



The HELLENIC CALENDAR

Covering the News & Events of Special Interest to the Greek-American Community of Southern California and the Great Southwest

Pasadena AHEPA Family to Host 2004 District 20 Convention

The 2004 Convention of the El Camino Real District 20 AHEPA Family will be held on June 24-27, 2004 at the Pasadena Hilton Hotel and St. Anthony's Greek Orthodox Church Community Center in Pasadena, CA. The Rose Bowl AHEPA Chapter #373 and the Adrasteia Daughters of Penelope Chapter #233 are the hosts of the event.

The El Camino Real District 20 includes chapters of the Order of AHEPA, Daughters of Penelope, Sons of Pericles and Maids of Athena in Southern California, Arizona, Southern Nevada and Salt Lake City.

The District 20 Convention schedule begins with the Ahepa Family Golf Tournament at Brookside Golf Course (626-796-0178) on Thursday, June 24th. The \$125 entry fee includes golf cart and green fee, a gift bag, beverages, and the Golf Dinner at St. Anthony's Greek Orthodox Church Hall, 778 South Rosemead Blvd., beginning at 5 p.m. Dinner tickets

are \$35 for non-golfers.

Deliberations will begin at 9 a.m. on Friday with Opening Ceremonies for convention delegates at the Pasadena Hilton Hotel. A No Host Lunch begins at noon, followed by a presentation by Dr. John Triantafyllos at 1:30 p.m.

Following business sessions in the afternoon, the Business Networking Workshop will be held at 5 p.m.

The Grand Banquet begins with no host cocktails at 6 p.m. Following the dinner, Chris Julias will be presented with the Periclean Award and Jim Dimitriou, Ph.D. will be honored as Past Supreme President.

Following the morning business sessions will be the Scholarship Foundation Luncheon at noon. The afternoon business sessions will include the election of the 2004-05 District 20 Lodges.

A Greek Glendi will be held at St. Anthony's Greek Orthodox Church Hall beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday.

For more information, visit the District 20 AHEPA Family web site, www.ahepa20.org. (2004 AHEPA Supreme Convention information is on page 4)



Peter Clentzos

1932 Olympian Peter Clentzos to Carry 2004 Olympic Torch

Peter Clentzos, who competed for Greece in the 1932 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, will carry the Olympic Torch during its trip through the L.A. Coliseum. An Ahepan for over 60 years, Clentzos chairs the Annual AHEPA Western Regional Golf Tournament and is credited as the originator of the term "hubba-hubba."



Carla (Toni Collette) and Connie (Nia Vardalos) in "Connie and Carla."

Vardalos Returns in 'Connie and Carla'

When you follow your dream, there's no telling what you'll become.

Connie (Nia Vardalos) and Carla (Toni Collette) are two small-town girls whose dreams of stardom have taken them nowhere. From their debut in a school cafeteria to their current gig slinging drinks and belting out tunes at a Midwestern airport lounge, the singing and dancing duo simply refuse to let the less-than-enthusiastic crowd response dampen their show biz drive. For Connie and Carla, everything's coming up roses, naysaying boyfriends and snoring audience members notwithstanding.

The girls lose one of their few supporters when their boss, Frank, ends up on the wrong end

of a criminal deal – a scene they unfortunately happen to witness. Quicker than a fast change in the second act, Connie and Carla pack up their battered dreams and extensive assortment of wigs and costumes and hit the road, running for their lives.

Convinced the killers will never look for them in a place utterly devoid of culture (a.k.a. dinner theater), the pair ends up in the Land of Dreamers, Los Angeles. In a new place with new identities, they create a cover (with a lot of cover-up) that makes them the toast of the town-headlining in a local drag club, they soon find the acclaim that has always eluded them, singing the show tunes they've always loved. Be-

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37th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress to Convene in New York City

The 37th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress and National Philoptochos Convention of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America will convene in New York City from July 25 to 29. The Congress, which will be held at the New York Marriott Marquis in central Manhattan, will have as its theme "Building Communities of Faith and Love: Orthodox Parishes in Worship and Ministry." Following the theme of the 2002 Congress in Los Angeles, "Offering our Orthodox Faith to Contemporary America," this theme will direct

the preparations and work of the Congress in assisting and strengthening Orthodox parishes, the primary places of worship, ministry and offering.

"This Congress will provide a unique opportunity to assist all of our parishes throughout America with the vital work that they do on a daily basis," said His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church in America and Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. "All of our resources will be focused on equipping the faithful to build

their parishes through worship and ministry, through ways that strengthen faith and offer service to anyone in need so that all may know the redeeming love of our Lord Jesus Christ."

The Archbishop, spiritual leader of 1.5 million Greek Orthodox faithful in America, will preside at the Congress, which is expected to attract several thousand participants, including delegates from the 500+ parishes of the Archdiocese. Special features of this Congress will include an

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Editor's Message

*"Well those drifter's days are past me now
I've got so much more to think about
Deadlines and commitments
What to leave in, what to leave out"*

-- from "Against the Wind" by Bob Seger

For those of you who have never seen this publication until now, yes, we were around before. *The Hellenic Calendar* was started in 1979 and the last issue (before this one) came out in May 1991. There is a lot that I could say here about how proud we were to bring you the longest lasting Greek newspaper in Southern California history... or how we regretted having to cease publication. But we are back... and this is a good thing. For whatever reasons, nobody has successfully filled the void caused by our absence.

Even though I have had 13 years to ponder what to say in this column, now that the time has finally come to fill this 12"x5" space, all the words that sounded so appropriate before somehow don't anymore. I am not sure why, but I suspect that my 50th birthday a few months ago may be a factor. Suddenly, life looks much different. Suddenly, I feel overwhelmed with new understandings about life and why things are the way they are.

For example, I woke up one morning last month and I realized why some older Greek men wear striped shirts with plaid pants. I realized that it's not that they lost their sense of fashion. It's not because their wives have given up on trying to keep them in style. They simply like the shirt and the pants... and they aren't concerned about what other people think. I like this. I now see what used to seem tacky as very cool. I also see the merits of wearing socks with slippers.

Lately, I also find myself much more interested in watching biographies on television. When I was young, I read books about famous people who were able to triumph over all the challenges that faced them. These days, however, I prefer learning about how famous people reached success but fell flat on their face before reaching an even greater success. I like this concept.

As you may have noticed, I now enjoy rambling more than I used to... but I will get back on track by setting a few ground rules for this publication:

- 1.) *The Hellenic Calendar* has no political agenda. If a presidential candidate has a policy paper or makes a speech about Greece or Cyprus, we plan to bring you that information. If someone of Greek descent is running for office, we will present that information also. If any of this inspires you to vote for them or to get out your checkbooks and contribute, that is up to you.
- 2.) There is no charge for a Greek Church or organization to get a listing in our calendar in either our newspaper or on our web site (www.helleniccalendar.com). We do reserve the right to edit the listings, however. You can't ALL have the "World's Best Souvlaki!"
- 3.) If you don't think that we are covering your local community's news properly, please let us know. Sending us information would be a good thing.

We hope you like this issue. We like being back.

Steve



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Over \$100,000 Raised for Kids 'n' Cancer

NEWPORT BEACH, CA – Over \$100,000 net was raised May 2, 2004 in support of "Kids 'n' Cancer." This Ministry provides a one-week camping experience for children afflicted with cancer, as well as for their families and necessary medical staff. St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church, Irvine, CA, offered a notable \$25,000 gift from their recent "Festival of Hearts" benefit.

Over 500 people attended the 14th Annual "Kids 'n' Cancer" Spring Reception sponsored by His Eminence Metropolitan Anthony of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco, the Philoptochos Board, Parishes and Chapters. The beautiful reception was graciously hosted at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Chacopulos. Mrs. Chacopulos has served as Chair of the Spring Reception since 1996. The spirit of philanthropy moved everyone present.

This year's reception honored the contributions of prior Southern California hosts: Dr. & Mrs. Michael Patzakis, Mr. & Mrs. John Haretakis, Mr. & Mrs. Peter Karagines, Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Bissias, Mr. & Mrs. Van Pappas, Mr. & Mrs. Demetrios Georgantopoulos, Mr. & Mrs. Nikiforos Valaskantzis, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Mallis, Ms. Arianna Huffington, Mr. & Mrs. Gus Christopoulos, Dr. & Mrs. James Kallins, and Mr. & Mrs. Gerry Ranglas.

The bountiful success of this Ministry was the result of the labors of love offered by the Philoptochos Chapters and Parishes in the Metropolis spanning across seven Western states, including Alaska and Hawaii.

Regional Camp Agape programs are currently held in Dunlap, CA, Portland, OR, and Seattle, WA. Future camps are being planned for Arizona and San Diego. Camp activities, such as water sports, Circus Day, arts and crafts, Greek Day, a computer laboratory and other creative and expressive opportunities nourish the children's spiritual, emotional and physical health. Camp Agape is a family experience that provides a joyful learning environment through life-enhancing and positive activities. The camp develops self-esteem and confidence in a safe and trusting environment. It is an opportunity to socialize and reaffirm independence. Many camps hold an annual tree-planting ceremony commemorating former campers who have passed away.

The Ministry also supports the Oncology Transportation Fund in Honolulu, HI. Many children diagnosed with cancer are not from Honolulu and must fly from their own islands as often as several times per week for treat-



St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church in Irvine, CA, presents "Festival of Hearts" fundraiser proceeds to Metropolitan Anthony to benefit the Kids 'N' Cancer Ministry. Pictured (L-R): Valerie Roumeliotes (Metropolis Philoptochos President), Rev. Fr. Stephen Tsihchlis (Protopresbyter of St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church), His Eminence Metropolitan Anthony, Mr. & Mrs. George Chacopulos (Kids 'N' Cancer Chairman & Hosts), Ron Tedesco (St. Paul's Parish Council Member), Denise & Bill Lekas (Co-Chairs of St. Paul's Festival of Hearts).



2004 Kids 'n' Cancer Steering Committee: L-R, Row 1: Patty Chacopulos (Chairman), Marina Kookootsedes, Diana Jianas. Row 2: Tula Gallanes, Stacia Counelis, Jenny Doumak. Row 3: Joyce Cowden, Kiki Xanthos, Amelia Ladas. Row 4: Kathy Gabriel, Lisa Xanthos. Row 5: Christine Peratis, Connie Cooper, Jeannie Ranglas. Row 6: Gail Thomas, Mary Gikas. (Not pictured: Joan Pohas, Susan Patzakis, Mary O'Hanian, Connie Ralph and Sophie Mastor.)

ment. The Fund relieves this tremendous financial hardship for these families.

The Ministry has recently expanded to assist children with other life-threatening diseases with programs such as the "Agape Bear Care Program," which enables contributors donating \$25 to give a special gift to a child. Philoptochos and FedEx have partnered to use the donations by sending Agape Bears, blankets and baskets to a child afflicted with

AIDS. The baskets include necessities requested by the family that the hospital cannot provide.

The National Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society is the largest Christian women's philanthropic organization in North and South America. If you would like to make a donation to "Kids 'n' Cancer," please contact Mrs. Patty Chacopulos through the Metropolis Philoptochos Office at 415-431-2600.

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C. Peter Stath

C. Peter Stath Passes Away

C. Peter "Gus" Stath, Past Supreme Treasurer of the Order of AHEPA, passed away on April 19, 2004. In addition to serving the AHEPA as a two-term Supreme Treasurer, a Supreme Governor and a District Governor, he was named "Ahepan of the Year" at the 2003 Supreme Convention in Scottsdale, AZ.

Gus was born on November 12, 1916. He was very active in St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church in Chandler, AZ, and he was on the current Parish Council. He was president of the Tri-City AHEPA Chapter in Chandler for many years, where he brought in more than 50 members.

"We are saddened to learn of the passing of Brother C. Peter Stath who served the AHEPA for 41 years," said AHEPA Supreme President A. Jack Georgalas. "He was a dedicated Ahepan and an asset to the community in which he served. Brother Stath will be missed by all of us who cherished his presence and contributions at the national level. May his memory be eternal."

His wife has asked that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made in C. Peter Stath's memory to the St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church Building Fund, c/o St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church, 2716 North Dobson Road, Chandler, AZ 85224.



The Fontainebleau Hotel in Miami

AHEPA Returns to Miami's Fontainebleau

The 2004 AHEPA Supreme Convention will return to the friendly confines of the Fontainebleau Hilton Resort & Spa, in Miami Beach, FL, July 18-25, announced AHEPA Supreme President A. Jack Georgalas.

"The Fontainebleau is such a natural venue for our delegates and their families because of all it has to offer as a resort," said Georgalas. "We're excited about our return there especially because it has undergone renovations since our last time there."

A wide range of activities from water sports to relaxing at the spa to "Kid's Cove," a fully supervised program for kids aged five to 12

that provides them with arts and crafts and a variety of games, awaits guests of the Fontainebleau. Also, the Fontainebleau's famous tropical pool now has added an "Octopus Water Playland" for kids of all ages.

The renowned landmark hotel hosted the AHEPA family three times in the 1980s and again in 1995. It is located in the midst of 20 lush tropical acres overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Also, there are 12 venues for dining and entertainment available to hotel guests.

For reservations, call the Fontainebleau Hotel at 305-538-2000. Rooms are available for \$149 a night plus tax.



The Fontainebleau Hotel's Octopus Water Playland.

Snowe Urges Bush to Remain Engaged in Reunification of Cyprus

A long-time advocate on behalf of the Greek-American community, U.S. Senator Olympia J. Snowe (R-Maine) urged President Bush to remain "fully and actively engaged in the reunification negotiations for the island of Cyprus." Snowe, who is the first Greek-American woman elected to the U.S. Congress, petitioned President Bush to explore avenues to the reunification of Cyprus when he meets with Greek Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis at the White House.

On April 24, 2004, Greek-Cypriots rejected a plan proposed by United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan outlining steps for the reunification of the divided island. The Bush Administration signaled its support for the Annan Plan, and has been resoundingly in favor of the reunification of Cyprus.

Prior to the Cyprus vote, Snowe contacted President Bush outlining her shared concerns

of Greek-Cypriots and Greek-Americans with the Annan Plan. Snowe since applauded President Bush's continued efforts to resolve the Cyprus issue, highlighting the official meeting of President Bush and Greek Prime Minister Karamanlis.

Snowe said, "I want to extend my appreciation to President Bush for his steadfast commitment to facilitate a solution to this pressing matter, The Greek Cypriots rejection of the proposed plan should not be interpreted as a vote against reunification, but rather as an important statement by the people about fundamental principles that must be addressed in any viable and workable settlement. The Government of Cyprus and the Greek Cypriot community have emphasized that they are rightly committed to the reunifying Cyprus as a bizonal, bicomunal federation with democratic and human rights

for all Cypriots. I continue to urge President Bush to remain engaged in efforts to resolve the Cyprus problem, and to work toward a fair and lasting reunification of Cyprus."

On May 1, 2004, the Republic of Cyprus ascended to full membership into the European Union (EU).

"While the Annan Plan was deeply flawed, placing an unfair burden on Greek-Cypriots, I remain resolute that the failure of this avenue for reunification will not be the end of the road. I am committed to the just reunification of the island of Cyprus, and will continue to rightly highlight and garner support for this critical issue at the highest levels of the U.S. Government," stated Snowe.

Snowe, along with Senator Paul Sarbanes (D-MD), are the only Greek-Americans serving in the U.S. Senate.

Castillo and Tower of Power Keep the Energy Level High

They may have over 30 years of recording and touring experience behind them, but Oakland's own legendary Tower of Power is still tight as a clenched fist, and funky as week old meat. Believe it and let the music heal your wounded soul... or at least move your feet.

Melding jazz, funk, rock and soul in a way no other group ever has, Tower of Power was a key part of Warner Brother Records' dynasty in the 1970s, storming the charts with tunes such as "What is Hip?" and "You're Still a Young Man."

After touring with Sly Stone and Creedence Clearwater Revival, they created traffic jams when they started to headline their own shows. Their performances on records with the likes of Elton John, Smokey Robinson, Rod Stewart and Dionne Warwick, along with their own landmark albums, influenced a generation of musicians (including Sting, who told Emilio Castillo, founder of the group, that he once had a "Tower of Power clone band" before he formed The Police).

Tower of Power's story began with bandleader Castillo, born half-Greek and half-Mexican in Detroit, moving with his family to a working class neighborhood in Fremont in the San Francisco Bay Area when he was 11. The move was initially difficult for him.

"I didn't have any friends," he recalled. "The radio was my friend."

Castillo often attended St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in San Jose and Ascension Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Oakland. "I bounced between the Catholic Church and the Greek Orthodox Church," he said. "I was claiming to be Greek Orthodox more than Catholic."

"I recently renewed my relationship with Fr. (Thomas J.) Paris in Oakland when my brother was married there recently," he said. "Fr. Paris performed my marriage



Tower of Power

service in 1975.

"My wife is Mexican and she cooks me Greek food," he added.

Castillo's interest in performing music started when he was in his teens, soon after he and his brother tried to steal a muscleman t-shirt at Mervyn's. His father was furious, telling his sons in a moment of anger that they should "never come out of your room as long as you live."

A cousin felt sorry for the grounded brothers and brought Emilio a guitar from Mexico, and also gave a drum set to his brother. (He is now a programmer in charge of security worldwide for Sysco.)

Together, the brothers started a band. "We played rock and roll for a couple of years," Castillo said. "Then I saw a band called The Spy, a soul band with a horn section."

As a result, at the age of 17, Castillo formed a band called the Motowns, performing obscure soul tunes on the East Bay circuit. In 1968, he hooked up with baritone saxophonist Stephen "The Funky Doctor" Kupka and the two

moved to a house in Oakland, determined to compete with the Bay Area's reigning psychedelic rock bands. He changed the group's name to Tower of Power and discarded the sharkskin suits and razor-cut hairdos, but kept the sound and began writing original material with Kupka.

"Doc was the strangest bird I'd ever met," Castillo recalls. "He loved soul music and that was my passion.... we clicked immediately."

Out of their partnership came the beginnings of the Tower of Power repertoire. The first song the pair penned was the band's signature classic, "You're Still a Young Man."

The group was soon a fixture in the Bay Area music scene, and in 1970, cut their first record, "East Bay Grease," for the legendary Bill Graham's San Francisco Records.

Tower of Power was signed to "a huge contract" in 1976, but that proved to create problems for the band. "It was a foolish move to move to Columbia Records," said Castillo. "They didn't know what to do with us. No matter what we

did, we still sounded like Tower of Power."

The band soon lost its contract and "addictions were catching up with us. All we could do is play live."

But playing live concerts is just what the band needed. "We started to be us again," Castillo said. "We turned things around, wised up and got better spiritually and morally. Now we don't waver."

Now, Tower of Power is experiencing a renaissance, touring most of every year and packing venues in the United States, Japan and all over Europe with its audience of new and old fans. It has been a long road, but lately, things just keep getting better and better

Their new album, "Oakland Zone," is pure Tower of Power at its all-time best, featuring the prodigal return of David Garibaldi, Tower's original drummer. Garibaldi's return reunites him with bassist Rocco Prestia, to recreate Tower of Power's original, mind-blowingly tight rhythm section. Tower is also joined by

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National Shrine Celebrates 236th Landing Of First Greek Colony

The St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine will celebrate the 236th anniversary of the landing of the first Greek Colony in the New World, on June 26 and 27, 2004, in Saint Augustine, FL. The Annual Greek Landing Day Celebration commemorates the historic occasion when the first colony of Hellenes landed in America.

On June 26, 1768, 400 Greeks arrived in Florida to establish a new colony in New Smyrna. Following the demise of the colony, the remaining Greeks fled on foot to St. Augustine, where they were welcomed. It was in the Avero House where the Greeks would gather to conduct worship services. The Avero House was purchased by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America in 1966 and dedicated as the St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine in 1982.

Greek Landing Day Celebration 2004 will include Divine Liturgy and Memorial Services at the magnificent St. Photios Chapel and a festival celebration. Following Services on Saturday, June 26, the Opening Ceremony will get underway in the St. Photios Shrine Constantine Sisters Courtyard. The celebration will continue with Greek food, refreshments, gifts items and live music. Greek dancers from throughout the local area will perform folk dances.

The St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine is dedicated to the first colony of Greek people who came to America in 1768. It is a living memorial to those first settlers and to all the Greek Orthodox pioneers whose love of freedom and desire for a better life for themselves and

their children brought them to this New World. The Shrine consists of exhibits depicting the life of early Greeks in America, and the St. Photios Chapel. The Shrine is located on 41 St. George Street in historic downtown St. Augustine.

Additional information is available through the St. Photios National Shrine, P.O. Box 1960, St. Augustine, FL 32085, (904) 829-8205, info@StPhotios.com.

Zapopan, Mexico Dedicates First Annual Cultural Festival to Greece

MARCH 22, 2004, Zapopen, Jalisco, Mexico - When the leaders of this beautiful and historic city of 1.4 million near Guadalajara decided that they would begin dedicating their traditional festival to a different culture each year, few might have guessed they would start with faraway Greece – but according to its mayor, the Hon. Arturo Zamora Jimenez, the choice was obvious.

Mayor Jimenez said as much during a private meeting after receiving SAE Vice President and Regional Coordinator for North and South America, Chris P. Tomaras, noting that many of the city's leading businesspersons and leaders were Hellenes, descendants of Greeks from all over Greece who came to Zapopan at the turn of the century. The mayor then hosted an official City Hall Banquet honoring Tomaras who, as a guest of the mayor, visited the city to Inaugurate the Greek Cultural Week. Responding to the mayor's warm words of welcome at the banquet, Tomaras thanked the mayor and his administration for choosing Greece first and honoring SAE by inviting it to participate. He also recognized Mexico as having a culture just as ancient, rich, and accomplished, although quite different than that of Greece, and sharing many of the same values. At the banquet, the Mayor and Tomaras planted a ceremonial olive tree as a symbol of friendship and harmony between the two cultures and peoples. Then, to the strains of violins, choral offerings and bilingual shouts of "Viva Grecia y Mexico!" and "Zito Ellas!," Tomaras proudly inaugurated the "Somana de Grecia on Zapopan" by cutting its ribbon with the mayor.

The next day, Tomaras joined Clara Cisneros and Beatriz Acra for the presentation of a new book, "Olympia!," written by Greek author Eli Hemke. In his remarks, Tomaras cited the new book which, though written in Greek, was well received by the people of Zapopan. He met with the Hon. Consul of Cyprus, George Nikolaou, exchanging updates on a possible resolution of the situation there, and SAE's continued efforts on Cyprus' behalf.

Tomaras held a meeting with the leaders of the local omogenia: Dora Fafoutis and German Rallis of the Circuld Helargdo, as well as Panos Lambros, president of the Casa Halanica do Guadalajara and Kyrlakoa Dragonas. He also met with Juan Frangie, who heads Zapopan's business leaders, Raul Padilla Lopez and others, discussing opportunities and mutual support efforts. The next day, nearly 200 people celebrated Greece's March 25 Independence Day early at German Rallis' "Agias Angelas" Taverna.

Tomaras also met with Zapopan's Luz Elena Frangie, who heads Its Sister Cities program and is actively seeking that official relationship with Thessaloniki. Tomaras assured Frangie he would promote the relationship at every opportunity.

Orthodox Parish Directory Available

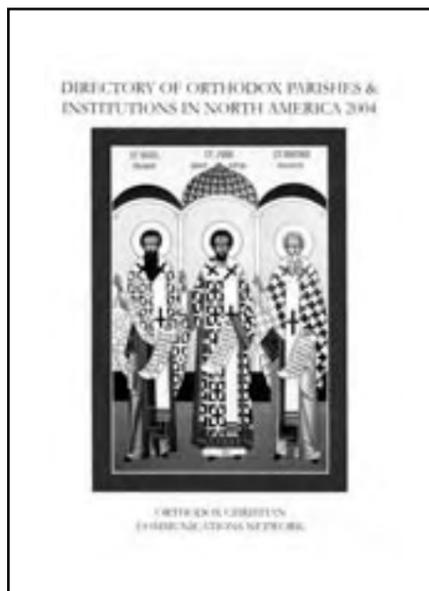
For the first time, a Directory of Orthodox Parishes and Institutions of all the member jurisdictions of the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA) is available. This 2004 Directory has been endorsed by SCOBA.

Praising this noteworthy effort, Archbishop Demetrios, the Chairman of SCOBA, stated, "It is with great enthusiasm and love that I, on behalf of all the Hierarchs convey our blessings and endorsement of the Directory."

The Directory has been prepared by the Orthodox Christian Communications Network, headed by Philip Tamoush of Torrance, CA, and is published by Light & Life Publications of Minneapolis, MN.

The Directory contains the name and address of each parish, as well as listings of camps, seminaries, monastic communities, shrines and an alphabetical index of all priests. With 208 pages in letter-size format, the book is perfect bound and has over 2,500 listings. Though privately financed, 50% of all proceeds will assist the work of SCOBA.

The 2004 Directory may be ordered for \$9.95, plus \$2.50 postage and handling, from: OCCNET, P.O. Box 1128, Torrance, CA 90505-0128. Trade discounts are available, as are discounts on 10 or more copies to one address. For additional information call (800) 747-9245 or e-mail festal@juno.com.



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Hellenic American Veterans' Memorial Planned

"The Hellenic American Veterans' Memorial will serve as a testament of the value that the Greek-American Community places on its heritage, its identity and on the contribution of its people to the freedom of our country," said Louis M. Eleopoulos, Project Chairman. "The obvious purpose for building the Veterans Memorial is to express the gratitude and admiration of the Greek-American community to our Hellenic descendent and Philhellenic veterans.

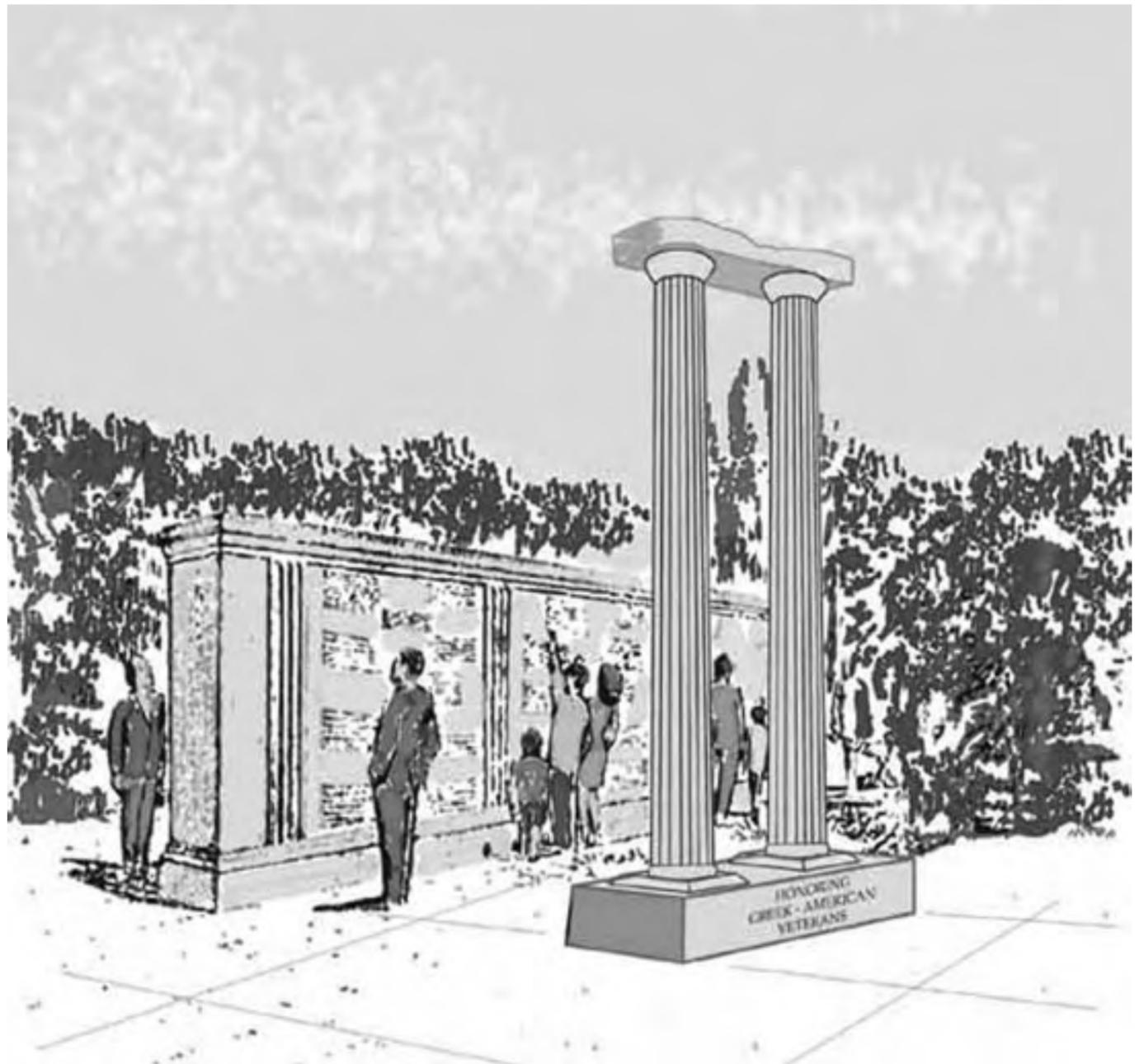
"The underlying motive of the Memorial is found in its educational and cultural value," Eleopoulos added. "The Memorial promotes one of many aspects of Hellenism and creates an awareness among the general populace. Often overlooked is the fact that the courage and willingness of our people to defend the principles our ancestors created, cherished and defended are the principles that form the foundation of our country.

"The love of freedom and democracy and the courage to fight and even die for it is as much a part of Hellenism as any other trait our ancestors gave Western Civilization. The contribution of our people to the freedom of America is consistent with this trait and is an important part of Greek-American history. This contribution must be documented and passed on to future generations before it, and a part of Hellenism itself, is lost. Our Memorial will document this contribution in a fitting and impressive manner and serve as an everlasting reminder for all to see."

The Hellenic American Veterans Memorial is an AHEPA-sponsored project that will honor Hellenic American and Philhellenic Veterans with a Grecian Monument and Wall of Honor in the Washington, D.C. area. Those eligible to be listed in the Wall of Honor are living or deceased Greek-Americans – as well as other supporters of the Greek-American community (Philhellenes) – who served in the military of the United States during any era including time



Greek-American battalions and companies have fought together on the field of battle ever since the Civil War.



Proposed design of the Hellenic American Veterans' Memorial

of war or peace, active duty or active reserve, from the Revolutionary War to the present. For a tax deductible registration donation of \$100, the name of each veteran will be permanently engraved on the Wall of Honor. A Certificate of Registration will be issued to the honoree or donor. Those who do not have a veteran to register may make a donation in any amount to the General Donation Fund.

The cost of the project is estimated to range from \$400,000 to \$1 million depending largely on whether or not the purchase of property is involved and to what extent the services of professionals are needed in the approval process. The project will be funded with money from two sources: general donations and the \$100 veterans' registration donations. Both types are tax deductible and both are in separate bank accounts. The purpose for having separate accounts is that all operating and promotional expenses are funded by general donations. Money received for the veterans' registration will be used only for the site approval process and construction of the Memorial.

Individuals, organizations and corporations are encouraged to become sponsors. Sponsorship begins at \$100 and donations can be made in installments to attain various donation levels.

"While donations will sustain our efforts, the major source of funding will be the \$100 veterans' registration donation," Eleopoulos explained. "The method of raising money by engraving a name on a wall of honor is not unfamiliar to the AHEPA. This method proved highly successful in AHEPA's support for the Ellis Island Restoration Project. The HAVM Committee is using the same method. Not

only is it effective, but, equally important, it also avoids placing a burden on chapters or organizations that lack finances or the means of raising large amounts of money."

In addition to its proven success, this method is a sound approach as the number of eligible veterans is in its favor. "Our estimates put the number of Greek-American veterans at over 200,000," Eleopoulos said. "If only a fraction of these veterans submit the registration donation, enough money will have been raised to build the Memorial. In the AHEPA alone there are 10,000 or more veterans."

More than 200 veterans have already been registered for the Wall of Honor; half are from the families of veterans, the other half are from the veterans themselves. Many other donations, including a grant from the AHEPA Educational Foundation have also been received.

For additional information, or to make a donation to the project, write to: Hellenic American Veterans Memorial Foundation, 2102 Knollwood Drive, Martinez, CA 94553; e-mail lou@ahpahvm.org; or visit www.ahpahvm.org.



Alexandros Ghanotakis Prepares for Olympics

After struggling for three years to work and train, followed by a two-year absence from the sport of track and field, Alexandros Ghanotakis of Tucson is back in a big way. With a new personal best of 62m, the 6'5", 275-lb. 2003 Greek National Discus Champion is on track to break the Greek National Discus Record and hit the Olympic Qualifying Standard which will earn him the chance to represent Greece in this summer's games in Athens.

Alex had a very successful college career. He earned All-American honors, won several individual Ivy League titles and was named Team Captain his senior year. "I was a big athletic guy with lots of potential," he said. "When coaches and athletes would watch me throw, they would say, 'Wow! When that kid figures out what he is doing, he is going to throw it a mile.'"

After graduating from Dartmouth College in 1997, Alex moved to California to pursue his athletic goals and realize his dream of competing in an Olympics. Training was his priority and throwing the discus as far as possible was his goal. Not long after his arrival in California, faced with



Alexandros Ghanotakis

the reality of more than \$20,000 in college loans, the necessity to support himself, and the internal and external pressures he felt in pursuing a career, Alex accepted a job at Oracle Corporation selling software. "I thought I could do it all – train intensely and begin a career," he explained.

Alex is an individual committed to excellence in whatever endeavor he undertakes. His career was no exception. In the competitive environment of computer software sales, Alex was given a quota and was set loose on a new territory.

"I had to produce in order to keep my job," he said. "I had to keep my job in order to support myself so that I could keep training and working toward my dream of making an Olympic team."

Unfortunately, as the demands

of his job increased, more and more of his time and energy were consumed. His focus began to shift away from training. "It became increasingly more difficult to do it all and my throwing suffered. When I picked my head up three years later, my throwing was going nowhere and work was my priority."

In the summer of 2000, Alex made the decision to retire from throwing. In the months that followed, he was miserable.

"I told myself that it had been a good effort but it was time to move on," he recalled. "I was only lying to myself."

Alex realized that although he had trained very hard and spent a lot of time in the process, he never truly gave himself the chance to realize his potential. "At the very core, I was unhappy

and felt incredibly unfulfilled," he said.

The goal of competing for Greece was still a very real goal for him. "There is something very special about throwing the discus in an Olympics for Greece," he explained.

With the Olympics taking place in Greece, the stars seemed to be aligning. For a period of almost two years, this constantly hung over Alex's head. He found no peace.

Finally, Alex woke up one Sunday morning in April 2002 and knew with a certainty and clarity he had never experienced before that he had to start training again. "I realized that I have my whole life to work, but only a brief window of opportunity to compete at an elite level," he said.

Alex went into the office the very next morning and quit his job. The following day, he was out at the track training.

Alex spends seven months out of the year living and training in Tucson where he is a member of the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church and AHEPA Chapter 257. As a member of the Greek National Team and a Greek Olympic hopeful, Alex spends the other five months of the year in Athens where he trains and competes. The son of Anestis and Natalie Ghanotakis, he is originally from Arlington, MA. He graduated from Arlington High School where he was the Massachusetts State Discus Champ and a member of the school's symphony orchestra.

The Ghanotakis family has been active in the Greek Orthodox Community in Boston for many years. Alex and his family were members of the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Lexington, MA, where he, his brother and sister were baptized, attended Sunday school and Greek school, and where the brothers served as altar boys for many years.



**Our Columnist
Yiayia Xeriola will
be rejoining us
next month.**

In our July issue...



George Barris, the King of Custom Cars



The Greek Orthodox Mission of South

also Penelope House & a few surprises.



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Ersi Danou Writes, Directs 'A Sea Apart'

Eleni dreams each night of freedom, beauty and romance, waking up each morning to the American reality of children, husband and restaurant work. Today, however, she awakens to find her dream standing right in front of her when her adolescent love has unexpectedly come to sweep her away. Eleni's dilemma takes us on a journey from Greek Los Angeles to one of the most traditional places in the world, a remote village in the island of Karpathos, as she struggles to find herself amongst the demands of her husband, George, her daughter, Nikki, and her now-grown friend, Aris.

Eleni's story is intertwined with that of one who has just begun to dream – Sofia's fascination with a young Greek-American tourist visiting her Greek island leads her to a place much like Eleni's. Their stories are parallel, yet they remain... a sea apart.

"A Sea Apart" is a story of nostalgia, desire for a past time and place clashing with reality, the forces of the "here" and "now." It sketches the journey of a woman as she heartbreakingly – though willingly – makes a hard choice.

Ersi Danou was born in Athens, Greece, and studied film directing at New York University and the American Film Institute. Since 1993, she has been a Hollywood correspondent for *Cinema*, a Greek publication, and in 2000, she became a member of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association. Her short film, "My Name is Anna," earned first prize at the Drama Festival in Greece in 1990, and her documentary, "It Was Another Drapetsona," was broadcast nationally in Greece (1996). "A Sea Apart" is her first feature film. She lives in Los Angeles.

An Interview with Writer/Director Ersi Danou

What are your goals through the film?

"The state of nostalgia and uprootedness, of one who longs to return to one's birthplace while leading a double existence – has interested me for a long time. Not only because I myself have experienced it, but also because a character that is torn and tried by strong desires and dreams of a lost past or future has an irresistible appeal to me. Then, the way such a character finally overcomes (or not) the predicament he set for himself, the way he frees himself from the beautiful web of dreams... If only I have managed to touch upon these issues, I'm satisfied."

Are we always captive of our obligations? Is it possible to reach "Ithaca" though we choose to compromise?

"On the contrary, I believe that 'Ithaca,' in the sense of the chimera, is what leads us to compromise. A dream, however beautiful, leads us away from truth. And only truth can liberate us from compromise."

Do the heroes of your film seem to idealize the past because what is lost always appears better, or do they sincerely miss something?

"It is impossible not to miss what is lost. But the sense of loss becomes greater when our life is poor and unexciting and there is nothing to fill in the gap; when we fail to recognize that what is lost gives way to the new."

Is the eros real or do the characters think that so that each can escape a sense of impasse in their lives?

"I don't see Eleni and Aris as individuals who have a sense of impasse and consciously try to escape from it. The man, just like the woman, genuinely believes that what he desires is right there, within his reach. They do not necessarily realize that their eros gives form to their deeper feelings of nostalgia."

So does Greece wound you whether you live there or keep at a distance?

"Greece nurtures and wounds me at the same time... because I love her."

Is the story autobiographical then?

"The story and the plot are not autobiographical. I don't come from an island and no adolescent love came to America for me. However, I did go through a time of intense nostalgia for the land and the culture I left behind, out of which 'A Sea Apart' was born."

Editors Note: Those of you active in the greater Los Angeles Greek-American community should recognize a few faces and places in the film.



Tamilla Kulieva stars in the leading role of Eleni.



Writer/Director Ersi Danou gets input for a scene.



Ioanna Pappa plays Sofia.

Resurrection of Christ Cathedral in Albania Receives Prestigious Architectural Design Award

The Resurrection of Christ Orthodox Cathedral of the Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Albania, headed by His Beatitude Archbishop Anastasios, earned top honors in the 2004 Society of American Registered Architects, California Chapter Design Awards in Temecula, California, on April 24th.

The site of the new cathedral, located in downtown central Tirana, is presently being excavated to accommodate the new buildings. The project includes a modern Byzantine cathedral, chapel, synod building and bell tower on a raised plaza encompassing one city block.

The "Blue Ribbon Classical" design was a result of an International Design Competition in January 2002, sponsored by the Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Albania and included nine invited architects participating from the United States, Greece and Albania. The President of Judging Committee was His Beatitude Archbishop Anastasios. The judges included Dr. George Glavvas, Professor Emeritus – University of Athens; Professor Ioannis Polizou, Dean, School of Architecture, University of Athens; Zoe Karamanou, Head of

Thessaloniki School of Architecture; Professor Thalia Panayiotopoulou, Department of Fine Arts, University of Thessaloniki; Daniel Gjoni, Supervisor of Urbanization, Tirana; Professor Andreas Malikari, Department of Architecture, Tirana; Architect Arton Skrelli, Institute of Monuments of Albania; Professor Konstantinos Papaioannou; and architect Pirro Thomo.

The jury selected the design presented by Papadatos Partnership LLP of New York City. Steven Papadatos presented his design theory to the jury. "We are in the 21st century," he explained. "If the Byzantines possessed our technology, I'm certain their creativity would have resulted in somewhat similar results."

The cathedral, designed with four stone buttresses forming a cross, is integrated with a 136-foot-diameter structure capable of seating 800 persons on the nave level and balcony.

Ninety feet above the nave, an impressive 86-foot-diameter dome silhouettes against the skyline of Tirana, pierced with 52 windows in the drum, representing the 52 weeks in the year. The approach of additional daylight was developed by a unique sky-



The Resurrection of Christ Orthodox Cathedral of the Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Albania

light system creating four segments forming a cross-shaped configuration in the same axis of the stone buttresses with the pantocrator in the center.

As Papadatos explained, "The dome represents the heavens, so why not be able to see the clouds and heavens while praying.

"The dome was designed with the same profile of St. Sophia," he added.

Seven windows have been designed in the apse, represent-

ing the seven sacraments of the Orthodox Christian Church.

"There are significant traditional influences in the 21st century design such as approaching the ultimate goals in acoustical design, similar to the past century's, a technology which is better than what we have today," Papadatos concluded.

The lower level of the cathedral is being designed with a state-of-the-art conference center with
(continued on page 22)

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The Hellenic Calendar

Arizona

Tuesday, June 15, 2004 – Phoenix

Pentecost BBQ

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral will host this event following 5 p.m. Vespers. For more information, call 602-867-3102.

June 18-19, 2004 – Flagstaff

Greek Orthodox Retreat

The Greek Orthodox Mission of Northern Arizona will sponsor this religious retreat, focusing on "Orthodox Salvation" and "Marriage," at the Catholic Newman Center. The workshops will be conducted by Father Dan Suci. For more information, call the church office at 928-774-8279 or visit www.gomona.org.

June 20-25, 2004 – Pinetop

All Saints Camp

The Arizona Council of Eastern Orthodox Churches will host this Pan-Orthodox summer camp for youth and families at Camp Wilderness. For more information, call 480-945-5600.

Sunday, August 15, 2004 – Flagstaff

Greek Orthodox Mission Summer Picnic

The Greek Orthodox Mission of Northern Arizona will sponsor this event. For more information, call the church office at 928-774-8279 or visit www.gomona.org.

Saturday, November 6, 2004 – Lake Havasu City

St. Peter the Aleut Greek Festival

St. Peter the Aleut Orthodox Church will host this event, featuring Greek music and dancing, and Greek foods and pastries, under the London Bridge from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Southern California

Saturday, June 5, 2004 – Los Angeles

A Women's Health and Wellness Symposium

His Eminence Metropolitan Anthony, the Philoptochos Board, Loyola Marymount University and the Basil P. Caloyeras Center for Modern Greek Studies will present this seminar at Loyola Marymount, featuring presentations on critical women's health issues and challenges. For registration (\$30) or more information, call 310-544-1998.

June 5-6, 2004 – Downey

St. George Greek Festival

St. George Greek Orthodox Church will host this event, featuring Greek music and dancing, and Greek foods and pastries. For more information, call the church office at 562-862-6461.

June 11-13, 2004 – Camarillo

Ventura County Greek Festival

St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church will sponsor this event, featuring Greek music and dancing, Greek foods and pastries, church tours and imported goods, on church grounds, 400 Skyway Drive. For more information, call the church office at 805-482-1273.

June 12-13, 2004 – San Diego

St. Spyridon Greek Festival

St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church will host this event, featuring Greek music and dancing, and Greek foods and pastries, on church grounds, 3655 Park Boulevard. For more information, call the church office at 619-297-4165.

Wednesday, June 16, 2004 – Los Angeles

The Athens 2004 Olympic Torch Relay

The Olympic Torch Relay, which will take the Olympic flame from Ancient Olympia around the world before reaching Athens for the Opening Ceremony of the 2004 Games, will pass through this city, a former host of two Olympic Games. For more information, e-mail torchrelayinfo@athens2004.com.

June 16-19, 2004 – Berkeley

First Annual PAOI Summer Institute

The Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute will host this event, featuring three intensive courses taught by leading Orthodox theologians. Dr. Valerie Karras will teach "Women in the Church," Rev. Dr.

John Chryssavgis will teach "The Desert and the City," and Rev. Dr. Patrick Viscuso will present "Working with the Law of the Church." The complete program costs \$100. For more information, call PAOI at 510-649-3450 or e-mail avrame@gtu.edu.

Saturday, June 19, 2004 – San Juan Capistrano

Greek Orthodox Mission's One-Year Anniversary Celebration

The Greek Orthodox Mission of South Orange County will host this event, featuring mezedakia, dinner, desserts, drinks and dancing to Greek music, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Dafnis, 29542 Spotted Bull Lane. Tickets are \$20 for adults. Children (ages 17 and under) are admitted free. For more information, visit www.gomsoc.org.

Monday, June 21, 2004 – Rancho Santa Margarita

St. Paul's 13th Annual Golf Classic

St. Paul Greek Orthodox Church will host this event at Tijeras Creek Golf Course. The \$250 entry fee includes 18 holes, range balls, putting contest, golf shirt, BBQ lunch, beverages, no-host cocktail party, raffle and prizes. For more information, call 714-343-7139 or 949-583-0441.

June 24-27, 2004 – Pasadena

District 20 AHEPA Convention

The Pasadena AHEPA Family will host this weekend of deliberations and social events headquartered at the Pasadena Hilton. For more information, visit www.ahepa20.org. (See page 1 for article.)

July 9-11, 2004 – Redondo Beach

South Bay Greek Festival

St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church will host this event, featuring Greek music and dancing, and Greek foods and pastries, on church grounds, 722 Knob Hill. For more information, call the church office at 310-540-2434 or visit www.sbgreekfestival.com.

July 11-31, 2004 – Dunlap

St. Nicholas Ranch Summer Camp – Three Sessions

This Greek Orthodox summer youth camp, with the theme "From Creeds to Deeds," will feature horseback riding, archery, roping and canoeing. For more information, visit www.stnicholasranch.org/summercamp.htm.

July 26-30, 2004 – San Diego

"Lava Lava Island"

St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church, 3655 Park Boulevard, will host its Third Annual Vacation Bible School. For more information, call the church office at 619-297-4165.

July 31 – August 1, 2004 – Santa Barbara

St. Barbara Greek Festival

St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church will host this event, featuring Greek music and dancing, and Greek foods and pastries, at Oak Park (take Pueblo exit from Highway 101 and follow the signs). For more information, call the church office at 805-683-4492.

August 1-14, 2004 – Camp Seely (near Crestline)

Saint Sophia Camp and Retreat

Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral will host retreats at Camp Seely in the San Bernardino Mountains (www.laparks.org/dos/camps/seely.htm). For more information, call the cathedral office at 323-737-2424 or visit www.stsophia.org.

August 20-22, 2004 – Covina

St. Nectarios Greek Festival

St. Nectarios Greek Orthodox Church will host this event, featuring Greek music and dancing, and Greek foods and pastries, on church grounds, 20340 East Covina Boulevard. For more information, call the church office at 626-967-5524.

Thursday, September 2, 2004 – Redondo Beach

St. Katherine Golf Tournament

St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church will host this event. For more information, call the church office at 310-540-2434.

September 4-6, 2004 – Long Beach

Assumption Greek Festival

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church will
(continued on page 14)

Nia Vardalos Returns in 'Connie and Carla'...

(continued from page 1)

ing famous is their dream come true – who cares if it includes a tiny little lie? – but trying to keep their secret turns out to be a real drag, especially when Connie meets Jeff (David Duchovny), a real nice guy she'd really like to be a real girl with.

"Connie and Carla" is the comedy that proves if you follow your dream, there's no telling what you'll become.

Nia Vardalos, the Oscar-nominated writer and star of "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," the highest grossing romantic comedy and independent film of all time, and the fifth highest grossing film of 2002, follows up that smash hit with the new comedy "Connie and Carla," again in double roles as both screenwriter and star (as well as Executive Producer). Starring alongside Vardalos is Academy Award and Tony-nominee Toni Collette ("About a Boy," "The Sixth Sense"), and a multifaceted cast that includes Stephen Spinella (Tony winner for Broadway's "Angels in America"), Dash Mihok (Baz Luhrmann's "William Shakespeare's Romeo + Juliet"), Alec Mapa (Broadway's "M. Butterfly") and David Duchovny ("Evolution," "The XFiles").

Heading the team bringing Vardalos' script to the screen is television comedy veteran Michael Lembeck, who scored a hit with his feature film directorial debut, "The Santa Clause 2." Spyglass Entertainment's Roger Birnbalm, Gary Barber and Jonathan Glickman serve as producers. Vardalos, Rita Wilson ("My Big Fat Greek Wedding") and Peter Safran ("My Baby's Daddy") serve as executive producers.

About the Production

"When My Big Fat Greek Wedding started getting noticed," Nia Vardalos recalls, "people began knocking on my door asking, 'What else do you have?' Of course, I said, 'Hey, I have this script in my drawer about two women who hide out as drag queens.'"

Turns out that "script in my drawer" was a charmer about two women, starry-eyed dreamers named Connie and Carla, who, through a combination of maintaining a positive outlook in the face of less than glowing reviews and working tirelessly at their craft,



Jeff (David Duchovny) meets the real Connie (Nia Vardalos) in "Connie and Carla."

finally get their big break in "the biz." And that is a scenario with which Vardalos is somewhat familiar.

"Oh yeah," she remembers, "when I started out, my phone wasn't exactly ringing off the hook with dealmakers looking for that funny Greek girl. Please. But like the classic story, I just kept at it. I really had to be my own cheerleader at times. It can be really tough, sometimes being the only person in your corner. But I believed. And I worked at whatever I could do. I had yard sales even! And I kept doing what I loved and drawing from my own experiences. I put it all into a play and the right people saw it... and then it happened."

Producer Jonathan Glickman, President of Spyglass Entertainment, was visiting family in Detroit when Vardalos' film was playing in theaters. His cousin had just seen "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" and was crazy about it. Lured by great word of mouth, Glickman watched the movie and liked what he saw.

Glickman recounts, "I'd heard some buzz on the picture. It had made about 10 million at that point, but people hadn't started talking about Nia... yet. I knew that Peter Safran represented her, so we all sat down and had a very nice meeting. She gave us her script for 'Connie and Carla' and as soon as I read it, I knew there was a great idea in there. I gave the script to Roger (Birnbalm) and Gary (Barber), and we decided to acquire the rights. Then, almost right after that, Nia became a big star."

When Vardalos was initially writing the script for "Connie and Carla," she did not set out to pen a film about drag queens, per se.

"I write like I talk," she says. "I open my mouth and things come out before my brain catches up. My original thinking was that it would be really fun to sing and dance in something, so I started writing about these two girls from Chicago who are dinner theater performers. They get fired from their jobs, they get evicted from their apartment, then they go to a bar, and finally they think things are looking up because they're dancing with two guys. And then I wrote 'and the two guys kiss.' I mean, what else could go wrong for these two girls? And then I thought, 'Wait a minute ... wouldn't it be funny if a drag show started and these two girls wanted to be in the show?' So I went back to the beginning and shifted the concept."

As she did with "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," the performer/writer drew from her own life and her lifelong love affair with musical theater in particular ("Just try and be in a bad mood while singing a show tune."). This inspired the title characters' own adoration of the genre. While growing up in Canada, Vardalos had performed in musicals while in high school, continuing to sing and dance in summer stock and later in dinner theater.

She remembers, "I was performing in 'Oklahoma' at a dinner theater in Toronto. We were waitressing and also in the show, so we would serve them dinner and chat with them and then we'd jump onstage and do the show. At intermission, we'd clear and bring dessert and then finish the show. I thought it was hilarious. I did the show and got to know the audience as I was clearing away their prime rib."

"Nia's script is funny and touching," says producer Roger Birnbalm who, along with Gary Barber, shares the titles of Co-Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Spyglass



Carla (Toni Collette) and Connie (Nia Vardalos) bring down the house.

Entertainment. "Of all the scripts that come across our desks every single day, this one just really stood out. And when you can break through the clutter with something like this, you go for it."

Producer Gary Barber continues, "Here was a project that was a great mix of genres—a little comedy, a little romance, some willful mistaken identity, some musical numbers. And at the heart of it all was Nia's voice, which is a great combination of self-deprecating humor leavened with an enormous amount of heart. It's never mean-spirited. It's a gentle, funny and, at times, raucous comedy, with all that other stuff in the mix as well. And together, it's all about belief and perseverance and dreams coming true. And did I mention that Nia can really, really sing?!"

Incorporating a large array of standards from the milestones of musical theater, Vardalos' script was truly a labor of love on many levels. She quips, "I just picked every song I've ever wanted to sing and wrote it into the movie. Connie and Carla isn't really a musical, it's a romantic comedy that has music in it."

Vardalos continues, "I believe that with comedy you make the audience laugh, but you also need to give them moments of poignancy, time to rest, absorb, before you hit them with the next laugh. In those moments of rest, you can actually slip in a message without hitting them over the head. I think the message here is really about acceptance of the other. It's about love, love of those that are a little different. We're all different and that's okay. Like with my family – they roast a lamb in the front yard... whatever!"

Because of its eclectic mix of genres, along with the music, choreography and elaborate costume, makeup and hair requirements, "Connie and Carla" needed a deft hand to bring it to the screen. "As fun as this script was to read, it was also a little bit difficult to visualize and we knew it was going to be a production that offered some challenges," explains Birnbalm.

The longtime comic device of characters pretending to be something else not only

(continued on page 13)

Nia Vardalos in 'Connie and Carla'...

(continued from page 12)

dovetails perfectly with the film's conceit of Connie and Carla impersonating female impersonators, but also provides an unexpected setting for the heart of the film and its message about self-acceptance. Connie and Carla disguise themselves as men, only to find that they become more deeply and profoundly in touch with their femininity. Their more flamboyant drag personas allow their talent to shine, while providing them with an opportunity to sound off (with perhaps a stronger voice than their own) about

such topics as body issues, the beauty industry and about what constitutes an honest and quality relationship between two people. However, trying to suppress their own femininity while adding a false layer of exaggerated male "femininity" – an idealized version of what a man thinks it is to act like a woman left the actresses just wanting to be girls again.

"When we were doing four weeks of shooting as drag queens every day, I missed being a girl," says Vardalos. "I was tired of wearing heavy makeup and



Nia Vardalos with director Michael Lembeck



Nia Vardalos

these gigantic wigs that I called fur hats."

In the course of their characters' on-screen arc to stardom, Vardalos and Collette have in excess of 40 hair, makeup and costume changes throughout the movie.

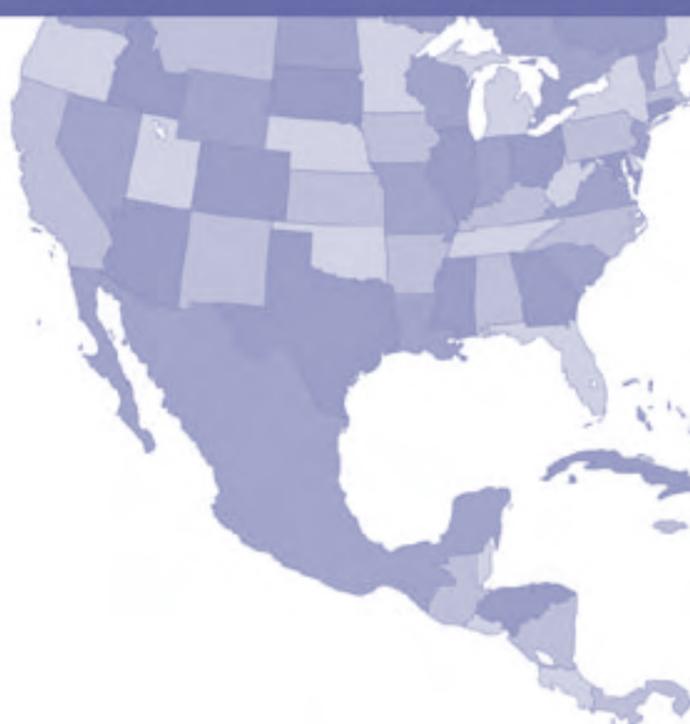
"When I came up with the idea of these women disguising themselves as drag queens, never in my wildest dreams did I realize what it would actually entail – like

three hours of makeup and hair everyday," Vardalos remembers.

"Then came the corsets, and then they'd sew us into our costumes because everything's got to be tight. You've got to feel like you're exploding out of it for it to 'fit!' On the weekends, I'd just lie on the couch in a loose cotton shift like a gelatinous blob," she laughingly adds.

HELLENIC CALENDAR.COM

A Schedule of Greek Events in North America





Tower of Power's recent release, "The Oakland Zone"

Tower of Power...

(continued from page 5)

new singer Larry Braggs, whom Emilio Castillo describes as "The best singer we've had since the '70s."

"Oakland Zone" is Tower of Power's first release for Or Music - but it is the 28th album released over their expansive career. And it's one of their best.

It has always been difficult to describe Tower of Power's blinding collage of soul, rock, funk and jazz. Even band members, when asked, give a myriad of responses.

"What Tower plays is urban soul music," Castillo explains. "I call it original soul music, funk, R&B. It's music that has emotion and energy, whether it's uptempo funk or a slow ballad."

And says former Tower saxophonist Lenny Pickett, now musical director for the "Saturday Night Live" television band, "Tower of Power is the world's greatest rhythm and blues band."

Growing from their prodigious East Bay beginnings to move on and record for Mo Ostin's legendary Warner Brothers powerhouse, the rest of Tower of Power's brilliant history - from "What is Hip?" to "Don't Change Horses (In the Middle of a Stream)" to "Soul Vaccination."

In 1991, the group made its first of a series of recordings for Epic/Sony, titled "Monster on a Leash." These were followed by two more studio recordings, "Souled Out" and "Rhythm & Business," as well as a live recording, "Soul Vaccination: Live!"

Even more recently, Tower released a two-CD retrospective on Rhino records, titled "What Is Hip?" In late 2001, Warner Brothers released a single CD retrospective, "Tower of Power: The Best of the Warner Years." Their

newest outing, "Oakland Zone," is the band's first studio album in more than five years.

When not in studio, Tower of Power tours constantly, crisscrossing the world, selling out shows at venues from rock halls and theatres to sheds and giant festivals. Staunch fans travel miles and hours to see them - some of those fans plan their vacations to coincide with Tower performances.

As if that wasn't enough, in between all those tour dates, the Tower of Power Horn Section has somehow found the time to guest on records for a very diverse group of artists from Michael Bolton to Phish.

Over the past few years, Tower of Power has added new members and a fresh outlook, but the band has always remained true to itself and to its soul music roots, never failing to please audiences.

Castillo is proudest of the longevity of the band. "We have an unbelievably loyal fan base," he said. "Times were tough in the early '80s. They stayed with us through the years. Many of our fans today are in their 20s. We cross the generation gap."

Even so, Tower of Power's unique sound continues to defy classification, and their influence generates a wide variety of opinions.

"Every five years they give us a different label," Castillo said. "They called us dinosaurs, legends, an institution. I expect in another five years, we will be doing more of the same. The music is all ours and we're very proud of it."

Castillo lives in Scottsdale, AZ and attends Greek festivals whenever he can.

The Hellenic Calendar

(continued from page 11)

host this event, featuring Greek music and dancing, and Greek foods and pastries, on church grounds, 5761 East Colorado Street. For more information, call the church office at 562-494-8929.

September 10-12, 2004 - Irvine

St. Paul Grecian Festival

St. Paul Greek Orthodox Church will host this event, featuring Greek music and dancing, and Greek foods and pastries, on church grounds, 4949 Alton Parkway. For more information, call the church office at 949-733-2366.

September 11-12, 2004 - Cardiff-by-the-Sea

Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Festival

Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church will host this event, featuring Greek music and dancing, and Greek foods and pastries, on church grounds, 3459 Manchester Avenue, #32. For more information, call the church office at 760-942-0920.

September 17-19, 2004 - Pasadena

St. Anthony's Greek Festival

St. Anthony's Greek Orthodox Church will host this event, featuring Greek music and dancing, and Greek foods and pastries, on church grounds, 778 South Rosemead Boulevard. For more information, call the church office at 626-449-6943.

Saturday, September 18, 2004 - Lancaster

Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Festival

Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church will host this event, featuring Greek music and dancing, and Greek foods and pastries. For more information, call the church office at 661-945-1212.

October 2-3, 2004 - Upland

St. Spyridon Greek Festival

St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church will host this event, featuring Greek music and dancing, and Greek foods and pastries, on church grounds, 1391 Chaffee Street. For more information, call the church office at 909-985-4411.

November 6-9, 2004 - Covina

Holy Consecration of St. Nectarios Greek Orthodox Church & Shrine

St. Nectarios Greek Orthodox Church, 20340 East Covina Boulevard, will host a weekend of events, including a Welcome and Youth Rally on Friday, Great Vespers on Saturday, the Holy Consecration Service and Banquet on Sunday, St. Nectarios Vesper Service on Monday, and St. Nectarios Feast Day on Tuesday. For more information, call the church office at 626-967-5524.

November 6-7, 2004 - El Cajon

St. Gregory Greek Festival

St. Gregory of Nyssa Greek Orthodox Church will host this event, featuring Greek music and dancing, and Greek foods and pastries, at the El Cajon Masonic Lodge, 695 Ballantyne. For more information, call the church office at 619-593-0707.

Nevada

September 16-19, 2004 - Las Vegas

St. John Greek Festival

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church will host this event, featuring Greek music and dancing, and Greek foods and pastries, on church grounds, 5300 South El Camino Road. For more information, call the church office at 702-221-8245.

New Mexico

Sunday, July 25, 2004 - Santa Fe

Prophet Elias Greek Festival

Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church will host this afternoon event, featuring Greek music and dancing, and Greek foods and pastries, on church grounds, 46 Calle Electra. For more information, call the church office at 505-466-0015.

Greek events throughout North America are listed at www.helleniccalendar.com

"BUILDING FAITH: UNITED IN CHRIST"**New York City to Host 22nd Annual YAL Conference**

The Young Adults of the Archdiocesan District are eagerly preparing for this summer's 22nd Annual National Young Adult Conference, which is scheduled for July 23-26 at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in New York City. This year's conference, themed "Building Faith: United in Christ," will be held in conjunction with the 37th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America which begins July 25th.

The mission of the Young Adult Ministry is to create a setting to take the spiritual journey of personal growth, to commit to learn about our faith, to minister to one another and to help those in need. The ministry depends upon the commitment and desire of clergy and laity to learn about and love Christ and His Church by offering their hearts, resources and talents, namely Worship (Liturgia), Witness (Martyria), Service (Diakonia) and Fellowship (Koinonia), and using these four characteristics to live a balanced Orthodox Christian life and to grow in His likeness.

The weekend will kick off with a "Red Carpet" Affair on Friday to welcome arriving guests. On Saturday, a keynote brunch will feature Father John Heropoulos of St. Paraskevi in Greenlawn, NY, followed by various workshops and discussions throughout the day.

Saturday plans include an evening at New York City's famous South Street Seaport. Later that evening, participants will have the opportunity to participate in several late night discussions or participate in a Midnight Run Program, an outreach to deliver food and clothing to homeless people throughout the city.

A Hierarchical Divine Liturgy co-celebrated by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios and the Holy Synod of Bishops will take place Sunday morning at the hotel. The conference will conclude that evening with the Grand Banquet.

For the first time, a special invitation has been extended to the young adults by the Clergy-Laity Congress to participate in its Monday events. This opportunity is available to all young adults who are registered for the Young Adult Conference. The Monday Clergy-Laity Program includes the opening keynote breakfast with His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios and educational workshops throughout the day.

For further updates, details, and online registration, visit www.conference.yal.org.



President Bush Welcomes Archbishop Demetrios to White House to Mark Greek Independence Day

Washington, DC - President George W. Bush welcomed His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, spiritual leader of 1.5 million Greek Orthodox, to the White House on the occasion of the celebration of Greek Independence Day. Some 150 government officials, Greek and Cypriot diplomats and Greek-Americans from throughout the United States, joined in the celebration held in the Old Executive Office Building. President Bush enthusiastically endorsed the upcoming Athens Olympics and announced that his father, President George H. W. Bush, would be leading the American delegation to the Athens this summer.



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Hellenic Times Hosts Scholarship Fund Gala

NEW YORK CITY – More than 1000 people gathered for the 13th Annual Hellenic Times Scholarship Fund Gala honoring “CSI Miami” star Sofia Milos, Maria Menounos of “Entertainment Tonight,” and Atlantic Bank President and CEO Thomas O’Brien.

This year, the HTSF awarded 28 scholarships to students from across the country. The recipients were selected from over 1,000 candidates. *The Hellenic Times* has now awarded \$1 million in scholarships.

The program began with the singing of the national anthems by prior scholarship recipients, Irene Hrousis and Caroline Manolakos. His Eminence Archbishop Dimitrios then delivered the Invocation.

Nick Katsoris, General Counsel of the Red Apple Group, who served as Dinner Chairman and Master of Ceremonies, then proceeded to present the Humanitarian Awards. The Journalistic Achievement Award went to Maria Menounos, and then the Artistic Achievement Award was presented to Sofia Milos, who was congratulated on her accolade in a videotaped message by her CSI Miami co-star David Caruso.

Hellenic Times Publisher and General-Chair John Catsimatidis awarded the third



John Catsimatidis, Nick Gage, Margo Catsimatidis, His Eminence Archbishop Dimitrios and Sofia Milos

Humanitarian Award of the night to Thomas O’Brien, who received the HTSF Corporate Leadership Award.

Following the Humanitarian Awards, Vice-Chair Margo Catsimatidis presented the 2004 Hellenic Times Scholarships. Special scholarship presentations were also awarded by Ernie Anastos, John Aniston and Judge Nicholas Tsoucalas.

Following the program, falling confetti, balloons, colorful masks and a dazzling performance by Minos-EMI Recording Artists “ONE” turned the Marriott Marquis ballroom into a memorable celebration.



Hellenic Times Publisher John Catsimatidis presents award to Thomas O'Brien



Nick Katsoris presents Sofia Milos with her Artistic Achievement Award.



The 2004 Hellenic Times Scholarship recipients with presenters and other dignitaries

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The Greek Viceroy of Siam

by Steve Frangos

Since the late 1600s, the life and career of Constantine Phaulkon (1647-1688) has occupied the attention of numerous scholars, merchants and diplomats. Phaulkon was destined to become the Kingdom of Siam's legendary "Greek Chao Phya Wijayendra," or Victorious High Lord. Phaulkon's story is one filled with political intrigue and some of the most significant diplomatic events of his day.

International diplomacy in those far-off days included more than mere negotiation and signing of legal documents. Little today equals the sheer pageantry of the massive diplomatic exchanges. French couriers from none other than the court of Louis XIV, the Sun King, were to doff their grand-plumed hats to Phaulkon. In turn, processions of Siamese royal elephants bedecked in golden armor and bearing rare gifts came to meet these European diplomats. Gongs, sticks of incense burning in doorways of pagodas, the chanting of Buddhist monks, shrines with gilded spires, and the smell of a thousand exotic cooking spices were all a part of this young Greek's everyday life.

While Phaulkon never set foot on the Western Hemisphere, his complicated and romantic story deserves the attention of Greeks throughout the diaspora. For if Greeks are ever to reclaim and write their own history, they must consider the lives and careers of persons such as Constantine Phaulkon.

Early Life

In 1647, Constantine Gerakis (meaning falcon) was born on Cephallonia in the town of Argostoli. Constantine's father, an innkeeper, had at one point been governor of the island. The presence of English ships in the port led young Constantine to run away to sea sometime between the ages of 10 or 11. Accounts are vague about his formative years but during the next ten years, young Constantine worked for English merchants who regularly sailed to the Far East. By 1669, Gerakis had anglicized his name to Falcon. It is said that his shipmates persuaded him to re-hellenize his name to Phaulkon. From this point until his death, he would sign his name as "Constant Phaulkon."

So controversial was the life of Constantine Phaulkon that no single account agrees with the next. Much of this has to do with the interests and values of the men who wrote the original accounts.

The East India Company

In 1678, Phaulkon came to Siam with East India Company Agent Richard Burnaby who had been sent from Bantam in Java to revive English trade in Siam. The Greek's fluency in English, Greek, Portuguese, Tai (the official language of Siam), French and other languages made him an ideal person for this commercial mission. The only company authorized by the British government to carry on trade in the Far East was the East India Company. Any other companies or individuals attempting to trade in the Far East were termed "interlopers." These distinctions carried far more weight in the 1600s than is easily appreciated or understood today.

In 1680, Phaulkon was engaged by the Sia-



mese P'ra K'lang or Minister of the Treasury as translator. In less than two years, Phaulkon had made himself indispensable to the Minister and received from him the title of Luang Wijayendra (literally Lord Victory). Upon the Minister's death in 1682, Phaulkon became the virtual controller of Siam's foreign trade. It was at this same time that Phaulkon's potential service to the Kingdom of Siam found its true venue.

King P'ra Narai was seeking an alliance with France. It was for his pivotal role as Siamese diplomat from 1682 until 1688 that Phaulkon was given the title of Chao P'ya Wijayendra. But it is this same loyalty and skill in international diplomacy that earned Phaulkon the hatred of many a European writer.

Foreign Affairs

Simply put, Phaulkon paid no attention to the British East India Company's claims to monopolize trade in Siam. Phaulkon's policy of encouraging interlopers led to constant disputes. It has been argued that the increasingly acrimonious exchanges between Phaulkon and the British inevitably led him to seek out the French.

In September 1685, the first French embassy was established in Siam. Chevalier de Chaumont headed this diplomatic mission. Louis XIV himself chartered de Chaumont to establish full diplomatic and trade relations with Siam and to convert King P'ra Narai to Christianity!

In his first task, de Chaumont succeeded completely. By a convention signed on December 19, 1685, the Compagnie Royale des Indes Orientales gained complete liberty of commerce. The only notable exceptions were in terms of import and export duties and that all goods had to be bought from the royal warehouses. Historians, most often English historians, have claimed that in return, Siam received nothing for these concessions to the French.

Yet these same writers all observe that King Narai was filled with grave misgivings about the military actions of the Dutch in the Far East. Later Siamese diplomatic missions to France aimed at securing French troops to garrison forts in Siam clearly indicate that King Narai feared for the safety of his kingdom. It is also widely recognized that it was Phaulkon who succeeded in establishing the alliance between Siam and France.

Colonial Thinking

It is now obvious that King P'ra Narai and the able Phaulkon were seeking to pit Western European rivals against each other. As the diplomatic efforts of the King and Phaulkon succeeded, the influence and trade of the British East India Company declined.

As far as converting King Narai, de Chaumont failed completely. It has even been suggested that the famous religious arguments between Chaumont and the Siamese king never got beyond Phaulkon who acted as interpreter. de Chaumont was so blinded by his own beliefs and values that commanding King Narai to give up his religion never struck him as the gravest form of insult.

At one point, the French ambassador demanded a reply. The king (or as most scholars now believe, Phaulkon) then made a famous speech which included the following:

"It is natural to believe that the True God takes as much pleasure in being worshipped in different ways as by being glorified by a vast number of creatures who praise Him after one fashion. We admire the beauty and variety of natural things. Are that beauty and variety less to be admired in the supernatural sphere, or are they less worthy of God's wisdom? However, as we know that God is the Supreme Ruler of the World, and believe that nothing can be done against His will. I resign my person and my realm to His mercy and His Divine Providence, and I implore Him, in His Eternal wisdom, so to dispose of them as shall seem best to Him."

Final Honors

In 1687, French envoys brought with them a patent of nobility of Constantine Phaulkon. The boy who had run away to sea became a Count of France and a Knight of the Order of Saint Michel. Along with these titles were sent many valuable gifts by both King Louis XIV and Pope Innocent XI. All of these diplomatic honors much have been gratifying to the now middle-aged Phaulkon.

During his years in Siam, Phaulkon had married Maria Fanique a half-Japanese woman of the Catholic faith. So, in 1687, the Greek immigrant to Siam was not only at the height of his power but also surrounded by a loving family. But at the very moment of his international recognition, the Greek Chao P'ya Wijayendra fell from power.

An antforeign party had grown steadily among the nobility and common people of Siam. The leader of this antforeign party was General P'ra P'etraja. When King Narai

(continued on page 21)

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Proverbs 21:13
If a man shuts his eyes to the needs of the poor, he too will cry out and not be answered.

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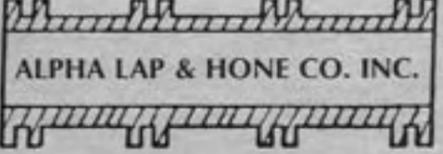
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 A Schedule of Greek Events for 2004

**Greek Poetry
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This unique bilingual anthology presents the achievements of Greek poetry in the 20th century. Included are 109 poets and 456 poems, with the Greek original and the English translation on opposite pages. Many of the poems and the translations are published for the first time.

Included are Kimon Friar's unpublished corrections and modifications to his original translations. Most poetry readers have some awareness of Ancient Greece as the cultural wellspring of the Western world, or some appreciation of contemporary Greece as an enchantment of sun-washed shores and ruins, but the over 2,000-year interim between these two worlds often is, to many, a blank or blurred page of history.

While Homer, Sappho and Euripides live on as household names, Seferis and Elytis, both Nobel laureates, are still little known to the wider public.

Published by Cosmos Publishing Co., Inc., in hardcover with a dust jacket, the 993 pages include bibliographical data, an alphabetical index of the titles in both English and Greek, and of the poets in English.

37th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress...

(continued from page 1)
educational program with over 50 workshops specializing in parish and family ministry; a grant program that will waive the registration fees of the 150 smallest parishes of the Archdiocese; and a special exhibit section of unique parish ministries and Archdiocesan ministry programs.

Registration information, as well as schedules, articles and exhibitor applications are available on the Archdiocesan web site at www.goarch.org.



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Columnist Nick Poulos' Writes Novel about a Spiritual Odyssey to Greece

Nick Poulos, former business editor and columnist for *The Chicago Tribune* and *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, has written a new novel, "The Aegean Quartet."

The book tells the adventurous, robust story of a

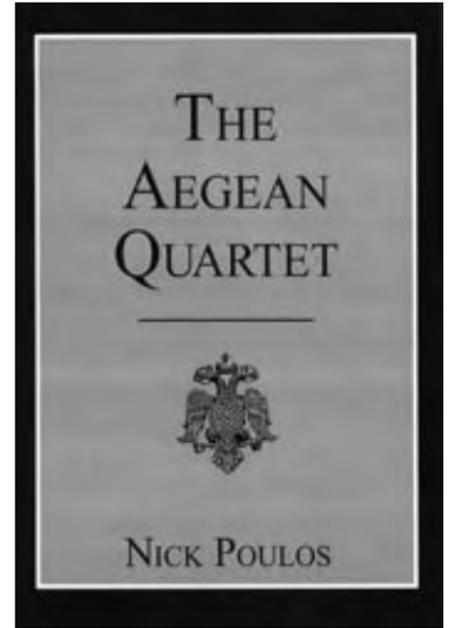


Nick Poulos

Greek-American's spiritual odyssey through the mystical Aegean islands that culminates in the monastic republic of Mount Athos. There, at the crest of the 6,670-foot holy mountain, he experiences the mystical fusion needed to succeed in his odyssey.

Although the story is about a spiritual quest by a troubled man, the author has woven a colorful, uplifting tale with a rich background of history, religion and mythology.

Humorous anecdotes abound in "The Aegean Quartet." Among them is the story of the rural farmer who drew the criticism of his village neighbors for overburdening his donkey with firewood he had gathered. Stung by their criticism, the farmer unloaded the firewood from the donkey and strapped it onto his own back. Then he mounted the donkey and headed home, pleased he'd



done right by his donkey and his neighbors.

"The Aegean Quartet" is available in paperback through bookstores (\$19.95) or directly from the publisher, PublishAmerica LLLP of Baltimore, MD (www.PublishAmerica.com) or through Amazon.com.

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Tomaras Pledges \$100,000 to Hellenic Museum and Cultural Center

The Hellenic Museum and Cultural Center, a national institution, has announced the receipt of a \$100,000 pledge by Chicago businessman and philanthropist Chris P. Tomaras. This leadership gift is for the construction of the new, permanent home for the Hellenic Museum and Cultural Center (HMCC) that will be built on museum property at the northeast corners of Van Buren and Halsted Streets in Chicago.

"The Hellenic Museum and Cultural Center will give Hellenes the opportunity to preserve their history from the time they first arrived in the New World," said Tomaras. "The generations that follow will appreciate the effort and the struggle of their forefathers as they tried to sustain themselves in their new homeland."

Tomaras recognizes the value that HMCC will offer Chicago and the community at large. He views the project as "a source of pride of the entire Hellenic Community as it projects to the world, through its activities, the concept of Helle-

nism and the values derived from it." Currently, a number of public schools conduct field trips to the Hellenic Museum's temporary home at 801 West Adams where they learn more about ancient Greece and the impact it has left upon Western Civilization.

"We are grateful for this significant contribution by Mr. Tomaras," commented HMCC President John Marks. "The construction of our new home represents the pinnacle of achievement by a people who have contributed in so many ways to the American society. We hope Mr. Tomaras' example will be followed by many other leaders of the community."

HMCC has already raised over \$5.5 million toward the construction of the four-story, 40,000-square-foot building. The state-of-the-art facility will include a number of galleries, an auditorium, a research library, a gift store, meeting rooms and parking. The building will be a striking beacon in the heart of Greektown that will be visible from both the



Chris P. Tomaras

Eisenhower and Kennedy Expressways.

The City of Chicago has offered its support and provided \$3.5 million in TIF monies toward this endeavor. Other major donors include Dr. Mary Dochios Kamberos, the Alec Gianaras family, the Dr. James Elipas family, the Tom Livaditis family, Alex Spanos, the Hellenic League and an anonymous donor. Construc-

tion is expected to begin by next spring.

Chris P. Tomaras is a successful businessman who has lived in Chicago since 1965. He has been a supporter of the Greek communities both in the U.S. and in other countries. His work has been focused in promoting Heritage and Hellenism and in efforts for the preservation of the Hellenic Culture around the world.

A philanthropist, Tomaras has made significant contributions to several Greek institutions that support Greek education and offer assistance and services to the various Greek communities. He is the founder of the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation and has served in leadership positions in a number of civic, community and business organizations.

Tomaras has served for three consecutive terms as President of the PanMessenian Federation of USA and Canada. He is currently serving his fifth consecutive term as Vice President of the Council of Hellenes Abroad (SAE), North & South America Region.

A number of honors have been bestowed upon him including the "Ellis Island Medal of Honor." He was named "Distinguished Greek American" and honored as "Man of the Year" in 1994 by the Foodservice Marketing Association. Tomaras is an Archon of the Order of St. Andrews of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. He is also a member of the Anatolia College Board of Trustees, an Honorary Board Member of the American Foundation of Greek Language and Culture at the University of South Florida, and of the American Foundation of Hellenic Studies at Georgia State University. In October 2003, he became honorary citizen of Panama City, Panama.

The Hellenic Museum and Cultural Center is currently located on the fourth floor of the Greek Islands Building, 801 West Adams. Regular gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Regular exhibit admission is free to members; \$5 for non-members. (Special fees may apply to programs.)

For more information, call the museum at 312-655-1234 or visit www.hellenicmuseum.org.

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The Niland Jail Incident

by Anastasia Vellas

It was the first week of May 1959 and Larry Vellas, home on leave from the Marines, was cruising Niland, a small California town east of the Salton Sea, with his twin brother, Wally. They were looking for something to do in a town that didn't have much going on. It was a Saturday evening and Larry had to be back to El Toro Marine Air Station in Santa Ana early Monday morning.

Larry didn't know that Wally had been harassing Imperial County Deputy Sheriff Verde Freeman as often as he found occasions.

Wally Vellas went speeding down a side street to its end and then turned the corner onto First Avenue. Deputy Sheriff Freeman came around the corner about the same time as Wally. By then, Wally had slowed his car down to the speed limit. The deputy put on his red light and pulled Wally over near Gaston's Café.

There were a couple of guys parked outside Gaston's Café chatting. When the deputy stopped the Vellas boys, the men at the café turned to see what was going on.

Deputy Freeman said, "Wally, you were speeding."

Wally said, "I wasn't speeding. You weren't behind me and therefore you couldn't clock me."

The deputy ignored that statement and asked, "What's that on your back floorboard?"

Wally said, "That's my 22 rifle."

"This isn't hunting season. What are you hunting?"

Just to be irritating, Wally said, "mountain lions, coyotes and rattlesnakes." These animals were legal to hunt and Wally knew that would annoy the Deputy.

Deputy Freeman reached into the car and picked up the rifle, took it out and looked it over. The magazine was loaded but there was no round in the chamber. The gun was legal. The deputy looked directly at Wally, pulled the bolt back on the rifle and put a round in the chamber.

Then the Deputy said, "I have to take you to jail."

Wally asked, "Why?"

Deputy Freeman said, "There is a round in the chamber of your rifle."

All this time, the two guys that were parked near the café were listening and heard the whole conversation. They saw the deputy load the rifle.

Wally and Larry were both put in the patrol car, driven down the street to the Niland Jail and locked in a cell.

Across the street from the jail was still a desert area with tall bushes and mesquite trees along the street. At approximately 6:30 p.m., about a half hour after dark, the twins heard a voice calling from the bushes across the street:

"Sheriff! Sheriff! Sheriff! Open the door!"

The twins were in the first cell on the right and could see the deputy sheriff standing in the doorway and heard everything that was said.

Deputy Freeman opened the door and looked out into the darkness across the street. He hollered back, "What do you want?"

The voice said, "Why do you have Larry and Wally locked up in a jail cell?"

The deputy replied, "They had a loaded gun in their car with one round in the chamber. That's against the law."

The voice in the dark said, "You are a liar. I saw what happened."

A second voice from the dark said, "That's right Sheriff. We saw you put the shell in the chamber."

The first voice announced, "We have shotguns on you at this moment! If you don't let them out of the jail within three minutes we will blow you away!"



Deputy Freeman, knowing he falsified evidence, released Wally and Larry in a record 90 seconds. Freeman told them, "You are free to go. I have no charges against you."

The twins picked up Wally's car and decided the best thing was to go home.

That was the end of it. Freeman didn't do anything more about the incident because two witnesses that knew he had lied and he couldn't see or identify the two people because of the darkness. He could easily be shot from the bushes in the dark. If he were brought up on charges, he would lose job.

Larry said, "I recognized the voices but the Sheriff didn't. I think they may have had shotguns on him but they would not have shot him. They just wanted to scare him. We all carried shotguns back then. Everybody did a lot of hunting in those years."

After that incident, Deputy Verde Freeman did not like any of the Vellas' family. He snubbed Rose. He found fault with everything Connie did and gave him trouble. He also gave mom and dad, James and Olive Vellas, trouble.

A few months later, Freeman's cows broke through the fence that separated the Freeman and Vellas farms and did quite bit of damage to Jim's cornfield. Jim Vellas drove the cows back in and started to fix the fence. Deputy Freeman came out of his house and told Jim he was "trespassing" and get off of his place. Then Freeman fixed his own fence.

Located at the desert edge, Niland was still a wilderness town at that time. This modern day western drama was something that would have played out a hundred years ago.

The Greek Viceroy of Siam...

(continued from page 17)

became gravely ill without an heir to the throne, P'ra P'etraja seized power. As part of General P'etraja's overall program to rid the country of foreign influences, Phaulkon was arrested. On June 5, 1688, Phaulkon was tortured with hot irons, flames, nailings and then beheaded.

House of Lopburi

The ruins of Phaulkon's House at Lopburi are still a much visited archaeological site. It was at these imposing brick ruins that a large part of the negotiations between the French envoys and Phaulkon took place. But more of Constantine Phaulkon may have survived his death than these palatial ruins.

From 1717 until 1724, Maria Fanique Phaulkon was superintendent of the Royal Kitchen of King Tai Sa. Phaulkon's son, who was only four years old at the time of his father's death, became a captain in the Siamese navy. It is documented that he married Louisa Passana by whom he had a son and several daughters.

Captain Phaulkon's son, whom he named Constantine after his father, entered the French school in Ayuthia in 1716. From 1748 until 1756, he was an overseer of the royal stores and supervisor of the Christians at Ayuthia. During the Burmese invasion of Siam in 1759, Phaulkon was taken prisoner but was later returned. The last published report, on this Constantine Phaulkon was in 1771.

We still know very little of all the Greeks who wandered and settled in the Far East. Understanding how these men and women lived in these cultures and societies can help us better appreciate our own Greek identity in North America. For while we may be native-born or immigrant Americans, many of us are also still most certainly Greek.

This awareness is not in keeping with American notions of identity and national loyalty. But the beliefs and values of the Greek diaspora are still a matter of debate and individual decision. And in the end, what could be more Greek?

Anastasia Vellas is seeking stories about Greek-Americans in the Imperial Valley for a book she is writing. If you (or someone you know) lived in the Imperial Valley, please contact her at stasia6@earthlink.net or through this newspaper.

IOCC Addresses Nutrition Concerns in Postwar Iraq

BAGHDAD – Fawziya and her family live in a long hallway in an abandoned building in Baghdad. They have a roof over their heads but not much else. Half of the corridor is a bedroom, and the other half serves as a kitchen and storage space. Their toilet facilities are in the backyard.

The Kurdish family subsists on the salary of Fawziya's 16-year-old son, Hammad, and whatever the older children can contribute. Fawziya, a 48-year-old widow, cannot find a job because at her age, she is considered unemployable.

Despite all the uncertainty in her family – and in postwar Iraq – Fawziya has been able to cope because of the help of International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), the humanitarian aid agency of Orthodox Christians.

Food parcels from IOCC help supplement the family's monthly food ration, improving the children's diet. And hygiene items such as detergent, soap and toothpaste contribute to the family's overall health and well-being.

Such assistance recently went to more than 23,000 families in Baghdad and Mosul as part of IOCC's ongoing response to the humanitarian needs of poor Iraqi families. IOCC also is moving forward with postwar reconstruction efforts, refugee assistance and school lunch programs in the two cities.

"The social safety net in Iraq is totally absent," said Drakoulis Bekakos, manager of an IOCC project funded by the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Action by Churches Together. "You can see so many disparities. In the Muslim community, there is no middle class. They are either rich or poor."

Contributing to problems of malnutrition and hunger in Iraq is the lack of drinking water, the high price of food staples, and nutritional deficiencies in the government's monthly food ration, Bekakos said. According to a report by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization, the ration is lacking in important vitamins and minerals such as vitamins A and C, riboflavin and iron.

Bekakos said that the IOCC hopes to address these problems with programs of infrastructure repair and child nutrition. "In Baghdad, there are areas of 10,000 to 15,000 people that don't have a safe drinking water supply," he said. "For many years, Saddam's regime did nothing to supply these areas with drinking water or establish a functional sewage system."



Rami and his family were among 23,000 Iraqi families who recently received food and hygiene parcels from International Orthodox Christian Charities. IOCC also is implementing a project to distribute milk to school children in Baghdad and Mosul as part of a larger school lunch program. (Photo courtesy of IOCC)

IOCC, in partnership with the packaging company Tetra Pak, also is launching a project to distribute milk to school children in Baghdad and Mosul in the coming months. Building on its successful school lunch programs in Lebanon and the Republic of Georgia, IOCC will give milk to thousands of underprivileged children ages 5 to 12 as part of a larger school lunch program.

"It's important that children in Iraq have their recommended daily allowance of milk and other dairy products," said IOCC Director of Operations Samir Ishak, "because we know that good nutrition contributes to improved school attendance and better academic performance."

Such benefits are especially important in a country where female school attendance – and female literacy – has dropped steadily since the 1991 Gulf War, according to UNESCO. The gender gap in school enrollment during that time increased dramatically because of families' financial inability to send their children to school. When faced with limited

resources, many families chose to keep their daughters at home.

To learn more about IOCC's relief and development programs in Iraq and 14 other countries, visit www.iocc.org.

Cathedral in Albania...

(continued from page 10)

translation booths, and will serve multi-purpose cultural affairs and international conferences. Adjacent to the conference center, several smaller meeting rooms have been designed together with a museum and library. The synod building will be a four-story structure housing the administrative offices of the church and will be located on the east side of the property.

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Past AHEPA Supreme President Manta Awarded Ellis Island Medal of Honor

AHEPA Past Supreme President Steve A. Manta, President of J.L. Manta, Inc., was honored with Ellis Island Medal of Honor at a gala ceremony May 15, 2004 on Ellis Island.

"Steve Manta is not only an outstanding businessman, but someone who has dedicated his life to helping others," said William Denis Fugazy, Chairman, The National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO). "He exemplifies all that is great about America."

"We are certainly proud of Brother Manta and he is very deserving of this honor," said AHEPA Supreme President A. Jack Georgalas. "The award is a testament to his hard work and dedication both as a professional and a leader in the community."

Established in 1986 by NECO, the Ellis Island Medals of Honor pay tribute to the ancestry groups that comprise America's unique cultural mosaic. More than 1,300 ethnic American citizens and Native Americans have received medals. Also honored in 2004 were: His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Yanni and Queen Noor, among others.

Manta was cited for his successful career in business and his work with AHEPA as a Past Supreme President, as a member of the AHEPA Centennial Foundation, and as a fundraiser for Chicago-area scholarship foundations.

For more AHEPA Family information, visit www.ahepa20.org.

Annual Daughters of Penelope Conference Hosted in Portland

The 19th Annual Sisterhood Conference, a brainchild of past Penelope of the Year Mary Chicos, was hosted this year on April 24th by the District 22 Daughters of Penelope, led by Cleo Rumpakis, Governor, in Portland, OR. The event was also attended by the Governors of three other districts including: Brenda Leonarditis, District 17; Joanne Saltas, District 20; and Sophia Eliopoulos, District 21.

Each governor gave an informative report on the activities of her district. There were open discussions from the assembly and presentations by Grand Lodge officers, including: Angela Kavouras, Grand President; Mary Filou, Grand Secretary and Liaison to District 21, and Anna-Helene Panagakos, Grand Governor Zone I and Liaison to District

22. Also present were Joanne Booras, Past Grand President; Maria Souris, Maids of Athena Grand Vice President; Mary Chicos, Past National Penelope of the Year; and several Chapter Presidents and Past District Governors.

This conference provides a time for sisters from neighboring districts to get to know one another and to share ideas. There were two excellent speakers, one of whom spoke on Greek culture through art and language while the other speaker gave her practical views, from her book, on how to do research on early Greek immigrants. The evening was concluded with a walking tour of downtown Portland and dinner at local Greek restaurant. The Sisterhood Conference will be hosted next year by District 21

Ten Steps to Selling a Restaurant

By Eric Landis, Restaurant Broker

Listed below are ten steps to successfully sell your restaurant. The path is long and complicated but knowing what you are doing can help immensely.

1. Make the decision
2. Prepare your restaurant for sale
3. Evaluate and price the company
4. Seek financing options
5. Develop a marketing plan
6. Structure
7. Evaluate offers
8. Negotiate
9. Escrow period
10. Close of the transaction

The first step, making the decision to sell or to keep your restaurant business, should ideally be made two to three years in advance of the actual sale. This gives you time to prepare your restaurant for acquisition by maximizing its attractiveness. By making a decision in advance, you have bought time to improve physical aspects of the business and more importantly you have time to increase profitability.

Evaluating and pricing a restaurant for sale is a complex process that takes into consideration items such as: profit and loss statements, balance sheets, financial ratios, leases, patents, legal issues, fix-

tures, equipment, inventory, consulting and non-competition agreements. Consulting a professional to value and price your restaurant can be beneficial.

Once you have an idea of what your restaurant is worth, research different financing options that might be available to your buyers. The more financing choices that can be made available to buyers, the easier it will be to sell your restaurant. Next, develop a marketing plan that exposes your restaurant to multiple markets. Advertising is key and placement of ads in multiple places is necessary. Reach your potential buyers via newspapers, the internet, magazines, trade publications and direct mail.

It is important that the structure of the deal is of equal benefit to both parties. As a Seller, one must be sensitive and open to the Buyer's financial and taxation needs. Carefully evaluate the offers and the different points that the Buyer addresses. You must identify which of Price or of Terms is more important. Keep in mind that price and terms are your bargaining chips – usually you cannot demand both. Negotiate a deal that satisfies both parties by sharing the chips.

Once both parties agree to price and terms, purchase offers are prepared and signed and escrow is opened. Placing a business in escrow does not necessarily mean



that the business is sold. There are several steps that your escrow holder will have to complete in order to reach a successful close of the transaction.

As seen above, the road to a successful close can be long and complicated. As an owner, you may focus on selling your business on your own or you may continue to focus on running your restaurant and employ the services of a professional Restaurant Broker.

Either way, Good Luck!

Please address all comments and questions to:

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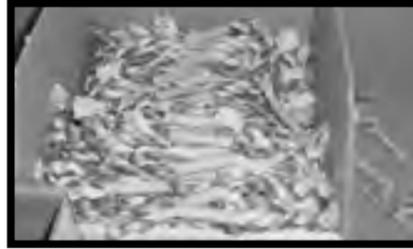
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Dairy Queen	OC	\$142K
5 Day Deli	Carlsbad	\$117K
Mexican	South OC	\$126K
Italian	Redlands	\$285K
Blimpies	San Bern	\$104K
Pizza/Italian	Stanton	\$81K
Bakery	Irvine	\$99K
Bar	San Bern	\$688K
Steakhouse	Lk Elsinore	\$150K
Country Bar	Victorville	\$710K
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