

American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association

The Ahepa

Voice....

Spring Issue
2015

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Message From the Editor

LEE J. MILLAS

Editorial Comment:

In the last issue of the Ahepa Voice, we began our search for an Editor of this publication. We are still in search mode and if interested, please call me at (609) 585-3137 or e-mail Limillas@msn.com. We also requested any and all comments and thoughts. If you allow, they will be published in future issues. We are always open to ideas and concerns that can only lead to a better publication.

As members of Ahepa, we have all learned things, met many great people and have many fine memories. While going thru my old Ahepa files, I came across one I had kept on a Past Supreme President of Ahepa, and although I never met him until his later years, I remember being so impressed by him that even to this day, I have never known anyone to be his equal. His name, DEAN ALFANGE, the 4th Supreme President of Ahepa 1927-29, elected President at the age of 28. Space does not allow all to be said about this individual so here is an essay he wrote about what it means to be an American that was published in The Readers Digest in the 50s.

“My Creed” by Dean Alfange

“I do not choose to be a common man. It is my right to be uncommon-if I can. I seek opportunity-not security. I do not wish to be a kept citizen, humbled and dulled by having the state look after me. I want to take the calculated risk: to dream and to build, to fail and to succeed. I refuse to barter incentive for a dole. I prefer the challenges of life to the guaranteed existence, the thrill of fulfillment to the stale calm of utopia. I will not trade freedom for beneficence nor my dignity for a handout. I will never cower before my master nor bend to any threat. It is my heritage to stand erect, proud and unafraid, to think and act for myself, enjoy the benefit of my creations, and to face the World boldly and say, this I have done. All this is what it means to be an American.

Nothing more need be said.

Lee J. Millas, Editor



LOOKING BACK !

A HISTORY
TO ALWAYS
REMEMBER



DISTRICT 5 DELEGATES - MIAMI, FLORIDA SUPREME CONVENTION, 1974



Officers of Eureka Chapter, No. 52, Newark, N. J.

June • 1934

*Left to right, front row, seated: Spyros Mastoras, Warden; William Chirgotis, Secretary; Thomas P. Argyris, President; James N. Pappas, District Governor, District No. 7; Chris Maurin, Vice-President; George Gavras, Treasurer, and Constantine Petrakis, Chaplain.
Standing, left to right: Constantine Vassos, Captain of the Guard; Constantine Bistis, Financial Secretary; Thomas Kacandes, Governor; Milton M. Matheakis, Past President and Chairman of Board of Governors; James D. Apostolakos, Past President; Constantine Martakis, Governor; Constantine D. Givas, Past President, and Nicholas Vassilas, Sentinel.*



Message From Our District Governor

STANLEY GERONDELIS

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are getting close to the District Convention and to the end of another AHEPA year. Time waits for no one and it is moving faster than we like. It seems not too long ago when we had our last year's District Convention and now we are getting ready for the next one.

I was initiated as a member of AHEPA in the year 1964 at the Washington chapter #114 in Plainfield, NJ and was a member until the chapter became inactive in 1980. I then transferred to Monroe chapter #75 and I have been a member of this chapter for 35 years. As long as I can remember, this is the first time Monroe chapter is hosting a District Convention. I am very happy that I had something to contribute to that, since I happen to be the District Governor this year.

I am also pleased to be able to find a very capable brother, John Lyssikatos, who accepted to be the Chairman. I have high hopes that this will be a very successful convention since we are centrally located and very accessible from all parts of New Jersey. The dates are June 5, 6 and 7, 2015 at the Doubletree Hotel at 200 Atrium Drive in Somerset, New Jersey.

The District lodge had a very busy year as we traveled throughout the entire District visiting all the chapters and meeting with all brothers. We listened to their ideas and opinions and heard their concerns, all for the good of the order. At every chapter we visited, we were welcomed with brotherly love and respect. It was a pleasure to see all the activities each chapter is involved with, some charitable and some community involvements such as the festivals, Greek school and youth programs. Many brothers are members of their parish council and many chapters have made considerable donations to the Church with the proceeds they bring from different fundraisers. This is what AHEPA is all about.

We had two very successful fundraisers. One fundraiser was held in Cherry Hill and one in Piscataway, to help with the rebuilding of St. Nicholas Church at Ground Zero, the only Church destroyed during the 9/11 bombing of the World Trade Center Towers.

The District Lodge also attended the ground breaking ceremony for St. Nicholas Church. All the dignitaries, those where involved at the time when this disaster happened, were present. It was a very emotional event for all those that were present.

This year we successfully reactivated the Liberty chapter in Clifton thanks to the efforts of Past District Governor and District Youth Advisor brother Ted Vitas. He worked very hard for the last three years to make this a successful reactivation. He took over the position of the President and I wish him a very successful future in the years to come. We also reactivated the Perth Amboy chapter that was inactive for many years, thanks to the efforts of the District Secretary, George Petrakakis who took the initiative to make this a reality.

This is my fifth year with the District Lodge and I did a lot of traveling through the District. I visited all the chapters at least once and some even twice every year.

The time is getting close for me to pass the baton to my successor. I wish him a Healthy and successful AHEPA year with brotherly love and unity. I will be available to give a helping hand when I'm asked.

Fraternally
Stanley Gerondelis
Governor District #5

AHEPAVoice

151 Fernwood Drive
Old Tappan, NJ 07675
Phone: 201-664-1534
Fax: 201-652-0789
Email: ahepavoiced5@gmail.com
ljmillas@msn.com

District Lodge

AHEPA

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Lt. Governor Asteris Fanikos
Secretary George Petrakakis
Treasurer Jimmy Rozanitis
Marshal Zenon Christodoulou
Warden Steven Marmarou
Athletics Advisor... Nick C. Mariolis
Sons Advisor Ted Vittas, PDG

DOP

Governor Anna Zavros
Lt. Governor Karen Knicos
Secretary Isa Velez MD
Treasurer Eleni Boyadjis
Marshal Carol Pappas
Advisor Marcella Calagias, PDG
Maids Advisor... Eleni
Parlapanides, PDG

District & National Websites

National

www.ahepa.org

AHEPA District 5

www.ahepadistrict5.org

Daughters of Penelope District

5thdistrictdaughtersofpenelope.webs.com

Sons of Pericles

www.sonsofpericles.com

Maids of Athena

www.maidsofathena.org

Email

5th District Cancer Foundation

thianitsa@aol.com

AHEPA D5 Email List

Ahepad5@hec.greece.org

Publication Board

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BOT Lee Millas, Editor
BOT Vassos Chrysanthou
PDG Christopher Diamantoukos
PSG John Mehos
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PDG Costas Sedereas



Message from the Daughters of Penelope District Governor

ANNA ZAVROS

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Thank you for this wonderful opportunity to serve as your District Governor. I have had the best time of my life! The year started out with the Ground Breaking Ceremony of St. Nicholas National Shrine. What a beautiful service by his Eminence Archbishop Demetrios. The AHEPANs and Daughters are committed to the rebuilding of St. Nicholas National Shrine, Archbishop Demetrios fought so hard to get the approval for the shrine, and what an honor for all of us to have this beautiful church as a symbol and beacon of hope of our faith that we can share with all people.

We had good Lodge representation to our chapter visitations and chapter events. All the sisters of District 5 are hard-working creative women who never stop to amaze me. From Fashion Shows, Gift Auctions, Hellenic Cultural Event, "A Nutcracker Tea" Party, Health Fairs, PDG and Past President testimonial dinners, Founder's Day Dinner and Christmas Parties, to name a few. So much fun!

The 5th District AHEPA Cancer Research Foundation Gala was another highlight of the year. The 5th District AHEPA Cancer Research Foundation celebrated its 25th year and awarded \$40,000 in cancer research in areas of Triple Negative Breast Cancer research, Lung Cancer research and Pediatric Cancer research. Daughters of Penelope, Grand Vice President Constance Pilallis and Order of AHEPA Supreme President Phillip Frangos were in attendance.

Another wonderful event was our Bi-Annual Salute to Women held on Sunday, March 8, 2015 at the Pines Manor in Edison, NJ. This year's honoree is Marissa P. Costidis, Managing Director of GOTEcom.

Our Honoree spoke from her heart, sharing with all her beliefs, values and struggles; and how with faith everything is possible. Marissa was an extraordinary recipient. Thank you Sisters for supporting this event where we honor women who exemplify our mission: Hellenism, Education, Philanthropy, Civic Responsibility and Family and Individual Excellence. Georgette Boulegeris and Evellyn Tsiadis were Co-Chairs of this event. Grand Governor Zone III, Anne-Marie Cariotis and Liaison to District 5 was in attendance.

We honored our Greek Heritage by participating in the Philadelphia Greek Independence Day Parade on March 22, 2015 and the NYC Greek Independence Day Parade on March 29, 2015.

We are looking forward to a beautiful and fun afternoon with all of our Sisters at the Spring Luncheon. This year's Spring Luncheon was held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Hamilton, NJ on Saturday, May 2, 2015.

This year's 5th District Convention will be held at the Doubletree Somerset Hotel in Somerset, NJ. The AHEPA New Brunswick Monroe Chapter #75 and Daughters Chapter, Tethy's #229 will be hosting this year's convention. Scholarship winners will be announced at the Convention. This is your chance to see old friends and make new ones.

The AHEPA Family Supreme Convention will be July 1-July 4, 2015 at the Hyatt Regency located at Five Embarcadero Center San Francisco, CA 94111. The Daughters of Penelope will be celebrating 85 years in San Francisco, California where we were founded November 16, 1929!

Thank you to my District Lodge and all the chapters for your support. I have enjoyed my year as District Governor tremendously.

Yours in Theta Pi,
Anna Zavros
District Governor

LT. GOVERNOR GUADAGNO CELEBRATES GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY WITH NJ STATE HELLENIC HERITAGE COMMISSION AND THE ORDER OF AHEPA

2015 Marks the 194th Year of Greece's Independence from the Ottoman Empire

Trenton, NJ – Commemorating the 194th year of Greek independence, Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno and Fr. George Nikas, representing His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos of NJ, welcomed members of the New Jersey Hellenic American Heritage Commission and the Order AHEPA to the State House on March 26th. Fr. Nikas expressed the gratitude His Eminence has to the State of NJ and to all “who honor the Hellenic American Community”.

Members of the NJ Hellenic American Heritage Commission and the Order of AHEPA (American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association) were in attendance as the Lt. Governor signed a proclamation recognizing Greek Independence Day. Established in 2009, the NJ Hellenic American Heritage Commission promotes Hellenic heritage, culture and history throughout the State while expanding cultural exchanges and economic ties between New Jersey residents and the nations of Greece and Cyprus. As the nation's largest and oldest Greek American grassroots service association, the Order of AHEPA's mission to promote the ancient Greek ideals of education, philanthropy and civic responsibility compliments the Hellenic Commission's responsibility to the State of NJ and to Hellenism.

Greek Independence Day is celebrated annually on March 25th in commemoration of Greece's successful war for independence against the Ottoman Empire, which ruled Greece for 400 years. The revolution began in 1821, and Greece was recognized as an independent nation in 1832.



AHEPA Lt. Gov. Asteris Fanikos, DOP Lt. Gov. Karen Knicos, AHEPA Supreme Gov. Phil Vogis, Hellenic Heritage Commission Chair and AHEPA District Marshall Zenon Christodoulou, Father Nikas, Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno, former Assemblyman and Hellenic Heritage Commission Chair Steve Corodemus, former Assemblyman Larry Chatzidakis, AHEPA PDG Savvas Tsivicos, and Stavros Antonakakis.



THE DISTRICT #5 CHALLENGE CUP

Members of Liberty Chapter #330 of Cliton, NJ win the District #5 Challenge Cup. In games held on Sunday April 19th in Wyckoff, NJ the Liberty Chapter competed with the Patritha Chapter #317 of Wyckoff, NJ in basketball games for the cup. The games included free throws, 3-points, dribbling and a 5-on-5 game. Patritha was in possession of the cup since 2013 when the Challenge Cup program began. Now Liberty must challenge another chapter to defend it.

Marissa P Costidis Is Honored by Daughters at DOP Salute to Women

The 5th District Daughters of Penelope held their Bi-Annual Salute to Women event on Sunday, March 8, 2015 at the Pines Manor in Edison, NJ. The Salute to Women honoree is Marissa P. Costidis, Managing Director of GOTelcom and Two Time Emmy Award winner.

The Salute to Women was a beautiful, moving and very inspirational afternoon. Our Honoree spoke from her heart, sharing with all her beliefs, values and struggles; and how with faith everything is possible. Marissa was an extraordinary recipient.

In her remarks, Mrs. Costidis said, "I have been working at the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America for almost 29 years. I consider it an honor and a privilege to make my career out of something I respect and I love - my faith and heritage. It is my passion. You may wonder how I have managed to stay clear of negative comments and the politics of organized religion. As I like to say I have survived three Archbishops..."

God is my boss. When I need to make a difficult decision or a complicated choice I remember that I do not work for an individual or

personality. I work for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. No politics, just faith".

Mrs. Costidis spoke at length about the Archdiocese project to build the Saint Nicholas Shrine.

Imagine what it would be like if we were not there? If we missed this opportunity - gave up - and let others take what is ours? Now imagine what it will be like in just a few years, and for future generations, to walk downtown, and to look up - as we do when we visit the Acropolis in Athens - and see our heritage and our faith as a symbol and a beacon to all, of the resilience and the power of faith... as a symbol of the Resurrection.

Other remarks Mrs. Costidis also spoke of her family and the values that were passed on to her from her parents and their involvement in the community of Asbury Park. She also spoke of her personal battle with Cancer and how it has changed her outlook on life. To that the honoree said, "It is not what God gives you; it is how you deal with what God gives you."



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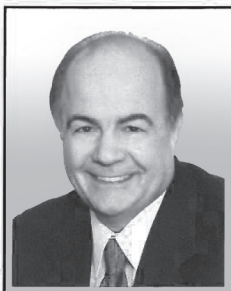
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\$34 Million Dollar Purchase

A new site for the ODYSSEY CHARTER SCHOOL

For years, the leadership of Wilmington, Delaware's Greek-American community had dreamed about founding a school that would celebrate the uniqueness and importance of the Greek language and culture. In 2004, AHEPA Chapter No. 95 began an initiative to create Delaware's first foreign language math-focused elementary charter school. Two years later, as a result of their efforts and financial support, Odyssey Charter School opened in September 2006.

Now, on February 18, 2015, the school achieved its goal of utilizing tax-exempt bond financing along with its strong financial position to purchase 36 acres of land and eight buildings (totaling 480,000 sq. ft.) at Barley Mill Plaza, ten minutes from its current location, for 34 million dollars. Barley Mill Plaza is the site of a recently vacated DuPont office complex and so the buildings had been well maintained. With the purchase of the buildings, while the long term financial obligations are

significant, the school now owns the improved buildings and property, and these will be major assets on its balance sheet.

Today, with 938 children in grades K-7, and with ambitious plans to expand to K-12, Odyssey is Delaware's first school where Greek is taught as a second language. Students in all grades receive 45 minutes of language and 45 minutes of mathematics each day. In addition, students receive an hour per week of Greek cultural instruction, mythology and history, and an hour of music instruction and Greek dancing. These subjects are taught by credentialed instructors from Greece, supplemented by Greek-American teachers selected for their academic credentials

The skills which are learned through this dual-language instruction have enabled Odyssey's students to exceed every performance standard of the Delaware Dept. of Education. According to state figures, in the



ODYSSEY CHARTER SCHOOL



2013-2014 school year, more than 92% of Odyssey students met state standards in math and more than 88% met standards in reading in all grades. In contrast, the state average is 70%. Odyssey has been designated a "Superior Elementary School" by the Dept. of Education for six consecutive years: 2008 – 2013 and named one of the "Top Ten Performing Schools" by Parents magazine in October 2012. It is noteworthy that 96% of all Odyssey students return every year and taking into account family relocations, Odyssey has an almost 100% student retention rate.

Odyssey has been designated a "Superior Elementary School" by the Dept. of Education for six consecutive years: 2008 – 2013 and named one of the "Top Ten Performing Schools" by Parents magazine in October 2012.

campus for over 1,700 children, there will be an even greater need for playing fields, walking paths, multi-purpose buildings available to the community and classrooms available for adult evening and weekend classes as well as pre- and after-school programs.

The long term goal of Odyssey's leaders is that when all phases of the Facilities Master Plan are successfully completed by 2018, Odyssey will utilize four buildings providing over 280,000 square feet of educational space, including a full-size gymnasium and multi-purpose building and several acres of recreational and organized sports

The dire lack of classroom and recreation space has always been the biggest challenge with which Odyssey's staff had to contend on a daily basis. With continued matriculation of students into higher grades each year until Odyssey has all grades from K – 12 and for long term plans of a

playing fields. Dreams that are now becoming a reality. For additional information please contact PDG George Righos, founding member and Vice-Chairman of the Board or Dimitri Dandolos, Board Member and Facilities Chairman.



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Greek Independence

NEW YORK





Day Parade

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Greek Independence
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PHILADELPHIA



Daughters of Penelope Amphitryon/Zephyr #701

Winter has played havoc with many of our endeavors; however, we were successful with two events. February 9, we joined our brother AHEPAn Eagle Rock #375, in hosting a post Holiday Party at the Hanover Manor. We enjoyed a lovely hot and cold buffet and danced to live music. In addition, one of the musicians treated us to a special impromptu performance. The evening concluded with a 50/50 raffle won by Lynn Savvides. Congratulations.

One of our most successful fundraisers is our Valentine Basket Raffle. The drawing took place during the Fellowship/Coffee hour on Sunday, February 9. The lucky winner was Ekaterina Zanthopoulos, a member of our chapter. Congratulations.

The proceeds from this and other fundraisers go to support the numerous charities and philanthropic work the Daughters do at the chapter, District and National level. The benefactors of our work include, but are not limited to, St. Basil's, Cooley's anemia, Cancer Research Foundation, Home for Battered Women, Wounded Warriors, Scholarships and Ss.NCH.

March 16 we held our Koulourakia Bake Sale. It was an overwhelming success!! We thank the friends and family of Ss. NCH for supporting our projects.

We held two successful fundraisers. February we had our Valentine's Basket Raffle. The lucky winner for the second consecutive year was, Ekaterini Zantopoulos. Our congratulations to her and our sincere thanks to all who purchased raffles.

March 15 we held our second fundraiser, Koulourakia Bake Sale. Once again, the family of SsNCH came through for us. Proceeds from this event will go to the St. Nicholas National Shrine. Thanks to Mary Theodos for chairing the bake sale and to the sisters who helped with baking, packing and sales.

The Daughters holds only these two fundraisers to support our many philanthropic endeavors including, St. Nicholas National Shrine, Penelope House (Domestic Violence), Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA) Sjogren's syndrome Foundation, (chronic autoimmune disease where white blood cells attach moisture-producing glands. Today, as many as 4 million Americans are living with this disease.) University of Miami Sylvester Cancer Center, Breast Cancer Vaccine Research, local charities and scholarships.

We support our Brother AHEPAn in their endeavors. Together we sponsored the coffee hour following Salutations on Friday, March 13 and on March 15 we attended their annual Fasolada. May 15 has been designated AHEPA Sunday and together we will have a memorial for our deceased brothers and sisters and host the coffee fellowship in their memory.

March 21, fifteen Daughters, family and friends attended a theater party at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse. A lovely luncheon (including luscious

The proceeds from this and other fundraisers go to support the numerous charities and philanthropic work the Daughters do at the chapter, District and National level. The benefactors of our work include, but are not limited to, St. Basil's, Cooley's anemia, Cancer Research Foundation, Home for Battered Women, Wounded Warriors, Scholarships and Ss.NCH.

Our District Governor, Marcella Calagias and members of her Lodge honored us with a visitation on March 5. It was at this meeting when we welcomed three new Daughters, Olga Pomaco, Barbara Reynolds and Dede Porta.

Friday, March 21, we joined with our Eagle Rock Brother AHEPAn in hosting the Fellowship Hour following church services.

May 3 we attended our District Luncheon at the Hanover Manor and on May 17 we are hosted a dinner in honor of our two Past Presidents, Ida Stathakis (Zephyr) and Irene Wilcox (Amphitryon) and members with 10+ service.

We wish the entire AHEPA Family good deliberations at the National Convention and a Safe and Happy Summer.

desserts), followed by a light hearted comedy, "Abie's Irish Rose" made for a very nice afternoon.

March 29, we marched in the Greek Independence Parade with AHEPA family from NY and Conn. It was a special honor to have Anna-Helene Panagakos Grossomanides, Grand President join us.

We will close out the season by attending the Daughters Spring Luncheon on May 2 in Hamilton, NJ and the District Convention in Somerset, NJ on June 5-7. We wish the AHEPA Family of New Brunswick a successful convention and to the Delegates, good deliberations. To the outgoing Lodges, thank you and success in your future endeavors.



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TRENTON CHAPTER 72



TRENTON 72 PLANNING FOR 90TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Trenton Chapter 72 will celebrate its 90th anniversary this year. We are in the planning stages of an Anniversary Celebration Ball to be held at the Merion in Cinnaminson, New Jersey on October 18th, 2015. Brothers, please save the date in your calendars and join us to celebrate this historical milestone. Check for updates on our new website www.ahepachapter72.com. The events/calendar page will have the latest information on this and other events. While you are on our site you can click the Facebook link and like us,

you will then get automatic status updates in your news feed. Other events to look out for: Our yearly Fishing Trip, Scholarship Awards Night, Taverna Days, Golf Outing and more. Last year's Taverna Days proved to be a great success, the weather cooperated and attendees enjoyed good food & drink, music and great company with God's help we hope to repeat last years success. Brothers we wish you all a happy Pascha and hope to see you all in October.

Current elected officers:

Back row:

Asteris Fanikos (District 5 Lt. Governor)
George Koutsouradis (Second Vice President)
Ed Hill (chaplain)
Herb Allen (Capt. Of the Guard)
Danny Tsilimidos (Sentinel)
Stratis Peters (Warden)
Dino Zimnes (Treasurer Emeritus)

Front Row:

James Knicos (Secretary)
Steve Stylianou (Vice President)
Dino Demetriou (President)
Rick Roscoe (Treasurer)

2014 TAVERNA DAYS PHOTOS



Trenton Chapter 72



Anniversary Celebration Ball

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MONROE CHAPTER 75 NEWS

On November 9th, two members Monroe Chapter 75 of AHEPA from Piscataway, ran in the footsteps of Pheidippides and completed Athens Classic Marathon in Athens, Greece. Victor Stevens and Matt Szela successfully competed and finished the Athens Marathon as members of 2014 Athens Marathon Team AHEPA. A third Ahepan from Piscataway, Dean Solomos, also completed the Athens Marathon independently. Matt, Victor and Dean previously completed many US Marathons, but running the original and authentic Athens Marathon was the superb top accomplishment of their running careers. They all stated that crossing the finish line at the Panathenaic Stadium was very unique and emotional moment for them. Matt and Victor used their Athens Marathon event as a fund-raiser and raised over \$9,000 for the AHEPA Bone Marrow and Leukemia foundations and for the Penelope House. Victor and Matt would like to thank all who contributed to their cause. Special thanks also go to Apostolos Greek Tours who provided superb logistic support and trip arrangements in Athens. All fit Ahepans are strongly encouraged to run and participate in Team AHEPA Athens Marathon in 2015!!



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Be Seen at the 84th Annual
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Friday June 5 - Sunday, June 7, 2015

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Itinerary:

Friday , May 5

Convention Opening – 7:00 pm
AHEPA Meeting/Election of Convention Officers – 8:00 pm
Sons and Maids Reunion – 8:30 pm at T.K.'s Pub in the hotel

Saturday – May 6

Convention Meetings – 9:00 am
Daughters of Penelope Luncheon – 12:00 noon
Election of Officers – approximately 4:00 pm
Cocktails – 6:30 pm
Grand Banquet – 7:00 pm

Sunday – May 7

Church services at Saint George Church 10:15 am
River Rd, Piscataway, NJ

Times are subject to change.

Your Hosts:

Monroe Chapter #75 of New Brunswick, NJ
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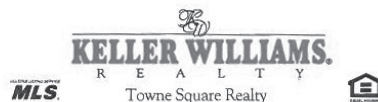
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George Adam Angelakis, of Pennington, NJ, passed away peacefully surrounded by loving family and friends on March 5, 2015. George was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, godfather, brother, uncle, cousin, employer, and friend. His final days were marked with the same qualities that defined his life- dignity, humor, respect for others, and above all, love for his family. George was born in Chania, Crete, Greece, in 1934, the second son

of the late Adam and Agapi Angelakis. He immigrated in 1955 to the Trenton area, where he worked various restaurant jobs until 1961, when he joined JB Airline Catering. In 1975, George opened his own company, Ariston Airline Catering in Wrightstown, NJ, and became a well-respected leader in the airline catering industry. With his family, he went on to found Colonial Farms Gourmet Foods in Washington Crossing, PA, in 1989, and Olives in Princeton, NJ, in 1995. George was especially committed to his Greek Orthodox faith. His love for the church was nurtured as a young boy growing up next to a church. He served his home parish of St. George Greek Orthodox Church of Trenton, NJ, for over 55 years. George was on the parish council for over 40 years, serving in various positions, including president for six years, treasurer, and vice president. In his later years, George was an advisor to the sitting parish council, an occasional cantor, and a driving force behind a successful stewardship committee. In 2008, he became Archon Depoutatos of The Great Church of Christ, an honor bestowed from The Ecumenical Patriarchate, to recognize his commitment to the betterment of the church, archdiocese, metropolis, and his parish. It was that commitment that drove George's outstanding service to the church and his tireless leadership in the Orthodox Christian community. George dedicated himself to the success and expansion of the Greek-American community through his unselfish acts of service. He was a member of AHEPA Chapter 72 in Trenton for over 50 years and the St. George Greek Festival Committee for over 35 years and was a founding member of "Knossos," the Delaware Valley Chapter of The Pancretan Association of America. George was a friend of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of NJ and many clergy. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Katina; his children, Adam Angelakis and his wife, Mina; Eve Golfinopoulos and her husband, Theodore, and Nicholas Angelakis and his wife, Mary. A devout family man, George leaves a great legacy of 12 grandchildren, Katina, Eleni, George A., Manoli, Aristeia, Kassiani, Stamatis, Agapi, George N., Zoe, Maximos, and Evangelos.



Nicholas G. Pituras, DDS, of Tenafly passed away on January 8, 2015. Loving husband of Voula (nee Chonis). Beloved father of George and his wife Valerie, John, Andrew and his wife Donna. Adored grandfather of Nicole, Kayla, and Sophie. Devoted brother of Kiki Spiliotopoulos, Pat Nikolo-poulos, and Maria Kefaliakou (deceased). He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. A 1959 graduate from the University of Pennsylvania School of

Dentistry, he practiced in Manhattan for 50 years. He was a member of the Cathedral of St. John the Theologian in Tenafly, and served on the Parish Council as 2nd and 1st Vice President. Nicholas was a member of The Order of Ahepa for 52 years, and also served as President in the past. He served on the Board of St. Basil's Academy, offering free exams and treatments to the children for 34 years. He was made a life member of the Academy for his services. He was an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. He has received the National Philoptochos Merit Award. He was a member of the American Dental Association, NY State Dental Society, served as President of The Hellenic Dental Society in New York, and was a member of several Greek American Societies in New York City.



Gus Kramis, of Englewood Cliffs, died peacefully on December 27, 2014 surrounded by his loving family. Gus was born in NYC. He was the treasured husband of Bessie for 61 years. He cherished his devoted daughter Vivian, son-in-law John Demoleas and his adored grandchildren Constantine and Valerie, as unflinching presence in their lives. Gus is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews and grand nieces and nephews. He went to Greece and returned

to the US at 12 years old, living in North Carolina and Massachusetts. He was a graduate from the American International College, the New York Institute of Electronics School and was a loyal employee for 30 years at the Zenith Corp. as their Service Manager. Gus touched the lives of so many, with his outgoing, selfless and generous ways, serving on the parish council of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Ascension in Fairview, and for 40 years on the parish council of the Cathedral of St. John the Theologian in Tenafly, where he was a founder and Past President. His tireless work for the Orthodox Church was recognized in March 1981, when he was elected by the Holy Synod of Constantinople as an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.



Van A. Grafas, of Warren, N.J., passed away at Overlook Medical Center, Summit, N.J., on Thursday, Jan. 30, 2014, at the age of 59. Van was born in New York, N.Y., and was raised in Summit, N.J. He lived in New Providence, N.J., before moving to Warren 20 years ago. He was a self-employed safety compliance officer for many years.

Van served as a Ranger in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. He was a member and past president of the order of AHEPA Thomas Jefferson Chapter No.A280 in Westfield and a graduate of Summit High School. He was the beloved husband of Lisa (nee D'Adamo); loving father of Evan and Gabriella Grafas; dear son of Maria Grafas and the late Gus Grafas; brother of Larry Grafas and his wife, Brenda; son-in-law of Angelo and Rosanna D'Adamo; brother-in-law of Mark D'Adamo and his wife, Deb, and Rosemarie Mouriello and her husband, Carmine.



Savas Veros, of Pine Bush NY, formerly of Clifton NJ, born on December 18, 1921 in Norwich, CT, died peacefully in St. Luke's Hospital in Newburgh, NY on June 9, 2014. He was 92 years old and always very proud to show off that he still had lots of brown hair.

Savas was the son of Despina and Constantine Veros and was predeceased by his two brothers: Chris and Nick. Savas, known also as Sam by his non-Greek friends and co-workers, started work at the age of 16 for Babaco Alarm Systems and played a key role in their purchasing and design efforts for 49 years until he retired at age 65. After his retirement, Savas was called back to work as a consultant by Babaco well into his late 80s.

Savas served in the U.S. Army as a private and then a Sergeant in World War II. He was a member of the 117th Regiment, 30th Infantry Division, Company C. He fought in four major European battles and loved to reminisce about his wartime experiences. Savas was awarded the Bronze Star, Combat Infantryman's Badge, and two Presidential Unit Citations.

Savas served for many years on the Board of Directors at St. Athanasios Church, originally in Paterson, NJ and later in Paramus, NJ and was a member of the AHEPA. He loved fishing, boating and golf. He also enjoyed the casinos in Atlantic City and was the ultimate putter-around-the house, electrician, and tomato gardener.

In addition to his wife Irene of 67 years, Savas is survived by his two daughters: Diane Veros and her husband, Michael Profita of Clifton Park, NY and Stacey Anne Varianides and her husband, George Varianides of Pine Bush, NY. Also surviving are grandchildren: Jamie Enos and her husband, James Enos, Jason Varianides and his wife, Alison Varianides, and Nicholas Profita as well as great-grandchildren: Cassandra, Kalliope and Tyler.



Chris Sophos, 82, passed away on June 5, 2014, at his home in West Orange, N.J. Chris was born in 1931 in Hartzia, Kyrenia District, Cyprus.

He served as a policeman in Cyprus before 1959, when he immigrated to the United States, living in West Orange, N.J. He worked in the family restaurant for many years, where he is remembered by customers and employees as a friendly, full of life, generous man who was always willing to help others. "Uncle Chris," as he was affectionately known, was always available to help.

Chris supported his community in any way he could. He was an active volunteer at his church and served as an officer of the parish council for several years, including in the position of vice president.

He was an active member of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) for over 50 years and he served as its president. When the 1974 invasion of his native Cyprus resulted in many orphans and refugee children, he was one of the first to financially adopt a refugee child. Chris was a dedicated Ahepan who enjoyed participating in charitable works that helped to strengthen the community in which he lived and served.

Above all, Chris cherished his family. A loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, and uncle, he touched the lives of many people. Chris is survived by his wife of 57 years, Athena; his children, Helen, Andrea and Constantine; daughter-in-law, Katherine; his seven grandchildren, Athena, Andreana, Matthew, Stephen, Alexander, Chrysostomos and Leonidas, and his great-grandchild, Thalia.



George T. Solomos, 71, passed away on July 11, 2014. A lifelong resident of New Jersey, he was born in Trenton, resided in East Brunswick, and later moved to Freehold Township. Mr. Solomos was a Restaurateur and Real Estate Investor. He was a communicant of St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Piscataway NJ, serving two terms as the Chairman (House/Grounds) on the Board of Trustees. George also was a current Member of the Order of AHEPA, the Italian/American Club, The Men's Club of The Riviera of Freehold, a Member of the Bocce Team; and various Church Committees. He enjoyed cooking, watching cooking shows, and going to various restaurants.

He was preceded in death by his beloved parents, Goldie Logothetis and Theodore Solomos; and his first wife, Elaine McGlynn. Surviving are his beloved wife, Nina Bailey-Solomos of 5 years; four daughters, Adina O'Neill of East Brunswick NJ; Felice Band of Westfield NJ; Fern Jaskowski of Colts Neck NJ; Jill Kanzler of Jackson NJ; one dear brother, James T. Solomos of Cape Coral FL; two beloved nieces, Stacy Lyn Solomos of Fanwood NJ, and Jennifer Lyn Solomos of Bridgewater NJ, and seven grandchildren.

Con "Constantine" Bacalakis, 83 of Ridgewood, entered into eternal rest on January 12, 2015. Born in Innisfail North Queensland, Australia he moved to the village in 1961. Prior to his retirement he had been a Sales Associate selling Marine Paints for Sigma Coatings, a subsidiary of American Petrofina. Mr. Bacalakis was a former Board Member of the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Wyckoff, and a 50 year member of AHEPA. He is survived by his wife Elaine Aphrodite Bacalakis (nee Arvanitakis), his daughter and son in law Theodora and Vasilios Portelos, sons Nicholas and Andrew Bacalakis, Grandson Anthony Portelos, two brothers, George (Margaret) and James (Despina) Bacalakis, a sister-in-law Anna Bacalakis, and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brothers Andrew and John.

Mary Boyadjis, 89 of Morris Twp, passed away peacefully at home on May 20, 2014. She was born in Connecticut and moved to Morris Township in 1968. She was predeceased by her husband of 55 years, Andreas Z. Boyadjis. She believed in helping others, Mary was a volunteer with the Olive Twigs, Morristown Meals on Wheels, and the Boy Scouts of America. She was a member of the Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church and was a past District Governor of the Daughters of Penelope.

She is survived by her son Paul of Cedar Knolls, his wife Cathy and their children: Jim, Sara and Christina. Her son, Bill of Morris Township, his wife Amanda and their children: Paige and Lucy. Mary also leaves behind many loving nieces, nephews and extended family and friends.

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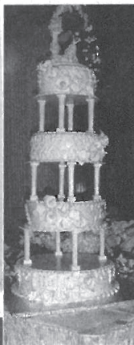
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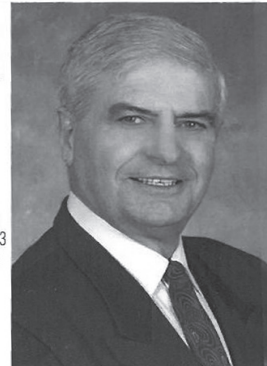
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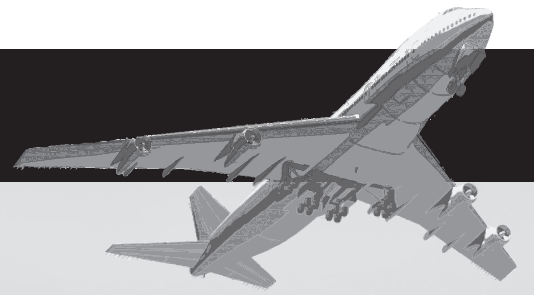
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