

Drastic Reduction in Spending for 2018 Archdiocesan Budget

By Theodore Kalmoukos

BOSTON – The 2018 budget of the Archdiocese has been dramatically reduced by \$8 million. Specifically, it was reduced to \$22 million from \$30,240,112 for the year 2018 and \$27,816,483 for the year 2017. The budget has more than double in the 19 years since Archbishop Demetrios took office with an increase from \$13 to \$30,240,112.

The new budget was approved by the Executive Committee of the Archdiocesan Council and it will be presented to the 44th Clergy Laity Congress of the Archdiocese which will be convened in Boston from July 1-5.

This is the first time the Archdiocese has constructed a “real world” budget, from the ground up, that reflects the true and accurate revenue and expenditure profile of the Archdiocese.

The 2018 “balanced budget” projects a surplus of \$1.9 million that will be used to repay the Archdiocese legacy obligations. There is also a budgeted

\$1.3 million “contingency” for unbudgeted and/or unexpected expenses.

If this “contingency” is not used, then the \$1.3 million will be additional funds available to repay the Archdiocese legacy obligations.

Please reflect on where the Archdiocese was in August 2017, prior to the \$8 million of effected/completed cost reductions and the implementation of protocols and governors on overall spending, and what it has achieved now from a financial stand-point.

It is also significant the fact that the Archdiocese “froze” revenues/assessments to Parishes at 2017 levels, therefore this surplus was not achieved by increasing the burden on Parishes.

Prominent businessman Michael Psaros who is leading the efforts for the purge and reconstruction of the finances of the Archdiocese played a pivotal role in drafting the new budget along with the efforts of Lazaros Kircos Chair of the Finance Committee, Elaine Allen Chair of the Audit Committee, Fr. Soterios- Chief Financial Officer, and Bishop Andonios of Phasiane- Chancellor of the Archdiocese.

This is the first time that the Archdiocese released the budget so early before the Clergy Laity Congress. Usually it was released a few days prior to the Clergy Laity Congress when the parishes and the delegates of the Clergy Laity Congress had very little chance to study it but were called shortly before the end of the Congress to vote on it by acclamation.

The 2018 Adopted Budget has the following:
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Revenue

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Dracopoulos on SNF’s Philosophy & Philanthropy



VASSILIS TSAIRIS/AEGEAN REBREATH VIA AP

Cleaning up the Seas

Volunteer divers collect tires from the sea floor in the Saronic Gulf near Athens, working as underwater garbage collectors to clear debris, mostly plastic, that litters Greece’s seabed.

Eldorado Gold Claims Arbitration Win

TNH Staff

A Canadian company and its Greek subsidiary have again won claims against the ruling Radical Left SYRIZA that has tried to stop a gold mine operation at the same time the government said it really wants foreign investors.

Eldorado Gold, which runs Hellas Gold, said that an arbitration panel ruled its favor in its dispute with the government over a mining unit at Madem Lakkos after the two sides late in 2017 agreed to arbitration after the company said it otherwise

would shut down the project and put 2400 people out of work.

The panel turned down allegations that a technical study was deficient and in violation of a transfer contract and the environmental terms of the project, the company said, according to Kathimerini.

“We believe this decision provides a foundation to allow us to advance dialogue with the Greek government in order to define a mutually-agreeable and clear path forward for our Kasandra investments,” Eldorado Chief Executive George Burns

said in a statement.

“We look to the Greek state to fulfil its obligations under the transfer contract including issuing the outstanding permits for the Skouries project. The full, efficient and responsible development of the Kassandra assets will benefit the Greek state and its citizens, the local communities, our shareholders and our teams of Greek employees,” he said.

In January, the Environment Ministry appealed a court decision annulling a 1.7-million-euro

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Tzompanaki Appointed Director of NYCGFF

TNH Staff

NEW YORK – The Hellenic American Chamber of Commerce (HACC) announced on March 29 that its Board of Directors has appointed Maria Tzompanaki as the organization’s next Director of the New York City Greek Film Festival (NYCGFF).

Tzompanaki, Cultural Ambassador of the region of Crete, is an accomplished actress and director from Chania with a global track record of contributions in the arts as well as the preservation and dissemination of the Greek culture. In 2002, and for two consecutive terms, Tzompanaki was elected deputy Mayor in the municipality of Athens. As part of her responsibilities, she led several initiatives associated with school-care and development. During this time, she also restructured and revitalized the institution of cinema and oversaw activities associated with the European program committee. In 2004, during the Olympic Games events in Athens, Tzompanaki proposed, organized, and implemented a project to showcase Greek culture and traditions to the international press. Today, Tzompanaki serves as Chairwoman of the culture center Orfeus and holds the title of Cultural Ambassador representing the region of Crete.

Tzompanaki aims to advance the NYCGFF through an enriched ensemble of activities intended to promote the best of the Greek film industry to the public of New York City and beyond.

The Resurrection Celebrated at the Cathedral

TNH Staff

NEW YORK – The Greek Orthodox faithful of all ages and generations in the New York tristate area and beyond attended the Resurrection services at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Manhattan to experience and chant “Christ is Risen.” The cold temperatures did not dampen the spirit of all those present as the Holy Light was brought out to the awaiting crowd eager to celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord.

At the ceremony of the Resurrection and Divine Liturgy, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, was assisted by the Dean of the Cathedral Fr. John Vlachos, Archdeacon Panteleimon Papadopoulos, and Deacon Eleftherios Constantine, as well as Stephen Cherpelis, Past President of the Cathedral Board and Archon of the Ecumenical Throne who held the icon of the Resurrection.

In a message shortly after the

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TNH/COSTAS BEJ

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios shares the Holy Light with the faithful parishioners at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity’s Resurrection services in Manhattan.

Onassis Spring Festival

TNH Staff

NEW YORK – The Onassis Cultural Center New York presents Birds: A Festival Inspired by Aristophanes, comprising a rich array of events that consider the enduring—and, currently, pressing—central themes of Aristophanes’ ancient satire, The Birds, April 22- July 8. The festival is produced by Onassis Center for the U.S. premiere of Nikos Karathanos’ uproarious and poetic adaptation of the original Aristophanes play, presented by St. Ann’s Warehouse and Onassis Cultural Centre-Athens. Karathanos’ production updates The Birds, in which humans seek out the titular creatures to build a new society in

McCabe Photography Exhibition

TNH Staff

NEW YORK – Greece, Images of an Enchanted Land, 1955, an exhibition of photographs by Robert A. McCabe at The Photography Show Presented by AIPAD runs from April 5-8 at Pier 94 in Manhattan.

Sit Down Gallery of Paris in its first participation in The Photography Show presents the work of McCabe, the well-known American photographer, who began taking photographs in Greece in the 1950s.

The images were taken before mass tourism, capturing the islands and villages immersed in their unique, traditional culture.

In his pictures, McCabe has recorded authentic scenes of Aegean life that can never be duplicated.

He also photographed many archaeological sites and has a unique record of their condition after the War.



Robert A. McCabe

Children dressed in traditional costume.

The gallery will present analog silver gelatin prints ranging from 50 x 50 cm to 100 x 100 cm as well as vintage prints by

the photographer which will be exhibited for the very first time. There will also be on display prints made by Modernage Labs for an exhibition in 1967 at the Onassis Olympic Gallery in New York.

“Through his artistic vision, the art of Robert McCabe brings us back to an older Greece, when the light was stronger, clearer, and the monuments appeared to be revealed for the first time,” said Dr. Vasileios Petrakos- General Secretary of the Archeological Society of Athens and General Secretary of the Academy of Athens, in an excerpt from text for the exhibition of McCabe’s photos on the occasion of the 180th anniversary of the Society.

“For me, the most successful photographs represent a form of poetry... Just as a short poem can create a vivid emotional experience, so too can an image,”

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Believes in positive multiplier effect of good collaboration

By Antonis H. Diamataris

NEW YORK – Every conversation, discussion, or interview with Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) co-President Andreas Dracopoulos is a unique experience. Such is the strength of his character and leadership qualifications.

And this interview (and he does not often grant interviews) is a prime example. Andreas, as everyone calls him, is not preaching, but sharing his thoughts with everyone.

And he dares to say things publicly that others only whisper in private. As, for example, to the problems affecting the construction of the St. Nicholas National Shrine.

The full interview follows:

TNH: You always refer in your speeches to your late uncle, Stavros Niarchos, with exemplary love and respect. What is the basic principle that you have learned from him that affects how you make decisions

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Trezoros Director Talks to TNH

By Eleni Sakellis

NEW YORK – Trezoros: the Lost Jews of Kastoria will air on PBS stations across the United States this month. The documentary chronicles life in the picturesque town of Kastoria, where Jews and Christians lived in harmony and friendship for over two thousand years. The title Trezoros is the Ladino/Judeo/Spanish term of endearment meaning “treasures.” The film takes the audience on a journey from the joyful innocence of the pre-war years through the heartbreaking struggles of the Holocaust, to a unique place in time and history highlighting a Greek Jewish culture lost forever. Director Lawrence Russo spoke with The National Herald about the film and about his family experience.

He told TNH that he first decided to tell the story of the Kastoria Jewish community in 1996 and even recorded some initial interviews with Holocaust survivors, but it was in 2008 that the professional production came together. Both Russo’s parents were born and raised in Kastoria and their families were

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Greece-Turkey War Talk Jitters

TNH Staff

With Greece’s hopes for another record-busting tourism season about to swing into spring and then the big summer boom, the murmurings there could be a conflict with Turkey have hit social media on Trip Advisor.

A British woman wrote, “I’m travelling to Marmari, Kos in May and am worried about this talk of war between Turkey and Greece, especially as Kos is only 3 miles away from Turkey,” in an area where refugees and migrants have flooded Greek island after Turkey let human traffickers send them.

A response from the United Kingdom reassured her that, “We stayed in Kardamena about ten years ago and the owner of our apartments during our conversation mentioned her concerns about Turkey then. I wouldn’t worry about it, been that way for centuries I imagine,” downplaying the risk.

Yet another response from a UK traveler said that the talk could be trumped up in an age of instant information. “There is often reported by journalists a bit of alleged rhetoric between

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Dracopoulos Tells TNH about SNF’s Philosophy and Philanthropic Process

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even today for SNF?

AD: We should never forget where we come from. I had a very close and special relationship with my great uncle and we worked together during the last few years of his life. His approach resonated with me, and still does today: work hard (and play hard, try to enjoy life), always give the best you can no matter what you are doing, don't ask others to do what you yourself will not or cannot do, if you are hard on others be harder on yourself...as long as you are not trying to hurt anyone, don't worry about what others are saying about you...philotimo, meraki, pride, respect... things that I have tried to live by every single day of my own life and values that I try to share and instill in my children.

TNH: The contributions to society of SNF, which you lead and direct, are of unprecedented value, and in the process and due to your general behavior you have become one of the most admired Greeks in the world. How do you feel about that?

AD: Honored, humbled, happy, proud, and even more responsibility. Stubbornly committed to keep on delivering.

TNH: The SNF Cultural Center has become, after the Acropolis, the focal point in Athens. But equally important are SNF’s gifts to combat poverty and the health sector crisis in Greece. To accomplish those goals, you need the close cooperation of whatever government is in



Above: Prime Minister of Greece Alexis Tsipras and Andreas Dracopoulos sign the memorandum on health care worth over \$250 million. Above Right: SNF Co-President Andreas Dracopoulos. Right: The Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center in Athens.

power at the moment. What is it like to collaborate with them?

AD: As we have always said, each grantee is our collaborator. We believe in the positive multiplier effect of any good collaboration, we believe in public-private partnerships and in what they can offer in today's complicated world. Once there are no hidden agendas and there is hard work, transparency, and a common vision, miracles can happen. We do not replace the state, we simply try to complement it for the common good. Governments come and go, but our intention is that our work will remain diachronic with pos-



itive effects on society at large. Governments are there to serve the people. We work with whomever will serve their mission and their people, and improve society at large. We all have responsibilities and should be accountable to our missions to serve.



TNH: We are happy to see your substantial gifts to our Greek-American community as well. From the St. Demetrios High School in Astoria to the large donation for the construction of the St. Nicholas National Shrine. What is your reaction to the situation regarding St.

Nicholas and the Archdiocese overall?

AD: I am in shock though, unfortunately, not really surprised. We have worked in more than 120 countries around the world and have provided more than 4000 grants. And the only real issues we have encountered

have to do with (some) grants to our Greek-American community. What more can I say? Persons in leadership positions need to reboot, to remind themselves why they are there in the first place, and should have the common sense and decency to go home when they have to go. Enough!

(Editors note: Due to a technical error the following paragraph was not included in our printed edition. Our apologies to our readers and to Mr. Andreas Dracopoulos).

And of course we all have to work together as one community to support our Church, our customs and rituals, and last but equally important, our Greek language. Without the Greek language our Hellenic roots will also be lost, with whatever repercussions this may entail...

TNH: What are the criteria upon which you base your decision to approve or reject a project?

AD: Our internal guidelines are indeed quite simple: does the proposed grant have a positive effect on society at large and are the people involved with the applying organization ethical, efficient, professional, etc.? If the answer to those two questions is “yes,” then we have to be able to “prove” to ourselves why we would ever decline such a request . We are not perfect by any means, I am sure we have made mistakes, but I would rather make a mistake in giving “too much” than declining a worthy proposal. And so that is how we proceed.

Legendary Waverly Filed for Bankruptcy

TNH Staff

NEW YORK – A staple in the West Village, Waverly Restaurant has filed for chapter 11 bankruptcy protection after allegations of not paying former workers their overtime. Village Red Restaurant Corp., the company that owns the diner, made the filing on April 6 in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in New York, as it faces “potential liability in two

the Journal reported. Among the diner’s creditors are former employees who have sued in the past, but the business disputes their claims, according to the court papers, the Journal reported.

Last year, a federal judge ruled that Waverly “is liable to the employees for unpaid wages,” and “the court last month concluded a bench trial to determine damages against the



The Waverly Restaurant in the West Village.

lawsuits alleging management didn't pay overtime to a group of former waiters, dishwashers, busboys and delivery men,” the Wall Street Journal reported.

The filing pauses the lawsuits but allows the Waverly to stay open while it works on liabilities estimated “between \$500,000 and \$1 million” and “up to \$50,000 in assets,” the Journal reported.

A bankruptcy lawyer representing Waverly, Stuart P. Gelberg told the Journal on April 9, “yes, we do intend to remain open.”

New York Diners have struggled in recent years with rising rents, the cost of doing business, and even changes in eating habits. According to court records, Waverly founder Nick Serafis “filed for personal bankruptcy protection in January” and the diner’s current owner, Serafis’ daughter, Christine, “received the restaurant as an inheritance gift,”

diner,” the Journal reported.

The potential damages are more than \$2.2 million, a court filing in June showed, with many of the employees having worked for years at the diner, among them “Valente Garcia who worked there from 1992 to 2015 as a waiter, host and counter-man,” the Journal reported.

Lou Pechman, a lawyer representing the former employees told the Journal, “The bankruptcy is a blatant attempt to avoid paying the back wages owed to the restaurant’s workers.”

Lawyer for the Waverly Restaurant did not return messages for comment on the case at press time. According to court documents filed last year, Ms. Serafis had no involvement “in hiring or pay decisions for any employees at the restaurant,” the Journal reported.

The first court hearing on the Waverly Restaurant bankruptcy will take place on May 8.

Trezoros Director Lawrence Russo Talks to TNH

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there from at least the 1500’s. The film is dedicated to his parents who were two members of Kastoria’s Jewish community of the 35 who survived the Holocaust. Russo’s aunt and uncle were two more survivors.

His father, Maurice, passed away in 1988 and his mother, Lena, passed away last July at age 95, shortly after the screening of Trezoros at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC. “She was an indomitable woman,” Russo said, adding that “she lost all her family except one brother in the Holocaust.”

She was in Belgrade after the war and was crying constantly, Russo noted. Standing on a bridge, she realized she had to stop with the sorrow and threw her handkerchief in the river. Russo said of his mother, “She was always positive,” never wanting her children to live with the negative.

One of the most challenging aspects of making the film, Russo told TNH was that it is a personal story. Growing up without grandparents when other children had all of theirs, he knew they had passed away but not the details since his parents never spoke about the Holocaust. When he learned about what had happened, it was crushing, he said, “I felt a responsibility to tell the story on an emotional level.”

Russo is the youngest of three brothers; Albert is the eldest and Cliff, the middle brother, speaks perfect Greek.

When asked about the overwhelmingly positive response to the film, he said, “It touches on the positive aspects of life which resonates with people.”

That people of all faiths and backgrounds are learning about the Jewish community of Kastoria is one of the most rewarding aspects. Attending the 2012 screening of the film in Kastoria, Russo said he sat next to a young police officer who was perhaps 25 years old. The young



cop turned to him after the film and said “I had no idea about this.”

Trezoros will be screened again in Kastoria on April 20 as part of the Center for Studies of Jewish Heritage of Kastoria annual Day of Commemorating the Jewish Community of

Kastoria- 75 Years after Holocaust. The free screening will be held at the Aula University of Kastoria with Cliff in attendance. The commemoration continues on Saturday, April 21 at Omonoia Square with the Symbolic Holocaust Walk of Remembrance, official greetings, wreath-laying ceremony, and the Choir of Jewish Community of Thessaloniki, and at the Community Theater Hall

Argos Orestiko “The lost innocence of Anna Frank” will be presented by the Theater club

of the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki Entremostros, under the auspices of the Mayor of Argos Orestiko and the Governor of Western Macedonia.

In October, 1940, the peaceful life of the community changed forever with the invasion of Greece by Axis forces. Initially occupied by Italy, the Jewish community remained, but after Mussolini fell from power, the Nazis took control of the town, eventually gathering all the residents in a single day, and sent them to concentration camps.

Using never-before-seen archival footage, Trezoros brings to life just one of many Jewish communities that had existed in Greece for centuries and even millennia before the end of World War II. The film is a story told by its survivors, with inter-



Left: Trezoros: The Lost Jews of Kastoria will be airing on PBS stations across the country. Check your local listings. Above: The wedding photo of Lena and Maurice Russo.

views filmed on location in Kastoria, Thessaloniki, Athens, Tsur Moshe, Tel Aviv, Miami, and New York.

Directed by Russo, and co-directed and produced by Larry Confino, the film was widely praised on the film festival circuit with screenings in London, Cannes, Melbourne, Sydney, New York, and Los Angeles. Russo co-founded the independent studio The Shooting Gallery (Laws of Gravity, Sling Blade) and directed the Emmy-nominated PBS short film series ShortCuts. Producer/Co-Director, Confino is the Founder of Synapse Productions and Executive Director of ImageRescue, Inc. Based in New York City, Confino has produced documentaries and commercial projects on a multitude of subjects around the world.



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