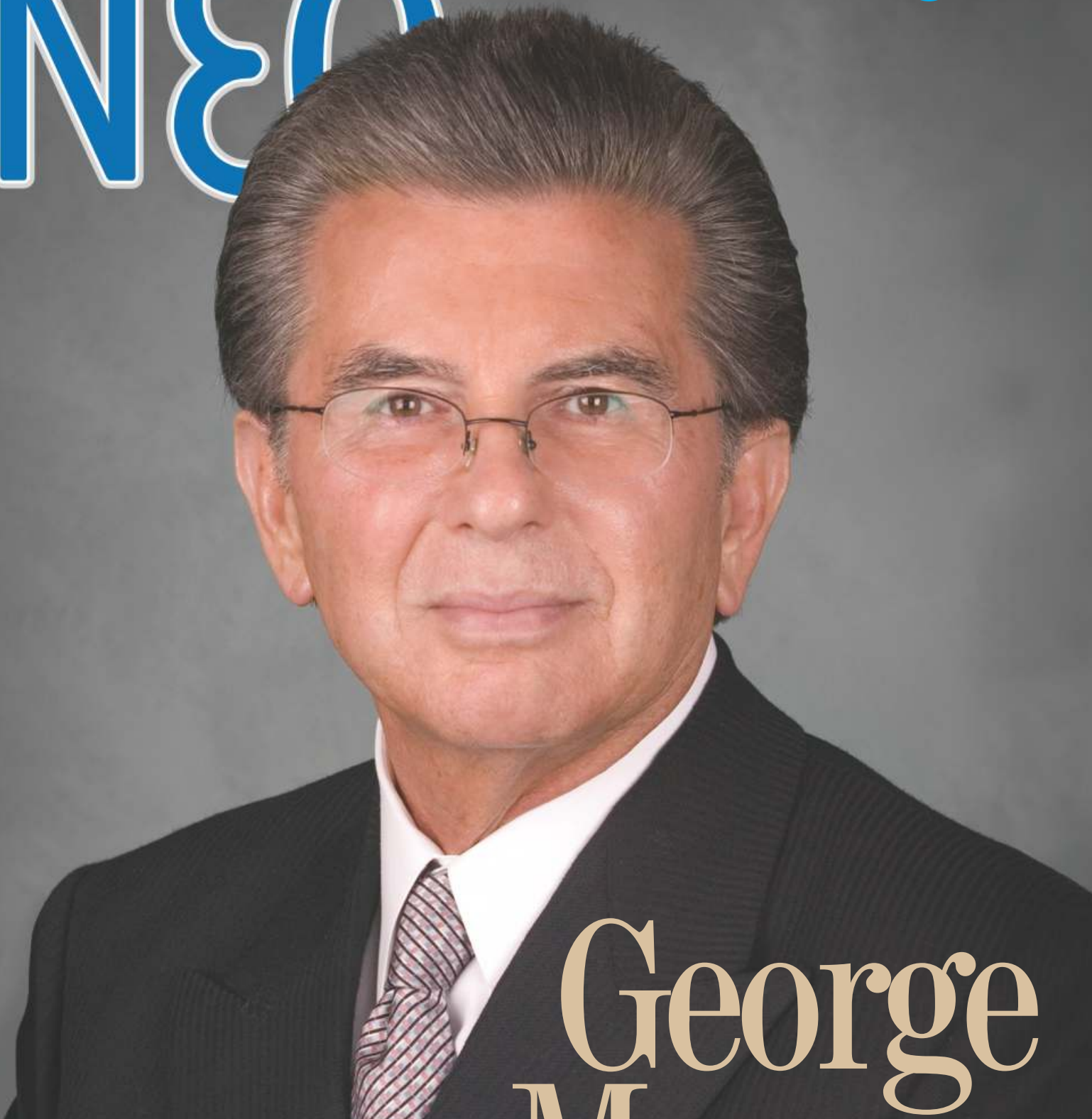


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FROM THE EDITOR



## “OXI” AND YES

It was in the middle of the night on October 28, 1940 that the Italian ambassador to Greece, Emanuele Grazzi, left a party at his embassy and visited Ioannis Metaxas, the prime minister of Greece. He had an ultimatum: allow the Italian army to enter Greece and take over “strategic” locations or there would be war. The legend is that Metaxas

said, “Oxi,” to the proposal. The reality is that Metaxas said, in the French of diplomacy, “Then it is war.”

The next morning the Greeks took to the streets and shouted “Oxi!” and “Oxi” Day has been celebrated ever since.

Long before that, the Persian king Darius in 491 B.C. sent his ambassadors to the Greek city states vying for their freedom and demanding “earth and water”: the traditional token of submission. Unfortunately for the ambassadors, the Athenians put them on trial and then executed them, and the Spartans threw them down a well, but democracy was defended.

The Colonials of the American colonies told King George what to do with his tea and his proposed taxes by throwing his tea in Boston Harbor and tarring and feathering the king’s tax collectors.

Establishing, and maintaining, a democracy is a bloody business. But as Winston Churchill said: No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all-wise. Indeed it has been said that democracy is the worst form of Government except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time....

At a time of barbarism and autocracy, where ordinary people were no more than slaves, the ancient Athenians created democracy, where each individual (albeit male) had a voice. At a time of barbarism and fascism, where the ordinary citizens of the world were threatened with genocide, the world rose up and defended freedom and human rights. At a time of kings and queens and their theocracy, the American democracy declared itself against all odds and became the most successful democracy in history: we’ve earned the right to be heard and cast our votes.

Please cast your vote whatever your persuasion and say Yes to democracy. You have a right to be heard, you have the right to determine not only your future, but the future of the loved ones in your family. There are countries in the world right now, where people have no rights—where they live in dictatorships and theocracies and have about as many rights as the peasants of Anatolia had during the reign of the Persian kings. We in America have a voice, and the older generations have an obligation to convince their sons and daughters and disaffected friends that they have a voice, a critical one: they are the so-called independents and undecideds that might determine this American election. Kids don’t want to participate in the system because they think the system doesn’t represent them: the system represents all those who vote, and very often the best in people in times of world-changing crisis.

As one thinker put it: “Democracy is based upon the conviction that there are extraordinary possibilities in ordinary people.”

DIMITRI C. MICHALAKIS

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# “NEW SHOES!”

## American postwar humanitarianism in the papers of Anna Howell Hayward (1908–2001)

by Ilias Chrissochoidis\*

The caption to the above photograph from 1946 could serve as the cry of rural Greece at the end of WWII. Collapsed infrastructure, thousands of burned villages with hundred thousand inhabitants reduced to primitive existence, not to mention the butchered civilians by German soldiers, the victims of starvation, and the unprecedented looting of the treasury, make the hellish bill of the German occupation of Greece (1941–44).

With the British desperate to crush communism and reestablish George II in Greece, the country’s existential threat from food and clothing shortage, widespread disease, and economic arrest could only be addressed by the U.S.A. The Greek War Relief Association had already secured humanitarian aid during the Occupation. By the end of WWII, however, continuous and expanded aid was more than urgent.

The United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) was a temporary answer, as it dissolved in 1947. By contrast, the veteran Near East Foundation (NEF), originally set up in 1915 to relieve the victims of Turkish genocidal policies in Anatolia,

assumed leadership in humanitarian aid, especially for children. Its “Eagle’s nests” in Kifissia, Bakasaki, Agrinion, Distomo, Konitsa, Kalavrita, and Florina, each hosted up to 400 children for three months, providing medical care, healthy nourishment, new clothing, education and recreation. A key to their success was NEF’s highly trained staff like Anna Howell Hayward.



Before and after NEF’s humanitarian intervention.

Born in 1908 outside Philadelphia, Anna was a teacher who joined the American war relief effort in 1943. A year later she was sent, via Cairo, to rural Greece to organize UNRRA rehabilitation hostels for local children.

Starting in March 1945, she served in Patras, Ioannina, Agrinion, and Konitsa. In October 1945, she assumed NEF’s directorship of Child Welfare for western Greece, where she stayed until the summer of 1946. Returning to the States, she married Robert Clifton Patton Lisle and spent the rest of her life in Pennsylvania.



Anna’s service in Greece would have been lost to posterity were it not for the posthumous donation of her papers to Hoover Institution (discovered there by this writer in 2014). They include official reports, photos, prints, and a volume of photocopied letters she wrote to her mother between 1944–46. Although she left no structured narrative of her social work like other colleagues (see Gonda Van Steen, *The Battle for Bodies, Hearts, and Minds in Postwar Greece* [2024]), her papers document conditions in postwar rural Greece and thus merit public exposure through digitization. May this introduction open eyes, hearts, and, of course, pockets, to that end.

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\* **Dr. Ilias Chrissochoidis** (<http://www.stanford.edu/~ichriss>) is a researcher at Stanford University, author, pianist and composer. He has edited Spyros P. Skouras, *Memoirs* (1893–1953) and has discovered dozens of historical sources on modern Greece in American archives (<https://stanford.academia.edu/ILIASCHRISOCHOIDIS/Modern-Greek-History>).





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# ΘΕΙΑ ΦΩΤΩ (AUNT PHOTO) AND HER OXI

“What you have to know, now that you are entering the family,” my great-grandmother told my wife, upon meeting her for the first time, “is that the women of our clan are strong. They are made of iron.” Grasping her hand so tightly that my wife winced with pain, my great-grandmother stated at her intently. “Hell, we even pissed in the face of the Germans.”



My Assyrian wife smiled politely. My great-grandmother's heavy Epirote accent, her rather allusive manner of speaking coupled with my wife's rudimentary grasp of Greek at the time, meant that she understood nothing. «Ναι, πολύ ωραία,» she offered in exchange.

An hour later, my great-grandmother offered her assessment: “A sweet girl, but I had difficulty understanding what she was saying. She must come from an island, or something.”

“What's all this about pissing in the face of the Germans?” I inquired. “I've never heard that story before. Is this literal or metaphorical?”

My great-grandmother raised her gnarled fingers and adjusted her headscarf. “Have you heard of θεια-Φώτω?” she asked. “She was my aunt, but she didn't live in the village. She lived in the Castle in Giannena. The kindest and most generous woman you could ever imagine. All the poor would come to her door and for each of them she would have something to give: some bread, a radish, some garlic or some fruit. And if she had no food to give you when you visited, then she would cut a flower from her garden and give her that. We

got our love of flowers from her because she was one of the few people at the time who grew flowers for their beauty and for the pleasure of looking at them.”



“Now you must know that many Jews lived in the neighbourhood of the Castle. The Turks had moved them after the great revolt of 1611 and they were the dominant group in the area. Don't ask me where they were before that, I have no idea. All I know is that the old people used to say that they were there since the time of the Emperors. At any rate, they were one of the most vibrant groups in Giannena, and there was great rivalry between traders. While some people, shunned them, most of us got on well with them. θεια-Φώτω's neighbour was a Jew. We called her Anna the Freemason and she was my aunt's best friend. Inseparable they were, to the extent where she would even accompany my aunt to church feast days. Of course, there is the tale of how my aunt tried to enter the synagogue, which was just a few streets away with Anna, but of course she was stopped and prevented from entering, but that is another story.”



“When the Italians invaded, my aunt, Anna and I would get together and knit singlets and socks for the soldiers on the front. We would sing patriotic songs and Anna would chant some haunting hymns of her own people. When she wasn't knitting, my aunt was helping out as a nurse at the local hospital, a position she continued with during the occupation. In those early days when our boys were beating back the fascists from the mountains of our land, no one made distinctions between Christians and Jews. Jewish boys from Giannena were fighting the invader, alongside their Christian neighbours and friends. We were all Greeks and together

we were performing the impossible. Even when our army was defeated and the Italians came and occupied our city, the camaraderie continued. These were tough times. Food was hard to come by, there was great uncertainty and people changed. You didn't know who you could trust anymore. And throughout it all, there was θεια-Φώτω, with a kind word for all, a morsel of food for an orphan of a soldier killed in the war, for a widow, in truth, for everyone.”



“Life was miserable and one of my only solaces was visiting my aunt on the occasions that I went to Giannena to purchase food, or to sell produce, in order to listen to her stories. She wove vivid tales of the time of the Emperors, of the Revolution, of our own ancestors in Souli. All her narratives were steeped with a love of freedom, with a love of our country. It was at this time, in 1943, when the Italians switched sides and then surrendered to the Germans, that things became even more difficult. From an Italian you could expect pity. From a German only pain. Food became even more scarce. People closed in on themselves. Fear loomed over everything.”



“It was no longer safe for Anna and the rest of her people to walk around in public. The Germans announced a set of laws that discriminated against the entire Jewish community. In secret, my aunt would visit her and take her food. She would caution me never to speak of her outdoors, lest this draw the attention of the hated Nazis. From snatches of conversation from my other aunts and indeed as my aunt admitted to me later herself, she would, whenever she was able, purloin medicines from the hospital and then, at enormous risk to her own life, contrive ways to visit the households of sick Jews, especially children, and administer them to them.”

“It was a terrible time,” my great-grandmother placed her hands over her eyes and wiped away tears. “It was as if God himself had abandoned these people. I hadn’t been to see my aunt for a month and one day, when I arrived, I saw an enormous elephantine-sized chamber pot in the middle of the room, in front of the fireplace. This struck me as extremely odd. Θεια-Φώτω was obsessed with hygiene and there was no way that she would store this object anywhere except under her bed, let alone in the middle of her living room. The over-sized nature of the receptacle was also baffling.



“What is this relic doing here, aunt?” I asked, stifling a laugh.

“Oh that, my aunt shrugged. “I am old now and I struggle to go up the stairs. I sleep down here now, so what else can I do?”



“My aunt is becoming old and senile,” I thought to myself but I thought nothing of it. It was now March 1944. Θεια-Φώτω had grown increasingly frail and this time it was I who was taking food to her, a few greens I had



managed to pick and which I intended to boil for her. I knocked on her door and waited for what seemed to be an inordinately long time before she opened. Unlike other times, my aunt did not greet me with a smile. She looked dishevelled and was panting. Looking left and right apprehensively, she asked me: “What are you doing here? Never mind. Come inside quickly,” pushing me into her house.

She said nothing when I showed her the green that I had brought her. Instead, she continuously looked out of the window, answering my questions monosyllabically with increasing amounts of distraction. When they came, it was in a way, a relief. We could hear their boots tramping on the cobblestones



outside and when the sharp banging on the door commenced, my aunt rose like an automaton and opened, regarding the soldiers who streamed into the house with a look of complete indifference. They in turn, without saying anything, began to turn the house upside down. I was too afraid to ask my aunt what they were looking for. Upstairs, I could hear soldiers opening cupboards, and throwing pieces of furniture around. My aunt, her arms crossed, watched them impassively.”

“When the soldiers who were searching upstairs descended, most probably reporting to their superior that their quest had been fruitless, he ordered them outside and took a final cursory look at the downstairs room



before departing. It was then that his eyes fell upon the chamber pot. He stared at it motionlessly for a time, his eyes narrowing. Slowly he leaned, almost imperceptibly toward it. Instantaneously, Θεια-Φώτω sprang from where she was standing by the door, dashed to the chamber pot and lifting up her skirts, sat over it and began to urinate. She looked up at the Nazi and raised her eyebrows plaintively by way of apology. Disgusted, the Nazi spat in her direction, turned on his heels and stormed out.”

“The tinkle in the chamber pot has ceased yet Θεια-Φώτω remained suspended over it for what seemed to be an age. Then, as if awakening from a dream, she glanced at me, momentarily wondering what I was doing there before ordering me out of the house. “Shut up. Don’t ask me anything. Go quickly” she urged. Don’t come for a while. And if I am not here when you do, don’t linger. Just go.”

“I left, the hourlong walk back to my village seeming to take an entire day. A few days later I learned that the Germans had rounded up all the Jews of Giannena and taken them away. In the darkness of my own home, I shed tears for Anna and worried about the erratic behaviour of my aunt, who even in my subsequent visits



seemed more nervous and distracted than ever before. It was only in October when the Nazi scum saw fit to leave having reduced our entire country to ruins that I found out the truth: Kind and placid Θεια-Φώτω was part of a resistance group run by the Metropolitan of Ioannina Spyridon, with a major cell operating out of the hospital. Beneath the gigantic chamber pot placed so carelessly on the floor, was a concealed opening into a cellar below. And it is in that cellar that my aunt hid her friend Anna and her family, on that fateful day that she urinated in the face of the Nazi jackboot, having also hid on other occasions, some other Jewish boys from her neighbourhood, and a number of freedom-fighters, until such time as other operatives deemed it safe to retrieve them and lead them up into the mountains to safety. She never saw Anna ever again. I don’t know where she ended up.”

“May your girl be as iron-like as Every time s he gives me grief about it, I tell her in no uncertain terms: Θεια-Φώτω. my great-grandmo



ther conferred a benediction. “May she piss in t he face of all fascists, of whatever description , for in truth they have never really left us.” Then glancing at my open mouth half-formin g a question, she smiled: “The pot? What became of it? Why, I brought it with me to Australia.” She pointed meaningfully to a lar ge piece of crockery in the hallway in which a rather Victorian fern was resting. “Why do you think I used to laugh so much when you w ould go and urinate in that plant as a child? Do you know how many times your aunt has b egged me to get rid of it. But it is the only think I have of Θεια-Φώτω,” OXI.”



# Irene Sarri:

an invaluable asset in NYC's real estate environment

by Pandora Spelios

Dynamic, dependable, and highly professional, Irene Sarri has followed her passion into real estate. Her international exposure and extensive educational background are complemented by her strong business acumen and intimate knowledge of New York City. This makes Irene an invaluable asset in the real estate environment.

Sarri provides her distinct clientele with unparalleled resources to best service their real estate needs in residential and commercial deals. She works with sellers, buyers and investors.

Irene holds the certification of the Real Estate Negotiation Expert and has been Awarded as Top Producing Agent on various years including 2023 and 2022. "I realize that my success is ultimately determined by the legacy

I leave with each and every one of my clients."

**There is a lot going on lately with the decision of the Fed to lower the interest rates significantly. Can you explain why?**

This month is of particular interest as the US central banking system—the Federal Reserve or the Fed made a big move and adjusted lending rates by 50 percentage points. The central bank is trying to keep inflation ideally around 2%. After the pandemic, prices have escaped and finally exceeded 7% in 2022. The Federal Reserve has made gigantic efforts to fight persistent inflation by raising interest rates 11 times in 16 months and keeping them there for over a year. But what started to worry the government now is that the new market positions recorded in America for the month of August were counted at 142,000, much less

than the 210,000 a year ago. In an attempt to stimulate the market, the Fed announced at its September meeting that it would cut lending rates for commercial banks by 50 basis points. The move marked the first rate cut since the start of the pandemic.

**Are mortgage rates directly related to interest rates, what does the reduction in interest rates mean?**

Mortgage rates aren't directly correlated to interest rates, but 10-year Treasury yields — a better barometer for mortgage rates — have been falling in anticipation of rate cuts. Lower lending rates mean lower borrowing costs for consumers in the form of mortgages, cars and credit cards. They can also create an incentive for businesses to grow or even hire. Lowering interest rates is designed to stimulate spending, lead to a stronger economy and ultimately higher employment and a more competitive labor market.

**Can you tell us what your clients are sharing with you these days?**

They will often say things in these lines: Should I wait longer for interest rates to drop further before we buy our house? Since the interest rates are to drop further, why rush to buy now? My responsibility is to educate them that unfortunately, we have to expect that the fall in mortgage rates will release the number of buyers who were sitting on the sidelines all along and that will result in the prices to rise! if you're a seller, the market is hungry for new homes for sale and sellers are getting their full asking price, and sometimes higher if their homes are fairly priced. if you are a seller and the next day you sell your home, you become a buyer in a new area, hurry to get ahead of the rising prices in the housing markets.

**What are the traits of a seasoned real estate broker?**

My belief is that you can only be a professional real estate broker if you truly love what you do as is the case with every field. A broker should be close to the pulse of the market, monitor the activity of the market and have a good understanding of the factors that influence the economy and the economic decisions taken by the government. One needs to be passionate with investment, ownership and the idea of a house as a shelter, a cocoon in one's life. Our experience and expertise should be shared with our clients so they in turn can make educated decisions regarding the sale of their home, a potential investment or purchase. I would like to thank all my clients for their loyalty, love and trust over the years. On a personal level, 2024 is one more successful year with transactions in both the residential and commercial market. I would like to thank all my clients for their loyalty, love and trust over the years. On a personal level, 2024 is one more successful year with transactions in both the residential and commercial market.

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# Words of Hope, Inspiration, and Renewed Faith for the Future of the Republic of Cyprus Resonated at the 2024 Federation of Cypriot American Organizations Testimonial Dinner

by Athena Efter



The Justice for Cyprus Award received by the Supreme President of AHEPA Mr. Savas C. Tsvicos. From left, Kyriakos Papastylianou, President of the Federation of Cypriot American Organizations, President of the Republic of Cyprus, Nikos Christodoulides, the honoree and Archbishop Elpidophoros

On Friday, September 27th, The Federation of Cypriot American Organizations (FCAO) held its annual Testimonial Dinner at Terrace on the Park in Corona, Queens, honoring Executive Chairman of the Libra Group and Libra Philanthropies, George Logothetis with the Philanthropic Award, and Supreme President of AHEPA Savas Tsvicos with the Justice for Cyprus Award. Serving as Honorary Chairpersons were Archbishop Elpidophoros of America and the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Nikos Christodoulides. Several other prominent members of the Greek and Cypriot-Greek communities were also in attendance including Rhode Island State Senator Leonidas Raptakis, PSEKA President Phillip Christopher, First Lady of the Republic of Cyprus Phillipa Karsera-Christodoulides, Cyprus Government Spokesman Konstantinos Letymbiotis, Cyprus Minister of Foreign Affairs Constantinos Kombos, US Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus Evangelos Savva, Ambassador and Political Director of Ministry of Foreign Affairs Thessalia Shambou, Greek Cypriot Negotiator Menalaos Menelaou, Director of the Diplomatic Office of the President Doros Venezis, Permanent Representative of Greece to the UN Evangelos Sekeris, Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the UN Maria Michail, Executive Director of the OXI Day Foundation Mike Manatos, Consul General of Greece in



Phillip Christopher

New York Iphigenia Kara, NY State Assemblyman Michael Tannooussis, Consul General of Cyprus Michalis Firillas, President of the American Hellenic Institute Nick Larigakis, and Nikos Kastrinakis, President of the Venizelos Foundation USA and the World Council of Cretans.

Welcoming Remarks were provided by Cypriot-American and LA based journalist Rania

Aniftos, who also served as the Mistress of Ceremonies, followed by the invocation given by Archbishop Elpidophoros of America. The Greek and American National anthems were performed by Greek-American singer Annette Artani.

Kyriakos Papastylianou, President of the Federation of Cypriot American Organizations, gave the opening greetings and thanked all the members of the community and commented on how the “diaspora continues to blossom” because of the generosity expressed and hard work put forth: “This evening we not only recognize your achievement, but we also express our gratitude for your unwavering support. Each of you exemplify resilience, unity and a passion for our heritage that inspires all.”

Phillip Christopher, President of the International Coordinating Committee Justice for Cyprus (PSEKA) followed this sentiment with his remarks as he welcomed the President Christodoulides: “Even though it’s been 50 years since the dark anniversary (of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus), this community, Mr. President,

is united. They are all here to welcome you, because we feel you are a part of us. You are a person who lived in NY, went to school in NY, and we welcome you, and we congratulate you for your passion, for your hard work... this administration has changed the image of Cyprus from being a Russian laundry mat to being the bridge of humanitarian aid to Gaza and to the Middle East. It changed the image of Cyprus to being a strong, true corner of the United States and that makes us as Greek-Americans very proud. We are very proud as Greek-Americans that Greece is a strong NATO member and a strong ally of the United States, and it is important that we, as Greek-Americans, also feel that Cyprus is a strong corner of the United States of America. After all, we are all descendants from the birthplace of democracy... we demand the same democratic principles and ideals that we live here in the United States that they come true for Cyprus.” He then acknowledged and congratulated the exceptional honorees that were being honored.



George Logothetis, Executive Chairman of Libra Group and Chairman of the Libra Philanthropies

Archbishop Elpidophoros was invited up to the podium to give his remarks, emphasizing



The Philanthropic Award of the Cyprus Federation was received by Mr. George Logothetis, Executive Chairman of Libra Group and Chairman of the Libra Philanthropies

solidarity in remembrance of the cause, the mission of peace, and the mission of justice in Cyprus. He commented on what a distinct honor it was for him to be with the President of the Republic of Cyprus as “an important reminder of the responsibility of the church in America, the Hellenes and the Philhellenes, to use all its influence to bring the issues around Cyprus into constant focus.” He also commented on how deeply moved he was to be at the AHEPA convention in Cyprus this past summer, with many of the members present in the room. He stated that the reason everyone was gathered there that evening was for “the righteous cause of Cyprus and the

fifty-year delay in finding a just and equitable solution. In the awards that are being shared with tonight's honorees, we are giving recognition not only to deserving individuals of extraordinary substance, but to the organizations and enterprises that they lead, who symbolize the aspirations of everyone in



*Members of the Board of Trustees of Cyprus Children's Fund with the First Lady of Cyprus Philippa Karsera*

this room." He then acknowledged the great accomplishments of the two honorees that evening. He emphasized the remarkable work that honoree George Logothetis did in Greece with his company Libra Group and Libra philanthropies. "During the worst years of the economic catastrophe it was like a simple institution of Marshall Plan to which initiatives Libra, under George's guiding hand, rebuilt hope - hope in the land of economic despair. George remains a global leader of Hellenism and he always brings a level of excellence to every endeavor in Greece he engages in". In his closing remarks, he gave a special tribute to honoree Savas Tsvicos, Supreme President of the Order of AHEPA, by pointing out that "there is not one Cypriot in America who does not know his name. His passion for the cause of Cyprus precedes him every turn and with his assuming the Supreme Presidency of AHEPA he has redoubled his efforts for justice and peace. The Justice of Cyprus Award could not be a more perfect expression of recognition in his lifelong devotion to the cause".

President of the Republic of Cyprus, Nikos Christodoulides then took the stage, and spoke passionately about his connection with Greek-American diaspora, which goes back to his days as a student at Queens College. He expressed his pride at the "persistent and selfless efforts" of the Greek Cypriot diaspora to represent our interests and concerns to the United States and beyond. He praised the work that has been done collectively: "This past year we have made it evidently clear that Cyprus can fully contribute to the prevalence of security and stability at a regional level by providing solutions to issues of wider interest. We have sent a clear signal of actions and not just words that Cyprus can be a predictable and reliable partner of the United States and eastern Mediterranean - a partner that it's primary focus is the promotion and preservation of peace and stability through tangible actions." He pointed out that Cyprus and US relations "are at the best points they have ever been." He noted that by providing

assistance to Gaza, Cyprus fulfilled a moral obligation and has highlighted its role in promoting stability in a very challenging region. He also noted that the Republic of Cyprus was celebrating 20 years of membership into the European Union and emphasized that Cyprus is not part of the problem but part of the solution, as a "country that is a force of peace and stability, a humanitarian facilitator, a country that assumes its moral responsibilities and aspires to a brighter future for our region...paving more milestones in the years to come." He then congratulated the honorees. He acknowledged Savas Tsvicos for his lifelong devotion to advocating for the reunification of Cyprus and the restoration of human rights for all Cypriots and George Logothetis, who grew up in North London among the

Cypriot community, for his commitment to the community and Hellenism through leadership that reflects the Hellenic values of education, philanthropy, responsibility, and individual excellence through community service. He concluded that with an organized Cypriot diaspora, the focus should be on three fundamental goals - engagement, empowerment, and connectivity - with the youth of the Cypriot diaspora at the forefront.

The presentation of awards followed with even more inspiring remarks of hope and a restoration of faith in humanity and justice. Savas Tsvicos was presented with the The Justice of Cyprus award, an honor that bestows great recognition to an individual who advocates for the just and noble cause of the liberation and reunification of Cyprus, and the restoration of human rights for all Cypriots. Savas Tsvicos is an emblem of this fight for justice. He humbly accepted the award and noted that many in the room that evening were worthy of this honor. He was deeply grateful. He was one of the founders of the award and never considered that thirty years later, he would be the recipient of an award he helped to create. He noted that "it's a special moment in serving the Cyprus Federation of America for almost forty years, and I'm glad that this organization continues to lead and continues to serve the community." He also noted that we often get discouraged when we don't see tangible results in the fight for the liberation of Cyprus, but he reassured all that action is the key to effective results, rather than wondering

without effort. He emphasized that for the first time in fifty years, the relationship between the US and Cyprus is at an all-time high, citing a big milestone in that relationship: "Two weeks ago Cyprus and the United States signed a strategic alliance which is not normal for the United States to sign agreements with non-NATO members." He acknowledged the efforts of the President of Cyprus and his administration in their efforts "to make Cyprus useful and necessary for the first time." In a profound statement, he emphasized that justice was not so much about justice, but about interests, and that when opportunity presents itself, you have to seize that opportunity, especially with "the latest developments in the eastern Mediterranean area we can be hopeful and continue to lead, and show that Cyprus can be a very important player" toward a functional and viable solution.

Washington DC Lobbyist and Executive Director of the OXI Day Foundation Mike Manatos introduced honoree George Logothetis who was being awarded the Philanthropic Award, emphasizing the outstanding achievements of the Libra Group which has assets and operations across sixty countries on six continents. He noted that George took over his family's shipping company when he was 19 years old and within ten years helped it grow from a fleet of three vessels to fifty-five, and, at 28 he founded Libra Group, "which is the true depth and breadth of George's philanthropy... George has taken philanthropy to a whole new level. George has utilized the strength of Libra's global network to support human potential and deliver growth for good. He redefined philanthropy by creating innovative programs and supporting change-makers, tackling many of the world's most complex challenges. Most importantly he created opportunities that did not exist for the unseen and overlooked. After more than decade of providing hope and



*The Mistress of Ceremonies Ms. Rania Anifitos who is a Billboard Correspondent*



*At the end of the Dinner, a group photo with the honored guests and the honorees and all members of the Boards of the Cyprus Federation*

opportunity, Libra's programming has touched more than 25 million people and 326 organizations in 183 countries." He concluded his remarks by summing up the one Greek word that defines George, and that word was "philotimo", a word that embodies in one individual the noble actions of duty, loyalty, integrity, honor, and love for humanity.

After being presented with the Philanthropy Award, George Logothetis, talked about how blessed and grateful he was, and that he was even more blessed and grateful to have been to places where there was the greatest pain and where evil triumphed. He honed in on the importance of philanthropy in his remarks. He reflected on the key to happiness, which has less to do than what you have and where you are from. He asked two questions: "Do you

*A view of the head table and the rest of the guests at the Testimonial Dinner*



love what you do and do you give more than you take?" He noted that the key to happiness was the measure of looking into a person's character: "You get to see people who have everything and have nothing, and then you get to see people who have nothing. Real philanthropy is giving without expecting to get anything back. It is not a transactional document where here is some money and I want x in return. That's not philanthropy. That's business. That's PR. What we try to do in our philanthropic endeavors is to give freely and to not expect anything." He talked about

what inspired him. It was his anger at injustice that served as his inspiration, especially at how Greeks were negatively perceived globally during the economic crisis. He decided to do something about it. He realized you can either contribute to a problem or start contributing to the solution. He decided to set up an internship program for 10 young kids, and 14 years later it takes 75 kids all around the world that changes the communities: "you need to take people out of their community, lift them, empower them, and then put them back, and that is the model of our internship program." There are young people from all over the world participating in this internship program with the goal of "weaponizing anger for the betterment and not allowing anger to corrode us into bitterness". He talked about his wife and her own

accomplishments in leading mental health efforts for women suffering with postpartum depression, as well as his own near death experience with bacterial meningitis, being in and out of hospitals throughout his life. He credited two Cypriot doctors who saved his life several times. To that end, he pointed out that "freedom is not free." He learned very early on that you cannot control what happens in your life, but you can control how you respond and react to adversity. He mentioned his empathy for the Cypriot people and the pain they have gone through in the past 50

years, especially having heard the stories of those with whom he grew up in the Cypriot community in North London. He emphasized that "where there is no community, no leadership, no love that is where dark forces can grip." His admiration for the Cypriot people was evident, as he spoke of their loyalty and strong work ethic. He recounted a story of how he met the former Governor of the Central Bank of Cyprus, Chrystalla Georghadj, who had to flee Farmagousta during the invasion. She had to flee and not look back. The memories of Farmagousta were empty to her. She didn't know what it was worse, feeling empty or full. She had no photos of her childhood. He was fascinated by what she did with her life after that experience, by transforming a negative into a positive, to educate herself and become a leader for Cyprus. In his eyes, she represented the ethos of the Cypriot people: "That to me is the story of Cyprus. It's overcoming adversity. It is being bold, brave, and courageous" and understanding the Greek expression of "kathe embodio gia kalo", which translates in English to every challenge (or every difficulty) is for the best.

The evening was a true testament of hope, inspiration, and a call to action by an organization whose mission is to develop good relations and solidarity among its chapters, promote their goals, represent their interests, and coordinate their social, educational, philanthropic, and cultural activities.

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## THESSALONIKI AND THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY VIA EGNATIA

During the Roman Empire, one of the most important routes linking Italy and Byzantium – serving as a key communications artery, military route, and key trade and commerce highway – was the Via Egnatia. Connecting to the Appian Way (and thus to Rome), the Via Egnatia crossed the Balkans – traversing through what is today Albania, North Macedonia, Greece, and Turkey. The main stop just about half-way along the road was Thessaloniki.



From the very beginning, Thessaloniki was very much a “global” city. Named after Alexander the Great’s sister, the imperial significance of the city has been constant. It served as “Συμβασιλεύουσα” (Symvasilévousa) or “co-reigning” city (with Constantinople) of the Byzantine Empire. Its geographical location (especially its ability to link key land and sea routes) and its cultural DNA (both as a place of co-existence between Christians, Jews and Muslims and a crossroads between East and West) made it quite a prize. Indeed, control of Thessaloniki was one of the main goals for several antagonists in the Balkan Wars. Every time southeast Europe was part of a paradigm shift in global politics, Thessaloniki was in the eye of the storm.

Such a paradigm shift is underway once again. A de facto world war is underway, and southeast Europe is the midpoint of the conflict in Ukraine and the conflicts in the Middle East. On the sidelines of September’s Thessaloniki International Fair, the Delphi Economic Forum, Kathimerini, HALC, and TIF HELEXPO convened a roundtable discussion on the global role of Greece’s second city. “Thessaloniki: The New Omphalos of the World” brought together East and West, North and South, Christianity-Judaism-Islam for a discussion on the impactful role that Thessaloniki is poised to play.

Greece’s Deputy Foreign Minister, Ambassador Alexandra Papadopoulou, was joined by the Ambassadors of the US, George Tsunis, the United Arab Emirates, Ali Obaid Al Dhaheri, India, Rudrendra Tandon, Israel, Noam Katz, as well as the US Ambassador to Cyprus, Julie Fisher, Angelina Eichhorst of the European Union and others for this unprecedented discussion. The symbolic importance of all these participants should not be lost on anyone: representatives of the key players in multiple diplomatic initiatives – the Three Seas Initiative, the Abraham Accords, the

“3+1”, the Eastern Mediterranean Gas Forum – had transformed Thessaloniki (at least for that day) as the midpoint of the 21st century Via Egnatia.

The geopolitical advantages that Greece brings to the table in this shifting world order have been discussed in these pages for a while now, but Thessaloniki’s specific advantages should be zeroed in on. And the Greek American community should be planning for how to multiply these advantages.

### 1. LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

We’ve already noted the advantage of Thessaloniki’s geography, but a quick survey of license plates (and what countries they are from) on the road to Thessaloniki should unlock one’s imagination. Linking the port of Thessaloniki (which is the planned entry point into Europe for the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor) to Europe’s main roadways can give northern Greece a huge boost in economic growth and influence, soft power and geo-strategic importance. Working with the US government to incentivize American investors to acquire and upgrade the port of Thessaloniki must be a priority for the Greek American community.

### 2. PEOPLE TO PEOPLE

Most of the achievements in the “best ever” bilateral ties have occurred at the government-to-government level. Thessaloniki presents the greatest opportunity to seize on the commitment by the US and Greece to dramatically expand people to people ties.

Nearly half of Thessaloniki’s population is either students or part of the academic community. It is a natural center for American universities looking to expand their presence in the region (once Greek completes its education reform). Such a talent pool also makes



Endy Zemenides is the Executive Director of the Hellenic American Leadership Council (HALC), a national advocacy organization for the Greek American community. To learn more about HALC, visit [www.hellenicleaders.com](http://www.hellenicleaders.com)

Thessaloniki the most attractive destination in the region for American companies. The success of Pfizer, Cisco and Deloitte setting up shop in Thessaloniki can show the way.

Finally, Thessaloniki and Macedonia have untapped potential for American tourism. Cultural tourism, gastronomy tourism, wine tours, “footsteps of St. Paul tours”, underrated beaches – our community (and the Tourism ministry) should be working overtime to entice the imagination of Americans when it comes to visiting Thessaloniki. And it should start with prioritizing a direct flight to Thessaloniki’s marvelously upgraded international airport.

The world is coming together in Thessaloniki. We have a Greek government that is prioritizing growth in the region, an enterprising and energetic Mayor of Thessaloniki, and an amazing son of Thessaloniki in Albert Bourla that can – in so many ways – be the ultimate validator for Thessaloniki’s potential. We cannot let this moment pass.

## 28<sup>th</sup> of October 1940

Long Live Greece and Long Live the Greeks!!!

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From left to right: Demetra Marcus Bell (daughter of George Marcus) and Alexandria Marcus (daughter of George Marcus), Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco, George Marcus, Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, Dr. Kenneth Frangadakis (friend of George Marcus), and Theodore Bozonelis

# George Marcus

Greek-American Philanthropist & Entrepreneur

by Elena Kefalogianni

*George Marcus, originally named George Moutsanas, was born in Evia, Greece, and moved to the U.S. at the age of five. Adjusting to life in San Francisco was challenging, as he initially spoke only Greek. His mother encouraged him to stay connected to his heritage by attending Greek Church and Greek School. Reflecting on his journey, Marcus said, "I was proud of my Greekness but also trying to fit in with American culture."*

After completing his education, he founded Marcus and Millichap, where he currently serves as Chairman. Marcus and Millichap was founded in 1971 and has since worked with thousands of clients in creating and preserving wealth through commercial real estate investment sales. It now has more than 80 offices throughout the US and Canada. Marcus's business success inspired him to seek a philanthropic cause, and he felt a strong

connection to the Greek Church. "After I became successful in business, I looked for a philanthropic cause that was important to me and the Greek Church was a natural," he said. Marcus had visited the Phanar several times over five or ten years, meeting with the Ecumenical Patriarch and other Church leaders.

His commitment deepened when he discovered that the Panagia of Pera had a facility in need of restoration. After discussions with Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco, to whom Marcus has a very close relationship with, he pledged \$500,000 for its restoration. Ultimately, Marcus donated \$1 million as the estimated cost turned out to be larger than anticipated. "Five years ago, I found out that Panagia of Pera had a facility that was decaying and was not usable anymore and that was where they had a lot of the visiting Orthodox Bishops and now, they couldn't. I asked Metropolitan Gerasimos and he

affirmed the importance of the restoration," said Marcus.

He also feels a deep sense of pride in his involvement with the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC). He appreciates the organization's efforts in providing humanitarian aid and supporting communities in need, but he also believes there's more the Orthodox community could do to amplify their impact. He envisions increased collaboration among parishes, more robust outreach programs, and greater engagement with local and global issues. By harnessing the collective strength of the Orthodox community, he believes they can unite their front against Turkey. "For example, the IOCC has helped tremendously Orthodox people and countries when facing problems such as starvation. We also need an organization that unites the Greek Orthodox of the world structured by leaders of our churches. Such organization may help protect us from Turkish influences," he said.

Marcus is also engaged in the Greek cultural community, participating in several key organizations, including the National Hellenic Society (NHS)-he was the one to conceive and orchestrate its foundation, the Elios Society, and Leadership 100. His commitment to these groups reflects his passion for preserving and



From left to right: John Moutsanas (son), Georgia Tsigaris (daughter-in-law), Jana Tsigaris (grandchild), Yianni Tsigaris (grandchild), Alexandria Marcus (daughter), George Marcus, Judy Marcus (wife), Mary Jane Moutsanas (daughter), Evvia Gurney (grandchild), Derek Gurney, Demetra Marcus Bell (daughter), Marlowe Bell (grandchild), Jayden Bell (grandchild), Blaine Bell (son-in-law)



From left to right: Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, Archon John Gumas (friend of George Marcus), His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, George Marcus, Archon Tony Saris (friend of George Marcus)

promoting Greek heritage and values. “I’m very proud of my people. We have done a remarkable job. The goal was to help one another and help our community,” said Marcus.

For example, NHS’s Heritage Greece Program, a two-week all-inclusive cultural and educational journey to Greece, transformed the lives of hundreds of Greek American students who had never visited Greece before. The Program is in collaboration with American College of Greece (ACG) and the American College of Thessaloniki (ACT) dividing students into groups and pairing them up with local peers to foster lifelong friendships and exchange cultural norms.



George Marcus and Judy Marcus (wife of George Marcus)

Among meetings with Greek officials, government members and well-known industry experts, students visit museums, ancient sites, and Greek culinary destinations. More than 300 students have participated in the Heritage Greece Program and the NHS is

planning on expanding the opportunity to hundreds more.

Additionally, Marcus owns two successful Greek restaurants: Evia in Palo Alto and Kokkari in San Francisco. He believes in the importance of preserving Greek cuisine and sharing its flavors, saying, “My parents were great cooks, but there weren’t any restaurants offering truly exceptional Greek food.”

While he celebrates Greek cuisine, Marcus emphasizes that Greeks are also united by their ideals and belief in democracy. Regarding the upcoming U.S. election, he remarked, “I believe we really don’t have a choice; Kamala Harris has been a remarkable

young woman who is very capable and is a very down to earth, wonderful person. She is the kind of person that could lead our country successfully and I think supporting her is the right thing to do.”

# George Marcus

*George M. Marcus is the founder of Marcus & Millichap Company and its chairman since 1971.*

*Marcus & Millichap Company is the parent company of a diversified group of real estate, service, investment and development firms. Mr. Marcus is also chairman of Essex Property Trust (a publicly held multi-family real estate investment trust). He was one of the original founders and directors of Plaza Commerce Bank and Greater Bay Bancorp, both publicly held financial institutions. He continues to serve on the board of directors of Greater Bay Bancorp. Included among Mr. Marcus’ professional memberships are the Board of Regents of The University of California, the Apartment Industry Foundation, in which he currently serves on the board of directors, the Real Estate Roundtable and the Policy Advisory Board of the University of California at Berkeley - Center for Real Estate and Urban Economics.*

*He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in economics from San Francisco State University in 1965; he was honored as Alumnus of the Year in 1989. Mr. Marcus is also a graduate of the Harvard Business School of Owners/Presidents Management Program and the Georgetown University Leadership Program.*

# “Landmark Year” as PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation Awards Record-Level 56 Scholarships at Sold-Out Gala



*PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation Chairman (Robert Buhler), Trustees (Tom Sotos and John Manos), and Staff (Vasiliki Panos, Elizabeth Danielides, Fotini Anastopoulos, Jordan George, Tim Gianitsos, Danielle Arvanitis, and Georgia Tsakos)*

Hellenic Initiative (THI) and underwritten by Nicholas W. Alexos of THI. Here, recipients and alumni received career guidance from 15 industry-leading mentors and other young professionals, from fields ranging from business, finance, entrepreneurship, medicine, law, and more. Select mentors representing various industries participated in a panel discussion, sharing their experiences and advice.



*2024 Paradigm Recipient, Tim Tassopoulos (Retired President and Chief Operating Officer of Chick-fil-A), gives his remarks and addresses the 2024 Scholarship Recipients*

by Maria A. Karamitsos

PHOTO: ELIOS PHOTOGRAPHY

CHICAGO—The PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation celebrated a milestone year, as it awarded a record-level 56 scholarships (49 one-time scholarships and 7 repeated Renaissance scholarships) worth \$350,000—the most in its history—at its sold-out annual Awards Ceremony and Gala, which had 750 attendees. The event took place at Hilton Chicago in June. “This has truly been a landmark year,” said Chairman Robert A.

Buhler.” From the inception of the PanHellenic in 2002, our founder, Chris Tomaras gave away 324 scholarships, and since his passing in 2015, we’ve awarded 389 more scholarships. That’s 713 scholars who’ve received a total of \$4,796,000 in scholarship awards.”

## Gala weekend events

The gala culminated a weekend of events, beginning with a Welcome Reception hosted at Holland & Knight by PanHellenic’s pro bono legal counsel, Elias N. Matsakis, Esq. There, recipients and alumni had the opportunity to meet each other as well as the members of the board of directors, advisory board, and academic committee. Trustee Tom Sotos offered a heartfelt tribute to Tomaras. He encouraged recipients to stay involved with the PanHellenic as they move forward in their careers.

The next afternoon, more than 160 guests gathered for the 8th annual Mentorship Luncheon, hosted in partnership with The

## Sold-out gala

More than 750 guests attended the sold-out gala—the biggest in the PanHellenic’s history—emceed by NBC Chicago News Anchors Kate Chappell and Alex Maragos. Trustee John Manos and Director Eunice Buhler announced the impressive Class of 2024, all with GPAs ranging from 3.7-4.0. Of the 49 scholarships presented, 21 were needs-



*Paradigm Recipient, Tim Tassopoulos, (Retired President and Chief Operating Officer of Chick-fil-A) receives his award*

based and 28 merit-based. A cocktail hour and seated dinner followed the ceremony. With entertainment by Mylos Band from New York, guests danced well into the night.

## Internship Alliance Program

In his remarks at the awards ceremony, Buhler also announced that 12 young adults were



*The Mistress of Ceremonies, Kate Chappell (Anchor and Reporter at NBC5 Chicago)*



The 2024 Paradigm Award Honoree is Retired President and COO of Chick-fil-A Tim Tassopoulos. He shared his story of starting at the bottom and working his way through the ranks. He told the scholars that “it’s not too early or too late to have an impact on your life trajectory.” He also encouraged them to “travel and be open to new things.”



2024 PanHellenic Scholarship Recipients, behind the scenes

successfully paired for a 2024 internship through the PanHellenic’s Internship Alliance Program. This partnership with leading companies provides internships to high-achieving young professionals throughout the U.S. This is yet another way the PanHellenic goes beyond a scholarship, providing a growing list of opportunities for young adults to learn and receive guidance as they begin their chosen careers. “These internships teach college students practical skills that are essential to landing that first job,” Buhler said. “So critical, that growing this program is a top priority. The PanHellenic aims to double the number of internship opportunities in the coming year.”

their final scholarship check; while 2023 Fellows Christopher Alexopoulos, Andreana Kekempanos, Emma Robinson, and Andrew Theofanous accepted their second.



The Master of Ceremonies, Alex Maragos (Anchor and Reporter at NBC5 Chicago)

**“Expand and flourish”**

The PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation expresses their sincere gratitude to all those who make these programs and the gala a reality. This includes the staff, trustees, directors, academic committee, and volunteers. “And to everyone who supports our work in any way. Our Founder Chris Tomaras put his trust in us to not only continue the work he started, but to further grow our offerings. With that spirit, we continue to expand and flourish.”

The next Award Ceremony and Gala is set for June 14, 2025 at Hilton Chicago.

**Other initiatives**

Buhler spoke of the other ways the PanHellenic has expanded its offerings, including learning initiatives, networking events, and now a larger Scholarship Society. This giving program is comprised of three levels; Scholarship 50, Scholarship 100, and Scholarship 200—all of which are a \$10,000 commitment each year for five, 10, or 20 years,

Also that evening, Board Members Emeriti Tassos F. Chronopoulos, John W. Galanis, and Demetri L. Kozonis were recognized for their guidance and devotion to the PanHellenic’s mission. “Their friendship to Chris and their guidance to me will forever be valued by the PanHellenic; as such we have honored them each with Emeritus status,” said Buhler.



The 2024 Awards Ceremony



respectively. “This year, we’ve gained six new Scholarship Society members. There are now 33 members in the Scholarship Society, and we’re tremendously thankful for their ongoing support, which allows us to award more scholarships.”

**Paradigm Award**

Part of Tomaras’ vision for the PanHellenic gala included an address to the scholars by a prominent Hellene. This individual would not only be successful, but someone who embodies the core values of the organization and represents the potential of the scholars. Ultimately, the honoree would serve as a good example for young adults.

For more information on the Panhellenic Scholarship, their website is panhellenicsf.org.

*Maria A. Karamitsos is a journalist, author, and poet. She’s the founder & former publisher/editor of WindyCity Greek magazine and former associate editor & senior writer for The Greek Star newspaper. Maria also contributes to Greek City Times and TripFiction. Her work has been published in The Magic of Us-A Moms Who Write Poetry Anthology, The Pen Poetry Magazine, Voices of Hellenism Literary Journal, Highland Park Poetry, GreekCircle magazine, The National Herald, GreekReporter, Harlots Sauce Radio, Women.Who.Write, KPHTH magazine, and more. Maria has contributed to two books: Greektown Chicago: Its History, Its Recipes and The Chicago Area Ethnic Handbook. She’s currently working on her 1st novel. mariakaramitsos.com*

# Athena Gourmet Market and Under Pressure Coffee Team Up for a Perfect Pairing



John Stavros

by Athena Efter

Serving Greek specialties, like spinach pies, cheese pies, and cream filled bougatsa pastry, alongside an array of sandwiches, salads, muffins, yogurt parfaits, and other sweet and savory treats, Under Pressure Café brings a global fair to a tradition of café and coffee culture that Greeks made notable as a way of life. With its first location, bustling with patrons, at the corner of 31st Street and 31st Avenue in Astoria, a bigger and more expanded location has recently opened earlier this year, further up the block at 23-38 31st Avenue in Astoria. What makes this location a little different is the addition of a gourmet Greek specialty store, Athena Gourmet Market, where everything is beautifully packaged at reasonable prices. You can get everything you need here for your Greek Mediterranean fix, from an assortment of olives, olive oil, herbs and spices, frozen foods, to freshly prepared in-house dips like tirokafteri (spicy feta), melitzanosalata (eggplant salad), taramosalata (made with fish roe), and tzatziki (a garlic infused cool cucumber dip). I love olives, so I tried the herb-marinated olives, and they pack a real punch – tangy and bursting with flavor. These olives were sealed tightly, vacuum packed, and simply divine.

I sat down with one the partners of Athena Gourmet Market, John Stavros, to get the scoop and a tour. He was a most gracious host, getting up and greeting the throngs of patrons coming in and out. To say he is popular is an understatement. They all know him, and he knows them by name and face. Athena Gourmet Market, he explained, started out in Brockton, MA in the 70s, as Athena International Market, which provides distribution of Greek products throughout New England. He and his partners, Peter Malo, George Gyrras, and Nick Papadopoulos (owner of Under Pressure Coffee), took over the business, and expanded it here in NYC with a new concept of bringing a café and gourmet market together. They have plans to open locations in Ft. Lauderdale and Philadelphia.

I met John at Athena Gourmet Market, where I sampled a vegan pie of olives and tomato. As a cheese lover, I did not miss the feta, but, of course, I had to get my feta fix, and sampled a cheese pie. Both left me wanting more. As I peered into their hot table vitrine of pastitsio (Greek lasagna), biftekia (ground beef patties with Greek herbs and spices), and lemon potatoes, I knew I would be leaving with dinner to go. I sat down with their chef Xanthi Tseliou, once a world champion in shot

points, her roots can be traced back to Smyrna, once a Greek colony in modern day Turkey. Whether it's hearsay or fact, women who have lineage that can be traced back to Smyrna, have the Midas touch when it comes to cooking. Whatever passes through their "golden hands" is as good as gold on your palate. Dinner to go did not leave me with any doubt in her culinary skills.

We then moved over to Under Pressure Coffee, which is connected to the market. I started with a cup of regular coffee. Regular is code for nothing fancy, just milk and coffee. Sugar is optional. I wanted to try their coffee in its purest form. This was really good coffee. The coffee is flown all the way from Australia, which is sourced from surrounding islands like Indonesia and Sumatra. Australians, he explained, were pioneers in coffee roasting. I had no idea that those cheeky Aussies down-under were master roasters, but good coffee, John explained, is more about the technique used in roasting. The coffee I was savoring was a medium roast with a balanced acidity, which, if you are going for a regular non-specialty coffee, is a universal crowd pleaser. The beans are flown in from Australia and freshly ground there at the shop, straight into your coffee cup. That's not all that is imported at Under Pressure Coffee and Athena Gourmet Market. I knew there was something extra special about their spinach and cheese pies. They tasted like Greece. They tasted like home. Those, too, are imported from Greece. For a vegan and vegetarian friendly version, they have spinach pie without cheese. Under Pressure Coffee and Athena Gourmet Market offer something for everyone. They even have their own signature brands of coffee from single sourced beans from Colombia, Guatemala, and Peru. These



put, turned French culinary school student in Athens. She talked about how her passion for cooking evolved through her rigid athletic diet. She channeled that passion for food she avoided eating into cooking. And for bonus

are also available for purchase online through their website. If you like matcha and tea, they have that too, along with specialty coffee drinks, prepared in a variety of ways by skilled baristas. Under Pressure Coffee and Athena





Gourmet Market offer a sleek, contemporary vibe, that curate themselves into an artisanal café and gourmet market that offer freshness, variety, and universal appeal, especially in a neighborhood that is brimming with culture. Athena Gourmet Market also carries a line of Latin delicacies. John acknowledges that we are in a globalized world, and NYC is a microcosm of that world. Bringing a little bit of this and a little bit of that, like a Croque Madame or Croque Monsieur, to the sandwich menu, offers a little something for everyone.

Supporting Greek products is still a priority for John and his partners, especially as Greece continues its economic recovery. All the panels used to build the pergola and indoor/outdoor café at the second Astoria location came from Greece. Though John would love to import meats from Greece, due

to certain sanctions this is not allowed. Still he wants to bring that taste of Greece into a line of frozen meat products, prepared with traditional Greek spices, that will be sold at Athena Gourmet Market. This line of frozen products will also include meats that cater to the Latino community. They also carry gourmet meats and cheeses, like Iberico ham, soppressata, and Manchego cheese.

Athena Gourmet Market and Under Pressure Coffee make a perfect match, complimenting each other well in a contemporary, relaxed setting where you can browse for unique gifts, gourmet foods, and enjoy a cup of coffee or a snack. Warm, inviting, and welcoming, they offer just enough, and everything you need when you just want to browse, shop, or relax. Browsing is not an option. You will want to leave with something – a little extra special something to treat yourself or your friends.



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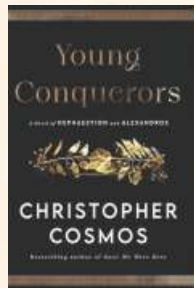
# Mnemosyni's Musings...

You've heard of Mnemosyni, the Greek goddess of memory. Mythology buffs will know that she's also the goddess of storytelling—and mother of the Muses! So, it's only fitting to name a literary column in her honor. Here, you'll learn about authors, poets, books, and all things "Greek" literary.

by Maria A. Karamitsos

## New Releases

There is no shortage of great new releases to tantalize your literary senses. From history, to poetry, to fiction, and more, here are some fabulous new releases by Greek authors to add to your list.



**Young Conquerors: A Novel of Hephæstion and Alexandros** by Christopher Cosmos

Peninsula (September 10, 2024)

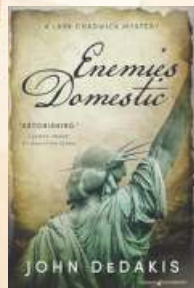
Greek-American Author Christopher Cosmos' second historical novel combines history and myth to tell the story of Alexander the Great—before he was great. Told by the person who knew him best, we learn what experiences influenced and shaped the man who would become "the greatest conqueror and visionary the world had ever seen".



**The Magic of Miramare** by Soulla Christodoulou

Kingsley Publishers (November 8, 2024)

The latest novel by Greek-Cypriot-Brit Author Soulla Christodoulou takes us to the island of Kefalonia, where three women meet on holiday. They forge an unlikely friendship, subconsciously guided by the magic of the island. We learn each woman's story, as they navigate their attitudes about love and life to determine what their future holds.



**Enemies Domestic** by John DeDakis

Speaking Volumes, LLC (July 3, 2024)

The latest in the Lark Chadwick political thriller series by

former CNN Editor John DeDakis tackles a host of contemporary topics. The story follows Chadwick on her first day as White House Press Secretary, where she is confronted by a reporter on live TV about something incredibly personal, which puts her smack in the middle of extremists as she battles a controversial decision.

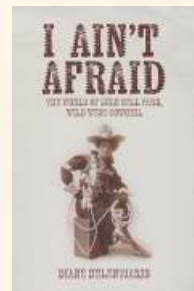


**The Mother Must Die** by Koraly Dimitriadis

Puncher & Wattmann (September 1, 2024)

gives voice to "disenfranchised characters, troubled men, children who live in two homes, and women trying to break free." Her compelling stories tackle multiple themes, including the working class migrant experience, parenthood, rebellion, domestic violence, and identity.

The new short story collection from Bestselling Greek-Cypriot-Australian Poet and Performer Koraly Dimitriadis



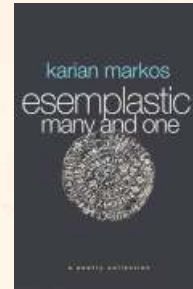
**I Ain't Afraid: The World of Lulu Bell Parr, Wild West Cowgirl** by Diane Helentjaris

Alkira Publishing (August 16, 2024)

Though Lulu Bell Parr was a celebrity in her day, most don't know about her. The Wild West queen of the cowgirls gets her due in this new biography by Greek-American Author Diane Helentjaris. Learn about Lulu's early years, her work in Pawnee Bill and Buffalo Bill's shows, her life and loves, and more.

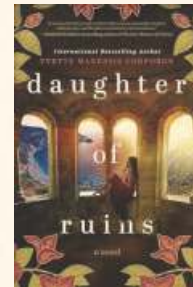
**Esemplastic: Many and One** by Karian Markos

Highland Park Poetry Press (August 1, 2024)



Greek-American Karian Markos' debut poetry collection is the 2024 winner of Highland Park Poetry's Prairie State Poetry Prize for a 1st or 2nd Book. This collection contains more than 40 poems written over a period of several years.

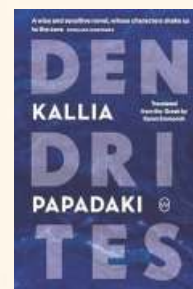
Markos culls inspiration from her Greek heritage and culture, nature, and her life's journey.



**Daughter of Ruins** by Yvette Manessis Corporon

Harper Muse (October 8, 2024)

The latest historical novel by International Bestselling Author and Emmy Award-winning Journalist Yvette Manessis Corporon is set on Corfu and Kefalonia, and partially in the US. The author delves deep into Greece's rich history, mythology, culture, and traditions to shine a light on the experience of Greek women in the 1920s and 1950s, including the early immigrant experience for Greek women in the US. It's an inspiring tale about the power of friendship and ultimately, the power of women to change their own destinies.

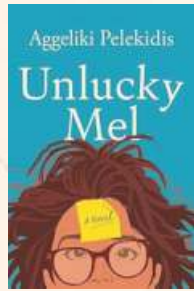


**Dendrites** by Kallia Papadaki English translation by Karen Emmerich

World Editions (September 3, 2024)

Greek Author Kallia Papadaki's debut literary fiction, winner of the 2017 European Union Prize for Literature, is now available in English, thanks to the skillful translation by Karen Emmerich. Set in troubled 1980s Camden, NJ, we

follow the Campanis family in multiple generations. From Antonios' immigration and storied early days in America that leave their mark on his son Basil, to years later, when Basil and his ex-hippie wife Susan take in a young orphan named Minnie, much to the chagrin of their daughter Leto, who is dealing with her own teenage crises. It's a story about the quest for meaning amid life's challenges and lost second chances.



**Unlucky Mel by Aggeliki Pelekidis**

*Three Hills (September 15, 2024)*

The debut satirical novel by Greek-American Author Aggeliki

Pelekidis has been



**Survivor Testimonies of the Greek Genocide 1913-1923 by Asia Minor and Pontos Hellenic Research Center**

*Primedia eLaunch LLC (January 1, 2024)*

I just learned about this important new book by the Chicago-based Asia Minor and Pontos Hellenic Research Center, with a foreword by Founder and President George Mavropoulos. The book includes a selection of 200 firsthand accounts from the original five-volume set

called "smart and funny". The book follows Melody, a PhD candidate who's in the last year of her creative writing program and so close to publishing her first novel. The pressure mounts and she counts on her friend's support. But when she becomes her father's caregiver and the stresses threaten everything she's worked for, her friend betrays her. So when the opportunity to get back at him arises, will she take it?

printed in Greek by The Center for Asia Minor Studies in Athens, Greece. The chilling stories preserve the experiences of those who endured this horrific event, reminding us the importance of learning about—and from—the tragedies of the past.

There's something there for everyone. Happy reading! See you next time for more of Mnemosyni's Musings.

*Maria A. Karamitsos is a journalist, author, and poet. She's the founder & former publisher/editor of WindyCity Greek magazine and former associate editor & senior writer for The Greek Star newspaper. Maria also contributes to Greek City Times and TripFiction. Her work has been published in The Magic of Us-A Moms Who Write Poetry Anthology, The Pen Poetry Magazine, Voices of Hellenism Literary Journal, Highland Park Poetry, GreekCircle magazine, The National Herald, GreekReporter, Harlots Sauce Radio, Women Who Write, KPHTH magazine, and more. Maria has contributed to two books: Greektown Chicago: Its History, Its Recipes and The Chicago Area Ethnic Handbook. She's currently working on her 1st novel. mariakaramitsos.com*



*"Hence, we will not say that Greeks fight like heroes,  
But that heroes fight like Greeks."  
Winston Churchill*

Commemorating OXI Day  
October 28, 2024

Nick Bapis, Michael Bapis and Vios Advisors at Rockefeller Global Family Office



**ROCKEFELLER**  
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# OUSYRA WINES FROM SYROS

*The Scottish producer who started his winery seven years ago in Chroussa talks to NEO*

## NOW ON THE WORLD MAP

Edward Maitland-Makgill-Crichton



*The rosé Ousyra wine is in the top list of the world's best rosé wines for 2024*



behind them, because they work with some of the top wine consultants in Europe.

“Although on a day-to-day basis I am the winemaker in the winery, we have consultants behind us checking that we are not making wrong decisions. Additionally, we have been leveraging their 50 years of experience, putting us in a very strong position, which is great”.

Edward and Elein produce white wine Serfotiko. Although its name may evoke another Cycladic Island, it is the dominant indigenous grape variety of Syros. Perfectly adapted to the island's climatic conditions and soil, resistant to most diseases and drought, it produces red-skinned grapes and high-quality white wines with moderate acidity and body.

“We also produce Fokiano Rosé. We farm the grapes on Naxos and then we bring them to Syros to make them into wine at our winery here,” says Edward.

According to American wine and spirits sommelier Elin McCoy, who tasted over 150 rosé wines from 45 different countries in 2024, this one ranks 9th among the top 10 rosés.

By Kelly Fanarioti

In Chroussa, a beautiful village full of neoclassical houses dating back to the 19th century, and eight-and-a-half kilometers from Hermoupolis, there is the Ousyra (happiness) Winery.

The owner, Edward Maitland-Makgill-Crichton, hails from Scotland and moved to Syros seven years ago, started his own business, and put Syros on the global wine map now that Ousyra wines are exported to eight countries. In fact, Ousyra rosé wine is at the top of the world's best rosé wines for 2024. The Ousyra rosé was celebrated for its vibrant color, refreshing acidity, and delightful notes of red berries and citrus.

“My parents bought a beautiful house here in Chroussa about 40 years ago.



So, we were coming for holidays and I spent a lot of my summers and my Easters in Chroussa. One of the things that I used to do when I was young was to look after our old vineyard, which was very nice. I enjoyed it so much that I decided to explore ways to get into wine”, Maitland-Makgill-Crichton explains.

For many years, he was in the restaurant business in Scotland, where he started tasting wine and learning more about it. As he confesses, he was always trying to find a way to start the winery. “It took a little bit of time to acquire the experience. But now we've been running the winery since 2017 with my wife who is from Syros”.

Ousyra is a small winery, but Edward and his wife Elein are very serious about what they do. They have a strong team



Last, but not least, the boutique winery on Chroussa produces the Organic Monemvasia, a variety of white grapes cultivated on Paros Island. Its name is associated with the preparation of the famous Malvasia wine that dominated the European wine trade from the 13th to the 17th century.



Despite the obstacles Edward had to overcome as a winemaker in Greece – the country of bureaucracy- he says he derives great pleasure from his job and enjoys very much spending time in the vineyards.

“It’s very nice, and the weather is good here on Syros, normally. But even if it is raining, I am very happy. I have enjoyed really bringing back some of these old vineyards to life, planting new ones and looking after them”, he says, adding that the relationship with the farmers is another aspect of his job that he enjoys.

His purpose is to keep the quality of his products high, something not very easy this year because of the weather. Consistently high temperatures can cause faster ripening of grapes, resulting in wines that are less complex and flavorful. Additionally, extreme heat may increase the risk of heat stress for the vines, which can lead to a degradation in the quality of the grapes.

“This year has been very challenging because of the high temperatures for a long period of time. The harvest started one month earlier this year, which is insane. It is a very worrying situation but we have to adapt to that”.

Wine lovers can taste Ousyra wines in some of the best restaurants and bars in Athens, Thessaloniki and many Greek islands. But it is now also available in markets Canada, USA, the UK, and other European countries.

“There is a big demand for Greek wine abroad. The interest has increased over the last 12 -15 years. At the same time the consumer is also more educated. People have become more interested in wine and different varieties and they want to try something a little bit different, like with a different variety from Greece”, says Edward.



For those visiting Syros, Ousyra Winery provides a unique wine-tasting experience. The Scotsman who became one of the many foreigners who chose Syros Island for permanent living, shows visitors firsthand what he is doing.

“People who come here for wine tasting can really understand how we work and how we live as well. Some days ago, we had eleven digital nomads from USA who decided to move to Syros for three months. We did a wine tasting and showed them everything from the beginning, when the grapes arrive, how we press them, where they go and then how we bottle. They will take that little story back home with them to America and tell people about what we do and how we’re working, and the positivity, I guess, about the Greek wines. It’s great”.



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# Calamos Investments Extends Multi-Year Partnership with Chicago Bulls and Newly Launched Chicago Sports Network



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Calamos Investments is proud to announce a multi-year extension of its premier partnership with the Chicago Bulls.

Calamos has also signed on as a sponsor of the newly launched Chicago Sports Network (CHSN), the exclusive broadcaster and streaming provider for all live, pregame and postgame Chicago Bulls, Chicago Blackhawks and Chicago White Sox coverage. As part of the agreement, Calamos will unveil a series of commercials that will air throughout the Bulls' 2024-2025 season.

"These partnerships deepen our commitment to Chicago and the beloved Chicago Bulls while enhancing our brand presence in the market," said President & CEO John Koudounis. "We are excited to share the Calamos story through our commercials with Bulls fans around the world and demonstrate our shared values of teamwork and excellence."

CHSN offers 24/7 multisport programming that will reach viewers across satellite, cable, streaming services, and free over-the-air channels. While Chicago is the network's primary target market, its on-air reach will extend across Illinois and parts of Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

"Both the Bulls and Calamos share a commitment to delivering legendary, seamless and best-in-class experiences for our fans," said Michael Reinsdorf, President & CEO of the Chicago Bulls. "We look forward to extending and expanding this partnership."

## About Calamos

Calamos is a cornerstone of the Chicago community, dating back to its founding in 1977 by John P. Calamos, Sr., the firm's Founder, Chairman, and Global Chief Investment Officer. Calamos Investments is a diversified global investment firm offering innovative investment strategies that include alternatives, multi-asset, convertible, fixed income, equity, and sustainable equity.

The firm offers strategies through separately managed portfolios, mutual funds, closed-end funds, private funds, ETFs, and UCITS funds. Clients include major corporations, pension funds, endowments, foundations, and individuals, as well as the financial advisors and consultants who serve them. The firm is headquartered in the Chicago metropolitan area, with offices in New York, San Francisco, Milwaukee, Portland (Oregon), and the Miami area. For more information, please visit [www.calamos.com](http://www.calamos.com).

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# Hellenic Film Society Closes Out a Successful Run of NY Greek Film Expo 2024



Hellenic Film Society USA presented the New York Greek Film Expo, a Greek film festival for all New Yorkers, October 3-13 in the theaters across the NY metro area

PHOTO: ANASTASSIOS MENTIS

The curtain came down on Sunday on the Hellenic Film Society's New York Greek Film Expo 2024, after an 11-day run of 13 screenings of nine of the latest and best films from Greece. The Audience Award for most popular film went to *The Promotion*, directed by Periklis Choursoglou, a drama about a father and son attempting to sharpen their relationship. The award for Best Performance in a Feature Film went to Kostas Koronaiois for his title role in *The Last Taxi Driver*, the story of a cabbie whose life is upended when he witnesses the suicide of a customer. Screenings, including three that played to sell-out audiences, were held at the Village East Cinema in Manhattan, the Barrymore Film Center in Fort Lee, NJ, and the prestigious Museum of the Moving Image in Astoria, Queens. HFS hosted filmmakers from Greece,

On opening night, October 3, the Hellenic Film Society presented its Lifetime Achievement Award to veteran actress of stage, screen, and television, Vangelio Andreadaki. On Monday, October 7, the Consulate General of Greece hosted an interview with Tokakis, followed by a reception.

"This has been an exceptionally good year for Greek film and we were delighted by the turnout at the Expo," said Maria C. Miles, Hellenic Film Society president. "New Yorkers are embracing Greek films and enthusiastically supported the Expo, and the visiting filmmakers were moved by their response."

New York Greek Film Expo 2024 was made possible with support from the Kallinikeion Foundation, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, Microsoft, the Greek National Tourism Organization, Axia Spirit, ConnectOne Bank, NYWIFT (New York Women in Film & Television), the New York City Council, Queens Borough President Donovan Richards Jr., Antenna Satellite, and the family of Nikos A. Andriotis. The Expo was also funded in part by a grant from the New York City Tourism Foundation. It was also made possible, in part, with funds from the Statewide Community Regrant program, a program of the New York

State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature and administered by Flushing Town Hall.

The Hellenic Film Society USA (HFS) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization rooted in the belief that Greek cinema should be part of the American cultural landscape. Based in Astoria, NY, the organization promotes feature films, documentaries, and film shorts



Hellenic Film Society president Maria C. Miles presents the HFS Lifetime Achievement Award to award-winning actress Vangelio Andreadaki

made by Greek filmmakers and those of Greek descent, as well as films that promote the cultures of Greece and Cyprus. In addition to presenting its annual film festival, HFS collaborates with the prestigious Museum of the Moving Image on Always on Sunday, a series of monthly Greek film screenings. HFS collaborates with other film festivals in the US, including the Chicago Film Expo, the South Florida Greek Film Festival, and the Atlanta Greek Film Expo, all of which are hosting Greek film festivals this fall.



Director Haris Vafeiadis and Expo host, award-winning actor, Thanos Tokakis take questions from the audience following the opening-night screening of their film, *Little Things That Went Wrong*

who had the opportunity to discuss their films with the audience following most screenings.

The Expo, a Greek film festival for all New Yorkers, was hosted by Thanos Tokakis, one of Greece's most prolific character actors, and was sponsored by Axia Spirit.



Opening night reception hosted by Axia Spirit



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# Be citizens, not idiots...

This issue marks NEO's 19th year anniversary and we feel very proud, but more responsible at the same time. As you can see from the stories, starting with the cover story, it's a bouquet of beautiful and interesting gems that showcase, collectively, Hellenism today. And that should make us feel even more proud. The historian of the future, going through NEO's pages will be amazed that such a small-in physical numbers-people managed to be so great. Which brings us to OXI Day, the most important anniversary this month. On October 28, 1940, small but proud Greece united forces and offered the entire free world a glimpse of hope, after the blitzkrieg of Axis victories in Europe that had spread fear and hopelessness. Greece proved that even mightier militarily forces can be defeated and ridiculed when confronted with a people that considers its freedom more important than its life! That's perhaps the biggest lesson that

this national day teaches us today, no matter where we are. Freedom is essential for a real life: there can't be life worth living without it or with restrictions on it. Let's remember and cherish that.



no different. We won't tell you whom to vote for, but we urge you to vote. Democracy requires participation in order to be functional and that is something our ancestors in ancient Athens knew very well—and they would call those who didn't bother with the affairs of the city “idiotes”: that's where the word idiot comes from. Election Day should

be something to look forward to, not to avoid: it's a celebratory day if you think of it. At least our founding fathers thought so and they set the day for the presidential election right after Halloween...

Speaking of freedom, in a few weeks we have a major election in the US and once more we have the right and the obligation to vote. We at NEO have since the beginning refrained from endorsing candidates unless they are Greek-American and even those we consider carefully. This time is

Comrades and friends, don't be idiots, vote and also take an interest in our community affairs.

Our Church, though perhaps the most important, isn't the only component in our collective existence. So don't support only with your donations your local parish and the various Church organizations, but be active with others, such as AHEPA, HALC, AHI and many more, including NEO magazine! We need your support in order to continue serving you. Place an ad, make a donation, suggest stories, show NEO to others: there is always something that you can do at a moderate cost to you. And since we understand business, don't see it as an expense, but as an investment in a publication that has proved its value to the community for 19 consecutive years!

by **Demetrios Rhompotis**  
dondemetrio@neomagazine.com

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# Demi Lovato

*finds her inner 'Child Star' voice with new Hulu documentary*

by Markos Papadatos

PHOTO: DISNEY, ANGELO KRITIKOS

Global pop star Demi Lovato chatted with Markos Papadatos about her new documentary film “Child Star,” shared her career-defining moments, and offered advice for young and aspiring artists and storytellers.

Track and field legend Wilma Rudolph once said: “Never underestimate the power of dreams and the influence of the human spirit. We are all the same in this notion: The potential for greatness lives within each of us.” This quote applies to Demi Lovato. “Child Star,” which was re-leased on September 17th on the streaming service Hulu, explores the highs and lows of growing up in the spotlight through the lens of some of the world’s most well-known former child stars.

Through celebrity interviews, verité scenes, and archival footage, the film deconstructs the stages of earlier stardom and looks at the entertainment system over the last century.

In “Child Star,” Lovato sits down with several iconic former child stars to reflect on their personal experiences working in the entertainment industry in never-before-heard stories. Together, they take a look at the next generation of child actors and how to move forward in an ever-changing landscape. “Growing up in the spotlight changed our lives forever,” Lovato said.

This movie marked Lovato’s directorial debut with Nicola Marsh co-directing the project. “Child Star” is produced by Demi Lovato and Michael D. Ratner, Scott Ratner, Miranda Sherman, and Kfir Goldberg for OBB Pictures.

For Lovato, working on “Child Star” was a very reflective experience. Aside from Lovato, the documentary features Drew Barrymore, Chris Columbus, Christina Ricci, JoJo Siwa, Raven-Symoné, Alyson Stoner, and Kenan Thompson.

“Thank you to all of the former child stars who shared their stories with me in my directorial debut and new documentary,” Lovato said.

In addition, Lovato co-wrote and recorded the pensive song “You’ll Be OK, Kid” for “Child Star.”

On the lessons learned from “Child Star,” Lovato stated, “Making ‘Child Star’ was such a liberating experience. Speaking to other child actors that had similar experiences to mine made me feel less alone,” she acknowledged. “It was interesting to me that we all had a similar experience with disassociation, forgetting periods of time when we were working,” she added.

Regarding her career-defining moments, she revealed, “There are so many moments that were really special to me, but I think the show that taught me the most was ‘Barney.’”

In 2002, Lovato began her acting career on the children’s TV series “Barney & Friends,” where she played the role of Angela in Seasons 7 and 8 respectively. “It was the first time I was working with adults mainly, and they were all so kind and supportive to me. I learned so much from being on that show,” she expressed.

For young and emerging singers, actors, artists, songwriters, and storytellers, Lovato suggested

they “take a look at what they want” and “really hone their craft. Study, take lessons, learn,” she said. “There is really no need to rush it, stay in school, finish growing up. When you are of age and ready, you will also be really well learned and versed in your craft, and you will also know who you are as a person as well,” she elaborated.

Lovato furnished her definition of the word success. “Success means happiness,” she said. “Also, having a supportive family, and spending time with them and great friends that care.”

For her fans and supporters, Lovato remarked, “I want fans to know just how hard some of us worked, and that many of us really wanted to be working but needed the proper guard rails to do so; that’s why I made the project. To just share how we can all ensure good guard rails are in place, specifically for the next generation of social media child stars that don’t have the Coogan law to protect them,” she concluded.

Eleanor Roosevelt once said: “The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.” Demi Lovato embodies this wise quote, and it is evident that her new documentary is an inspiration to us all.

To learn more about internationally-recognized pop star Demi Lovato, follow her on Instagram, and visit her official website.

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## 28<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 1940

**OXI Day** (Greek: Επέτειος του "Όχι") is celebrated throughout Greece, Cyprus and the Greek communities around the world on 28 October each year. *OXI Day* commemorates the rejection by Greek Prime Minister Ioannis Metaxas of the ultimatum made by Italian dictator Benito Mussolini. This ultimatum, which was presented to Metaxas by the Italian Ambassador to Greece Emanuele Grazzi, shortly after 03:00 am on 28 October 1940, demanded Greece to allow Italian forces to enter Greek territory and occupy certain unspecified "strategic locations" or otherwise face war. It was allegedly answered with a single word: *όχι* (No!). In response to Metaxas's refusal, Italian troops stationed in Albania, then an Italian protectorate, attacked the Greek border at 05:30 am—the beginning of Greece's participation in World War II.

Greece defeated the far superior invading forces, expelling them from Greek territory and liberated Northern Epirus, a sizable area in southern Albania. The Greek military success marked the first series of victories in the war against the Axis. On the morning of 28 October, the Greek population took to the streets, irrespective of political affiliation, shouting "όχι". From 1942, it was celebrated as OXI Day, first mostly among the members of the resistance and after the war by all the Greeks.

**Long Live Greece and Long Live the Greeks!!!**

**ΖΗΤΩ Η ΕΛΛΑΣ!**

*Michael and Robin Psaros*





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December 2, 2024	5:30pm – 6:30pm
February 3, 2024	5:30pm – 6:30pm

#### Grades K-7 Open House Dates

December 4, 2024	5:30pm – 6:30pm
February 5, 2025	5:30pm – 6:30pm
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*We take knowledge, wisdom, and truth with us to help make the world a better place.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION and links to our virtual open house events, please visit our [website at www.hccs-nys.org](http://www.hccs-nys.org).

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