

## St. Michael's Home Will Move to State-of-the-Art Location in Uniondale

By Constantine S. Sirigos  
TNH Staff Writer

NEW YORK – The St. Michael's home for the elderly, one of the most beloved institutions of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, took a giant step into the future on November 20 when it closed on the property for its new state of the art continuing care facility in Uniondale, NY.

Archbishop Demetrios was present, along with St. Michael's Director Bishop Andonios of Phasiane, Board President and Vice President Haeda Mihaltses and Peter Lambros, and other Board members.

Also present were attorneys for Alma Bank, which provided a \$2 million loan to facilitate the purchase of the \$7 million property, and the Home's attorneys, of the Ruskin Moscou Faltischek firm. New York State Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos, who is of counsel to the firm and has been helpful to the Home's efforts, was also at the closing.

The purchase and rehabilitation of the 11-acre property, in-

cluding the main 90,000 sq. ft. building will lead to the creation of 26 one-bedroom independent living apartments, at least 50 studios for independent or assisted living, and a dementia wing and a nursing home wing. There will be a total of 150 residents – the current facility has about 60.

The Board is looking into ancillary services, including day care.

It is estimated that \$18 million is needed to convert the building, which was previously owned by Catholic Church. "It's an expensive proposition but we feel it needs to happen. For too long we have not provide our elderly with the type of facility they deserve. We have so many people scattered in different secular and non-Orthodox facilities," Bishop Andonios said, adding that "it's time the Greek Orthodox community in the Tri-State area," had a first rate facility – "Tis Prokopis" he said in Greek.

It is hoped that everything will be completed in five years. In addition to the construction, the time-consuming work of obtaining two or three state licenses has to be completed.

Currently located in Yonkers, the Home was established in 1957 by Archbishop Michael of blessed memory and effectively and humanely meets a vital community need.

Bishop Andonios, who also serves as Chancellor of the Archdiocese, told TNH that "more than a decade ago, the Board of Trustees and His Grace realized the current facility was not sufficient for the community. We often had a waiting list for rooms but the main concern was that the current license as a residential adult care facility created issues because it could not

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Bishop Andonios of Phasiane

## Troika Talks Split Greek Coalition; Infighting

ATHENS – Tough talks with the country's international lenders, who have drawn a hard line, are taking their toll on Greece's coalition government of Prime Minister Antonis Samaras' New Democracy Conservatives and its partner the PASOK Socialists.

With the Troika of the European Union-International Monetary Fund-European Central Bank (EU-IMF-ECB) insisting on more tough austerity measures that Samaras wants to avoid with his party's popularity dropping, PASOK is refusing to back changes to union laws that would make it harder for workers to strike and easier for private sector employers to fire employees with fewer benefits.

New Democracy Secretary Andreas Papamimikios is trying to distance the Conservatives from their partner the Socialists, who don't want more changes to union laws after supporting big pay cuts, tax hikes, slashed pensions, and worker firings.

He said that he is in favor of adopting a rule requiring labor groups to gather one vote more than 50 percent of members in order to call a strike.

"Why shouldn't there be a law that required 50 percent plus one members of a union to call a strike instead of a minority?" said Papamimikios in an interview with Real FM. Other conservative officials are known to favor this change even at the risk of upsetting coalition partner PASOK.

The Socialists meanwhile continued to be embroiled in a dispute over former party chief

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## Community's Lawyers Showcase Their Hellenism

By Constantinos E. Scaros

NEW YORK – At the lavish Pierre Hotel on Fifth Avenue and 61st Street in Manhattan across the street from Central Park, it was easy on the evening of November 21 to determine which group was comprised of Greek lawyers.

One flight up from the Pierre's opulent lobby led to a large area that contained two distinct crowds, and one was considerably louder than the other. Greeks are loud, and lawyers are loud, and so Greek lawyers? It's not hard to figure out.

The loudness in this case was not rooted in festivity, not contentiousness, for the Hellenic Lawyers Association (HLA) held its 26th Annual Dinner Dance Gala – so the attorneys had every right to profess their joy at the top of their lungs.

HLA Advisory Board Chair Mamie Stathakos-Fulgieri welcomed the spirited crowd, and the Honorable Nicholas Tsou-

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## Demetriades: Muse of the Music World

By Steve Frangos  
TNH Staff Writer

CHICAGO- Tetos Demetriades must certainly be counted among the many Greek-Americans who have directly influenced the culture of Modern Greece and the world at large. Demetriades was a singer, composer, and record producer of incredible importance not simply to the history of Modern Greek music but also to the production of ethnic music in the United States.

Perhaps not too surprisingly, then, we find that a great deal has been published about this man in Greece and across the Internet. Unfortunately, much

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## Niarchos-Rockefeller \$150 Million Univ. Pledge



### Vice President Biden Meets Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew welcomed VP Joe Biden to the Patriarchate on Nov. 23. During their 40 minute closed-door meeting, they discussed religious freedom in Turkey and the Halki school. After the meeting, Biden and his wife, Jill, visited the Blue Mosque.

## Ellis Island Archivist Tells Greek Saga

By Constantine S. Sirigos  
TNH Staff Writer

NEW YORK – Few ethnic groups in the United States are as interested in their roots as Greek-Americans are, but as memories fade and loved ones pass away, people end up wishing they knew more about the lives of their forebears.

George D. Tselos, Supervisory Archivist and Head of Reference Services at the Statue of Liberty National Monument and Ellis Island since 1999, shared genealogical research tips and

some family history with The National Herald.

Tselos is a native New Yorker and the only federal employee at Ellis Island with a parent who passed through its gates. His father, noted art historian Dimitri Tselos, arrived there in 1915 as a teenager from the village of Arvanito Kerasia in Arcadia.

His father's story is instructive. "He could not remember the name of the ship that carried him, but he knew he arrived Christmas Day of 1915," Tselos told TNH.

Lesson 1: Any fact that you

can extract from your family can lead you to crucial documents.

In this case, the document is the manifest of a ship named the Ioannina. Dimitri Tselos was listed as a workman, and his indicated destination was Chicago, to meet his older brother who sent him train fare.

The Statue of Liberty Ellis Island Foundation has a searchable database for all people coming through New York at www.libertyellisfoundation.org/passenger. It is free.

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## SNF, Founder's Grandson, to Give \$75 Million Each

TNH Staff

NEW YORK - Marc Tessier-Lavigne, president of The Rockefeller University, just announced two leadership pledges of \$75 million each from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation and David Rockefeller to launch a major extension of the University's campus on the East River.

Dr. Tessier-Lavigne said: "These pledges recognize the longtime friendship of David Rockefeller with the late Stavros Niarchos and his family. Honoring these two remarkable men and their exceptional generosity, for which we are profoundly grateful, the new campus will be named the Stavros Niarchos Foundation-David Rockefeller River Campus."

Designed by Raphael Vi oly Architects, the project will add two acres to the existing 14 acres of the campus by building over the FDR Drive, enabling the creation of several new buildings with state-of-the-art laboratories,

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## Greeks Thank God, Give Back To Community

TNH Staff

ASTORIA – Few of the immigrant groups in America are as blessed as the Hellenes, and Thanksgiving is the year's golden opportunity to express thanks, and to share their God-given bounty with less fortunate neighbors.

Organizations, parishes and even individuals organize events apropos of the day, including communal meals.

Some parishes begin Thanksgiving with the celebration of the Eucharist, which literally means Thanksgiving.

Holy Trinity of New Rochelle, NY has participated for decades in an ecumenical event sponsored by the Inter-Religious Council. "It is composed of readings from the New Testament, the current president's proclamation, and excerpts from Abraham Lincoln's message for the very first thanksgiving," Fr. Nick Ancil told The National Herald.

The holiday events are often linked to year-round philanthropic activities by groups like AHEPA and Philoptochos, inspired by the same spirit.

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## Kavakos and Wang Shine at Carnegie

NEW YORK – Renowned violinist Leonidas Kavakos and Yuja Wang, a rising young international pianist, thrilled the audience that packed Carnegie Hall on November 21 for a concert that was co-presented by the Onassis Cultural Center.

The audience demanded more after exceptional performances of pieces by Brahms, Schuman, Ravel and Respighi and the artists were happy to reward them with an encore of a scintillating Petrushka by Stravinsky. When they were called back a second time, they offered another delicious helping of Brahms.

The artists entered the stage clad in black, Kavakos in a simple shirt and slacks, though trailing his trademark dark mane of hair, the 27 year-old Wang in an daring but elegant short skirt and stiletto heels.

The opening movement of Johannes Brahms' Violin Sonata No. 2 in A Major had tender and dramatic moments; the second movement featured a delightful conversation between the violinist and the pianist.

The Violin Sonata No. 2 of Robert Schuman, in D Minor was filled with passionate mo-

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Hellenic lawyers fill the Pierre Hotel in Manhattan to celebrate their Greek heritage.

## Nick & Voula Manolis Feed 11,000

By Theodore Kalmoukos

DRACUT, MA – Hundreds of volunteers from all walks of life defied the heavy rains and strong winds on November 24 and responded to the invitation of Nick and Voula Manolis of Dracut, MA for the annual preparation and distribution of turkeys and baskets that contain all the necessary ingredients for a hot and hearty Thanksgiving meal.

They delivered 2,100 turkeys and baskets from which more than 11,000 people of various ages can enjoy a festive Thanksgiving meal, thanks to the Manolises and their two sons, Elias and Efthimios (Tim).

For the 21st consecutive year Manolis, owner of the Dracut House of Pizza & Seafood Restaurant in Dracut, shared the blessings that God has bestowed upon him and his family with those in need.

Manolis has named this ex-



TNH/THEODORE KALMOUKOS

Nick Manolis during the distribution for Thanksgiving.

pression of love and philanthropy "Project Helping Hands," and it he, along with his wife and sons, organized it.

V. Rev. Archimandrite

Leonard Faris, presiding priest of St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church in Lowell, offered the prayer and blessed the volunteers before they began their deliveries.

The first year, they started with 30 turkeys. Nick and Voula even cooked the turkeys themselves, and delivered them to families in need.

Until a few years ago, the Manolises provided everything on their own. Five years ago, they established the Manolis Family Foundation in order to be able to accept tax-deductible donations.

Manolis told TNH "when I first came from Greece in 1966 with my parents and my sister, we did not have anything. I know what it is like not to have even the most basic things in life. I remember how difficult it was for me to see my friends buying lunch, but I couldn't af-

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# SNF and David Rockefeller Pledge to Give \$150 Million to University

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administrative space, a conference facility, a dining commons, and an outdoor amphitheater. The new campus will renew the University's laboratory stock, foster greater scientific collaboration both within and beyond the university, and provide new venues for public programs to advance the dissemination of science to a broader audience. As part of the project, the university will also improve and beautify the public esplanade adjacent to the campus for the benefit of the greater New York City community, and make major repairs to the seawall along the river. Architectural renderings of the project can be viewed at: <http://www.rvpc.com/works/854-the-rockefeller-university-campus-master-plan-and-new-laboratory-building>.

## ANDREAS C. DRACOPOULOS

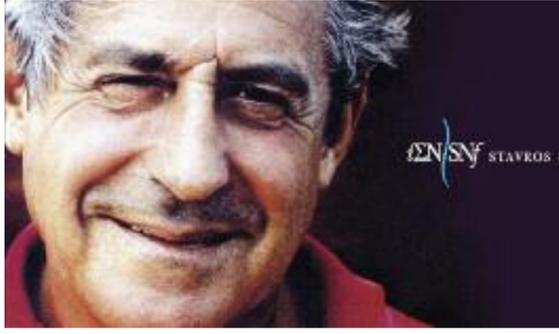
"Stavros Niarchos and David Rockefeller were close friends and legendary business partners for over half a century," said Andreas C. Dracopoulos, great nephew of the late Stavros Niarchos, co-President of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation and a member of the University's Board of Trustees. "They did well together in the twentieth century, and now they're joining forces again to do good in the twenty-first. Under Marc Tessier-Lavigne's visionary leadership, Rockefeller University is at the forefront of biomedical research. This support is an investment in society's future well-being."

## DAVID ROCKEFELLER

"More than a century ago, my grandfather founded what is now The Rockefeller University to pursue science for the benefit of humanity," said David Rockefeller, who has served as a Trustee of the University since 1940. "Since then, the discoveries of the university's many renowned scientists have dramatically advanced knowledge, saved countless lives and improved health worldwide. I am honored to join with the Stavros Niarchos Foundation in strengthening this great organization in the critically important work it does."

## CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

"We are deeply grateful to the Stavros Niarchos Foundation and David Rockefeller for enabling this transformative project, which will ensure the strength of the university's scientific and educational programs for decades to come," said Russell L. Carson, Chair of the University's Board of Trustees. "These two extraordinary pledges put us on the path to establishing a new campus that will enable our researchers to remain at the forefront in today's golden age of scientific discovery."



The friendship between Stavros Niarchos (top L) and David Rockefeller (top R) has resulted in the Niarchos Foundation joining with Rockefeller in funding an extension of Rockefeller University's campus on the East River in Manhattan, renderings of which are seen in bottom images. Andreas C. Dracopoulos (R), co-President, Stavros Niarchos Foundation.

Dr. Tessier-Lavigne added: "Thanks to recent technological advances, a revolution is underway in genetics, brain science, biological imaging, cancer biology, and immunotherapy, to name just a few fields that are being transformed. We now have the power to answer fundamental questions about the body in health and in disease that were beyond our reach just a few years ago. The Stavros Niarchos Foundation-David Rockefeller River Campus will bring leading scientists together and provide them with the resources to make breakthrough discoveries."

In addition to thanking these two philanthropic pioneers, Dr. Tessier-Lavigne also acknowledged a number of New York City leaders, including Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer, former Mayor Michael Bloomberg, and Mayor Bill de Blasio.

"We are tremendously appreciative of these leaders for their essential support," Dr. Tessier-Lavigne said. "We are also especially grateful to our council member, Ben Kallos, for his active partnership in shaping the new campus for the benefit of both The Rockefeller University and the New York City community more broadly."

## ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

The Stavros Niarchos Foundation ([www.snf.org](http://www.snf.org)) is one of the world's leading private international philanthropic orga-

nizations, making grants in the areas of arts and culture, education, health and sports, and social welfare. The Foundation funds organizations and projects that are expected to achieve a broad, lasting and positive impact for society at large, and exhibit strong leadership and sound management. The Foundation also seeks actively to support projects that facilitate the formation of public-private partnerships as an effective means for serving public welfare.

From 1996 until today, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation has made grant commitments of \$1.49 billion / €1.13 billion, through 2,805 grants to non-profit organizations in 110 nations around the world.

In 2012 and 2013, the Foundation announced two new initiatives of €100,000,000 (\$130 million) each, to help the efforts to address the crisis in Greece. While the initiative in 2012, which has been completed, aimed to provide immediate relief against the adverse effects of the deepening crisis, the one in 2013 aims to address the high percentage of youth unemployment, seeking to create better employment prospects and new opportunities for the young.

The Foundation's largest single gift (\$796 million / €566 million) is the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center (SNFCC), in Athens, which is expected to be completed in 2016. The project, designed by



Renzo Piano, includes the new facilities of the National Library of Greece, and of the Greek National Opera, as well as the Stavros Niarchos Park. The SNFCC is a testament and a commitment to the country's future. It is also an engine of short- to mid-term economic stimulus.

## ABOUT DAVID ROCKEFELLER

David Rockefeller retired as Chairman of the Chase Manhattan Bank in 1981, and served as a member of the International Council of JP Morgan until August 2005. Mr. Rockefeller served as Chairman of the Rockefeller Group, Inc., from 1981 to 1995, and as Chairman of Rockefeller Center Properties, Inc. Trust, from 1996 to April 2001.

Mr. Rockefeller has wide-ranging interests and involvement in the fields of international relations and civic affairs. He served as Chairman of the

Council on Foreign Relations from 1970 to 1985 and now chairs its International Advisory Board. He was instrumental in creating the International Executive Service Corps, a volunteer group of retired people that provides technical and managerial assistance to private enterprise in developing nations. He helped to found the Trilateral Commission in 1973 and in 1991 stepped down as its North American Chairman, now serving as Honorary Chairman. In 1979, he co-founded the New York City Partnership, which is dedicated to economic development and effective governance in New York City through private-public partnerships.

He is Honorary Chairman of the Americas Society and its affiliate, the Council of the Americas, an organization which he founded to promote closer inter-American cooperation, both on a business and cultural level, as well as better communication

between the public and private sectors. He served as Chairman from 1981 through 1992.

Mr. Rockefeller is the former Chairman of The Museum of Modern Art and continues as Chairman Emeritus and Life Trustee.

Mr. Rockefeller served as Chairman of The Rockefeller University for many years and is now Honorary Chairman, a Life Trustee, and Chairman Emeritus of the R.U. Council. He has also been President of the Harvard College Board of Overseers.

## ABOUT ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

Founded by John D. Rockefeller in 1901, The Rockefeller University was this nation's first biomedical research institution. Hallmarks of the university include a research environment that provides scientists with the support they need to do imaginative science and a truly international graduate program that is unmatched for the freedom and resources it provides students to develop their capacities for innovative research. The Rockefeller University Hospital, founded in 1910 as the first center for clinical research in the United States, remains a place where researchers combine laboratory investigations with bedside observations to provide a scientific basis for disease detection, prevention, and treatment. Since the institution's founding, Rockefeller University has been the site of many important scientific breakthroughs. Rockefeller scientists, for example, established that DNA is the chemical basis of heredity, identified the weight-regulating hormone leptin, discovered blood groups, showed that viruses can cause cancer, founded the modern field of cell biology, worked out the structure of antibodies, devised the AIDS "cocktail" drug therapy, and developed methadone maintenance for people addicted to heroin. Throughout Rockefeller's history, 24 scientists associated with the university have received the Nobel Prize in physiology/medicine and chemistry, and 21 scientists associated with the university have been honored with the Albert Lasker Medical Research Award. Eighteen Rockefeller University scientists have received the Canada Gairdner Award, and 20 have garnered the National Medal of Science. Currently, the university's award-winning faculty includes five Nobel laureates, seven Lasker Award winners, 10 Canada Gairdner Award honorees, and three recipients of the National Medal of Science. Thirty-three of the faculty members are elected members of the National Academy of Sciences, and 17 are members of the Institute of Medicine. For more information, go to [www.rockefeller.edu](http://www.rockefeller.edu).

# Ellis Island Archivist George Tselos Tells Inside Story of Greek Immigrants

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Ancestry.com charges for the information it provides, but it has "many things besides passenger lists...they are a whole genealogical research company."

The Citizenship and Immigration Service has digital access to over immigration records like naturalization petitions. People can also access military service records, and 72 years after they are taken, the government releases census data.

## SOME IMMIGRANTS SKIPPED ELLIS ISLAND

Tselos clarified some of the misconceptions about how Ellis Island operated.

This ships did not dock directly on the Island – the docking facility was not big enough. They docked at commercial piers around NY Harbor. "The cabin class passengers, first and second class, were given a cursory inspection – on the assumption that they had money and the government need not be concerned about them," Tselos told TNH.

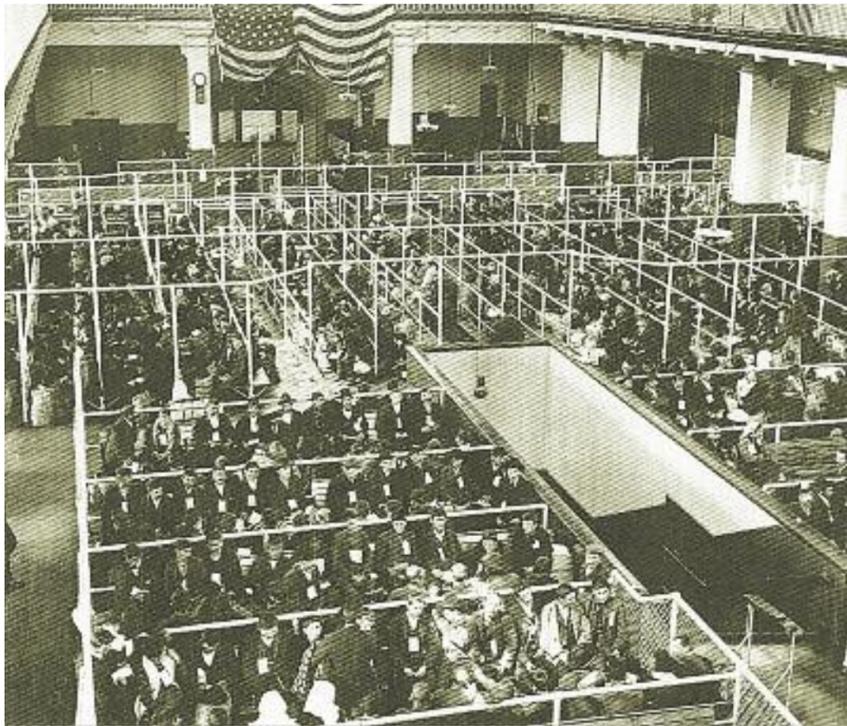
Unless they had a health problem they never had to set foot on Ellis Island. The third class – previously known as steerage – were put on passenger barges and ferry boats and brought to Ellis for mass inspections.

The immigrants were given tags when they disembarked from the ships that indicated their name and where they appeared on the manifest.

Lesson 2: Don't believe everything you hear.

Tselos said, "It is only folklore that the inspectors on Ellis Island were the people who changed the immigrants' names.

It cannot be true, because the names as written on the manifest were written by the ticket company for the shipping line and were copied by the purser's office – they were handed off to the immigration officer when



ABOVE: The ocean liners sent their third class passengers to Ellis Island. They got their first taste of America during interviews and examinations in the monumental registry room. LEFT: George Tselos returned to his city of birth to work in the manuscript division of the NYPL. He has also worked at the Edison Museum in New Jersey and is currently at Ellis Island.

Government, and the inspector, whatever his feeling about the names, would have been in serious trouble if he had crossed that name out and written something else.

"We do have reliable, anecdotal evidence that inspectors or others sometimes offered the immigrants advice about their names. They made suggestions that they explained would make them less subject to less discrimination, but the inspectors did not change the name," Tselos

said, adding that "A lot of names were changes when people decided to seek citizenship."

Lesson 3: Go back to the sources and try as many variant spellings of the names as possible: Gus, Kosta, Costa, Dino, Constantine, Konstantine, etc. Double up or eliminate consonants. Tselos was unsuccessful until he tried the original "Tselos."

**TURN ON THE TAPE RECORDER**  
He urges everyone to inter-

view and record their relatives. He taped his father for seven hours in the 1970s.

Tselos learned that after the death of his grandmother, his grandfather was determined to get his family out of the village. His father was sent to Cairo where he worked in a family-owned business and studied at a French Catholic school. After returning to Greece for a few years, he was sent to the.

Dimitri Tselos wanted to be an artist, but his passion was balanced with common sense. While attending art school, he determined he could not make a living as a painter, but he also liked art history, and the humble immigrant proceeded to earn degrees at the University of Chicago and Princeton.

He met his future wife, an American of English descent, when he was teaching at NYU.

George Tselos also arrived in the history field by a circuitous route.

He studied biology through the beginning of graduate school but then he became interested in politics. After teaching in college, he became an archivist.

At Ellis Island he is also the head of reference services. Tselos supervises the archives, the library, and the oral history program.

When he went to research his family in Greece, he found that Church records stopped in 1920, but he hopes to find information in Greek National Archives.

Next spring he will speak at a presentation of the Education and Cultural Committee of the Hellenic American Chamber of Commerce at Holy Trinity Cathedral in New York.



## All Saints in Canonsburg, PA Consecrated

Archbishop Demetrios presided over the consecration of All Saints of Canonsburg, PA, where Father George Livanos served as Pastor for 25 years. The Archbishop joined Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh and 21 local clergy for the service that sealed relics of St. George, among others, in the altar.

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## One Big Leap for Hellenism

The Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) is carving a historic path in the field of international philanthropy.

With unusual imagination and dynamism, SNF funds projects in various fields of human activity and in the area of social challenges that have a common denominator: serving the needs of the people. A new historic donation, worth \$ 75 million, was announced earlier this week by the world-renowned Rockefeller University in Manhattan. Yet that is not even the famous Foundation's biggest grant.

Its biggest gift to date is the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center (SNFCC), now under construction in Athens, at a cost of \$796 million. The Foundation announced huge initiatives in 2012 and 2103, each totaling \$130,000,000 to address the socioeconomic crisis in Greece.

Moreover, and very important, SNF supports the community's schools in the United States, and recently announced a pledge to contribute \$5 million for the reconstruction of the St. Nicholas Church at Ground Zero.

And while the Rockefeller University donation is not the Foundation's largest, it is among the most important. Its immediate significance for us Greeks is that the expansion of a great university in Manhattan will be named for Stavros Niarchos, a Greek name that we say with pride. We are proud, also, that SNF teamed up with one of the most well known and powerful individual in the world: David Rockefeller.

That the name Stavros Niarchos Foundation will be associated with one of the most prestigious research institutions in the world will remind everyone of the importance and contributions of Hellenism, despite our occasional weaknesses.

Another revealing item in the University's press release is the friendship between Stavros Niarchos and David Rockefeller, the grandson of the University's founder, John D. Rockefeller.

Dr. Tessier-Lavigne, the University President, said: "these pledges recognize the longtime friendship of David Rockefeller with the late Stavros Niarchos and his family." Foundation President Andreas C. Dracopoulos said: "Stavros Niarchos and David Rockefeller were close friends and legendary business partners for over half a century...They did well together in the twentieth century, and now they're joining forces again to do good in the twenty-first."

It is striking that a son of Greece, Stavros Niarchos, would befriend and become "legendary business partners" with one of the wealthiest and most powerful personalities in the world.

Beyond that friendship's personal elements, the Diaspora as well as Greece have indirectly benefited from the fact that such Greeks, with global visibility and brilliance – such as Stavros Niarchos and Aristotle Onassis – were friends and partners of leading American citizens.

There must have been conversations about Hellenism. Some doors have had to open. Even the mere fact that their names were Greek benefits us all.

## Honor Thy Foreigner

"Do not oppress a foreigner; you yourselves know how it feels to be foreigners, because you were foreigners in Egypt." Book of Exodus. 23:9.

That is the Old Testament passage President Barack Obama cited during his speech on immigration policy.

We are following with chagrin the intense attacks – dressed in the rhetorical clothes of morality and righteous indignation – of a large proportion of society on President Obama's decision to free millions of illegals from the fear of deportation.

Critics say the president is rewarding lawbreakers and that will encourage millions of new illegal immigrants. They also fear amnesty will lead to wage increases, resulting in higher prices for goods and services.

Obama is behaving like an Emperor, suggests the Wall Street Journal editorial "I Barack." But we are especially upset with members of our own community, Greek-Americans of whatever generation, who are opposed to it.

Similar arguments, dear Greek-Americans and Hellenes from every part of the world who are reading this, have been used by many generations of Americans to prevent new immigrants from entering and living in this country. Yet, instead of being destroyed, the country flourished, became a mosaic of harmonious living, an economic miracle, a bright star that leads humanity along the long but steady road to full realization of human potential.

For us – and we hope for every member of the community who is an immigrant – the only principle according to which we should treat new illegal immigrants is that of humanitarianism, guided by God's directive in Exodus 23:9.

What should our country do with the children who came here young, who are Americans by any criterion of judgment, who do not know any country other than the United States? Should they be deported?

And what should be done with those children who are born here but with illegal parents? Do we expel the parents but keep the children, who are American citizens by law?

Is it right to let millions of people live in fear of deportation, to be exploited, without the possibility of becoming integrated into society and developing as individuals? Or should we give them the opportunity to live humanely and with dignity?

When the economic downturn forced them to risk a thousand hardships and dangers in order to get into this country, how should we have responded?

We forget too easily that we, too, "were foreigners in Egypt." We forget what our ancestors endured before they came here, the harsh living conditions, the insults, persecutions, their homes being burned, and when they arrived here they were not always welcome. In restaurants down South there were signs which read "No dogs and Greeks allowed."

And yet, we are not interested in knowing what thousands of Greeks are currently enduring, forced by the economic crisis to leave Greece in search of something better.

That is why we resent the pseudo-morality of those people who are opposed to President Obama's measures.

There should be humane and dignified treatment for all. That is what is required by conscience.

That is what made America America.

## On Religion: Actions Speak Louder than Words

To the Editor:

In praise of open discussion about Jesus, the Bible, and God, (Religion & Spirituality Insert, Nov. 15), the following is my opinion.

### TO OUR READERS

The National Herald welcomes letters from its readers intended for publication. They should include the writer's name, address, and telephone number and be addressed to: The Editor, The National Herald, 37-10 30th Street, Long Island City, NY 11101. Letters can also be faxed to (718) 472-0510 or e-mailed to scaros@thenationalherald.com. We reserve the right to edit letters for publication and regret that we are unable to acknowledge or return those left unpublished.

In this the 21st Century with

prospects of going to Mars and the unknown in the near future, religion that is over two thousand years old worshiped by countless millions is devoid of the realities of technological leaps into another dimension of man's understanding of himself. Man's inherent need to construct comfort zones in which to live his daily life take various forms, which may include rituals and repetition that stupefy, rather than celebrate his existence.

In today's world there has been a pole shift in accepting the mythologies of an archaic past that have no relevance to today's realities. By the same token, thought that creates and destroys allows a closer identification with one's own reality and meaning in the space he occupies.

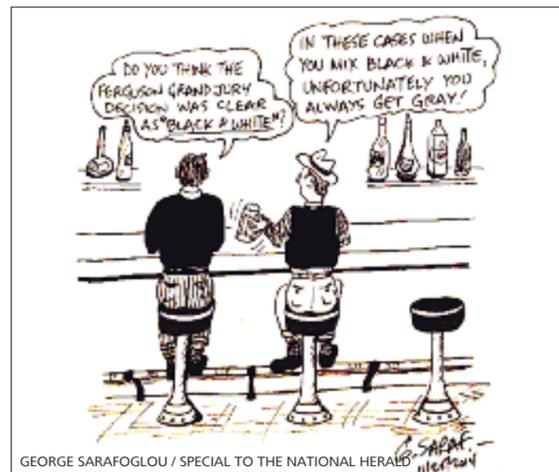
The words "love thy neighbor" or other Biblical prescriptions for living aren't good enough unless thought puts them into practice. All organized religions of the world have not changed one iota man's basic nature of self-

preservation and aggressiveness that have their origins in thought. Perhaps a mutation is needed to reinvent man to a more benign creature from the "God" fearing, Bible preaching one of today.

To believe, one stands in

silent awe of the life he is given, as it is given to all the cosmic creatures and, in that, is the mystery beyond words or understanding. (Unless, of course, thought has a construct.)

Katherine Aliferis  
Franklin Square, NY



GEORGE SARAFOGLU / SPECIAL TO THE NATIONAL HERALD

## AGORA – THE ORIGINAL MARKETPLACE OF IDEAS

By Dan Georgakas and Constantinos E. Scaros

From time to time, an issue emerges and inspires various minds to converge, often at odds with one another, to discuss it. Hopefully, collective enlightenment will result from such conversations. The Ancient Greeks did that in

the Agora, the original marketplace of ideas, and we, their modern-day descendants, aspire to continue that tradition.

We respect one another's opinion very much, but often times we will disagree on particular issues. We would never fabricate a difference of opinion for the sake of writing an interesting column.

Rest assured, anything we write here are our sincere, heartfelt thoughts.

We will share them with you every two weeks. We hope you enjoy them, and we look forward to your taking part in the discussion as well – by contributing letters to the editor in response, and/or commenting on our website: [www.thenationalherald.com](http://www.thenationalherald.com)

## Elections Reveal America's Dysfunctional Political State

GEORGAKAS PRESENTS HIS POINT OF VIEW

Dino, let's talk about the recent election and speculate about 2016. The day after the Democrats lost heavily, President Obama gave a formal press conference. What he said and his delivery explains much about the Democratic defeat.

Obama could not articulate the pluses of his tenure. He came to office with the world's financial system teetering, the American auto industry in shambles, and U.S. unemployment over 10%. Six years later, the U.S. has recovered its financial stability and is growing annually at a modest but healthy 4%. The rescued auto industry is thriving. Unemployment is under 6%.

One reason for Obama's failure to tout his own achievements is that he says he is content to have history rather than the electorate judge him. In short, he believes that history will absolve him. He clearly lacks the fortitude of one of his feisty Democratic predecessor Harry S Truman.

When Truman ran in 1948, a good number of progressives who usually voted Democrat were leaning toward the Progressive Party, which thought it would win five million votes (it didn't). On his right, his Southern wing broke off to become Dixiecrats and would carry a number of usually Democrat states. His opponent was a formidable Thomas Dewey who had almost defeated Franklin Delano Roosevelt in the previous election.

Rather than remain passive, Truman undertook a nationwide train/bus campaign to vigorously promote his positions. Like Obama, he had faced an uncooperative Congress. Unlike Obama, who keeps speaking about bipartisan compromises he knows will not materialize, Truman blasted his opponents as a Do-Nothing Congress and urged voters to boot them out. Furthermore, even though polls showed his action would cost him votes, Truman took a moral stand and issued an executive order to end racial segregation in the U.S. military.

In contrast, Obama allowed most of his party to ignore him as if he were a toxic substance. He compounded his negatives by promising to initiate an executive order regarding immigration reform, but only after the election. This was an electoral lose-lose position. Those who opposed him were fired up to win as hefty a Congressional margin as possible while those who agreed with him, the majority of Latino voters, were disheartened. Would he actually do as promised, or would he make some half-hearted compromises with Republican

diehards?

Further harming Obama's electoral clout was the perception that he has not been a good administrator. Early in his tenure, he prematurely fired a black administrator charged with racial bias. The charges were false and ultimately, Obama had to rehire her. Major scandals at the IRS and Veterans Administration were handled feebly. Most damning was that Obamacare, his most cherished accomplishment, was worded and launched in such a careless

2016 election makes the point that Republicans, in a word, are clueless. They have no clue why they win any more than than why they lose. President Bush didn't understand why in his second midterm (2006), his party took "a thumpin'." Republicans were also left scratching their heads in 2012, unable to comprehend how in the world Obama was reelected. Why, Mitt Romney would win in a landslide – Karl Rove assured them.

Because of Republican cluelessness, I agree with your last

extent to which I preferred Republicans to Democrats most of the time had to do with political philosophy, not competence.

Nowadays, though, I think there is a severe lack of political talent in our country. Just as our students these days cannot spell, conjugate, add, or subtract their way out of a paper bag, neither can our politicians govern their way out of that same bag. Vladimir Putin's military adventurism is Khrushchevian belligerence redux. And who, in either party, would be able to stop him? Obama's presidency is weakened. He has two years left, but the odds are that unlike Reagan and Clinton, and more like George W., he will not rebound before he retires. So he'll be out soon enough. Great. Then what?

Let's turn to the particulars: Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders are the Democratic voters' purists, whereas Hillary Clinton is their hawkish corporatist whose baggage they will ignore in a heartbeat to avoid sending a Republican back to the White House. This is Hillary's time, half of the country believes, and that half will unite to rally behind her.

As united as the Democrats will be, the Republicans will be that much divided. Rand Paul is more a political natural than the rest of them put together, but in the age of ISIS and Russian bravado, it is no time for isolationists. The rest of the lot, even though they talk a tough game, either look like they haven't started shaving yet, or come across as gosh-dam happy-go-lucky types that Putin would eat for breakfast. There's a reason Eisenhower and Reagan didn't start wars – they didn't have to. Their gravitas provided all the deterrent that was necessary. The only ones who even come close to that these days are John McCain and Dick Cheney. In 2016, McCain will be 81, and Cheney will probably continue to be one of the most despised public figures in America. Needless to say, neither will be the GOP nominee.

Foreign policy aside, I'm not sure anyone in Congress right now has a clue how to put the economy on a healthy, robust long-term track. The extent to which the Republicans will keep Congress or lose it will depend on how well the free market does it the short-term, because it certainly won't be based on anything the politicians do.

For years, the Democrats have been like the Wizard of Oz' Cowardly Lion, devoid of courage. The Republicans, in turn, are more like the Tin Man – without a heart. Unfortunately, nowadays both parties are more like the Scarecrow, simply in need of a brain.

WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?



Georgakas says the Democrats might rebound in 2016. Scaros says both parties, like the Scarecrow, are in need of a brain.

manner that even supporters were alienated. New computer glitches are predicted when the exchanges reopen this month, and the guidelines for getting the earned insurance rebates for 2014 taxes have not yet been clarified.

In foreign policy, Obama has made public statements that should have been made through diplomatic channels, if at all. The red line Syria wasn't supposed to cross is an obvious example. Going on television to announce he had no policy regarding ISIS was worse and wiped out any credit he had gained by successfully engineering the killing of Osama bin Laden.

Republicans are now feeling better about regaining the presidency. But most Republican victories in this election were by extremely thin margins. Three times as many Democrats did not vote compared to non-voting Republicans. Led by a straight-talking, program-oriented candidate with administrative skills, the Democrats could stage a startling comeback in 2016.

### SCAROS RESPONDS

Dan, you picked a topic that I think about every day. In fact, my forthcoming book about the

point, "the Democrats could stage a startling comeback in 2016," all except for the word "startling." There would be nothing startling about a Democratic victory in 2016, just as there has been nothing startling about the political ping pong going on over the past 20 years, with each major party trading leadership every couple of years.

There is one thing the Democrats and Republicans are really good at doing: pointing out the other's mistakes. Not leading, not governing, not keeping promises, not thinking outside the box, not inspiring, and certainly not compromising. Just pointing the finger of blame – that, they have absolutely mastered.

The formula is really quite simple: if it is a battle of the party in power trying to govern versus the party out of power pouring poison into the stew – it's no contest. The party out of power wins every time.

Don't get me wrong, Dan, it's not as if I am a cynic who thinks "all politicians are worthless." Also, it is not as if my lack of faith in either party is a sentiment I have felt my entire life. In fact, as recently as ten years ago, I thought both parties were full of capable people, and the

## Observations By Antonis H. Diamataris

### At Last, New Home for Our Elderly

Finally, last week, a larger property and building was purchased that will become the new St. Michael's Home, which will also provide additional needed services that will care for the elderly.

This is an important development for the Greek-American community. The new facility will meet some very serious community needs in Greater New York.

I would venture to say that schools, churches, homes for the elderly and media outlets are the four most necessary institutions for the Diaspora.

St. Michael's was founded in Yonkers in

1958 by the late Archbishop Michael.

In recent years, under the leadership of Bishop Antonios of Phasiane, it was upgraded as much as possible. But it is not enough.

Congratulations and gratitude are owed to Archbishop Demetrios, Bishop Andonios, and the first three major donors: the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, Irene Ladas and Elenie Angelopoulos.