



AP PHOTO/HARRY NAKOS

Passengers from Hanover, Germany, arrive at Nikos Kazantzakis International Airport in Heraklion, on the island of Crete on May 14, the same day that tourism services and museums reopened, a nightly curfew was shortened by another 90 minutes, and authorities relaxed restrictions for the tourism season.

## All You Want Is Greece: Country Opens to Tourists during COVID-19

International air traffic is picking up, bookings are jumping

TNH Staff

**ATHENS** – With indicators showing that COVID-19 is gradually receding as vaccinations pick up, Greece is welcoming tourists with proof they've been inoculated or free of the virus, hoping for a big summer boom.

International air traffic is picking up, Airbnb said bookings are jumping and people are roaring to get out of lockdowns and head to countries like Greece for sun, sand, surf and forget the terror that's still gripping the world.

Greece took the lead in inviting them after convincing a reluctant European Union to later institute certificates of vaccination for travelers to use to avoid quarantines when they visit other countries as airlines added more flights and cruise ships returned.

Greece' opened to the EU, United States, Israel, United

Arab Emirates and a handful of countries where vaccines were working, as well as the United Kingdom and could be at the forefront of a vanguard year of recovery.

Now Greece is using a multi-million-euro campaign to lure travelers as a destination, surveys showing it's already a favored hot spot this year although the US said it wasn't safe and the UK had it off limits.

"We are opening our tourist industry to the world," Tourism Minister Haris Theoharis said at an outdoor news conference held outside the backdrop of the Temple of Poseidon on Cape Sounio, the Reuters news agency said.

Promotional videos telling stressed-out British office workers and others in need of a break that "All you want is Greece" will be shown in key markets,

Continued on page 17

## Gregory Apostle on Living the Ephemeral Every Day

By Yanna Katsageorgis

**NEW YORK** – If we give a certain definition to life, that it is the totality of forces that resist death, then those who 'meet' death daily and "stare him in the face," must have enormous mental strength to withstand the misery and trauma it causes, to themselves and to people who have lost loved ones and who must be supported. Gregory Apostle (Apostolopoulos) is a calm, cultured man, who

has dedicated most of his life to discreetly helping those who knock on his door during the painful personal moments when a loved one has departed. An intermediary between the living and the dead, he devotes time to the living, helping them to overcome the shock of loss and to tame the abysmal pain left behind – and facilitating the long journey of the beloved dead.

With a family tradition from 1921 in funeral arrangement,

when his uncle, George Apostolopoulos, his father Nikolaos' older brother, from Stranoma, Nafpaktos, opened one of the first two Greek funeral homes in Manhattan, the George C. Apostle Funeral Business, and a chapel in Brooklyn on Court Street, and then around 1940 with the purchase of the business by his brother Nikolaos – the sympathy for the people who lose their loved ones had already nested in the soul of Gregory Apostle.

The new Nicholas C. Apostle Funeral Home, named after his father, opened at 455 West 43rd Street in Manhattan, and a few years later, in 1960, it changed neighborhoods and moved to Broadway, in Riverdale, at 214th Street, not too far from the St. Spyridon Church in Washington Heights, under the name Riverdale Funeral Home.

In 1968 the business was transferred to Nikolaos's four

Continued on page 14

## Petros Garyfalakis Speaks about American Airlines

By Christodoulos Athanasatos

**NEW YORK** – Petros Garyfalakis, Senior Strategy and Planning Analyst at American Airlines, spoke with The National Herald about the airline's three direct routes this summer to Athens.

Garyfalakis, who has been working with American Airlines for five years, says that the pub-

lic response has been positive and people want to travel to Greece. He also reassured those with concerns about the flights and about the flexibility offered by the company's policy. He clarified that vaccination is not a mandatory condition for boarding an American Airlines aircraft, but noted that the use of the two special digital certifica-

Continued on page 10

## Can Love Survive 'Monday'? An Unconventional Film Romance

By Penelope Karageorge  
Special to The National Herald

Argyris Papadimitropoulos's new film Monday is a must for film lovers, just plain lovers, and would-be romancers. His first English-language movie focuses on two Americans, Mickey and Chloe, who combust at a party one hot summer night in Athens, wake up the next morning naked on the beach, are arrested, and move on to a year of love, hate, and everything in between. It's a series of Fridays, but Monday must come. This

dynamic, unconventional film offers a close-up, personal view of a couple who begin a relationship on an extravagant high and who struggle to stay up there – an almost impossible dream.

Viewing it, I found myself mesmerized, even by the characters most bizarre actions, including a naked bike ride through Athens in the middle of the night – which, by the way, is beautifully filmed. Call it bitter-sweet eye candy. Denise

Continued on page 3

## THE FORGOTTEN HEROES: Americanized Greeks in Battle

By Peter S. Giakoumis  
Special to The National Herald

How involved were the Greek-Americans in the Balkan Wars? It turns out that one third of the Hellenic Army was made up of Greeks returning from America. That statistic alone means Americanized Greeks served in all branches of the military, including specialized units such as the Evzones, and the gendarmerie traveling with the army, and served as both military police and then as law enforcement for the newly liberated towns and cities. On many occasions they supported military actions and saw combat.

One exception to Greek-

Continued on page 14

## Leylak to Premiere at Tribeca

By Eleni Sakellis

**NEW YORK** – The film Leylak, directed by Scott Aharoni and Dennis Latos, tells the story of a New Yorker facing unprecedented stress at the height of the pandemic. Filmed during the pandemic, this live action short film has been selected for the Tribeca Film Festival in New York where it will make its world premiere on June 12.

Aharoni and Latos are a directing duo based in New York. Through their production company, DUO Entertainment, they have produced a variety of ad campaigns for international brands and several award-winning films that have garnered international success. They spoke with The National Herald about the film and the upcoming world premiere at Tribeca.

Leylak is set in present day Queens, NY, as a Turkish gravedigger is unable to face a shattering truth and risks losing the dearest connection left in his life. Just three days after the New York Times' front page marking the somber milestone

Continued on page 2



AP PHOTO/PETROS GIANNAKOURLIS

## Evzones Honor Victims of Pontian Genocide

A member of the Presidential guard dressed in the traditional black Pontian uniform stands beside another wearing the traditional uniform of the Evzones during the annual ceremony to honor the victims of the Pontian Genocide at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier outside of Greece's parliament in Athens on Wednesday, May 19.

## The Athens Climate Lab, Changing

By Stamatina Mylonas  
Special to The National Herald

What is one thing that every human across all continents and creeds has in common?

Our one and only home.

Planet Earth is a miracle of nature and evolution, not only creating the means for life to flourish, but also leading to the evolution of human beings. As a species, we have sent robots to the farthest reaches of our Solar System and have landed people on the moon. We have cured diseases and in some instances even cheated death. But despite all of this technological advancement and knowledge, we are also the ultimate destroyers of our planet.

Pollution, over-consumption, and an overall disregard and disrespect for the Earth has put us in danger of extinction. Cli-

mate Change is real and if global temperatures continue to rise, we will be faced with unprecedented environmental repercussions. Conflicts over clean water and fertile soil, battles for shelter away from natural disaster zones, climate refugees, diminished food supply, and more volatile weather are anticipated challenges.

But in Athens, Greece there is a movement taking hold, one that aims to change this unbalanced relationship society has with the Earth. The Athens Climate Lab is a virtual workshop in four installments, and it has created an inclusive and open platform where those invested in stopping the climate crisis can meet and discuss ideas and initiatives. The Athens Climate Lab is a program built from the Global Shapers Community Athens Hub, with an overall

community network of over 13,000 international young professionals under thirty, collaborating to solve the most pressing challenges of our time.

A diverse and international audience participated in the Athens Climate Lab, which took place in March of 2021. People of varying ages and professions discussed a wide array of topics as they relate to the environment, utilizing virtual breakout rooms to get more specific. Conversations focused on how the city of Athens can meet sustainable and environmentally conscious goals, and the obstacles the prevented this in the past – mainly, the attitudes and behaviors society has formed in relation to the environment and whether these have positive or negative results.

Continued on page 4

## Felicia Kalan on Run for NYC Council

By Eleni Sakellis

**ASTORIA** – Felicia Kalan spoke with The National Herald about her campaign for New York City Council District 22, the seat previously occupied by Costa Constantinides. The district includes Astoria, as well as Rikers Island, parts of Jackson Heights, Woodside, and East Elmhurst.

Kalan, a working mom of two, is running as a Republican in a mostly Democratic district.

TNH: Did you always want to go into politics?

Felicia Kalan: While politics wasn't always in the plan, I have always had a heart to love and serve people and I'm a problem-solver – which is why my platform is centered around "People Before Politics." I was raised by a single mom along with my great grandfather John Riley, a World War II veteran. He taught me at an early age how important it was to serve my community, and I remember his home was always a place people

Continued on page 10

## Greek Festivals Are Back

By Matina Demelis

More than one year after the pandemic began, Greek communities are starting over, organizing their annual festivals after most of them were cancelled or postponed.

Saint George Greek Orthodox Cathedral celebrated its 35th annual Greek Festival last week in Greenville, SC. The celebration of Greek culture featured a drive-thru and on-site dining for visitors to taste some classic Greek dishes like spanakopita, dolmades, gyros, and baklava.

The church has been holding

Continued on page 5

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### Pontian Flag Raised in Bowling Green, Manhattan

Left to right: Consul General of Greece in New York Konstantinos Koutras, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, AHEPA Supreme President George Horiates, and Pan-Pontian Federation of USA and Canada President Kostas Tsilfidis at the Pontian flag raising ceremony on May 19, the Pontian Genocide Remembrance Day.



TN/IZAFERIS HATIDIS

## Leylak, Directed by Scott Aharoni & Dennis Latos, at Tribeca June 12

Continued from page 1

of 100,000 coronavirus deaths in the United States, the directors were sent the first draft of the script for Leylak. Of those 100,000 deaths, nearly 25% were from New York, the epicenter of the crisis at that time. No cemeteries were available at the time for the film shoot, so an empty field in Windham, NY was used and 61 'graves' dug for the production.

The stunning cinematography was created by Laura Valadao, who was also the director of photography for the Oscar-nominated film My Nephew Emmett. Turkish actor Nadir Saribacak, best known for Winter's Sleep, winner of 2014 Palme d'Or, and Sarmasik, 2015 Sundance Film Festival World Cinema Dramatic Competition nominee, makes his U.S. film debut in Leylak as Yusuf. Actress Isabella Haddock, in her film debut, plays Renk, Yusuf's daughter.

The story was written by Mustafa Kaymak, the award-winning writer and producer of Green, the winner of 2019 short film jury award at the Sundance Film Festival, on the 61st day of the start of the New York lockdown. Leylak will be screened at the Tribeca Film Festival in June. The filmmakers noted in their press release that "this movie is dedicated to those who have lost their lives, the families who have suffered and to the essential and frontline workers who risked their lives during these times of uncertainty."

**TNH:** How long did the film take from idea to realization?

**Scott Aharoni:** We first discussed the possibility of a film with our writer, Mustafa Kaymak, at the beginning of the lockdown in New York as the pandemic began. We wanted a film to take place during the pandemic, but wasn't about the pandemic. From there, the script was written and worked on and

the preproduction process began. We began shooting the film at the end of July/beginning of August. We edited the film right after that and finalized the post process over the next two months. And now, our world premiere will be on June 12 at the 20th Annual Tribeca Film Festival!

**TNH:** Were you always interested in becoming filmmakers?

**SA:** Back when I was in 6th grade, my Middle School offered a filmmaking class for the first time ever. Already loving watching behind-the-scenes videos of major motion picture blockbuster films, I was so excited and eager to take the class. The teacher gave us all a storyboard and taught us the roles on a film set. I wanted to be the director and I asked if I could do my own shots and veer off from the storyboard given. The teacher advised me not to do that, but with some persuasion, he supported me. After shooting the small script, we went to the edit room, and he was very surprised and shared with me that he thought I had a special gift. From that moment on, I wanted to be a filmmaker and never looked back. Till' this day, Mr. Gluck and I keep in touch.

**Dennis Latos:** I have always been interested in becoming a filmmaker ever since I could remember. I started shooting small videos and clips off my cell phone when I was in 5th or 6th grade. In high school, my parents bought me a small handy cam camera and I went on to make many experimental shorts. It was after doing a lot of these shorts that I realized I loved the craft of storytelling and wanted to take it more seriously. As I did it more, my love for the craft grew, so did my passion and with every project I made, I became better and better.

**TNH:** Where in Greece is the family from originally?

**DL:** On the maternal side,



COURTESY OF DUO ENTERTAINMENT

The film Leylak, directed by Scott Aharoni and Dennis Latos, makes its world premiere on June 12 at the Tribeca Film Festival.

my mother was born in Constantinople. On the paternal side, my roots are from the island of Kefalonia.

**TNH:** How has your family reacted to your success?

**SA:** My family has always told me I could be whoever I wanted to be. As long as I worked hard and smart, anything was possible. They couldn't be more proud of the success I have had thus far and are just so excited for the future ahead. In any way they could, they helped me take the steps towards my dream. My wife has helped me grow in ways I could have never imagined and has played a pivotal role in my growth not only as a director, but a producer as well.

**DL:** My family has been extremely supportive of all of my success from the smallest ac-

complishments even to the biggest ones. They have always believed in me and have always believed in my dream and have always been the crucial pillars I needed to help push me to keep going and to never give up. This industry has a lot of highs and a lot of lows but having a strong support system can really make all the difference.

**TNH:** What are you working on next?

**SA:** We are currently reviewing a few projects from a directing and producing level to see what next step makes most sense to us. We are just so excited to go on this festival circuit with Leylak and to see what new doors could open for us.

More information is available online: <https://tribecafilm.com/films/leylak-2021>.

### THI TNH Takeover Corner Zachary Lountzis

Welcome to TNH's Takeover! In collaboration with The Hellenic Initiative (THI), The National Herald and THI have begun a partnership to introduce the NEXTGEN of Greek/Cypriot 'movers and shakers' to the rest of our Diaspora community around the world. Established to inform its readers about all things related to our homeland and its respective communities throughout the world, TNH is now providing THI's New Leaders (40-years-old and younger), with a new platform to showcase their ideas and to engage their communities in a deeper, more meaningful way while simultaneously building bridges to Greece and Cyprus. Our next featured New Leader is Zachary Lountzis. Get to know him below!

**Last Name, First Name**  
Lountzis, Zachary

**Alma mater?**  
University of Arizona

**What city do you live in?**  
New York City

**Where in Greece are you from?**  
Katouna (NW of Agrinio)

**Occupation?**  
Investment Manager

**What motivated you to get involved with THI?**  
I was originally introduced to the organization via the annual gala in NYC through friends and family relationships. After learning more about New Leaders, I felt I could help in a small way and was eager to become more involved.

**What do you hope to achieve through THI?**  
Building closer relationships with Greeks and Greek-Americans across various professional fields while together aiding Greece (and the Greek Diaspora) to more fully reach its potential. We are among the most storied cultures and bases of knowledge that humanity has ever known; this is under-reflected in most professional fields today.

**Favorite activity to take part in where you live?**  
Rotating through my favorite Greek restaurants, of course. Loi Estiatorio, Avra, and Kiki's.

**Favorite place to take your non-Greek friends when they visit you in Greece/Cyprus?**  
Lefkada

**Go-to Greek dish/drink when you're missing the homeland?**  
Avgolemono

**Favorite Greek product you can find outside of Greece?**  
Any Greek-originated olive oil or red wine

**Top three people of Greek descent you admire:**  
1. Socrates  
2. Aristotle Onassis  
3. Maria Loi

**In addition to THI, how are you involved in/help the Greek/Cypriot community?**  
I am a proud member of the National Hellenic Society, where I was privileged to be selected for the organization's inaugural Heritage Greece Program in 2010. My involvement in NHS helps me to spread the organization's mission while paying tribute to my heritage. I am also a member of the Hellenic American Leadership Council (HALC) and a brother in AHEPA's NYC chapter. What is the biggest crisis Greece/Cyprus faces today? Establishing a political and structural identity independent of the EU/USA.

**One piece of advice an elder has given you that has proved invaluable?**  
Do the work required to hold an opinion.  
"I never allow myself to have an opinion on anything that I don't know the other side's argument better than they do"  
- Charlie Munger.

**Favorite quote from a Greek philosopher?**  
I must pick two: "It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it" – Aristotle; and this second is apocryphal, but fun nonetheless: "My advice to you is get married: if you find a good wife you'll be happy; if not, you'll become a philosopher" – Socrates.

**One Greek tradition you'll never stop keeping?**  
Attending the Easter Orthros Service of the Resurrection. I travel a lot for work and have attended services at churches in Pennsylvania, Arizona, NYC, Los Angeles, and Omaha.

**How has your Hellenic background helped shape who you are today?**  
My grandparents immigrated to the U.S. via Ellis Island after the Greek Civil War in the early '50's. The values they passed down to my siblings and me around faith, family, and community continue to serve as clear paths for us to follow as we navigate our own lives. These values reflect the tight links between ethnicity (Greek) and religion/value-structures (Orthodox Christianity) that are relatively uncommon in the 21st century, and together form what we refer to today as Hellenism. I am thankful to have been raised with Hellenistic values (and need to keep improving upon my Greek language skills!)

**Life Motto?**  
"Everybody has a plan until they get punched in the mouth"  
- Mike Tyson.



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## TNH Gateway to Greece

Don't miss our special issue to the Southern Aegean, to appear with next week's edition.



The National Herald

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A still from the film Butterfly (right), written, directed, and produced by Greek-American Lazarus Lazarides.



# Greek-American Director Lazarus Lazarides on His Film ‘Butterfly’

By Eleni Sakellis

NEW YORK – Greek-American director Lazarus Lazarides spoke with The National Herald about his award-winning short film, Butterfly. Lazarides wrote, directed, and produced the film which has been selected to open the Queer Stories retrospective on May 21 at the Maryland Film Festival (MFF), one of the most respected and ambitious showcases of American independent films.

Butterfly was selected among 2,000 film submissions for the MFF which has screened movies by great directors including Gaspar Noe, Kathryn Bigelow, and Barry Jenkins. Butterfly will be available through the MFF virtual festival May 19-27.

Butterfly premiered in July, 2020 at the Maine International Film Festival and was one of ten short films selected to be included in the festival. Director Terrence Malick and cinematographer Roger Deakins are among the past honorees of the Maine International Film Festival. On November 26, 2020, Butterfly won the Best Film Award at the Mexico International Silent Film Festival-FIC Silente. The film has since traveled to the GOYA qualified festival, Zaragoza International Film Festival in Zaragoza, Spain,



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF LAZARUS LAZARIDES  
Greek-American filmmaker Lazarus Lazarides.

and to the Thessaloniki International Film Festival in Greece.

This coming fall, Butterfly will be screened in the Video Art & Experimental Film Festival at Tribeca Center in New York.

In the film, a repressed person, living in a city, confronts his internal struggle as it bleeds through into his public persona,

and seven days to shoot the film.”

“The post-production was an ongoing process and took most of the time because the cinematic form of the film and the narrative itself was, in a way, experimental and ‘unbounded,’” Lazarides said. “But there was a clear direction on how I wanted to tell the story through visuals and music. Thus, there was a truly beautiful and inspiring collaboration with the editor, composer, and lead actor of the film.”

As Lazarides noted about the theme of the film, “Butterfly deals with the oppression and racism experienced by a person who tries to break free from social stereotypes attributed to his gender as he follows his path to liberation and reconciliation with his latent identity.”

When asked about his family’s Greek roots, Lazarides, who was born in New York, told TNH, “one side of my family is originally from Athens, and the other side from Piraeus.”

He studied Filmmaking and Philosophy of Film at Royal Holloway University of London. In 2016, he was selected as one of thirteen directors to participate in the Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema’s MFA program at Steiner Studios where he was mentored by Amos Poe, the ‘fa-

ther’ of modern independent American cinema.

In 2019, Lazarides was awarded the Thesis filmmaking grant from the New York City Mayor’s Office of Media, Theatre & Entertainment for his film Lamp Experiment. At the core of Lazarides’ filmmaking is a genuine urge to examine and demonstrate current social issues. He is interested in exploring the identity of the individual in contemporary society and has been working extensively on different projects exploring ideas of racism, violence, and social inequalities. He has been working both in fiction and documentary filmmaking, finding an interest in the overlap and interplay of the two forms as well as using emerging forms of media (VR, AR) to expand the cinematic language. Lazarides has screened his films internationally (Maryland, Maine, Zaragoza, VAEFF Tribeca Center, Thessaloniki), and won the Best Film Award at FIC Mexico for his film Butterfly. He was a scholarship recipient of the NYC Mayor’s Office of Media, Theatre & Entertainment (2016-2019).

Lazarides has finished the post-production of his two upcoming short films which he wrote and directed, Dreamers Playground, a social drama, and

the sci-fi thriller Lamp Experiment, exploring the primitive nature of human violence. For this project, he teamed up with the accomplished Union cinematographer Valentina Caniglia.

Currently, Lazarides is in production for his first feature film, This Is (Not) an Alex.

Poe, who is Lazarides’ mentor, said of Butterfly, “Wow! Spectacular. A butterfly is a self-propelled flower - they say. Great work, and the lead actor is terrific; he carries it all with extreme dignity and emotional poetry. Also edit and sound design - WELL DONE.”

Butterfly Cast & Crew:  
Writer, Director: Lazarus Lazarides; Director of Photography: Fan Chao Meng, Lazarus Lazarides; Editing: Nikos Apostolopoulos; Original Score, Sound Design: Adriana Norat; Sound Mixing: Roney Giah; Set Design, Wardrobe: Catherine Walsh; Producer: Lazarus Lazarides; Associate Producer: Karolina Stellaki; Co-Production: Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema -Steiner Studios.

Cast: Starring Wesli Spencer; Maya Jasmin Szost; Daniela Tolmazin; and Jose Ignacio Gomez

More information is available online :  
www.lazaruslazarides.com and  
http://www.butterflyshortfilm.com/.



Getting to Know You: Chloe (Denise Gough) and Mickey (Sebastian Stan) exchange first names in a police car after a passionate night on the beach in Monday, the intriguing new romantic drama from director Argyris Papadimitropoulos. His first English language film is set in Athens and Poros.



Love Takes a Deep Dive: Monday, the fascinating new English language film from director Argyris Papadimitropoulos, focuses on the joys and challenges of a summer romance as it struggles to mature. Sebastian Stan and Denise Gough star as the sun-and-sand-crossed lovers.

# Can Love Survive ‘Monday’? An Unconventional Film Romance

Continued from page 1

Gough’s performance, her lightning switches from sexual adventures to tight-lipped kvetch, occasionally misses the mark. Still, she’s right for the part, as is Sebastian Stan. Their attraction’s palpable, and you leave the film debating what will happen to this couple, somehow wanting them to succeed.

“My friends claim that my films have a joyous anarchy,” the director told The National Herald in an exclusive phone interview from Athens. “They break the rules.” He drew on his own life experience as inspiration for Monday. “At a party I gave for my 35th birthday, there were two people that met and went to the beach and were arrested. I said ‘I’m going to make a film just like that’ someday. I wanted to make a film inspired by a traditional love story that takes the clichés and turns them upside down, that does not sugar-coat, that shows us the reality.”

Working with Rob Hayes, he wrote the script in two months, and then cast Sebastian Stan (Marvel’s Winter Soldier) and Irish actress Denise Gough as the sun-and-sand crossed lovers Mickey and Chloe. “I was looking for and found two amazing actors who also had great chemistry. I wanted the characters to be Americans, people who don’t have a family or point of reference, but need to get close to each other.” The actors did improv for the dialogue. “The script is not a Bible. In order to get au-



Filmmaker Argyris Papadimitropoulos’ new film Monday demonstrates the director’s brilliant capacity for breaking the rules and making films that are audience winners.

thentic and honest feeling I need to get the actors to say the words as they would say them.”

When making a film, Papadimitropoulos pulls out all the stops. “If you’re going halfway, you’re compromising your beliefs in yourself. You have to be ready to expose yourself one hundred percent.” To film this movie “we got very comfortable together, the actors and the crew. It was super-discreet. They felt super-safe. The whole thing was happening organically. We did not force anything to happen.”

The film premiered at the prestigious Toronto Film Festival, where it was picked up by IFC for distribution in theaters. It can

be viewed currently on Amazon Prime and other streaming services. “It was difficult to have the film delayed by the pandemic,” the director says, “but now it’s good news because the film reminds us of how wonderful it feels not to be distant. Relationships were really challenged by the lock-up but we are ready for rediscovery. Monday also offers an escape to a Greek holiday destination. It was filmed in Athens, Poros, and Antiparos.”

The Los Angeles Times said: “Papadimitropoulos doesn’t offer easy answers, but what Monday brings is something tangibly real and profoundly human.” The Wall Street Journal observed:

“Mr. Papadimitropoulos maintains a delicate balance between the wryly hilarious and the heart-breaking, and sometimes the high wire trembles. But danger is intoxicating, and Chloe and Mickey, along with much of their audience, spend much of Monday delightfully drunk.”

Papadimitropoulos, 45, grew up in the Kipseli neighborhood of Athens, “part of a regular Greek family, with a brother, a sister and Sunday dinners.” His mother frequently took him to movies and “in Greece we have the beautiful open air cinema culture, so in the summer it’s an almost every-night thing for kids to go to the movies.” He did not decide early on to seek a movie career. A high-school drop-out, “I was living the 90’s lifestyle. Then I got interested in the work of Martin Scorsese. I started reading all about him, all his interviews and everything, and one day called my family and said, ‘I’m going to be a filmmaker.’ They were thrilled, so happy to hear that I was going to focus, to become something, whatever that was.”

He went to England, and studied film briefly in Oxford, but returned to work in advertising and made more than 200 commercials. “I loved making commercials. Each one was like a little story. It was wonderful practice for making films.” He made several shorts, then moved on to Wasted Youth, Suntan, and now Monday, which he considers “a love letter to Athens. It’s strangely nostalgic, even though it was only filmed two years ago.”

He appreciates life as a Greek filmmaker. “We have our small film-making community in Athens. We collaborate and help each other out. It’s pretty amazing the support I received from other actors and film makers when I was making Monday, how they came on board.”

He enjoys giving parties, and actually gave parties for scenes in Monday – rather than hire extras, he invited his friends to appear in the film.

Monday follows his well-received, poignant Suntan, also set in the world of sun and sand. He admits that he has “a soft spot for Greek summer. The hedonism, the sea breeze, going on a boat and feeling that you’re in the middle of nowhere.”

Married and the father of a nine-year-old daughter, Papadimitropoulos claims he has no hobbies. “When you’re making a film, you don’t need hobbies. It’s like going to a wonderful playland.”

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# The Athens Climate Lab, Changing the Atmosphere in Greece

Continued from page 1

The workshops allowed participants to have an open dialogue and share their own environmental protection projects or ideas. The style of the Athens Climate Lab was planned by Youthnest, a civic and social organization that facilitates projects aimed at solving social challenges like Climate Change. Their approach is citizen-centered, having empathy for the experience of all those involved in the societal system, collaborating with and reaching institutions like schools and community centers as well as municipalities, to instill real and lasting change.

The workshops helped to create a connection among all stakeholders in Athens by gathering opinions and experiences from each participant. These authentic experiences then provide context to formulate strategic and ethical plans and policies that will benefit the city as a whole, not just a particular interest group.

The National Herald had an in depth discussion with Constantinos Simaioforidis and his team at Athens Climate Lab to understand more about the initiative.

**The National Herald:** What sparked the idea and need for something like the Athens Climate Lab to be created?

**Constantinos Simaioforidis:** Athens Climate Lab wanted to bring all stakeholders together to discuss and form ideas as well as map the climate change stakeholder system in Athens. We aimed to create an interactive experience where everyone, regardless of their background, could contribute to the dialogue and ultimately lead to a more inclusive discussion echoing concerns of all the stakeholders. As the Athens Hub of Global Shapers, we believe in the power of dialogue, and initiatives like Athens Climate Lab proves that youth could and must have a voice over the issue of Climate Change.

**TNH:** What was the response and outcome of participants in the ACL and was this expected? Who was in the audience and who do you hope to see more of, for example should the Greek diaspora be more involved?

**CS:** Athens Climate Lab was excited to see participants from

a plethora of backgrounds ranging from MEPs, representatives of Civil Society organizations, local government, academia, companies to students and individuals willing to learn and become part of the discussion. We would have wanted to see more researchers and members of the academic community as we think they could further enrich the process. In that sense, the Greek diaspora could also provide even more insight in models of mitigation and prevention strategies around the world. One of Athens Climate Lab's active members comes from the Greek diaspora and her input was crucial in organizing the workshops.

**TNH:** What were some of the most memorable conversations and ideas shared during the ACL? Are there plans to do more workshops in the future?

**CS:** The unique identity of the Athens Climate Lab consisted of taking a global issue and zooming in on the specific needs in the city of Athens and how it can build its environmental resilience. For this reason, the first two workshops were divided into four main topics: extreme weather conditions, coast protection, air pollution, and forest fires. In this context, memorable discussions were held around the issue of how we protect our city from the effects of climate change. Meanwhile, there was enough space for networking between the participants and exchanging ideas during the workshops. One of our favorite moments was the Climate party we held via zoom on the last workshop!

**TNH:** There seems to be an increasing awareness of environmental issues in Athens thanks to progressive initiatives like the ACL. Does this trend seem to be leading to real policy and cultural changes? How can we facilitate awareness to become action and change?

**CS:** Real change can begin from grassroots initiatives, but synergy among the different initiatives is key. Real change takes time. The very positive outcome of Athens Climate Lab is the creation of an environmentally conscious youth community in Athens. By working together, awareness can lead to impact-driven actions and lasting change. We want to create a community of people who will approach the issue of Climate



Change in a holistic and more systematic way, using methodologies that will help us understand in depth the phenomenon of Climate Change. This is exactly why Athens Climate Lab was created!

**TNH:** What are some changes ACL hopes to see happen in Athens right now? Environmentally, socially, and culturally.

**CS:** The Athens Climate Lab aspired to create a stronger connection between the Greek gov-

ernment, established institutions, NGOs, citizens, and other stakeholders actively engaged and interested in the Climate Change in Athens. For the next level, we are now working on the findings from the workshop, developing a systemic thinking report. Results will be shared within the community and with key stakeholders, where we truly aspire that this will open new conversations on the highest level. Environmentally, as our results indicate, we hope to help all interested parties to work together in a more effective way. By learning to work together more effectively as a society, we will improve other fields of activity such as culture.

**TNH:** How can people who are interested in environmental protection get involved or contribute to ACL or similar initiatives?

**CS:** The environmental youth community is growing strong in Greece. There are many opportunities in various organizations and teams that could increase impact on Climate Change. Global Shapers is a network where youth people are central

to solution building, policy-making and lasting change. In the Athens Hub of the Global Shapers, there is an open call every fall to people aged 18-27 years old, who want to bring a change in Athens. Athens Climate Lab would continue with activities towards Climate Change and city resilience.

**TNH:** What does the ACL team want people to know about the workshops and what is currently happening in Athens?

**CS:** We are at a pivotal point with regards to Climate Change. We know the next years will be hard and we need to build resilience on a local level. Athens as a city is facing challenges in: coastal, wildfires, air pollution, and extreme weather events. The good news is there are a lot of stakeholders in all levels who serve the same purpose. By working together, we can take a big step in our local communities. In this, we need the help of the diaspora; their knowledge, their experience, and best practices from their own cities can help us tackle Climate Change in Athens. And we need to act fast.



TNH/DEAN SIRIGOS

## Cats as Living Souvenirs and Bridges to Greece

Very clean, filled with love, intelligently managed – like their acronym spells out: Let's Be S.M.A.R.T. (Successfully Managing Animal Rights Today) – the cat shelter founded in 2006 by Julie Kelley, 4th from left, a builder who splits her time in New York and Greece, is a marvelous display of her love for animals – and Greece. “I came here for several summers and saw the stray animals and decided one day to move to Greece and establish an organization – it is a registered NGO – to both help stray animals and focus on educating people as more of a solution that just taking in strays.” One of her dreams is to inspire Greek-Americans to adopt the cats – the organization can deliver them to the United States – as a living souvenir and connection with the homeland. She owns the house in Kalivia near Athens that houses the cats and the two paid managers and volunteers from all over the world who work with the local authorities and turned the house into a ‘Cat Paradise.’ Learn more at [www.letsbesmart.org](http://www.letsbesmart.org).

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# Athens AHEPA Chapter Goes Live, President Previews Supreme Convention

By Constantine S. Sirigos

ATHENS – There are dozens of AHEPA chapters across Greece, with many in the Attika national capital region, and on Friday, May 14, Solon Chapter – Halandri HJ-4 held its first meeting of the year, a new member initiation ceremony, at the fascinating The Museum Herakleidon of Science, Art and Technology in the shadow of the Acropolis.

Little by little, slowly but surely, Athens is looking more and more like a living city than the set of a post-apocalyptic movie, and the resumption of live events is most welcome.

Present at the meeting were George Malamo – Chapter President; Michael Galiatsiatos, VP; Sotiris Stasinopoulos, Secretary; Nick Aggelisl, Treasurer; Chris Faslis, Past President; Petros Livanios, IT Support, and Alex Dimas, Warden, who arranged for the meeting to be held at the museum at 16 Herakleidon Street in Athens’ Thision district.

The new members who were inducted during the solemn ceremony replete with symbols and presentations about the history



The officers and new members of AHEPA - Greece Solon Chapter – Halandri HJ-4 gather for a photo after their May 4 meeting. Chapter President George Malamo is seated 3rd from left.

of Greece, life in the Hellenic Diaspora, and the Order of AHEPA, which was founded in Atlanta in 1922, were: Vangelis Livanios, Angelo Varthalitis, Lefteris Xrisofakis, Angelo Kontogiannis, and Adam Nikoloudakis.

“It was almost like ‘liberty’ for sailors after all these months of being confined in our homes and trying to obey all the rules,”

said an excited Malamo – a retired mechanical engineer from Pensacola, FL whom moved to Greece about 10 years ago and is one of the Deans of the Greek-American expat community.

He said of the brief meeting which was followed by a fellowship gathering at a nearby outdoor café – masks were worn and social distancing was practiced – “it’s a good start for our chapter” which is one of the most active in Greece.

“After discussions among our members and with Eleni Nomikou, the museum’s director, our chapter decided to adopt the Herakleidon as our venue for future events related to Hellenism and Culture,” he added.

Malamo and the other members are looking forward to resuming cultural and other kinds of events, but they are most excited about welcoming AHEPA brothers and sisters from the United States to the 2021 AHEPA Supreme Convention, which will be held in Athens in honor of the Greek Bicentennial.

Naturally, the pandemic not fully conquered the program will be different from what was envisioned a few years ago, but while respecting COVID restrictions, many events are planned.

“It will be a monumental occasion – marking 200 years since the start of the Greek Rev-

olution and 100 years of the existence of AHEPA. It is one of the strongest Hellenic organizations in the world, surviving all these years by promoting the pillars of AHEPA including Hellenism in general, education, and philanthropy.”

The Convention will run from July 25-31 and the main events will take place in Athens, especially at the Hotel Grande Bretagne in the city’s Centre.

“For the first couple of days we will discuss AHEPA internal issues and business, followed by special events. There will be great dinners featuring excellent guests from academia, politics, and business,” he said, but the beautiful about it is that “it will bring together and to Greece chapters from all over the world.”

Malamo also can’t wait to talk about Hellenes abroad about how the Diaspora can promote economic development and to build a New Greece, which he is devoted to given his experience during a successful career in the United States and his desire to ‘give back.’

For more information about the museum, visit [www.herakleidon-gr.org](http://www.herakleidon-gr.org).

## Greek Festivals Are Back after a Year of COVID-19

Continued from page 1

the festival since 1987 and has usually hosted a variety of Greek cultural performances and activities throughout its three days. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a drive-thru-only version of the festival was all they could present in 2020.

This year, an on-site dining area was included where visitors could order food and beverages and there were also performers featured in traditional Greek dances. Harry Zolides, president of the parish, says they hope to return to normal operations next year.

This was the 28th year for the Greek Festival at St. Nicolas Greek Orthodox Church in Wilmington, DE that took place May 14-16. The community postponed the in-person May festival in 2020, opting instead for a drive-thru only event in October. Nevertheless, the turnout was tremendous, with workers serving nearly five thousand cars in two-and-a-half days. Seeing that success, and with some pandemic restrictions remaining in place regarding outdoor events and mass gatherings, organizers opted for another drive-thru event again this year.

“We are excited to celebrate our culture and heritage with Utah and the surrounding states, and look forward to sharing our Greek hospitality...”

to do the drive-thru again.’ We had such great success in October when we did the last drive-thru, we figured we’d do it again and keep it safe, just in case.”

Having been part of the festival since its inception, Katsikis has seen the community continue to support the event while learning about the heritage of St. Nicholas church and its members. He looks forward to the day when the in-person festival can return, with the music, dancing, and Greek traditions so many have come to enjoy.

The Greek Festival of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, which normally takes place every year in downtown Salt Lake City, is slated to return this summer after skipping the 2020 activities.

The festivities are claimed to be the largest cultural festival in Utah, drawing 100,000 attendees of Greek and non-Greek descent each year. The 2021 comeback festival is scheduled for September 10 through 12.

“We are excited to celebrate our culture and heritage with Utah and the surrounding states, and look forward to sharing our Greek hospitality with everyone,” Parish Council President George Karahalios said in a press release from the church.

The Greek Festival of St. Demetrios church in Saginaw, MI will host a two-day drive-thru June 18-19. The Greek Fest Drive Thru will offer a safe alternative with its most popular menu items, including gyros, Greek fries, and baklava. Guests may pay with cash or credit. The Greek Festival began in 1979 as a way of sharing the faith and culture of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church with the parish’s neighbors. It is planning for a full return in 2022.



## Archbishop Elpidophoros on AHEPA Sunday

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America declared Sunday, May 16, as AHEPA Sunday to honor the Greek-American organization’s long-term contribution to the Greek Diaspora and Greece. Archbishop Elpidophoros is shown swearing in George Horiates, at left, as AHEPA Supreme President during the 2019 conference in Chicago, while his wife, Lisa, holds the Bible. Former Supreme President, John Grossomanidis, can be seen second from right.

## A Day at the Ranch - Generous Donor Matches Gifts

SAN FRANCISCO – During the joyous season of Pascha, the Metropolis of San Francisco declared, “we are pleased to announce that a generous anonymous donor has pledged \$31,000 to sponsor the entire month of May at our beloved Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center. With the Ranch being closed over this past year, it has been a challenging time, and our campaign – A Day at the Ranch – is already making a difference.

This \$31,000 donation is being offered as a dollar-for-dollar challenge grant and we need you to help us meet our match! All donations during the month of May will count towards this challenge.”

Thanks to the generosity of donors at the Ranch 40th Anniversary Celebration in 2019, there are several renovation projects in progress. These include the Dining Hall, Kitchen, Girls Dormitories, Swimming Pool and building exteriors. Future plans include the expansion



METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO

of the Conference Rooms, the addition of the Founders Pavilion, and the renovation of the Laundry Rooms. The funds for these projects have been partially donated, but they are restricted so these donations cannot be used to support the ongoing general operational needs for Saint Nicholas Ranch.

“In 1981 when I was serving as Archdeacon to Archbishop Iakovos, of blessed memory, I visited Saint Nicholas Ranch for the groundbreaking of this new facility. It was apparent even then that the Ranch would be a significant place for the growth of our ministries. Since that

time, the Ranch has become a central gathering place for our Metropolis and has touched the hearts of thousands of people. Each day at Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center is special, but with your support, you can help make it brighter. Make a difference. Sponsor a day. May the blessings of the Lord, through the intercessions of Saint Nicholas, be with you all!” said Metropolitan Gerasimos

The Ranch has been closed for a year due to the pandemic, but there are still expenses to keep the facilities in working order, along with ongoing repairs and maintenance for over 300

acres. The Metropolis’ statement continued:

“We cannot wait for the day you return to the Ranch, but in the meantime, we need your help!

It takes the \$1,000 a day to maintain the Ranch (utilities, facility and ground maintenance, insurance, core staff, water testing and treatment, etc.),

Every contribution will help our beloved Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center, which has lost its income for one full year! We are still working towards our goal of raising \$365,000, and this month’s challenge grant – along with your support – can make this a reality! Though the Ranch did receive government assistance through pandemic relief programs, it is not enough to cover our ongoing needs.”

Saint Nicholas Ranch And Retreat Center - A Ministry of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco. P.O. Box 400, Dunlap, CA 93621-0400.

## HACF Presented a Virtual Discussion on Justinian’s Aghia Sophia

By Eleni Sakellis

NEW YORK – The Hellenic-American Cultural Foundation (HACF) presented Professor Robert G. Ousterhout in a fascinating virtual discussion on Emperor Justinian’s Aghia Sophia on May 13 via Zoom.

Completed nearly 1,500 years ago, the Aghia Sophia is both an architectural masterpiece and a cultural icon of Byzantine and Eastern Orthodox civilization. At the time of its construction, it was the world’s largest interior space and among the first to build a fully pendentive dome. Professor Ousterhout addressed the transformation of the basilica as an architectural form and its subsequent impact on architecture in the eastern Mediterranean.

Justinian’s Aghia Sophia represents a critical point in architectural history in terms of form, meaning, and aesthetics.

Nestor of Magydos, on traveling to the Aghia Sophia in 987 AD, was awestruck with the structure remarking “we knew not whether we were in heaven or on earth ... for on Earth there is no such splendor or such beauty, and we are at a loss how to describe it. We only know that God dwells there among men.”

Professor Emeritus in the History of Art at the University of Pennsylvania, Ousterhout is the author or co-author of over 20 books on the art and architecture of the Byzantine world and has contributed to over 70 more. His extensive fieldwork has concentrated on Byzantine architecture, monumental art, and urbanism in Constantinople, Thrace, Cappadocia, and Jerusalem.



PHOTOS: TNH STAFF

This year, he was awarded the prestigious Haskins Medal by the Medieval Academy of America for his impressive book, Eastern Medieval Architecture: The Building Traditions of Byzantium and Neighboring Lands.

HACF Chairman Nicholas Kourides gave the welcoming remarks and introduced Dr. Helen C. Evans, curator of Byzantine Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and HACF advisory council member, who served as moderator for the discussion. As Dr. Evans noted in her introduction to Ousterhout, his book is the first focusing on Byzantine culture to be awarded the Haskins Medal since 1975 when Speros Vryonis, Jr. was honored for his opus magnus, The Decline of Medieval Hellenism in Asia Minor and the Process of Islamization from the Eleventh through the Fifteenth Century.

Ousterhout thanked Evans for her introduction, mentioning that he has known her for 40 years since they were graduate students and it was through her efforts that the virtual event came about. The professor’s presentation began with the history of the church which as he noted is not named for a saint, but a concept, the Holy Wisdom, and the structure we see today was not the original church built on the site. The first was built in 360 by Constantius II and burned down in 404, while the second was dedicated in 415 by Theodosius II and burned down in 532. The third church was built from 532-37 by Justinian and up to 1453 it served as the patriarchal and imperial cathedral.

Ousterhout spoke about Justinian’s Empire, noting that there were many construction projects going on at the time and Aghia Sophia was the center-

piece with its dome that transforms space and was “unlike anything else on earth.”

The architects who designed the magnificent church were theoreticians, their title ‘Mechanikos’ meant that they were architects/engineers with a theoretical education.

Aghia Sophia is carrying on discourse with the Roman imperial past, Ousterhout pointed out, adding that the Pantheon is the oldest surviving ancient dome. Aghia Sophia starts with the idea of the Pantheon and goes one better, the professor said. Comparing the structures, Ousterhout noted that Aghia Sophia is “light and airy” while the Pantheon is heavy and completely closed.

The professor also spoke about the ongoing restoration and mentioned seeing some details revealed such as graffiti by the masons during the construction which had been covered up.

He noted that the figural mosaics

were added after 843 following the end of iconoclasm. The Deisis icon from the 1260s which features Christ enthroned with the Theotokos on the left and St. John the Baptist on the right is among the finest mosaics in the world.

A Q&A session followed the presentation and Ousterhout urged the audience to write to Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis to help preserve Byzantine Thessaloniki which is threatened by the metro construction.

Ousterhout said that there is a lot we do not know about Aghia Sophia, so much remains to be explored and studied, we need to preserve it, and referring to his work in Cappadocia and elsewhere, he added that “we need to make a commitment to these buildings.”

Kourides then thanked the participants and noted that videos of previous HACF virtual events are available for viewing online: <https://www.hacfoundation.org>.

The Hellenic-American Cultural Foundation presented Justinian’s Aghia Sophia with Professor Robert G. Ousterhout on May 13





# HFS USA Continues Always on Sunday on Demand through May 31

**TNH Staff**

**ASTORIA** – The Hellenic Film Society (HFS) has announced its May program featuring *City of Children*, a powerful, award-winning drama, and *Jenny Jenny*, a romantic comedy from the golden age of Greek cinema. Both films will be streaming worldwide through Memorial Day, Monday, May 31.

Directed by Yorgos Gkikapepas, *City of Children* (Η Πόλη των Παιδιών), interweaves four powerful stories dealing with pregnancy and childbirth, each representing a harrowing perspective of the lives of couples in a city gripped by despondency. The film was named Best Greek Film of 2011 at the Thessaloniki International Film Festival. Additional accolades include three Hellenic Film Academy Awards, including Best Actress (Kika Georgiou) and the Greek Federation of Film Critics Award for Best Film. Greek audiences may be familiar with the popular actors Vasilis Bisbikis and Leonidas Kakouris, known for their work in the Greek television drama *Agries Melisses*. The film is in

Greek and some Arabic, with English subtitles and is not suitable for young viewers.

Also being presented is *Jenny Jenny* (Τζέβν-Τζέβν), starring the incomparable Tzeni Karezi, Andreas Barkoulis, and Lambros Konstantaras, key players in the Greek film industry in the 1960s, who add special sparkle to this romantic comedy from the golden age of Greek cinema. In the film, Karezi consents to a marriage of convenience to a parliamentary candidate, to help her father, a political influencer, solve his financial problems.

The film, directed by Dimos Dimopoulos, is in Greek, with English subtitles.

“Each of these films represents a very different aspect of Greek filmmaking,” said Jimmy DeMetro, president, Hellenic Film Society. “As such, it’s the ideal pair of films to present as we prepare to go on summer hiatus to lay the groundwork for the New York Greek Film Expo, the film festival we’re planning for the fall.”

This month’s program is sponsored by The Greek Online School, which offers live Greek



A scene from *Jenny Jenny* (Τζέβν-Τζέβν), directed by Dimos Dimopoulos.

language courses online to children and adults. For further information or to purchase tickets to these films, please visit [www.hellenicfilmusa.org](http://www.hellenicfilmusa.org).

The two films are presented as part of the Hellenic Film Society’s *Always on Sunday on Demand* film series, an outgrowth of the *Always on Sunday* film

series which began at the prestigious Museum of the Moving Image in Astoria, NY in 2018. The monthly online series follows the successful virtual Greek

film festival that HFS presented in July 2020 after the pandemic forced movie theaters to close indefinitely, precluding the presentation of the New York Greek Film Expo, the Society’s annual film festival in theaters around the New York metropolitan area.

The Hellenic Film Society USA (HFS) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization rooted in the belief that Greek cinema can and should be part of the American cultural landscape. Based in Astoria, NY, the organization promotes feature films, documentaries, and film shorts made by Greek filmmakers and those of Greek descent, as well as films that promote the cultures of Greece and Cyprus.

The Stavros Niarchos Foundation is the lead supporter of the Hellenic Film Society. Additional support is provided by Onassis Foundation USA, the Kallinikeion Foundation, Queens Council on the Arts, and the New York City Council through the office of Council Member Costa Constantinides.

For additional information or to purchase tickets, visit [www.hellenicfilmusa.org](http://www.hellenicfilmusa.org) or call 646-844-1488.

# LAGFF Presents Free Online Programs

**TNH Staff**

**LOS ANGELES** – The Los Angeles Greek Film Festival (LAGFF) runs May 10-30 this year and along with the impressive lineup of films available for screening online, a series of free online programs is also available for film fans to enjoy.

While there are some geographical restrictions, the majority of the LAGFF programming is accessible to the world and all webinars are free for everyone, no matter where they happen to live.

The program team worked hard to select one of LAGFF’s largest yet lineups with 64 features, documentaries, shorts, and animation works by Greek filmmakers worldwide. They are grouped in 7 thematic ‘collections’. With the \$60 all-access pass, all films will immediately become available (some restrictions apply), individually or by category, however people would like to watch them – streaming through May 30. Fans can also opt to get smaller packages for \$6-\$25. The animation collections and the unique webinars are free.

Filming in Greece: An Empirical Perspective is a free live online panel discussion taking place Thursday, May 20, 11 AM

PDT/2 PM EDT/9 PM Greece, with Angelo Venetis, Iraklis Mavroides, Nikos Smpirilis, and Teta Apostolaki – an active team of Greek producers – discussing the new landscape of film production in Greece, opportunities, and challenges that arise along with the country’s evolution into a Southern European film hub offering unique and diverse features. Boo Productions has produced several successful films, including *Apples*, and is now in development on two major television series. The discussion will be moderated by film director Dennis Iliadis.

Tailor Live Q&A, on Saturday, May 22, 10 AM PDT/1 PM EDT/8 PM Greece, with the film’s director Sonia Liza Kenterman. A Greek-German film director and writer, she was awarded an MA in Directing with distinction at the London Film School. She received a BA in Sociology at Panteion University and studied at the Art’s Theatre School for Drama at Stavrakos Film School in Greece. Her short film *Nicoleta* won 15 awards in 41 festivals. She was then selected by the Greek Film Centre to write and direct a short film, *White Sheet*. Tailor is her first feature film.

Braving Professionalism – a new approach to keeping film



PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE LOS ANGELES GREEK FILM FESTIVAL



A scene from the film *Tailor*, directed by Sonia Liza Kenterman, starring Dimitris Imellos.

The Los Angeles Greek Film Festival is virtual May 10-30 this year and includes special screenings of *Man of God* starring actor Aris Servetalis.

sets fun and safe is a free live online workshop on Saturday, May 22, 12 PM PDT/3 PM EDT/10 PM Greece.

“Can we be professional and respectful while keeping a playful spirit at the same time?” This workshop by mediation professional and filmmaker Carina

Rosanna Täutu will demonstrate how the industry can navigate the high demand for an equitable work space by understanding how to build healthy boundaries, trust, and strong leadership skills. Utilizing Brene Brown’s Braving conflict resolution method, the workshop ex-

plores our options for establishing fearless and joyful film sets. The audience will be invited to share their stories and discuss possible solutions.

On Sunday, May 23, 11 AM PDT/2 PM EDT/9 PM Greece, the *Man of God* Q&A takes place, featuring a discussion with the film’s director and screenwriter, Yelena Popovic, producer Alexandros Potter,

along with the cast, Aris Servetalis, Mickey Rourke, Christos Loulis, Karyofyllia Karabeti, participants in this most anticipated film of the year. *Man of God* won the Audience Award at the 43rd Moscow International Film Festival. Moderator for the event is the LA-based screenwriter, writer and producer Lia Bozonelis.

Register for the free events online: <https://lagff.org/events-online-registration/>

More information is available on the LAGFF website: <https://lagff.org/>.

# OANA Presents City Council Candidates

**TNH Staff**

**ASTORIA** – The Old Astoria Neighborhood Association (OANA) presents a forum with the Democratic primary candidates for New York City Council District 22 on Monday, May 24, 6:30 PM, on Facebook Live and YouTube.

The candidates are in the race for the seat previously held by Costa Constantinides.

Tiffany Caban, Evie Hantzopoulos, Leonardo Bullaro, John Cifalone, Nick Velkov, and Catherina Gioino have all indicated participation.

Watch on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/OANA.NewYork](https://www.facebook.com/OANA.NewYork) • YouTube: [youtu.be/wB-Dwn6-KXKk](https://youtu.be/wB-Dwn6-KXKk)

# Dates Announced for Ionian Village (IV) Summer Program

**NEW YORK** – Under the guidance of the Archdiocese of America, Ionian Village’s ‘IV Next’ program will be offered July 25th - August 5th, 2021. The program will be for fully vaccinated young adults and participants must be either ages 19-24, and/or students from the high school class of 2020 (even if only age 18). Anyone that does not meet that exact criteria, unfortunately, will not be permitted to register this summer. The price of IV Next for participants is \$1,650.

At this time, there are limited spots left, so people are urged sign up immediately. IV Next, sponsored in part by Leadership 100, allows participants to experience the beauty of Greece, the richness of the Orthodox faith, and interact with successful professionals from Leader-



GOA/DIMITRIOS PANAGOS

ship 100 that give practical advice regarding one’s career and faith.

Important Information regarding IV Next 2021:

Travel:

All IV Next participants must travel to and from Greece from JFK Airport in NYC. As a participant, you are financially responsible for your transportation to and from JFK. You MUST

arrive at JFK no less than 4 hours prior to Greece departure. Participants will have the option to change their flight dates to have more time in Greece either before or after the IV Next Program. This preference will be made in the travel itinerary form and will be coordinated with the IV’s travel company ProTravel. There may be an additional fee depending on the dates of travel.

COVID-19 and other Vaccinations:

As previously stated, all participants must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 at least 14-days prior to departure (which means that for those vaccines which require two shots, the second shot must be given no later than July 10). Proof of vaccination will be required. If participants are not

vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus they will not be allowed to attend. Further COVID protocols will be implemented, established, and shared with participants. To the extent that additional COVID-related requirements are subsequently imposed by local authorities, participants will be notified immediately.

# IOCC Virtual Auction Takes Place May 17-23

**TNH Staff**

**BALTIMORE, MD** – Bidding opened on May 17 in the first ever nationwide online auction to benefit International Orthodox Christian Charities. Proceeds will support the organization’s ongoing humanitarian and development work overseas and in the United States.

With items donated by volunteers and IOCC supporters from across the country, funds given through the auction will support the organization’s mission to serve people in need. Bidding is open until the auction closes at 8 PM Eastern on Sunday, May 23.

The virtual auction follows the success of multiple virtual events IOCC began hosting in 2020, including a nationwide virtual bike ride and 5K walk/run events, plus a virtual paint night and wine tasting. Online venues



have helped IOCC safely continue its long tradition of fundraising events even amid the pandemic.

Over 20 items are up for auction, from art and religious pieces to jewelry and high-end accessories luggage and handbags. Several handcrafted wood items were created by IOCC donors. Other art, like a hand-painted icon from Greece and an original painting of a Romanian

cathedral, were created by people served by IOCC programs.

Top-ticket items available include a seven-night stay in a two-bed, two-bath villa in Orlando, and a private virtual wine tasting with a Serbian-owned winery in California.

“We’re really excited to offer an online auction for the very first time,” said Christina Meares, IOCC’s Manager of Outreach and Special Events, who added,

“we’re especially thankful for all our supporters who have donated one-of-kind items to support IOCC’s worldwide work.”

To view the items available and participate in the bidding, visit [ioccc.org/auction](http://ioccc.org/auction).

International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) is the humanitarian relief and development agency of the Assembly of Canonical Bishops of the United States of America. Since its inception in 1992, IOCC has provided more than \$715 million in humanitarian relief and sustainable development programs in over 60 countries worldwide. Today, IOCC applies its expertise in humanitarian response to natural and manmade crises in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and the United States, offering assistance based solely on need. Learn more at [ioccc.org](http://ioccc.org) and follow us @IOCCRelief on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook.

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GREEK GASTRONOMY

By Eleni Sakellis

Tasty Breakfast Options with Protein & Greek Flavor

Eating a balanced breakfast is a great way to start the day, especially if protein is part of that breakfast. Those who eat breakfast are more likely to have less heart disease, diabetes, obesity, and high cholesterol than those who skip it, according to the American Heart Association website, which adds that breakfast “may even help lower your risk of heart disease and stroke.”

Eating first thing in the morning may not be ideal for everyone, but including a variety of healthy foods in your diet for breakfast can help set the tone for healthy eating throughout the day. Try the following recipes to add protein and Greek flavor to your typical breakfast.

Greek Yogurt Pancakes

- ▶ 1/2 cup all-purpose, unbleached flour
- ▶ 1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda
- ▶ 1/2 teaspoon Greek sea salt
- ▶ 2 cups Greek yogurt
- ▶ 4 large eggs
- ▶ 2 tablespoons sugar
- ▶ 1 teaspoon finely grated lemon zest
- ▶ Greek extra virgin olive oil
- ▶ Fresh fruit, Greek honey, jam or preserves, for topping, as preferred

In a mixing bowl, whisk together the flour, baking soda, and salt. In a separate bowl, whisk together the yogurt, eggs, sugar, and lemon zest. Add the wet ingredients to the dry and fold with a rubber spatula until combined well.

Heat a large nonstick skillet or griddle over medium heat and brush with oil. Working in batches, pour the batter about 1/4 cup at a time, evenly spacing the pancakes, onto the skillet or griddle. Cook until the tops are bubbly and the edges look slightly dry, 2 to 3 minutes, then flip carefully and cook until golden, about 2 to 3 minutes more. Repeat with the remaining batter. Serve the pancakes hot with fresh fruit or Greek honey, jam or preserves of your choice.

Greek Yogurt with Strawberries

- ▶ 2 cups sliced fresh strawberries
- ▶ 1 teaspoon sugar
- ▶ 1 cup Greek yogurt
- ▶ 1/4 cups walnuts

In a bowl, stir together the sliced strawberries and sugar and set aside until the juices are released about 5 minutes. Layer the yogurt with the strawberries and their juices in a glass serving



NATALIYA MELNYCHUK, VIA UNSPLASH

bowl and top with walnuts. Makes 2 servings.

Combine strawberries and sugar in a small bowl and let stand until the berries start to release juice, about 5 minutes. To assemble parfait, layer yogurt and the strawberries with their juice in a 2-cup container. Top with granola.

Spanakopita Scrambled Eggs

- ▶ 2 tablespoons Greek extra virgin olive oil
- ▶ 1 small red onion, diced
- ▶ 1 pound fresh spinach, chopped
- ▶ 1 tablespoon fresh dill, chopped
- ▶ A pinch of Greek sea salt
- ▶ 8 large eggs, beaten
- ▶ 1/4 cup crumbled feta, Dodonis
- ▶ Freshly ground pepper to taste
- ▶ 4 whole wheat pitas, cut in triangles, toasted

Heat the olive oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add the onion and cook until translucent. Add the spinach, dill, and salt, and cook until the spinach wilts, stirring occasionally. Add the eggs and cook, stirring the eggs as they set, until they form soft curds and are still moist, 4 to 5 minutes. Then, add the feta and pepper and cook until set.

Serve immediately with the toasted pita triangles or bread, if preferred.



GAELE MARCEL, VIA UNSPLASH

OUR WEEKLY BOTANIST

By Evropi-Sofia Dalampira

“Add Some Gourmet Flowers Please” – The Next Level of Home

This weekend’s cooking made me think about gourmet food and restaurants. Seeking aside cooking skills, what is required for a special mean is very common, but they are often ‘forgotten treasures’ of Mother Earth.

Old, traditional, local varieties or wild ingredients with a twist of innovative cooking techniques and use can raise the value and flavor of a dish to the stars!

Let’s begin with a very common wild herb in Greece: *Sinapsis arvensis* or wild mustard. In Greece you can find it in cultivated fields and in the beautiful valleys that highways pass through, as well as in waste dumps. It is a native plant almost everywhere in Mediterranean basin, the Eastern and Central Europe, North Africa, and Asia, but it has also taken root in the rest of the globe. In Greece, its common name is ‘vrouva’. There is a saying ‘pige gia vrouves – he went to look for vrouba,’ an ironic phrase derived from the fact that is can be found everywhere, meaning, someone is making poor use of his time.

Wild mustard seeds are used from Hip-

pocrates’ era until today for pharmaceutical reasons, and the sweet edges of the flowering part of the plant has culinary uses.

Seeds are used for herbal medicine and homeopathy. Boiled leaves can help with flu and headaches (drinking the water) but the fresh flow-



ers are a true delicacy and health boosters.

The fresh flowers contain a great amount of vitamin A, calcium, potassium, phosphorus, and magnesium. Traditional cuisine in Greece used vrouves for any recipe with wild horta – greens. From vegan green pies to pot recipes with meat, vrouves will give you a sweet taste and aroma but also nutritional value (leaves and soft stems with flowers. In more gourmet usage, offered in many Greek restaurants, soft peaks with flowers can be used raw in salads or on top of savory purees and ‘alifes’ – savory traditional spreads like ‘fava’.

Even some easy to find plants were used only in the past in traditional cuisine, consumers’ desires needs for ‘new tastes’ bringing them back.

Why not take our cuisine to the next level of gourmet food and super nutrition?

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

Evropi-Sofia Dalampira holds a PhD in Agricultural Economics and an MSc in Botany-Biology.

GREEK AMERICAN STORIES

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

Poetic Genius

When Yiannis sailed into Dixon’s that Sunday his expression was one of great hope and ambition. “Gentlemen,” he announced, coffee in one hand and sprinkled donut in the other. “I entered a ‘love’ poem contest. The winners get \$1000. Hear that, guys? One thousand dollaria!”

George chided, “YOU write a ‘love’ poem?” Yiannis pulled a face.” Why not? One thousand dollars can do it. It can turn a plumber into an opera singer!” Dimos asked, “what’s the deal?” Yiannis explained, “Deal is we’re supposed to send it in before the next printing of the magazine. So, we’ve got a little time.” “WE?” chorused the others. “Well,” explained Yiannis. “I thought we’d all get together and...” Kipreos interrupted. “I wrote a ‘love’ poem, once, when I broke up with my old girlfriend, Mary.”

Yiannis’ eyes lit up. “Do you still have that poem?” Kipreos nodded. “I know it by heart. Wanna hear it?” They all expressed their interest as Kipreos reached out for the sprinkled donut but found it missing, fortifying the hint of pain. He began. “Mary, Oh, Mary, who walked like a fairy, I miss our long walks to the dairy.” John looked up. “Walks to the Dairy?” Blushing, Kipreos explained. “It was the ice cream parlor. But, ‘parlor’ didn’t rhyme with ‘fairy’. Wanna hear the rest of it?” Knowing his sensitivity, John was diplomatic. “Never mind, Kipreos! Too personal!” Nodding, Kipreos appreciated their consideration. “Looks like you’ll have to put your great genius to work, Yiannis,” said George, laughing. “Well, wise guy! It happens I did work – all week! In fact, I’m working on a second one.” George’s cup dropped, noisily, to the table.” You actually worked – all week? Amazing! You must be exhausted!”

Ignoring him, Yiannis took out a sheet of paper from his pocket. He cleared his throat as if about to give a speech at the World Council. Clearing it a second time, Dimos grew impatient. “We’re



DAVID KLEIN, VIA UNSPLASH

waiting!” Yiannis looked up, shrugging. “I need momentum!” Then, he began.

“Oh, why did you leave me, forlorn and alone? I sit with my lunch here by the phone. My heart is so broken; my tears are love’s token. If you don’t call me soon, you can go to the moon.” He looked up and found them all trying hard not to laugh. He scrounged his face. “Trouble with you guys is none of you are romantic.” He refolded the paper. “You’re right, Yiannis!” said Dimos. “What do you expect from some ol’ geriatrics?” George said, “You’re not going to mail that in, are you?” His chin high, Yiannis announced, “I not only sent it in the same day, I got a reply a few days later. Tells you how excited they were when they read my poem.” He had their attention as he unraveled the letter he received. “Look at this! Says here, ‘Thank you for your poem. We’ve accepted it!’ Gentlemen, you’re looking at a poet.

Come to papa, \$1000!” He rubbed his hands, eagerly. Curious, Dimos took the letter. “Wait a minute, Yiannis. Says here, ‘Congratulations! We’ve accepted it!’ But, here it says, ‘You will receive the magazine in which it will be featured, \$99.00 will take care of editing, printing and distribution. Please remit!’ Handing back the letter, Dimos explained, “Remit means you have to send in that money to receive the magazine.”

Yiannis’ expression fell. He rubbed his chin. “I thought \$99.00 is what they took out for editing, printing, and distribution.” Dimos shook his head. After long pondering, Yiannis said, “oh, yeah? Well, I got a better poem.” John, smiling, said, “Let’s hear it, oh bard!”

After the space of a minute, Yiannis’s face lit up and he began reciting without much humor, “a thousand dollars just went flying. The deal you tried to pull, I ain’t buying. I’m not as dumb as you may think. The deal you offer has a stink. You guys are sure whacky! You’re dealing with someone from Marousanakislaki!” When he finished, he leaned back and picked up his now cold coffee. Then, his expression changed from dejection to elation when they all applauded and cried out, “Bravo!”

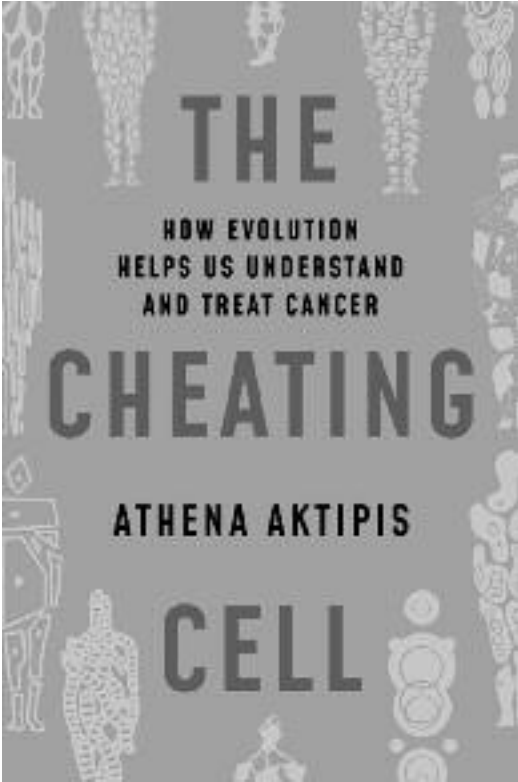
LITERARY REVIEW

By Eleni Sakellis

Aktipis’ ‘The Cheating Cell’ Explores Cancer

Cancer is often a difficult topic of discussion, especially in the Greek community where it is still sometimes mentioned in a whisper or with euphemisms, but there is hardly a family today that has not been touched by the disease. In 2020, cancer was the number two killer of Americans, accounting for 18% of all deaths, wedged between heart disease, the top killer once again at 20%, and COVID-19 which accounted for more than 10% of deaths in the United States, according to U.S. News & World Report.

The Cheating Cell: How Evolution Helps Us Understand and Treat Cancer by Athena Aktipis, explores this serious topic and offers insights and hope for the future. As noted in the book’s description, when we think of the forces driving cancer, we don’t necessarily think of evolution. But evolution and cancer are closely linked because the historical processes that created life also created cancer.



AMAZON

The Cheating Cell: How Evolution Helps Us Understand and Treat Cancer by Athena Aktipis.

The Cheating Cell delves into this extraordinary relationship, and shows that by understanding cancer’s evolutionary origins, researchers can come up with more effective, revolutionary treatments.

Aktipis, who is of Greek descent on her father’s side, studies cooperation across systems from human sharing to cancer. A cooperation theorist, an evolutionary biologist, an evolutionary psychologist, and a cancer biologist who works at the intersection of those fields, she co-founded the International Society for Evolution, Ecology and Cancer and is also the Director of Interdisciplinary Cooperation Initiative at Arizona State University where she is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology. Aktipis is also the co-Director of The Human Generosity Project. When she is not researching cooperation and cheating across systems, she is working on understanding the science behind zombification (when one organism hijacks another). In this capacity, she is the chair of the Zombie Apocalypse Medicine Meeting, host of the Zombified Podcast, and the producer of Channel Zed.

In her book, Aktipis goes back billions of years to explore when unicellular forms became multicellular organisms. Within these bodies of cooperating cells, cheating ones arose, overusing resources and replicating out of control, giving rise to cancer. Aktipis illustrates how evolution has paved the way for cancer’s ubiquity, and why it will exist as long as multicellular life does. Even so, she argues, this does not mean we should give up on treating cancer, in fact, evolutionary approaches offer new and promising options for the disease’s prevention and treatments that aim at long-term management rather than simple eradication.

Looking across species, from sponges and cacti to dogs and elephants, we are discovering new mechanisms of tumor suppression and the many ways that multicellular life-forms have evolved to keep cancer under control. By accepting that cancer is a part of our biological past, present, and future, and that we cannot win a war against evolution, treatments can become smarter, more strategic, and more humane.

Unifying the latest research from biology, ecology, medicine, and social science, The Cheating Cell challenges us to rethink cancer’s fundamental nature and our relationship to it.

The Cheating Cell: How Evolution Helps Us Understand and Treat Cancer by Athena Aktipis, published in March 2020 by Princeton University Press, is available online and in bookstores. Follow on Twitter @AthenaAktipis.

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A/A014/6-13

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A/A015/5-29

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice of Formation of POWER OF VISION PRO LLC Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 3/02/21. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her to the company c/o United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Ave, Ste. 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

281084/22170

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice of Formation of LIP & DESIGNS LLC Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/7/2019. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to Darnell Lashley 76 Sycamore Ave Mount Vernon, NY 10553. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

281080/22190

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice of Formation of LEIGH DRU LLC Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 2/1/2021. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC PO BOX 120945 Brooklyn, NY 11212. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

281079/22189

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice of Formation of ATHENA ESTATES LLC Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/13/2021. Office location: Richmond County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC 166 Mann Ave Staten Island NY 10314. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

281071/22183

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice of Formation of AYODOILA ADIGUN, MD, MS, PLLC Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/22/2021. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC 255 MCKIBBIN STREET, #408 BROOKLYN, NY 11206. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

281050/22178

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice of Formation of PLANWITHJOAN LLC Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/11/2021. Office location: Bronx County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC 1116 Jackson Avenue #1 Bronx, NY 10456. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

281048/22174

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Digital Pub LLC. Art. of Org. filed 5/10/21. Office in Kings Co. SSNY designated for process and shall mail to Joel Matthew Acevedo, 880 47th St. Apt B10, Brooklyn, NY 11220. Purpose: Any lawful Activity

281068/18796

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Alta Psychiatry PLLC. Art. of Org. filed 5/3/21. Office in NY Co. SSNY designated for process and shall mail to Reg. Agent: Thomas Law Firm, 130 7th Ave #204, NY, NY 10011. Purpose: Psychiatry

281067/18796

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice of Formation of A DAY AT A TIME INITIATIVES L.L.C.. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 04/08/2021. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to Thurman J. Ransom 589 Hancock Street Apt 2 Brooklyn NY 11233. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

281039/22173

**LEGAL NOTICE**

138 ST. MARKS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 05/03/21. Latest date to dissolve: 12/31/2071. Office: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 265 Linden Boulevard, Lower Level, Brooklyn, NY 11226. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

281036/17973

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice of Formation of CLOSSER, LLC Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 4/14/2021. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC 92 Main St, Apt 317 Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

281000/22167

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice of Formation of EPILOGUE NYC LLC Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 4/12/2021. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to Christine Habib 439 E. 8th Street Brooklyn, NY 11218. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

280997/22161

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice of Formation of EARTHSKULL LLC Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 4/19/2021. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to Erika Tymann 196 Treescape Dr 5C East Hampton, NY 11937. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

280991/22160

**LEGAL NOTICE**

M2U LLC Art. Of Org. Filed Sec. of State of NY 3/11/2021. Off. Loc.: Richmond Co. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY to mail copy of process to The LLC, 25 Smith Street Staten Island NY 10305. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

280986/22158

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice of Formation of 2106 AVENUE R LLC Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 03/03/2021. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC 2106 Avenue R Brooklyn, NY 11229. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

280971/22149

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice of Formation of NATURAL RUSH LLC Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/04/2020. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC 1268 Herkimer St. Apt 3 Brooklyn, NY 11233. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

280984/22147

**LEGAL NOTICE**

RACHEL NAFIS DESIGNS, LLC filed Arts. of Org. with the Secty of State of NY (SSNY) on 3/25/2021. Office: Kings County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Rachel Nafis, 15 Maiden Ln, Ste 1405, NY, NY 10038. Purpose: any lawful act.

280976/11629

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice of Formation of MEEG'S HOT SHOTS LLC Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/02/2020. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC 511 Grand Street Brooklyn NY 11211. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

280975/22150

**LEGAL NOTICE**

PROSPECT NYC COUNSELING, LCSW PLLC. Art. of Org. filed 4/6/21. Office in NY Co. SSNY designated for process and shall mail to Reg. Agent: Thomas Law Firm, 130 7th Ave #204, NY, NY 10011. Purpose: Any lawful activity

280974/18796

**LEGAL NOTICE**

ELIZABETH BEECROFT, LCSW PLLC. Art. of Org. filed 4/6/21. Office in Kings Co. SSNY designated for process and shall mail to Reg. Agent: Thomas Law Firm, 130 7th Ave #204, NY, NY 10011. Purpose: Any lawful activity

280973/18796

**LEGAL NOTICE**

SMALL ANIMAL VETERINARY CARE PLLC. Art. of Org. filed 4/6/21. Office in NY Co. SSNY designated for process and shall mail to Reg. Agent: Thomas Law Firm, 130 7th Ave #204, NY, NY 10011. Purpose: Any lawful activity

280972/18796

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Notice of Formation of RMR Lifestyle LLC Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 02/19/2021. Office location: Richmond County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to Redon Qello 261 Burgher Avenue Staten Island, NY 10305. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

280959/21201

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice of Formation of Magoota LLC Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/31/2020. Office location: Richmond County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to Michael Cuttitta 92 Father Capodanno Blvd Staten Island, NY 10305. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

280960/21201

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice of Formation of CUSTOMS BY TRICE L.L.C. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 03/19/2021. Office location: Richmond County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC 877 N. RAILROAD AVE. FL 2 STATEN ISLAND, NY 10306. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

280957/22143

**LEGAL NOTICE**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF KBN CONSULTING LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 3/26/2021. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. The principal business address of the LLC and to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him/her is: 2 School Street, Rye NY 10580. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

280949/22138

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice of Formation of Hemp-n Aint E-Z, LLC Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 04/01/2021. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to Ruben M. Ronda 642 Panorama Drive Mohegan Lake, NY 10547. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

280945/22118

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice of Formation of ERB Services LLC Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 6/12/2017. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC 146 East 19th Street - Suite 2c Brooklyn, NY 11226. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

280940/22134

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice of Formation of FEMININITY LLC Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 03/29/2021. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC 120 Chauncey St Brooklyn, NY 11233. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

280969/22145

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Memory Eternal - George Karafilidis

**LOWELL, MA** – George Karafilidis, 75, a well-known local business owner and longtime Lowell resident, passed away unexpectedly at his home on Sunday, May 2, 2021 surrounded by his loving family. He was the beloved husband of Roula (Manelas) Karafilidis with whom he enjoyed 51 years of marriage.

He was born in Akrini, Greece on May 24, 1945 and was the son of the late Alexandros and Soultana (Papakostas) Karafilidis.

George and his wife Roula worked tirelessly side by side at their family business, George the Tailor, on Broadway Street in Lowell, for over 40 years.

George loved nothing more than spending time with his family, especially Sunday dinners after church, fishing, and making kites with his grandchildren. He enjoyed traveling and spending time at the beach with his loving family. He loved life and speaking about Greek history and was ex-

tremely compassionate, which are traits that he passed down to his sons and grandchildren.

In addition to his loving wife, George is survived by his sons and extended family: Alex Karafilidis and his wife Stella of North Reading along with their children Maria and Sofia; John Karafilidis and his wife Dora of Andover, along with their children Arianna and George; and Jimmy Karafilidis and his wife Christina of Chelmsford, along with their children Lila and Nina.

He is also survived by his sister-in-law Voula Shanks and her husband Glenn, his sister-in-law Lea Foster and her husband Paul, and his brother-in-law Taki Manelas and his sister-in-law Poppy Manelas. He will also be missed by his niece Maria Keratsopoulos and family, as well as many nieces and nephews both here and in Greece. He is predeceased by all his siblings.

His Funeral Service was held on Friday, May 7 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in George's name to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 62 Lewis Street, Lowell, MA 01854.



The Pontian Society of Philadelphia Akritai held its annual commemoration of the Pontian Genocide on May 19 at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Upper Darby.

Pontian Society of Philadelphia Akritai Commemorates Pontian Genocide, May 19

TNH Staff

**UPPER DARBY, PA** – The Pontian Society of Philadelphia Akritai held its annual commemoration of the Pontian Genocide on May 19 at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Upper Darby.

Community members, including the youth, dressed in traditional Pontian costume, gathered according to the current safety protocols to attend the memorial service honoring the 353,000 killed in the Genocide. Rev. Gregory Gilbert, presiding priest of the St. Demetrios community, led the service.

Among those present was AHEPA Supreme President George G. Horiates just one day after releasing a statement from AHEPA calling on President Joseph Biden, Jr. to recognize the Greek Genocide, the systematic extermination of between one million and 1.5 million indigenous Greek minority of the Ottoman Empire.

As Horiates said in his statement, “This year, we commemorate the 102-year Pontian Greek Genocide as part of the larger Greek and Christian Genocide where hundreds of



Rev. Gregory Gilbert, presiding priest of the St. Demetrios community in Upper Darby, led the memorial service.

thousands of Pontian Greeks were murdered. More than one million more were forced to seek refuge in Greece as their homes and property were confiscated, not to mention the destruction of Greek Orthodox churches in the area. Ottoman Turkey endeavored to destroy Hellenism – its history, culture,

and language. They will never be able to do so because their identity and heritage is ingrained in Pontos.”

More information on the Pontian Society Akritai of Philadelphia and their efforts to gain recognition for the Pontian Genocide is available on their Facebook page.



AHEPA Supreme President George Horiates spoke at the commemoration of the Pontian Society of Philadelphia Akritai of the Genocide on May 19 by the monument which features the Panagia Soumela, Protectress of the Pontians.



The traditional koliva for the memorial service was decorated with a flag representing Pontos and the number of dead in the Genocide, 353,000.

George N. Gekas, Founder of Gazebo Room Salad Dressing, Was 88

**HARRISBURG, PA** – George N. Gekas, a former Harrisburg restaurateur and founder of the Gazebo Room Salad Dressing & Marinade company in Fairview Township, passed away on April 20 after a brief illness, PennLive reported. Gekas was 88 years old.

He “built the Gazebo Room brand from a recipe he developed for a Greek oil and vinegar dressing used on cold cut subs at the former Ranch restaurant in Harrisburg,” PennLive reported, adding that “today, his sons, Nick and Steven, sell the dressing nationwide through Best Dressed Associates.”

Gekas was born January 10, 1933 in Tzivas, Greece. He was the eldest son of Nicholas George Gekas and Georgia Theodoropoulos Gekas and immigrated to the United States at the age of 17. Upon arriving in Harrisburg, he was employed by his uncles at The Locust Street Cafe during the day and attended night school classes to learn English and to proudly and legally earn his citizenship.

In 1959, he opened The Ranch restaurant where his success enabled him to buy his uncles’ business at The Locust in 1971. He expanded their business which led to what became The Gazebo Room Restaurant

in 1973. Gekas created the Gazebo Room Greek Salad Dressing which his family has been manufacturing and distributing coast to coast since 1989.

Gekas, operated the landmark Gazebo Room Restaurant with his wife, Yvonne, for 25 years until it closed on New Year’s Eve, 1998. “The restaurant’s proximity to the Capitol made it a popular stomping grounds for politicians including governors, mayors and legislators,” PennLive reported, adding that “in the early days of the Gazebo Room, Gekas would sell the dressing in empty wine and liquor bottles. Sales grew to between 500 and 600 quarts a month.” “They would just keep making it and putting it in the whiskey and gin bottles and selling them,” said Kent Chestnut of Lower Paxton Township, a regular customer at Gekas’ restaurants, told PennLive, adding that Gekas was “a hardworking, industrious individual who was well liked.”

In 1989, the first bottled dressings rolled off the assembly line, and one year later Best Dressed was incorporated. “To the family’s surprise, Tipper Gore, wife of then-Vice President Al Gore, ordered a case of the dressing in 1997,” PennLive reported, noting that “Gore had a taste of the dressing at her friend’s house and wanted to share it with her family.”

“The kids made their father really proud continuing the legacy of the Gazebo Room name. You could tell they were going to be successful. They worked so hard,” said Dim-

itri Zozos, a friend of the family through Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Camp Hill, PennLive reported.

Gekas’ cousin is former U.S. Rep. George W. Gekas of Dauphin County.

According to Patriot-News, “above and beyond his success in business, Gekas’ greatest achievement was the example he set for his family as a loving husband, nurturing father and a man of faith and high moral character. George was the quintessential people person who enjoyed spending time with his customers, neighbors, friends and family of whom he was immensely proud.”

Gekas was also an avid fan of the NY Yankees and enjoyed spending time in his garden and tending to his swimming pool and yard. Gekas was a member of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral and AHEPA Chapter 64.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years and the love of his life, Yvonne Thomakos Gekas, son Nick and Irene (Mallas), George and Eva of Lewisberry, son Dean and Katrina (Karanicolas), Jenna and Evie of Hunt Valley, MD, and son Steven and Nancy (Katz), William and Alex of York, and many loving in-laws, cousins, nieces and nephews.

The funeral service took place April 23 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 1000 Yverdon Drive in Camp Hill.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, charitable donations be made to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral or Hospice of Central PA.



# AHI Calls on Community to Urge Congress to Pass Bills

TNH Staff

WASHINGTON, DC – The American Hellenic Institute (AHI) collaborated with members of Congress regarding the introduction of two pieces of bipartisan legislation: H.R.3056 – to oppose violations of religious freedom in Turkey by the Government of Turkey and to safeguard the rights and religious freedoms of the Ecumenical Patriarchate; and H.Res.376 – condemning Turkey for its illegal occupation of Cyprus and encouraging President Biden to make the resolution of the Cyprus problem a top foreign policy priority.

“The United States must hold Turkey accountable for its egregious violations of the rule of law within Turkey, and abroad,” AHI President Nick Larigakis said. “The failure to hold Turkey to account will simply embolden its rogue and provocative actions.”

Larigakis added, “AHI congratulates the sponsors of each of the bills, especially respective bill leaders Rep. Nicole Malliotakis (R-NY) and the Hellenic Caucus Co-Chairs, Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) and Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY). We urge the swift passage of both H.R.3056 & H.Res.376.”

AHI urges Greek-Americans to contact their legislators, identify themselves as constituents, and ask to speak with the legislator’s legislative director or foreign affairs legislative assistant.



HR 3056 was introduced by message must be sent to Turkey be an important step in holding

The sun sets on the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, DC. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

Hellenic Caucus Co-Chairs Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) and Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL). Original co-sponsors include Reps. Jim McGovern (D-MA), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), Dina Titus (D-NV), John Sarbanes (D-MD), Nicole Malliotakis (R-NY), David Cicilline (D-RI), Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), and Brad Sherman (D-CA).

H. Res. 376 was introduced by U.S. Rep. Nicole Malliotakis (R-NY). Original co-sponsors include Reps. Chris Smith (R-NJ), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), Chis Pappas (D-NH), and Congresswoman Dina Titus (D-NV).

According to AHI, “a strong

by the Congress, in light of the conversion of the Aghia Sophia and Turkey’s advocacy of an illegal two-state solution regarding Cyprus, that Turkey cannot continue to violate international law, U.S. law, and the rule of law without consequence. Turkey’s actions are contrary to both United States’ values and interests.”

According to AHI H.R. 3056 will

1) “Encourage the Administration to put Turkey on the Special Watch List, a designation that indicates that a country tolerates significant violations of religious freedom. This would

Turkey accountable, and in line with the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) recommendation to include Turkey on the Special Watch List.”

2) “Mandate that the President of the United States, should the Administration fail to include Turkey on the Special Watch list, submit a report to Congress justifying its decision to not include Turkey on the watch list.

3) “Within 90 days of the passage of the Act, the Secretary of State will be required to submit a report to Congress on the State Department’s policy and

planned efforts to promote religious freedom in Turkey.”

H.Res.376, according to AHI, will:

1) “Encourage the Administration to make Cyprus a top foreign-policy priority.”

2) “Demand that Turkey remove all of its illegal troops from the occupied area of Cyprus.”

3) “Call upon Turkey to adhere to NATO principles and values.”

4) “Insist that the settlement of the Cyprus problem needs to be based on a bizonal, bicomunal federation, in a state with single sovereignty and international personality, and that such an entity should embrace constitutional and democratic norms.”

5) “Demand that Turkey cease and desist from its illegal violations of Cyprus’ Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).”

6) “Call upon the Turkish government to provide financial restitution to American citizens for their property losses in Turkish-occupied Cyprus.”

7) “Demand that Turkey cooperate in helping recover the four American citizens who are still missing as a result of the 1974 invasion of Cyprus.

8) “Call upon Turkey to remove its over 200,000 illegal settlers from Turkish-occupied Cyprus and assist in repatriating Greek-Cypriot refugees to their ancestral homes.”

AHI urges people to “find and contact your U.S. Representative online” at [shorturl.at/cjtD0](https://shorturl.at/cjtD0).

## SMALL TAKES

Community

### Ended by COVID-19, Rebranded Yia Yia Mary's Kitchen Will Return

TNH Staff

Forced to close because of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, Yia Yia Mary’s Mediterranean Kitchen in Houston is coming back – as Yia Yia Pappas, said Christina Pappas, the restaurant group’s Director of Marketing.

Culture Map said that the eatery known for its Mediterranean and seafood dishes is being revived and revitalized as the health crisis is slowly being beaten back, but not before taking scores of thousands of restaurants with it.

“It’s too special of a restaurant. Not only is it important for our family, it’s such a unique brand,” she said, the Houston Post reported. “It was a perfect fit – a property we own and a brand we think will do well in that neighborhood.”

Pappas Restaurants closed Yia Yia Mary’s, along with the Richmond Pappadeaux and three other restaurants when the pandemic swept through Houston. But the rebranded Yia Yia Pappas is expected to open in 2022 with a menu featuring many of the Greek-inspired dishes as the original, said Pappas, including grilled octopus, red pepper feta dip and gyro pita sandwiches. “To bring it back will be really special,” she also said.

### Hello Columbus: Annunciation Church's Greek Festival Bounces Back

TNH Staff

Canceled in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Taste of Greece Festival at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Columbus, Ohio returned for a weekend treat May 15-16 to the delight of those who missed baklava, spanakopita, and gyros.

“We’ve been doing our annual Greek Festival for over 43 years now, and it’s very much a central Ohio tradition,” John Bizios, one of the festival organizers told The Columbus Dispatch.

“The fact that we had to cancel last September, we took it pretty hard. We have a lot of great cooks who look forward to being able to use their God-given talents every year, and spend the entire summer cooking and preparing. So we thought, why not do a smaller event, in May, and invite people into our parish home,” he told the paper.

Among the volunteers were cousins Kathy Pappas and Tonia Soulas. Pappas, 62, and the co-owner with her husband of Tommy’s Diner. She was in charge of the pastries and the volunteers who bake them.

“I’ve been doing this since I was 35. It’s just such a fun environment, very festive,” she said.

### Papadopoulos' Refurbished Alpha – in Sydney – Brings You to Greece

TNH Staff

Designer Paul Papadopoulos only had to look to his Greek heritage when he redesigned the Alpha restaurant in Sydney, turning a cavern into a reimaging that brings a relaxed style with Greek flair and subtlety.

The result brought a glowing review in Broadsheet, which he told that, “our main objective was to maintain the spirit of the existing restaurant and to not lose what everyone had fallen in love with previously.”

There are Greek-inspired curves and arches on the enormous fluted marble bar, at the wait stations, in the timber work and in the bespoke marble table lamps. There’s not a sharp edge anywhere.

But people come to eat not just look, and the redone eatery fuses Greek classics with the ideas of owner Peter Conistis who opened Alpha in 2013 and remembered his family’s lessons about food.

“When I was four years old, my mother said to me, ‘food is happiness,’” Conistis told the site. “The menu (at Alpha) is expansive. My ethos has always been to overfeed, to make people feel they can’t eat anymore. I want people to walk away from Alpha feeling happy.”



EUROKINISSI/YIANNIS PANAGOPOULOS  
U.S. Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ).

## Menendez on Azerbaijan’s Violation of Armenian Sovereignty

TNH Staff

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Menendez (D-NJ) on May 13 issued the following statement in reaction to reports of Azerbaijan’s illegal incursion into Armenia’s Syunik province:

“The violation of Armenia’s sovereign territory by Azerbaijani troops is a dangerous and illegal act of aggression that underscores the sustained threat that the Armenian people continue to face. After my conversation with Armenia’s Ambassador to the U.S. earlier today, it is clear that the United States, and the international community as a whole, must respond strongly to this incursion so Azerbaijan understands it will face serious consequences for its malign activities.

“When Azerbaijan attacked the Armenian people last fall, the previous Administration failed to engage and left the door open for dictators like Aliyev, Erdogan, and Putin to decide the fate of the Armenian people. That cannot happen again. I urge the Biden Administration to engage on this issue at the highest levels to make clear that Azerbaijan must respect Armenia’s sovereignty and that further threats and aggressions are simply unacceptable.”

## AHEPA Applauds Legislation to Hold Turkey Accountable

TNH Staff

WASHINGTON, DC – The Order of AHEPA applauded congressional legislation introduced by U.S. Reps. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) and Gus M. Bilirakis (R-FL) to hold Turkey accountable for violating the religious freedoms of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Greek Orthodox Christians, and religious minorities, announced Supreme President George G. Horiates.

“Turkey perpetually suppresses the religious freedom and human rights of its minority populations with impunity,” Supreme President Horiates said. “The Turkey and Ecumenical Patriarchate Religious Freedom Act

of 2021 is important bipartisan legislation that will hold Turkey accountable for its intolerance and abysmal religious freedom record. AHEPA applauds and proudly supports the legislation

“Turkey perpetually suppresses the religious freedom and human rights of its minority populations with impunity.”

introduced by U.S. Representatives Carolyn Maloney and Gus Bilirakis. I commend them for their leadership to recognize the United States can do more to hold Turkey accountable for its persecution of religious minorities by adopting the recommendations presented in the U.S.

Commission on International Religious Freedom’s 2021 report on Turkey.”

In addition to U.S. Reps. Maloney and Bilirakis, the bill has eight original co-sponsors: U.S.

Reps. Jim McGovern (D-MA), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), Dina Titus (D-NV), John Sarbanes (D-MD), Nicole Malliotakis (R-NY), David Cicilline (D-RI), Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), and Brad Sherman (D-CA).

“We appreciate the support from each of the original co-

sponsors,” Horiates said. “We call for Congress to pass the bill swiftly and ask the community to raise its collective voice to encourage Congress to do so. Please ask your U.S. representative to become a co-sponsor of the legislation.”

In her statement announcing the legislation’s introduction, U.S. Rep. Maloney said, “the United States must uphold our commitment to defending religious freedom abroad by holding Turkey accountable for violating the religious freedoms of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Greek Orthodox Christians, and other religious minorities.”

Her full statement is available online: [shorturl.at/nDHJ7](https://shorturl.at/nDHJ7).



### Egyptian Minister of Immigration Met with Cairo’s Greek Community President

Egypt’s Minister of Immigration & Egyptian Expatriates Affairs Nabila Makram met with Greek Community of Cairo President Christos Kavalis to discuss the upcoming programs of the NOSTOS initiative which includes bringing Egyptian youth from Greece and Cyprus to visit Egypt next July, to get to know their ancestral homeland. The program “will include tours of Alexandria, Suez, and Ismailia, for young people to see the most important footprints of the Greek and Cypriot communities there, as well as a visit to the Suez Canal and the Egyptian Parliament,” the Greek Community of Cairo noted on its website.

## Tannousis Joins Malliotakis on Cyprus Issue



TNH Staff

NEW YORK – New York State Assemblyman Michael Tannousis who represents parts of Southern Brooklyn and the East Shore of Staten Island urges the Biden Administration to make ending Turkey’s illegal occupa-

New York State Assemblyman Michael Tannousis.

tion of Cyprus a top priority.

On May 17 he released the following statement:

“I fully support the effort by my good friend Congresswoman Nicole Malliotakis (NY-11) and the tremendous bipartisan coalition calling on the Biden administration to condemn Turkey for its illegal occupation of Cyprus and to encourage the resolution of the Cyprus problem as a top foreign policy priority.

“As the child of Cypriot refugees displaced by this very conflict, I am very familiar with

the illegal invasion which took place on Cyprus in 1974 and Turkey’s violations of various treaties, including the North Atlantic Treaty and the Treaty of Guarantee. It is time that the United States place this conflict at the top of its foreign policy priorities.

“Cyprus has been illegally occupied by a foreign power for almost 50 years without any international repercussions. We cannot sit idly by while the Cypriot people continue to face this injustice.”

# Maloney Votes to Pass COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act

TNH Staff

WASHINGTON, DC – On May 18, Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY) voted in support of S.937, the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act. This bill focuses on COVID-19 hate crimes and the dramatic increase in hate crimes and violence against Asian-American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) during the COVID-19 pandemic. Following the vote, Congresswoman Maloney, as Chair of the Committee

on Oversight and Reform, will manage debate for House Democrats on Congresswoman Judy Chu’s H.Res. 275 – Condemning the horrific shootings in Atlanta, Georgia, on March 16, 2021, and reaffirming the House of Representative’s commitment to combating hate, bigotry, and violence against the Asian-American and Pacific Islander community.

“Hate has no place in our city or nation. The spike in anti-AAPI violence around our city and

country over this past year is disturbing and unacceptable,” said Rep. Maloney. “The heinous shootings in Georgia, Indi-

“Hate has no place in our city or nation...”

anapolis, and the acts of violence in our very own backyard – Hell’s Kitchen, Central Park, on the subway, and across New York City – must be a wake-up

call for all of us to the reality Asian Americans have been facing over the past year. Incidents like these are why we must always call out bigotry and hate – wherever and whenever we see it. Our AAPI neighbors have been attacked and harassed because of misinformation and xenophobia that wrongly blamed them for the COVID-19 virus. I stand in solidarity with the AAPI community today and every day. I am proud that Congress came together in a bipar-

tisan vote to pass the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act and thank Congresswoman Meng and Senator Hirono for their leadership.”

In New York City, the number of anti-Asian hate crimes reported to the police increased by 833%, the most out of any major U.S. city. Last year, there was a 1,900% increase in violence against Asian Americans, and Asian American women were attacked at a rate almost 2.5 times more than Asian American men.



# Petros Garyfalakis Speaks about American Airlines’ Direct Flights to Greece

Continued from page 1

tion applications will make the implementation of travel protocols much simpler.

**TNH:** Tell us about the new routes. How many will there be, available from when, and until when? And if there is a new route, what do you expect?

**Petros Garyfalakis:** American Airlines is looking forward to reconnecting Greece and the United States this summer. Starting in June, American will operate two daily flights from Athens (ATH), increasing to three daily flights from mid-August until the end of October.

From June 3, American will launch new summer service between New York (JFK) and ATH and on June 5 from ATH to JFK, as part of our new strategic alliance with JetBlue. The route will be operated on Boeing 777-200 aircraft, featuring 36 Flagship Business seats, 24 Premium Economy seats and 212 seats in Main Cabin.

Also beginning in June, American will restart summer service from ATH to Chicago (ORD), operated on Boeing 787-8 aircraft, featuring 20 Flagship Business seats, 28 Premium Economy seats and 186 seats in Main Cabin.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF PETROS GARYFALAKIS

Left to right: Achilleas Zilakos, Scott Chandler, Haris Theocharis, Petros Garyfalakis, and Randeep Ramamurthy.

Finally, from August 17, American will restart service between ATH and Philadelphia (PHL). This route will be operated on Boeing 787-8 aircraft.

**TNH:** Is it safe for the passengers to proceed with booking or is there a possibility of postponing, rescheduling, or cancelling the whole schedule of flights, regarding the restrictions and protocols that are still on

for Greek – and EU citizens – entering the U.S.? we ask this in light of the cancellations that took place last year.

**PG:** We are committed to making returning to travel as easy as possible for our customers. We offer flexible ticketing policies if our customer's plans change, including waivers for international travel. We are looking forward to returning to

Athens and reconnecting our customers in Greece and the United States.

**TNH:** Will the airline require a digital vaccination pass, and which of the social distancing measures will remain in place?

**PG:** American Airlines does not currently have vaccination requirements for customers. We do have tools available to our customers, like VeriFLY to help ease the travel journey and upload documentation required by their destination.

**TNH:** Will the passengers need to be tested if they are vaccinated?

**PG:** The U.S. and countries around the world have imposed a range of travel restrictions and testing requirements due to COVID-19. Travel requirements are updated often, so we advise our customers to check the latest entry requirements before travel.

To help our customers, American has launched a new travel tool, powered by Sherpa, to provide customers with a more streamlined pre-travel experience. Through the Sherpa travel guide, customers can learn the most up-to-date coronavirus (COVID-19) travel guidelines and requirements.

**TNH:** In the airline ticket industry, there are plenty of options online, but also there are unscrupulous professionals and scammers. What is your advice to the public, regarding the booking process?

**PG:** American recommends booking direct on our website, via our reservations team who are available 24 hours a day, or through our valued travel agency partners.

**TNH:** For the U.S.-Greece route, what were the numbers back in 2019 and what are the numbers so far?

**PG:** While we cannot share specific data relating to our bookings for competitive reasons, we are excited about returning to Athens.

We know there is a lot of pent up demand for leisure travel in particular, and we've seen that when restrictions are lifted in tourist destinations bookings are quick to return. We are hearing from our customers they are looking forward to vacations, and also reuniting with friends and relatives in Greece and the United States.

**TNH:** Tell us about the meeting with Greek Tourism Minister Haris Theocharis.

**PG:** American was incredibly honored and grateful to meet with Minister Theocharis at our Skyview campus near Fort Worth, Texas. During the session, American was pleased to host meetings with leadership representing our Global Sales, Customer Experience and Reservations, Network Planning and Revenue Management teams.

We enjoyed a robust discussion on the health and safety protocol that American has put in place through our Clean

Commitment to ensure our customers have peace of mind when they travel.

This was a tremendously important session for American, and for me personally. As a Greek who grew up and completed my Bachelor's and Master's in Greece before moving to the United States, I was privileged to spend time with Minister Theocharis. I felt grateful that through my role at American, I can contribute in a small way towards the Greek economy which benefits greatly from tourism. I am also delighted that many American Airlines cus-



Petros Garyfalakis, Senior Strategy and Planning Analyst at American Airlines.

tomers will get to experience the beauty of my home country this summer.

**TNH:** Is there the possibility of a United States to Greece route throughout the year with American Airlines?

**PG:** We are constantly evaluating our network to match customer demand, market conditions, and competitor movements. Throughout the pandemic, we've put an even higher priority on building a schedule based on what customers tell us they want and need. We are hearing from our customers they are looking forward to travelling again. We're looking forward to the summer and our return to Athens, and most importantly welcoming our customers back safely.



## Six Diaspora Scientists Honored by the Bodossaki Foundation

Six young scientists were honored with the Bodossaki Foundation’s Awards for Scientific Excellence in 2021, in recognition of their creative and scientific work. Established in 1993, the Awards are bestowed every two years, to Greek men and women, up to 40 years old, who excel in the field of science in Greece and abroad.

# Felicia Kalan Speaks with TNH about Running for NYC Council in District 22

Continued from page 1

would bring their problems – big or small – and my Grandpa would always be there to help resolve them and to be a listening ear. My grandpa was also a small business owner, he owned a small convenience store attached to his home, and I caught the entrepreneur spirit from him and my mother Mary, who owns a Home Health Care Agency she started when I was in high school.

“I am running as a Republican in a mostly Democrat district, which is a challenge to overcome. However for me, it's not about a Republican, Democrat or Socialist agenda, it's about representing the true needs and values of our community at City Hall, and fighting for Queens...”



we can "love and serve our neighbors." For me, running for City Council was a calling I felt God placed on our life as a family, and so I began to pursue that calling to run for this City Council seat. I believe in such a dark time, we need a strong leader that can bring experience in government and business to help us rebuild, and also a person that can be a spiritual leader that fights to meet the needs of our community, and that's why I'm running.

sure our district receives funding that goes directly into our district to fund sanitation upgrades, schools, public safety, and basic city services. I do not agree with the radical left ideology to "defund the police" and my fear is that our beloved district will see an increase in crime if the 114th Precinct is defunded. I believe in order to have a more fair, balanced system that represents working people, we need to stop electing people who don't reflect the values of our community: faith, family, hard work, and dignity for all.

**TNH:** What should the Greek-American community, in particular, know about your campaign?

Kalan: The Greeks invented Democracy, to which America prides itself in adopting, but as New Yorkers let's ask ourselves one question – have our voices been heard? It seems that year after year, they are forgotten and replaced with out-of-touch agendas.

I am running as a Republican in a mostly Democrat district, which is a challenge to overcome. However for me, it's not about a Republican, Democrat or Socialist agenda, it's about representing the true needs and values of our community at City Hall, and fighting for Queens. I believe the values I share with a majority of the Greek community is that of strong family values, Christian values, mutual honor and respect for all people, and the value of hard work. For far too long, hard-working people have been forgotten and our city government has only perpetuated cyclical poverty. I have a heart and compassion for the most vulnerable in our community, but a different solution than what most Democrat politicians at present – which is that of empowering upward mobility. We are in a unique season in our city's collective history and the end goal of every initiative I will be a part of is not simply giving fish, but teaching people how to fish so they can regain their dignity and provide for their families.

**TNH:** How has your family reacted to your decision to run for the City Council?

Kalan: My family has been very supportive, and we prayed together before making this de-



The Kalan family, left to right: Andy Kalan, Zaden Kalan (6), Zaria Kalan (4), and Felicia Kalan, who is running for New York City Council District 22.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF FELICIA KALAN'S CAMPAIGN

cision to seek after The Lord's confirmation on this calling. My husband Andy has been a solid rock for me on this journey and as a spiritual leader, he is ready to get to work with me to continue loving and serving our community in a new way! May 18th is our wedding anniversary and we will have been married nine years with a 6 and 4 year old! My son Zaden tells his friends that I'm running for City

Council to get the trash off of the streets, so he is my little campaign manager! It is important to me that my kids learn how government works at an early age, and I can't wait to welcome many school trips at City Hall and at my district office as Councilwoman!

Running as a mother in the pandemic with two children has not been without challenges, but when the DOE shut down our

schools I knew that now more than ever – we need parents with school children fighting for us at City Hall. I didn't agree with the school shut-downs, and I'll continue to amplify my voice and experience as a mother at City Hall- we need more parents representing us!

More information about Felicia Kalan and her campaign is available online: <https://www.feliciakalan.com/>.



AP PHOTO/PETR DAVID JOSEK

## Ntountounaki, 1st Greek Woman to Win Gold at Euro Aquatics Championships

France's Marie Wattel, right, and Greece's Anna Ntountounaki hold up their medals as they share the podium after finishing in a tie for the gold medal in the women's 100 meter butterfly final at the European Aquatics Championships in Duna Arena in Budapest, Hungary, May 18.



HISTORICAL FICTION

The Jean White Story

My name is Jean White, the Secretary of the Young Women's Christian Association (YCWA). I returned to the United States from Athens on November 30, 1922, travelling from New York to Washington DC to report to the national headquarters of my recent work in Smyrna and Athens.

I was very keen to return as quickly as possible to help out the refugees in Greece but my family in Boston insisted that I remain in the USA. I understood their concerns for my personal safety but my humanitarian nature had other ideas.

I traveled to Boston where my parents and siblings waited for me at Lechmere railway station. It was great to see them all. A family reunion after a four-year absence in the Near East.

Our parent's house was located in the beautiful West Roxbury neighborhood with its many wooded parks and recreational areas, a beautiful area situated not that far from the center of Boston. Yes! It felt great to be amongst family and friends once again, but I kept my future plans to myself as I didn't wish to upset my parents with the approaching holiday season.

We had an enjoyable Christmas get-together with the family singing Christmas carols and reminiscing about our childhood years growing up in West Roxbury. With Christmas 1922 gone, it was time to tell my folks that I would be heading back to the Near East in the early part of 1923.

One day sitting in our lounge room, my sister, Dorothy asked me to recount my overseas experience. As I began telling my story, my eyes welled with tears remembering the horrors of Smyrna which I witnessed. I learned that the Greek archbishop, Chrysostomos had been murdered most brutally by the Turkish mob. The city of Smyrna was torched to the ground by the Turks. The burning of many beautiful buildings in the Greek and Armenian quarters was something that I shall never forget.

I recall our American destroyers, the USS Litchfield, Simpson, and Edsall, were active in the Near East with many sailors placed on land duty to protect



The USS Litchfield at Smyrna in 1922.

our YCWA building for periods of 24 hours a day. Our building ended up being burned in the end. This took place just before the Greek troop evacuation from Smyrna and the flooding of refugees streaming into the city.

Turks were telling me that the Greeks and Armenians also burned their towns to give their enemy no supplies or plunder as they retreated in Asia Minor, but I was horrified seeing innocent people crying out to be saved from Turkish reprisals. I tried seeing both sides of the story but in my heart, I believe the Turks were the culprits.

We had 1000 Greek and Armenian girls under our care before the engulfing fire of Smyrna. Flames consumed our fine building, which was the envy of many organizations in the town. We managed to save all of them by telling our naval commander that they were U.S. citizens. Our government's official policy was to only take our nationals. Otherwise, these poor females would have ended up in Turkish harems or even being raped and killed. The USS Litchfield took us to Piraeus with our human cargo of distressed women who had no idea of what the future held for them. My two colleagues, Elizabeth and Myrtle Nolan, who traveled with me from Smyrna, had accounted for our 1000 women in Athens. They conducted bread and soup kitchens in cooperation with our Consulate to feed these poor souls.

Elizabeth told me that the Greek press reported that some 300 Greek girls from our group had been abducted by the Turks

and taken to the mountains. She refuted these claims by inviting journalists to interview some of the girls. The next day, the Athenian press retracted their story by issuing a public apology to the YWCA. It was great setting the record straight.

Our organization estimated there were some 500,000 Greek and Armenian refugees in Greece and the islands. These individuals needed our help, and it would be an immense international undertaking to clothe, feed, and accommodate them. For Piraeus, we guessed there were around 60,000 Greek and Armenian women and children pitifully living in damp conditions and experiencing bitterly cold weather. I learned that on some islands, the refugees ate grass as there was very little else to eat. Mothers were malnourished feeding their babies warm water with pneumonia and other diseases rampant in the refugee camps. These were harrowing stories that simply couldn't be ignored.

Our relief organizations – the American Red Cross, Near East Relief, and women's hospitals did sterling work trying to save the refugees from hunger and disease. The generosity of our people would play an important role in the survival of the refugees.

Our Young Men Christian Association (YMCA) secured 18 small boats and assisted in bringing thousands of Asia Minor refugees to the nearby Greek islands. Some of the boys who may have served in the Greek army were between 15-17 years old. They grew up to adoles-

cence filled with the atmosphere of war that had been waged over the past 10 years.

I made an appointment to see Congressman Waters during my brief stay in DC to discuss with him the possibility of easing the Immigration rules to allow an increase in the Greek and Armenian quota. He listened to my case sympathetically but stated "we can't admit penniless refugees who can't support themselves and who could bring in disease as well."

I wasn't particularly enthused with his response. As much as I wanted to change our nation's immigration policy, there was very little I could do.

Before departing DC, I wrote a quick letter to Waters telling him to rethink our immigration policy. I stated that U.S. citizens of Greek origin could sponsor their relatives to come to live in America from Asia Minor. I thought it offered some solace for those wishing to start a new life. He responded positively to my suggestion, which warmed my heart.

Finally, 1923 arrived with high hopes to do the YCWA's work in the Near East. Our national headquarters decided to send me to Smyrna to rebuild our association and to help young Turkish and Jewish girls there.

I hugged and kissed my family as I prepared to board the train for another humanitarian stint on the other side of the globe.

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

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY:

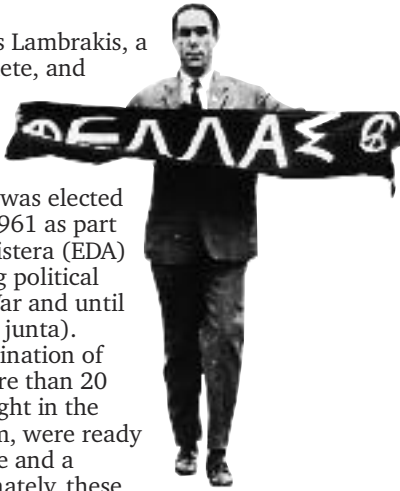
May 21st to 27th

**MAY 22ND:**  
On this day in 1947, the Truman Doctrine, which aided Greece, was signed into law by Congress. The Doctrine itself was a pronouncement by U.S. President Harry S. Truman declaring immediate political, economic, and military aid to the government of Greece, which was threatened by a communist insurrection. With the Truman Doctrine, President Truman established that the United States would provide assistance to all democratic nations under threat from external or internal authoritarian forces. The Truman Doctrine effectively reoriented U.S. foreign policy, away from its usual stance of withdrawal from regional conflicts not directly involving the United States, to one of possible interventions in faraway conflicts. Historians have often cited Truman's address, which came to be known as the Truman Doctrine, as the official declaration of the Cold War.

**MAY 24TH:**  
On this day in 1881, Turkey ceded Thessaly and Arta back to Greece. Arta's modern history dates from the destruction of Nicopolis Actia in the 11th century by the Bulgars. The region survived a Norman seizure (1083) and was later part of the Despotate of Epirus, one of the parts of the Byzantine Empire that escaped Latin conquest after the Fourth Crusade. Arta passed in 1318 to the Orsini family of Kefalonia and was captured by the Turks in 1449 but soon passed to Venice; after a brief period of French rule, it came again under the Turks. It was fought over several times during and after the War of Greek Independence (1821–29), but in 1881 it was ceded to Greece by Turkey in accordance with the 1878 Congress/Treaty of Berlin (which was signed in the aftermath of the Russian victory against the Ottoman Empire and essentially reconstructed the map of the Balkan region). Thessaly, which was also ceded, eventually became the richest province in the Greek state.

**MAY 26TH:**  
On this day in 1918, Anton Christoforidis, the Greek boxer, was born in Mersin, a large port city on the Mediterranean coast of what is today southern Turkey. He was one of the most successful professional boxers of all time – winning multiple middleweight and light-heavyweight titles in Europe, North Africa, and the United States. He has long been recognized as the first modern Greek to become a world class boxing champion.

**MAY 27TH:**  
On this day in 1963, Grigoris Lambrakis, a Greek politician, doctor, athlete, and faculty member of the Medical School of Athens was assassinated. Born in the village of Kerasitsa in the Peloponnese, Lambrakis was elected to the Greek Parliament in 1961 as part of the Eniaia Dimokratiki Aristera (EDA) party (the only legal leftwing political party after the Greek Civil War and until the fall of the Greek military junta). His ideals captured the imagination of the Greek left, who after more than 20 years of oppression by the right in the name of fighting communism, were ready to embrace his goals of peace and a nuclear-free world. Unfortunately, these ideals and Lambrakis' speeches incited right-wing to hysteria, believing him to be a communist and a danger to pro-America Greece. A plot was hatched to set him up and murder him after he delivered the keynote speech at an anti-war meeting in Thessaloniki in 1963. Pursued by two hired thugs in a three-wheeled vehicle, one drove and the other in the back with a club, they hit him in the head in plain view of a large number of people. Lambrakis' funeral was massively attended and just hours after his death, composer Mikis Theodorakis founded the Lambrakis Youth Movement, the first mass-movement of its kind in Greece. The letter Z, which means 'zei,' or in English, 'he lives,' became the rallying cry of the Greek youth who found their voice following the Lambrakis murder. In 1969, Costa Gavras released the movie Z, about the Lambrakis murder and investigation. It won numerous awards including best foreign film and was nominated for an Oscar for best picture.



The Changing Character of Chicago's Greektown

TNH Staff

**CHICAGO** – The changing character of Chicago's Greektown was featured in the Chicago Tribune as new businesses are coming into the area and some of the oldest Greek-owned businesses have recently closed.

Florida-based meat and fish market Wild Fork Foods is scheduled to open in July at 100 S. Halsted Street in Greektown in a space that was formerly a bank, the Tribune reported.

Meanwhile Greek-owned Santorini restaurant closed in October after 31 years in the area, followed by other longtime Greektown staples Pegasus Restaurant and Taverna, The Parthenon, and Roditys, the Tribune reported.

"It's incredibly sad to see any business close, and the Santorini closure hit hard," George Reveliotis, co-owner of the Greek cafe Artopolis and one of the commissioners of Greektown's special service area, told the Tribune. "We're going to see continued diversity in the neighborhood, with a very strong Greek element remaining."

Many factors are causing the area to change, "including rapid growth of neighboring areas in-



The Fanciful Fish exhibit was on view in Chicago's Greektown through the end of April.

cluding the Fulton Market district, Illinois Medical District and University of Illinois at Chicago campus," the Tribune reported, adding that "soaring property values have made it difficult for property owners to turn down offers from developers looking to replace low-rise restaurants with residential towers."

Non-Greek businesses have also recently opened, such as "Chinese restaurant Xi'an Cuisine and Japanese restaurant Aodake Ramen, both on Jackson Boulevard," the Tribune reported, noting that "Rye Deli +

Drink, a Jewish deli, opened a few months ago in the Crowne Plaza Chicago hotel on Halsted." Reveliotis told the Tribune that the new businesses are "welcome additions that will help serve the area's growing population of residents, students and medical workers."

"It is called Greektown, but everyone is welcome to contribute to the neighborhood," Reveliotis said, the Tribune reported. "But it is important for a large Greek component to remain in the area ... We do hope that more young Greek entrepreneurs

come and invest in the area."

Artopolis owners Andre Papanтониου and Reveliotis bought the cafe in 2019 and "plan a \$500,000 renovation to their space later this year," the Tribune reported, adding that "the makeover will include menu changes to appeal to more customers," and "the owners are set to travel to several areas of Greece to make note of contemporary restaurant trends."

"As modern Americans, we can't live in nostalgia, we have to keep moving forward," Reveliotis told the Tribune.

AHEPA Calls for Biden to Recognize the Greek Genocide

TNH Staff

**WASHINGTON, DC** – On May 18, the eve of Day of Remembrance for the Victims of the Greek Genocide from the Pontos Region of Asia Minor, AHEPA called on President Joseph Biden, Jr. to recognize the Greek Genocide, the systematic extermination of between one million and 1.5 million of the indigenous Greek minority of the Ottoman Empire, announced Supreme President George G. Horiates. His statement follows:

"This year, we commemorate the 102-year Pontian Greek Genocide as part of the larger Greek and Christian Genocide where hundreds of thousands of Pontian Greeks were murdered. More than one million more were forced to seek refuge in Greece as their homes and property were confiscated, not to mention the destruction of Greek



An image from the commemoration of the Pontian Greek Genocide in Thessaloniki.

Orthodox churches in the area. Ottoman Turkey endeavored to destroy Hellenism – its history, culture, and language. They will never be able to do so because their identity and heritage is ingrained in Pontos.

"AHEPA commends the U.S.

government's rightful recognition of the Armenian Genocide with President Biden's statement last month and the overwhelming passage of the Armenian Genocide resolution by both chambers of the U.S. Congress in 2019. Those congressional res-

olutions have recognized a campaign of genocide against Greeks by citing the United States' history of providing relief to 'the survivors of the campaign of genocide against Armenians, Greeks, Assyrians, Chaldeans, Syrians Arameans, Maronites, and other Christians.' Further, in 2007, the International Association of Genocide Scholars affirmed that the 'Ottoman campaign against Christian minorities of the Empire constituted a genocide,' including Pontian and Anatolian Greeks.

"It is time the U.S. government recognizes the Greek Genocide that occurred 1914 to 1923 as a matter of affirming a historical truth and upholding a commitment to human rights as well as a matter of education to prevent future atrocities from occurring."

To learn more, please visit <http://greek-genocide.net/index.php/overview>.

STAVROULA'S WORDS OF WISDOM

By Stavroula Tsoutsas

My Daughter Is Ashamed of Her Body

Dear Stavroula

My daughter is 14 years old and she is truly a charismatic creature. She is an excellent student and she manages to do anything. From an early age, she played the piano and painted. She has many interests and has always been a smiling and happy girl. Lately, however, she has stopped looking happy, she is constantly complaining about her body and the extra pounds she has, she compares herself to girls who have a different body type from her. She wears only dark clothes and she is impatient every time I suggest that she wear something different. I think she is ashamed of herself, she never uploads photos of herself on social media and although in many ways she is very mature for her age, the image she has of her body does not correspond to reality. I suggested she talk to a psychologist but she does not want to. How can I help her without pushing her?

Eugenia

Dear Eugenia,

Adolescence is a very difficult and important phase of life for all young people, as on the one hand they have to deal with hormonal changes in their body, while on the other hand they try to create their identity, often rejecting the examples they have seen in their family.

At this time, they are looking for new role models and unfortunately they find them easily through social media. Through Facebook, Instagram, Tik Tok, social comparison and the feeling of personal inadequacy are enhanced. Young people find it difficult to grasp the virtual reality, the filtered life projected on them, and unfortunately often form the image of themselves based on 'likes and hearts.' No matter how mature a child is in adolescence, it is difficult to resist social media and even more difficult to realize that the image projected in these media is distorted and unrealistic, that others do not live better or happier lives because they have many views or because they get a lot of likes.

You can help your daughter develop a healthy body image by first letting her know that you understand her. Try not to cancel her feeling with statements like "Is it necessary for you to feel that way?" or "You understand very well that you are not...." Apply active listening, let her express herself, be open with you, without judging or advising her, without making the discussion about you by saying "I felt that way, too, at your age."

Show her that you are listening to her by encouraging her to continue the conversation. Try to help her think and find out how all this negative attitude started – is it too much time on social media, is she facing comments from friends?

And then help her understand how we usually operate through these media, why we post photos and what we want to present. Or what can make a 'girlfriend' make a vicious comment about another's body, about how insecure and unhappy she might be.

Tell her about the huge financial interests behind the 'image; industries and what really makes people happy. Help her recall her abilities and talents and realize that we are all much more than our pounds or wrinkles.

If you find that her negative thoughts persist, she should probably talk to a mental health professional. It would also be good to talk to a nutritionist who will help her understand what is the right weight for her body and to eat properly without going to extremes.

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



# New Album ‘Synchronos: New Greek Voices’ Released May 16

TNH Staff

**NEW YORK** – The Greek Chamber Music Project (GCMP) is releasing a new album that highlights exciting music by living and 20th-century Greek composers. Available on May 16, Synchronos: New Greek Voices features debut recordings for flute, ghostplate, and other instruments in an eclectic collection of classically-inspired music.

The focus of the release is Talos Dreams, a GCMP commission composed by Costas Dafnis, which explores the concept of made versus born. Inspired by the real and imagined automatons of ancient Greece, this 30-minute work features the ghostplate, a novel metallic instrument he built and designed with Bay Area improviser Tom Nunn. Its sonic palette – atmospheric, echoing, wispy, and metallic – sounds remarkably electronic for an acoustic instrument. The ghostplate creates a soundscape that is at once familiar and extraordinary.

Dafnis’ work takes its cues from Gods and Robots, a book by Stanford scholar Adrienne Mayor, revealing that the earliest concepts of automatons, robots, and artificial intelligence can be traced back to ancient Greece – first in mythology, and later in self-moving devices and robots. The line between human and not human, born vs. built, is an AI concept that’s not only recent, but in fact thousands of years old.

Talos Dreams is commissioned by the Greek Chamber Music Project with generous support from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music Faculty Grant.

The album also features music for flute and piano featuring GCMP director and flutist Ellie Falaris Ganelin and pianist Mary-Victoria Voutsas. It will include Grecianas Brasileiras by Dinos Constantinides, Louisiana State University professor of composition. A revered composer, his music has been performed around the world, including his native Greece.

The piece is a spritely blend of Brazilian rhythms and Greek melodies, aptly capturing the composer’s musical style. The album will also include the debut recording of Four Greek Dances by Georgios Kasassoglou (1908-1984), an award-winning 20th-century composer of art songs, music for the stage, as well as orchestral and chamber music.

The music of Kasassoglou has a unique voice that captures the Greek spirit, and Four Greek Dances is no exception.

The album also features Ganelin’s own composition, Words of Grief, a melodious waltz for flute, guitar, and strings that intuitively transitions between classical, folk, and jazz.

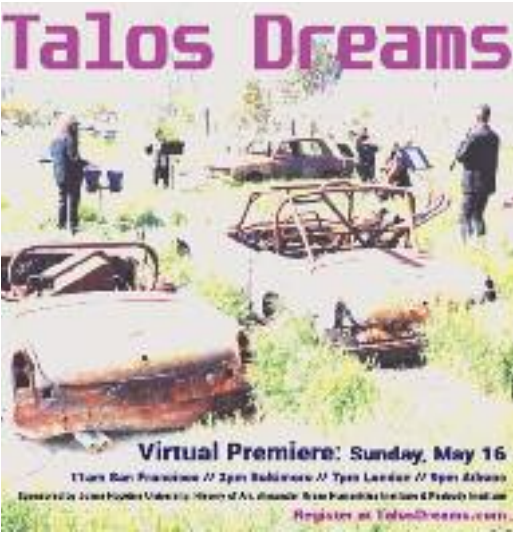
It premiered last year at San Francisco State



Ellie Falaris Ganelin.

University in a concert retelling of Homer’s The Iliad.

The piece accompanied a series of Homeric translations by Classics students projected on-



Costas Dafnis playing the ghostplate.

screen, handpicking timeless excerpts that captured universal concepts of the human experience.

Production of the album was custom-fit to accommodate life during the pandemic. All of the

artists recorded their parts of the music remotely. “In certain styles of music, it’s common to ‘sample’ different instruments separately and put it all together in the production stage,” says Ganelin. “But in chamber music, artists are used to playing together in an intimate setting. Chamber musicians are always listening, adapting and responding in the moment – there’s so much interplay. Since it wasn’t safe for the artists to record in the same space at the same time, we adapted the music-making process so we could still listen and respond as musically as possible.”

Personnel for Synchronos: New Greek Voices include: Ellie Falaris Ganelin (flute), Kyle Bruckmann (oboe), Ariel Wang (violin), Lewis Patzner (cello), Joe Goodkin (guitar), Mary-Victoria Voutsas (piano), Costas Dafnis (ghostplate), and Katie Lynn Baker (soprano).

Synchronos: New Greek Voices will be available starting May 16 on iTunes, Amazon, Spotify, and other platforms. The album is available for pre-order on Bandcamp. Learn more: <http://www.greekchambermusic.com/synchronos-new-greek-voices/>

Talos Dreams premiered virtually on Zoom on May 16 with a mix of live performance and music videos produced by GCMP.

The event is sponsored by Johns Hopkins University, and is co-presented by the History of Art Department, the Alexander Grass Humanities Institute and Peabody Institute. Visit [www.TalosDreams.com](http://www.TalosDreams.com) to register for the event.

The Greek Chamber Music Project (GCMP) is an arts presenter and record label devoted to the music of Greek composers, shedding light on little-known chamber music works, as well as revisiting popular songs in a fresh way. GCMP is also committed to supporting the artists who perform and record this rich musical repertoire coming out of Greece and the Greek diaspora. GCMP’s concerts of all-Greek works are so unique, that similar programs are rarely performed even within Greece.

As a record label, it has several previous releases to its name, including Hellenic Song: A Musical Migration and The Moon is Red: A Tribute to Manos Hadjidakis, which feature a diverse selection of classical works and reimagined popular songs for piano, flute, violin, and voice.

Recent collaborations include an East Coast tour celebrating the Jews of Greece with Sephardic singer Sarah Aroeste, and a concert on songs of The Iliad by singer-songwriter Joe Goodkin at San Francisco State University. Past performance venues include the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Library of Congress, as well as cultural centers and universities across the U.S. and Canada.

# Lily James & Sebastian Stan in New Hulu Series

TNH Staff

**LOS ANGELES** – Lily James and Sebastian Stan star as Pamela Anderson and Greek-American Tommy Lee in an upcoming Hulu limited series titled Pam & Tommy, Deadline reported on May 7 as the first photos of the actors in character were released.

The eight-episode comedic series is written and executive produced by Rob Siegel and DV DeVincentis, and “tells the true story of the release of the first-ever viral video in history – the sex tape of Pamela Anderson and Tommy Lee,” Deadline reported.

As Deadline’s Justin Kroll previously reported, “while the tape will play a major part in the series, the story will also focus on their relationship going back to



Greek-American Tommy Lee.

their whirlwind romance that started with them marrying after only knowing each other for 96 hours in 1995.”

“The leaked VHS tape turned into quite the legal dispute, with Anderson suing the video distribution company Internet Entertainment Group,” and “ultimately, the Lees entered into a confidential settlement deal with IEG,” Deadline reported, adding that “thereafter, the company began making the tape available to subscribers to its websites again, resulting in triple the normal traffic.”

The series also stars Seth Rogen as the man who stole the tape. Cast members include Taylor Schilling, Andrew Dice Clay, Pepi Sonuga, Spenser Granese, and Mozhan Marnò, Deadline reported.

Comments?

TNH welcomes your response to any article or editorial. Please send e-mail to [english.edition@thenationalherald.com](mailto:english.edition@thenationalherald.com)



AP PHOTOS/PETER DEJONG

## Greece and Cyprus Take Part in Eurovision Song Contest

**ABOVE:** Stefania, centre, from Greece poses for photographers upon arrival at the Turquoise Carpet event of the Eurovision Song Contest in Rotterdam, Netherlands, Sunday, May 16, 2021.

**RIGHT:** Elena Tsagrinou from Cyprus has been in the spotlight after Orthodox Christian faithful on the Mediterranean island protested that her song promoted satanic worship. Tsagrinou says her song El Diabolo was misinterpreted and is actually about an abusive relationship between two lovers.



# Giannis Antetokounmpo and Girlfriend Expecting Second Baby

TNH Staff

**MILWAUKEE, WI** – NBA MVP Milwaukee Buck Giannis Antetokounmpo, 26, and his girlfriend, Mariah Riddlesprigger, 28, are expecting their second baby, according to a post on Instagram on May 12.

Riddlesprigger posted about being a mom to son Liam, and then added: “Oh and I forgot to mention baby #2 is on the way and I’m in for even more life lessons! My kids are my biggest blessing and my greatest lesson!”

“We’re excited,” she told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (MJS).

Antetokounmpo “announced the birth of their first child, Liam Charles Antetokounmpo, on Twitter in February 2020,” MJS reported.

“Anytime we see other kids, (Liam) just lights up,” Riddlesprigger told MJS. “I’m just really excited that he’s going to have a best friend all the time.”

Riddlesprigger said that “she’s up for the challenge of having two kids under two and that it’s a ‘blessing’ that they’re going to be so close in age,” MJS reported.

“(Liam) going to be such a good big brother,” she told MJS. “He’s such an amazing baby.”



AP PHOTO/DARON CUMMINGS



TAMAS KOVACS/MTI VIA AP

## Silver Medal for Greece in Artistic Swimming

Members of the Greek team celebrate on the podium during the award ceremony of the free combination final of artistic swimming of European Aquatics Championships in Duna Arena in Budapest, Hungary, Thursday, May 13, 2021. The Greek team won the silver medal.



# Hellenic College - Holy Cross Holds Virtual Graduation

By Theodore Kalmoukos

**BOSTON** – The graduation ceremony for Hellenic College and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology took place virtually on Saturday, May 15 for the graduating classes of 2020 and 2021.

It was initially announced that the ceremony was going to occur this year with the physical presence of the students but due to the level of COVID cases it was decided not to endanger the students and their relatives by causing them to travel from across the country to Boston.

The schools will be reopening in September it was recently announced, however.

The schools’ choir chanted hymns of the resurrection and performed the national anthems of the United States and Greece.

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America in his speech said among other things the following: “I greet all of you with the joy of the Resurrection, as we gather in this virtual way, to celebrate the accomplishments of the graduating classes of 2021.

None of you need me to remind you of just how difficult a road this past year has been. I am compelled to congratulate everyone in our Hellenic College and Holy Cross community for your resilience, your perseverance, and your determination to overcome every obstacle to your formation, and the life of our beloved Σχολή.

"I am compelled to congratulate everyone in our HCHC community for your resilience, your perseverance, and your determination..."

You have shown your resolve in continuing the mission of this beloved Institution of our Holy Archdiocese. Such true and faithful grit is worthy of our admiration and abiding appreciation. Everyone here assembled deserves a hearty and heartfelt ‘thank you!’

“The way that Hellenic College and Holy Cross have persevered through the pandemic is a lesson in ministry, in how the Church continues to serve in the face of adversity. Persecution and Martyrdom have always been faced throughout our history, but pandemics present a different set of challenges.

“As you observe your graduations today, and you commence with a new direction in your life of service – whether your orientation is toward ordination, further studies, or the various ministries of the Church – I hope that you will take a final μάθημα from the struggles you have faced in this time of Covid-19.”

The Archbishop also said that, “the fact that this year, we were able to attend Holy Week and Pascha Services – even though still limited – has been a great relief to clergy and laity alike. We missed being with each other. We missed that sense of fellowship and palpable communion that attends every Divine Service. Many have felt that their relationships were broken, or at least interrupted.”

George Cantonis, president of Hellenic College and Holy Cross in his remarks said, “it is always a challenge for the president of any school to find something to say to graduating students that has not been said before. This year the challenge is even greater because no academic year in living memory has resembled the one we have just completed. The last time we gathered in person for a celebratory occasion was almost exactly seventeen months ago, for our traditional Vasilopita. No one could have imagined then the enormity of what we would soon be facing as an institution and as the unique Orthodox Christian family that we are. Yet we have made it through. YOU have made it through and proven your strength as individuals and as a community to an incredibly impressive degree.”

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The clergy of New York and New Jersey in a joint Retreat with Archbishop Elpidophoros.

## Archdiocesan District and Metropolis of New Jersey Hold Joint Retreat

**NEW YORK** – Archbishop Elpidophoros of America recently addressed the joint Clergy Retreat of the Direct Archdiocesan District and Metropolis of New Jersey.

The Archbishop remarked “this opportunity to gather and share precious time together reminds me that we don’t do this enough! Nevertheless, I hope that as the years increase in my Archiepiscopacy, we will all en-

joy many more and frequent assemblies with one another. For, it is only natural to need to be with each other in order to strengthen our bonds of friendship and shared ministry. Parish life, even the life of a hierarchy, can often times feel isolated and even lonely. But it is important that we are present for one another, so that we may offer mutual support, solidarity and brotherly love to each

other.”

Following His Eminence’s address was a presentation titled Pascha to Pentecost: Through the Gospel of Saint John delivered by Fr. George L. Parsenios, a clergyman of the Metropolis of New Jersey and professor of New Testament at Princeton Theological Seminary who was just appointed Dean of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology.



St. Demetrios Students Present Art & Poetry on Greece

An art and literary competition on Greece and its culture was organized for the third time this year at St. Demetrios in Astoria for the students in the day and afternoon schools. The event on May 11 featured songs and poetry and is an initiative of the Greek Writers Guild of America for students who attend Greek language classes in schools in the State of New York. The aim is to strengthen Greek language education and foster a closer relationship for the students with Greece, its culture and traditions. The title of this year’s competition was Hellenes Abroad with the Homeland at Heart.

## Archdiocese of Australia Synaxis of Bishops Vicars

**SYDNEY** – The 9th Meeting of Bishops and Archiepiscopal Vicars of Australia was held under the Presidency of His Eminence Archbishop Makarios of Australia.

The Archbishop conveyed the Paschal greetings and blessings of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to the Hierarchs and Vicars that were in attendance and updated them about current issues and initiatives of the local Church and several other matters, including that:

“a) Global social crises, such as that of the recent COVID-19 pandemic, often lead to the appearance and outbreak of zealots and para-ecclesiastical voices that cause enormous spiritual damage to God’s people, disorienting them from the theological, ecclesiastical and scientific truth. In fact, it is said that a portion of our flock does not obey the voice of the Church, the Patriarch’s, the Synod and its Bishops, but is easily swayed and blindly follows words of ‘enlightened’ monks, elders, abbesses, visionaries, prophecy speakers etc. We urge the people of God not to be influenced by talk of impending dangers and should not attribute the global trial of the pandemic exclusively and only to the so-called new world order. The pandemic is a real fact and in no situation can it be allowed to become a tool for gaining benefit from communication, for increasing popularity stakes, for self-promotion and especially for confirmation of ‘spirituality’ and ‘holiness’. This is why it was unanimously decided to send an Encyclical by His Eminence to the pious flock of Australia, which will authoritatively, theologically and scientifically inform the plenitude of our local, Church about the pandemic and vaccination.

“b) Along with the protest



The Synaxis of Bishops and Archiepiscopal Vicars of Australia was held under the Presidency of His Eminence Archbishop Makarios of Australia.

letters and petitions, which condemn the careless, irresponsible and ultimately malicious journalistic reports of the ABC news agency against our Archbishop Makarios, the Archdiocese, and the Greek community in Australia, is added the protest of the Bishops of the Archdiocese

of Australia that unequivocally condemns deceitful journalism and distortion not only for Hellenism and the Church, but for every organisation and for every person who resides in Australia. In an official statement, the body of Bishops asks ABC Management to retract the reports and to publicly apologise for the lies, slander and distortions they published about the Church, the

Archbishop and the Greek community. Otherwise, it clarifies that the Archdiocese of Australia will turn to the Australian judicial system as well as other public and private organisations to restore the truth. At the same time, the gratitude by the local Church is publicly expressed to

all the Organisations and bodies that strongly reacted by writing to the ABC, and whose members exceed 800,000.

“c) It is with great pleasure that we note the large number of visits to the electronic newspaper of the Archdiocese of Australia, Vema, which until recently was in print format.

“d) The issue of performing Sacraments in farms, holiday

## Fr. Athenagoras Ziliaskopoulos Elected Bishop of Nazianzos

By Theodore Kalmoukos

**BOSTON** – The Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate upon the recommendation of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew elected unanimously Archimandrite Athenagoras Ziliaskopoulos, the Chief Secretary of the Eparchial Synod of America and Chaplain of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, as Bishop of Nazianzos.

He will be under the direct authority of the Patriarch as his auxiliary Bishop, but he will be assigned to continue his ministry at the Archdiocese and at the School of Theology.

His ordination to the Episcopacy will take place on Saturday June 5, 2021 at Holy Cross Chapel of the School of Theology with His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America presiding.

Bishop-Elect Athenagoras of Nazianzos (Christos Ziliaskopoulos) was born in 1970 in Reutlingen, Germany, and grew up in Greece and Germany. He spent his young adulthood on Mount Athos as a monastic and learned to live a life devoted to Christ and the Church. He was ordained to the Holy Diaconate in 1997 and the Holy Priesthood in 1998 by His Eminence Metropolitan Augustinos of Germany. In 1999, he was elevated to the rank of Archimandrite of the Ecumenical Patriarchate by His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. On May 19, 2021 he was elected Bishop of Nazianzos by the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate as an Auxiliary Bishop to His All-Holiness.

For over twenty years, Bishop-Elect Athenagoras served as a parish priest starting at the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Germany with successive appointments. He was appointed as the Hierarchical Vicar of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis for two states in Germany. He served as a member of the delegation of the Ecumenical Patriarchate for Ecumenical Theological dialogue and in Germany he served as a member of the Ecumenical and Interfaith Councils, the founding chairperson of the Interfaith Council of Religions, and as a chairperson for one of the Assemblies for Orthodox Clergy.

He was a frequent speaker at universities, public schools, interfaith groups, and cultural associations, discussing Orthodox life and spirituality.

Bishop-Elect Athenagoras established the first Orthodox Chapel at Frankfurt’s international airport and a 24-hour Orthodox crisis hotline and is the founder of the first Greek Orthodox youth camp in Germany. He spearheaded a 15th-century church building’s archeological renovation, built a church and community center from the ground up, and led other needed initiatives.

In 2017, Bishop-Elect Athenagoras relocated to Toronto, Canada at the invitation of His Eminence Sotirios Archbishop of Canada to serve as Dean of the Patriarchal Theological Academy of Toronto and Office Director for the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Canada. In 2019, he was transferred to the United States of America at the request of Archbishop Elpidophoros to offer his ministry to Hellenic College - Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Boston.

In 2021, Bishop-Elect Athenagoras was appointed Chief Secretary of the Holy Eparchial Synod of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and as the Spiritual Advisor to the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society of America. He holds a Bachelor of Arts, a Bachelor of Theology, a Masters of Theology, and a PhD in Theology from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. He also took classes in Pedagogics, German Literature, Roman Catholic and Protestant Theology, Judaism, Islamic Studies, and Comparative Religious Studies at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany. Fluent in modern and ancient Greek, German, and English, he is proficient in Turkish and has a basic understanding of Latin, French, and Koranic Arabic.



Bishop-elect Athenagoras Ziliaskopoulos of Nazianzos.

homes, or chapels that do not belong to the Orthodox Church or to a non-denominational church was carefully considered. The Holy Archdiocese does not allow Sacraments to be performed outside of Holy Parishes unless there is an urgent need and only after special permission has been granted from the Holy Archdiocese.

“e) The National Metropolitan Choir of Australia, which was established by Archbishop Makarios, is moving forward and will present its first official event on 26 November this year, at Sydney Town Hall to honour the completion of 30 years since the election of our Patriarch to the Patriarchal Throne. Unfortunately, due to the restrictive measures, the Metropolitan Choir will not be able to hold the event in Constantinople, and specifically in the Holy Church of St Irene, as had originally been planned for the anniversary of our Patriarch.

“f) Following the voluntary resignation of Mr. Konstantinos Kontis from the Consolidated Trust of the Holy Archdiocese of Australia, His Eminence has appointed Mr. Theo Bakalakis as a member. Mr. Bakalakis is an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and an elect member of the Greek community in Australia who works in Cairns.

“g) The convening of the Clergy-Laity Congress is again postponed due to the restrictive measures imposed because of the pandemic in indoor venues. Determining factors in setting a new date for the meeting are the operation of the schools (the Clergy-Laity Congress will be held at St Spyridon College in Sydney) as well as the opening of the airports to non-Australian citizens, so that representatives of the Mother Church in Constantinople can attend this important event of our Holy Archdiocese.”



# Gregory Apostle on Living the Ephemeral Every Day

Continued from page 1

sons, Christos, Vasilis, who was a lawyer, Jim, who was an accountant, and Gregory, who became a manager and soon bought the whole business from his brothers, who had other occupations.

In 1973, Gregory Apostle bought the Constantinides Funeral Parlor Company and expanded operations even further. Today, he lives with his beloved wife Maria in Westchester County, has three sons, Nicholas, Christopher, and Andrew, seven grandchildren, and is an active member of the Parish Council of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Trinity in New Rochelle. His services were recognized by Archbishop Spyridon and he was awarded the title Archon for his contribution to the community, in which, among other things, he was the coach and later director of the Metropolitan Greek Orthodox Basketball League. In addition, he was a member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Funeral Directors Association for over 20 years.

In 2005, Gregory undertook the burial of Archbishop Iakovos in Boston, while shortly before

and take over. **TNH:** At such a young age when you started the business, how did you deal with the fear of death? How difficult was it?

**GA:** I believe that my family and my religion helped me to deal with death and the fear it causes. I felt like I was helping people in need. It was difficult at the beginning, but my father who came to America at the age of 13 from Nafpaktos, and the people I worked with supported me a great deal.

**TNH:** How do you deal with death – I ask because the pandemic has brought fear back into our daily lives?

**GA:** I always felt that my wife and family, as well as my Greek Orthodox faith, help me deal with most problems. This pandemic intensified our efforts to alleviate pain in these tragic moments, because most people had to wait because of mass funerals and requests for burial and cremation. People have not yet realized what happened during these difficult months for all of us, especially in March, April, and May.

**TNH:** How did Riverdale Funeral respond to this new reality of countless deaths and successive funerals?



Gregory Apostle's mother, Maria, from Staten Island with roots in Perkos, Nafpaktos.

he had undertaken the funeral of Theodosios Athas, a famous media personality.

Apostle, who travels and mixes with many ethnic groups, is especially loved and respected, both as a person and as a professional, because he has realized the ephemerality of life and together with the support of his family in this difficult task, and his faith in Orthodoxy, he has acquired immense mental strength to negotiate daily with death and suffering.

**TNH:** What was it that motivated you to start your own family business? Didn't you have any other dreams as a young man?

Gregory Apostle: In 1960, at the age of 17, I worked for two years in a candy store. When I told the owners that I had to leave in order to pursue my future, they offered me a partnership, realizing that I was very good at their business – I worked consistently and I never stole anything. But our company, Riverdale Funeral, I think was my destiny. I had dreams, like all young people my age. But I really believe that my calling was to follow the family business

**GA:** I made a plan in time to cope with so many funerals. We ordered a refrigerated truck to be on our premises to accommodate the dead who could not remain in hospitals or be buried in cemeteries or cremated in crematoria or be present at any services, in any religious setting. We did the best we could. It was very painful to have to help families with different cultures and religions and to alleviate the tragedy they were experiencing at that time.

**TNH:** How did you handle your emotions in the midst of such a catastrophe that you faced during the difficult months of the pandemic?

**GA:** It was an intense and trying period for us because we could not help people in time. We had to wait for the churches, the cemeteries, the crematorium, and to see whether it was possible for the families to arrive for the funeral. The traditional ceremony disappeared in those months. At night, all the workers would return home to their families and try to relax, to prepare for the next day. We did not know what was waiting for us! I



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF THE APOSTLE FAMILY  
Gregory Apostle with his wife, Maria, and their three sons, Nicholas, Christopher, and Andrew.



Above: Gregory and his wife Maria, his father Nikolaos, who was originally from Stranoma, Nafpaktos, and his sons, Andrew, Christopher, and Nicholas, who continue in the 100-year-old family business.

personally am devastated by the death of many of my friends, because they were lost and I could not do anything for them, not even be with them during their greatest need.

**TNH:** How did you handle COVID-19 and the restrictions at Riverdale Funeral?

**GA:** My eldest son had COVID in the beginning, as did his wife. No one else in our offices got sick and everyone was able to help the families. The restrictions imposed by the state of New York were followed to the letter and most families showed great understanding and patience. They respected us and we respected them unconditionally.

**TNH:** What is the most difficult part of your job?

**GA:** Having to be available at all hours, day and night, and being very careful to fulfill all the wishes of the family. Death is hard and we must be by the families' side flawlessly!

**TNH:** What does "impeccable service" mean in your profession?

**GA:** Customer service is our primary goal. Personally, I always try to be available to everyone and help in everything that may be needed. Many years ago, my mother had spoken to a lady whose husband we had undertaken to bury. She then told her that whatever she asked for, we would not deny her. She was

particularly impressed. Fulfilling wishes is all we can do for the unfortunate people who lose their loved one. In such moments, the person in pain does not need to hear "No."

**TNH:** In addition to the pandemic, tell us some other stressful moments you encountered at work.

**GA:** Two of the most stressful times I have personally suffered, in the 60 years of my work, have been the funeral of our beloved Archbishop Iakovos in the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral and the burial in Massachusetts. Everything had to be perfect for a perfect person. I would like to thank Bishop Antonios for all his help at that time. There

be the developments after the coronavirus?

**GA:** We must use everything we have learned during this time of the pandemic. We must also keep in mind that the ceremonies we used to hold – with many people coming to give their support to the family – will take some time to return, if ever, on a large scale. Neighborhoods and people will determine what happens. We are always there to help whoever needs us. We can return to many of the things that happened in 2019, but not to others. There has been a huge shift to cremation and this will continue in the future. The Greek Church does not want cremation, but we will see in the future what its perspective will be under the leadership of our new Archbishop and how [this issue] will evolve.

**TNH:** Are you worried about the future?

**GA:** I do not worry about the future. My sons, Andrew and Nicholas (named for his grandfather), and Ralph and Kayla who are also in charge of the company, are always available to help anyone who calls us. I believe that what I have taught my sons and others who work with us will bring us into the future. Always remember that no family wants to make such a phone call to us. That is why we should treat people who mourn with respect and dignity. The Apostle Family Riverdale Funeral Home operates according to these principles, and it will continue to operate with them, so I should not worry about the future.



Several generations of the Apostolopoulos-Apostle family are seen above.

# The Forgotten Heroes: Americanized Greeks on the Fields of Battle

Continued from page 1

American involvement was the Army Air unit. The pilots were all Greek military personnel from within the Hellenic Kingdom, and although there are rumored stories of American and Greek-American pilots serving, there is no evidence of them having served during either of the Balkan Wars.

Those Greeks that travelled from the United States came

They spoke Americanized English to each other, and anyone else that would understand. Most of them used the slang and dialects that came from the streets of Chicago, New York City, Massachusetts, and California. They sang American songs and whistled Rag Time on the battlefields as they fought, as reported by eyewitnesses. Some of them even brought American flags with them onto the fields of battle.

for granted by everyone today.

From the first official land battle in Ellassona, to Sarantaporon, Aikaterini, Sorovits, Giannitsa, Ostrovo, Korytsa, Pesta, Driskos, Aetorahi, to the last official land battle at Bizani in Ioannina, they served. We know this because they sent letters back to their friends and relatives throughout the United States, and many of those letters were published in local American newspapers. Some veterans of the wars also sent back photographs that were published, still others gave interviews to their hometown American newspapers.

The Second Balkan War was also rich with Greek-Americans. Those Greeks that left the United States after the commencement of the First Balkan War in 1912 and arrived in 1913 served in the subsequent war. They participated in the major battles of Killis-Lahanas, Beles, Nevrokopion, and Kresna-Tsoumagia against the Bulgarians.

The men in the picture accompanying this article are two of those forgotten Greek-American soldiers. The one on the right wears the older 1908 style military hat, and is a sergeant



Photo from the private collection of Peter S. Giakoumis, from the author's book, p. 639.

based on the stripes on his sleeve – note the stripes start at the cuff and wrap diagonally up towards his elbow. Next to him is a regular army soldier. Note the Kepi or hat he is wearing. It is the new model Kepi M1910 that was issued in 1912 to the new soldiers. They also have on their back a standard military pack, and they are armed with new Mannlicher rifles purchased under special order by the Hellenic Army to replace the old Gras rifle.

Next time we will learn the meaning behind the Commemorative Medals of the Greek-Turkish and Greek-Bulgarian medals of 1912-1913.

Peter S. Giakoumis is the author of *The Forgotten Heroes of the Balkan Wars: Greek-Americans and Philhellenes 1912-1913*. Follow him on [www.facebook.com/1912GreekHistory/](https://www.facebook.com/1912GreekHistory/)

Greek-Americans distinguished themselves by being amongst the first troops to enter Larissa in October, 1912...

from far and wide. From the frozen countryside of Alaska and the west coast states of Washington, Oregon, and California, to the east coast states of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania – and all the other states in between – Americanized Greeks answered the call. They were amongst the front ranks in the battles of both the First and Second Balkan Wars. The Greek-Americans were easily identified. They never hesitated to let those around them know they had lived and worked in the United States.

Greek-Americans distinguished themselves by having the unique distinction of being amongst the first troops to enter Larissa in October of 1912, and Ioannina and Chios in November 1912. The Greek-American liberators of Chios served as sailors, both as officers and enlisted, as Marines, and as Army soldiers, all of which saw combat on the shores and inland. Greek-Americans were also the first to enter the newly captured city of Salonica in December of 1912. They served in all the battles to liberate the other half of the Greek nation that is taken



# Cruise Ships Return to Cyprus During Pandemic

TNH Staff

In what could be a harbinger of the beginning of the end of the COVID-19 pandemic's grip – even as it lingers and people are still suffering and dying – vaccination programs are allowing conditional international travel, with cruise ships coming back to Cyprus.

The ships had been seen as super spreaders of the coronavirus because of their packed quarters with little chance for safe social distancing and the sector had seen outbreaks of other viruses that were difficult to contain.

But with people crazy to travel again and break away from the fear, the industry is so hopeful that a number of major international cruise line companies said they're setting sail, so to speak, for favored spots, Cyprus among them.

In a report for The Financial Mirror, Nawaf Abdulla, CDO of DP World Limassol, the major tourism port destination on the island, noted that the list includes Royal Caribbean, Celestyal, Seabourn, Azamara, and Celebrity.

Some began operation to the island in April but most are looking toward the summer with the government easing out of a lockdown although visitors must be safe from COVID-19.

They'll have to show proof of vaccination, a negative Coronavirus test taken within 72 hours prior to arrival or that they have recovered from the disease as a condition for entry, although still required to meet the island's health measures.

“Cruise passengers will have the opportunity to participate in local excursions, including rural villages and heritage sites, thereby rejuvenating the local economy and tourism sector,” he wrote.

Perhaps the biggest announcement is that Royal Caribbean made Limassol its homeport for the first time, showing how important the island is to the industry and a favored destination for tourists.



Royal Caribbean will be carrying cruise itineraries to the Greek isles this summer – calling at Mykonos, Santorini, Crete, Rhodes, and Piraeus – with Jewel of the Seas, bringing even more benefits to Limassol too.

Foreign travelers who want to go on the specific cruise will first have to fly into Cyprus and stay there for a few days, bringing in additional revenue for the country, he noted.

He said ever since taking over as operator of the Cruise Terminal, DP World Limassol had recognized Cyprus’ potential and the multiple benefits that a thriving cruise industry would bring to the local society.

The company has worked on making Limassol a port of choice for cruise lines and visitors, Cyprus needing them with tourism the biggest revenue driver for the island trying to recover from lockdowns and businesses kept closed.

Minister of Transport, Yianis Karousos, pointed out at the official presentation of the health protocol, which was held at Limassol Port, that, “every crisis creates opportunities, and this is the chance for us to develop the cruise sector further and prove to these companies that we do have a tourism product, and we can offer the services needed to attract as many cruises and passengers as possible, thereby boosting our economy.”

There are strict health protocols aboard the ships too, the industry realizing the consequences should be there an outbreak that would dock the ships and drive people away.

“These precautions protect passengers and boost the cruising public's confidence and governments, who may be worried that disembarking cruise passengers could exacerbate the epidemiological situation in their countries,” he wrote.



ABOVE: Visitors look at an aerial photograph of Athens inside the Acropolis Museum, in Athens, May 14. BELOW: Visitors inside the Museum. Tourism services and museums reopened on Friday and a nightly curfew was shortened by another 90 minutes, as authorities relaxed restrictions for the tourist season.



# Cyprus Starts Secret Prosecutions Over Golden Visa Scheme Scandal

TNH Staff

Without naming the suspects, Cyprus’ top prosecutor asked police to investigate possible criminal charges over the country's disbanded Golden Visa scheme that sold residency permits and European Union passports to rich foreigners who weren't eligible nor vetted for money laundering or other possible wrongdoing.

The news site Al Jazeera, which had run a sting operation that ensnared the former second-in-command in the government of President Nicos Anastasiades – whose family's law firm brokered the sale of the visas – said five people and four legal entities are under the microscope.

“The first criminal case concerning the naturalization of foreign investors and business people was registered at Larnaca district court,” a statement from the prosecutor's office said, the site reported.

The accused are facing 37 charges based on the findings of an independent panel named by the government but said because of “sensitive details,” that no one would be named, keeping the program shrouded in secrecy as it was when operating.

Despite being public business, the government had refused to provide the names of people buying the permits and passports even in the face of media reports identifying many of them, including a Malaysian fugitive from justice.

After he repeatedly defended it, Anastasiades ended the pro-

gram in November, 2020 when the European Union also said it was worried the scheme was a conduit for criminals to hide their cash and buy into the bloc.

That came after Al Jazeera television aired a documentary showing reporters posing as fixers for a Chinese businessman seeking a Cypriot passport despite claiming to have a criminal record, as he was assured it wasn't a problem.

After he repeatedly defended it, Anastasiades ended the program in November, 2020...

Parliament speaker Demetris Syllouris and an opposition politician were secretly filmed allegedly trying to broker a passport for the fugitive investor and later resigned while saying they were innocent and the video taken out of context.

But the news site had reported that dozens of others who applied were under criminal investigation, international sanctions, or even serving prison sentences and the panel found half the passports were likely unlawful and other reports noted that even Anastasiades was pressured.

Cyprus began the program in 2013 when he was elected and the economy and banking system nearly collapsed over bad loans to Greek businesses which wouldn't pay and big holdings in Greek bonds that were devalued 74 percent.

Anastasiades said he would go after bankers and not let people's accounts be confiscated but

# Set Back by Pandemic, Olympic Museum in Athens Finally Opens

TNH Staff

Chronicling the history of the Olympic Games that began in Ancient Greece, resumed again in Athens in 1896 and then sold off to the highest bidding cities and moving around the world, a museum following Olympics history has opened in Athens, a year late because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The museum is in mall in the Golden Hall in the Maroussi neighborhood of Athens, near the Olympic Stadium that hosted the track and field activities and other events for the 2004 Games before falling into disrepair.

The museum occupies some 3,500 square meters (36,674 square feet) and tells the story of the Olympic Games in displays which the designers claim will be “clean, welcoming, and engaging,” reported Inside the Games.

A display focuses on the origins of the ancient Games, and a hall is dedicated to Ancient Olympia, where the ancient games were held and which is still a major draw to tourists and sports and Olympic enthusiasts.

A 9-meter high (29.5 feet) wall sets off what the site said was a striking graphic portrayal with posters and information on each a celebration of the modern Games right through to 2021 – that being the 2020 Tokyo Games that were postponed and are in danger of being canceled outright because of COVID-19.

There is also a specific room dedicated to the Athens 2004 Olympics including props used during the spectacular Opening Ceremony that riveted the attention of the world to the real home of the games but that keeps being moved elsewhere.

The displays also focus on the wider Olympic Movement, the role of athletes and the sports of the Games although apparently not how the United States went along with Adolf Hitler barring American Jewish athletes and using the 1936 Berlin Games as a propaganda stage without any controversies, including drugs.

The exhibition space has been designed by local architecture practice KLab and Mulo Creative Lab. “We had infinite sources of inspiration for the overall composition,” KLab director Konstantinos Labrinopoulos told the site.

“We had many objects to work with, supported by other museums and cultural bodies. Our design, to an extent, high-

lights the sense of sporting competition, through the depictions of athletes in motion, which in turn is a narration of the idea of the evolution of sports through time,” he added.

The first entry in the visitor book is that of International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach who was given a preview of the museum during his short visit to Athens in April.

The site Wallpaper focused on the aesthetics of the design and said, “this important cultural space combines sports and culture in a monumental, minimalist and information-rich display,” for visitors.

Working with the shell of an existing building, the design team focused on transforming the museum's interior in an immersive, informative experience, full of drama and draws for the visitor, the report added.

It's a kind of minimalist design with lots of white and featuring sweeping shapes and tall ceilings, with what the site said were color accents and clever graphics to create a composition that is engaging.

The displays are organized into two parts telling the story of the Olympic Games and about the Olympic movement and role of athletes and individual sports, focused on glory not controversy.

“Light was also a crucial element in the space – it appears everywhere, bright, like the sunlight in the Greek landscape, but its sources are hidden and subtle. The design team worked with lighting specialists Coolshadow on the concept,” the report said.

# Greek Husband Saw Home Invader Who Killed Wife During Burglary

TNH Staff

**ATHENS** – The husband of a woman suffocated to death by a gang of three masked burglars during a violent home invasion said he saw the face of one of them and was able to describe it to police.

Charalambos Anagnostopoulos, 32, a helicopter pilot, had been tied and gagged in another room but after the invaders left was able to free himself and get to his wife in an attic where she was hiding and found, killed next to her 11-month-old daughter.

Greece's state broadcaster ERT said police were centering the probe on professional burglars who had committed similar also violent break-ins and were looking at CCTV footage and trying to find clues.

The victim, Caroline Crouch, was 20, born in Greece but had a British passport and also a Filipino background, media reports said.

The robbers shoved pieces of cloth in the her mouth before pushing their hands against her nose and lips, which caused her to suffocate, and a Medical Examiner ruled the death was by asphyxiation.

They killed her even though her husband revealed where the family kept cash and valuables, the robbers getting away with some 15,000 euros (\$18,219) in an incident that shocked the country.

Detectives investigating the murder will show her husband mug shots of 30 suspects and linked to 12 break-ins in the past six months around Athens allegedly connected to an Albanian organized crime gang that uses gypsies and foreigners, the British newspaper The Daily Mail said.

Police were questioning a 30-year-old Georgian man stopped at the border with Bulgaria as he tried to leave Greece on a forged passport and said he was a suspect in a string of violent robberies and beatings.

The New Democracy government put up a 300,000-euro (\$362,496) reward for information that leads to capturing the perpetrators but no leads were reported yet, nor have authorities said how the early investigation is proceeding.

The shocking murder led the New Democracy government to propose longer prison times for violent offenders.

Justice Minister Konstantinos Tsias told SKAI TV that, “the issue has already been discussed among the members of the Criminal Code monitoring committee, and there is an intention to toughen sentences, especially for heinous crimes, sex crimes (and) all those that have received a lot of publicity lately.”

He added that, “with the new legislation, anyone sentenced to life in prison will spend more years (incarcerated) than today,” he said, as life sentences in Greece are often shortened and aren't for life.

He said that the government, which came to power in 2019 with a vow that included being tougher on crime than the previous ruling Radical Left SYRIZA that reduced penalties even for sex crimes, will require those sentenced to life serve at least 20 years instead of 16.

Mourning the loss Anagnostopoulos posted photos of the couple walking on a beach on their wedding day.

“Together forever,” he wrote in Greek. “Have a nice trip, my love,” he said in memory of his British-Filipino wife, Caroline Crouch, daughter of a British serviceman, as Greek police stepped up their hunt for three men who broke in to their house.

Adding to the shock, said Metro UK in a report, was the fact that he got himself free after an hour following the early morning invasion and was said to have found her dead with their daughter trying to ‘wake’ her up.

The invaders also killed the family dog and hung it on a gate outside their home, the report added, with Anagnostopoulos later telling reporters the couple had begged them not to hurt them.

Crouch, who also holds a British passport, spent most of her life on the Greek island of Alonnissos, where her funeral was held.

Anagnostopoulos was photographed carrying their daughter as he told those there that he felt “lucky” for the time he spent with Crouch.

But he said he was “sad ... that our daughter will grow up without remembering her beautiful mother, who was the joy of my life,” the UK paper said.

“But through her daughter, Caroline will always be with me and with all of us ... You should always look after your loved ones and enjoy your time together,” he reportedly said at the service while wiping away tears.



AP PHOTO/GIANNIS PAPANIKOS

# Syrian Family Reunited, Against the Odds, in Greece

Torn apart in the deadly chaos of an air raid, a Syrian family of seven has been reunited, against the odds, three years later at a refugee shelter in Greece's second city of Thessaloniki, a centuries-old melting point of cultures overlooking the Aegean Sea. Abdul Salam Al Khawini, 37, right, and his wife Kariman, 32, left, pose with their children for a family photo, at their apartment in the northern city of Thessaloniki, Greece, Saturday, May 1, 2021.



SMALL TAKES

Greece & Cyprus

Cypriots Keep the Knot Tied Longer Than Anyone in the EU

TNH Staff

Marriage in modern times, under so many stresses, is a declining institution although Cyprus has the highest number in the European Union relative to its population, figures from the bloc's statistics agency Eurostat showed.

Since 1964, the marriage rate in the EU has declined from eight per 1,000 persons in 1964 to 4.3 in 2019 – in half over those decades, while the number of divorces more than doubled from 0.8 per 1,000 people to 1.8 over that time.

Following Cyprus in having the most married people were the Baltic countries of Lithuania and Latvia, and then Hungary and Romania, while the lowest rates of 3 per 1,000 people was found in Italy, Portugal, and Slovenia, The Financial Mirror said.

Latvia and Lithuania also had the most divorces while Cypriots were also second in the divorce ratio.

Greek Church Reprimands Bishops Who Violated COVID-19 Rules

TNH Staff

ATHENS – With pockets of defiance remaining in the clergy against COVID-19 health measures rapidly being eased, the Church of Greece's Holy Synod chastised two Bishops who ignored the rules during the Easter holidays.

The Holy Synod said that it had met twice in two days to discuss the actions of the rebel clerics and how they could be disciplined after “deliberate diversions from the Synod's unanimous decisions were observed.”

The Synod added that “with great sadness” it will be sending letters of reprimand to the Metropolitan Bishops of Kythira Seraphim and Aetolia-Akarnania Kosmas, said Kathimerini – the later region seeing infection rates skyrocket.

They will face no real penalties beyond being scolded although a statement against Seraphim was more scalding, saying that he “insists on ignoring the crucial nature” of the Synod's decisions, without facing any restrictions. And some teachers and many students aren't wearing masks either.

Noted Greek Actor Petros Filippidis Hit With Rape Charges

TNH Staff

ATHENS – It was an open secret – his name – but after repeated reports identifying him only as a famous actor, Greek TV and film star Petros Filippidis has been indicted by the Athens Prosecutor's Office over cases involving one rape and two attempted rapes.

Under Greek privacy laws, no names generally are allowed to be published unless someone is convicted but that's often ignored in cases of celebrity, public figures, or politicians.

Filippidis, a prominent face in the arts community that's racked by growing sex scandals, was accused in complaints from female colleagues who claimed he sexually assaulted them.

That allegedly happened during a period that still allows prosecution because a statute of limitations hasn't been reached, said Kathimerini, although no details were given about what was said to have occurred and the accusers not named yet.

Greek President Wants Protections Against Sexual, Gender Discrimination

TNH Staff

ATHENS – Repeating an oft-stated call that hasn't worked yet, Greek President Katerina Sakellaropoulou said the government must do more to help the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender community while saying there has been “remarkable progress” in doing so.

She said it's “the Greek state's turn” to step up in the battle against any discrimination that “undermines the principle of equality or restricts the rights of citizens due to their gender identity, gender characteristics or sexual orientation.”

In a meeting with representatives of the LGBTQ community at her office in Athens, Sakellaropoulou said special attention must be paid to safeguard children of those orientations and their families from being set upon.

She met Linos-Alexandre Sicilianos, a professor at Athens Law School, former President at the European Court of Human Rights and President of the National Strategy Committee for LGBTQ Equality.

Tsipras Says He Knows What Greece Really Needs for Recovery

TNH Staff

ATHENS – Stepping up his criticism as he falls further in polls, Greece's major opposition SYRIZA leader and former premier Alexis Tsipras said the New Democracy government's plan to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic is unfair.

Echoing a 40-point plan he said would resurrect Greece when he won snap elections in 2015 – and breaking it – he said his idea for an economic comeback would benefit workers whose rights he diluted while in power.

Tsipras said the government's economic recovery idea puts a burden on small and medium-sized businesses, favors privatizations, and undermines labor safeguards, without noting he had done the same before being ousted in July 7, 2019 snap polls.

During a presentation of SYRIZA's Greece+ scheme he said it would be based on support from the European Union, which New Democracy is doing as well.

Mitsotakis Gets Behind North Macedonia's Hopes to Join the EU

TNH Staff

He condemned a deal that renamed the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) as North Macedonia and said he would make revisions but Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis is on board to supports its hopes of joining the European Union.

That would be, he cautioned, if Greece's neighbor lives up to the accord that was driven through a previous Parliament ruled by the Radical Left SYRIZA that gave the name of Greece's northern province of Macedonia to the country whose capital is Skopje.

Some foreign media still refer to North Macedonia as only Macedonia, which had been the goal of former FYROM governments.

Mitsotakis said when he took power in July 7, 2019 snap elections in ousting SYRIZA that he would try to block agricultural products in North Macedonia calling themselves Macedonian.

Ex-Golden Dawn Convict Lagos Now in Jail

TNH Staff

ATHENS – His immunity as a Member of the European Parliament lifted, a former top official of the disbanded neo-Nazi Golden Dawn party, Yiannis Lagos, began his jail sentence in a central Greek prison, seven months after being convicted with his former colleagues of running a criminal gang.

Lagos landed at Athens' international airport and live footage from Open TV showed him escorted handcuffed into a black van, under heavy police guard.

“For Orthodoxy and Greece, every sacrifice is worthwhile,” he told reporters, The New York Times said in a report on his arrival.

After being taken to a prosecutor he was whisked to the high-security prison in Domokos where the rest of the gang is imprisoned, apart from the former second-in-command, Christos Pappas, who's a fugitive.

Lagos was convicted and sentenced to 13 years in prison by a court in Athens but fled to

Brussels where he kept collecting his salary and benefits until the EU Parliament, after being singled out in media reports for being reluctant to act, finally did.

Golden Dawn was founded as a Nazi-inspired group in the 1980s. It saw a surge in popularity during Greece's 2010-2018 financial crisis, gaining parliamentary representation between 2012 and 2019.

Lagos was a member of Greece's Parliament throughout this period, before being elected to the European Parliament in 2019. He, like other former lawmakers, had left Golden Dawn.

The five-year trial in Athens was launched following the 2013 murder of rapper and left-wing activist Pavlos Fyssas, who was stabbed to death by a Golden Dawn supporter, the act that brought the beginning of the end of the party.

Lagos fled to Brussels immediately after the verdict, taking advantage of the immunity he was afforded as a member of the European Parliament and at-



Yiannis Lagos.

TNH/FILE

tempts to extradite him were delayed by the pandemic, The Times noted.

Like many other members of Golden Dawn, Lagos has insisted that the case against him is politically motivated and that he was being persecuted for his views, not his actions, but the court didn't accept that, as opinion soured on the party.

New Democracy government

spokeswoman Aristotelia Peloni applauded his being sent to prison with his former colleagues.

“Greek democracy strived and eliminated the toxic poison of Golden Dawn,” she said, the report said. “Rule of law stood strong against the criminals, and the judiciary gave its answer with its rulings,” she added.

His jailing leaves only Pappas at large with reports he had been seen among renegade monks on Mt. Athos or that he may be in Serbia as he became yet another prominent convict to elude the law in Greece, not required to be in court for the sentencing.

It was the murder of Fyssas that was the beginning of the end for Golden Dawn, which had ridden as high as third in polls after being elected by Greeks disgusted with mainstream parties that had nearly bankrupted the country and had to seek bailouts.

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

Held Back by Anti-Vaxxers, COVID-19 Pandemic Battle Continues in Greece

TNH Staff

ATHENS – With a slow-rolling vaccination program picking up – despite masses who refuse to take the shot – the COVID-19 pandemic in Greece has seen cases stuck around 2,000 a day and the numbers of critically ill patients in public hospital Intensive Care Units (ICUs) not receding.

The New Democracy government, held back by a cumbersome European Union distribution program, has managed to get some 13 percent of the population of 10.7 million people fully vaccinated and millions more doses are coming in May and June.

With many elderly, apart from a stubborn nucleus who won't be vaccinated, having been inoculated because they were the most susceptible, the average age of new coronavirus infections dropped to 39 Health Minister Vassilis Kikilias said.



AP PHOTO/THANASSIS STAVRAKIS

With debts piling up, southern European countries are racing to reopen their tourism services despite delays in rolling out a planned EU-wide travel pass.

Kikilias also said more than 4,615,000 people have been vaccinated, only 1.7 million with two required doses of those in use as Greece is going to also use the single-shot Johnson & Johnson version from the United States.

Speaking at the same briefing, Greek Tourism Confederation (SETE) President Yiannis Retsois said the sector is prepared to host visitors in safety to persuade more to come, their money needed to boost the economy.

But he said given the volatile nature of the coronavirus, which has been resilient and seen variants developing during the 15-month pandemic estimating arrivals or revenues can't be done.

The government eased back an already lenient lockdown but was said to be so alarmed by scenes of people shunning masks

and gathering in public spaces, even partying there, that it warned tough measures could return if needed.

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said on Wednesday more than a dozen Greek airports renovated by a German-led consortium could serve as 'bridges' for a summer of greater freedom from the lockdown, said Reuters.

He was speaking at the opening of the refurbished airport of Thessaloniki, the final leg of a 440-million euro (\$536.5 million) investment undertaken by a consortium led by German airport operator Fraport.

Concluding a project which started in 2017, it has now upgraded 14 Greek airports, including those on the popular holiday islands of Santorini, Corfu, and Rhodes, the report said.

“As we carefully walk towards the exit of the COVID-19 health

crisis, these airports will become our national bridges for a freer and more efficient summer, as we continue to build a wall of immunity with our vaccine roll-out,” Mitsotakis said, although the pandemic is lingering.

The expanded airport at Thessaloniki, which cost 100 million euros (\$122 million,) will have twice as many departure gates, many more retail facilities, and can accommodate about 10 million people a year. It handled 6.9 million in 2019, before the pandemic struck, said the news agency.

“The 14 new and upgraded airports, which were delivered three months ahead of the contractual deadline, mark the beginning of a new era both for tourism and for the 14 local communities,” Fraport Greece Chief Executive officer Alexander Zinell said.

Anastasiades Waves Veto if EU is Easy on Turkey

TNH Staff

NICOSIA – He hasn't used it before but Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades said he would use a veto power that requires unanimous European Union consent if the bloc leaders propose any kind of proposal regarding Turkey that favors a positive agenda.

What drove him to that point, he said, is the insistence by Turkey and Turkish-Cypriot officials for an end to reunification talks in favor of two separate states that would bring recognition the northern third of the island occupied since an unlawful 1974 invasion.

New Turkish-Cypriot chief Ersin Tatar has taken that approach which was mandated by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, with Turkey not recognizing Cyprus – a member of the EU – and barring its ships and planes.

Apparently worried that the EU, which has become lenient in dealing with Turkey, might go even further with more considerations to appease Erdogan, who has defied soft sanctions in going ahead with drilling for energy off the island, Anastasiades said this time he would consider a veto.

He hasn't done that over other issues and he returned to the table at a United Nations-sponsored meeting in April in Geneva, Switzerland that brought together all the parties in what turned into an outright debacle



AP PHOTO/LUIS VIEIRA, POOL

Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades, left, arrives for an informal dinner event during an EU summit at the Crystal Palace in Porto, Portugal, Friday, May 7, 2021.

of failure.

Despite everyone knowing that Tatar and Erdogan went into the meeting with no intention of discussing anything except two states, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres brought together the two sides along with the three guarantors of security on the island: Turkey, Greece, and the former colonial ruler the United Kingdom that still has military bases there.

Guterres had tried to be a broker at the previous round of talks that also collapsed, in July, 2017 at the Swiss resort of Crans-Mon-

tana when Erdogan and then Turkish-Cypriot leader Mustafa Akinci, a less of a hardliner unlike the nationalist Tatar, nevertheless refused to remove a 35,000-strong standing army and wanted the right of further military intervention.

“I am already informing the leaders of the member-states in a letter, that given Turkey's change of course with its demand for a two-state solution and on its other positions, I do not see that a positive agenda in Turkish relations can be discussed or agreed upon,” Anastasiades told

Kathimerini.

That was in reference to the European Council that's made up of the heads of state of the 27 members of the bloc although he's been reluctant to get tough even as Turkey has increased its provocations.

Anastasiades wants discussions based on a long-agreed basis of a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation but Tatar said that has failed miserably and he wants two states as an alternative.

“Turkey's positions on a two-state solution are a leap into the void. It is a position that is not accepted by either the international community or the European Union, and is completely outside the terms of the UN Secretary General's mandate,” Anastasiades told the paper.

He said the move by Turkey and the Turkish-Cypriot side was designed to get around the refusal of the world to accept an occupied territory, which would also see a foreign army on EU land if he went along with it.

“A similar solution would open Pandora's box and lead to a domino effect of negative developments in many countries,” he said.

The parties said they would try again to sit down to talk but only, he said, if Guterres and the other parties with stakes get Erdogan and Tatar to change their minds and “so that the Turkish side understands the impossibility of its endeavor” – it but keeps pushing.



# Battle Lines Drawn Over New Democracy Labor Bill Critics Call Unfair

TNH Staff

ATHENS – Despite criticism it will exploit workers, Greece's ruling New Democracy is advancing legislation for reforms the government said will aid workers and overhaul 39-year-old laws.

The Conservatives said those measures were far behind the times and needed to be changed but the major rival SYRIZA and others unhappy with the proposed changes said they are backdoor attempts to undermine workers' rights.

Labor Minister Kostis Hatzidakis said the changes would bring overdue changes offering more freedom to decide working hours, and prevent unpaid overtime and undeclared work which is part of a massive untaxed underground economy.

“The labor law is antiquated,” Hatzidakis told a news conference, said the Reuters news agency. “The core of the bill goes back to 1982. In 1982 the Internet, let alone teleworking, was a distant dream,” he said.

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mit-



AP PHOTO/YORGOS KARAHALIS

Supporters of the communist party-affiliated PAME union take part in a rally against a new labor bill proposed by the Greek government, in Athens, on May 13.

sotakis said the bill was intended to protect workers. “It strengthens their rights ... cor-

rects injustices of the past. In short, it gives power to the employee,” he tweeted.

Opponents though said one measure that would let employees work up to 10 hours on a

day and fewer on another or take time off would be unfair to them without explaining how if the workers had flexibility decided by themselves.

Workers would also have the right to refuse to work on off-days or be required while not working to check emails from their employer, similar to lenient labor measures in France and Italy where they have more rights.

There would also be a ‘digital work card’ to monitor employees working hours in real time, as well as increase legal overtime to 150 hours a year, which critics have seized on as a target, saying that’s unfair.

Greece’s main public workers union ADEDY, which staged a 24-hour strike against the bill, said the government wants to raise the eight-hour working day to 10 hours and scrap the five-day working week and collective bargaining agreements.

As Hatzidakis spoke, dozens of members of the Communist-affiliated trade union PAME protested outside the Labor Ministry and painted ‘Hands Off the 8-Hour Day’ in red on one

of its walls, the report added.

PAME called for a demonstration against the bill in central Athens, its contentions backed by SYRIZA which said the bill restricts employee rights as jobs are being lost during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Leftist leader and former premier Alexis Tsipras accused the government of moving against a worldwide trend to improve workers’ rights, although while the country’s leader he didn’t raise the minimum wage as promised and held back collective bargaining rights.

“[It] is trying to use the pandemic as an opportunity to impose the most anti-citizen [measure] a Greek government has ever brought against the world of work: the abolition of the eight-hour working day,” he said.

Tsipras said the government’s economic recovery idea puts a burden on small and medium-sized businesses, favors privatizations, and undermines labor safeguards, without noting he had done the same before ousted in July 7, 2019 snap polls.

# No Vaccinations, COVID-19 Tests? Locked Out of Greek Venues Seen

TNH Staff

ATHENS – Greece's New Democracy government is said moving cautiously toward a requirement that people will have to show proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or proof they aren't infected or they will be barred from bars, restaurants, stores, cinemas, concerts, and where people gather.

With little more than 13 percent of the country of 10.7 million now fully inoculated, the government wants to avoid stigmatizing those who haven't had the chance to get both shots of most versions or the single-shot Johnson & Johnson.

But Greece, like other countries, has a small hard-core contingent of anti-vaxxers who don't think the shots are safe and effective despite scientific proof to the contrary, or that

they will change their DNA to take over their bodies and minds.

A guideline being mulled, said Kathimerini, would be to require the vaccination certificate or negative test, or having survived the virus, to be able to go to where other people congregate as a lenient lockdown is gradually being ended.

For those who choose the option of tests, they will have to pay the cost and do them every time they want to go into a venue, that seen as an incentive to get the shots that are free.

Those who had been in lockdowns during the pandemic will be locked out of near-normal life and be forbidden to enter indoor venues, the government wanting to speed inoculations before the autumn and flu season when viruses spread more easily.

That also means, the paper

said, that health care workers who refused to be inoculated will be required to get the shots after the government said it was considering offering them a bonus to do so.

Those who refuse, including staff, will be suspended on put on leave without pay although it wasn't said if they would be terminated, which is almost impossible in Greece because of the strength of unions.

It's still way behind the initial ambitious schedule that was slowed by a cumbersome European Union distribution program, but Greece's accelerating COVID-19 vaccination program is loosening the pandemic's grip and lessening hospitalizations.

Cases are gradually declining, after a surge over relaxed lockdown conditions during Easter, and health officials point to critical indicators as proof the vaccinations that some, includ-

ing healthcare workers, shun, are highly effective.

Some 90 percent of COVID-19 patients admitted to hospitals between April 12 and May 2 were not vaccinated, 8 percent had gotten one of two required doses of most of the versions, and only 2 percent had both, the Health Ministry said.

That's in line with similar experiences around the world although those who had been vaccinated but gotten infected displayed only mild, or no symptoms, and were not at risk of perishing.

The numbers in public hospital Intensive Care Units (ICUs) that were being overwhelmed is also going down although health officials continue to warn against complacency with the lockdown essentially over apart from wearing masks.

Of the 1.3 million people who have been fully vaccinated,

less than 0.3% became ill through the middle of the first week of May, said Kathimerini, adding that there's been a big drop in the number of elderly patient hospitalizations as that sector was the first, after politicians, to get shots.

“We have far fewer patients now over the age of 80 and almost all of them are unvaccinated with one or two exceptions,” Mina Gaga, Director of the 7th Pulmonary Clinic of

Sotiria hospital, said.

She said that during the peak in November 2020 when another lockdown was brought the hospital had some 200 patients over the age of 80 when fear was rising just as fast.

“In this wave, which was much more severe, we have so far had about 80 admissions of patients in this age group, and only two were vaccinated,” she said, another sign the shots are working.

# All You Want is Greece: Country Opens to Tourists During COVID-19

Continued from page 1

vaunting the country’s beaches, historical sites and tavernas, the report said.

Sparked by Americans, tourists interests in traveling as the COVID-19 pandemic is slowly reclining has made Greece a hot spot, especially for the summer, after the New Democracy government moved to be one of the first to invite them.

Bloomberg cited Paul Tumpowsky of the tech-driven agency Skylark saying: “Greece is everyone’s Plan A. There’s no doubt that by being open first, they’re going to capture the business on the front end of summer, because flights are unreliable everywhere else. Every major carrier is flying into Athens now – and you can bet

that more airlines are going to be rerouting their wide-body jets there as soon as they can,” he said.

Tourism is Greece's biggest revenue engine, bringing is as much as 18-20 percent of the annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of 165.27 billion euros (\$200.3 billion) and had employed close to one million people before the pandemic hit.

Until COVID-19 arrived in 2020, the country was on a run of record years and expects a modest comeback although there are signs it could be bigger with more people being vaccinated around the world and allowed to travel.

The economy shrank 8 percent in 2020 during two lockdowns aimed at slowing the spread of the Coronavirus that closed non-essential businesses



AP PHOTO/THANASSIS STAVRAKIS

A firefighter carries doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines upon their arrival by plane to Naxos island airport, Greece, Thursday, May 13. A vaccination program for Greek islands is being accelerated to cover all local residents by the end of June as authorities relax restrictions for the tourism season.

for months at a time, idling hundreds of thousands of workers, including in tourism.

Tourism revenues plummeted to only 4 billion euros (\$4.85 billion) in 2020 from 18 billion euros (\$21.82 billion) in the record year of 2019, but analysts are unsure how much they will go up this year, the spring season only now underway.

Theoharis, back after a series of foreign visits, including to the US and UK to promote Greece, didn't know either, saying only “It will be better than last year,” when most tourism businesses were shuttered.

Travelers returning to Germany and Britain still have to quarantine, meaning visitor numbers from two of Greece's key markets are likely to be limited for the moment. But Theoharis said this week he was optimistic Britain would put Greece on its “green list” soon of its designated safe countries.

In a feature, The New York Times noted the air of optimism even as the government was caught off guard by Greeks shunning masks, partying in city squares and shaking off the terror even with the pandemic still killing and hospitalizing people.

Heraklion Airport on Crete was buzzing for the first time in months, with Germans, French and Israelis among the first arrivals, and the authorities said they expected 10,000 arrivals on the island in just a few days, the paper noted.

Traffic was slower on the popular islands of Mykonos and Santorini where bookings for hotels were around 30 percent for the spring but expected to hit 90 percent in July, with sum-

mer weather a beacon for travelers.

Greece hopes it will last past the high season of summer into the autumn.

Reservations are already picking up and the signs are that people will come after summer for attractions other than sand and sun and surf, with the fall a good time to view archaeological sites without the brutal heat on your back.

“If there is nothing unpredictable, then we will have a good autumn,” Yiannis Retsos, president of the Greek Tourism Confederation (SETE) told Kathimerini in a reference to the volatile COVID-19 that has shown resilience and can spoke.

He told the newspaper of a “hidden enthusiasm that things will go well,” as Greece keeps easing away from a lenient lockdown, opening businesses, restaurants expected to be allowed indoor seating in June and islands beckoning.

“Estimates in the industry have always been risky and, at this juncture, are even more so,” he said. “However, I am optimistic that we will achieve the goal of recovering part of the revenue compared to 2019,” he added.

“People are tired and will plan trips,” Retsos said, pointing to late June as when a surge of visitors could arrive, those who are vaccinated or have negative tests or had survived the virus, as Greece is accelerating its own inoculation drive.

He said that he also believes that this year the travel inflows will “last longer than usual and longer than last year when the second wave of the pandemic froze travel in September.”

# An Eye on Turkey, Greece Will Buy Anti-Submarine Helicopters

TNH Staff

Not taking any chances during a roller-coaster ride of tensions with Turkey that plans to hunt for energy in the Aegean, Greece is building its military strength to add more weapons, including anti-submarine helicopters.

In a feature on Greece's move to bolster its arsenal while adding international allies against Turkish threats of aggression, the U.S. Naval Institute News noted the approach of combining diplomacy with military might as a deterrent.

Defense Minister Nikolaos Panagiotopoulos said “acquiring high-end weapons systems” would include buying the anti-sub copters and modernizing four frigates already in the Hellenic Navy and U.S. F-16s in the Air Force.

Greece's German-made submarines are an advantage against Turkey because they are virtually undetectable but Turkey moved to counter that with a plan to also buy German submarines.

Germany, which has lucrative arms deals with Turkey and is home to 2.744 million people of Turkish heritage, has blocked Greece's call for sanctions over Turkey's plans to look for energy in the Aegean and East Mediterranean.

Greece is “revamping the entirety of our armed forces,” while updating its defense agreement with the United States, and will upgrade its northern port of Alexandroupolis near Turkey's border, USNI noted.

Panagiotopoulos said that port will become a transportation hub in the Balkans and logistical base for Black Sea operations for NATO – Turkey and Greece belong to the defense alliance which has refused to intervene in the dilemma.

He said elements of the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division used the facilities recently as part of the Defender Europe 21 exercise.

“Our aspiration is to make [the port and the mutual defense agreement] even better,” he said during a Center for Strategic and International Studies online forum the report added.

The work at the port will include extending piers to handle larger ships and expanding its fuel storage facilities and other work will involve rail, highway, and pipeline connections to the rest of Europe as Greece continues to build its military during the COVID-19 pandemic despite a staggering economy.

The defense chief called the U.S. Navy's base on Souda Bay on Crete “the jewel in the crown” of regional naval facilities for the United States and NATO because it can accommodate American aircraft carriers – as it did in March, with the arrival of USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN-69) – and other large warships.

The former ruling Radical Left SYRIZA wanted to end that relationship, have no U.S. military presence in Greece, and take Greece out of NATO before former Premier Alexis Tsipras reneged on all those vows as he did over promising to end austerity measures attached to international bailouts.

He described Greece as the United States' and NATO's “anchor state” in the Eastern Mediterranean although Turkey is drilling for oil and gas in the sea off Cyprus, ignoring soft European Union sanctions.

“I would say we're extremely active” in security operations “in the volatile Eastern Mediterranean,” Panagiotopoulos said during the forum, including taking part in joint and combined exercises like the Defender series and living up to Greece's commitment to NATO to modernize forces after Russia seized Crimea in 2014.

He said that to Greeks what makes the Eastern Mediterranean particularly “volatile” is Turkey's “neo-Ottoman” ambitions, which threaten not only Greece but the integrity of NATO, he said, Turkey having acquired a Russian-made S-400 missile defense system that could be used against Greece and compromise the defense alliance.

He said Greece sent part of its fleet off the island of Kastellorizo after Turkey sent an energy research vessel and warships there as part of a plan to find oil and gas off Greek islands, which threatened a conflict.

“We will continue to comply with international law, not gunboat diplomacy,” to settle disputes with Turkey, Panagiotopoulos said, pointing to NATO trying steps to ratchet down the tension, although they didn't work.

Panagiotopoulos said “our strategic aim was never isolating Turkey,” but its actions and “rhetoric border on belligerent,” as Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he openly covets return of islands ceded to Greece in the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne Turkey doesn't recognize unless invoking to its advantage.

“We would like Turkey to be part of the scheme” of regional co-operation that Greece has established with Cyprus, Israel, the Arab states, Egypt, and Libya through new economic and diplomatic agreements,” he said.

## Last Morning at Elixirion

While tourists who come to Greece head for the islands, and even Athens since it's picked up a buzz, the Peloponnese, especially the wild area of Mani, offers a real getaway and traditional guest houses like Elixirion in Itylo, Karovostasi, near where the war for independence began.



TNH/ANDY DABILIS



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U.S.-Turkey Relations: From Bad to Worse

Relations between the United States and Turkey, instead of improving, as some expected, are getting worse. The violent tone of the statements from both sides, the insults, leave us speechless.

They are certainly not reminiscent of the decades-old warm relations between the two countries.

In fact, these statements are reminiscent of declarations by harsh opponents. They are more akin to North Korean leaders' attacks on U.S. Presidents than to statements among NATO allies.

The Turkish President accused his American counterpart of "writing history with his hands dipped in blood," referring to the way he is dealing with the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians.

An extremely heavy charge to be levelled against anyone. On the other hand, the White House did not let this accusation go unnoticed.

And in order to devalue it, as well as to devalue the one who made it, the President did not answer himself but made the State Department respond: "Turkish President Erdogan's anti-Semitic remarks are reprehensible and have no place on the world stage – or anywhere. We call on Turkey to refrain from language that could incite further violence. The U.S. is focused on bringing an end to the conflict."

Who could have imagined that this would be happening? As for those who believe that Erdogan's rivalry with Biden diminishes American influence in Turkey, the answer is that they are wrong.

The opposite is happening. As the U.S. foreign policy establishment increasingly acts on new strategic calculations about the value of Turkey as an ally, casting the future of relations between the two countries into doubt as Washington displays less confidence in Ankara, the Turks in the background are seeking cooperation with the Americans.

So, even as Erdogan continues the verbal war with America, alternatives are being sought at the political level, but also in the area of American cooperation with Turkey on all fronts.

Of course, Erdogan knows very well what he is doing. But the temporary political benefits he is now reaping will soon evaporate, burned away by the heat of the negative course he has set for his country, and his current supporters will turn against him very soon.

Moreover, the fact that he is 'playing' as arrows from both America and Israel are pointed at him proves the extent of the insecurity regarding his future in Turkish politics.

The Current Political Reality

"Is Greece not a democracy," asked a friend who is visiting the homeland after a long time. "But of course it is," I answered him. "What kind of question is that?"

"I do not see any opposition," he said. He surprised me. "You are right about that," I told him.

The opposition is almost non-existent. Alexis Tsipras, after his defeat, almost two years ago, cannot find his footing. He resorts to populist fireworks, which instead of increasing his popularity, reduce it more and more. People seem to finally be convinced that there are no easy solutions, of the type proposed by Tsipras, and consider themselves lucky that the reins of the country are in the hands of Kyriakos Mitsotakis and not the SYRIZA leader's.

The most common utterance is, "can you imagine what things would be like today if Tsipras were the country's prime minister?"

Moreover, it is easy to see that today there is essentially only one politician, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, who stands out above all others. And this applies to both the government and the opposition.

The recent attempt of a minister to create a patriotic profile at the expense of national issues, in retrospect, seems like a desperate attempt to manage the gap separating the Prime Minister from the rest.

However, if it is true that it takes more than one political leader to govern a country, then this situation does not inspire optimism in the long run.

Still, it seems that the coronavirus has put an end, at least temporarily, but unquestionably, to the ideological wars waged in recent decades between the right and the left.

What counts in public opinion today is the ability of a leader to manage problems and not the affixing of a left or right label.

And this important battle was won by an overwhelming margin, by Kyriakos Mitsotakis, who proved that he can manage big problems in the best possible way.

However, the first threatening cloud in the image of the government and Greece was caused by the recent interview of the Minister of Tourism with a reputable BBC journalist with a large audience.

The journalist 'opened holes' in many of the achievements of the Greek government in the field of tourism, but also in general, such as the issue of refugee treatment.

Undoubtedly, it was an unusually harsh, almost unprecedented attack-criticism of the journalist on the Minister.

However, it is known that this journalist has built his career upon the ruthless way in which he presents his question to those who agree to give him interviews.

I would say that the Minister of Tourism, given the circumstances, did not do badly and that he calmly and in very good English tried to deal with his attacker.

However, he could have been even better, more effective, if he had been better prepared, if he had taken into account that in front of him was not a random journalist from Athens on duty, but a tough professional whose only concern is to secure the interest and the applause of his listeners and not the appreciation of a minister.

Of course, the damage to tourism and the image of the country was done.

Nevertheless, these perspectives in the daily discussion of the travel and tourism issues among journalists and opinion leaders impacted by the BBC and this journalist should not be allowed to be consolidated and become embedded in the public mind.

In the absence of more appropriate representatives of the government, the Prime Minister will have to undertake this mission as well, to overturn the impression that was created and to preserve the image of his government and Greek tourism.

Response to Another Attack by Patriarch Cyril

To the Editor:  
The local Kremlin bishop manufactured news again. At the conclusion of Holy and Great Lent and a day before Orthodox Holy Week commenced, on the Saturday of Lazarus, April 24th, 2021 – The International Day of Remembrance for the Armenian Genocide – the local Moscow bishop [Patriarch of Moscow Cyril], during a televised interview asserted a dirty, ugly, and unprecedented declaration:

"There were no genocides of Christian minorities during the Ottoman Empire."

This feigned ignorance is astonishing, unworthy, and shameful. I cannot distinguish his purpose yet, disgraceful politics or another sinister and malevolent flailing attack on Orthodox unity? Exploration is sure to come. This appalling comment from the same ilk that denies its own perpetrated genocide as the 'Holodomor problem'.

As Patriarch Cyril said the Holodomor "was a common misfortune" "due to natural disasters, claimed an enormous number of lives in Ukraine." What Cyril calls a 'natural famine' was in fact "murder by starvation" committed in 1932-33 by the Russians against Ukrainians. 3.5 million deaths!

Why insert oneself into an unrelated matter except to influence alternative considerations. Could this simply be a response to President Biden's statement on the Genocide? Of course not. Patriarch Cyril always peddles the notion he has no geopolitical inclinations. Then why pontificate: "There were no genocides of Christian minorities during the Ottoman Empire."

Here is an abridged primer of the final 25 years of the Ottoman Empire:

Hamidian Massacres	1894–1896	300,000 dead Armenians
Greek Genocide	1913–1922	900,000 dead Greeks

COMMENTARY

It's High Time to Evaluate Bill Clinton's Presidency



Special to The National Herald

For whatever reason, remembering specific dates comes naturally to me. Accordingly, I can recall without effort that the day I met President Clinton and shook his hand was June 28, 2018. We had the chance to talk for about a minute or two. I explained to him that I'm a presidential historian and that I'd been within a few feet of four other presidents – and had nonverbal communication with two of them – but never had I actually shaken a president's hand. Ever warm and personable, Clinton, still gripping my hand, gave it an extra shake for effect, and replied: "well, it's high time!"

Appropriately then, considering that many historians suggest waiting 20 years until a president has left office to evaluate him with the requisite dispassionate approach, it is high time to assess the Clinton presidency, which ended 20 years and four months ago.

Clinton served two terms and presided over favorable levels of peace and prosperity, achieved a federal budget surplus, was impeached for lying under oath and, though not convicted, was stripped of his license to practice law, and nonetheless left office with high enough approval ratings to have remained the presumptive favorite to win a third term if a constitutional amendment hadn't prevented him from trying (only former Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Colin Powell polled higher at the time).

Given Clinton's lengthy and complex presidency, a worthy evaluation of it would span a book, not merely a single weekly column. Accordingly, I won't use this column's space this week to provide a thumbnail sketch of how good or bad a job Clinton did in the White House. Instead, I'll make the case that my colleagues in the presidential history biz have a point when they say wait-

ing 20 years before passing judgment is the way to go.

When asked "who is the worst president ever?" many Americans nowadays will be quick to say Donald Trump. Many others will say Barack Obama, or Joe Biden. Fewer, but still many, may say George W. Bush. But a lot fewer would identify the senior (George H.W.) Bush, Lyndon Johnson, Gerald Ford, William Howard Taft, Rutherford B. Hayes, or many others, including Clinton, as the worst of them all. And what do all those presidents who appear on the 'worst' radar have in common? They've all been out of office for at least 20 years.

Bill Clinton in his day was hated by many. The Republican right seethed when he wrested the presidency from George H.W. Bush, and when Clinton and Al Gore easily coasted to reelection against one of the party's stalwarts, Sen. (KS) Bob Dole, and his brilliant and indefatigable running mate, Jack Kemp, who had been everything from a football star to a congressman to secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Clinton was also beloved by many more. While in office, Clinton was called "the worst" president but also "the best" – as are many if not most incumbents during their tenure – but not so much nowadays.

History has a way of tempering extreme emotional reactions. Much like teenagers who proclaim "the greatest concert ever" was the one from which they just emerged, Americans as a whole tend to exaggerate their presidents' assets and liabilities.

A combination of premise, spin, and a desire to commit to a particular point of view rather than complicate things by finding flaws in it results in whether we revere or denounce our presidents.

Let's take our current chief executive, Joe Biden. He's only been in office a few months, but so far it is a tale of two diametrically opposed narratives. The Biden-bashers will tell you that he'll destroy our country (destruction being the preeminent choice word of all [dis]loyal opposition lingo), not necessarily because he wants to or is even aware, but because he's powerless to stop the Marxist totalitarian radicals who have hijacked the otherwise dimwitted but generally patriotic traditional tax-and-spend Democratic Party.

Seyfo Massacre	1914-1918	250,000 dead Assyrians
Armenian Genocide	1915-1918	1.5 million dead Armenians

Can the Patriarch of Moscow be unaware that in the first twenty-five years of the Ottoman Empire, or ensuing centuries, Christian minorities fared no better?

In anticipation of the Glorious Resurrection and celebrations bathed in His glorious Light, on Bright Tuesday we will commemorate the holy, glorious, and right-victorious New Martyrs Raphael, Nicholas, Irene and the majority of the village of Thermi who suffered martyrdom by the Ottoman Turks on the island of Lesbos, Greece in 1463 soon after the fall of Constantinople. This wasn't even the beginning of the genocides, but I am reminded by the illiterate statement: "There were no genocides of Christian minorities during the Ottoman Empire."

Patriarch Cyril is unworthy, ἀνάξιος , недостойный ! Christ is risen!

Elias Damianakis  
Hagiographos, Archon Maestor  
New Port Richey, FL

TO OUR READERS

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

Tragedy in the Middle East Must Not Kill Hope

By Constantine S. Sirigos

There is one word that is unavoidable in the first sentence of any discussion about what is now happening between the Israelis and Palestinians: 'tragedy' – but we must not abandon the word 'try' either.

Peace plans have come and gone for decades, interspersed with stunning breakthroughs that brought real hope – but the current violence makes it seem we are as far as ever from 'peace in the Middle East.'

While I firmly believe that the only solution is a 'two state solution' (sorry Mr. Erdogan: Cyprus and the Holy Land are like apples and oranges) so much has happened in the world since the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin that the word 'solution' seems frighteningly out of place.

Nevertheless, I still believe that critical issues can be addressed in ways that satisfy the interests and security needs of both sides.

First, I must note that from the way things looked before 1990, it is a miracle that a Palestinian Authority exists – and that is a proto-state, as is the fact that the list of Arab states recognizing Israel keeps getting longer.

Those things were once considered impossible, while the key issues of territorial adjustments and a Palestinian capital in East Jerusalem – and even the settlements – were issues that looked like they could be finessed. Of course, bloodshed drowns the best of intentions and compromises, but time – and economic interests – can heal many wounds.

I have some – dwindling – optimism left, because of a fact the media seems to often forget: Israel and the Palestinian Authority are able to (usually) get along. Both still have leaders and a large percentage of people who say enough is enough and want peace. As difficult and emotional as the issue is, there have been discussions in Israel and the Authority about territorial adjustments in the West Bank.

Hamas, however, in the Gaza Strip, is dominated by extremists and terrorists, so the question is whether at some future date

Israel and the Authority can come up with a plan that credibly offers a brighter future in Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza, so that the extremists can be outflanked. I believe there is.

I always thought that the biggest issue that was ignored by the media is the Jordan Valley. It is clear now – if it wasn't always – that Israel will not withdraw from there. The recent disturbing instability in Jordan demonstrates to Israel that a friendly Amman is not a guarantee.

Peace without bread brings its own misery, and a lack of economic hope can turn younger generations against leaders.

Here is the dilemma: Israel cannot abandon the Jordan Valley. It is vital to its national security and has become non-negotiable – yet this is occupied territory.

History does offer precedents, however, territorial swaps, which have already been discussed in this context – but only on the borders of West Bank territory.

A new idea would be that Israel remains in the Jordan Valley – but the Palestinians can be compensated inch for territorial inch ... in the Negev, along the border with Egypt.

If Israel can compromise on Jerusalem as a shared capital – perhaps with the Old City, sacred to three faiths, being Internationalized (yes, that's another oft-proposed concept that has gone nowhere elsewhere, but Jerusalem is a unique place in human history) – the Palestinian Authority-State-to-be could accept such a swap – but why should the people of Gaza?

Because peace without bread brings its own misery, and a lack of economic hope can turn younger generations against its leaders – even radical ones.

I propose that a strip of territory along Israel's southern border becomes a new strip added to the Gaza Strip, but with a twist:

the border will be a new canal from the Mediterranean to the Gulf of Aqaba, which empties into the Red Sea, the Arabian Sea, and the Indian Ocean, a potentially lucrative zone the Saudis, Israelis, and others will want to invest in.

Egypt, a key stakeholder, will need to be cut into the deal – but we have recently also seen it has an interest in relieving traffic in the Suez Canal – and widening it is prohibitively expensive.

A new canal is win-win: a gain for Israeli security and an economic boost for the Palestinians.

The Israelis of course have expensive advanced military facilities which will have to be rebuilt next to the new canal, but they will be more modern and effective.

This will sound familiar to some – the old Dead-Med canal that was to connect the Dead Sea with the Mediterranean – but an Aqaba-Med canal would be more valuable economically – and contribute to the peace effort.

Palestinian economic independence and prosperity is guaranteed to benefit, but in the long term the gain could be huge for all parties.

Dr. Aristotle Tziampiris of the University of Piraeus and president of the Council for International Relations Greece (CFIR-GR) believes all states in the region and other interested parties must take note of the links and partnerships being created between East Med and Gulf states and act accordingly. Effectively, what is emerging is a Greater East Med. Again, Saudi Arabia's port of Aqaba is its gateway to the Suez Canal making it a virtual Mediterranean country. Tziampiris' reasoning demonstrates the United States and the entire region stand to gain tremendously.

Greece, too, has a potentially helpful and lucrative role to play. Given its excellent relations with Arab states and Israel – and its own interests, the needs of its vital shipping industry not least among them – Athens would make a respected mediator.



LETTER FROM ATHENS

A Crime Too Far, Murder of Young Mother in Greece



by ANDY DABILIS

Special to The National Herald

If indeed there is a special place in Hell for the truly wicked and evil (it must be a big one) then save space for the savage subhuman who gagged Caroline Crouch in front of her 11-month-old baby during a home invasion in Athens, then put his hand over her lips and mouth to suffocate her. She was 20, a British-Filipino woman whose adult life was just beginning, holding the flower that makes it truly special in a child, the young mother snuffed out in a second by a man with no heart, conscience or soul - for 15,000 euros (\$18,219) in cash and valuables.

In a country inured to tragedy by the lingering COVID-19 pandemic that by the time of her murder had killed more than 11,300 people, so cold and brutal was this one that it went too far, shocking people and police alike.

Predictably, authorities put in motion teams of detectives and squads of police to try to find who did it, and media reports said they had suspects from the get-go.

The hunt was aided by her husband, 32-year-old helicopter pilot Charalambos Anagnostopoulos, who said he saw the face of one of them and was able to describe it to police, said Kathimerini.

The immediate question was why? The invaders didn't have to kill Crouch, with varying reports she was murdered to silence her and prevent screams that would alert neighbors, after they killed the family's dog, people believing that's a deterrent, but which is eliminated with some poison and red meat.

As horrible as a home invasion and violation is, a terrifying trauma even when you're not hurt, this would have been a story that fell down in the headlines and news in a couple of days, so the men who did it put the spotlight on themselves.



EUROKINISSI

An investigator at the scene of the crime.

no one ever found, this murder put people more on edge and probably adding triple defender locks and other security to their homes.

"They will get to the perpetrators – the case has become a hot topic on a nationwide level and the police are into it. They will use any available means from DNA to technology, informants and money awards," Ioannis Michaletos, Research Coordinator for Greece at Balkanalysis, who covers organized crime, told The National Herald.

Other media reports said Anagnostopoulos was shown 30 mug shots of potential suspects as police were said to be tying the burglary and murder to a Albanian-led gang that uses gypsies and other foreigners who had conducted a dozen break-ins.

Police were questioning a 30-year-old Georgian man caught trying to leave through the border with Bulgaria, apprehended while trying to use a forged passport, and who had a record including the violent robbery of an elderly couple.

Crouch's husband had been tied and gagged in another room, perhaps hearing the attack on his wife who was in an attic with their child, with some reports saying the baby was trying to wake its mother.

After an hour, he was able to free himself to make the awful discovery that's a life shattered, left with his child but not his young wife.

Greece's state broadcaster ERT said police were centering the probe on professional burglars and were looking at CCTV footage and trying to find clues.

"The murderers could be high on drugs , it has happened before," said Michaletos who said it's time to worry even during the pandemic that is lingering, the terror only slowly evaporating as vaccinations gradually beat it back.

"Home invasions and a rise in criminality in Athens is steady over the past 15 years or so. It will get worse if a set of measures is not in place. Right now penalties are very low, there are serious dysfunctions in police operations and ... the economic crisis further fuels the phenomena," he added.

Over the past few years Greece has seen a number of grisly murders, from the rape and killing of American scientist Suzanne Eaton on Crete in 2019 by the son of a priest, to the rape, torture and murder of 21-year-old university student Eleni Toupaloudi by two men, who tossed her into the sea alive to drown.

Human nature being what it is, the memory of Crouch's murder will fade too, but she is gone forever and there has to be the hope that whoever did it will be caught and jailed for life – actually life because Greek sentences for life often mean only a handful of years – and the killers could walk free.

"The whole country is in a steady pace of 'Mafiazation' for years now," said Michaletos as the fear of COVID-19 is being joined by that of knowing you're not safe in your own house at night when savages prey.

"Citizens should start taking simple measures to protect properties and lives by educating themselves on simple things ... locking the doors ... a lot forget to do that," he said. "Also not divulging personal information on social media – and be aware of their immediate environment," he added.

"Things will get worse," he said, and he wasn't talking about COVID-19.

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This Will Not End Well for Israel or the United States



by AMB. PATRICK N. THEROS

Special to The National Herald

to a halt before hundreds of bodies become thousands of bodies, that is not enough. Once again, we have allowed a toxic combination of Israeli and American domestic politics and our preference to kick the can down the road take priority over trying to address the issues.

Without fear of contradiction, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's campaign to stay in power as Prime Minister can be considered the proximate cause of today's bloodshed. He has drummed up intercommunal hatreds such as his blatantly racist electoral campaign urging Jews to vote because too many Arabs are "flocking to the polls." Court-ing the right-wing, he has encouraged settler organizations, many of them funded by wealthy Americans, to dispossess Muslim and Christian Israeli citizens of their property. The current crisis ignited when an American-financed organization took advantage of a law that allows Jewish Israelis to reclaim land lost in Israel's War of Independence of 1948 but does not extend the same right to Muslim and Christian Israelis. For the record, I have worked to help the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem fight the same battle against the same organizations seeking to confiscate the properties of the Patriarchate as well as of the Catholic, Armenian, and Coptic Churches.

Given the one-sided law, the court cases naturally went against the property owners. They were about to be evicted when violence erupted. Hamas, the equally extremist political party ruling Gaza, exploited the crisis to burnish its political credentials by firing rockets at Israeli towns. The Israeli military responded with massive air and artillery bombardment and now threatens ground action. This time, however, the violence spread to Israeli towns with mobs of Israeli citizens, Jews vs. Muslims and Christians, attacking each other. While Netanyahu has denounced the intra-Israeli violence, his police have mostly stood aside when

Jewish vigilantes attack their fellow non-Jewish citizens but always protect Jews from violence.

The Biden administration, which had tried to pivot American strategic attention and involvement away from the Middle East, wants to avoid engagement. He has reverted to the default position of American policy: denounce violence, express platitudes about bringing it to an end while insisting that it is up to the Palestinians to give in first. This has few short-term political downsides among the American electorate. We have done about the same with almost every previous such outbreak in the region since I was old enough to follow the news (a very long time). Nothing changes and a few months or so later, people again start dying.

However, change comes inevitably and the fixation of American and Israeli politicians on the short term, guarantees we will not be ready when the long term turns to bite us. Furthermore, the politicians seem to ignore the qualitative differences from the past crises. The level of intercommunal violence, Israeli citizen pitted against Israeli citizen, has no precedent. At the risk of sounding banal, I quote Abraham Lincoln about "A house divided against itself cannot stand." Israel must, before it becomes too late, decide if it wants to become an apartheid South Africa or



AP PHOTO/ODED BALILY

Members of the Srer family inspect the damage to their apartment after it was hit by a rocket fired from the Gaza Strip overnight in Petah Tikva, central Israel, May 13.

Biden's American Investment Plan



by PROF. DAN GEORGAKAS

Special to The National Herald

to learn the skills needed to compete in the new economy.

National polls report that repair of our infrastructure has the support of 97% of the nation. Biden's more ambitious goals of reshaping social services are more controversial, but he considers them essential for moving the United States from an also ran status in evolving international norms to once more being a world leader. I will write about his non-controversial proposals in this essay and the more innovative proposals in my next.

Although hysterical right-wingers term Biden's proposals as socialism, the president's fifteen-year investment strategy is aimed at strengthening the capitalist system. A logical response to the proposal to spend two trillion dollars is who will pay for it? Whatever its merits, will it not again grossly inflate the national debt as did the policies of Obama and Trump? In a fifty-page but highly readable White House document released mid-April, Biden demonstrates how his plan is not only designed to pay for itself but to create a surplus that lowers rather than raises the national debt.

The American Jobs Plan requires major business to pay what Biden calls a fair share of the national

tax burden. This means giving up some of the Trump tax cuts designed to stimulate the economy just as unemployed workers will soon lose the federal additions to their unemployment checks.

Biden has identified over 200 specific corporations that make billions in profits annually yet pay less than 10% in income taxes. Nearly a hundred of them, including behemoths such as Fed Ex, Kinder Morgan, Amazon, and Nike pay 0%.

Biden proposes a corporate tax of 21-28% with a mandate that all corporations pay at least 10% tax on earned income. He would also close legislative loopholes and end most subsidies. More generally, there would be a modest tax increase limited to people making at least \$400,000 annual income. An increase in long term capital gains taxes may also be in order.

A significant number of corporate bigwigs have endorsed the plan. They include the liberal Bill

Although hysterical right-wingers term Biden's proposals as socialism, the president's 15-year investment strategy is aimed at strengthening the capitalist system.

Gates (Microsoft), the conservative Jeff Bezos (Amazon), and the centrist Jamie Dimon (JP Morgan-Chase). The stock market has signaled its support by rising to new all-time highs.

The vigorous economy the plan would generate would be a significant source of increased federal income, and millions of workers will have non-exportable jobs. Past history and present sentiment indicate their income will have a multiplying effect as they eat out, attend amusement events of all kinds, travel, make home improvements, and pay off their debts.

Another obvious plus is that the equipment needed for infrastructure repair is mainly made by domestic manufacturers such as John Deere. Increased production by such firms combined with

live up to the dreams of its founders to establish a democratic state that would be an example to the world. It does not take a professional historian to tell you how long apartheid South Africa survived.

Israel should also consider the likelihood that the images of Israeli police attacking worshippers at al-Aqsa, one of the holiest mosques in Islam, on a holiday as sacred to Muslims as Easter is to Christians, will undo Israel's single most important diplomatic triumph of the 21st century. The four Arab states that Trump persuaded to recognize Israel in 2020 may not be democracies but even autocrats dare not disturb the religious sensibilities of their subjects. Israelis should also realize that the violence has just removed almost all pressure from Iran and seems to have accelerated the willingness of those states who 'normalized' with Israel against Iran to 'normalize' with the Ayatollahs instead.

Finally, Israel should seriously contemplate the fate of Turkish-American relations. The U.S. consistently supported Turkey regardless of its actions, such as the pogrom against Greeks in Constantinople in 1955, the closing of Christian schools and Churches, and the frequent massacres of Kurds for decades. Successive Turkish governments lulled themselves into believing that U.S. support had no limits. Ultimately, Turkey so angered the U.S. that today it finds itself with no friends in Washington.

American and European politicians should also remember that violence begets violence. The terrorists of 9/11 may have had other motives, but their battle cry included the "liberation of al-Aqsa." Dead Palestinians have relatives who will seek revenge and who will remember that American-made warplanes delivered the bombs that killed them. Innocent Americans and Europeans will almost certainly pay the price of American and European government acquiescence with Netanyahu's policies. The current violence emboldens Iran, opens the door to Russian and Chinese influence in the Moslem world, and makes Turkey's Erdogan into a local folk hero for challenging his nemesis, Netanyahu.

If history is any guide, the violence will slowly subside. Nothing significant will have changed and in the not-too-distant future people will start the killing again. Would it not be better to really try to resolve these issues, even if it's hard work?

Patrick Theros served in the U.S. foreign service for 36 years. He was U.S. Ambassador to Qatar and also directed the State Department's Counterterrorism Office. He currently represents the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem in the United States.

the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic means that the average national income will rise. Consequently, even without a tax rise, there will be more revenue flowing to Washington. We are already experiencing 6% growth, a rate not seen since the 1960s. If that trend continues, funds would be available to reduce the national debt.

A key element in the job plans is to wean the economy off fossil fuel over a fifteen-year time span. This includes \$174 billion to aid electric car technology and practical aid such as creating 500,000 charging stations and replacing at least 20% of fossil fuel school buses with electrically powered counterparts. All federal vehicles would go electric. Another \$213 billion will be used to renovate housing and \$100 billion for rebuilding the electrical grid.

The proposal includes \$50 billion for the domestic production of electrical batteries and microchips needed to carry out these changes. Given the international shortage of both, that means increasing production as soon as possible. Yet another transportation improvement is establishing a more reliable passenger and freight line service. This includes \$80 billion to address Amtrak's repair backlog and otherwise update the high-traffic Northeast Corridor.

Space does not allow for discussion of all aspects of the Biden plan, but what I've highlighted expresses its essence. The president has indicated he is more than open to hearing from Republicans and others on how his plan could be made more effective. Unalterable is his determination to invest heavily in America's future. The wisdom of such a perspective was underscored by Warren Buffett (Berkshire Hathaway) in a public letter, "someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago."

Dan Georgakas is Director of the Greek American Studies Project at Queens College (CUNY). He is available at his website: dangeorgakas.agsites.com

A Year of COVID College

By Connie Michalos

It's official. The first year of COVID College is over. Finals are done. Grades are submitted. Now what?

Well, we wait to see if it will be safe to return to campus in the Fall. More important, we wait to see what students will be like when we come back. This has been a difficult year on so many levels – academic, social, emotional, physical, psychological, spiritual, financial. We are all exhausted, and though we did our best to communicate information in creative ways, I'm not certain we were very successful.

We all have COVID fatigue, a certain malaise that infected us without the attendant fever and breathing complications but still a threat to our academic lives. And like our response to the pandemic, we were woefully unprepared.

We left school on March 12, 2020, for a week of Spring break and what we thought would be a few weeks online while the powers-that-be figured out how to handle this coronavirus business. We all know what happened next. It is now 14 months since that exodus, and we've learned a lot since then. But there's so much more we don't know.

I wondered about faculty who were tech-resistant before the pandemic. One 91-year old professor made the national news because he defied expectations and made Shakespeare come alive on Zoom. Too many other much younger colleagues stayed true to form and resisted any training. Instead, they silently communicated through electronic work sheets. Boring enough if you're standing in front of the students. Disastrous when done remotely.

During the Summer, everyone was required to

undergo training. Over 70% of the faculty opted to teach online in the Fall (and Spring, it turned out), but classrooms were retrofitted with state-of-the-art technology for those who were returning to the classroom for what was euphemistically termed hybrid learning: to maintain social-distancing, half the class was present one day while the other half learned remotely, and then switch. Students were also expected to sanitize their areas before and after class. Good luck with that. They just stopped coming.

We quickly learned that too many of our students, and even some faculty, did not have access to technology and reliable WiFi. One computer in the family would not serve when three children

We quickly learned that too many of our students, and even some faculty, did not have access to technology and reliable WiFi.

and two parents were working remotely. Thanks to the CARES Act and the American Rescue Plan Act, we were able to distribute hundreds of Chromebooks to students, but we couldn't guarantee reliable internet connections. Nor could we address circumstances at home for a substantial number of our students. One nursing student cried that she had to take her exams in the bathroom to have some privacy. God knows where the rest of them go.

My students looked haggard by the end of the year. Many of them refused to leave the house. They didn't exercise, eat properly, enjoy any me-time. We all complain about maintaining a healthy work-life balance. That line blurred beyond recog-

niton with the pandemic. This year, my travel time to my office has been about three seconds. If I don't have classes or meetings, I'm still in my pajamas at 10. I have taught myself to eat lunch away from my computer, but I find my day is much longer because I schedule student meetings way later than I would if I were in my office pre-COVID. I spent many Saturday afternoons zooming with my thesis student. That would not happen face-to-face. The break is built into the calendar. It's called a week-end. During the pandemic, the week never ends.

Students complain that they are tired and unmotivated because classes bleed one into the other and their day never ends. I suggested that they create, online, the boundaries that normally exist being on campus. Study outdoors. Set up a zoom lunch break with a friend, close your books, and just eat and visit. Turn off your computer after class and listen to your playlist for an hour. Do jumping jacks or take a walk in between. I've even recommended Hallmark movies before bed – beautiful people, even more beautiful scenery, rapid dialogue, predictable storylines. How better to fall asleep?

"Great ideas!" they say. Do they take me up on any of them? No.

Not many of my students will attend Summer school, even with the discounted tuition. I can't blame them. They're exhausted.

I worry about them when we return to campus in the Fall. I worry more about them if we don't come back.

Then there are the incoming freshmen. After a year online in high school, what have they learned? What have they retained? How prepared are they for college-level work? On the first day of class, I remind them that this is not the 13th grade. Maybe this Fall, I won't say that.



The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor

The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
Majority Leader, New York State Senate

The Honorable Robert G. Ort  
Minority Leader, New York State

May 18, 2021

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor  
The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
Majority Leader, New York State Senate  
The Honorable Robert G. Ort  
Minority Leader, New York State  
The Capitol  
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Governor Cuomo, Senator Stewart-Cousins, and Senator Ort:

We write to encourage you to nominate and speedily confirm Nassau County District Attorney Madeline Singas to be an Associate Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals. She is exceptionally qualified, having spent nearly 30 years in public service, and on her watch Nassau County was ranked “America’s Safest County” by US News & World Report.

Ms. Singas would be the Court's first Greek American judge, and New York’s Greek American religious, business, civic, and elected leaders strongly support her candidacy for this important seat on New York’s highest court.

The Greek-American Community takes great pride in DA Singas’ three decades of public service, her leadership as District Attorney, and her many accomplishments. Madeline has worked collaboratively with law enforcement at every level to make Nassau New York’s safest county: protecting vulnerable communities from gangs, drugs, and gun violence. She has dedicated unprecedented resources to help women, children, immigrants and the elderly, while pioneering cutting-edge investigations into cybercrime, government corruption, and white-collar frauds. She has implemented criminal justice reforms quickly and in the spirit the Legislature intended, and has worked to combat systemic racism and bias within the justice system, working diligently to bring the community together during these times of such great division.

District Attorney Singas is an experienced and talented attorney with the skill and temperament to be an outstanding judge. Her background as a first-generation immigrant, the first in her family to attend law school, has afforded her unique perspective to the challenges faced by our most vulnerable neighbors, and her commitment to justice and service is unrivaled.

On behalf of the Greek-Americans of the Great State of New York, we urge you to nominate DA Singas and confirm her to the New York State Court of Appeals, where we know that she will make an outstanding Associate Judge.

Respectfully,



Dennis Mehiel



Father Alexander Karloutsos