

## 1000 Thanks for 1000 Issues

By Antonis H. Diamataris

In the summer of 1997, while vacationing with my family, I made up my mind: I had to start an English language weekly newspaper.

Yes, I concluded, our community had to have access to news and information about the community itself and more broadly, the Hellenic world. News that it would not find in the mainstream media. People were right to ask: if not you, then who?

I had agonized over this decision for a while because ten years earlier I went through the painful process of winding down Greek Accent, an English language high-quality, glossy magazine, that was started as a semimonthly. After a while, I made it monthly, and finally bimonthly, before I was forced to close it.

The truth is it was losing too much money and as a result it started threatening the very existence of the daily Greek newspaper – the Ethnikos Kyrix/National Herald – upon which it depended for its survival.

It was a very good magazine and everyone seemed to love it, and thus it had attained a respectable circulation of approximately 16,000.

However, the advertising was not there, that indispensable stream of revenue that supports the media. Our community

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## Dr. Emmanuel Lambrakis Released on Bail

NEW YORK – Dr. Emmanuel Lambrakis “was released on a \$500,000 personal recognizance bond, secured by \$20,000 cash or property. His next hearing is scheduled for January 3,” according to Dawn Dearden Public Affairs U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York.

Also, “His travels are limited to South and Eastern District of New York, he had to surrender his travel documents (passport), he has an electronic monitor bracelet and he cannot write prescriptions for any control substances.”

Dr. Lambrakis was arrested on December 1, 2016 for writing “thousands of medical unnecessary prescriptions for oxycodone, totaling nearly 2.4 million pills, over a five year period” according to the News Release issued by the Office of Mr. Preet Bharara, US Attorney for the southern District of New York.

Preet Bharara, James J. Hunt, Special Agent in Charge of the

U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration’s New York Division (DEA), James P. O’Neill, the Commissioner of the NYC Police Department (NYPD), and Maria T. Vullo, Superintendent of the NYS Department of Financial Services, announced the arrest.

Bharara said that “although licensed as a doctor, as alleged, Emmanuel Lambrakis was a prolific and dangerous drug dealer. He allegedly pumped medically unnecessary oxycodone pills into our communities, feeding the addiction of countless people. This arrest is a critical part of our overall fight against the devastating opioid abuse epidemic.”

Hunt added that “drug dealers selling scripts for money give doctors a bad name. The dismantling of a modern day opium den masquerading as a medical clinic in the heart of Queens shows the result of law enforcement collaboration. The investigation identified that Emmanuel Lambrakis allegedly diverted oxycodone pills to New York City streets enabling the one thing law enforcement, communities, and health professionals are trying to avoid – opioid addiction and overdose deaths.”

Vullo said that “New York is a safer place because law enforcement authorities worked together to shut down the criminal activities this defendant pursued to enrich himself while endangering the public. The Department of Financial Services appreciates the opportunity to have worked on this case with the office of U.S. Attorney Bharara and the Drug Enforcement Administration.”

According to DOJ, 30-miligram oxycodone tablets had a

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## Asimina Arvanitaki Wins Physics Prize

TNH Staff

WATERLOO, CANADA – Dr. Asimina Arvanitaki, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) Aristarchus Chair at the Perimeter Institute, has won the prestigious New Horizons in Physics Prize, making her the fifth Perimeter Institute faculty member to earn the award since its establishment in 2013.

Arvanitaki was recognized for her pioneering work that bridges theory and experiment to forge novel ways of exploring particle physics. The New Horizons in Physics Prize from the Breakthrough Foundation is a \$100,000 award that recognizes exceptionally promising young researchers, like Arvanitaki.

“My field of research, involving small-scale particle physics experiments, is a relatively new one, so it is rewarding for it to get this kind of recognition from the physics community,” said Arvanitaki.

Arvanitaki joined Perimeter Institute in 2014, after earning an undergraduate degree from the University of Athens and a PhD from Stanford University. Her research is broad and interdisciplinary, testing theories that are beyond the Standard Model, including supersymmetry, dark matter, and extra dimensions.

“Perimeter recruited Asimina precisely because she is a daring and unconventional young

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## Chian Federation Honors Michael Psaros



Businessman and philanthropist Michael Psaros receives the Homeric Award with son Leo, wife Robin, and Chian Federation President John Kontolios on right.

### Proud Son of Chios Receives Homeric Award at Gala

TNH Staff

ASTORIA – The Chian Federation honored Michael Psaros with the 37th Annual Homeric Award for his dedication to philanthropy, Hellenism, and Orthodoxy.

The award ceremony was held at the Hellenic Cultural Center of the Chian Federation in Astoria on Dec. 2. Psaros, an emerging leader in the Greek-American community, is a co-founder and co-managing partner of KPS Capital Partners, LP, and a member of its Investment Committee. KPS is the manager of KPS Special Situations Funds, a family of private equity funds with approximately \$5.6 billion of assets under management, focused on making controlling equity investments in companies across a diverse range of manufacturing industries. Psaros is a faithful Churchman, philanthropist, a true Hellenic, and a proud American.

The Federation honored him with the Homeric Award because he is also a proud son of Chios. Psaros told The National Herald that “when I was called by the Chian Federation and asked to participate in this ceremony, at first I was hesitant because my grandmother Eugenia from Chios always told me to avoid glory. I like to think that I am a humble person, but as it was explained to me that the funds raised will go to worthy causes, I accepted this honor with great humility and with enthusiasm.”

Psaros is Treasurer of the Holy Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North America. He is an Archon, and a founding member of FAITH: An Endowment for Orthodoxy and Hellenism. Psaros serves on the Board of Trustees

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## SNFCC: The Success in Spite of Crisis

TNH Staff

ATHENS – The construction of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center (SNFCC) during a time of financial crisis may have seemed an unusual way for the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) to spend €600 million, but the decision was made in 2006 when Greece was riding a wave of prosperity.

Indeed, Greece was an example for the rest of Southeast Europe with economic growth accelerating and a positive outlook for the future. At the time, the need for a new home for the Greek National Opera and the National Library was an important undertaking for SNF.

Andreas Dracopoulos, co-

President of the foundation named for his late uncle, the Greek shipping tycoon, said, the Financial Times reported, “Greece won the European football championship in 2004, it staged a successful Olympic Games, the economy was doing well. We thought Greece had turned the corner. If anyone had suggested otherwise at that time we’d have said ‘are you crazy?’”

With the financial collapse of 2010 and the bailouts that followed, others might have balked at continuing the plans for construction, but SNF remained steadfast in its dedication to Greece and its cultural institutions. The plans went ahead.

Dracopoulos said “I remem-

ber there was a dark night in New York when I and several colleagues had some internal questioning: ‘What are we doing? Greece is falling apart and we’re going to build an opera house and a library?’ Then I said we had to build it, this project will bring hope, we can’t let the Greeks down. And let’s do it all, not cut corners because of the crisis.”

SNFCC, designed by world-renowned architect Renzo Piano, opened this year. The elegant and dramatically situated complex of glass and concrete houses the opera and library. Spectacular views are afforded from the upper floors of the Acropolis and

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## The 9th Century Greek Manuscript Returned

DRAMA, GREECE – His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America on December 3 returned the rare ninth century Greek manuscript of the complete New Testament known as Codex 1424, to its rightful owners: the Holy Metropolis of Drama and its Hierarch, His Eminence Metropolitan Pavlos of Drama; and the Monastery of Panagia Eikosi-foinissa from which the manuscript had been stolen by the Bulgarians in 1917.

On the eve of the feast of St. Barbara, the great martyr – who is the patron saint of this city – a great procession began from the location known as the springs of St. Barbara and led to the great and ornate Cathedral of Drama, dedicated to the Entrance of Theotokos into the Temple.

The city’s philharmonic bands led the procession, and a multitude of groups followed: schoolchildren, local, professional and cultural organizations, all with their banners. Altar boys, priests, and monastics accompanied the two icons, first the historic icon of Panagia Eikosi-foinissa and then the icon of Saint Barbara.

His Eminence Metropolitan Barnabas of Neapolis and Stavropolis, joining the people of Drama in celebration, walked the route to the Cathedral along with those who came from the



Among those present in Drama, Greece for the return the 9th century manuscript were Fr. Alexander Karloutsos, Rev. Dr. James Nieman, his wife JoAnn, and Archon George Tsougarakis.

United States for the events surrounding the return of the manuscript including Rev. Dr. James Nieman, President of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) and his wife, JoAnn; Fr. Alexander Karloutsos and Presbyter Xanthi; and Ar-

chon George Tsougarakis, a prominent Greek-American lawyer who archived the return of the unique manuscript. Tsougarakis assisted the efforts of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in locating and obtaining lost or stolen manuscripts.

Archbishop Demetrios Metropolitan Pavlos waited at the Cathedral for the procession to arrive and the ceremony of repatriation of the 9th century manuscript began. Demetrios

Continued on page 13

## Medical Society’s 80th Scholarship Gala

By Eleni Sakellis

NEW YORK – The Hellenic Medical Society of New York (HMSNY) held its Annual Scholarship Gala on Dec. 3, celebrating its 80th Anniversary at the JW Marriot Essex House on Central Park South in Manhattan.

The black tie event honored some of the best and brightest in the medical field. The Distinguished Physician award was presented to Dr. Constantine Stratakis, Scientific Director of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). In his acceptance speech, the renowned endocrinologist and genetics expert thanked his wife and children – his “most successful genetics experiment ever” – and noted his pride in his Greek heritage and culture as well as his love for the United States. Dr. Stratakis also praised HMSNY for its continued commitment to education and the Greek community, noting that the founders of the organization in 1936 would have wanted it that way.

The Distinguished Hellene award was presented to Konstantine “Gus” Costalas Regional Chief Financial Officer and Deputy Executive Director at Lenox Hill Hospital. Costalas noting that his family taught him the value of education, hard work, and helping others, especially through working in the family restaurant. He said, “Never be afraid of hard work, partner with people and embrace them and what they need to work as a team.” Costalas also thanked his wife, Helen, and their three children. He observed that there are over 90 Greek doctors at Lenox Hill, and soon there will be over 150 with so many promising physicians and the continuing support of HMSNY through its scholarships.

The Distinguished Colleague

Continued on page 2

## Dr. Dangas Receives Top Safety Rating at Mt. Sinai Cardiac Catheterization Lab

TNH Staff

**NEW YORK** – The Mount Sinai Hospital's Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory has become the first to have three interventional cardiologists receive the highest two-star safety rating from the New York State Department of Health for percutaneous coronary interventions (PCI), also known as angioplasty.

PCI – one of the most common procedures for patients with coronary artery disease – opens blocked arteries and restores normal blood flow to the heart. The physicians recognized were Dr. Samin K. Sharma, who is Director of Clinical and Interventional Cardiology at The Mount Sinai Hospital, Dr. Annapurna S. Kini – Zena and Michael A. Wiener Professor of Medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai – and Dr. George Dangas, Professor of Medicine (Cardiology). They were awarded the two-star safety rat-

ing while performing a total of 7,247 PCI cases from 2011 to 2013. Dr. Sharma was one of only two interventional cardiologists in New York State to receive the two-star safety rating in two categories: non-emergency and emergency cases.

"I am very proud of Dr. Sharma, Dr. Kini, and Dr. Dangas, and our Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory team. They are true leaders in the field of interventional cardiology," said Dr. Valentin Fuster, MD, PhD, Physician-in-Chief of The Mount Sinai Hospital, and Director of the Zena and Michael A. Wiener Cardiovascular Institute, and the Marie-Josée and Henry R. Kravis Center for Cardiovascular Health.

This marks the 18th consecutive year the Mount Sinai Catheterization Laboratory or its physicians have been awarded a two-star designation for safety rates significantly exceeding the statewide average. "At Mount Sinai Heart's Cardiac Catheter-

ization Laboratory, our patients' safety is our No. 1 concern," says Dr. Sharma, Anandi Lal Sharma Professor of Medicine in Cardiology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

The new data released by the Department of Health reports on the outcomes for patients at all 61 statewide cardiac catheterization labs. The report, "Percutaneous Coronary Interventions (PCI) in New York State 2011- 2013," tracked PCI data in overall, nonemergency, and emergency cases. During the three-year period, Mount Sinai's Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory achieved a significantly higher safety level than the statewide average while performing 13,906 PCI cases, the largest number in New York.

**Top-rated cardiologist Dr. George Dangas, speaking at the Hellenic Medical Society's Scholarship Gala on December 3.**



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Mount Sinai's risk-adjusted mortality rate (RAMR) for all cases was 0.75 percent, significantly lower than the statewide average, 1.04 percent. Also, Mount Sinai's mortality rate for non-emergency cases, 0.49 percent, was significantly lower than the statewide average, 0.68 percent. Mount Sinai Hospital's readmission rate was also significantly lower than the statewide average.

"The achievement of such great results is quite remarkable given the high complexity of cases referred and likely due to the individualized, interdisciplinary patient care at Mount Sinai," said Dangas, Director of Cardiovascular Innovation.

Dr. Kini, Director of the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory at Mount Sinai, said "this report measures the high-quality patient care and successful results our team of skilled interventional cardiologists and staff have been able to offer our patients each and every day."



HMSNY's Dr. Helen Gouzoulis Koutsos, Dr. Lorraine Chrisomalis-Valasiadis, President Dr. George Liakeas, Distinguished Hellenic Gus Costalas, Distinguished Colleague Dr. Nicholas Romas, Distinguished Physician Dr. Constantine Stratakis, Dr. Panagiota Andreopoulou, Dr. Stella Lymberis, Dr. Sotirios Stergiopoulos, Dr. James Melis, and Dr. George Dangas.

TNH/COSTAS BEI

## Hellenic Medical Society NY Celebrates 80th Gala

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award was presented to Dr. Nicholas Romas, Professor of Urology at Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons New York Presbyterian, by his son-in-law businessman Harry Wilson, who assured everyone he is a first generation Greek-American in spite of his non-Greek-sounding last name. Wilson, who married Eva Romas in 1997, praised his father-in-law for his 50-plus year career in urology, calling him "a tireless champion of men's health." He observed that Romas was on the Best Doctors in New York list twice and has "won virtually every award in his field." The values his parents taught him were the same as those of Dr. Romas, "work hard, help others, and do your best in everything you do." Out of ten grandchildren, seven were present at the event showing support for their distinguished grandfather who is also a US Air Force veteran. Romas thanked his son-in-law for his generous words and said

he would not speak about medical topics but instead focused on "being Greek in America" and how hard work has led to success in multiple fields for the community. He noted that of any group, the Greeks in the United States have the highest percentage in college and graduate school, are one of the most financially successful ethnic groups, and also have "the longest church services." When he was growing up, Dr. Romas said there were only two types of people, "Greeks and those who want to be Greek." He concluded his remarks by thanking his wife for her dedication to family and to his career.

The Gala chairs were Dr. Lorraine Chrisomalis Valasiadis, Dr. Helen Gouzoulis Koutsos, and Nicole Contos Liakeas. The Gala Committee included Dr. Panagiota Andreopoulou, HMSNY Executive Board Second Vice-President; Dr. Athena Kaporis Germanakos; Dr. Ioannis Hatzaras; Gus Lambropoulos; Dr. Ariadna Papageorge; Dr. Michael Plakogiannis, HMSNY

Executive Board Secretary; and Dr. Neofitos Stefanides. The Scholarship Chair is Dr. Sotirios Stergiopoulos and the Journal Chair is Evangelia Tsavaris. Also present at the event were HMSNY Executive Board President Dr. George Liakeas, First Vice-President Dr. Stella Lymberis, Assistant Secretary Dr. Georgia Patikoglou, Treasurer Dr. Demetrios Karides, and Assistant Treasurer Dr. James Melis.

Scholarships were awarded to several deserving students. The recipient of the High School Essay Award is Abraham Stathopoulos. Research Grant Awards were presented to Evangelia Lazaris, Anastasios Mirisis, and Sakellarios Zairis. Medical Scholarship Awards were presented to Nicholas Condilis, Sophia L. Dellis, Christoforos Koumas, Vassiliki Papagermanos, Maria Pilakas, Alexis Tchaconas, Andocmachi Trivelas, Myra Trivellas, and Sophia Tsiris.

Father John Vlachos, Dean of the Archdiocesan Cathedral, gave the invocation along with

Father Nicholas Anctil of Holy Trinity Church of New Rochelle. Dr. Liakeas thanked those in attendance and noted that the future looks bright with the wonderful and accomplished medical students who received scholarships this year.

Also present at the event were Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations Catherine Boura, Consul General of Greece in New York Konstantinos Koutras, Consul of Greece Manos Koubarakis, Consul General of Cyprus in New York Vasilis Philippou, Vice President of Capital Link Olga Borinozi, veteran TV news anchor Ernie Anastos and his wife Kelly, and former HMSNY Presidents Dr. Spyros G.E. Mezitis, Dr. George Dangas, and Dr. George J. Tsioulas.

The Hellenic Medical Society (HMS) has its origins in the Greek-American Medical Fraternity, an organization co-founded by the renowned physician George N. Papanicolaou during the First World War. The organization's specific objectives include creating a network of Greek-American physicians, cultivating fraternal relationships among its members, and promoting public health initiatives in conjunction with other medical societies.

## Perimeter Particle Physicist Arvanitaki Awarded New Horizons Prize

Continued from page 1

physicist developing exciting new paradigms for testing fundamental physics using precision experiments," said Perimeter Director Neil Turok.

"This well-deserved recognition underlines the importance and timeliness of her work," he said. "We hope it inspires others to be similarly ambitious and visionary. We are proud that five of our scientists have now won this, the largest prize awarded to young theoretical physicists, in the short time since its creation – more than any other institution worldwide."

Previous winners of the New Horizons in Physics Prize include Perimeter's Davide

Perimeter Institute, a world-class institution that provides scientists with the high-caliber environment necessary for important scientific contributions to flourish and excel."

Additionally, Perimeter Distinguished Visiting Research Chair (DVRC) Andrew Strominger was among co-recipients of the \$3-million Breakthrough Prize in Theoretical Physics, and Perimeter DVRC Frans Pretorius won a New Horizons prize.

Perimeter Institute is the world's largest research hub devoted to theoretical physics. The independent Institute was founded in 1999 to foster breakthroughs in the fundamental understanding of our universe, from the smallest particles to



PERIMETER INSTITUTE

**Dr. Asimina Arvanitaki, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Aristarchus Chair at the Perimeter Institute.**

Gaiotto (2013), Freddy Cachazo (2014), and Philip Schuster and Natalia Toro (2015).

Earlier in 2016, Arvanitaki was named the inaugural Aristarchus Chair in Theoretical Physics at Perimeter. This \$8-million chair supports pioneering research into the universe at its most fundamental level, and fosters research and training ties between Perimeter Institute and Greece.

SNF co-President and Director Andreas Dracopoulos said "we are honored to support the work of young innovative scientists such as Asimina Arvanitaki through our contribution to the

entire cosmos.

Research at Perimeter is motivated by the understanding that fundamental science advances human knowledge and catalyzes innovation, and that today's theoretical physics is tomorrow's technology. Located in the Region of Waterloo, the not-for-profit institute is a unique public-private endeavor, including the governments of Ontario and Canada, that enables cutting-edge research, trains the next generation of scientific pioneers, and shares the power of physics through award-winning educational outreach and public engagement.



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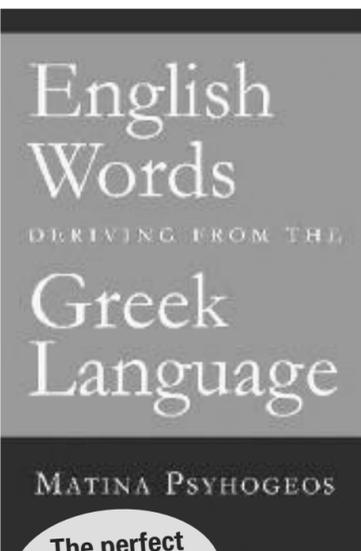
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## GOINGS ON...

## ■ THRU DECEMBER 17

RANDOLPH, NJ – St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church will again receive new, unwrapped toys in support of the Toys for Tots drive beginning on Sunday, Nov. 20. Toys may be dropped off at 1447 Sussex Turnpike in Randolph. Drop-off hours are from 10 AM to 4 PM Monday through Friday, and on Sundays while the church is open for services. All donations must be made before Dec 17. Started in 1947 by the U.S. Marines, the Toys for Tots campaign is an annual endeavor that seeks to deliver toys to children throughout 50 states, Washington, DC, and Puerto Rico. Millions of toys have been distributed through the years. For more information on this year's Toys for Tots (www.toysfortots.org) campaign, or about making donations, call the office at 973-584-0388 or email info@standrewgonj.org.

## ■ DECEMBER 9 AND 16

MANHATTAN – Byzantine Pop-Ups at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1000 5th Avenue, in Manhattan, Gallery 305 in the Medieval Sculpture Hall. In these magical and unexpected performances, you'll hear hymns and carols of the Byzantine Empire. Thrill to these antiphonal works, with the musicians alternating parts in multiple languages (ranging from Russian to Armenian to Greek to Arabic), weaving an evocative sonic tapestry from floor to balcony in the Medieval Sculpture Hall, in front of the only full-scale, authorized painted copy of the Deesis Mosaic from Hagia Sophia, graced as always in December by our exquisite Christmas tree. Friday, Dec. 9 at 4PM and 6PM and Friday, Dec. 16 at 4PM, 6PM, and 8PM. Free with Museum admission. Presented in collaboration with the Axion Estin Foundation. More info at metmuseum.org or by phone (212) 535-7710.

## ■ DECEMBER 10

BILOXI, MS – Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 255 Beauvoir Rd. in Biloxi hosts the Mississippi Gulf Coast International Christmas Festival & Pastry Sale from 10 AM to 7PM. Order pastries online now through December 8 or call George Yurchak 228-831-5820 and pick up on December 10 during the church bazaar which has been expanded into an international festival. The Agora will also be open, offering Greek items for sale, now including items from Russia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, and many other countries as well. Unique Christmas gift ideas and jewelry by Elizabeth Nicole will also be on sale at the festival. Enjoy ethnic lunch specialties, live music and dancing, and Nick Trivelas on the bouzouki. Kids activities and tours of the church will also take place during the festival. More info at www.holytrinity-biloxi.org or call (228) 388-6138

## ■ DECEMBER 10

CHICAGO, IL – The National Hellenic Museum's family Christmas party on Saturday, Dec. 10 1-5PM is a great way to start off your exploration of the food, music, and traditions of Greece. The event is free with Museum admission. Featuring a performance by the Dionysus Dance Troupe, the event includes making traditional Koulourakia cookies, photos with Santa Clause, painting, and crafts that include designing a Karavaki (Christmas boat), wreath, and model Acropolis. Students in the Museum's Greek Language and Culture classes will sing and dance and docents will be offering tours of the second floor exhibition Aegean: Creation of an Archipelago and the third floor exhibition Reaching for the American Dream: The

Greek Story in America. After the Christmas party, view the Greek-town Christmas tree lighting celebration, hosted by the Greek-town Special Services Area #16, on the corner of Halsted and Van Buren Streets at 5 PM. Even more great family events this holiday season at NHM: Sunday Tour and Craft Every Sunday at 2 PM join us for a bilingual story time where children act out a Greek myth and participate in a craft. \$5 per adult, children are free (Ages 2-12) No RSVP is required.

## ■ DECEMBER 12

MANHATTAN – The American Hellenic Institute (AHI) invites everyone to its Christmas Party on Monday Dec. 12 from 6 to 9 PM at Kellari Taverna, 19 West 44th Street. Featuring: Kellari's signature hors d'oeuvres; Buffet style entrées including vegetable moussaka, lavraki and other signature Kellari dishes, and desserts. Complimentary wine, beer and soft drinks (cash bar for mixed drinks). Guests must RSVP to Dean Sirigos at csirigos100@aol.com by December 9. \$60 tax and tip included (Pay by cash or check payable to Kellari Taverna at door.)

## ■ DECEMBER 13- DECEMBER 2017

CHICAGO, IL – The National Hellenic Museum, 333 S Halsted St., is expanding its efforts to preserve and share the stories of the Greek-American community through a partnership with StoryCorps, a nonprofit organization committed to providing people of all backgrounds and beliefs with the opportunity to record, share, and preserve the stories of their lives. Since 2003, StoryCorps has collected and archived more than 45,000 interviews from nearly 90,000 participants. It is one of the largest oral history projects of its kind and millions listen to the weekly broadcasts on NPR's Morning Edition and on storycorps.org. "The voices of our aunts and uncles, parents and grandparents are precious," said Laura Calamos Nasir, PhD, Interim President. "And their stories, their struggles, their hopes and their dreams are a priceless legacy that we must preserve. Everyone has a story to tell and we want to hear them all." In addition to the National Hellenic Museum's Oral History Center appointments, interview time slots will be available on a monthly schedule throughout 2017 to record your own audio oral history at the Museum. The heart of the StoryCorps project is simple; it's a conversation between two people who are meaningful to each other, whether it's a friend or a family member. For approximately 40 minutes, participants ask each other questions. When the interview is over, a trained facilitator will provide participants an audio copy of the interview. The interview will also be archived in the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. On Dec. 13, the National Hellenic Museum and StoryCorps will hold an interactive workshop about the tools and resources needed to highlight and celebrate the voices of the community through interviewing, recording and preserving conversations. Attendance is very limited. Call 312-655-1234, ext. 11 for more info.

## ■ NOTE TO OUR READERS

This calendar of events section is a complimentary service to the community. All parishes, organizations and institutions are encouraged to e-mail their information regarding the event 3-4 weeks ahead of time, and no later than Monday of the week before the event, to english.edition@thenationalherald.com

## Trezoros Documentary about Greek Holocaust

## TNH Staff

LOS ANGELES, CA – The documentary film Trezoros: The Lost Jews of Kastoria Greece premiered in Los Angeles, CA on November 29.

The film screened at the Laemmle Music Hall Theater in LA for one week, five times daily, starting on November 25 through December 1, with the official premiere event on November 29. The title is from the Ladino/Judeo Spanish term of endearment meaning "treasures." Trezoros chronicles the untold history and destruction of one of the formerly thriving Sephardic communities in Greece. Screening premieres in London, Cannes, Melbourne, Sydney, and New York have received positive reviews.

Directed by Lawrence Russo and co-directed and produced by Larry Confino, the film has recently qualified for consideration for an Academy Award. Trezoros is told through personal accounts by the Holocaust survivors and the Greek Orthodox people of Kastoria who lived a once peaceful life and then became eyewitnesses to the horror and ultimate devastation of war.

Using never-before-seen archival footage, the film transports the audience to the picturesque town of Kastoria, where Jews and Christians lived in harmony and friendship for over two thousand years.

In October 1940, this changed forever with the invasion of Greece by Axis forces. Initially occupied by the Italians, Kastoria and its Jewish community remained, but after Mussolini fell from power, the Nazis took control, eventually gathering the Jewish residents in a single day, and sending them to concentration camps. The mostly Sephardic Jewish community of Kastoria numbered about 900 in 1940 with the Romaniote Jews having settled there over 2,000 years earlier. By the end of World War II, only 35 had survived. Trezoros brings to life just one of many Jewish communities that had existed in Greece before the end of World War II. The film is a story told by its survivors, with interviews filmed on location in Kastoria, Thessaloniki, Athens, Tzur Moshe, Tel Aviv, Miami, and New York. The world premiere of Trezoros took place in London at the 2016 Raindance Film Festival on September 27.



The Lost Jews of Kastoria premiered in LA on Nov. 29 and has qualified for consideration as an Academy Award-nominee.

Russo co-founded the independent studio The Shooting Gallery (Laws of Gravity, Sling

Blade) and directed the Emmy-nominated PBS short film series showcasing "ShortCuts" hosted by Louis CK. 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 variety of subjects around the world.

Trezoros is an inspiring story of survival that has universal resonance and is of particular interest to the Jewish and Greek communities worldwide many of whom may not even be aware of the history of the Jews of Kastoria. The poignant story of one family's experience helps honor the memory of the once vibrant community and reminds us of man's inhumanity to man and also of the enduring spirit of the people who survived the horrors of the war. As George Santayana wrote in The Life of Reason, 1905, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." More information about the film is available online at www.trezoros.com. The film trailer and a clip may be viewed on the website and on YouTube as well.

## 18th Annual Capital Link Invest in Greece Forum

## TNH Staff

NEW YORK – Featuring top U.S. investors, global investment banks and institutions, and the Greek government, the 18th annual Capital Link Invest in Greece Forum will take place in New York on December 12. This international summit on Greece highlights the need for extroversion and direct communication with the global financial, business, and investment community in order to attract foreign investments and put the Greek economy back on a growth trajectory.

Although there are numerous investment conferences organized in Greece, there are only a few organized abroad which raise awareness of Greece as an investment destination.

The Forum is the only high-level international forum focusing on investing in Greece tak-

ing place in New York. It has an 18-year track record of success gathering the elite of the financial and investment communities, as well business and government leaders from the United States and Greece.

The Forum is held every year regardless of political changes and economic conditions in Greece and has been established as the main platform through which American investors are informed of the current developments and outlook of the Greek economy and the investments and business opportunities. It provides the point of view of the government and the private sector, along with that of domestic and international investors.

Greek Ambassador to the United States, Hon. Haris Lalacos will provide opening remarks for the Forum, which is organized by Capital Link in co-

operation with the New York Stock Exchange and with the support of major global banks. Among those featured this year will be Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, who will send his government's message to the international investor community via webcast; and Greek Government officials Economy and Development Minister Dimitris Papadimitriou and Alternate Minister Alexis Charitis, Environment and Energy Minister George Stathakis, Tourism Minister Elena Kountoura, Alternate Finance Minister George Chouliarakis (via webcast), Secretary General for Public Revenue – Ministry of Finance, and Hellenic Financial Stability Fund Deputy CEO Eric Tourret.

Numerous global investment banks will participate, including Citi, Bank of America, Goldman Sachs, and Deutsche Bank, as well as Greek Banks Alpha, Na-

tional Bank of Greece, Eurobank Ergasias, and Piraeus Bank.

Participating investors include: Costas Karagiannis, Paschalis Bouchoris, John P. Calamos, Sr., John Koudounis, Michael Psaros, Dean Metropoulos, Spyros Spyropoulos, John Catsimatidis, George Logothetis, Wilbur Ross, and William Charles Vrattos.

The conference will feature the developments and reforms in the Greek economy and the Greek government program for the economy and investments. Also, the latest trends in the capital markets and specific sectors with topics such as government and corporate bonds, energy, infrastructure development, real estate, tourism, banking, non-performing loans management, and global shipping. More information is available at capitalinkforum.com.

## Dr. Emmanuel Lambrakis Charged in Federal Court

Continued from page 1

current street value of approximately \$20 to \$30 per tablet in New York City, with street prices even higher in other parts of the country. A single prescription for 120 30-milligram tablets of oxycodone can net an illicit distributor \$2,400 in cash or more.

From at least approximately January 2011 until this month, Lambrakis operated two medical clinics in Queens, where he wrote thousands upon thousands of prescriptions for large quantities of oxycodone in exchange for cash payments, DOJ reported.

Lambrakis typically charged \$150 in cash for "patient visits," and these visits often involved numerous "patients" being seen by him at the same time in the same examination room. During these "patient visits," DOJ described, Lambrakis would perform simple, perfunctory body manipulations (such as rotating the patient's arm or leg) and engage in little or no conversation with the alleged "patient." Nonetheless, Lambrakis would



then cause the patient to receive a prescription for a large quantity of oxycodone, most often 120 30-milligram tablets or more.

The DOJ said that he wrote

approximately 17,000 oxycodone prescriptions at one of his clinics, resulting in the distribution of nearly 2.4 million oxycodone tablets, which have a street value of at least \$48 mil-

lion. On over 200 occasions, Lambrakis wrote 30 or more prescriptions for 30-milligram oxycodone pills in a single day. As a result of his actions, it is estimated that Lambrakis collected at least \$2.5 million in fees.

Bharara praised the outstanding investigative work of the DEA's Tactical Diversion Squad, which comprises agents and officers from the DEA, the NYPD, the New York State Police, Town of Orangetown Police Department, Rockland County Drug Task Force, Westchester County Police Department, and New York City Department of Investigation. He also acknowledged the assistance of Health & Human Services, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations, New York City Human Resources Administration, and the National Insurance Crime Bureau.

The case is being prosecuted by the Office's Narcotics Unit. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Kimberly J. Ravener and Jessica K. Fender are in charge of the prosecution.

## The Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center's Success, in Spite of Crisis

Continued from page 1

blue waters of the Saronic Gulf as well. Tours and art exhibitions are already drawing appreciative crowds to the SNFCC. The surrounding Stavros Niarchos Park, with native plants and trees, is an eco-friendly and much-needed green space for families to enjoy and play sports in densely-populated Athens.

Critics have suggested that the SNFCC is for elites only and will eventually only hold corporate events and conferences, but Dracopoulos is adamant that the project is already making a difference in the lives of average Athenians who are suffering through the economic crisis. With average incomes down by 30% and unemployment at 23%, the Greek people need the SNFCC for the wonderful programs offered.

About 400,000 people have visited SNFCC since June for free events including concerts, film screenings, and activities in the park like yoga and sailing lessons for youngsters.

Dracopoulos noted that it is "a triple project because the

park is just as important in a different way as everything the library and the opera is about. If people just keep on coming they'll make it a huge success."

SNF signed a contract with the previous administration to transfer the SNFCC to the government by the year's end. The official owner, the finance minister, must cover the SNFCC's projected €15m-€16 million operating costs.

Dracopoulos said of the transfer, "We're not asking anybody to say 'thank you' but we do insist that people assume their responsibilities as agreed."

The concern of whether or not the left-wing SYRIZA government will be able to handle the expenses was laid to rest at least for now with Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras' assurance that the 2017 funding is secure.

Tsipras said, the Times reported, "we're betting that the Greek public sector will prove it can manage such a big space in a serious and responsible way."

Artists and intellectuals had voiced concerns about the government's ability to run such a cultural institution, especially in



these difficult financial times. Budget cuts for cultural institutions have been severe, down 40%, programs were cut by the National Opera and the Athens concert hall, and the National Library cut staff to a quarter of those essential personnel.

Dracopoulos maintains that the SNF will regularly use the

SNFCC through its usual sponsorship of programs in the country. He said, "We'll be there in a significant way, we'll have our annual philanthropy conference at the center and a week of activities, and the center could become a recipient of our normal grant programs. But we're not going to take it over."

In its 20 years, the SNF has made grants of \$1.9 billion (€1.56 billion), through 3,646 grants for projects in more than 100 countries. According to Stavros Niarchos' wishes, half of the amount has been spent in Greece.

With the continuing economic crisis, SNF has increased

the percentage of funding to Greece. As noted on the SNF website, "Beginning in 2012, SNF launched initiatives totaling €300 million, with the aim of providing immediate relief to those mostly affected by the crisis, as well as creating new opportunities and better employment prospects for the younger generation, which has been severely impacted by one of the highest percentages of youth unemployment in Europe." The initial €100 million to reduce poverty and social exclusion was to be used over three years, but instead was spent in one year. Another €100 million went to programs including training for Greek non-governmental organizations, and the third €100 million went to prevent the "brain drain" of skilled young people leaving Greece for employment elsewhere.

"All these packages grew out of the cultural center project... We decided to spend another €300 million because we felt we couldn't only back an opera house and a library," Dracopoulos noted, the Times reported. "Not at a time like this."

## The National Herald

A weekly publication of the NATIONAL HERALD, INC. (ΕΘΝΙΚΟΣ ΚΗΡΥΞ), reporting the news and addressing the issues of paramount interest to the Greek-American community of the United States of America.

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The National Herald (USPS 016864) is published weekly by The National Herald Inc. at 37-10 30th Street, LIC, NY 11101-2614  
Tel: (718)784-5255, Fax: (718)472-0510,  
e-mail: english.edition@thenationalherald.com

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Periodical postage paid at L.I.C., N.Y. and additional mailing offices.  
Postmaster send change of address to:  
THE NATIONAL HERALD, 37-10 30th Street, LIC, NY 11101-2614

## Psaros Speech Evokes New Era

It was one of the most moving and most substantial speeches that I have ever heard.

One of those that we need to hear more often, but which, surprisingly, some of our top leaders do not give. I would describe it as the first significant speech of the new era.

Because we are certainly entering a new era. At a time when Hellenism in America – for those of us who remember and are aware that we have roots somewhere, in any case – will be called upon to play a new role in supporting the homeland because, ladies and gentlemen, the truth is that we are the only ones who can.

I am referring to the speech by Michael Psaros, the entrepreneur, philanthropist and Treasurer of the Holy Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North America, who was honored by the Chian Federation with the Homeric Award, and whose voice cracked repeatedly when referring to his grandmother Eugenia.

He spoke with passion and conviction about the need to put an end to the Greek people's drama and condemned Turkey's "Sultan" Erdogan, as he called him, for the threats he issues against Greece.

There was not a dry eye during Psaros' speech, and every heart was beating strong and determined.

It was exactly the speech that we ache to hear: A speech by an honorable Greek-American that combines loyalty to the United States with our Greek national characteristics, and economic success with a sense of obligation to his homeland.

## Paraskevaides Remembered

On December 5, 2007, nine years ago, at 12:30 in the morning, a leading Greek patriot passed away: George Paraskevaides.

"He was doing quite well," his beloved wife, Thelma, told his biographer George P. Malouchos.

"I went to the cafeteria to get coffee," she described. "When I came back, I heard him singing, 'Bella, bella, bella.' I was so pleased to hear him in such great spirits..."

"He seemed to be very well and so it was the first night I went home (in London) to sleep for a few hours. At twelve thirty, they phoned to tell us that he had passed in his sleep.

"At least he was spared dialysis...God loved him."

## Horrifying Statistics

Between 2007 and 2015, Greece's total Gross Domestic Product declined by 26.2%. Conversely, it increased by 10% in the United States, 7.2% in Germany, 7% in England, 4% in France and -8.3% in Italy.

The unemployment rate in 2015 among those without work for at least 12 months was: 73.1% in Greece, 58.9% in Italy, 51.6% in Spain, 44.3% in France, 44.0% in Germany and 17.7% in the United States. (Source: Wall Street Journal)

These statistics are horrifying.

## The Mental Health Crisis

It is no exaggeration to say that almost daily we hear or read about one of our fellow citizens putting an end to his life. Within a period of three months, I have witnessed two such tragic incidents. In just one neighborhood in Athens, two people plunged from the 5th and 6th floors, respectively... One was 45 and the other 58. Recently, a student in Thessaloniki and one in Larissa tragically ended their lives.

The data confirms the facts: Greeks are suffering from depression. In fact, to better understand how much depression has increased, experts say they could fill at least three major Greek cities – Patras, Ioannina, and Volos – with the number of depressed people!

And so it does not take an expert to understand that this is greatly due to the economic crisis and the wounds it has opened.

How many more victims will we mourn before something occurs to give hope and optimism to the people?

## Innocent until Proven Guilty

The discussion among Greek-Americans these days has nothing to do with the elections in Italy, or with whom Donald Trump will appoint as secretary of state. Nor with the "haircut" of Greece's debt, which was not actually a haircut, but more like a slightly trimmed mustache.

It has to do with the serious accusations by federal authorities against Dr. Emmanuel Lambrakis, a Greek-American physician who was arrested for illegally writing prescriptions for drugs, for which he has collected – according to the charge – at least 2.5 million dollars.

As is usual in such cases, each individual adds his/her own "information," provides his/her own interpretation, and analyzes the doctor's motives.

We emphasize that while Dr. Lambrakis has been accused of very serious crimes, he has not been convicted. And until and unless he is convicted, he should be presumed innocent.

## Arvanitaki, a Shining Star

I am not surprised that Dr. Asimina Arvanitaki, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) Aristarchus Chair at the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics, has won the New Horizons in Physics Prize.

It is not a surprise to me because I met when her while participating in a team from SNF, led by its Director, Andreas Dracopoulos, who visited the Perimeter outside Toronto to grant the financing of the chair with the name Aristarchus (named for Aristarchus of Samos [310 BC - about 230 BC], who was an astronomer and mathematician and was the first scientist [after the Pythagoreans] to present the heliocentric model of the solar system, that placed the sun, not the earth, at the center of the known universe).

And I was not surprised because there was nothing pretentious about Dr. Arvanitaki. She was humble, relaxed, and clearly confident in herself, her knowledge, and her scope.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### St. Nicholas WTC Coverage Appreciated

To the Editor:

What a wonderful milestone – the dramatic photograph showing the cross being placed atop the St. Nicholas Church at the World Trade Center – celebrated on the front page of the paper!

Thank you for covering this

important event not only for the Greek Orthodox community and Hellenism, but for the entire United States and all freedom-loving people around the world.

The photograph makes me proud as a Greek and as an American. Great job to the photographer and to The National Herald! Keep up the good work!

Bobby (Charalambos) D. Hatzinikolaou

### 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.



GEORGE SARAFOGLU / SPECIAL TO THE NATIONAL HERALD

## COMMENTARY

# The Leader of the Free World at Birthplace of Democracy

By **Filippos Geragidis, Ioanna Vallianou-Leventi, and Petros Vorgias**

President Obama's recent visit to Greece constitutes the most closely-followed event in that country by the public. It is the first trip made by a sitting American president to Greece that does not coincide with the involvement of an intense diplomatic or military dispute.

During President Eisenhower's visit in 1959, the predominant matter discussed between him and then-Greek Prime Minister Constantine Karamanlis was the Cypriot dispute. Similarly, the elder President Bush's stay was concurrent with arguably one of the most crucial conflicts of the time for the country – between Greece and FYROM – while the primary affair in President Clinton's and Prime Minister Costas Simitis' agenda, in 1999, were the bombings in Yugoslavia.

During President Obama's overseas trip, his stop in Greece did not face diplomatic hindrances. Nevertheless, he found himself faced with a community devastated by the social repercussions of the deep economic crisis it has withstood for eight years now. This was the subject of his November 16 speech at the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center. He exhibited noteworthy sympathy for the Greek people, arguing that it is not of current significance to analyze internal and external factors that led Greece into its severe present economic state.

Despite other European leaders' austere stance against Greece, Obama has contrasting views. He acknowledged the huge price the average Greek citizen has paid as a result of the constant imposition of austerity measures. He also recognized that after six years of such measures and political and economic pressures, the Greek people ought to see an improvement in daily life, which may only be achieved through economic growth.

Democracy was the principal thematic axis around which the president's speech revolved. He paid great attention to the multitude of historic factors. Specifically, he emphasized the role of democracy in sustaining healthy relations between states. He emphasized that democracy consistently brings about political and social stability, in contrast to the inherent volatility and instability of authoritarian regimes.

Nonetheless, Obama recognized some of the intrinsic flaws of the democratic governmental system. Through his exposition, it may be considered thoroughly logical to infer that the concept of democracy may be condensed into the following timeless statement of the late Winston Churchill, who deemed it "the worst system of government – except for all the others."

Furthermore, President Obama made extensive references to globalization. He highlighted the many benefits of the phenomenon, such as the fact that the world is now nearly fully interconnected, through advanced

technology. In turn, technology limits unawareness and ignorance while also generating a wave of pessimism. In reality, he argued, we live in the most equitable and prosperous era, in all of mankind's history. He further supported the idea that the principles of democracy allow for globalization to fully occur, ultimately leading to progress. Conversely, authoritarian governments decay and inhibit

There is a similarity between the themes Obama addressed and those JFK did during his visit to West Berlin in 1963.

globalization, which may only bring about stagnancy, not stability. Lastly, Obama implied that these regimes may ultimately destroy themselves "from the inside out," as isolation and xenophobia do not march on stable grounds.

Barack Obama's visit to Berlin, Germany, exerted a direct influence on the structuring of his speech. There is an evident similarity between the themes he addressed and those President Kennedy did, during his visit to West Berlin in 1963, whose main claim revolved around the erection of the Berlin Wall by the Soviets. Kennedy employed the persuasive mode of pathos, expressing his compassion for all Germans going through their daily combats, while Obama's speech is with empathy for the Greeks struggling for survival in

a society that is plagued by the consequences of the crisis. Another notable similarity between the two speeches may be observed in the fashion in which Kennedy refers to the Berlin Wall and the isolation it had caused for each side it separated. Likewise, Obama stood firmly against the isolation of peoples, shaking his finger at marginalized countries, and clearly making an indirect reference to the notorious wall that president-elect Donald Trump had promised during his pre-election campaigns.

In order to support the aforementioned argument, Obama made an allusion to the solidarity that thousands of Greeks have shown the refugees who arrived on the islands of the Aegean, specifically referencing a Greek woman's personal experience: "We all live under the same sun; we all fall in love under the same moon; we must help these people."

Whether or not one agrees with Obama's policies, his demeanor and charismatic rhetorical abilities are able to impress and captivate even his staunchest opponent. It is apparent that the president's predominant belief is that the youth hold the capacity to curb the direction in which its respective society is headed, and to put an end to the issues from which it suffers: poverty, inequality, extremism, and social prejudice.

The writers are part of the Senior Class of 2017, American Community Schools of Athens

## OCL 29th Annual Meeting, Prepares to Celebrate 30 yrs

By **George Matsoukas**

**COTTONWOOD, UT** – For 30 years, Orthodox Christian Laity (OCL) has been promoting unity, transparency, accountability, and laity involvement in Church life at all levels to make these priorities a reality in the administrative life of the Church.

OCL completed its Annual Meeting in Cottonwood, UT and began thinking about its plans for upcoming years. The board members came away with a renewed and intensified commitment to keeping the hierarchy, clergy, and laity informed about the progress of the Assembly of Bishops in developing a canonical blue print for administrative unity.

For seven years, the Assembly has been working to complete this task. Many Church members know that the fragmentation caused by 14 parallel jurisdictions working in parallel ways is unacceptable, counterproductive, a waste of the time, talent, and resources of the clergy and laity. That is why the 14 autocephalous Church hierarchs including the four Patriarchs of the original Pentarchy have directed the Assembly to

develop a canonical plan for unity. The Holy and Great Council (HGC), which met in Crete in June 2016 set the example that much can be accomplished when bishops continue to meet in harmony with the Holy Spirit and in a conciliar manner. OCL is committed to do whatever it can to assist the Assembly of Bishops to fulfill its responsibilities to develop a canonical blueprint for unity.

OCL is willing and able to help the Assembly develop the will, leadership, and negotiation skills needed to complete the process so that unity can be achieved. More information is available online [www.ocl.org](http://www.ocl.org). OCL will attempt to work with the geographic areas - pockets of unity- that the Assembly of Bishops have agreed upon to develop in Texas and other areas. Metropolitan Nicholai, Romanian Archdiocese in the Americas, Chicago, and others including Metropolitan Isaiah are developing the unity pilot. Information at this point is incomplete.

OCL is also committed to helping the 14 Patriarchs including autocephalous Archbishops in the traditional Orthodox Lands better understand that a unified Pan Orthodox Christian

Church in the United States is a value added to their positions in the world. We need to understand their point of view if they see this as lessening their position in the world. Unity here is in their self-interest because it reinforces their work in the world. Unity here means increased growth in ecclesial and pastoral life, and increased influence at the geo-political level. This is a win-win situation for Orthodoxy worldwide. This would be a 21st century landmark legacy for Orthodoxy in the United States and globally.

In addition to these understandings, the OCL Board of Directors elected George Karczas as president. The board acknowledged the stewardship of outgoing president George Pontikas and his efforts to develop grassroots-local parish unity advocates, a long-range plan for an Autocephalous Unified Church in the United States, which drew amazing and far reaching commentary by board members, and his efforts to renew board structure and membership. The results of his efforts include Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver joining the OCL advisory board. Dr. Helen Theodoropoulos and Dr. Achilles Adamanti-

ades also have agreed to serve. We are grateful to God for the service of these outstanding Orthodox Christians.

Following that November 18 meeting, the board attended vespers at St Anna's Greek Orthodox Church in Cottonwood. Metropolitan Isaiah and Fr. Anthony Savas conducted the vespers in this dynamic, upbeat parish community. Following the vespers, a Lenten supper was served by the Women's Ministry of the Parish Community. Dr. Theodoropoulos presented her personal comments on the Scriptural theme "To each is given the manifestation of the spirit for the common good (Corinthians 12:7)." On November 19, Dr. Elizabeth Prodomou also shared her insights and experiences as one of four women participants in the Great and Holy Council held in Crete.

OCL's 30th Anniversary Program will be held in Chicago on October 26-28. Romanian Orthodox Church of St. Mary on Central Avenue will be the host community.

George Matsoukas is the Executive Director of OCL. More information is available at [ocl.org](http://ocl.org).

## Observations By Antonis H. Diamataris

### Schäuble's "Shocker"

We were shocked, once again, by a recent statement by Germany's Federal Minister of Finance Wolfgang Schäuble, which reinstates the issue of Greece's position in the Eurozone: "Athens," he said, "must finally implement the needed reforms. If Greece wants to stay in the euro, there is no way around it, in fact, completely regardless of the debt level."

But why is it shocking?

Because we are influenced by our own lies, our own misinformation, the false hopes which we create for our people, such as that debt relief is on its way and everything will once again be rosy.

The government, for example, considered the debt haircut to be the top issue during President Obama's visit to Athens. And yet, during Obama and German Chancellor Angela Merkel's press conference, or

anything else that became known during the president's visit to Germany, there was no reference to Greece.

But the Greek government failed to utilize that which it controls, and that which was the capstone of Obama's visit to Athens, the tour of the Acropolis and the Acropolis Museum and his speech at the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center. Visits that are worth billions of dollars for Greek tourism, if exploited properly.

Who doesn't want the debt haircut? But even if it happens, it is not enough. Reforms are also necessary.

However, a major problem has already arisen: the prime minister has lost the confidence both within and outside of Greece. He has lost the "game" of governing the country, in general. He is no longer in a position to inspire, nor is he able to make the changes that the country needs. The only thing he does now is occupy the position.

But time flies and the problems multiply.

The issue of the Greece's security has been added to the matter of the economy. The two are interrelated, not independent. The capability for a powerful defense requires a strong economic base. There is no alternative.

So, Schäuble comes along to remind us – for the umpteenth time – that a deus ex machina does not exist. That we must implement structural reforms if we want to stay in the euro.

However, given Tsipras' failure in the other sectors and the evaporation of the people's confidence, his ability to ensure the security of the country's borders is also eroding.

And, in fact, as a new government in the United States is about to take power, one that is expected to show far less understanding and tolerance towards its weak allies who refuse, for various political reasons, to do what must be done.