



Ενωση Ευρυτάνων Αμερικής
<<Τό Βελούχι>>

VELOUCHI

The Evrytanian Association of America Est. 1944

January -March 2024. Volume #81 Issue #325



Καλή Σαρακοστή

Evrytarian Association of
America

“To BeXoúχt”

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President's Message



Dear Fellow Evrytians,

It is with great pleasure that we present to you the current issue of the Velouchi magazine. It has been some time since the last publication. Much has happened in the last two years, most notably the death of our longtime office manager Mr. Larry Peroulas. His absence left a major void in the workings of the national office, leaving us without a dedicated and committed individual to run the daily operations and prepare our quarterly magazine. I would like to again thank Mr. Nick Kleto who stepped in and kept the office going through this difficult time of transition. His steadfast commitment as the Velouchi treasurer allowed the Association to continue its business; and with the help of his wife Olga and Mrs. Helen Clonaris, the national office continued to conduct its daily operations to assist our members and fulfill our obligations both here and in Greece. We owe them all much love and gratitude.

In the last few months, we have hired Ms. Sophia Demos Tsokanis to be our new office manager. She and our new treasurer Mr. John Tassios have revamped the Velouchi website and have worked hard to modernize the operation of the national office. I must thank Mrs. Roula Chulkas and Sophia who together organized and compiled the information to publish this magazine. It was an arduous task for them to put together this issue in the absence of any prior experience and I am proud of what they have accomplished.

At the 2023 National Convention in Greenville, South Carolina, the General Assembly elected a new Executive Board consisting of: James N. Chulkas – President, Alfred Barefoot – 1st Vice-President, Vasilios Tsolias – 2nd Vice-President, Katie Chulkas – 1st Secretary, Paul Kanos – 2nd Secretary, John Tassios – 1st Treasurer, Tommy Pappas – 2nd Treasurer. The Daughters of Evrytania also elected a new Executive Board consisting of: Stavroula Chulkas – President, Dina Goodson – Vice-President, Maria Childers – Secretary, Olga Kleto- Membership, Helen Clonaris – Treasurer. Lastly, the General Assembly elected Jim Caras, Nick Apostolopoulos and Tommy Pappas to the Foundation Board, joining continuing members Mary Ann Contogiannis, Jim Canavos, Alfred Barefoot, and Kosta Hodges. I wish to thank the members of the General Assembly for re-electing me national president for a third term. I am deeply honored and pledge to work together with the other national officers to continue the purposes of our Evrytarian Association.

In closing, I ask you to please not forget the fundamental purpose of the Velouchi: to help the less fortunate. Our programs provide much needed economic assistance to individuals and families in need. We donated money to the two community food banks of Karpenisi and Agrafa. We provided for children with special needs. We awarded scholarships to disadvantaged students. Last summer, in September, our neighbors northeast of Evrytania in Thessaly experienced devastating flooding that wiped out crops, killed livestock, and destroyed homes. Many of you saw the newscasts depicting the destruction in the area around Karditsa and Trikala. This area received one year's worth of rainfall in two days. I called an emergency meeting of the Board of Trustees to discuss what we could do to help. The Board voted to donate \$15,000 that was matched by personal donations of almost \$10,000 from the board members themselves. Evrytarian generosity knows no bounds. In the next two weeks, our representatives in Karpenisi, under the direction of Babis Leloudis, arranged for five trucks to deliver water and supplies to the devastated region. Before leaving for America, I personally accompanied one of these trucks to the town of Palama and witnessed firsthand the damage caused by the flooding. It was heartbreaking. Not only did the townsfolk lose practically everything, but over 30% of Greece's wheat crop comes from this area. Due to the contamination of the land, the authorities say that it will be four to five years before this land will be able to be cultivated again. This is a national tragedy which will require a long recovery period.

I want to thank you for your patience and understanding as we renew our commitment to the goals of our Evrytarian Association. This magazine is a new beginning in our attempt to communicate to you the activities of our membership and will only get better with each upcoming issue. As we begin 2024, please remember to pay your dues for the current year. Also, please remind your college age students to apply for the Velouchi scholarships. And also, please be so kind as to buy a raffle ticket from your chapter officers to support the scholarship fund so that we may help our students pursue their dream of attending college.

With Patriotic Love and Respect,
James N. Chulkas, National President

Μήνυμα Προέδρου

Αγαπητοί πατριώτες Ευρυτάνες,

Με μεγάλη χαρά σας παρουσιάζουμε το τρέχον τεύχος του περιοδικού Βελούχι. Έχει περάσει αρκετός καιρός από την τελευταία δημοσίευση του, έχουν συμβεί πολλά τα τελευταία δύο χρόνια κυρίως ο θάνατος του επί χρόνια διευθυντή γραφείου μας κ. Ελευθερίου Περούλα. Η απουσία του άφησε ένα μεγάλο κενό στη λειτουργία του εθνικού γραφείου μας, αφήνοντάς μας χωρίς ένα υπεύθυνο για να διευθύνει τις καθημερινές εργασίες και να προετοιμάζει το τριμηνιαίο περιοδικό μας. Θα ήθελα να ευχαριστήσω τον κ. Νίκο Κλείτο που παρενέβη και κράτησε το γραφείο σε αυτή τη δύσκολη μεταβατική περίοδο. Η σταθερή δέσμευσή του ως ταμίας του Βελουχίου επέτρεψε στο Σύλλογο να συνεχίσει τις δραστηριότητές του και με τη βοήθεια της συζύγου του Όλγας και της κυρίας Ελένης Κλωνάρη, το εθνικό γραφείο συνέχισε να διεξάγει τις καθημερινές του εργασίες για να βοηθήσει τα μέλη μας και να εκπληρώσει τις υποχρεώσεις μας τόσο εδώ όσο και στην Ελλάδα. Τους οφείλουμε την αγάπη μας και την ευγνωμοσύνη μας.

Τους τελευταίους μήνες, έχουμε προσλάβει την κα Σοφία Δήμου Τσοκάνη ως τη νέα μας διευθύντρια γραφείου, αυτή και ο νέος μας ταμίας κ. Γιάννης Τάσιος έχουν ανανεώσει την ιστοσελίδα του Βελουχίου και έχουν εργαστεί σκληρά για τον εκσυγχρονισμό της λειτουργίας του εθνικού γραφείου. Οφείλω να ευχαριστήσω την κα Ρούλα Τσιόλκα και τη Σοφία που μαζί οργάνωσαν και συγκέντρωσαν τις πληροφορίες για την έκδοση αυτού του περιοδικού. Ήταν ένα δύσκολο επιχείρημα για αυτές ώστε να το φέρουν εις πέρας λόγω έλλειψης προηγούμενης εμπειρίας και είμαι υπερήφανος για όσα έχουν επιτύχει.

Στο Εθνικό Συνέδριο του 2023 στο Greenville της Νότιας Καρολίνας, η Γενική Συνέλευση εξέλεξε μια νέα Εκτελεστική Επιτροπή αποτελούμενη από τους: Δημήτρη Τσιόλκα - Πρόεδρο, Alfred Barefoot - Αντιπρόεδρο Α Βασίλειο Τσολιάς - Αντιπρόεδρο Β, Κατερίνα Τσιόλκα Γραμματέας Α - Αποστόλης Κατσάνος Γραμματέας Β, Ιωάννης Τάσιος Ταμίας Α Θανάσης Παπασπύρος Ταμίας Β. Οι Κόρες της Ευρυτανίας εξέλεξαν επίσης νέο Διοικητικό Συμβούλιο αποτελούμενο από τους: Σταυρούλα Τσιόλκα - Πρόεδρο, Ντίνα Μουτογιάνη Goodson - Αντιπρόεδρο, Μαρία Πελεγρίνη Childers - Γραμματέα Α, Όλγα Κλείτο - Γραμματέα Β, Ελένη Κλωνάρη - Ταμίας. Τέλος, η Γενική Συνέλευση εξέλεξε τους Δημήτρη Καραδημήτρη, Νίκο Αποστολόπουλο και Θανάση Παπασπύρο στο Διοικητικό Συμβούλιο του Ιδρύματος, μαζί με τα συνεχιζόμενα μέλη Μαριάννα Κοντογιάννη, Δημήτρη Καναβό, Alfred Barefoot και Κώστα Χατζικοστόπουλο. Θα ήθελα να ευχαριστήσω τα μέλη της Γενικής Συνέλευσης για την επανεκλογή μου ως εθνικού προέδρου για τρίτη θητεία. Είναι μεγάλη μου τιμή και υπόσχομαι να συνεργαστώ με τους άλλους εθνικούς αξιωματούχους για να συνεχίσω τους σκοπούς του Ευρυτανικού Συλλόγου μας.

Κλείνοντας, σας παρακαλώ να μην ξεχνάτε τον βασικό σκοπό του Βελουχίου: Να βοηθήσει τους λιγότερο τυχερούς. Τα προγράμματά μας παρέχουν την απαραίτητη οικονομική βοήθεια σε άτομα και οικογένειες που έχουν ανάγκη. Δώσαμε χρήματα στις δύο κοινοτικές τράπεζες τροφίμων Καρπενησίου και Αγράφων. Φροντίσαμε για παιδιά με ειδικές ανάγκες. Χορηγήσαμε υποτροφίες σε μειονεκτούντες φοιτητές. Το περασμένο καλοκαίρι τον Σεπτέμβριο, οι γείτονές μας βορειοανατολικά της Ευρυτανίας στη Θεσσαλία βίωσαν καταστροφικές πλημμύρες που αφάνισαν καλλιέργειες, σκότωσαν ζώα και κατέστρεψαν σπίτια. Πολλοί από εσάς είδατε στα δελτία ειδήσεων που απεικόνιζαν την καταστροφή στην περιοχή γύρω από την Καρδίτσα και τα Τρίκαλα. Αυτή η περιοχή έλαβε βροχοπτώσεις υπολογιζόμενης ενός έτους σε δύο ημέρες. Συγκάλεσα έκτακτη συνεδρίαση του Διοικητικού Συμβουλίου για να συζητήσουμε τι θα μπορούσαμε να κάνουμε για να βοηθήσουμε. Το Διοικητικό Συμβούλιο ψήφισε να δωρίσει 15.000 δολάρια που συνδυάστηκαν με προσωπικές δωρεές σχεδόν 10.000 δολαρίων από τα ίδια τα μέλη του διοικητικού συμβουλίου. Η Ευρυτανική γενναιοδωρία δεν γνωρίζει όρια. Τις επόμενες δύο εβδομάδες, οι εκπρόσωποί μας στο Καρπενήσι, υπό την καθοδήγηση του Μπάμπη Λελοούδη, κανόνισαν πέντε φορτηγά να μεταφέρουν νερό και προμήθειες στην κατεστραμμένη περιοχή. Πριν επιστρέψω εδώ στην Αμερική, συνόδευσα προσωπικά ένα από αυτά τα φορτηγά στο χωριό Παλαμά και είδα από πρώτο χέρι τις ζημιές που προκλήθηκαν από τις πλημμύρες. Ήταν σπαρακτικό. Όχι μόνο οι κάτοικοι έχασαν σχεδόν τα πάντα, αλλά πάνω από το 30% της καλλιέργειας σιταριού της Ελλάδας προέρχεται από αυτήν την περιοχή. Λόγω της μόλυνσης της γης, οι αρχές λένε ότι θα περάσουν τέσσερα έως πέντε χρόνια πριν αυτή η γη μπορέσει να καλλιεργηθεί ξανά. Πρόκειται για μια εθνική τραγωδία που θα απαιτήσει μακρά περίοδο ανάκαμψης.

Τέλος θέλω να σας ευχαριστήσω για την υπομονή και την κατανόησή σας καθώς ανανεώνουμε τη δέσμευσή μας στους σκοπούς του Ευρυτανικού μας Συλλόγου. Αυτό το περιοδικό είναι μια νέα αρχή στην προσπάθειά μας να επικοινωνήσουμε τις δραστηριότητες των μελών μας που θα βελτιώνεται, αναναιώνεται σε κάθε νέο τεύχος. Καθώς ξεκινάμε το 2024, θυμηθείτε να πληρώσετε την συνδρομή σας για το τρέχον έτος. Επίσης, υπενθυμίστε στους φοιτητές σας να υποβάλουν αίτηση για τις υποτροφίες Βελουχίου. Όπως, παρακαλούμε να υποστηρίξετε εν θερμώ και να αγοράσετε ένα εισιτήριο λοταρίας από τους κατά τόπους επικεφαλείς για να υποστηρίξουμε όλοι μαζί το ταμείο υποτροφιών, ώστε να μπορέσουμε να βοηθήσουμε τους μαθητές μας να ακολουθήσουν το όνειρό τους να φοιτήσουν στο κολέγιο.

Με πατριωτική αγάπη και σεβασμό,
Δημήτρης Τσιόλκας, Εθνικός Πρόεδρος

Daughters of Evrytania

President's Message



Dear Fellow Evrytians,

Χρονια Πολλα!! Happy New Year! I am excited to be greeting you as President of our Daughters of Evrytania. It is an honor to represent all of you; and for me, it's a full circle moment. It has been a pleasure to stand by my husband Jimmy as he serves as President of the “Velouchi” and have seen first-hand the great works of our organization. If we go way back, my father; just like all of you, made the Evrytania Association a great priority as he felt the love of his birthplace and the need to give back. As a young girl, I remember we could count on going to the Velouchi convention every year, to see Uncles, Aunts, cousins, and good friends. These were the best of memories that we have to pass this down to our children. Our roots are where we come from, where our family history began. As descendants of our beautiful Evrytania, we are obligated to pass down the love of our history, our land, and our roots! Our Greek American Heritage is who we are, how we chose to live and how our families have thrived in the new land that our forefathers chose to come to. They built churches both here in America and in Evrytania. They worked hard to re-build the hospital and add a wing

to the nursing home in Evrytania, to stand next to the poor and hungry and to give where needed to make their homeland better, all the while, they raised their families in America with the ideals and values that they so loved. What a feat and what an honorable life they chose to give us so that we may live and flourish. I challenge all of you to pass this on to your children, let them know the importance of all the great works we do and encourage them to join the Velouchi and the Daughters of Evrytania, to be in an organization that is truly grassroots. I have seen first-hand the people who have been served through our organization and I promise you, they are grateful. Thank you all for your unwavering hard work so that we can continue the legacy of our forefathers. The Daughters of Evrytania is a unique organization, we are an auxiliary, of course, of the Evrytania Association.

We are proud to help women and children and advocate for their needs, whether it is, **Agonas Zois**, a cancer survivors organization, **Food Banks**, **The Children with Special Needs program**, **Women's Dental Fund**, **Student funding programs**, **AMEA of Karpenisi**, **The Women's Organizations** and of course any specific requests for help that are always coming in. We will continue these important works and, in this magazine, you will see that we have been busy. In 2022 we had the pleasure of having our convention in Karpenisi! What a week!! My favorite moment and one that shows just who we are and what we do, is when we were told of a young man who needed an antibacterial cushion that would help him avoid infections as he was confined to a wheelchair. The cushion cost 450.00 euros and he could not afford it. As many of us were just enjoying a little time visiting and having coffee, I brought up that we should discuss this at the convention meeting. Well... before I knew it and in a matter of a day, our generous members collected the amount we needed, we ordered it and by the end of the week the young man was sitting on his new cushion. AMAZING!! Proud to be an Evrytania woman!!! On another note, please bear with us on the magazine. Sophia Tsokanis our new Office Manager and I have been trying to get this finished. We had to start from scratch and had some mighty shoes to fill since the loss of our dear Mr. Peroulas. We have a couple of years worth of news and two conventions and events in between that are in this magazine, we hope and plan the next to be even better. Let us know by calling the office or emailing us to tell us what you might want to see in upcoming issues. Additionally, I would like to thank our Past President, Liz Contogiannis, for representing us and for her hard work on behalf of the Daughters of Evrytania. We have a lot of work to do and I look forward to speaking with anyone who has something that they would like to bring to our attention. Please, please feel free to do so!! May our Blessed and Holy Panagia continue to guide us.

All my love and Respect,
Roula Chulkas



Daughters of Evrytania
Raffle 2024

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and send in your
stubs and donations !

Θυγατέρες Ευρυτανίας Μήνυμα Προέδρου

Αγαπητοί συνάδελφοι Ευρυταίτες,

Χρονια Πολλα!! Ευτυχισμένος ο καινούριος χρόνος! Είμαι ενθουσιασμένοι που σας καλωσορίζω ως Πρόεδρο των Θυγατέρων μας της Ευρυτανίας. Είναι τιμή μου να σας εκπροσωπώ όλους. Και για μένα, είναι μια στιγμή πλήρους κύκλου. Ήταν χαρά μου να σταθώ δίπλα στον σύζυγό μου Τζίμη καθώς υπηρετεί ως Πρόεδρος του «Βελουχίου» και έχω δει από πρώτο χέρι τα σπουδαία έργα του οργανισμού μας. Αν πάμε πολύ πίσω, ο πατέρας μου, όπως όλοι σας, έθεσε ως μεγάλη προτεραιότητα τον Ευρυτανικό Σύλλογο καθώς ένιωθε την αγάπη για τον τόπο του και την ανάγκη να προσφέρει. Ως νεαρή κοπέλα, θυμάμαι ότι μπορούσαμε να υπολογίζουμε ότι θα πηγαίναμε στο συνέδριο του Βελουχίου κάθε χρόνο, για να δούμε θείους, θείες, ξαδέρφια και καλούς φίλους. Αυτές ήταν οι καλύτερες αναμνήσεις, πρέπει να το περάσουμε στα παιδιά μας. Οι ρίζες μας είναι από εκεί που προερχόμαστε, εκεί που ξεκίνησε η οικογενειακή μας ιστορία. Ως απόγονοι της όμορφης Ευρυτανίας μας, είμαστε υποχρεωμένοι να μεταλαμπαδεύσουμε την αγάπη της ιστορίας μας, του τόπου μας και των ριζών μας! Η ελληνοαμερικανική κληρονομιά μας είναι ποιοι είμαστε, πώς επιλέξαμε να ζήσουμε και πώς οι οικογένειές μας ευδοκίμησαν στη νέα γη που επέλεξαν να έρθουν οι πρόγονοί μας. Έχτισαν εκκλησίες εδώ στην Αμερική και στην Ευρυτανία. Δούλεψαν σκληρά για να βοηθήσουν στην ανοικοδόμηση του νοσοκομείου και να προσθέσουν πτέρυγα στο γηροκομείο της Ευρυτανίας, να σταθούν δίπλα στους φτωχούς και πεινασμένους και να προσφέρουν όπου χρειαζόταν για να κάνουν την πατρίδα τους καλύτερη, ενώ παράλληλα μεγάλωσαν τις οικογένειές τους στην Αμερική με τα ιδανικά και τις αξίες που τόσο αγαπούσαν. Τι κατόρθωμα και τι έντιμη ζωή επέλεξαν να μας δώσουν για να μπορέσουμε να ζήσουμε και να ανθίσουμε. Σας προκαλώ όλους να το μεταδώσετε αυτό στα παιδιά σας, να τους ενημερώσετε για τη σημασία όλων των μεγάλων έργων που κάνουμε και να τα ενθαρρύνετε να ενταχθούν στο Βελούχι και τις Κόρες της Ευρυτανίας, να είναι σε έναν οργανισμό που είναι πραγματικά λαϊκός. Έχω δει από πρώτο χέρι τους ανθρώπους που έχουν εξυπηρετηθεί μέσω της οργάνωσής μας και σας υπόσχομαι ότι είναι πολύ ευγνώμονες.

Σας ευχαριστούμε όλους για τη σκληρή δουλειά σας, ώστε να μπορέσουμε να συνεχίσουμε την κληρονομιά των προγόνων μας. Οι Θυγατέρες της Ευρυτανίας είναι ένας μοναδικός οργανισμός, είμαστε αρωγός, φυσικά, του Ευρυτανικού Συλλόγου. Είμαστε περήφανοι που βοηθάμε γυναίκες και παιδιά και υποστηρίζουμε τις ανάγκες τους, είτε πρόκειται για την οργάνωση επιζώντων του καρκίνου Αγκώνας Ζωής, τις Τράπεζες Τροφίμων, το πρόγραμμα Παιδιά με Ειδικές Ανάγκες, το Οδοντιατρικό Ταμείο Γυναικών, την ΑΜΕΑ Καρπενησίου, τις Γυναικείες Οργανώσεις και φυσικά τυχόν συγκεκριμένα αιτήματα για βοήθεια που έρχονται πάντα. Θα συνεχίσουμε αυτά τα σημαντικά έργα και, σε αυτό το περιοδικό, θα δείτε ότι είμαστε απασχολημένοι. Το 2022 είχαμε τη χαρά να κάνουμε το συνέδριό μας στο Καρπενήσι! Τι εβδομάδα! Η αγαπημένη μου στιγμή και αυτή που δείχνει ακριβώς ποιοι είμαστε και τι κάνουμε, είναι όταν μας είπαν για έναν νεαρό άνδρα που χρειαζόταν ένα αντιβακτηριακό μαξιλάρι που θα τον βοηθούσε να αποφύγει τις λοιμώξεις καθώς ήταν καθηλωμένος σε αναπηρικό καροτσάκι. Το μαξιλάρι κόστιζε 450,00 ευρώ και δεν μπορούσε να το αντέξει. Καθώς πολλοί από εμάς απλώς απολαμβάναμε λίγο χρόνο να επισκεπτόμαστε και να πίνουμε καφέ, ανέφερα ότι θα έπρεπε να συζητήσουμε αυτό το θέμα στη συνεδρίαση της συνέλευσης. Καλά... πριν το καταλάβω και μέσα σε μια μέρα, είχαμε τα χρήματα, το παραγγείλαμε και μέχρι το τέλος της εβδομάδας ο νεαρός το είχε. ΚΑΤΑΠΛΗΚΤΙΚΟΣ!! Περήφανη που είμαι Ευρυτανισα!!

Σε μια άλλη σημείωση, παρακαλώ να έχετε μαζί μας στο περιοδικό. Η Σοφία Τσοκάνη, η νέα μας Office Manager και εγώ, προσπαθούμε να το ολοκληρώσουμε. Έπρεπε να ξεκινήσουμε από το μηδέν και είχαμε κάποια δυνατά παπούτσια να γεμίσουμε μετά την απώλεια του αγαπημένου μας κ. Περούλα. Έχουμε δύο χρόνια ειδήσεων και δύο συνέδρια και εκδηλώσεις ενδιάμεσα που βρίσκονται σε αυτό το περιοδικό, ελπίζουμε και σχεδιάζουμε το επόμενο να είναι ακόμα καλύτερο. Ενημερώστε μας τηλεφωνώντας στο γραφείο ή στέλνοντάς μας email για να μας πείτε τι μπορεί να θέλετε να δείτε στα επόμενα τεύχη. Είθε η Παναγία μας να συνεχίσει να μας καθοδηγεί.

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ΕΥΧΕΣ ΝΕΟΥ ΔΗΜΑΡΧΟΥ ΚΑΡΠΕΝΗΣΙΟΥ Κ.ΚΑΚΚΑΒΑ ΧΡΗΣΤΟΥ

Με ιδιαίτερη χαρά και τιμή χαιρετίζω από τη θέση του νέου Δημάρχου Καρπενησίου όλους τους Ευρυτάνες της Αμερικής. Τους απόδημους συμπατριώτες μας που διακρίνονται στο εξωτερικό με το έργο τους, θέτοντας τους εαυτούς τους ως τους καλύτερους πρεσβευτές του όμορφου τόπου μας. Ταυτόχρονα κάνουν συνεχώς αισθητή την παρουσία τους στην Ευρυτανία, βοηθώντας με όλες τους τις δυνάμεις, κάνοντας περήφανο τον τόπο καταγωγής

τους κάθε φορά. Αυτές τις ημέρες γίνεται πιο έντονο το αίσθημα της προσμονής των γιορτών, όπου είναι μια ευκαιρία να καθίσουμε όλοι γύρω από ένα τραπέζι και να περάσουμε όμορφες στιγμές, παραδοσιακά όπως ορίζουν τα ήθη και τα έθιμά μας. Εύχομαι από καρδιάς Καλά Χριστούγεννα. Το χαρμόσυνο μήνυμα της γέννησης του Θεανθρώπου ασ φωτίζει τις ψυχές όλων μας. Υγεία, ειρήνη και προκοπή σε όλους τους απανταχού Ευρυτάνες. Η νέα χρονιά ασ είναι δημιουργική, γεμάτη ελπίδα με κοινό στόχο την ευημερία του τόπου.

GREETINGS OF THE NEW MAYOR OF KARPENISI. MR. CHRISTOS KAKKAVAS

It is with great pleasure and honor that I greet you, our fellow Evrytanians of America as the new Mayor of Karpensisi. As our expatriate compatriots, you distinguish yourselves abroad with your work, positioning yourselves as the best ambassadors of our beautiful country. At the same time, you constantly make your presence felt in Evritania, helping with all your might, making your place of origin proud. These days the feeling of anticipation of the holidays becomes more intense, where it is an opportunity to sit around a table and spend beautiful moments, traditionally as defined by our customs and traditions. The joyful message of his birth, let God-man enlighten the souls of all of us. Health, peace and prosperity to all Evrytanians everywhere. Let the new year be creative, full of hope with the common goal of the prosperity of the country.

Brief Biography of Mayor Kakkava

Ο Χρήστος Κακαβάς γεννήθηκε στις 11 Νοεμβρίου του 1980 στο Καρπενήσι Ευρυτανίας από τον Ιωάννη Κακαβά με καταγωγή από τους Δομιανούς και την Μαγδαληνή Κελέση με καταγωγή από την Παπαδιά Ευρυτανίας.

Το 1998 αποφοίτησε από το Γενικό Λύκειο Καρπενησίου και εισήχθη με υποτροφία στο Τμήμα Στατιστικής και Ασφαλιστικής Επιστήμης του Πανεπιστημίου Πειραιώς. Παράλληλα με τις σπουδές εργάστηκε στο χώρο της εστίασης.

Ολοκλήρωσε τις σπουδές του και έγινε κάτοχος Μεταπτυχιακού Διπλώματος στη Χρηματοοικονομική Ανάλυση και Τραπεζική Διοικητική με βαθμό άριστα και με υποτροφία στο ίδιο Πανεπιστήμιο.

Από το 2006 εργάζεται, στον τραπεζικό κλάδο (Citibank, Eurobank, Πειραιώς) σε κεντρικά καταστήματα των Αθηνών και από το 2013 μετατέθηκε στο Καρπενήσι στην Τράπεζα Πειραιώς όπου σήμερα κατέχει τον βαθμό του διευθυντή.

Το 2019 εκλέχτηκε πρώτος σε σειρά δημοτικός σύμβουλος του Δήμου Καρπενησίου με το συνδυασμό «Αλλαγή Πορείας». Από το 2019 έως το 2022, διετέλεσε πρόεδρος του Κολυμβητικού Ομίλου Καρπενησίου.

Τα ενδιαφέροντά του επικεντρώνονται στον χώρο του αθλητισμού όπου συμμετείχε ως παίκτης στον αθλητικό σύλλογο μπάσκετ Άτλαντα και στις δραστηριότητες με την οικογένειά του.

Είναι παντρεμένος με την εκπαιδευτικό Μαρία Κρεμοπούλου και έχουν αποκτήσει τέσσερα παιδιά: τον Ιωάννη, τον Βασίλειο, την Μαγδαληνή και τον Νικηφόρο.

Christos Kakavas was born on November 11, 1980 in Karpensisi, Evritania, to Ioannis Kakavas from Domianoí and Magdalini Kelessi from Papadia in Evritania.

In 1998 he graduated from the General Lyceum of Karpensisi and was admitted with a scholarship to the Department of Statistics and Insurance Science of the University of Piraeus. Along with his studies, he worked in the catering industry.

He completed his studies and obtained a Master's Degree in Financial Analysis and Banking Management with honors and a scholarship at the same University.

Since 2006 he has been working in the banking sector (Citibank, Eurobank, Piraeus) in central branches in Athens and since 2013 he was transferred to Karpensisi to Piraeus Bank where he currently holds the rank of director.

In 2019 he was elected first municipal councilor of the Municipality of Karpensisi with the combination "Change of Course".

From 2019 to 2022, he served as president of the Karpensisi Swimming Club.

His interests focus on sports where he participated as a player in the basketball club Atlas and activities with his family.

He is married to educator Maria Kremopoulou and they have four children: Ioannis, Vasilios, Magdalene and Nikiforos.



ΕΥΧΕΣ ΝΕΟΥ ΔΗΜΑΡΧΟΥ ΑΓΡΑΦΩΝ ΑΛΞΗΣ ΚΑΡΔΑΜΠΪΚΗΣ



Αισθάνομαι την ανάγκη να στείλω σε όλους τους συμπατριώτες μας Αγραφιώτες και σε όλους τους ομογενείς της Αμερικής που ζουν και δημιουργούν σε κάθε γωνιά αυτής της Ηπείρου, τις θερμότερες ευχές μου για τη νέα χρόνια που ξεκίνησε.

Να έχετε όλοι υγεία καθώς και προσωπική και οικογενειακή γαλήνη!

'Όλοι εσείς οι ομογενείς της Αμερικής, είστε η μεγαλύτερη δύναμη του ελληνισμού και ο κάθε ένας από σας ξεχωριστά, είναι πρεσβευτής της Ελλάδας.

'Όπως ο πλάτανος μπορεί και αναπτύσσεται και βαστάει τα κλαδιά του ανά τους αιώνες αφού η δύναμή του είναι οι ρίζες του, έτσι και εσείς όσο βαθύτερα απλώνετε τις ρίζες σας στη γη των προγόνων σας τόσο περισσότερο θα μπορείτε να αναπτύσσεστε.

Γνωρίζουμε όλοι πολύ καλά πως πάντα τρέφετε συναισθήματα αλληλεγγύης προς την πατρώα γη αλλά και νοσταλγίας, καθώς κάποια στιγμή της ζωής σας αναγκαστήκατε να φύγετε στα ξένα αποζητώντας έναν πιο αξιοπρεπή τρόπο ζωής. Γνωρίζουμε όμως κ πολύ καλά, πως ποτέ δεν ξεχνάτε τον τόπο σας και πάντα με δράσεις τον στηρίζετε. Επίσης γίνεστε οι φορείς και οι θεματοφύλακες πολιτιστικής μας κληρονομιάς στα πέρατα του κόσμου και έτσι αποτελείτε την καρδιά και τη φωνή της Ελλάδας στον κόσμο.

Εμείς από δω δεν ξεχνούμε ποτέ και εκτιμούμε ιδιαίτερα την προσφορά σας και τις πρωτοβουλίες που αναλαμβάνεται υπέρ της μητέρας Πατρίδας και για αυτό σας ευχαριστούμε από τα βάθη της καρδιάς μας ενώ πάντα ελπίζουμε μια μέρα όλοι να γυρίσετε για να μεγαλοουργήσετε ή να ξεκουραστείτε στη γη των προγόνων σας. Η αγκαλιά της Πατρίδας σας θα είναι πάντα ανοιχτή για όλους εσάς!!! Εύχομαι από καρδιάς..... Ευδαιμονία και Αρετή!! Κάθε ευτυχία και επιτυχία στη ζωή όλων!!

I feel the need to send to all our compatriots Agrafiotos and to all the expatriates of America who live and prosper in every corner of this continent, my warmest wishes for the new year. May you all have health as well as personal and family peace!

All of you, the expatriates of America, are the greatest force of Hellenism and each of you individually is the ambassador of Greece. Just as the platanos tree can grow and sustain its branches over the centuries since its strength is its roots, so the deeper you spread your roots in the land of your ancestors, the more you will be able to grow.

We all know very well that you always have feelings of solidarity with your homeland and nostalgia, as at some point in your life you were forced to flee abroad in search of a more dignified way of life.

But we know very well that you never forget your place and always support it with actions. You also become the bearers and custodians of our cultural heritage around the world and thus constitute the heart and voice of Greece in the world.

We from here never forget and greatly appreciate your contribution and the initiatives undertaken in favor of the Motherland and for this we thank you from the bottom of our hearts while we always hope one day that you will all return to greatness or rest in the land of your ancestors.

The embrace of your Homeland will always be open to all of you!!

I wish from the bottom of my heart.....

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Every happiness and success in everyone's life!!

Alexis Kardambikis, Mayor of Agrafa

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ΤΑ ΝΕΑ ΜΑΣ...

Chapter 1, “Panagia Prousiotissa”

Florence SC

Congratulations to Sophia Anastasia Mitropoulosa and Joanna Vivian Mitropoulos, daughters of Chris and Panayiota Mitropoulos of Florence, SC.

Both young ladies graduated from Francis Marion University in Florence, SC May 2022.

Sophia graduated Suma Cum Laud with two degrees, Chain Management and Finance. She graduated with a GPA of 4.0. She was the recipient of the William H. Blackwell Award which is presented to students with the highest academic achievement. She also received Management and Scholastic Achievement Awards. While attending classes at FMU, Sophia was hired by GE Healthcare in Florence as a paid intern. Since graduating, Sophia has been hired by GE Healthcare as a Materials Specialist. In addition, she is currently working on an MBA at Francis Marion University.

Joanna graduated Cum Laud with a BS in Nursing (BSN). She finished with a final GPA of 3.7. While attending classes, Joanna worked as a Medical Scribe at McLeod Regional Medical Center. Joanna passed her State Board Exam is currently working as a Registered Nurse at the Florence Campus of The Medical University of South Carolina Hospital Emergency Department.

Even with very busy school and work schedules, both girls found time to help their parents at their family-owned restaurant, Chris’s Diner. Florence

Chapter Number 1 is very proud of both of these young ladies. May God Grant them health and wisdom throughout their working careers.

Wedding Anniversary

Andrew and Elizabeth Pahis celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary on January 19, 2023. A Special Blessing was offered to the couple by Father Catalin Mot, Parish Priest of Holy Transfiguration of Our Saviour Greek Orthodox Church on Sunday, January 22, 2023 followed by a special coffee hour and party with lots of family and friends.

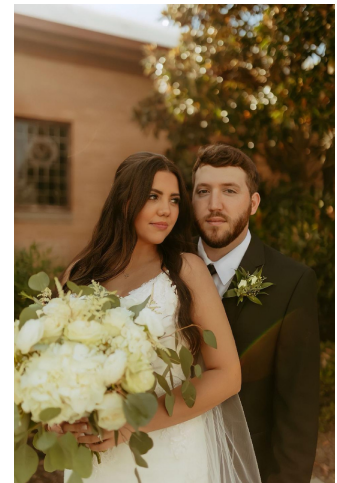
Wedding

Joanna Georgia Kampiziones and Bailey Thomas Tanner both of Florence, SC were married on October 22, 2022 at the Holy Transfiguration of Our Savior Greek Orthodox Church. The bride is the daughter of George and Theodora Kampiziones of Florence, SC.

She is also the granddaughter of Mrs. Aliko Prassas and the late Gus Prassas of Charlotte, NC and the late Mr. and Mrs Theodore Kampiziones of Florence, SC.

The Groom is the son of Sean and Allie Tanner of Florence, SC. The Koumbara wss Maria Tassios of Florence, SC.

After a honeymoon in Montego Bay, Jamaica, the couple is now residing in Florence, SC.



Baptism

Lucas George Fowler was Baptized on June 11, 2023. Lucas is the son of Michael and Kristy Gioldasis Fowler. The Godmother is Margarita Gioldasis. Grandparents are George and Agathoula Gioldasis and Ivy and Kathryn Williams.



**Chapter 1, “Panagia Prousiotissa”
Continued**

Andrew G. Kampiziones
February 20, 1931 - February 20, 2023

Andrew G. Kampiziones was born to George and Stavroula Kampiziones in Lamia, Greece. He died on February 20, 2023. Despite growing up during the hardships of World War II and the “Emphilio” Greek Civil War, he pursued his education, graduating Magna Cum Laude with a B.A. degree in Education from the Pedagogical Academy in Lamia. He taught for a few years before he was drafted, serving his country as Second Lieutenant. In 1956, he married his love, Eula (Paula) Hondros and moved to America eventually settling in New York City. He worked in the banking industry and earned his second degree from Queens College of CUNY with a B.A degree in Economics before finally settling in Florence, SC.



Andrew had a deep appreciation and respect for his new country and the many opportunities afforded to him. He quickly became involved in all areas giving back to the community. He was active in his church and Greek community from the local to national level, including member of the church choir, cantor, Sunday school and Greek school teacher, as well as president of the local chapter of AHEPA, the Evrytarian Association of America (the Velouchi), and League of Greek Orthodox Stewards (LOGOS). He expanded his banking and educational career to the restaurant industry, real estate development, and was a charter member of First Reliance Bank. He received a Master’s degree in Philosophy from the University of South Carolina and settled in his beloved field of teaching, where he is known throughout the community as having taught with distinction both at Francis Marion University and Florence-Darlington Technical College for over thirty years. He authored books and numerous journal publications and retired as Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and Ethics in 2019.

Andrew felt a true sense of duty not only to his country, homeland, community and family, but also his students. He believed in moulding characters and appreciating one’s heritage. He became a champion for Greek culture in America. He was an avid supporter of the arts, and served on numerous committees such as chairman of the Historical Commission appointed by the governor, the Florence Symphony Board, member of McLeod Regional Medical Center Foundation Board and Ethics committee, as well as, Florence Downtown Revitalization committee, Visual and Performing Arts Concert Hall Steering committee, Florence County New Public Library fundraising committee, Florence Museum Board, the Florence County Arts Alliance Founder, and a Florence Rotarian. He enjoyed traveling with his wife and friends and spending his summers in Greece.

Andrew was happiest when he was surrounded by his family and friends. Having lost his only child with Eula shortly after her birth, Andrew became a father to all his nephews and nieces, and a nurturing grandfather to their children. He was a pillar of strength for his family representing honor, kindness, duty, and generosity in the deepest sense. Anyone who came in his presence certainly felt his contagious enthusiasm for life and his warm, giving spirit.

He leaves an unparalleled legacy that was created with hard work, determination, and will-power. His whole life has been in service to his family, Church, community, country, and his homeland. For this he has been abundantly lauded and given many honors including that of Archon by His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos in 1982, for his outstanding service to the Church and a well-respected leader of the Orthodox Christian community; the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, awarded for sharing his knowledge, courage, compassion, unique talents and selfless generosity while acknowledging his debt to his ethnic heritage; the Order of the Palmetto, the highest recognition bestowed on a civilian by the State of South Carolina; and the Jack Baker Award for his impact in the arts and culture, to name a few.

Andrew is preceded in death by his daughter, Stavroula, his parents and siblings Theodore (Joanna) Kampiziones and Anna (Zisis) Poulos. He is survived by his wife Eula (Paula), his nephews and nieces, George (Theodora) Kampiziones, Terry (Niki) Kampiziones, Andrew (Helen) Kampiziones, Joanne (Tian) Ying, Helen Poulos, Gus Poulos, Helen (Steve) Doulaveris, Rena Chizmar, Steve Hondros, and numerous beloved nephews, nieces, great-nephews and great-nieces.

**Chapter 1, “Panagia Prousiotissa”
Continued**

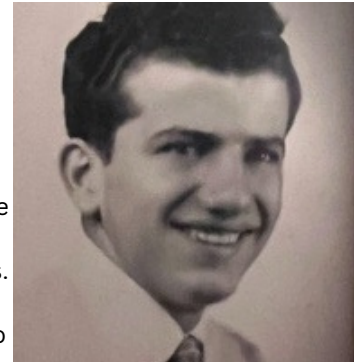
February 11, 2024

The Velouchi Association of America National board as well as the Daughters of Evrytania National Board attended the one year memorial of our beloved past president Mr. Andrew Kampiziones. Mr. Jimmy Gioldasis and the members of Chapter 1 “Panagia Prousiotissa” in Florence, arranged a beautiful event and we were all honored to be there to celebrate the memory of this wonderful man who gave his all to the Association. He was always offering his wisdom and advice for the betterment of our goals and we are all appreciative of his life’s work. An award was given to his lovely wife Eula, posthumously, acknowledging all of his work and dedication.
May His Memory Be Eternal.



**Angelos T. Bakis
May 10, 1935 - December 5, 2023**

Angelos Thomas Bakis, 88, of Florence, was born to Thomas and Efrosini Bakis in Nostimon, Karpenisi, Greece on May 10, 1935 and passed away on December 5, 2023 from a battle with COPD. Despite spending time in and out of the hospital, he never lost his sense of humor, which continued to his last days. He left his homeland at the young age of 16 in 1951 to pursue a better life in the United States. Upon arriving in America, he began his life as a restaurateur working at Howard Johnson’s in Charlotte, NC. He was a veteran having served in the US army for two years in Korea. He met his wife, Elefteria N. Bakis, in Canada and was married in 1961. They moved to Florence, SC, where he continued his restaurant career at the 301 Drive In Restaurant until his retirement.



Angelos was an active member of the Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church where he served in many capacities throughout the years. He loved his church family and his church. He was a member of the Evrytania Association of America (The Velouchi). He was also a member of the Amity Lodge No. 340 with the Shriners and a lifetime member of the Masons with the Mecca Lodge No. 407. He dearly loved his family, spending time with his grandchildren, and enjoyed many trips traveling back and forth in the summers to his home birth place in Greece.

He is preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Christo Bakis and Andrew Bakis; and sister, Elizabeth Philippakis.

Surviving are his wife of 63 years, Elefteria of Florence; children, Frances (Robert) Ray and Thomas Bakis; granddaughter, Vanetta (Bradley) Hudson; great-grandchildren, Kayli and Brooklyn Hudson; and a sister, Xanthie Papaspyrou.

Chapter 2, “Marcos Botsaris” Fayetteville, NC

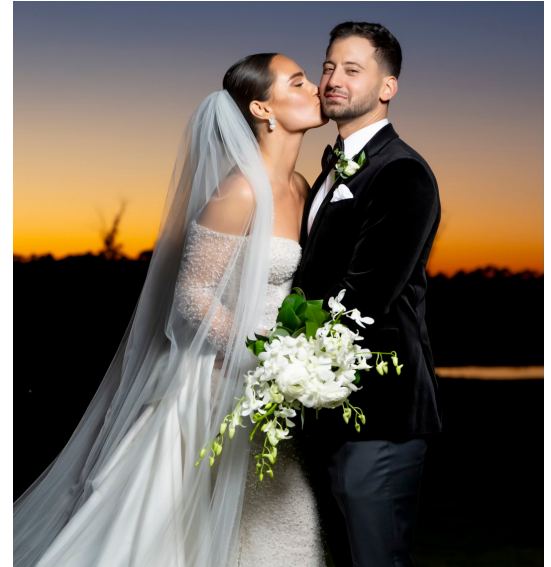
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Kalevas of Fayetteville, N.C. joyfully announce the marriage of their daughter Patricia Mia Kalevas to Dean Psilopoulos, son of Ms. Maria Kakavitsas and Mr. Christos Psilopoulos both from Charlotte, N.C.

Patricia is the granddaughter of Mrs. Dionisia Leloudis and the late Mr. Tommy Leloudis and the late Mr. & Mrs. Vasilios Kalevas. Dean is the grandson of Mr. & Mrs. Haralambros Kakavitsas and the late Mr. & Mrs. Constantinos Psilopoulos.

The wedding took place on Saturday, October 21, 2023 at 4:00 pm at Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Fayetteville, N.C. The Reverend Father Alex Papagikos officiated. The Koumbari were Mr. & Mrs. Elias Stergiou from Charlotte, N.C.

A beautiful reception was held following the ceremony at The Carolina Barn in Spring Lake, N.C.

Να ζήσουνε σαν τα ψηλά βουνά της Ευρυτανίας!



The National Association gave our chapter a \$1000.00 to give a scholarship in memory of our long time Priest, Rev. Father Chrysostom Manuel who was huge advocate for education & higher learning. Our chapter matched that donation and awarded 2 scholarships on May 14, 2023, to Nick Koukies (The Ohio State), son of Derek and Karen Koukies and to Billy Kalevas (ECU) son of Zoe Kalevas and the late Victor B. Kalevas.



(Pictured left to right, President Alfred Barefoot, Presvytera Anthoula Manuel, Nick Koukies & Billy Kalevas)

On Sunday, Oct. 29, 2023, the family of the departed Toula Mathes Vlachos held a one-year memorial service in her honor. The family sponsored the coffee hour in our fellowship hall. May her Memory be Eternal.

Chapter 2, “Marcos Botsaris”
Continued



On Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023, the family of the departed Thanasis Kostas Poulos held a one-year memorial service in his honor. The family sponsored the coffee hour and hosted a lunch in our fellowship hall. May his Memory be Eternal.



Constantine George Patronis, 93, passed away on Thursday, October 19, 2023, at his home in Fayetteville, NC, surrounded by his loving family. Constantine was preceded in death by his father, George Constantine Patronis; mother, Katherine Lefas; brother, John Patronis; and infant sister, Ellie. He leaves behind to cherish his memory his wife, Athanasia Moutos Patronis; children, Catherine C. Patronis, George C. Patronis (Skylar), and Johnny C. Patronis (Tara); grandchildren, Anthea Uptegrove (Bill), Michael Gulas, Victoria Patronis, Nina Patronis, Connor Patronis; and his great granddaughter, Catherine Uptegrove. Constantine was born in Marathia, Greece on May 22, 1930, and in 1947, at the age of 17, he immigrated to America. He enlisted in the US Air Force in July of 1951, driven by his deep love and gratitude for America. He would often say, “The only thing I have to give back is myself.” He served as a Language Specialist and after his honorable discharge, pursued his education at Louisburg College as an undergraduate and continued at Mercer University College of Pharmacy.

Constantine was an active member of the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation of Atlanta, GA for 64 years before moving to Fayetteville, NC, and becoming a member of Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church. He was a founding father of the American Foundation for Hellenic Studies at Georgia State University, a lifelong AHEPA member, a Velouchi member, and a Grand Lodge Mason for 75 years.

In addition to his service, Constantine was a successful entrepreneur, having his own pharmacy and engaging in many other business endeavors. He was an avid reader, a lover of poetry, enjoyed woodworking, dancing, and gardening. Above all, he enjoyed creating long lasting memories with his family and friends.

A Trisagion Service was at 10:30 am on Monday, October 23, 2023 followed

by a funeral at St.’s Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church with Father Alexander Papagikos officiating. May His Memory be Eternal.



Chapter 3, “Ο Platanos”**Winston Salem****By Bessie Strates****Βαπτίσεις:**

Στις 10 Σεπτεμβρίου ετελέσθη η βάπτισμα του Λουκά Σταύρου Μπομποτσιάρη ο οποίος είναι γιός του Ανδρέα και της Καλλιόπης Μπομποτσιάρη. Ανάδοχος παρέστη ο Σταύρος Μπομποτσιάρης του Παναγιώτου. Να σας ζήσει το νεοφώτιστο.

**Αρραβώνες:**

Θερμά συγχαρητήρια στον Χαράλαμπο Τσατσαρώνη του Κώστα και της Λίτσας Τσατσαρώνη και την Νικολέττα Ακάλεστον του Μιχάλη και της Αικατερίνης Ακάλεστον, που έγιναν στις 24 Σεπτεμβρίου. Η ώρα η καλή και καλά στέφανα.

Γάμοι:

Στις 18 Σεπτεμβρίου ετελέσθη ο γάμος της Μαρίας Στραβομύτη που είναι κόρη της Ελένης και του αείμνηστου Χρήστου Στραβομύτη με τον Ιωάννη Καστάνη που είναι γιός του Παρασκευά και της Ολγας Καστάνη. Να ζήσετε ευτυχισμένοι. Κουμπάρος παρέστη ο Ιωάννης Διαμαντής.

Στις 9 Οκτωβρίου ετελέσθη ο γάμος της Ελένης Καλυβιώτη του Σωτήρη και της Πηνελόπης Καλυβιώτη με τον Σπύρου Τσιόφλια που είναι γιός του αείμνηστου Ιωάννη και της Άρτεμις Τσιόφλια. Κουμπάροι παρέστησαν ο Μιχάλης και η Αλαξάντρα Καμπούρογλου. Να ζήσετε ευτυχισμένοι.

**Θάνατοι:**

Εκφράζουμε θερμά συλλυπητήρια στον Ελευθέριο και Ρωξάνη Γιαννόπουλο, στον Θανάση και Άννα Γιαννόπουλο για το θάνατο της αγαπημένης τους αδελφής στην Ελλάδα Αλεξάνδρας Κοντοκώστα στις 10 Αυγούστου.

Επίσης θερμά συλλυπητήρια στην Μαρία και Πέτρο Λεονταρίδη για τον θάνατο της μητέρας της Ζωή Πουρνάρα (αδελφή Μακρίνα) στις 19 Σεπτεμβρίου. Ο Θεός να την αναπαύσει και ζωή σε εσάς, επίσης στον Βασίλη και Νίκο Πουρνάρα, αδελφια της Μαρίας.

Ο Θεός να τους αναπαύσει και ζωή στους υπολοίπους οικείους και συγγενείς.



January 2023 - The Vasilopita Cutting and the Nation Board of Trustees Meeting was held in Winston Salem NC It was beautiful event at Annunciation Church with the dance troupe showcasing their beautiful dances as they prepared for The Hellenic Dance Festival!!



Chapter 4, “Ο Elatos”**Charlotte, NC**

The feastday of the Panagia Proussiotissa was celebrated on August 23 rd at Elatos Park. The evening before, worshippers attended Vespers ,an Efhelio and Artoclasia led by Father Jonathan Resmini from Holy Trinity Cathedral. The following morning the Divine Liturgy was celebrated by Father Jonathan, and assisted by Deacon George Politis. At the end of the service the beautiful Icon of the Proussiotissa was processed around the Chapel grounds followed by the worshippers. A delicious luncheon was held in the social hall and was again sponsored and served by Mr. and Mrs. Costas Holevas and family.

On Sunday, October 29 the Chapter celebrated the anniversary of OXI Day which had been officially celebrated the day before. The event was held in the Father C Hall of Holy Trinity Cathedral after the Divine Liturgy. A delicious lunch was provided by many members of the Chapter, and the desserts were provided by the Daughters of Evrytania. Chapter President, Bill Nixon welcomed all to the event. We were honored to have Mr. James Chulkas, the National President of the Evrytanian Association, and his wife, Mrs. Roula Chulkas, National President of the Daughters of Evrytania in attendance. A special recognition was given to Mrs. Maria Pistiolis and Mr. Tom Nixon who have worked diligently and with love for our Chapter for many years. The event was highlighted with a presentation by Dr. Manthos Stamoulis, who gave an excellent history and explanation using videos of the events leading up to OXI Day, and their significance for Greece.





November 1, 2022

CHARLOTTE – The sun was shining brightly on the morning of Tuesday, November 1, 2022, as Heaven’s doors opened to receive one of the brightest angels to walk on this Earth. Larry “Eleutherios” Peroulas, 82, closed his eyes one last time, peacefully in his home in Charlotte NC, surrounded by his family who deeply adored him.

Larry was born in Dytiki Fragista, Greece in March 1941. He loved his country deeply and would spend his life dedicated to teaching others its history and culture. With his hard work and determination, Larry completed his bachelor’s degree in economics at the University of Athens and would later receive his master’s degree from New York University. He moved to Charlotte in 1997 and served as the Principal at Holy Trinity Greek School for more than 20 years.

His dream was to start a Greek American school which came to fruition in August of 2005. Socrates Academy opened its doors with 67 elementary students and would successfully become an award-winning school with more than 800 students spanning grades K-12. Even during his battle with cancer, he worked diligently at putting the last touches on the new high school, often spending time on the school grounds formalizing the design with the architects. He even enlisted his two granddaughters to assist him with paperwork when he lacked the strength to do so. His deep passion for teaching was fueled with the love he had for his scholars and strong desire to give them every possible tool for a bright and successful future.

Another love of Larry’s was his job at The Erytarian Association Headquarters where he worked on the Velouchi magazine and spent countless hours working as the publisher and editor for the Greek publication. He is sorely missed by all of his friends and patriots of his beloved Evrytania. His energy, intelligence, and perseverance can be felt across the community, leaving a legacy that will long outlive us all.

His family can only describe him as their hero, an angel whose imprint will remain forever in their heart and souls. They couldn’t be prouder of his accomplishments and the person he was. He will always be loved, tremendously missed, and never forgotten. Larry’s passion for teaching could only be matched by his dedication and love for his wife of 60 years, Effie; his children, Constantinos Peroulas, Maria Kotrotsios and Vasiliki Peroulas; his grandchildren whom he adored, Efthimia Peroulas and Marianthe Kotrotsios. He is also survived by his siblings, John Peroulas and his wife, Tina, Theodora Balaouras, Georgia Rigas; his sister-in-law, Voula Douridas, and his many nieces and nephews. Larry was preceded in death by his parents Konstantinos and Eugenia Peroulas; his brother, George Peroulas, and his sister, Eleni Asimakopoulos.

Chapter 4, “Ο Elatos” Continued

Evrytarian Scholarship Recipient Reaches Out to Help Refugees

For a busy college age gal, summer break can mean a time of relaxation, a possible internship, a part time job, or travel to a foreign country to help suffering refugees. Chrysoula Xyrafakis of Charlotte chose the latter and worked for three weeks at a refugee camp on the island of Chios, Greece. Wishing to do something meaningful in her spare time for humanity, Chrysoula searched for this opportunity on the internet and came across the Greek-America Corps (Greek American Foundation) out of New York. It is open to young people of the United States and Canada. She joined a group of 10 Americans and two Canadians who travelled to the island of Chios and a refugee camp for unaccompanied minors. She spent three weeks in the camp July 23- August 14. The youth were from Syria, Somalia and Afghanistan.



Her duties involved camp chores, befriending the minors, teaching English, listening to them, playing soccer (lots of soccer!), beach time and in general establishing an atmosphere of normalcy for these children separated from their parents. Many were in touch with their parents. Naturally they enjoy what any child would enjoy like playing video games and sports. One young boy, Chrysoula says, who remains close to her heart was Habibi, translated ‘my love’ because of the joy he had for life and who spoke Greek. Chrysoula was a recipient of the Daughters of Evrytania Scholarship and the Evrytarian Foundation Scholarships the past two years. She is a senior at Wingate University, Majoring in Human Services. This was not the first time Chrysoula has volunteered. In July 2018, she attended an IOCC conference in Minneapolis which included civic outreach and in 2019, she travelled to Key West, FL to help rebuild a home that had been devastated by Hurricane Irma. Her goal now is to work at the Chios camp next summer. She and several of her co-workers anxiously await the posting of applications for 2023. Her parents are George and Katerina Xyrafakis of Charlotte. She may not be going alone from Charlotte! If anyone would like to contribute to the Greek American Foundation please contact: <https://greekamerica.kindful.com>



---Law Office---

Ο Χρήστος Κοτσιώνης από το Καλεσμένο Καρπενησίου και η νομική ομάδα του γραφείου αναλαμβάνουν για ομογενείς από ΗΠΑ τις νομικές τους υποθέσεις οπουδήποτε στην Ελλάδα.

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- Δικαστήρια
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- Απόκτηση Ελληνικής Ιθαγένειας
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Chapter 4, “Ο Elatos”

Continued

Serafim (Mike) Pistiolis, born in Fidakia, Evrytania and husband of Maria Pistiolis for 57 years, passed away on May 12, 2022. He served his family, community, and the Evrytania Association throughout his life, as chapter President for years, supporter and tireless worker for the Panagia Prousiotissa Chapel at Elatos Park, Holy Trinity Cathedral and its events, but was also devoted to his family of 3 children, and 10 grandchildren of whom he had great pride. His gentleness and glowing smile will always be missed.



A great sadness overcame our chapter and the whole community of Charlotte at the passing of our beautiful sister and friend, Aikaterina (Rina) Georgiou. With mixed emotions we said our farewells to her as she packed to visit her home in Greece, knowing she was ill with cancer, but happy to be ‘going home’ for a visit. Unfortunately, she did not return to us. She was laid to rest in her village of Pavlopoulo. Her sisters and daughter Sia were with her. Rina leaves a huge hole in our lives, in our chapter (as Vice-President) and our Philoptochos.



Voula Triantis, past National Daughters of Evrytania President and born in Paparousi, Evrytania, passed away on September 17, 2022. She was married 70 years to the late John Triantis and leaves behind 5 children, five grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

Voula was an expert seamstress, handwork perfectionist, and gracious hostess throughout her life in the Charlotte Community, and will be missed.

**ΒΑΣΙΛΗΣ
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Greek Descent Scholarships

In addition to the Velouchi Scholarships, there are many more that our students can apply to for extra help. Check out the links below.

Velouchi.org

<https://federationofstereahellas.org>

Ahepa.org/education

nationalhellenicsociety.org

**Chapter 6, “Athanasios Karpenisiotis”
Asheville, NC**

Athanasios (Tommy) Spiros Apostolopoulos, son of Spiros and Elizabeth Apostolopoulos, graduated from Western Kentucky University with a Masters in Biology in May '22. He was awarded the Ogden College of Science and Engineering Outstanding Graduate Award. He currently employed as a Wildlife Biologist with Kentucky Fish and Wildlife



Andreas (Drew) Dimitrios Katsigianis, son of Jimmy and Maria (Apostolopoulos) Katsigianis, graduated from the University of North Carolina at Asheville on May 6, 2023 with the degree of Bachelor of Science, Management, Distinction in Management

Velouchi Scholarship recipient Samuel Andreas Apostolopoulos, son of Spiros and Elizabeth Apostolopoulos, graduated from Wake Forest University in May '22 with honors. Sam majored in History and Political Science. He was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship and is currently researching and studying in Chile with plans to attend law school upon his return.



Ioanna Maria Katsigiannis graduated from Buncombe High School in June with honors. She is the daughter of Jimmy and Maria (Apostolopoulos) Katsigiannis and granddaughter of Andreas and Golfo Katsigiannis and Linda Apostolopoulos of Asheville. Ioanna attends AB Technical College and will continue her education to a four-year college.



Samuel Andreas Apostolopoulos (l) graduated from Wake Forest University in May with high honors in History and Political Science. He was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to do research in Chile the next year. Athanasios (Tommy) Spiros Apostolopoulos (r) graduated from Western Kentucky University with a Masters of Science in Biology and received the Ogden Graduate Student of the Year. He is currently conducting research for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife. They are the sons of Spiros and Elizabeth Apostolopoulos and grandsons of Linda and the late Arthur Apostolopoulos .

Chapter 6, “Athanasios Karpenisiotis” Continued

Wedding

Pete and Paula Apostolopoulos are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter Vickie to Christopher Keller which took place on June 25, 2022 at St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Chicago, IL. Mrs. Katina (Arakas) Kenyon served as koumbara.

Postponed since 2020 due to Covid, friends and family from across were all happy to gather and celebrate the joyous occasion. Vickie and Christopher reside in Chicago and both work for architecture firms. Christopher is a Principal and Design Director of Stantec and Vickie is Director of Marketing and Business Development at SCB. We wish them much happiness!



DEATHS

With great sadness we learned of the passing of Theodora Katsigiannis Ledford, age 50, on June 6, 2022 at Duke University Hospital. Theodora was born in Burlington but grew up in Asheville and the Buncombe County area, graduating from Enka High School. After her graduation from NC State University, she began her journey in healthcare education by getting her Bachelor in Science degree in Nursing from Western Carolina University, followed by a Masters in Science in Nursing from the University of South Alabama, and at the time of her passing held the position of Registered Nurse, Clinical Nurse Leader and most recently NIC Nurse Manager at the Charles George VA Medical where she had completed her internship. Theodora is survived by her husband, Adrian Ledford, and her three sons Paul, Jonathan and Zachary Ledford, her parents Golfo and Andreas Katsigiannis of Asheville and mother-in-law Marcia Ann Ledford, and brother Jimmy Katsigiannis. Theodora was a member of the Asheville Daughters of Evrytania for many years. A Scholarship in her name has been established as a memorial made to Enka High School in her memory.



NEWPORT NEWS, VA

Ioanna Lappas Mageras passed away on September 9, 2022. She was born in Karpenisi. Lovingly called “Miss Anna” by her close acquaintances, she was the widow of Sam Mageras and is survived by two daughters, Zena Mageras of Newport News and Vicky Papakonstantinou (Chris) of Asheville, NC and four grandchildren. May her memory be eternal.

Chapter 7, “Sotiria” Knoxville, TN

Nicholas Stratis and Maria Patselikos were married in Tholopotami, Chios, Greece on July 11th, 2021. Niko is the son of Father Anthony Stratis and Presvytera Eleni Stratis of Knoxville, TN. Maria is the daughter of Panagiotis and Despina Patselikos of New Orleans, LA. Koumbaroi were their brothers, Stavros Stratis of Knoxville and Pantelis Patselikos of New Orleans. Niko is the grandson of long time Velouchi members Georgia B Vastakis and the late Nickolaos S Vastakis of Atlanta, GA. The couple resides in Brookhaven, GA. Να ζήσετε ευτυχισμένοι!



Menas Keramidas, one of the Evrytanian Association's oldest members, turned 100 years old on his Nameday, Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023. His wife, Athena Peroulas Keramidas, and his children Olga Marlar, Sam and Elias Keramidas, honored him with a celebration dinner at the St. George Church Fellowship Hall on Sunday, November 12. Over 150 people attended to wish Menas Happy Birthday! Καί του χρόνου!

Grace Corinne Kotsianas was baptized May 13, 2023, at St. George Church in Knoxville, TN. She was born on November 17, 2022. Parents are Emma and Franklin Kotsianas. Grandparents are Dr. James and Fannie Kotsianas. The God parents are Matthew and Kike Kotsianas.



Glen and Alexandra (Kleto) Ciborowski, (along with proud big sister, Mary Eleni), announce the Baptism of their son, Henry Philip, on August 27, 2022. He was christened Spyridon. His Godmother is Dr. Demetria Peroulas. She is the daughter of John and Mary Beth Peroulas. Henry was born on April 5, 2022. He is the grandson of Dean and Marcia Kleto and the great-grandson of the late Spero (Pete) and Connie (Stassinis) Kleto. The Rev. Fr. Anthony Stratis, V. Rev. Fr. Dionysis Lampropoulos, and Rev. Dn. Mark Smith officiated at St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Knoxville, TN.

Chapter 7, “Sotiria” Continued

Frank James Kotsianas passed away peacefully on February 22, 2023. Our father and “Papou” was a force here on this earth and will most certainly be in Heaven too. He had a larger than life personality and made his presence known everywhere he went. He was loved and respected by many people and will be greatly missed. Frank James Kotsianas was born in Kalesmeno, Greece on June 26, 1927. His beloved grandfather, Father George Ligdis (an orthodox priest) taught him orthodox chanting where his love of music began. After the war in 1946, he immigrated to the United States with his parents and younger brother John. The family settled in Woodstock, Virginia where he attended military school. In 1948, he moved to Knoxville to join his older brother George and sister Eva. He served in the US Army for two years during the Korean War and was honorably discharged in 1956. He graduated from Knoxville High School where he studied classical music under the direction of Mr. Edward Zambara. He was a member of St. George Greek Orthodox Church where he served as a choir member, parish council member and chantor for 70 years. Frank was also a life-long member of the Evrytanean Association of America where he served as Vice-President. Frank was well known as one of Knoxville’s premier restaurateurs where he owned and operated Frank’s Brass Rail in 1956, Ivanhoe House of Beef in 1966 and Kotsi’s CharcoalGrill in 1986. Frank was an avid golfer, loved to cook and always enjoyed spending time with his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Frank is preceded in death by his parents, James and Konstando Kotsianas, brothers George Consin (Mary) and John Kotsianas (Christina “Pipi”) and sister Eva Caracostis (James). He is survived by his loving wife of 68 years, Helen Gallins Kotsianas, sons Dr. James Kotsianas (Fannie), John Kotsianas (Becky), and grandchildren Franklin (Emma), Matthew (Kiki), Dr. Sperry Wheeler (Dr. James), Ellie Christner (Aaron) and Katie Massey (Taylor), seven great grandchildren and many other nieces, nephews and extended family. Special thanks to Frank’s care giver Randa Halloun for her compassion, love, and service.



**Chapter 9, “Kefalovriso”
Greenville, SC**

Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Chulkas announce the marriage of their daughter Chrisoula to Anastasios Ioannou, son of Emmanouil Ioannou and Georgia (Mantis) Graham. Their Koumbaro, Adonis Paspalaris of Charlotte. The wedding took place in Greenville, SC on February 26, 2023 with all of their families and friends in attendance. May their lives be blessed with happiness , love and health!!



Births

Congratulations to Eric and Marianne Richey on the birth of their daughter Paraskevi (Poppy) on November 10, 2022. Poppy is the granddaughter of Patti and Leon Kolokithas and Al and Wanda Richey.



Mr. and Mrs. Nick Garilas announce the marriage of their son James to Chrysanthe Coufos, Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Steph Coufos. The wedding took place in Danvers, Massachusetts on May 27, 2023. It was beautiful event attended by friends and family both near and far. May this beautiful couple be blessed with every joy in life.



George and Stephanie Chulkas would like to announce the birth of their daughter, Katherine Margit Chulkas on December 14, 2022. She weighed 5lbs, 9ozs. She is the granddaughter of Thomas (Kalesmeno) and Kiki (Topoliana) Chulkas (St.Nicholas - Spartanburg, SC) and Janis Boyd-Bowman (St. George-Greenville, SC).

Velouchi and Daughters events in Greenville continued through 2022 and 2023

The chapters held meetings and fundraising events that benefit the children with special needs, floods and our many other giving projects. We are blessed with hardworking members who are ready to help and support our projects. We also celebrate Panagia Prousiotissa at St. George and host the coffee in Her honor. May the blessed Panagia continue to bless us all!



Chapter 9, “Kefalovriso”
Continued

Velouchi Souvlaki OXI Day
Luncheon 2022



Daughter of Evrytania
Luncheon for March 25th 2022



Chapter 9, “Kefalovriso”
Continued

Daughter of Evrytania
Luncheon - Vasilopita cutting



Many thanks to our St. George Community that always supports our efforts and to all the families that donate their time, talents and food items to ensure our success!!

**Chapter 10 Itia
Washington DC
By Sotiris Nasios**



Christopher James Freedman, son of Helen and Carl Freedman and grandson of Panagiota Stathopoulos and the late Chriss G. Stathopoulos graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts. While pursuing his degree, Christopher was a student athlete on the Northeastern Varsity Men's Rowing team. Christopher began his engineering career in June 2022 at GE Aviation in Boston, Massachusetts.

Christopher, we are very proud of you and we wish you continued success.

Στις 26 Μαρτίου έγινε και πάλι το Καρπενησιώτικο αντάμωμα στα βουνά της Virginias.

Οικοδεσπότες ο Λάμπρος Μπισμπίκης με το γιο του Δημήτρη και το γαμπρό του Στάυρο Καρακατσάνη. Μαγείροι, ο Ηλίας Ντόβολος, Ηλίας Στεργίου και Γιώργος Αναγνωστόπουλος.

Κλαρίνα το στερεοφωνικό, τσίπουρο ή τραμυζάννα και οι καλεσμένοι όλοι εκλεκτοί.

Οδηγώντας ήξερα ακριβώς τι θα βρω αλλά αυτό που δεν περίμενα ήταν το πυκνό χιόνι που έπιασε όταν αρχίσαμε να ανεβαίνουμε το βουναλάκι. Μέχρι να φτάσουμε πάνω το είχε στρώσει. Κατά τη διάρκεια της ημέρας τρεις φορές χιόνισε αλλά φυσικά δεν αφήσαμε λίγο χιόνι να μας χαλάσει ούτε την διάθεση ούτε την όρεξη.

Περάσαμε μια υπέροχη μέρα γεμάτη φαγοπότη παρέα και καλαμπούρι. Φυσικά πολλοί από μας νηστεύαμε αλλά ευτυχώς για καλή μας τύχη είχε και αρνί στη σούβλα.:) βέβαια κατά τις έξι το βραδάκι βγήκε η καθιερωμένη φασολάδα που ήταν απίθανη. Τουλάχιστον για μένα ένα από τα ομορφότερα πράγματα που έχω παρατηρήσει στις συγκεντρώσεις αυτές είναι η άνετη και αυτόματη σύνδεση και κατανόηση μεταξύ Ευρυτάνων. Είναι η Ευρυτανία μας? Είναι το λεξιλόγιό μας? Είναι τα εθιματά μας? Είναι η φιλοξενία μας? Δεν ξέρω τι είναι αλλά το αίσθημα ήταν τόσο δυνατό που ακόμη και οι λίγοι που δεν ήταν από την Ευρυτανία αισθάνθηκαν Ευρυτάνες για την ημέρα. Εκ μέρους όλων των καλεσμένων ευχαριστώ την οικογένειά του Λάμπρου και όλους αυτούς που εργάστηκαν για να περάσουμε εμείς καλά. Εύχομαι η Παναγία μας η Προυσιωτίσσα να τους προστατεύει και να τους έχει πάντα καλά.



Θερμά συγχαρητήρια στο χωριανό μου Χρήστο Κακαβά για την εκλογή του σαν καινούργιος δήμαρχος Καρπενησίου. Χρήστο οι Δομιοιότες όπου και να βρισκόμαστε είμαστε υπερήφανοι για σένα. ΚΑΙ ΣΕ ΑΝΩΤΕΡΑ.

Σωτήριος Νάσιος

Chapter 10, “Itia” Continued



On May 28, 2022 Maria Nasios and Vishal Hemnani became husband and wife. Maria is the daughter of Sotirios and Ioanna Nasios of Rockville MD. The wedding took place at Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Silver Spring, Maryland, but not before a full Indian celebration the night before called the Sangeet. The new couple are high school sweethearts and have been together for 12 years. They reside in Bethesda, MD. We wish them a long healthy and prosperous life together.



Στις 27 Μαρτίου και μετά από δύο χρόνια απουσίας η ετήσια παρέλαση στη Βαλτιμόρη επέστρεψε. Το τμήμα μας βέβαια δεν έχασε την ευκαιρία να λάβει μέρος στην ομορφότερη εορτή της ελευθερίας της πατρίδος μας. Οι θεατές ήταν λίγοι αλλά μεγάλη εντύπωση μου έκανε ο μεγάλος αριθμός σωματείων που παρέλασαν. Λίγοι παραβρέθηκαν από το τμήμα μας αλλά ο αριθμός μας ενισχύθηκε όταν με μεγάλη έκπληξη μπήκε να παρέλαση μαζί μας η γραμματέας του Βελουχίου Katie Chulkas. Η Katie έτυχε να είναι στην Βαλτιμόρη και φυσικά δεν δείσταξε να παρέλασει μαζί μας με μεγάλη περηφάνια. Εύχομαι η παράδοση αυτή να συνεχιστεί για να μην ξεχάσουμε ποτέ ότι την ελευθερία που έχουμε, μας την δώσανε άλλοι, και πληρώσανε με τη ζωή τους.

On May 18th My brother and I had the pleasure of meeting up with our national president Mr. Jimmy Chulkas and his brother in-law Christopher Skenteris. We met up at Tysons Mall upon the president's request. He had just returned from a two-week trip to Karpenisi to work on details for the convention program. He brought me up to speed with all the preparations in Evrytania and the committee's efforts to provide a memorable experience. It is always a pleasure to meet with patriotes, but I have to admit that Jimmy's enthusiasm and dedication to the Velouchi mission is on another level. You could feel his excitement as he talked about his meeting with the various representatives, about the agona zoe's apartment visit and all the events that will provide a great experience to all that will visit this Summer for the convention. All I can say is that we are very fortunate to have Jimmy as our national president and I pray that our panagia prouiotisa keeps him healthy and gives him strength to continue his mission.



On May 14 our chapter held its first General assembly for 2022. Although attendance was lighter than normal, we're still managed to have a very dynamic group. We enjoyed breakfast together and after catching up on all the personal stuff we attended to the association's business. We pledge to continue supporting the program kids with special needs. We talked about the challenges of increasing membership, talked about the convention and strategized about future chapter events since there have been no fundraisers in the last two years. We decided to once again host our annual picnic this summer. All in all, it was a great meeting and it was good to hear that many of our members are planning to attend the convention.

Chapter 10, “Itia”
Continued



On June 4th, 2023 our chapter held its annual picnic at Seneca Creek Park. After a three-year absence, it was great to get everybody together again without wearing masks. We were blessed with a beautiful sunny day. Many people took the opportunity to come out and enjoy some great food, good music, and even some poetry read by our very own John Bokas. The picnic has been our main get-together event for many many years, and is always very well attended. Needless to say (Πρασόππα) was on the menu made by expert hands. We are looking forward to next year already.



Chapter 10, “Itia”
continued

March 25, 2023 Once again, our chapter participates in the Greek Independence Day parade in Baltimore. Every year we struggle with the number of participants, but our hope is reflected in the eyes of the little children dressed in their beautiful traditional costumes. A big thank you to Katie Chulkas, velouchi national secretary, for joining us for the second year in a row. Katie, you are amazing.



Chapter 13, “Evrytania” Chicago, IL

Panagia Prousiotissa

On Sunday, August 27, Chapter 13 held an artoklasia in honor of Panagia Prousiotissa in veneration of her most Holy Virgin Mary. Our very own Chicago Chapter 13 had the replica of the original icon imported from Greece and housed at St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Chicago, IL. It was a beautiful service with a big turnout of Evrytians to humbly venerate the icon.

Την Κυριακή, 27 Αυγούστου, ο Σύλλογος Ευρυτάνων τίμησε και προσκύνησε με αρτοκλασία Την Κυρά Της Ρούμελης Παναγία Προυσιώτισσας!



Elections

Elections were held for Chapter 13 on October 22, 2023 at St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church in Des Plaines, IL. A new board was elected and sworn in with John Kokkinos as President, Andreas Lappas as Vice President, Venetia Lappas as Treasurer, and Demetra Bolis and Irene Stamatakis as General Secretaries. Board Members also include George Akrivos, Hephasteon Bolaris, Hristos Dallas, Nick Dallas, Eleni Kokkinos, Bill Peroulas, George Platis, Stathis Saltis, Hristos Vourtsas, and auditing Gus Sveronis. Congratulations to the new board



**Chapter 13, “Evrytania”
Continued****Hunter’s Night**

Chapter 13 held a Hunter's Night event on November 7, 2023 at Jimmy's Charhouse in Libertyville, IL. This event that started off as a casual get together among hunters both in and out of the Evrytania community, has now grown into an annual chapter event that features delicious game-based meals prepared by our hunters!

Happy Holidays to all of our loved ones, near and far! Καλές γιορτές σε όλους με υγεία και ευτυχία!

**Wedding**

Alcaeos M. Bolaris, a nuclear engineer, born in Chicago, who lives and works in Paris, France, son of Miltiades E. Bolaris, an architect and importer, born in Serres, Macedonia, Greece and Louiza Bolari, nee Kourkouvi, born in Kerasohori, Evrytania, Central Greece, both living in Chicago, and Athena-Roxane Karagianni, a product designer, living and working in Paris, daughter of Konstantinos Karagiannis, a restaurateur born and living in the island of Aegina, and Ariadne (Ariane) Koutoulaki, born in Paris and living in Aegina, were joined in marriage at the seaside of Agioi Anargyroi, on the island of Aegina, this past July 8, 2023. The wedding reception was truly multinational, with visitors coming in from Aegina, Evrytania, Serres, Crete, Paris, Genève, and Chicago. Wishing Alcaeos and Athena-Roxane a blessed marriage and may it be filled with love and kindness! Βίον Ανθόσπαρτον και Ευτυχήν! Να ζήσετε και να ευτυχίσετε σαν τα ψηλά βουνά!

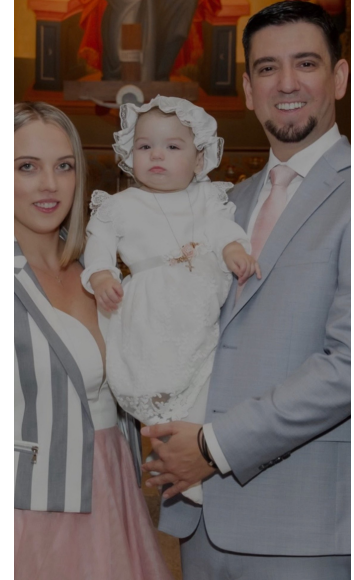


Chapter 13, “Evrytania” Continued

Baptism

On October 14, parents Vasilios and Kasia Kokkinos baptized their daughter at St. Nectarios in Palatine, IL. The honored godparents are Johnny Hazboun and Pitsa Alexopoulos.

May Nefeli be blessed with good health and a happy, long life in God. Να ζήσει η νεοφώτιστη Νεφέλη και να την χαίρονται οι γονείς της! Πάντα άξιοι να είναι οι κουμπάροι!



Death

Mr. Konstantinos Zaharopoulos, 78, passed away on Sunday, July 24, 2022, in Athens, Greece. Born in Voutiro, Karpenisi on April 3, 1944, he was the son of the late Dimitrios and Chrisoula Zaharopoulos; the brother of Olympia (Maki) Stathakis, Katina (Laki) Triandafillos, and Niko (Ourania) Zaharopoulos.

He is survived by his wife of fifty-six years, Eleftheria Zaharopoulos; his son Dimitrios (Nancy) Zaharopoulos; his two daughters Chrisoula (John) Marinakos and Vasiliki (John) Makkas; seven grandchildren Panayiotis, Constantinos, Zoe, Sophia, Andrew, Apostolis and Eleftheria; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Mr. Zaharopoulos and his wife immigrated to the United States in 1974 in the search for a better life for his family. He made Chicago, Illinois home where he flourished as an auto body man and raised his three children. Although experiencing much success in the United States, his heart and mind always remained with his native country. So much so, that he took part in everything Greek America had to offer; he raised his children in the Greek Orthodox Church, sent them all to Greek school, even served as the president of The Evrytanian Association of Chicago in the 1980s.

In 2019, he and his wife moved back to Greece where he found great pleasure in the slower, simpler life. He passed away in the country he held near and dear to his heart and was laid to rest in the village where he was born.

His kind smile, his delicious meals and hospitable demeanor will be missed by all that knew him.

Our deepest condolences and love to the Zaharopoulos family and his loved ones!

May his memory be eternal! Αιώνια η μνήμη του!

**Chapter 17 , “O Aetos”
Atlanta, GA**

Several Atlanta members attended the National Convention held in Karpenisi this past July. President Golfo Vastakis gave the chapter report in person. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet fellow Evrytians at the meetings and events.



Our Atlanta chapter sponsored an Artoklasia and Procession of the Panagia Prousiotissa and Agious Evrytanes icons at the Cathedral on Sunday, August 28th. Thank you to Evangelos Katsoudas, Constantine Katsoudas, Vangeli Katsoudas and Nikolaos Odenwelder for carrying the icons. We had several members also participate in the Procession.



**Chapter 17 , “Ο Αετος”
Continued**

Mrs. Patty Vastakis is pleased to announce the engagement of her daughter, Despina Vastakis, to Anthony Georgiafandis, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Georgiafandis of Knoxville, Tennessee. A January wedding is planned in Atlanta, Georgia. Kala Stefana!!!

**YOUR DONATIONS TO OUR ASSOCIATION WILL:
INCREASE OUR HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS
CONTINUE STOCKING OUR FOOD BANKS IN
AGRAFA & KARPENISI EMPOWER OUR
“CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAM”
HELP OUR YOUTH WITH SCHOLARSHIPS TO
ACHIEVE
THEIR ACADEMIC & CAREER DREAMS**

**Chapter 17 , “O Aetos”
Continued**

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Angelina "Evangelia" Katsoudas on November 12, 2023. She was born on December 20, 1932, in Piraeus, Greece. She married Angelo G. Katsoudas, and immigrated to the United States in 1958. They lived in Thomasville, GA where they raised their family. They owned and operated the Zestos Drive In.

She was an active member of the Holy Mother of God Greek Orthodox Church in Tallahassee, FL. She was heavily involved in the church and Philoptochos. She ran the loukoumades stand for the festivals and baked many pastries. Evangelia later moved to Atlanta, GA to be close to her children and grandchildren. She became a member of The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral.

Evangelia loved music, dancing, cooking, and sewing. Her love for these activities was only surpassed by her love for her family. She was a devoted mother, grandmother, sister, and aunt, and she cherished every moment spent with her children and grandchildren. Evangelia was a beacon of love and selflessness, always putting the needs of others before her own.

Evangelia was a strong woman of deep faith, which was her guiding force in her life. She was known for her unwavering belief and trust in God, which she instilled in her children and grandchildren. Her faith-filled life was an inspiration to all who knew her. She lived her life with a spirit of generosity, kindness, and love, which touched everyone she met.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Angelo, and their son, Xarilaos "Harry". She is survived by her son George and wife Eleny, daughter Krisoula, and daughter-in-law, Eleni; her beloved grandchildren, Evangelos, Kyparissia, Paulina, Constantine, Evangelos, and Alexandros Katsoudas. Evangelia is also survived by her sister, Evdokia Hliaras, in Piraeus, Greece, and numerous nieces and nephews who held a special place in her heart. In lieu of flowers, you can make a donation to The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral

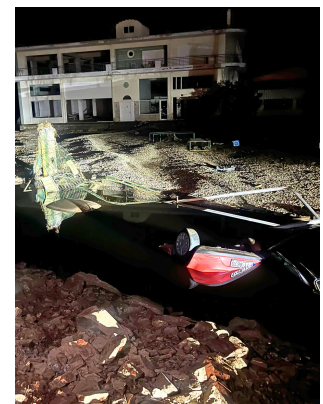
Wildfires in Evia 2022

With the great generosity of our members, the Evrytanian Association looked beyond our borders and donated to help the fire victims of Evia in July 21, 2022, Mr. Nick Apostolopoulos, Mr. Jimmy Chulkas, and our representatives of our youth, Miss Artemis Chulkas and Daughters of Evrytania, Mrs. Roula Chulkas, traveled to Evia and met with 25 families who were most affected by the fires. Each family recieved \$2,000.00. They were so grateful and most were impressed that Evrytanians of America thought of them in such a compassionate and generous way.



Floods in Thessaly 2023

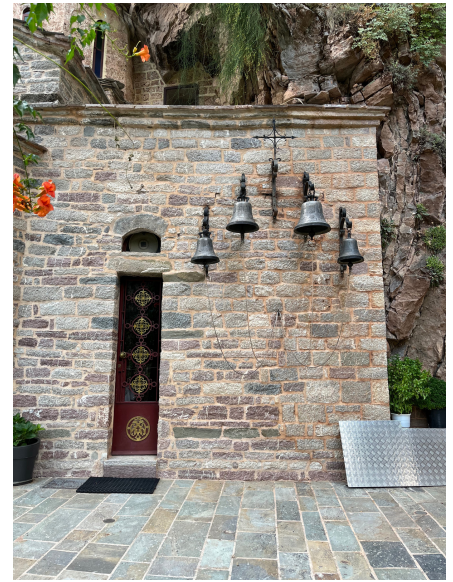
Again this year our Evrytanians showed their generosity! In September, there was flooding in Thessaly. Our fellow Greeks, most specifically in the town of Palama, were devastated by floods. The people of Karpenisi began to collect food, medicine, water and clothing to send to help the victims. The disaster occurred while our President was in Greece for the summer and called a special zoom meeting of our national board to discuss what emergency relief the Velouchi could provide. The board approved to appropriate \$15,000 for the relief effort, which was also followed by personal donations from the board members in excess of \$10,000. Our President accompanied one of the relief trucks to the town of Palama and witnessed first hand the damages caused by the flooding. Below are some of the pictures he took himself. The aftermath of the flooding will affect the area for several years to come. Thank you to all who donated to help with this relief effort.



Summer 2022 - Karpenisi Convention in the Homeland

Our National Convention in 2022 was held in Evrytania!! What a wonderful experience to be there to visit with family and each other!! The atmosphere was exciting and full of joy. We had many events and a busy schedule, but it was great to be there to enjoy the events with everyone! Special thanks to Mr. Nick Aposolopoulos, Bobby Tsiabasis, Jimmy and Roula Chulkas, John and Ismeni Fragakis, Dimitri and Mahi Politis and Mr. and Mrs. John Hondros for all their hard work to make this convention a success. We were also grateful to have with us His Excellency, George Tsounis, US Ambassador to Greece and Mr. Kosta Backogiannis, then Mayor of Athens.

Our Convention in Karpenisi at a Glance



Our convention began with a trip to the Monastery of Panagia Prousiotissa where we attended a vespers service and then were warmly welcomed at a lovely reception. Afterwards, we all went to Mikro Horio where we enjoyed a lovely evening at Horiatiko Nassopoulos.



The Dedication of the Hospital wing that was built in 1950 by Velouchi. Our organization continues to support the hospital with donations of life saving equipment such as the new Dialysis Machines that were donated this year and the High Flow Oxygen Machines that helped save many lives during the COVID pandemic.



The convention meetings were informative and productive. The banquet was held at Paradeiso in Mikro Horio. The food was exceptional, the music was full of Kefi and the parea was lively.



Kefalovriso



Trip to Agrafa



Convention 2023- Greenville SC

The Convention in Greenville was very productive and was well attended. We were honored to have Her excellency Alexandra Papadopoulou, the ambassador of Greece to the United States, as a Keynote Speaker. Also Dr. Michael Amiridis, President of the University of South Carolina and his wife Dr. Ero Aggelopoulou-Amiridis. The convention began with the Friday night bar crawl and Greek night for the youth. A President’s dinner on Friday night for our guests and a weekend full of basketball games, meetings, Saturday night banquet and our Sunday Paniyiri after church!! A big thank you to the Greenville community for coming together with to plan this fun filled weekend!



Convention 2023- Continued



Convention 2023- Continued



Convention 2023- Continued



Convention 2023- Continued



Daughters of Evrytania

Food Banks Project

The Daughters of Evrytania have wonderful projects we work on along side the Velouchi.

Our chapters have all donated to Agona Zois and Winston Salem Daughters worked and supported the Agona Zois project

from its infancy. Additionally, the Daughters also have supported the schools of Evrytania, the Children with Special Needs Project, Dental Fund, Organization of Women of Karpenisi, the food banks and Σύλλογος γονέων, κηδεμόνων ΑΜΕΑ Π.Ε.

Ευρυτανίας (Organization for people with Disabilities). God Bless all for the wonderful work you all do for these great projects!



Agona Zois Grand Opening



Σύλλογος Γυναικών

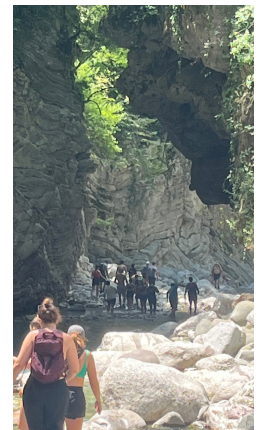


Σύλλογος γονέων, κηδεμόνων ΑΜΕΑ Π.Ε. Ευρυτανίας



Our Youth

Our Youth activities included Scholarship presentations to students of Evrytania, with a museum walk through by the Museum curator, Ms. and Ari Tasio, Deputy governor of Evrytania. Presentation of a 4 x 4 SUV for the Hellenic Rescue Team of Karpenisi by our young Evrytanes who worked hard raising money for this effort. So proud them!! Additionally our young people also hiked the trail to Πάντα Βρέχει- gorge. Everyone enjoyed the time spend together and those amazing views. Memories for a lifetime!



Velouchi 2023-2024 Scholarship Recipients

**Congratulations to our 2023-2024 Scholarship Recipients!
We wish them all the best in their academic endeavors!**



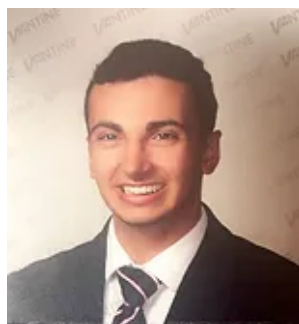
Irene Kakouras



Thomas Keretsis



Michael Keretsis



Harry Koufaliotis



Erinne Kastanas



Nicholas Kastanas

**Συγχαρητήρια στους Υποτρόφους μας 2023-2024 στην Ευρυτανία!
Τους ευχόμαστε ό,τι καλύτερο στις ακαδημαϊκές τους προσπάθειες!**





ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΥΓΕΙΑΣ
5η Υγειονομική Περιφέρεια
Θεσσαλίας & Στερέας Ελλάδας
Γενικό Νοσοκομείο Καρπενησίου

ΚΑΡΠΕΝΗΣΙ 19-12-2023

ΠΡΟΣ: ΕΝΩΣΗ ΕΥΡΥΤΑΝΩΝ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ
'ΤΟ ΒΕΛΟΥΧΙ'
Υπόψη: προέδρου κ. Δημήτρη Τσόλκα

ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΗΡΙΑ ΕΠΙΣΤΟΛΗ

Αγαπητέ μου πρόεδρε,

είναι γνωστές οι δράσεις, η αγάπη και το έμπρακτο ενδιαφέρον των ομογενών συμπατριωτών μας προς την γενέτειρα. Ιδιαίτερα για το νοσοκομείο μας, η διαρκής προσφορά σας ξεκινάει από τη δεκαετία του 1950, όταν, με δικούς σας πόρους, ανεγέρθηκε το αρχικό κτήριο του ιδρύματος όπου το 2022, σε επίσημη τελετή στο πλαίσιο του ετήσιου συνεδρίου σας, ονομάσαμε «Πτέρυγα Ευρυτάνων Αμερικής 'ΤΟ ΒΕΛΟΥΧΙ'». Για την τελευταία δωρεά σας που αφορά την προμήθεια ιατροτεχνολογικού εξοπλισμού για τις ανάγκες της Μονάδας Τεχνητού Νεφρού, εκπροσωπώντας το Διοικητικό Συμβούλιο, τους εργαζομένους του Νοσοκομείου μας, αλλά πρωτίστως τους χρήστες ποιοτικών υπηρεσιών υγείας συμπατριώτες μας, σας εκφράζουμε τις θερμές μας ευχαριστίες και με την ευκαιρία των γιορτών των Χριστουγέννων και του Νέου Έτους, τις εγκάρδιες ευχές μας για υγεία, ειρήνη, αλληλεγγύη και αγάπη σε εσάς και τις οικογένειές σας.

Με πατριωτικούς χαιρετισμούς

& αγάπη

Ο Διοικητής του Γ.Ν. Καρπενησίου



Δρ. Δημήτριος Καρατσίκης

Διαμερίσματα προς πώληση;

Τα δύο διαμερίσματα είναι στον δεύτερο όροφο με πανέμορφα θέα και μεγάλα μπαλκόνια. Είναι Καινούργια μέσα με την νέα ατομική θέρμανση στο καθένα. Η τιμή για τα διαμερίσματα είναι 110.000 € το καθένα. Επίσης Έχουμε μία γκαρσονιέρα στο ισόγειο τελείως επιπλωμένη και έτοιμη. Για την Γκαρσονιέρα ζητάμε 60.000 €. Επίσης η γκαρσονιέρα έχει μια μικρή Αυλή από το πίσω μέρος. Η σύσταση είναι Γεωργίου Καφαντάρη 50 Στην οδό που πάει προς το ξενοδοχείο Μοντάνα.

Pete Mantekas
223 Eastbourne Rd
Greenville, SC 29611
Phone: 510-852-193

Η ηλεκτρονική πλατφόρμα για την Επιστολική Ψήφο, άνοιξε!

Από σήμερα, όσες και όσοι είστε εγγεγραμμένοι στους εκλογικούς καταλόγους, είτε ζείτε στην Ελλάδα είτε στο εξωτερικό, και επιθυμείτε να ψηφίσετε στις ευρωεκλογές της 9ης Ιουνίου 2024 μέσω επιστολικής ψήφου, μπορείτε να συνδεθείτε στο epistoliki.ypes.gov.gr και να εγγραφείτε για να παραλάβετε τον φάκελο της επιστολικής ψήφου.

Η αποστολή των φακέλων από το Υπουργείο Εσωτερικών θα γίνει τον Μάιο μετά την ανακήρυξη των συνδυασμών από τον Άρειο Πάγο.

Μπορείτε να εγγραφείτε για να ψηφίσετε με επιστολική ψήφο μέχρι την 29η Απριλίου 2024.

THE CAPTAIN'S CAP
FAMILY FISH HOUSE
Gastonia
Great Seafood Since 1981
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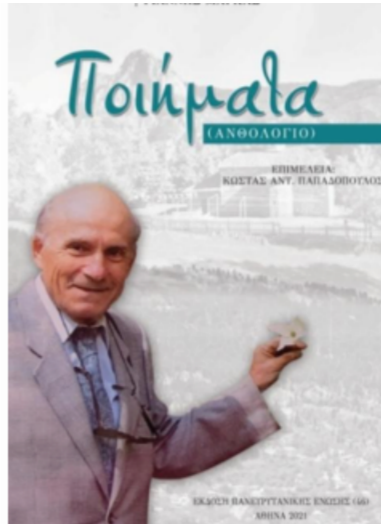


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