

## Trump Attorney General Sessions' Son's Wife is Greek

TNH Staff

**BIRMINGHAM, AL** – President-elect Donald Trump's pick for attorney general, Alabama Senator Jeff Sessions has a connection to the Greek Orthodox Church. Father Paul Costopoulos, Dean of Holy Trinity-Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Cathedral, spoke with The National Herald about Senator Sessions' Greek connection.

"His son Sam is a member of our Greek Orthodox Community, Fr. Costopoulos told TNH. "He is married to the former Angela Stratias. They have four children. Their youngest is about to be baptized at our church.

"Sam embraced our Greek Orthodox Faith through the Sacrament of Chrismation several years ago. He and his family attend Church regularly. Senator Sessions and his wife, while visiting their son and his family in Birmingham, have attended church services on several occasions and the baptisms of the grandchildren at our cathedral. Senator Sessions was the guest speaker at our church a year ago

on Veterans Day." Fr. Costopoulos also noted that "Sam Sessions is a practicing attorney in Birmingham."

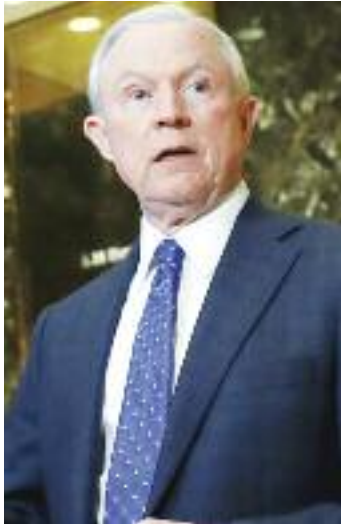
The Greek-American/Orthodox connection is the second in the Trump inner circle, following Chief of Staff Designate Reince Priebus, whose mother, Roula, is from Lesbos. Priebus is also an Archon of the Church.

The Sessions' devotion to the Church is welcome news for some who were troubled by the appointment of Sen. Sessions as attorney general when they looked into his past record. One concerned citizen who chose to remain nameless hoped the teachings of the Greek Orthodox faith would help the Trump Administration be more tolerant and welcoming of all faiths.

The Associated Press reported that Sessions may have trouble in the Senate confirmation hearings, which are likely to bring up racially charged allegations that ended his bid to become a federal judge. He became a symbol to many of black-voter intimidation under the Reagan Administration. Senator Sessions' record on race, policing, and immigration would come under scrutiny in the hearings at a time when the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division has become more prominent under the Obama Administration. If confirmed, Sessions could define how federal prosecutors across the country wield their powers and make changes to the Justice Department's priorities.

Lawmakers and advocates expressed concern that Sessions could sideline or undo the Obama Administration's civil rights efforts, which have included investigations of police departments for unconstitutional practices and lawsuits

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alabama Senator Jeff Sessions at Trump Tower on Nov. 17.

## Greeks Now Becoming Pro-American Again

First Time in Decades, US Ranked 3rd Favorite

TNH Staff

**ATHENS** – Just ahead of President Obama's visit to Greece, where he extolled Ancient Greek values and the diehard perseverance of its people, a survey showed that once-antagonistic Greeks were leaning back toward favoring America again.

A significant retreat of anti-Americanism in Greece has been recorded by Kappa Research, which was conducted on behalf of the newspaper To Vima.

Out of 38% of Greeks who in 2010 – at the start of Greece's economic crisis – said they were pro-American, the figure has risen to 56 percent, largely due it seems to Obama's popularity as he has backed Greece's calls for debt relief. Some 74 percent of Greeks like him.

Eleven years ago, in 2005, only 28 percent of Greeks aligned themselves with American views and just two years ago, the American-based Pew Research center recorded that

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TNH/COSTAS BEJ

Attorneys George Tsougarakis and Pavlos Petrovas of Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP represented the Greek Orthodox Church pro bono and successfully secured the manuscript's return.

## Attys Tsougarakis and Petrovas Help Rare Codex

By Theodore Kalmoukos

**CHICAGO, IL** – In a loving, respectful, and aptly Christian gesture, James Neiman, president of the Lutheran Theological School of Chicago (LTSC), returned a 9th Century rare and unique manuscript of the New Testament, handwritten in Greek, to the Greek Orthodox Church on November 15. Only 60 manuscripts of this kind exist.

Known as Codex 1424, it was one of many manuscripts taken in 1917 from the Monastery of

Panagia Eikosisfoinissa, in the Pagaion mountain range near the city of Drama, in Greece, following the Balkan Wars of five years earlier. It found its way to a European book dealer and was purchased in 1920 by Levi Franklin Gruber, who later became president of Chicago Lutheran Theological Seminary, one of LTSC's predecessor schools. Gruber bequeathed the codex to his widow, and the seminary later received his entire rare book collection from her. Earlier this year, the Ecumenical Patriarchate directly

and through its representation in the United States, requested the return of the manuscript, to which LSTC voluntarily and readily agreed.

Greek manuscripts that contain the entire New Testament are rare. According to biblical scholar Kurt Aland, there are only 60 such manuscripts in world collections.

Codex 1424, written in the 9th century AD, is the oldest complete minuscule manuscript (written in cursive script) of the Greek New Testament in the world. Moreover, the order of

the books of the New Testament is unusual.

For example, the book of Revelation, today located at the end of the New Testament, in the Codex 1424 precedes the Pauline letters.

The manuscript was copied by a monk named Savas and other monks three centuries later added excerpts from St. John Chrysostom, St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory of Nyssa, and others as commentaries in the margins of the pages.

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## Lecture on Pythagorean Technique

TNH Staff

**NEW YORK** – A lecture on Stress Management and the Promotion of Health was held on November 16 at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity Chiotas Family Hall on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. The informative presentation on the Pythagorean Self-Awareness Technique for Stress Management (PSAT), Memory Improvement and Well-Being provided an introduction to the method along with the latest findings in the stress field. Highlighting the often debilitating and devastating effects that stress can have

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## Hellenic Lawyers Honor Kourides, Tsoucalas

TNH Staff

**NEW YORK** –The Hellenic Lawyers Association (HLA) held its 28th Annual Dinner Dance Gala on November 18 at The Pierre in New York. A lifetime achievement award was presented to the Honorable Nicholas Tsoucalas, retired Senior Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.

Nicholas Kourides, Esq., American International Group SVP and Deputy General Counsel, Head of Global Regulatory/Federal Reserve Supervision, Mergers and Acquisitions, was honored with the Distinguished Legal Service Award.

The evening began with cocktails followed by the welcoming remarks of HLA President Michael J. Hartofilis, Esq. The invocation was offered by Reverend John Vlachos, Dean of the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. The presentation of scholarships followed. Maria Barous Hartofilis, Esq., announced the presenters, scholarship sponsors and the recipients. The promising young law students who received scholarships were: Nicole Corey –

Continued on page 5



TNH/COSTAS BEJ

Attorney Nicholas Kourides received the Distinguished Legal Service Award presented by HLA President Michael J. Hartofilis, on right, at the HLA 28th Dinner Dance Gala on Nov. 18.

## Cyprus Talks Fail

TNH Staff

**NICOSIA** – Crucial talks being held at a Swiss resort aiming to reunify ethnically divided Cyprus hit an impasse, officials said, in a serious setback that casts doubt over whether 18 months of negotiations can successfully resolve the decades-old dispute.

Cyprus' government spokesman Nicos Christodoulides said United Nations-backed talks on how much territory Greek and Turkish Cypriots will administratively control under an envisioned federation proved "inconclusive."

"This isn't good for anyone," Christodoulides told reporters after the talks broke off shortly after midnight. "We are not at all happy with the outcome."

A UN statement said Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades, a Greek Cypriot, and breakaway Turkish Cypriot leader Mustafa Akinci failed to narrow differ-

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# Pass the Pie and the Pepto on Thanksgiving

By Dr. Constantina Michalos

HOUSTON, TX – I love Thanksgiving. The food. The family. The football. This last not so much, but I needed the alliteration. Anyway, it is a wonderful start to the holiday season, and in many parts of the country, Mother Nature agrees and provides a blaze of color to complement the festivities. If the weather continues as it has been the last few days, we will need a sweater on Thanksgiving in Houston. No fall foliage, but at least sweaters.

One thing is for sure: conversation around dinner tables this year will be crackin'. As much as I love Thanksgiving, I've often said that it is the most dysfunctional holiday of the year. We are habitually stuck with people we don't like very much for an interminably long day, and we have to be civil until the tryptophan coma sets in. I bet that this year no one is napping.

If your family is like my family, this election prompted some lively exchanges. If your family is like my family, not everyone agreed on a candidate. If your family is like my family, some are ecstatic and some are angry. I'm not going to catalogue the pros and cons of either candidate here. Been there. Done that. Besides, by the time I'm done, you will have probably discerned my choice.

What I'd like to talk about instead is how I hope we behave on Thanksgiving and over the next four years. Of course, this is easy enough for me to say. Everyone I'm celebrating with voted for the same candidate. Whatever the conversation, we are all in agreement. Grace will be a prayer of gratitude and a hope for enlightenment, wisdom, and restraint. But when isn't it? When don't we need that kind of guidance? For those who are sad, we need it more. For those who are happy, we need it even more.

No one can be complacent

here, neither in victory nor in defeat. To those who voted for the winning candidate, your responsibility did not end at the ballot box. Rather, it began that day. Yours is to check the government you elected, demand reason not bombast, inclusivity not marginalization, compassion not demonization. To those who voted for the losing candidate, your responsibility did not end at the ballot box either. You may not have elected this government, but your responsibility remains the same: demand reason not bombast, inclusivity not marginalization, compassion not demonization. Democracy is an exercise in civic accountability, and we will all be measured by the depth and breadth of our participation, even if it appears that, for a long, endless election season, our leaders abdicated that responsibility.

One thing we can agree on as we sit down to dinner on Thanksgiving is that this election was not our finest moment.

The world watched us in disbelief. We watched each other, incredulous that candidates for the highest office in the land, the most important office in the world, were reduced to ad hominem slurs rather than substantive debates. Historians, objective by definition, do not have the words. Parents are at a loss to explain behavior unbecoming. Teachers have no lesson plan to guide them. All Americans lost big time on election day, and I don't mean in ways that either Frank Luntz or Nate Silver could have measured.

In a November 17 New York Times column, Nicholas Kristof wrote, among other things, "I will not lose hope. I will keep reminding myself that politics zigs and zags, and that I can do more than shout in the wind. I can fight for my values even between elections, and even at the micro level I can mitigate the damage to my neighbors and attempt to heal a social fabric that has been rent."



Canadians celebrate Thanksgiving also. Since 1879, the second Monday in October has been designated as "a Day of General Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the bountiful harvest with which Canada has been blessed." They gather with family, eat the same foods we

do, and watch plenty of football. They're probably just more polite about it.

We could take a lesson from our neighbors to the north.

Happy Thanksgiving. I hope you make the right wish as you snap off the long end of the wishbone!



Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at Kimisis tis Theotokou in the Hamptons. Archbishop Demetrios, center, is pictured with Fr. Alexander Karloutsos, Fr. Constantine Lazarakis, Fr. Chrysostomos Gilbert, the Archdiocesan Choir, and Dr. Tikey Zes.



Dr. Tikey Zes on left, who received an award at the conference for his contributions to church music, leads the choir.

## 32nd Annual Church Music Conference at Kimisis tis Theotokou, Hamptons

TNH Staff

SOUTHAMPTON, NY – The 32nd Annual Church Music Conference was held on November 18-20 at the Kimisis tis Theotokou (Dormition of the Virgin Mary) Greek Orthodox Church of the Hamptons, 111 St. Andrews Road in Southampton, NY. The conference featured Dr. Tikey (Panagiotis) Zes directing the Conference Choir and a fabulous Church Music Institute conducted by EIKONA. In addition to the Annual Meeting and Biennial Elections, rehearsals, awards and recognition, there was also a Friday evening Dinner Social, and a Saturday evening Dinner Dance. Under the musical direction of Dr. Zes, the members of Archdiocesan Church Choir performed during the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy presided over by

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios and Fr. Chrysostomos Gilbert, spiritual advisor of the Direct Archdiocesan District Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians.

Archbishop Demetrios congratulated the members of the choir for the musical score and noted a "different picture and sound" to the Greek Orthodox liturgy, expressing the belief that "church music will spread."

His Eminence continued, "With great pleasure we are in this Church with its different picture and a different sound because of the presence of the choir. Thank you and thanks to the conductor, Dr. Zes, who came from far away to be with us. This music must be spread."

President of the Direct Archdiocesan District Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians Anna Dounelis welcomed

everyone to the conference noting the cooperation of the Kimisis tis Theotokou parish.

She told the National Herald, "The generosity and hospitality of Fr. Alexander Karloutsos, Fr. Constantine Lazarakis, Presbyter Xanthi and also the parishioners of Kimisis tis Theotokou were very important to us. We had the honor and blessing to participate in the Divine Liturgy presided over by Archbishop Demetrios and work with maestro Dr. Tikey (Panagiotis) Zes, glorifying the Lord's name."

Meanwhile, the Archbishop expressed his appreciation for the work of Fr. Alexander Karloutsos, noting that "Orthodox Christians of many different origins worship at Kimisis tis Theotokou Church and without the efforts of Fr. Alexander it would be just a small parish."

The Role of Orthodoxy in the Modern World

During his speech, the Archbishop mentioned three important events that took place in 2016 and were particularly important for the Archdiocese and in general for the Orthodox Church.

The first, according to Archbishop Demetrios, was the Pan-Orthodox Council in Crete, the second the Clergy-Laity Congress in Tennessee and the third was the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America in Detroit, MI.

As His Eminence said, matters primarily dealt with concerned the development of the Orthodox Church as an organization, contact with the outside world, and the relationship with other Churches, emphasizing that Orthodoxy is not something obsolete or outdated.

"We are not just Orthodox Christians. We are the voice of Christ in a changing world," Archbishop Demetrios concluded, saying that Orthodoxy "has a future," as well as tradition.

After the memorial service in memory of the church musicians who have passed away, the Archdiocesan Choir annual awards were handed out. Choir Member of the Year was awarded to Katia Zallas-Rosati from Saint Demetrios in Astoria, while Anne Kotridis from the Church Annunciation in Danbury, CT received the Patriarch Athenagoras Medal in recognition

of her efforts. Two scholarships of \$1,000 each were awarded to Julian Papadopoulos and Robin Rockwell. Dana Warren, Leah Pappas-Monias and Dr. Zes were also honored.

Finally, the many years of service of Dana and Marie Warren were recognized

(11 years), as well as Elaine Tsambeis (14 years), Fay Pavlidis (40 years), Lillian Catherines (44 years) and Katie Xambas (66 years).

The Symposium began on Friday and continued on Saturday with among many other activities, open discussions, rehearsals, and seminars.

## Angelicooussis Expects Trump Positive Impact on Shipping

TNH Staff

Greek shipping magnate John Angelicooussis expects a positive impact on the shipping industry through the election of Donald Trump. Angelicooussis believes Trump will help create new business for the struggling shipping industry through his policies. The spending on infrastructure along with more energy production could create benefits for shipping according to Angelicooussis, as reported in the Wall Street Journal (WSJ).

He said in a WSJ interview, "there is no question that he is going to be positive for shipping in terms of infrastructure expansion. The United States needs a hell of a lot of infrastructure."

Angelicooussis' three companies operate a fleet of 133 supertankers, dry bulk vessels, and liquefied natural gas carriers. The worth of the fleet is an estimated \$6.9 billion. According to VesselsValue, a provider of shipping data, the fleet is the world's sixth largest in value with most of the vessels chartered to oil and commodity companies, among them Exxon Mobile Corporation, BHP Billiton Ltd., and the Cargill Corporation.

Billionaire Angelicooussis in the last year has bought more dry bulk vessels than anyone else and has spent \$1 billion on eight crude oil and LNG tankers just this June. President-elect Trump has promised to put billions of dollars into projects upgrading the U.S. infrastructure. His plans to end global trade agreements including the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) could hurt the shipping industry during a period when global trade is slowing down. The World Trade Organization (WTO) forecasts global trade to grow by just 1.7% for this year, its slowest growth pace since the financial crisis of 2008.

Angelicooussis is hopeful that

Trump won't set off a trade war with China. "Shipping lives off China," Angelicooussis noted in the WSJ interview. "There will be no winners in a trade war. We should leave them alone and continue to trade."

Since Trump's election, the Baltic Dry Index, a measure of the cost to ship raw materials like cement, copper and iron ore, has risen at a steady pace, closing on November 17 at a 23-month high, as WSJ reported.

Angelicooussis pointed out that Trump's plans to boost oil drilling and change export regulations will benefit his tanker business with ships importing heavy fuel for the U.S. market and exporting lighter fuel around the world. "There will be far more activity in oil and gas," Angelicooussis observed.

He also said that he expects the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to make an agreement to cut production at their meeting on Nov. 30.

"Brent [a benchmark price for crude oil] is low at around \$46 [per barrel] because most expect no agreement," Angelicooussis noted. "But I think there will be one because OPEC needs it. A price of \$50 to \$60 is good for the Arabs because they can make money, but not overdo it."

At that price he expects China and India to continue building up their oil reserves, noting that China is looking to double its 250 million barrels and India to boost its 100 million reserve barrels.

Angelicooussis is the son of Anthony J. Angelicooussis (1918-1989) and Maria Papalios. Anthony bought his first ship in 1953. In 1968, he and partner Dimitris Efthymiou founded the Agelef Shipping Company. John Angelicooussis joined his father's company in 1973. He is ranked fifth in the world on Lloyd's List of the Top 100 Most Influential People in the Shipping Industry.

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# HACF and Onassis Foundation Present Pianist Varvaresos Concert

## TNH Staff

The Hellenic-American Cultural Foundation and The Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation USA present one of the most promising musicians of his generation, Greek pianist Vasilis Varvaresos for a performance on Nov. 30 at 7 PM. The event will be held at the Merkin Concert Hall at the Kaufman Music Center, Goodman House, 129 West 67th Street in Manhattan.

Varvaresos has appeared on major stages in Europe and the US, and is regularly invited to perform at festivals around the world. Following his recital at Carnegie Zankel Hall, he was invited to perform at the White House for President Barack Obama.

Among the most promising pianists of his generation and a laureate of many international competitions, such as Young Concert Artists, New York when he was 14 years old, Varvaresos is an exceptional and gifted artist. His most recent prizes in-

clude the George Enescu International Competition 2014 in Bucharest, Romania and the Piano Masters Competition 2015 in Monte Carlo. As the New York Concert Review observed about his performance style, "Varvaresos not only has a natural yet finely honed technique, it springs as one with the wide scope of profound musicianship. Varvaresos engaged his audience with a performance that sizzled from start to finish."

Born in Thessaloniki, Greece in 1983, Varvaresos began studying music at the age of five, and received a scholarship to the Conservatory of Northern Greece. He continued his studies at the Conservatory with Milena Mollova. He won First Prize in the 1995 Petar Konjovic International Competition in Belgrade, the 1996 Pan-Hellenic Young Artist Competition in Athens, and was chosen as one of eleven young musicians from around the world to perform in Monte Carlo in a special "little Mozarts" concert organized by Italy's RAI TV.

Varvaresos holds a bachelor of music degree and a master of music degree from the Juilliard School, where he studied with Jerome Lowenthal. His paper on Claude Debussy, which won the Scholastic Distinction Award from Juilliard, was published in Greece by Kodikas Publications. In May 2011 Varvaresos received his Doctorate in Piano Performance from Juilliard. He was a student of Jerome Lowenthal, Yoheved Kaplinsky, and Robert MacDonald. His doctorate advisor was Carl Schachter.

Varvaresos finished his studies with the prestigious Diplôme d'Artiste-Interpète degree at the Conservatoire Nationale et Supérieur de Musique et de Danse in Paris, France with Michel Daltro.

Varvaresos is recipient of Musical Studies Grants from the Bagby Foundation and the George and Marie Vergottis Foundation. Since 2008, he has also been the recipient of the Gina Bachauer Foundation Grant for Outstanding Talent in Music and Onassis Foundation



EUROKINISSI

**Pianist Vasilis Varvaresos will perform at the Merkin Concert Hall at the Kaufman Music Center in Manhattan on Nov 30.**

Grant. This season marks Varvaresos' debut recitals in the Tonhalle of Zurich, Musikverein of Vienna, and the Berlin Philharmonie. He also performed at

the Salle Gaveau of Paris, and Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, while he is also appearing at the Enescu Festival and giving recitals and masterclasses in

California, Cincinnati, OH, and Charleston, SC. Highlights of previous seasons include recitals at the Chopin Festival in No-hant, at the Lisztomanias Festival in Chateauroux, and at the SenLiszt Festival of the Gyorgy Cziffra Foundation. In October 2010, as a special guest of the His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of the Greek Orthodox Church of America, Varvaresos performed Chopin's Piano Concerto in E minor at Alice Tully Hall, while in the winter of 2008 he was asked to be the soloist with the Athens State Symphony Orchestra, representing Greece on a two-week tour of China, for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

Varvaresos has also recorded three CDs. His 4th solo album includes various 'Valses' and will be released in 2017.

A reception with the artist will follow the Nov. 30 performance. The recital and reception are free of charge, but reservations are required and can be made online at [www.hacfoundation.org/events-2016/](http://www.hacfoundation.org/events-2016/)

# Attorneys Tsougarakis and Petrovas Help Rare Biblical Manuscript Return Home

## Continued from page 1

Prominent Greek-American Attorney George Tsougarakis and his colleague Pavlos Petrovas of the prestigious firm Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP assumed the presentation of the Greek Orthodox Church pro bono and successfully secured the manuscript's return. Their interview with The National Herald follows.

**TNH:** How do you feel about

for our pro bono efforts and the firm encourages its lawyers to pursue pro bono matters about which they themselves are passionate. We therefore had the opportunity to represent the interests of our Greek Orthodox Church on a pro bono basis, a client that the nearly dozen Greek-American lawyers at the firm feel very strongly about. This particular matter was also of interest to us because Hughes Hubbard has a strong focus on

manuscript, they considered our request based on their own understanding of the provenance of the manuscript and its importance to the Greek Orthodox Church, and very quickly concluded that the right course of action was to return it. We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the LTSC for its leadership, cooperation, and charitable spirit.

It should be pointed out that the LTSC didn't do anything



**Attorneys Pavlos Petrovas and George Tsougarakis felt very fortunate and very privileged to help return the rare 9th century New Testament manuscript to its rightful home in Drama.**

your success regarding the return of the manuscript from LTSC to the Greek Orthodox Church?

**GT:** We feel very fortunate and very privileged to participate in this project.

We are blessed to work with colleagues who care deeply about pro bono work. Each year, our firm is recognized annually

art law, which is somewhat unusual among large firms, and one of the big issues of art law is the return of wrongfully acquired art and artifacts.

**TNH:** How difficult or how easy was achieving such an agreement with LTSC?

**GT:** Once we provided the LTSC with the basis of our request for the return of the man-

wrong at all in the way it obtained the manuscript, but it recognized that others did act wrongfully when the manuscript was first removed from the monastery. Therefore, the return was made in a very Christian spirit to right that wrong.

**PP:** Regardless of the legal basis for the return, the LTSC recognized that the manuscript

came from Greece and decided to make a gesture to bridge an ecclesiastical bridging between the Lutheran and the Greek Orthodox Churches.

**TNH:** Did you have similar experiences with others cases of this nature?

**GT:** I have worked on other art law matters, but never on a matter quite like this one. However, there is ample precedent for the voluntary return of stolen art and artifacts. A few years ago, the Getty Museum returned a 12th century New Testament document to a monastery after learning that it had been wrongfully taken more than 50 years ago.

**TNH:** How do you feel knowing that this manuscript has

been written in the Greek language in the 9th century?

**GT:** Theologians well know the importance of the Greek language which was the predominant language when Jesus arrived on earth. We as Greek-Orthodox are particularly connected to our faith because of our language.

**TNH:** How did this manuscript end up at the LTSC?

**GT:** On March 27, 1917, Bulgarian guerrillas, upset over their country's loss in the Second Balkan War, looted monasteries in Northern Greece, including the library at the Theotokos Eikosphoinissa monastery where Codex 1424 was kept. It, along with several other volumes were sold to book

dealers and in 1920, Levi Gruber purchased it in Germany and sent to Chicago. Gruber later became president of a predecessor of LTSC and the codex was ultimately gifted to the LTSC. Other manuscripts from the library also made its way to other institutions in the United States

**TNH:** Did you find where they are?

**GT:** We have found several other collections in the United States that hold volumes from the library at Eikosphoinissa and have requested that they be returned. That process is ongoing. We hope these institutions look favorably upon our request and are inspired by the fine example set by the Lutherans.

# Trump Attorney General Sessions' Son's Wife is Greek

## Continued from page 1

meant to protect the rights of transgender individuals and black voters.

"Given some of his past statements and his staunch opposition to immigration reform, I am very concerned about what he would do with the Civil Rights

Division at the Department of Justice and want to hear what he has to say," incoming Democratic Minority Leader Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York said in a statement, the AP reported.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Kentucky Republican, said he strongly supported

Sessions, who he noted "has worked tirelessly to safeguard the public and to improve the lives of Americans from all walks of life."

Sessions' peers on the Senate Judiciary Committee will almost certainly question the Alabama senator's past statements on race. The panel's top Democrat,

Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont, said, the AP reported, that the "American people deserve to learn about Sen. Sessions' record."

Leahy voted against Sessions for a district judgeship when he last came before the Judiciary Committee in 1986. During that hearing, Sessions was criticized

for joking in the presence of a Civil Rights Division attorney that the Ku Klux Klan was "okay" until he learned they smoked marijuana. He was also said to have called a black assistant U.S. attorney "boy" and the NAACP "un-American" and "communist-inspired."

Sessions, a former prosecutor, has said the racially charged allegations against him have been painful to him and an unfair stain on his reputation. He called the matter "heartbreaking" in a 2009 CNN interview and described the allegations as "false charges."

In defending his record, Sessions is likely to point to his vote to confirm Eric Holder as the country's first black attorney general and to his co-sponsorship of the Fair Sentencing Act, which sought to reduce racial disparities in how black and white drug offenders are treated.

When he was U.S. Attorney in Alabama, his office investigated the 1981 murder of



**Sam Sessions**

Michael Donald, a black man who was kidnapped, beaten, and killed by two Klansmen who hanged his body in a tree. The two men were later arrested and convicted.

As the AP reported, "he couldn't have been more supportive of making sure we got convicted the murderers of the last black man who was lynched by the Klan," said former Justice Department attorney Barry Kowalski, who worked with Sessions.

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**Holy Trinity-Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Cathedral**

# Hellenic Entrepreneurship Award 2017 Seeking Innovative Submissions

TNH Staff

**ATHENS** – After the successful completion of four award cycles, the Hellenic Entrepreneurship Award (HEA) invites start-up businesses to submit their business plans to compete in the fifth annual award program. Winners will share interest-free start-up funding of €1.25 million, along with mentoring and business support services provided by HEA's network of supporters. The HEA website, [www.hellenicaward.com](http://www.hellenicaward.com) will be open for applications from Greek start-up businesses until February 16.

Since the establishment of HEA more than 2,600 Greek businesses have participated in the award program. Founded in 2012 by the Libra Group on behalf of the Hellenic Initiative, HEA has awarded a total of 14 winners who continue to enjoy support and advice from the HEA and its supporters. Previous winners come from a variety of business sectors, from meteorology, culture, and medical technology to innovative digital services. These companies have achieved consistent commercial growth despite Greece's prolonged economic downturn. They have created hundreds of direct and indirect jobs, actively combatting the "brain drain" by keeping re-



COURTESY OF HEA

(L-r) Dr. George Georgoussis (Raymetrics), Thanos Geramanis (Blueground), Panagiotis Hatzidakis (Bublly), Jimmy Athanasopoulos (HEA President and Head of Social Responsibility of the Libra Group), and Alexander Nousias (HEA Director).

sourceful young professionals in Greece as well as encouraging those who are now based abroad to return to their home country.

Libra Group has committed €10 million to supporting entrepreneurship in Greece through the HEA. The Award has provided interest-free funding to 14 winners, while each of them has

been provided with an expert mentor to guide them through the demanding early stages of business planning.

This year, HEA will intensify its educational support. HEA will provide comprehensive business start-up education events at ten different locations across Greece with interactive seminars, work-

shops, and webinars. The initiative seeks to stimulate the entrepreneurial spirit to a wider audience than ever before and unlock the untapped potential of even more Greek entrepreneurs.

This year three more supporters have stepped forward to offer their support to the HEA. Atradius, will offer winners a wide

range of subsidized credit insurance services. SATO will provide heavily discounted office furniture to HEA and its winners, while V+O, a leading communication agency, will offer consultation and training seminars to HEA's winners, arming them with key marketing and communications skills.

Commenting on the launch of HEA 2017, Jimmy Athanasopoulos, Chairman of the Hellenic Entrepreneurship Award and Head of Social Responsibility at the Libra Group, said: "In recent years we have been amazed by the quality of business ideas conceived by entrepreneurs in Greece and we have been profoundly inspired by all the brilliant minds that we have met. Our campaign is focused around the motto, 'It's not enough to have a good idea, you also need the right skills to implement it.' In 2017, we remain dedicated to our dual goals of providing business education to those who are lacking the support they need to compete, and identifying those outstanding business plans from experienced or first-time entrepreneurs that have the best chance of making a contribution to the economic development of Greece."

The deadline for applications is February 16. Finalists will be announced in May and winners

will be announced in June.

The 2016 HEA winners were Blueground, a technology-enabled chain of serviced apartments, houses and villas created by transforming existing residential properties; Bublly, a mobile application that rewards users' social media posts and, via a web marketing platform, enables brands and vendors to promote products and services through user-generated content; and Raymetrics, a company that aims to create a new, advanced and powerful 3D ceilometer for the aviation industry, aimed at providing additional data, essential for airports and meteorological agencies.

The 2015 winners included Yoleni's, an online delicatessen that enables European and American customers to purchase authentic products from every corner of Greece, soon to begin a chain of Greek gastronomy around the world; and Smart Guide, a wearable electronic mobility guide that senses nearby obstacles and obstructions for the blind and visually impaired. This innovative product will be produced in the facilities of "Lighthouse for the Blind of Greece" by employees who themselves have impaired vision.

More information about the HEA awards is available at [hellenicaward.com](http://hellenicaward.com).

# The Hellenic Lawyers Association 28th Annual Dinner Dance Gala

Continued from page 1

Brooklyn Law School, Dina Georgas –Fordham University School of Law, Peter Geramanos – Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University, Anjelika Mantikas – St. John's University School of Law, Agatha Mavropoulos – New York Law School, Victoria Polymenakos-McGrath- Georgetown University Law Center, Maria Stamatielos – St. John's University School of Law, Eliana

Theodorou – New York University School of Law, and Elias Tsouristakis – Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.

Hartofilis presented the Lifetime Achievement Award to Judge Tsoucalas, who was greeted with a standing ovation from all those present. His daughter Georgia Argyrople spoke about how much the award means to her father and the family. She noted that Tsoucalas was a founding member of the organization originally called

the Greek-American Lawyers Association, and that it was a point of pride for the judge to have helped found an organization that has helped the community and so many lawyers throughout the years with scholarships, mentoring, sharing best practices, and networking events. Her father loves and embodies the spirit of HLA, she said.

Tsoucalas then thanked everyone for the honor and thanked his daughter especially who he noted did not want to

be a lawyer but has done well for herself, and helps him. He pointed out how pleased he was to see the room filled and so many young lawyers present at the event. Tsoucalas also pointed out that the good he has done is due to his father who encouraged him to "help people whenever you can if you can." "If you see someone who needs help and you don't help them, you don't deserve to live. You have to help people," he said. He noted that there were many lawyers present whom he had mentored and were doing alright, better in fact than he would, and he was happy to see them all. His advice, "Do what I do, take cases, and do the best you can to help people." He continued, "Everyone thinks I stopped working, but I didn't stop. I still take cases to get the thing going, five cases since I retired, and gave them to attorneys, 'now it's up to you to make sure everything is done well' and I'm here to make sure they do."

Nicholas Kourides recipient of the Distinguished Legal Service Award spoke about his father who had also practiced law. He noted that his father would not have been pleased that he was accepting the award, explaining that a lot of people and organizations wanted to give him awards but the elder Kourides always refused saying, "They give awards if you're retiring or they think you're about to die. Since he was not retiring, he was not going anywhere, and he was not going to die, he never accepted an award, though he practiced law for 70 years from 1933-2003." Kourides noted he



TNH/COSTAS BEJ

President of the HLA Michael Hartofilis presented the Lifetime Achievement Award to the Honorable Nicholas Tsoucalas, retired Senior Judge of the US Court of International Trade.

still had some thirty years of practicing law before reaching his father's milestone. Kourides then spoke about founding the Hellenic-American Cultural Foundation and its innovative programs and fully engaged board.

The Honorable Denis J. Butler then installed the new President of HLA Peter Metis, Esq. whose first act as president was to present an award to the outgoing President Michael J. Hartofilis. New York City Council Member Costa Constantinides

presented the evening's honorees with citations from the City of New York and the State of New York on behalf of New York State Senator Michael Gianaris who could not be present.


Also in attendance at the event were Consul General of Greece in New York Konstantinos Kouras, Consul of Greece Manos Koubarakis, the Honorable Harriet George, Nassau County District Attorney Madeline Singas, and HLA Board members including Recording Secretary George Zapantis.



TNH/COSTAS BEJ

## City View Pharmacy Free Mammograms

With the American Italian Cancer Foundation's Mobile Care Clinic outside the pharmacy in Astoria, Angie Xidias, Tina Vournas, Demetris Kantiloros, Janyce Rivera, Maria Spiliou, Edith Ponce, Noel Rapisarda, Farah Chatila, Edwin Lam, and Despina Panagiotidou.



## SAINT ANDREW GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. John Theodosion, Pastor

*Fr. John Theodosion together with the parish council of Saint Andrew in Randolph New Jersey, invite you and your family to participate in the Feastday festivities of our Patron Saint, Andrew the First Called Apostle.*


**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM**  
Great vespers with Artoklasia officiated by his Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30**  
Orthros at 9:00 am Archieratical Divine Liturgy 10:00 am with Artoklasia officiated by His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos

Luncheon following Services hosted by our Ladies of Philoptochos

Praying that you are able to join us for prayer and fellowship on the blessed occasion.

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## SAINT BARBARA GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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You are all invited to the Feast Day celebrations of our Great Martyr in our historic church

### PROGRAM OF THE FEAST DAY OF ST. BARBARA

**Saturday Evening**  
**December 3rd, 2016**  
Vespers and Artoklasia - 7:00 p.m.  
Prayers (Paraklesis) - 11:00 p.m. to Midnight  
Holy Liturgy/Communion - Midnight to 1:30 a.m.

**Sunday December 4th, 2016**  
Panigirical Holy Liturgy  
9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Church BAZAAR**  
Sunday November 27th to Sunday December 11th

Hosted By Ladies Philoptochos Society



# A Must See Spectacle: Cirque du Soleil's Kurios

By Eleni Sakellis

NEW YORK – Cirque du Soleil has dazzled fans for years with remarkable shows full of imagination and wonder. Kurios: Cabinet of Curiosities is no exception. The show running through December at Randalls Island is a wonderful experience for all ages with the beautiful singing voice of Eirini Tornesaki adding a unifying element of music throughout. If you listen carefully, you will hear some Greek, English, French, and the two invented Cirque du Soleil languages in the songs Tornesaki sings. The magical quality of the show is enhanced by the music as well as the visual spectacle fans have come to expect of Cirque du Soleil. The artists, acrobats and contortionists among them, are impressive. The audience gasps at the feats of flexibility and strength demonstrated by these skilled performers, many of whom have been with Cirque du Soleil for years. As Tornesaki mentioned in an interview with The National Herald, some performers have been with the Canadian company since it was founded in 1984. There is also a great deal of collaboration with the artists involved in each production. The parts are often tailored to the skills and talents of the performers, creating the unique theatrical experience only Cirque du Soleil can produce.

Kurios incorporates steampunk elements that create an atmosphere seemingly set in the past but with a difference. What might seem like the nineteenth or early twentieth century is tinged with futuristic aspects to create a magical effect. As with most Cirque du Soleil shows, the emphasis, rarely on plot, focuses on the fanciful characters who don't quite adhere to the rules of gravity. The incredible acrobatic displays, balancing, juggling, people flying through



DENIS GIRCHA

**Cirque du Soleil's Kurios: Cabinet of Curiosities runs through November 27 at Randalls Island in New York. LEFT: Eirini Tornesaki sings in Cirque du Soleil's Kurios.**

TNH/ELENI SAKELLIS

the air, whimsical comic performances, keep the audience riveted. The spectacle often defies description. According to the website, describing Kurios, "a Seeker discovers that in order to glimpse the marvels that lie just below the surface, we must first learn to close our eyes." This wonderful encouragement to dream is then realized in the show.

"In his larger-than-life curio cabinet, the Seeker is convinced that there exists a hidden, invisible world – a place where the

craziest ideas and the grandest dreams lay waiting. A collection of otherworldly characters suddenly steps into his makeshift mechanical world. When the outlandish, benevolent characters turn his world upside down with a touch of poetry and humor in an attempt to ignite the Seeker's imagination, his curios jump to life one by one before his very eyes. What if by engaging our imagination and opening our minds we could unlock the door to a world of wonders?"

Tornesaki is also not the only Greek involved in the production. Makeup designer Eleni Uranis joined Cirque du Soleil in 1989 as Assistant to Costume Designer Dominique Lemieux. She then worked on various shows, where she was responsible for materials research, fittings, and artistic quality con-

trol. In 2004, Uranis joined the Cirque du Soleil make-up workshop, where her ideas were brought to life by the artists of Dralion. Between 2004 and 2006, Uranis assisted Make-up Designer Nathalie Gagné with several shows and, in 2005, she designed the make-up for Reflections in Blue, the show Cirque produced for the opening ceremonies of the XI FINA World Aquatic Championships. With KURIOS – Cabinet of curiosities, Uranis is designing the make-up for her seventh Cirque du Soleil production after Dralion, Wintuk, ZED, Banana Shpeel, Zarkana, and Amaluna. Cirque du Soleil Kurios: Cabinet of Curiosities runs through November 27 at Randalls Island in New York and then continues its tour in Miami, FL starting December 10, Dallas, TX on February 17, and Houston on April 6.

## Lecture on Pythagorean Technique to Manage Stress

Continued from page 1

on a person's health, the presentation also described the highly effective Pythagorean method of reducing stress.

The Pythagorean Self-Awareness method uses ancient wisdom to combat the current stress epidemic affecting people worldwide. Dr. Christina Darviri – Chairwoman of the program and Professor of Prevention and Health Promotion, Dr. George Chrousos – Chairman of the program and Professor of Endocrinology, and Dr. Liza Varvogli – psychologist/psychotherapist and adjunct professor, are among the team studying stress at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

Drs. Darviri and Varvogli spoke in person at the event, sharing their insights and research while a video of Dr. Chrousos provided some background and a brief introduction to the project. For ten years, scholars, doctors from various specialties, and psychologists have been working on the stress management project. Their results are fascinating. Darviri noted the fact that the top four causes of morbidity and mortality are chronic non-communicable diseases that are preventable. Cardiovascular disease, cancer, respiratory diseases, and Type-2 diabetes are preventable through lifestyle modification, eating healthy, exercising, and reducing stress levels.

Darviri pointed out that stress is the key since unhealthy lifestyle choices, like eating unhealthy foods, smoking, and

drinking excessively, are often used as ways of coping with stress. As she noted, the technique is being applied by the US Scientific Association of Stress Management and Health Promotion to all age groups from children to the elderly with spectacular results. The training program monitors a person for a specified time and then applies to the entire life. The technique is a tool for creating health and preventing memory disorders.

PSAT is based on the ancient Pythagorean philosophy and its "bible" the Golden Verses which urge and guide the individual through a daily cognitive process into better self-awareness and self-control. The individual learns to monitor him/herself on a daily basis and make self-rewarding amendments on various aspects of his/her daily life. In accordance with the Pythagorean philosophy, memory is the cornerstone of the PSAT and should be invoked in every judicial process that the brain must perform through self-reflection.

The basic method takes about 30-40 minutes a day, though as Darviri and Varvogli both noted with continued practice, the technique will take less time. It involves introspection, thinking about the day's events in the evening and then again in the morning, reviewing one's thoughts and emotions about the events, and then evaluating the events, thoughts, emotions and developing a strategy for improvement. The questions the individual asks are- What did I do wrong? What did I do well? and Is there something I should have done but didn't do?



Dr. Christina Darviri

Darviri pointed out that PSAT has already showed its benefits in healthy individuals and patients with multiple sclerosis or suffering from mild cognitive impairment. The recorded benefits were reduced stress and anxiety levels, memory and cognitive function improvement, better sleep quality, reduction of depressive symptoms, and the adoption of healthy habits including improved nutrition, exercise, self-control, and reduced obesity and hypertension. Improvements in health and well-being, anger management, self-esteem, self-image, interpersonal relationships, organizational skill, and self-awareness were also among the benefits.

Varvogli led the audience in an exercise demonstrating the power of the brain to think its way to a more relaxed state. She asked that the audience stretch

their arms up and take deep breaths and then to close their eyes and imagine themselves in Samos on a beach. After the exercise, Varvogli asked how many in the audience had actually visualized the place and most had and felt more relaxed as a result. She pointed out how we had instructed ourselves and to imagine if the technique was used for 60 days the brain could train itself to better health and reduced stress using this highly individualized method. PSAT allows the individual to describe, accept, then judge actions rationally, helping the person to be the best self they can be. The brain, Dr. Varvogli observed, has this "use it or lose it" quality. Retraining our brains to think positively, remember, and be more mindful increases self-awareness and energy, and improves the overall quality of life.

Among those present at the event, Dr. George Liakeas- President of the Hellenic Medical Society of New York, welcomed everyone and introduced the speakers. The event was made possible by the Hellenic Medical Society of New York, US Scientific Association of Stress Management and Health Promotion, Holy Trinity Cathedral, the Archdiocesan Cathedral Philoptochos Society, the Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce, HABA- Hellenic-American Association of Professionals in Finance, Hellenic Lawyers Association, Hellenic Professional Women, the Manhattan Chapter of AHEPA Delphi #25, and EMBCA – East Mediterranean Business Cultural Alliance. More information is available online at stressociety.org.

## GOINGS ON...

### THRU DECEMBER 17

RANDOLPH, NJ – St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church will again receive new, unwrapped toys in support of the Toys for Tots drive beginning on Sunday, Nov. 20. Toys may be dropped off at 1447 Sussex Turnpike in Randolph. Drop-off hours are from 10 AM to 4 PM Monday through Friday, and on Sundays while the church is open for services. All donations must be made before Dec 17. Started in 1947 by the U.S. Marines, the Toys for Tots campaign is an annual endeavor that seeks to deliver toys to children throughout 50 states, Washington, DC, and Puerto Rico. Millions of toys have been distributed through the years. For more information on this year's Toys for Tots (<http://www.toysfortots.org>) campaign, or about making donations, call the office at 973-584-0388 or email [info@standrewgonj.org](mailto:info@standrewgonj.org).

### NOVEMBER 26

SPRINGFIELD, MA – Thanksgiving Family Celebration at Saint George Greek Church of Springfield, MA. Join us on Saturday, Nov. 26 from 6 -11 PM for our annual Thanksgiving Family Celebration. This event has become a family favorite for young and old alike. Reservations will be accepted for tables of 8 or 10. St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral is located at 22 St. George Road in Springfield.

BOSTON, MA – The Mistletoe Ball – the Hellenic Women's Club premier fundraising event – will be held Saturday, Nov. 26 at the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel 138 St. James Street in Boston from 6:30-11 PM. Greek and American music will once again be performed by Dean Vali of New York. The Mistletoe Ball first began in 1946 as a \$6-per-ticket event to raise funds to help war-torn Greece. Proceeds from that dance made it possible to ship clothing, medicine, bandages and food to the Greek War Relief effort. Today, the Ball is a highly anticipated annual social event, drawing guests from across New England and beyond. Beginning in 2011, the Club has awarded \$5000 scholarships to deserving women of Greek descent. This year's scholarship recipients will be introduced at the Ball. For reservations: Call 781-899-8880 or visit [hellenicwomensclub.org](http://hellenicwomensclub.org).

### NOVEMBER 28

MANHATTAN – The Manhattan Chapter of AHEPA, Delphi 25, invites you to its Monthly Social and Networking event on Monday, Nov. 28 at 6 PM, which regularly takes place every last Monday of the month, at Kellari Taverna, 19 West 44th Street in Manhattan. All existing members and those interested in becoming members are invited to attend. Casual business attire. For more information, please contact [ahepa25.delphinyc@gmail.com](mailto:ahepa25.delphinyc@gmail.com)

### NOVEMBER 29

MANHATTAN – Hellenic Professional Women Inc. and the Hellenic Lawyers Association invite you to a presentation on "Greeks in Public Service" on Nov. 29 at Wells Fargo 150 East 42nd Street in Manhattan from 6:30-8:30pm. Panel consists of key figures in government: New York State Senator Michael Gianaris, Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis, Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas, Nassau County DA Madeline Singas, and New York City Council Member Costa Constantinidis. Moderated by John Catsimatidis, Jr. Free admission. Registration required. Please visit [hellenicprofessionalwomen.org](http://hellenicprofessionalwomen.org) or [helleniclawyersassociation.org](http://helleniclawyersassociation.org).

### DECEMBER 3

PORTSMOUTH, NH – Greek Music & Dancing with Enosis on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 8-11PM at Café Nostimo, 72 Mirona Road

in Portsmouth. This is a Free Event, but reservations recommended.

### DECEMBER 4

ANDOVER, MA – The 63rd Annual Benefit Tea for Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church in Lowell, MA will be held on Sunday, Dec. 4 at 2 PM at Indian Ridge Country Club 73 Lovejoy Rd in Andover. For more information call the Ladies Philoptochos Society: 978-458-4321

### DECEMBER 10

BILOXI, MS – Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 255 Beauvoir Rd. In Biloxi hosts the Mississippi Gulf Coast International Christmas Festival & Pastry Sale from 10 AM to 7 PM. Order pastries online now through Dec. 8 or call George Yurchak 228-831-5820 and pick up on Dec. 10 during the church bazaar which has been expanded into an international festival. The Agora will also be open, offering Greek items for sale, now including items from Russia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, and many other countries as well. Unique Christmas gift ideas and jewelry by Elizabeth Nicole will also be on sale at the festival. Enjoy ethnic lunch specialties, live music and dancing, and Nick Trivelas on the bouzouki. Kids activities and tours of the church will also take place during the festival. More information is available at [www.holytrinitybiloxi.org](http://www.holytrinitybiloxi.org) or (228) 388-6138

### DECEMBER 12

MANHATTAN – The American Hellenic Institute (AHI) invites everyone to its Christmas Party on Monday Dec. 12 from 6 to 9 PM at Kellari Taverna, 19 West 44th Street. Featuring: Kellari's signature passed hors d'oeuvres; Buffet style entrées including vegetable moussaka, lavraki and other signature Kellari dishes, and desserts. Complimentary wine, beer and soft drinks (cash bar for mixed drinks). Guests must RSVP to Dean Sirigos at [csirigos100@aol.com](mailto:csirigos100@aol.com) by December 9. \$60 tax and tip included (Pay by cash or check payable to Kellari Taverna at door.)

### DECEMBER 13- DECEMBER 2017

CHICAGO, IL – The National Hellenic Museum, 333 S Halsted St., is expanding its efforts to preserve and share the stories of the Greek-American community through a partnership with StoryCorps, a nonprofit organization committed to providing people of all backgrounds and beliefs with the opportunity to record, share, and preserve the stories of their lives. Since 2003, StoryCorps has collected and archived more than 45,000 interviews from nearly 90,000 participants. It is one of the largest oral history projects of its kind and millions listen to the weekly broadcasts on NPR's Morning Edition and on [storycorps.org](http://storycorps.org). In addition to the National Hellenic Museum's Oral History Center appointments, interview time slots will be available on a monthly schedule throughout 2017 to record your own audio oral history at the Museum. "Through our Oral History Center we've preserved hundreds of stories that could have been lost to the ages, but there is so much more wisdom and experience that we are at risk of losing forever; what it means to be Greek, what it means to be American, the importance of family, the pain of struggle and the joy of life's success," said Dr. Calamos. On Dec. 13, the National Hellenic Museum and StoryCorps will hold an interactive workshop about the tools and resources needed to highlight and celebrate the voices of the community through interviewing, recording and preserving conversations. Attendance is very limited. Please call 312-655-1234, ext. 11 for more information.

## Ponce de Leon Federal Bank Reorganizing as Mutual Holding Company

BRONX, NY – The Board of Directors of local bank Ponce de Leon Federal Bank has adopted a Plan of Reorganization into a Mutual Holding Company and Stock Issuance Plan. According to this new plan, the Bank will reorganize into a mutual holding company with the bank becoming a wholly owned subsidiary of a mid-tier holding company, which in turn will be a subsidiary of a federally chartered mutual holding company. As part of the reorganization, the mid-tier holding company proposes to issue a majority of its capital stock to the mutual holding company and not more than 49.9% of its stock in an offering to depositors and other members of the Bank, and, possibly, for a community and public offering. The depositors and other members of the Bank will have the same rights and privileges at the federally chartered mutual holding company as they have at the bank. All de-

posits at the bank will continue to be insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) up to the applicable limits provided by federal law and regulation. The plan is subject to the approval of the Bank's

members and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, and the FDIC. Members will receive proxy solicitation materials with more detailed information seek-

ing their approval of the Plan promptly following approval of the form of those materials by the applicable federal regulatory agencies and prior to the meeting of members. Members will also receive subscription rights

to purchase shares of the mid-tier holding company based on their membership status in the bank as provided for in the plan.

The plan is available for inspection at the main office of

the Bank and each of its branch offices. Notice of the adoption of the Plan is being concurrently published in the local newspapers. Carlos Naudon, President Ponce de Leon Federal Bank, phone 718-931-9000.

## Concert for the Greek Children's Fund Highlights Tradition in Song

TNH Staff

International Children's Day was celebrated with a concert entitled "Let's Give the World to Children," benefitting the Greek Children's Fund. The children's choir of the Academy of Hellenic Paideia performed and also provided help for the sick children of the Diaspora, Greece, and Cyprus.

The concert was attended by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, the Con-

sul of Greece in New York Manos Koubarakis, and representatives of Diaspora organizations and agencies.

Held on Nov. 19 at the Auditorium Centro Espanol, the evening was dedicated to traditional Greek music and had a strong educational character. The first part included traditional songs sung by the children's choir of the Academy of Hellenic Paideia and Katerina Alexaki, with accompaniment by the orchestra.

Children ages 4-12, though American-born, delighted the audience with their pronunciation and talent.

Academy Director Kelly-Dimitra Varsami spoke with TNH and expressed satisfaction with the progress of the choir noting that "the dancing, singing, painting, and arts in a general sense contribute greatly to familiarizing the students with the Greek language, culture, and consciousness."

She expressed gratitude for

soprano Alexandra Skendrou, who not only "teaches children singing and music, but prepares the younger generation of Diaspora artists."

The second part of the concert included songs by Ravel and Konstantinidis, which were based on Greek music. Soprano Eleni Calenos and pianist/conductor Steven Crawford impressed the audience with their excellent interpretation and enabled the Greeks to learn more about the composers' work. The

story of Martha Tomboulidou along with a video presentation from the Athens Olympics made clear to the younger generation that the Greek culture is not just the oldest, but also one of the most important cultures to Western civilization.

Makaria Psiliteli - Kazakos, Katerina Alexaki, and Demetris Michail, accompanied by Costas Baltazanis on guitar, Vrothi Kontanis on oud, Megan Gould on violin, and Yorgos Maniatis on percussion, also performed.

## OUR EVERYDAY GREEK

## Reviewing our Greek Nouns and Declensions

By Dr. Dimitra Kamarinou

This is a review of the nouns' declension. In Greek we mostly use three cases: the nominative, the genitive and the accusative. We can recognize them by the ending of the noun and its relationship to the verb. The nominative case refers to the subject of the verb's action and names him. Who does it? Η Μαρία μαγειρεύει. The genitive case expresses whose something is. To whom does it belong? Οι πατάτες (είναι) της Μαρίας. ΟΙ πατάτες είναι του μανάβη. The accusative case concerns the object of the verb's action, the what. What does Maria cook? Η Μαρία μαγειρεύει πατάτες με αρακά και καρότα.

DEFINITE ARTICLES		
Masculine		
Singular	Plural	
Nominative: ο	οι	
Genitive: του	των	
Accusative: τον	τους	
Feminine		
Singular	Plural	
Nominative: η	οι	
Genitive: της	των	
Accusative: την	τις	
Neuter		
Singular	Plural	
Nominative: το	τα	
Genitive: του	των	
Accusative: το	τα	

## NOUN ENDINGS

**Masculine nouns**  
Singular  
Nominative: -ος, -ης, -ας, -ες  
(ο μαιντανός, ο μανάβης, ο αρακάς, ο καφέ)  
Genitive: -ου, -η, -α, -ε  
(του μαιντανού, του μανάβη, του αρακά, του καφέ)  
Accusative: -ον, -η, -α, -ε  
(τον μαιντανό, τον μανάβη, τον αρακά, τον καφέ)

## Plural

Nominative: -οι, -ες, -αδες, -εδες  
(οι μαιντανοί, οι μανάβηδες, οι αρακάδες, οι καφέδες)  
Genitive: -ων  
(των μαιντανών, των μανάβηδων, των αρακάδων, των καφέδων)  
Accusative: -ους, -ες, -αδες, -εδες  
(τους μαιντανούς, τους μανάβηδες, τους αρακάδες, τους καφέδες)

## Feminine nouns

**Singular**  
Nominative: -η, -α  
(η Κυριακή, η πατάτα)  
Genitive: -ης, -ας  
(της Κυριακής, της πατάτας)  
Accusative: -η, -α  
(την Κυριακή, την πατάτα)  
**Plural**  
Nominative: -ες  
(οι Κυριακές, οι πατάτες)  
Genitive: -ων  
(των Κυριακών, των πατατών)  
Accusative: -ες  
(τις Κυριακές, τις πατάτες)

## Neuter nouns

**Singular**  
Nominative: -ι, -ο  
(το αγγούρι, το σκόρδο)  
Genitive: -ου  
(του αγγουριού, του σκόρδου)  
Accusative: -ι, -ο  
(το αγγούρι, το σκόρδο)  
**Plural**  
Nominative: -α  
(τα αγγούρια, τα σκόρδα)  
Genitive: -ων  
(των αγγουριών, των σκόρδων)  
Accusative: -α  
(τα αγγούρια, τα σκόρδα)

Keep in mind that the -v of the accusative articles τον, την or and the negative particles δεν and μην (not) is always kept, if the word that follows begins with a vowel, or with the con-

sonants κ,π,τ,ξ,ψ and the double letters μπ,γκ,ντ,τσ,τζ. It is omitted, if the word that follows begins with τ,δ,θ,σ,ζ,μ,ν.

## EXERCISES

**1.A vegetarian menu for a week. Write complete sentences for every day of the week like in the given example. Note that the days of the week and the dishes are put in the accusative case.**

Sunday - broccoli with potatoes  
Την Κυριακή μαγειρεύουμε μπρόκολα με πατάτες

To μενού της εβδομάδας  
Monday - green beans  
Tuesday - peas and artichokes  
Wednesday - eggplants with onions  
Thursday - zucchini with parsley  
Friday - cauliflower with potatoes  
Saturday - greens  
Sunday - mushrooms with garlic

**2. Τι θέλεις να αγοράσεις στο μανάβικο; Form the accusative case singular or plural of the words below.**

Θέλω ένα/μία  
Zucchini:  
Cucumber:  
Pumpkin:  
Cauliflower:  
Broccoli:  
Onion:  
Garlic:  
Cabbage:

Θέλω δύο κιλά:  
Artichokes:  
Onions:  
Eggplants:  
Potatoes:  
Mushrooms:

Tomatoes:  
Peppers:  
Greens:  
Green beans:  
Peas:  
Spinach:

**3. Would you omit the final -v?**

1. Την σκελίδα
2. την αγκινάρα
3. τον αρακά
4. την πιπεριά
5. τον μαιντανό
6. την πατάτα
7. δεν θέλω
8. τον άνιθο
9. τον Κώστα
10. την Μαρία

## 4. Answer the questions.

Ποια είναι η πρώτη μέρα της εβδομάδας στα ελληνικά;  
Ποια είναι η τρίτη μέρα της εβδομάδας;  
Ποια είναι η έκτη μέρα της εβδομάδας;  
Ποια είναι η έβδομη μέρα της εβδομάδας;  
Σε ποιον όροφο μένει;  
Σε ποιον όροφο μένει η γιαγιά σου;  
Ποιος είναι ο πέμπτος μήνας του χρόνου;  
Ποιος είναι ο όγδοος μήνας του χρόνου;  
Ποιος είναι ο δωδέκατος μήνας του χρόνου;  
Πόσα εκατοστά έχει ένα μέτρο;  
Πόσα χιλιοστά έχει ένα μέτρο;  
Ποιος αιώνας είναι τώρα;

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

## GREEK GASTRONOMY

## Laganas with Feta, Tomato Sauce or Zucchini Topping

By Eleni Sakellis

As we move into the holiday season, there are more and more opportunities to entertain. Making your own appetizers will add an individualized charm and character to your holiday party that your guests will appreciate. The following recipe is versatile and delicious. Traditionally, laganas are cooked on a hearthstone over hot coals, but a cast-iron pan and a stove work well for present-day cooks. Try the laganas with the toppings of your choice for your next party or any time of the year.

## Laganas with Feta, Tomato Sauce or Zucchini Topping

- 1 1/2 teaspoons active dry yeast
- 1 3/4 cups warm water about 115 degrees
- 1 1/2 cups flour, plus more for dusting
- 1 cup fine semolina



- 3/4 cup whole wheat flour
- 1/2 cup barley flour
- 1 teaspoon Greek sea salt, plus more as needed
- 1/4 teaspoon ground mahlepi optional
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper, plus more as needed
- 6 tablespoons Greek extra-virgin olive oil, and additional for brushing
- 1 small red onion, thinly sliced
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 3/4 cup sweet red wine, Mavrodafni
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon crushed red chile flakes
- 1 (28-oz.) can whole peeled tomatoes, undrained and crushed
- 4 tablespoons Greek extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 small onion, thinly sliced
- 2 medium zucchini, thinly sliced
- 2 cups feta, crumbled

In a large bowl, stir together yeast and 1 3/4 cups warm water about 115 degrees F, set aside until foamy for 10 minutes. In a

large bowl, whisk together flour, semolina, whole wheat and barley flours, salt, mahlepi, and pepper. Add the yeast mixture and stir until dough forms. Transfer dough to a floured work surface and knead until smooth, about 5 minutes. Shape dough into a ball and place in a lightly oiled bowl; cover bowl with plastic wrap and set aside until doubled in size, about 1 hour.

To make the tomato sauce, heat the 6 tablespoons of olive oil in a large saucerpan over medium-high heat. Add onions and cook until translucent for about 10 minutes. Add the tomato paste, cook, stirring constantly for about 2 minutes. Add the wine, honey, cinnamon, chile flakes, and tomatoes. Bring up to a boil, then reduce the heat to low and cook, partially covered, stirring occasionally, until the sauce thickens, about 40 minutes to 1 hour. Season with salt to taste, then set aside.

Heat the 4 tablespoons of olive oil in a 12" skillet over medium heat. Add the onion and cook for 2 minutes. Then,

add the zucchini and season with salt and pepper. Cook, stirring, until tender, about 5-8 minutes, and then set aside.

Uncover dough, divide into 16 portions. Roll out each into a ball. Transfer the dough balls to a floured baking sheet and cover with a damp tea towel. Allow to rest for 30 minutes. Working with one dough ball at a time, transfer to a lightly floured work surface and use a rolling pin to roll out dough into an 8-inch disk about a half thick. Transfer the disk to a parchment paper-lined, floured baking sheet, sprinkle with more flour, and repeat with remaining dough, placing a piece of parchment paper between each rolled disk. Cover the rolled out disks with plastic wrap and set aside until ready to use.

Heat a 12" cast-iron skillet over medium-high heat. Working with one dough disk at a time, brush with olive oil, and place in skillet.

Cook, flipping once, until puffed and golden brown, 3-4 minutes. Top with tomato sauce or zucchini topping and sprinkle with feta, and additional chile flakes, if preferred. Serve immediately.

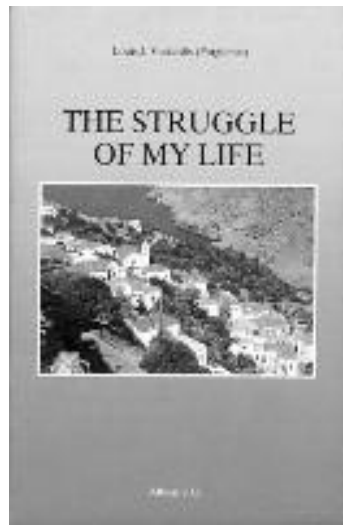
## LITERARY REVIEW

## Two Books to Add to Your November Reading List

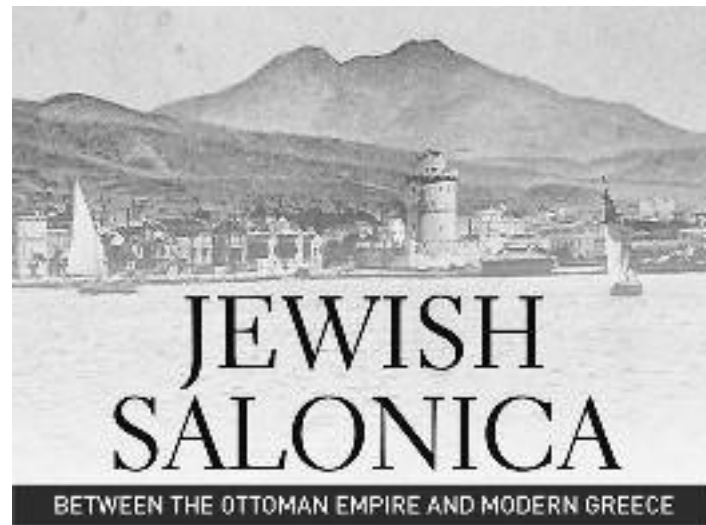
By Eleni Sakellis

As November draws to a close, and the colder temperatures descend, it is a perfect time to curl up with a good book. History and memoir can often be more compelling to read than fiction because the stories they tell are fact. Here are two books to add to your reading list.

**Jewish Salonica: Between the Ottoman Empire and Modern Greece** by Devin E. Naar is a fascinating, scholarly study on the Jews of Thessaloniki. The book recounts the history of the vibrant community as it adjusted from the collapse of the Ottoman Empire to 1912 when Thessaloniki became part of the modern Greek state. The cosmopolitan, multi-cultural city was for centuries home to the thriving Jewish community which was ultimately decimated by the Holocaust. The recent revival of interest in the history and traditions of the Jewish community of Thessaloniki has led many Greek Jews to rediscover their roots in the city and has helped to uncover a great deal of information. The author's family hails from Thessaloniki and the "perplexing" photo of his bearded rabbi great-grandfather wearing an Ottoman fez led him on a journey of discovery, tracing his family's history. He wondered about how his great-grandfather had been born in Turkey and his grandfather in Greece without having moved. The Sephardic



Jews had settled in Thessaloniki after the 1492 expulsion from Spain and Portugal. They spoke Ladino, also called Judeo-Spanish, among themselves but often spoke many languages including Greek, Hebrew, French, and Turkish. The book explores how the Jewish community adjusted to the transition from Ottoman rule to becoming citizens of the Greek nation-state and uses the voices and perspectives of Salonican Jews themselves to tell the story. The author's late grandfather Isidore B. Naar inspired his research and his work as a historian. Naar is the Isaac Alhadeff Professor in Sephardic Studies, Associate Professor of History, and faculty at the Stroum Center for Jewish Studies in the Jackson School of International Studies at the University of Washington. Born and



raised in New Jersey, Dr. Naar graduated summa cum laude from Washington University in St. Louis and received his PhD in History at Stanford University. He has also served as a Fulbright fellow to Greece. Jewish Salonica: Between the Ottoman Empire and Modern Greece is his first book, published by Stanford University Press in 2016. Naar serves on the Academic Advisory Council of the Center for Jewish History in New York where he represents the American Sephardic Federation. He was also elected to the Academic Council of the American Jewish Historical Society. Naar conducts research in Judeo-Spanish, Greek, Hebrew, and French. The book is available online through Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

The Struggle of my Life by

Louis J. Vastardis (Pargianos) is a short memoir originally published in 2005 following the often harrowing life of Vastardis. He admits he is not an educated man and the book is not a finished memoir but more of a recorded oral history preserving the voice of the author, but also the little grammatical errors everyone makes in their everyday speech. The struggles begin early on as the family can barely make ends meet on the island of Andros and the young Vastardis must go to work. Shipping out from the island offers some hope, then World War II breaks out, and he finds himself joining up. Vastardis eventually found his way to America where the struggles continued as they do for all immigrants. The lesson of the book is that hard work and determination are the keys to success.

## GREEK AMERICAN STORIES

## A Holiday Remembered

By Phyllis (Kiki) Sembos  
Special to The National Herald

Thanksgiving for me has always, for many years, been celebrated with family, food and fun. Our family was blessed with excellent cooks who took the trouble to plan and produce delectable foods that stay in memory long after the holiday passes. But, Thanksgiving wasn't always the fun and food filled family event I now know. In my memory there clings a time when the holiday came and went and meant nothing to us. Neither my brother, Nicky, five, nor, I at six, expected such a holiday time with food and family.

We lived in a three room, cold water brownstone building on 49th Street where a pot belly stove tried to heat the area but managed to extend only as far as the kitchen and part of the front room where we slept. My parents' room in back of the kitchen could store meat, safely,

with the cold. The bathroom was in the hallway outside, shared by two other families, both Greek. It was in the time of the Depression, so it wasn't extraordinary not to celebrate Thanksgiving; no one we knew did.

My mother, born in Homestead, PA, had more knowledge of certain services than the neighbors who were immigrants, and learned that if we applied to the Salvation Army, situated in Downtown Manhattan, there was a possibility that a Thanksgiving Turkey could be delivered to our homes. She advised the other tenants and, together, they went down with the hope that the Army would, indeed, come to them with food.

One Wednesday, my brother and I were playing in the front room with bottle caps that we'd flick across the linoleum, earning points on who'd get farthest, when a knock sounded at the door. My mother opened it to a woman holding a huge basket. She was dressed in a dark blue



uniform, wore a bonnet with a wide brim whose ribbon reached under her chin, ending on the side in a wide bow. She smiled, introduced herself and my mother invited her in. My father, always suspicious and cautious, stood aside, silently watching and waiting and wondering what this stranger was about. Across the hall were women dressed in the same way as our visitor and held similar baskets as they knocked on their

doors.

She spoke kindly and patiently and with proper solemnity to my parents, explaining that the Lord was sending His blessings and love along with the food that she placed on the pot belly stove top that was now cool because my father hadn't yet gone into the cellar of the building to fill our coal shuttle. After a short sermon, she requested that I and my brother and our parents lower our heads

in prayer to thank the Lord for, 'this offering that comes from the goodness of the earth.' Only my father refused to sit and lower his head. He stood aside, watching and listening. We did as she asked and then sat listening to her prayers. When she left we watched, awed, as my mother rummaged into the basket and watched as a turkey, sweet potatoes, a loaf of bread, carrots and a pumpkin pie came out, covering the entire surface of the kitchen table. For us kids, it was the first time we'd tasted sweet potatoes and pumpkin pie. To this day Pumpkin pie is my favorite pie.

My father, always the realist and practical minded, told us that the "good earth" couldn't produce any of it without the farmer's hard work. He reminded us that if people didn't work and struggle nothing would be produced. He continued until my mother told him to keep quiet. Mom roasted the turkey the next day - Thanks-

giving - along with the sweet potatoes and carrots and we had the pie last. To me it was the most savory, most delicious dinner we'd ever had. It was my first real experience of that holiday despite my father's rhetoric. Our neighbors, with their kids, came in afterwards to thank my mother for directing them to the Salvation Army. And they told us how wonderful it was to have received such goodness. They stayed, mama made coffee and they chatted in Greek a long time while my brother and I, with their kids, went into the front room to play. Having no toys excepting a ball that we couldn't play in the house, we played with the bottle caps, naturally.

While I retain, to this day, all my father's realistic rhetoric and sensible knowledge I have, also, continued to acknowledge the Salvation Army's good will and their kind and beautiful introduction to a holiday that cannot ever be forgotten.





# Weary Tsipras Ready to Wave The White Flag, Surrender to Creditors

TNH Staff

ATHENS – Worn down by battles with the country's creditors, Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras is reportedly ready to give in to demands for more tough reforms, hoping it will lead to talks about debt relief.

Tsipras, the leader of the Radical Left SYRIZA who leads a coalition with the pro-austerity, far-right, jingoistic Independent Greeks (ANEL) told the country's international creditors – which include Germany – that he wants a deal by Christmas to give Greece a break from the 326 billion euros (\$345.19 billion) it owes in three bailouts.

It wasn't said what form that would take, such as lower interest, a longer time to repay or outright forgiveness of up to two-thirds of the debt, which would force taxpayers in the other 17 Eurozone countries to pick up the tab for generations of wild Greek overspending and runaway patronage in return for votes.

But the Troika of the European Union-International Monetary Fund-European Central Bank (EU-IMF-ECB) and now the European Stability Mechanism keep wanting more reforms, including to labor laws, that Tsipras is trying to resist after reneging on virtually all his anti-austerity promises.

Tsipras and his key ministers are ready to give in to calls by foreign auditors for more flexibility in the crucial area of labor



Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras (R), talks with FINMIN Euclid Tsakalotos in Parliament.

laws, the paper said, after already putting off its demands to restore collective wage bargaining, a key pledge of leftist SYRIZA before it came to power last year.

It is unclear to what degree the Greek side is willing to concede on other issues – such as calls by foreign officials for facilitating mass layoffs for struggling employers and making it harder for unions to call strikes.

Tsipras is on the horns of a dilemma: if he doesn't follow

the creditors orders Greece has no chance of even negotiating debt relief but if he resists it could further weaken his support within his party whose members have repeatedly been forced to abandon their principles.

**DOWN GOES TSIPRAS!** He's also sliding fast in the polls with the former ruling New Democracy Conservatives – who had also imposed austerity – taking a lead up to 12 percent or more in some surveys as

even most hard-core SYRIZA voters have abandoned Tsipras.

Greece's government and its bailout creditors remain apart in talks about new reforms, but Athens says a deal can still be achieved by early next month.

That would unlock more bailout funds for Greece, and start the ball rolling for modest measures to relieve the country's crushing debt.

The Finance Ministry said Nov. 22 the week-long talks in Athens made "significant

progress." But the two sides remain apart, mainly on thorny labor reforms.

The left-led government wants to strengthen unions' wage bargaining powers, and is resisting pressure from its creditors – European Union institutions and the International Monetary Fund – to facilitate private sector layoffs.

The ministry said it hopes to strike an agreement by Dec. 5, when finance ministers from countries that use the euro will discuss the Greek program.

**THE BERLIN WALL**

But three times within a week, German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble said Tsipras will not get the debt relief talks the Premier was demanding.

Tsipras, who leads a coalition with the pro-austerity, far-right, jingoistic Independent Greeks (ANEL) told the country's international creditors – which include Germany – that he wants a deal by Christmas to give Greece a break from the 326 billion euros (\$345.19 billion) it owes in three bailouts.

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Germany puts up the bulk of the rescue packages and Chan-

cellor Angela Merkel and Schäuble have insisted on repeating high pay cuts, tax hikes, slashed pensions and worker firings to insure German banks get paid back first and make a huge profit on their loans.

Tsipras thought he was getting help when visiting US President Barack Obama backed calls for debt relief only to go to

Tsipras thought visiting US President Obama who backed calls for debt relief would help with Germany, but he did not.

Germany and not ask Merkel to do it, walking away mum and undercutting what he told the Greek leader in Athens.

Schäuble piled on when he said that, "They (Greeks) have significantly higher social and pension benefits in relation to their GDP, as well as in relation to Germany," although successive Greek governments since 2010 has slashed pensions and lump sums earned by workers over the years again and again.

Schäuble also said that giving Greece a break over the debt would just encourage the government not to impose reforms and keep spending. Tsipras had agreed not to seek debt relief until 2018.

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

## Greeks Now Becoming Pro-American Again

Continued from page 1

Greeks were the sixth most vocal critics in the world of the United States, with 66 percent having an unfavorable opinion, behind only Egypt, Jordan, Turkey, Russia and Palestinians, and barely ahead of Pakistanis, who are noted for particularly vicious anti-American sentiments.

The U.S. Embassy in Greece's capital is a favorite target of anarchists and extremists who see it as a symbol of Imperialism and Capitalism, the archenemies of leftists, including Prime Minister and Radical Left SYRIZA leader Alexis Tsipras.

Anti-Americanism was really

stoked by then-President Richard Nixon's support of a brutal Greek military dictatorship that ruled from 1967-74 and had American backing because it was so anti-Communist, the bogeyman the U.S. was afraid of for decades.

In 2011, in a report for the prestigious American Wilson Center's Global Europe program, Ted Coulombis, who headed the Athens-based Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy, and Athanasios Moulakis, who was President Emeritus of the American University of Iraq – Sulaimani (AUI-S), wrote of the oddity of Greeks not liking the United States as the two have been al-

lies in every major war in which they were concerned.

**HOW'S THAT?**

"It is remarkable to find Greece – a nation that has been through history on the same side with the United States – near the top of the list of countries critical of America. Evidence of such distance between old friends is disconcerting, not least to the Greek-American community which is a vibrant and fiercely loyal part of American society," they wrote.

They asked the pertinent questions: "is it caused by a rejection of the American way of life? Is it more a reaction to policies of the United States in its global role? Or is it mostly oc-

casioned by grievances particular to U.S.-Greek relations?"

There are multiple reasons but among them they noted was that, "Greeks nurse grudges regarding U.S. actions and patterns of conduct since WWII – of which the American public and even the American elites are largely unaware.

"In the nature of things, America matters a great deal more to the Greeks than Greece matters to America, and their respective perceptions and obsessions differ accordingly."

Obama touched all the right notes while in Athens, but with his departure the pendulum could swing back as Greeks don't like President-elect Donald Trump with some 60.5 percent disapproving of his winning the election.

And some 78 percent estimate his presidency will have a rather negative effect on Europe's future.

According to the same research, 75 percent answered that Obama's visit to Athens wouldn't help Greece get out of its economic crisis, borne out when he went to Germany, the biggest lender to the bailouts, and didn't raise the question of debt relief with Chancellor Angela Merkel.

By 47 percent, respondents believe that it is Greece's best interest to develop closer ties with Russia, whereas 39 percent prefer China, 36 percent the U.S. and 20 percent Germany.

It is important to note that 41.5 percent believe Greece should face its financial problems head-on and by itself while 34 percent want the European Union to support the country.

When it comes to countries, France remains Greece's favorite, although there has been some fall to 75 percent from 84 percent in 2010, and 77 percent in 2005.

Britain has risen in popularity to second place to 61.5 percent, with Russia at 61 percent but Germany has fallen markedly from 78.5 percent favorability to only 44 percent with Merkel seen as the villain whose demands for austerity has ruined so many Greeks' lives.



EUROKINISSI

## UNESCO's Bokova Honored by Vardinoyannis

General Director of UNESCO Irina Bokova (left) and Marianna V. Vardinoyannis, Founder of the Marianna V. Vardinoyannis Foundation and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador (right), during the High-level Conference "Welcoming Cities for Refugees: Promoting Inclusion and Protecting Rights", in Athens, Greece on Tuesday Nov. 22nd. Ms Bokova received the "Marianna V. Vardinoyannis Foundation" Award 2016, in recognition of UNESCO's action for human dignity.

## This Week in Greek History (11/21-27)

Compiled by Eraklis Diamataris

**NOVEMBER 22:** On this day in 1982, Greek-Swedish DJ Steve Angello Josefsson Fragogiannis was born in Athens, Greece to a Greek father and a Swedish mother. As he is more commonly known, Steve Angello rose to prominence while performing as one of Swedish supergroup Swedish House Mafia's three members. All of the group split up after having performed from 2008 to 2013, Steve Angello has continued his solo career and is still active.



Angello is married to Swedish model and TV personality Isabel Adrian with whom he has two daughters.

**NOVEMBER 23:** On this day in 534 BC, Thespis of Icaria according to Aristotle becomes the first person in history to portray an a character on a performing arts stage. Before Thespis artists would speak to the audience as his or herself but never before as portraying another person entirely. Additionally Thespis invented theatrical touring where he took his costumes and props around instead of playing at one venue consistently. In recognition of Thespis and his undeniable contributions to Western acting and performing, the English-speaking world refers to actors as thespians.

**NOVEMBER 24:** On this day in 1973 enraged by the liberalization of the George Papadopoulos leadership in the Greek military junta, Brigadier General Dimitrios Ioannidis staged a counter-coup and assumed leadership of Greece. The counter coup staged by Ioannidis was bloodless and successful. Under his leadership a second time, Greece would commit historic mistakes such as the overthrow of Archbishop Makarios III's government in Cyprus which lead to the Turkish invasion in the summer of 1974.



Consequently, the island became divided and is still divided to this day. Ioannidis would die in Korydallos Prison after being sentenced to life imprisonment on charges of treason when the military junta fell and democracy was restored.

## Crucial Cyprus Unity Talks at Swiss Resort Flop, Land Impasse Scuttles Hopes

Continued from page 1

ences on the territorial aspect of a deal over two days of negotiations at Mont Pelerin, Switzerland.

"Despite their best efforts, they have not been able to achieve the necessary further convergences on criteria for territorial adjustment that would have paved the way for the last phase of talks," the statement said.

A deal on territory would have paved the way for a final summit bringing together Greece, Turkey and Cyprus' former colonial ruler Britain to agree on how implement security arrangements in a reunified island.

A 1974 Turkish invasion triggered by a coup aiming at union with Greece divided Cyprus into an internationally recognized, Greek-speaking south and a breakaway Turkish Cypriot north.

Only Turkey recognizes a Turkish Cypriot declaration of independence and maintains more than 35,000 troops in the north.

The UN statement said Anastasiades and Akinci have decided to return to Cyprus "and reflect on the way forward." They had set an end-of-year deadline to reunify the island and had alternately been optimistic and pessimistic.

Anastasiades said a big sticking point as well was the refusal of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who refuses to recognize European Union member Cyprus and bars its ships and plans, to remove his troops from the occupied north.

U.N. envoy Espen Barth Eide, who repeatedly was upbeat and predicting imminent breakthroughs that never happened, was to brief UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on the result.

The UN chief has failed for the last 10 years to make any headway in the talks, joining a legion of more than two dozen diplomats, envoys and officials from both sides of the island who could't bring a result, but he hoped for an answer before his term runs out at the end of the year.

**LAND, LAND, LAND**

Christodoulides said the main area of disagreement was on the amount of territory that would make up the federal zones each side would run.

Greek Cypriots sought the return of enough territory that would enable as many as 100,000 displaced people to return to the homes and property they lost during the war.

That would serve to build support for an accord that would be put to a vote and help reduce the costs involved with compensating those unable to return.

Akinci's spokesman Baris Burcu accused the Greek Cypriot side of being inflexible in negotiations and of keeping a "maximalist" approach, even as Turkish Cypriots agreed to cede about 7 percent of the territory now under their control. Christodoulides dismissed

Burcu's accusation as "not corresponding with reality."

"Now is not the time to apportion blame," he said. Neither Christodoulides nor Burcu would say what the next step was, saying they would reevaluate where things stand on their return to Cyprus.

Numerous rounds of talks over four decades have ended in failure. Officials repeatedly said this latest round has marked significant progress especially on how power will be shared between the majority Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots.

Turkish Cypriots insist on Turkish military intervention rights that Greek Cypriots reject.

A reunified Cyprus would usher in a significant degree of stability in a tumultuous region and unlock cooperation on newly-found undersea gas deposits in the eastern Mediterranean among rival neighbors.

But important obstacles remain, including Turkish military intervention rights that Turkish Cypriots insist are vital to their security and that Greek Cypriots reject as a threat.

**GIVE PEACE A CHANCE**

The impasse dashed the hopes of hundreds of Greek and Turkish Cypriots who gathered inside the U.N. controlled buffer zone dividing the capital, Nicosia, to demonstrate for peace.

Waving peace flags and dancing to Cypriot folk music, the event aimed underscore the determination of Cypriots from both sides for reunification.

"Fear is holding us back," Greek Cypriot Rania Georgiou told the Associated Press. "Our future must be a shared one."

About 200 Greek Cypriots gathered outside Cyprus' Presidential palace to demand the return of their homes and farmland in any deal to reunify the ethnically divided island.

Morphou Mayor Charalambos Pittas said the peaceful demonstration was intended to get Anastasiades to live up to his pledge of making his fertile town a part of the ongoing reunification talks. "What counts for us is that the President keeps his word that Morphou is returned," Pittas told the AP.

A domain agreement would pave the way for a final summit where Greece, Turkey, and Cyprus' former colonial ruler Britain would make post-settlement security arrangements.

Meanwhile, hundreds of Turkish Cypriots marched in the streets of northern Nicosia in support of peace, urging the two leaders to overcome any remaining hurdles during their talks in the Swiss resort.

Up to 37,000 Greek Cypriots could reclaim property if Morphou is returned, Pittas said. At the time of the unlawful invasion, the town produced most of the island's citrus exports.

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

## The National Herald

A weekly publication of the NATIONAL HERALD, INC. (ΕΘΝΙΚΟΣ ΚΗΡΥΞ), reporting the news and addressing the issues of paramount interest to the Greek-American community of the United States of America.

Publisher-Editor **Antonis H. Diamataris**  
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The National Herald (USPS 016864) is published weekly by The National Herald Inc. at 37-10 30th Street, LIC, NY 11101-2614  
Tel: (718)784-5255, Fax: (718)472-0510,  
e-mail: english.edition@thenationalherald.com

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Tel: 011.30.210.3614.598, Fax: 011.30.210.3643.776, e-mail:  
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Periodical postage paid at L.I.C., N.Y. and additional mailing offices.  
Postmaster send change of address to:  
THE NATIONAL HERALD, 37-10 30th Street, LIC, NY 11101-2614

## Greeks View US Favorably Again

When Air Force One took off from the Athens airport on November 15, it left behind a sad but grateful city and country. How grateful can be seen from a survey published in the November 20 issue of the newspaper *To Vima*. For the first time in decades the United States ranks third, behind France and Great Britain, as the nation Greeks view most favorably.

President Obama's visit played a role in this, as did the support Washington has given to the suffering Greeks by intervening with Germany over the past seven years. In the president, Greeks saw up close the elegance and the style of a first-class politician. They tasted the rhetoric of a true master of the art of the speech. They were flattered by his reference to philoxenia, philotimo, and ouzo. He said: "Zito I Ellas!" in Greek. They saw him walk atop the Acropolis, marveling at the Parthenon and the priceless collection of the Museum of Acropolis across the street.

They admired his lecture – a testament to democracy, freedom, and globalization – at the world class Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Centre.

Inevitably, they compared President Obama to their own leaders – their prime minister and even their president. And they got depressed...

Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras sent his defense minister and partner in the government to welcome the president at the airport. And when he met Obama, Tsipras wore no tie, looked bored and indifferent, with hands in pockets, raising many questions about his health.

And on top of that, Greek President Prokopis Pavlopoulos, during the State Dinner delivered a long lecture on history, ethics, and politics, which Obama followed stoically, but not looking pleased.

Yet, despite all of this, there was a clear winner in this visit: Greek-American relations.

For the first time after many years, the Greek people saw in the president of the United States a friend rather than an adversary.

Naturally, not all Greeks have become friends of the United States; such a phenomenon would not be possible. The very next day, in fact, thousands marched against the U.S. Embassy in their annual ritual, honoring the student revolt at the Polytechnic university on the 17th of November.

But for the first time, a so-called leftist government – those same people who almost burned down the city of Athens when president Bill Clinton visited 17 years ago – gave the red carpet treatment to an American president.

And the prime minister, realizing his political mistake, went to the airport to see the president off: a clear indication of the political change that is taking place.

The most tangible proof, however, is that of the survey that shows the percentage of the Greeks who view themselves Phil-Americans jumped from 38% in 2010 to 56% now and that the United States has gone from being viewed positively by 28% in 2005 to 57.7% today.

And that is not only pleasing to us Greek-Americans, but it is good news for the people of Greece as well.

## Compromise-less Cyprus

Let's face it: We have not handled the Cyprus issue as well as we should have. For decades now, in trying to achieve the perfect solution, we have failed to accept the best possible one.

We – our community's members included – became prisoners of our own rhetoric emphasizing ethics and justice – which are absolutely on our side – but ignoring what counts in bilateral relations: power.

Not only did the two Greek countries, Greece and Cyprus, in the ensuing decades since the Turkish invasion of the latter, not become powerful – a la Israel – but on top of that, went bankrupt in the process.

Cyprus has made one concession after the other, albeit a few years apart.

Back in 2004, the Annan Plan, by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, provided for giving the city of Morphou back to the Greek Cypriots. They rejected it in a referendum.

But just the other day, the Greek Cypriots walked out of negotiations in Switzerland, because now the Turks won't give Morphou back. Sixteen years have elapsed (since the original Annan plan) their leader said; "a lot of things have changed on the ground."

Thirty-three years ago almost to the date, on November 15, 1983, the Turks declared their own pseudo-state. We were in shock, we were angry. We tried to overturn it before it would be established. We calmed ourselves in the knowledge that no other country in the UN except Turkey had recognized it. And so, we declared victory.

But the only one that mattered was Turkey, in choosing to declare a separate state, supporting it, and deciding on its behalf.

Today the theory circulating that Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan might do with the occupied part of Cyprus what Putin did to Crimea is being dismissed as not serious. But who would stop him if he decides to do it? The West did not stop Russian President Vladimir Putin from annexing Crimea. Would we really expect them to stop Erdogan?

America is in the middle of the transfer of power from one administration to the next. Britain is in the middle of exiting the EU. Germany is getting ready for elections. As for Greece, well...

It would not make much sense for Erdogan to annex the occupied territory, not with so many fronts open and his armed forces in disarray after the purge of thousands of officers following the coup d'état in July. But nothing would raise the patriotic sentiment and his popularity in Turkey more than that. Therefore, we cannot exclude it as a possibility.

We consider as the most likely scenario a multination summit that would provide the cover for the Greek side – Nicosia and Athens – to accept an imposed deal.

This is what it is coming down to. And it has come down to this because for decades now, Greece and Cyprus, before and after the invasion, navigated the Cyprus issue without a realistic long-term strategy guided by the sense of true patriotism.

## Stop Radical Islam From Spreading to U.S.

To the Editor:

There are approximately 75 Turkish schools in South America and about 65 in the United States. You can bet these schools teach Sharia law.

Just think, in a matter of a few years there will be thousands of young adults advocating Sharia law on both continents.

In Germany, mass, unvetted immigration from Africa, Asia, and the Middle East is turning parts of that country into lawless areas where the state has effectively lost control and where native Germans, including the police, increasingly fear to go.

German authorities steadfastly deny the existence of such areas, but confidential police reports, testimonies from police on the ground, and anecdotal evidence from local citizens all

confirm that parts of major German cities have descended into pockets of lawlessness where criminal migrants have usurped control of the streets from German police.

Observers say the problems are exacerbated by the German government, which has relocated hundreds of thousands of asylum seekers and refugees into these areas.

In Turkey, the international media was shaken by the October 31 police raids there, on both the Cumhuriyet daily newspaper and on the homes of its editor and writers. "The law on abandoned properties was an excuse to seize other people's property, and Armenian assets in particular became the main basis of the republican regime. The property of the murdered Armenians was Turkified, along with Greek and Jewish properties," wrote journalist Aim Ozinian.

After witnessing Iran, Turkey,

and Syria violate human rights, adopt Sharia law, persecute other religions, murder dissenters, and compel the judiciary to serve the ministry of intelligence, it seems clear that the worst thing that can happen to a free Western country is to allow Islamic fundamentalists to take over a government.

Fifteen of the nineteen 9/11 hijackers were Saudi Arabian; two were from the United Arab Emirates; one from Egypt, and one from Lebanon. All were from Arabic-speaking countries.

Why didn't Muslim scholars unite to protest the 9/11 acts of terror? Instead, many celebrated a victory; the Quran includes passages that permit violence to expand Islam. Both hard and soft jihad are how Islam historically has been able to overrun Persia, Turkey, Greece, Cyprus, Southern Spain, Portugal, all of North Africa, and all of Eastern Europe.

It is up to us not to let this happen to the United States.

Nick Karakas  
St. Louis, MO

## 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 scaros@thenationalherald.com. We reserve the right to edit letters for publication and regret that we are unable to acknowledge or return those left unpublished.

## COMMENTARY

# Federal Bureau of Investigation's Integrity Compromised

All of us are tired of hearing about Hillary Clinton's e-mails. On the other hand, how James Comey, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, has dealt with the e-mail issue raises serious concerns about the nature of a powerful organization.

For five decades, the FBI had been under the autocratic grip of J. Edgar Hoover, who blatantly interfered directly or indirectly in American politics. The six FBI directors since Hoover had striven to depoliticize their institution. All had maintained low public profiles with no visible meddling in politics.

Director Comey has enjoyed a reputation as a vigorous but honest prosecutor. Although a lifelong registered Republican, Comey seemed to be following in the mode of his immediate predecessors with an often expressed aversion to partisan politics. That profile changed drastically when he began to question Hillary Clinton's credibility.

Clinton had admitted using a private e-mail server for government documents was an error. She had apologized in public for that mistake, but she denied any classified material had been compromised. The FBI was asked by Congress to examine hundreds of thousands of her e-mails to determine if national security had been jeopardized. That probe was completed in early July.

Rather than consulting with his superior, Attorney General Loretta Lynch, about the FBI findings or just sending them to Congress, Comey decided to hold an unprecedented press conference. At that event, he exonerated Clinton of any crime. He then went on to say that he did not mean to imply that others engaged in similar behavior were guiltless. He told the press,

"To the contrary those individuals are often subjected to security or administration sanctions."

What he was implying was that there was lots of smoke even if no fire had been uncovered. It was like a jury giving a not guilty verdict only because some technical shadow of a doubt about guilt remained. This not-guilty but possibly-guilty ambiguity was all the more outrageous as it was based on data not available to the press or public.

Donald Trump immediately assailed Comey's conclusions as



by PROF. DAN GEORGAKAS

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a 10% lead over Trump. Democrats began to believe they would retake the Senate and cut deeply into the Republican majority in the House of Representatives.

On Oct. 28, just eleven days short of the election, Comey again made headlines by sending a letter to Congress stating 60,000 new e-mails had been uncovered in an investigation of Anthony Weiner. Huma Abedin, Weiner's wife and one of Clinton's closest advisors, had used Weiner's computer to send government-related e-mails. The FBI had not assessed the e-mails to determine if they were pertinent to Clinton or contained classified material, but Comey reopened the Clinton investigation.

Trump announced that Comey had redeemed himself and that the Clinton case was even more scandalous than Watergate.

Rudy Giuliani, the campaign's attack dog, said disgruntled former FBI agents had informed him of the new e-mails weeks earlier and worse was yet to be revealed. Giuliani told CNN, "I can't even repeat the language I heard from former FBI agents." Trump supporters renewed their chant: "Lock her up." Clinton's electoral margins

resulted of a deal worked out by Bill Clinton and Loretta Lynch during their impromptu thirty-minute meeting of July 1 at the Phoenix airport. Trump added that General Petraeus had gotten into trouble for doing far less, a typical Trump fiction. Petraeus had admitted sharing national security data with his lover.

of a deal worked out by Bill Clinton and Loretta Lynch during their impromptu thirty-minute meeting of July 1 at the Phoenix airport. Trump added that General Petraeus had gotten into trouble for doing far less, a typical Trump fiction. Petraeus had admitted sharing national security data with his lover.

## ANTI-Logos By A.H. Diamataris

### • The Apple Doesn't Fall Far from the Tree

The Hellenic Lawyers Association at their annual dinner dance honored Nicholas Kourides, son of the late Peter Kourides, for his many decades of service as pro bono legal counsel of the Archdiocese under the late Archbishop Iakovos.

Kourides is a top lawyer in New York City, and over the past few years he has been making a major contribution to our community through the high-quality programs presented by the Hellenic American Cultural Foundation (HACF).

I knew Peter Kourides and thought very

highly of his intelligence and the wisdom with which he carried out his duties as one of Archbishop Iakovos' closest advisors.

And I know that he would have been very proud that his son is making such a valuable contribution to our community.

### • A Sad Greece

Every visit to Athens is a valuable opportunity to take stock of things and look for something new – for, dare I say, signs of improvement of the situation – as compared to the previous visit.

I look for those signs everywhere, from

the moment I land: how many airplanes are there, how many travelers go about their business, how the traffic is on the roads, how many customers are in the stores, how people dress and look, what politicians and businesspersons say in private, and, of course, I talk to the best sources of information of all – the waiters and taxi drivers.

My conclusion, unfortunately, is that there is no improvement. What I have surmised is that there is a deepening of the realization of the permanence of the present tragic situation and a sadness of how low the country has fallen.

And so the people don't get involved. They are mere observers.

How long this will last is anyone's guess.

## Observations By Antonis H. Diamataris

Following are remarks made by President Erdoğan of Turkey at a conference on "Turkey's New Security Concept."

Giving the seriousness of his remarks as applied to Greece and Cyprus we believe that they should be read carefully by every one:

"We are the successors of a nation that reached a landmass of 22 million km2. Just recently, just a while before the establishment of the republic, we used to have approximately 3 million km2 of land. We were reduced and reduced and reduced to 780,000 km2.

When I brought up Lausanne, some got disturbed. Why are you disturbed? Unfortunately, in Lausanne, that 3 million km2 was shaved to 780,000 km2.

The places right under our noses were taken away from us and even then there were some who were proud of this. There

were some who said 'we emerged very successful from this agreement'. How can you say that you were successful when you gave away what you had in hand?

... Sevres, with its map that divides today's Turkey into 7-8 pieces, was the expression of the original mission in store for us. However, our nation refused this plan with the Battle of Gallipoli, the victory at Kut al Amara and finally the War of Independence and instead, allowed us to content ourselves with our borders today, even though they are like a shirt that is still too tight for us. Lausanne is not an unquestionable text. And it is certainly not a holy text. Of course, we will discuss it.

Of course, we will strive to do better. World War I, World War II and the Cold War are left behind.

The balances established after the Cold

War are being brought down one by one. Yet they still try to imprison us within Lausanne.

I am sorry but we gave a promise to our nation. To achieve Turkey's 2023 goals which means making Turkey one of the top ten countries in every field, we will push all the limits. We are aware that as we do this; we will step on many toes, we will disturb many and we will damage the interests of many.

We will do this with you. We will do it anyway. Because we are living in such a world that if you do not move forward, you do not stay in place. You go backwards and fade away. We are determined to take Turkey forward step by step. We will keep moving to our objective even if we struggle with terrorist organizations, coup attempts, economic attacks and political and diplomatic machinations."

## E Priebus Unum: Reince Rewarded for Steering Ship

At some point during this tumultuous election marathon, I wasn't always on the same page with Reince Priebus. But the Republican National Committee (RNC) Chairman, who will now serve as Chief of Staff in Donald Trump's administration, proved to the president-elect that he is worthy of such a vital position, and that's good enough for me.

Actually, though I criticized "the Republican powers-that-be" very intensely, both in this column and in my book *Grumpy Old Party*, deeming GOP VIPs "clueless," I didn't have Priebus in mind specifically (though his being RNC Chairman, one could make such an assumption).

My only real specific criticism of Priebus came at the time of the Republican pledge during the primary season in the summer of 2015. I found the very notion of compelling the Republican candidates to vow ahead of time that they would support the eventual nominee no matter who it was to be wrong on its face. And I still think that.

Sometimes, what doesn't seem like a great idea may nonetheless be the best idea. Reince Priebus understands that.

Donald Trump thought that as well, which is why at that first primary debate, standing on the stage with nine other competitors, he was the only one who said he was unwilling to take that pledge. "I have to wait and see who the nominee is," Trump said, and later added: "but I promise to accept the nominee, if I'm the nominee," which was meant to be humorous but was also poignant.

But that Republican pledge has taught us a great deal about President-elect Trump and many of the other hopefuls. The rest all agreed to the pledge from the start. Trump eventually signed it, revealing his pragmatism: he knew the establishment was out to get him, and refusal to sign the pledge would give them ammunition to keep him off of various state ballots.

Moreover, the pledge effectively crippled the political careers of Jeb Bush and John Kasich, and others, who very publicly opposed Trump after he became the nominee, and all the way to Election Day. It also proved Trump's point, that one might want to wait and see who the nominee is before rushing to commit to such a pledge. If nothing else, the pledge provided an important lens through which we could examine the candidates. Sometimes, what doesn't seem like a great idea may nonetheless be the best idea. Reince Priebus understands that.

As for me, I support individuals, but I do not stay artificially glued to party lines. I don't have a "take one for the team" approach to the Republican Party; I merely tend to vote for its candidates more often than not, because I usually consider them to be superior.

But in 2012 I didn't consider the GOP presidential nominee, Mitt Romney, to be good enough to vote for, and so I voted third party (I've also voted for Democrats for president in past elections – albeit rarely). That's why I'm not a good candidate to



by CONSTANTINOS E. SCAROS

Special to  
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chair a political party, but Reince Priebus has been.

This summer I was invited to speak to a group of Pennsylvania Republicans about Donald Trump. I explained that I do not always vote the party line, and told them that I wasn't asking them to consider voting for Trump because he is the Republican nominee, but because he is a great candidate.

But the speaker who followed me, a Republican elected official, said: "I'm telling you to vote for Donald Trump because he is the Republican nominee." He went on to explain that Trump was not his first choice, and that while we may not always agree with every individual candidate, if we think the GOP is the best choice as a whole, then we have to vote for every Republican in every election.

It was a very reasonable point. It is the stand Reince Priebus takes, and that's why just five years into his tenure as RNC Chairman, the GOP now has the White House, both houses of Congress, a majority of the governorships and state legislatures, and is poised to reclaim a conservative majority on the United States Supreme Court. Well done, Mr. Chairman.

The Republicans in Congress already renominated Paul Ryan and Mitch McConnell as House Speaker and Senate Majority Leader, respectively, further indicating unity and continuity. Trump's outsider populism, the basis for his appeal, will not be controlled by the establishment, but it will be somewhat tempered, which could be enough to keep the party together. As I have written on many occasions, too many ideological strains trying to live under one big tent is a major challenge to the party's longterm well-being. But if the transition period since Election Day is any indication, the healing has already begun. The credit goes to Donald Trump, for reaching out to former rivals like Ted Cruz and Mitt Romney. But one has to wonder if that advice wasn't given to him by his chief of staff designate, who managed to keep those bickering intraparty factions essentially together all this time.

Finally, it is worth noting that on the day Trump picked Priebus, he also chose Steve Bannon to be his chief strategist. Much has been made of Bannon's pending role in the Trump administration, as some purport that he is a white supremacist. To this point, from what I've seen, I think it's just more of the same false, unsubstantiated narrative we've been hearing throughout the campaign.

But the point is that there has been nothing bad said about Priebus. Not a word. And that is another reason to commend him. In these contentious times, with a 24/7 conventional and social media blitz, seeking to pounce on every opportunity to exploit an opponent's weakness, anyone in such a high-profile position who escapes the media's looming microscope must be something special.

Nicely done by the Greek boy from New Jersey.

**Constantinos E. Scaros' latest book, *Grumpy Old Party* (about the 2016 presidential election), is available for purchase on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) and in bookstores nationwide.**

## What Does the Trump Administration Mean for Greece?

Notwithstanding the appointment of a churchgoing Greek Orthodox with a Greek mother, Reince Priebus, as White House Chief of Staff, we should still have grave doubts about the Trump Administration's policies for the relationship with Greece. Traditionally, the White House Chief of Staff has had little influence over policy formulation or execution. The job is that of White House traffic manager. President-Elect Trump selected him explicitly for having done that job very well during the campaign.

The selection of retired general Michael T. Flynn as National Security Advisor (NSA), one of the two most powerful foreign policy positions in government, should induce near panic among even the most rabid Trump supporters who are also concerned about Greek issues.

On November 8, Flynn published an opinion piece in *The Hill* newspaper (an important Washington political publication) demanding that the U.S. government agree to Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan's demand to extradite his political scapegoat, Fethullah Gulen, to Turkey. Flynn failed to reveal that he owns a lobbying company whose largest client, perhaps its only foreign client, is a Netherlands company owned by a Turkish businessman close to Erdogan. General Flynn apparently does not draw a line between his business interests and national interests.

After Trump's announcement of his appointment as NSA, Flynn announced that he would continue to own the lobbying firm but would turn its operations over to his son rather than

divest himself or put it into a blind trust. He also appeared on *Russia Today*, a Russian government-owned satellite channel at a dinner with Russian President Vladimir Putin, and, according to some news reports, may have sought business connections there without making it public.

In past administrations, the NSA, who has the president's ear on an hourly basis, often overshadowed the secretary of state. Zbigniew Brzezinski, Henry Kissinger and Condoleezza Rice are three of a long list of powerful personalities who dictated American foreign policy. Because the job does not require Senate confirmation, he can avoid uncomfortable hearing with Republican senators who distrust him, such as John McCain and Rand Paul. With Flynn as NSA, can one trust that the United States will object to Turkey's constant violations of Greek sovereignty or threats against Cyprus? Flynn would also have virtual veto power over any proposal to provide military or economic aid to Greece. Turkey had great influence with Henry Kissinger when he was NSA, because its then-Prime Minister, Biland Ecevit, had studied under the Great Master at Harvard. Erdogan may have a simpler relationship with Flynn; he hired him. By comparison to Michael Flynn, we may soon remember Henry Kissinger as a philhellene!

Some may argue that Flynn's



by AMB. PATRICK N. THEROS

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Greece and its problems? In fact, can anyone identify a single prominent Republican within the GOP foreign policy establishment who has done anything more sympathetic than attend a Greek church festival in Astoria?

Absent more concrete actions, we can only parse Mr. Trump's campaign rhetoric to get a hint of how his Administration views the region of the world that Greece and Cyprus inhabit. Here, too, we find nothing to encourage optimism. Mr. Trump seems to envision a "sphere of influence" policy akin to the agreements hashed out at the Yalta Conference in February 1945 at which Churchill, Stalin, and Roosevelt agreed to divvy up the world. Syria and the Ukraine, in his stated view, seem to fall within Moscow's sphere.

Mr. Trump has stated clearly that he has only one objective in the region: the destruction of ISIS, a good cause that he will carry out in concert with the Russians. Unfortunately, Trump does not believe the United States has any other interests in the Middle East and would prefer to leave

Russia's President Putin and his protégé, Syrian President Assad to sort out the region.

More to the point, Mr. Trump gave an interview to the *New York Times* in July in which he expressed admiration for Erdogan. He said that he could not criticize Erdogan's jailing of thousands of domestic opponents and looked forward to creating "a great relationship with him."

Equally, perhaps even more, disturbing, the press recently carried reports that Mr. Trump's company has been paid up to \$10 million since 2014 – in other words after he started his presidential campaign – to carry the Trump name on a huge luxury complex in Istanbul. Trump's business partner is Aydin Dogan, a billionaire supporter of President Erdogan. How does that affect the president-elect's relationship with Turkey?

Turkey's diplomats, with great dexterity, have sold their country as "the regional policeman" for the United States for five decades. Kissinger justified his support for Turkey's invasion of Cyprus by citing the importance of Turkey in maintaining regional stability. It does not take a huge leap of imagination to see Turkey selling the same bill of goods to Trump.

**The Hon. Ambassador Theros is president of the U.S.-Qatar Business Council. He served in the U.S. Foreign Service for 36 years, mostly in the Middle East, and was American Ambassador to Qatar from 1995 to 1998. He also directed the State Department's Counter-Terrorism Office, and holds numerous U.S. Government decorations.**

### LETTER FROM ATHENS

## Obama Played Pericles, Greek Politicians Played Fools

Every political speech in some way is an exercise in self-aggrandizement and a personal agenda disguised behind words hoped to be brilliant, or at least dazzling enough to hide the truth.

So President Obama, visiting Athens, chose well the wisest of his words extolling the virtues of ancient Greece before using the opportunity at the new Stavros Niarchos Foundation – it was to be at the Pnyx, the site near the Acropolis where Athenians held Democratic assemblies, but deemed too dangerous in 2016 to do so – to wander off into globalization and other topics suiting himself.

But in his opening, and for a time, he took upon himself the role of Pericles, the ancient Greek statesman, orator and General of the Golden Age, to describe what this little country means to the world 2,500 years later.

In doing so, he put the shame to Greek politicians who view public service as a chance to plunder the Treasury, enrich themselves, their friends and sycophants and acolytes and not as a chance to return the country greater than they found it.

He spoke at a time of lingering crises in Greece – one economic caused by decades of wild overspending and runaway patronage hires in return for votes for the disgraceful parties who perpetrated it upon workers, pensioners and the poor – and the other, of refugees fleeing war and strife, mostly in the Middle East.

More than 60,000 of them find themselves stuck in Greece, a transit country for their hopes to reach other more prosperous European Union countries which closed their borders and abandoned them to a bankrupt country populated by soulless politi-

cians who aren't worthy to have Greek names.

Obama, a lame duck president doing a swan song tour like a baseball player in his last remaining games, said he came to see the Acropolis and Parthenon but "because I came here with gratitude for all that Greece – "this small, great world" – has given to humanity through the ages.

"Our hearts have been moved by the tragedies of Aeschylus and Euripides. Our minds have been opened by the histories of Herodotus and Thucydides. Our understanding of the world and our place in it has been expanded by Socrates and Aristotle," he said.

Sigh, those grandeurs seemed mostly to have stopped with those giants and Greece is left with the likes of liars and thieves and the pusillanimous power-hungry but bereft of decency political types such as Prime Minister and Looney Left Alexis "Che" Guevara, who sold his out party, his country, his people and himself for nothing, reneging on ant-austerity promises and surrendering to the country's creditors in an act of the lowest hypocrisy.

Ironically, Obama talked almost as much of Greek-Americans and their achievements, knowing well the Greektown in his home of Chicago, of spanakopita and ouzo and their spirit.

"If anyone seeks an example of our shared spirit, our resilience, they need look no further than New York City, near

Ground Zero, where the Greek Orthodox church of St. Nicholas, once in ruins, is now rising again," he said.

He touched all the right bases, of *Democratia* and *Kratos*, the power, the right to rule and, right out of Pericles' Funeral Oration, "The notion that we are citizens – not servants, but stewards

of our society. "The concept of citizenship – that we have both rights and responsibilities. The belief in equality before the law – not just for a few, but for the many; not just for the majority, but also the minority. These are all concepts that grew out of this rocky soil," he said, nailing it just right before veering off.

But up to that point he was more Greek than anyone since Eleftherios Venizelos, the charismatic leader and statesman who promoted liberal democratic policies worthy of their own



by ANDY DABILIS

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achievements and a higher standing in public life.

Now we've got Tsipras, an empty suit without a tie, and a list of those before him from New Democracy and PASOK and fringe parties who attached themselves to recent coalitions to gain some limelight for their marginal thinking.

Obama added that, "Just as your strength and resolve have allowed you to overcome great odds throughout your history, nothing can break the spirit of the Greek people. You will overcome this period of challenge just as you have other challenges in the past."

Alas, in the end, he wasn't Pericles but a typical Greek politician after he said in Athens he would back debt relief for a crushed country, only to go to Germany – which is putting up the bulk of 326 billion euros (\$345.66 billion) in three bailouts and demanded austerity – where he didn't say boo to Chancellor Angela Merkel.

So he must have forgotten that part of Pericles' Funeral Oration, the greatest speech ever given and one which now could be for Modern Greece, where the statesman said, "It is hard to speak properly upon a subject where it is even difficult to convince your hearers that you are speaking the truth."

And he noted in speaking of fallen heroes that – unlike politicians today – "They fled only from dishonor, but met danger face to face, and after one brief moment, while at the summit of their fortune, escaped, not from their fear, but from their glory."

Where is Greece's Pericles today?

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## With Reality Setting in: The Challenges of the Trump Presidency

Reality is setting in for President-elect Donald Trump, for America and for the rest of the world. There is no doubt that there is going to be substantial change to how the United States government will address the woes of the economy, globalization, health care, climate change, immigration and terrorism – to name a few. Perhaps, the greatest obstacle facing Mr. Trump is how to bridge the chasm inflicting American society.

Because Mr. Trump will be the leader of a divided country, he will have a very difficult task in cobbling together an effective foreign policy. Journalists and political pundits have made a great deal that this division is between those who accept globalization and free trade versus those Americans who see it as a threat to their jobs and lifestyles. Is it also a return to a sentiment of isolationism as was the case in the 1930s? Is it fear of immigration and refugees, which in the minds of many are interlinked? The divisions, how-

ever, run even deeper.

Some in the media and political analysts have voiced the notion that Trump's election is the result of "Whitelash" – white middle-aged, middle class and blue-collar men and women pushing back against the Washington establishment, an almost incoherent political correctness that marginalizes mainstream society or at last what they believe is mainstream society. The deep-seated anger found expression in Donald Trump whose rhetoric harked to another age where everyone looked and dressed the same – at last in some people's imagination.

Some experts argue that those who voted for Mr. Trump and the Republican Party support the notion of a conservative America. Yet, Mr. Trump is a New Yorker and until recently has been a New York Democrat. His policies – some albeit bizarre, are not necessarily conservative or Republican. He could have, with some adjustment to his rhetoric, just as easily (with the national divisions

reversed) have been elected as a Democrat.

Does this make him a populist? Perhaps, but not in the traditional sense. Populist leaders historically are at the head of optimistic sentiments whether it is righting wrongs or chartering a new course for a country and a society. Mr. Trump's campaign articulated what many Americans do not want. They do not want free trade, globalization, illegal immigrants, maybe even immigrants period, refugees, Muslims or anyone who looks different. Perhaps, Trump is a post-modern populist.

They also do not want Hillary Clinton and her circle of associates. Mrs. Clinton became the poster child of political correctness and internationalism. Indeed, her top aid Huma Abedin,



by DR. ANDRE GEROLYMATOS

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a Muslim and married to the Anthony Weiner, a sexual predator and an embarrassment to the Democratic Party, fueled the Islamophobia that has gripped a frightened middle America. Beyond that, the Clintons represented privilege and entitlement – they are part of the Washington establishment – at least such is the image that came across to many from Mrs. Clinton's campaign and the people around her.

On the other hand, Donald Trump is a rich flawed man who has made the same crass and political incorrect acts and deeds that many ordinary people commit in everyday life. Remarkably, it is those flaws and faux pas that convinced almost half of the American electorate that Trump maybe rich, but is also everyman and woman. More importantly,

for those Americans who voted for him, Trump is a Washington outsider – he is just a wealthy ordinary American.

This phenomenon will place Mr. Trump in a very difficult situation not only in terms of fulfilling his promises with respect to domestic policy, but equally significant how will he formulate and execute foreign policy. Because of a free-willing election campaign, in which Mr. Trump made outlandish claims with respect to NATO and foreign affairs in general, he does not enjoy the confidence of America's allies. He will need to expend considerable political capital to maintain those alliances that may, in turn, may cost him the support of some of his followers.

Mr. Trump will also have to deal with Vladimir Putin and try and contain the Russian leader's ambition in Ukraine and the Baltic states – and of course, there is the Middle East. Mr. Putin has invested considerable wealth and military expenditure to keep Bashir al-Assad in

power. If Mr. Trump stands by and allows the Russians to establish a permanent foothold in the Middle East it will be the coup de grace for America's sphere of influence in the region.

Although there is the option that Mr. Trump will be able to work with Mr. Putin and find an accommodation, but it will mean sharing influence over the region and this too will diminish the ability of the United States to dominate events not only in the Middle East but also in the rest of the world.

America is at the crossroads. Mr. Trump maybe the caretaker of a government that will ease the transition of the United States from being to sole superpower to just one in a multi-power world order. At home, he will oversee the deepening chasm of American society.

**André Gerolymatos is the Director of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver.**



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