductor, I would place Anna Maria Gkouni in the top 1% of her peers," HW reported.

"To lead the Conroe Symphony Orchestra is a dream

come true," Gkouni said, HW reported. "I am so grateful for the opportunity to conduct this exceptionally talented group of musicians. My greatest aspiration for the future is to create

Athens, Greece-native Anna-Maria Gkouni was officially welcomed as the Conroe Symphony Orchestra's first female conductor.

innovative shows that will combine multiple forms of art such as theater, which is my second passion. We are all very much looking forward to bringing music back to the city of Conroe."

Dr. Don Hutson "led the search for the new conductor, and served as the Music Director for 13 years," HW reported. He said of Gkouni, "she's precisely the fresh new talent that is needed to take the Conroe Symphony Orchestra in a bold new direction. As Board members our desire is to create experiential new works of art that help expand the reach of the orchestra. I believe that Anna-Maria will take us there," HW reported.

The date has not yet been announced for the first performance of the Conroe Symphony Orchestra under Gkouni's direction, but there is hope "it will be sometime this summer," HW reported.

The Conroe Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1997 in the Houston suburb of that name and has been led by several fine musicians including Dr. Robert Zwick, Dr. Don Hutson, and Dr. Jacob Sustaita. The Conroe Symphony Orchestra was created to contribute to the cultural enrichment of the community, assuring a better quality of life for the Conroe area. Its objective is to provide the region with the best possible musical experience, while creating music lovers and connecting community.

More information is available online: conroesyphony.org or follow on Facebook @ConroeSymphonyOrchestra.

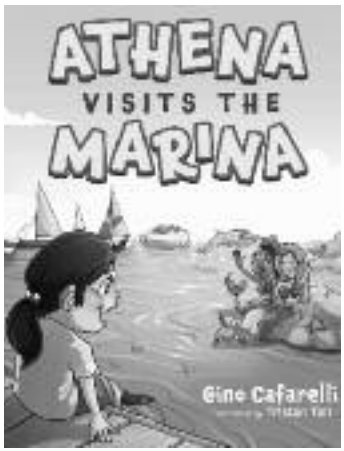
Athena Visits the Marina Inspired by Daughter

Continued from page 1

into a magical sound adventure.

Athena Visits the Marina offers readers the opportunity to discover, alongside Athena, the amazing things that can happen in unexpected places. The book is geared towards readers in grades 1-2 and includes a section on key vocabulary words young readers can "look out for."

Charming illustrations by Tristan Tait highlight the book which Cafarelli "dedicated to all children born deaf or with a hearing loss. And to Athena's Yaya and Pappou (grandparents), Libby and Mike Angeliades. Efcharisto!"



AMAZON

"My daughter Athena was born with hearing loss. She's seven now and she's adapted so beautifully, but I just wanted to do something in the hearing loss and deaf community," Cafarelli said on the book's website. "Some may see it as a disability, but it's also become kind of like a super-power."

Of the idea for the book, Cafarelli said that "we were either driving to or from the airport in Greece, I can't remember, but we passed by the marina and I just thought oh Athena, Marina that's cool, and it just stuck."

As his daughter Athena grew, Cafarelli noted the lack of content available for children with hearing loss. One day, during a weekly visit to the book store, the two ideas came together. "Suddenly I was like BINGO! I'll walk before I run and do a children's book about a girl who has a hearing loss."

Cafarelli researched extensively and eventually found a publisher who was as excited about the project as he was. He has high hopes for the book and is looking forward to the role it will play in his legacy for Athena. "It's a beautiful story and if you do something from the heart and with authenticity it's always going to catch on because you put the time, passion, and love into it," he said.

A proud Italian-American, Cafarelli's parents came to New York from the small town of Pietrapertosa, province of Potenza, in the Basilicata region of Italy in the 1960's. His first language was Italian which he still speaks fluently and learned English in school like many children of immigrants. He attended Holy Cross High School and graduated from St. John's University with a degree in management. In his 30-year film career, Cafarelli has worked with Robert DeNiro, Al Pacino, Joe Pesci, Tom Hardy, Hugh Jackman, Matt Dillon, Kevin Bacon, Matt Damon, and Martin Scorsese.

Among his credits, Cafarelli appeared in the award-winning Scorsese film, The Irishman, and his latest movie, Capone, is available on all video on demand platforms.

Athena Visits the Marina by Gino Cafarelli is available online: athenavisitsthemarina.com.

Follow on Instagram @ginocafarelli.

Loukoumi Fndn. Virtual Chat with Emmy-Winning Bob Costas

By Eleni Sakellis

NEW YORK – The Loukoumi Foundation Virtual Chat with Bob Costas, the multi-Emmy Award-winning sportscaster, took place on March 27. Costas spoke about his career in broadcast journalism and about his lifelong love of baseball.

Loukoumi Foundation President Nick Katsoris gave the welcoming remarks and thanked Costas for participating in the unique event. Katsoris introduced Costas, highlighting his remarkable career in broadcast journalism and sportscasting as well as his dedication to charitable efforts. As Katsoris pointed out, whenever he has asked Costas to participate in a Loukoumi Foundation effort, he has never declined.

Costas noted that he believes in "paying it forward in any way you can," and if you gain recognition for doing something people enjoy, you should use it for humanitarian efforts as much as possible.

Katsoris then served as moderator for a Q&A session with questions for Costas from youngsters from all over the United States. When asked how sports can inspire everyone, Costas pointed out that sports connect people across the generations and offer a good example of how hard work and dedication to a craft lead to excellence.

Costas' advice for young people interested in a career in broadcast journalism was to "read as much as you can" and even if the first time you try something it doesn't go well, to keep working at it and trying to get better. He also noted the importance of a well-rounded education and for young people not to be too hard on themselves early on in their chosen career path because it is a process.

When asked about playing sports in his own youth, Costas said he was good at basketball, shooting free throws, but not when guarded by any other player,



TNH STAFF

Bob Costas spoke about his career in broadcast journalism during the Loukoumi Foundation Virtual Chat with Foundation President Nick Katsoris, at right. Costas is shown, at left, with Katsoris' son Constantine in the broadcast booth at Citi Field.

so he was the last player to be cut from his high school team. He also played baseball, second base, but his batting average was criticized by the coach who said he doubted Costas could hit his weight which was about 130 at the time, which as baseball fans know is a very low average, and again was the last player cut from the team.

Of his most memorable moments in sportscasting Costas noted covering Game 6 of the NBA Finals in Michael Jordan's last season with the Chicago Bulls when Jordan made the game-winning shot, and the Atlanta Olympics Opening Ceremony in 1996 when Mohammad Ali lit the Olympic torch.

When asked about challenging interviews, Costas gave the example of an in-

terview with the then-World Wrestling Federation, now World Wrestling Entertainment, President Vince McMahon who got angry with him when he asked questions that were not scripted beforehand. What was supposed to be a 15-minute interview stretched to 28 minutes with McMahon getting in Costas' face because he was not used to live questions. Costas said that the toughest interviews are in fact when the person doesn't want to talk and those are more challenging than the ones where the person wants to punch you in the face.

Also discussed during the Zoom event, The Loukoumi Foundation's exciting new partnership with Pitch In For Baseball & Softball (PIFBS) as they collect equipment donations and accept grant applications

to build a field of dreams for a school or community in need. PIFBS CEO Meredith Kim spoke about the effort and helping children have access to baseball and softball equipment and fields.

More information about the partnership is available online: www.loukoumifoundation.org/baseball.

Greek-American Bob Costas has won 29 Emmy Awards during his career and has been recognized with many other awards and nominations in the categories of hosting, play-by-play, writing, journalism, news, and entertainment. He is the only broadcaster in television history to win Emmys for news, sports, and entertainment.

Costas was named the National Sports-caster of the Year a record eight times. He is a member of the broadcaster's wing of the Baseball Hall of Fame, and the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Hall of Fame. Among his many honors, Costas was also selected for the Walter Cronkite Award for distinction in journalism.

Costas has also hosted a dozen Olympics for NBC. He was also part of the coverage of eight Super Bowls, seven World Series, ten NBA Finals, and the Kentucky Derby 17 times.

Over the past four decades, Costas' work, both in and out of sports for NBC, HBO, and the Major League Baseball Network, has won widespread praise. He is often referred to as his generation's most respected sports broadcaster.

Costas was born in Queens and grew up on Long Island, raised by his father who was of Greek descent with roots in Kalymnos and his mother who was of Irish descent. He attended Syracuse University and his professional career began at KMOX radio in St. Louis in 1974 and his network career with NBC in 1980.

More information is available online: <https://www.loukoumifoundation.org>.

Greek Women's University Club Hosts Talk on Greek Citizenship

Continued from page 1

Greek citizenship to the Chicago Greek Consulate and to all Greek consulates outside Europe," Sofou said.

Although Sofou's legal consulting practice specializes in assisting Greeks living abroad with various legal matters in Greece, from immigration law to business and property law, during the last year, over half of her cases concern Greek dual citizenship, she said.

"The pandemic changed our lives in a negative way ... during difficult times, there is a tendency of every individual to return to the 'arms' of their family," Sofou said. "Our family is our roots, our Greek roots."

Based on the Henley Passport Index, the Greek passport is the

8th most powerful of passports in the world along with U.K., U.S., Belgium, and Norway, Sofou noted. Among the various advantages of possessing a Greek passport are the privilege to travel, live, work, invest, and study in any of 27 members of the EU freely, she explained.

Referencing a New York Times article that noted that "the new American status symbol is a second passport," and Sofou added that "in a world where safety and the option of a plan B are important, a second passport is the next big thing."

A graduate of the Athens National and Kapodistrian University and Chicago-Kent College of Law, Sofou is a member of the Athens Bar Association and founder of Sofou Greek Legal Consulting, where she assists



members of the diaspora with legal issues involving Greece and the European Union.

During the event, the GWUC

also announced its 2021 officers: Co-Presidents - Harriette Condes Zervakis and Dr. Maria Stewart; Vice President, Georgia

The Greek Women's University Club was joined by attorney Sofia Sofou, who spoke about the advantages of dual citizenship at a luncheon in March.

Nikolopoulos; Treasurer, Joanne Chamis; Corresponding Secretary, Anthe Mitrakos

Recording Secretary, Niki Tsitsis; Historian, Sarah Jouras.

Founded in 1931, The Greek Women's University Club promotes education; encourages the arts, literature, and sciences; and enhances knowledge pertaining to Hellenic history and culture. In addition to cultural events, GWUC hosts a unique, biannual national music competition for Greek youth ages 20-29 and awards scholarships to young women of Greek descent.

Designer Andrea Smith on Fashion Label AMS & Her Greek Roots

Continued from page 1

great-grandmothers in Minnesota, and these three women became friends. My paternal great-grandmother is my maternal yiayia's nouna. I find a lot of comfort in the thought that I am the descendant of both friends and lovers.

TNH: Were you always drawn to the arts and design?

AS: Yes, I've never seen myself doing anything else. I've been drawing and painting since before I was in school, so it's been a very instinctual pursuit and continued practice that has taken many forms.

TNH: How does your Greek heritage influence your life and work?

AS: I have been very visually inspired by my Greek heritage. My project AMS explores many familiar motifs, myths, and parables crossed between ancient Mythology and Byzantine iconography. As a kid I was confused where one started and the other began between the Gods and the Saints. So I loosely carry this imagery with me and sort of have my own fun with it. I've recently started working in ceramics again and am very inspired by Minoan pottery.

In life, my ethnicity feels synonymous



A model wears Greek-American designer Andrea Smith's AMS, vintage denim painted with natural dyes.

has been challenging, like so many other thousands of freelancers. It takes a lot of discipline and self-motivation to keep afloat, but I am fortunate to have a practice that allows me to work from home, and an accommodating space here to do so.

TNH: How has your family reacted to your success?

AS: I'm usually really quiet about it, but my family has always supported my pursuit of the arts - I feel very grateful for that. We'll see when I fully reach it.

TNH: You smiled when you said that - What are you working on next?

AS: Thank you for asking! I have a short coming out with a few friends, directed by Danielle Aphrodite Nemet, that I painted the set backdrop for. In addition to hopefully creating more set work this spring, I have an interior mural project coming up with a friend's shop downtown.

More information about Andrea Smith and her designs is available online: <https://andrea-smith.co/ams>.

with the close ties to my big extended family, providing so many traditions, meals, and family histories we hold dear. I've always been proud of it.

TNH: How has the pandemic affected

your work?

AS: Having only just passed the one-year mark of the pandemic, it feels a bit surreal to sum up - but my ability to fully sustain myself on my work alone

HISTORICAL OBSERVATIONS

By Stavros T. Stavridis*

Greek Foreign Minister Nikolaos Politis' Statements

On November 4, 1919, the National Herald published an article under the headline 'The Duty of France in the East. Turkey Must Leave Constantinople. Paris, September 27, 1919.' (right). The article, which took up three columns, was originally published in the Paris newspaper Eclair which reported on the statements made by the Greek Foreign Minister, Nikolaos Politis. At the start of the interview, Eclair warmly praised Politis for his patriotism and regarded him as a friend of France. At one time, he was a law professor at the Universities of Paris and Aix in France. One can understand his pro-French position. The Athens newspaper Patridos responded to his statements. I searched various university and public libraries to locate the original articles in Eclair and Patridos without success. I translated the original National Herald piece from Greek into English and any translation errors are my own.

The article is reproduced in full below: "Greece says M. Politis is already going through a period of anxiety. It was the common action of Tittoni and Venizelos who restored excellent relations between Italy and Greece. However, we are obliged to give up all our outstanding issues that remain on hold. And that adds a heavy burden for us.

The other forces demobilized while we are obliged to continue our mobilization, and, without prejudice to friendly advice, to increase our force from the time of the ceasefire. We landed in Smyrna at the behest of the allies, but we are the only ones who suffer the consequences of the occupation. On the other hand, our entire army is located on the Bulgarian border.

The daily expenses for the army amount to four million. We have spent about one billion on the army alone, the attitude of the allied forces towards Turkey has changed significantly in recent months. And they wonder if they should liberate the peoples under Turkish rule. However, the expulsion of the Turks from Europe is only a means of pacifying the east.

And, sadly, the allies in France are favoring Turkey. It seems that the allies will repeat the same mistakes in the east, as they did in the 19th century. But they must



be careful. Germany will colonize Russia and I fear that it will start its imperialist policy in Turkey.

Politis doubts whether America will accept the mandate for Constantinople. America's decision is one of indecision. The allies should throw out the Sultan the day after the signing of the peace treaty and trust Constantinople to a temporary international commission.

If tomorrow Venizelos and I returned to Greece announcing to the Greek people the retention of the Sultan in Constantinople is

a done deal, your position would be very difficult.

And our words would not be appreciated when we try to justify to our nation the stance of France. After all, our ties and connections with France stretch over a very long time.

Fortunately, he adds, French officials have not yet given a definitive opinion on Eastern issues. The Greeks of the east did not lose hope. We expect a lot from the friendship and the broad perspective of Mr. Clemenceau, that many times they provided us with indications of his stable friendship.

Mr. Politis advised the French industrialists to turn their gaze to the east, instead of Germany. Commenting on his statement, Eclair expresses the hope that France would not jeopardize Greece's influence respectively for the sake of satisfying private interests.

Eclair continues to write that she will not fail to return to pushing the French government to a solution favorable to the aspirations of our Greek friends and the development of France's prestige and material prosperity.

According to official information, it is said that keeping Turkey in Europe would be a mistake if not irreparable. If the eastern issue is not resolved now, world peace will be jeopardized. The rise of the neo-Turkish party prevails again, making it difficult for Turkey to compromise.

Politis, referring to this week's events in Constantinople says: but we cannot stop worrying about the fate of 300,000 Greeks in Constantinople and the surrounding area. Maintaining the old doctrine of Turkey's integrity would be, in our view, a further denial of hope and a serious consequence.

This policy will not serve to protect private interests and does not have the common interest of France in the East. The interests of France go hand in hand with the Greeks'. Greece freely and strongly cannot contribute to France's prosperity.

M. Politis stressed that the solution to the Turkish issue requires a long period, due to the stagnation of trade in the East.

* Stavros T. Stavridis is a historical author, history professor, and historical consultant.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY:

April 2nd to 8th

APRIL 3RD:

On this day in 1770, Theodoros Kolokotronis, the Greek general and leader of the Greek War of Independence (1821-29), was born in Messenia in what was then the Ottoman Empire. His father participated in a rebellion supported by Empress Catherine II of Russia in 1770, but was killed along with his two brothers by the Turks. As a result, Kolokotronis and his mother moved to her hometown in Arkadia, where he was raised. A true Greek patriot, Kolokotronis became a member of the secret organization Filiki Etairia in 1818, which made preparations for the Greek Revolution. The secret society was made up of thousands of Greek merchants, intellectuals, church representatives, and others who had been trying to organize European pressure and peaceful means of ending Ottoman control of Greece. Kolokotronis' greatest success was the defeat of the Ottoman army under Mahmud Dramali Pasha at the Battle of Derve-nakia in 1822. In 1825, he was appointed commander-in-chief of the Greek forces in the Peloponnese.

APRIL 6TH:

On this day in 1896, the first modern Olympic games opened in Athens, Greece with athletes from 14 countries participating in 43 events. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) had met in Paris in 1894 and decided that Greece, as the birthplace of the games, should be the site of the inaugural modern Olympiad. France, Great Britain, Germany, and Greece had the largest number of athletes participating in those Olympic games. Nevertheless, the United States took home the most first-place finishes (11) of any nation, followed by Greece (10) and Germany (6). The winners were given a silver medal, while runners-up received a copper medal. Retroactively, the IOC converted those to gold and silver, and awarded bronze medals to third placed athletes. The Ancient games are believed to have originated in 776 BC in Olympia, Greece, where athletes competed in only one event: a foot race. Over the years, more events were added, including chariot racing, boxing, and wrestling. Participants, who were all young men from various Greek city-states and colonies, received olive wreaths as their prizes.

APRIL 7TH:

On this day in 1614, El Greco (né Doménikos Theotokopoulos), the Greek-born painter, sculptor, and architect of the Spanish Renaissance, passed away at the age of 72. Originally from the city of Iraklion on the island of Crete (which was at the time part of the Republic of Venice), he eventually moved to Toledo, Spain where he lived and worked until his death. It is said that El Greco enjoyed 'living large' and thus maintained a private orchestra to accompany his meals. Regardless of his Spanish nickname, El Greco normally signed his paintings with his full birth name in Greek letters (Δομήνικος Θεοτοκόπουλος), often adding the word Kpris ('Cretan'). After his death, El Greco's work was largely ignored until the beginning of the 20th century. Today he is considered one of the inspired geniuses of Western art.

APRIL 8TH:

On this day in 1820, the famous ancient Greek statue, the Venus de Milo (a.k.a. Aphrodite), was discovered by a local farmer and a young French naval officer on the island of Milos in the Aegean Sea. It is said that the French officer commandeered two sailors from his ship to help dig for objects on the site of an ancient theatre on Milos. At the site, the officer observed a local farmer who was gathering stones for his farm but then suddenly stopped in awe of something. The officer gave the farmer a small bribe to extract the remaining pieces of the sculpture which were located inside an arched enclosure. The Frenchman soon came to the realization that he would not be able to acquire the statue alone. Thus, the office of France's ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, which then ruled over Milos, ultimately purchased and ensured the sculpture's safe passage to France. The sculpture itself was carved from marble by Alexandros, a sculptor of Antioch around 150 BC. In 1821, the sculpture was presented to King Louis XVIII. Today, the Venus de Milo is considered one of the most celebrated examples of ancient Hellenistic sculpture and is prominently displayed in the Louvre Museum in Paris, France.

STAVROULA'S WORDS OF WISDOM

By Stavroula Tsoutsas

Barriers to Communication

The most common factor in creating conflicts and disagreements in a relationship is ineffective communication. And despite the fact that we can start a conversation in the best mood, wanting to communicate something we know, an emotion, or our position on an issue, we end up disagreeing with our interlocutor, because in our communication there are behaviors - obstacles - that make our message reach the recipient in a distorted way, and not clear and unambiguous.

So what are the barriers to communication?

Every time we convey a verbal message, we also transmit a non-verbal one. That is, while we use words to express ourselves, we also use gestures and different facial expressions. Our voice has a certain tone, we emphasize some words more than others, and our body takes on a certain stance.

A primary obstacle in verbal communication is the contrast between the verbal and the non-verbal message that we express, that is, when what we say does not match what we 'show'. For example, imagine that we are talking to someone about something that really concerns us - he tells us that he is listening to us, but at the same time he is looking at his cell phone. Despite his verbal confirmation, we are sure that he is not paying attention to us.

A second obstacle is often sarcasm. Many people confuse sarcasm with humor. The former, however, creates an unpleasant feeling in the interlocutor while the latter causes bliss through laughter. Sarcasm hides anger and perhaps aggression, and when expressed often the goal is to use it to hurt the other person or at least make him feel uncomfortable.

Another obstacle is perceptions. If one believes that the person one is talking to fails to understand him, any attempt to communicate is consciously or subconsciously destroyed. For example, how often do we hear teenagers accuse us of not being able to understand them, or we hear adults claim that teenagers are immature and know nothing. So let's imagine the communication between a teenager and an adult who have the above perceptions. Most likely this will lead to a conflict. Therefore, negative perceptions and behaviors based on prejudice often prevent us from communicating effectively mainly because they do not allow us to understand behaviors that are different from our own - they do not allow us to see things with an open mind.

Obstacles to effective communication can also be our inability to express directly to the other person what we want or what we feel. This behavior is very tiring for the person we are speaking with and can lead him to want to end the conversation with us immediately. Usually behind the concealment of desires or thoughts in communication lies the fear of rejection, the fear of expressing what we really want because we think if we do it, the other will reject us.

But also our psychological state affects the effectiveness of our communication. For example, when we express ourselves when angry, it is easier to say things that we may not really believe. Just like when we are mentally tired or anxious, we can convey messages that make our interlocutor feel uncomfortable or embarrassed and our communication with him is disrupted.

So what can we do to communicate more effectively in our relationships?

The key is to be prepared for communication barriers and to be able to manage them. That is why it is very important to cultivate our ability to listen carefully to the person we are speaking with, that is, to practice active listening. This means that we must listen to our interlocutor, without interrupting him while at the same time empowering him to speak. And we must observe the non-verbal messages he emits as well as his body language. This gradually cultivates our ability to observe and understand the feelings of others and therefore we can communicate more effectively.

Stavroula Tsoutsas is a Certified Holistic Professional and Life Coach, Certified Heartmath Coach/Mentor, and Certified Points of You practitioner.

Museum of Greek Canadian Heritage Announced

TORONTO - On the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the Greek Revolution, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Canada and the Government of Ontario announced the planning and development of a museum of Greek-Canadian Heritage. The Government of Ontario will assist financially with the contribution \$325,000 CAN towards its creation.

On March 25, 2021, the Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario in conjunction with the Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries, the Hon. Lisa MacLeod, announced the fund-

ing during a Zoom meeting with Archbishop Sotirios, as well as with MPPs Effie Triantafilopoulos, Christina Mitas, and Aris Babikian and Archon Ostiarios of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Evagelos Sotiropoulos.

Premier Ford stated: "Ontario supports a thriving and proud Greek community. This museum will have as its goal the celebration of Greek Heritage and culture here in Toronto. Our province benefits from the diversity, culture, and heritage offered, therefore now is the right time for us to make this announcement, to highlight Greek Heritage

Month and the 200th Anniversary of Greek Independence."

Archbishop Sotirios remarked: "On behalf of the Greek communities in Ontario and across Canada, I extend my sincere gratitude to Premier Ford, Minister MacLeod, as well as to the former Finance Minister, the Hon. Rod Phillips, and MPPs Effie Triantafilopoulos, Christina Mitas, and Aris Babikian, for their strong support of the Greek-Canadian Heritage Museum that will preserve and perpetuate the Greek culture and Christian tradition.

"The purpose of the Greek-

Canadian Heritage Museum is to collect artifacts of Greek-Canadian historical value. The project will be completed in 2022.

"Our Holy Archdiocese believes that this is the best way to pay tribute to the heroes of the Greek Revolution, and to our wise ancestors. Together let us conquer the summit.

Together let us perpetuate the history of our ancient Greek ancestors and heroes of the Revolution. Together let us always remain united as Canadians of Greek decent and deeply religious Orthodox Christians."

The Greek Revolution through American Eyes

Continued from page 1

under the direction of Rev. Dr. Romanos Karanos, Assistant Professor of Byzantine Liturgical Music. The choir later offered a stirring medley of Greek patriotic songs from the revolutionary period.

HCHC's President, George M. Cantonis, serving as master of ceremonies, welcomed everyone and introduced His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, who is also Chairman of HCHC's Board of Trustees. His Eminence offered prayers in Greek and English, then praised the exhibition as "most remarkable and most significant" and President Cantonis for the kind of leadership "that we could only dream of a few years ago."

Greece's Consul General in Boston, Stratos Efthimiou, spoke warmly of the longstanding ties between Greece and the United States so vividly chronicled in the exhibition, and of HCHC's active role in perpetuating those ties. Greek Ambassador to the United States, Alexandra Papadopoulou, who recently visited the campus, echoed those sentiments in a video message and promised to return in the near future to see the exhibition.

Representing Stockton University was Dan Nugent, Chief Development Officer and Executive Director of the University Foundation, which helped to fund the exhibition. He said, "we are thrilled to see this exhibition come to fruition and look forward to continuing partnership for many years to come."

Dr. Timothy Patitsas, Interim Dean of Hellenic College, spoke about Greek influence on numerous other civilizations before and after the Christian era and affirmed the mission of HCHC to honor the Orthodox faith and Greek culture. He introduced Drs. Papademetriou and Ganson, who spoke about the themes of the exhibition and the process of research, planning, and production that made



The organizers of the exhibit The Greek Revolution through American Eyes with Archbishop Elpidophoros: From LR: Timothy Patitsas, Tom Papademetriou, Nicholas Ganson, Chrysoula Kourkounti, and George Cantonis.

it a reality. They acknowledged the "lead role" that students from both institutions, two of whom also spoke, played in that process.

Many of the speakers expressed deep appreciation for

the late Professor Philip Seraphim, a distinguished scholar and champion of Hellenism, who served for over a decade as president of the Maliotis Cultural Center. And all acknowledged the extraordinary

efforts of Presvytera Chrysoula Kourkounti, Coordinator for the Center, without whose indefatigable energy and organizational skills the memorable opening ceremony could not have happened.



The luncheon for the opening of the exhibit The Greek Revolution through American Eyes at the Maliotis Cultural Center.

Ontario Celebrates Greek Independence Day & Hellenic Heritage Month

TNH Staff

TORONTO, CANADA – Effie Triantafilopoulos, Member of the Provincial Parliament (MPP) for Oakville North-Burlington spoke in the Ontario Legislature on March 25 to mark the Bicentennial of Greek Independence. Her remarks were just one of the ways that the Ontario Government recognized this important day. The full text follows:

“Today is a special day for people of Hellenic descent in Ontario and for Hellenes around the world. March 25 marks the bicentennial of the independence of Greece. On this day in 1821, the people of Greece rose up against the Ottoman Empire in a revolution that gained their independence. After centuries of living under Ottoman despotism, Greece, the enlightened land that gave birth to democracy, reclaimed its liberty and was a free nation once again.

“I am proud that my bill to proclaim March as Hellenic Heritage Month was passed by our government – the first and only jurisdiction in Canada to do so. We are proud of our history and the gift of democracy our ancestors gave to the world.

“The bicentennial marks the restoration of liberty to the land where Pericles orated to the people of Athens, to the land where Alexander was tutored at the feet of Aristotle, to the land where Hellenes stood for liberty at Marathon, Salamis, and Thermopylae, where they rose up in 1821 with the cry, ‘Eleftheria i thanatos’ – ‘Liberty or death’ – and the land that shouted, ‘Oxi’ – ‘No’ – to the armies of the Fascist invaders in 1941.

“While Greece is free, all nations can dream of freedom. ‘Zito i Ellada. Zito o Kanadas.’ Long live Greece, long live Canada.”

MPP Christina Mitras marked Greek Independence Day in the Legislature with the following remarks:

“I’m thrilled to be able to rise in the House and speak today in celebration of the bicentennial celebration of Greek Independence Day. Every year on March 25 since 1821, Greeks around the world commemorate this day. This year is extra special for us as it marks 200 years since we liberated our country out from Ottoman rule by rising up in a war of independence. This year, we celebrate with more fervor and passion than ever before – a very impressive feat if you are familiar with the passion



Effie Triantafilopoulos, Member of the Provincial Parliament for Oakville North-Burlington, spoke in the Ontario Legislature on March 25 to mark the Bicentennial of Greek Independence.



Christina Mitras, Member of the Provincial Parliament (MPP) for Scarborough Centre, in her remarks also commemorated the historic 200th Anniversary of 1821.

PHOTOS: FACEBOOK

and zest for life, the ‘kefi’, that Greeks have on any given day. We are so proud to come from a long line of fighters who stand up for their country, their culture, their religion, their way of life, and above all, for freedom.

“In 1821, we committed to ‘freedom or death’ – ‘eleftheria i thanatos’ – and we meant it. This fighting spirit has stayed with the Greek people, both those living in Greece and those like me who are part of the diaspora. This day reminds us of our people’s accomplishments and encourages us to continue to stand for freedom, both in Greece and around the world. Not everyone lives in a free country; in fact, many don’t. Greek Canadians are especially proud to live in a strong, democratic country such as Canada.

“I honor my ancestors today, and I commit to follow in their footsteps and do everything I can to safeguard the freedoms that we hold so dear. While Greece is free, and while Greeks around the world proudly and loudly stand for freedom and

against tyranny and oppression, all people and countries can dream of freedom too.”

Ontario Premier Doug Ford also shared his best wishes for Greek Independence Day in a video message and thanked the Hellenic community for their ongoing efforts during the pandemic.

The Ontario government is also investing \$325,000 to support the planning and development of a new Greek-Canadian heritage museum to house a collection of artifacts in Toronto. The museum will serve as a new community hub and central repository of photos, historic newspapers, books and an archive of recorded histories. Additionally, it will provide professionally designed educational programs for people of all ages, linking generations of Canadians to the Hellenic legacy.

Details were provided on March 25 by Premier Ford and Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries, during a virtual meeting with His Eminence Archbishop Sotirios of Canada.

“Ontario is home to a proud and growing Greek community,” said Premier Ford, adding, “this museum will provide a destination for everyone to celebrate Greek heritage and culture, right here in Toronto. The strength of our province is our diversity and cultural heritage, that’s why it’s so fitting that we make this important announcement to help mark Hellenic Heritage Month and the 200th anniversary of Greek independence.”

The government consulted a variety of leaders, including the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Canada, who identified the need for a public space to connect generations to the legacy of Hellenic culture. The museum will be located at the Archdiocesan headquarters in Toronto and will attract people of all ages. Project planning is currently in preliminary stages with timelines and architectural plans to be determined.

“Today marks the 200th anniversary of Greek Independence Day, and our government recognizes the valuable contributions that Hellenic Canadians have made to Ontario’s cultural wealth, vitality and economic success,” said Minister MacLeod, who also noted that, “with more than 270,000 people of Hellenic descent in Canada, and more than half of them living in Toronto, there is no better place to locate this new Greek-Canadian heritage museum. This investment will boost tourism in the GTA [Greater Toronto Area], bring communities together and highlight the modern intellectual and scientific knowledge people of Hellenic descent have brought to the province - showcasing how Ontario offers the world in one province.”

Archbishop Sotirios said, “today, on the dual celebration of the Feast of the Annunciation and Greek Independence, I am both humbled and honored to meet with Premier Ford and members of the government as we take the first step together to develop a Greek-Canadian Heritage Museum. This valuable initiative and dedicated funding will ensure that the story of Canadians of Greek descent is protected and preserved. I extend my gratitude to the Premier and praise his commitment to the Hellenic ideals of family, freedom, democracy and human rights, as well as thank Minister MacLeod, and MPPs Triantafilopoulos and Mitras for paying tribute to the 200th anniversary of Greek independence with this historic announcement.”



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Tony Orlando and Dawn in 1974.

Tony Orlando, 'Grand Marshal' of WABC Radio's GID Event

TNH Staff

NEW YORK – Tony Orlando, the actor and well-known singer of the 1970s, was the “Grand Marshal of WABC Radio’s 200th anniversary celebration of Greek Independence Day at the station’s new event space ‘Studio 77’ on March 25,” the New York Post reported.

Greek-American John Catsimatidis, the owner of WABC Radio “decided to move the party indoors,” this year since New York’s annual Greek parade was cancelled due to COVID, the Post reported.

The all-day program was “dedicated to Greece’s cultural impact on America,” Catsimatidis told the Post.

On-air speakers for the event include Greg Kelly and Larry Kudlow, the Post reported.

Orlando told the Post, “I was born Michael Anthony Orlando [Cassavitis] to Puerto Rican and Greek parents and was raised in New York City.”

He “jokingly calls himself a ‘Greek-a-Rican,’” the Post reported.

“My father, Leo, was born in New York but my grandparents came from Crete. My father was one of the most successful furriers in NYC, and an amazing craftsman,” Orlando told the Post.

Orlando is perhaps best known for his group Tony Orlando and Dawn, and the top-selling hit of 1973, Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Ole Oak Tree, one of the biggest selling singles of all time.

The entire day was devoted to cultural programming around the historic 200th anniversary of Greek Independence. Among the scheduled program was an interview between Catsimatidis and Lou Katsos discussing the history of the Greek struggle for independence. Also among those appearing on the program, Ernie Anastos, Nick Gregory, Constantine Maroulis, George Tsougarakis, Nicole Petalides, Chef Maria Loi, and Andy and Mike Manatos.

Orlando also “hosts a Saturday night show for the station,” the Post reported.

More information about WABC Radio’s March 25th celebration is available online: <https://wabcradio.com>.

VIEWPOINT

1821: The War of Independence and the Freedom of the Greeks

By Polyvia Parara

On March 25th, 2021 we celebrated the two hundred years since the Greek War of Independence, a bloody revolution for the Greeks’ freedom from the Ottoman Empire’s despotism. It is meaningful to examine the content of the Greeks’ freedom, that is, to highlight its historical path and to examine the form and quality was freedom that survived even during the years of Ottoman rule among the Greek communities (koina).

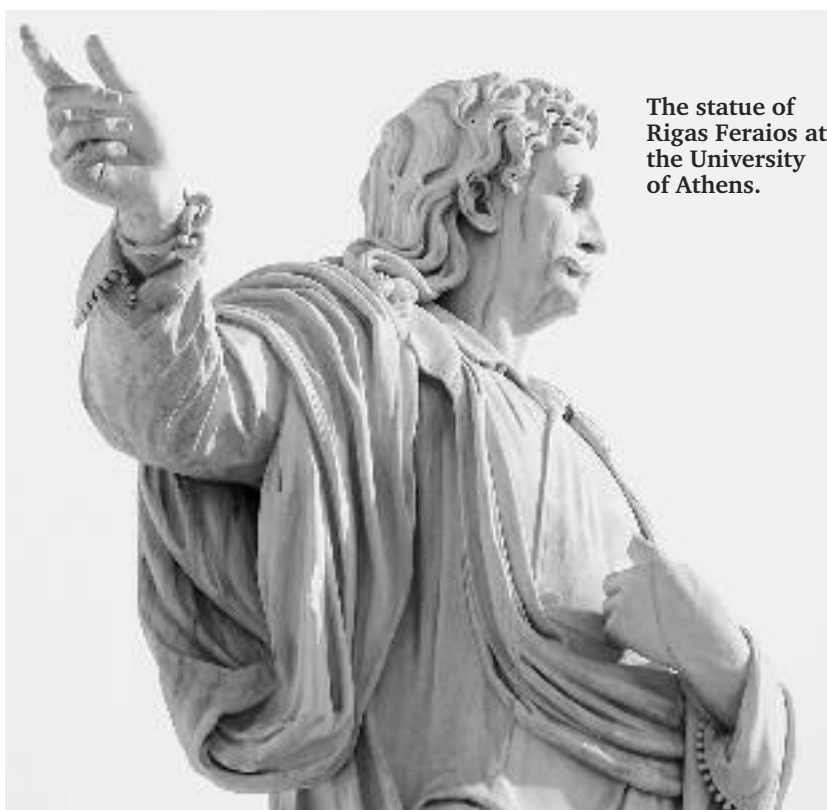
Dionysios Solomos, in his poetic composition ‘Free Besieged’ introduces the idea of man, who, although subjugated physically, maintains his/her moral freedom intact. “Your power is an ocean. My will is a rock,” which means that no material force can erode the intangible essence of the ideal of freedom.

From the poetic conception, we will pass to the historical substantiation of the idea of freedom in the historical evolution of the Greek world, setting freedom as the parameter for evaluating societies’ evolutionary course. This new epistemological methodology to examine societies’ evolution based on the parameter of freedom is called “cosmosystemic gnoseology.” It constitutes an innovative and pioneering narrative of history. It looks to what extent the citizen is autonomous in each society, to what extent he manages his existence politically in the society in which he lives.

Based on this historiographical approach, the question arises as to how the subjugated Greek in the Ottoman empire experiences the value of freedom. In 1453, shifting from the anthropocentric societies of the Byzantium to the post-Byzantine world under the Ottoman empire, the Greeks retained the substance of their freedom. Living in their Greek communities – islands of autonomy within the Ottoman Empire – the Greeks are self-governed, and they have the conscience that they belong to the Greek nation.

In the period 1453-1821, the Ottoman despotism asserts its dominance in the Greek world and sets upon Greek communities’ autonomy; it does not abolish them. On the contrary, the Ottoman administration compromised with the Greek communities’ existing socio-economic and political structures. This historic compromise includes the continuity of the religious practices and the Patriarchate’s privileges, especially the Ecumenical Patriarch’s, the Christians’ spiritual leader. The Ottoman administration allows the autonomous Greek communities’ institutions, yet imposing on them heavy taxation and despotic sovereignty. Nevertheless, the Greeks can elect their Greek magistrates (‘proestous’, ‘demogerontes’, ‘epitropous’, ‘ephorous’) and maintain the citizenry’s integrity by living with collectivity and autonomy in their communities. The subjugated citizenry substantiates the coexistence of the democratic organization within the Greek communities with the Ottoman empire’s sovereignty over the Greek world and thus remains a vehicle of freedom.

The primary sources of the time that refer to the post-Byzantine Greeks’ political organization clarify the qualitative characteristics of the Greeks’ freedom under the Ottoman Empire. The community of Melenikou, ‘The politeia of Melenikou’ (1813),



The statue of Rigas Feraios at the University of Athens.

C. MESSIER, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

was first published in the Serraike Chronicles, 1 (1938) and republished by George Contogeorgis in his book Social Dynamics and Self-Government. The Greek Communities under Ottoman rule, (1982). Written in Greek, the constitution of the community of Melenikou is ratified by the hierarch Anthimos, Bishop of Melenikou in the name of the Indivisible Trinity, proving that the Church and the citizens are a single body in the Ottoman Empire’s communities. According to this community’s statute, the Assembly of Melenikou is addressed as ‘Politai Melenikou’ (Citizens of Melenikos). This document explicitly states that the Greeks, although subjects of the Ottoman empire, maintain intact the ‘citizen’ status and consciousness inside the Greek community. The community’s elected magistrates are a synodal body consisting of three church commissioners (epitropoi) and three public trustees (ephoroi), elected by members of the community among the most prudent.

In his ‘New Political Administration’ (1797), Rigas incorporates the Ottoman Empire’s Greek communities’ fundamental principles and realities.

The statute of Melenikou ordains that if a magistrate does not want to serve or proves himself insufficient or harmful to the community, he is relieved of his duties. Yet he has to contribute a significant amount to the community as compensation; the ‘koinon’ elects another magistrate in his place. The Assembly of the koinon includes all ranks’ members without discrimination and elects the magistrates accountable to the community. Anyone who refuses to pay the compensation or profanes or displays assertiveness or ambition or vanity is excommunicated. The goal is to maintain order and harmony in the community serving its common interest. Melenikos cotton traders and manufacturers contribute financially to the public fund. From the statute’s provisions, it appears that the goals of the community of Melenikos are: the maintenance and increase of its capital, the proper operation of the manufactures, the maintenance and progress of the schools, aid for meet-

ing the needs of the poor and needy brothers, solidarity regarding the tax burden, waiving taxation to those who cannot afford it, the care of orphans, the sick, and the needy, but not of those who are irresponsible and lazy. There is care even for prisoners by providing them with food and heating.

In contrast to the liberalism of the West, Greek freedom consists of collectivity, solidarity, democracy, and philanthropy within the communities. Every citizen of the community adheres to these fundamental values. The provisions mentioned above are not included in Western constitutions. In Europe, at best, the citizen has secured his individual rights and has deferred the political power to the constitutional or non-constitutional monarchy.

In his ‘New Political Administration’ (1797), Rigas incorporates the Ottoman Empire’s Greek communities’ fundamental principles and realities. He envisions replacing the Ottoman

empire – as it appears in his Map of Greece – with the Greek Democracy, ‘Ellenike Demokratia’. In his New Political Administration, among other provisions, the community shows solidarity to those in need by a fair distribution of taxes. Also, there is collective participation in the public sphere, a generalized plan of education to all citizens, male and female, and slavery and torture are not practiced under Greek sovereignty. In addition, the principles of meritocracy, tolerance, and equality before the law are also included, and corrupt administrators are recalled.

Furthermore, Rigas introduces the concept of “emperor people” who commands everything through their envoys to the nation’s government. Moreover, in his Map of Greece (1797), with symbols from antiquity and Byzantium, it depicts the Greek world’s greatness and evolution as well as his revolutionary vision for ‘Greek Democracy’. The sleeping lion with the sultan’s insignia, lying next

to Hercules’ club, a symbol of the Greek power against barbarism, is the encrypted revolutionary call of Rigas, imprinted on his map, ‘Charta tes Ellados.’

The Greeks’ political experiences and revolutionary projects derive from the Greeks’ political education and practices in their Greek communities in the Ottoman empire, vehicles of anthropocentric societies in freedom. The Greek’s freedom has a different substance as compared to the West’s liberalism that has followed a different trajectory. Western citizens’ political identity focuses on individualism and individual liberties, while the Greek on collectivity and self-government participation. The individuality of the Greek is enriched with the institutionalized collectivity, and it becomes a political individuality that assumes the responsibility of its collective destiny.

From antiquity to the Greek War of Independence, the Greek world experiences democracy as holistic freedom: individual, social, and political. In its historical course, Hellenism is the vehicle of the fundamental values of freedom substantiated as collectivity, participation in the public sphere, autonomy, socio-economic democratic organization in the Greek manufacturer’s associations (‘syntrofies’ or ‘synafia’ or ‘syntechnies’), and last but not least, solidarity to the members of the community.

The Greeks fought with self-denial and heroism for this freedom. They gained their independence from the Ottoman Empire rightly. Still, their political project failed: the absolute European monarchy’s implantation was incompatible with Hellenism’s political organization. The Bavarian monarchy deconstructed the Greeks’ political identity by abolishing the Greek communities and their foundational values. For the first time in their history in the Modern Greek state, the Greeks entirely disconnected from the spirit of collectivity they used to practice in their Greek communities. The monarchical regime brought them into the private sphere’s realm without participation in the public sphere. Being limited in the private sphere, the Greeks do not partake in the political function; they are limited to negotiating their vote with the politicians. This transformative condition, combined with foreign intervention and partisanship, nurtured political clientelism, patronage, and nepotism throughout the Greek state’s modern history.

Hellenism’s historical narrative as a continuum of an anthropocentric society in freedom from antiquity to the War of Independence from the perspective of the parameter of freedom sets an entirely different framework for understanding the Greek Revolution of 1821 and its ideological preparation. It also sheds light on how we can understand our present and envision our future with optimism, seeking Hellenism’s fundamental values, not only for Greeks but I would say for the world.

Given that the citizen in modernity feels more and more disconnected from the public realm and politics, it is essential to consider whether Hellenism’s political values and institutions could inspire the modern world for a more participatory society with more democracy and more autonomy.

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Archdiocese Benefits Committee and Archdiocese Joint Statement Concerning the Pension Plan

By Theodore Kalmoukos

BOSTON – The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and the Archdiocesan Benefits Committee issued an announcement declaring that a solution has been established regarding the pension program of the clergy. The National Herald has revealed in the past and certainly before the Clergy Laity Congress of Boston in 2018 that the clergy pension was underfunded by \$65 million dollars because from the year 2016 onwards the Archdiocese did not deposit the proper amounts of money into the accounts.

It is reminded here that a committee of priests was supervising and managing the operation of the plan at the time, and it is emphasized that the following questions have yet to be answered: Why didn't the money go into the priests' pension fund? Where was it going? Where did it end up? How and where was it spent, and with whose approval?

Archbishop Elpidophoros in his interview with TNH of Friday March 12 said the following: "The explosive problem of the clergy pension plan did not allow me to sleep during the first months of my ministry in America. I knew that the funding deficit of about \$65 million had constantly grown and ultimately would lead one day to the plan's collapse."

He also spoke openly about the failure of the previous administration of the Archdiocese without using any names, saying that, "I cannot blame the clergymen for their concern and hesitation since this issue is so vital to them, to their presbyteries, and to their children, who – in regard to the pension – have until now been treated with so much indifference and non-transparency."

The entire joint announce-



GOA

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America in a previous teleconference with priests and hierarchs talking about the pension clergy program.

ment has as follows:

"The Archdiocese Benefits Committee (ABC), together with the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, is pleased to announce that after many months of hard work and dedication by all parties, a solution concerning the future funding of the Clergy and Lay Employees' Pension Plan has been reached. This solution reflects the execution of the Clergy Laity Congress resolution passed in September 2020 that provided that the Archdiocese will fund the Pension Plan for the clergymen and lay employees as recommended by Mercer, Plan actuary, in order to provide long-term stability of the Plan and to restore the trust and confidence of all Plan participants. With the funding issue addressed by the Archdiocese, the ABC in consultation with the Archdiocese are proposing the following adjustments which further strengthen the plan:

Agreement on plan funding: On January 1, 2021, the Archdiocese implemented full funding based on generally accepted actuarial principles as determined by the Plan actuary (currently Mercer). The funding of the accrued liability will be funded with a maximum amortization schedule of 30 years.

Updates to the Pension Plan Document: The Plan document includes provisions regarding Plan funding, protection of accrued benefits, and a termination clause that further protects the Plan participants.

Updates to the ABC Bylaws: At the request of the Archdiocese in accordance with its acceptance of the responsibility for the funding of the Pension Plan, an additional Archdiocesan appointed representative was added to each committee of the ABC.

In the course of its exhaustive and detailed work concerning

this matter, the ABC feels confident that these adjustments are the way forward. In an effort to accurately educate the Plan participants and answer all questions that may exist, the ABC is opening a 21-day period for comments and questions for the Plan participants, which will include the March 30 APC webinar. Following that period of time, the ABC feels confident moving forward with the adjustments as proposed, which will strengthen the future security of the participants and ultimately the entire Archdiocese.

Father James Greanias, on behalf of the ABC, expressed gratitude for the leadership of Archbishop Elpidophoros. "His Eminence has consistently offered his unwavering commitment to the preservation and strengthening of the Pension Plan. He has been our strongest advocate for the Plan and all of its participants."

Following today's meeting, Archbishop Elpidophoros said, "our clergy, our lay employees, and their families have been through a very difficult journey these last many years concerning the issue of the pension plan. Now, we have arrived at a solution that can be agreed on by both sides. I encourage all our brothers and participants to use this time of comment to ask any question they may have, because I am confident that the ABC has done its work and they are prepared to answer any question that may exist. The dedication of the ABC to find an equitable solution, working together with the Archdiocese, is a sign of the love that we must have for one another, and shows the true example of Christian fellowship. Having arrived at a solution, let us now complete this work, so that we may move forward together, united as one fellowship, one brotherhood, one family in Christ."



ARCHDIOCESE OF CANADA
His Eminence Archbishop Sotirios of Canada.

By Archbishop Sotirios of Canada

Paradise - beautiful, illumined, peaceful, serene. A true family atmosphere. God Is the Father. Adam and Eve are the children. In the afternoon, God descends to gather with Adam and Eve. They take their walks together. He teaches them the whole truth. There is no greater joy.

Satan is jealous. He is the real devil. He tries to spoil the beautiful atmosphere, to destroy the tranquility of the family. He puffs up Eve's ego. And she decides to follow him. She takes his advice. She eats from the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Through her selfishness, she loses everything. She also persuades Adam to do the same. They begin to feel completely naked. They hide from God. In the afternoon, God looks to find them. He calls out: Adam, Adam, where are you? They try to hide their nakedness. They try to find excuses. But the light is lost. The day draws to a close. Darkness covers everything. As exiles, they begin to wander the

On the Dual Annunciations

Earth. They stay that way for years. For centuries. For millennia. Who knows how long!

A ray of sunshine is coming. "Rejoice, Mary full of grace. The Lord is with you." The Archangel Gabriel brings forth the good news. He announces the coming of the Saviour. Humankind's return to paradise commences.

The Byzantine Empire leads the way. Greek philosophy and the light of Christ guide the course of humanity for 1,000 years.

The 29th of May 1453 arrives. The City falls. The emperor turns to stone. The liturgy is interrupted. The innocent are drenched in blood. The Great Church of the Aghia Sophia (dedicated to the Holy Wisdom of God) is converted to a mosque. The light is lost. A black veil of darkness envelops all. Christians are enslaved. For 400 years, the obscurantism of Turkey and Islam covers everything. Terror and slavery dominate. The Christians and Greeks suffer greatly.

"I tell you mother, I can no longer work for the Turk. I can no longer do it, my heart grows weary, I will take my rifle, and join the fight for freedom in the mountains." But how? They are barefoot. They are illiterate. They are ragged and scruffy. They have almost nothing at all. They do not have money. They do not have weapons. But they have a soul. They have faith in God. They have the true faith. It all begins with the members of the secret Filiki Eteria (the Society of Friends). They swear, "Freedom or Death." "For the holy faith of Christ, for the freedom of the homeland." The miracle takes place. No one could believe it. Freedom returns once more to beautiful Greece. Other nations follow suit. They rise up. It takes many years, but they gain their freedom.

We celebrate the dual annunciations. The Annunciation of the Conception of Christ and the Annunciation of the freedom of Greece. Whatever we do in Canada, Greek blood runs through our veins. The truth of Christ dwells in our souls. We are Greeks and Orthodox Christians. A people honored with a very ancient and glorious past. A people enlightened with the holy faith of Christ. What is our duty? To follow the wise teachings of our ancient ancestors which have been fused with the truth of Christ. To learn from the bravery and valour of the heroes of the Greek revolution of 1821. To live in a Greek and Christian manner. And if we cannot celebrate this year with services and doxologies and parades because of the coronavirus, let us not lose our spirit. It is a storm and it will pass. The coronavirus will be crushed. It will disappear. By the grace of God, everything will be overcome. But we need to remain faithful and not to lose courage with the difficult conditions created by the coronavirus. We need to live out our Orthodox faith. To do good works. To look after our souls as well. To think about the afterlife and our return to paradise. To admire and integrate with the spirit of our ancient Greek ancestors. To follow the example and achievement of the heroes of the Greek Revolution. To live in peace and be productive. Long live the Greek Revolution of 1821! Long live Greece! Long live Canada! Long live Freedom!

Archbishop Makarios of Australia Speaks about March 25th

SYDNEY – His Eminence Archbishop Makarios of Australia issued a message on the dual annunciation of the Theotokos and also the annunciation of the liberation of Greece from Ottoman Empire and the 200th anniversary of the Greek Revolution.

The entire message follows: "Our Church celebrates the momentous event of the Annunciation of the Theotokos, that is, the announcement to the Virgin Mary by Archangel Gabriel of the joyful message of the Incarnation of our Lord. We refer to a joyful message precisely because we know that the Incarnation of God was the starting point for the salvation of humanity.

But what were the feelings that arise in Panagia when she heard from the Archangel the words: 'Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus?' We are given the answer by Luke the Evangelist, who presents to us, on the one hand, the perplexity and bewilderment that Panagia felt upon hearing that she would conceive the Son and Word of God and, on the other hand, Panagia's redemptive phrase that she is ready to accept the will of God: 'Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.'

This dialogue confirms that Panagia's obedience to the will

of God was not from coercion but the result of free will and, at the same time, deep faith. While once, Eve's disobedience, also the result of free will, led people away from God and enslaved them to sin, on the contrary now, the Virgin Mary consciously chooses obedience and grants eternal life to fallen humanity.

It is not a coincidence that this significant ecclesiastical event is celebrated together with the start of the Greek Revolution. We praise God who has counted us worthy, today, to celebrate the 200th anniversary of this historic day, noting what has been indelibly engraved in the collective consciousness of our people – the inseparable relationship of our Hellenic Nation with our Orthodox Faith and Christ's Church. Let us never forget that the blood of the martyrs, who died for our Faith, and that of the heroes of our Nation, runs through our veins.

Furthermore, we note that the enslaved Greeks, despite their understandable hesitation, concern, or unrest that they must have felt at the announcement of the proclamation of the Revolution, nevertheless, they participated in the uprising of their own free will and obeyed the voice of their Greek Orthodox conscience. Because of them, the following generations



ARCHDIOCESE OF AUSTRALIA

Archbishop Makarios of Australia among young Greek-Australians with traditional Greek costumes standing reverently in front of the Greek flag.

of Greeks were able to live with liberty and free of the Ottoman yoke, just like, because of Panagia, humanity was freed from ancestral sin and could re-enter the door of Paradise once again.

My beloved friends, If there is something that we

must reflect on during this double celebration, it is that we ought to hold high in our conscience, and pass on to future generations, the ideals of our Faith and Nation. The best way of honouring the Virgin Mary and the struggles of our ances-

tors is none other than to prepare our hearts so that in every difficult decision that we are called to make in our lives, we always put forward our love and our dedication to God and our Homeland."

Annunciation of the Theotokos and the 200-Year Commemoration of 1821

By Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO – On March 25, the Feast of the Annunciation of the Theotokos, the Greek people across the world will celebrate the bicentennial of the beginning of the Greek War of Independence. While it is an independence day celebration, we also know that the independent state of Greece would not be finally realized until 1829. And as our history books record, it would take more than a century for other parts of Greece, such as the island of Crete, to free themselves from the Ottoman yoke, and become part of the Greek nation.

The Greeks who proclaimed their independence from the Ottomans on March 25, 1821 had been inspired by the ideals of the American and French revolutions. In those revolutions, it was the pursuit of the rights of citizens, to have one's voice heard in governance, and to have a choice in their leaders that led to the overthrow of the monarchies that ruled over them. As the Declaration of Independence reads, "Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." Famously, Adamantios Koraes and Thomas Jefferson had exchanged letters on the issue of independence. Later on, Ioannis Kapodistrias, who saw himself as the champion of the common, ordinary Greek citizen, who sought to be free from Ottoman oppression, would lead the new Greek nation. While these events happened two centuries ago, they are still potent forces in our world as we watch oppressive regimes subjugate their population,



METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO

His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco.

whether they are minorities or people seeking a greater voice in the affairs of their nations.

Spiritually, those Greek revolutionaries had been nurtured by their Orthodox Christian Faith, which teaches that God Himself is free and that because we are created in His image and likeness (Genesis 1:26), we too must live as free persons. They had been nurtured by the resurrection of Christ, who freed all creation from the shackles of death.

As an Archdiocese, we join our brothers and sisters in Greece and throughout the world in this celebration. In the Metropolis of San Francisco, we are organizing events and provide educational resources to celebrate this momentous anniversary of Greek independence and our Hellenic heritage. In these events we want to celebrate our past to be sure, but we also want to edify all who attend with our faith and its commitment to human rights and freedom from oppressive forces. So, when we raise our Greek flags in celebration, let us also lift our voices in prayer and thanksgiving for the hard-fought freedom of our ancestors. As people who have been blessed with liberty and freedom in Greece and in the United States, we must find ways to see that blessing expanded to the still many people in the world who live under oppressive conditions.

It was not a mere coincidence that the Greeks raised their flags and joined together in their pursuit of freedom on March 25, 1821. As devout Orthodox Christians, they knew this day stood

for liberation from death, despair, and hopelessness that was conquered through the Virgin Mary's acceptance of the message from the Archangel Gabriel that she would bear Christ. The Theotokos, as our mother and fervent intercessor, was implored by the Greeks on March 25 – the day that "marks the crowning of our salvation" as we sing in the Apolytikion for the Feast of the Annunciation.

In the Gospel of Luke, Mary shares with Elizabeth, "he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts, he has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted those of low degree" (Luke 1:51-52). Jesus Christ is our liberator. In His Resurrection, he frees us from the shackles of darkness and death, and lifts us to the light of life, making us new. Saint Paul writes, "if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold the new has come." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

My beloved brothers and sisters in the Lord, let us honor the memory of our forebears who sought liberation from their oppressors. Use this bicentennial as an opportunity to deepen your knowledge of our history. Let us accept, with grateful hearts, the gifts of freedom and salvation that our Savior offers. When you attend the Divine Liturgy on March 25, rejoice in the Good News that is announced to Mary because that Good News is meant for you and for all people!

Hronia Polla to those who celebrate their Feast today, and I pray that God blesses you all in the coming weeks as we continue to journey to His Holy Resurrection.

God bless you!

Appeal of Conscience Fndn. Honors Dr. Albert Bourla and Shinzo Abe

TNH Staff

NEW YORK – The Appeal of Conscience Foundation, an interfaith organization dedicated to religious freedom and human rights and its President and Founder Rabbi Arthur Schneier, presented the 2021 World Statesman Award to His Excellency Shinzo Abe, the former Prime Minister of Japan, and the 2021 Appeal of Conscience Award to Dr. Albert Bourla, Chairman and CEO of Pfizer, at the 56th Annual Appeal of Conscience Awards held virtually in New York on March 22. The program can be viewed on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T0cYDWe-ciw>.

The World Statesman Award honors leaders who support peaceful coexistence and mutual acceptance in multi ethnic societies. "Former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has made a significant contribution beyond his country to peaceful coexistence, security and co-operation in the spirit of his ancestors as well as a great service to his Nation," said Rabbi Arthur Schneier.

"As Prime Minister, I consistently underscored that promoting universal values such as freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law is essential for achieving regional and global peace and prosperity," said Prime Minister Abe. "The work carried out by the Appeal of Conscience Foundation to achieve religious freedom, promote human rights and pursue peaceful coexistence is in line with the efforts to promote universal values. I would like to extend my deepest respect to Rabbi Schneier, who is a survivor of the Holocaust and has been working hard to promote mutual acceptance and respect for others as a champion of peace and interfaith co-operation, while protecting minorities."

The Appeal of Conscience Award is presented to visionary business executives with a sense of social responsibility who use their resources and vast reach across boundaries to better serve the global community. According to

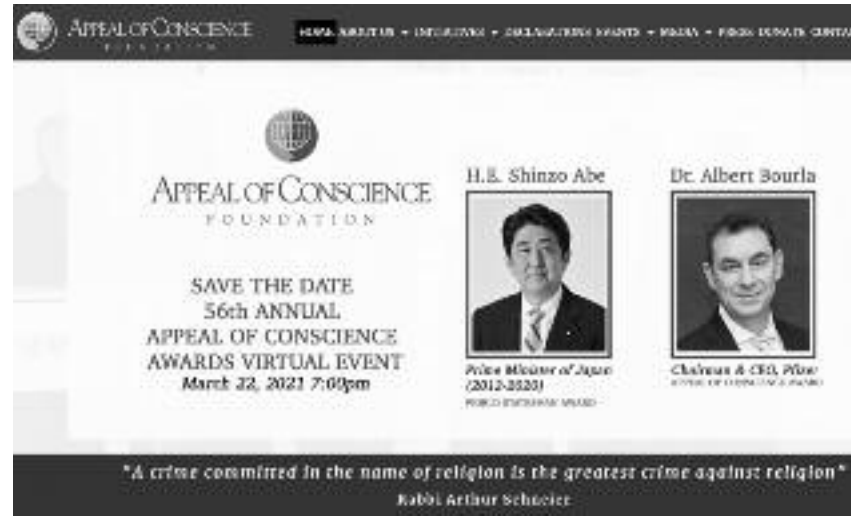
Rabbi Arthur Schneier, "Dr. Albert Bourla was recognized for his leadership in helping to heal a world wounded by the COVID-19 pandemic and for his tireless work in service of the global community."

"I am struck by the common set of values shared by Appeal of Conscience Foundation and my amazing colleagues at Pfizer," said Dr. Albert Bourla. "The Foundation works to foster mutual understanding and acceptance across people of different faiths. Similarly, Pfizer's equity value is based in the belief that every person deserves to be seen, heard and cared for."

According to Bourla, "since the beginning of our vaccine development program, we have been committed to working toward equitable and affordable access to COVID-19 vaccines for people around the world. Instead of choosing a price that reflects the high value our vaccine brings to society, we have chosen to charge governments a low price, so they can distribute it to their citizens for free. A dose of our vaccine in high-income countries costs as much as a simple meal. But equity doesn't mean that we give the same to everyone, but rather that we give more to those in higher need. For this reason, we set the price for middle-income countries at almost half the price of the high-income ones. And we provide the vaccine to the low-income countries on a no-profit basis."

United States President Joseph R. Biden stated, "I extend my warmest congratulations to Albert Bourla for his tireless work helping fight the COVID-19 pandemic here and across the globe. I trust that you take pride in your leadership and in knowing that you helped shepherd a miracle of science for our great Nation and also across the globe."

President Biden also extended his best wishes to former Prime Minister Abe, "I am grateful for our many years of partnership working together, and also for our friendship. I thank you for your meaningful contributions around the world, and for your many years of



The Appeal of Conscience Foundation presented the 2021 World Statesman Award to His Excellency Shinzo Abe, the former Prime Minister of Japan, and the 2021 Appeal of Conscience Award to Dr. Albert Bourla, Chairman and CEO of Pfizer, at the 56th Annual Appeal of Conscience Awards held virtually in New York on March 22.

personal stewardship of the alliance between Japan and the United States."

"I congratulate the winners of this year's awards. Former Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe, a champion of universal healthcare, and Dr. Albert Bourla, Chairman and CEO of Pfizer, the developer of one of the first anti-COVID vaccines," said United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. "Our focus must be on ensuring that everyone, everywhere can be vaccinated as soon as possible. Vaccines must be seen as a global public good as Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has said so many times. The pandemic has put a spotlight on the need to finally address long standing fragilities and inequalities."

Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis stated: "Tonight we honor two award recipients whose work embodies the values at the heart of this foundation. Shinzo Abe has been staunch advocate for regional peace and global security ... strengthened the ties of

friendship and economic co-operation between Japan and the European Union, and we salute his long-standing leadership here tonight."

Prime Minister Mitsotakis continued, "Albert Bourla is a proud son of Greece ... his leadership in response to the COVID-19 pandemic makes him a worthy recipient of this year's Appeal of Conscience award. I know millions of Greeks will join me in congratulating Doctor Bourla and the thousands of brilliant minds across the global pharmaceutical community whose collective endeavor has brought us not just one vaccine, but a host of vaccines, that are quite literally preserving millions of lives across the world. There is simply no greater achievement than that. You are all heroes in our eyes."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated: "There is no one more deserving of this year's award than Albert Bourla. Under his leadership, Pfizer has truly excelled, creating and producing a vaccine that will save mil-

lions of lives across the world. I congratulate Mr. Bourla on receiving this prestigious honor and thank him for all he has done for Israel and the world. His contribution to global health will be recorded in the annals of history."

Dr. Henry Kissinger delivered the laudatio honoring Prime Minister Abe, saying "under his leadership, Japan has made a great contribution to its own people and its economic growth but equally to the friendship between the United States and Japan which is a key to economic progress and peace in the area."

Stephen A. Schwarzman, Chairman, CEO and Co-Founder of the Blackstone Group introduced His Excellency Shinzo Abe and joined Dr. Kissinger and Rabbi Arthur Schneier in the presentation of the 2021 World Statesman Award calling him "a widely respected and global leader whose tenure was marked by renewed emphasis on international leadership and incredible progress on economic reforms and social issues."

Brian Moynihan, Chairman and CEO of Bank of America introduced Dr. Albert Bourla and joined Rabbi Arthur Schneier in presenting the 2021 Appeal of Conscience Award. "As I think about the events of this past year - which united us through our common humanity - the work of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation resonates more than ever," said Moynihan. "A great leader has the capacity to translate vision into reality. Albert, you led the way with the words: Science will win. You were deliberate and empathetic. You energized your team and formed external collaborations in a race to deliver the first FDA approved COVID-19 vaccine to the world in record time - less than one year. It was nothing short of miraculous," Moynihan added.

Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York, delivered the invocation and His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, the benediction. More info is available online: www.appealofconscience.org.

Dr. Yancopoulos & Family Had 'Special Access' to Testing, NYT Says

TNH Staff

NEW YORK – Greek-American Co-Founder, President, and Chief Scientific Officer of the pharmaceutical company Regeneron Dr. George Yancopoulos and his family received "special access to coronavirus testing last year as the first wave of the pandemic tore through New York and tests were severely limited," the New York Times reported on March 25.

Regeneron has "longstanding ties to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo," the Times reported, adding that "the company requested tests from the state for Dr. Yancopoulos, and his family after a 'member of his household became infected with Covid-19,' a company spokeswoman said."

"State officials granted the request and tested the family at home in March," the Times reported, adding that "by then, New York had already become the epicenter of the pandemic, with a frightened populace suddenly confronted with a widespread shutdown in the face of a virus that little was known about."

"On April 1, Governor Cuomo then announced that Regeneron would create 500,000 kits for testing samples and provide them free of charge to New York State," the Times reported, noting that "the company, which would eventually become a critical player in the efforts to lower the risk of hospitalization and death among high-risk COVID-19 patients, said Dr. Yancopoulos was not involved in the donation of the kits."

"The unusual and preferential treatment granted to Dr. Yancopoulos was also extended to Gov. Cuomo's relatives, including his mother, Matilda Cuomo, and brother, the CNN anchor Chris Cuomo, and at least one of his sisters, as well as other influential people, according to people with direct knowledge of the effort," the Times reported, adding that "revelations that the gov-



TNH FILE PHOTO

Dr. George Yancopoulos, Co-Founder, President and Chief Scientific Officer of the pharmaceutical company Regeneron.

ernor's family and other influential people were given special access to state-run coronavirus tests early in the pandemic have drawn the interest of investigators in the New York State Assembly."

"The judiciary committee of the New York State Assembly has been looking into several allegations of sexual harassment made in recent weeks against Mr. Cuomo, as well as the manipulation by his senior staff of data related to nursing home deaths," the Times reported, noting that on March 25, "the chair of the committee, Assemblyman Charles D. Lavine, said the preferential access for Cuomo's family in the beginning of the pandemic would also become part of the in-

quiry."

"The tests given to Dr. Yancopoulos and his family were the first known examples of the state offering the hard-to-get tests to someone with business interests with the state," the Times reported, adding that "Regeneron has a long history of upstate investments, backed by successive Cuomo administrations."

Then-Governor Mario M. Cuomo, the current governor's father, "made an early bet on the company in 1991 ... supporting the firm with \$250,000 that was described then as an equity investment," the Times reported, noting that "Regeneron has been a beneficiary of the current Cuomo administration as well: In 2018, the state development agency granted the company up to \$140 million in incentives to expand its operations in the capital region."

"It was not clear to whom Dr. Yancopoulos had reached out in the state government with his request for tests for his family," the Times reported.

"Dr. Yancopoulos has directly led the company's ambitious and successful efforts to advance a groundbreaking therapy for this devastating pandemic," said the company spokeswoman, Hala Mirza, the Times reported. "As an essential worker, leading and meeting regularly with his research team, and to ensure Dr. Yancopoulos was not posing a risk to this team, Regeneron requested testing from the state for his household after a household member became infected with COVID-19."

"The samples of those given preferred access were taken at home, in some cases by top Health Department officials, and rushed by state troopers to Wadsworth Center, the state-run lab in Albany, where staff were instructed to process the tests immediately, according to two people with knowledge of the effort," the Times reported, noting that "results came back in hours."

"The improper use of a government position by officials to obtain 'privileges or exemptions' for themselves or others is prohibited by state law," the Times reported.

"Everything brought to the committee's attention is going to be considered and investigated," Lavine told the Times. "I will only say inquiries have been made. We're paying attention to it and will act accordingly."

He "added that the focus of the investigation remained 'the nursing homes, the allegations of sexual harassment and the bridge,' referring to claims of a cover-up of potential structural problems on a major new bridge, named for Cuomo's father, that crosses the Hudson River," the Times reported.

"The testing program was overseen by senior health officials who often sent staff - outfitted in full protective garb, including face shields and scrubs - to do in-home tests," the Times reported, noting that Gov. Cuomo "requested the tests for his family, according to one of the people with knowledge of the effort."

On March 25, a spokesman for Gov. Cuomo, Richard Azzopardi, "reiterated that the administration was rejecting 'insincere, hypocritical efforts to rewrite the past,'" the Times reported.

"In the early days of this pandemic, when there was a heavy emphasis on contact tracing, we were absolutely going above and beyond to get people tested," Azzopardi told the Times, adding that "the effort included 'in some instances going to people's homes' to identify cases and prevent others from developing the disease."

"Among those we assisted were members of the general public, Democratic and Republican legislators, and reporters - including local and national reporters - state workers and their families, and those believed would be in direct contact with the governor," he told the Times.

Fletcher's Prof. Constantine Arvanitopoulos Speaks at Cathedral of Boston

Continued from page 1

Revolution is the first national liberation movement to succeed in Europe. Greece was the first of a number of nation states that would follow and become the new norm in Europe and the world. The French Revolution of 1789 had, of course, trumpeted the coming era of political and social transformation in Europe and beyond. But after the rise and defeat of Napoleon, the Congress of Vienna had restored the despotic monarchies. It looked at the time that the historical clock had been turned back to the situation before 1789.

The Greek Revolution that broke out, in the spring of 1821, changed all that. The outcome of the Greek Revolution changed the geopolitical map of Europe, away from the 18th century model of monarchies and empires towards the 20th century model of nation states."

"The War of Independence," Arvanitopoulos continued, "signified the revival of an ancient nation and its ancient Hellenic civilization. Our prominent historians Spyridon Zambelios and Constantinos Paparrigopoulos have long established, that the Greeks formed a nation since ancient times and the struggle of the Revolution was about restoring that nation and its civilization to its rightful place in modern times. This nation connected with the thread of the Greek lan-



ALEX MAVRADIS CATHEDRAL OF BOSTON

From the Doxology for the 200th Anniversary of Greek Revolution at the Annunciation Cathedral of Boston. Shown are Metropolitan Methodios with Professor Constantine Arvanitopoulos and Consul General of Greece Stratos Ethymiou.

guage had been organized in city-states in ancient antiquity, in empire, and eventually the Byzantine Empire. And now, with the added common thread of the Christian faith, it would rise to self-determination and take the form of a modern nation-state."

He added that "one of the reasons for the success of the Greek war of independence was the success of the Greek leaders [efforts to] to internationalize their struggle. That effort led to a wave of philhellenism not only in Europe but here in the United States."

Alexandros Ypsilantis and Petreby Mavromihalis would appeal to 'the enlightened people of Europe, to help for the liberty of the Hellenes.' Korais managed

to convince Edward Everett, who he had met in Paris in 1817, to transmit his love for Greece to his fellow countrymen. In 1823 Korais would also start corresponding with Thomas Jefferson asking him to help the Greek cause."

The professor noted that, "George Jarvis son of an American diplomat became the first of a small number of Americans who enlisted and fought in the Greek war of Independence. In the summer of 1824 Samuel Howe, a young doctor from Boston went to Greece to offer his services. When he returned to America he continued his involvement with Greek affairs, especially delivering aid during the Cretan revolution of 1866. The

efforts of Everett and Daniel Webster would result in favorable resolutions from Congress about "the heroic struggle of the Greek people, sympathy for their sufferings, interest in their welfare, and wishes for their success ... President Monroe in his annual address to Congress, on December 2, 1823, when he famously declared the Monroe doctrine, expressed the hope 'that the Greeks would succeed in their contest, and resume their equal station among the nations of the Earth.'"

Professor Arvanitopoulos added that "the American people, actively supported the Greek cause with fundraising activities, and clothing and other items that they sent to Greece ... American philhellenism was a result of

many factors: admiration for the Greek civilization, the sympathy for the Greek call to liberty that reminded Americans of their own struggle for independence, and the notion of defending Christianity from the Muslims."

"The internationalization of the struggle and the wave of philhellenism, together with astute diplomacy, would eventually salvage the revolution," he explained.

"When the three great powers agreed to send a joint naval task force to the Aegean to enforce the truce between the revolutionaries and the Ottoman forces, the Greeks hastily accepted while the Ottomans rejected it. The consequence was the battle of Navarino, that virtually destroyed

the Ottoman fleet. The die had been cast. The three great powers would sign the London Protocol in 1830 and the modern Greek nation state was born."

The historical overview continued with Arvanitopoulos noting that "the Greek state would continue to grow and expand its borders through war and diplomacy. The completion of this process will come in 1947 with the inclusion of the Dodecanese."

This territorial expansion to include all Greek populations outside the 1830 border became the main national objective, the raison d', of the first hundred years of the history of the young state. In the end, Greece managed to almost double its size.

In the next hundred years ... the national objective was threefold: to rise out of poverty, to modernize its institutions, and address the security dilemma. These challenges were successfully addressed by a great statesman, Constantine Karamanlis, who managed to navigate Greece into becoming an equal member state of the European Union. Greece's standard of living improved exponentially, its democratic institutions were consolidated, and its security was enhanced. These were remarkable achievements for a small nation state. If we look back and assess this remarkable journey, we can easily conclude that Greece belongs to the winners of the modern era."

Spring Bounce: Greece Opens to Israelis with Vaccines, Negative Tests

TNH Staff

Aiming for a broader reopening of tourism on May 14 to help an economy battered by lockdowns aimed at slowing the spread of COVID-19, Greece is beginning by allowing visitors from Israel.

That will be limited though to those who can show proof of being vaccinated or a negative test showing that they don't have the coronavirus, which also means they wouldn't have to quarantine for a week, which would keep people away.

Greece's civil aviation agency said that the travelers must have been inoculated at least two weeks prior to entry or that their negative PCR test was completed three days prior as well to avoid quarantine, said Reuters.

The new rule will be in force until April 5, it said, while travelers from the United Kingdom and the United Arab Emirates must also show negative tests and would nevertheless have a seven-day quarantine at least.

It wasn't said why anyone would then come to Greece if they can't leave their place of stay for a week, which effec-

tively prohibits trips shorter than that and would cut deep into longer vacations.

Israel has administered two doses of COVID-19 vaccine to more than half its population, the Health Minister said, the highest rate in the world and which has helped roll back the pandemic.

The EU and Greece have lagged, with the bloc wanting unanimous consensus for all actions but Greece sidestepped that, as did Cyprus, to make a side deal with Israel, not wanting to wait to get visitors.

Tourism Minister Harry Theoharis earlier announced the spring opening to tourists with vaccinations or negative tests, Greece near frantic to get people to return this year, especially Greek-Americans, after a disastrous 2020.

"Tourists will be welcome if before travel they are either vaccinated, or have antibodies, or test negative. All tourists will be subject to random testing," he said, reported Schengenvisa.info.com.

After the announcement of the decision, hotel booking rates increased drastically, with some hotels being already hitting 70

percent occupancy for May and June in the lead up to the critical summer season, the site said.

"This year and forever all you want is Greece. For the smile to return to your lips, with the hope you will take your life back all you want is Greece," he said, adding that after those with underlying conditions were vaccinated that the government would turn the program toward those in the tourism industry.

Tourism is one of Greece's primary income providers, which has made the country call on the EU executive bodies for vaccination certificates all over Europe to make traveling without restrictions possible, the report noted.

According to the UN World Tourism Organization, 2020 was the worst year for global tourism, with only 7.4 million people traveling to Greece, less than during its economic crisis, and much lower than in 2019 that numbered 31.3 million for another record.

Tourism revenues in that year passed 18 billion euros (\$21.1 billion) but fell to an abysmal 4 billion euros (\$4.69 billion) in 2020 during the pandemic's grip.

Theoharis said this will be a



The first visitors wearing face masks to protect against the spread of coronavirus, walk atop of Acropolis hill, as the Parthenon temple is seen in the background in Athens, Monday, March 22.

much better year even though Greece is still in a lockdown and COVID-19 hasn't been brought under control but that things will improve.

"This is not obvious now because the bookings are depressed ... there's a lot of gloom, a lot of pessimism in the market, but I'm sure in the end my calculation is going to be correct," he insisted.

In the United States Airlines and other tourism-related busi-

nesses are pushing the White House to draw up a plan to boost international travel and eliminate restrictions that were imposed early in the pandemic. More than two dozen groups made their request in a letter to the White House stating they wanted people who have been vaccinated against COVID-19 to be exempt from testing requirements before entering the United States. They also want the U.S.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to say that vaccinated people can travel safely.

The groups say those and other steps will speed up the recovery of the travel and airline industries, which have been devastated by a plunge in travel during the pandemic, keeping Americans from Greece.

Greek Pharmacists Refuse to Give Customers COVID-19 Self Tests

TNH Staff

ATHENS – A rushed program to hand out free weekly COVID-19 self testing kits won't include pharmacists administering them as well after they said they won't give them, citing health grounds. The plan comes during a lockdown aimed at slowing the spread of the coronavirus and bans public gatherings but could see queues lining up outside drug stores to get the kits and some anxious about doing it them-

selves having it done by pharmacists, for a small fee.

The Panhellenic Pharmaceutical Association (PFS) opposed its members giving the tests as they could otherwise be exposed to possibly hundreds of people or more weekly up close instead of handing out the kits from a safe social distance behind barriers.

Akis Skertsos, Deputy Minister to Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, accepted the request from PFS president Apostolos Valtas, which means many peo-

ple who otherwise felt uncomfortable doing their own test might not now.

The PFS had issued a statement saying that it was categorically opposed on health risk grounds to the notion that pharmacies will perform self-tests for the coronavirus.

The statement said the pharmacies will pass out the free test kits weekly to customers "provided that the smooth operation of our pharmacies is secured so as to avoid health risks for our

citizens and staff."

But it stressed that "self-tests should not be performed in pharmacies, due to epidemiological issues that arise as well as risks to public health. "As pharmacists, we are obliged to safeguard the health of patients who visit pharmacies," it said.

People who test positive are supposed to report the results but it wasn't said how accurate the tests are although they're supposed to include instructions that make them easier to administer

than at government health sites.

Pharmacists said they had little information about how they were supposed to distribute the free kits that could see queues develop at stores supposed to limit how many people can be inside.

The government wants to utilize the test kits along with an accelerating vaccination program to slow the pandemic, ease a lockdown and get tourism going again in May to bring in critical revenues.

Former Fire Chief Testifies about Role in 2018 Fires

TNH Staff

ATHENS – A former fire chief heard on a recording ordering a cover-up of the department's shambolic response to July 23, 2018 wildfires that killed 102 people testified before an investigative magistrate as a probe built.

The former head of the country's fire service, Vassilis Mattheopoulos, was assailed verbally outside a courthouse by families of some of the victims, with some 20 officials from local government, the Civil Protection agency, the Hellenic Police and the Fire Department facing charges.

Those include arson through negligence, and manslaughter and injuries through negligence during the disaster that occurred under the former rule of the Radical Left SYRIZA which didn't have a response plan in place.

An investigator, Athanasios Marnaris, had sought a third time to increase the charges after the first two were rejected by the court on the grounds there was no fresh evidence despite additional state and independent reports.

This time though he has reportedly included the testimony of two helicopter pilots who claim that had they been dispatched to the fire, the outcome may have been different, said Kathimerini.

While some politicians in key appointed positions are being prosecuted, Marnaris is also targeting some fire service officers he said weren't at their posts during the fire, especially when the seaside town of Mati was overrun, most of the victims caught there in the firestorm.

In July, 2020 a tape recording was said to show Mattheopoulos ordered a cover-up of the wildfires and issued more threats against a fire inspector, Dimitris Liotsios, trying to report on the chaotic response.

The voice purportedly that of Mattheopoulos is heard telling Liotsios to "bury the probe" so that the ruling government of then-Premier Alexis Tsipras nor anyone in power would be blamed for failures that raised the death toll.

Liotsios wanted to forward his findings to a prosecutor but ran into a hailstorm of threats he would find his career ended and be sent to a remote posting with Mattheopoulos saying no help would be sent if a fire broke out. The fire chief said he had already done that to get even with others during fires in the Mani region of the Peloponnese although it wasn't reported whether, if that happened, that people died because of it.

Mattheopoulos was promoted to Fire Brigade Chief by the Tsipras government but it wasn't indicated that was a quid pro quo for him trying to protect the Leftists and to stay silent.

The families of some victims are suing officials and Rena Dourou, former Regional Governor of the Attica prefecture, is being prosecuted but hasn't come to court since then. Liotsios is also suing Mattheopoulos.

"His only aim was to force me ... by threatening to commit illegal acts, to write and submit to the competent investigating authorities a false report," Liotsios said of Mattheopoulos, according to the newspaper.

UK Ex-Foreign Chief Backs Turkey, Two States for Divided Cyprus

TNH Staff

Ahead of United Nations-sponsored talks, former British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said Turkey's demand for two states on Cyprus is the only solution to end division although it would recognize an occupied self-declared republic.

Turkey's state broadcaster TRT World said he also urged the United Kingdom to open direct flights to the occupied side that no other country apart from Turkey in the world recognizes.

That came in an online seminar held by British Turkish Cypriot Association (BTCA) and Council of Turkish Cypriot Association (CTCA), the report said, essentially siding with Turkey over Cyprus and the European Union.

"British government needs to accept in their mind, two-state solution is the only solution," Straw said, according to the report, blaming himself for what he said was going along with the

EU admitting the Greek-Cypriot government.

New Turkish-Cypriot leader Ersin Tatar and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said they will no longer even consider reunification of the island split after unlawful 1974 Turkish invasions.

The occupied territory does not belong to the EU and has

The EU's top foreign diplomat, Josep Borrell, blogged that, "the Cyprus problem is clearly an EU problem..."

been isolated for decades, the last attempt at bringing the two sides together failing when talks in July, 2017 at the Swiss resort of Crans-Montana collapsed.

That was because of Turkey and the Turkish-Cypriot side refusing to remove a 35,000-strong standing army and demanding the right of further military intervention, leading Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades to walk away.

But he said he's willing to try

again and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who was at the Swiss debacle, has scheduled an informal meeting in Geneva, Switzerland from April 27-29.

The so-called five party talks will include the Greek-Cypriots and Turkish-Cypriots as well as the three guarantors of security for the island, Greece, Turkey, and The UK, the former Colonial

ruler which still has military bases there. "The first thing to do is we have to get to established in their minds of British politicians, not least current foreign secretary, if they want a solution, the solution is going to have to be a two-state solution," also said Straw.

He said the UK has accepted similar solutions around the world, including in the Balkans and that it must use its influence as guarantor of security and hav-

ing a military presence on Cyprus to force a two-state solution over any objections.

Earlier in March, the hard-liner nationalist Tatar said that, "if an agreement is to be reached on Cyprus its basis will be the cooperation of two equal states living side by side, based on sovereign equality." Turkey's pro-government The Daily Sabah said.

That came after he met UN envoy Jane Holl Lute, an American diplomat who, like all the others before her during decades of failed talks, hasn't been able to make any headway either.

"We discussed with Lute that an agreement could be achieved by ensuring the international equal status of these two states," he added but there was no word from her if that was so or what she said.

Lute "confirmed that it (the UN) will be in search of whether there is common ground that can really move forward as a result of all the discussions," he said,

Doctors Group Says EU's Plan for Greek Refugee Camps Failed Spin

Continued from page 1

ter the EU closed its borders to them have been trapped on five islands during "five winters that have led to destitution, traumatization, and even to the death of people trapped in EU-funded reception centers."

Detailing miserable living conditions in the island camps, Vochten wrote that "none of this is an unintended consequence nor an issue of lack of capacity or resources: the conditions on the Greek Islands are supposed to be a deterrent to those still thinking of attempting the journey."

Johansson earlier was met with protests on the islands from locals who don't want new camps built and have, along with officials there, been pressing the New Democracy government to send refugees and migrants to mainland camps.

She then met with Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis and Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias after she insisted that the EU-funded camps would be open and not confine people, the government saying they would be closed facilities.

The EU is currently working on a new migration pact to tackle the issue of asylum-seekers wanting to enter the bloc. Refugee rights groups have slammed the bloc's migration policies as inhumane but gotten nowhere.

Countries on the EU's southern border, the main destination for refugees and migrants, also want rules revised that limit asy-



A woman holds a baby at Karatepe refugee camp, on the eastern Aegean island of Lesbos, Greece, Monday, March 29, 2021.

lum being sought only to the first country in which refugees or migrants land, primarily Greece, Italy, Spain, Malta, and Cyprus.

Johansson made her tour with Migration Minister Notis Mitarachi where she stressed the need for solidarity among the EU's 27 member states in handling migration, which won't happen because some, such as Hungary, said they won't take any and others reneged on promises to do so.

She said Turkey should live up to the agreement and take back those who didn't get asylum but Turkey has refused and instead of being punished is be-

ing rewarded with plans for more money to deal with refugees and migrants there.

Speaking after meeting with Johansson, Mitsotakis noted the massive overcrowding in island camps had significantly eased over the past year, with the numbers on islands around some 14,000, down from more than 42,000.

"We have made significant progress in the decongestion of the islands. We are moving forward with the EU's help, with the construction of permanent facilities on the islands, which will mark a decisive change in relation to what was happening in the past," he said.

The notoriously overcrowded and squalid camp of Moria on Lesbos burned down last year, and its residents have been moved into a temporary camp of tents set up on a former military firing range. The camp has been plagued by problems of flooding, which Mitarachi said were being dealt with.

Still, the facility in Samos, constructed to house just under 650 people, remains grossly overcrowded, with more than 3,000 people living in the camp and a shantytown that has emerged around it.

A new facility is being constructed on Samos and others are slated for during the other

islands over the objections of residents and officials as well as aid groups like MSF and refugee rights organizations who have been ignored.

The 2016 EU-Turkey deal stipulates new arrivals must remain on the islands pending return to Turkey unless their asylum application is successful. The agreement reduced arrivals, but didn't stop them, leading to massively overcrowded island camps with the EU claiming that it's working.

North Aegean Regional Governor Kostas Moutzouris said of Johansson's visit that, "it is clear that she is not taking into account the local population and was here to discuss already received decisions," which he and the residents rejected.

She also pushed the government to investigate repeated claims by human rights groups and activists about alleged pushbacks of refugees and migrants across the land border and seas, which was already denied.

"We need to protect our external borders and we need fundamental rights and this goes hand-in-hand, it's not a contradiction," she said.

Mitarachi said there haven't been pushbacks but added that "countries have borders and there are rules and regulations (about) how the competent authorities must exercise and execute their constitutional obligations to protect them."

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

SMALL TAKES

Greece & Cyprus

The Rhodes Experiment: Dutch Tourists Test COVID-19 Proof Vacation

TNH Staff

As Greece is hoping to create islands free of COVID-19 through vaccinations, The Netherlands government has okayed a test in which 188 travelers will stay at a closed resort on Rhodes to see if that idea works.

Their vacation at an all-inclusive facility will begin April 12, a plan by the travel industry which is eager to get package deals to Greece growing as the pandemic lingers, likely through the summer.

They will stay for eight days, not allowed to leave and with entry allowed only by staff, with Coronavirus tests before and after to see if the plan would stave off COVID-19 and could be duplicated elsewhere.

Greece will recognize Israel's "Green Pass" to allow vaccinated Israeli tourists into the country without a self-isolation period or coronavirus test, the Israeli Foreign Ministry said, The Times of Israel reported.

Unhappy With E-Learning, Evaluations, 7,000 Greek Teachers Quitting

TNH Staff

ATHENS - Some Greek 7,000 teachers, many said uncomfortable with trying to conduct remote classes as schools shut during the COVID-19 pandemic, and not wanting to face evaluations, are turning in their resignation papers.

That will bring a record number of hirings for the next academic year, said Kathimerini, as primary, kindergarten and high school teachers don't want to work anymore, said the teachers federations DOE and OLME.

The main reasons were conditions in schools that are often nearly abysmal and not wanting to be evaluated on their performance, which will be coming now for the first time under the New Democracy government.

But a big factor was E-Learning which has seen teachers trying to handle students alone in their homes on video platforms that make it difficult to interact and which just can't replace being in a classroom environment.

Twenty Greek Cops Start Trial for Bodycams After COVID-19 Riot

TNH Staff

ATHENS - In the aftermath of a riot over a police officer seen beating with an iron baton a man questioning 300-euro (\$354) fines being handed out for violations of COVID-19 health measures, 20 Greek police officers are being equipped with body cameras.

That's also a response by Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis to accusations of police brutality in that incident and other cases, including a second demonstration that same day in the neighborhood of Nea Smyrni in which 5,000 protesters clashed with riot police, one officer seriously injured.

The bodycams will provide video of how an officer handles a call and the trial has started with officers of the DRASI motorcycle unit and the crime prevention and suppression team (OPKE) said Kathimerini.

The portable cameras attached to the uniforms of officers will record their movements carrying out duties.

Greece Lifts Long Ban on Divers Exploring Old Shipwrecks, Planes

TNH Staff

A prohibition in effect for decades keeping scuba divers away from undersea ship and plane wrecks is being lifted for 97 sites ranging from the mid-19th Century to 1970, most from World War II.

The Culture Ministry, wanting to take Greece beyond a summer tourism season and create year-long attractions, recommended lifting the ban, which comes after the inauguration of an underwater museum off the Peristera islet next to the island of Alonissos in August, 2020.

The first underwater museum in the country preserves an ancient shipwreck, a lure for divers and officials hope it will be a model to lure more sustainable tourism after the COVID-19 pandemic showed how susceptible the sector really is.

Located in the National Marine Park of Alonissos and Northern Sporades, the museum is part of the largest marine protected area in Europe.

Greek University Teachers, Staff Paying Cost of Student Sit-in, Defense

TNH Staff

With no report why, teachers and administrative staff at Thessaloniki's Aristotle University were said to be raising funds to pay for the defense of students who occupied a building and caused 65,000 euros (\$76,698) damages.

Police arrested the students Feb. 22 and broke up the occupation that came as the New Democracy government was pushing plans for tighter security on school grounds that had seen violence.

But the effort to help the students in Greece's second-largest city, said Kathimerini, was orchestrated by a Member of Parliament from the Conservatives, Stratos Simopoulos, who said the Unified Association of Teaching Staff (ESDEP) and the Association of Administrative Staff of Aristotle University were helping.

They want to cover lawyers' and court fees, in consultation with the defense attorneys, although it wasn't said if that would include covering costs for the damages.

Israeli Military Will Conduct Exercise on Cyprus During "War Month"

TNH Staff

Israeli military forces, including elite units, will hold a giant exercise on Cyprus this summer, using the country as a stand-in for Judea and Samaria in Israel as well as the Gaza Strip, the self-governing Palestinian territory.

The Hebrew language newspaper Israel Hayom said among the troops involved will be commandos and Special Forces, Air Force and Navy troops, and regular and reserve forces with the military's Depth Corps, which coordinates long-range missions and operations deep behind enemy lines.

The drill will be part of the "war month" - a comprehensive, four-week exercise seeking to simulate prolonged battle conditions with the aim of boosting the military's wartime readiness, the paper also said.

Maneuvers will include battle scenarios and simulate combat in unfamiliar territory and will also involve large Air Force and Navy contingents, fighter squadrons and other units.

**UK Culture Chief Says Museum Won't Return Stolen Parthenon Marbles**

TNH Staff

Backing up his boss, Prime Minister Boris Johnson, British Culture Minister Oliver Dowden repeated that Greece will never see the Parthenon Marbles, stolen off the Acropolis more than 200 years ago by Scottish diplomat Lord Elgin.

Dowden told the British newspaper The Times that to do would mean that the British Museum, where they are kept, would have to return other stolen goods as would museums around the world, the British having plundered its former colonies.

"Once you start pulling on this thread where do you actually end up? Would we insist on having the Bayeux Tapestry back? American institutions are packed full of British artifacts. Japan has loads of Chinese and Korean artifacts," he said, although there are precedents for museums returning stolen items to their countries of origin.

But Dowden insisted that, "there is an exceptionally high bar for this because I just don't see where it ends. You go down a rabbit hole and tie up our institutions. I think it is just impossible to go back and disentangle all these things," he added.

He also questioned whether the marbles would still be intact today had they not been brought back to Britain by Elgin, who wanted to keep them but sold them to the museum which

claims they were legally obtained because he got permission from the occupying Ottoman Empire - which didn't own them - to take them.

He said: "Would they have survived the Nazis rampaging through Athens during World War II? It is a slightly trite argument but there is a truth," he said, although even Hitler was respectful of Greek culture, did not molest the portion of the Parthenon marbles which are in Greece, and didn't raze Paris.

The British Museum insists the 2,500-year-old treasures, roughly half of a 525-foot frieze that adorned the 5th century BC monument, were acquired by Elgin under a legal contract and are part of everyone's "shared heritage," suggesting they don't rely belong to Greece.

Earlier, Johnson told the Greek daily newspaper Ta Nea that the British Museum was the legitimate owner of the marbles, which was rabidly disputed by Greek Culture Minister Lina Mendoni who said he didn't know what he was talking about.

Johnson, who has Turkish heritage, nonetheless called himself "a keen scholar of Greek history" and that he understood the feelings of many Greeks about the issue but said Britain would never give them up.

"The UK Government has a firm longstanding position on the sculptures which is that they were legally acquired by Lord Elgin under the appropriate

laws of the time and have been legally owned by the British Museum's Trustees since their acquisition," he insisted, despite proof to the contrary.

Mendonni had branded Elgin a "serial thief" who used illegal tactics to take the marbles but Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis hasn't pressed for legal action in EU courts, nor did he use a veto power to stop the UK's exit from the EU unless they were returned.

Professor Alan Sked, Academic of International History at the London School of Economics told the British paper The Express that "Boris has told a Greek newspaper that we will not be returning the Elgin Marbles since they were 'legally acquired'. Good man. They were indeed," although they weren't.

Mendonni said Johnson appeared to be unaware of recent historical evidence showing the former envoy had not acquired the marbles legitimately, the paper added.

Greece's former ruling Radical Left SYRIZA gave up a legal fight that had seen Greece employ a team that included British lawyer Amal Clooney, wife of actor George Clooney, who also championed the return of the marbles to Greece.

SYRIZA said the treasures weren't only Greek but belonged to the world and wouldn't fight for their return although a number of international groups, including in the UK, have long fought for it.

Stalled €8B. Hellenikon Project Gets Parliament OK

TNH Staff

ATHENS - Greece's Parliament, controlled by the ruling New Democracy Conservatives, approved a contract transferring partial ownership of the abandoned Hellenikon International Airport to a Greek company that plans an 8-billion euro (\$9.44 million) development.

The project has been delayed for years, totally stymied during the 4 1/2-year rule of the former ruling anti-business Radical Left SYRIZA which has hardcore elements and doesn't want foreign investors.

The plan is now in the hands of the Greek development company Lamda which bought out foreign partners, China's Fosun and Abu Dhabi's Eagle Mills, and the okay by lawmakers brought it closer to realization.



TNH ARCHIVES

The 1,530-acre site is on the so-called Athens Riviera, where disused runways, terminals and former 2004 Olympics venues have sat abandoned for almost two decades, and will be turned into a complex of shopping malls, hotels, commercial spaces, and residences under a 99-year lease with the state, reported Reuters.

It was supposed to have been Europe's largest park after it was closed in 2001 when a new airport opened northeast of Athens but opposition, including from environmentalists, saw it constantly pushed back.

Construction had been scheduled to begin in 2008 and be completed by 2013 but the plans were shelved as a near decade-long financial and austerity crisis overwhelmed the country, leading to plans for commercial development and smaller park.

Some work began in July, 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic with the razing of old buildings that is due to be completed in 2024 although timetables are rarely certain in Greece.

Demolition crews began tearing down the first of hundreds of blocks that need to be removed from the site, which is three times the size of Monaco, and the contract gives Lamda lease and ownership rights over part of the former airport, one of the last steps before the developer starts construction work.

"There will be a metropolitan pole of global appeal which ... will showcase Athens as a tourist destination, a business hub, and a spot of recreation in the wider Eastern Mediterranean region," Finance Minister Christos Staikouras said before the vote.

The project is expected to create 75,000 jobs and bring about 14 billion euros to state coffers over 25 years of construction, he said. After New Democracy ousted SYRIZA in July 7, 2019 snap elections, Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis moved to speed the development but then COVID-19 hit.

A consortium led by U.S. casino operator Mohegan Gaming & Entertainment plans to build and operate a luxury resort for 30 years on the site. That contract also needs Parliament's clearance, the news agency noted.

Late in 2020, Lamda said that domestic and foreign companies will bid to jointly build two skyscrapers near the sea front.

The Greek company has also been looking for partners for the construction of two landmark towers of offices and residences and more than a dozen investors submitted non-binding offers, an official not named told Reuters.

The plan was unveiled in 2013 and the government today said it could create as many as 10,000 jobs during construction and attract thousands of tourists as the last link between development of the port of Piraeus, with the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center between them along the seafront.

**Some Resisting Monks on Mt. Athos Slow COVID-19 Vaccination Drive**

TNH Staff

Only some 500 of 4,000 monks on the revered site of Mt. Athos will have received a COVID-19 vaccine by the end of May, health officials said, many refusing, reportedly doubting the coronavirus exists.

Konsantinos Dokouslis, Director of the regional health clinic at Karyes, told Kathimerini that while, "there is great interest by the monks in the vaccination" that it's also been difficult to get up the mountain to reach them.

He also told the paper that there's some difficulty persuading many of them that COVID-19 is real, despite the death of a number of clerics, and others believe it is "the devil's work."

Other religious leaders are trying to persuade them otherwise, the report said.

"If we attribute medical advancements to the devil, the gift given by God to humans for the discovery of healing methods, we are probably committing blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. The coronavirus is real and so are its consequences," said the canon of the Esphigmenou Monastery, Vartholomaios.

Civil Governor Athanasios Martinos is also reaching out to the doubters and ecclesiastical authorities have praised the doctors and staff of the Karyes Health Center for the organized implementation of the vaccine drive that's ongoing.

In January, Metropolitan Seraphim of Kythira said that, "vaccines are a product of abortions." He said recently that "this product that comes from killed embryos will be injected into our bodies. ... They want to create a 'metahuman', a mutated man, a man who will be like a robot," he said, reported German state broadcaster Deutsche Welle.

Citing unnamed sources from Italy, he said the vaccine was "made from aborted fetuses," without any proof, reported Proto Thema.

"This is very terrible, my brothers, and the Christians of the West, the Papists, have been concerned and have addressed their leader, the Pope," the Bishop reportedly said. "Of course he has reassured them and told them: 'It is so, but we will accept it for the health of the people'," he continued. "But this is a big mistake and of

course, he is outside a holy catholic and apostolic church and we cannot count his opinion, but we Orthodox cannot accept such a thing," he went on.

Pfizer and Moderna use mRNA technology, creating a synthetic vaccine that does not contain human cell lines.

The Holy Synod, however, deferred to science and announced that the vaccines being used in Greece did not require the use of embryonic cell cultures for their production, the report added.

"The Holy Synod reiterates that the choice of vaccination is not a theological or ecclesiastical issue," the church announced then.

"It is mainly a medical-scientific issue, as well as a free personal choice of each person in communication with his doctor, and does not constitute a fall from the right faith and life."

In December, 2020, Metropolitan Hierotheos of Nafaktos and Agios Vlasios became one of the first to receive one of the vaccines in Greece.

The occasion was filmed, and he said people would enjoy higher life expectancy thanks to the vaccine.

Greece Rolls The Dice During Pandemic, Eases Failed Quasi-Lockdown

TNH Staff

ATHENS – Taking a risk it will work, Greece's New Democracy moved to allow conditional opening of most retail stores and allow some movement during a quasi-lockdown that saw COVID-19 rise, people ignoring health measures.

The partial lifting came in the face of record numbers of cases, deaths, and people on ventilators in public hospital Intensive Care Units (ICUs,) the government essentially admitting it can't enforce the restrictions.

Speaking at a Health Ministry briefing, Civil Protection Deputy Minister Nikos Hardalias said retail shops – except department stores and malls – will be allowed to reopen on April 5.

The recent measure restricting exercise to any location people could either walk or cycle to was also lifted, with Hardalias saying that driving between municipalities would be allowed on weekends.

Exercise with a maximum of three people or one family group will be allowed as well, as had been previously done but created a loophole that saw people use that as an excuse to get out for almost any reason, crowds gathering.

Authorities said they were relaxing the lockdown measures in recognition of the strain long-running restrictions were plac-

ing on the population creating a so-called 'lockdown fatigue' with people going out despite the pandemic.

"We know there is fatigue and tiredness," Health Minister Vassilis Kikilias said. "We are talking about small breathers for society," ironic given that the coronavirus has put so many people on ventilators and losing their lives.

Despite the measures – which are mostly the same on paper as those imposed during Greece's first lockdown at the pandemic's start last March, compliance has been far more lax this time, and has waned significantly as the weeks turned to months of restrictions.

There was even a riot against alleged police brutality in the neighborhood of Nea Smyrni, sparked by police trying to issue fines of 300 euros (\$352) for people gathering in a square which wasn't allowed.

Hardalias said the new measures, which include limits on the number of people allowed inside shops, would be strictly monitored without explaining how that could happen unless police check every shop all the time.

"Given the fatigue after a year of a tough battle, the new mix of measures ... will give a greater degree ... of freedom which in turn will help in the better implementation of the protective measures and we believe will limit" demand for



AP PHOTO/THANASSIS STAVRAKIS

Medical staff gather during a rally to protest over a dispute with Evangelismos state hospital administration in Athens, Wednesday, March 31, 2021.

events considered high-risk for transmission such as parties and gatherings in homes – which are banned but widespread.

Greece has been under lockdown-type restrictions since Nov. 7, 2020, heading into a six month, putting many businesses – especially bars, restaurants, taverns and caterers still not allowed to operate – on the brink of extinction.

Many intensive care units are already beyond capacity, and Kikilias said more public hospitals were becoming COVID-19 facilities although private hospitals largely still aren't being used yet.

Nikos Hardalias said stores will operate with the previously used click-and-collect model or even allowing customers inside

stores using the click-in-shop system (shopping by appointment) to limit queues and in-store shopping limited to three hours, no word how that would be enforced either.

Hardalias said the loosening of some restrictions will "provide some breaths of freedom that will limit the super spreading clusters."

During the more than year-long COVID-19 pandemic, Thessaloniki – Greece's second largest city and major northern port – has had the dubious distinction of often leading in jumping cases and defiance of health measures.

It's happened again even as the New Democracy government is going to ease a quasi-lockdown that was already being

largely ignored in Thessaloniki, with pictures of massive crowds on the famed seaside promenade.

That's next to the water but it's what's in the water – sewage – that has startled health officials again, an analysis finding a 61 percent jump in the coronavirus, detected by a team from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH).

The findings were 41 percent higher than an earlier analysis only a few days before, said Kathimerini, showing how difficult it's been to contain the pandemic, especially with faster-spreading variants.

"It seems that the city is re-entering a difficult period, where on the one hand the viral load is at high levels, on the other

hand hospitals have reached capacity," said Nikos Papaioannou, the head of the research project, and university rector.

"Unfortunately, the lack of observance of the restrictive measures in the last few weeks has caused a spike in the number of cases, despite the continued vaccination of the population," he added.

During a government briefing on the pandemic, Health Minister Vassilis Kikilias said the ministry "is concerned" about the situation in Thessaloniki and that he asked Deputy Civil Protection Minister Nikos Hardalias to develop a strategy to help slow the continuing spread.

It wasn't said if that would include getting tougher on violators.

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

Tourism, Food Sectors Get €700M COVID Shot

TNH Staff

ATHENS – Withering in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns, the tourism industry and closed bars, restaurants, taverns, and caterers in Greece will receive another 700-million euro (\$825 million) state injection.

They've especially been driven down over the last 13 months, with lockdowns keeping non-essential businesses closed more than half that time, the food sector likely to see thousands of companies not reopening when it's lifted.

That's part of an overarching plan to pour another 3 billion euros (\$3.54 billion) into the economy after the New Democracy government in 2020 fueled it with 17.5 billion euros (\$20.63 billion) to prevent a collapse.

The European Union has also given Greece 32 billion euros (\$37.72 billion) in loans and grants but there haven't been any reports where that has gone and those funds are to be given in the coming subsidies or if laid-off workers would be aided as well.

The government is in a seventh phase as well of cheap loan programs known as Deposit To Be Returned, unless an assisted company goes bust and can't repay what it borrowed.

A senior Finance Ministry Source not named told Kathimerini that continuing aid for businesses and workers is draining state resources and increasing a budget deficit, already cutting growth estimates.

The government will give food-related businesses 350 million euros (\$412 million) with a fast-track procedure, the paper said, to keep them afloat while closed, and to buy raw materials if they open again, which many won't.

The Development and Investment Ministry is to announce a detailed plan of support using European funds that will subsidize some of their monthly losses as the government has been doing with rent.

The plan will reportedly include covering eligible costs to make sure the food businesses have enough cash flow to get up and running immediately when a third lockdown, now almost five months old, is ended, no date given yet.

The other 350 million euros, also with EU financial backing, will go to tourism-related companies as the government is set to open for visitors on May 15 but with requirements they either have been vaccinated or show proof of negative tests.

Tourism is the country's biggest revenue engine and brings in as much as 18-20 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of 170 billion euros (\$200 billion) and employs a quarter of the workforce.

What goes into that plan won't be announced until late April or early May, a high-placed source not named told the paper as Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis is balancing saving lives and the economy.

"Our aim is to support the enterprises of these two sectors so that they can restart their operation upon the opening of this year's tourism season," Finance Minister Christos Staikouras told the paper.

He said state support measures will surpass 14 billion euros (\$16.5 billion) in 2021 and that the government will continue to prop up businesses and workers as long as it can, especially tourism or there won't be any economy left standing.

Besides food service and tourism, measures will include a reduced corporate income tax deposit, freezing the solidarity tax for 2022 too, and the extension of reduced social security contributions beyond 2021 or further reduction by the end of 2023.

Tied to U.S. Military Aims, Greece Gets Entreaty from China Too

TNH Staff

ATHENS – Despite Attaching itself even closer to an expanded United States military presence in the country, Greece is getting an offer from China to also boost military ties in Beijing's push to do the same in three other countries.

Chinese Defense Minister Wei Fenghe visited the Greek capital on March 29 as part of a week-long visit to the EU and was received by President Katerina Sakellaropoulou, who does symbolic duties.

That stop came after Wei first went to Hungary and as he will follow up after Greece with visits to North Macedonia and Serbia, following invitations from the defense ministers, China's Ministry of National Defense was quoted as saying by the country's state-run news portal Global Times.

The Chinese official's visit to Europe aims to "further promote the traditional friendship and practical cooperation with the defence departments and armies

of these countries, and push forward a healthy and stable development of military-to-military relations," according to the Chinese Ministry.

But it wasn't said specifically what that meant and what China would provide and what it wants, Greece now working with American military forces in the country and hosting a U.S. Naval Base at Souda Bay on Crete.

Greek President Katerina Sakellaropoulou met the minister as well and noted that Greece attached importance to China's position in international affairs and progress in human rights, said the Chinese news agency Xinhua, although the European Union has criticized China's treatment of the Uighurs minority.

Greece is willing to actively participate in the Belt and Road Initiative and the cooperation between China and Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries, Sakellaropoulou said, according to the report.

The Chinese army is willing

to strengthen strategic communication with the Greek army, carry out extensive personnel training, deepen pragmatic cooperation, and advance bilateral military ties to a higher level, said Wei.

Wei also held talks with the Greek Minister for National Defense Nikos Panagiotopoulos to talk about relations between the countries and the idea of military cooperation which wasn't spelled out.

In September, 2020, U.S. and Greek officials launched a number of investments in a bid to designed to stymie China's bid for economic clout and political influence in Southern Europe, The Washington Examiner said, with Greece now reaching out to China too.

The United States was said to be long worried about the Chinese company COSCO acquiring a major stake in the port of Piraeus, seeing it as a strategic threat, the paper said with then U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo saying that China seeks "to use economic power here

and in the region to gain strategic leverage over European democracies," and widen its influence.

"The upgraded Mutual Defense Cooperation Agreement between Greece and the U.S. is

expanding its actions and activities ... and U.S. investments in Greek shipyards," Mitsotakis said as Greece aligned itself tighter with America militarily even as it kept its options open for China's presence in the country.

Sakkari at Miami Open

Maria Sakkari, of Greece, reacts after winning a point against Naomi Osaka, of Japan, during the quarterfinals of the Miami Open tennis tournament, Wednesday, March 31, 2021, in Miami Gardens, Fla. Sakkari won 6-0, 6-4.



AP PHOTO/LYNNE SLADKY

No Sanctions: EU Sidelines Greece, Cyprus, Offers Turkey Incentives

Continued from page 1

misbehaving although the same diplomatic approach being tried again has repeatedly failed and has only emboldened Erdogan.

That came a day after Greek officials said they were unhappy that the bloc was further diluting a report on Turkey by EU foreign chief Josep Borrell that was already said to be too soft.

The sources said Mitsotakis was pleased that Turkey has been only called upon – but not forced – to stop provocations and must respect international laws it doesn't recognize.

Turkey "will have to show consistency and continuity and will continue to be evaluated," and any decisions will be referred to the European Council in June, they noted, although Turkey has consistently and continually offered defiance.

EU diplomats said before the videoconference summit that the leaders would offer Turkey a "positive agenda" rather than brandish threats or sanctions without explaining why.

The aim is take advantage of a lull in tensions between Greece, Cyprus, and Turkey and to avoid any hostile acts that

could undermine a new peace effort for divided Cyprus, it was said.

What wasn't said is that Germany, home to 2.774 million people of Turkish heritage and a major provider of arms to Turkey that could be used against Greece, won't allow sanctions, nor will other EU countries who have trade deals.

Erdogan has also threatened to flood the EU, through Greece and its islands, with more refugees and migrants who went there fleeing war, strife and economic hardship in their countries.

Under an essentially-suspended 2016 swap deal with the EU, Turkey is supposed to contain some 4.4 million of them but has repeatedly let human traffickers send them to Greece, even during the COVID-19 pandemic.

USING KID GLOVES

The EU had provided Turkey with 3 billion euros (\$3.54 billion) but has withheld 3 billion euros more, which Erdogan wants, along with visa-free travel for Turks in the bloc and a faster-track entry into the EU, which Turkey has been trying to join since 2005.

It wasn't said if he got that although it reportedly was among the incentives to keep Turkey from further provocations although the EU also didn't denounce Turkey for violations of the swap deal nor for reopening a beachfront on the closed resort of Varosha on the side of Cyprus occupied by Turkey since 1974.

"The EU has parked sanctions in the drawer for now. But, on the flip side, the bloc might not have much to offer Turkey in the way of carrots," said Alissa de Carbonnel at the International

Crisis Group think-tank.

Borrell, who has submitted a report to the leaders on EU-Turkey ties, said earlier that the agreement should "be the key framework for cooperation on migration," which hasn't happened.

For Borrell, the deal saved lives, stopped most people from trying to cross the Aegean Sea to Greek islands like Lesbos and Samos, and improved life for refugees in Turkey. But as far as aid groups are concerned, it created open-air prisons where thousands have languished in squalid conditions on the islands while others were blocked in Turkey.

The agreement ground to a standstill a year ago as the coronavirus spread and after Turkey allowed thousands of migrants to leave, sparking clashes at the Greek border.

Still, in December, the EU extended two programs for Syrian refugees in Turkey worth almost half a billion euros (nearly \$600 million), spending that will flow into Turkey's beleaguered economy.

The leaders were supposed to also Ok an updated customs agreement between the EU and Turkey, which removed duties on most Turkish goods and produce entering the 27-nation bloc.

In a draft summit statement seen by The Associated Press, the leaders said if the conciliatory line continued that, "The European Union is ready to engage with Turkey in a phased, proportionate and reversible manner to enhance cooperation."

This includes "a mandate for the modernization" of the customs union, the future launch of "high level dialogues" on issues like the coronavirus, climate

change, counter-terrorism, and regional issues, and strengthened cooperation "on people-to-people contacts and mobility."

They also invited the EU's executive body, the European Commission, to explore ways to continue to help finance the estimated 4 million Syrian refugees in Turkey, as well as in Jordan and Lebanon. However, the text of the draft could well change.

Despite the offers, EU leaders worry that this might only be a moment of calm manufactured by Turkey to suit its interests and concerns about rights abuses continue to mount.

Erdogan just ended his nation's participation in the Council of Europe's Istanbul Convention aimed at preventing violence against women. The move was a blow to Turkey's women's rights movement, which says domestic violence and femicide are on the rise.

The EU also criticized Turkish authorities last week for stripping a prominent pro-Kurdish legislator of his parliamentary seat and seeking to shut down his political party.

Despite all that, and Erdogan jailing journalists by the dozen, his strong-handed approach pushed the EU back and Turkey faced no penalties for anything, with Greece said to have accepted that in the report too.

As for Cyprus, the UN is hosting informal talks April 27-29 in Geneva between the rival Greek and Turkish Cypriot sides as well as the island's "guarantors" – Greece, Turkey and former colonial ruler Britain – to gauge chances of resuming peace talks, which hasn't worked for decades.

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

HIDDEN GREECE

Andy Dabilis' camera captures the texture of life in today's Greece, in all its colorful variations.



TNH/ANDY DABILIS

The Color of COVID

Greece's restaurants, bars, and taverns have been closed more than half a year during the COVID-19 pandemic, leaving would-be customers eager to get out and eat out to only stare forlornly at empty tables no matter how colorful and inviting.

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As a Community, as Hellenes, as Greece We Owe a Very Big Thank You

The lighting of various public buildings, monuments, museums, and bridges in New York, but also in many other American cities, such as Boston, San Francisco and elsewhere, added a grandeur and a general, public recognition to our celebration of the Greek Bicentennial.

Through the illumination of well-known buildings across the country, an important part of American society was informed about this historic and historical anniversary of Hellenism.

And, of course, no other building is more iconic or is better known in the U.S. and the world than New York's Empire State Building.

Hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers saw it illuminated with the beautiful, glorious colors of the Greek flag on the night of the Bicentennial anniversary. They were informed that this illumination was intended to honor the struggle for the independence of the Greeks.

Lighting buildings is not as simple as it seems. It requires work and, of course, there are costs.

But above all, it requires Greek-Americans with purity – whose hearts beat with passion and love for Greece – who dedicate their time and effort to achieve this.

We owe the illumination of the Empire State celebrating the Bicentennial Anniversary to Tony Malkin, Chairman and CEO of the Empire State Realty Trust and the Senate of Hellenic American Organizations, who were able to achieve this wonderful result.

As a Community, as Hellenes, as Greece, we owe them a big thank you. We are grateful to them for honoring our Diaspora ancestors, as well as the heroes and heroines who fought for the freedom of Greece.

Biden Consistent in Words and Deeds, Before and After

On the anniversary of our national renaissance, the American President was everywhere. He has become a virtual member of the Greek Diaspora. Last week, he participated in several events connected with the Greek-American community and one directly related to Greece.

At noon on March 25, a video with the President's very warm message was shown at an event at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Manhattan.

Later, he spoke with the Prime Minister of Greece.

He congratulated him on the anniversary of the beginning of the Greek War of Independence and he reportedly invited him to the White House as soon as the conditions of the coronavirus would allow it. (Sidenote: it is not insignificant that the President has spoken to the Greek Prime Minister before speaking to the Turkish President.)

Finally, towards the end of the day, he spoke via video conference to approximately 100 Greek-Americans; an event analogous to the annual White House reception celebrating Greek Independence Day which has taken place for many decades.

But what is particularly important, and what I want to emphasize, is that there is an impressive continuity between his speeches and actions before he was elected President and what he said and did in the three interactions he had with the Greek-American community and with the Greek Prime Minister after he was elected.

I emphasize this because we are accustomed to an inconsistency between campaign statements and elected officials' actions, which has offended us and made us cynical about politicians.

In this case, we had the opposite kind of encounter: a sincere one, an unusual post-election outcome.

I cannot predict the future and I cannot guarantee that this pattern will continue. We are aware that the beginning is certainly the easier part. The difficult thing will be the synchronization of words and deeds in the U.S.'s foreign policy regarding U.S.-Greece relations and the unacceptable claims of Turkey to the detriment of Greece and Cyprus.

But, at least, if nothing else, we begin with the solid foundation of a U.S. President who has known and appreciated Greek-Americans for many years.

And, of course, we recognize that the President will act on the basis, not only of his own feelings, but also of the interests of his country. It is therefore up to us, at least to a large extent, to make sure that our respective interests are aligned.

Celebrating 106 Years of EK

Continued from page 1

language daily newspaper nearly 5,000 miles away from the Greek homeland is truly a miracle. We owe it all to you, our readers who contact us every day with encouragement, support, and yes, sometimes constructive criticism.

We have entered a new age – the digital age – as always, together. There are exciting projects on the horizon for Ethnikos Kirikas/The National Herald and we are impatient to share them with you all. At the end of the day, this job is not about ego, it's about service. Service to a community – giving a voice those that feel ignored at times, and bringing one another closer so that we may be united under one Hellenic family. I warmly and humbly thank you for coming on this journey with us. It is a privilege to serve you, may Ethnikos Kirikas go on for at least another 106 years. God bless you all and stay safe.



On the 200th Anniversary of Greek Independence

To the Editor:

Dear Hellenes, brothers and sisters: Our historic heroic mission today is to honor 200 years of Hellenic Liberty, 1821-2021, obedient to the Cry "Freedom or Death!"

Now, the critical challenge remains – it is to continue this mission of freedom for the next 200 years, for future generations, who will claim 400 years of freedom in the year 2221! This battle cry banner Free-

TO OUR READERS

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

dom or Death is our inherited universal mission for all Hellenes and philhellenes to proudly participate in order to enhance and vigorously support Pan-Hellenic Power.

Consequently, our promethean duty in the name of justice is the preservation of our Hellenic culture and identity, with unlimited sacrifice in the spirit of freedom.

We thank Giorgios Karaiskakis for his last gallant victory in Domvraina, Thivon. 'Epharisto'.

Virginia Voulgari PhD,
University of Washington
Vassilis G. Tourikis,
University of Washington
Anacortes, WA

It's Not Just 400 Years of Occupation for All Hellas

To the Editor:

The glory and miracle of 1821 cannot be overestimated. After centuries of Turkish occupation, humbled and downtrodden but never defeated, the Hellenic World rose up for liberation. But the emphasis on the number '400' as the time of Hellenism under occupation is something of an injustice.

Only a tiny part of the Hellenic world was part of the new Greek state in 1830, and only a part was ultimately liberated by the Balkan Wars and WW II. After what was immediately known as "that" terrible day, the Battle of Manzikert, in 1071, the Greeks of noble Cappadocia were enslaved ... for 850 years and those of Southern Asia Minor for 750.

The Pontian Greeks were conquered in 1461 and endured 450 years of Turkish oppression.

In northwest Asia Minor and Eastern Thrace it was more than 600. Exterminated or expelled in the 20th century, their lands were never liberated. What was gained, an independent Hellas, cannot be underestimated, but what was lost: 3000 years of Hellenism on Asia Minor, can never be replaced. Everlasting be the memories of the genocide victims and the glories of Hellas' Eastern half.

Gus Papadopoulos
New York, NY



GEORGE SARAFOGLU / SPECIAL TO THE NATIONAL HERALD

COMMENTARY

The Meaning and Mystery of Anniversaries

By Constantine S. Sirigos

Whether or not we have had good experiences with math, we love figures, don't we? Sports statistics (April is not the cruelest month – baseball is coming), lucky numbers. They are all meaningful to us, especially anniversaries.

Last week global Hellenism invited the World to join its celebration of the Bicentennial of the start of the Greek Revolution, and notwithstanding pandemics and lockdowns, the entire World seemed to join us. The blue and white that illuminated monuments everywhere thrilled Hellenes, Philhellenes, and the rest of our fellow citizens alike. Nothing evokes both current contentment and lofty ambitions and hopes for a brighter future – especially during a pandemic – like a bright blue sky decorated with fleecy white clouds. And thanks to dedicated Hellenes everywhere who made the illuminations happen, we sent a powerful message to the World: When you see such glorious skies, think of Greece – and plan to visit us. We'll be waiting for you.

Colors are symbolic, and so are numbers. Mathematicians can tell us about the uniqueness of numbers, from the mystical series of 1 to 10 revered by Hellenes from at least the time of Pythagoras to the quirky primes that permeate the whole realm of numbers from zero to infinity. Thanks to our personal data, including dates in our lives, especially birthdays, numbers have individuality – but they have another quality even if a particular number doesn't seem special to us: continuity.

Ethnikos Kirix is now 106 years old. 106 is not one of those magic numbers. In and

of itself, it does not say anything to us, but when people hear that on April 2 we celebrated the 106th anniversary of the founding of our newspaper, it gives pause. I have seen the astonishment and admiration in peoples' eyes now on both sides of the Atlantic when I tell them the paper is more than 100 years old. Few institutions and companies make it to the century mark, but a centennial doesn't just signal an abstraction. What is brought to mind are people – some nearby, many long gone. All anniversaries are tributes not just to organizations, but to the



people who brought them to life, and continue to nurture them with their passion, love, dedication, ideals, and principles.

Oh yes, we also love lists, including lists of names. While it would be wonderful to honor the names of every single man and woman who labored to produce the newspaper from April 2, 1915 until today, that is

impossible. But the key names in the history of a newspaper are its publishers. Petros Tatanis founded Ethnikos Kirix and published it until 1933, followed by Euripides Kechagias, Vassos Vlavianos, Babis Marketos, and Eugene T. Rossides through 1978. That year, Antonis H. Diamataris – who is now Advisor to the Publishers, Vanessa and Eraklis Diamataris – began his tenure, guiding the newspaper's passage into the digital era and establishing this English Edition in 1997.

Such lists remind that the spirit of leaders thoroughly permeate an institution, though the rank and file also leave their imprint, through their direct contributions and by evoking confidence in the leader, who knows he or she can always depend on them, because, in the case of the National Herald, they are motivated by the same love of Hellas, Hellenism, and the Community they all serve.

A great institution is an organism. It has a soul. It is also like a nation, characterized by tribes and dialects. Each publisher contributed to the DNA of the paper: Tatanis the pioneer, each of his successors, the most famous being Rossides the Warrior in Washington, and the Diamataris family, who bridged the era of the printing press and the new realities of the digital era.

And you, our readers, also shaped us. You who are both appreciative and demanding – and we wouldn't have it any other way because both responses are needed to guarantee the dedication and passion and commitment to excellence that every edition manifests. You are also part of our continuity, and continuity is the essence of life and the heartbeat of institutions. Xronia polla and God be with you and your families, our Community, and our nations, Ellas and America.

If You're for the Wall, You Should be for Gun Control



by CONSTANTINOS E. SCAROS

Special to
The National Herald

When folks hear me speak about gun control, they can't believe that I vote overwhelmingly (albeit not entirely) Republican. That's because, for me, consistency is more important than political affiliation.

I am a firm believer in strict gun control laws, just as I strongly favor completion of the wall along our Southern border, and building one along the Northern border too.

Here's where I can go out and hand a scarlet letter 'H' – for Hypocrite – to people by the tens of thousands. I fail to see how someone can be for or against one but not the other.

You see, the basic premise for those supporting gun control and a border wall is that it will do some good. The main opposition finds excuses about why it won't work. And the hypocrisy is that Donald Trump stands for one and Nancy Pelosi stands for the other. That's when the USAS – United States of American Sheep – go to their respective corners with their marching orders of what to think and whom to support.

I've heard all of the fish stories and, frankly, I don't buy them.

Starting with gun control, I've written on these pages over the years that I fully support the individual right to bear arms. In fact, I disagree with most of my fellow historians and fellow attorneys in that I don't believe the Second Amendment guarantees that right, but that such right is inherent insofar as it's what our Founding Fathers and Constitution Framers (they're mostly but not entirely the same group of people) intended. I think the Second Amendment, in guaranteeing a militia, reaffirms the inalienable right of gun ownership. In other words, even in the unlikely event that the Second Amendment would ever be repealed, that still wouldn't do away with

our right to keep and bear arms. Sorry, but guns are not going away, nor should they. However, it doesn't mean they are somehow magically immune from regulation.

We have freedoms of speech and expression, but we can't yell "fire" in a crowded theater just for kicks. We also can't say "go incite an insurrection!" (Apparently, the Democrats have indoctrinated the aforementioned American Sheep to believe that questioning the validity of specific election results is a punishable offense, but that's another story.) We have freedom of religion, but we can't say "my faith compels me to rob a Walmart every Friday evening after sunset" and get away with committing that crime. Similarly, our right to keep and bear arms can be limited, just as every other right guaranteed by the Constitution. Sorry to the other side, but your beloved firearm doesn't get special dispensation.

I am a firm believer in strict gun control laws, just as I strongly favor completion of the wall...

There should be more ongoing monitoring of the mental and emotional states of gun owners. A perfect example of this is captured in the opening episode of the sixth and final season of the iconic HBO organized crime drama series The Sopranos. The character of Uncle Junior, suffering from dementia, shoots his nephew, Tony, almost fatally, thinking him to be a rival mobster who was killed years earlier. Junior's dementia prevents him from realizing that, as earlier in the episode he keeps blaming current events on that long-deceased rival. The point is that Junior was in no shape to possess a gun. Of course, the naysayers would point out that, being a mobster, Junior's gun was most likely illegal to begin with, and that no gun laws would have deterred him from obtaining one. First of all, incredibly strict gun laws – such as quadrupling the punishment for those who buy and sell guns illegally – might prevent a lot of illegal purchases, and second, the example certainly applies in cases where legal owners' mental acuity has been severely compromised. When "it's time to take the car keys

away from dad," do the kids think to take his gun away too? Speaking of which, I'm also not in favor of drivers getting their license at age 17 and never having to take another road test again for the rest of their lives – but that's another topic.

Background checks should also take longer. And if someone's after you and you need a gun right away, this is not the O.K. Corral. Call the cops, hide, or flee. Needing a gun immediately for an anticipated gunfight is an absurd mindset in a purportedly civilized 21st Century nation.

Next, when the critics point to Chicago – overrun by gun laws but riddled by violent crime anyway – as an example, I challenge them to consider that without those gun laws, Chicago's crime rate may be even worse. Finally, those who point to instances of savvy lawbreakers getting their hands on guns illegally anyway, I say: you're right, but at least smarter laws will deter some of them. And that's exactly what I say about the border wall.

Wall-bashers – most of them motivated by their obsessive hatred of Donald Trump and anything he's ever done – point to someone using a 20-foot ladder to climb over a 10-foot wall. Fine, but most border-jumpers don't have 20-foot ladders, and so the deterrent will solve some of the problem. At least if some folks were to admit that they don't really care about border-jumpers, and maybe even that they welcome them, there would be some consistency in that most of them support strict gun control. But the convenient excuse that "walls don't work" not only flies in the face of the wall erected around the U.S. Capitol after January 6, but reeks of hypocrisy when those same antiwallers clamor for more gun laws.

Homicide is as big a problem as a nation can have, but illegal entry and stay – along with media malpractice and political overcorrectness – are right up there, and so we need smart, effective laws and dynamic application of them in order to keep guns, and our borders, out of the reach of all those who don't have a legal right to access them.

Constantinos E. Scaros' latest book, **Trumped-Up Charges!**, is available in print and Kindle formats on amazon.com.

LETTER FROM ATHENS

Cancel My Subscription to Cancel Culture, Save Homer!



by ANDY DABILIS

Special to The National Herald

Well, zippity doo dah, now it's come to this, that people want to erase from human history with revisionist rants the greats of literature, from Homer right up to Shakespeare and the inimitable Dr. Seuss, who should have written Green Eggs and Hamlet: "To be or not to be, that is what I think of me."

Okay, Dr. Seuss wasn't right up there with Harper Lee, but now her *To Kill A Mockingbird* is also being assailed for not confronting racism, these works in the 20th Century, not more than 2,000 years ago when this subject wasn't exactly on the table.

It must be stated up front that racism is abhorrent, despicable, and a part of human behavior that stains the human race, but you can't go back in time and try to change what wasn't known then.

Some years ago I was watching a samurai movie at a theater and women in the film were being very badly mistreated, which happened in 18th Century Japan (and today too of course) and two women seated behind me said that shouldn't have been shown.

Well, neither should Breakfast at Tiffany's or Mickey Rooney's abysmally racist and goofy depiction of Mr. Yunioshi, but that movie is still being shown and why didn't Audrey Hepburn condemn it at the time, I ask you!

If you want to honestly question racism or whiteness in literature from films to books to music (Brown Sugar, Turning Japanese, Kung Fu Fighting) then it must be discussed, and apparently misogyny is okay, like Snoop Dogg's Ain't No Fun (If The Homies Can't Have None.)

People who are upset with these outrageous mischaracterizations have a point that must be heard, but so must other voices, which is the nature of critical thinking and learning that goes

The doubting of the value of Ancient Greek thinking has now reached an apex, or perhaps a trench more accurately, with the sophistry (...) by Dan-el Padilla Peralta.

back to Ancient Greece and up to the Pnyx where people could speak their minds.

In his trilogy *Black Athena*, author Martin Bernal argued that the ancient Egyptians and Phoenicians colonized ancient Greece, despite there being no archaeological evidence, such as the Parthenon being a pyramid.

He said it was a change in the Western perception of Greece starting in the 18th Century that led to a denial by academia of any significant African and Phoenician influence on ancient Greek civilization, to withering criticism from academics.

Most cultures borrow from other cultures over the eons or else there wouldn't any countries, just one big giant Mesopotamia, so people who argue that the contributions of Ancient Greece should be of a different color have insulated themselves from debate.

It's a tiny step from wanting to cancel any culture you don't like to a fatwa like Salman Rushdie has been living under, and the problem here is rule #1 in life: it all depends on whose ox is being gored. Your guy is wrong but mine isn't.

The doubting of the value of Ancient Greek thinking has now reached an apex, or perhaps a trench more accurately, with the sophistry (that's a Greek word but maybe the Greek language was stolen from some other culture) by Dan-el Padilla Peralta.

From the Dominican Republic, he teaches at Princeton and is a leading historian of Rome, which stole much of its culture from Greece, which stole much of its culture from Egypt, which stole most of its culture from ... well, you see where this thread becomes a Gordian Knot – a legend from the city of Gordium in the ancient kingdom of Phrygia – cut by Alexander the Great, who may have used a sword borrowed from another culture.

Padilla said those who wrote the Classics, back to Homer, contributed to a thinking that should be rubbed out, and Ancient Greece not portrayed as saving Western Civilization, so apparently it was some other country's soldiers who were at Marathon and Thermopylae.

This makes it fashionable to assail everyone from Homer to Plato, Socrates, Aristotle, Heraclitus, and perhaps even Pythagoras for his tricky cup, which to some thinking is as valuable to humanity as Rubik's Cube.

Heather Levine, an English teacher at Lawrence, Mass. High School, said she was "very proud to say we got the *Odyssey* removed from the curriculum this year!" What's next, burning books?

Padilla said Classics were instrumental to the invention of "whiteness" and its domination because the people who wrote them were white, the kind of perception you can only find in the Ivy League.

This would make him second there among Princeton greats behind only Pete Carrill, the former basketball coach who bedeviled far superior teams with his theory of constant motion and back door cuts, but he got that from Bernard 'Red' Sarachek, who coached at Yeshiva from 1938-77 so time for Carrill to be canceled.

The Parthenon Marbles that the thieves at the British Museum stole are white and another argument, correct as it is, notes that there were slaves in Ancient Greece. So let's talk about why that was, not just eliminate it.

Padilla has legitimate points, and the contributions of African, Latino, Asian, and other cultures to humanity are undeniable and enduring, but starting a class war just provokes war, it does not end it, and I guess Princeton will have to stop teaching the Classics.

That's okay by him. "I want nothing to do with it. I hope the field dies," he said, but it won't and will still be taught long after his argument dies.

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Lenten Lessons in Politics and Civics



by Christopher TRIPOULAS

Special to The National Herald

historical materialism of the West; but foreign to Greek thought.

On the Sunday of Orthodoxy, it is declared that icons are honored and venerated "relatively and not adorationally," and that "the honor toward the icon proceeds to the prototype," which reinforces the tremendous importance of symbolism both in the life of the Church, as well as in the mindset of the Greek people. These are the same people whose sense of 'philokalia' (love of beauty) was famously praised and immortalized by the great statesman Pericles in his funeral oration some 250 centuries ago.

On this bicentennial of the 'miracle of 1821', the enthusiasm surrounding the street art produced by the artist Evrytos, who adorned the walls of Athens with the heroes of 1821, is a hopeful sign. With little else going on due to the coronavirus pandemic and the official state committee commissioned to lead the bicentennial celebrations doing an underwhelming job, this street art represents a pleasant surprise. It also proves that the sense of philokalia remains ingrained in the heart the people, who are capable of filling the void and missteps of the domestic 'elite' seamlessly and naturally.

Unfortunately, along with the positive feelings elicited by the widespread reaction to this artwork, there is also disappointment and anger arising from the polemic launched by contemporary iconoclasts, intent on imposing their cacodoxy most irreverently. Evrytos' artwork has become a target for anonymous vandals, who,

unable to advance some sort of counter-proposal using art or dialogue, choose the preferred method of all those who succumb to the inferiority complex produced by their lack of skill.

Ethnonihilism and ideological ankylosis have led some to embrace the destruction of all things they oppose. Hence, their intolerance for images and the respect that the citizenry shows for the historic figures they depict, has led them to take on the role of modern day iconoclasts, or more correctly barbarians, because their actions are not merely motivated by some perverted form of piety, but pure nihilism.

The same could be said of protestors who recently destroyed sacred ecclesiastical icons, thus insulting the faith and religion of millions of their fellow citizens. There was even a university professor among them, proving that one's level of education is not always reflective of their paideia

On this bicentennial of the 'miracle of 1821,' the enthusiasm surrounding the street art produced by the artist Evrytos is a hopeful sign.

or per capita cultivation.

Other examples of this iconoclastic behavior can be found elsewhere (i.e., Greek universities, whose campuses are an eyesore for the average citizen due to the endless vandalism). Essentially, most people supporting the current government proposal of establishing a university police force would likely cite the disrepair of university buildings and sites to justify their position. If all those opposed to this measure would show the 'philotimo' to preserve the aesthetic beauty of the university grounds and demonstrate even an elementary sense of philokalia and respect for public property, the policing of universities would be rejected as an unnecessary measure.

Meanwhile, Cross-Veneration Sunday highlights Christ's sacrifice on the Cross, a precursor to the triumph of the Resurrection, as well as the significance of the offering up of one's self as a leadership trait. This quality was embodied by many Greek heroes and heroines from classical times, but ever since it was adopted by Jesus

Christ Himself, it has become a divine paradigm as well. The emulation of this self-sacrifice – even unto death – has been repeated many times throughout Greek history, and there are many instances of heroes from 1821 who exhibited this virtue.

General Theodore Kolokotronis notes characteristically, in his speech to the youth at Pnyka, that "when we decided to start the Revolution, we didn't take into account how many of us there were, or that we had no weapons, or that the Turks controlled the garrisons and cities. No prudent voice told us 'where are you going, fighting on these grain ships?' but instead, our desire for our freedom poured like a rainstorm, and all of us – clergy, elders, captains, intellectuals, merchants, young and old alike – agreed on this goal and started the Revolution."

Similar sentiments were echoed by General Ioannis Makrygiannis, Governor Ioannis Kapodistrias, and so many other seminal heroes and heroines who fought that Hellas might be free.

Things are different today. Most Greek politicians fail not only to distinguish themselves for their spirit of self-sacrifice, but appear to try and outdo one another in offering the greatest services to foreign powers and auctioning off the most national capital in exchange for personal gain. Greece is enduring memoranda, treacherous deals like the Prespes Agreement, the forced modification of its population, the operation of a parallel state controlled by NGOs, and many more dangers due to the common practice of politicians placing their personal agenda over the national interest, and their inability to stand up for the country, as they are obliged by the common interest and their historical duty, for fear of losing their seat or the privileges associated with it.

The social and political problems that plague Greek society today might be current, but they aren't new. Hellenism has confronted them during its long historical journey and adopted a definitive position on them. Those who foment and rekindle these problems express viewpoints that are foreign to Hellenism. All of us who love the blessed slice of land that belongs to Hellas must espouse the culture bequeathed to us if we are to share in its inheritance.

Follow me on Twitter @CTripoulas

The Supreme Court and the Wealth Tax

By William Cooper

As the Biden administration looks for sources of revenue to pay for legislation addressing infrastructure and climate change, a familiar idea has reemerged: the wealth tax. Championed by progressives like Senators Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders, the potential legislation would tax the assets of the wealthiest Americans each year.

There are valid arguments on both sides of the issue. On the one hand, a wealth tax would narrow the massive inequality gap in the United States. At the same time, however, wealthy individuals often do a better job allocating capital – through business ventures and philanthropy – than the federal government.

One much-repeated argument, however, is a red herring that should be given little weight. Opponents of the wealth tax are fond of proclaiming that it is unconstitutional and therefore the Supreme Court would likely invalidate it. Former Democratic Treasury secretary Robert Rubin, for example, said that a "wealth tax," if passed, "is likely to be struck down by the Supreme Court." And Larry Summers (another former Democratic Treasury secretary) proclaimed the wealth tax is something "the Supreme Court has better than a 50% chance of declaring unconstitutional."

The wealth-tax opponents are far too confident in their assertions.

The Supreme Court agrees to hear about one percent of the petitions litigants file each year. So even if a wealth-tax challenge is ten times more likely to be heard by the court than the average case, it still has a ninety-percent likelihood of languishing in the lower courts. To have the court take up a case (referred to as 'granting certiorari') requires four votes from the nine justices. Predicting, years in advance, which specific issues will compel the court to grant certiorari – let alone what the ultimate ruling would be – is often a fool's errand.

This is particularly true with federal legislation. The Court has declared only a small subset of federal laws unconstitutional. While the wealth



AP PHOTO/J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE, FILE

The Supreme Court in Washington, DC.

tax energizes politicians, it may not sufficiently interest the court.

There are, moreover, sound constitutional arguments on both sides of the question. Opponents of the wealth tax argue it's a "direct tax" under the constitution because it's paid directly to the government (unlike, for example, a sales tax). The wealth tax is therefore unconstitutional, the argument goes, because direct taxes must be apportioned equally among the states – and wealth is unevenly distributed (compare for example the wealth of similarly populated Connecticut and Arkansas).

Proponents of the wealth tax, however, argue that this apportionment principle – rooted in a

heavily criticized case from 1895 – is unduly rigid and not constitutionally required. A wealth tax, they say, falls squarely within Congress's broad and flexible constitutional power to "lay and collect Taxes ... for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States." Numerous esteemed legal scholars hold this view.

Where, exactly, would each of the nine justices come down in this nuanced constitutional debate? Would the intermediate appellate courts diverge on the issue, thus increasing the odds the court grants certiorari? And would five justices really want to gut a potentially important revenue source for the federal government?

Who knows. With Justices Steven Breyer, Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito all past seventy, we don't even know what the composition of the court will be by the time a wealth-tax challenge would be heard.

Arguments against the constitutionality of the wealth tax echo those against the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act's individual mandate – which penalized people for not buying health insurance. Many opponents of the ACA confidently argued that the mandate violated existing Supreme Court precedent and infringed states' rights to regulate their own markets.

Yet John Roberts (appointed by George W. Bush) cast the decisive vote upholding the mandate as a constitutional tax. Roberts' opinion illustrated not only the sweeping authority of Congress to impose taxes (including, of course, on the wealthy), but the futility of predicting how the court will interpret controversial legislation.

The Biden administration has ambitious goals on infrastructure and climate change – and a Democrat-controlled Congress to support its agenda. There should be a meaningful public discussion regarding the merits of the wealth tax and its impact on the budget, the economy, and the allocation of wealth in American society. Misleading assertions about the Supreme Court have no place in this important debate.

William Cooper is an attorney who has litigated the constitutionality of tax provisions before numerous courts.

Some Things You Can Depend On

Dr. Constantina Michalos

There are sayings along the Texas Gulf Coast – "We have a winter season – we just have it in a single week." And "If you don't like the weather, wait five minutes. It'll change." Witness the temperatures just before, during, and since Winter Storm Uri: 27, 47, 72, 81.

On the other hand, one thing that's consistent in Texas is the incompetence in state politics. Witness how Gov. Greg Abbott handled the hobbled power grid, statewide outages, water issues, numerous deaths, and costly disaster caused by Uri. He blamed Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who raised close to \$5 million in relief funds a week after the storm while Abbott was blathering about wind turbines and a non-existent Green New Deal. And then there's Ted Cruz [sic], the recreant senator who abandoned his constituents and shamelessly blamed his daughters for his selfish indifference.

Now Abbott has suspended mask mandates and opened the state 100% as of Wednesday, March 10th. Critics – and Texans – say this is a ploy to deflect attention from Abbott's mishandling of the winter storm. To further support this conclusion, Abbott blamed Joe Biden's immigration policy for unleashing countless COVID-infected illegal migrants into the state. Common sense dictates that this argument alone would inspire Abbott to maintain all COVID protocols, let alone the 6410 new cases of COVID in Texas, the 256 newly reported deaths, and the more than 44,000 deaths since last year. But common sense left the State House a long time ago.

Remember, this is the state that allows you to walk into a supermarket with your child on one hip and a revolver on the other, but – God forbid – you wear a mask to protect said child, yourself, your loved ones, and your community. This the

state that periodically threatens to secede from the Union in order to preserve its ethos of rugged individualism from an ever-intrusive federal government and its mask-wearing, social-distancing, hand-washing policies.

On March 1st The Houston Chronicle reported that "Houston is the nation's first city to record every major variant of the novel coronavirus – many of which are more contagious than the original strain. "The numbers of the major variants

Texas is the state that allows you to walk into a supermarket with your child on one hip and a revolver on the other...

we have identified in our large sequencing study are disquieting," said Dr. James Musser, who leads the team of experts at Houston Methodist Hospital behind the new finding. "The genome data indicate that these important variants are now geographically widely distributed in the Houston metropolitan region and could increase the transmission of the virus or the severity of infection."

Abbott made his announcement the next day. Does anyone in Austin read a newspaper? Clearly, they don't listen to the science.

Joe Biden called the policy change 'Neanderthal thinking', and Republicans came out of the woodwork to condemn his language. This after years of deafening silence and, thus, tacit approval of crude, lewd, and rude ad hominem assaults from Donald Trump [sic]. Marsha Blackburn, Republican senator from Tennessee, who does not believe in evolution, even defended Neanderthals, attempting to transform the criticism into an honorific and describing Neanderthals in the present tense. "Neanderthals are hunter-gatherers, they're protectors of their fam-

ily. They are resilient. They are resourceful. They tend to their own."

They are also extinct, Marsha.

Apparently, they don't look at calendars in Austin either. Between public school and university schedules throughout the state, spring break begins on March 8th and continues to March 22nd. We know what happened last year in Fort Lauderdale and South Padre Island, and that was two months into the quarantine. Does Abbott expect Texas students to be more responsible one year into enforced isolation, constant zooming, and general covid fatigue? And then there's Easter. As a Catholic university, we get five days off for prayer, reflection, and celebration. And there's plenty of time in there for hanging out at potential super-spreader events, also known as Midnight Mass and Easter dinner.

Finally, let's go back to Winter Storm Uri. Since Abbott handled the disaster so dismally and blamed everyone but himself, and since just about everyone believes the COVID policy shift is a smoke screen, it stands to reason that Abbott has forgotten that countless Texans were displaced during the storm and were forced to share close quarters with people they hadn't seen up close and personal for a year. Some of those people were family, but quite often they were Good Samaritan neighbors who offered refuge. Anyone request COVID test results or vaccine cards before moving in together? Some people still do not have running water or are living elsewhere while their homes undergo extensive repairs.

We still don't know the COVID implications from Uri.

Nevertheless, Greg Abbott thinks it's time for Texas to move forward, and he trusts that we will behave responsibly in the process.

Why should we? He hasn't.

My Great Greek Adventure: Tips & Tricks for Your Trip to Greece

Preveza, a National Treasure Made by Man and Nature

By **Stamatina Mylonas**

The northwestern coast of Greece is an ecological treasure and at the center is the city of Preveza. The uniquely shaped Ambracian Gulf fills in the area between the mountains around it and there is a land bridge that separates it from the sea like a gate keeper. The gulf resembles a large lake and the city of Preveza is situated right at the center of the land bridge that acts as the its gate. The two pieces of land at the entry to the Gulf just barely miss each other, so an underwater road tunnel connects them and makes travel quicker. The tunnel is a rarity in Greece and allows the cars to safely pass by under the boats entering the gulf or going back out to sea. Surrounding it there are mountains, which are not ever far away in a

from then on became vulnerable to conquest and invasion. The appeal of the fertile and scenic land spread across the Mediterranean evoked conflict as to who should have claim over it. As a result, this part of Greece was subject to violent battles, mostly at sea. One battle in particular erupted on September 2, 31 BC, between some of history's most memorable figures. Known as the battle of Actium, it symbolized Rome's grand reign and power struggles in the Mediterranean world and saw soon-to-be Roman emperor Octavian defeat the forces of Mark Antony and Cleopatra in the waters off of the coast of the Preveza region. The battle was not in response to a conflict with any Greek tribes, but rather the result of the tumultuous relationships and inner workings of the Roman elite. Octavian would



PHOTOS: EUROKINISSI

text, that means that 65% of all observed bird species in Greece can be found in the lands and lagoons surrounding Preveza. The plant life is just as diverse, thanks to the seventeen recognized natural habitats situated within the national park. The Amvrakikos National Park was formally established in 2008, and set forth under law the protection and preservation of these diverse and lush ecosystems, plant and animal species, and natural resources. Totalling four-hundred square meters, the national park is a valued site not just in Greece but in southern Europe. The ecological richness is what attracted settlers to inhabit the area since antiquity, leaving their mark on one of the largest settlements of its time.

And as the environment ebbed and flowed, so did the people that lived there. Thou-



mountainous country like Greece, as well as mighty rivers like the Arachthos Potamos that contribute to water flow into the gulf. But the city itself and the close surrounding areas are generally flat, characterized by vast fields of crops and olive groves. Surrounded by water on three sides and just a narrow piece of land on its fourth side, Preveza is intricately connected to the sea.

People have inhabited this area since antiquity, most notably the Cassopeans tribe. Their king Pyrrhus founded major cities in the area around 290 BC, which

later change his name to Augustus and through his newfound glory and triumphs, would go on to contribute to the area by establishing towns and schools of philosophy.

One such town is called Nicopolis, which translates to 'city of victory' and pays homage to Augustus' naval success. The area still bears the same name today, along with a collection of ruins including Roman theaters, stadiums, the foundations of homes, and a museum. As Nicopolis is just outside the city of Preveza, the Roman influence

was sure to be felt all throughout the area. Some people still share a romantic story which says that Cleopatra's fragrant perfumes can still be sensed rising from the sea. Today, a small village sits beside the ruins, surrounded by fields and olive groves. It is a significant cultural and archeological site combining many aspects of civilization in the Mediterranean, and it is only a fifteen-minute drive north of Preveza.

The tangible history is still present within Preveza, as castles and fortresses protect its harbors and liven its town center. Representing more modern history,

other monuments and structures scattered throughout Preveza focus on the connection to the sea and the frivolous projects of foreign invaders. One such project was the Pantocrator Castle, built by the Ottoman ruler Ali Pasha in 1807 on the southern banks of Preveza's peninsula. It is open to the public but seemingly wild and not maintained. Built in the shape of a pentagon with its pointed side aiming at the sea, the castle is now a collection of ruined and vine-covered walls, with a humble church built in the center of the grounds. On Preveza's inner harbor facing the Ambracian Gulf, there is the city's major port and social and economic center. Along the length

of the city is a seaside promenade, adorned with monuments dedicated to the sailors of the region and one even sculpted in the form of the alluring mythical creature, the mermaid.

While the anthropological influence can be seen in structures and monuments, the ecological profile of Preveza may be even more impressive. Officially named the Amvrakikos Wetlands National Park, the inner ecosystems of the Ambracian Gulf are comprised of lagoons, swamplands, and other ecosystems making it a fertile haven for many fish and bird species. In total, there are 296 bird species that are legally protected in the area, many of which are also labeled as endangered species. For con-

sands of years after its initial inhabitation, Preveza still retains the badge of being a major city. Although now not as busy and industrialized as its regional neighbors, Preveza offers something more than man-made conveniences. Here you will find diversity and natural treasures that contributed to the history and identity of the area. The landscape is unique and cannot be found elsewhere in Greece, an exclusivity that appeals to our innate wonder and captivation by our natural world. Preveza serves as a reminder that Greece has more to offer than just its islands, and that as you travel throughout the country you will find that the view outside can change pleasantly, quickly and amazingly!

Cruise Ships Return to Greece, Cyprus This Summer, With Health Protocols

TNH Staff

In a boost for Cyprus during the COVID-19 pandemic that cut tourism to next to nothing in 2020, Royal Caribbean International will sail Cyprus-Greece cruises this summer on Jewel of the Seas from a homeport in Limassol on the island.

And Celebrity Cruises, begun by a Greek company, and with a mostly-Greek crew, will come to Greece starting June 19, despite fears that the ships could be super spreaders for the coronavirus as they were in 2020 when the pandemic hit.

With that in mind, the cruises for now will be limited to adults who have proof of vaccination and those under 18 who show negative results, and all crew members will be vaccinated too, the industry trying to show sailing is safe after cruise ships when the pandemic hit were called super spreaders because of close quarters.

That will be a few weeks after the New Democracy government, anxious for revenues to bolster an economy brought down by three closings of non-essential businesses shut more than half the previous 12 months, reopens the country to tourism.

Celebrity will begin with seven-night trips around Greece and the Aegean Sea, said Travel and Leisure. Departing from Athens, cruises will stop in Mykonos, Rhodes, and Santorini in Greece before continuing onto Limassol, Cyprus, and Haifa, and Jerusalem, Israel.

Passengers and crew members older than 18 must be vaccinated against COVID-19 before they board the ship. Those younger than 18 will have to present negative PCR test results before boarding.

As part of Royal Caribbean, Celebrity Cruises will follow the health and safety measures laid out by the Healthy Sail Panel, including frequent disinfecting and strict vaccination and testing requirements, the report added.

Royal Caribbean fully-vaccinated cruises on Cyprus will start July 10, with calls at Piraeus and the Greek islands of Rhodes, Crete, Mykonos and Santorini, said Seatrade Cruise News, with booking opening April 7.

"I'm delighted to announce our safe and gradual return to Europe. We know how eager our guests are to enjoy a getaway this summer, and these sailings, which include a mix of fantastic destinations and must-visit islands, make for the perfect getaway," RCI President Michael Bayley said.

"Cyprus is a beautiful island, and we are thankful to the Cypriot government for their support and enthusiasm in making these incredible itineraries possible," he added as ship companies hope people will take the chance.

Deputy Tourism Minister Savvas Perdios said, "we are delighted that Royal Caribbean will call Limassol its homeport for the first time ever. This has been an ambition of ours for many years, and we are thrilled that, finally, this dream has come to fruition."



CELESTYAL CRUISES

Perdios added: "We have every confidence that Royal Caribbean's presence in Limassol will be beneficial to Cyprus and, similarly, we are very confident that as a homeport and as a country, Cyprus will live up to the expectations of Royal Caribbean and its guests," the site added.

Greece has wanted to make the port of Piraeus a major destination for giant cruise liners too and Tourism Minister Harry Theoharis welcomed the link between the countries.

"Our history, culture, and famous gastronomy,

together with our 'philoxenia', will make memories to last a lifetime. It's a great day for Greece cruising, with Celebrity Cruises also announcing new sailings from Piraeus starting in June on Celebrity Apex," he said.

The site Cruishive said that with the United States still barring the cruise ships, Royal Caribbean has been looking for alternative homeports, settling on Cyprus which is a favorite destination and needs tourists to return.

This will be the first time Royal Caribbean will

cruise in Europe since the suspension of operations. Europe has been one of the few regions that have already allowed cruise ships to operate.

Celebrity Cruises President and CEO Lisa Lut-off-Perlo said Greece is a favored destination and, "Celebrity Apex is such an exquisite ship and for her to finally begin sailing in the beautiful Aegean, where it all began for our fleet, and after so long away, is incredibly meaningful."

She added that, "this is a very special homecoming for Celebrity Cruises made possible with the strong collaboration of the Greek government."

Theocharis said, "I am proud to be welcoming Celebrity Cruises back to its Greek roots on this special occasion of our country's independence Bicentennial and I am eager for travelers to return to the unforgettable experiences of all of our destinations on one of the world's newest ships."

He added, "the positive economic impact that tourism brings to our country cannot be underestimated and I am very happy Celebrity Cruises is playing an important role in rebuilding this important economic pillar," Cruise Industry news said.

"It is such an honor for me to Captain the newest ship in the Celebrity fleet. I have been anxiously awaiting the day when I can welcome our first guests onboard this magnificent vessel and it will be a very proud moment for me to do this in my homeland," Captain Dimitrios Kafetzis told the site.

Smithsonian Channel Presents New Show, Aerial Greece

TNH Staff

NEW YORK – The Smithsonian Channel presents Aerial Greece, a four-part program offering aerial views in high definition of Hellas. Season 1 of Aerial Greece begins with the following three episodes: The first, The Great Archipelago, highlights the Cyclades, the second features The South, and the third flies over Crete and the Eastern Islands, including the Dodecanese. Each episode runs 44 minutes. Aerial Greece is available online through Paramount+.

"There's no better way to take in Greece's great diversity, natural beauty, and mythic grandeur than to experience it from a god's-eye-view," according to the show's online description. "This exhilarating aerial tour whisks you away on a four-part, cross-country journey above the heart of Athens, over the timeless, contrasting Aegean



EUROKINISSI/VAIOS HASIALIS

Naxos island, Cyclades, Greece.

archipelago, and across eastern islands of mesmerizing beauty and priceless heritage. Along with the physical splendors, we also explore the human stories of the people who embody the in-

genuity, resilience, and vibrant spirit of this remarkable country."

More information is available online: <https://www.smithsonianchannel.com>.