

JOHN G. THEVOS FIFTH DISTRICT NJ/DE

# AHEPA Voice

*American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association*



## *Celebrating 190 Years of Liberty*

*1821-2011*



The District 5  
AHEPA Family Leads  
the March

*Coverage of the Parades  
in New York City and  
Philadelphia*



*Spring 2011*



# AHEPA CAMDEN CHAPTER 69 JOHN G. THEVOS 5<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT CONVENTION

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Friday, June 3rd

District Golf Tournament .....	9:00AM – 2:00PM
Convention Registration .....	2:00PM – 9:00PM
Official Convention Opening .....	7:00PM
Poolside Welcome Night Reception .....	(To follow opening)
Sons and Maids Reunion .....	
Camden Chapter Archival Display .....	(All throughout convention)

### Saturday, June 4th

Registration .....	9:00AM – 2:00PM
General Business Sessions .....	9:00AM – Noon
Daughters of Penelope Luncheon .....	12:00PM – 2:00PM
General Sessions .....	2:00PM – 5:00PM
Grand Banquet .....	Reception 6:30PM    Dinner 7:00PM

(Hospitality Suite will be open at conclusion of Banquet)

### Sunday, June 5th

Church Services – St. Thomas G.O.C. AHEPA DAY  
Farewell Luncheon

**June 3–5th, 2011**  
**Quality Inn &  
Grand Versailles**  
**Maple Shade, NJ**

**Note:**  
Daughters Scholarship  
Luncheon- \$35.00  
Grand Banquet- \$65.00  
Hotel- \$110.00/Night  
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ΑΝΕΣΤΗ**

**CHRIST IS RISEN**

**KRARAS FAMILY**  
Reading, PA  
Wildwood, NJ

## Gust Kraras Celebrates His 90th Birthday with Honors and Surprises

Dear Brothes & Sisters,

The Celebration started on Sunday, February 27th when my family hosted a luncheon after the Liturgy in our Church and offered a full meal to the entire congregation. Over 220 people were in attendance. The Parish Council presented me with a commemorative plaque with their best wishes to my 150th birthday!

My Family knows that I love visiting New York, so it was not a big surprise when they told me that we were having a bus take us to New York on my Birthday. The big surprise came after we boarded the bus and they told me that we would be having visitors from Greece. It was great seeing my 88 year old sister again and my 13 nieces, nephews, grand-nieces, and grand-nephews. Then that same evening, another surprise was the arrival of my God-Daughter from Nashville, TN with her son.

But the surprises were not over. Saturday evening was the climax of the celebration with over 275 relatives and friends gathered in the Kraras Hall of our Church for an outstanding evening that I will never forget. My children gathered together almost all of my family and friends who means so much to me. The food was outstanding and the entertainment was certainly special as it included my old friend Sasha who came from Florida and my Nephew, George Koumaras, from Virginia, with his clarinet. I even danced the Tsamiko to the music of Sasha and George.

Many thanks to those of you who attended my Great Event and also, for your donation for the Chapel of St. Paraskevi in my home village of Terpsithea. I thank my children and grandchildren for all their hard work in planning and organizing all of these events and for all the effort it took to take care of all the fine details.

I pray that when you reach your 90th Birthday, you will enjoy it as much as I enjoyed mine.

Thanking you, again, for your participation,  
Gust C. Kraras

*Gus is a Past District Governor and Perennial Host of Wildwood Weekend*



## *Final Word From Our District Governor*

# GEORGE G. HORIATES, ESQ.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

What a year it has been! I take this time to thank the members of the District Lodge for putting up with the most demanding schedule we have ever had during my term as your District Governor. I know we had many goals in mind, amongst them putting AHEPA back to the forefront and its rightful place as the leading organization of Greek-Americans in New Jersey and Delaware. I think we were able to accomplish that and so much more.

The spring consisted of two well attended parades, fundraisers, concert with our Metropolis Choir, visitations, appearances at the White House and Greek Consul General's Office, launching of the AHEPA Business Network, HERMES Expo support, reinvigorating our Sons of Pericles, continuation of establishing better relations with our Holy Metropolis, Japan Disaster Relief and so much more. It is with heavy

heart that my term will conclude with the District Convention hosted by Camden Chapter 69 on June 3-5, 2011. It is my hope to see each and every chapter attend the District Convention as well as send delegates to our Supreme Convention in Miami, Florida, this July. I found throughout the year that a key ingredient to our success is our desire to promote Hellenic values. This is what makes me proud to be a member of the greatest of all Greek-American organizations, our AHEPA.

My message on the eve of my departure from office is one based not on all that we have done, but all that we must do. We must continue to make strides in our membership by engaging potential members in our respective communities. Our theme must be INCLUSIVENESS.

We must continue initiations and active schedules on the chapter level, support

our church communities, support our Sons district wide and improve our relations with our Daughters of Penelope. There is no good reason each and every member of your community, friend, and family associate, should not be an AHEPAN. We must improve upon the inclusion and involvement of all of our members and our potential and future members.

Looking back, as I complete my final year on the Lodge I realize that exclusion is not the answer to sustaining our future. The inclusion of all of our members is necessary and vital to our success.

I charge each and every one of you to continue to be involved and to involve other members of your community in AHEPA at the local level and in our greater workings.

I thank you all.

George G. Horiates  
*District #5 Governor*



## *Message from Daughters of Penelope District Governor*

# KAREN MAROUSSIS

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As Spring is now upon us and the year is coming to an end I would like to take this opportunity to *thank* everyone for their support throughout the year. To those who have taken a more active role for the "Good of the Order" I cannot thank you enough as we would not have the successful year we have had without the hard work and dedication of you. We all have busy schedules, to those who have put time aside and have made time to continue the work of our Order, I applaud you. To the Mentoring Chairpersons, who without their knowledge and willingness to assist the Chairpersons took an active role in making this year a success, I thank you. The Salute to Women cannot go unmentioned; the mentoring Chairpersons Georgette Boulegeris and Antoinette Marousis-Zachariades who guided the chairpersons

Kathy Savides, Angela Hajiyerou and their committee to hold a successful event in honoring Marina Alexander.

To all the Sisters who have participated and supported the National, District and Chapter events it is you who makes this District successful and the best district to be a part of. The District Lodge has been welcomed so graciously throughout the District this year by all the chapters and its members, we thank you and wish you continued success.

AHEPA District Governor Brother George Horiates it was a pleasure and an honor to work side by side with you. The success of the District 5 AHEPA Family is in fact due to your dedication and perseverance in your commitment to preserve our traditions of Hellenism, *Εχετε κατασκευασεί η γέφυρα, Συγχαρητήρια.*

No one at the top is ever so successful

without those who helped one rise to the top. To my Sisters of the lodge I could not have done it without you and your continued support as well as to the entire District 5 Daughters of Penelope.

We still have many District events coming upon us and within our chapters. With the support of all the Sisters, we close the year in making all our events forthcoming successful with you, my Sisters. Upcoming District Events: the Spring Luncheon, April 30 2011 Pines Manor, and The Convention June 4-6, in Maple Shade and our host is the Nike Chapter.

Christos Anesti to you and your families. Until we meet again at our Annual District Convention June 4-6, 2011,

Yours in Theta Pi,

Karen Maroussis, *District Governor*

# AHEPA Voice

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vittas@optonline.net

## District Lodge

### AHEPA

Governor ..... George G. Horiates  
Lt. Governor ..... Savas C. Tsivicos  
Secretary ..... William Harrison  
Treasurer..... Sammy Thomas  
Marshal..... Jimmy Rozanitis  
Warden ..... Stanley Gerondelis  
Athletics Advisor... Nick C. Mariolis  
Sons Advisor ..... Ted Vittas

### DOP

Governor ..... Karen Marousis  
Lt. Governor ..... Rula Thasites  
Secretary ..... Eleni Parlapanides  
Treasurer..... Marcella Calagias  
Marshal..... Athens Zambalis  
Advisor ..... Robin Papagiannis

## District & National Websites

### National

www.ahepa.org

### AHEPA Districts

www.ahepafamily.org

### Daughters of Penelope District

worknotes.com/NJ/Wyckoff/  
District5DOP/

### Sons of Pericles

www.sonsofpericles.com

### Email

### 5th District Cancer Foundation

thianitsa@aol.com

### E-Mail & Web Coordinator

vittas@optonline.net

## Publication Board

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PDG Ted Vittas, Editor  
PDG Vassos Chrysanthou  
PDG Christopher Diamantoukos  
PSG John Mehos  
PSG Tom Pappas  
PDG Costas Sedereas  
PDG Chris Sevast

4 Spring 2011



## Business Manager's Spring Issue Message

# PHIL VOGIS

Brothers:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the chapters for sending their chapter per capita tax for the *AHEPA Voice* magazine. Also I would like to thank the advertisers for their continued support to the *AHEPA Voice* and all the new advertisers for putting their company's ad in the *AHEPA Voice*; you make the magazine possible with your financial support. Brothers please support our advertiser's business since they make our magazine possible and please tell them that you saw their ad in the *AHEPA Voice* magazine. Please note that starting with the spring issue; we decided to "refresh" the *AHEPA Voice* with new ideas and articles. Your comments are always welcomed. We encourage all chapters to continue to send their articles to the Editor. As always, the *AHEPA Voice* magazine is indebted to you Brothers for your continued support and I want to thank you for your praises that our magazine is truly a great source of information to the AHEPA Family. I want to wish everyone and your families, XRISTOS ANESTI. Thank you,

Fraternally,

Brother Phil Vogis-PDG

*AHEPA Voice*, Business Manager



## WILDWOOD AHEPA GREEK WEEKEND



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### WEEKEND SCHEDULE

#### Friday, September 30th

Arrive at your leisure

6:00 p.m. Buffet Dinner & Dancing



#### Saturday, October 1st

8-10:00 a.m. Full Breakfast

Afternoon at your leisure along the Boardwalk or one of the optional activities: Atlantic City casinos, Historic Cape May, or Monster Truck Races

6:00 p.m. Fabulous Filet Mignon Dinner & Dancing



#### Sunday, October 2nd

8-10:00 a.m. Full Breakfast

9:00 a.m. Orthros (Matins) begins at St. Demetrios Church

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy begins

12:30 p.m. Farewell Luncheon

**All this for only \$175.00 per person (double occupancy)**

(If reservation is received by September 1st)

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## AHEPA Launches The "Ahepa Business Network" With Award To Dr. Spiro Spireas, Ceo Of Sigmapharm Laboratories

**ATLANTIC CITY, NJ, MARCH 31, 2011:** AHEPA is the largest and oldest Hellenic American organization in the United States. The 5th District of AHEPA, covering the states of NJ and DE, is pleased to announce at the 2011 HERMES EXPO the launching of a major new initiative, the "AHEPA BUSINESS NETWORK". This network will utilize the resources and members of AHEPA to facilitate the exchange of news and opportunities in commerce for the benefit of members and our community in the United States, Canada, Greece, Cyprus and Australia.

AHEPA is excited to inaugurate the "AHEPA BUSINESS NETWORK" with an honor to Dr. Spiro Spireas, CEO of Sigmapharm Laboratories. Dr. Spireas, a member of AHEPA Chapter 72, Trenton, N.J., has demonstrated outstanding accomplishments in Commerce, Civic Affairs and Community Service.

"Dr. Spireas is an inspiration to our members and community," stated George Horiates, the Governor of AHEPA District 5. "The AHEPA BUSINESS NETWORK will be a resource to help others who aspire to follow the example of Brother Spireas."

"I am honored to help inaugurate the AHEPA BUSINESS NETWORK, and hope that it grows to be a valuable resource to the AHEPA and the community that it serves," said Sr. Spireas.

Dr. Spireas, New Hope, Pa., is the owner, founder, chairman and chief executive officer of Sigmapharm Laboratories, an emerging specialty pharmaceutical company operating out of Bensalem, Pennsylvania, and engaging in the development, manufacture and marketing of unique generic and branded pharmaceutical products. He is the inventor and author of more than 80 international and domestic patents and 200 scientific papers, books, and other publications in the fields of industrial pharmacy, pharmaceutical technology, biopharmaceutics, pharmacokinetics and analytical chemistry.

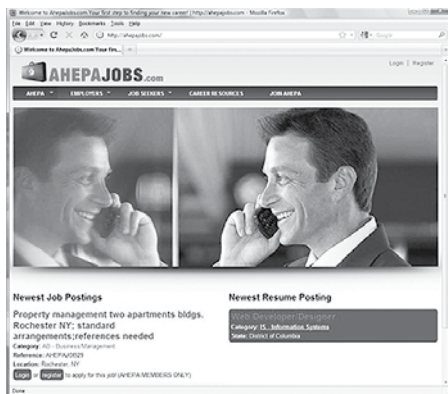
Dr. Spireas holds a Master's and a Doctorate Degree in Pharmaceutics and Industrial Pharmacy from St. John's University, Jamaica, N.Y., and a B.S. Degree in Pharmacy from the Hellenic National University of Athens, Greece.



Ahepans present plaque to Dr Spiro Spireas MD at the Hermes Expo Dinner. From left to right are Jim Rozanitis, Col Nick P. Vamvakias (retired), Paul Kotrotsios, the honoree Dr Spiro Spireas, Savas Tsvikos and at the podium is Sammy Thomas.

### AHEPAJobs.com Website Is There To Help You Progress In Your Career

AHEPA Headquarters is proud to announce that the AHEPA Jobs Board, [www.ahepajobs.com](http://www.ahepajobs.com) is fully functional and almost ready to launch. There's only one thing missing... job listings and resumes from you!



If your company has a career offering, or if you are aware of one, please go to the site and post it. The process is easy.

#### TO POST A JOB OPPORTUNITY

1. Go to: [www.ahepajobs.com](http://www.ahepajobs.com)
2. Under the "EMPLOYERS" menu tab, select "List a Job" and fill out the provided form.

Instantly you'll see basic information about your listing on the homepage. Note, only visitors who are logged in as current members are able to view the entire job listing, allowing them to submit their resume and cover letter to you as the job poster.

#### TO POST YOUR RESUME

1. Go to: [www.ahepajobs.com](http://www.ahepajobs.com)
2. Register and login as a member of AHEPA. (requires your listed last name and membership ID for verification)
3. Select the "Post a Resume" option under the "JOB SEEKERS" menu tab. The form allows you to indicate your contact information, career category and upload an electronic version of your resume.

With your help, we'll quickly have enough job listings to entice job seekers and resumes posted to become a resource for companies. Individuals will have instant access to apply for their dream job or for organizations to select the perfect candidate to help bring them to the next level of success.

# Districts 5 (NJ & DE), 6 (NY) & 7 (CT) March Up 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue In a *Celebration of Hellenism*



The New York Greek Independence Day parade was held Sunday, March 27, 2011 with many Tri-state area AHEPA chapters participating or in attendance. The weekend of events, sponsored by the Federation of Hellenic Societies, also included a banquet and many side events. The Parade route began at 61<sup>st</sup> Street and ended at 81<sup>st</sup> Street down 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The reviewing stand was located at 69<sup>th</sup> Street. The Order of AHEPA was prominently placed with their annual float and represented from across the Tri State Area.



## PHILADELPHIA



The Greek Independence Day Parade 2011 is a national celebration in the United States of America. Greek Americans across US cities organize Greek parades to celebrate the 190th anniversary of the independence of Greece from the Ottoman Empire in 1821. Greek ethnic pride runs strong each year around the March 25 holiday, and the parade is regularly organized around that day, but not necessarily on the day itself. Our District #5 is lucky enough to be in between two of these parades, in the cities of Philadelphia and New York City.

The parades are organized by the Federation of Hellenic American Societies in each of the respective cities. The President of the Federation of Philadelphia also happens to be our own District Governor, George Horiates. The parade's Chairman was our

# *Supreme President Nick Karacostas Named Grand Marshal of Philadelphia Parade*

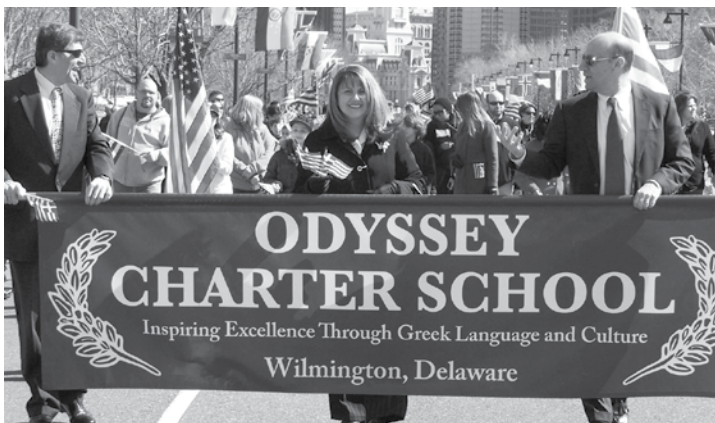
## Our own District Governor George Horiates Leads the Way as FHSP President



own District Marshal Jimmy Rozanitis. They were assisted by the Ahepans of the Camden Chapter #69 who played a major role orchestrating the grand event. Many officials were be present. "I believe

that AHEPA was be honored for the first time in a big Greek parade in the U.S.A.", stated George Hortiatis. Leading the way as one of the Grand Marshals was our Supreme President Nick Karacostas. Participants marched down the Benjamin Franklin Parkway until the parade route's conclusion in front of the beautiful Philadelphia Art Museum.

Philadelphia's Greek Day Parade is more than a single day event, but a full weekend's worth of fun and festivities. The weekend includes a dinner party the evening before, the Great Doxology the morning of, a luncheon just before the parade's launch, the parade itself and finally a reception with dance performances following the parade's conclusion.



The Odyssey Charter School of Wilmington, DE, AHEPA's first Greek language charter school leads the parade



Bill Kanas of Wilmington, Delaware wears his medal proudly and poses for this picture just before marching in the Philadelphia Greek Independence Day Parade. Kanas was AHEPA's representative in the Athens Marathon, which was held last fall in Athens, on the 2,500th anniversary of the original marathon. Kanas marched alongside Supreme President and Grand Marshal Nick Karacostas in the parade and was recognized in the opening ceremonies for participating in the historic athletic event.

# *Celebrating the 190th Anniversary of Greek Independence Throughout the District*

## **Bergen County Chapters Meet in Hackensack to Raise the Greek Flag on Independence Day**

For the third year in a row, the AHEPA chapters of Bergen County united together in Hackensack, NJ the Bergen County seat to raise the Greek flag in honor of Greek Independence Day. The event was organized by the Bergen County Executive's Office of Kathleen A Donovan and took place on Friday, March 25th. The event included Ahepans, Daughters and members of the four parishes in Bergen County: Paramus, Tenafly, Wyckoff and Fairview. The chapters included Alexander #54, the Bergen Knights #285 and Ramapo #453. The event was held outdoors in the courtyard of the county administration building. A video of the event was recorded and placed on YouTube for all to see. Click on this link to see the event. Cut and past this link into your browser to view the video, it is very well done. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8w-zAyqqpSA>



**Bergen County Executive Kathleen Donovan (left) poses with representatives of the three AHEPA Chapters, Jim Giokas, President of the Ramapo Chapter (Wyckoff), Michael Bonanos, President of the Bergen Knights (Tenafly) and Chris Mavridis Treasurer of the Alexander Hamilton Chapter (Paramus), Sammy Thomas, District Treasurer, representing the District Lodge.**



## **Hudson Chapter Revives Flag Raising Ceremony in Bayonne**

Mayor Mark Smith of Bayonne raised the Greek flag at a Greek Independence Day flag raising ceremony held at the Bayonne, NJ Town Center. The event was organized by the Hudson Chapter #108. After discontinuing it for several years it was revived once again by the chapter and held on Friday, March 25th on the 190th anniversary of Greek independence. Attending were residents of Bayonne, representatives from several neighboring AHEPA chapters and members of the church communities of Evangelismos and St Demetrios of Jersey City. The event started in the council chambers with a few brief remarks from community leaders and then continued outdoors at the flag pole.



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# *Testimonial Dinner for Past District Governor of AHEPA District #5 NJ/DE, Philip Vogis (Vogiatzoglou)*

On Sunday, January 30, 2011, the AHEPA Ramapo Chapter #453 of Wyckoff, NJ was pleased to host a testimonial dinner in honor of Past District Governor Phil Vogis, The dinner took place at the Hamilton & Ward Steakhouse in Paterson, NJ.

Some 130 guests attended the event including Phil's family, friends and AHEPA family members and dignitaries from far and near. The President of Ramapo Chapter #453 Jim Giokas was the Master of Ceremonies inviting to the microphone our Past Supreme Governor John Mehos to sing the Greek and US national anthems, followed by the invocation by Father James Moulketis of the St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Wyckoff, NJ, Kathy Savidis the President of the Daughters of Penelope, Agape Chapter #336 of Wyckoff, NJ; Past district Governor Ted Vittas; Past District Governor and member of the Supreme Board of Trustees Lee Millas; District Governor George Horiates District #5 NJ/DE; and Karen Marousis District Governor of the Daughters of Penelope. Also invited to speak were Phil's children Diana and Philip Jordan; and with some coaxing Phil's wife Connie. The honoree was finally invited to speak and offer his response to the many kind words and accolades that were mentioned on his behalf.

In addition, we had the pleasure of having with us Supreme Vice President Dr John Grossomanides Jr, Supreme Treasurer Col Nick Vamvakias, Supreme member of the Board of Trustees Vassos Chrysanthou, Supreme Governor Region #3 NY/NJ/DE Andrew Zachariades, PSG Louis Arvanitis, PDG Ted Fanikos, PDG Herb Allen, PDG Steve Lioumis, PDG George Karatzia, District Lodge Officers, Chapter officers, Brothers and Sisters from District #5 NJ/DE, Past Supreme President of the Sons of Pericles Brother Dean Tselepis. Also there were Brothers and Sisters from District #6 New York along with the District Governor Jimmy Kokotas, Lt Gov Chris Gallas, PDG Gus Drivas and Daughters of Penelope from District #6 NY.

Brother Phil joined AHEPA in 1987 with the Ramapo Chapter #453 in Wyckoff, NJ. He served as Chapter Treasurer, Secretary, Vice-President and two years as President. Brother Phil was nominated and elected to serve in the District Lodge as a Marshal and as his first order of business he developed the District Banner. Brother Phil moved up the ranks at the District Lodge and was elected District Governor in 2009. Through his membership drive efforts, over 150 new members were initiated into the Order of AHEPA during his term as District Governor.

Brother Phil Vogis's (Vogiatzoglou) Testimonial Dinner was in fact a testament to his love of AHEPA and his zeal for promoting its mission for the Good of the Order. Phil's motto of "United we Stand...Πάντα Ενωμενοι" was certainly evident throughout the entire evening's festivities in his honoring Phil. Kai Se Anoterla!



Honoree Phil Vogis together with his fellow Ahepan from the Ramapo Chapter #453 the hosts for the evening.



Phil and Connie Vogis in a group photo with their children and grandchildren.



The District Lodges of Districts 5 & 6, and some Past District Governors gather around Phil. District Governor George Horiates at the microphone.



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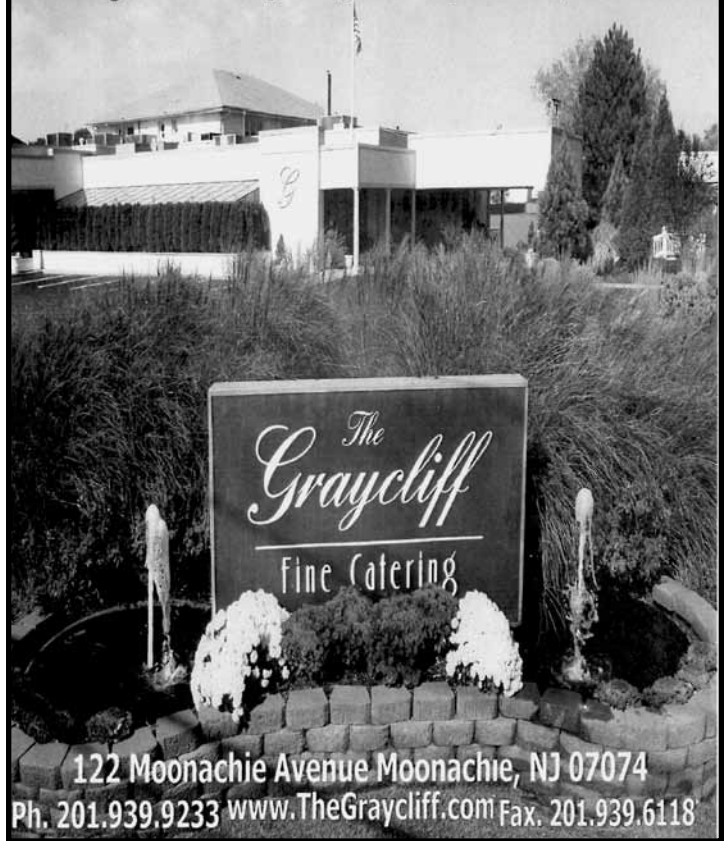
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To help you prepare for life's challenges, we offer a wide range of services for families and individuals who seek financial protection and peace of mind.

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## Holmdel #517 Visits Ronald McDonald House



On Monday March 7, 2011, the Brothers of the Order of AHEPA Garden State CHAPTER 517 made their annual visit to Ronald McDonald House in New York City. This was our 12th year visiting the residents of this wonderful facility and to provide them freshly cooked meals and entertainment to children.



Ronald McDonald House provides housing for up to 65 families who are in need of a place to stay while their children are receiving medical treatment in area hospitals. The average stay for a family is 3 weeks but many families stay much longer and sometimes have to return for follow up treatments for their children. For over 30 years, Ms. Niki Sideris has chaired the Greek Division and has helped more than 10,000 Greek families.

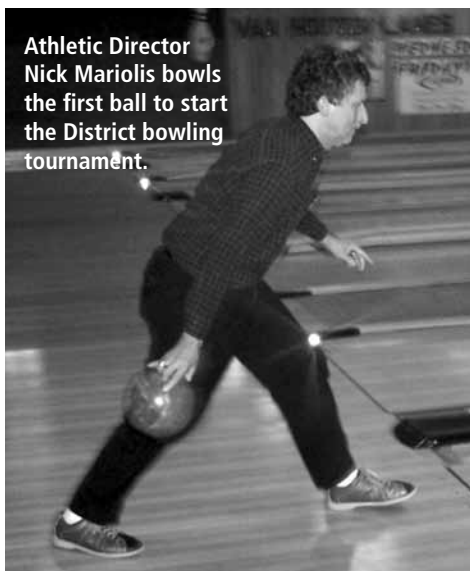
Our Chapter 517 has made Ronald McDonald House one of the primary beneficiaries of our fundraising activities, which include our annual Super Bowl party and our annual golf outing. In addition to the money that we are able to donate each year, we also look forward to this annual visit. The smiles on the faces of the children and their parents as they enjoy the food and the entertainment remind us why we became Ahepans.

## District #5 Bowling Tournament is Revived

One of the goals of this year's District Lodge is to reinvigorate the athletic programs of the district. It has been many years since our district held a competitive bowling tournament. However, this year District Athletic Director Nick Mariolis, under the direction of our Governor George Horiates, were determined to organize a district bowling tournament. It was held on Saturday evening on January 8th at the Van Houten Bowling Lanes in Clifton, NJ. Three teams participated which included a team from Clifton, a team from Cherry Hill and a District Lodge team.

It was also the NFL playoff season and the Jets had a game to play so we did not wander far away from the TV. We started bowling but it took awhile to warm up, especially after the pizza, beer and hot wings we had beforehand. Finally the pins started to fall. Each bowler had a distinct style to their form. Clearly in this tourney was not about the score but how you looked when you bowled. Each team bowled three games and we all had our moments.

The Clifton team won the high series. Ted Vittas got the high game. However, the scores will not be announced to avoid embarrassment. We had a good time but some of us went home a little sore. We have a whole year to rest and work on our game until next year.



**Athletic Director Nick Mariolis bowls the first ball to start the District bowling tournament.**

## Brothers: We Got a Winner!

District #5 NJ/DE is on a roll. After winning the support of his district earlier this year, Supreme Governor Andrew Zachariades PDG was elected by the AHEPA New Horizons to be on the ballot for the position of Supreme Treasurer at the Supreme Convention in Miami this coming July. He beat two prominent brother Ahepans: Alex Anderson from Springfield, Ohio Chapter #247 and Alex Geourtas from Boston, MA, Chapter #24.

We are proud of the democratic processes that were put in place first, by the District Chairman of the New Horizons, Brother George Karatzia PDG, and then by the National Chairman, Brother Lee Millas PDG and member of the Board of Trustees. Both accomplished a very difficult task that produced open and fair elections to ensure not only the best possible candidate but a solidified unity within the AHEPA New Horizons.

We all know Brother Andy's credentials and we are confident that he will continue to represent us at the Supreme level with dignity and honor. Let's all make plans to be there and support him at the beautiful Fontainebleau Hotel in Miami for the week of July 18-25. We will have a wonderful time and will take care of AHEPA business before we get to vote for our new Supreme officers. If Andrew Zachariades gets elected by the delegates of the Supreme Convention, it will be the first time in over 35 years since we had one of our own in one of the top 4 positions on the AHEPA Supreme Lodge. Don't miss out on a great opportunity to make this a memorable experience.

Take advantage of the special rates of \$175/room to find yourself in a hotel full of people with similar interests. If you are looking to share a room (up to 4 guests per room) please contact Brother George Karatzia PDG at 732-610-6622.

*Submitted by Vasso Chrysanthou PDG*

## Wilmington Chapter #95 Happy 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Feb. 14, 1926-Feb. 14, 2011 • A Brief History of Community Service

Eighty-five years ago, the first immigrants who arrived from Greece, instituted the Wilmington AHEPA Chapter #95 on February 14, 1926, almost ten years before the Greek Community in Wilmington was formally organized. Then, as it was the process nationally, the primary function of the early AHEPA was to Americanize the newly immigrated Greek as well as organize Greek communities for the purpose of erecting houses of worship.

One of the first known Greeks to settle in Wilmington in the year 1896, was John Govatos. Appropriately, he was a central figure in the early years, and he became a three consecutive term AHEPA's first president in Wilmington. He quickly asserted himself as a key businessman in Wilmington, and became known as "Barba Yiannis" to Wilmington Greeks. If a Greek needed help, he only needed to contact Barba Yiannis. He went on to become Supreme Treasurer of AHEPA.

In 1932, the Wilmington Greek Community was incorporated, and another prominent Brother, Gregory Kramedas, was elected as the first Parish President. The committee that was formed to build a church was composed by 90% Ahepans. In July, 1948, during an AHEPA District Convention, the cornerstone of Holy Trinity was laid, and Our Chapter contributed \$5,000 to the building fund, and an additional \$500 for painting the church interior. The Chapter also provided funds to defray iconography costs. The icons of the 4 Evangelists on the columns that support the church dome, and two of the Prophets on the dome, painted by Leo Laskaris, were a gift of the Wilmington Chapter. Since the establishment of the Greek Orthodox community in Wilmington, almost all its Parish Council Presidents, came from the ranks of AHEPA.

In addition to the goal of building Holy Trinity, the Wilmington Chapter sold more World War II War Bonds than any chapter in the nation. We also raised over \$538,000 for the AHEPA Hospital

in Thessaloniki, Greece. Sets of Greek Classics were donated to all the high schools in Wilmington, the University of Delaware Library, and the Wilmington Institute Free Library.

Over the years, the AHEPA Family in Wilmington has been a supporter of church building activities. In the early 1970s, the Sons and Maids helped with interior maintenance and holiday decoration of the church. They also donated the original basketball backboards in the Hellenic Community Center. The Daughters and AHEPA were key contributors to the Hellenic Center, with proceeds from our 1973 District Convention earmarked for that effort. In recent years, we donated toward the church's air conditioner, church repairs, and spear-headed the drive to build the handicap ramp. Members of AHEPA and the Daughters play key roles in our church's annual festival.

In the year 2004 we made an investment in Hellenic Education and we founded the Odyssey Charter School as an expression of appreciation to the Wilmington community-at-large for accepting our pioneers and helping them achieve the American Dream, and for the preservation of our Greek Language. We are active in Justice for Cyprus and Cooley's anemia. We've donated to Special Olympics and toward natural disaster relief, like earthquakes, the relief of man-made terror, and we continue to support the orphans at St. Basil's Academy.

The Wilmington Chapter #95 has maintained its strength through the bond of Brotherhood we enjoy, and we strive to practice the precepts we pledged upon entrance into the Order. While the goals of AHEPA have changed as times dictate, Brotherhood is the constant that has kept our purpose in perspective.

We would like to see you join the ranks of this worthy organization. Please ask any Ahepan for an application.  
George Righos, PDG

### Ocean County #467 5th Annual Festival – June 10-12

The AHEPA family of Ocean County will be sponsoring its fifth annual spring festival on June 10-12, 2011 at the Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church in Toms River. Over the past four years, the AHEPA has donated \$89,500 to the Church. Proceeds from the spring festival will be used to reimburse the Church for the acquisition of new, mahogany exterior Church doors. Eight mahogany doors were purchased by the Church, and the AHEPA will reimburse the Church for the purchase of two beautifully carved doors with glass inlaid crosses.

The AHEPA has also made a commitment to reimburse the Church for its costs associated with the Greek school program. The Church partially subsidizes the Greek school program. The AHEPA will use proceeds from the spring festival to reimburse the Church for its subsidy of the Greek school program.

At the 2010 spring festival, the AHEPA sponsored a bone marrow drive for an individual battling cancer. Eighty-five individuals registered to potentially become bone marrow donors. In an effort to increase the bone marrow registry, the AHEPA has a link on the Church's website to the AHEPA bone marrow donor registry. The AHEPA bone marrow registry is potentially lifesaving for those individuals who are in need of a bone marrow transplant, blood stem cell or cord blood transplant.

Lou Karagias, *President*

## AHEPA Trenton Chapter #72 Report

We had a wonderful Chapter Christmas Dinner on December 15th at the AHEPA Hall. We shared in each other's company and the food, drink and desserts were great. We also presented 25 and 50 year pins to several of the brothers as well. I would like to thank Pericles Muzithras and Paul Mamolou for all their hard work in chairing the event and to everyone who helped in the kitchen and in the logistics in insuring it was a success. Thanks to Kouzina by Sophia in Cherry Hill for their generous donations.

I would like to thank everyone who helped out with the Blood Drive at St. George. Thank you to all the Ahepans who volunteered and donated. As a result of your donations, the event was a success and we were able to raise many pints of blood for the Red Cross. Thank you again.

We continue to assist our community, whether it is our support of the Church in our capacity as Parish Council members, committee members, and/or workers during the Festival. We continue to give our support to the various charities whether it is donating several hundred dollars to the Rhett Syndrome Foundation, the Pancreatic Cancer foundation and other worthwhile causes, donating foods and clothing to area soup kitchens and/or supporting the youth of our community.

Chapter scholarship information is available for graduating high schools seniors to children of the St. George Community. We will be hosting our annual Awards program on June 22nd at which time several thousands of dollars in scholarships will be awarded along with certificates to graduating high school seniors and awards to the outstanding Greek school students.

We are looking forward to AHEPA Capitol Hill Day on March 30th where we will be meeting in Washington to discuss issues of importance to the American Hellenic community with members of Congress. We will attend a morning reception followed by a busy day of walking the Halls of Congress. We will also be meeting with Congressman Chris Smith to discuss important issues to our community.

We are all also looking forward to the District Convention in June as well as the National Convention in July in Miami. Let us make sure that we have a great turnout at both conventions. I would like to thank all the brothers that make this organization a strong one and a growing one and am looking forward to our next initiations. Let us continue to make the AHEPA a brotherhood that we are proud of.

Asteris Fanikos, *President*

## AHEPA Trenton Chapter visit with Congressman Chris Smith

On Wednesday, March 30th, on AHEPA Capitol Hill Day, brothers of the AHEPA Trenton Chapter no. 72 with Supreme President Nicholas Karacostas, met with our Congressman Chris Smith. Purpose was to have him join the Hellenic Caucus to promote key issues of our community, including the religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, ending the division of Cyprus, Fyrom and other important issues. He was called upon to review and to co-sponsor H.Res.180, urging Turkey to respect the rights and religious freedoms of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the world's oldest Christian Church. The Congressman also has agreed to join the Hellenic Caucus as well as become a brother AHEPAN of the Trenton Chapter. Brothers present in the photo are Past District Governor Ted Fanikos, Trenton secretary Jim Knicos, Congressman Chris Smith, AHEPA National Board of Trustees member Lee Millas, Trenton president Asteris Fanikos and Assistant Treasurer Ray Lally.



## 75th Anniversary Gathering for Icarus Chapter #48 of Jersey City

Members of the Icarus Chapter #48 of the DOP were joined by their fellow Brothers from Hudson Chapter #108 and the District Lodges of both orders to break bread together on the 75th anniversary of the founding of the chapter.

## *Sons & Maids Hold Testimonial for Past Supreme President Dean Tselepis*

Dean Tselepis (left) shows his plaque to AHEPA Supreme Governor Andy Zachariades (right).



The AHEPA family of Wyckoff, NJ, along with many family and friends, came together on Friday evening, February 4th at the Tides Estate in Haledon to honor their own **Dean Tselepis**, Past Supreme President of the Sons of Pericles. Dean was the 5th Sons Supreme President from District #5 to serve the Junior Order, presiding from 2009-2010.

Hosts for the evening were the Patritha Chapter #317 of the Sons. The evening was a celebration of our youth as members past and present took an active role in the affair. The Greek National Anthem was sung beautifully by Miss **Christina Eliades**, Vice President of the Maids of Athena Terpsichore Chapter #269. Sons alumnus, **George Psomas**, a Broadway performer, honored America by singing "God Bless America". The Master of Ceremonies was Past President and Dean's koumbaro, **Mark Karras**.

Many people spoke that all knew Dean on a personal level. The first speaker was **Fr James Moulketas**, Dean's pastor. Representing the Sons were District Governor **Yianni Floropolos** and Supreme Governor **George Papas**. AHEPA and Daughters Presidents **Jim Giokas** and **Katherine Savides** took turns reminiscing as both speakers are personal friends of the Tselepises. Representing the Maids of Athena was National Advisor **Demi Thomas**, another family friend. Sons Advisor **Ted Vittas** spoke the early years of the chapter and how instrumental Dean was in its development. Supreme Governor of the AHEPA **Andy Zachariades** represented AHEPA National and was also an Advisor at the time of Dean's initiation. Chapter Sons President **Arthur Kominos** presented Dean with his Past President's plaque. Dean's parents **Angelica** and **Nick Tselepis**, both former Sons and Maids who met through the Order, each spoke about how proud they were of Dean. Dean's wife **Mary** marveled at Dean's ability to multitask. Then it was Dean's turn to get the last word.

The Patritha Chapter would like to thank all those who attended this memorable evening. We left satisfied knowing that Dean finished his career in the Son of Pericles by reaching the very top. As the saying goes, "When God closes one door, he opens another." Whatever direction Dean's future life takes, we trust it will include AHEPA.



Sons and Maids pose with honoree Dean Tselepis.

Chapter President **Arthur Kominos** and the rest of the Patritha Chapter present Dean with his Past President's plaque.



## Wyckoff Maids Chapter is Reactivated – Terpsichore #267

The Terpsichore Chapter of the Maids of Athena #267 of Wyckoff, NJ was reactivated on January 9th, 2011. Since then, 10 Maids were initiated and elections for the chapter lodge followed. Advisors **Demi Thomas**, **Valerie Vittas** and **Zoe Kominos** were there to assist. **Alexandra Kominos** was elected as President, **Christina Eliades** as Vice President, **Gabriella Can** as Treasurer and **Isabella Theodorobeakos** was elected as Secretary. The remaining positions are to be appointed sometime in the near future. With this reactivation, the AHEPA family of Wyckoff is complete as the AHEPA, Daughters, Son and Maids are all active chapters.

## *A Message from the Sons of Pericles District Governor*

In the past year I have had the pleasure to serve AHEPA's District 5 as Chapter 300's Treasurer and The Order of the Sons of Pericles as its Lieutenant Governor and currently Governor. I joined this organization knowing little about what the brotherhood had to offer outside of the descriptions I read on the Internet, brochures and word of mouth. Those conversations came with familiar recollections that you can relate to: many of you reading this met your wife or husband through AHEPA, your lifelong friends, future extended family members, business partners, compatriots, and koumbari. You can recall AHEPA's renaissance, golden age and warming nostalgia that brother Ted Vittas so often describes between our strategy sessions. I am here to tell you the truth Brothers and Sisters, that the SONS are in a state of emergency reaching a critical point of no resuscitation.

The District needs more active members, chapters and support from the community. I need all the support from your chapters and the district to make sure the SONS are protected to thrive and increase the membership of our Order. If not we risk the possibility of becoming irrelevant, a failure, and a page in history, and in consequence dwindling AHEPA numbers and inactivity.

Yet the plan for the future is promising. District 5 is organizing to initiate members of the university age group to bring about a new era in the SONS, College Fraternities. Using the facilities and resources of academia 75% of all efforts to organization and fundraising for events can be used to promotion. There we can have outside money coming into the Order, and establish bases for the SONS for generations to come. The SONS serves three age groups, and by doing this we can mentor the youth, bring in the youth who attend college, and serve as a base for the graduates to launch their careers.

Many of you have yet to meet me, and I open an invitation for you to send me an e-mail or phone call so we may work together in starting a Sons chapter in your community. Since my initiation over a year ago I have made many friends and I am eager to bring AHEPA to new heights through the SONS. I have a lot of experience and believe in our cause. We must adapt to to fulfill it, most importantly, as we adapt, we must remember to stay "forever united".

Fraternally Yours,  
District #5 Governor, Ioannis "Yianni"  
Konstandinos Floropoulos

*Yianni can be reached by email at floropoulos.yiannis@gmail.com.*



**At a District meeting of the Sons of Pericles in January, Yianni Floropoulos receives the oath of office from District Sons Advisor Ted Vittas and is elevated from Lieutenant Governor to District Governor until elections are held in June. Yianni succeeds George Sarris who had held the position for 2 ½ years.**

## Sons of Pericles Initiation



Two groups of 17 young men were initiated into the Sons of Pericles on Saturday, February 5th. The initiations were conducted by Supreme President Spiro Nicolopoulos, with his Supreme Lodge and District 5 Governor Yianni Floropoulos. Some of the initiates will be part of the newly reactivated Fort Lee chapter, St George #214. The other boys will be entering the Wyckoff chapter until a new Lodge can be organized in Clifton, NJ. The initiation was part of the weekend long basketball tournament held in Wyckoff.



The Randolph Sons successfully defends their volleyball championship, besting Tenafly in an exciting final.



The 2011 Jersey Tournament Champions St Basil's Academy is presented with their trophy.

## Patritha Chapter #317 Hosts Two Tournaments: Volleyball and Basketball

The Sons of Pericles of Wyckoff, hosted two athletic tournaments for the youth of the district to participate in. Both tournaments were held at the modern St Nicholas community center.

The first was a coed volleyball tournament which was held on December 18th. It featured 5 teams: Clifton, Randolph, Tenafly and 2 teams from Wyckoff. The tournament began with round-robin play which determined seeding for a final four playoff. The final match pitted last year's champion Randolph against the Tenafly GOYA team. The final match was very exciting and went to 3 games. Randolph successfully defended their crown by once again becoming victorious, 2 games to 1. However, they had to come from behind to win in the last match as they were tested by a well coached Tenafly team.

On the weekend of March 5-6 the Sons held their 6th Annual Jersey Invitational Tournament. Seven teams competed in a double elimination tournament. The furthest team coming from Boston, with representing St Basil's Academy in Garrison, NY and five NJ teams from Clifton, Cherry Hill, Middlesex and two Wyckoff teams. The final four included 3 perennial finalists and a young and up coming Wyckoff GOYA team. Cherry Hill easily beat Wyckoff (62-46) to advance to the semis. However, they had to play the former champion Middlesex in order to get to the finals. Middlesex won a hard-fought contest (62-52) to advance to the finals which pitted them in a rematch against the talented St Basil's team. Led by Elias St Basil's was able to prevail and dethrone the former champion, besting Middlesex (67 - 51).



Teams Middlesex and St Basil's start the final game of the Sons Jersey Tournament. St Basils prevailed to win the championship.

## *Hellenic History Tournament Registration Deadline is June 30th*

After two successful years, the AHEPA Hellenic History Tournament will continue for at least a third year. If at least 10 teams register for the competition, the third year will be guaranteed. The deadline for this year's competition is June 30th. The team entrance fee will be about \$300. Registration forms, flyers and FAQ sheets can be found at the District 7 web site <http://www.ahepad7.org/HHT.html>

The HHT is an exciting competition for our high school and college youth to participate in and learn about Hellenic history. It is a Jeopardy-like quiz game where teams of three students compete against each other in an elimination bracketing. Questions can be selected from one of three time periods; classic Greece, Byzantium or modern Greece. Each correct answer earns the team a point.

After about 20 questions, the team with the most points wins and moves on. The team that avoids elimination to the end is crowned the champion. The winning team will get \$1,000 per student in prize money.

The tournament will take place on Saturday, October 29th at the St Barbara Greek Orthodox Church in Orange, CT. The competition is from 11:30am - 4:00pm. The tournament creator and organizer is Past District Governor Nick Nikas. Brother Nick said that some chapters are not issuing scholarships but instead using the money to enter teams into the competition. It is a way of making more youth aware of their heritage. It is a way of making more youth aware of their heritage.

# Our Departed Brothers and Sisters

*May Their Memories Be Eternal in Our Hearts*



**GEORGE A. HORIATES**, at 75 years, of Pennsauken NJ, On April 2, 2011. Born in 1935 in the village of Perdiki, on the island of Ikaria in Greece to the late Angelo G. and Stamatoula Horiates. Beloved husband to Stavroula Horiates. Devoted father of Angelo G., Nicholas G., and George G. Horiates. He honorably served in the United States Army as

a member of the elite US Rangers, Specialist 4th Class. He retired from RCA with over 40 years of service. George was an active member of Saint Thomas Greek Orthodox Church of Cherry Hill NJ, having served over twenty years on the Parish Council, many as an officer. He was a long time member of the Pan-Icarian Brotherhood of America (Atheros, Chapter 12) having served as Chapter President and as a Supreme Lodge officer; A member of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) Camden Chapter 69 and an advisor to its junior order, the Sons of Pericles.

George was predeceased by his sister Irene Poulos. He is survived by his wife, Stavroula (nee Pasamihalis); his sons Angelo G. (Mary) of Holly Ridge NC, Nicholas G. (Colleen) of Cherry Hill NJ, and George G. (Lisa) of Moorestown NJ; and his grandchildren Julia, George A., Charles, Kathryn, Zachary, Stavroula, and George T. He is also survived by brothers Elias, Nicola, Dimitrios, Angelo Jr., Zachary; and sisters Sophia Frangos and Georgia Frangos; and many nephews, nieces, and cousins.



**ANGELO (EVANGELOS) MICHAEL GREGOS** fell asleep peacefully on Saturday morning at home surrounded by his family. Born on January 3, 1934 in Kardamila, Chios Greece to Michael P (Kordis) Gregos & Maria Parlamas Gregos. Angelo came to the United States in 1946 via Ellis Island and then settled in Pennsylvania.

Angelo was a very active member of the American Hellenic Progressive Association (AHEPA), and the founding Chairman of the St. George Building Fund. Angelo was very instrumental in fundraising, negotiating and ultimately purchasing the new 6.5 acre site, the future home of St. George in Ocean Township. Angelo's dream of building a new church complex is presently becoming a reality with construction going full force at the new site. Angelos was the Recipient of the Father of the Year Award by the St. George Greek Orthodox Church Community in 2009. Angelo became an Archon of the Order of St Andrew, the highest honor bestowed onto a layperson by the Greek Orthodox Church.

Angelo is predeceased by his parents Michael & Maria Gregos and his four siblings, George, Peter, Katerina, and Peter. Surviving

are his wife Nancy Whitemarsh Gregos, his daughters and son-in-laws, Maria & Savas Tsivicos of Wayside, NJ, Michele & Taha Ibrahim of West End, NJ, Frances Gregos of Colts Neck, NJ, Angie (Evangelea) & Arun Swaroop of Tinton Falls, NJ, and his six grandchildren Haralambos, Ellpetha & Evangelos Tsivicos and Helayna, Amira & Michael Ibrahim, his former wife, Helen Gregos, and his Aunt, Eftehia Moschos, and many cousins and relatives.



**CHARLES KOUVEL** a local businessman, died on Jan. 29, 2011. He was 90 years old. "Charlie" as he was known to all, was a strong supporter of the City of Bayonne and a true pillar of the community. A resident since 1950, he was the proprietor of the Bayonne Diner, a local landmark. In its day. The son of Harry and Diana Kouveliotis, who immigrated to America

from Greece, Charlie was also active in the Greek Orthodox Church, serving as the president of the local AHEPA Chapter 108 as well as the president of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Jersey City. He was a gracious and tireless fundraiser for local causes, particularly those involving education.

He created an extended family who cherished both his wisdom and sense of humor. He was the beloved husband of the late Gladys (nee McNerney); devoted father of Charles Kouvel Jr.; Sandy Rentas and her late husband James; Peter Kouvel and his wife, Joanne; Andrew Kouvel and his wife, Frances, and the late Nikki Harrison; cherished grandfather of 13; adoring great-grandfather of 10. He is also survived by many dear nieces and nephews.



**JONNIE ALEXANDRA KONINIS**, age 50, of Wilmington, DE, formerly of Long Valley, NJ died on Wednesday, January 5, 2011

She was President of the Daughters of Penelope, member of Golf Association of America, Sunday School Teacher for Holy Trinity, Registrar, member of Jazzercise, and Sun Goddess of the Beach!

She graduated from West Morris Central, Long Valley, NJ and attended the University of Delaware where she studied International Relations. She also received a certificate from the U of D in Training Management.

Konnie worked for PFFC for 18 years as a Training Manager. She also worked at ALICO in International Group and worked for Wilmington Trust as a Training Consultant in Retirement Services

She is survived by her mother Anastasia and father John A. Sr.; sister Christina; brother John A. II; niece Alexandra Anastasia; and many uncles, aunts, cousins and extended family.



**PETER T. ANAGNOSTOU**, of Wilmington, Delaware, passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by his family on January 1, 2011.

Peter was born February 10, 1924 on Oinousses, a small islet off the coast of Chios, Greece.

Peter was very active within his community, a 55 year member of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, a 45 year member of AHEPA #95 (American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association), the Ionic Lodge #31 of Masons, as well as a life member of Minquas Fire Co. No 1 of Newport.

Peter joined the Greek Armed Forces in 1942. Peter and his brother, Nick were awarded the Oak Leaf for their services by King George VI of England. In 1948, Greece was being torn by the communist guerillas and Peter was again called to aid his Country. In 1951, while working for the Greek Merchant Marine, Peter immigrated to the United States. He lived and worked with his brother, Dimitri in Lehighton, Pennsylvania, where he met his wife, Mary.

Peter and Mary moved to Wilmington and worked side-by-side for over 25 years in Newport and Stanton at The Lehigh Sub Shop.

His customers called him "Mr. Lehigh." Peter and Mary celebrated their retirement with a long overdue honeymoon trip to Greece.

In addition to his parents, Peter is predeceased, by his brothers: Dimitri and Nick, and his sisters: Marianthi and Filia. Peter is survived by his wife of 60 years, Mary, daughters, Anthoula and Anamaria, and three pets, Sina, Theo & Heidi (who will also miss him dearly).

**ARTHUR CHOKAS**, 87, a lifelong Jersey City resident, passed away on Sunday, January 9, 2011, at Cusack Care Center. He was a World War II veteran and a member of American Legion Post # 52. Arthur was a letter carrier for the post office for 45 years, retiring in 1991. He was a lifelong parishioner of Evangelismos Greek Orthodox Church on Montgomery Street in Jersey City and received a plaque honoring his 50 years of service as a member of AHEPA. Arthur is survived by his beloved wife of 60 years, Connie; devoted father of Georgia Mangan and husband Barry, Ernest, Michael, Andy and his wife Gabrielle, Steve and his wife Kim; seven grandchildren and one great-grandson; dear brother of Dr. William Chokas and wife Mary; and also survived by nieces and nephews.

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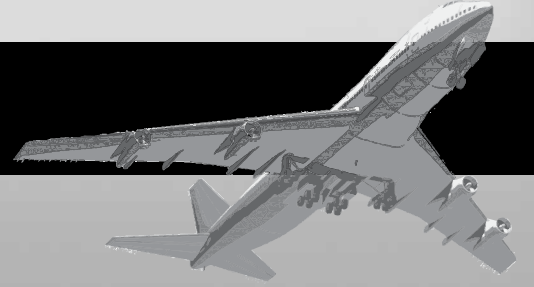
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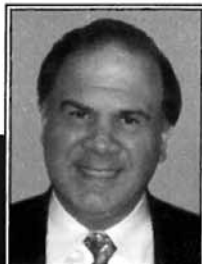
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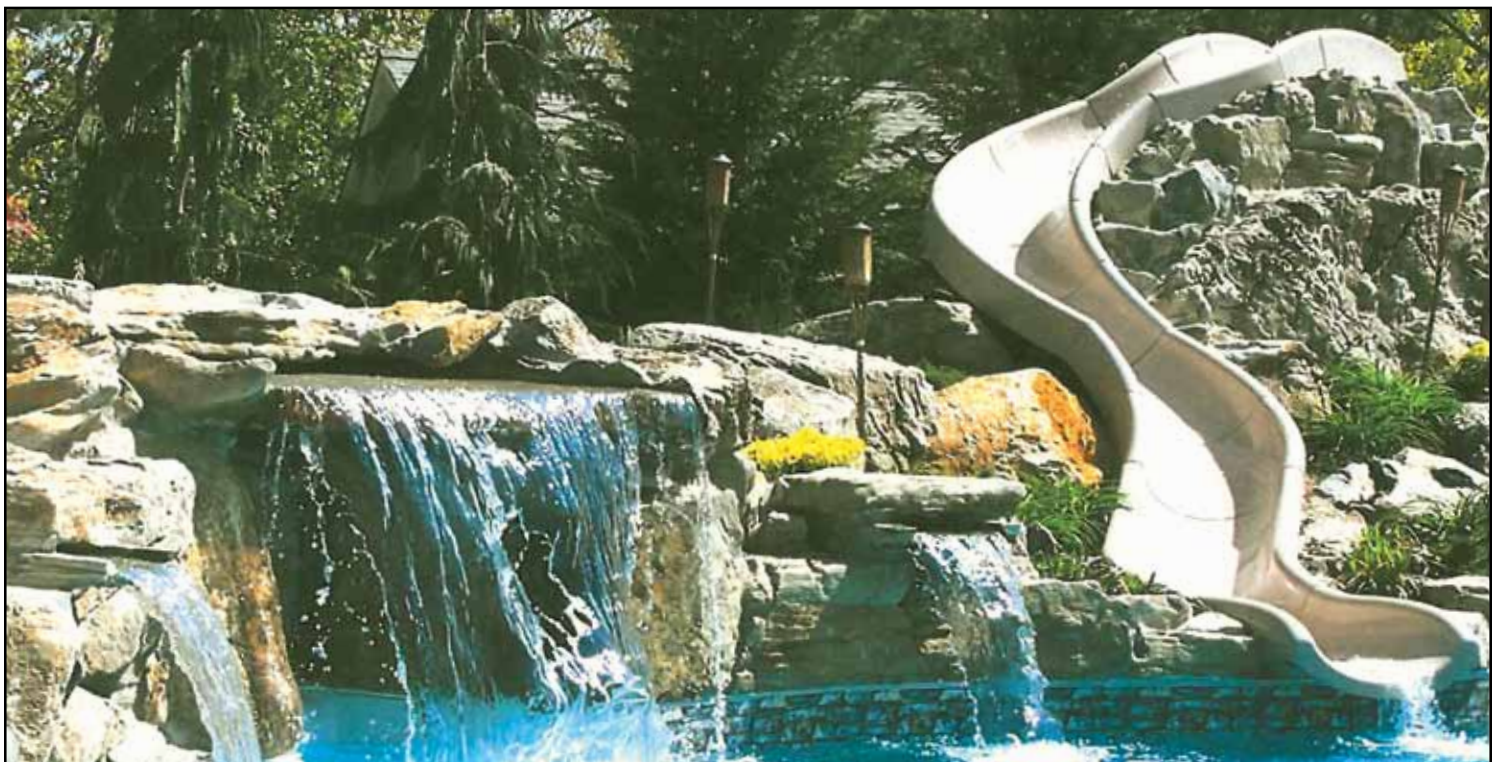
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