

5th Avenue Sea of Blue & White for The Parade

TNH Staff

NEW YORK – The sky was crystal blue from sunrise on April 10, Greek Parade day in New York City, but it was feared the chill in the air would dampen the festivities. Not only did the spirit of the children marching and the thrill of cheering the Evzones and the enthusiasm of the big crowd guarantee a great day, the wind also paused to honor the heroes of 1821 and it was a fairly warm day, after all.

The marching began right on time at 1:45PM, commenced – as tradition would have it of a parade first held in New York in 1938 and which premiered on Fifth Avenue in 1951 – by the New York Police Department's Mounted Color Guard and ceremonial band, the St. Paul's Society of Eastern Orthodox officers, the NYC Corrections Dept. Hellenic Society, the Fire Department of NY Hellenic Society, and the U.S. Marine Corps.

New York's Mayor Bill de Blasio was made an Honorary Grand Marshal, joining Michael E. Seremetis and Gordon Chang, and marching with the 2016 Grand Marshals leading the Parade, New Democracy President Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Congressman John Sarbanes, industrialist and Philanthropist Dr. Spiros Spireas, and Alek Skarlatos, the hero who helped foil a terrorist attack on a Paris-bound train last year.

The first Parade elements seen by the crowd on both sides of Fifth Avenue included The Greek School of Plato Marching Band, the smarty-dressed Greek flag-waving visiting students of Hellenic College of Thessaloniki, and soon Miss Greek Independence Maria Exarchakis and her entourage followed on their float.

The children of St. Basil's Academy and the Cathedral

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Pergamon and Hellenistic Kingdoms Opens at MMA



TNH/COSTAS BEJ

The stately Presidential Guard of the Greek Republic dressed as traditional Evzones marches along Fifth Avenue, representing Hellenic regions including Macedonia, Pontos, and Crete, at New York City's Greek Independence Parade on April 10.

NY Grand Marshals Shine and Inspire at Parade

NEW YORK – More than 450 people filled the ballroom of the New York Hilton on April 9, the eve of the Greek Parade for a Gala dinner that celebrated the 195th anniversary of the start of the Greek War of Independence and to honor four exceptional Hellenes who served as Grand Marshals: the leader of Greece's official opposition Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Congressman John Sarbanes, industrialist and Philanthropist Dr. Spiros Spireas,

and Alek Skarlatos, who helped foil a terrorist attack on a Paris-bound train last year.

PSEKA Founder and President Philip Christopher was the evening's Emcee. He invited Archbishop Demetrios to offer the invocation, assisted by Deacon Eleftherios Constantine. The latter conveyed the great appreciation and love of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew for the community and Soprano Anastasia Zanni, accompanied by

Spiros Cardamis on piano, presented thrilling renditions of the national anthems and later delighted with guests with popular Greek songs.

The diplomatic corps of Greece and accompanied Dep. Minister of Defense Dimitrios Vitsas and Commissioner Photis Photiou representing Greece and Cyprus, respectively.

Petros Galatoulas, the President of the Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater New

York, which organizes the parade, echoed Christopher in praising the Grand Marshals and the hundreds of people who supported the parade as volunteers and benefactors, especially Spireas, who was a grand benefactor of the gala dinner.

The memory of Archbishop Iakovos, who passed away on Parade Day, April 10, 2005, was also invoked.

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Greek American Patriots Meet New England Patriot

On their way to the Greek Independence Day Parade in New York City on April 10, 17-year-old Andoni Tsougarakis (dressed as an Evzone) and 11-year-old Markos Poneris (a Scout) from the Cathedral of St. John the Theologian in Tenafly, NJ stop for a photo with New England Patriots Quarterback Tom Brady.

Greek-Ams. Campaigning for Hillary

By Constantine S. Sirigos
TNH Staff Writer

NEW YORK – It is one of the most exciting primary seasons in years and Greek-Americans are in the thick of it. A number of them are top aides in the remaining candidates' campaigns and others are busy mobilizing the Greek-American community.

Greek Americans for Hillary is a national committee of members of the community supporting Clinton. "They are leading efforts to mobilizing the Greek vote," committee member Ted Anastasiou told TNH.

The chairpersons are Amb. Eleni Tsakopoulos, Michael Dukakis, and John Podesta, who is the Chairman of the 2016 Hillary Clinton presidential campaign.

NY State Senator Michael Gianaris is running as a delegate pledged to Clinton and he spotlighted the upcoming New York

primary on April 19 – past races have been all but decided by the time New Yorkers vote – as crucial this year and the large Hellenic population all over the state puts the community at the front lines of opportunity.

Anastasiou agrees the community is in a position to make impact, and that Clinton should be the community's choice.

"We believe she is the best candidate for the position considering...her knowledge of the issues and her long history of supporting Greek causes...and her experience as First Lady and as Secretary of State."

Anastasiou noted her support for Greece during the bailout negotiations was critical and that she pushed the Cyprus reunification peace talks. Hillary supporters also note the key role Bill Clinton played in opening the way to Cyprus' entrance to the EU.

The committee has hosted

major fundraisers in New York and Washington and has held conference to mobilize the Greek vote in different primary states.

Gianaris recently participated in a fundraiser held in the Manhattan home of Dennis and Karen Mehiel that was attended by entrepreneurs and community leaders like Nikos Mouyiaris and George Tsunis.

HELPING BEYOND CHECK WRITING

Anastasiou said the best way to be directly involved is to help with canvassing New York City neighborhoods and phone banks, but he said "everyone can help by speaking to their friends and family... fellow church-goers, neighbors, and colleagues about the importance of having a true friend on Greek issues be the nominee of the Democratic party."

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Tina Santorineou, Dignified In Life and In Death Alike

By Stephen Diacrussi
Special to the National Herald

Tina Santorineou peacefully passed away on April 1st after a brief hospitalization. She was 80 years old.

A dedicated radio personality, Santorineou devoted her retirement years in the caring for her older sister Maria, a pediatric hematologist who died on Santorineou's birthday last August. The loss of her sister marked the beginning of Santorineou's own demise.

The youngest of three sisters, Santorineou arrived in New York City to work for the airline

Alitalia, due to her fluency in Italian, a language she studied at a young age in conjunction with her studies in classical music. She aspired to become a keyboard soloist, but her commanding voice was soon recognized even before coming to America, having worked for Greek State Radio. Her association with radio soon brought her in touch with legendary Greek radio pioneer Ted Athas and WEVD, the nation's largest professional foreign language radio station of all time.

Greek language programming dominated all of the other foreign languages heard over WEVD, with daily morning and evening shows totaling some forty hours a week. When Athas died in 1973, Santorineou took over the evening show and, soon thereafter, was compelled to resign from Alitalia and host the morning show as well.

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HELLENIC AIR FORCE VIA AP

Greece, Israel, and the United States Spread Their Wings

Two Greek F-16 fighter jets and a USAF F-15E Strike Eagles, based at Lakenheath airbase in England, fly past the 2,880-meter Rio-Antirrio Bridge in southern Greece, on Wednesday, April 13, 2016. The U.S. jets took part in Exercise Iniohos 2016, in southern Greece, together with military aircraft from Greece and Israel.

Ancient World Art Exhibit Runs Apr. 18 Through Mid-July

By Eleni Sakellis

The Metropolitan Museum of Art (MMA) presents Pergamon and the Hellenistic Kingdoms of the Ancient World, an extraordinary exhibition highlighting the art and artistry of the Hellenistic Age.

Covering the period between the death of Alexander the Great in 323 BC and the start of the Roman Empire in the 1st century BC, the exhibition includes over 260 works of art, statues, mosaics, jewelry, vases, pottery, and coins, some on view in the United States for the first time. The exhibition is a historic collaboration between the MMA and the Pergamon Museum in Berlin, reassessing the artwork of the period once regarded as decadent. Recent excavations and new studies have fostered a deeper appreciation of Hellenistic art and its widespread influence in the ancient world.

The ancient city of Pergamon was once a center of wealth and power under the Attalid dynasty, rulers of a large section of Asia Minor in the Hellenistic era who made the city the capital of their kingdom. These Hellenistic kings, successors of Alexander, followed his example of artistic patronage, influencing tastes in art for centuries. Royalty and wealthy elites commissioned works that blended the clean lines of Classical Greek art with Eastern cultural influences and more elaborate decorative styles, creating a dynamic artistic expression in everything from monumental sculpture to



Statue of Athena Parthenos.

even the most ordinary of objects. A 13-foot tall marble statue of the goddess Athena from the Pergamon library, the second most important library in antiquity after the Library of Alexandria, numerous Roman-style marble portrait busts, and gilded silver cups are among the artifacts on display in the exhibition as well as a model of the Great Altar of Pergamon, the original western front of which is the most famous artifact in the Berlin antiquities collection.

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LIC Opening For Velios Real Estate

TNH Staff

NEW YORK – Velios Capital, a new commercial real estate finance firm, born of the decades of experience and dynamic working relationship between its principals, George Eliopoulos and Dimitri (Jimmy) Vattes, hosted its grand opening at the brand new WeWork office space facility on April 9.

Velios finances anything from multifamily dwelling construction loans to business loans. They also do some residential loans, but they are focused on the commercial end of the market.

"We are now doing deals in Maryland, Long Island, upstate New York, and we just made an offer on a property in Kansas City," Eliopoulos said.

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Multilingual and Multitalented Angelina Alexon Infuses International Sound

TNH Staff

NEW YORK – Her spirited music gets you up on the dance floor and her sultry style – she is also a trained dancer – takes your breath away. She speaks five languages and her five-octave voice can seduce listeners in seven, but rising international pop music star Angelina Alexon is all Greek, and proud of it.

She loves Greek literature and expresses the passion of the two places were Zorba the Greek rocked the world: Macedonia – she was born a raised in Thessaloniki – and Crete, where she also has roots. Her mother's name was Alexakis.

With "Amor," her Latin hit that reached the tops of charts and won her a lot of air time in some parts of the country last year, Alexon has arrived musically – physically she came only a couple of years ago, although no one would believe it from her flawless American accent.

"Music brought me here" she said when asked about her journey.

"I'm a pop singer," she says simply, both her identity in an ever more frightening world hungry for escape, and her achievement in a tough business.

She takes full advantage of the fact that she can write lyrics in several languages and keeps plugged into world affairs.

Her favorite writers are Greek. She loves Odysseas Elytis and delights in the Greek poems set to music by great composers like Manos Hadjidakis and Mikis Theodorakis.

"I love the classic songs, but not the ones they are turning out now," she says, displaying taste and maturity beyond her years.

"I love quality, and rebetika are my favorites."

Jazz is also a favorite genre. "You can improvise and do interesting things with your voice," she said.

That five-octave voice lets her do a lot of things.

"I am very proud to be Greek and I am very religious and I try to use that symbolism in my songs," a challenge in the hyper-



secular western world frightened by fanaticism from the East.

She was among the millions

around the world who were shaken up by the Paris terrorist attacks, but she turned her grief into songs.

Angelina Alexon's talent is a credit to her Macedonian and Cretan roots.

"Nouvelle Journee" can be heard on Facebook accompanied by moving images from the candle light vigils and memorials that were created in the aftermath of the Paris tragedy.

More clips can be seen at: [facebook.com/angelina.alexon](https://www.facebook.com/angelina.alexon)

Although her father and his mother have good voices, Angelina is the only musician in her family.

"But I was always into creating music and singing since I was a little girl," she told TNH.

Like most Greek parents of very talented children they tried to steer her clear of any path that did not lead to becoming a doctor or a lawyer. Alexon loves children, so being a pediatrician was not unattractive to her, but she did everything in her power to get to the music world.

"They didn't allow me to have an instrument in the house,

but I had a little xylophone in my room and I played it quietly and started creating little melodies," which her grandmother adored and remembered for a long time.

By the time she was 13 she began writing songs in English inspired by artists like Britney Spears.

Like Lady Gaga, whom she admires, Alexon writes the music and lyrics of the songs she performs, although she is also an excellent cover artist.

When she was asked if she had a poetry writing phase she told TNH "I actually won a poetry competition in Greece."

She is also a good athlete – winning gold and silver medals for handball and basketball respectively – and a fine dancer.

"I have very good training in Latin and ballroom dancing," she said. Some performances highlight dancing and others spotlight her band.

She gathers different musicians depending on the venue and city. "I have people in New

York and Miami and we have good chemistry," she said.

Travel is one of her delights. Santorini is one of her favorite Greek islands, but she wants to visit many more, and in the states she likes LA and Miami.

Her favorite cities include Barcelona, where she lived for a year "and of course, Paris."

Alexon has gotten used to the fast pace of Manhattan, telling TNH "New York taught me to be very competitive, but the first moment I set foot in America it felt like home."

She is excited about an upcoming performance in New Jersey, where she lives, and about some new material she is working on, and she is in negotiations for some new projects.

Her manager, Paul Insinna, has been in the business for 25 years – he was once the lawyer for Michael Jackson's manager – and Alexon deeply appreciates his guidance. An Italian, he gets her. "Una faccia una razza," she said.

Sounds like a great title for a new song.

Velios Capital in Long Island City: Real Estate Mixed w/ Family Values

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His father is from a village near Lamia in Central Greece and his mother is from Athens. He was born on Manhattan's Upper West Side and grew up at the Church of the Annunciation.

"My children George and Alexandra are here today with my grandchildren. Dimitri is here with his mom and his wife and infant daughter. We consider ourselves a family business" and that is reflected also in how they work with their clients.

"We are not transaction driven. We are relationship driven," he continued. "Our clients come back to us over and over again," Eliopoulos told TNH.

Vattes added that they have

a wide array of clients and noted the have a client who is a doctor with whom he has done 30 deals over the past 10 years. "We've done his residences, his commercial properties and I have used 15 to 20 banks," he said.

Vattes' parents are both from Southern Chios and he was born in Queens and grew up in Manhasset Long Island.

He and Eliopoulos learned the business working at Mortgage World Bankers/MW capital. "We had great rapport there over the past 13 years there. We felt it was time for a change and we operate well together so we formed Velios Capital and we moved here on March 1.

"His nickname is Elios and we put the "v" from my last name in front," he explained. It

rhymes with Ilios – the Greek word for sun, and Vattes said the "v" is "catchy"

Asked about the division of labor between them, he said "We both do the same thing, which is debt placement, and we bounce ideas off each other."

Eliopoulos, has been doing it for so long that he has many banking contacts, so he is more on the banking side and Vattes is more involved with brokerage debt placement.

Eliopoulos invited Fr. Micheal-Mircea Dobre, from his parish of St. Demetrios in Jamaica to bless the Velios' home. "I am happy to be here on this special day to pray for the success" of his parishioner's new venture.

Taking their intuition and ability to spot trends proven over

decades of business success, they applied it to their own endeavor and the they love their new commercial home at WeSpace.

Eliopoulos saw that the complex was the perfect place from which to launch their new business. "We were the first ones to view, to sign up, and to move in."

According to the WeWork website "the opportunities to meet and work with fascinating people with a variety of interests are endless."

The guests at the grand opening were also impressed with the modern space, with mainly glass walls open to its Astoria environs and neighboring offices – in WeSpace they are called "members" not tenants – that encourages interaction that breeds cross-pollination of ideas and opportuni-

ties for business.

"It's a wonderful space and the people are very friendly here" Eliopoulos said. "Everybody here is an entrepreneur. They are all high energy and very positive."

The facility, which is called a co-working space, includes conference rooms they members share and boasts an attractive café.

"We have access to the roof in summer and there is a patio on the second floor and we have access to the largest beer garden in New York downstairs," Eliopoulos added.

The office areas are located in the Studio Square complex "a bustling event and entertainment destination that hosts major events in fashion, food, music, and more."

Pergamon and the Hellenistic Kingdoms Opens this Week at the MMA

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Other objects in the exhibition are on loan from museums in Greece, Italy, Morocco, Tunisia, and the United States.

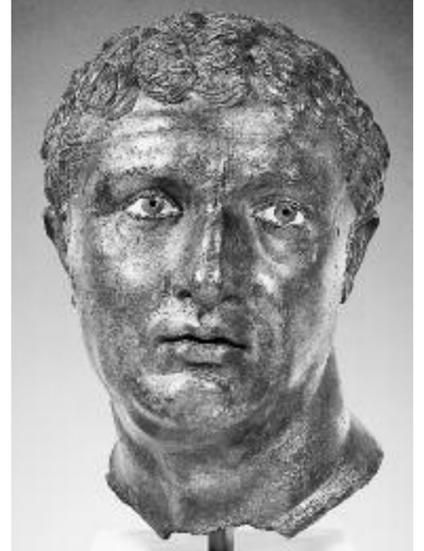
The National Archaeological Museum in Athens has loaned artifacts including a marble head and arm from a colossal statue of Zeus, male and female marble portrait busts found in Smyrna, and artifacts from the underwater excavations of the Antikythera Shipwreck. A video installation shows the recent underwater excavations of that famous shipwreck.

The Benaki Museum in Athens has loaned ornate gold jewelry, bracelets featuring the Herakles knot, hair nets, necklaces, pins and diadems, examples of the incredible skill of the ancient artisans. Among those present at the press preview for the exhibition held on April 11, MMA Director and CEO Thomas Campbell and Department of Greek and Roman Art Curator in Charge Carlos A. Picón who mentioned that planning the exhibition began five years ago and that one third of all the works in the exhibition are on loan from Berlin. Picón and Department of Greek and Roman Art Curator Sean Hemingway organized the exhibition along with curators on the staff, Christopher S. Lightfoot and Joan R. Mertens, and Assistant Curator of the Department of Greek and Roman Art Kiki Karoglou who answered press questions graciously. She mentioned that one of the joys of installing the sculptures at the Met is that you get views you never see in other museums.

The space allows for 360 degree views of sculpture as it was meant to be seen in many cases. The exhibition opens to the public on April 18 with museum member previews on April 12 through April 17. Guided tours, gallery talks and other related programs also accompany the Pergamon exhibition as well as a two-day symposium, Art of the Hellenistic Kingdoms: From Pergamon to Rome on May 4 and May 5.

The exhibition is made possible by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation and Betsy and Edward Cohen /Areté Foundation. Additional support is provided by Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman, Renée Belfer, Diane Carol Brandt, Gilbert and Ildiko Butler, Mary and Michael Jaharis, and The Vlachos Family Fund.

The exhibition catalogue may be purchased online and at the MMA stores. More information is available at the MMA website or at 212-535-7710. The MMA is located at 1000 Fifth Avenue in Manhattan.



- Clockwise from left to right:
- Alexander the Great astride Bucephalos.
 - A realistic portrait of a short-haired, beardless man discovered on Delos.
 - The face of a youth still shines across the ages despite its broken state.
 - A soldier and a companion adorn the Vienna Cameo.
 - Spectacular hair ornament from Pergamon.
 - A mosaic from the so-called Villa of Cicero depicting musicians.

