

The “Greek Freak” Streaks

Antetokounmpo: from Sepolia's Streets to NBA All-Star

TNH Staff

The son of Nigerian immigrants to Greece, Giannis Antetokounmpo has become a force in the National Basketball Association, ranked fifth among its superstars and a starter in the All-Star game.

It was an Odyssey that took him from walking around the streets of the Athens working-class neighborhood of Sepolia selling sunglasses to help keep his family from getting evicted and being able to survive to the hardwood courts and bright lights of the big time.

“I would like to thank each and every one of you from the bottom of my heart for your support throughout these days,” Antetokounmpo wrote on his Twitter account in Greek. “You all took an active part in making my dream come true... I really appreciate it! You can be certain that I will be playing for you too at the All-Star Game. Thanks Greece!”

Four years ago he was sitting in the stands at the NBA draft with a Greek flag and looked at as a tall project with immense upside potential, a 6-9 point



AP PHOTO

“Greek Freak” Giannis Antetokounmpo, NBA All-Star

guard who could shoot, dunk, fly through the air and was still developing at 18 years old.

Now 22 – and 6-11 – he’s the tallest guard in the league and almost an unstoppable force when he’s on his game, which he mostly is, and a nightly highlight with a jaw-dropping array of dunks and moves defying gravity, a pterodactyl with a 7-4

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James Vlasto, Pol. Adviser, 82

NEW YORK – James S. Vlasto, a prominent public relations practitioner and political adviser in campaigns for Governor, Congress and the Senate, passed away Jan. 19 from pulmonary disease, his son Christopher, an Executive Producer of ABC’s Good Morning America said.

He was born Dimitrios Solon Vlasto on June 11, 1934 in the Washington Heights neighborhood of Manhattan, to a prominent Greek-American family, the New York Times noted in his obituary.

His father, Solon, was an immigrant from Athens who became the publisher of The Atlantis, a Greek-language daily newspaper based in New York that was founded by an uncle of his. It was published from 1894 to 1972. His mother was

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The Greek-American Presence at the Inauguration



AP PHOTO/ANDREW HARNIK

Trump Chief of Staff Reince Priebus, center, accompanied by Vice President Mike Pence, left, is embraced by President Donald Trump, right, during a White House senior staff swearing in ceremony in the East Room of the White House, Jan. 22.

As President Trump is sworn in, Priebus is by his side

TNH Staff

WASHINGTON, DC – The Greek-American presence was strong at the historic festivities of the inauguration of the 45th US President Mr. Donald Trump. On Thursday evening January 19th Archbishop Geron Demetrios of America bestowed during a Greek-American inaugural reception, the Medal of Saint Paul, the highest honor of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, to Reince Priebus, the new Chief of Staff of the White House, to Congressman Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) and to George Gigicos, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Advance. All three are Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, of the Order of St Andrew the Apostle. The inaugural reception, traditionally organized on the eve of the Presidential Inauguration, was sponsored by The Hellenic Initiative and was held in St. Regis Hotel just two blocks from the White House.

Both Reince Priebus and Congressman Bilirakis spoke

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George Gigicos in Trump’s Inner, Inner Circle

TNH Staff

NEW YORK – Among the four staffers in Donald Trump’s inner circle who survived the campaign trail is Greek-American George Gigicos, a Deputy Assistant and the Director of Advance for President Trump, and who the organizer of each one of his rallies. Gigicos is one of the few on the Trump team with actual White House staff experience. He previously served as an advance man for President George W. Bush, as reported in Time magazine. A central figure and

one of the “original five” who traveled with Trump around the country during the primaries, Gigicos as Director of Advance is responsible for trip-planning and Trump’s schedule. Also of note is the fact that Gigicos was the only person to join the Trump campaign when the establishment chose to ignore or even dismiss Trump’s presidential bid.

Gigicos is expected to work very closely with the president daily. As one top aide told Time of President Trump, “he doesn’t like being alone,” noting that

Trump often takes calls on his phone (which has now been traded for a secure device) and watches cable news. The aide continued, as quoted in Time “when he’s bored, he calls in Hope [Hicks], Keith [Schiller], [Dan] Scavino, John [McEntee] or George [Gigicos] to work on some new thing or to point out some news story he likes.”

Scavino described the new president’s inner circle as bonded by fire, Time reported. “We’ve been through it all together. We’re like family,” he said, referring to difficult days

of the campaign, all the protests, and negative stories. Scavino continued, “We all have our lanes and one common goal, and that’s to look out for our boss and see him succeed.”

An open-door policy for his closest advisors is how Trump will apparently work every day. The inner circle will be close even during off-hours at the White House. Choosing their housing with the distance from the Oval Office in mind, some of Trump’s top aides will live

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St. Sophia Debutante Ball in Beverly Hills, CA

By Vasilis Papoutsis

LOS ANGELES, CA – The 52nd Saint Sophia Philoptochos Debutante Ball was an elegant and glamorous affair that took place at the world famous Beverly Wilshire Hotel in the heart of Beverly Hills, CA overlooking Rodeo Drive.

Originally, this was named the Coronation Ball and started in 1950 as a means of social interaction and fellowship for first-generation Greek Orthodox immigrant youths and was sponsored by the Hellenic Orthodox Youth of America that is now the Greek Orthodox Youth of America (GOYA). Young ladies were nominated and the most popular was elected queen, and she was accompanied by her royal court at the ball. “My dad Ernie Anast and his friend John Pappas were on couple of the coronation ball committees” said Katrina Anast Beers, who is now a co-chair of the Ball. “As the ladies grew older and joined the Philoptochos Society, the

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GINA CHIARAMONTE

The 52nd St. Sophia Philoptochos Debutante Ball was an elegant affair at the world famous Beverly Wilshire Hotel introducing 16 young women shown here dancing a choreographed waltz.

Inauguration: Live from the Bleachers

By Constantinos E. Scaros

WASHINGTON, DC – January 20th was a very red day. I emerged from the Red Line of the Metro – the subway system of Washington, DC and its surrounding bedroom communities – and with a red ticket in hand, on my way to the U.S. Capitol’s West Lawn, overlooking the West portico of the building, to watch Donald Trump take the oath of office as president of the United States, at exactly 12 Noon.

The massive lines leading to security tents and then onto the West Lawn were orderly and moved surprisingly quickly – far

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Plexidas Follows his HS Hoop Dreams

By Eleni Sakellis

JERSEY CITY, NJ – For many athletically-inclined young people, sports and sports scholarships can be a great means to pay for an increasingly expensive college education. With the increasing popularity of basketball around the world, the competition for such scholarships is intense. Only the best of the best can make it through even on the high school level.

Dimitris Plexidas was born and raised in Greece, but his talent as a basketball player brought him to the United States to participate in basketball camps in recent years. Two years ago, the Greek teen was the MVP (most valuable player) at the Seton Hall Basketball camp. The honor and their son’s excitement over it made his parents realize that his future was

in the United States and not in Greece, as their cousin Harry Prassakos told The National Herald.

Dimitri’s parents, Nikos and Kiki Stoumpou-Plexidas, are both from Ptolemaida. Dimitri’s mother is Harry’s father George Prassakos’ first cousin. Dimitri has an older sister Caterina studying theater in Thessaloniki and a younger sister, Glykeria who is in middle school. Dimitri moved in with his aunt and uncle, Prassakos’ parents, George and Konstantina Prassakos in Flushing, NY. Prassakos told TNH that “the family explored his going to schools in Queens, but in the end, St. Anthony’s in Jersey City really liked him and it all worked out for him to attend there. I actually recommended that he go to High School in Queens and that the commute would be difficult, but

he and his parents decided it would be worth the long commute. It looks like it was the right choice.” Plexidas filled out his paperwork for his visa to attend high school and since September 2016, he commutes from Flushing to Jersey City, NJ to attend St. Anthony’s High School, famous for its basketball program and Coach Bobby Hurley, Sr.

Dimitri says “I feel honored that I have the opportunity to play on such a good team with a great history and the best High School coach in the world!”

Head Coach for 44 years, Hurley was inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in August 2010, only the second high school coach in history to receive the honor. His career

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Archbishop Demetrios Talks to TNH

By Theodore Kalmoukos

WASHINGTON, DC – His Eminence Archbishop Geron of America Demetrios discussed his impressions with The National Herald of the presidential inauguration of Donald Trump.

His Eminence, who was officially invited to the ceremonies and had an opportunity to talk briefly with Mr. Trump told TNH that “I saw a polite and calm man.”

The archbishop emphasized the great significance of the appointment of Reince Priebus and George Gigicos to key positions in President Trump’s circle, to the Greek-American community and to Hellenism in general. “Everything will pass through the Chief of Staff, Reince Priebus” the archbishop noted.

It was Demetrios’ fifth presidential swearing-in ceremony (he attended every one since 2001), and he said “the process and the protocol” were the same as that of the others.

“I was invited to all the festivities,” he said. “We started on

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Greeks Nominated for Oscars

TNH Staff

LOS ANGELES, CA – The nominations for the 2017 Academy Awards were announced early on Jan. 24 and some notable Greek filmmakers are among the nominees. The Greek film The Lobster directed by Yorgos Lanthimos earned a nod in one of the major categories. The film is in the running for the Best Original Screenplay Oscar. The Lobster written by Lanthimos and Efthimis Filippou features one of the most original scripts among the nominees. Lanthimos and his co-writer Filippou have been nominated before for Dogtooth which received a nomination for Best Foreign Film six years ago. Also nominated is 4.1 Miles by filmmaker Daphne Matziaraki in the Best Documentary Short Subject category. The 89th Academy Awards ceremony will take place on Feb. 26.

The list of nominees for the 89th annual Academy Awards presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences follows.

Best Picture: Arrival, Fences, Hacksaw Ridge, Hell or High Water, Hid-

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The 52nd St. Sophia Philoptochos Debutante Ball Shines in Beverly Hills

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mission of the Ball changed from a social gathering to a fundraising event benefiting the various charities. The transformation into the Debutante Ball was a natural progression." It started as an annual event in 1967 and since 2001 it has become a biannual event with participating parishes originating from all of Southern California.

This year's Ball introduced sixteen young women from eight parishes who have distinguished themselves in academia, the arts, and most importantly, philanthropy. Some of the young ladies continue on a path previously taken by another member of their family, some start a new tradition.

The National Philoptochos Society is the national philanthropic organization of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and was established in 1931 by the late Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras. Today the society has 26,000 members and more than 400 active chapters nationwide. In 1945, the Saint Sophia Philoptochos Society joined the National organization and created the Greek War Relief Program and a special Red Cross Unit. They also established two fundraising



PHOTOS: GINA CHIARAMONTE



This year's Ball introduced 16 young women from 8 parishes who have distinguished themselves in academia, the arts, and most importantly, philanthropy. The debutantes danced with their fathers and their escorts to a beautifully choreographed waltz.

events, the Debutante Ball and The Mother's Day Luncheon and Fashion Show, which are the two major fundraisers for the Society.

Beers, who was a debutante herself, told TNH that the Ball's core principals are the same as those of Philoptochos: "community service and assistance to the poor, the destitute, the hungry, the orphans and anyone who wants the help of our church." Some of the many charities who benefit from the generosity of the Philoptochos is the Children's Medical Fund, Kids' n Cancer Camps, Saint Nicholas Ranch, The Ecumenical Patriarchate, Orthodox Christian Missions, and locally, the Los Angeles Mission and Lunches for Homeless Children in Hollywood. If some people feel that debutante balls are outdated, Beers is not one of them. "Some may feel that way but I don't. This is a wonderful opportunity

to bring families together and strengthen the young ladies and their families' commitment to philanthropy."

She has fond memories of her own time as a debutante. "It is a very special feeling to be presented on the arm of your father and receive your family's recognition for your efforts. Not to mention the appreciation of hundreds of people who are seen you for the first time at the ball." The evening began with Beers and co-Chair Georgia Kezios welcoming the attendees to the elegantly decorated ballroom at the hotel and Emcee Perry Lambert, an accomplished singer and comedian, introduced the debutantes and their fathers.

After the presentation, the debutantes danced with their fathers and their escorts to a beautifully choreographed Second Waltz by Shostakovich. Greek music by the Olympians fol-

lowed. The event requires a long preparation and a substantial financial and time commitment by the debutantes, their families and their escorts. Because the event is an elegant affair "the venue selection is very important, it has to be a draw," Beers said. The Beverly Wilshire Hotel certainly fits the definition as the hotel has gathered international attention since 1990 as the site of the acclaimed romantic comedy *Pretty Woman* with Julia Roberts and Richard Gere. That is why "keeping the budget to the minimum and at the same time making the event memorable is a real challenge," Kezios said. Ensuring proper and fair seating arrangements for the ball was Cynthia Spears as a reservations chairwoman for the second ball in a row and a former debutante herself. In regards to the future of the debutante ball Co chair Beers said "My hope is that this tradition and synergy of faith, philanthropy and family will continue and flourish."

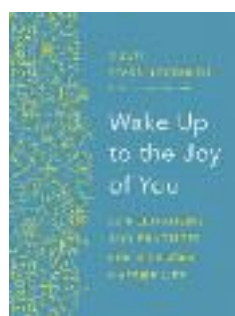
After chairing the last five balls, Beers said that "I am looking forward to hand over the reins to a new leader. As it is our tradition I will be happy to be an advisor to a feature chairperson as past chairpersons were to me." When she saw the young ladies saying the Lord's Prayer before they were presented to calm their nerves she was touched "and that to me is a testament of faith and that is what this tradition is all about." Visiting the cathedral's web site stosophia.org/ministries/philoptochos you can find more details about the history and philanthropic efforts of the society.



Please join **Agapi Stassinopoulos, AGAPW** and **ALLLONnet** in welcoming the New Year with Agapi, Joy and the traditional cutting of the Vassilopita!

What better way to start the new year than to **Wake up to the Joy of You!**

Agapi will share with us the secrets to living life with joy, will offer a guided meditation, and will sign copies of her new book.



This promises to be a delightful and inspiring celebration, filled with friendship, community, fun!

Organic Greek wine will be offered and served by **Eklektikon**, a boutique wine importer with a focus on authentic and organic Greek wines. Thank you to **Eklektikon** for your continued support!

Date: **January 30th 2017, 6:00-8:00 p.m.**

Location: **Coco-Mat Showroom** — 49 Mercer Street (SoHo), New York, NY 10013 Thank You to **Coco-Mat** for hosting us once again in their beautiful SoHo showroom!

Preregistration is required as space is limited. \$30 requested donation includes a copy of Agapi Stassinopoulos' book. Please register at agapwjoyofyou17.eventbrite.com. For more information (917) 405-6833, oaalexakos@gmail.com.

We are looking forward to seeing you and celebrating with you!



ANNOUNCEMENT: Applications are now accepted for **A.G.A.P.W.'s EXCELLENCE TUITION SCHOLARSHIP:**

A.G.A.P.W.'s EXCELLENCE TUITION SCHOLARSHIP is awarded to a female student of Greek descent enrolled in a four year accredited Bachelor's program in the Tri-State area of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. Selection criteria are based on academic excellence, contribution to the community and financial need. Applications must be submitted between January 1st and February 28th. The applicant must submit a personal statement, a financial statement, and university documents indicating status of enrollment and grades. Scholarship is awarded in March in honor of AGAPW's Greek American Woman of the Year. The total amount of the award varies from year to year, depending on available funds.

For further questions on applying for a scholarship or offering to donate to our scholarship fund, please contact **Dr. Aphrodite Navab** at desirenavab@yahoo.com. For further information please visit <http://agapw.org>.

The Association of Greek American Professional Women (AGAPW) is a 501(c)(3) charitable and educational organization under Section 402 of the Non-for-Profit Corporation Law of the State of New York. For further information, please visit www.agapw.org

George Gigicos in Trump's Inner Circle

Continued from page 1

within walking distance of the new president. According to Time, one chose an apartment only a quarter of a mile from the White House and as Scavino observed about his inner circle, "We have his back."

An Alabama native with roots in Kalamata, Gigicos has worked in logistics for campaigns or organizations since his college days when he worked in President George H.W. Bush's administration as a travel assistant in the Treasury Department. During the busiest time in the Trump campaign, Gigicos, 49, often worked late, rarely leaving his 15th floor office in Trump Tower before 10:30PM, his coworkers said, as reported by Bloomberg News. In the early days of the campaign, Gigicos was on his own, but soon 100 workers joined his staff. He would send advance teams of four people a week ahead of Trump campaign events, advising them live through Facetime calls on scouting locations and



BILL PETROS

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios presented George Gigicos' parents, Fr. Dean and Presvytera Elaine, on behalf of their son with the Archdiocesan Medal of St. Paul for George's outstanding service to the Greek Orthodox Church.

ironing out the details.

Gigicos is proud of his Greek culture and heritage, and is an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of the Greek Orthodox Church. On the eve of the inauguration, he was honored with the Archdiocesan Medal of St. Paul for outstanding service to the Greek Orthodox Church. The medal was presented by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios to Gigicos' parents Fr. Dean and Presvytera Elaine, who accepted the award on his behalf at The Hellenic Initiative reception in Washington. During his busy campaign schedule, the devoted family man would fly home to attend the ballet recitals of his two daughters, ages 6 and 9, at the time. As Bloomberg reported, Gigicos made sure not to miss the girls' first day of school, flying home, arriving in the middle of the night, seeing the girls off in the morning, and then flying back

to New York.

Unfortunately, Gigicos missed one performance when he was in California on the campaign trail. Learning of the stressful situation for Gigicos, Trump recorded a video message for the girls explaining their dad's absence. As Bloomberg reported, Trump said in the message, "Girls, your father really loves you. We're running for president. If it's OK with you, I'll steal your father for the day. He's a very talented guy and I need him. Thank you, girls."

Gigicos was moved by his boss' thoughtfulness and the girls just said, "Cool," as reported by Bloomberg.

A very private person, Gigicos usually shies away from the spotlight. As a member of Trump's inner, inner circle, it is unclear if he will be able to maintain a low-profile for very long.

Event in CT Celebrating Patriarch's 25th Anniversary

TNH Staff

ORANGE, CT — With the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America, a lecture and dialogue will be held at Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church, in Orange, CT, on February 15, focusing on twenty-five years of leadership, accomplishments, and environmental activism of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

The lecture will be presented by the Historian of the Order of Saint Andrew Archon George E. Demacopoulos, PhD, Professor of Theology, co-Director, Orthodox Christian Studies Center Fordham University, with an introduction by Regional Commander Nikiforos Mathews.

A Quarter-Century of Spiritual & Theological Accomplishments; Overcoming Denial of Religious Freedom is sponsored by the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America together with the Order of AHEPA-Chapter 98, the Hellenic Bar Association of Connecticut, and

Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church.

His All-Holiness, Patriarch Bartholomew, recently celebrated the 25th Anniversary of his Enthronement. In twenty-five years of leadership as the first among equals in the Pan-Orthodox Church, Patriarch Bartholomew has demonstrated dedication to Orthodox Church Unity and Christian Reconciliation and activism devoted to the idea that the management of the environment God's own creation is a moral issue.

The recent biography celebrating the 25th anniversary, entitled *Twenty-Five Years of Guiding the Christians: Bartholomew - Apostle and Visionary* by Father John Chryssavgis, will also be discussed at the event. This educational lecture will include a question and answer period as well.

A large turnout is expected with attendees from all of the Parishes in Connecticut, the Archon Districts in Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey, and all of the AHEPA Chapters in Connecticut.

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Comedian Basile Brings Laughs to Whitestone

By Eleni Sakellis

WHITESTONE – Comedian Basile performed at the Vasilios and Athanasia Kartsonis Hall at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church of Whitestone. The Greek-American comedian with roots in Ikaria apologized for his appearance in jeans and lateness due to plane delays and lost luggage. He told The National Herald that this was only the second time in his career that he had to perform in street clothes and not his show attire.

The enthusiastic crowd was just happy to see the talented comedian perform on January 22, in spite of the slight delay. Food and wine were available for purchase for the event creating a convivial atmosphere before the comedian's arrival for Comedy Night with Basile which was sponsored by Dimitrios Antonakis and George Isaakidis.

The event's sponsors were Jax Inn Diner, Gyro World, New Hyde Park Diner, Sanfords Restaurant, the Holy Cross Ladies Philoptochos, and George Tselekas. Audience



VINCE RICARDELLI, COURTESY OF BASILE
Comedian Basile

members from around the New York tri-state area joined the Whitestone community for the show.

Thunderous applause greeted Basile as he made his way to the stage. He later told TNH that his dressing room was the church sanctuary, which gave him a chance to do his cross before the start of the

show. In jeans and a borrowed black shirt, Basile delighted the audience with his new material and some of the updated classics. Many in attendance have been fans for years, having watched Basile on DVD, but seeing him live, everyone agreed, was an experience not to be missed. One woman noted that she had seen Basile perform at another church a year or two ago and he was so funny, she said, she didn't want to miss him this time though the kids had a game in New Jersey the same day.

Basile spoke with TNH about his process, noting that he approaches each crowd, whether it's a church or an organization, as an individual, and he tailors his show to fit each group, gauging the audience, interacting with them, and creating a fun experience for all. He takes the crowd into consideration, observing that, "there are clergy present, teenagers, yiayias" at his shows. A testament to Basile's tremendous talent, his material appeals to all ages and he does so without profanity.

Though he told TNH, he always checks with the clergy, just in case the priest might be offended by the word "fakies" or lentils in general.

The crowd roared with laughter as Basile described his Yiayia's iPhone experiences and trying to explain a "butt call" to her. Basile mentioned that his Yiayia and Pappou are 103 and 104 respectively and show no signs of slowing down. He said, "They talk about the will, but they're never gonna die."

When he talks about his Yiayia, Greek food, and his friends who are xeni, we can all relate. Basile told TNH that he always brings the joke back to himself. His personal experiences, "embellished" as he said, are the basis of his comedy and then picking a member of the audience, a "leader of the group," helps focus his jokes on the themes and commonalities that bring us together. The live show with its improvisation and the "human aspect" have made Basile a beloved comedian in Greek diaspora communities all over the world. He told TNH about performing in "tri-lingual countries" for Greeks living in countries like Germany with its large Greek community where they speak German, Greek, and English, his comedy works as well as it does in Whitestone.

Born in New Jersey, Basile grew up on Long Island, and went to college in Ohio. He was a football player and went to law school, but left it behind for a career as a comedian. As he noted, his father wasn't thrilled when he chose comedy as his career, but audiences around the world appreciate his decision.

Basile's pride in Hellenism and the Hellenic community, faith, culture, and history are vital aspects of his comedy which brings people together and reminds us how much we have in common. For his comedy and his philanthropic efforts, Basile was awarded the 2016 AHEPA Academy of Achievement Award in the Arts at the 94th AHEPA Grand Banquet held in Las Vegas on July 28.

Up next for Basile is continuing the Dysfunctionally Yours World Tour in North America. International dates are also upcoming for the Greek-American comedian. More information is available online at basilelive.com.

Nancy Horton Estate Gifts \$1.25M to AHEPA Thessaloniki Hospital

WASHINGTON, DC – The American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (Order of AHEPA), announced a gift of \$1.25 million to its Charitable Foundation, the largest one-time cash gift from a donor in the organization's 95-year history, from the Estate of Nancy P. Horton.

Supreme President Andrew C. Zachariades said the annual donation will be made in her name in support of the AHEPA Hospital in Thessaloniki.

"Words cannot express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to Nancy Horton, a tremendous philhellene who was a philanthropist and academic," Zachariades said.

"Austerity measures have taken a toll on Greece's public health sector where public hos-

drove Greeks out of that area of Turkey amid a sea of atrocities and outrage.

"Nancy Horton's extraordinary benevolence will be memorialized at the AHEPA Hospital in Thessaloniki," said Nicholas A. Karacostas, Chairman, AHEPA Board of Trustees.

"It's her selfless charitable giving that will allow AHEPA to continue to meet its public health assistance to Greece; a commitment that AHEPA has maintained for seven decades, starting in the aftermath of World War Two."

Executive Director Basil Mossaidis added: "AHEPA is deeply grateful to Nancy Horton, who appreciated the importance of philanthropy and education and the positive impact AHEPA has had in the community when it



pitals' budgets have been slashed and medical supplies recycled. Nancy Horton's generosity will help to address this dire situation," he said.

Horton, an author and poet, passed away Feb. 18 at the age of 103. A Philhellene, she was the daughter of George Horton, the United States Consul General in Athens and Smyrna at the time of the September 1922 Catastrophe.

He wrote the book, The Blight of Asia, which was a first-person eyewitness account of the Smyrna Catastrophe that

comes to meeting these facets of the organization's mission. Her example of donating to our organization is inspiring."

The AHEPA Hospital in Thessaloniki was dedicated in 1951.

Greek hospitals have been victims, along with doctors and nurses, health care professionals and patients, of a near seven-year-long economic crisis and austerity measures that have been budgets slashed the point where critical equipment can't be had, patients have to hire private nurses and even bring their own toilet paper.

Greeks Nominated for Oscars this Year

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den Figures, La La Land, Lion, Manchester by the Sea, and Moonlight.

Actor: Casey Affleck- Manchester by the Sea; Denzel Washington- Fences; Ryan Gosling- La La Land; Viggo Mortensen- Captain Fantastic; Andrew Garfield- Hacksaw Ridge.

Actress: Isabelle Huppert- Elle; Ruth Negga- Loving; Natalie Portman- Jackie; Emma Stone- La La Land; Meryl Streep- Florence Foster Jenkins.

Supporting Actor: Jeff Bridges- Hell or High Water; Mahershala Ali- Moonlight; Dev Patel- Lion; Michael Shannon- Nocturnal Animals; Lucas Hedges- Manchester by the Sea.

Supporting Actress: Viola Davis- Fences; Naomie Harris- Moonlight; Nicole Kidman- Lion; Octavia Spencer- Hidden Figures; Michelle Williams- Manchester by the Sea.

Directing: Arrival- Denis Villeneuve; Hacksaw Ridge- Mel Gibson; La La Land- Damien Chazelle; Manchester by the Sea- Kenneth Lonergan; Moonlight- Barry Jenkins.

Foreign Language Film: Land of Mine- Denmark; A Man Called Ove- Sweden; The Salesman- Iran; Tanna- Australia; Toni Erdmann- Germany.

Adapted Screenplay: Moonlight- screenplay by Barry Jenkins, story by Tarell Alvin Mc-



AP PHOTO/LIONEL CIRONEAU, FILE

Writer-director Yorgos Lanthimos

Craney; Lion- screenplay by Luke Davies; Arrival- screenplay by Eric Heisserer; Fences- screenplay by August Wilson; Hidden Figures- screenplay by Allison Schroeder and Theodore Melfi.

Original Screenplay: Hell or High Water- written by Taylor Sheridan; La La Land- written by Damien Chazelle; The Lobster- written by Yorgos Lanthimos, Efthimis Filippou; Manchester by the Sea- written by Kenneth Lonergan; 20th Century Women- written by Mike

Mills.

Animated Feature Film: Kubo and the Two Strings-Travis Knight and Arianne Sutner; Moana- John Musker, Ron Clements and Osnat Shurer; My Life as a Zucchini- Claude Barras and Max Karli; The Red Turtle- Michael Dudok de Wit and Toshio Suzuki; Zootopia- Byron Howard, Rich Moore and Clark Spencer.

Costume Design: Allied-Joanna Johnston; Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them- Colleen Atwood; Florence Foster Jenkins- Consolata Boyle; Jackie- Madeline Fontaine; La La Land- Mary Zophres.

Documentary Feature: Fire at Sea- Gianfranco Rosi and Donatella Palermo; I am Not Your Negro- Raoul Peck, Remi Grellety and Hebert Peck; Life, Animated- Roger Ross Williams and Julie Goldman; O.J.: Made in America- Ezra Edelman and Caroline Waterlow; 13th- Ava DuVernay, Spencer Averick and Howard Barish.

Documentary (short subject): Extremis- Dan Krauss; 4.1 Miles- Daphne Matziaraki; Joe's Violin- Kahane Cooperman and Raphaela Neihausen; Watani: My Homeland- Marcel Mettelsiefen and Stephen Ellis; The White Helmets- Orlando von Einsiedel and Joanna Natasegara.

The complete list of nominees is available online: www.thenationalherald.com



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Rebetiko Night at Drom in NYC

Rebetiko Night with Rebet Asker at Drom, located at 85 Avenue A between 5th and 6th Streets in Manhattan, took place on January 14. In spite of the inclement weather, music lovers gathered to hear Christos Papadopoulos on bouzouki and vocals, Rena Tsapelas vocals, Mavrothis Kontanis on oud and vocals, and Costas Baltazanis on guitar. The next Rebetiko Night at Drom is scheduled for February 3.

Antetokounmpo: The "Greek Freak" and NBA All-Star

Continued from page 1

wingspan and 12-inch hands, bigger than Wilt "The Stilt" Chamberlain.

It's been rewarding: this year he signed a four-year extension for \$100 million as the franchise player for the Milwaukee Bucks and the team's first all-star selection in 13 years and a fan favorite around the league.

It led to him receiving more than 1.6 million votes and to come in third on the Eastern Conference's five-man squad, behind Cleveland Cavaliers superstar LeBron James with 1.9 million votes and Kyrie Irving, a three-time all-star, with 1.7 million votes. No other Eastern players got passed the 1-million mark.

He's the youngest foreign player to play in the All-Star game, some weeks younger than China's Yao Ming, who played in the 2003 game and has already surpassed some of the lofty expectations of him.

When he was drafted with the 15th pick in 2013, speaking in still-learning English "I want to be an NBA player," scouts were already drooling about what he would become even if, despite his immense skills, he was unable to lead Greece's Under-20 team to a world title or get the Greek national team into the 2016 Olympics last year.

He started off humble but has grown into a menacing, if smiling star, who will get in the face of any opponent. "To make the next step, I've learned you need a little cockiness inside you," he told Sports Illustrated's Lee Jenkins. "I can be a little cocky."

The sports website Bleacher Report said only four players rank higher than him as he puts up big numbers almost every night and shows off his multitalents.

"He flies through the air for constant dunks, extending his lanky arms to put the ball beyond the reach of paint-protecting presences. He finds teammates with passes no player his size should be able to make with any semblance of consistency. He even locks down his assignments while ready to switch onto virtually any player," the report noted, pointing out his uncanny Kevin McHale-like abilities to leave defenders flat-



AP PHOTO/JEFFREY PHELPS

Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo reacts after his three-pointer against the Houston Rockets during the 2nd half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Jan. 23, in Milwaukee.

footed at his inside moves and gasping to guard him outside the paint.

"It's become impossible to keep him away from the basket as he works with a backbreaking assault of lengthy strides, quick spins and ever-extending arms," the report added.

From the beginning of December through Jan. 6, Antetokounmpo averaged 25.0 points, 9.3 rebounds, 5.6 assists, 1.8 steals and 2.1 blocks while shooting 53.8 percent from the field, 35.8 percent on threes and 78.0 percent at the stripe.

After missing a game due to illness, he returned to keep putting up the same consistent numbers and confounding opponents with dunks, mid-range jumpers, and learning on the fly, so to speak, with predictions he

could become the league's best player, saying something when there's LeBron James, James Harden, Kevin Durant, and Russell Westbrook to contend with.

Sports Illustrated, in a detailed feature of his life, showed his rise from the streets and hard knocks of being an immigrant in a country where being African earns only disgust from the likes of the anti-foreigner Golden Dawn Party, whose leaders ridiculed another Greek of African origin, Sofoklis Schortsanitis, whose family is from Cameroon.

Schortsanitis, who helped lead the Greek national team to a stunning upset of the American NBA-packed roster in the 2006 World Championships, was mocked by Golden Dawn as not being really Greek.

Antetokounmpo's parents, Charles, a former soccer player, and Veronica, a high jumper, came to Greece in 1991 from Nigeria and loved their new country so much they gave their children Greek first names. Giannis' brother Thanassis is a player good enough to have earned a brief stint with the New York Knicks.

Antetokounmpo is a multi-millionaire leading the High Life now but says he doesn't forget what it was like only a relatively few years ago to approach strangers on the streets of Sepolia hoping to sell a pair of knock-off sunglasses for souvlaki money.

"I can't push it to the side," he told SI. "I can't say, 'I've made it, I'm done with all that.' I will always carry it with me. It's where I learned to work like this."

He could sell all day, serenade tourists with Christmas carols at night, and return home without enough cash for dinner. Still, he laments, "The results were never guaranteed."

He said of the NBA that, "If I work here. I get the results. That's the greatest feeling ever for me." It keeps him coming back to the gym—straight from the arena after losses, straight from the airport after road trips, straight from the bed after back-to-backs, the report said.

Antetokounmpo was born in Athens on Dec. 6, 1994. He has four brothers, including the oldest, who was left in Nigeria by their parents.

Despite being born in Greece he didn't get citizenship until he was elevated to celebrity status as anti-immigrant forces in the country still fight to keep citizenship from refugees and immigrants.

Until he turned 18 he was stateless, not a citizen of Nigeria or Greece but once his skills with a basketball became known, and as he grew like a sprout, he garnered attention fast in Greece, playing for the Filathlitikos youth squad at 15.

Antetokounmpo's younger brother Kostas plays college basketball at the University of Dayton, while his youngest brother, Alexis, plays high school basketball in the US. Now anyone who knows basketball knows the name Antetokounmpo, even if they can't pronounce it.

Future Looks Bright for HS Basketball Player Plexidas

Continued from page 1

record stands at 1162-119. He has led teams to 28 State Parochial titles, four National titles (1989, 1996, 2008, 2011) and eight undefeated seasons (1974, 1989, 1996, 2004, 2008, 2011, 2012, 2016). Coach Hurley achieved his 1000th win on February 2, 2011. He is #3 on the NFHS (National Federation of State High School Association) list of coaches with the most wins in boys basketball history (behind #2 Morgan Wooten and #1 Robert Hughes). Seven of Hurley's players have gone on to the NBA: David Rivers (LA Lakers, 1988), Bobby Hurley (LA Kings, 1993), Terry

Dehere (LA Clippers, 1993), Roderick Rhodes (Houston Rockets, 1997), Roshawn McLeod (Atlanta Hawks, 1998), Tyshawn Taylor (Brooklyn Nets, 2012), and Kyle Anderson (San Antonio Spurs, 2014).

At age 17, Dimitris Plexidas has a bright future ahead of him after making the basketball team and Hall of Famer Coach Hurley allowing him to start in the January 8 game when the then-undefeated team played against Blair Academy in Hack-

Dimitris Plexidas plays for St. Anthony's High School and legendary Hall of Fame Coach Bobby Hurley Sr.



HARRY PRASSAKOS

ettstown, NJ. St. Anthony's Friars won the game 52-48. They followed that game with another win. Unfortunately, back-to-back losses followed and the team's record is now 9-2, but with legendary Coach Hurley leading the way, the team is bound to bounce back. The talented Plexidas with his impressive playing, racking up rebounds, a steal, and 5 three-pointers in only a few games played can only help the team. As his cousin Harry Prassakos noted, "Division 1 colleges are already looking into him attending at a full scholarship which would be the only way for his family to afford college in the United States."

GOINGS ON...

■ JANUARY 26-30

BOCA RATON, FL – Passport to Greece, the St. Mark Greek Orthodox Church Festival, 2100 NW 51st Street in Boca Raton offers great food, music, dancing, and fun for the whole family. Hours: Thursday Jan. 26: 4-9PM, Friday Jan. 27: 11AM-11PM, Saturday Jan. 28: 11AM-11PM, and Monday Jan. 30: 12 Noon-9PM. More information is available online at greekfestivalboca.org or by phone: 561-994-4822

■ JANUARY 28

HOLMDEL, NJ – Hellenic Dancers of New Jersey (HDNJ) presents its 45th Anniversary Taverna Night Dinner Dance Saturday, Jan. 28, at Kimisis Tis Theotokou Greek Orthodox Church, 20 Hillcrest Road in Holmdel. Beginning at 6PM, attendees will enjoy a full Greek dinner buffet and desserts, Greek and popular music, and a special performance and fashion show by the Hellenic Dancers of New Jersey. All proceeds from the event will support HDNJ in preserving the folk dance customs of Greece, and perpetuating Greek heritage in America. Funding from the event will also support the dance troupe's 2017 touring schedule. Reservations for this event can be made by contacting Cheryl Bontales, 732-796-1006; info@hellenicdancersofnj.org Tickets range from \$20-\$40 and will not be sold at the door.

SPRINGFIELD, MA – Trivia Night at the Greek Cultural Center, St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 22 St. George Road in Springfield takes place on Saturday Jan. 28 6:30-10PM. Teams of up to four players may participate. Winners will receive prizes. Refreshments and snacks will be served. Players must be 16 years of age to participate. Players and spectators entry is \$5. Advanced reservations are preferred. Register your team by phone: 413-737-1496.

FOXBORO, MA – Arcadian Society of Massachusetts "Tripolitna" Vasilopita Dance takes place on Saturday, Jan. 28 at 8PM at Demetri's Convention Center 2 Washington St., Rt. 1 South in Foxboro. Enjoy Greek and American dancing and music by Orfeas with Thanasis Kotsias on clarinet. The Metropolitan Dance Group will perform. Cheese, crackers, coffee and dessert will be served, meze available for purchase along with cash bar. Great raffle prizes- tickets \$5 each, book of 6 for \$25. More info is available by phone: 781-843-3575.

PEABODY, MA – Saint Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church Winter Dance, 5 Paleologos Street in Peabody on Saturday, Jan. 28 from 6:30 PM - Midnight at the Fr. Andrew Demoteses Educational Center, sponsored by the St. Vasilios Men's Club. Tickets are \$40 per person, \$20 per child age 15 and under. Appetizers at 6:30PM followed by choice of Dinner- Roast Pork Loin and Baked Haddock, cash bar. Dancing until midnight and live music by Kefi. For more information, contact John Kourtelidis: 978-907-3187 or John Psychogios: 978-239-9361. For reservations and payment contact John Psychogios: 14 Downing Rd. Peabody, MA 01960. Snow date: Feb. 4.

■ JANUARY 28-29

HOLLYWOOD, FL – St. George Greek Orthodox Church Festival, 425 N. 58th Avenue in Hollywood. Enjoy traditional Greek food, music, and dancing. Hours: Saturday, Jan. 28 from 12 Noon-10 PM and Sunday, Jan. 29 12 Noon-10 PM. More information is available online www.stgeorge-hollywood.org or by phone: 954-966-1898.

■ FEBRUARY 2

WASHINGTON, DC – Ancient Greece in Popular Culture: Classics and Comics by The Society for the Preservation of the Greek Heritage on Thursday, Feb. 2 at Squire Patton Boggs, 2550 M Street NW in Washington, from 6:30PM-8:30PM. Professor Thomas Jenkins of Trinity University will explore the depiction of Ancient Greece in what might seem the least ancient of media: comics. No longer just a medium for "illustrating" classical texts, comics often tackle contemporary social issues while refracting those concerns through depictions of Ancient Greek societies and myth. Professor Jenkins will consider the uses (and abuses) of Ancient Greece as metaphor in such comics as Antigonae, 300, Three, Democracy, and Age of Bronze, and will also glance at parallel developments in other popular art forms, such as Anais Mitchell's recent folk musical Hadestown. Thomas E. Jenkins, PhD is Professor and past Chair of the Classical Studies Department at Trinity University in San Antonio, TX; this year, he serves as Director of the Collaborative for Learning and Teaching.

■ FEBRUARY 3

MANHATTAN – Rebetiko Night with Rebet Asker at Drom, located at 85 Avenue A between 5th and 6th Streets in Manhattan on Friday, Feb.3. Doors open at 11PM, show begins at 11:30. Among the performers scheduled are Christos Papadopoulos on bouzouki and vocals, Rena Tsapelas vocals, Mavrothis Kontanis on oud and vocals, and Costas Baltazanis on guitar. Special Menu: Kofte or chicken souvlaki, mezze plate- dolmadakia, tzatziki, feta, and hummus, glass of wine, beer, or raki/ouzo. Advance ticket price is \$35 with dinner. Online tickets will be on sale until 5PM on the day of the show. If available, some tickets may be purchased at the door. Table reservations can be made online at dromnyc.com or by phone: 212-777-1157.

■ FEBRUARY 3-5

BROOKSVILLE, FL – Christ the Savior Greek Orthodox Church 7th Annual Greek Festival, at the Hernando County Fairgrounds located at 6436 Broad St. in Brooksville. We love to share with you our beautiful Hellenic tradition, culture, food, dance, and joyful spirit. Please visit the vendors, eat well, dance, break a plate, enjoy your time, and do not forget let us all say Opa! Hours: Friday, Feb. 3 and Saturday, Feb 4 from 11 AM - 8PM; Sunday, Feb. 5 11AM- 6PM. More information is available online at Hernando County Greek Festival website: hcgreekfestival.com or by phone: 352-796-8482.

■ FEBRUARY 8

MANHATTAN – The Stavros Niarchos Foundation Brain Insight Lecture: How Do Early Life Experiences Shape Behavior? on Wednesday, Feb. 8 6:30- 8PM at the Columbia Univ.'s Faculty House Presidential Ballroom 64 Morningside Drive in Manhattan. RSVP by Feb. 1. Registration is required; seating is first come, first served. More info is available by contacting the Zuckerman Institute at zuckermaninstitute@columbia.edu. Brain development is dynamic process that reflects complex interplay between genes and environments. The experiences occurring during early life can have profound effects on brain development with long-term implications for behavior and mental health. How does the environment achieve such enduring effects? Dr. Frances Champagne explores molecular pathways through which early experiences shape the activity of genes.

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We would like
to congratulate our daughter,
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for her new appointment
of Lecturer and Director
of the Human Development Program
at our beloved Hellenic College Holy Cross:
Greek Orthodox School of Theology.

We are very proud
of your accomplishments!

We wish you the best
and may God enlighten you
in your endeavors.

Your parents Kyriakos & Anastasia Mavroudis
your sister Vasiliki
and your grandmother Eleni Goudanas

Deadline Approaching for PanHellenic Scholarship

TNH Staff

CHICAGO, IL – The application deadline for the 2016-17 PanHellenic scholarship awards is approaching on January 31, the last day to submit scholarship applications to the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation.

To be eligible to apply for a scholarship, applicants must: be United States Citizens or legal permanent residents; be of Hellenic descent; be a full-time undergraduate student at an accredited 4-year university in Fall 2016; and have a minimum 3.5 cumulative GPA. Greek-American college students from all fifty states are encouraged to apply for the scholarship awards. The scholarship application and the qualification criteria, requirements, and guidelines are available on the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation website: panhellenicscholarships.org. The Foundation annually awards \$250,000 in scholarships to exceptional college students of Hellenic descent. Twenty (20) Awards of \$10,000

each are offered based on academic achievement and financial need, and 20 awards of \$2,500 each will be granted based solely on academic achievement.

The Foundation has awarded \$2.5 million in scholarships to 366 students since it was established. With the Foundation's assistance, scholarship recipients have attended such elite schools as Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Stanford, Cornell, Columbia, Northwestern, UC-Berkeley, MIT, The University of Chicago, and Johns Hopkins, among many other prestigious universities.

The Foundation annually presents its scholarships at its Awards Ceremony & Gala. The next gala will take place on Saturday, June 17 at the Hilton Chicago. The Foundation encourages everyone to join them in honoring the outstanding scholarship award recipients.

More information is available online and by contacting Allie Clayman, Scholarships & Programs Director, at aclayman@panhellenicsf.org.

OUR EVERYDAY GREEK

Whose Are the Shoes in the Living Room? Τίνος Είναι;

By Dr. Dimitra Kamarinou

Do these questions sound familiar to you? Whose are the clothes in the bathroom? Whose are the shoes in the living room? Where are my glasses? Τίνος είναι τα ρούχα στο μπάνιο; Τίνος είναι τα παπούτσια στο σαλόνι; Πού είναι τα γυαλιά μου;

There are different ways to express the possessive in Greek: a. with the genitive case (το σακάκι του Πέτρου, τα γυαλιά της μαμάς) b. with the possessive pronouns. This is the simplest form of the possessive pronouns.

Pronoun	Pronunciation	Meaning
Μου	MOO	my
Σου	SOO	your
Του	TOO	his
Της	TEES	her
Μας	MAS	our
Σας	SAS	your
Τους	TOOS	their

Το παντελόνι μου =my pants
Το παντελόνι σου =your pants
Το παντελόνι της =her pants
Το παντελόνι του =his pants
Τα παντελόνια μας =our pants
Τα παντελόνια σας =your pants
Τα παντελόνια τους =their pants

Note that the possessive pronoun in the third person Singular, his =του and her =της, are identical with the genitive case of the masculine (=του) and feminine (=της) articles. Το παντελόνι της Ελένης =το παντελόνι της. Το παντελόνι του Πέτρου =το παντελόνι του.

In the third person Plural the possessive pronoun is τους for both genders: Τα παντελόνια του Πέτρου και του Γιώργου, τα παντελόνια τους. Οι φούστες της Μαρίας και της Ελένης, οι φούστες τους. The pants in English are always in the Plural, while in Greek there is Singular, το παντελόνι, and Plural, τα παντελόνια.

In Greek we use the definite articles ο,



ν, το with possessive nouns: ο μπαμπάς μου, η μαμά μου, το παντελόνι μου, while in English we omit the article: my dad, my mom, my pants. While the definite article is put before the noun, the possessive pronouns are put after the noun: ο μπαμπάς μου, η μαμά μου, το παντελόνι μου.

EXERCISES

1. Τίνος (ΤΕΕΝος) είναι; Whose is it? Answer the questions like in the given example

Τίνος είναι το φόρεμα στο μπάνιο; (Ελένη)

Το φόρεμα στο μπάνιο είναι της Ελένης. Είναι το φόρεμά της.

Τίνος είναι το πουκάμισο στο σαλόνι; (Πέτρος)

Το πουκάμισο στο σαλόνι είναι του Πέτρου. Είναι το πουκάμισό του.

1.1. Τίνος είναι το παντελόνι στο μπάνιο; (Θωμάς)

1.2. Τίνος είναι η φούστα; (Μαρία)

1.3. Τίνος είναι το σακάκι; (Γιώργος)

1.4. Τίνος είναι η μπλούζα στο σαλόνι; (Δήμητρα)

1.5. Τίνος είναι η φόρμα; (Παναγιώτης)

1.6. Τίνος είναι το μπουφάν στην κουζίνα; (Γιάννης)

1.7. Τίνος είναι το παλτό; (γιαγιά)

1.8. Τίνος είναι τα γάντια στο μπάνιο; (μαμά)

1.9. Τίνος είναι τα παπούτσια στα σαλόνι; (Σταύρος)

1.10. Τίνος είναι τα γυαλιά στο μπάνιο; (μπαμπάς)

2. Do you ever happen to walk around the house looking for something you cannot find? Like your glasses or your slippers? Translate the English words in Greek and complete the questions like in the given example.

Πού είναι (my slippers);
Πού είναι οι παντόφλες μου;

2.1. Πού είναι (our skirts);
2.2. Πού είναι (your glasses);
2.3. Πού είναι (their gloves);
2.4. Πού είναι (Helen's and Maria's dresses);

2.5. Πού είναι (Petros' shirt);
2.6. Πού είναι (your shoes);
2.7. Πού είναι (our sandals);
2.8. Πού είναι (my pyjamas);
2.9. Πού είναι (my coat);
2.10. Πού είναι (Dimitra's scarf);

3. DIALOGUE

Try to translate in English

Μαμά: Τίνος είναι τα ρούχα στο μπάνιο;
Πέτρος: Στο μπάνιο είναι το παντελόνι μου και η μπλούζα της Μαρίας.

Μαρία: Όχι, η μπλούζα μου δεν είναι στο μπάνιο. Είναι η μπλούζα του Πέτρου.

Μαμά: Πού είναι τα γυαλιά και τα γάντια μου;

PRONUNCIATION KEY

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

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

LITERARY REVIEW

Honoring the Three Hierarchs and the Greek Letters

By Eleni Sakellis

On January 30 we celebrate the feast of the Three Holy Hierarchs and Ecumenical Teachers, Saint Basil the Great, Saint John Chrysostom, and Saint Gregory the Theologian, the Church Fathers who were great men of letters, defenders of Orthodox Christianity, and supporters of Greek learning. The Feast of the Three Hierarchs is therefore often combined with the celebration of Greek Letters in many Greek Orthodox parishes. The Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom is conducted on the morning of the feast and preceded by a Matins (Orthros) service. A Great Vespers is conducted on the evening before the day of the Feast. Scripture readings are as follows: Vespers-Deuteronomy 1:8-17, Deuteronomy 10:14-21, and the Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9; Matins- John 10:9-16; and at the Divine Liturgy- Hebrews 13:7-16, and Matthew 5:14-19. Each of the Three Hierarchs has a separate feast day in January, Saint Basil on January 1, Saint Gregory on January 25, and St. John Chrysostom on January 27. Debate over which was the greatest hierarch led to the establishment of January 30 as a feast day to honor all three in the year 1100 during the reign of Byzantine Emperor Alexios I Komnenos.

THE HYMN OF THE FEAST: APOLYTIKION: FIRST TONE

The three most great luminaries of the Three-Sun Divinity have illumined all of the world with the rays of doctrines divine and true; they are the sweetly-flowing rivers of wisdom, who with godly knowledge have watered all creation in clear and



The Three Holy Hierarchs

mighty streams: The great and sacred Basil, and the Theologian, wise Gregory, together with the renowned John, the famed Chrysostom of golden speech. Let us all who love their divinely-wise words come together, honoring them with hymns; for ceaselessly they offer entreaty for us to the Trinity.

KONTAKION: SECOND TONE

Receive, O Lord, the Sacred Heralds who preached God, the

pinnacle of Teachers, unto the enjoyment of Your riches and rest. You have received their labors and their suffering as being above and beyond all fruitful offering. For You alone glorify Your Saints.

In honor of the Three Hierarchs and the celebration of the Greek Letters, here are a few books to add to your reading list.

In the icon for the feast, the

Three Hierarchs are depicted facing forward in a frontal pose. They wear the hierarchical vestments indicating their position as bishops of the Church. Saint John Chrysostom stands between Saint Basil (to his right) and Saint Gregory (to his left). Each Hierarch holds a closed gospel book, signifying their roles as great teachers and preachers of the Church. Saint John and Saint Basil are shown giving the traditional blessing with their right hand, and Saint Gregory has his hand respectfully resting over the gospel book. Saint Gregory and Saint Basil hold the gospel with their left hands covered by the phelonion and omophorion as a sign of special respect.

Here are a few books to your reading list in honor of the Three Hierarchs and the Greek Letters. The writings of Saint John Chrysostom are available online, in Greek and in English translation, including the Divine Liturgy used on most Sundays. His sermons on Wealth and Poverty and on Marriage and Family Life offer valuable advice and insights as relevant today as when he first wrote them. Saint Basil the Great's writings and Divine Liturgy are available online as are the works of Saint Gregory the Theologian who also wrote a Divine Liturgy and powerful orations. For youngsters, The Holy Bible for Kids (H Agia Grafi gia Paidia) is a wonderful Greek edition with illustrations available online. The Three Hierarchs by Egle-Ekaterine Potamitis is a children's book introducing youngsters to the lives of the great Church Fathers. The book is available on Amazon.

GREEK GASTRONOMY

Citrus Fruit Desserts: Orange Cake and Lemon Cake

By Eleni Sakellis

Citrus fruits are a staple of Mediterranean cooking. From a squeeze of fresh lemon juice on grilled meats or cooked greens and salads to sweet orange desserts, Greek cuisine often incorporates citrus fruits at nearly every meal. Here are two cake recipes to try.

Orange Cake

- 3 fresh orange slices 1/8 inch thick
- 1 2/3 cups orange juice
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 stick cinnamon, 2 inches long
- 1 1/2 cups water
- 1 cup Greek extra-virgin olive oil, plus more for greasing the baking pan
- Flour for dusting the baking pan
- 4 large eggs
- 3/4 cup Greek yogurt

the remaining orange juice, olive oil, yogurt, orange zest, and vanilla extract. Beat until well combined. In a separate bowl, whisk together the semolina and the baking powder and add to the egg mixture. Stir in the cut phyllo. Pour the mixture into the prepared baking pan. Bake until light golden brown, about 35–40 minutes. Pour the syrup evenly over cake and allow it to cool. To serve, slice the cake into 12 squares, cut the baked orange slices into quarters, and top each square with the cut orange slice.

Lemon Cake

- 2 cups unbleached, all-purpose flour
- 1 cup whole wheat flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 cup Greek extra virgin olive



- 2 tablespoons finely grated orange zest
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1/4 cup fine semolina
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 12 oz. country-style phyllo sheets, cut into 1 inch pieces

- oil
- 2 tablespoons finely grated lemon zest
- 4 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 4 large eggs
- 1/2 cup nonfat Greek yogurt

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Place orange slices in an 8-inch square baking dish. Pour 1 cup orange juice over the orange slices. Cover the baking dish with foil and place in the preheated oven. Bake until the orange slices are soft, 40–45 minutes. Transfer the baked orange slices to a wire rack to cool.

Meanwhile, bring 3/4 cup of the sugar, the cinnamon stick, and the water to a boil in a saucepan over medium high heat. Reduce heat to medium and simmer for 5 minutes. Then, remove from heat. Pour the syrup over the baked orange slices and allow to cool completely.

Grease a 9 by 13-inch baking pan with a little olive oil and dust with flour; set aside. In the bowl of a stand mixer, combine the remaining sugar and eggs. Beat with the paddle attachment until pale and thick. Add

oil and flour a 10-inch tube pan, set aside. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together the flour, whole wheat flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, and sugar. In a separate bowl, beat the oil, lemon zest, lemon juice, eggs, and yogurt. Add the wet ingredients to the dry and stir until just combined. Transfer the batter to the prepared pan and bake in the preheated oven for 55 minutes to an hour or until golden brown and a cake tester, skewer, or toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack for 10-15 minutes before removing from pan. Allow to cool completely before serving. If preferred for even more lemon flavor, when the cake is completely cooled, drizzle with Lemon Glaze- whisk together 1 cup confectioners' sugar, 1 tablespoon finely grated lemon zest, and 2 tablespoons plus 2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice until smooth.



GREEK AMERICAN STORIES

Think Negative

By Phyllis (Kiki) Sembos
Special to The National Herald

I've discovered a way to make everyone happy, mainly myself, and I am going to share it with you. We've all had the experience of seeing someone doing something much better than us, right? Then, we tend to berate ourselves because we're disappointed in ourselves. Right? That's called negative thinking and I am tired of it.

I could be knitting a sweater and I'll hear, "you should see Katina's! Really beautiful!" After fixing a leaking pipe as well as I could, a remark comes, "Next time I'd call a plumber."

Gardening under a sweltering sun, fighting bugs and pulling every type of weed, I'd hear, "Why don't you hire a professional landscaper?" Writing a letter that took a lot of time and thought, "Are you sure you want your name under this?" When I had a cold, felt miserable and refused to take anything com-

mercial, the sympathy I got was, "My friend had a cold just like yours. She didn't take Sudicanoliflex. She died!" Showing one of my oil paintings to a friend, I received, "well, it's not like you're going to exhibit it!" That's it! Forget it!

Negative remarks can cause being hard on ourselves and becoming negative to 'get even'. Well, not anymore! After a few minor adjustments, my hand knit sweater looked great – on Milo, my daughter's dog. My garden could be something Monet might paint – when sober. I read that 24% of people in America are illiterate. So, my letter had to look like an historical document to the receiver. Besides! I never expect to have my stories hit the New York Times bestseller List. That leaky pipe isn't too bad – right now! I'm wrapped the Scotch tape I wrapped around the base will hold out. My cold is gone with just tea and lemon, rest and the phone off the hook. My painting



is very practical, hanging on a wall that had a huge crack on it. So, we've got to look on the sunny side from now on.

I always believed I made the best spanakopita this side of the Atlantic. Then, we'd go to a posh Greek restaurant in the New Jersey suburbs, known for its exquisite cuisine and fancy décor, when, suddenly, my spanakopita tastes like boiled, green hay. But, when I stand on

line at the supermarket and notice people's carts holding frozen TV dinners, Brand X sausage (probably made from deceased seals), Pre-boiled veggies and ready mashed potatoes that you just place in the microwave oven, that's when I start thinking, Hey! I'm Lydia in the kitchen.

When I go for long walks in the park I notice men and women flash past me wearing

Nike foot wear, expensive jogging outfits, professional head gear with wires attached in their ears, a cap with an impressive logo and state of the arts sun glasses while I'm hatless, wearing a pair of faded jeans, sneakers from K-Mart and a worn sweat shirt that's seen better years. They pass me with a snub – like I'm in the way. Do they really believe that wearing that jazzy paraphernalia will make them better joggers, will turn their flab into svelte figures or get inducted into the Healthy Hall of Fame? I walk to relax and enjoy the autumn scenery, for the daily exercise and to get out of the house for an hour. Besides! All those fancy outfits merely provide Gucci or Versace with money for repairing their yachts or fueling their jets.

We tend to compare ourselves with professional athletes, magazine models, famous authors or repairmen, like Stavros, the Mr. Fix-it who can fix anything in the house for three fig-

ure bills. Competing for the prize or publicity can bring on depression, anxiety and faster aging. Just remember that somewhere – someone does things a lot worse than us. In fact, there's stuff out there that are infinitely worse, like some books I'd read, recently, but are backed by an agent that hopes for sales by publicizing them as 'the best literature since Margaret Mitchell's, Gone with the Wind. We buy it and then realize Dr. Seuss writes better. There are people who get paid to make us feel inadequate for not using their products for, "maximum good health," or "not looking our ultimate best." This country has piles of people who do things a heck worse than us – like politicians, repairmen, doctors, authors or even chefs. So, start thinking that we shouldn't measure our achievements with others. Look, instead, to those who can't do a darn thing right and feel good about yourself. Then, get help!



On his first day in office, President Donald Trump, flanked by Vice President Mike Pence and Greek-American Chief of Staff



and Archon Reince Priebus, signed his first executive order on health care in the Oval Office of the White House. Staff Secre-



tary Rob Porter handed President Trump a confirmation order for James Mattis as defense secretary.

AP PHOTO/EVAN VUCCI

The Greek-American Presence at the Presidential Inauguration

Continued from page 1

about their deep connection with their orthodox faith and Hellenic heritage. George Gigicos, was not able to make the event, since he was involved in the preparations for the inauguration, and his parents Fr. Dean Gigicos and Presvytera Elaine received the medal on his behalf.

Archbishop Demetrios after bestowing the medals to the honorees said that the appointment of these Greek Orthodox faithful members in the new administration could be a catalyst for more involvement of the people in the community in the political field.

"It is about time that we show the dynamism of the Greek-Orthodox soul and mind and these appointments of Greek Orthodox people in the new administration is a catalyst," he said and added: "The Greek Orthodox Church in America is going to be with you in prayer, in love, in care and with the absolute certainty, be-



President Donald Trump waves as he walks with first lady Melania Trump during the inauguration parade.

yond optimism or pessimism, but with hope for better things to come."

George Stamas, of The Hellenic Initiative, presented the program, while introductions of the honorees were made by Andrew Manatos, Michael Karloutsos, and John Catsimatidis. Many leaders and prominent members of the Greek-American

Community were in attendance. Present from Greece were the Minister of Defense Panos Kammenos and the Minister of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media Nikos Pappas.

Mr. Priebus in his remarks said that "All of us didn't get into this room by accident. Because God did, as John said, put his hands on all of us to be here.



Donald Trump is sworn in as the 45th president of the United States by Chief Justice John Roberts as his family looks on.

To bring us together. Nothing happens if it is not in God's will. We are here because of God's will. And, so now we need to take the opportunity that God has given us, and accomplish the goals that our great new President has talked about in making this country great again."

Mr. Priebus also said, "Let me

tell you something that I think you'll take from this that will matter to us here. We want to put the concept of religious freedom, our Patriarch in Constantinople, the recognition of the struggle of the Orthodox Church front and center in this White House. I'd love to see the day that the President of the United States shows up in Constantino-

ple at the Patriarchate, and recognizes the oppression and the struggle, that really is not just a symbol for the Orthodox Church, but it is a symbol for people of faith around the world."

Archbishop Demetrios, invited by the Presidential Inauguration Committee and representing the Greek Orthodox Church in America, attended early on Friday morning January 20th the special Inauguration Day Prayer Service at St. John's Episcopal Church in Washington's Lafayette Square. President Donald J. Trump and Vice President Mike Pence, together with their families and a select group of guests were in attendance.

Shortly after, Archbishop Demetrios, accompanied by Fr. Alexander Karloutsos were seated with the prominent dignitaries platform at the U.S. Capitol to attend the Presidential Inauguration and the swearing in of the 45th President of the United States Donald J. Trump.

Archbishop Demetrios Speaks Exclusively to TNH about the Inauguration

Continued from page 1

January 19 with a very interesting ceremony at the Regis Hotel (in DC) attended by approximately 300 guests." He explained that they honored Priebus, Gigicos (who is Deputy Assistant to the president and also his Director of Advance), and Congressman Gus Bilirakis (R-FL). "It was a very good experience because they spoke theologically, not politically. They are active members of the Church and Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate."

Demetrios spoke very highly of both Priebus and Gigicos. "Mr. Priebus is a very prudent person, well-organized. He will not start to do things about Greece and the Ecumenical Patriarchate in a simplistic way, for example. He is a very composed person." He spoke about how Gigicos was in charge of Trump's rallies throughout the campaign, and how he was the "mind" who organized things, and successfully, "as the out-



His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios presented awards to Church Archons Bilirakis, Gigicos, and Priebus at the THI event on Inauguration Eve.

come has proven."

TALKING TO TRUMP

The archbishop described his opportunity to speak briefly with the incoming president. First, incoming Vice President

Mike Pence told him "I always remember and I am in debt to you that you welcomed me at the Archdiocese before the election and we spent two hours together." Then, Demetrios said

that Trump "thanked me politely for offering the prayer at the Republican National Convention and for being present at the inaugural ceremonies. It was a very warm and cordial meeting."

The day following the inauguration, massive marches by women throughout the world took place, in opposition to what they perceive to be anti-women, anti-immigrant, and anti-minority positions by the new president. Regarding those marchers, Demetrios said: "The Church embraces the entire world. The Church embraced the crowd that was at the swearing ceremony, but I also had in mind and in my prayer those who were not there because they did not want to be there for many and different reasons, but they are citizens of the same country. Because we are a Church and we believe that God and the Holy Spirit 'have called all to unity,' it is the constant mission of the Church to embrace everybody and give hope to all."



Archbishop Demetrios offers antidoron to Wisconsin State Senator and Assistant Majority Leader Leah Papachristou Vukmir (Republican-Brookfield) following a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at Saint Sophia Cathedral in Washington, DC. Both the Archbishop and State Senator Vukmir were in the nation's capital to participate in inaugural events. Senator Vukmir is a life-long member of Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The Trump Inauguration – Live from the Bleachers, a Unique Perspective

Continued from page 1

quicker than, say, the U.S. Customs lines at the airport upon returning from abroad.

The crowd was also a sea of red. The now-universally unambiguous red cap with "Make America Great Again," Trump's campaign logo, embroidered in white must have topped one out of every four heads, including the two men standing directly in front of me as the line progressed: a 60-something white man and a 30-something black man, which seemed to reflect an image contrary to the one of a racially divided electorate that some are inclined to perpetuate.

Protesters to the left of us marched by, peacefully, with police shadowing them. They chanted the praises of labor unions, as the black man in front of me turned to me (I was not wearing a Trump cap) and said: "they complain, complain, complain, and then they don't even vote."

The security tent experience was quick and painless, and soon enough we were on the West lawn, a good 90 minutes before noon. It was about 45 degrees, one of the warmest inauguration days in memory, though a cloudy sky meant that rain could spoil the festivities at any moment.

The Red Section was so far back from the Capitol building that not only was the event broadcast on giant screens near us, but the dignitaries looked like blips on a screen not on the Capitol steps, but on some of the screens closer to the building but still quite far from where we were



Of the multiple ways one can experience a presidential inauguration, this one is live, from the bleachers with a crowd wearing "Make America Great Again" caps.

standing! We were, without a doubt, in "the bleachers."

BLEACHER BUMS

At a baseball stadium, "bleachers" are what the cheap seats are called, far into the extremes of the outfield, and their occupiers are the proverbial "bleacher bums." The farther removed they are from the main activity (the pitcher pitching to the batter at home plate), the more rambunctious they are likely to behave. Conversely, the closer the attendees at the Capi-

tol were to the West Portico, the more they seemed to appreciate the dignity and solemnity of the event.

But even among those bleacher bums standing around me, only a few were disrespectful. Some booed, and mostly Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama. Some alternated boos with a taunting "ha-ha" and a few even chanted "lock her up!" when the cameras panned on the Clintons – a line often heard at Trump rallies during the cam-

paign.

When Obama was shown, a man behind me and to the right screamed "traitor," and a young female attorney directly behind me admonished him: "He is an American president!" The reply came back to her: "freedom of speech!" The rest of the crowd, including me, chose only to cheer or to stay silent – not to boo. U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) got the loudest and most prolonged boos for making a speech the crowd thought was far too

lengthy.

POPULISM AND NATIONALISM

For better or for worse – to some people's sheer delight and others' utter horror – Donald Trump, in his inaugural address, was quintessentially Trumpian.

He spoke big (or "huge" – as it were), both in his praise and in his criticism. He spoke of a "depleted" military and described the plight of inner cities as "American carnage" that will stop right here and now. But he also said that in their part to facilitate the transition of presidential administrations, Barack and Michelle Obama were not mere helpful, or good, or kind, they were "magnificent."

The first president to wear populism as a badge of courage since Andrew Jackson, Trump invoked those principles by declaring that "we are transferring power from Washington, DC and giving it back to you, the people." And he said that "this, the United States of America, is your country."

Moreover, with perhaps the most bipartisan stance since President Tyler, Trump declared that "what truly matters is not which party controls our government, but whether our government is controlled by the people."

It had finally started to rain, but only lightly, and no one seemed to mind much. The red Trump caps served a dual purpose.

The new president continued: "We assembled here today are issuing a new decree to be heard in every city, in every foreign capital, and in every hall of power.

From this day forward, a new vision will govern our land. From this day forward, it's going to be only America first."

Limiting the address to 20 minutes as he had promised, so that "people won't have to stand in the cold" (as it turned out, in the drizzle), Trump sent a message that – at least for the time being – he's not going to stop being who he is.

The crowd filed out in as orderly a manner as in which it had assembled. As hundreds of thousands of red Trump caps with bodies underneath went their separate ways, the streets of our nation's capital continued to be dominated by enthusiastic well-wishers, yet peaceful but vocal protesters were also conspicuous.

There were reports of violence, but as is often the case, it was the exception rather than the rule.

The president said that "when you open your heart to patriotism, there is no room for prejudice." Sure, there was some display of poor sportsmanship on both sides, but most of the red Trump cap-wearing people around me did not boo when the Obamas and the Clintons were featured on the screen. And many even gave polite applause.

Soon enough, the drizzle stopped entirely. It would have been too easy if the gray sky turned blue and the sun brilliantly shone through from behind the clouds. Perhaps that, too, symbolizes what President Trump said about the road ahead: "we will face challenges, we will confront hardships, but we will get the job done."

Remarks by White House Chief of Staff and Archon Reince Priebus

Remarks by White House Chief of Staff and Archon Reince Priebus on January 19, 2017 at the Presidential Inaugural Reception at the St. Regis Hotel

"I'm just so honored to be here with everybody. Obviously, with our wonderful Archbishop, who took me in, in New York and we had that great meeting in 2011, His Eminence. Father Alex who, I think everyone in this room has benefitted from the wisdom of Father Alex and the friendship of Father Alex. Michael, his son, who also became very close to me over the last six years. I will tell you that the leadership of the Orthodox Church became woven into the fabric of the things that we did at the Republican National Committee. Maybe not all obviously policy-wise, but the integrity and the discipline of the Orthodox Church is something that everyone can learn from: attention to detail, checking boxes, doing things properly, doing things correctly. For those of you that have been altar boys as a young kid, you know what I'm talking about. And when you get brought in by a great priest, Father Peter at the Kimisis Tis Theotokou Church in Racine, Father John, obviously, it started with Father Tzikas in New Jersey, his son became a priest in San Diego. He ended up baptizing my two nieces in San Diego, went to Florida, he'll be at the ball tomorrow, as well as Father John. But, the Orthodox faith, and the discipline and the commitment to recognize that nothing is by accident. All of us didn't get into this room by accident. Because God did, as John said, put his hands on all of us to be here. To bring us together.

Nothing happens if it is not in God's will. We are here because of God's will. And, so now we need to take the opportunity that God has given us, and accomplish the goals that our great new President has talked about in making this country great again.

Let me tell you something that I think you'll take from this that will matter to us here. We want to put the concept of religious freedom, our Patriarch, Constantinople, the recognition of the struggle of the Orthodox church front and center in this White House. I'd love to see the day that the President of the United States shows up in Constantinople, at the Patriarchate, and recognizes the oppression and the struggle, that really



Trump Chief of Staff Reince Priebus, left, accompanied by President Donald Trump, right, during a White House senior staff swearing in ceremony in the White House, Jan. 22.

is not just a symbol for the Orthodox Church, but it is a symbol for people of faith around the world.

When you have Christians' heads laying on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea, off the coast, and you have ISIS gaining a foothold across the world, it's no wonder why people across the world, people here in America, in the United Kingdom, throughout Europe, just wait, wait for Germany next, people are tired, they want someone to fight for them. People are hungry for somebody that is real. John talked about sixteen knock out punches.

You know what? In the end it didn't matter. Because you know what people are starving for in this country, in this world? They are starving for real. They are tired of plasticized politicians, whether they are from Athens or whether they are from Washington, DC, plasticized doesn't work anymore. Real does.

No matter where you're from, and I'm proud that my son Jack, and I think Grace is here somewhere, my aunts and uncles from California and cousins, my wife Sally, my mother, my sister and brother-in-law, and very special guests, my Aunt

Nellie and my cousin Harry from Greece are here.

But, in the end, it's freedom. And it is what God put in our heart. God put the hunger for freedom in everybody's heart. So when the Orthodox Church is feeling oppressed, it's an oppression from freedom. When people are tired of Washington, when they want something to get done, they are hungry for freedom. Freedom to put more money in their pockets. Freedom to know that they can travel overseas and not get killed. The freedom that their sons and their daughters are going to be able to pay the mortgage, have a car to drive, put money away for your kids and your retirement. But people ask me, but what is this all about?

I would encourage you, even if you go for fifteen minutes, do it. You drive past it. Go to the World War II Memorial. Go to the site. And just take fifteen minutes and walk around. You'll see the quotes from Nimitz and Eisenhower and all of those heroes from the time. And you walk up to that wall. And you have those 4,000 golden stars on that wall. And you figure it out. For every one of those golden stars, for every one of the 4,000 golden stars, a hundred little guys, a little bigger than Jack, a hundred for every one, did not come home to mom and dad. And in front of those golden stars, in gold on the black granite, it says 'Here we mark the price of freedom.' Freedom.

And lastly, let me just make a comment that some of you have heard before. But I want to just frame it in a way that I know you can all understand because it's important. I walked into this job and it was a catastrophe. The Greek community, the Orthodox community, starting with the Archbishop, Father Alex, the Archon society, my good, good friend and like my uncle and second father John Catsimatidis took me under his wing and always said yes every time I called. This group of people here in this room is family. You helped save the Republican party. You helped save the Republican party, to build the Republican National Committee, to put a ground game and a data operation in place so that a person that I believe is going to be an incredible president, in Donald Trump, who is going to be sworn in tomorrow. To not just save our party, but save our country but to bring freedom back. The reason

he's going to be successful is he's going to be a person of his word. We're going to talk about Obamacare, tax reform, things that we know the American people and the American worker are hungry for.

If we become the party of the president of the American worker, people that work with their hands people that are skilled every day, we'll never lose another election. What you all did, together as the Greek community, was extraordinary.

And lastly, let me just close with this, I don't think I would be here if it wasn't for my pappou, his name was Hercules, and that's who I'm named after. This was the person who I looked up to the most of any person in my life. I don't really know how it all happened but for you guys out there that remember your grandfathers. There, for whatever reason, whatever they did, you wanted to be alike. Anything. The notes, the papers, the routines that he would go through. I just wanted to be like him.

And I remember the days where we would go, or he would come for a couple months, because you know the Greeks don't come for two weeks, it's a three month deal, right? They're living with you. He would come for three months and, for whatever reason, I remember he would take the encyclopedias off the shelf. He would just read the World Book. He would take the letter P off the shelf for president and start flipping through those presidents.

And it didn't matter, Republican or Democrat, every one of them was a hero, to him, the person I looked up to. But the thing that I took from that was that it didn't matter who it was, but, and he wasn't from this country, but he loved every single crumb and morsel about the United States of America. So as a little guy, the person I looked up to most, my pappou, loved somewhere he wasn't from the most and it made me proud to be an American. And I'll never forget that and I'll never forget the folks here. Father Alex, the Archbishop, John, Gus my friend who took me in on Capitol Hill. You made this happen. But, ultimately, we know that God made this happen. The Lord made this happen. And we couldn't be here without Him. With that, thank you and God bless you."

Church Archons Bilirakis, Gigicos, Priebus Honored by THI on Inauguration Eve

WASHINGTON, DC – On January 19, the eve of the 58th inauguration of the president of the United States, Archbishop Demetrios bestowed honors upon three Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate: (in alphabetical order): Congressman Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), George Gigicos, who will be President Trump's Director of Advance and a Deputy Assistant, and Reince Priebus, who is stepping down as Chairman of the Republican National Committee to be Chief of Staff to the president.

The reception, hosted by The Hellenic Initiative – whose Chairman Andrew Liveris, also Chairman of Dow Chemical,

was appointed by Trump to lead a manufacturing council – was held at the St. Regis Hotel in the NW District of the nation's capital featured numerous dignitaries among the Greek-American community, including billionaire entrepreneur and 2013 NYC Mayoral candidate John Catsimatidis, who introduced Priebus. Community leader Michael Karoutsos spoke very kindly of his friend Gigicos – both of their fathers are priests, Revs. Alexander Karoutsos and Dean Gigicos, both in attendance – and who was unable to attend because, as Karoutsos explained because "he's doing his job right now, stand-

ing next to the president-elect of the United States." Rev. Gigicos accepted the honor on his son's behalf.

Gigicos, in fact, was in charge of all of Trump's rallies during the campaign.

"When I walk in to the House Chamber," Bilirakis told a cheering crowd, "I do not leave my Greek Orthodoxy at the door."

"ERAKLIS"
Priebus' middle name is Hercules, as many on the stage noted, but it was Archbishop Demetrios who emphasized that "he has a Greek name – let's say it in Greek – Eraklis."

Priebus told an appreciative crowd that as president, Trump



BILL PETROS

The Hellenic Initiative Inauguration Eve reception was held at the St. Regis Hotel.

will not only help the Republican Party, but the entire country. He

spoke about the virtues of freedom – including championing re-

ligious freedom abroad – and invited those who haven't yet visited the new Freedom Tower at the World Trade Center to do so. Demetrios recognized the important role former New York Governor George Pataki – who also attended – played in the rebuilding of the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church at the Ground Zero site.

Other notable guests included Philhellene and Founder of the Congressional Hellenic Caucus Carolyn Maloney, prominent DC lobbyist and Founder and President of the Coordinated Effort of Hellenes Andy Manatos, and Greek Minister of Defense Panos Kammenos.

Trump's Inauguration Speech Full Text

WASHINGTON, DC – Donald J. Trump was sworn in as the 45th President of the United States on January 20. The full text of his inaugural address follows.

Chief Justice Roberts, President Carter, President Clinton, President Bush, President Obama, fellow Americans and people of the world, thank you.

We, the citizens of America, are now joined in a great national effort to rebuild our country and restore its promise for all of our people.

Together, we will determine the course of America and the world for many, many years to come. We will face challenges, we will confront hardships, but we will get the job done.

Every four years, we gather on these steps to carry out the orderly and peaceful transfer of power, and we are grateful to President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama for their gracious aid throughout this transition. They have been magnificent. Thank you.

Today's ceremony, however, has very special meaning because today, we are not merely transferring power from one administration to another or from one party to another, but we are transferring power from Washington, D.C. and giving it back to you, the people.

For too long, a small group in our nation's capital has reaped the rewards of government while the people have borne the cost. Washington flourished, but the people did not share in its wealth. Politicians prospered, but the jobs left and the factories closed. The establishment protected itself, but not the citizens of our country. Their victories have not been your victories. Their triumphs have not been your triumphs. And while they celebrated in our nation's capital, there was little to celebrate for struggling families all across our land.

That all changes starting right here and right now because this moment is your moment, it belongs to you.

It belongs to everyone gathered here today and everyone watching all across America. This is your day. This is your celebration. And this, the United States of America, is your country.

What truly matters is not which party controls our government, but whether our government is controlled by the people.

January 20th, 2017 will be remembered as the day the people became the rulers of this nation again.

The forgotten men and women of our country will be forgotten no longer.

Everyone is listening to you now. You came by the tens of millions to become part of a historic movement, the likes of which the world has never seen before.

At the center of this movement is a crucial conviction, that a nation exists to serve its citizens. Americans want great schools for their children, safe neighborhoods for their families, and good jobs for themselves. These are just and reasonable demands of righteous people and a righteous pub-



AP PHOTO

lic.

But for too many of our citizens, a different reality exists: mothers and children trapped in poverty in our inner cities; rusted out factories scattered like tombstones across the landscape of our nation; an education system flush with cash, but which leaves our young and beautiful students deprived of all knowledge; and the crime and the gangs and the drugs that have stolen too many lives and robbed our country of so much unrealized potential.

This American carnage stops right here and stops right now.

We are one nation and their pain is our pain. Their dreams are our dreams. And their success will be our success. We share one heart, one home, and one glorious destiny. The oath of office I take today is an oath of allegiance to all Americans.

For many decades, we've enriched foreign industry at the expense of American industry; subsidized the armies of other countries, while allowing for the very sad depletion of our military. We've defended other nations' borders while refusing to defend our own.

And spent trillions and trillions of dollars overseas while America's infrastructure has fallen into disrepair and decay. We've made other countries rich, while the wealth, strength and confidence of our country has dissipated over the horizon.

One by one, the factories shuttered and left our shores, with not even a thought about the millions and millions of American workers that were left behind. The wealth of our middle class has been ripped from their homes and then redistributed all across the world.

But that is the past. And now, we are looking only to the future.

We assembled here today are issuing a new decree to be heard in every city, in every foreign capital, and in every hall of power. From this day forward, a new vision will govern our land. From this day forward, it's going to be only America first, America first.

Every decision on trade, on taxes, on immigration, on foreign affairs will be made to benefit American workers and American families. We must protect our borders from the ravages of other countries making our products, stealing our companies and destroying our jobs.

Protection will lead to great prosperity and strength. I will fight for you with every breath in my body and I will never ever let you down.

America will start winning again, winning like never before.

We will bring back our jobs. We will bring back our borders. We will bring back our wealth. And we will bring back our dreams.

We will build new roads and highways and bridges and airports and tunnels and railways all across our wonderful nation. We will get our people off of welfare and back to work, rebuilding our country with American hands and American labor.

We will follow two simple rules; buy American and hire American.

We will seek friendship and goodwill with the nations of the world, but we do so with the understanding that it is the right of all nations to put their own interests first. We do not seek to impose our way of life on anyone, but rather to let it shine as an example. We will shine for everyone to follow.

We will reinforce old alliances and form new ones and unite the civilized world against radical

Islamic terrorism, which we will eradicate from the face of the Earth.

At the bedrock of our politics will be a total allegiance to the United States of America, and through our loyalty to our country, we will rediscover our loyalty to each other. When you open your heart to patriotism, there is no room for prejudice.

The bible tells us how good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity. We must speak our minds openly, debate our disagreements honestly, but always pursue solidarity. When America is united, America is totally unstoppable.

There should be no fear. We are protected and we will always be protected. We will be protected by the great men and women of our military and law enforcement. And most importantly, we will be protected by God.

Finally, we must think big and dream even bigger. In America, we understand that a nation is only living as long as it is striving. We will no longer accept politicians who are all talk and no action, constantly complaining, but never doing anything about it.

The time for empty talk is over. Now arrives the hour of action.

Do not allow anyone to tell you that it cannot be done. No challenge can match the heart and fight and spirit of America. We will not fail. Our country will thrive and prosper again.

We stand at the birth of a new millennium, ready to unlock the mysteries of space, to free the earth from the miseries of disease, and to harness the energies, industries and technologies of tomorrow. A new national pride will stir ourselves, lift our sights and heal our divisions.

It's time to remember that old wisdom our soldiers will never forget, that whether we are black or brown or white, we all bleed the same red blood of patriots.

We all enjoy the same glorious freedoms and we all salute the same great American flag.

And whether a child is born in the urban sprawl of Detroit or the wind-swept plains of Nebraska, they look up at the same night sky, they will their heart with the same dreams, and they are infused with the breath of life by the same almighty creator.

So to all Americans in every city near and far, small and large, from mountain to mountain, from ocean to ocean, hear these words. You will never be ignored again.

Your voice, your hopes, and your dreams will define our American destiny. And your courage and goodness and love will forever guide us along the way.

Together, we will make America strong again. We will make America wealthy again. We will make America proud again. We will make America safe again. And yes, together we will make America great again.

Thank you. God bless you. And God bless America.

Thank you.
God bless America."

Vasiliki "Vaso" Kounalakis, Proud Cretan in CA, was 86

Vasiliki "Vaso" Kounalakis (née Rozakis) danced through life. The melodic and sometimes wild music of her native Crete was a driving force for how she lived: with fierce grace, beauty, rhythm, joy.

In this life she survived wars, found love, established family, experienced successes, traveled new lands, worked hard, and drank in the wonder of God's creation.

A native of Greece, she rejected an arranged marriage and, instead, took a then-radical route by choosing her own husband and love, Antonios - they met at her Chania City Hall workplace. After WWII and the Civil War, the newlyweds arrived in the United States with refugee status thanks to the World Council of Churches. San Francisco became home.

Vaso was a loving and devoted wife. Finding a photo of her without Antonios at her side is rare. Professionally, she started her career by working the midnight shift at Bank of America's Day and Night branch at Powell and Market. She stayed with the bank in various roles at both Redwood City and Palo Alto branches until retirement.

First in her family to finish high school, Vaso valued education and insisted her own kids go both to college and graduate school. America made that possible, she made it necessary.

Possessing a cutting wit and a wicked sense of humor, she was tough, but reverent. Vaso was a progressive amidst a conservative Cretan tradition and community and was always attuned to the Zeitgeist.

Vaso's deep Greek-Orthodox faith in love drove her good works and her respect for nature. She enjoyed wandering and watering her yard, always stopping to smell her garden's roses, jasmine, and anise. When



she rubbed her hands with fresh rosemary and basil, those hands always smelled sweet.

Classy and well put-together, she was impeccable in dress and inscrutable in attitude. Vaso's compassion knew no bounds and only subtle refrigerator-taped photos gave away her consistent support for various impoverished children around the world, all of them living in hard conditions or war zones. Next to pictures of her grandchildren were the photos of these other kids - boys and girls Vaso would never meet - reminding her of the responsibility to share what we can and do what we must.

Passion for children everywhere also meant a deep love for her grandchildren at home - she tried to be with the grandkids daily. Vaso was strong, independent, clear, critical, and reflected "girl power" well be-

fore that became a popular term - these values and lessons are not lost on her family. One regular reward was watching her grandchildren grow into responsible people who speak a bit of Greek. She loved seeing them at church. Lessons taught, lessons learned.

Alzheimer's caused her to slip, but as long as she stood, she never lost her dance step.

Vaso is survived by her husband, Antonios; her younger siblings Chrisoula Doukakakis and Demetrios Rozakis; her son and daughter, Markos Kounalakis and Diane Kounalakis-Baxter and their spouses Eleni Tsakopoulos Kounalakis and Jeff Baxter. She was a constant presence and early caregiver and teacher for her four grandchildren, Tony and Victoria Baxter, Neo and Eon Kounalakis.

Her extended family include in-laws, countless cousins, nephews and nieces, and godchildren in San Francisco, Granite Bay, Sacramento, New York, Singapore and her native Crete. She danced with them all. The music has now stopped. May her memory be eternal.

The Trisagion service starts at 7 pm on Wednesday, January 25, 2017 at the Church of the Holy Cross, 900 Alameda de las Pulgas, Belmont, CA 94002. Funeral services will be held at 10 am on Thursday, January 26, 2017 at the church as well. A Makaria luncheon reception will follow the service, with an interment at the Greek Orthodox Memorial Park cemetery in Colma later that day. In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Alzheimer's Association, the Pancretan Association of America, a local Greek Orthodox church, or any child in need.

greekobituary.net

James Vlasto, NY Public Relations & Political Advisor

Continued from page 1

the former Tima Stamaton.

In 1956, he joined the business staff of The Atlantis, where he was later named Managing Editor and gave a young freelance writer named Pete Hamill - who would become one of the country's best known journalists and novelists, a job.

Vlasto was a recognized and respected figure in his fields, where he had the ears - and whispered advice into them - of a long line of noted New York politicians, starting with Nelson Rockefeller's first campaign for Governor in 1958 as a young assistant.

He was Press secretary to Gov. Hugh L. Carey, a Democrat, in 1976-77; to New York City Schools Chancellor Joseph A. Fernandez, from 1990-93 and as Director of Communications to Betsy Gotbaum, the city's public advocate, from 2003 to 2008.

"He was never afraid to speak his mind, even if it was going to offend the person he was working for, and he had good instincts and judgment," Stephen Berger, who worked with him in several campaigns and recommended him to Carey, told The Times.

Not all his ventures were successes. He worked in the Mayoral campaign of then-Attorney-General Louis J. Lefkowitz in 1961 and the Senate campaign of Kenneth B. Keating in 1964 that were losses.

But Vlasto was also a winner with the



campaigns of Rockefeller and with Jacob K. Javits for the Senate in 1962. All were Republicans.

After that, most of his clients were De-

mocrats, including Franklin D. Roosevelt Jr., who challenged Rockefeller as a Liberal Party candidate in 1966; Herman Badillo, the Bronx Borough President and later Congressman, in his 1969 and 1973 campaigns for Mayor; and Richard L. Ottinger, a New York Congressman who ran for the Senate in 1970. All three lost.

Vlasto also worked as a New York state adviser in several presidential campaigns and set up a PR firm representing candidates, members of Congress, corporate clients, and the president of Cyprus.

He was later communications director for the nonprofit New Visions for Public Schools and the Editor of Medal of Honor News, a website dedicated to medal recipients.

He attended the private Hackley School in Tarrytown, NY, Greenwich High School in Connecticut, and the School of General Studies at Columbia University, though he did not graduate. He served in the Army in Japan after the Korean War.

He was married to, and divorced from, Dianne Chappas and Carol Opton, both of whom survive him.

Besides his son Christopher, Vlasto is survived by a daughter, Tima Vlasto, both from his first marriage; a son from his second marriage, Josh, who was Press Secretary to Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Senator Chuck Schumer; and four grandchildren.

John Pirsos, Ahepan of Park Ridge was 82

PARK RIDGE, N.J. -- John Pirsos of Park Ridge, died on Monday, Jan 23. He was 82.

He was born in Pirsogiani, Greece and came to the US in 1952. He owned and operated the Barbecue House Restaurant in Park Ridge from 1965 until his retirement in 1993. He was a parishioner of St. John the Theologian Greek Orthodox Church a member of Epirotes Anagenisas, AHEPA and Kali Parea.

He is survived by his wife of Thekla (Gassios) for 57 years; his children Thomas Pirsos and his wife Rena and Nick Pirsos and his wife Stephanie; grandchildren of John and Michael Pirsos and Nicholas and Alexandra Pirsos.

Visitation is 4-9 p.m. on Wednesday at the Robert Spearling Funeral Home, Inc., 155 Kinderkamack Road, Park Ridge. Funeral mass is 10 a.m. on Thursday, Jan 26, at St. John the Theologian Greek Orthodox Church, 353 Clinton Ave., Tenafly. Interment in George Washington Memorial Park, Paramus.

In lieu of flowers donations in memory of John may be made to St. John the Theologian Greek Orthodox Church.

This is a service to the community. Announcements of deaths may be telephoned to the Classified Department of The National Herald at (718) 784-5255, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST or e-mailed to: classifieds@thenationalherald.com

■ BITHOS, CATINA

PENSACOLA, FL (from the Pensacola News Journal, published on Jan. 11) - Catina (Aikaterini) Athanasiou Bithos September 28, 1938 - January 8, 2017 Born on Samos Island in Greece, she attended elementary school and secondary school in the town of Vathi. In 1956, her Aunt Stella Comminos, residing in Mobile, AL, sponsored her father, Demetrios, her mother, Maria, and her brother, Spero, along with her to immigrate to the US. She attended Murphy High School for her Junior and Senior years. Despite her very limited knowledge of English, she nevertheless graduated a member of its Honors Society. In April of 1958, she met Christ Bithos, and, as part of God's plan, each fell in love with the other. Following a beautiful courtship, they were married on July 12, 1959. Throughout the course of their wonderful life together, they raised four children: Nora Bithos Constantopoulos, wife to the Rev. Dr. Constantine Constantopoulos, Maria Bithos Peterson, Peter Bithos, married to the former Megan Derzis, and Anastasia Bithos Zambrano, wife to Gabriel Zambrano, Esq. Her grandchildren include Stelios and Pantelis Peterson; Christos and Penelope Bithos; and Gabriel, Katerina, Christian and Mia Zambrano, all of whom she loved very much, as did she her nieces and nephews. In addition to being the loving matriarch that she was, as the woman of the house, she loved to cook for both her immediate and extended families, always having food at the ready, be it a delicious main course or one of her sought after deserts, for all who eagerly would be awaiting her next treat. Always the one to insist on all present eating, never would she take "No" for an answer. Her legendary deserts, which she always was certain to make with her most essential ingredient, that being love, were enjoyed by family and Angus Restaurant guests alike. As with her family, she loved God deeply, and in a very personal way, long being an active member of Annunciation Greek Or-

thodox Church in Pensacola, FL. Pall bearers include Gabriel Zambrano, Stelios Peterson, Pantelis Peterson, Demetri Athanasiou, Spero Athanasiou, Jr., Michael Scapin, Gary Tringas, and Honorary pall bearers include Nick Gomenis, Jimmy Tringas, John Scapin, Andy Tringas, Pete Gomenis, Greg Pomas, Dr. Ted Ortega, Dr. Michael Papadelios, Neal Nash and Joe O'Neal. In lieu of flowers, the family of the deceased requests that donations be made to Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Pensacola, FL, or to the Alzheimer's Association's Panhandle Chapter's Pensacola Office. The deceased's family wishes to express its thanks to the staff of Broadview Assisted Living at Pensacola's memory care unit as well as Regency Hospice. Catina Bithos, a wife of fifty-seven years, a mother of four, a grandmother of eight, and a friend to countless residents of Greater Pensacola, Gulf Breeze and beyond, reaching back across the ocean to her native Samos from whence she came, will be missed deeply. As she loved everyone, so, too, did everyone love her. May her memory be eternal. Visitation will be Friday January 13, 2017 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Waters & Hibbert Funeral Home. Services will be Saturday January 14, 2017 at 10 a.m. at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church with Father Matthew Carter officiating. Interment will be at Bayview Memorial Park. To send condolences please visit www.watersandhibbert.com Waters & Hibbert Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Express your condolences in our guestbook at pnj.com/obits.

■ BOUGIOUKOS, PETER J.

FALMOUTH, MA (from The Boston Globe, published on Jan. 10) - Peter J. Bougioukos, 86, died on January 5, 2017. Born in Likohia, Greece a son of the late James and Olympia Bougioukos. Survivors include his beloved wife, Diana Bukuras Bougioukos; of Falmouth, son, James Bougioukos of Foxborough; grandson, Peter Bougioukos of Las Vegas; and sister,

DEATH NOTICES

Antigone Prazak of Sydney, Australia. A Funeral will be held on Saturday, Jan. 14 at 10 AM at St. George's Greek Orthodox Church (meet at church), 1130 Falmouth Road, Centerville. Interment to follow in St. Anthony's Cemetery, 167 East Falmouth Hwy, East Falmouth. For online guestbook, obituary and directions please visit, www.ccg-funeralhome.com. Visiting Hours: Friday, Jan. 13, 5-8 PM, Chapman Cole & Gleason Funeral Home, 475 Main St., Falmouth, MA. Chapman Cole & Gleason Falmouth, MA - 508.540.4172

■ **DIAMANDIS, DR. SOTIRIS P.** FRAMINGHAM, MA (from the Framingham Tab, published on Jan. 7) - Dr. Sotiris Peter Diamandis, "Chris," son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Peter Diamandis of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, died on Monday, January 2nd, 2017 while vacationing in Puerto Rico with his wife Carolyn Pappas Diamandis. Born in Athens, Greece, Dr. Diamandis grew up in Ethiopia where his father was working as an agriculturist. Dr. Diamandis is a graduate of Lycee Franeacas College in Ethiopia and Athens Medical School in Athens, Greece. He began his internship at St. Vincents Hospital at the University of Massachusetts after moving to Massachusetts with his first wife Marilyn Diamandis. He completed his General Surgery Residency at the Bay State Medical Center and a fellowship in Advanced Surgical Technique and Nutrition at New England Deaconess Hospital and Dana Farber. He then served as fellow to the renowned Dr. Kenneth Warren, before joining the New England Baptist Hospital and Dr. Warren, specializing in surgery and diseases of the liver, pancreas and biliary tract. He was a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society and in-

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

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

Private Greek Elementary School in WHITESTONE is seeking full time SECRETARY, must be bilingual in English/Greek. Fast moving environment. Must be able to multi-task, have knowledge of Excel, Word and Quickbooks. Please fax resume (718) 747-3277 attn.: Theodore Kusulas Head of School.

118656/13040/1-28

LEGAL NOTICE

Arts for All Abilities Consortium LLC. Art. of Org. filed w/ SSNY 1/13/17. Office in NY Co. SSNY designated for service of process and shall mail to: The LLC, 262 W. 107 St., Ste. 1C, NY, NY 10025. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

275592/18796

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of SYNVARO DEVELOPMENT SERVICES LLC (DOM LLC). Articles of the Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/23/17. Office location: New York County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC at: Corporate Filings Of New York, 90 State Street, Ste 700, Office 40, Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

275601/20264

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of [IRONROCK CAPITAL MANAGEMENT GROUP LLC]. Arts. of Org. filed with NY Secy. of State (SSNY) [ON 01/23/2017 with an effective date of 01/24/2017]. Location: [New York County]. SSNY designated for service of process and shall mail copy of process served against the LLC to Registered Agent: c/o [Corporate Filings of New York], [Ste 700, Office 40, Albany, NY 12207]. Purpose: [For any lawful purpose].

275600/20263

LEGAL NOTICE

BP BOERUM LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/24/2016. Office loc: Kings County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Blesso Properties, Attn: M. Blesso and D. Kessler, 32 Court St., Ste 1506, NY, NY 10021. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.

275588/16818

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of DAY TO DAY FITNESS LLC (DOM LLC). Articles of the Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/05/16. Office location: Kings County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC at: Dwight Duval, 407 Ocean Ave #2A, Brooklyn, NY 11226. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

275582/20254

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of HOLYRAD STUDIO LLC (DOM LLC). Articles of the Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/19/16. Office location: Kings County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC at: Daryl Oh, 694 Hicks Street, Apt. 2F, Brooklyn, NY 11231. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

275580/20253

LEGAL NOTICE

BABY DOLLAR, LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/22/16. 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, 553 Morgan Avenue, #1, Brooklyn, NY 11222. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

275577/17973

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of LAMALLORCA, LLC (DOM LLC). Articles of the Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/07/16. Office location: Kings County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC at: c/o United States Corporation Agents Inc., 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

275579/20252

LEGAL NOTICE

Project61 LLC. Art. of Org. filed w/ SSNY 1/5/17. Office in Kings Co. SSNY designated for service of process and shall mail to: The LLC, 304 Boerum St. #41, Brooklyn, NY 11206. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

275575/18796

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of BUYVINTAGE ADS, LLC (DOM LLC). Articles of the Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/13/16. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC at: c/o United States Corporation Agents, Inc., Suite 202, 7014 13th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

275573/20264

LEGAL NOTICE

6622 12th AVENUE, LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/19/15. 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, 1482 86th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

275567/17973

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: 1256 REALTY, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/16/2016. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to the LLC, 224 North Long Beach Road, Rockville Centre, NY 11570. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.

275558/20229

FUNERAL HOMES

APOSTOLOPOULOS

Apostle Family - Gregory, Nicholas, Andrew - Funeral Directors of RIVERDALE FUNERAL HOME Inc. 5044 Broadway New York, NY 10034 (212) 942-4000 Toll Free 1-888-GAPOSTLE CONSTANTINIDES FUNERAL PARLOR Co. (718) 745-1010 Services in all localities - Low cost shipping to Greece

ANTONOPOULOS

FUNERAL HOME, INC. Konstantinos Antonopoulos - Funeral Director 38-08 Ditmars Blvd., Astoria, New York 11105 (718) 728-8500 Not affiliated with any other funeral home.

ducted into the International Hepatic-Biliary Society. He served as a respected and dedicated member of the New England Baptist Hospital from 1985-2017, best known for his excellent surgical skill and outcomes, his endearing personality and commitment to his beloved patients. He will forever be fondly remembered and missed by his many patients at the New England Baptist Family Hospital. He is survived by his five sons with his first wife Marilyn; Peter of Medfield, Christian of Canton; Jonathan of Milton; Ilia of Milton; Stefan of Dorchester; his daughter in-laws, Rachel, Jill, Michelle, and Gia, as well as his seven grandchildren Alexi, Dillon, Leila, Catherine, Keira, Scarlett and Ava. He is also survived by his beloved wife Carolyn of Wayland, and her children, Nicholas A. and Christina K. Pappas of Sudbury; Paul N. Pappas of Framingham; John C. Pappas III and Jill P. Pappas of Southborough; and her grandchildren, John C. Pappas IV, Alex, Jackson and Chloe Elizabeth. Dr. D, as he was affectionately known, will be remembered for his love of family, coaching and the many lives he touched throughout his long and dedicated practice of medicine. Relatives and friends are invited to attend his funeral service on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at 10 AM at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, 57 Brown Street, Weston. Interment will follow in the Mausoleum at Edgell Grove Cemetery, 53 Grove St., Framingham. Visiting hours at the Norton Funeral Home, 53 Beech St. (corner of Union Ave.), Framingham, will be Monday from 3:30 PM to 7 PM. In lieu of flowers donations can be made in his name to New England Baptist Hospital, 125 Parker Hill Ave., Boston, MA 02120. For online directions and guestbook please log onto www.nortonfuneralhome.com.

■ KOURGELIS, JOHN

HACKENSACK, NJ (from The Record, published on Jan. 9) - John Kourgelis, 84, of Hackensack, NJ born in Chios, Greece,

died peacefully Saturday, January 7, 2017 surrounded by his loving family. Beloved and devoted husband for 54 inseparable years to Kiki. Loving father to Michael and daughter-in-law Margaret Kourgelis, and Jimmy and daughter-in-law Kristina Kourgelis. Adoring grandfather of Johnny, James, Christian, Angelina, Angeliki, and Yianni. Beloved and cherished by brother Tommy and sister-in-law Carole Kourgelis, and brother George Kourgelis. Brother-in-law George and Despina Nyktas (Chios, Greece). Gus and Marcella Fotis and Theodoros and Popi Kesoglou. Preceded in death by his parents Marouso and Dimitrios Kourgelis and his sister Despina and Nikolaos Nyktas. Also survived by numerous nephews, nieces, cousins, many other relatives, and friends here in the U.S. and Greece. Papa John, as he was known to by so many, was a man that enjoyed the simple moments in life. Former owner of the Cedar Lane Grille in Teaneck, New Jersey with his brother Tommy and his first cousin George Mereos (deceased). He was so loved by so many individuals that had worked for him over the course of many years. In his years of retirement, his daily trips to the Venetian in Garfield, New Jersey to visit with his sons and family members brought him great pleasure. He enjoyed his annual trips to his native island Chios, Greece and his village Agios Georgios Sikouisis. The family will receive relatives and friends from 4:00-9:00 PM on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at St. Athanasios Greek Orthodox Church, 51 Paramus Rd, Paramus, NJ 07652. A funeral service is planned for Wednesday, January 11, 2017. 11:00 AM at St. Athanasios Greek Orthodox Church. Interment immediately following at Valleu Cemetery 546 Franklin Turnpike, Ridge-wood, NJ 07450. Arrangements are being handled by Vander Plaet-Caggiano Funeral Home Inc., Fair Lawn, NJ 201-797-3500. For additional information please visit www.vpfair-lawn.com

Greek Court Rejects Extradition for Turkish Servicemen



ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greece's Supreme Court on Thursday rejected an extradition request for eight Turkish servicemen who fled their country by helicopter after a coup attempt.

Presiding judge Giorgos Sakkas, reading out the decision, said the servicemen were unlikely to face a fair trial if returned to Turkey.

The eight officers fought extradition in a six-month legal battle, arguing that they face

mistreatment in prison if returned.

Justice Minister Stavros Kontonis earlier this week had said he would respect the court decision and not make use of executive powers in the extradition case.

Lower courts issued mixed decisions on the return of the officers in a series of separate hearings.

The extradition case has further complicated ties between neighbors and NATO allies Greece and Turkey, which remain at odds over war-divided Cyprus and boundaries in the Aegean Sea.

Hours ahead of Thursday's

decision, Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman Huseyin Muf-tuoglu said he expected the servicemen to be returned.

"Our greatest expectation is for the coup plotters to be delivered to the Turkish judicial (authorities). We shall be following the results of this case," he said. "These coup plotters should not go unpunished."

Court officials told the AP that the extradition case was highly unlikely to be heard at a higher level, by a plenary session of the Supreme Court. The officials asked not to be identified because they are not authorized to speak to the news media.

Turkish military officers, center, escorted by Greek police officers, arrive at the Supreme Court in Athens, Thursday, Jan. 26, 2017.

Tsipras Marks 2 Years as PM with No-Austerity Pledge

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greece's prime minister on Wednesday marked two years in office, promising "not another euro" of new austerity measures by his left-wing government, as talks with bailout lenders over deeper cuts remain at an impasse.

Alexis Tsipras, 42, defeated established political parties in elections on Jan. 25, 2015 on a promise to scrap existing bailout agreements and austerity measures. But he eventually negotiated a third major international rescue deal after months of confrontation with lenders from eurozone countries and the International Monetary Fund.

In a newspaper interview published Wednesday, Tsipras urged European Union leaders to help Greece's economy recover from years of recession, arguing it would make the union stronger.

"Under no circumstances will we have legislation for any further austerity measures — not

another euro — beyond what has already been agreed upon," Tsipras told the daily Efsyn newspaper.

The IMF is pressing for tougher cuts, arguing that fiscal goals set out for Greece, including an ambitious 2017 growth target, cannot be achieved under current budget plans unless the country is granted more generous debt relief.

On Tuesday, the government said it was willing to extend an automatic spending reduction mechanism for an additional year — beyond the current 2016-2018 bailout program.

Eurozone finance ministers are likely to consider the proposal at a meeting in Brussels on Thursday.

Tsipras' government is hoping to overcome delays in bailout talks to try to qualify the country to participate in a European Central Bank bond-buying stimulus program. That, it argues, is key to the economic recovery after years of decline

and stagnation.

Near his office Wednesday, a small group of state hospital workers held a protest against ongoing health service cuts. Some briefly scuffled with riot police blocking the road.

"It's two years today since the government was formed ... and we've had two years of false commitments on public health," protest organizer Michalis Gian-nakos said.

"Patients are dying on folding beds and on gurneys because the health system is falling apart."

Protesters carry a birthday cake depicting Greek PM Alexis Tsipras with a Pinocchio nose during a protest against government's policies on health issues in Athens, Wednesday, January 25. On the cake reads: "Two years of SYRIZA -ANEL, Lies, lies, about hirings and medical supplies for intensive care units."



Bubbly UN Envoy Eide Sees Cyprus Security Unity

TNH Staff

UNITED NATIONS — The U.N. envoy trying to help promote the reunification of Cyprus said that key security issues including the continued presence of Turkish troops are being looked at "through new eyes" — and the political will is there to find solutions.

Espen Barth Eide told reporters after briefing the U.N. Security Council behind closed doors that because Greek Cypriots want Turkish troops out and Turkish Cypriots want them to remain, both sides and the guarantors of Cyprus' security — Britain, Turkey and Greece — are now looking for "solutions that they can all live with."

Among questions being asked, he said, are whether new "mechanisms" and new "connections" to the international community and neighboring countries can ensure that both Turkish and Greek Cypriots feel secure.

"Is it easy? No. Is the will there to find solutions? Yes. And that's what will be most of our focus now," Eide said. "They might not be exactly those that people have been seeking for all these years, but I think they can eventually work."

He refused to provide any details explaining that all parties agreed not to discuss specifics publicly.

Cyprus was split into a Greek Cypriot south and a Turkish Cypriot north in 1974 when Turkey invaded after a coup by Cypriot supporters of union with Greece.

Turkish Cypriots declared an



AP PHOTO
UN Special Advisor for Cyprus Espen Barth Eide.

independent state in 1983, but only Turkey recognizes it and keeps 35,000 troops there.

While the island joined the European Union in 2004, only the internationally recognized Greek-speaking south enjoys full membership benefits.

Earlier this month, Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders and officials from the three "guarantor" countries met in Geneva. Eide said the guarantors are exchanging views now and working with the U.N. "to prepare the next phase."

The Security Council welcomed the progress in the Cyprus talks and said it will extend the mandate of the U.N. peacekeeping mission to support the two sides in reaching a settlement.

Council members "urged all parties to maintain momentum and seize the opportunity they now have to secure an historic agreement for a united Cyprus."

Eide stressed that "there is a window of opportunity which is not extremely long."

But he said he wouldn't set a deadline for negotiations.

"We don't need that," Eide said, "because my very strong sense is that not only the two sides in Cyprus, but also the other players involved, are aware that there is a momentum now... We're probably at the best of times in creating... the circumstance in which a solution can be found."

But Eide stressed that "it's not open-ended that we're going to do this for many, many months or years to come."

And if it's wasted, he warned, no one knows when another opportunity might arise.

TALKING THE TALK

Cyprus President Nicos Anastasiades and Turkish-Cypriot leader Mustafa Akinci were to also meet Jan. 26 to keep alive the faltering hopes for a unity deal.

They met in Geneva earlier this month and carved up the island with a prospective map showing how much territory stolen by Turks should be returned.

That led to the guarantors of security on the island, the United Kingdom, Greece and Turkey to try to reach agreement on how to safeguard any deal but ended with Ankara insisting on keeping a 30,000-strong army and the right to militarily intervene.

Technical envoys have been trying to hash out details and Anastasiades said that the political discussion of the proposals must adhere to the principles outlined in the statement issued

by the UN at the conference.

Anastasiades said the meetings of the advisers were held to "record" the proposals of both sides, signaling that real progress will only be made at the political level.

The newspaper Kathimerini said it was told by diplomatic sources Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan won't back down from keeping an army on the island, which could be a deal breaker and scuttle hopes again as they have been for more than 42 years.

UK delegates, along with Greece, reportedly backed the abolition of the current system of guarantees, maintaining, however, British rights to its sovereign bases in southern Cyprus.

The negotiations remain tense, especially after an adviser to Erdogan said in a recent TV interview that, "There is no Greece, because Prime Minister (Alexis) Tsipras has sold it, turning the Greeks into slaves."

"We are facing so many situations of disasters," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said after the Geneva talks. "We badly need a symbol of hope. I strongly believe Cyprus can be the symbol of hope at the beginning of 2017."

Eide said the security envoys wrapped up their initial work earlier than expected but said talks would continue. He didn't provide details about when the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders along with the foreign ministers of Britain, Greece and Turkey would reconvene

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

Emirates to Launch Daily Service Newark-Athens

TNH Staff

DUBAI, UAE — Emirates Airline announced it will launch a new daily service from Dubai to Newark Liberty International Airport, via the Greek capital city of Athens, starting on March 12. The new route complements Emirates' existing four daily flights between Dubai and New York's JFK airport, by offering global travelers another convenient access point to the popular New York Metropolitan area.

Emirates' new Dubai-Athens-Newark flight will also provide a year-round non-stop daily service between the United States and Greece — a service that does not exist today and has not existed since 2012. The airline will operate a widebody Boeing 777-300ER powered by General Electric GE90 engines on the route, offering 8 seats in First, 42 seats in Business and 304 seats in Economy class, as well as 19 tonnes of belly-hold cargo capacity.

Sir Tim Clark, President of Emirates Airline said "the Greek Government and Athens International Airport approached Emirates some time ago to consider serving the route between Athens and New York. After careful review, Emirates concluded that extending one of our Dubai-Athens flights to Newark would be commercially and operationally feasible. We are pleased to be able to help meet a strong consumer need long neglected by other airlines, and we would like to thank the authorities and our partners in both the US and Greece for their support of the new route.

"The availability of high quality, daily international air services is essential for the development of business and cultural ties. Trade, especially in high-value and time-sensitive products, will be facilitated by the ample cargo capacity on Emirates' Boeing 777 aircraft. We also expect tourism to receive a major boost from the availability of daily flights year-round."

Elena Kountoura, Minister of Tourism of the Hellenic Republic said that "within the framework of our excellent cooperation, and in line with our common goal for the growth of tourism between our two countries as well as the expansion to long-haul markets, I would like to thank Emirates for having positively considered our request to launch a new Emirates itinerary connecting Dubai with New York via Athens all year round. This strategic choice substantially supports our efforts at the Ministry of Tourism to enhance the already increasing flow of visitors to Greece from the United States and the UAE on a yearly basis, traveling either for leisure or business purposes."

Endy Zemenides, Executive

Director of the Hellenic American Leadership Council said, "the Greek-American community has long been anticipating the reestablishment of year round direct travel between Greece and the United States. For this moment to arrive thanks to Emirates — the world's top airline — is special indeed. Greece's economic comeback is going to have to include year round tourism and easier business travel. The new Emirates route makes this possible. The Greek-American community will be thrilled with this new itinerary, and we thank Emirates Airline for establishing its route and for its endorsement of travel to Greece."

Aegean Island Mayors Want Refugees Moved

TNH Staff

ATHENS — The mayors of five eastern Greek islands used to limit the movement of refugees and migrants have called on the European Union to ease the restrictions amid continued problems created by winter weather and overcrowding.

The mayors of Lesbos, Chios, Leros, Samos, and Kos met with Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras to make the request in person to move migrants to mainland Greece.

Under a deal between Turkey and the European Union, migrants who reached islands over the past 10 months are mostly not allowed to leave until their cases were reviewed for potential deportation.

There was no response from the government and the newspaper Kathimerini said the Prime Minister had no response, days after the European migration chief, Greece's Dimitris Avramopoulos met them and gave them the cold shoulder to their plea.

Both sides agreed the suspended European Union swap deal with Turkey, in limbo over the overwhelming number of asylum applications, shouldn't be allowed to collapse, the paper added.

In the meeting, also attended by senior officials of the Central Union of Municipalities and Communities of Greece (KEDKE), the mayors said the situation on the islands, which are housing almost 14,000 refugees — another 50,000 are already in mainland camps and detention centers — was tense and spates of violence could grow.

This Week in Greek History

Compiled by
Eraklis Diamataris

JANUARY 23: On this day in 1782 in a monastery near Arta, Greek revolutionary hero Field Marshal Georgios Karaiskakis (1782-1827) was born. At the age of 15 Georgios Karaiskakis was captured by Ottoman forces seeking to suppress the Greek resistance that was beginning to take hold of the mainland. Whilst in captivity, Karaiskakis impressed his captors with his intellect and fighting capabilities and was



put in command of Ali Pasha's personal bodyguard. He lost Ottoman favor and returned to the mountains to maintain his guerilla kleftri and armatolos resistance lifestyle. His most famous victory on the battlefield occurred at Arachova where his greatly outnumbered forces destroyed an Ottoman army of over 2000 strong with minimal casualties. Karaiskakis suffered a fatal wound from a rifle shot near Faliro, Piraeus and would die from his injuries in 1827. Karaiskakis' final resting place, per his wishes, is on the island of Salamis.

JANUARY 23: On this day in 1973 Greek shipping heir Alexander Onassis died at the age of 24 in Athens, Greece. Alexander was the only son of shipping tycoon Aristotle Onassis and Tina Livanos (Onassis' first wife). Alexander Onassis was not formally educated but had private tutoring and was introduced to his father's businesses from a young age working his way up through the Monaco branch office, getting



paid a modest \$12,000 annually. Known for his playboy ways Onassis was involved in numerous high profile relationships, usually with women who were substantially older than him such as Fiona Thyssen. A lover of aircraft and aviation, Alexander Onassis was a pilot with over 1,500 flying hours to his name but due to poor eyesight was prohibited from flying commercial airlines. On January 22, 1973 Onassis was on his Piaggio P.135L-2 airplane, where he was a passenger

, and it suddenly fell out of the sky and crashed at Ellinikon International Airport in Athens. The crash left Onassis with mortal wounds and Onassis died of his injuries the next day. His father Aristotle flew in globally recognized neurosurgeons and doctors but it was too late. Aristotle Onassis would never recover from the heartbreak of losing his only son and his health quickly deteriorated and would die himself just two years later. In commemoration of his son's life, Aristotle Onassis created the Alexander S. Onassis Foundation as a vehicle to advance philanthropic missions.

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Conversation with Kammenos

Greek Defense Minister Panos Kammenos called me on January 19 demanding – and threatening – that I retract my commentary “Trickery without Limits,” claiming that it was inaccurate and that I was “creating a negative climate” about his visit to Washington.

It goes without saying – at least for those who are familiar with this newspaper – that I would be eager not only to retract, but also to publicly apologize, in case that piece indeed contained inaccuracies, and that is naturally what I pointed out to him.

The minister, who leads his own small party and provides the majority votes in Parliament to SYRIZA that make Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras’ government possible, insisted that he had evidence that confirmed my inaccuracies. So, in turn, I insisted that he send it to me.

And indeed he did. But what he sent me was the invitation he received from the Greek-American Inaugural Reception to attend the reception in honor of Archbishop Demetrios, Greek-American officials in the Trump Administration, and Congressman Gus Bilirakis.

Out of respect for this position, I shall refrain from characterizing the evidence.

Had he read my commentary carefully, he would have noted that I did not write that he had not been invited. I wrote that both he and State Minister Nikos Pappas had invited themselves.

I also wrote that they are deceiving the Greek people by spreading information through their “parrots” that they would be having substantive discussions with Chief of Staff Reince Priebus and others in the new administration.

For the sake of fairness, I reprint my commentary here, in pertinent part, so as to enable each of you to judge for yourselves:

“Naturally, when the Greek diplomatic authorities in America learned about the reception they requested and, of course, secured seats at the reception for two senior members of the Greek Government: Nikos Pappas, the Prime Minister’s right hand man, and Defense Minister Panos Kammenos.

“Why not? You might ask.

“I would agree, provided that they would not attempt to misinform the Greek people about allegedly having meetings with high White House officials about substantive issues such as the national issues of Greece the IMF role there and Cyprus, as their ‘parrots’ are propagating in Greece.

“Such behavior is unworthy of Greece.

“It is certain that they will be photographed with Priebus and [the president’s Director of Advance George] Gigicos at the reception. Everyone will be photographed with them in the short time that they will be present.”

I must admit, however, that I have indeed made a mistake: I never imagined that the Greek Minister of Defense would grant an award from his country’s Armed Forces to someone at an unrelated event.

First of all it’s not clear why he awarded Priebus the award. Has Mr. Priebus had the chance to do something, anything, for the Greek Armed Forces, before his boss even took the oath of office?

Secondly, one might think that there is a time and a place for bestowing awards.

The way he did it displays provincialism of the worst kind, which is unacceptable for a Minister of Defense.

Now, regarding his threat to sue me if I don’t retract: I would consider it as insignificant, as a statement made in the heat of the moment, if he was not a Cabinet Minister, if it wasn’t for his history with reporters in Greece, and if he was not a member of a government with a history of attempting to intimidate – and thus control – the media.

Kammenos apparently is not familiar with us, nor with the American legal system, according to which the truth is an absolute defense in all cases and even more so with regard to public figures.

Therefore, if this story proves anything, it is the authoritarian tendencies of Greece’s leftist government, a testament of incompetent people who unfortunately hold high government positions.

Will Greece Become Known as Being Anti-Trump?

Everyone is trying to elicit President Donald Trump’s intentions on the basis of his first decisions. But this is not easy.

What is clear is that Trump will be a different kind of president than any we have seen before.

However, the fact that his campaign promises are in line with his executive actions is quite promising, whether one agrees with them or not.

For example, he had announced that he would pull the country out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the 12-nation trade agreement, which he did (an action which might cost the country dearly). He had promised to repeal Obamacare and took the first official action, although Congress will need to enact legislation in order to dismantle it entirely.

What obscures the situation, and may crush his presidency in the long term, is the ongoing fierce war with the media, including the most prestigious outlets.

For example, on the one hand he describes the media as being “among the world’s most dishonest people.”

On the other hand, a recent New York Times headline read “Meeting With Top Lawmakers, Trump Repeats an Election Lie” (that the vote of millions of unauthorized immigrants had robbed him of a popular vote).

CNN takes it even further.

But even the Wall Street Journal is on the same line, although with much more caution and on political issues – as it should.

In any event, based on my years of experience, please allow me to share a thought with the Greek media, not because I somehow expect them to listen to me, but due to a sense of obligation: They should not regard Trump’s presidency as negative from the outset, and they should not just follow the pack by superficially criticizing anything and everything he does.

They should consider that, at the end of the day, all of us, Trump included, are judged by our deeds and not – just – our words. And, he should mainly be judged by the decisions he will take in regards to Greece.

So if the media turns the Greek people massively against him now, without circumspection, if the country earns the reputation of being anti-Trump, then besides the fact that it will neutralize his close Greek-American advisors, it will also turn him against the Greek people. And that might cost them dearly.

Thrice-Married President Receives Blessing, but None for a Priest’s Second

To the Editor:

As I was watching the participation of our Archbishop Demetrios in the historic events of the past weekend, regardless of the political side and overtones, one aspect evoked deep feeling of personal frustration, if not anger, the blessing of a thrice-married man (not to mention his relationship with women in general), versus my own sad and extremely depressed predicament:

I faithfully served our Church for 48 years. After the passing on of my presvitera following a five-year struggle with cancer, my circumstances became unbearable, not only with the care of a disable son, but with cross of living as a widowed priest with honesty and adherent to my moral principles.

Therefore, after agonizing moments, I decided to remarry, and my Church, absent during my psychological ordeal, was quick to apply fake, anachronistic and misanthropic canons and deprived me of my active priesthood.

I expected my Archbishop to become my advocate in my effort to repeal the nonsensical for the modern age rules, but to no avail.

So, we can accommodate public figures, no matter what their way of life, but neglect to pay attention to the pain to our priests. What an irony!

Fr. Basil Papanikolaou
Davenport, IA

More Praise for Analysis On Archdiocese Fees

To the Editor:

I wish to commend the Analysis article by Theodore Kalmoukos, “On Matters of

TO OUR READERS

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Money: Let Parishes Decide” (Jan. 14).

I am speaking personally, not on behalf of my parish. It seems to me that the Church is all about money; taxation by the Archdiocese!

Acclaimed actor Tom Hanks, the husband of Greek-American Rita Wilson, was quoted in the Orthodox Observer: “the Orthodox faith is not just a religion. It is a blend of history, ethnicity, and a way of thinking.”

I truly believe the Archdiocese and all the Hellenic orga-

nizations should make a supreme effort to focus on preserving the mellifluous Greek language. As my Italian colleague said, language and culture are topics of everyday life. Language is rooted in culture and culture is passed on by language.

It is the duty of the Archdiocese and Hellenic federations and colleges to offer Greek language courses at reasonable fees.

Vasiliky Soulopoglou-Turner
Centereach, NY



COMMENTARY

Rediscovering our Phronema in the Face of Challenges

No sooner did the New Year arrive than Hellenism found itself confronted by a new array of challenges.

Plans are reportedly underway by Greece’s creditors to impose a bail-in on the sum-total of citizens’ estates, inspired by Hermann Goering 1938 decree for the compilation of a “register of Jewish wealth.” On another front, Cyprus President Nicos Anastasiades’ unpredictability at the negotiating table turned into a debacle (as expected), with Turkey refusing to discuss withdrawing its occupying forces even after reunification, while “His Excellency” jeopardized free Cyprus’ negotiating position as a sovereign state by forgoing his legal title.

His actions proved so irrational that they led to widespread speculation that he is either inebriated or being blackmailed. Meanwhile, in New York, a member of the clergy was suspended following news of a scandal. As a substitute for him on the first Sunday following his suspension, the Archdiocese reportedly sent the clergyman responsible for shutting down the Greek school in another New York parish community rocked by a sex scandal in late 2015, immediately after replacing the now defrocked pastor serving there. This wrinkle is perhaps the most disturbing one in the entire story – and the one most frequently overlooked.

With so many challenges confronting Hellas domestically and abroad, we must inevitably question whether the problems befalling us are not at least partially related to our prevalent mindset. For example, the perverted partisanship of Greece’s legislators inevitably became the slippery slope that brought on the financial crisis. The same poor judgement led Cypriot voters, who overwhelmingly rejected the disastrous Annan Plan back in 2004, to commit political suicide and elect one of the biggest pro-Annan supporters to

the presidency, glibly expecting him to respect their former mandate.

Yet, if these problems seem distant for the average Hellene of the Diaspora, marginalized by a daunting bureaucracy that guarantees only labyrinths to trap the citizenry it prays upon, and silenced by a polity that won’t even offer voting rights for citizens living abroad (a foregone conclusion even in third world countries), the same cannot be said of the conundrums vexing the Greek-American community.

Case in point: the Archdiocese’s reaction to recent scandals. How is substituting avarice for sex a solution? In the 2015 scandal, the clergyman who replaced his defrocked predecessor hastened to shut down his parish’s day and afternoon schools just months into his charge, without even attempt to keep them open. Instead, he chose the lure of easy money and demonstrated his own lack of linguistic and cultural learnedness (the gross misspelling of his own name in the letter convening a parish assembly to shut down the school was poetic justice).

Besides, the argument can always be made that clergy punished for marital infidelities may have behaved immorally, but at the end of the day, they ended up harming mostly their own family and that of their consenting partner. However, clergy shutting down schools and bragging of their supposed business prowess are selling out their past and auctioning off their future. Their transgressions affect a much wider audience base and the consequences are far more lasting and dire. Rather than work to rebuild their schools and propagate the faith, culture, and language in houses



by Christopher
TRIPOULAS
Special to
The National Herald

of education as well as houses of worship, they opt for the easy road, even if it means profiting off of institutions that often propagate messages in direct conflict with the teachings of the faith. Where is the self-sacrifice and desire to reform a difficult situation through one’s hard work and faith in God’s

Grace?

It is increasingly dissipating, overshadowed by the warped self-deception that our parish’s spiritual leaders are CEOs who deserve six-figure salaries and various perks because they are “executives.” If that’s really the case, we’re better off mandating that they earn an MBA rather than sustaining a seminary that is producing priests barely knowledgeable in conversational Greek. And this sort of faux-phronema (phronema is the Greek term used in Orthodox theology to refer to mindset or outlook) is spreading unchecked, because unlike the scandals that do get punished and gain public interest, there is no fear of lawsuits or rising insurance premiums to regulate it.

Most of the poster boys of this CEOism continue to reap the rewards of the gold for which they didn’t perspire, not so much as incurring even an unfavorable transfer or issuing a public apology for peddling the legacy entrusted to them by the founders of their parishes, which provide them with their lavish livelihoods.

Basil the Great is famously recorded as standing up to the imperial prefect Modestus, who threatened him with deposition, confiscation, exile, tortures, death if he would not espouse the heresy of Arianism. Basil courageously resisted, and when Modestus expressed his

amazement at Basil’s bravery, the latter replied “that is because you have never before fallen in with a true bishop.” Similarly, when Gregory the Theologian was elected Archbishop of Constantinople, the Arians controlled all the churches, leaving him compelled to serve in a tiny house chapel. From there he began to preach his famous five sermons on the Holy Trinity, called the Triadica. Two short years later, the Arians did not have one church left to them in the city. St. John Chrysostom never shuddered from denouncing offenses – regardless of how powerful the adversary. This ultimately led him to clash with the empress herself. The power of his preaching was so strong that it earned him the wide acclaim of the masses, but the enmity of the privileged, ultimately resulting in his banishment. He famously noted that “it takes only one man burning with zeal to reform an entire city!”

The Three Hierarchs, mentioned above, whose memory we honor at the end of January, represent the timeless paradigm of Orthodox phronema that parish administration should seek to emulate. Together with their faith, they are heralded for their love of learning and charity. In safeguarding the faith, they also preserved the Greek language and culture, and left a legacy that remains with us until today. In the face of the growing challenges affecting our communities, the example and intercessions of the Three Hierarchs can be the difference-makers in restoring our phronema and rediscovering the grandness of our cultural legacy, which is threatened by the temptation of today’s ultra-materialistic society and the affluence that Greek-Americans must learn to manage wisely, before it impoverishes our communal existence.

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Observations By Antonis H. Diamataris

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The Imperative for Restoring Orthodox Unity

By Dennis Menos

In the history of the Orthodox Church, the year 2016 could have been momentous. It was, after all, the year of the Holy and Great Council (HGC), the once in a millennium mega event that was designed to bring together all fourteen Orthodox Autocephalous Churches in a grand demonstration of unity. Sadly, it did not turn out to be. Four Churches boycotted the event, in the process providing evidence of the disunity that sadly afflicts today the Orthodox Church.

The degree of disunity, demonstrated by the absence from the Council of the Patriarchates of Russia, Georgia, Bulgaria, and Antioch, should not be underestimated. Not only did the four decline to attend, but to this date, are refusing to accept the legitimacy of several documents that were promulgated by the Council during its deliberations. The most notable and important of these is entitled "Relations of the Orthodox Church with the Rest of the Christian World."

Sadly, the year 2016 saw also a deterioration in the relations



TNH ARCHIVES

Patriarch Bartholomew

between the Patriarchate of Russia and the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The rivalry between the two is not new, of course. It traces its origins to the Ottoman and Tsarist days, and though dormant during the years of communist rule, has returned with renewed energy after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the ascendance to power of Vladimir Putin and of Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and all of Russia.

Since the rivalry has its origins in Moscow, it is extremely difficult for outsiders to assess its real intentions. Some observers suggest that the Moscow Patriarchate is striving to become the "New Rome," in the process replace Constantinople and assume primacy over the entire Orthodox Church. Others differ, however; Moscow has no such ambitions, they claim.

Being the largest of all Patriarchates in terms of Orthodox faithful under its jurisdiction, it is only logical that it pursue an activist policy. This view is officially supported by Moscow, which in all its public expressions gives credence to the role of the Ecumenical Patriarch as

the first in honor in the Orthodox East. But "primacy in honor," it points out, does not also extend to "jurisdiction," an area which in its view the Ecumenical Patriarchate has a tendency of infringing upon.

There is no Canon of the Church, Moscow emphasizes, that gives primacy of "jurisdiction" over the entire Orthodox Church to the Patriarch of Constantinople. He is merely the "first among equals" in the East – no more.

Compounding the uncertainties between the two Patriarchates is the future status of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (Kiev Patriarchate). This Church, established when Ukraine received its political independence, is functioning at the present time outside the jurisdiction of the Moscow Patriarchate. It also has the strong support of the government of Ukraine. Repeatedly, during the past years the Ukrainian government has petitioned the Ecumenical Patriarch to grant autocephaly for its "Ukrainian" Church. Needless to say, the likelihood of such action infuriates the Patriarchate of Moscow. Granting Kiev such status by the Ecumenical Patriarch, it warns, will result in a major schism within the Orthodox Church. Thus far, Patriarch Bartholomew wisely has resisted the demands of the Ukrainian government, but the future on this issue is uncertain.

While disunity is increasingly making its mark in the Orthodox East, powerful forces in Rome as well as in Constantinople, are promoting the reunification of Christ's Church after a senseless separation of a thousand years. Successive Ecumenical Patriarchs and Popes, since Patriarch Athenagoras of Blessed Memory and His Holiness Pope Paul VI met in Jerusalem in 1964, have been seeking the reconciliation of the two principal branches of Christianity. The conditions for reconciliation could not be more favorable than they are at the present time, with the leadership of both Churches being on record of supporting such an action, and with neither imposing unacceptable conditions.

Orthodox reconciliation with Rome cannot be accomplished, however, as long as the Orthodox East is divided and unable to speak with a single voice. A change is imperative: The fourteen Churches constituting the Orthodox East must end their preoccupation with their own narrow interests; they need to stop operating as fourteen separate mini-kingdoms, and begin the process of building one unified Church.

How this will be accomplished is difficult to predict. Perhaps a follow-up Council will have to be convened or other mechanism be created for the purpose of resolving the differences between the Patriarchates leaning to Constantinople and those to Moscow. Orthodoxy can no longer operate as if all is well within its ranks. Unity is power and restoring Orthodox unity now is of the utmost importance.

Dennis Menos is the author of several books and writer on Orthodox and Hellenic issues. He can be reached at DMenos@msn.com

Can Greeks Improve Collaboration through Education?

Being able to collaborate effectively in the Greek community is a crucial, but difficult skill to master. Could the introduction of team work in the Greek education manage this problem? Teamwork is often being suggested by the educational literature and the teacher's manuals edited by the Greek Ministry of Education. The problem is that, when teachers try to engage their students in group work activities, they realize that they have to encounter more problems than they initially may think, regarding the students' unwillingness to work together and the unsuccessful accomplishment of the assigned tasks. Splitting the students in groups and giving them the assigned task does not necessarily mean that they will work together, or that they will learn. In order to bridge the gap between the Ministry's guidelines and the classroom's reality, we need to explore the potential and the limitations of individualized and team work regarding students' learning.

When a group of students is assigned a task that needs to be implemented within a time span, only two or three students out of the group usually work. The barriers of teamwork learning are the difficulties in collaboration, the competition and the indifference of the majority of students in the group. Collaboration within a classroom is applied in an environment of different ideologies, values, mentalities, and characters. In one dominated by complex interpersonal relationships, where disagreements and conflicts are expected. Due to the multifaceted character of interpersonal

relationships, misunderstandings and negative competition occur. Less skilled students are usually ignored by more capable ones. During a goal oriented project quite often the more knowledgeable and skilled students in the team undertake the organization, the guidance and the implementation of the basic tasks. The less capable ones either remain their assistants or stay indifferent.

"There are problems in teamwork, though we may not always sense them. Sometimes a student writes something in his journal and when you read it, you realize that he/she is unhappy in his/her team, because

The barriers of teamwork learning in school are part of the problem

someone had expressed an ego-centric attitude. The opposite can happen as well. If the team works well, they are all satisfied and they report it in their journals. In the end they consider it as particularly important to get along within the team well." (from a Greek Gymnasium teacher's interview)

Quite often efforts for the introduction of innovative programs in the schools remain unsuccessful and are criticized, because they make the same mistake which characterizes the traditional school system. By



by DR. DIMITRA KAMARINO

Special to The National Herald

then cannot follow through.

According to the literature, when students have the opportunity to learn individually step-by-step and try to solve the emerging problems on their own, they better understand the process, because each has to go through all stages and encounter the difficulties. Additionally, the teacher can meet each student's difficulties and effectively assist him or her. Learning can be significantly improved through scaffolded instruction, i.e., when each student is given a detailed questionnaire together with guidance of how he or she can accomplish the assigned task. This may result in a vertical rise in motivation and participation. The conclusion is that students can't undertake a research or a problem solving task without systematic step by step guidance, employment of individualized learning methods and appropriate educational material for each one of them.

The following prerequisites may contribute to successful stu-

dents' collaboration. The implementation of teamwork activities in the school classroom, where the teachers are present and try to facilitate the collaboration. Simple and specific tasks have to be assigned to each student of the group and to the group as a working unit. The teacher gives leading roles to each group member successively and tries to support the active participation; not necessarily by his/her presence in the group. He/she may remain an observer, willing, when necessary, to facilitate the collaboration through posing questions for discussion, task assignment, and students' empowerment.

Team work skills development is not crucial, only because they are essential life skills. Research has shown that the deep understanding of a unit can be reached, when the students have to use the content and the vocabulary of the studied topic in order to communicate and collaborate with their peers in a team.

The combined approach of individual and team work is significant. For the accomplishment of learning goals the individualized learning approach can be more effective. Nevertheless equally important for the learners' future work and social life is the practice of teamwork skills in a safe environment.

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

LETTER FROM ATHENS

How Greek Parties Got Away with Bank Robbery

Here's a phone call you'd love to listen in on.

"Hello, New Democracy headquarters. How can I help you?"

"Hi, this is the law firm of Dewey, Cheatem and Howopoulos. I'd like to speak to your leader, Mr. Kyriakos Mitsotakis."

"He's not in. He's busy saving Greece from SYRIZA. How can I help you?"

"Can you give him a message?"

"Sure, what is it?"

"Well, you owe Agricultural Bank almost 214 million euros and we were wondering when you were going to pay."

"We're not going to. Why don't you hound PASOK. Those guys owe you a lot too, don't they?"

"Well yes, they owe more than 120 million euros but we called them and they said they couldn't pay and said, and I quote: 'Call New Democracy and tell them to pay what they owe and then we will.' Then they hung up laughing."

"Well, we're not going to pay so why don't you call people who owe 2000 euros or 200 euros and threaten to seize their assets and homes and leave us alone."

"That's what SYRIZA's doing already."

That's essentially what's happening in Greece where the former ruling coalition, led by the New Democracy Capitalists and the former PASOK Socialists, who've changed their name to Democratic Alignment in hopes of trying to fool debt collectors, aren't paying their loans.

That's after previously passing laws giving immunity to bank officers who gave them loans with no collateral except taxpayer funding given political parties in power.

The banks lend the money because the parties who receive it, once in power, have huge leverage over the country's fi-

nancial system which is a cesspool of interecine interests tying together politicians, media owners and bankers in a big circle jerk of corruption in which everybody's hands are dirty.

While New Democracy and PASOK shamelessly allowed banks to go after debtors who couldn't pay because of big pay cuts, tax hikes, slashed pensions and worker firings imposed by the government, the most mud is on SYRIZA, reprehensible hypocrites that they are, led by Prime Minister and Looney Left leader Alexis, "Che" Tsipras.

The alleged leader of the country had the home of Bank of Greece chief Yannis Stourmaras raided in reprisal for the bank leader putting a lending ban on Agricultural Bank, which is just a front for a private ATM to hand out hundreds of millions of euros in fake loans to steal from the public.

RIGGED GAME

SYRIZA has big ties to the bank and Stourmaras' ban effectively knocked out a SYRIZA favorite to get a private TV license he was funding with a fraudulent claim he owned a hotel site that was really a goat pasture,



by ANDY DABILIS

Special to The National Herald

the Financial Times said.

The parties who essentially rob the banks don't have to account for how they put up, don't pay them back and then pass laws to let banks seize the assets of honest, decent, hard-working people who can't pay their mortgages, credit cards and loans.

In return for their largesse, the banks got 50 billion euros (\$53.6 billion) from 326 billion euros (\$349.56 billion) in three international bailouts Greece needed because New Democracy and PASOK took turns – then teamed up – to bankrupt the country they professed to love but robbed.

This scandal is even worse when you count the 1.2 billion euros (\$1.29 billion) in bad loans given to the media, whose owners typically own other companies and get lucrative state contracts – paid by workers, pensioners and the poor hammered by austerity.

In return, political parties get propaganda coverage from all but a few of Greece's media outlets and all the involved interests – banks, politicians and media executives – go wee wee wee all the way home, and laugh all the way to the bank.

When a parliamentary committee was set up to examine the corruption – and just now released a finding clearing everyone of everything – Tsipras said he would uncover the scurrilous scandal and target the media barons.

"We'll examine everything right down to the last radio antenna... this game of letting those responsible off the hook must stop – whether it's political parties or media groups," Tsipras said. Instead, he left the Greeks on the hook – again.

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GUEST EDITORIALS

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ANALYSIS

On the Scandal at St. Paul's in Hempstead: Another Hypocritical Pietism

By Theodore Kalmoukos

Before the Greek-Orthodox Archdiocese of America and our Greek-American community had a chance to recover from the huge sexual scandal of George Passias – once Chancellor of the Archdiocese – the scandal of Rev. Luke Melackrinos broke. Just like Passias, Melackrinos also appeared to be a pious priest, pretending to be spiritual, whatever the term "spirituality" means anymore.

Another parish in our Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, St. Paul's in Hempstead, NY, is now going through much suffering that it's presiding priest's scandal created.

Instead of praying and doing the work of God for which he

was getting paid by the church – meaning, the faithful – he was sending inappropriate photos of himself to a woman in the parish. This is one more case of hypocritical pietism.

I have written in the past about the pestiferous syndrome of the pseudospiritualism that some priests use in order to appear to be "spiritual fathers" and soul saviors. Let me clarify one more time that piety is one thing, the living of the truth of the Church, and it is another thing to publicly display one's "spirituality" in a hypocritical manner.

It was the pseudopietism and the hypocrisy that made Christ Himself say those denunciatory "woes" to the cast of Pharisees and Scribes – the clergy of His

time. Those "woes" are so timely for a big part of our clergy of all ranks today. I should emphasize, though, that there are many clergymen today also who are "men full of grace and truth" in contradistinction to those who are full of hypocrisy, corruption and hoodlumism.

Melackrinos seemed "pious" and "traditional," whatever that means. He wore an anteri (inner cassock) with a big red cross inwrought in front and also the kalimavhi (clerical hat) teaching and preaching to the faithful about confession. That some parishioners and also members of the Archdiocesan Council told me that St. Paul's was being transformed into some sort of Ephraimite monastery is quite alarming.

I am at times astonished by the Archdiocese's lack of criteria and discretion regarding the appointments of priests like Anastasios Gounaris (he was defrocked) to the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New York and after that to St. Nicholas in Tarpon Springs, FL, and such as Luke Melackrinos to the St. Paul Cathedral.

I am wondering what the Archdiocese is going to say to St. Paul's faithful and generous congregants, who paid Melackrinos well to be their priest and teacher in faith and not an "exhibitionist" who sends inappropriate photos.

Furthermore, what will the Archdiocese say to the children, teenagers, and young men and women who held Melackrinos in

such high esteem and sought guidance and direction from him?

Bishop Andonios of Phasiane, Chancellor of the Archdiocese, told TNH about Melackrinos' unholy acts and that he will send him for counseling, and that there are others too. The Archdiocese, which is actually the body of the faithful, us, not the building, will be called to assume the expense of the therapy.

Let me remind that these expenses, including the Archdiocese's sustenance – the salaries, the benefits, the trips, the meetings, and of course the psychologists for problematic clergy – are paid by the selling of candles, the collections in the trays, the donations, and also the income from the "heroic" Greek

festivals with the skewered lambs, pigs, souvlakia, and, of course, the loukoumades. This is the reality and the drama of our Church.

One more thing: priests with ethos, in good spiritual and mental health, well-educated, and bilingual are cast off to small and inconspicuous parishes, while others who are exceptional mediocrities in all aspects are appointed to prestigious cathedrals, enjoying high salaries and benefits, luxurious homes and cars, and living a lavish lifestyle.

I respectfully our archbishop, His Eminence Geron of America Demetrios for the good of the Church and also for his own legacy to be bold in clean up the clergy of all ranks before more scandals emerge.



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