

Happy New Year

- ▶ **John Kiriakou**
Patriot Award
Winner

- ▶ Prof. Dimitri Nakassis
Challenges
Long Held Views on
Mycenaean Civilization

- ▶ Eric Alexandrakis
Remixes Plato's
Allegory of the Cave

- ▶ Theodoros Kiriacopoulos:
the Unsung Hero
of the Mexican Revolution

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Head of a Bearded God, first century BC, bronze, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, museum purchase funded by Isabel B. and Wallace S. Wilson

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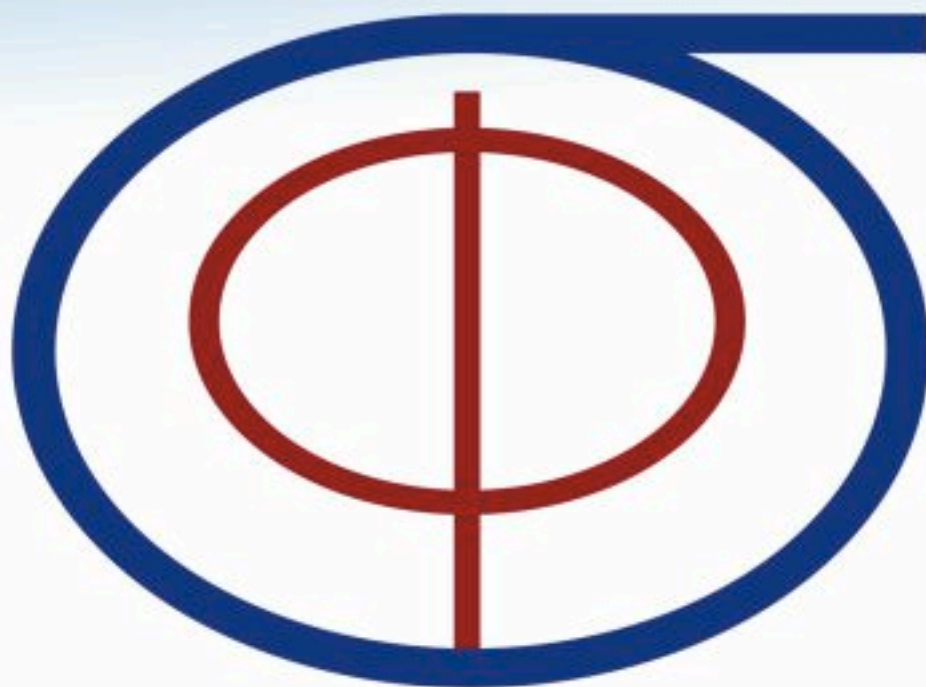
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I've lived in Brooklyn, New York the majority of my life. I was born in Greece, on the island of Chios, then joined my family in Montreal, Canada when I was seven. Then moved with them to Chicago for almost ten years. Then came to Brooklyn. Then went back to Chicago. Then came to Brooklyn to stay for good. We lived in a section of Brooklyn called Bay Ridge, which is near the Verrazano Bridge. In fact, I remember when they were building it and the two towers stood alone in the water, rust-colored, and without their elegant string of hanging cables. Before the bridge, we had to take the Staten Island Ferry to go to Staten Island and New Jersey and points beyond. I remember walking outside my uncle's house on the route to the ferry and seeing the street clogged with cars waiting endlessly it seems to board. I remember wanting to cool off in the summer and paying a nickel (five cents!) to board the ferry for the ride to Staten Island in the refreshing harbor breeze, grabbing a hamburger on the other side, and then paying a nickel to get back. It was our summer outing.

The neighborhood in Bay Ridge has remained relatively stable: in fact, it's prospered and the houses we lived in you can't buy now unless you're a millionaire. Many well-to-do Greeks live in Bay Ridge and now there are Greek restaurants serving Greek food aplenty and their prices have gone steadily up.

But our house in Greece, the house where I grew up on Chios, has collapsed and lies a ruin behind chicken wire. The hill where we chased butterflies and we chased each other in the field of wheat now has an apartment building blocking it with wash on the line. I don't know what happened to our old neighborhood in Montreal, it was well in the suburbs and might have survived, but I don't

MOVING ON



—from—
THE EDITOR

know if Greeks still live there: we were immigrants then and found the rent cheap so it's likely prospering Greeks have moved uptown.

As for our Greek neighborhood in Chicago, clustered around the Assumption Church on South Central Avenue, the church remains, and the school which my father administered as the principal (now leased to a private school). But the neighborhood which I

remember, a thriving Greektown where the gas stations on either side were Greek, and the funeral home down the block, and the Greek foods emporium across the street where my father and I stopped for groceries and I smelled the lamb roasting and the potatoes and the olives in brine and the feta cheese as creamy as froth and the men and women doing their groceries while they popped roasted chick peas and caught up on their gossip, they're all gone and our old house on Lotus Avenue was a hollowed-out wreck with the shades hanging out the broken windows. "It'll come back," one titan of business who comes from Chicago assured me, "It'll come back because the real estate is cheap." As a man of business, he was thinking of business. And I hope he's right because we Greeks are restless people and nomads and what we leave behind in our travels are a string of bittersweet memories.

Dimitri C. Michalakis
Dimitri C. Michalakis

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Nakassis's multifaceted approach to the study of Bronze Age Greece is redefining the methodologies and frameworks of the field, and his nuanced picture of political authority and modes of economic exchange in Mycenaean Greece is illuminating the prehistoric underpinnings of Western civilization.

Dimitri Nakassis

Receives

The MacArthur Foundation's "Genius Grant" Challenging Long Held Views on Mycenaean Civilization

The MacArthur Foundation announced recently the recipients of the 2015 MacArthur Fellowship, commonly known as the "genius grants," including classicist Dimitri Nakassis. He and 23 other exceptionally creative Fellows will receive a no-strings-attached \$625,000 grant for their cutting-edge work that is transforming their fields. Nakassis is a classicist transforming our understanding of prehistoric Greek societies. His rare intellectual breadth, comprising philology, archaeology, and contemporary social and economic theory, has equipped him to challenge the long-held view that Late Bronze Age Mycenaean palatial society (1400–1200 BC) was a highly centralized oligarchy, quite distinct from the democratic city-states of classical Greece. Instead, he proposes that power and resources were more broadly shared. This thesis, developed in his first book, *Individuals and Society in Mycenaean Pylos* (2013), is derived from a meticulous reinterpretation of Pylos's administrative and accounting records (found on clay tablets and written in the early Greek script, Linear B).

Standard interpretations of the tablets suppose a rigid political structure in which a small group of palace elites controlled and distributed all resources. Nakassis re-examined this model using a traditional method, prosopography, but through the lens of contemporary theoretical discussions of agency and structure. He determined that some recurrences of a personal name refer to the same individual playing multiple, sometimes competing, roles. This insight offers an alternative picture of the Mycenaean world as a more open society with a dynamic and competitive economic structure that displays some similarities to the democratic polis of classical Greece.

Nakassis is testing his hypothesis through an archaeological survey, the Western Argolid Regional Project that will reconstruct the settlement history of a core region of the Mycenaean world from prehistory to modern times and clarify how Mycenaean states mobilized labor, incorporated peripheral communities, and expressed power over many centuries. He is also co-directing a new study of the Linear B tablets from Pylos that includes the use of digital imaging technologies (three-dimensional scanning and Reflectance Transformation Imaging, a kind of computational photography) to produce high-quality print and digital editions of these important documents for the first time. Nakassis's multifaceted approach to the study of Bronze Age Greece is redefining the methodologies and frameworks of the field, and his nuanced picture of political authority and modes of economic exchange in Mycenaean Greece is illuminating the prehistoric underpinnings of Western civilization.

Dimitri Nakassis received a B.A. (1997) from the University of Michigan and an M.A. (2000) and Ph.D. (2006) from the University of Texas at Austin. He joined the faculty of the University of Toronto in 2008, where he is currently an associate professor in the Department of Classics, and he has been a visiting professor at the University of Colorado Boulder (2014–2015), the Florida State University (2007–2008), and Trinity University (2006–2007). His articles and essays have appeared in the *American Journal of Archaeology*, *Hesperia*, and *Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Studies*, among others.

Source, *MacArthur Foundation*.



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25th ANNUAL LEADERSHIP 100 CONFERENCE TO CONVENE IN SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA



Eleni Tsakopoulos Kounalakis

The 25th Annual Leadership 100 Conference will convene at The Phoenician in Scottsdale, Arizona, February 18-21, 2016. The Opening Forum, on Thursday, February 18, will be led by the V. Rev. Fr. Christopher T. Metropoulos, the new President of Hellenic College/Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, the major beneficiary of Leadership 100 grants, and will be followed by the traditional Bible Study of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios. The Thursday afternoon Hellenism Forum will feature a presentation by Pavlos Yeroulanos, Greece's former Minister for Culture and Tourism, along with exhibits from the Benaki Museum of Athens. Yeroulanos is the great-grandson of the museum's founder, Antonis Benaki. The Benaki Museum exhibits, mounted at the Museum's expense prior to a United States tour, will comprise 40-50 exact replicas from the museum illustrating Greek art from the pre-historic to the contemporary period, a replica of the notable St. Nicholas Icon, and the original album of photographs from the first modern Olympic Games held in Athens in 1896.

The official opening of the exhibits with an Agiasmos (blessing) by the Archbishop, will follow a "Symphony at Sunset" conducted by Peter Tiboris. The day's events will close with the Welcome Reception.

The program on Friday, February 19, will begin with a lecture by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, followed by the General Assembly. There will be a Business Forum in the afternoon, with the speaker to be announced. Also scheduled for later Friday afternoon is the Orientation for new members. The evening will include both a Leadership 100 Partners reception and the Hellenic Glendi.

The Saturday, February 20 events will include a Special Forum in the morning conducted by Eleni Tsakopoulos-Kounalakis, former U.S. Ambassador to Hungary, who has published a book on her experiences in that post. Golf and Tennis Tournaments and Awards, and a Walk/Run will fill out the day's activities. A program of youth activities will be organized by Maria Behrakis and Elaine Cotronakis.

At the Grand Banquet on Saturday evening, the Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Award for Excellence will be presented to the worthy recipients. Prior to the Banquet, new and fulfilled members will be recognized with the presentation of Icons and Obelisks.

At 9 a.m. on Sunday, February 21, the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Phoenix.

Eleni Tsakopoulos Kounalakis, a longtime member of Leadership 100, will address the Saturday Forum on the subject of her recently published memoir, *Madame Ambassador: Three Years of Diplomacy, Dinner Parties, and Democracy in Budapest*. She served as U.S. Ambassador to Hungary from January 7, 2010 to July 20, 2013.

The memoir, released on May 5, 2015, recounts her experiences being vetted for the position with no background in diplomacy, attending an ambassador "charm school" and an intensive training session. However, in taking up her assignment in the former Soviet satellite, she feels that nothing could have prepared her for the realities of life in Hungary.

A property developer, Kounalakis is faced with organizing dinners and diplomatic meetings while her husband, Markos, a journalist, is discouraged from attending diplomats' spouses' gatherings. Her children, meanwhile, are faced with unexpected challenges at a new school.

Politically active, Kounalakis served as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention four times. She and her husband founded two university chairs in Hellenic Studies, at



Pavlos Yeroulanos

Georgetown and Stanford Universities, and a lecture series at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. She has been awarded the Medal of St. Paul by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.



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LEADERSHIP 100 CHAIRMAN GEORGE TSANDIKOS: THE SON OF A PRIEST SERVING THE CHURCH IN HIS OWN WAY

By Dimitri C. Michalakis

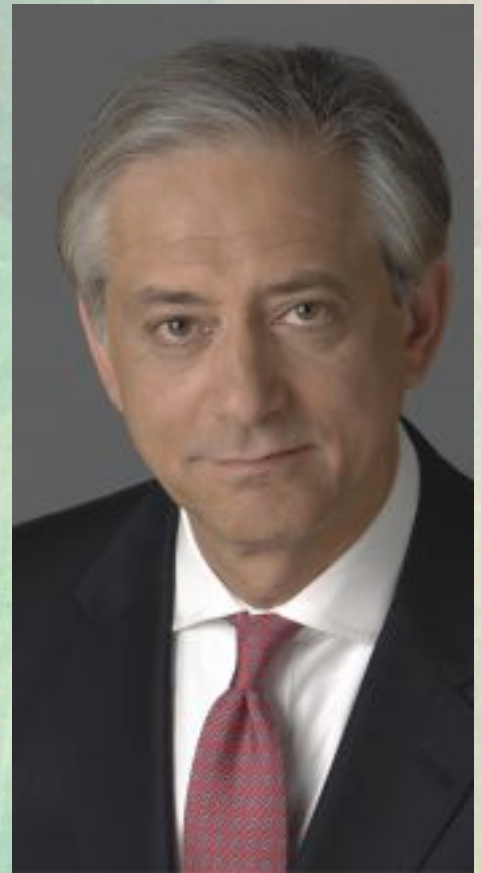


PHOTO: DIMITRIOS PANAGOS

George Tsandikos is the son of a priest who never felt the calling himself but as chairman of Leadership 100 he helps young men join the priesthood and after working with Leadership for years and becoming chairman in 2014 he has served the church faithfully in his own way. "I grew up in the Church and the Church has been a critical part of who I am," he says. Before becoming chairman of Leadership he was vice president under three of its presidents, a past treasurer, an audit committee chairman, and a longtime archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. "It is all about the people and their faith and the ministries of the Church and their effectiveness," says the 55-year-old managing director of Rockefeller & Company since 2003 and before that J.P. Morgan Private Bank. "It's about working under the guidance of His Eminence Geron Archbishop Demetrios. His intellect is astounding. It's about the honor of serving the Church under his spiritual leadership." Tsandikos was born in Fitchburg, Massachusetts and grew up with sisters Kathryn and Stephanie in Worcester, the son of Reverend Solon Tsandikos and Presvytera Joanna and he graduated Brown University and Boston College Law School.

What are the goals for Leadership this year?

Our main goals are to get the message out that Leadership 100 is a nonprofit 501(c) (3) which supports the National Ministries of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, advances Orthodoxy and Hellenism and recruits new members committed to the Orthodox Faith and Hellenic Heritage Presently we have 979 members. Our goal is to reach and hopefully surpass 1,000 members in 2016.

additional grant funding for the ministries of the Church.

How has Leadership changed in your tenure?

Living in New York, I have the additional benefit of attending numerous events together with the Executive Director and reaching out to individuals who are in a position to join. We have established new committees and I have asked every member of the Board to serve on a Standing Committee.

How do you transfer the money to good deeds?

We have supported the theological school, provided scholarships to seminarians, seeded and nurtured Archdiocese ministries, supported Metropolis camps, the Clergy, IOCC and humanitarian needs. In all, since the beginning we have made grants totaling over \$42 million, I think of it as 42 million good deeds.

What are the most pressing needs in the church and in the Greek community?

To keep our people united in the Church, keep our youth safe during this most critical time in our Nation and in the world, and to serve the faithful and welcome the stranger.

How do you get the young people involved? What is your outreach to them?

Leadership 100 established a young professionals program known today as the Leadership 100 Partners. The purpose of this was to encourage young people to join Leadership 100, participate in programs and events and to make their \$100,000 commitment payments on a lower scale. Our annual conferences bring together over 100 young people who benefit from meeting prominent men and women who are successful in their professions. It also gives them an opportunity to meet other Greek American young people and, in some cases, to meet their partner in marriage.

My father was a principal of Greek parochial schools and their survival was dependent on the local church (on its many travels as the neighborhood changed). How can Leadership help the church and the schools?



George S. Tsandikos with mother, Presvytera Joanna, Archbishop Iakovos and father, Fr. Solon S. Tsandikos

How do you get there from here?

By communication through our own publications, website, Facebook and YouTube and in the Greek press and other media and in reaching out to individuals through one to one personal contact and by organizing various recruitment events throughout the Metropolises.

What's your biggest challenge?

To strive to increase our membership and our Endowment portfolio so that we may provide

As a money man, is it all about the money?

No, quite the opposite! It is all about the people and their faith and the ministries of the Church and their effectiveness. It's about working under the guidance of His Eminence Geron Archbishop Demetrios. His intellect is astounding. It's about the honor of serving the Church under his spiritual leadership. Money is, of course, necessary to accomplish our goals but it is a byproduct of these efforts.

Why did you want to be Chairman?

To be honest with you, I did not seek the position but I was honored when John Payiavlas as Chairman of the Nominating Committee approached me and asked if I wish to be nominated. My election by the Board of Trustees was one of the greatest honors in my life.

The Grant Committee is presently reviewing a grant proposal which was submitted by the Archdiocese Department of Greek Education to provide funding for educational materials for Greek parochial schools. We are a national organization and are restricted from supporting local entities but we can support Greek education in general through this Department.

Are our parochial schools now permanently endangered?

With the downturn in the economy, all parochial schools have faced difficulties. We recently witnessed the Catholic Archdiocese's decision to close several parochial schools in New York. Another factor is that many of our families are changing parishes and neighborhoods which result in a decline in enrollment. Still, there is a critical need for this type of special education. I believe and pray they will survive. Perhaps the Church should study the successful schools as a model to replicate elsewhere.

What is your sales pitch when you are trying to recruit new members into Leadership?

Rather than using the word, "sales pitch", I would say our message is to make people aware of how our support for the scholarship program offered to seminarians has helped educate and train these young men for the Priesthood. Many of them have approached us to thank us and to assure us that if it were not for Leadership 100, they would not be able to study at Holy Cross. Likewise, many young people have thanked us for our annual support of Church summer camps. Fundamentally, all the National Ministries are dependent on Leadership 100 in order to grow and innovate their programs.

How do you get them to participate besides offering their money?

By serving on our Board and committees and by attending our annual conferences and participating in regional and Metropolis events. Most build friendships through these activities

the actual events and there is always something going on at the Schole. Honestly, I really do not keep count. Every step is so fulfilling.

How do you balance that with your day job?

Fortunately, I am in an executive position and my company supports charitable work and community activities. I enjoy my day job and my responsibilities as Chairman of Leadership 100. Some days can be long but they are always rewarding.

How would you describe your relationship with (Leadership Executive Director) Paulette Poulos?

Paulette and I have a long standing relationship which dates back to our beloved Archbishop Iakovos of blessed memory. We are friends who share a mutual respect and admiration for each other. Paulette is tireless, faithful and loyal. She is a very special person.

Who does what?

Paulette handles the administrative work of the Office as well as the day to day responsibilities. Paulette and I travel together to conference sites and events and she keeps me informed of all pertinent matters. We participate regularly on conference calls with our Committees and with individuals.

Will the team ever be broken?

I can honestly say I hope the team will never be broken. I will be completing two years in February and the Nominating Committee has nominated me for another term.

What was it like growing up in Fitchburg and Worcester?

I was born in Fitchburg and moved to Worcester when I was very young. My father was assigned to serve St. Spyridon Church there. It was idyllic in many ways. Worcester in those days was booming. The Greek community was extremely active and life very much centered around the Church.

Parents born here?

Both my parents were born here – my mom in Worcester, MA and my dad in Lowell, MA. Shortly after they married, they moved to Athens for a few years while my father studied at the University of Athens. Their love for Greece was contagious. Even though I am a third generation Greek American, I, too love, Greece.

Their families are from what part of Greece?

Mainland. My mother's family was from the Peleponissos region. My father's father was born in Kalambaka; his mom in Evia.

Which parish did you grow up in?

My dad served the Worcester parish from 1963 until 1974. I left for college in 1978 so I consider St. Spyridon in Worcester to be my childhood parish.

What was it like being the son of a priest?

Wonderful yet at times challenging. I had to be good. On the other hand I was exposed early on to all of life's many challenges and sacrifices. But I grew up in the Church and the Church has been a critical part of who I am since then.



George S. Tsandikos and Paulette Poulos accept award of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox National Shrine from His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios in acknowledgement of Leadership 100 support in October of 2014.

Are our churches becoming imperiled and our rate of attendance becoming an issue?

Our lives today are so very fast. Studies show church attendance is declining across all faiths. Still, our Holy Trinity Archdiocesan Cathedral is packed on Sundays and with young families as are many other churches in urban centers throughout the country The Church will survive and thrive as it stands for a faith and values that transforms lives for the better and combats pessimism and despair.

How do we attract priests into the church?

The Priesthood is a special calling from God and all you have to do is walk on the grounds of our Theological School in Brookline to see the commitment of these young men who have been chosen to serve the Church. Vocations, in fact, are on the increase.

and events which, in turn, creates a cohesive organization that perpetuates itself through future generations. We are one big family of faith.

How generous are Greeks?

Greeks are known to be very generous, hospitable and full of filotimo and one can witness that firsthand whenever Leadership 100 members gather, whether in small groups or at big events and our conferences.

How many miles do you travel a year on behalf of Leadership?

I do not have a precise number but I have been across the country more than half a dozen times since my election and to local events several times each month. I think the number would be surprising and significant. Our annual conferences alone require two or so site visits and

How did you participate in your father's parish?

As an altar boy primarily.

Did you ever think of becoming a priest yourself?

On occasion, yes. But I knew that I could better serve the Church in my capacity as a lay person.

What was it like growing up with two sisters?

I am the middle child so was flanked both by an older and younger sister. I felt and still feel blessed. We were and remain a close family. We still are each other's best friends.

How did that translate into wealth management?

I practiced law for two years in Boston. In 1989, I accepted a position with the JP Morgan Private Bank in their Trust and Estates Department. While at JP Morgan my role transitioned to a Private Banker so the progression was natural.

Besides your faith, is noblesse oblige a part of your philosophy?

I don't think I would say noblesse oblige. But my parents taught me early on that much is expected from those who are blessed. And that I am.

Is the Rockefeller noblesse oblige a role model?

John D. Rockefeller believed that every right has a responsibility, every opportunity, an obligation and every possession, a duty. It is a privilege to work for a company carrying the Rockefeller name and all that it stands for.



George S. Tsandikos with United States Vice President Joseph R. Biden, recipient of Athenagoras Human Rights Award at Order of Saint Andrew, Archbishops of Ecumenical Patriarchate Grand Banquet in October of 2015



George S. Tsandikos Addresses 73rd Commencement at Hellenic College/Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in May of 2015

What is your role as managing director at Rockefeller?

I am a senior client advisor to individuals, families and private foundations. I provide investment advice, estate planning and general advice across multiple generations.

How active is the Rockefeller charitable foundation today - if this is within your purview? How do you invest wisely in such a topsy-turvy political and economic world?

First, one must evaluate and understand risk tolerance. Once that and one's time frame is determined, it is important to stay diversified across asset classes and different strategies.

What do you hope will be your lasting legacy in Leadership and in the Greek community?

During my chairmanship, Leadership 100 was able to provide \$1 million from our portfolio and an additional \$2 million from our membership to the historic rebuilding of the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox National Shrine. I hope my legacy will be that in some small way I was able to offer valuable service to Leadership 100 and to be remembered as a faithful member of the Greek Orthodox Community.

How do we get the younger generation both to contribute and be as active as the previous ones?

Of course it starts in the home. Still, dynamic and gifted priests, like Father John Vlahos for example, bring in the younger generation because of their humility, love and deep faith.

What is your age and what do you do when you're not managing money both for Rockefeller and the church?

I am 55. In addition to my work at Rockefeller & Co. and with Leadership 100, I am also a trustee of the Freeman Foundation and of the Kalliniekion Foundation. In addition I sit on the board of the Rockefeller Trust Company, NA. I like giving back. I think it's what God had in mind for me.



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The OXI Day Spirit Celebrated in Washington DC

PHOTOS BY: BILL PETROS



Michael Psaros

Astronaut, Senator and American hero John Glenn, the husband of Queen Elizabeth, Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, joined other world leaders lauding the people of Greece in their courageous fight against Hitler's Axis Forces and the Holocaust and celebrating those who today exhibit the same kind of Oxi Day valor. This was all part of the Washington Oxi Day Foundation's Fifth Annual Celebration on October 28, the 75th anniversary of that historic moment that changed the trajectory of the Second World War.

Khalil al-Dakhi, who risks his life daily rescuing women and children held captive by ISIS as sex slaves, was the recipient of the 2015 Oxi Day Award. His introduction, featuring video clips from the nationally televised FRONTLINE



Bill Hunter and NASA Administrator Charles Bolden, who accepted the 2015 Greatest Generation Award on behalf of Senator John Glenn

program that followed him on the ground in Iraq, brought a prolonged standing ovation from an audience filled with many high-level US government officials.

The world-renowned musician and humanitarian Bono, who issued impassioned pleas at his concerts for the release of 2015 Battle of Crete Award recipient Leyla Yunus, spoke at the Oxi Day gala via video about the plight of the human rights advocate who remains imprisoned in Azerbaijan. Ms. Yunus' daughter, Dinara, who was introduced by the

highest-ranking woman in American history, Nancy Pelosi, accepted the Award on her mother's behalf and further detailed her fight for justice.

During their time in DC, the Washington Oxi Day Foundation also brought Khalil al-Dakhi and Dinara Yunus, two exemplars of the Oxi Day spirit today, together with senior US government officials. These meetings are adjusting US policy and helping their efforts and as a result a couple of weeks later her parents were set free.



Jim Chanos presents H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh with the 2015 Metropolitan Chrysostomos Award at Buckingham Palace

Princess Alice, the mother of Prince Philip, was awarded posthumously with the 2015 Metropolitan Chrysostomos Award. President and Founder of Kynikos Associates LP and Washington Oxi Day Foundation Advisory Board Member, Jim Chanos, spoke at the gala about his presentation of the Award to Prince Philip at Buckingham Palace days before the celebration. Princess Alice saved a Jewish family and other members of the Jewish community from Hitler's concentration camps during the Holocaust. Remarkably, she lived across the street from Gestapo headquarters in Nazi-occupied Athens.

Also presented at the October 28 gala was the Second Annual Stavros Niarchos Foundation Philotimo Award. Given to an individual or organization in Greece, this Award recognizes extraordinary acts of philotimo that have helped society keep its cohesion during Greece's current socio-economic crisis. Stavros Niarchos Foundation Executive Board Member, Ambassador Vassilis Kaskarelis, and Director of Programs and Strategic Initiatives, Stelios Vasilakis, presented the Award to PRAKSIS and Chairman Tzanetos Antypas.



Khalil al-Dakhi receives the 2015 Oxi Day Award from Washington Oxi Day Foundation Founder and President Andy Manatos

PRAKSIS (Programs Of Development, Social Support And Medical Cooperation) is an independent Non-Governmental Organization in Greece whose main mission is the design,

application and implementation of humanitarian programs and medical interventions.

Others participating in the gala program included: Chairman of Marcus & Millichap, Founder of the National Hellenic Society and Oxi Day Foundation Advisory Board Member, George Marcus; Protospesbyter of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Oxi Day Foundation Board Member, Father Alexander Karloutsos; Chairman and CEO of the Libra Group, George Logothetis, who delivered the keynote address, which was received with a standing ovation.

The 2015 Greatest Generation Awards honored three distinguished World War II veterans -- Greek-American James Moshovitis, Greek General George Douratsos and American John Glenn. Senator Glenn, who was unable to travel to Washington for the occasion, was introduced by his personal friend of many years Bill Hunter. Astronaut and head of NASA, Administrator Charles Bolden, accepted the Award on Glenn's behalf.

Accepting the Award posthumously on behalf of General Douratsos was his niece Themis Douratsou-Paleologou. In addition, the keynote address was delivered by Co-Founder and Co-Managing Partner of KPS Capital Partners, LP, Michael Psaros.



House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi and Andy Manatos present Dinara Yunus, daughter of Leyla Yunus, with the 2015 Battle of Crete Award

Leaders who have joined in the advocacy of Oxi Day courage over the first four years of the Oxi Day Foundation include: Former Presidents Bill Clinton and Shimon Peres; Vice President Joe



Ambassador Vassilis Kaskarelis and Stelios Vasilakis present Tzanetos Antypas and PRAKSIS with the Second Annual Stavros Niarchos Foundation Philotimo Award



George Marcus



Father Alexander Karloutsos



George Logothetis



James Mosbovitis



Themis Douratsou-Paleologou and Sobia Paleologou accept the 2015 Greatest Generation Award on behalf of General George Douratsos from Greek Defense Attaché Panagiotis Kavidopoulos



The Oxi Day Foundation at Arlington National Cemetery

Biden; Then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton; Then-Chairs of the Senate Foreign Relations and House Foreign Affairs Committees Bob Menendez and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen; Noble Laureates Aung San Suu Kyi and Elie Wiesel; Senator Marco Rubio and former Senator Bob Dole; Former record-setting Congressmen John Dingell and Ralph Hall; and many other distinguished individuals

This year's Washington Oxi Day Foundation video entitled "World Leaders Praise Greek Courage" is already approaching hundreds of thousands of views and, thus, on target to match the success of last year's Foundation video about Philotimo entitled "The Greek Secret."

The 75th anniversary celebration began in Washington, DC with a reception at the residence of the Ambassador of Greece to the US Christos Panagopoulos, co-hosted by the National Hellenic Society (NHS). Guests made a champagne toast at the exact moment 75 years ago that the Prime Minister of Greece said "OXI!"

The celebration ended with a poignant wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery.

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Happy 2016?

To say that 2015 was a fascinating year for Hellenism would be an understatement. We ushered in the New Year with an election in Greece, Turkey maintaining its invasion of the Republic of Cyprus' Exclusive Economic Zone and keeping reunification negotiations on hold, and instability throughout the Balkans and Eastern Mediterranean. The summer ushered in both more volatility (with the Greek economic crisis leading to referenda, bank closures, and negotiations that reminded one of torture tactics; an unprecedented refugee crisis) and some hope (Cyprus talks back on track with a more willing Turkish-Cypriot partner, the US engaging more substantively both on Greece and Cyprus). Yet the end of 2015 leaves us with more open fronts on Hellenic issues than one can remember existing at one time.

2016 will bring no respite for Hellenism, and Athens, Nicosia, the Phanar and the worldwide diaspora must be prepared to hit the ground running in January. Here are a few developments that will be upon us immediately and may well have a lasting effect:

The next round of negotiations between Greece and its creditors

The capital controls imposed this summer in Greece are still in force, and the economy has fallen back into recession. The Tsipras government is intent on exiting the bailout program in 2016; if a further bailout program is needed, it wants the IMF excluded. This is where things get complicated – the IMF is in favor of debt relief (which is the major accomplishment that successive Greek governments have been striving for), but wants deeper cuts to pensions (which Athens argues cannot be cut further). The European Union and the European Central Bank are not in favor of debt relief, but would have to allow Greece to refinance/borrow on triple A term in perpetuity to make Greek debt levels sustainable. The creditors' review of Greece's reforms is due in January; Greece may run out of cash again in February. Can Tsipras survive another showdown either with Greece's creditors or with

rebels within Greece's Parliament? If the government falls, will New Democracy have made itself strong enough to capitalize? Who becomes the king maker (ANEL, PASOK, Potami) if all this plays out?

Cyprus reunification negotiations

There are several reasons why 2016 should be the year the occupation of Cyprus ends. The turmoil in the region makes Cyprus look like the easiest problem to solve, the extra financial incentive of natural gas gives every stakeholder in Cyprus reason to come to an agreement, and it is hard to imagine a combination of leaders who will have a better rapport than President Nicos Anastasiades and Mustafa Akinci. But there is one big reason why it won't: Turkey has not made any serious concessions. In the last few weeks, it seems that diplomats are trying to establish the conventional wisdom that a Cyprus solution is – in John Kerry's words – "within reach". It would be nice if Secretary Kerry or Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon could detail what "within reach" means or what exactly Turkey has done to bring it a little closer. Every time the State Department tells the community that Turkey is being "helpful", we are directed to positive rhetoric coming out of Ankara. It's hard not to treat these "positive" comments as being uttered with forked tongues when they are accompanied by: further challenges to Cyprus' EEZ; by Turkish government correspondence to the EU declaring its non-recognition of the Republic of Cyprus; by Prime Minister Davutoglu's request for more settlers to be given "citizenship" of the pseudo-state ("Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus") in the occupied north.

2016 could indeed be the year that Cyprus is freed from over four decades of Turkish occupation and Greek and Turkish Cypriots come together and start building a better future. Yet it is equally likely that this is the year that intellectually dishonest diplomacy – the kind that treats the Cyprus issue merely as a bi-communal problem and holds that Turkey's invasion and occupation are not core issues; the kind that leaves the hardest possible

issues (i.e., how to rid Cyprus of Turkey's insistence on security guarantees/right to intervene, how to pay for the \$20 billion cost of reunification) to the very end of the process – will leave us lamenting missed opportunities in 2016.

The religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate

This March 25, it will be four years since President Obama stood next to then Prime Minister Erdogan and congratulated him on his decision to open Halki Seminary. Halki was supposed to be the first domino to fall in the road to restoring full religious freedom to the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Four years later, Halki remains closed, and proposed amendments to Turkey's constitution that would increase religious freedom are unlikely to see the light of day. The Gulen movement and its allies in Turkish government – whom the Church relied heavily upon – are on the run in the Turkey and around the world, as the Erdogan government has clearly decided to eliminate Gulen and his followers as a political force in Turkey. Now the Ecumenical Patriarchate is stuck in the middle of the latest spat between Russia and Turkey, with its ability to host a pan-Orthodox council (the first since 787 A.D.) now in question.

That the issue of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's religious freedom has virtually disappeared as a political priority in the West is inexcusable. Turkey's oppression of the Patriarchate has been one of the harbingers of the terrors visited on Christians across the Middle East today. There are no longer any tolerant forces in the Turkish government, and if Washington, D.C. and Brussels fail to press the issue with Ankara, the Patriarchate will be slowly eliminated.

Several more issues are set to emerge center stage – the Macedonian name issue will surely heat up as the NATO Summit approaches, the refugee crisis is not subsiding, Albania has taken to challenging Greek sovereignty – but the above will dominate attention from the beginning. 2016 promises to be more volatile than 2015 and we must all be on guard.



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

by Endy Zemenides

2016
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FAITH Endowment Announces Summer 2016 Financial Aid Travel Grants to Ionian Village



"The Camp provides a truly transformative and enriching experience for intellectual and spiritual growth and life-long friendships as these young people connect to their Hellenic roots. For over 40 years, Ionian Village has been and still is the premiere program for the young Greek Americans to understand their Hellenic heritage and identity and we are very pleased to offer this financial aid opportunity through our program."
Elaine Jaharis



Continuing for the tenth consecutive year, "FAITH: An Endowment for Orthodoxy and Hellenism" will once again sponsor a series of financial aid travel grants this summer to campers participating in the Ionian Village Summer Camp program. FAITH provides full and partial scholarships to those participants that qualify.

The travel grants are primarily need-based financial aid; however, each applicant's academic performance will also be weighed into the evaluation review process. Priority is given to older applicants.

Ionian Village participants will travel across Greece visiting significant sites of Greek history and culture. At the end of each program, the campers return home with strengthened faith, life-long friendships and an expanded appreciation for the Orthodox Church and Greek culture.

Mrs. Elaine Jaharis, a Founder of the FAITH Endowment, Ionian Village Alumna and Chair of

the Committee spoke on behalf of the Founders, "We (the Founders of FAITH) are proud to support young people wishing to participate in Ionian Village. The Camp provides a truly transformative and enriching experience for intellectual and spiritual growth and life-long friendships as these young people connect to their Hellenic roots. For over 40 years, Ionian Village has been and still is the premiere program for the young Greek Americans to understand their Hellenic heritage and identity and we are very pleased to offer this financial aid opportunity through our program."

In 2015, FAITH underwrote 63 full and partial financial aid travel grants for young people to attend the Ionian Village Summer Camp. Eva T., who received a 2015 FAITH Travel Grant to Ionian Village, recalled her experience as a camper, "There are absolutely no words to express my sincere gratitude towards FAITH. I learned so much about our rich and beautiful motherland, the others around me, myself and our Orthodox Faith."

Each year, FAITH also funds a series of several scholarship programs including many merit-based scholarships for the FAITH Scholarships for Academic Excellence program to high school students graduating from public, parochial and private high schools across the country.

FAITH – Ionian Village Travel Grant applications are NOW available for participants of Session One and Session Two, ages 16-18: www.thefaithendowment.org. Completed applications must be received by February 5, 2016.

FAITH: An Endowment for Orthodoxy and Hellenism supports the development of innovative educational, cultural, and scholarship programs for young people that promote an understanding of the Orthodox faith, Hellenism, and the relationship of the two to America's history and multicultural landscape. For more information, their phone number is 212-644-6960.

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Eric Alexandrakis' Like a Puppet Show Album: Remixing Plato's Allegory of the Cave

by Cindy Klimek

For his latest project, noted composer/music producer Eric Alexandrakis has teamed up with actor John Malkovich and photographer Sandro to create *Like a Puppet Show*, a 12-track vinyl-only album that was released on Record Store Day in the United States. Record Store Day is an event designed to raise awareness and drum up business for independent record stores, and falls on Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving. The album features Malkovich reciting Plato's *Allegory of the Cave* over original soundscapes composed by artists such as Yoko Ono and Sean Lennon, the Cranberries' Dolores O'Riordan, and the Cars' Ric Ocasek, to name a few.

Alexandrakis says the idea for the project came to him a couple of years ago while he was working on "cinematic tunes with a revolving door of high profile musicians." He explains, "I was creating this ambient piece called *Cryogenia X* and it was really meant to be kind of like a dreamy subconscious thing where somebody is lying there in a cryogenic state and the world around them is changing over the years. Death, war, different seasons, peace, all these different things

The idea would further take shape when the three met up at a photoshoot in the spring of 2014. Sandro and Malkovich were working on pieces for Sandro's "Malkovich, Malkovich, Malkovich: Homage to Photographic Masters" series, which recreates famous photos with Malkovich as the subject. Says Alexandrakis, "I got to watch the whole process and it was amazing. They did old photos with exactly the same light, the same clothes, the same makeup, but with John Malkovich doing the pose. John as Muhammed Ali or John as Marilyn Monroe or John as Einstein sticking his tongue out. The attention to detail and watching Sandro create and direct and reproduce

be so cool as vinyl picture discs'. Then the wheels started to turn and I thought to myself, 'how about we give this version of the *Allegory* dialogue that I put together to some major artists and ask them to just create their own soundscapes around it, kind of like art school on steroids'."

Alexandrakis made a "big list of specific people who had a certain creative edge to them," sent them Malkovich's dialogue, and, 12 tracks later, *Like a Puppet Show* was born. The album's release will tie in with Sandro's exhibit, which is currently on a world tour, and a documentary the three are making about the album's creative process. They

During his stay in the hospital for cancer treatments, Alexandrakis would write and record his second album IV Catatonia. He explains, "it was totally medical themed and I recorded it the first week I started my treatment and then finished it my last week so it was like a window into that time. I put my nurse on the cover and there's a box set with medical products and fake blood and tourniquets and a postcard of the hospital saying 'wish you were here'. I really like taking it to the extreme.



happening in fast motion. And then I said, 'how cool would it be if maybe we could get John Malkovich to recite Plato's *Allegory of the Cave* over it?' Almost like a subconscious voice speaking while you're in the dream state. So I talked to Sandro about it. He's been working with John for like 20 years and he thought it was a cool idea. He talked to John and John said yes and that's how we all got in touch."

everything without Photoshop, and then watching John get into character as the hair and makeup guys transformed him, it was unbelievable. It was literally a master class in everything from wardrobe to makeup to photography to direction. So, as I'm watching this and watching the photos pop up on the screen as Sandro shoots them, I start thinking, 'oh man, these look like picture disc photos. These would

also created their own record label to release *Like a Puppet Show*, along with any future endeavors. "We have full PR and we're planning on putting out several different versions of the album with some of the same people and then some brand new people over the course of the next year or two," he adds. Vinyl only, for now. Says Alexandrakis, "one of the reasons for this is to show that art is not disposable. Intellectual

property has been abused so much. We want to create appreciation. A lot of people scoff at that and say we can't avoid mp3s and all that, but in Japan a big part of the music there is still CD sales. And that's because the industry there made a conscious decision to hold on to the format. Whereas here they tried to fight Napster by giving everything for free to Spotify. It's just absurd. We need to invest in technology and not just make everything free free free. Just because it's free doesn't mean people are going to want it. You make it valueless and it becomes valueless. For us, this record is something you could put on a wall, it's beautiful. It's art, whether you're playing it or not. It's a statement and it's going to speak to people who appreciate that stuff. It's not for

He would end up double majoring in Public Relations and English Literature while still dabbling in music and acting. Alexandrakis recorded his first album *9 Demos* on a 4 Track in his 20s "just for the hell of it. Just as an expression. I'd been doing music on and off for years but I didn't think I could make a living out of it," he says. The album was created in what Alexandrakis describes as a "bad time" where he was suffering from a persistent pain. After the album's release, then-25 year old Alexandrakis would find out he had cancer and that the pain was coming from a fist sized tumor in his chest. "So that kind of threw things into a loop," he says. Nevertheless, *9 Demos* was out and the feedback was positive. "People were telling me it was really good. And it

Alexandrakis's family relocated to Crete for his father's job. The young music lover would become obsessed with the Minoans and their palace at Knossos. "The Minoans, they're from Crete and they made music. It made sense. And who could resist the Minotaur, right?" he says, referring to the label's logo. "Crete is my favorite place. Everything about it fascinates me."

Though Alexandrakis has plans to release more of his own work through Minoan Music, right now his focus is on *Like a Puppet Show* and future projects with Sandro and Malkovich. "The plan is to keep making more. Right now I'm talking to artists for the next one. We have Record Store Day and then we have one coming out the day after



everybody and we kinda don't care. If you want to hear it, you have to buy it and you have to put it on a turntable and if you don't have a turntable, we don't care. It's almost a punk ethic. We're going to do it our way."

Alexandrakis has been doing it his way from the beginning. Born in Coral Gables, Florida to doctorate-holding, non-musical parents, he says he was drawn to music and the arts from a very early age. "It was pretty obvious that the arts were

was from people who had no obligation. It's not like with your parents who say everything is good because they want to encourage you. Musicians usually don't compliment other musicians, but industry people were complimenting me so I thought that maybe I was on to something."

During his stay in the hospital for cancer treatments, Alexandrakis would write and record his second album *IV Catatonia*. He explains, "it was totally medical themed and I recorded it the

which is a shorter version and then that same one with different artwork in January." When asked if he has a favorite track from the album, Alexandrakis says, "I do but they're all so different and so cool that I'd do them an injustice if I just picked one." And as for the next new release, he says, "we're going to do samples instead of full dialogue. We have a really interesting variety of different people joining us, but unfortunately I can't tell you who yet." Though Alexandrakis is tight-lipped about his current collaborators, he names John Williams, Mozart, and, most interestingly, Thomas Edison as part of his dream roster. "It would be cool to have Thomas Edison email me sounds of his light bulbs smashing on the floor and then putting those around the dialogue and having the sounds of machines and things like that."

Alexandrakis also hints at another "really big" future project with Malkovich and Sandro but adds, "I can't say what it is yet but I think we're starting that in January. There's all kinds of things floating around right now."

To learn more about Eric Alexandrakis, go to: [facebook.com/ERICSGALEXANDRAKIS](https://www.facebook.com/ERICSGALEXANDRAKIS)

To learn more about Sandro's Malkovich exhibit, go to: sandrofilm.com

To learn more about Record Store Day, go to: recordstoreday.com

Alexandrakis launched Minoan Music, named for the ancient Cretan civilization. During his childhood, his family relocated to Crete for his father's job. The young music lover would become obsessed with the Minoans and their palace at Knossos. "The Minoans, they're from Crete and they made music. It made sense. And who could resist the Minotaur, right?" he says, referring to the label's logo. "Crete is my favorite place. Everything about it fascinates me.

me," he says. "I could make music out of pretty much anything. I'd do plays in school and always got the lead. In elementary school we'd have to pick an instrument in the beginning of the year to study and I'd pick all of them. Then during school concerts I'd bounce from instrument to instrument."

As a pre-teen and teen, Alexandrakis set his sights on acting after being inspired by the film *Back to the Future*. "When I got into college I wanted to be a theater major and my parents sat me down and convinced me to try something else," he laughs.

first week I started my treatment and then finished it my last week so it was like a window into that time. I put my nurse on the cover and there's a box set with medical products and fake blood and tourniquets and a postcard of the hospital saying 'wish you were here'. I really like taking it to the extreme."

Looking for an outlet for his music, as well as an opportunity to get away from the "freeloading" Florida-based label he was signed to, Alexandrakis launched Minoan Music, named for the ancient Cretan civilization. During his childhood,



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With the Holiday Season Upon Us...



By Dr. Nicholas Kaloudis

To help avoid gaining weight this holiday season while also enjoying your favorite foods, here are some strategies that I have used successfully with my patients:

Develop some strategies before you head to the party or the dinner table to help you make healthier choices and to eat smaller portions, especially of high-calorie holiday treats.

The following strategies can help. If one does not work for you, try a different strategy at the next event or use a combination of strategies.

Drink a glass of water before you eat. Water takes up space and is calorie-free.

Start with the fruits and veggies. Many of us don't eat enough vegetables anyway, so take this opportunity to eat the healthier options first. By the time you get to the cheesecake and chocolate dip, you may find that you have less room to overindulge in high-calorie foods.

Skip the dips and dressings, especially the creamy ones, or opt for a lower calorie version if available.

Eat slowly and wait 20 minutes before you go back for seconds or dessert. From the time you are full, it takes about 20 minutes for your digestive system to get this message to your brain. By waiting 20 minutes, you might find you don't want seconds or dessert after all.

Try small amounts of multiple foods rather than taking two or three servings of any one food. I like doing this because my portions are smaller and I get to taste more dishes.

Limit your alcohol intake. I love a cup of holiday cheer as much as the next person, but I do not love the empty calories. Sparkling water, juice, and other beverages are good choices instead. There are significant health risks to excess drinking.

If you do have more than one alcoholic drink, make a point to drink a full glass of water between drinks. It will slow you down, fill you up, and help keep you from getting dehydrated. I have a friend who started doing this a few years ago and she drinks less — if for no other reason than she gets tired of trips to the restroom!

If you are hosting a gathering, buy the low-fat cheese for snack trays and recipes. Also buy the lower calorie eggnog. If you make eggnog from scratch, use low fat or nonfat milk.

Before indulging in a holiday treat, stop and ask yourself, "How important is this to me compared to my long-term health goals?" Pausing to ask this question may make that frosted sugar cookie less appealing.

Stick to your exercise routine during the holidays or start one. And if you are feeling inspired, add five or 10 minutes to it.

Make a list of all the good reasons you do not want to gain weight over the holidays or why you want to lose weight after the holidays. Read the list every day and remind yourself of it whenever you are tempted to overindulge.

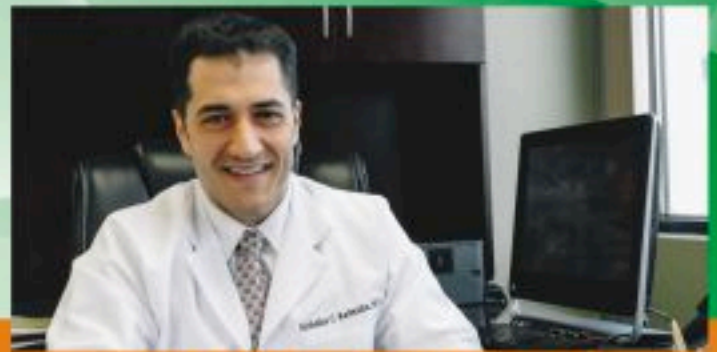
Don't beat yourself up if you slip up at one party or cannot resist the homemade fudge someone brought to work. Tomorrow is a new day and you will have another opportunity to do better and feel good about making healthy choices.

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from

Paul Macropoulos & Family

John Kiriakou Named January 2016 Patriot Award Winner

By Chip Gibbons



John
Kiriakou

Photo by Troy Page / CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

Today, Kiriakou continues his fight for justice as a fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies, where he works on issues concerning torture, intelligence reform, and prison reform.

My Only Regret—Staying Silent So Long

Given the consequences of telling the U.S. people the truth about their government—the lengthy legal battle, the prison sentence, and an eventual bankruptcy—some might wonder if Kiriakou has any regrets about his decision. When speaking to BORDC/DDF, he stated, “I have only regret—that I stayed silent for so long.” While Kiriakou went public in 2007, he had known about CIA torture since 2002.

In 2002, Kiriakou participated in the capture of Abu Zubaydah, believed at the time to be al-Qaeda’s “number 3” in command. After his capture, a senior operative asked Kiriakou if he wanted to be trained in “enhanced interrogation techniques”. Kiriakou had never heard this term before, so he inquired about what it entailed. The operative became “very excited” as he told Kiriakou that “we are going to start getting rough with these guys.” The operative went onto describe ten “enhanced interrogation” techniques, to which Kiriakou exclaimed “that sounds like torture.” Afterwards, he visited a friend on the executive floor asking for advice. He was told, “Let’s call a spade a spade, it’s torture and torture is a slippery slope.” He was advised not to participate, since it was only a matter of time before someone dies, which would lead to a Congressional investigation, and finally someone going to jail. Kiriakou’s friend asked him, “do you want to go jail?” Kiriakou most certainly did not. He certainly could not have foreseen that his opposition to torture would cause him to be the only person to go jail in connection with the CIA’s illegal torture program.

Five and half years later, and after Kiriakou had resigned from the CIA, he received a call from ABC reporter Brian Ross. Ross told Kiriakou that he had a source who was willing to say that Kiriakou had been the one to torture Abu Zubaydah. He told Ross that he was one of the only people to oppose torture. Ross told him he could come on the program and defend himself.

In the intermediate period of time, George W. Bush came on TV and told the nation that the United States did not torture. Kiriakou was appalled that the President could go on TV and “looking us right in the eye and lying.” At this point, Kiriakou resolved that no matter what Brian Ross asked him he was going to tell the truth.

Solitary Confinement is Torture

After serving thirty months in federal prison, Kiriakou’s advocacy has expanded to examine prison reform. While in prison, Kiriakou discovered that torture was not just something the CIA did overseas, it happens every day in the U.S.’s prisons.

Near the end of his prison term, Kiriakou got a new cellmate—Jim. Jim had been in prison for eight years previously before being released on parole. Post-prison Jim, who was homeless, lived in a cardboard box under a bridge in Pittsburg. Desperate to escape the cold Jim broke the terms of his parole just so he could be inside for the winter. Jim was also a paranoid schizophrenic. As he explained to Kiriakou, he was fine when he took his medication, but when he didn’t things could get very bad very quickly.

The prison denied Jim his medication on the grounds that it was too expensive and gave him Tylenol, an over the counter painkiller that in no way treats mental illness. Additionally, Jim developed a bleeding hemorrhoid, which the prison refused to treat. Denied medical treatment, Jim began filing grievances against the prison. The prison put him in solitary confinement on the grounds that he was “harassing” the prison officials by filing grievances.

In solitary confinement, once a day the medical unit goes cell to cell making sure everyone is ok. However, because Jim had “harassed” the prison medical staff they purposefully skipped his cell. Without his medication, Jim’s mental state deteriorated further and further, until eventually he stood on his bunk and hit the sprinkler with a slipper, causing all of the sprinklers in all of the cells to go off. Prison guards wearing all black and equipped with helmets “extracted” Jim from his cell tasing, pepper spraying, and beating him in the process.

After they “extracted” Jim from his cell, prison guards stripped him and put him outside in a fenced area reserved for recreation. Its tiny nature—10 by 12 feet—makes it resemble something more like a cage than a recreational space. It was winter and thus cold outside. Jim pleaded to be let in, after an hour breaking down into tears, before finally fainting. When he was brought back to his cell he was babbling incoherently.

As Kiriakou points out solitary confinement, much like the CIA’s own program of torture, make the U.S. government immensely hypocritical in way that it deals with the world. Kiriakou said to BORDC/DDF, “How can we tell Saudi Arabia not to behead people, when we execute people all the time, when we keep people in solitary confinements for decades, something the UN says is torture?”

To read the entire article, go to: <http://bordc.org/news/john-kiriakou-named-january-2016-patriot-award-winner/>

Learn more about John Kiriakou’s work at his website: johnkiriakou.com

The Bill of Rights Defense Committee and Defending Dissent Foundation has the immense honor to bestow the January 2016 Patriot Award on John Kiriakou. In 2007, Kiriakou appeared on ABC when he told the world three things that would change both our national discourse and his life forever—the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) had tortured prisoners, torture was the official policy of the United States, and the President had approved and signed off on the use of torture.

After this former CIA employee blew the whistle on U.S. torture, the CIA immediately filed a crimes report with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. At the close of the Bush Administration, the FBI closed their investigation of Kiriakou concluding he had committed no crime. Yet, after Obama assumed the Presidency Attorney General Eric Holder, at the request of the CIA, reopened the investigation into Kiriakou and ultimately brought five charges against him, including three counts under the Espionage Act.

Amazingly, during discovery a memo was uncovered in which the CIA specifically requested the Justice Department charge Kiriakou with Espionage. The Justice Department wrote back that there was no evidence that what Kiriakou did—telling the world on ABC News about torture—constituted espionage, to which the CIA responded that they should charge Kiriakou with espionage anyways and make him defend himself against the charges. Eventually Kiriakou pled guilty to one charge of violating the Intelligence Identities Protection Act and served 30 months in federal prison.



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TURKEY SHOOT WITH RUSSIA DAMAGES ALLIANCE AGAINST ISIS



by *Markos Kounalakis**

Russia is an active player and a necessary participant in any potential Syrian cease-fire and solution. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry has worked overtime with his Russian counterpart to find an acceptable compromise under very difficult and bloody circumstances.

America rightfully continues to object to Russia's Crimean annexation and unwavering support of Syrian President Bashar Assad. Despite this reality, the Obama administration seems prepared to work with Russia toward a more important and immediate goal: Jointly fighting and defeating ISIS.



Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan

Achieving a real Russian-American anti-ISIS fight is tough enough in this environment, and there is added pressure for collaboration following the Paris, Sharm el Sheikh and San Bernardino terror attacks.

Despite the poisoned political climate, Russia and the United States were making diplomatic progress ... until America's NATO ally Turkey shot down a transgressing Russian fighter jet. As a result, Turkey derailed talks and temporarily killed any Russo-American deal.

Even worse, when Turkey downed the Russian Su-24, it could have triggered immediate Russian retaliation. Tensions between NATO and Russia reached a post-Cold War peak. Some analysts suggested Turkey's hair-trigger action brought us to the brink of World War III.

Why would any American ally take such risks and

put NATO's military alliance in such a tough confrontational position? After all, allies like Turkey are supposed to help, not entrap their partners. Economists and political scientists call this behavior "moral hazard" – the act of taking extraordinary risks and letting others pay the price.

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan engages in moral hazard. He knows that any retaliatory Russian military attack on Turkey for the downed jet could be interpreted as an attack against all of NATO. The NATO alliance treaty's Article 5 could press the military alliance into fighting Ankara's war.

NATO's Article 5 has been invoked only once, following the 9/11 World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks. Article 5 justifies NATO's ongoing war in Afghanistan – America's longest war.

Russia's arrogant and stupid 17 seconds over Turkish territory gave Erdogan the legal basis for shooting down the fighter jet. It also forces NATO members to face an excruciatingly difficult question if pressed by Ankara: Is NATO ready and willing to defend Turkey and militarily confront Russia?



Russia's President Vladimir Putin

Whether "yes" or "no," Erdogan has likely calculated that either response is an upside for him and a costly mess for everyone else.

NATO appropriately does not want this fight. France, Germany and the United States moved quickly to de-escalate tensions – but it was an expensive move. In return for holstering his gun and tightening his borders, Erdogan's allies recently gave him money, European Union visa concessions, military assurances and an unarticulated promise to look the other way regarding his iron-fisted rule at home and adventures in Kurdistan.

He shot down an errant warplane and effectively blackmailed his NATO partners and EU member states. What they got in return was a halfhearted and grudging stand-down with the Russians and a slowdown of the refugee flow from Turkey.

Erdogan's unchallenged power in Turkey has whetted his appetite for a greater regional role. He bristles at and wants to counter Russia's aligning and allying with Turkish adversaries in Iran, Iraq and Syria.

Erdogan likely believes that if the United States and its allies could start a war in 2003 and, ultimately, win Iraq for the Shiites and Iranians, then the Western alliance should win the Sunni world for him and his vision for regional leadership.

Money or power will be Turkey's payoff for downing the Russian jet. From Erdogan's perspective it's all political upside. He can act recklessly and the costs get passed to others.

NATO allies have no good options today, but Turkey should not be an added and active wedge between Russia and America. The two must try to work together to fight ISIS, stop the



Secretary of State John Kerry

bloodshed and stanch the refugee flow. Sometimes it is better to hold our nose than pull our trigger.

Markos Kounalakis is a research fellow at Central European University and visiting fellow at the Hoover Institution. Contact him at markos@stanford.edu. Follow him on Twitter @KounalakisM.

This article was first published in The Sacramento Bee.



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hellenes without borders



by Alexander Billinis

Alexander Billinis is a writer and lawyer in Chicago, Illinois. He and his family returned to the US after nearly a decade in Greece, the UK, and Serbia. He writes prolifically on Balkan topics. His books, *The Eagle has Two Faces: Journeys through Byzantine Europe*, and *Hidden Mosaics: An Aegean Tale*, are available from Amazon.com.

For a Generation of Greeks, is Cyberspace the new “Thalassa”?

My readers will know that I have not been particularly bullish about Greece in the past few years. Who has, really, and in contrast to some, I have not pointed the finger outwards at others, but rather inwards at ourselves. I believe strongly that civic and cultural factors, more than any external factors, brought us to the perfect storm of today.

Now I had heard stories of revival, in agriculture, tourism, and a nascent tech scene. But let’s face it, this year that has been drowned out by a disastrous political climate, capital controls, and the wave of refugees into a country lacking the infrastructure, competence, or will to handle it.

And yet, I feel my own “green shoots” of confidence.

Last weekend, I had the pleasure of meeting a couple of Greek digital entrepreneurs, in the US seeking funding and contacts. I had been introduced to them by a Greek American friend as a “writer/content provider.” As we talked about their offerings, a “back story” was filling my mind as they patiently answered my tech clueless questions, either in Greek or English flawless and completely at ease with an accent equal parts American, British, and Greek.

Actually, it was more of a question than a story. Are these Greek techies the new Greek shipowners? And is Cyberspace their “Thalassa”?

In listening to them, I had to think so, for a number of reasons. From time immemorial, Greeks have been an entrepreneurial people whose homeland is unproductive. This was true in a purely agricultural era, when Greeks fanned out to the Black Sea basin, and to Sicily and Southern Italy, or in times closer to ours, when twentieth century Greeks literally and figuratively upped anchor for America or Australia. The rocky shores of their barren island sent my Hydriot ancestors to sea, and in a couple of generation these Arvaniti landlubbers boasted one of the best fleets in the East Mediterranean/Black Sea area.

Greeks have the entrepreneurial spirit, a built-in cosmopolitanism, and the guts. These guys, and so many like them, are proving it again.

Yet that alone was not what made me certain that they would succeed, and that my maritime analogy made sense. It was, rather, an interview I had with a good friend of mine in Greece, a former banking colleague, now a shipping company finance director. Among the other reasons he cited that Greek shipping was so successful is “that it never had anything to do with Greece.” By this, he meant the Greek government and Greek bureaucracy. Ships were by definition mobile, as were capital and the ships’ markets. The owners and (in the past) the crew were Greeks, and the money fed their families, but the owners kept their profits and registrations abroad. When I was a banker in Greece, I used to get a kick out of trying to decipher the corporate structure and ownership of Greek shipping companies, and I’m a lawyer!

Greece’s bloated, venal, and chaotic bureaucracy is nothing new. Greece has been that way from the beginning, in part a cultural legacy from the Ottomans but also, in its bloated size and inefficiency, an absorber of excess labor in patronage jobs. This creaking system should have died a quiet death years ago but the EU funds and the cheap interest rates of the Euro kept a comatose system alive, and now Tsipras wants to squeeze blood further out of a turnip. Knowing this, Greek shipowners limit their footprint in Greece, and in current times, may remove themselves altogether.

These Cyber-Greeks are operating in similar fashion. Their markets are abroad, the very nature of the digital environment is global and

instantaneous. The nature of their business cannot be compatible with a creaking state structure which is hardly digital and utterly unfriendly to business. It is why ideas that would have been stillborn in Greece often have to spirit themselves to America or elsewhere to see the light of day. Just as their companies and ideas, these entrepreneurs, with ideas and skills in demand, may abandon Greece altogether.

The two I talked to, however, like many others, while having a presence abroad, were determined to make their business in their country, and to employ their fellow Greeks, a labor of love and faith I absolutely admired. When I asked about how they dealt with those of us who know Greece call “The Greek Reality,” they nodded knowingly and called it a challenge and cost of doing business. They saw themselves at the forefront of a change that Greece needs, and every sentient Greek knows this.

As I sipped my coffee, I listened to one of them, “We are hoping that in several years’ time, efforts such as ours will bring back the [hundreds of thousands] of Greeks who have left in the past few years.” I admired his will to optimism. “That’s a big IF,” I said. “Yes,” he agreed, laughing sadly.

I too must believe in this “if,” as I love my country, and as a father of two young children who deserve the optimism I grew up with, I close this year’s column saluting the optimism of two young Greeks sailing bravely on the digital waves. Islanders such as my Hydriots say, “The good captain shows himself in the storm.”

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Fyodor Dostoevsky, author of *Crime and Punishment* and *The Brothers Karamazov*, is well known for his prolific writing and acute insight into human psychology. Less known about the Russian novelist is his fascination—as well as his criticism—of Catholicism.

In her book *Dostoevsky and the Catholic Underground* (Northwestern University Press, 2014), Blake traces Dostoevsky's disapproval back to his experience as a political prisoner in Siberia. For four years he was imprisoned with a group of Polish Catholic political activists and revolutionaries.

the part of the Catholic Church with the sentiment: "Be my brother, or off with your head."

This obsession with Catholicism, which Blake said vacillated between fascination and repulsion, inevitably colored Dostoevsky's writings. According to Blake, it underlies one of the best-known passages in literature, the parable of the Grand Inquisitor, told by the character Ivan in *The Brothers Karamazov*.

"It reinforces [the church's] image as a feudal institution," Blake said. "The Grand Inquisitor's theological justification for the use of the auto-da-fé [a type of punitive torture used during the Inquisition] on his flock for their own

PHOTO BY JOANNA MERCURI



Elizabeth Blake lectures on her book, "Dostoevsky and the Catholic Underground"

Dostoevsky's Sharp Criticisms of Catholicism Examined in Lecture and Book

by Joanna Mercuri*

At a recent lecture sponsored by the Orthodox Christian Studies Center at Fordham University, in New York, Dostoevsky scholar Elizabeth Blake, PhD, assistant professor of Russian at Saint Louis University, spoke with undergraduates and faculty at the Rose Hill campus about Dostoevsky's strong opinions about religion. The author, who yesterday would have celebrated his 194th birthday, was deeply critical of Catholics and especially of the Society of Jesus.

Besides resenting the Poles for their contempt of the Russian prisoners, Dostoevsky, a Russian Orthodox Christian, was wary of the Poles' allegiance to the Jesuits, whose organizational structure was likened by Dostoevsky's co-conspirators to communism. It didn't help matters that the Jesuits vowed obedience to the pope—Pius IX at the time—whom Dostoevsky considered to be a spiritually manipulative figure.

Dostoevsky continued to harbor this mistrust when, decades later, as a member of the Society for Lovers of Spiritual Enlightenment (OLDP), he participated in discussions regarding the possibility of reuniting the long-divided Eastern Orthodox Catholic Church and the Western Catholic Church.

Needless to say, he was not in favor of the union.

"[He] indicates that such a union requires coercion, which Dostoevsky finds at the heart of the 'Roman idea' of 'forced unity of humanity,'" Blake said. Dostoevsky described this coercion on

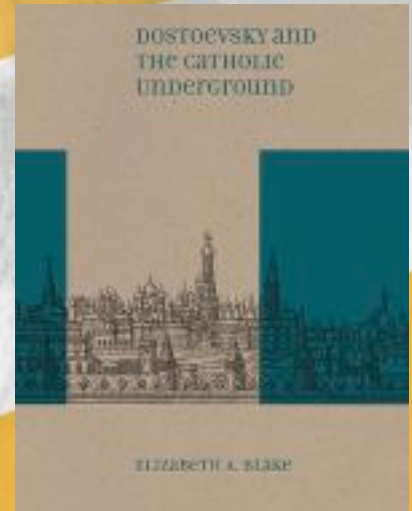
protection... [and his] manipulation of the sacred mysteries to maintain control over his flock, parallels the measures of political repression... adopted by the Catholic Church."

Indeed, Blake said, Dostoevsky could be bold in his characterization of Catholicism.

Then again, "If he were cautious, he wouldn't have written these great novels," she said.

Founded in 2012, the Orthodox Christian Studies Center is the first university-based center for Orthodox Christian Studies in the western hemisphere. The center supports scholarship and teaching that is critical to the ecclesial community, public discourse, and the promotion of Christian unity.

The article appeared firstly at the Fordham News.



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Porphyra, a Grecian Rock Opera - Anna and Vladimir: The love that ROCKED the world

On May 3, 2015 New York City saw a premiere of a new rock opera, "Anna and Vladimir: The love that ROCKED the world," harkening to ten century ties between Russia and Greece (back then, Rus and Byzantium). Premiering in New York City's famous Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall, the rock opera talks about the love between St. Vladimir of Rus and his Greek wife, Anna Porphyrogenita of Byzantium. Incorporating rock and roll, dance, and theatrics, the aim of this independently sponsored production is not only to entertain, but to educate people on an era of history that gets little attention today, yet may be more relevant than ever before.

The concept of Vladimir and Anna emerged as US born Greek musician Vassilios Chrissochos penned an album with his band, Porphyra, titled "Faith, Struggle, Victory." "My main interest has always been Alexander the Great, the Hellenistic Age, and Byzantium," said Chrissochos. "I also had a childhood best friend in Greece who was Russian. Ever since Vladimir and Anna, Russia was essentially part of the Byzantine Commonwealth which peacefully coexisted and thrived together with Byzantium, as opposed to fighting each other."

Chrissochos noted that Byzantium is not heavily promoted these days in academia, including in Greece, compared to other eras of Hellenic history: "It was the golden age for us. We thrived in theology, philosophy, and the arts. Byzantium

and Alexander the Great, the era of monarchies that civilized the world, are bypassed in favor of classical and modern Greece, specifically because there are those that don't want us to recreate that empire and civilization."

Despite these biases, according to Chrissochos, the highest grossing exhibits at the famous Metropolitan Museum of Art related to both Alexander the Great and Byzantium, specifically the era of Emperor Basil the Second (of the Macedonian Dynasty) and brother of Anna Porphyrogenita, who fostered the alliance with Kievan Rus. "I wanted to create something inspiring. We are praising God and the empire, and talking about how this union started as well as what became of it," said Chrissochos.

Teaming up with fellow Greek, Christos Alexandrou (born in Germany), the two began developing the idea into a musical production. Other collaborators include Greek-American theater actor and rock singer George Tsalikis, and a number of Americans such as

Grammy and Emmy award winning director Donna McLaughlin Wyant, choreographer Dena Stevens and principal dancer Peishan Lo.

"The great thing about finding a relatable and universal story is that everyone will follow," says Alexandrou. "The story of Anna and Vladimir reminds me of all the love stories that have become legendary: two people who in following their duty and destiny overcome their personal struggles and fears while finding true love. A princess and a prince, who, if no politics were involved, might never even meet, end up marrying each other in spite of all the differences, changing the course of history for two huge nations by uniting them."

"The story of Anna and Vladimir, the Romeo and Juliet of the east, is being told through hard rock and metal, as well as Greek folk music" says Chrissochos.

"Thanks to Billy's historical research, choreographer Dena Stevens, and the Greek American Folklore Society (GAFS) we managed to provide facts, information and "eye candy" too!" says Alexandrou. The combination of heavy metal with a strong ethnic Greek flavor, fostered by musical director Dimitris Lambrianos, as well as a visual feast including belly dancers, has helped the production find appeal with people of all backgrounds.

In brief, Porphyra will take the audience on an epic musical journey from the triumphs of Alexander the Great to the glories of Byzantium. The electric guitar, in joyous harmony with bouzouki and violin, sings the lives of the dreams and ambitions of two lovers who made their own fate and altered the course of history. The opera tells the story of Grand Prince Vladimir of Kievan Rus, the first Russian Empire, and Princess Anna Porphyrogenita of Constantinople, princess of Byzantium, the cultural beacon of the Mediterranean during Western Europe's Dark Ages.

The year is 988AD. Emperor Basil II rules over Byzantium. His reign will usher in a second Golden Age for Greece. But, civil war threatens to destroy Constantinople from within. On the northern front, Russian Grand Prince Vladimir begins the unification of the Kievan Rus. Ambitious to attain more glory, he marches towards the Byzantine capital of Constantinople. Embattled by the Bulgarians, a civil war and other enemies, Basil dispatches his sister Anna to

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negotiate a treaty with Vladimir. A smitten Vladimir seeks truce only if he can marry the Porphyrogenita, a princess “born of the royal purple.” Anna refuses to marry a pagan barbarian. Unwaivered, Vladimir keeps his eyes on the prize, Princess Anna and the City of Gold. He sends his fabled six thousand strong Varangian Guard, to aid Basil in the civil wars. Most importantly, Vladimir converts his nation to Greek Orthodox Christianity in order to marry Anna.

But, will love be strong enough to overcome that which sword and shield cannot? Will Greece survive these unprecedented obstacles? This is the story of Anna and Vladimir. The love that ROCKED the world!

You got the story now try to imagine the sound. If Trans-Siberian Orchestra, Rock of Ages and the Phantom of the Opera had a love child with Iron Maiden, Heart, Scorpions and Nightwish and dressed it up in Progressive Rock, Rembetika and traditional Greek and near Eastern folk garbs then you get Porphyra. It has a little of everything. It is a thrilling, historical, cultural journey through music, dance and theater. It is lovingly dedicated to the Peoples of Greece, who having passed the torch of civilization to the world, now need the support from all of us in these most troubling of times. It is time to remember those heroes and heroines that helped shape the world around us.

“Anna and Vladimir” was fortunate in that it was accepted to perform at Carnegie Hall, which does

not usually accept rock opera pieces. “They liked the idea and they liked the music” said Chrissochos, which ended up giving the production a very prestigious opening venue that traditionally hosts top notch classical performers. The production, which is still being expanded in scope, is slated to continue performing in the New York area. A portion of the production was sponsored through a crowd funding campaign on Crowdzu, which included a significant amount of non Greek sponsors. “There are also many Christians involved,” said Chrissochos, “they appreciate the message we are putting across.”

As next year will be the year of Russia in Greece and the year of Greece in Russia, both Chrissochos and Alexandrou hope the production will make it to their respective countries. “We always wanted to go to Russia, Greece and Cyprus with this” says Chrissochos, “and last year, when the album was

death do us part...” Porphyra the band which is the main component of the musical company has already embarked on the beginning process of recording its follow up album. “There will be more songs that will go towards our current Rock Opera and material for the next chapter of the trilogy,” says Chrissochos. Further adding, “the merchandising and cross-over potential to film, TV, comics, books, touring productions and other mediums is pretty astounding if one thinks about it.”

So far we like what we hear but how can our readers get involved and help? Chrissochos responds “that the production is currently looking for sponsors and investors. This is a full-size production that profit can ultimately be made from the startup investment. We can provide a steady work opportunity for dozens of musicians, artists, actors, dancers and technicians. Greece



being recorded, was also the 1025th anniversary of Rus’s baptism.” Alexandrou adds: “The Greeks and Russians have always had close ties. We understand each other. We both have strong traditions, history and deep religious roots.”

Porphyra, a Grecian Rock Opera is part of a time travelling trilogy. Book One tells of the story of “Anna and Vladimir: The love that ROCKED the world.” Book Two takes us to the end of the empire in “Constantinople 1453: The Starmaker’s Prophecy.” And Book Three takes us even further back in time to the story of “Jason and Medea: Till

and the world NEEDS something like this right now. So please take a few minutes to read our online digital flip booklet, download it, and share it with your friends and anyone that you think might get excited about this too. Learn how to support our effort. We are looking for investors who can help take the full production Broadway bound.” You can follow Porphyra on Twitter, YouTube and Facebook. Sign up for Porphyra’s mailing list to be kept abreast of all their news, download the illustrated Rock Opera brochure and see the promotional video only at porphyraband.com.

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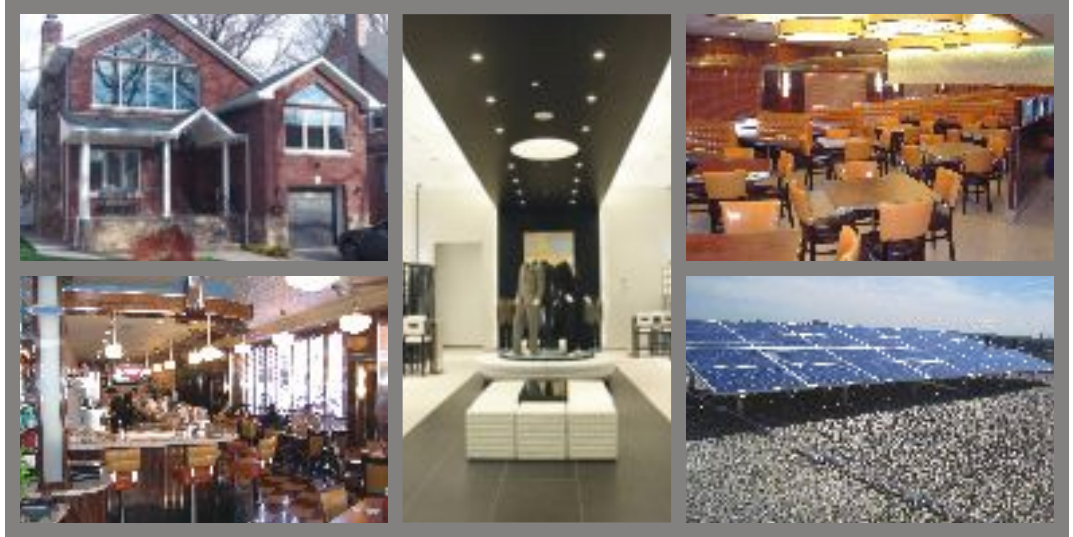
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By *Matina Karagainnis*



Vaia Alagiannis



The late Paul Ginis, founder of the Greek American Folklore Society

The Greek-American Folklore Society (GAFS) was founded in 1983 by Apostolos "Paul" Ginis as a non-profit organization. Within a few years, GAFS became one of the most respected Greek Folklore organizations in North America. Ginis himself quickly became a recognized authority on Greek folklore and was often invited to teach, lecture and collaborate, not only within the US and Canada, but also in Greece, in such prestigious places as the Lykeion ton Hellenidon (Lyceum of Greek Women), the "Dora Stratou" Theater, the Society for the Dissemination of National Music etc. Perhaps one of his most notable achievements is that he inspired many of his pupils to become actively involved in preserving and teaching our folk arts.

Since his untimely passing in 1997 GAFS has been located in Astoria on Crescent Street and Ditmars Blvd. and directed by his sister Yayia Allagiannis who was a student and performer under her brother's tutelage.

Ms. Allagiannis is lovingly referred to by all members, young and old as "GAFS Mom" because of her undying love for each student and her commitment to keep Paul's vision alive through the continuation of GAFS. She has said many times, "as long as I'm breathing I will be dancing our traditional dances and singing our traditional songs". Her contagious dedication is evident among the young adults that have learned these traditions and look forward to passing them along

to the younger generations. On a cold parade day you can hear all GAFS members, young and old dancing on Fifth Avenue and reciting the mantra "what's a little cold weather? Our ancestors gave their lives for our liberties".

Generations have danced through the doors of GAFS, children have grown, met and married during practice and now their children are dancing, taking their place in the Paul Ginis legacy.

In addition to participation in Greek and multi-cultural festivals in the tri-state area, GAFS has represented Greek Heritage at the following venues: Ellis Island Medal of Honor Ceremony, Jacobs Javits Center, Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Queens College, SUNY Buffalo and Binghamton, NY Public Library, United Nations, NYC Mayors Office, House of Representatives, DC International Friendship Day of the Borough of Brooklyn, Queens Museum, PS 1 and MOMA.





Classes are held on Saturday for children ages 2-16, Tuesday for adult beginners and Wednesday for advanced and performing group.

GAFS is dedicated to the study, preservation and instruction of the history and traditions of Hellenic folk culture. This work is shared with the public through stage re-enactments of traditional Greek customs, songs and dances, as well as through lectures, exhibits and workshops.

For GAFS to grow in the future, support is needed from the community. Your contribution will help this talented group grow and achieve their full potential.

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We hope you will consider making GAFS a continued success with a generous and much appreciated donation. Your faithful support for The Greek American Folklore Society is greatly appreciated as it ensures the continued success of an organization that enriches the lives of its members in more ways than you will ever know. More importantly, these members hold on to and spread the Greek culture and heritage into future generations!

The next upcoming GAFS fundraiser event is a "Vasilopita" scheduled for Saturday, January 30th, 2016, 7:30 pm at the Stathakion Center in Astoria, NY. Come and Celebrate 2016, singing & dancing with GAFS!

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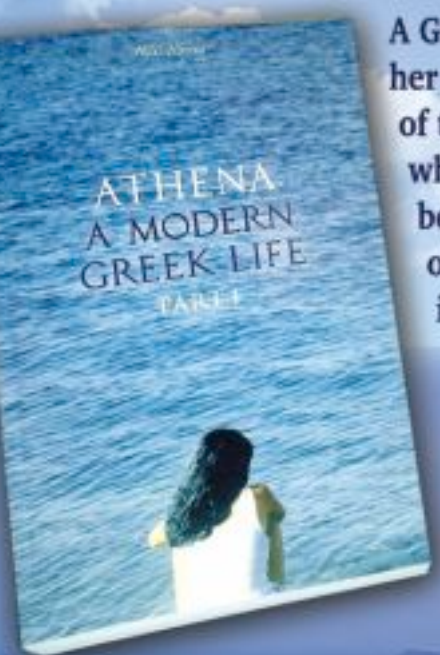
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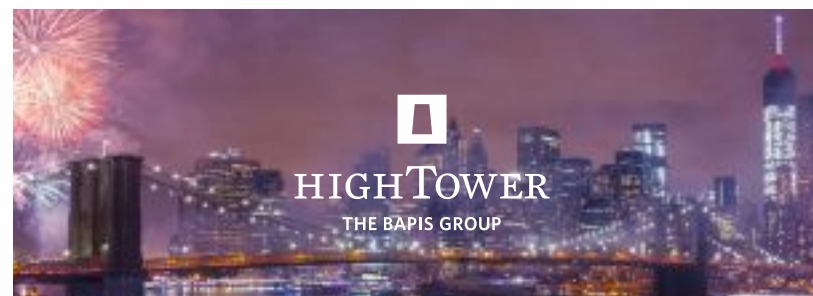


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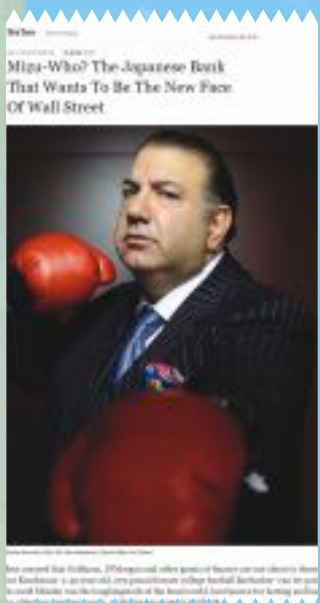


John Koudounis: Making Japan big in Wall Street!

Happy New Year to all!

I hope you enjoyed the Holiday Season and now you are ready to start demolishing your new year's resolutions! Like many other great promises they are great because we will never reach up to them. Let us satisfy our appetite for greatness with more realistic goals. I, for a change, decided to become president and this presidential election offers the best possible opportunity given how insane my fellow Republican candidates are. If this isn't my chance, when will it be? Even PIGS (Portugal, Ireland, Greece, Spain) are about to fly!!!

On a serious note now, the January issue of Forbes magazine features John Koudounis, CEO of Mizuho Securities USA, an arm of Japan's second-largest bank by assets, Mizuho Financial.



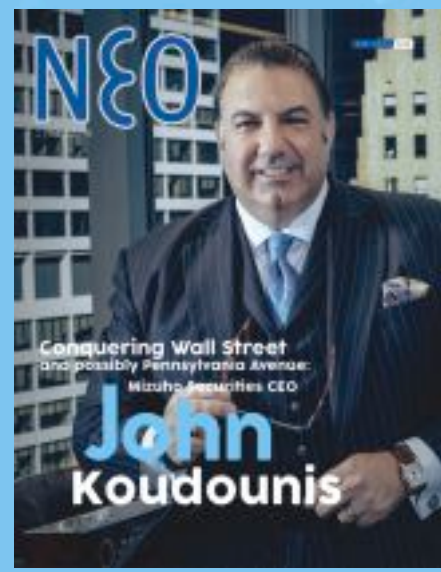
His grandparents emigrated from Sparta in 1900 and started their life here selling hot dogs outside of Wrigley Field. His father, George, expanded the family business by opening a drive-in called George's Old Town Red Hots. Although he was accepted at both Yale and Harvard, John chose to study at Brown.

As head of Mizuho USA since 2010, he has already managed to make the Japanese bank a serious player in Wall Street and the night is young. According to Forbes, "Earlier this year Koudounis embarked on the second stage of his growth plan. Mizuho bought a \$36.5 billion book of loans from RBS for around \$3

billion, giving the firm expanded access to corporate clients and absorbing 130 investment bankers. Equities are next, he says."

We at NEO magazine are especially proud for the additional reason that we had John Koudounis as our cover story in September 2014. We are taking this opportunity to salute his continuous success and to wish him many more in future. He deserves every bit of it because he is a great American, a great Hellene and a great person!

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



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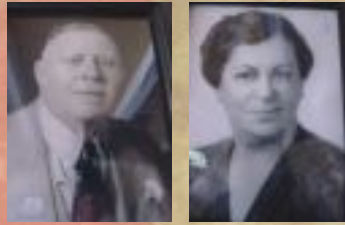
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Theodoros Kiriakopoulos: the unsung Hero of the Mexican Revolution

by Rik Villarial and Elias Neofytides



Theodor and Antonina Kiriakopoulos

Mercenary, weapons dealer, smuggler, and real estate tycoon are descriptions used, throughout a dozen history books, when obscurely referring to Theodoros Kiriakopoulos.

Mystery and intrigue surrounds the life of Theodoros Kiriakopoulos who was born on October 18th, 1874 in Kalamata Greece. It is rumored that Theodore may have sought adventure and fortune when venturing to South Africa prior to his emigration to Mexico where he would invest in manufacturing before moving to the United States.

On June 12th, 1908 Theodor immigrated to EL Paso Texas. He married Antonina Triolo who was an American citizen of Sicilian decent, and a resident of EL Paso Texas. His father-in-law, Chaz Triolo owned many business properties in and around El Paso Texas. As a wedding present he gave his daughter and Theodor the Emporium Bar, which was connected to the Roma Hotel, another of Triolo's properties. On the American side of the border, Theodor Kiriakopoulos quickly became connected with the Constitutionalist Movement that was sweeping Mexico, and soon revolution would erupt.

Kiriakopoulos proceeded in building a small empire and powerful network going into a variety of businesses that would span distances from California to Louisiana. He was a very close friend of Mexican revolutionary Pancho Villa and became a major benefactor to the success of the rebellion during the Mexican Revolution. In overthrowing the oligarchy of Mexico he supplied weapons, tactical intelligence, and manpower in clandestine operations. It is noted, while being spied upon by U. S. federal agents, Theodor's

house was one of the very few, in the upscale El Paso neighborhood where he lived, that had an automobile. What's more, it was a Packard limousine!

Kiriakopoulos operated in El Paso with impunity as it was commonly known that he was a businessman and leader of the rebel Junta in El Paso, who overtly operated under the shadow of U. S. Neutrality Law. During the days that Pancho Villa and his wife, Luz Corral, lived in Theodor's house, on 510 Prospect Street in El Paso, Texas U. S. agents and Texas Rangers would observe that Hipolito, Pancho's brother, would often be in the presence of the Kiriakopoulos family.

Publications written over the last 100 years, in English and Spanish, allude to a gravely different outcome had Kiriakopoulos' role during the Mexican Revolution gone uncalled upon. One could declare with confidence that Theodor Kiriakopoulos is the forgotten hero of the Mexican Revolution.

Theodor held administrative positions within El Paso's Hellenic society and the Greek Orthodox Church and would often sponsor community events during the days after the revolution. American journalists sought Theodor's comments and perspective following the assassination of Pancho Villa. Antonina mentions how deeply sadden her husband had become upon hearing the news.

Mystery and speculation continued to follow Theodor Kiriakopoulos, even during his final years. December 31, 1954 Theodor was struck by a hit-

and-run automobile while crossing the street in front of Sacred Heart Church in El Paso, Texas. He and his wife are buried at Saint Francis Cemetery in Maricopa County, Phoenix, Arizona. Theodor and Antonina had two children, Rebecca and John.

Today, living descendants of Kiriakopoulos' business partners, his nieces, and remaining members of the Triolo family share outrageously curious stories of Theodor during the days when his fortune was made and the adventures (and new fortunes) that followed him after the Mexican revolution.



The home Kiriakopoulos built still stands at 510 Prospect Street in El Paso's famed historic neighborhood, Sunset Heights

He was a very close friend of Mexican revolutionary Pancho Villa and became a major benefactor to the success of the Mexican Revolution. In overthrowing the oligarchy of Mexico he supplied weapons, tactical intelligence, and manpower in clandestine operations.

The home that he built still stands at 510 Prospect Street in El Paso's famed historic neighborhood, Sunset Heights. The house is currently owned by Rik and Donna Villareal who have done extensive research to honor the history of Theodoros and Antonina Kiriakopoulos.

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We would like to send a special thanks to Neo Magazine for their continued support of our company and most especially our wonderful Greek community



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www.rangosfoundation.org

