

Drexel U's Constantine Papadakis, 1946-2009, Was a Bright Shining Star

By Eleni Kostopoulos

Special to The National Herald

NEW YORK – In an astounding turn of events, Constantine Papadakis, who led a major expansion of Drexel University during his 14-year tenure as its president, died unexpectedly on Sunday, April 5, due to pulmonary complications. Dr. Papadakis, who was in remission from lung cancer, had requested medical leave three days prior to his death. He was 63 years old.

"It is with great personal sadness that I report President Papadakis has passed away," said Richard Greenawalt, Chairman of the Drexel Board of Trustees, in a statement this past Monday, April 6. "This is a day of profound mourning for the entire Drexel community of students, faculty, staff and administrators, and for our alumni worldwide and friends everywhere. Our deepest condolences go out to the Papadakis family."

George Tsetsekos, Dean of Lebow College of Business at Drexel University and a close friend of the Papadakis family, told the National Herald that Dr. Papadakis' success was due to his multi-dimensional personality.

"It's a tremendous loss for the



Dr. Constantine Papadakis passed away last Sunday, April 5, at 63.

community, for Philadelphia and for the country. He was charismatic, talented, a visionary and perhaps the only president who everyone wholly supported," Dr. Tsetsekos said.

Dr. Tsetsekos noted that the entire Drexel community is in mourning over the loss of their beloved chief administrator, but in its grief is taking the time to recognize and acknowledge all of Dr. Papadakis' efforts and accomplishments.

Dr. Papadakis was a magnet for the Greek American community and one of its brightest stars, he added, and Drexel is one of the few private American universities to draw such great financial support from members of its local community.

Manuel N. Stamatakis, a member of the Drexel College of Medicine's Board of Trustees and one of Philadelphia's leading citizens, told the Herald that he and Dr. Papadakis began working closely together back in August 1995.

"Taki managed to save the future of Hahnemann University by merging it with Drexel, and last year, we were honored to celebrate the 10th anniversary of that major milestone. All of that was because of Taki's leadership and ingenuity. It's just a terrible loss for everybody," Mr. Stamatakis said, adding that Dr. Papadakis' was able to accomplish great things because of his rare abilities and willingness to take risks.

The shocking news of Dr. Papadakis' sudden passing reverberated among Greek Americans across the country.

Theodore Spyropoulos, U.S. Regional Coordinator for the World Council of Hellenes Abroad (SAE), expressed his sorrow, noting that Dr. Papadakis supported the Greek American community and promoted Greek education with great passion.

"Dr. Papadakis was a stellar personality, and a model of creativity and inspiration in the administration of the university. He was a pioneering figure as a university leader who contributed greatly to the growth and upgrading of Drex-

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President Obama Meets with Ecumenical Patriarch



President Obama is accompanied by Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, standing next to the President on the right, as he visits the Church of Hagia Sophia in Istanbul this past Tuesday, April 7.



President Obama meets with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople on Tuesday, April 7, at the hotel where the President was staying in Istanbul during his visit to Turkey this past week.

President Also Meets With PM Karamanlis During NATO Summit

By Evan C. Lambrou

Special to The National Herald

NEW YORK – While President Barack Obama was on his maiden voyage as head of state overseas, during which he met with European and Turkish leaders and held town hall-style meetings with students in Strasbourg and Istanbul – where he emphasized his personal commitment to "a new chapter in American engagement" and bridging cultural and political differences by focusing on common ground – he also took time to meet with Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople.

By doing so, the President mollified concerns that he had broken longstanding protocol since the days of President Truman – where by every American President who went to Turkey also went to Greece, and vice versa – or that he was avoiding a potentially uncomfortable situation with Turkey by meeting with the predominantly Muslim country's Christian minorities.

The President also made an explicit appeal for the reopening of the Greek Orthodox theological school on the island of Halki in his address to the Turkish Parliament this past Monday, April 6. The Turkish Government's nearly 40-year closure of the Halki seminary, and tireless efforts by Christian leaders to secure its reopening, have been viewed by the European Union and others as a test case for religious freedom in Turkey.

Reopening the seminary would advance the cause of peace, Mr. Obama told the Turkish Parliament, as would solving the Cyprus problem.

"Freedom of religion and expression lead to a strong and vibrant civil society that only strengthens the state, which is why steps like reopening the Halki Seminary will send such an important signal inside Turkey and beyond. An enduring commitment to the rule of law is the only way to achieve the security that comes from justice for all people. Robust minority rights let societies benefit

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George Marcus, a Business Tycoon Now Dedicated to Preserving Hellenic Culture

By Evan C. Lambrou

Special to The National Herald

NEW YORK – When Greek Americans think of real estate magnates in California, they usually think of Alex Spanos, George Argyros and Angelo Tsakopoulos. But there's another Greek American real estate success story in the Golden State who is also in that league: George Marcus.

Mr. Marcus, 68, is very well known in California. He counts House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and U.S. Senators Barbara Boxer and Diane Feinstein among his friends. He is also friends with Bill Clinton, and is a member of the former President's foundation.

But Mr. Marcus is also a Greek American who is deeply concerned about preserving Hellenic culture and heritage in America. That's why he co-founded the National Hellenic Society, an organization that sponsors and organizes programs and activities which "promote and preserve the values and ideals of Hellenic culture, thereby enriching our community and nation (www.hellenicsociety.org)."

The first event NHS co-sponsored, along with the Onassis Foundation, is the Shakespeare Theatre Company's recent production of Euripides' "Ion," which has been running at Sidney Harman Hall in Washington, DC since March 10. The last performance is being delivered this weekend (see Goings-On section on page 2 for details). NHS helped raise some \$300 thousand to support STC's production of the famous Ancient Greek tragedy.

"I'm very involved with the National Hellenic Society, and trying to put that on the map. It's an organiza-

tion I started with George Stamas and George Korkos – the three Georges' (chuckles). We believe our community is due for an updated heritage organization that will attract and maintain the interest of a group of Greek Americans who are deeply committed to our culture and traditions; and reach out to our young people," Mr. Marcus told the National Herald during an extensive interview.

Mr. Marcus started NHS with Mr. Stamas, a successful attorney from Baltimore, and Dr. Korkos, the well-known plastic surgeon from Milwaukee who was very good friends with the late Telly Savalas. The Society now has around 40 members, to include some of the country's most prominent Greek Americans: George Behrakis, Charles Cotros, Michael Jaharis, C. Dean Metropoulos and Mr. Tsakopoulos, among them (Drexel University President Constantine Pa-

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Vagelos Discusses Passion For Science at U. Penn.

By Eleni Kostopoulos

Special to The National Herald

PHILADELPHIA— Although Dr. P. Roy Vagelos, former Chairman & CEO of pharmaceuticals giant Merck, retired almost 15 years ago at the age of 65, his tireless efforts to improve the quality and quantity of people's lives have yet to end.

"I love the things and I do and not doing them would be like dying," he said at a formal conversation at University of Pennsylvania's Houston Hall on Tuesday, April 7, which was hosted by the University of Pennsylvania Hellenic Student Association along with the Hellenic Student Association at Drexel University, the Hellenic Cultural Association of Rutgers University, Seton Hall University Hellenic Society, the Temple University Hellenic Society and the Villanova University Hellenic Student Association.

Dr. Vagelos discussed with Greek American students, faculty and guests, his passion for science, his dedication to saving lives and the milestone moments in his career that left imprints on the phar-

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Dr. P. Roy Vagelos, left, discusses his career in the pharmaceuticals industry as University of Pennsylvania Prof. Christos Pavlides and the Philadelphia Inquirer's Maria Panaritis look on this past Tuesday, April 7.

NYC Council Honors Greek Independence

By Eleni Kostopoulos

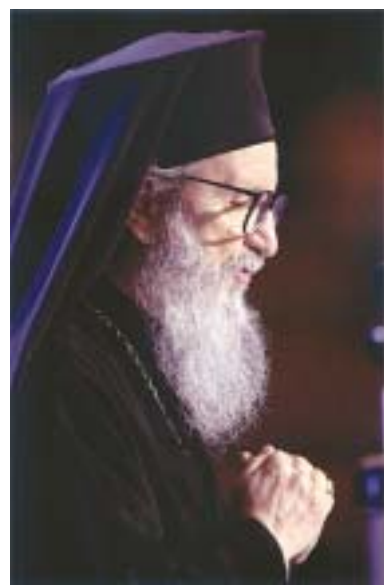
Special to The National Herald

NEW YORK – Councilmember Peter F. Vallone Jr. (D-Astoria), in collaboration with New York City Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn (D-Manhattan) and Councilmember James Vacca (D-East Bronx), hosted a celebration honoring the Greek American community on Thursday, April 2 at the Surrogate's Courthouse in New York City in honor of Greek Independence Day.

Several distinguished guests at-

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Demetrios: The Orthodox Perspective on Holy Week



Archbishop Demetrios

By Archbishop Demetrios

Special to The National Herald

On Palm Sunday, we celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

This event occurred exactly as Isaiah and Zechariah, the great prophets of the Old Testament, announced centuries earlier: "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold your King is coming to you, gentle, and mounted on a donkey, even on a colt'" (Isaiah 62: 11; Zech. 9:9; Matt 21:5).

Truly, Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem seated upon a "donkey," a "colt," upon which no other man had sat before (Luke 19:30). The crowd greeted him with immense enthusiasm; they held "branches of palm trees," and laid their clothes on the ground so that the donkey that carried Christ could walk upon

them. This multitude, already aware of what Jesus said and did, began to "rejoice and praise God with a loud voice" (Luke 19:37), and shouted "Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that comes in the name of the Lord" (John 12:13).

We may wonder what particular idea about the Messiah had the people who joyfully greeted Christ. According to the narratives of the four Evangelists, the people of Jerusalem saw in Christ the glorious descendent of King David. They perceived in Jesus the Messiah who was to be the king and military commander who would liberate the Hebrew people from servitude under the Roman Empire, and who would restore the nation of Israel to its former glory. It is very likely that some of the onlookers, who heard Christ's amazing kerygma, perceived Him to be the Messiah, the

great Prophet and Teacher of Israel.

In essence, no one could grasp the real meaning of the Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, or what would follow in just a few days. Christ would reveal His Messianic identity in an ineffable manner.

The Lord had already announced to His disciples what exactly would occur in Jerusalem; He declared this on three separate occasions (Mark 8:11; 9:31; 10:33-34). Nonetheless, it appears that even Christ's disciples could not envision what their Teacher would endure in the coming days.

Christ's entrance into the Holy City of Jerusalem was indeed a triumph, but one that transcended all familiar notions of triumph. It was more than ordinary military tri-

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LEFT: Drexel University President Dr. Papadakis is seen with the newly elected President of the United States Barack Obama. CENTER: Dr. Papadakis and his wife Eliana. RIGHT: Dr. Papadakis (3rd from left) receives the Odysseas Award from the Saint Demetrios Cathedral community in Astoria in recognition of his



outstanding contributions to Hellenism during a dinner celebrating the community's 80th anniversary on November 2, 2007. (L-R) St. Demetrios School Principal Anastasios Koularmanis, the Very Rev. Apostolos Koufalakis, Dr. Papadakis, Nicos Andriotis, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios and Fotis Papamichael.

Drexel President Constantine "Taki" Papadakis Passes Away at 63

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el, even as he served Hellenic ideals and Hellenic culture with tremendous pathos," Mr. Spyropoulos said.

"A dear friend to most people who met him and worked with him, Constantinos leaves a mark that is impossible to duplicate in the Greek American community. May our feelings of sorrow for his loss be transformed into an intense struggle to uplift Hellenism and education, two entities that he served with such loyalty and passion. His life will be a treasured model for Hellenes everywhere, and a source of inspiration for those following in his footsteps," he added.

John C. Stratakis, President of the Hellenic American Chamber of Commerce, also expressed his condolences, noting Dr. Papadakis' efforts to promote U.S.-Greece relations.

"With great sadness, the Hellenic American Chamber of Com-

merce acknowledges the untimely passing of Constantine Papadakis, longtime president of Drexel University, and a man of unbounded energy, vision and common sense. His contributions to Drexel are legion and spectacular. His contributions to the enhancement of economic and cultural ties between the United States and Greece are equally impressive, and have set an example for our community. The Chamber will greatly miss his support and encouragement of its mission, and we extend our heartfelt condolences to his family," he said.

AHEPA Supreme President Ike Gulas said Dr. Papadakis' contributions to Drexel, education and the Greek American community were selfless and tireless.

"Dr. Papadakis was an extraordinary leader with a tireless work ethic. During his tenure as president of Drexel University, the university realized tremendous growth and expansion. New academic programs, including a law school and a virtual online program were added. New academic and residential facilities were built, and he had plans to expand Drexel's presence with a satellite campus in California," Mr. Gulas said.

"Dr. Papadakis was a true Helene at heart. His passion and zeal for education, and for his students, were unparalleled. Dr. Papadakis contributed unselfishly to the Greek American community, and to his surrounding community. We are proud and honored to have counted him as an Ahepan for 26 years.

LEFT: Dr. Constantine "Taki" Papadakis is seen here in an old photo from his high school graduation. BELOW: Constantine Papadakis is seen in an old photo as he prepares to throw the discus during a student track and field competition in Athens.



LEFT: Drexel University President Dr. Constantine Papadakis is seen together with his wife Eliana and daughter Maria during Maria's graduation from Drexel's Bennett S. LeBow College of Business last year. RIGHT: Each year, Papadakis marched together with students in the annual Greek Independence Day Parade which takes place in the Greater Philadelphia area. Papadakis was extremely popular with area students.



Our deepest sympathies are with the Papadakis family. May his memory be eternal," he added.

As the only native Greek president among almost 3,000 presidents at four-year colleges and universities across the country, Dr. Papadakis was known as a pioneer in the world of academic administration. Under his direction, Drexel's research enterprise grew from \$15 million to more than \$100 million, and its operating budget grew by more than 300 percent in a three-year period.

Dr. Papadakis also increased the university's employment to 7,300, nearly doubling it in size, and increased salaries by 5 percent annually for ten consecutive years. He was also recognized for his part in saving 13,000 jobs, and the education of 3,000 medical and nursing students when trustees signed an agreement to manage Hahnemann University in 1998, followed by a 2002 merger which launched Drexel's College of Medicine.

Talks of a West Coast campus in Northern California had also been discussed as a possibility.

Dr. Papadakis was fondly called "Taki" by his friends and students who appreciated his outgoing, high-spirited demeanor.

Before going to Drexel, he was the dean of Engineering at the University of Cincinnati. He completed his undergraduate studies in civil engineering at the National Polytechnic Institute of Greece, and earned his master's in civil engineering from the University of Cincinnati and his doctorate from the University of Michigan.

Dr. Papadakis was registered as a professional engineer in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Greece. He had also headed up the civil engineering department at Colorado State University, was vice president of Tetra Tech Inc., and served in several engineering positions with Bechtel Power Company starting in 1974.

A member of various organizations, both professional and honorary, Dr. Papadakis was a fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the American Society for Engineering Education, and the College of Physicians of Philadelphia.

He authored or co-authored more than 80 articles in technical publications. He received 153 awards and honors, including the 2007 William Penn Award from the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce and the Odysseas Award from Saint Demetrios Cathedral in Astoria in November 2007 for his great contributions to Hellenism.

Listed by the Chronicle of Education and Wall Street Journal as one of the highest-paid university presidents in the country, Dr. Papadakis sat on the Philadelphia Stock Exchange as chairman of its compensation committee, and also served on the Board of Trustees of the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology.

Dr. Papadakis is survived by his wife of 39 years, Eliana, and their daughter, Maria, 23, a 2008 gradu-

ate of Drexel. He is also survived by his sister, Katy Papadourakis and her husband Emmanuel Papadourakis and their family in Athens. Other family includes Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Papadourakis; family in Patras, and several cousins, nephews and nieces in Athens and Crete; Dr. Anthony and Patty Apostolides and Anthony Jr. of Hagerstown, Maryland; Dr. An-

thony Papadourakis; Gregory, Antonios and Andreas Papadourakis of Cherry Hill, New Jersey; and Josh McGuigan and sons. His extended relatives include the Souleides and Gianopoulos families of Chicago, Illinois; the Callas family of Pittsburgh; and the Callas and Skedros families of Boston. He will also be sorely missed by his godchildren Athan Zavvas, George Bal-

lios, Stephanie Batsakes, Demis Mavrellis and Alex Karloutsos.

A church service will be held at St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church in Broomall, Pennsylvania on Tuesday, April 14, at 12 PM in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Constantine Papadakis Fund at Drexel University, 3141 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19104.



From left, attorney Christ Stratakis, former U.S. Senator Paul Sarbanes (D-Maryland) and Drexel University President Constantine Papadakis are seen during the ceremony for the opening of the Christopher & Mary Stratakis Chair of Corporate Governance & Accountability at Drexel's Lebow College of Business Management.

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Three-Day Celebrations in Lowell Commemorating Greek Independence

By Theodore Kalmoukos
Special to The National Herald

BOSTON – The heavy rains and strong winds on Sunday, March 29 prohibited the Greek-American Community of Lowell Massachusetts to hold its annual Greek Independence Day Parade to celebrate the 188th anniversary of the liberation of Greece from the Turkish slavery.

Instead a glorious ceremony was contacted in the historic church of the Holy Trinity. The students of the Hellenic American Day School which continues to be the only School of its kind in the entire Greek-American Community of New England including Boston itself, were dressed in their traditional colorful costumes and hold the Greek and the American flags as symbol of their unique identity as Greek-Americans, chanted the Greek and American national anthems and also hymns to the Mother of God.

It was initially planned the parade route to start from the Holy Trinity, make two stops at the memorial monuments of the pioneers Greek Americans then proceeded to the City hall where the raising of the Greek flag ceremony was scheduled to take place. The Lowell's parade is one of the oldest parades of the Greek American Community in the U.S.

At the end of the Divine a Doxology was offered at the Holy Trinity church.

Mr. Edward Caulfield, Mayor of the historic city of Lowell issue a proclamation marking Sunday March 29 as the official Greek Independence Day, praising Greece for its contributions to the world and to the U.S.

Mayor Caulfield in his remarks to the congregation stated that "after 400 years of oppression, the citizens of Greece fought for independence from the Ottoman Empire from 1821 to 1829. In the late 1800's the Greek people began to settle in the City of Lowell. They came here to create a better life for themselves and their families, and they have succeeded."

Mr. Caulfield, a friend of the Greek-American Community also said that "today as we celebrate Greek Independence Day, we are reminded not only of the greatness of the Greek Community, but the significant contributions they have made



LEFT: The students of the Hellenic-American School of Lowell Massachusetts dressed in their Greek traditional costumes chanted "Long Live Greece". RIGHT: More than seven hundred Greek-Americans from Lowell had filled the Cultural Center of the historic Holy Trinity parish to attend the program of the students of the Hellenic American School for the Independence of Greece from Ottoman Empire.



LEFT: The Kindergarten performed with poems and songs celebrating the liberation of Greece. RIGHT: Greek-American Massachusetts state senator Steve Panagiotakos, a proud son of Lowell was honored at the specially ceremony at the Lowell City Hall. Senator Panagiotakos is flanked by Lowell Mayor Edward Gaulfield, Vice Consul Of Greece Katerina Economou-Demetor and Nick Flaris chairman of the event.



out to our city, state, and country in religion, law, politics, athletics, medicine, education, entertainment, public service and business."

Council General of Greece Constantine Orphanides spoke of the contributions of Greece to the U.S. democracy and the close friendly relations that historically exist between Greece and America. He urged the parents to continue instilling the values and the traditions of

Hellenism into the hearts of their children.

Messages were given by the Hellenic American School principal Mr. Douglas Anderson, Rev. Theodore Barbas chancellor of the Metropolis of Boston and also interim priest of the Transfiguration parish in Lowell and by the Federation of Societies on New England Elizabeth Papisalis who took the opportunity to invite everyone to participate in the Boston's pa-

rade on Sunday April 26th.

Basil Vergados and Ioannis Laikouras, offered remarks in Greek and English about the message and the meaning of the 25 of March.

Massachusetts State Senator Steve Panagiotakos was the keynote speaker of the day. Senator Panagiotakos who was honored the evening before at a special ceremony at the City Hall of Lowell, said that "today we celebrate the freedom of Greece.

A freedom that was incarcerated but never incinerated because those generations of Greeks who lived for four centuries under the brutal oppression of the Ottoman Empire that tried to snuff everything that was Greek, those generations would never let go they always looked to tomorrow...to a tomorrow with a free and independent Greece." Mr. Panagiotakos also said that "many other people would have and through his-

Michael Psilakis Cooks at the White House: A Narcotic Experience

In honor of Greek Independence Day, Michael Psilakis and three of his team had the rare opportunity — first ever, actually, for outside chefs — to cook at the White House on Wednesday. In two prep days that each began at 5 a.m., they split up an all-Psilakis menu of traditional and new dishes with the White House's own team of chefs, each taking half (the in-house staff took the traditional half, natch), and served it all to an esteemed group that included members of the Greek community and President Barack Obama himself. For those who want a taste of what was served, check out a scallops-and-sweetbreads "sandwich" currently on offer at Anthos Upstairs. We had a chance to chat with chef Psilakis briefly this morning, and got his take on what he called an "overwhelming" experience.

On cooking for the president: It was probably the most overwhelming thing that I've ever had to en-

counter. I haven't felt nervous about something in a very long time. This is actually like, "Oh my God." I felt like the weight of Greece was on my shoulders ... It was just an unbelievable experience from an emotional perspective.

On cooking for the Prez as compared to the critics: The biggest difference is that critical reviews from Bruni or Platt have more to do with your individual sort of ascension in the culinary world, because these are things that are used to gauge how — they're almost a competitive thing. People say you're a one-star chef, a two-star chef ... and it involved business, because obviously there's a direct connection between a good review and the amount of people who will come walking through your door. This kind of put all that aside. Fortunately, because both Frank and Adam have been kind to us as a group, we've been able to use those things to get us on the list to go to the

White House. This was just a completely different experience altogether. It's not just about me. I'm a little person — this was a big thing.

On prepping for this kind of gig: It was a collaborative effort. The White House chefs couldn't have welcomed us with more open arms. They went well beyond what even I've seen. You're talking about the White House, a lot of hurdles you have to go through to get there. And they went through it with us every step of the way ... We were in the kitchen for a day and a half. You have to prep everything there. We got up at 5 a.m. and were in the kitchen cooking by 6 a.m. both days ... we just made it under the belt. We did a lot of things that I thought were interesting and intricate at the same time. There's nothing like that rush getting towards the end and getting into that zone where all you're thinking about is what's going on and what you have to accomplish. When you're in that

zone and you're just doing it, but it's like you're by yourself.

More on this rush: Sometimes I wonder, is this what heroin feels like? And is that why it's so hard to recover from the addiction? If you could bottle it and get that every time you wanted a fix, I'm not sure if we all wouldn't be dope fiends. It's such an intense feeling. You just don't get it every day. It's not like alcohol — or any of the drugs I've tried. It's an existential experience. Everything is so crystal clear, it's unbelievable. This was just one of those really, truly amazing experiences.

It's just so different when you look at an audience of people that are really important beyond our vacuum of the world. And that's what you get when you go there. It's like, holy shit. This is bigger than Anthos, Kefi, Mia Dona. I have to say that the feeling in the White House — they are excited for Obama to be there. There's a great vibe.

Here I am cooking for the president on Greek Independence Day and we're the first chefs ever to do it like this. It was overwhelming. I really started to feel pressure. I'm saying, Dude, we can't fuck this one up. Initially you feel pressure, then you're just cooking ... it felt like the best food we've ever cooked.

On meeting Obama: When you meet him, he's a very charismatic presence. He's much larger than I expected him to be, physically. He has that presence that I think all good leaders have. It's amazing how much respect he's already garnered at the White House. They speak of him in awe.

And, finally, on the Garden: The Obamas' chef is in charge of the garden. He's so excited about it. What's amazing is it's going beyond the garden. They're even doing their own honey. While I was there they were bringing over the beehives. They're starting hives. It's unbelievable.



New York Magazine published the above on March 27.

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Saturday of Lazarus - April 11 Divine Liturgy Holy Communion	Grandparents 9:30 A.M.	10:00 A.M.	9:00 A.M.	9:00 A.M.	9:30 A.M.
Palm Sunday - April 12 Divine Liturgy	10:00 A.M.	10:00 A.M.	10:00 A.M.	9:00 A.M.	10:00 A.M.
	Dist. of Palm & Bay Tree Branches		Dist. of Palm & Pussy Willows		
Holy Wednesday - April 15 Holy Unction	4:00 & 7:00 P.M.	6:00 P.M.	Tues. 7:00 P.M.	7:00 P.M.	7:00 P.M.
Holy Thursday - April 16 Divine Liturgy of St. Basil Passion & Reading of 12 Gospels	6:30 A.M. 7:00 P.M.	3:00 P.M. 6:30 P.M.	9:00 A.M. 7:00 P.M.	9:00 A.M. 7:00 P.M.	10:00 A.M. 7:00 P.M.
Holy & Great Friday - April 17 The Royal Hours Vespers of the Removal of Christ's Body from the Cross The Lamentations Processions Outside the Church	Midnight 4:00 P.M. 7:00 P.M.	3:00 P.M. 6:30 P.M.	9:00 A.M. 3:00 P.M. 7:00 P.M.	6:00 P.M. 7:00 P.M.	6:00 P.M. 7:00 P.M.
Holy Saturday - April 18 Liturgy of St. Basil	8:30 A.M.	9:00 A.M.	9:00 A.M.	9:00 A.M.	9:30 A.M.
HOLY EASTER Sun., April 19th					
Easter Vigil Saturday	11:00 P.M.	6:30 P.M.	11:30 P.M.	11:00 P.M.	11:00 P.M.
RESURRECTION	Midnight	Liturgy	Midnight	Midnight	Midnight
Easter Divine Liturgy	12:30 A.M.	Following	12:30 A.M.	Liturgy Following	12:30 A.M.
	with the Easter Sermon of St. John Chrysostom				
AGAPE (Love) Vespers	11:00 A.M.	—	11:00 A.M.	—	11:00 A.M.

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APRIL 12, 13, 14, 2009 - 8:00 P.M. - PALM SUNDAY EVENING
HOLY MONDAY, HOLY TUESDAY
Bridegroom service (Nymphios), Hymn of Kassiani on Holy Tuesday

APRIL 15, 2009 8:00 P.M. - HOLY WEDNESDAY EVENING
HOLY OIL ANOINTING (EFCHELAION)
Metropolitan Philip, Archbishop of Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America, presiding

APRIL 16, 2009 - 10:00 A.M. - HOLY THURSDAY MORNING
Divine Liturgy "Eucharist of the Last Supper"

APRIL 16, 2009 - 8:00 P.M. - HOLY THURSDAY EVENING
Passion Gospels, Washing of the Feet, Carrying of the Cross to Golgotha

APRIL 17, 2009 - HOLY FRIDAY 4:00 P.M. VESPERS
Placing of the Epitaphios (Apokathelosis)

APRIL 17, 2009 - HOLY FRIDAY EVENING 8:00 P.M.
Lamentations at the Tomb

APRIL 18, 2009 - HOLY SATURDAY MORNING
10:00 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY
Celebration of Christ's Victory over Death (Proti Anastasis)

APRIL 18/19, 2009 - SATURDAY EVENING 10:15 P.M.
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Dr. P. Roy Vagelos Discusses Passion for Science at University of Pennsylvania

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pharmaceutical industry in the U.S. and the world. Using his experiences at Merck, he illustrated some of the problems faced by the industry and some actions he believes need to be taken to ameliorate them.

"In 1975, of all industries in the U.S., the pharmaceutical industry was rated at the very top because it was thought to be interested in health and the products it made improved life and kept people alive," he said. "But in 2004, a Harris Poll that looked at reputations of all industries indicated that the reputation of pharmaceutical industries dropped from the very top to the very bottom, alongside the cigarette industry and the oil industry."

Dr. Vagelos attributed this change of reputation to three factors: prices were too high, the industry had not responded properly to the needs of poor people with medicines and several incidents existed that ruined the credibility of companies.

As the lead scientist in Merck's development of the statin drugs, Lovastatin and Zocor, cardiovascular protective and remedial agents that serve to decrease blood cholesterol levels, Dr. Vagelos said getting the drugs to sell was challenging. Despite being the first drug of this nature in the world to be approved by the FDA for its safety and effectiveness, it took an additional 5 years of a clinical experiment to convince the medical world of its value.

"Why is pricing such a big deal? Because the industry went from being focused on doing well for patients to an industry that's going to grab as much money as it can. It's not sustainable and government control of prices would be a disaster. This industry is a very high-risk industry, which requires billions and billions of dollars. I've been accused of being against high prices. I'm not against high prices. I'm against high prices for low value," Dr. Vagelos said, comparing the prices of various medications to their value.

"You can get any statin for \$1,200 year, you can get a life-saving HIV treatment for about \$12,000 to \$15,000 per year, and then you have these biological cancer drugs at \$50,000 a year for four months of added life and that's bizarre- it's not sustainable and it has to change."

Dr. Vagelos was also key member in Merck's decision to make Ivermectin available to people of Africa and Central America for the treatment of river blindness, a widespread, chronic and debilitating disease which infected people with thousands of microfilaria that



LEFT: Vagelos discusses his time as Chairman & CEO of Merck before retiring in 1995. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences. RIGHT: Students from the Hellenic associations of six universities in Pennsylvania and New Jersey gathered to attend Dr. P. Roy Vagelos' lecture at the University of Pennsylvania.



ultimately traveled to the eyes, causing blindness.

In the late 1980s, Dr. Vagelos couldn't get any governments interested in the pills, despite their effectiveness, until gaining regulatory approval from the French in Paris. Merck announced at the time that they would distribute that drug, free of charge, anywhere in the world for as long as it was required. That was in 1987. Last year, Merck treated 80 million people for free.

"What is this industry about not providing medicine to those who need them? That is HIV drugs. Pharmaceutical companies essentially stonewalled the Africans, [who were in dire need of the medications]. The consequence of that was the enormous anger in the U.S. and Europe against these companies. But something happened to trigger change when a small Indian company that makes generic drugs illegally started selling genetic HIV drugs in Africa at very low prices and started to solve the problem, at which point the large companies retreated and agreed to do that too, introducing exemplary programs in different parts of Africa. The problem is that these reputations were destroyed by their initial reactions and it's going to be years before they recover," he said.

Dr. Vagelos also noted the issue of credibility, using the example of failed drugs released to the market but later withdrawn for their severe and deadly side effects. Such drugs

were the popular Fen-Phen (used for obesity, but later found to cause heart disease), and anti-depressants given to children with little to no effect except contributing to high suicide rates. He also mentioned Vioxx, a Merck product which was very good for arthritis and pain but found to cause heart disease and strokes.

"Are these company a bunch of crooks, that will do anything for money that will do harm, or is the system all screwed up? It's the latter- no company or CEO would approve the selling of a drug that doesn't do what it is said to do or causes harm. When a drug is tested in an uncomplicated population, some side effects aren't reported until the drug is actually put out into market," he said.

Dr. Vagelos said there is an urgency for improvement in the FDA's ability to capture information and the pharmaceutical companies' ability to capture and to quickly study and get the information out there. He also said that President Obama wants to put lots of money into FDA to improve their computer systems and "that will take care of the problem."

Other issues in the industry Dr. Vagelos mentioned include how medicines are sold.

"Sales representatives are trained by companies to sell drugs to doctors. Doctors are very busy, and therefore to get there time so you have to give them an incentive

and incentives are lunches, dinners, gifts, samples, payments for giving lectures and this is a huge conflict of interest. A whole new technology for getting information about drugs to physicians must be

developed," he said.

This event was an installment of Next Generation Initiative's Conversations with Leaders, as part of their newest series of Master Classes across the country about the cur-

rent economic crisis and its impact on the future. HelleNext founder Leon Stavrou, UPenn Professor Christos Pavlides and Maria Panaritis of the Philadelphia Inquirer served as hosts of the discussion.

A Special Tribute to Broadway's G. Best Costacos

NEW YORK – An overflow crowd of friends, colleagues, and fans packed the Actors Equity Audition Center this past March 16 to pay tribute to the late Broadway actor/singer George Best Costacos.

The memorial, right in the heart of Broadway, was a moving tribute to a multi-talented artist who passed away a few months ago at the age of 44 due to complications from a brain tumor. His talent, passion and spirit filled the room, as his friends and colleagues performed works dedicated to him.

Among these was Broadway cabaret legend Steve Ross, composer and pianist Seth Weinstein and singer Lynn Manuel. Noted actress/director Fotini Baxevasi and novelist, author and screenwriter Gianni Scaraga, both from Greece, recited some of George's poetry and prose in Greek and in English. They were joined by actress Carina Gre-

gorio. Video clips of George's performances and life filled the screen.

The evening's program was hosted by David Lotz, Director of Communications of the Actors' Equity Association.

The president of Actors' Equity, Mr. Mark Zimmerman's letter was read in which he remarked, "From the time that he joined in 2002, Mr. Costacos always demonstrated his union pride and artistic dedication, whether it was at an audition, a performance or by supporting numerous worthy causes. I know that one of his proudest moments was when he performed in the Opening Ceremony of the 2004 Summer Olympics, with the blessings of my good friend and our former President, Patrick Quinn. They both shared a passion for life, a respect for human values, and above all, a dedication to the theatre. I know that George will be sorely missed by



his friends, but I know that his indomitable spirit will always fill the halls of Actors' Equity."

George's many friends and fans from all over the world filled the room for this first time event at the Audition Center and they included Emmy-award winning actress Elaine Stritch and many others.



Archbishop's Holy Week Perspectives

Continued from page 1

umphs, which were common in the Roman Empire after victories in the battlefield. Christ's entry into Jerusalem was a triumph celebrating the ultimate victory of the love of God; a love of God expressed in the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus the Messiah, through Whom, sin, evil and death were overcome.

This is why we celebrate Palm Sunday as a glorious and joyful feast, as an introduction to a week that has forever established God's victory on earth. Palm Sunday initiates the condition of victory, freedom and love of our Lord, the true Messiah and Liberator. We venerate, therefore, His triumphal entry into Jerusalem chanting with exuberant hearts:

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HOLY WEEK AND PASCHAL SERVICES 2009

April 11th - SATURDAY OF LAZARUS

Orthros 7:30 a.m. • Divine Liturgy 8:30 a.m.

April 12th - PALM SUNDAY

Orthros 6:45 a.m.
 1st Divine Liturgy (main sanctuary) 7:45 a.m.
 2nd Divine Liturgy (school hall) 9:45 a.m.
 3rd Divine Liturgy (main sanctuary) 10:15 a.m.
 4th Divine Liturgy (school hall) 11:45 a.m.
SERVICE OF THE NYMPHIOS 7:30 p.m.

April 13th - HOLY MONDAY

Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 8:00 a.m. • **SERVICE OF THE NYMPHIOS** 7:30 p.m.

April 14th - HOLY TUESDAY

Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 8:00 a.m. • **G.O.Y.A. LENTEN SUPPER** 6:00 p.m.
SERVICE OF THE NYMPHIOS 7:30 p.m.

April 15th - HOLY WEDNESDAY

Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:00 a.m. • **HOLY UNCTION** 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

April 16th - HOLY THURSDAY MORNING

1st Divine Liturgy (Chapel) 5:15 a.m.
 2nd Divine Liturgy (Church) 6:30 a.m.
 3rd Divine Liturgy (school hall) 7:30 a.m.
 4th Divine Liturgy (Church) 8:30 a.m.
 (Holy Communion will be administered only at the appropriate time at each Divine Liturgy)



THE SERVICE OF THE HOLY PASSION 6:45 p.m.
(His Eminence Archbishop DEMETRIOS will preside at the service of the Holy Passion)

April 17th - HOLY FRIDAY

The Royal Hours 8:30 a.m. • Descent from Cross 2:30 p.m.
 Trisagion for departed 6:30 p.m.
THE LAMENTATIONS & PROCESSION OF THE EPITAPHIOS (Church) 7:30 p.m. (Hall) 7:30 p.m.

April 18th - HOLY SATURDAY

1st Liturgy (Chapel) 5:30 a.m. • 2nd Liturgy (Church) 6:30 a.m.
 3rd Liturgy (Hall) 7:30 a.m. • 4th Liturgy (Church) 8:30 a.m.
 (Holy Communion will be administered only at the appropriate time at each Divine Liturgy)
PASCHA VIGIL 11:00 p.m.

April 19th - THE HOLY PASCHA

Resurrection Liturgy 12:30 a.m. • **AGAPE SERVICE** 10:30 a.m.

April 21st TUESDAY - SS. RAPHAEL, NICHOLAS, IRENE

Orthros 8:00 a.m. • Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.

April 23rd THURSDAY - ST. GEORGE THE GREAT MARTYR

Orthros 8:00 a.m. • Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.

April 24th FRIDAY - THE LIFE GIVING FOUNTAIN

Orthros 8:00 a.m. • Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.

April 25th SATURDAY - ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST

Orthros 8:00 a.m. • Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.

Protopresbyter PAUL C. PALESTY, the Priests, the Parish Council, the Educators the Office Staff and all Parish Organizations wish the members AND ALL GREEK ORTHODOX a Blessed Easter

George Marcus, a Man with a Mission to Preserve Hellenic Culture

Continued from page 1

padakis also joined the Society recently, but passed away suddenly last Sunday evening, see story on page 1).

The Bethesda, Maryland-based organization's board of directors consists of Mr. Marcus, Mr. Stamas, Dr. Korkos, Theofanis Economides, Anthony Saris, Tim Maniatis, Art Dimopoulos, Tim Joannides and Endy Zemenides.

Mr. Marcus is also on the board of directors of the Elios Society, a San Francisco-based organization of successful Greek Americans who support cultural activities.

"Elios has about 75 members. We help local museums collect ancient Greek art; we've been supporting the annual folk dance festival of the churches in the West for the last 12-15 years or more; and we hold a major event every other year honoring prominent artistic people in our community like (Fox Filmed Entertainment Chairman) Jim Gianopolos," he said.

This past November, Elios honored five distinguished and award-winning Greek Americans in the entertainment industry: stage and film actor Michael Constantine; actress Olympia Dukakis; Motion Picture Arts & Sciences Academy President Sid Ganis; singer Tony Orlando; and film and television producer Anne Thomopoulos.

Mr. Marcus' interest and involvement with NHS and Elios seems quite a switch for a man who, due to cultural pressures in America, changed his name from Moutsanas to Marcus after he graduated from high school, something he now regrets having done.

"I wanted to be 'American' so badly, I looked at things in ways I shouldn't have. My parents speak this funny language; they have a funny name; they have this funny religion. That sort of thing. I grew up being



George Marcus with his wife and children. (Standing, L-R) Judy and Mary Jane Marcus, John Moutsanas, Alexandria and Demetra Marcus. Marcus' son changed his name back to the original family name.

ridiculed by everybody at my high school. I was the guy with the funny name. They used to call me Montezuma and anything else you can think of (chuckles), so I contracted my name to Marcus. It was stupid. I should never have done that. But my parents did not, and my son changed his name back to Moutsanas," Mr. Marcus said.

"In my neighborhood, there were almost no Greeks, so from the time I was 7-8 years old until the time I

graduated high school, I wanted to be more American and less Greek. I eventually started regretting all that. What was I thinking? My heritage is so rich and beautiful," he said.

"I care very much about our community, and I want it to prosper. But I'm worried. We're all faced with 2nd- and 3rd-generation dilution. My own kids aren't as in-touch as they could be, and I want to do everything in my power to help them understand and appreciate their rich heritage, so I'm tugging at them," he said.

"I don't want my kids to feel how I felt, and that's a big part of the reason why I'm so focused on the National Hellenic Society. I'm concerned that younger Greek Americans are drifting away from their heritage. The American melting pot pushes people into homogenizing themselves, so I hope my kids always remember their traditions; that they remember how my wife dyes 400-500 eggs for Easter; and that we invite a few hundred people to our home to celebrate and eat lots of lamb for a reason. I also think preserving use of our language is important. I don't think our culture can survive with it out, and I think it should be a requirement," he added.

Mr. Marcus and his wife Judy reside in Palo Alto. They have been married for 44 years, and have four children: John, Mary, Alexandria and Demetra. Mr. Marcus and his wife grew up in the same neighborhood, and both attended San Francisco State University, "but we didn't hang out or anything like that," he said, adding that he met her because he was close friends with her brother, Peter Otten.

Mr. Marcus was born in Greece on the island of Euboea (Evia) in 1941 to John and Maria (Mary) Moutsanas. The Moutsanas family tree includes Greek Revolutionary War hero Odysseas Androustos. Mr. Marcus' father was from Agia Anna



(L-R) Former San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos (1988-92); California real estate magnate George Marcus; House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-California) and her husband Paul Pelosi; former California State Treasurer Phil Angelides (1999-2007); and Oscar-winning director and screenwriter Alexander Payne.

Argentina because that's where the greatest employment opportunities were. He was there during the same period Onassis was. He was a laborer on the docks, and worked on the docks for ten years. He learned how to speak Spanish, and then he went to San Francisco illegally through New Orleans. He jumped ship somewhere around 1920-21, and then hitch-hiked and took trains to San Francisco, where his brother, my Uncle Nick, was already working in the grocery business," Mr. Marcus said.

Mr. Marcus' father then went back to Greece and entered into an arranged marriage with Mr. Marcus' mother in the 1930's; came back to California; opened up a successful cafenio in San Francisco; bought some real estate; and became an American citizen through amnesty for illegal aliens in 1924.

Mr. Marcus' sister Orsa was born in San Francisco in 1933; his parents then moved back to Greece in 1939 with no intention of returning to the United States. Mr. Marcus was born in Greece in 1941, when his father was 50. Driven by the need to escape war-imposed poverty, however, the Moutsanas family returned to United States in 1945, when young George was four.

IMMIGRANT SUCCESS STORY

"My father's story is a typical immigrant's story. Most immigrants – and I'd say 50 percent or more of all European immigrants – wanted to go back and retire in their home countries, and many of them did. The Greeks were no different in that regard," Mr. Marcus said.

"My father needed to come back here because Greece was economically devastated by World War II. He was moderately successful there, given the limitations of village life, but money evaporated due to the destructive impacts of the War. The Greek Civil War was also beginning to brew, and my father just didn't want any part of it," he said.

"But the decision to come back was economic. Economics drove him out of Greece in the first place – to try and prosper for his family – and economics drove him back to the United States to build a more stable life," he added.

By the time the Moutsanas family returned stateside, young George started attending San Francisco public schools not knowing a word of English. He eventually enrolled at SFSU, from which he graduated in 1965 with a degree in Economics within two and a half years. It is a school to which he remains very dedicated, and yet another place where he expresses his commitment to Hellenism by supporting its Modern Greek Studies program.

Asked what motivated him to complete his studies so quickly, Mr. Marcus said he knew what he wanted to do from the time he was a very young man.

"I was always anxious to start my career and start my life. Money matters, and success matters. My father drilled that into my brain. My mother was all about Church and family, and my father was all about going to work and succeeding," he said.

"Even though we never really talked about business at the dinner table, I knew I wanted to go into business. My parents were village immigrants from Greece, as were a lot of their friends. They didn't have a higher education, so they didn't have a real concept of what college was about, but I knew that all the professions demanded a college education," he added.

So Mr. Marcus accelerated his graduation from SFSU; went into business by entering the world of banking and finance; and after a few years, he became a commercial real estate broker. He then formed his firm at 37 years of age – the G.M. Marcus & Company, which evolved into the immensely successful Marcus & Millichap Company (with 60 offices and 15,200 agents selling assets, the company specializes in homebuilding, apartment building, and investing in net income properties) – and then started forming other companies every 2-6 years, allowing them to be run by different people.

It was also during that period of

time that Mr. Marcus started becoming politically active, and was appointed by then Governor Jerry Brown (1975-83) as a trustee of the California State University system, which has 24 universities, including SFSU. In 2000, he was appointed to the University of California Board of Regents by former Governor Gray Davis (that term expires in 2012).

While he served as a CSU trustee, he was also on the search committee which ended up recommending the current president of his alma mater, Robert Corrigan, and it was around that time that Mr. Marcus got more involved with SFSU's Nikos Kazantzakis Chair for Modern Greek Studies.

"The Chair was already in existence, but I wanted to make sure that the Greek programs were protected because universities can be very funny. They can move money around. They can move professors around. So I wanted to make sure those programs remained intact. We had just hired a new president; the Modern Greek Studies Foundation asked me to be their chairman; and I've supported them over the years. There were other contributors, as well – all Greek Americans. Angelo Tsakopoulos was one of them," he said.

"The program is doing well. They're doing what they've set out to do. They've got a complement of Greek-language courses. They offer a lot of poetry courses. And they have a

ing on your view – and I just wanted to help them out because I appreciate the education I got there. I'm very interested in the arts, so we started the Center, and I gave them some money to do that," he said.

Mr. Marcus is also on Golden Gate Park's M.H. de Young Memorial Museum's board of directors.

"That's one of the most exciting things I've ever been involved with in terms of art and architecture. It's one of the most innovative museums built in the last 50 years," he said.

Mr. Marcus has served on the Archdiocesan Council; is a member of Leadership 100; and is an archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. His parents were originally members of Holy Trinity Church in San Francisco. Mr. Marcus and his family are now members of Saint Nicholas Church in San Jose, and he tries to help support all area parishes.

"It really depends on what they need. St. Nicholas is my home parish, so I tend to support that community more. (The late) Metropolitan Anthony was a great bishop, and a close friend. And there was a great priest at Holy Trinity, Father Anthony Kostouros, who was probably the longest-serving priest in any Greek Orthodox parish in the United States. He was my priest when I was seven years old, and he just passed away five years ago. So those were my two dreaded calls (chuckles). Whenever Bishop Anthony or Father



(L-R) George Marcus, Levis Strauss Chairman Bob Haas and former NFL star Ronnie Lott, the San Francisco 49ers legendary cornerback.

wonderful professor, Martha Klironomos. I always expect more, of course, but that's just the way I am," he said.

"Don't misunderstand me. They're doing a good job under the current scheme. But what I really believe Modern Greek Studies programs need to do is engage in more outreach toward our community's young people, and present more of a total Greek experience. They shouldn't only have academic programs about Modern Greek history. They should also have dance classes and cooking classes. They should sponsor more lectures and seminars about travel in Greece. They should enhance their exchange programs, and make it more of a university club for Greek Americans," he said.

"It doesn't require an awful lot of funding. We're talking about a lecture or seminar on Greek cuisine, and bringing in a professional Greek chef participate," he added.

Mr. Marcus and his wife also gave a \$3 million gift in 2005 to establish SFSU's International Center for the Arts, which celebrates some of the world's most innovative art and artists, with a focus on documentary films and visual art.

"Essentially, I was a typical commuter student. I was going to school. I was working. And I just appreciated being at San Francisco State, like any other alumnus did. I was fortunate enough to become moderately successful – or very successful, depend-

That was just crazy," he said.

Mr. Marcus also likes to fish and hunt, and sometimes goes hunting with Mr. Tsakopoulos.

"George Argyros also likes to hunt. But he's a Republican, so he likes to hang out with Alex Spanos (chuckles), and I'm a democrat, so I like to hang out with Angelo. All kidding aside, though. I love George, and I love Alex. And if you're Greek, you have so much more in common than you do with people of other backgrounds, regardless of your political views," he said.

As for his political leanings, Mr. Marcus is involved at both the state and federal levels. He supported Barack Obama's successful Presidential bid, and was present for Mr. Obama's historic Inauguration. He also held a recent fundraiser at his home for Congressman Zack Space of Ohio. The event raised \$45-50 thousand for Rep. Space, a Greek American. Congresswoman Pelosi also stopped by for the occasion.

"I'm not as active as some in our community, but politics is in our blood as Greeks, and financially, I'm now able to contribute. Many years ago, I was not in a position to do very much, but I always believed in open and stimulative government, and that's why I'm a Democrat. I think government should open the avenues of opportunity for everyone, so I believe in a more activist government than Republicans generally do. I'm relatively conservative and moderate in my views on fiscal policy, but I want to make sure we maintain fairness because my father and I, and all immigrants, benefited from the more open and supportive policies of the Democrats," he said.

While he is a Democrat, Mr. Marcus is also supportive of Greek American candidates, regardless of party affiliation.

"Absolutely. Gus Bilirakis (Republican congressman of Florida) is a fine gentleman, so I'm supportive of Republicans, too. I think moderates of both parties have more in common with each other than they do with the extreme members of their own parties," he said.

Asked whether he thinks President Obama's ideas for getting the economy moving in the right direction will work, Mr. Marcus said, "I think he's a brilliant person, and we're very lucky to have him. Given that he inherited an incredibly complex financial system, and given the constraints of Congress, I think he's doing everything he possibly can to surround himself with the best and brightest, and implement policies to get us back on track. So I'm very supportive of what he's doing. Everybody wants a quick fix, but it's just not going to happen. It took us ten years to get here."

Mr. Marcus also said he himself was caught off-guard by how rapidly the credit market deteriorated.

"I was concerned about it, but I was drinking the Kool-Aid, too. That's not to say I wasn't doing some downside planning. I was. But everyone was being bullish, and it ultimately didn't surprise me that this happened because one of the businesses I'm in – homebuilding – usually has a 3-4 year cycle. Traditionally, it grows for three years on average, and then contracts for three years," he said.

"But we had 11 years of growth with homes going up in value, while the volume of new homes was at an all-time high. That was unsustainable. It's now clear that we built 1-3 million homes more than we needed, and they were being sold to people who couldn't afford to keep them. And that has created a lot of the issues we're facing now: The credit situation is extremely serious, and the real estate industry has been devastated because there's virtually no credit available for commercial properties right now," he added.

Asked to recall some of his defining moments and explain his rise to the zenith of American success, Mr. Marcus said realizing that innovation in the service sector, and having the courage to offer better service than one's mentors and competitors, was crucial.

He also said forming solid partnership, as well as stepping aside and letting talented people do what they're capable of doing without interfering, has been integral to his own success. Offering guidance and support, without being too directly interventionist, is his basic approach, he added.

"Picking and clicking with the right partners is critical. I'm a big believer in sharing the opportunity and sharing the benefits. And I've been very lucky. Fortunately, one of my skills has been being able to find the right partners. Without strong partners, you won't succeed. I don't know if it's instinct, but you can tell if someone's got his feet on the ground; when they're not too political or too much of a game player; when they genuinely share your interests," Mr. Marcus said.

"The other thing I realized was that for me to keep good people, I had to step aside and let them perform. Bill Millichap, my partner, ran the brokerage firm. Then I formed Essex Property Trust, a \$5 billion real estate investment trust, which sells 1-2 million shares a day. The key here is that talented people want to run their own businesses, and even though ownership might be divided among many people, you still want people running their own show," he said.

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CONCERT REVIEW



Violinist Steven Tsitsos, 20, is seen above at the Jane Mallet Theatre in Toronto last week performing a virtuoso concert accompanied by pianist Peter Longworth. Tsitsos is the son of immigrants from Athens.

Violinist At The Gates: Steven Tsitsos Gives Virtuoso Recital In Toronto

By James Karas
Special to The National Herald

Violinist Steven Tsitsos strolled on the stage of the Jane Mallet Theatre in Toronto last week, shirttails out, a black tie hanging nonchalantly from his neck and a mop of hair on his forehead. He is a young man of quiet self-assurance and mastery of the violin who gave a virtuoso concert accompanied by pianist Peter Longworth. The concert was presented by the Canadian Foundation for the Performing Arts.

The concert covered works from Edouard Lalo's 1882 "Guitare" Op. 28 to Aaron Copland's 1942 "Hoe Down" for Rodeo. The main works were Gabriel Faure's Sonata for Violin and Piano, No. 1 and Antonin Dvorak's Four Romantic Pieces, Op. 75. The recital also included shorter pieces by Claude Debussy ("La Plus Que Lent"), Fritz Kreisler ("Gypsy Caprice") and Jules Massenet's "Meditation" from his opera Thais.

Faure composed two Sonatas for Violin and Piano, the first one in his youth (1876) and the second in his late maturity some forty years later in 1917. The Sonata is in four movements and it is a work with some beautiful lyrical passages, full of passion and intensity as well as lighter moments as in the third scherzo movement marked Allegro Vivo. Tsitsos played meticulously and splendidly in harmony with his accompanist Peter Longworth. The first movement of the sonata is in fact more a work for violin and piano rather than for violin accompanied by piano.

Dvorak composed his Four Romantic Pieces in 1887 and they contain some mellow and exquisite music. Tsitsos played the pieces with a light touch without diminishing an iota of their beauty. The fourth piece marked Larghetto has some wonderful interplay between piano and violin and Tsitsos and Longworth produce some music of hypnotic beauty.

Kreisler's "Gypsy Caprice" is a showpiece where the violinist displays his virtuosity and, yes, Tsitsos did just that. Jules Massenet's "Meditation from Thais" is a piece of such intoxicating beauty that I doubt any one has picked up a violin for more than a few times without attempting it. It is a piece of music that should be on the "must hear it before you die" list and if you heard Tsitsos play it, you won't want to die.

Copland's "Hoe Down" is rip-roaring music and, yes, it is the piece used in the Beef commercial. Tsitsos prefers to play with passion and conviction rather than with ostentatious and physicality or attacks on his instrument. Even with a piece like the "Hoe Down" which is almost fiddlin' music, he brings out the vivacity of the music with class and poise.

Tsitsos is the son of a math teacher and a lawyer from Athens who ended up running a pizza joint in Thompson, Manitoba where

Steven was born. Thompson, a mining town of about 15,000 people, is grandiosely nicknamed "The Hub of the Great White North". Most people would probably consider Thompson more like the Hub of Hades but it simply confirms the fact that there is no telling where you will find Greek immigrants and talent. There are some advantages to being born in a small town: in January 2002, the Mayor of Thompson appointed Steven "The City of Thompson Ambassador" in recognition of his achievements. Not bad for a thirteen-year old!

His parents solved the problem of getting a decent pizza in the northern town but that did not seem to attract any good violin teachers. Steven had to travel more than 450 miles to Winnipeg for violin lessons. He later went to Toronto to continue his studies. There he studied violin under Jacques Israelievitch, the distinguished violinist and former concert master of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and piano under Andre Laplante.

He has won more than thirty awards and scholarships for his prodigious talent including nine consecutive Silver Medals from the Royal Conservatory of Music. The Silver Medal is the highest mark in violin examinations in Manitoba and he has won it twice a year since, for four consecutive years.

He has given a number of concerts in addition to the one at the St. Lawrence Centre last week and issued a couple of CDs. He is currently working on a CD in collaboration with Longworth featuring works for violin and piano by various composers of the Romantic Era. The recording, entitled, "Impressions" contains works by Faure, Massenet, Dvorak and Lalo, and is expected to be released in late April, 2009.

Last week Tsitsos celebrated his 20th birthday and he is at an age when he has proved his ability and is waiting to crash through the gates of the classical music world and be seen on a larger stage. It is part of the arduous task of getting to play with major chamber ensembles and orchestras and being adopted by a major label that will market your recordings.

The gates are heavily fortified. Capricious Fate is as important as talent and there is no telling when the gates will open for an aspiring artist. No wonder so many of them are superstitious. The only Greek violinist on the international scene is Leonidas Kavakos and his career was launched when he won the International Sibelius Competition. Winning an important competition is a good way of gaining preliminary entry through the gates but it is no guarantee.

Fate was as inscrutable as ever last week and I have no idea of the alignment of the signs of the zodiac but there was no doubt about Tsitsos's virtuoso performance.

Mr. Karas is a lawyer and writer. He can be reached at jameskaras@rogers.com.



Steven Tsitsos and Peter Longworth take a bow after receiving audience acclaim for their concert performance in Toronto last week.

NYC Council Members Honor Greek Independence Day

Continued from page 1

tended the event, including the Consul Generals of Greece and Cyprus in New York Aghi Balta and Andreas Panayiotou, respectively, and Demetrius Kalamaras, president of the Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater New York (FHS). Five honorees were awarded with recognition for their outstanding achievements as Greek Americans and for their humanitarian efforts: Michael Psilakis, acclaimed Michelin Star award-winning chef and restaurateur; Mamie Stathatos-Fulgieri, on behalf of the Hellenic Lawyers Association of New York; George Kitsios on behalf of the Greek American Homeowners Association of New York (GAHA); Council Parish President of Zoodohos Peghe Greek Orthodox Church, Constantine Kaganis; and President of the Euro-American Women's Council, Dame Loula Loi Alafoyiannis.

Following an invocation by Rev. Father Vasilios Bassakyrus, M.Div. of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, distinguished guests expressed their appreciation toward the Greek American community in New York as well as their pride for the 188th celebration of Greek Independence.

"Thousands of Greek Americans made their way across the waters of the Aegan throughout the years," said Councilmember Vallone. "There are about 450,000 Greeks here and obviously they left their prints here on New York City and throughout the country."

Consul General Aghi Balta stressed the importance of commemorating both the Greeks who sacrificed their lives for freedom and the Americans who supported the fight for the same values.

"The celebration of March 25, Greek Independence Day, honors the memory of both our Greek and American forefathers, who fought side-by-side for two centuries for the same causes: freedom, respect, human rights and justice. The fathers of the American Revolution were inspired by Greek philosophy and this transpired onto texts such as the Federalist Papers," Ms. Balta said, also noting the ever-growing bond between Greeks and Americans and the significance of present Hellenic and Philhellenic efforts.

Consul General of Cyprus Andrea Panayiotou and FHS President Demetrius Kalamaras also expressed gratitude for the evening's celebration which honored the historical achievements of the Greek community and the relevance of these achievements to today's fight to maintain liberty, democracy and justice.

The keynote speaker and distinguished honoree of the evening was Michael Psilakis, owner of three-award winning restaurants including Anthos, one of two restaurants in the world with a Michelin star, one of the highest recognitions a restaurant can receive. In 2008, Psilakis was named "Chef of the Year" by Bon Appetit magazine and more recently, he had the honor of cooking for President Obama and guests at the White House celebrating Greek Independence Day. He was the first chef outside of the White House's permanent staff to do so.

"I have achieved a lot on a personal level in terms of my successes with food. The one thing that was taught to me growing up in a very traditional Greek family—my father is from Crete, my mother is from Kalamata—was that when people came over, food was going to play a very important role and that the women in my family used food as a vehicle to bring us all together and show us love. Food was more than nurturing for us, it [was an indication] of my parents' success. They always reminded [me and my siblings] that we were Greek, that the blood in our veins was Greek and that we should keep our heads up high and be proud of that every day," he said.

Mamie Stathatos-Fulgieri accepted the next award on behalf of HLA. She said she was

deeply honored and humbled to be presented with award next to such outstanding honorees. On a personal level, she said, she was especially proud to be honored next to GAHA, as her father has served as vice president of the organization for almost 20 years.

"The success of the Hellenic Lawyers Association is a token to the fidelity of the history and spirit that we share as Hellenes and also to the pride that we experience as Greek Americans," she said. "That pride transcends to each generation."

George Kitsios, president of GAHA, the second largest organization of its kind in New York State, accepted the honor on behalf of the organization and expressed gratitude for the support granted by council members and the Greek American community. GAHA was recognized for their activism to improve the quality of life in their community by working with the 114 Police Precinct and local politicians.

Council Member James Vacca presented the fourth award to Constantine Kaganis, who has served as parish council president of Zoodohos Peghe Greek Orthodox Parish in the Bronx for 10 years. Vacca called Kaganis "a humble



man who is always in the background."

Kaganis thanked the council members for their support and humbly noted that he was in the presence of honorees who have done "so much more than I have for the Greek community."

Council Member Alan J. Gerson (D-Manhattan) presented the last award to Dame Loula Loi Alafoyiannis, founder and Execu-

tive Global President of Euro-American Women's Council. Vacca called her "an outstanding humanitarian and political leader."

Dame Alafoyiannis spoke of her ambitions as a young woman who migrated to the U.S. from Greece with very little money in her pocket and stressed the significance of working hard to achieve goals.

Throughout the event, several performances kept guests enter-

NYC officials and key members of the Greek American community of the greater New York area gathered to commemorate the 188th anniversary of Greek Independence at New York's Surrogate's Courthouse this past April 2. Several NYC Council members hosted the event. ABOVE: (L-R) Constantine Kaganis, Loula Alafoyiannis, Rev. Sylvester Berberis, James Bakkas, Consuls General of Greece and Cyprus Aghi Balta and Andreas Panayiotou, Chef Michael Psilakis, Rev. Vasilios Bassakyrus, Councillor Peter Vallone and Greek American Homeowners Association President George Kitsios. BELOW: (L-R) Councillor James Vacca poses with honoree Constantine Kaganis and Father Sylvester Berberis, pastor of Zoodohos Peghe Church in the Bronx.

tained. The Archdiocesan Metropolitan Youth Choir, directed by Ms. Maria Koleva with a piano accompaniment by Ms. Magdalena Dushkina, sang "Let There Be Peace on Earth," "Natane to '21" and "Chrysoprasino Filo." The Greek American Folklore Society Dancers, who donned authentic-inspired costumes, performed traditional dances with direction by Vaia Allaganis.

The evening marked a milestone anniversary of the city council celebration of Greek Independence Day, launched 30 years ago by Vallone's father, Peter Vallone Sr., former speaker of the City Council.

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Obama Meets with Bartholomew and Karamanlis during 1st Overseas Trip

Continued from page 1

from the full measure of contributions from all citizens," he said.

"Advancing peace also includes the dispute that persists in the Eastern Mediterranean. Here, there is cause for hope. The two Cypriot leaders have an opportunity through their commitment to negotiations under the United Nations Good Offices Mission. The United States is willing to offer all the help sought by the parties as they work toward a just and lasting settlement that reunifies Cyprus into a bi-zonal and bi-communal federation," he added.

Initially, Mr. Obama was going to London for the G20 Summit (a group of finance ministers and central bank governors from 19 of the world's largest economies, plus the E.U.); then to France for the 60th anniversary NATO Summit; and then over to Turkey to meet with Turkish leaders about withdrawing U.S. forces from Iraq through Turkish soil, and to participate in the second "Confederation of Civilizations" forum, which was held in Istanbul on April 6-7.

A few days before the President went to Europe and Turkey, it was not certain whether he would meet with either the Greek Premier or the Ecumenical Patriarch.

But the meeting with Mr. Karamanlis was held last Saturday, April 4, on the sidelines of the NATO Summit, and His All Holiness met with Mr. Obama this past Tuesday, April 7.

KARAMANLIS

Mr. Karamanlis also spoke to Mr. Obama on the phone on April 1, a day before the G20 Summit, congratulating him on his election and wishing him success in tackling the challenges the President faces in the years to come.

The Prime Minister also said he is looked forward to their meeting, and assured Mr. Obama that Greece fully shares and supports the great hope his election has ignited throughout the world, adding that he agrees the world's greatest challenge today is the economic crisis, the handling of which is now the top priority for all governments.

Mr. Karamanlis also told Mr. Obama that the United States is not alone in contending with the global financial meltdown, and said America's partners stand ready to tackle the unprecedented economic challenges jointly.

The Greek Premier went onto



President Barack Obama meets with Greek Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis as Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton looks on at the NATO summit in Strasbourg, France, Saturday, April 4, 2009.

AP PHOTO/CHARLES DHARAPAK

say that the Greek American community has contributed, and continues to contribute, to the betterment of American society. He assured the President that he appreciates the steadfast positions Mr. Obama has taken on Hellenic issues, and said he is looking forward to closer bilateral cooperation with the aim of finding solutions to those issues, as well as to the deepening of U.S.-Greece relations in general.

The President thanked Mr. Karamanlis for his good wishes, underscoring his sense of gratitude for the role Greek Americans have played in this country, and expressed his hope for the opportunity to visit the birthplace of democracy in the near future, a country about which he knows a great deal, but to which he has never been.

In Strasbourg, the President and the Prime Minister met shortly after the conclusion of NATO's 60th anniversary summit, and reaffirmed the strong bonds shared between their two countries.

Before they actually met, the Greek Government confirmed that the agreed topics of discussion would be the global financial crisis; Greek-Turkish relations; Turkish military provocations in the Aegean

Sea; the rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate; the need to withdraw the Turkish army from northern Cyprus as a condition to reunify the island; and FYROM's official name.

Speaking to reporters after their discussion, Mr. Obama said the meeting provided an opportunity to reaffirm the excellent relations between the U.S. and Greece.

Mr. Obama stressed that it was not only the United States which was inspired by Ancient Greece, but that Modern Greece, too, was inspired by the American Revolution when it undertook its own war of independence against the Ottoman Empire.

The President said the two countries share common democratic principles, and will continue walking side-by-side in the 21st Century. He cited the role of Greek Americans in the fabric of America's rich multi-cultural tapestry, and said the Greek American community is a bridge between the United States and Greece.

Mr. Obama also said U.S.-Greece cooperation is crucial in the fight against international terrorism, the global economic crisis and energy security, and that it would continue to be necessary in the future.

Mr. Karamanlis stressed strong bilateral ties between the two countries, citing that U.S.-Greece relations were both historic and contemporary, and noted their cooperation as allies.

WHITE HOUSE TRANSCRIPT

The following transcript of their brief post-discussion press conference in Strasbourg, held at 3:40 PM, was sent to the National Herald from the White House:

"I am so pleased to have the opportunity to meet with the Prime Minister, and reaffirm once again the extraordinary friendship between Greece and the United States. We had the opportunity to celebrate Greek Independence Day in the White House. And it was a reminder for all of us that not only is the United States inspired by Greece; not only were our Founding Fathers inspired by the values of Ancient Greece, but that Greek independence was also inspired by the United States. It gives you a sense of the fact that we have shared values; a shared belief in democracy and liberty; that we have struggled and fought for that democracy and liberty as fellow members of NATO. Now in the 21st

Century, we continue to fight on behalf of those issues shoulder to shoulder. So I'm very grateful to the Greek community in the United States for being such a wonderful bridge to Greece. Our relationship is strong, but I'm confident that in the years to come, on a whole host of issues – from dealing with the economic crisis to dealing with terrorism to dealing with energy – the United States and Greece will be critical partners in all these international efforts. So I'm very proud to call the Prime Minister my friend, and that the friendship between our two countries is very strong," Mr. Obama said.

"Well, it is known that we have a very strong relationship between Greece and the United States (preserved by) those values in the modern world which remain core values – rule of law, democracy, freedom. And we share a very strong bilateral relationship and also close cooperation within the framework of the Alliance.

As President, you already mentioned the Greek Diaspora is a very strong link between the two countries, and of course we are looking forward to working closely with you to address all the problems both our societies face," Mr. Karamanlis replied.

The Prime Minister afterwards stated his satisfaction with the decisions taken at the NATO Summit earlier that day in Strasbourg, as well as with the outcome of his first meeting with Mr. Obama.

He disclosed that the President had invited him to visit Washington, while Greece returned the invitation, inviting the President to visit Athens, adding that he was "absolutely satisfied" with the contents of their discussion.

Mr. Karamanlis said he raised all of Greece's main foreign policy concerns, and said the President listened to Greek positions pertaining to the Balkans and Southeast Europe, and that Mr. Obama seemed positive about backing Greece's efforts in the region.

With respect to the NATO Summit itself, Mr. Karamanlis noted that the Alliance had welcomed Mr. Obama's arrival in Europe and France's return to the military arm of NATO, as well as the accession of new NATO members Albania and Croatia.

The Greek Premier also said Greece welcomed the selection of Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh

Rasmussen as the new NATO secretary-general, adding that Greece enjoyed longstanding cooperation with Denmark, and that the Greek Government would support him.

With respect to the FYROM name issue, Mr. Karamanlis reiterated Greece's position in favor of the small Balkan country's Euro-Atlantic prospects, but recalled the unanimous NATO decision in Romania last year and the Bucharest Summit's references to the need for a mutually acceptable permanent name for FYROM.

As for NATO's relations with Russia, Mr. Karamanlis said he was happy about the normalization of relations between the two sides and the full activation of dialogue, stressing the need for a continuous exchange of views between NATO and Russia and the need to promote cooperation on the basis of the Organization for Security & Cooperation in Europe, for which Greece holds the rotating chair this year.

In Turkey, where the President formally began his outreach to the Muslim World with a speech to the Turkish Parliament, Mr. Obama declared that the United States "is not and will never be at war with Islam."

Setting forth his perspective on America's relationship with the Islamic world, Mr. Obama told the Turkish Parliament that "America's relationship with the Muslim community, the Muslim world, can not and will not just be based upon opposition to terrorism. We seek broader engagement based upon mutual interest and mutual respect."

The United States has been enriched by Muslim Americans. Many other Americans have Muslims in their family, or have lived in a Muslim-majority country. I know, because I am one of them."

"Freedom of religion and expression lead to a strong and vibrant civil society that only strengthens the state," Mr. Obama said.

In Constantinople (present-day Istanbul), a city known for its skyline of minarets, glittering waterways and a cosmopolitan history reaching back centuries as the divide between Europe and Asia, the President met with religious leaders from the Jewish faith, Islam and various Christian churches, and made visits to historic sites like Hagia Sophia, the Church of Holy Wisdom, the crown jewel of the Byzantine architecture which was converted to a mosque under the Ottoman Empire, and is now a museum.

Turkey's largest and most cacophonous city was brought to a near standstill by the Presidential visit, with traffic blocked off in entire districts through which he passed.

BARTHOLOMEW

In keeping with the respectful, non-confrontational tone of his visit to Turkey, Mr. Obama avoided what might have been construed as a more assertive gesture by visiting the Ecumenical Patriarch at the Patriarchate's headquarters in the Phanar, holding talks at his hotel instead.

Mr. Obama held an on-camera meeting with the Ecumenical Patriarch at the Conrad Hotel in Constantinople (present-day Istanbul) this past Tuesday morning, April 7, a meeting which was also attended by Archbishop Demetrios of America and White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emmanuel.

"The meeting and ensuing discussion were marked by a spirit of warm cordiality and mutual respect," according to a press release issued by the Patriarchate later that day.

The Patriarchate reported that the substance of the discussions focused on the President's decision to mention the need to reopen the Theological School of Halki during his speech before the Turkish Parliament, and his discussion about the same with Turkish President Abdullah Gul.

"The President said that he would follow up on the issue with a view to a favorable solution for the Ecumenical Patriarchate," the Patriarchate reported.

Bartholomew, spiritual leader of the world's 300 million Orthodox Christians, raised the following five points with the Mr. Obama, the Patriarchate reported:

"He made a convincing and passionate argument for the speedy reopening of the Theological School of Halki, a basic need for the education and preparation of Clergy of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. He emphasized the importance of religious liberty and the guarantee of the same for all minorities in Turkey. He stated his well-known and longtime support for Turkey's efforts to join the European Union. He noted the significance of efforts made on behalf of the environment, adding information about his own upcoming Ecological Symposium in the United States (at the Mississippi River) in October of 2009; and he thanked President Obama for this meeting, and for his active interest in the pressing issues of the Ecumenical Patriarchate."

The Patriarch also mentioned that he had sent an icon of the Prophet Baruch (patron saint of the President) to Mr. Obama with a handwritten inscription, and he also congratulated the President for the University of North Carolina's victory in the NCAA Basketball Championship Tournament on Monday, an outcome which the President had predicted.

After the meeting, His All Holiness said he felt more confident about U.S. interests in resolving pressing issues in Turkey.

"We are much more optimistic about both the Halki Theological Seminary and the problems we face more generally," Bartholomew said, adding that he thanked the President "for all that he said concerning Halki from the podium of the Turkish Grand National Assembly."

The Patriarch said he underscored that the theological school "is required to renew (the Patriarchate's) officials and fulfill its lofty mission in dialogues with other Christian Churches, and the dialogue we have commenced in the last 20 years with the other monotheistic religions."

The Patriarch also said he came away with a positive view of the President as a person.

"President Obama was very unassuming, very friendly and humble, and I was impressed with his simplicity," Bartholomew said, adding that Mr. Obama, in turn, was glad when the Patriarch congratulated the President for the UNC Tar Heels' championship victory.

"He was impressed that I knew of it, and was very pleased. He laughed and thanked me, and in that pleasant atmosphere, we parted," His All Holiness said.

The above incorporates information from reports posted by the Athens News Agency, New York Times, Los Angeles Times and Εθνικός Κήρυξ.

Greek Student Dies in Major Italian Earthquake

ATHENS, Greece (ANA) - A Greek student who had been buried alive under a building that collapsed in a devastating earthquake, on Monday, in the medieval city of L'Aquila in central Italy was finally recovered dead on Tuesday.

Vassilis Koufolias was trapped in the ruins of the four-story apartment building he was living in, with his sister, also a student.

He was initially located on Monday and was in contact with rescuers trying to extricate him and other survivors, but his body was among others recovered on Tuesday by emergency units. His sister, who suffered several fractures when the building collapsed in the early hours of Monday, was hospitalized in a nearby town while with four other Greek students were in other hospitals. All five were reported to be not

in serious condition.

A total of 160 Greek university students from the earthquake-stricken L'Aquila region were returning to Athens on Tuesday, following coordinated efforts by the Greek Embassy in Rome.

The students were returning on special flights set up by Olympic Airlines (OA) and Aegean Airways, which offered to bring back the students free of charge immediately after news of the devastating quake broke.

The quake has claimed the lives of at least 235 people, more than 1,000 injured, at least 100 in serious condition, 15 people unaccounted for, including an Israeli student and between 17,000 to 25,000 homeless according to Italian rescuers and government officials on Thursday.

HIDDEN GREECE

Hidden Greece will present pictures of the country that tourists don't see, the main streets but also the back streets and balconies and the way of life of people outside the normal spotlight: workers, the homeless, ordinary citizens and some more celebrated, and the places they live and work and define modern Greece, as well as its legacy.



Going Home With Yia Yia

TNH/ANDY DABILIS

In Greece, as more families have two parents working, American-style, it is often left to the grandparents to be caretakers, and their duties include going to pick up their grandchildren from school and walking them home.

Senate Hold Placed on Philip Gordon's Nomination

While observers scrutinized President Barack Obama's speeches in Turkey, including on whether he would use the word "genocide," (he didn't, but said he stood by his previous strong statements), the Armenian Genocide issue appears to have possibly delayed at least one of his picks for a key foreign policy job from joining the trip.

Obama's pick to be assistant secretary of state for Europe & Eurasian affairs, Philip Gordon, got left behind from Obama's big trip to Europe. A source tells The Cable that Gordon "had his bag ready to go." Though he'd been grilled hard during his nomination hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee by Senator Robert Menendez (D-New Jersey) on Armenia and the Turkish occupation of Northern Cyprus, Mr. Menendez ultimately decided not to block him, and actually abstained in committee vote rather than vote no.

But, at the last minute on Friday, April 3, an unidentified senator put Gordon's confirmation on hold during the floor vote, delaying the vote until after Congress's two-week Easter recess – and Obama's big trip to Europe, of course.

The reason for the delay isn't clear, but sources pointed to this press release from the Armenian National Committee of America welcoming it: "We see this delay as a meaningful opportunity for senators to weigh the merits of approving a nominee with a record of arguing against both executive branch and



Philip H. Gordon

congressional recognition of the Armenian Genocide – a position at direct odds with the strong moral stand taken by the President that the U.S. should clearly and fully condemn this crime against humanity." ANCA Executive Director Aram Hamparian said in the group's press release. "We look forward, during Genocide Prevention Month this April, to President Obama honoring his pledge to recognize the Armenian Genocide."

Gordon didn't respond to a query. But associates note that his expertise – NATO, the E.U., Turkey and Russian stuff – might have also proved

relevant to Obama's itinerary. Associates said Gordon had been working incredibly hard in possible preparation for the trip with no official title, while preparing for his confirmation hearings. "What kind of system is that," a pal lamented.

Also left behind: Obama's pick to be U.S. ambassador to NATO, Ivo Daalder, another Brookings Institute expert, whose confirmation hearing has not been scheduled yet. What did he miss? Just NATO's 60th anniversary summit.

Daalder said he couldn't comment. An associate noted that Daalder's situation isn't exactly the same as Gordon's – his confirmation hasn't been put on hold, just that his nomination hearing hasn't been scheduled yet.

"There is some thought that his nomination hearing was held over to the other side of the Easter recess to avoid having a change of ambassadors during the NATO Summit," a Democratic Senate staffer said. "At least one Republican member on the committee raised that concern. But Obama wanted him in place prior to the trip."

The current U.S. Ambassador to NATO, Kurt Volker, previously told The Cable that the Summit was a big success. "President Obama scored a huge success at his first NATO summit – a strong sense of trans-Atlantic unity; a common strategy and some significant new contributions on Afghanistan; two new NATO members; France reintegrating into NATO

military structures for the first time since the 1960's; and the decision to write a new NATO strategic concept to focus NATO on the security threats of the future," Volker said in an e-mail. "Pretty big stuff."

The Cable posted the above on April 6 (<http://thecable.foreign-policy.com>).

Pranksters Use Lasers to Blind Pilots

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Cypriot police say pranksters are courting disaster by using powerful lasers at night to blind aircraft pilots over the island's main airport of Larnaca.

Senior police officer Prodromos Prodromou said Wednesday the laser attacks have targeted the cockpits of low-flying aircraft on four separate occasions over the past 15 days. He says pranksters "don't realize how catastrophic this can be."

Prodromou said lasers were shone from different locations several kilometers east of the airport, hitting the cockpit window as the aircraft turned for its final approach.

The most recent incident involving a Greek Aegean Airlines plane occurred on Tuesday. Prodromou said the culprits could face life in prison on manslaughter charges if they cause an accident.

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A tremendous loss

It was known that he was sick. Still, the news leaves us in a state of shock. How is it possible that Drexel University President Constantine Papadakis a leading figure in the world of higher education and our community, has passed away so suddenly?

It was only last week that he requested six months' medical leave to focus on regaining his health. Only three days later, last Sunday evening, he died of pulmonary complications.

It is now a few days since he died, but with each passing day, our sense of loss continues to deepen; and the vacuum looms ever larger.

It's not just his untimely departure at just 63 years of age which leaves one speechless. It's because this man mattered. He was unquestionably one of those rare people who really did make a difference in their own communities and the world at-large.

Taki, as he liked to be called, was a great family man; a humble, unfailingly polite and considerate person with a keen and methodical intellect, and an imposing, charismatic personality. It's no accident that he built a remarkably successful career and became a much sought-after academic leader.

He immigrated to America from Greece in order to advance his education. In the end, it was he who afforded tens of thousands of students from across the United States and around the world the opportunity to receive a first-rate education by taking over a struggling university and turn it into an astounding urban success.

He was a natural, no-nonsense leader on an important mission; a mission much larger than most people would ever aspire to undertake.

Taki was also larger than life. Almost as if sensing that his life could be cut short, he worked tirelessly to realize his vision as an educator. Amy Gutmann, president of the Ivy League University of Pennsylvania, right next door to Drexel, praised Taki.

"Dr. Papadakis was a commanding visionary who never rested on the laurels of Drexel's gains. He kept raising the bar by taking the boldest strategic risks for the sake of his students, faculty and staff," she said. "He leaves Drexel financially and academically thriving, and everyone who knew him is blessed for having their lives touched by this mountain of a man."

Taki was also very proud of his Greek heritage and upbringing. As the only Greek-born president of an American university, he knew he had to do it better. He knew he had to raise the standards higher to make us all proud of his work. And he did.

The community reciprocated by entrusting their children's education to him; by endorsing programs and funding the construction of facilities, making Drexel University synonymous to a Greek university in America.

Words are neither enough to describe the profound sense of loss we all feel, nor can they do justice to him or for those who did not know him.

All we can say is, we are very proud this newspaper was the last one to interview him while he was still with us (see February 7, 2009 issue, page 1), and prouder still to have had the privilege of knowing this great man, and to call him friend.

Our deepest condolences to his wife Eliana and their daughter Maria. May Taki's memory be eternal.

Betting on the wrong horse

As we were going to press with this, our 600th issue, the immediate results of President Obama's first overseas visit as head of state might appear to be failure, as far as Hellenic issues are concerned. But that's not necessarily the case.

On the negative side, the President broke with tradition by not including Greece in his travel plans to the area, and he did not visit the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

The President's people insisted that Patriarch Bartholomew be part of a group of senior religious leaders to meet with Mr. Obama. They finally relented and scheduled an almost embarrassingly short meeting when they realized that the Patriarch would not undercut his standing as an ecumenical Christian leader, in effecting committing suicide, by joining the group.

The White House demonstrated its displeasure by restricting the meeting to 15 minutes, and by not providing an official picture of the meeting.

We believe that the Patriarch was right to stand his ground. Had he given in on this issue, even to the President of the United States, there would have been no end to the disrespect.

More importantly, there was no real breakthrough on the reopening of the Halki theological school, the centuries-old training ground for the Patriarchate's clergy, contrary to what the public was led to believe. Can it happen later? It hasn't yet.

In a press release issued by the Patriarchate afterwards, Bartholomew reportedly exhorted the President to help speed up the process for the Patriarchal seminary as a "basic pre-condition" for the Patriarchate's future survival.

The press release also stated that the Patriarch was "much more optimistic about the school at Halki and the general problems that we face" after meeting with the President.

It should be noted that Bartholomew was accompanied by Archbishop Demetrios and Rev. Alexander Karlosoutsos when he met with Mr. Obama.

Their presence underscored the common thread which unites the President and the Patriarch: the Greek American community.

And the President paid a very important symbolic visit to Hagia Sophia, underscoring the need to guarantee freedom of religious practice for all Turkey's citizens, not just its Muslims.

So there is some positive news to go along with the negative aspects. Even though we strongly disagree with the bypassing of Greece, nobody can deny that the President of the United States has the right to go wherever he thinks America's best interests will be served.

Having said that, we believe that the U.S. continues to bet on the wrong horse. We believe that Turkey is both unfit and unwilling to play a dominant mediating role the Obama Administration envisions for Turkey between the U.S. and Israel and our adversaries like Syria and Iran. We also believe that, instead of providing safe passage for U.S. troops to exit from Iraq, Turkey will try to grab the sizable oil deposits of Kirkuk in the Kurdish area of Iraq, thereby complicating instead of facilitating the withdrawal.

One has to be blind not to see that Turkey's domestic, religious and political tensions are such that it will take Turkey a long time, at best, to play the role of peripheral leader. And we are genuinely concerned that Turkey will exploit this role with historically zealous behavior which will lead to more instability in the region.

It is for these and other valid reasons that the European Union refuses to consider Turkey seriously as a member.

Beyond that, we must not fail to recognize that the President did his part to ease Greek anxieties. He met with Prime Minister Karamanlis after the NATO Summit, and he raised the issues of Cyprus and the Patriarchate with the Turkish leadership and the Turkish Parliament.

Lastly, however, another worrisome aspect of the President's overseas trip, which came up halfway through his voyage, was when Mr. Obama, following the policies of his predecessor, actually called upon NATO to invite the "Republic of Macedonia" to join it.

Not too long ago, Greece vetoed FYROM's bid to join NATO during last year's summit in Bucharest, and is unlikely to change its position as long as FYROM insists on being recognized as "Macedonia." So why is Mr. Obama playing the divisive Bush tune? Has he already forgotten his campaign promises to Greek Americans who supported him?

What lies ahead for Hellenic Education in the United States?

To the Editor:

With much sadness I read your editorial of January 31, of this year referring to the state of Hellenic Education's attention by the Archdiocese. I have three children who have experienced Greek language instruction through the church community model.

Having just put down the Orthodox Observer, I discovered the Archbishop has just been awarded the Leadership in Education Award by the NYS Coalition of Independent & Religious Schools. This Coalition is comprised of Agudath Israel of America, Association of Christian Schools International, Board of Jewish Education, Lutheran Schools Assn., NYS Assn. of Independent Schools and the NYS Catholic Conference.

Please excuse my noticing that the above Coalition is comprised of organizations that still have a NYS Regents Exam for their ethnic populations, Italian and Hebrew, while the Archdiocese has neglected to maintain this level of performance. Where is this leading Hellenic education, or might we say the Greek language in the future of the culture of United States?

Greece is producing huge amounts of educational materials, focused on the nationality of the recipients of the teaching materials, United Kingdom versus Australia versus Canada or the U.S.

Greece needs the numbers of Greek-speaking peoples to grow in this decade, and they know it and promote it. The Archdiocese has yet to see any synergy that could come from promoting an educational model better than the one that exists presently. As we have all seen in the past 20 years, there is no one educational path that is correct and sure to bring success.

Presently, English, Russian, Chinese, Italian along with Latin, German, French and Italian Advanced Placement Exams exist. By the way, in 2007, the highest score on an AP test was on the Chinese language and Culture Exam.

Additionally, SAT subject tests exist for Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Hebrew, Italian, Latin, Spanish, French and German.

It sure doesn't look like those cultures are sitting around waiting to see what happens in the next 20 years.

English-speaking countries all around the world teach Latin and Greek to help their students grasp the roots of the English nation. We Greeks ought to be able to capitalize on this.

What I would prefer to discuss with parents of Greek American children is what software, camps, and choices do we as parents need to address to make the Greek language system work for our children now, not in 15 years.

Stacey Spanos Hansel
Greenwich, Connecticut



CHRYSANTHI LIRISTIS / SPECIAL TO THE NATIONAL HERALD

ΛΟΓΟΣ

Can You Deal With Life's "Crises?"

Faced with a financial crisis, an employment crisis, a housing crisis, a healthcare crisis, an energy crisis, a global warming crisis, and a "war on terror" that still appears to have no end in sight, it's no wonder that Americans are becoming increasingly overwhelmed and stressed out! To be sure, life in the 21st Century is much more complex and complicated than what I had imagined when I was growing up. By the time we reached that magical year, "2000," I visualized and assumed that we all would be living in a utopian world much like "The Jetsons," the popular animated TV show of the 1960s about a futuristic family (by the way, a live-action adaptation of Hanna-Barbera's show is currently in development for release by Warner Brothers!).

Alright, so the future is here and what I had imagined as a child—that is, my utopian, "Jetson-like," heaven on earth vision—did not come to pass. And, yes, we live in uncertain, volatile, fragile, and undoubtedly stressful times. But life goes on, does it not? Why is it, however, that some people appear to have an easier time dealing with complex and challenging situations than others? And why do some people seem more capable of coping with stress, life challenges, and even "crises" outside of their control, than others?

One could say that through our various life experiences and from the investments we make in our own personal growth and development, our repertoire of coping skills can and usually does change over time. In other words, when we invest in ourselves—through, for instance, such things as training, counseling, and various methods of self-discov-

ery, the return, we figure, is going to be a renewed effectiveness in dealing with life's situations and, ideally, a more healthy and fulfilling life.

Naturally, this sounds pretty good. I'm afraid, however, that good intentions are not enough to get us through the myriad of life transitions that we all must face. Let me propose further that it's simply not enough to have a repertoire of coping skills (or, put differently, a "toolbox" filled with coping mechanisms) at our disposal, no matter how much we may have "paid" for them, when confronting life's formidable challenges and when dealing with stress. There is actually something more fundamental that, ultimately, must precede the use of such mechanisms if we really want to build and sustain our "coping" and stress management capabilities.

I was blessed to have as a mentor, the world-renown psychiatrist, Dr. Viktor Frankl, whose personal story of finding a reason to live in the most horrendous of circumstances—Nazi concentration camps—has inspired millions of people all around the world. In my book, Prisoners of Our Thoughts (which I wrote at Dr. Frankl's personal urging), you'll find his philosophy and therapeutic approach applied to life and work in the 21st century. In this regard, here is an important passage from my book that relates directly to building one's capacity for dealing with stress even under unimaginable condi-



by Dr. ALEX
PATTAKOS

Special to
The National Herald

following camps I had been sent. This is, as it were, a coping mechanism I adopted, I espoused, at that moment.

In Frankl's case, had he not adopted his coping beliefs upon his arrival at Auschwitz, he might not have been able to sustain his optimistic and passionate view about his chances of survival. Importantly, by choosing his fundamental attitude, which he called his "coping maxim," the coping mechanisms in his psychiatrist tool kit then became more meaningful and effective, not only for himself but also for his fellow prisoners, who were trying against the odds to survive the inescapable horrors of the Nazi death camps.

What lessons, we should all ask ourselves, can we learn from Dr. Frankl's experience? Think about difficult situations in your own life or work in which your attitude played a defining role in how well you were able to cope. Think about the coping mechanisms that were at your disposal. Did you choose to use them? Why or why not? How effective

were you in coping with the situation and the stresses that may have been associated with it? Now ask yourself a more fundamental question: What guides your coping skills?

In other words, what principle or principles underlie your decision-making during crises and in complex, challenging, and stressful situations?

Now ponder the times when you observed people who were guided by their coping skills in difficult decision-making situations. I am sure that you can identify cases of extraordinary resolve by your family members, friends, and co-workers during times of hardship—personal or occupational. Although these situations may not have been as catastrophic as that experienced by Viktor Frankl, they may still have been formidable and highly stressful, and perhaps even inescapable, challenges to overcome or survive. What can you learn from these people and how will you "grow" from their experiences? As a result, what principle or principles will underlie and guide your decision-making in complex, challenging, and stressful situations, including crises, now and in the future? What is your coping maxim?

Dr. Pattakos is the author of the international bestselling book, Prisoners of Our Thoughts: Viktor Frankl's Principles for Discovering Meaning in Life and Work, and the founder of the Center for Meaning, based in Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA. His column will be published weekly in The National Herald. Readers interested in contacting him with questions, comments, and/or suggestions for topics can send emails to: alex@prisonersofourthoughts.com.

COMMENTARY

Greece's Emigrant-Worker Time Bomb

By Dan Georgakas

Special to The National Herald

One of the few positives in the recent street violence in Greece was that foreign workers in Greece did not participate to any extent. This has not been the case in cities such as Paris and London where foreign workers have rioted. How long Greece can go without experiencing that kind of disruption is unclear. What is clear is that Greece has yet to form a sustainable policy on foreign workers.

Only three viable alternatives exist for Greece. All are problematic. Greece can use its military and police to expel or imprison all undocumented workers. Or Greece can set up a coherent guest worker system. Or Greece can follow the immigration practices exemplified by the United States.

Expelling all undocumented workers is not realistic. Greece's long coastline makes that virtually impossible. Greece also is constrained by EU regulations that classify many workers as political refugees, making it illegal to deport them to their native land. The EU, however, offers no financial assistance for member states to deal with refugees.

Far more attractive for most Greeks is the kind of guest worker program operating in Switzerland. Gaining citizenship is all but impossible, but guest workers can obtain permits that allow them to work at specific jobs for a specified time pe-

riod. Once that period ends, the workers must return to their native lands for a significant period or at least depart from Switzerland.

Workers are allowed to return repeatedly, but only in this organized and orderly manner. Those who do not conform to these rules are imprisoned. Switzerland, of course, is not bound by the regulations of the EU and its borders are far less porous than Greece's. What makes their system viable, however, is that minimal wages, health insurance, and other benefits guaranteed to foreign workers are enforced by the state.

Greece also has a work permit system, but that system is plagued by the infamous corruption and red tape of the Greek bureaucracy. Typically, only 200,000 work permits are issued annually. More significantly, the state does not protect the rights of foreign workers. Considerable economic exploitation of the undocumented is one consequence, and their ill treatment by police is the subject of EU reports.

The American method for dealing with emigrants is to offer citizenship to all who agree to de facto Americanization. This approach was in high gear in the 1880-1924 period that included the mass migration of Greeks to America. Presently, there are considerable tensions in the American Southwest due to the fact that these procedures have broken down to some degree. When all is said and done, however, the citizenship process in place is

not unlike that of the past.

Hellenization, the equivalent of Americanization, is not so easy for a small nation such as Greece. Perhaps even more than most other Europeans, Greeks have an intense cultural identification that creates a far different sense than in immigrant-built nations such as the US, Canada, and Australia. Further enmeshing Greek acceptance of the foreign-born is that the nation has very limited experience in dealing with massive waves of immigrants. Until recently, Greece itself was a significant exporter of labor.

Like all European countries now engulfed by mass immigration, the fear that Greek culture might be undesirably altered is genuine. The problem is not necessarily a sense of cultural superiority so much as the sense that immigrants are not attracted to Greece for its virtues but simply as a haven from intolerable homelands. The Greek emotional reality also differs from nations such as Britain, France, and the Netherlands where former colonial subjects are asking for a full partnership in a culture imposed upon them by those very nations.

A legal problem for Greeks willing to accept the cultural challenge of Hellenizing foreign workers is that the Greek constitution largely mandates that only persons with Greek ethnic heritage may become citizens. Thus, even if an immigrant man married a Greek woman and lived in Greece for fifty years, his sons/daughters would be eligible to

become citizens but not he. Since the 1970s, if repatriating immigrants of Greek heritage are excluded, less than 400 persons have been granted Greek citizenship.

At the informal level, of course, there has been considerable Hellenization, especially among immigrants with Balkan origins (63% Albanians, 10% Bulgarians, 4% Romanians). The percentage of workers from these areas, however, has been dropping in the past few years as more guest workers arrive from the Far East and Africa. Most of them are undocumented and have no particular affinity for Hellenic values.

Greece has a tendency to let a political situation boil and even explode before attempting the measures needed to remedy the problem. Foreign workers now make up at least 10% of the total population in Greece. All the options available for dealing with their ever-growing numbers are chancy. Enforcement of work permits is never easy and Hellenization of over a million-and-a-half newcomers in a short period has no precedent. Nonetheless, if a consensus does not develop over how to handle this situation, the consequences could be disastrous.

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LETTER FROM ATHENS

In Greece, too, There's 57 Channels and Nothin' On

In 1961, Federal Communications Commission Chairman Newton N. Minow gave a speech in which he said: "When television is good, nothing — not the theater, not the magazines or newspapers — nothing is better. But when television is bad, nothing is worse. I invite you to sit down in front of your television set when your station goes on the air and stay there, for a day, without a book, without a magazine, without a newspaper, without a profit and loss sheet or a rating book to distract you. Keep your eyes glued to that set until the station signs off. I can assure you that what you will observe is a vast wasteland."

It's not as vast in Greece, but just as empty too many hours of the day when, for every quality documentary on a good station like Skai or public broadcasters NET or ERT, Greek television, which this year will celebrate only the 20th anniversary of its two big private stations, Mega and Antenna, often resembles the worst of American television, which hasn't learned in nearly 50 years to weed out truly atrocious programming and has gotten worse. For every Band of Brothers or The Sopranos which makes you introspective and takes you down the deep and dark paths of the human psyche, there's another Jerry Springer, the King of Bad Taste.

But the station has abandoned its news shows, which isn't so bad because they have a sour-faced 4th grader as the anchor

But Springer and the purveyors of the putrid know what people want, be they Americans or Greeks or anywhere entertainment is allowed, and that's why, it's been said, that Donald Duck outsells the Bible. People say they want quality, but they love crap, and that's why reality TV shows are so successful. It's only a matter of time before executions are broadcast live, until people tire of those and want to ramp up the action. Maybe a nice genocide.

If you want to watch television in Greece your options are limited, although, thank God, American movies and programs are in English with Greek subtitles to help you learn the language. Too bad the same out-of-date movies are shown so often you wonder if they'll break on screen like old-fashioned film projectors used to do. If you're looking for news in Greece as you flip the channels you'll mostly see are paratheera, window set-ups where between four to six people are screaming at each other and you can't hear or understand any of them. And those are the good shows.

On Star TV, which isn't all bad because it has the Playmate contests and that's as good as a documentary on World War II, of course, news is reporting who's sleeping with who. While earthquakes and wars roll the earth, they'll lead with "My Albanian Boyfriend Left Me!" But Star also has Petroula, the ditzy blond weather-woman at night who slinks around in a short, tight low-cut dress and utters come-ons like, "A HARD rain's a-gonna fall, and ooh, the weather tomorrow will be almost as hot as me!" and then giggle. Next to her,



by ANDY DABILIS

Special to The National Herald

Marilyn Monroe was Madame Curie, but sex sells on TV and when she's on you have to peel a man's eyeballs off the screen with a spatula.

Even she's a rocket scientist compared to the party shows where about a thousand people sit around a table and drink and eat and dance and drink and eat and dance, and so badly too. And they always include a bevy of bleached blondes with single-digit IQ's who land all the men (I can't spell VW, but I got a Porsche!) showing both their assets with their décolletage. You can't miss them, they wear earrings the size of a discus and have to use one hand to hold up their almost topless dresses while spouting inanities, although they are required by law to wear sand bags around their ankles for ballast so they won't float away. One did and she was intercepted by Turkish fighter jets violating Greek airspace.

Alpha TV has the riotously funny comic mimic George Mitsikostas who nails everyone from celebrities to politicians perfectly, but the station has nearly abandoned its news shows, which isn't so bad because they have what appears to be a sour-faced fourth grader as the anchor and he looks like he hasn't gotten over being beat up in elementary school. Too many news hours like to have priests in their paratheera and you can't take them seriously since discovering so many of them are either stealing from their own church or the government or have taken a liking to little boys, just like the Catholics.

Mornings are for cooking shows, some very good, both those with Greek hosts and some American stars like Rachel Ray, and there's American shows like old Oprah Winfreys, but at least now they are in English with Greek subtitles unlike when they first appeared and someone was speaking Greek loudly over the English so you couldn't hear or understand in either language. But too much of Greek TV is saturated with the same stuff Minow complained about so long ago, that there were too few good programs in the 1960s like Have Gun Will Travel, and too many featuring game shows, formula comedies about unbelievable families, mayhem, violence and endless seas of commercials and, as he said, "most of all, boredom." Cable TV has helped bring some truly majestic shows to the air, but they've been overrun by stuff like shopping channels and sex hotlines, the same kind that appear in Greece, and make you want to crank up Bruce Springsteen singing 57 Channels and do what he did before you go crazy:

"So I bought a .44 magnum, it was solid steel cast/And in the blessed name of Elvis well I just let it blast/Til my TV lay in pieces there at my feet/And they busted me for disturbin' the almighty peace/Judge said 'What you got in your defense son?/Fifty-seven channels and nothin' on.'"

Mr. Dabilis was the New England editor for United Press International in Boston, and a staff writer and assistant metropolitan editor at the Boston Globe for 17 years before relocating to Greece. His column is published weekly in the National Herald. Readers interested in contacting him can send e-mails to andydabilis@gmail.com.

Who is the Next Ronald Reagan?

When Barack Obama secured the Democratic nomination last summer, conservative commentators, led by Sean Hannity and Rush Limbaugh, warned that Obama would be a one term-failure, in the model of Jimmy Carter. For all of his pitfalls, Carter did not lose his bid for reelection by himself; it was Ronald Reagan who beat him, and rather soundly. It is far too early, of course, to determine whether or not the pundits are right about Obama. Assuming that they turn out to be correct, however, and Obama is the next Jimmy Carter, then who is the next Ronald Reagan who can defeat him?

To think that Obama could lose in 2012, absent a Reagan-like opponent emerging to dethrone him, is delusional. Many of Obama's detractors were out of touch to have thought that John McCain could have beaten Obama in 2008. Because they are still reeling that Obama was elected in the first place, they are far too anxious to anoint an unworthy heir to Reagan's legacy, and might wind up with yet another hopeless candidate in the process.

If the politically disgruntled are serious about supporting a formidable contender to challenge Obama, then they must be uncompromising in selecting someone who possesses Reagan's three most illustrious qualities: vision, conservatism, and charisma.

Reagan was uncompromising in his vision. He set a few fundamental goals: rebuilding America's military, cutting taxes across the board, restoring the morale of the American people, and balancing the federal budget. When his critics, complained that he had failed to fulfill the last objective, he quipped that three out of four is a pretty good batting average.

Unlike many who invoke his name in the hopes of winning an election, Reagan was a true conservative. Granted, he had to concede some issues along the way, but he never took his eye off of the big picture. Reagan was unapologetically

conservative. He did not compromise in order to eke out a victory by a nose. That's why he beat Carter by a landslide, and won 49 out of 50 states four years later, and governed by virtue of a national mandate.

Above all, Reagan had charisma, the type that comes around once in a generation. FDR had it, so did JFK, and so does Obama. For a Republican to topple Obama, he or she must possess the same type of rock-star pizzazz. A few weeks ago, Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal, a conservative Republican, delivered the rebuttal following Obama's nationally-televised speech to Congress. Jindal emphasized conservative themes, but delivered them with almost no flair whatsoever. That some of Obama's detractors thought Jindal gave an excellent speech underscores their failure to understand what it takes to win an election. In defending the substance of his speech, Jindal himself ac-



by CONSTANTINIOS E. SCAROS

Special to The National Herald

President Bush's approval ratings were not as low as they were. When it comes to electrifying crowds, McCain, like Jindal, is not even in the same universe as Obama. Never was.

While it is much too early to foresee the political climate in 2012 (after all, who would have predicted in 2004 that Obama would have won in 2008?), Republicans might want to keep the following in mind: no one has excited the Republican base since the days of Ronald Reagan like Sarah Palin. She is a raw superstar



Ronald Reagan has left a gaping hole in the Republican Party, Scaros argues, and it will be very difficult for the GOP to fill his shoes.

The Expatriate Vote: Is it a Good Idea?

This newspaper has consistently supported the drive to grant to the Omogeneia the right to vote in the Greek elections. This past Tuesday, the bill for enacting this right came before the Greek legislature. It was defeated because constitutionally it required a two-thirds majority. Some people may find the outcome disappointing. I am not one of them. In my view the whole idea is flawed.

Let us consider some of the technical problems.

In the American Omogeneia, we have several different categories. First we have immigrants from Greece who continue to be Greek citizens and who have not become naturalized American citizens. This is a small, dwindling number. Second, we have Greeks from Greece who have become naturalized American citizens. Third, we have a very large number, who are second, third, fourth or even fifth generation Americans of Hellenic origin, many of them the offspring of mixed marriages with spouses who are not of Greek origin. They are the overwhelming majority.

Is the objective of this drive to give the right to vote in Greek elections to all of these dissimilar categories? It is not clear.

Of course, the Greek immigrants, who have not yet become naturalized American citizens, have every right to vote in Greek elections if they continue to be registered in the local electoral lists in Greece. This category presents no problem.

But what about those who have become naturalized citizens or those who are second, third, fourth or fifth generation? They are American citizens, the first category through the process of naturalization, the others through birth. In the past, a naturalized American citizen voting in another country

would risk his or her American citizenship. Now, this is not so, although by voting in Greek elections a naturalized citizen or an American-born citizen may encounter problems if he wants to be considered for a sensitive government position in the United States.

Those who are born in the United States will need to acquire Greek citizenship and be registered in the voting lists in Greece or perhaps in lists to be established in the Greek consular offices in the United States. Do the promoters of the voting rights really believe that many Americans of Hellenic origin born in the United States will take the trouble to acquire Greek citizenship and register in the Greek consulates so that they can vote in a Greek election?

The bill that came before the Greek parliament (Vouli) this past Tuesday did not include clear guidelines as to who will be eligible to vote and under what conditions, in spite of the known differences among the various groups that make up what we call the Omogeneia.

Without such guidelines establishing clearly who is eligible to vote in the Greek elections, the electoral process would turn into a fiasco.

The Omogeneia is not a cohesive, homogeneous group of people. A person from the second, third, or other generation is unlikely to care, or to be informed, or even to wish to be involved in Greek politics. It is usually different in the case of an immigrant who came from Greece, continues to



by DR. D.G. KOUSSOULAS

Special to The National Herald

speak Greek and still remembers his town of origins and his friends who still remain in Greece.

Inevitably, even if the right is granted to all without distinction, participation will be limited to a relatively few because the great majority have little knowledge or connection to the political problems and conditions in Greece.

Even then, however, the granting of the right to vote will introduce partisan divisions at least among those who are closer to Greece. Seven or eight decades ago, the Omogeneia was shattered by the fierce conflict between those who loved Venizelos and those who loved King Constantine. Even churches were divided over the partisan issues.

Now, the partisan conflicts will not have the same destructive intensity, nevertheless the right to vote is bound to inject partisan divisions.

At the present time, when Omogeneia leaders like Andrew Athens, or Eugene Rossides fight to defend the Greek national interests in the halls of the highest American institutions, they speak for the Omogeneia, pure and simple. What will happen if such leaders or some others who aspire not only to vote in Greek elections but also to run for office in the Greek parliament begin to identify themselves with one or the other Greek party, with PASOK or the New Democracy, or SYRIZA, or the Communist party, or LAOS? Will they retain their present, non-partisan, all-inclusive identity? Will not this partisan affiliation weaken and undermine their standing when they go to speak to

with charisma in droves. But four years is not going to be enough time for her to polish her disturbingly rough edges. Perhaps she could emerge as a serious contender in 2016 or 2020.

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich has emerged as a well-respected Republican elder statesman, and his age — he will be 69 in 2003 — may actually work in his favor if Obama has a bad four years and his ineffectiveness is attributed to youth and inexperience. Let us not forget, Reagan was 69 as well when he was elected president. But Gingrich has had his share of political scandals, and has been gun-shy about announcing his intentions to run.

At this point, it seems that the Republicans' best chances to unseat Obama would be to nominate Mike Huckabee, the former governor of Arkansas, who won the Iowa Caucus in 2008, but whose momentum was thwarted by a handful of insignificant conservative spoilers, and by libertarian Ron Paul. Huckabee, who now hosts his own show on the highly-rated Fox News Channel, is telegenic, has a warm personality, and solid conservative credentials. If Republicans are smart, they will put all of their eggs in his basket now.

In any event, whoever challenges Obama in 2012 will have two severe disadvantages: challenging the incumbent president (almost always an uphill climb), and competing against the most charismatic politician in a generation. That is why whoever steps up to that challenge and, who will inevitably throw around Reagan's name, needs to possess vision, conservatism, and charisma, Reagan's greatest virtues.

Constantinos E. Scaros is a published author and expert in American presidential history, with a background in Ancient Greek history. He teaches history, political science, and law at New York University, and is the Dean of Criminal Justice at Katharine Gibbs College.

GUEST EDITORIALS: The National Herald welcomes manuscripts representing a variety of views for publication in its View Points page. They should include the writer's name, address, telephone number and be addressed to the View Points Editor, The National Herald, 37-10 30th St., LIC, NY 11101. They can also be e-mailed to english.edition@thenationalherald.com. Due to considerations of space we enforce a strict 850-word upper limit. We reserve the right to edit.

Obama's Turkish Tryst Will Turn into a Tempest

By Christopher Tripoulas
Special to The National Herald

You've got to hand it to those wily Turks. They certainly know how to play their hand. It would not be unreasonable to equate Turkey to the rather mediocre-looking neighborhood girl, who is always surrounded by suitors, and nobody really knows why. Maybe it's her convenient location or the fact that she can belly dance, but this "plain Jane" always seems to outdo the nicer, prettier girls... And so, Turkey has managed to dupe everyone into thinking she's the Marilyn Monroe of the Mediterranean, with the help of a wig, a fake mole, and padding in the right places.

This time, the latest neighborhood boy to come under her spell is Barack Obama. He arrived at her doorstep, with candy, flowers, and serenade. On his way over, he was blowing kisses from Strasbourg and Prague, and trying to court her

by whispering "sweet nothings" in the ears of European leaders.

When Turkey had a tizzy over the election of a new NATO Secretary-General, our President did what most men do when the girl they're sweet on begins to whine: pacify her with gifts. Turkey, you see, didn't want Danish Premier Anders Fogh Rasmussen to be NATO Secretary-General after he refused her demands (hell hath no fury than a woman scorned) that he shut down a Kurdish TV station and go after a cartoonist who "offended" Turks and other Muslims. It's too bad Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan isn't nearly as sensitive to his country's persecution of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Even Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi — who fancies himself as quite the ladies man — tried to step in and help President Obama "seal the deal." He blew off all his counterparts and spent two hours on the phone pleading with Turkey to let

Rasmussen take the NATO job. Eat your heart out Paris Hilton! When's the last time you got a two-hour phone call from a suitor? Of course, in the end, Turkey consented, with a little incentive. Turkey was promised membership in the European Defense Agency, increasing Ankara's clout in the EU's defense affairs...so it can continue violating international law in Cyprus and Greece, unimpeded.

President Obama wanted to make sure to get on his new sweetheart's good side by singing her praises in Europe. Acting less presidential and more like a promoter trying to get his b-movie actress a gig in Hollywood, the boys in Europe didn't buy the argument.

French President Nicholas Sarkozy — who knows a thing or two about women (when he split with his ex-wife, a model, he married another model — only better looking) — was not impressed. There are some girls you just don't bring home to mom, and Turkey is

certainly one of them. To his credit, Sarkozy publicly expresses his skepticism about Turkey. And for the second year in a row, he has defended European values and gone toe-to-toe with a US President to do so (remember last April when he defended Greece's veto of FYROM at the NATO summit, in the presence of George Bush?). Someone — particularly Greece — should give this man an award.

But getting back to Turkey...all this courting has certainly turned her into somewhat of a diva. A spoiled diva, who's used to getting her way. Girls of this sort are usually bad news.

Hopefully, President Obama won't learn this lesson the hard way. In fact, Turkey's history makes the girls you read about in Star Magazine the picture of stability and integrity.

And before Barack bets the farm on Turkey... here's a little reminder. In World War II, "neutral" Turkey sold chrome ore to the Nazis. It is

estimated that without this valuable resource, Hitler's war machine wouldn't have made it through the year. In the early 1970's, Turkey — saturated in U.S. funding — formed a military alliance with the Soviet Union.

Even today, Russia — America's on-again off-again rival — continues to be one of Turkey's top trade partners. And of course, who can forget when Turkey refused let the U.S. army pass through its territory en route to the invasion of Iraq. That's some strategic partner the U.S. has.

Meanwhile, Turkey's volatile PM Tayyip Erdogan recently publicly humiliated Israeli President Shimon Peres at the World Economic Forum in Davos and called him a killer. Erdogan's behavior at last weekend's NATO Summit was just another example of Turkey's complete disregard for its "allies" and "partners." Turkey's motto should be "ask not what we can do for you, but what you can do for us."

In all the furor over his visit to

Turkey, President Obama decided to rebuff the Ecumenical Patriarch's invite to visit one of Christianity's oldest and most important sees. In ignoring the "logical sheep" of the Christian flock, President Obama is risking to look pretty sheepish in the eyes of the international community when his Turkish delight goes sour, as it inevitably does time and time again.

Sooner or later Mr. Obama is bound to see Turkey in the light of dawn without her makeup, and the site won't be pretty.

Look for the Armenian genocide question and the political future of Nancy Pelosi and countless other California Democrats to be the first wake up call.

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Cyprus: That Implausibly Sunny Island

By Linda Clarkson
New Zealand Herald

I don't know why it took me so long to visit Cyprus. I love the Mediterranean and I love exploring island life - especially in beautiful settings that are steeped in history and myth. The Greek islands have always been my idea of heaven in that respect. Perhaps I simply never felt the need to venture elsewhere.

As the legendary birthplace of Aphrodite, Cyprus has equally impeccable classical credentials. According to Homer's *Odyssey*, the goddess of love emerged from the waves in a surge of white foam on the island's south coast, next to a craggy limestone rock formation known as Petra Tou Romiou. It was always likely to be my sort of place.

In the end, though, it was the need to travel early in the year that

yet to warm up, Cyprus is usually blue-skied, balmy and ablaze with fields of flowers. (The wild orchids appear in the lowlands from February. By this time of year, you can expect vivid swathes of scarlet gladioli, alongside silky drifts of almond blossom.)

It was March when I made my first visit - a month which even the most loyal Graecophile would be pushed to recommend as a promising bet for Greek island-hopping. To my delight, the weather was gorgeous. The sea was a bit too cool for swimming, but turquoise and glittering. The sand was warm. The air was luminous.

As a newcomer to Cyprus, I'd decided to let the island give me its best shot and had opted for an awesomely luxurious destination - the Anassa hotel and spa, built like a mini-village on the coast of the se-

Chrysochou Bay, which the hotel leads down to, is said to be one of the best on the island.

Being a bit of a beachcomber, I sometimes have a struggle with exclusive hotels. But it was hard not to like the Anassa. Complete with its own market square and Byzantine church, the complex is made up of pretty, whitewashed villas with biscuit-coloured roof tiles, set amid lovely gardens that are laden with bougainvillea and lanterns and awash with lavender and aromatic herbs. It was wonderfully restful. Birds sang in the trees, and tiny white butterflies floated like rose petals.

It was also, I discovered, a great place to indulge in a bit of pampering - the state-of-the-art Thalassa Spa offers all manner of luxurious treatments. I started off with a Cleopatra Milk Bath - a scented concoction of rose, jasmine and organic milk (so called because Mark Antony gave Cyprus to Cleopatra as a love token). Thereafter, it was one cocktail of organic ingredients after another.

By the time I'd had an Anassa Signature Cypriot Scrub (virgin olive oil, sea salt and oregano) followed by a wrap treatment (organic yogurt and honey), I felt like a walking advertisement for healthy Cypriot cuisine - oiled to within an inch of my life and packed full of vitamins. It was definitely time to leave the hotel and start exploring.

The nearest fishing village, Latchi, was a bit of a disappointment. The harbourside is lined with fish restaurants, some of them occupying converted sponge divers' warehouses. But the place itself is not exactly picturesque - mostly just a rather lackluster string of modern shops housing archetypal tourist tat and awful "leisurewear".

Even though parts of Greece are equally blighted, unfair comparisons were starting to form in my head.

Fortunately, my next outing on a signposted trail to the nearby Ourtis Afroditis (Baths of Aphrodite) - was much more encouraging: a pleasant stroll through glades of carob, juniper and red-berried lentisk trees, leading to an eerily atmospheric recess thick with lush vegetation. Enclosed within it is a cool, clear pool where the goddess of love is said to have bathed.

The pool is fed by water dripping from a spring above, cascading like skeins of glass thread down the dank, dark rock-face and unraveling over labyrinths of twisted tree-trunks.

Nearby, with an entrance framed by a cloud of red hibiscus, is a cheerful cafe directly overlooking the sea. Complete with old-fashioned blue plastic chairs and checked tablecloths, the cafe's been there for 45 years now.

Tucking in to a plate of delicious meze and watching the owner's pet chipmunks somersaulting in their cage, I began to feel I was in a real country at last.

But the best experience of my visit was still to come: a whole day spent exploring the lesser-known parts of the Akamas peninsula in a 4x4 with a friendly local chef and his girlfriend who'd invited me to join them on their day off.

Formally designated as a National Park and conservation area in 2007, the peninsula is breathtaking - a stunning expanse of forests, isolated bays and dramatic gorges. It's home to an abundance of



Petra Tou Romiou: the legendary birthplace of Aphrodite

wildlife, including rare breeds of bats, birds and flowers. I even spotted a chameleon. And, rather thrillingly, its thick woodland provides refuge for the last of Cyprus's wild mouflon (the goat-/deer-like creature that serves as the symbol of Cyprus Airways).

Ironically, the main reason that the peninsula's rugged hinterland has remained so undeveloped is that, until the late 1990s, much of it was sealed off for use as a live firing range by the British armed forces.

The presence of the British army on Cyprus has left some unfortunate legacies - not least in the depressingly uniform rows of expatriate retirement villas that choke the countryside on some parts of the island's coast (about one in three of the residents around Paphos is British).

But there are certainly no signs of incomers in this still-unspoiled landscape. Instead, there are just

scatterings of traditional settlements where local farmers keep bees, or grow olives, vines and almonds.

Meanwhile, black-shawled old ladies tend tribes of goats (for haloumi cheese production) or make rag rugs. It's rural life in a time capsule.

At the end of our day out, with evening drawing in, my new friends took me to the mountain village of Kera to meet Chino, a local artist.

Within minutes we were sharing tumblers of wine in his courtyard under the fig trees, and I'd decided that Cyprus was definitely proving worth the visit.

Two hours later, as a row of empty bottles lengthened beside us, Chino was holding court with an unstoppable riff on the subject of the new flag being proposed by the United Nations in anticipation of a reunified Cyprus.

Greek-Cypriot by birth and - in both cigarette habit and temperament - the mountainside's resident human volcano, he clearly has little faith in politicians.

"It's a flag for infidels!" he announced, stabbing the air with a cigarette and exhaling impressive quantities of smoke.

"I ask you - what other God-fearing European country doesn't have a cross on its national flag? Go on - think of one."

"Well, there's Germany," I said. "Or France... or Holland?" Chino waved his hand dismissively.

For a moment I contemplated offering Italy as a trump card, but decided enough might be enough. This was obviously no time to let the facts get in the way of a good rant.

Out came a bottle of the local Zivania firewater, and we all settled back for the evening. Cyprus was turning out just fine.



Akamas Peninsula



Chrysochou Bay

finally took me to Cyprus. It's the third-largest island in the Mediterranean, and also the easternmost and the sunniest. A reputed 300 days of sunshine a year make it a very appealing prospect for visiting outside of the regular summer season.

In early spring, when Greece has

cluded Akamas Peninsula.

The Akamas peninsula is part of the Republic of Cyprus (rather than the self-styled Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus). The peninsula is the spectacular rugged outcrop on its north-west coast, encompassing a host of small coves and turtle beaches. The fine sandy beach on



The Akrotiri Peninsula is a short peninsula which is the southern most point of the island of Cyprus. The peninsula is bounded to the west and east by Episkopi Bay and Akrotiri Bay. The peninsula has two capes to the south-west and south-east known as Cape Zevgari and Cape Gata.

Food & Wine

What Distinguishes Traditional Greek Cuisine

What distinguishes traditional Greek cuisine is a combination of the following factors: unique ingredients, the Greek philosophy regarding eating and sharing meals, as well as the country itself and the atmosphere in general.

THE BASIC INGREDIENTS

Greek cuisine has four secrets: fresh ingredients of good quality, proper use of herbs and spices, the famous Greek olive oil and its basic simplicity. Greek olive oil deserves a special mention. Present in almost all Greek dishes, and in most of them in abundant quantities, it is of excellent quality and very good for health. Then there are the vegetables and herbs. Due to the mild Greek climate, greenhouse cultivation of vegetables is not wide-

spread. Therefore, most vegetables are grown outdoors and are very tasty and full of aroma. You will be delighted with the taste of Greek tomatoes, lettuces, carrots, onions, parsley and garlic, not to mention the rich flavor and aroma of fresh fruit: grapes, apricots, peaches, cherries, melons, watermelons, to name but a few. The herbs collected by most Greeks on the mountains and in the countryside are renowned for their taste, scent and healing properties. When eating one of the many different Greek dishes, the aroma of oregano, thyme, spearmint or rosemary will inebriate you. Do not forget also to try the Greek cheeses and particularly feta. As lambs and goats in Greece are free-grazing and pas-

tures are very rich in herbs, meats have a unique taste not to be found anywhere else in the world. Seafood from the Mediterranean Sea is far more tasty than that from the oceans. In the Aegean and the Ionian Seas, the waters are crystal clear and abound with fish. Char-broiled fresh fish is considered a treat.

THE GREEK PHILOSOPHY

The time of day when the Greeks gather around a table to enjoy a meal, or some appetizers (mezedes) with ouzo, is a time held in reverence by all the inhabitants of this country. For the Greeks, sharing a meal with friends, either at home, at a restaurant or a taverna, is a deeply rooted social affair. The Greek word symposium, a



word as ancient as the country itself, if translated literally, means drinking with company.

The atmosphere in typically Greek restaurants and tavernas is very relaxed, informal and unpretentious. Food preparation, on the other hand, has its own sacred rules.

Good amateur cooks are held in great esteem in their social circles. A good housewife, in Greece, means a good cook. And a good cook can spend days preparing a meal for his or her friends.

THE ATMOSPHERE

Try having a glass of ouzo or wine, accompanied by barbecued octopus or any other Greek dish, while sitting beneath the shadow of a tree, at a small tavern by the sea,

on one of the Aegean islands. Then, when you go back home, try repeating that experience by preparing the same dish and serving the same drink. No matter where you decide to have it, you will soon discover that it does not taste the same. Do not try again. There is nothing wrong with the delicacy of your palate or your cooking skills.

The Greek meal experience, namely the combination of what you eat and where you eat it, cannot be repeated, exported or duplicated.

It is something you can only find, taste and enjoy in Greece, like the blue of the Aegean Sea.

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