



# ΚΑΣΤΟΡΙΑΝΑ ΝΕΑ

ΟΡΓΑΝΟΝ ΤΟΥ ΕΝ ΝΕΑ ΥΟΡΚΗ ΣΥΛΛΟΓΟΥ ΚΑΣΤΟΡΙΕΩΝ "ΟΜΟΝΟΙΑ"

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## 100 year Anniversary

"The OMONOIA celebrated 100 year anniversary"



**“ΚΑΣΤΟΡΙΑΝΑ ΝΕΑ”  
“KASTORIAN NEWS”**  
A Review of the Society of  
Kastorians “Omonoia”, INC.

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Dear fellow Kastorians,

Last year, the Society’s centennial anniversary, was a memorable year, one truly befitting of the historic milestone and one that made all Kastorians proud.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your enthusiastic support and participation in all the commemorative events. I will forever remember this year with great pride and a deep sense of humility for having the fortune to represent the Society at this historic juncture.

But now, as we have entered the second century, we must all work together to build a sustainable future for our Society. We must try to expand our membership by enlisting second, third and even fourth generation Kastorians who are not yet members. We should continue to press forward with efforts to engage Kastorian youth of all ages for they are the ones who will guide the Society in this century.

Sincerely,  
Elias Panides

Αγαπητοί συμπατριώτες,

Πέρυσι, η επέτειος για τα εκατό χρόνια του Συλλόγου, ήταν μια αξέχαστη χρονιά, πραγματικά αντάξια του ιστορικού γεγονότος που έκανε όλους τους Καστοριανούς περήφανους.

Εκ μέρους του Διοικητικό Συμβούλιο, σας ευχαριστώ από τα βάθη της καρδιάς μου για την ενθουσιώδη υποστήριξη και συμμετοχή σε όλες τις εορταστικές εκδηλώσεις. Πάντα θα θυμάμαι αυτήν την χρονιά με μεγάλη υπερηφάνεια και βαθιά αίσθηση τιμής για την τύχη που είχα να εκπροσωπώ τον Σύλλογο σε αυτό το ιστορικό σημείο.

Τώρα, καθώς έχουμε εισέλθει στον δεύτερο αιώνα, όλοι μαζί θα πρέπει να συνεργαστούμε για να οικοδομήσουμε ένα βιώσιμο μέλλον για τον Σύλλογο μας. Πρέπει να προσπαθήσουμε να προσελκύσουμε δεύτερης, τρίτης και τέταρτης ακόμη γενεάς Καστοριανών που δεν είναι ακόμη μέλη. Πρέπει να συνεχίσουμε τις προσπάθειες μας να προσελκύσουμε την νεολαία όλων των ηλικιών, μια και που η νεολαία είναι αυτή που θα καθοδηγήσει την Σύλλογο σε αυτό τον αιώνα.

Με αγάπη και σεβασμό,  
Ηλίας Πανίδης



# GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

Again our Society participated in this year's parade with its own float honoring and commemorating the Independence of Greece from the Ottoman Empire on March 25th 1821.

Thousands of people lined both sides of Fifth Avenue in New York City and enjoyed a truly magnificent parade of Greek American Societies, Greek Orthodox Churches and Schools.

Our Society was led by our President, Dr. Elias Panides, and the President of Philoptochos, Mrs. Mitzi Papazoglou and their governing boards, as well as by many members. Our ladies and children were dressed in the traditional Greek costumes waving flags proudly. This year's participation exceeded all expectations in spite of the cold weather. Two buses left completely filled from our Cultural Center for Manhattan. After the parade, when everyone returned to the Cultural Center, the enthusiasm and excitement continued. Sandwiches, salads, sweets and coffee were offered to all members and friends of the Society.



## Η 25η Μαρτίου

### Δημήτρης Στρατής

Εκατό ενενήντα χρόνια πριν – το Χίλια Οκτακόσια Είκοσι Ένα – ολοκληρή η Ελλάδα ξεσηκώθηκε για την ελευθερία της από τον Οθωμανικό ζυγό. Από την Μάνη, την Καλαμάτα, την Φωκίδα και την Αγία Λαύρα, στα Καλάβρυτα, σηκώθηκαν τα λάβαρα και τα γιαταγάνια, τα ντουφέκια και τα σπαθιά και ακούστηκε η κραυγή ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΑ Η ΘΑΝΑΤΟΣ. Ήρθε η ώρα για τον μεγάλο ξεσηκωμό των Ελλήνων.

Όταν οργανώθηκε η Ξακουστή Φιλική Εταιρεία στην Οδησό και οι Έλληνες πίστεψαν ξανά, σιγά-σιγά ετοιμάστηκαν για μία νέα επανάσταση. Την ώρα που ο Υψηλάντης πολεμούσε στην Ρουμανία με πολλούς Έλληνες, η Πελοπόννησος απάντησε με τον δικό της αγώνα. Και από εκεί η επανάσταση εξαπλώθηκε στην Στερεά Ελλάδα, στην Ήπειρο, στην Μακεδονία, στην Θεσσαλία, στα νησιά του Αιγαίου, στην Κρήτη και στην Κύπρο. Γίνανε πολλές μάχες, όπως οι νικηφόρες μάχες στο Βαλτέτσι, στα Βασιλικά, στο Χάνι της Γραβιάς, στα Δερβενάκια, στους Μύλους της Λέρνας και στην Αράχθρα. Οι μεγάλοι ναυτικοί καταφέρνανε και κατέστρεψαν πολλούς στόλους στο Αιγαίο – όπως στις ναυμαχίες των Σπετσών, της Σάμου, του Γέροντα και με την βοήθεια του στόλου της Αγγλίας, της Γαλλίας και της Ρωσίας, την φημισμένη τελευταία ναυμαχία του Ναβαρίνου.

Θυσιάστηκαν πολλοί γενναίοι Έλληνες. Άνδρες, γυναίκες, ιερείς, δάσκαλοι, έμποροι και αγρότες πέσανε θύματα στην επανάσταση και όμως η θυσία τους έβγαλε καρπούς. Ποιος μπορεί να ξεχάσει το Μάρκο Μπότσαρη, τον Αθανάσιο Διάκο, τον Εμμανουήλ Παπά, το Παπαφλέσσα, το Καραϊσκάκη, το Πατριάρχη Γρηγόριο τον Πέμπτο και τον

Αρχιεπίσκοπο Κυπριανό; Πόσοι καταστράφηκαν στο Μεσολόγγι, στο Σούλι, στη Νάουσα και στη Χαλκιδική; Πόσοι άλλοι σκοτώθηκαν στα ηρωικά νησιά μας από σφαγές, στη Χίο, στη Κάσσο, στη Κρήτη, στα Ψαρά; Πόσες γυναίκες βοήθησαν, σαν την Μαντώ Μαυρογένους και την αθάνατη Μπουμπουλίνα; Εκατοντάδες χιλιάδες γνωστοί και άγνωστοι.

Και τώρα φράσαμε σε εποχή όπου ακούγονται πολλά, για την Ελλάδα και την ιστορία μας. Πολλοί δεν πιστεύουν στην αξία της Ελληνικής φυλής, την γλώσσα και την θρησκεία μας. Είναι απαράδεκτο και χυδαίο να ρίχνουν λάσπη στους προγόνους μας. Η αλήθεια είναι ξεκάθαρη. Στη γενιά μας θα αναστηθούν νέοι Κολοκοτρωνάιοι και Μιαούληδες, νέοι Ανδρούτσοι και Κανάρηδες. Στην κρίση του λαού μας θα πρέπει να βρούμε την λύση που μας δίδαξαν οι μεγάλοι έλληνες – θυσία, πίστη, αγώνα, δουλειά, μόρφωση και αγάπη. Τότε μπορεί επιτέλους να βρούμε και την ομόνοια που πολλές φορές μας λείπει. Η Ελλάδα είναι φως και πνεύμα. Από τον Λεωνίδα μέχρι τον Μέγα Αλέξανδρο, από τον Παύλο Μελά μέχρι την Κυρά της Ρω, είμαστε λαός ευλογημένος από τον Θεό και πρέπει πάντα να το τιμούμε αυτό. Ας ελπίζουμε πως η Ελλάδα ποτέ δεν πεθαίνει, αλλά πρέπει και εμείς να παίξουμε τον ρόλο μας. Κάθε Έλληνας και Ελληνίδα είναι βράχος της ιστορίας μας. Ας θυμηθούμε ξανά τα λόγια του μεγάλου ποιητή μας Διονύσιου Σολωμού –

«και απ' όπου χαράζει έως όπου βυθά,

τα μάτια μου δεν είδαν τόπο ενδοξότερο από τούτο το αλωνάκι»

**Ζήτω η 25η Μαρτίου!  
Ζήτω η Ελλάδα!**

# 100 year Anniversary dance 2011



## 100 Χρόνια Δραστηριότητας και Φιλανθρωπικού Έργου!

Το Σάββατο 27 Νοεμβρίου, 2010, στο Χίλτον της Νέας Υόρκης ο Σύλλογός μας γιόρτασε με μεγαλοπρέπεια, υπερηφάνεια και χαρά τη συμπλήρωση 100 χρόνων από την ίδρυσή του. Στην λαμπρή αυτή εκδήλωση παρευρέθηκαν αρκετοί επίσημοι καλεσμένοι όπως, ο Βουλευτής Νέας Δημοκρατίας του Νομού Καστοριάς κ. Ζήσης Τζηκαλάγιας μετά της συζύγου του, ο Δήμαρχος Καστοριάς κ. Ιωάννης Τσαμίσης μετά της συζύγου του, ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Αμερικής κκ. Δημήτριος, ο Πρόξενος της Ελλάδος στη Νέα Υόρκη κ. Ευάγγελος Κυριακόπουλος, η Πρόξενος της Κύπρου στην Νέα Υόρκη κ. Κούλα Σοφιανού, η εκπρόσωπος τύπου και πληροφοριών Ελληνικού Τύπου στα Ηνωμένα Έθνη κ. Πολυξένη Μαστροπέρου, ο Πρόεδρος της Παμακεδονικής Ένωσης Δρ. Αντώνης Παπαδόπουλος, η Πρόεδρος της Φιλοπτώχου Αδελφότητας Κυριών Καστοριάς Νέα Υόρκη κ. Θωμαή (Μίτζη) Παπάζογλου καθώς και 750 άτομα πάσης ηλικίας.

Το πρόγραμμα της εκδηλώσεως, που αποτελείτο από τρία μέρη, άρχισε με την παρουσίαση των επισήμων, ομιλίες και προβολή της ιστορίας των εκατό χρόνων του Συλλόγου, ακολούθησε κοκτέιλ και εν συνεχεία στην αίθουσα του Grand Ball Room του Χίλτον όλοι απόλαυσαν εκλεκτό φαγητό, χορό με Καστοριανά τραγούδια από την ορχήστρα Power Station και διασκέδαση έως τις 2:00 το πρωί.

Ο κ. Τσαμίσης προσέφερε μία εικόνα στον Σύλλογο, στον Αρχιεπίσκοπο καθώς επίσης βράβευσε όλους τους πρώην προέδρους εν ζωή του Συλλόγου.

Ο κ. Τζηκαλάγιας επίσης προσέφερε μία εικόνα στο Σύλλογο. Η Φιλόπτωχος Αδελφότης Κυριών Καστοριάς έστειλε στεφάνι ελιάς προς την «ΟΜΟΝΟΙΑ».

Ήταν μία λαμπρή ημέρα για τον Σύλλογό μας. Ευχαριστούμε όλους όσους μας τίμησαν με την παρουσία τους, ιδιαίτερως το ζεύγος Τζηκαλάγια και το ζεύγος Τσαμίση οι οποίοι ήλθαν από την Καστοριά, αποκλειστικά και μόνο για την εκδήλωση αυτή.

Επίσης θερμά συγχαρητήρια εκ μέρους του Διοικητικού Συμβουλίου προς τις κυρίες που βοήθησαν για την εκδήλωση αυτή, Πανίδα, Ζήση, Βασιλείου, Μέγαρη, Βλάχου.

ΚΑΙ ΣΤΑ ΔΙΑΚΟΣΙΑ ΜΑΣ!!!



# 100 year Anniversary dance 2011



100 year Anniversary dance



100 year Anniversary dance



# 100 year Anniversary dance



100 year Anniversary dance



# 100 year Anniversary dance





## A Brief History of “Omonoia” \*

For many centuries and to the present day, the fur trade has been a major source of employment and income for the people of Kastoria. Kastorians immigrated to many neighboring countries such as Germany, France, Hungary, Romania, Austria, and Syria among others, where they established strong Kastorian communities. They always kept in touch with their families and through generous donations supported the Orthodox Church and helped in funding schools back home in order to promote the teaching of the Greek language and Greek history. After all, Kastoria was under the Ottoman rule from 1387 to 1912.

Kastorian furriers in Europe were buying good quality pelts imported from America. This led Vasilios Skaperdas to make the historic trip to the New World in 1887. Very quickly he realized that New York was a place of great opportunity and began trading as soon as he arrived there.

In 1894, he was joined by his cousins Spyros, Naoum and John Samaras. The latter realized that in America the possibilities for growth and professional engagement were unlimited and invited many of his relatives to join him. By the end of the nineteenth century, a total of eight Kastorians made America their new home.

At the turn of the 20th century a wave of immigrants brought to the shores of New York more Kastorians and by 1910, their number reached 1,000. A miniature Kastoria was created as entire families traveled to America establishing their business, developing new markets while educating their young ones.

### Founding of the Society

While most of Greece was liberated from the Ottoman Empire in the nineteenth century, Kastoria was still under its rule in 1910. The desire to see

Kastoria free led many young Kastorians to return to Greece from New York and participate in the Macedonian struggle (*Μακεδονικό Αγώνα*.) This desire grew more each day until it was realized that they could be more effective if they organized as a group and form a strong society. It was August 7, 1910 when 42 Kastorians met and officially founded “OMONOIA” by electing their first board of directors as follows:

Mr. George Oikonomides, President; Mr. Chrysos Nantsios, Vice-President; Mr. Panayiotis Pekmezaris, Treasurer; Mr. George Petkanas, Secretary; and Mr. Damianos Tsistinas, Mr. Stavros Siomkos, Mr. Ioannis Kosmas, Mr. Athanasios Doykos, and Mr. Nikolaos Nanos, Advisors.”

The “OMONOIA” Society has preserved the patriotic flame and became the bridge between the homeland of our fathers and our new homeland, the United States of America.

Kastoria, our place of birth will always remain in our hearts as it did in the hearts of all of those who immigrated to this wonderful country seeking freedom and a better way of life.

Today, we are an involved, dynamic, progressive, relevant and indispensable part of American life in all its facets: familial, spiritual, in business, citizenship, leadership, education and military.

In addition to the traditional vocations in Fur Manufacturing, Kastorians are professionally engaged in: International Commerce; the Financial World; Corporate and Media Conglomerates; Cutting-edge Technology; Literature; Art; Medicine; Law; Engineering; Accounting; Education / Academia; Clergy and most of all, Philanthropy.

Through a concerted effort by “OMONOIA” major focused fund raising

## 100 year Anniversary dance



### A Brief History of “Omonoia”

*Continued*

events were held where a substantial sum of money was collected and used to assist various social programs and fulfill community needs in Kastoria, Greece which was in dire financial need as it emerged from the Balkan War and World War I.

As the years passed and Kastorians became more successful several of them became benefactors and donated large sums of money to be used for funding scholarships and various targeted programs to aid the needy in Greece and the US.

Following is a historical record highlighting funds used to aid Kastoria and other worthy causes as well as the establishment of programs to honor and celebrate Holidays and Traditions:

August 7, 1010 - First official meeting

November 20, 1910 - Voted to provide assistance to the common soup kitchen in Kastoria.

April 30, 1911 - Supported the cause of Greek Independence from the Ottoman Empire.

September 16, 1911 - “Omonoia” purchased and shipped clothing for Kastoria’s poor citizens.

November 20, 1911- Financial assistance was sent to the family of the slain Metropolitan of Grevena, Aimilianos.

July 22, 1911 - Established as the official day of the celebration of Prophet Elias, Patron Saint of the Trade Association of Fur Manufacturers

August 3, 1912 - Financial assistance was sent to support the earthquake victims in Thrace.

November 11, 1912 - Kastoria is freed from The Ottoman Empire and is united with Greece

January, 1913 - One thousand (\$1,000) dollars was allocated for the war victims and their families.

July 9, 1913 - “OMONOIA” financed the repatriation to Kastoria of citizens living in NYC

- Fund raiser was organized in support of the Greek war effort against Bulgaria.

- A Kastorian committee was dispatched to Greece to personally deliver funds to her Majesty Sophia, Queen of Greece in support of those injured during the latest war.

November 11, 1913 - Established as the official day of the celebration of Saint Minas Patron Saint of Kastoria.

February 22, 1914 - The Society established a bank account with the National Bank of Greece.

April 5, 1914 - “OMONOIA” voted to participate in the Greek Independence Day parade in NYC.

July 5, 1914 - “OMONOIA” appointed a committee to oversee the purchase of a clock for the Bell Tower of the Holy Metropolis, Kastoria. The clock was delivered on July 25, 1915.

August 22, 1914 - Event held to raise funds for the purchase of a Warship to be donated to Greece.

August 28, 1914 - “OMONOIA” informed the Greek government they planned to fund the post office building in Kastoria.

January 17, 1916 - \$480 dollars (4,000 drachmas) was sent to Kastoria for the needy.

February 26, 1916 - Revenue from a formal “Ball” was used to support needy families .

August 30, 1916 - Society allocated funds for brides’ dowries and needy children.

September 16, 1916 - “OMONOIA” purchased and shipped wheat and flour to Greece.

1916 - The first Annual Dinner Dance was held as a major fund raiser

July 5, 1917 - “Oresteias” the first official publication of “OMONOIA” was

## 100 year Anniversary dance

### A Brief History of "Omonoia"

*Continued*

funded and published

August 11, 1917 - A committee was established to coordinate contributions to Greece by the United States National Defense Department.

August 16, 1917 - \$200 donation was sent to Kastoria for the needy.

October 26, 1917 - "OMONOIA" invested \$1,000 in Greek Liberty Bond securities.

April 21, 1918 - Society purchased \$2,000 in National Liberty Securities.

April 28, 1918 - \$1,000 was sent to the aid the needy in Kastoria.

August 21, 1918 - A donation of \$609.25 was sent to Saint Helen Hospital of Athens, Greece.

October 4, 1918 - The Society purchased \$1,000 worth of securities of the Fourth National Liberty Bond.

February 21, 1919 - Funds raised for the support of the refugees from Asia Minor.

July 24, 1919 - \$1,000 was sent to Kastoria to support the poor.

1919 - The "Omonoia" Board voted to allocate the first scholarship of \$100 as an annual donation to the valedictorian and salutatorian of the Kastorian high school.

October 22, 1919 - The Society decided to fund the electrification and the water supply system of Kastoria. A sixteen-member committee was appointed to oversee the task.

December 26, 1919 - Society voted to contribute \$200 annually to the NY Hellenic Educational Center

January 29, 1920 - With 42 votes in support and 27 against the society decided to purchase real estate in N.Y.

May 17, 1920 - A first installment of \$200 was donated to the Girls High School of Kastoria.

1920 - The Benevolent Society Ladies of Kastoria is founded under the direction of "Omonoia" President Mr. George Oikonomides and Mrs. Eleni Dallas who invited all the Kastorian Ladies living in NYC to participate in a meeting with the purpose of creating an independent philanthropic organization to work closely with the Society of OMONOIA and the Philoptohos Society in Kastoria.

April 14, 1921 - The first Philoptohos Dance was held as a major fund raising event and a journal was published

April 18, 1921 - A sum of \$555.50 is donated for the needy in Kastoria.

April 18, 1921 - \$400 was donated in support of Kastorians serving in the Greek Army.

September 29, 1921 - "OMONOIA" became a member of the Association of Hellenic Societies.

October 8, 1922 - "OMONOIA" sent \$1,500 to fund the preliminary study for the hydration of Kastoria.

December 19, 1922 - Foodstuff provisions were sent on the steamboat "Konstantinoupolis" to support the refugees of Asia Minor.

April 4, 1924 - Society sent \$100 to Kastoria for the purchase of school supplies and \$400 for the purchase of medical supplies for poor families.

March 24, 1925 - A bank account was established with the National Bank of Greece, for the hydration project of Kastoria.

August 26, 1926 - \$500 donation made in support of the needy.

December 13, 1927 - \$500 donation sent in support of the poor.

May 28, 1928 - Assembly approved funds for a Music or Athletics club in NYC.

June 25, 1928 - An annual picnic was organized and funds raised were donated to St. Spyridon Church in NYC.

September 27, 1928 - The Society invited and hosted His Holiness Metropolitan of Kastoria in NYC.

December 5, 1929 - "OMONOIA" voted to hand over the management of the hydration project to the Mayoralty of Kastoria under the following conditions: "Poor Kastorians shall in no way and for no reason be charged for water provided to them".

November 14, 1931 - The Board of Directors raised the membership dues an additional \$20 and used the proceeds to buy \$500 life insurance for all members.

August 10, 1935 - Society engraved emblems to celebrate its 25th Anniversary

1935 - The Kastorian Youth Society of New York was founded

1935 - Formation of the Music Ensemble the Kastorian Mandolinata by Kostas Ecomonides

June 11, 1936 - The Society voted to offer financial assistance for the reconstruction of the Metropolitan building in Kastoria.



## 100 year Anniversary dance



### A Brief History of "Omonoia"

*Continued*

September 16, 1936 - "OMONOIA" musical ensemble participated in the Society of Thessalians dinner Dance in NYC.

February 16, 1937 - Funds sent to support the Public and Scholastic Athletic Training Center of Kastoria.

December 7, 1937 - The Society contributed:

- 20,000 drachmas to the needy of Kastoria
- 5,000 drachmas to Philoptohos Ladies of Kastoria
- 36,250 drachmas to the Athletic Center of Kastoria

April 12, 1938 - Financial assistance approved:

- 17,000 drachmas to the poor families of Kastoria
- 3,000 drachmas to the needy of Mavrovon
- 5,000 drachmas to Philoptohos Ladies of Kastoria

July 5, 1938 - The Society complained to the Mayor of Kastoria that:

- Water charges were requested from the poor contrary to the mutual agreement
- water meters must be installed
- Monies sent by the Society were not appropriated judiciously

April 1, 1939 - Society sent to Kastoria 50,000 drachmas to support poor families.

June 3, 1939 - Society approved funds for its musical ensemble to participate in the World Fair of New York City.

September 27, 1939 - Society voted to send \$500 to the families of those drafted in the general mobilization of the Greek Armed Forces.

October 16, 1939 - Society approved:

- \$700 to the Metropolitan of Kastoria
- \$300 to the Kastorian Society of Paris

October 20, 1939 - An additional sum of \$600 was sent to the Soldier's Radio

Department in Kastoria.

December 4, 1940 - The Society approved \$2,000 which was sent to the Greek Government for its war needs.

December 14, 1940 - The Society sent \$30,000 to support the National Defense of Greece.

February 6, 1942 - "OMONOIA" acquired \$95,250 in U.S. war bonds.

October 30, 1942 - Society undertakes to find ways to counter the Bulgarian propaganda.

September 11, 1942 - Members of the Society raised \$1,750 for war victims in Kastoria.

February 6, 1943 - Society purchased an additional \$10,000 in war bonds.

October 1943 - received recognition from the United States Department of Defense for the continued purchase of War Bonds that amounted to \$275,000 and named an aircraft was named "The Kastorian Spirit:

1943-1945 - "The Kastorian" was published by the "Kastorian Girls Club" dedicated to the Kastorian men who fought during World War I and World War II, keeping them informed of events on the home front until the war was over.

March 28, 1945 - "OMONOIA" sent \$5,000 to support war victims in Kastoria.

April 1945 - Society raised \$20,485 and remitted the sum to Kastoria.

September 10, 1945 - Society approved the following be sent to Kastoria:

- \$1,000 for school repairs
- \$1,000 for heating installation in schools
- \$1,000 for school supplies

December 23, 1945 - Membership voted to provide

- Donations to the Greek War Relief
- Send 1,500 bags of flour to Kastoria

## 100 year Anniversary dance

### A Brief History of "Omonoia"

*Continued*

1946 - "OMONOIA" and The Benevolent Society Ladies of Kastoria held a joint Victory Dance to celebrate the end of the War and honor over 250 Kastorian men who fought in both World Wars

May 6, 1947 - "OMONOIA" contributed \$1,000 to the Society of Kastorians of Leipzig.

September 12, 1947 - "OMONOIA" donated \$5,000 to the Committee of Health Insurance for the Refugees in Kastoria.

1947 - The Pan-Macedonian Association of US and Canada was founded.

"Omonoia" was the largest member. Several members of our society served as presidents of the Pan Macedonian Association as well as Tri-State Governors. Members participated in annual conventions and made major contributions to increase awareness of the Macedonian issue.

March 9, 1951 - "OMONOIA" signed a contract to purchase the building at 246 Eighth Ave., NY.

March 16, 1951 - The Kastorian Youth Society offered \$2,000 toward the purchase of the "Kastorian Home."

April 13, 1951 - The Benevolent Society of the Ladies of Kastoria contributed \$5,000 toward the purchase of the building 246 8th Avenue, New York, NY

1951 - An additional \$3,000 contribution was made by The Philoptohos for the building's maintenance, redecoration, kitchen remodeling, purchase of club chairs, drapes and other items

May 1, 1953 - The first edition of the newspaper "Kastoria Nea" was published.

March 16, 1954 - The Orphanage of Kastoria declares "OMONOIA" a Great Benefactor after Society's donation of ten cows.

January 5, 1956 - The Special Fund was established by Argyrios Papisideris in memory of his son Anastasios. He was the founder, life chairman and first donor of \$500.

February 6, 1959 - Society raised \$5,739 for an Elementary School in Kastoria.

1959 - \$6,000 for the Metropolitan building in Kastoria.

1961 - The Society established health insurance coverage for members of the Society with Blue Cross.

1963 - The Scholarship Fund was established by the society and awarded \$1,500 to five winners. Tom Pappas from Lowell Massachusetts was the first donor with \$500

1966 - The Society donated \$3,000 for the reconstruction of the Theological Seminary which had burned to the ground in Kastoria.

1970 - First Ragoutsaria celebration was held sponsored by the Kastorian Youth and the proceeds were donated to the Special Fund and St. Eleftherios

1970 - First Christmas Party was held

1970's - Blue Cross - Blue Shield Health Insurance fund was created and fully funded by the society's membership

1970's - Very active member Society in the Federation of Hellenic Societies of New York City

1973 - The Great Benefactor for the Scholarship Fund formally formed in 1978 and received a donation of \$80,000 by Thanis Yianos.

1980's - sponsored and funded a Kastorian Youth Soccer Team that became a member of the NY Hellenic League

1980's - sponsored and funded a Kastorian Youth Basketball Team that became a member of the NY Archdiocese League

1980's - sponsored and funded a Kastorian pan Macedonian Dance Group

1989 - Formation of the society as a "non-profit" according to IRS 501(c) (3)

1982 - Donated \$25,000 toward the building of the St. Demetrios School in Astoria

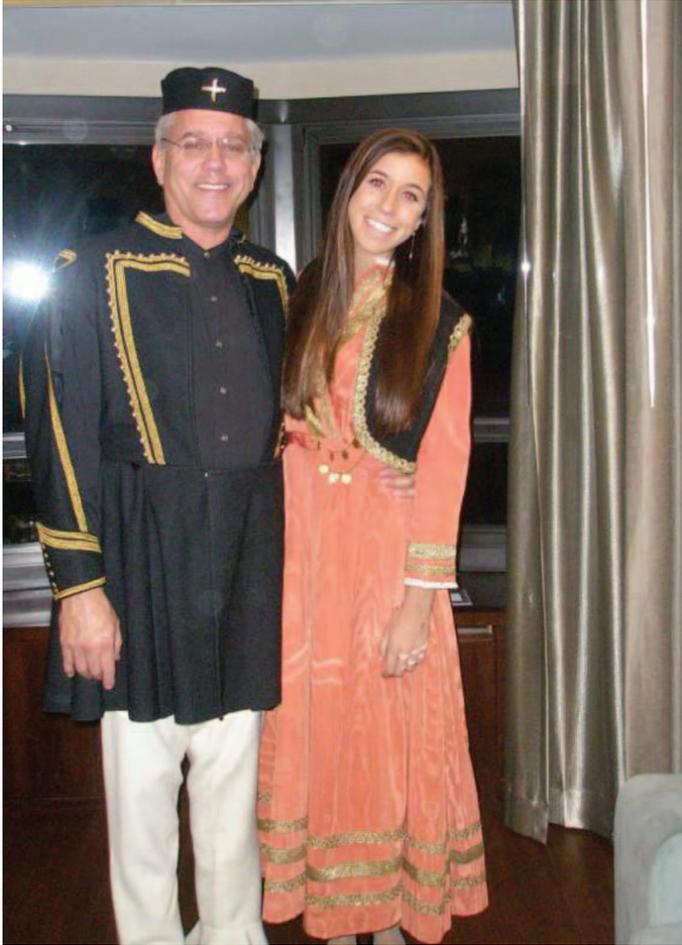
1992 - "OMONOIA" donated \$15,000 to Columbia University for the Hellenic Studies and Ancient History program.

1995 - The Society purchased two buildings in Whitestone, Queens.

1998 - Society was honored for its contributions to The Hellenic Letters by



## 100 year Anniversary dance



### A Brief History of "Omonoia"

*Continued*

the Athenian Academy and received their "golden key"

1998 - Society was honored for its contributions to The Hellenic Letters by the Athenian Academy and received their "golden key"

2005 - Scholarship awards for number of students and grants awarded.

2006 - Continued to financially support the many needs of the Greek Orthodox Church of St Elefterios in NY, donated \$25,000 for the building

•2006 and annually donations of over \$150,000 annually to various organizations, institutions foundations and scholarships.

2007 - The community service was established to provide help twice a year to needy families in New York.

2008 - Children's Dance Group was established

•2010 in celebration of the 100th anniversary, Congressman Ackerman sponsored the recording of the accomplishments in The Congressional Record on 9/29/10 reference #156 -#133 Book II (E1822).

On November 27, 2010 "OMONOIA" is celebrating the 100th Anniversary since its founding. It has been a long and productive period and the Society through its members' devotion has lived up to its promise and its mission as it was conceived on August 7, 1910. It has been the epicenter of multi-faceted activities through which it has managed to preserve our national values in both critical and prosperous times. The devotion of its members is exemplary. The unremitting effort of its Presidents and their Boards of Directors is the guiding light for future generations of Kastorians to navigate this Society to greater success. The activities of our Society during this century in the national, cultural, social, and economic arenas make every Kastorian proud. \*

*\* Source - Meeting minutes 1910 - present - Text by Pantelis Papazoglou Edited by Elias Panides & George Mellides*



## Χριστουγεννιάτικο Πάρτυ

του Ανδρέα Βασιλείου

Το 1970 έγινε η πρώτη Χριστουγεννιάτικη γιορτή του Συλλόγου μας. Τότε είμαστε παιδιά. Σήμερα φέρνουμε τα παιδιά μας. Τίποτα δεν άλλαξε από τότε μέχρι τώρα. Μόνο ο χρόνος που φαίνεται καθημερινά στο πέρασμά του. Όλα τα άλλα παρέμειναν τα ίδια... το ίδιο κέφι, η ίδια διάθεση, ο ίδιος ενθουσιασμός.

Την Κυριακή, 12 Δεκεμβρίου, 2010, πάνω από 300 Καστοριανοί κατέκλυσαν την αίθουσα του Πολιτιστικού Κέντρου του Αγίου Νικολάου του Φλώσινγκ, τραγουδώντας από κοινού Χριστουγεννιάτικα τραγούδια και τα Καστοριανά κάλαντα. Η αίθουσα ήταν όμορφα στολισμένη με τα χριστουγεννιάτικα χρώματα και στολίδια που φρόντισαν με επιμέλεια οι κυρίες της Φιλοπτώχου.

Τα τραπέζια ήταν γεμάτα με μήλα, Καστοριανές πίτες, κάστανα και κρασιά. Μουσική, τραγούδια και στο βάθος, δίπλα από το Χριστουγεννιάτικο δένδρο υπήρχαν τα δώρα. Τα Καστοριανά κάλαντα μας μετέφεραν νοερά στο τσαρσί, ενώ η παρουσία του Αι Βασιλή μας έφερε στο κλίμα των ημερών. Φυσικά ήταν αδύνατον να λείψουν τα παιδιά του χορευτικού, που χόρεψαν με μεράκι, καταχειροκροτούμενα από όλους.

## ΑΠΟΚΡΙΕΣ – ΧΑΣΚΑΡΙ

του Ανδρέα Βασιλείου

Το «Χάσκαρι» είναι ένα πατροπαράδοτο έθιμο που γίνεται στη Καστοριά την τελευταία Κυριακή της Αποκριάς. Μετά το βραδινό φαγητό διασκεδάζουν όλοι με τις προσπάθειες που καταβάλουν όλα τα μέλη της οικογένειας για να πιάσουν με το στόμα το βρασμένο αυγό που κρέμεται από ένα κλώστη. Αυτό το έθιμο αναβίωσε ο Σύλλογος Καστοριέων «ΟΜΟΝΟΙΑ» μαζί με την Φιλοπτώχο την Κυριακή, 6η Μαρτίου



Ο Πρόεδρος της «Ομόνοιας», Δρ. Ηλίας Πανίδης και η

Πρόεδρος της Φιλοπτώχου, κα. Μίτζι Παπάζογλου μοίρασαν τα δώρα στα παιδιά, τα οποία περίμεναν με ανυπομονησία.

Θερμά συγχαρητήρια στον υπεύθυνο της εκδηλώσεως, κ.

Ανδρέα Βασιλείου, την επιτροπή και τις κυρίες της Φιλοπτώχου

για μία υπέροχη γιορτή. Ας είμαστε καλά και του χρόνου.

στο Πολιτιστικό Κέντρο του Συλλόγου. Τα παιδιά του χορευτικού ξεκίνησαν το γλέντι με εξαιρετικές επιδείξεις χορών. Υπήρχε πλούσιο φαγητό, καθώς και παραδοσιακές λαγάνες και χαλβάς.

Πάνω από 180 άτομα διασκεδάσαν ενώ δεν ήταν λίγοι αυτοί που συγκινήθηκαν αφού είχαν να κάνουν «Χάσκαρι» πάνω από 50 χρόνια. Όσο για τα παιδιά έδειξαν ότι μαθαίνουν γρήγορα και είμαστε σίγουροι ότι θα συνεχίσουν τα παραδοσιακά μας έθιμα.

Η εκδήλωση πήρε τέλος αργά το βράδυ και όλοι έφυγαν με ένα χαμόγελο ικανοποίησης ευχόμενοι ο ένας στον άλλο ΚΑΛΗ ΣΑΡΑΚΟΣΤΗ ΚΑΙ ΤΟΥ ΧΡΟΝΟΥ.



# 48th Annual Scholarship Awards 2011



On Saturday, January 22, 2011 the Cultural Center of the Society of Kastorians “Omonoia” was full of people to celebrate the 48th Annual Scholarship Awards. Among the honored guests were his Grace Bishop of Meloa Philotheos, our own Father Vasilios Bassakyros, the Honorable NY State Senator Tony Avella, the Honorable Aghi Balta General Consul of Greece, the Honorable Koula Sophianou General Consul of Cyprus, the Honorable Evangelos Kyriakopoulos Consul of Greece in NY, the President of Philoptochos Mrs. Mitzi Papazoglou, prior presidents of the Philoptochos, Dr. Ioannis Efthimiopoulos Director of Greek Education Department. The Chairman of the Scholarship Committee Dr. Thomas V. Papatomas was the Master of Ceremonies and Dr. Elias Panides, President of “Omonoia” gave the welcome address.

**T**his year we honored our grand Benefactors Leonidas & Anne Mihalte and our benefactors George Hadzellis and Dimitrios & Eftihia Pappas. The distinguished speaker was Mrs. Alice Rigas-Dean of Registration and Financial Services at Columbia Law School.



The Greek Consul Mrs. Aghi Balta addresses the students



The Cypriot Consul Ms. Koula Sophianou addresses the students



The Right Rev. Philotheos Bishop of Meloa presents the award to Mr. John Mihalte



**Dr. Ioannis Efthimiopoulos, Director of Greek Education addresses the audience and the students**



**Mrs. Loula Koukoulis, past President of the Philoptochos with her granddaughter Ria Koukoulis**

Our honored guests and dignitaries, members of the Board of Directors, the Benevolent Society Ladies of Kastoria, and members of the Scholarship Committee (Messrs. Steven Boutis, Constantine Frangos, Gregory Georges, John Maleganos, George Mellides, Elias Panides, Thomas Papatomas, John Petkanas, Theodora Pinou, Peter Symeonides, Peter Takantzas and Anastasios Tzallas) handed the scholarship awards to the following recipients:

**GRADUATE**

- ALEXANDRA POLIHROM  
George Town University
- EVELYN FISSEKIS  
Drexel University
- JOHN MIHALTSES  
New York College of Osteopathic Medicine
- KRATSIOS JULIANA  
Central Connecticut State University



**Mr. & Mrs. Vasili Zisis, their son Emmanuel and Mr. Themis Vassiliou, Benefactor**

**UNDERGRADUATE**

- VLAHOS MARYANN  
Columbia University
- GEORGE KARAS  
Harvard University
- MICHAEL SKOPELITIS  
Loyola University
- MICHELLE BOUTIS  
Colgate University
- CHRISTINA ZIKOS  
Rutgers University
- ZOE MALLIOS  
Rochester Institute of Technology
- KONSTANTINA PAPATHOMAS  
Wilkes University
- SOPHIA ARZOUMANIDIS  
Binghamton University
- CHRISTOPHER ZIAS  
Texas A&M University
- PETER PAPAZOGLOU  
Hofstra University
- ANTHONY MICHAELIDES  
St. John's University



**Mrs. Mitzi Papazoglou, Dr. Elias Panides, Mrs. Alice Rigas, Dr. Thomas Papatomas and Mr. Steven Boutis**

CHRISTINA VLAHOS  
Columbia University  
JOHN MALEGANOS  
Siena College  
SMARO GETSIOS  
SUNY New Paltz  
RIA KOUKOULIS  
Adelphi University  
EMMANUEL ZISIS  
Queens College

John Alexander Mihaltses, also read his essay "How can the Kastorian Society, OMONOIA, help me benefit in the Development of my professional career today and in the future" that was selected as the best by the essay reading committee Dr. John Frangos, Dr. George Melikokis and Dr. Fotis Plakogiannis.

The Society also gave scholarships to the Metropolitan New York Parochial Schools as follows:  
DESTEVON APONTE  
C. Goulandris & T. Tsolainos  
St. Spyridon Parochial School  
VASILIKI SAVVIDES  
Greek American Institute  
TASOS PAPADOPOULOS  
A. Fantis Parochial School  
STELLA ANGELAKAKIS  
D. & G. Kaloidis Parochial  
School of Holy Cross  
EUGENE SARANTIS  
St. Demetrios Greek  
American School  
OTHRIA AHMED  
Jamaica Day School  
THEODOTA  
KONTOPOULOU  
William Spyropoulos  
Greek-American Day School  
of St. Nicholas

Finally, the Society provided scholarships to the valedictorians of the ten high schools and T.E.I. in Kastoria. They will be awarded in a special ceremony in Kastoria in August of 2011. The ceremony closed with a nice reception.

*"Prospective scholarship applicants please note that, in the future, we will consider service to the "Omonoia" Society as a criterion for awarding scholarships. More details to follow."*

## ESSAY

# "How can the Kastorian Society, OMONOIA, help me benefit in the Development of my professional career today and in the future."

by JOHN ALEXANDER MIHALTSES  
New York College of Osteopathic Medicine

Like any stranger entering a strange land the caliber of success experienced by the immigrant varies and is the furthest from being assured. The United States of America has always been the ultimate destination for those looking for opportunity and even garners the title, The Land of Opportunity, especially, during trying times in the origin homeland. However, lesson one all immigrants learn is that in America, opportunity is not the only requisite ingredient to success. One also needs drive, ambition, some unique skill and realistically, a bit of heartfelt assistance. The Kastorian Society facilitates this final important ingredient. The Kastorian Society, is a family-focused organization that supports and actively fosters its youth to develop their own lives and careers, providing them the highest chance of success in this land of opportunity. Families are based on two principles, a common history and altruistic behavior. The Society emphatically embodies both of these tenants through its programs and activities. Consequently, the youth of the Society benefit directly from these family-based principles.

The manner in which the Society provides opportunity is by coordinating and maintaining a network of professionals with a common ancestry. Much like the early immigrants forming enclaves to ensure survival, the Society creates a network so that we can integrate into the greater social realm, but still retain our cultural identity. Hopefully, this network will benefit me and other Kastorian youth greatly. As I proceed through my medical school years, I will increasingly become an integral part of the healthcare system in America. My summers and free time will be spent making contacts with other healthcare professionals that may one day supply me with the chance of a permanent professional position of my own. The Kastorian 'family' seems to be especially effective at this, as many of its members are doctors and other medical professionals. Maybe it's something in the Kastorian genes or child-rearing techniques that make us prone to helping others through healthcare services. Maybe we're just trying to get the rest of the medical establishment to accept Yiayia's chicken soup as an acceptable antiviral solution. Whatever the reason, the Kastorian network will be invaluable to me as I seek out my place within the medical community.



Mr. John Mihaltses reads his essay

## What sets the Kastorian society apart from other organizations of familiar principles is its high success rate amongst its aspiring youth.

The nervous system doesn't just send signals to its outlying extremities; it also can gather information from nerve endings, integrate them and send signals to other extremities. Likewise, the Kastorian Societal network doesn't just send out its youth to look for more opportunities with its membership and affiliates; it actively uses its network to connect two or more extremities. This conduction will be very helpful in the future of my career. Although an official decision is premature I am favoring a specialty in surgery and as a surgeon I will need a reliable network of outpatient and post operative healthcare professionals. The Kastorian Society acting as the central nervous system can facilitate these professional relationships through their dances, community building programs, picnics, and other culturally refortifying events. By attending these events and partaking fully in the society, one can gain the contacts that one would need to be an effective and successful professional. In organizations like this one, combined survival and success of the group concordantly yields the highest benefit for its individual members.

What sets the Kastorian society apart from other organizations of familiar principles is its high success rate amongst its aspiring youth. The exact reason for this is something of a mystery. But it is probably the result of the perfect combination of the society's ability

to illuminate and replicate its rich heritage here in America with a passion for social integration and financial success. Kastoria, like no other place in the world, has a wide-spanning and prosperous history, which promotes such pride. This pride far overshadows Kastoria's actual size. It seems almost disproportionate to the per capita population, but this intense pride in such a small package only further binds the community of Kastorians and it, in turn, fuels the success of Kastoria's emigrants. Whereas the Kastorian network is an external benefit, this pride, this derived desire to be a Kastorian success story, is internal and the best motivation. It is this pride that is fostered by the Society through its activities that will be the most helpful in the coming years in medical school and beyond.

One of the key philosophies of the United States is to give your children better than you had. No other American knows this better than the immigrant and their progeny. It is under this philosophy that Kastorian families flourish. The Kastorian Society facilitates this process, coupled with their real sense of Kastorian pride. This pride fuels the youth of the society and all the while it continues to support it's older, distinguished and success core membership. It is by this symbol and design that I look to develop my career as a doctor. I think the Kastorian Society for this with humble gratitude and respect.



The scholarship recipients with Mrs. Mitzi Papazoglou, President of Philoptochos, Dr. Elias Panides, President of "Omonoia", Dr. Thomas Papatomas, Chairman of the Committee, Messrs. Tasos Tzallas and Peter Symeonides, Committee members

# Society of Kastorians “Omonoia” Scholarship Awards

by ALICE RIGAS

**Kalispera - Good afternoon.**

To the scholarship recipients, CONGRATULATIONS - Synharitiria kai s'anotera!

To their families and friends, YOU HAVE EVERY REASON TO BE PROUD. Na tous haireste kai na tous kamaronete pantote.

To the Kastorian Omonoia leaders and members, thank you for this opportunity to return to the fold.

I feel honored and proud to have been asked to speak today to such promising young people, particularly because we share a common background, common traditions, and, I trust, common values. We are Kastorians, or the children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, of Kastorians, and we are here because you today, and I many years ago, received support in realizing our educational dreams and goals from this incredible group of people, this strong, dedicated, and progressive organization called the Kastorians' Omonoia. The support was and is in the form of monetary scholarships, but more importantly, it is in the form of a dedication to educational advancement, benevolence, and progress of every kind.

I am an immigrant, the daughter of immigrants who only completed the 8th grade, but who so believed in learning that they sacrificed to educate their children, economizing from their modest incomes to pay for parochial schools and colleges. My father was the son of a merchant ship captain whose family was transported from a prosperous town on the Black Sea to the plains outside of Kastoria during the Greek and Turkish exchange of populations in the 1920's. From sailing the seas, my grandfather, a most kind and holy man, had to completely turn his life around and become a farmer.

My mother, an outstanding student in her village of Mavrovo, dreamed of going to high school. However, her grandmother, one of the arhontisses of the village, forbade it because the only high school in the area was miles away in the main town of Kastoria and no granddaughter of hers would be leaving home just to get an education! The pleas of even my mother's teacher, begging my great-grandmother to reconsider, were for naught. My mother simply was not allowed to continue her formal education beyond the 8th grade, and instead was steered into learning how to be a seamstress. But what a seamstress she was! And no one who knew her believed that she had never attended high school - she spoke and wrote so beautifully.

My mother's forbidden dream of an education



**Distinguished Speaker Mrs. Rigas addresses the students**

translated into a determination to educate her children, and especially her daughter, at whatever the cost. Why her daughter, you might ask, when in our patristic tradition it is the man who is the head of the family. Her reasoning was that a man can do manual labor, dig ditches if need be, to support his family, but a woman should not have to. She never wanted her daughter to need to work the way she had to for so long, long hours doing work that could be numbing to the mind and to the soul. And she believed it was critical for a woman to have an education so that she could one day become a better mother to her children. Therefore, an education was more important for her daughter than it was for her son. Fortunately, both my brother and I completed our education, and neither of us has had to dig ditches to support our family - thus far - one never knows in today's economic climate!

My brother and I were infused with our parents' belief in education, and tried our hardest not to disappoint them. Both my parents supported our educational aspirations even when their fellow Kastorians couldn't understand why they would pay for private colleges when the City University was almost free. You see, my parents were laborers here in New York, having left Kastoria and their businesses to come to the United States

for a better future for their children. They worked long hours at hard work that they did not necessarily enjoy, but which they performed to the best of their abilities because they had a pride in whatever they did - be it stretching a mink skin on the stamatoura or hand-finishing a fur coat. "Oti erhete apo ta heria mou prepei na einai to kalitero pou boro na parago" my mother would say, "whatever comes from my hands must be the best I can produce." All who knew her said she had "golden hands." Yes, she had talent with a needle, but the talent without her making every effort to produce the best she could would not have yielded the same results. It was the pride she took in whatever she did that made all the difference, and made her one of the best fur finishers on 7th Avenue. This is not the story of my parents only - it is also the story of the generations of Kastorians who came before us and who labored to produce something good, something that they could pass on to future generations, something in which they could take pride.

All of you have talents, and some of you may have already achieved a great deal, perhaps in music, in sports, in your studies. It is what you will do with your talents going forward that will shape your life, will determine whether you will excel

in your endeavors or will simply coast. It is the pride you will take in **WHAT-EVER** you do, that will make all the difference. You have a proud tradition to honor, that of your Kastorian family, and you cannot settle for coasting. Many have sacrificed so that you can be here today, so that you can be awarded these scholarships, so that you might go forth and continue your education, achieve your goals, accomplish so much more than anyone else in this room has, so that you can make us all proud, but, most importantly, so that **YOU** can be proud of your efforts and achievements.

You have been given much, and much is expected of you. We expect you to put forth your best efforts in all you endeavor, to pursue excellence in your education and in every aspect of your life, to find your passion and commit to it so that you can be happy in your work and life. Someone who works at his passion will always be happy, so don't be waylaid by what others define as success - you need to go out and explore so that you can define success for yourself. It is not an easy task, and it very well may take years. But the fun is in the exploration, and the reward is in the realization when your passion becomes your life's work.

We expect you to respect and continue the traditions that have been passed down to you so that you do not forget your roots, for they are deep and rich. We expect that you will honor your family, your OIKOGENEIA, but you have to understand what is meant by OIKOGENEIA. It means more than your parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins. It also means your Greek-Orthodox church, your Greek language and heritage, your Kastorian heritage. It means that you cannot assimilate into the American culture to the degree that you forget where you come from and what it took to raise you. Be wary of those who try to Americanize you and internationalize you completely. Yes, you are Americans, and we are in an era of globalization, but poor are those who forget their roots, their home, their culture, their traditions. These will give you sustenance during times of challenge, they will help you remember that you belong to something greater than yourself, that you have connections to the past and that these connections are here to shore you up when you are at your lowest.

I know this because during my college and university years, turbulent times of social unrest, student uprisings, war protests, and the drug culture, it was my strong connection to my OIKOGENEIA - my family and Kastorian community - that kept me grounded. I belonged to the Kastorian Youth organization, whose members had extremely varied backgrounds, from Ph.D.'s in Engineering to college students, many born in this country, but many recently arrived, and many of the recently arrived were young furriers who were unable to finish their education because they had to work to support their families back home. However, all of us blended beautifully when we went on ski trips, beach parties, bowling, Christmas caroling, and threw the best dances of any organization in the Greek-American community. Many of the people in this room today were members and leaders of the Kastorian Youth of decades ago, and I believe it is their fervent hope that you, too, will become part of this organization very soon.

For many years I have worked with young people, some of the brightest minds who have chosen to pursue the study of law, and I see those that succeed, but also those that flounder. All of them are high achievers - top LSAT scores, high GPA's, incredible activities. Why do some succeed and others struggle? I believe that those that succeed not only are disciplined hard-workers, but they also know what they are seeking, what is their purpose for going to law school, what are their goals. And, most of all, they have a maturity, a sensible perspective on life, finely-honed social skills, and strong connections to family, friends, and community. I can't emphasize how important these connections are to a life well lived. Do not neglect them, but rather seek to cultivate them.

Do not forget where you come from and where you belong. Demand that you as Greek-Americans, as Kastorian-Americans, are recognized and that your culture is acknowledged in your schools, your workplaces, your communities.

Don't be meek - take lessons from other groups that are similar to us in that their language, heritage, and religion combine to form their identity. Look at Jewish Americans who, whatever their differences among themselves, will always band together to withstand outside forces that might threaten them. Almost every American college and university has a strong Hillel and almost every large institution offers Hebrew. The Jewish American lobby is proba-

**It is up to all of us, but more up to you, the newest generation of Kastorians, to ensure that this organization, this home of yours, continues to flourish. It will need your creativity and dedication to develop programs that will bring in new and younger members.**

bly second only to the National Rifle Association. How many strong Hellenic associations on college campuses do you know of today? How many OCF's - Orthodox Christian Fellowships? How many modern Greek studies departments exist, or even how many schools offer courses on modern Greek language and literature? When was the last time that Washington took Greek protests seriously - about Cyprus, Macedonia, threats to the Aegean islands? It is up to us to make sure that we are not forgotten, that we are heard, that our language and literature does not languish and die, that Greek means more than souvlaki and moussaka, that to be Greek means to strive for excellence and recognition, and to achieve great things for ourselves and our community. Take lessons from your Asian and Indian classmates - see how hard they work, how dedicated they are to achieving their goals, and how connected they remain to their traditions. Realize how much we have to do to remain competitive in this world that is flat today, where globalization is not only a buzz word but a reality. Strive for the best - your best - but be honest with yourself about what is truly your best.

In the latest edition of Time magazine there is an article by Annie Murphy Paul on a new and quite controversial book by Amy Chua, a Yale law professor, called "Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother." In it Chua describes her child-rearing methods (some viewed as very harsh by Americans), and the demands for excellence she placed on her two daughters. I have not read the book, but I will quote here the closing paragraph of the article: "Hard work, persistence, no patience for excuses: whether Chinese or American, that sounds like a prescription for success with which it's very difficult to argue."

We may not be able to realize all our goals, but we have to aspire to them, and we have to be willing to work hard for them. And we must start at home - our own home, our churches, schools, and in this home, this Kastorians' Omonoia, that has worked for progress for over 100 years, whose members have toiled for years in the fur industry and who have contributed so much to make sure that future generations benefit from their hard work and sacrifices. It now finds doctors, lawyers, engineers, educators, business people, accountants, among its members, and the founders must be smiling down on us today.

It is up to all of us, but more up to you, the newest generation of Kastorians, to ensure that this organization, this home of yours, continues to flourish. It will need your creativity and dedication to develop programs that will bring in new and younger members. You know what attracts you to an organization today, and we ask that you work with all the Omonoia members to reinvigorate the membership so that one day your children and your children's children will receive support from, and give support to, the Kastorians' Omonoia. We need to know that we can pass the baton on to you to continue the race.

We need you to work with us, and we believe that you will be richer for your efforts. We lay this challenge at your feet - we have faith that you will rise to it, and will continue to make your families proud of your achievements.

Look around you at all who are here to applaud you today. Much has been given to you - so much is expected of you. We know that you will make us proud and hope that you will be able to give back to this organization and to your extended OIKOGENEIA in many ways in the near and far future.

**Congratulations on all you have achieved thus far.  
Panta axioi na eisaste.**

**My very best wishes for success in all your endeavors,  
and for much happiness in your life.**

# Ragoutsaria

by JOHN PSALTOS

On January 8, 2011, the Society held its annual Ragoutsaria event at the Cultural Center of St. Nicholas Church in Flushing, Queens.

"Ragoutsaria" is the name of the feast that takes place in Northern Greece (Macedonia and Thessalia), 12 days after Christmas and ends with the Epiphany. In Kastoria, they celebrate the Ragoutsaria, a carnival-like celebration, from January 6 through January 8. The name "Ragoutsaria" derives from the Latin word "Rogatores" that means beggars! The custom has it that the Rogatores walk around town, door to door, and ask for money in order to chase away bad spirits and ensure good luck for the townspeople in the coming year. In order to achieve their target, the Rogatores make a lot of noise with big drums and brass instruments (clarinet and horn) that sends away the bad spirits.

This year's Rogatores did not disappoint. The 240 people in attendance, representing all ages, had a wonderful time with a fantastic Greek meal and musical entertainment provided by Power Station. The evening was highlighted by the customary entrance of the costumed revelers (bouloukia) accompanied by traditional Kastorian music. The mood was fantastic and the music irresistible as people danced all night to the dynamic rhythm of the clarinet and drum. As in previous years, prizes were given out for the best costumes; this year's winners were Evangelos Vekios (1st prize), Soultana Toskos (2nd prize) and Athena Lehovitis (3rd prize). Additionally, a "doro" was given to all the school aged children.

Congratulations to the Chairman, Mr. John Psaltos and the Committee for and a successful event.





## RAGOUTSARIA





## RAGOUTSARIA



# BENEVOLENT SOCIETY LADIES OF KASTORIA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Dear members and friends,

It is hard to believe that two years have passed since I had the honor to be elected as president of the Benevolent Society Ladies of Kastoria.

As I am writing this greeting, spring has finally arrived, we are approaching Easter, our next General Elections and it is an appropriate time to reflect on the past year's activities and fund raising efforts (details of such events follow in the articles below.)

We kicked off the season with our traditional trip to Atlantic City in mid September. A very successful Fall Luncheon followed in October and our second cooking demonstration in mid November featured loukanika and sarmades just in time for the Holidays.

The highlight of the year was of course "Omonoia's" 100th Anniversary Gala at the Hilton. What a party indeed! We met and reconnected with friends and relatives from near and far, reminisced about years past and delighted in the prospect of planning future successful events. Congratulations to President Dr. Elias Panides, "Omonoia's" Board and everyone who contributed to the event's success!

Our annual Christmas Luncheon was the most successful to date with friends, supporters and most importantly 3 generations of Kastorian women in attendance.

Grandmothers and mothers were proud to show off their daughters, daughters-in-law and most of all grand daughters, as they enjoyed the day and made invaluable memories.

We also had the pleasure to be surprised by the Mayor of Kastoria, Mr. Yiannis Tsamisis and his wife Maria (Mavroudis), who joined us and had a lovely time. We also honored two long standing Board Members, our Corresponding Secretaries, Mrs. Irene Mousiades and Mrs. Mary Samaras.

We joined "Omonoia" in the farewell event of the 100th Anniversary Year, when we were invited to sing "Kalanta" honoring "Omonoia's" past presidents in a sentimental gathering at the end of December. We also bid farewell to 2010 at our annual New Year's Eve celebration and the cutting of the traditional "Vasilopita".

In February, we celebrated cupid with our annual Valentine's Day Luncheon and joined "Omonoia" at the first "XASKARI" dinner. In mid March we had a very successful "nistisimi fasolada Sunday" and in

spite of the cold weather we enjoyed great attendance at the Greek Parade as we marched down 5th Avenue on Sunday March 27th.

We endured a very long and harsh winter but that did not stop the work of the amazing Board of our esteemed organization. Every Board member chairs one and often times more than one event contributing time, money and most of all love to help raise funds to assist those in need.

I wish to express my deepest gratitude for their support. It is a privilege and a delight to work with such wonderful ladies whose dedication, hard work, big hearts and charitable spirit is invaluable.

This past year we donated over \$20,000 to families and organizations and as of December 31st we are very proud to have 300 paid members. I wish to thank all of you once again for your continued support and kindness. I must stress that without your participation in our events and your very generous donations we would not be able to accomplish our goal.

On behalf of the Board I wish you and your families a Happy Easter and a wonderful summer. May God Bless all of you and your families and may all the men and women of our military return home safely and victorious.

Please save the following dates and plan to join our Philoptohos' future fundraising events:

- Easter Luncheon and General Meeting - Thursday April 28th at noon at the Society's Cultural Center
- Ronald McDonald Walkathon - Saturday May 14th at 11:00 am at 405 East 73rd Street (between 1st and York Avenues)
- "Girls' Night Out" - Friday May 20th at 7:00 pm at the Society's Cultural Center. Join us for some wine, snacks and tips on Beauty and Skin Rejuvenating Techniques
- Visit to St. Michael's Home for the Aged - (Thursday June 2nd)
- 2nd Day trip to Atlantic City - Saturday June 11th - will meet at the Society's Cultural Center at 8:30 am.
- St. Basil's Academy Commencement Exercise - Sunday, June 19th

*T. Mitzi Papazoglou - PRESIDENT*

*Please feel free to contact me at: [mitzi.papazoglou@gmail.com](mailto:mitzi.papazoglou@gmail.com)*

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## HONORING THE LADIES

by Mitzi Papazoglou - PRESIDENT

**A**t our Christmas Luncheon we had the great pleasure of honoring our Corresponding Secretaries. We presented each with a plaque expressing our gratitude for their contribution, devotion and dedication to their duties over the years. Mrs. Irene Mousiades has been an active member of our organization for over 25 years. When you receive one of our "flyers" please remember that it is Irene who draws, writes and mails every one of them. Can you imagine how many flyers she has sent over the past 25 years? What labor of love and commitment!

Mrs. Mary Samaras upon joining the Board assumed the role of Social Secretary. She is the one who acknowledges your generous donations and very eloquently shares our joy when she congratulates you on weddings, anniversaries and happy occasions and also expresses and shares our concern if one of you is ill, or when the worst happens and there is a loss in your family.

In addition, these ladies are present at every meeting and fundraiser willing to bake, serve, decorate the Cultural Center and help clean up afterward and always with a beautiful smile cheering us up.



Irene Mousiades and Mary Samaras were honored at the Christmas luncheon

## Valentine's Luncheon

It was with anticipation and a bit of concern that the lovely chairladies: Mrs. Maria Papougenis and Mrs. Maria Samaras planned our traditional Valentine's Luncheon. As February 17th approached we breathed a sigh of relief when the weather predictions did not include snow, since last year we had to cancel the gathering due to bad weather. The event was very successful with 75 ladies in attendance. The Cultural Center was brightly decorated with red hearts, teddy bears and red rose centerpieces donated annually by "Omonoia's" Board along with the delicious cake we serve. Jewelry and accessories were showcased and sold. Mrs. Papougenis baked cookies and also created and distributed lovely poems. The meal was delicious and we wish to express our gratitude to Mr. Tom Samaras who donates the salad every year. We thank the 75 ladies who honored us with their presence and generous support, and are so grateful to the chairladies for doing such a great job and to all Board members for their help.

## "Nistisimi" Sunday

Our Cultural Center was filled to capacity on Sunday, March 13th, when 107 members and friends gathered to support us and enjoy our traditional "Nistisimi / Lenten" fundraiser. The lovely chairladies: Mrs. Angie Constantine, Athena Georgiades, Irene Mousiades and Toula Dodes were hard at work organizing, cooking, decorating the clubhouse and preparing for the event. The results were fabulous. All Board Members and some friends cooked and presented delicious fasolada and chick pea soup, fasolia plaki, karkalets, skordalia, as well as other appetizers and halva, moustopita and sweet pita ... ummm yummy!

Mr. John Mallios was prepared to present information on Insurance Products, particularly Long Term Care, but because of the large crowd it was agreed that a separate meeting will be organized to discuss this important topic.

We wish to thank "Omonoia's" Board for contributing the wine, everyone who attended to show your support, and most importantly, everyone who not only bought the ingredients but also cooked, served and cleaned the clubhouse.

Kali sas Sarakosti and Happy Easter.

## Επίδειξη Μαγειρικής

### της Ανθούλας Καϊτέρη

Η Φιλόπρωχος, εκτός από την φιλανθρωπική της δράση, προσπαθεί να κρατήσει ζωντανές τις ωραίες παραδόσεις, τα ήθη και έθιμα και να παραδώσει στους νεότερους την ωραία και πλούσια κληρονομιά μας. Το Σάββατο, 13η Νοεμβρίου, 2010, πραγματοποιήθηκε μια εκδήλωση στο Πολιτιστικό Κέντρο του Συλλόγου με σκοπό να δοθούν μαθήματα μαγειρικής στα μέλη με υπεύθυνες κυρίες τις Τούλα Ντότη, Αθηνά Γεωργιάδη Ειρήνη Μουσιάδη και Άντζι Κωνσταντίν.

Η επίδειξη ήταν για τους πατροπαράδοτους σαρμάδες και τα Καστοριανά λουκάνικα, τα οποία συνήθιζονται σε κάθε Καστοριανό σπίτι τις Άγιες Ημέρες των Χριστουγέννων και του Νέου Έτους.

Οι υπεύθυνες κυρίες με την βοήθεια της Προέδρου κα. Μίτζι Παπάζογλου με επιτηδειότητα και αρχοντιά επέδειξαν τα

λουκάνικα και έπειτα τους σαρμάδες. Τα μέλη με ανυπομονησία και αγάπη παρακολουθούσαν την όλη προετοιμασία. Στο τέλος προσφέρθηκε πλούσιο γεύμα με ωραίες λιχουδιές (σαρμάδες, λουκάνικα και άλλα) και καφές με εύγεστα γλυκά, τα οποία ετοίμασαν οι υπεύθυνες της εκδηλώσεως.

Ευχαριστούμε θερμά τις δραστήριες κυρίες Ντότη, Γεωργιάδη, Μουσιάδη και Κωνσταντίν που εργάζονται με ζήλο για την πρόοδο της Φιλοπρώχου και τη διατήρηση των Καστοριανών παραδόσεων ώστε να γίνονται οι εκδηλώσεις μας ξεχωριστές.

## Φθινοπωρινό Γεύμα - "Halloween"

Την Πέμπτη 28 Οκτωβρίου, 2010 πραγματοποιήθηκε το καθιερωμένο Φθινοπωρινό γεύμα της Φιλόπρωχου Αδελφότητα Κυριών Καστοριάς στη Νέα Υόρκη στο ιδιόκτητο κτίριο του Συλλόγου Καστοριανών στο "Whitestone".

Οι υπεύθυνες της ημέρας, κυρία Λούλα Κουκούλη και Μάλη Στούμπου, καλωσόρισαν όλα τα μέλη που παρευρέθησαν στην εκδήλωση. Μετά την προσευχή η πρώτη υπεύθυνη του γεύματος κυρία Κουκούλη μίλησε για την γιορτή. Μας υπενθύμισε ότι εκτός από το "Halloween" που θα γιορτάζαμε στο τέλος του μήνα στη θετή πατρίδα μας η σημερινή μέρα, 28η Οκτωβρίου, είναι η επέτειος της εμπλοκής της Ελλάδας στο δεύτερο Παγκόσμιο Πόλεμο μετά την διεκδίκησή της από τον τότε δικτάτορα της Ιταλίας, Μουσολίνι. Το ιστορικό «ΟΧΙ» του Μεταξά, πρωθυπουργού της Ελλάδας, ακόμη ηχεί στα αυτιά των Ελλήνων.

Αργότερα η κυρία Άρτεμις Τόσκου, επίτιμο μέλος της Φιλόπρωχου, μας εξιστόρησε τις εμπειρίες της από αυτήν την Ημέρα στην Καστοριά μας.

## Μνήμες της Αρτέμιδος Τόσκου Επί ευκαιρίας της 28ης Οκτωβρίου

Αγαπητές μου κυρίες, μέλη και φίλες της Φιλοπρώχου, Η σημερινή ημέρα, 28η Οκτωβρίου, είναι μια ημέρα ξεχωριστή για μας τους Έλληνες, μια ημέρα ιστορική για το Ελληνικό Έθνος. Έρχονται πολλές μήμες στο μυαλό μας για μας τις ηλικιωμένες που ζήσαμε τις θλιβερές κι αλησμόνητες μέρες του πολέμου. Είναι η ημέρα αυτή που η Ιταλία κήρυξε τον πόλεμο εναντίον της Ελλάδος. Είναι η ημέρα που ο τότε πρωθυπουργός της Ελλάδος Ιωάννης Μεταξάς είπε το ιστορικό ΟΧΙ για το οποίο μιλά όλη η ανθρωπότητα.

Ο γενναίος Ελληνικός στρατός στο κάλεσμα της πατρίδος με υπερηφάνεια έτρεξε να υπερασπιστεί την πατρίδα του πολεμώντας ηρωικά στα σύνορά της προς την Αλβανία και Βόρειο Ήπειρο. Εξεπλάγη όλος κόσμος με τις ηρωικές νίκες του Ελληνικού στρατού εναντίον των Ιταλών. Εις το εσωτερικό της Ελλάδος τα πάντα είχαν νεκρωθεί, υπήρχε μεγάλη ανησυχία, επικρατούσε φόβος και τρόμος. Τα Ιταλικά αεροπλάνα συνέχαια πηγαίνονταν και βομβάρδιζαν πόλεις, χωριά και στρατιωτικούς στόχους κι εμείς ακούγοντας τις σειρήνες τρέχαμε να προφυλαχτούμε και να κρυφτούμε στα καταφύγια και στις σπηλιές των βουνών. Πόσες χιλιάδες γυναίκοπαιδα χάθηκαν στους βομβαρδισμούς!

Ήλθε ο χειμώνας, ο οποίος ήταν πολύ βαρύς, τα βουνά που εμάχτο ο Ελληνικός στρατός ήταν όλα χιονισμένα και παγωμένα, πολλοί στρατιώτες πάθαιναν κρυοπαγήματα και τους στέλνανε στις πιο κοντινές πόλεις στα νοσοκομεία ή στα σχολεία, που τα μετέτρεψαν σε νοσοκομεία για να εξυπηρετήσουν τους

## RETRACTION for 100th Anniversary Journal error

The Board of the Benevolent Society Ladies of Kastoria deeply regrets and extends our sincerest public apology to past President Mrs. Sophia Bendos for a serious error that was made in the Journal of "Omonoia's" 100th Anniversary, which listed her as deceased. Mrs. Bendos enjoys good health and is a most respected member of our organization whose past contributions were most valuable.

τραυματίες ή τους κρουοπαγημένους.

Στην Καστοριά που ήταν η πιο κοντινή απόσταση από το μέτωπο μετέφεραν πολλούς τραυματίες, άλλους χωρίς πόδια, άλλους χωρίς χέρια.

Πολλές κυρίες και δεσποινίδες έτρεχαν στα νοσοκομεία, λόγω ελλείψεως προσωπικού, να βοηθήσουν, να τους παρηγορήσουν και να τους δώσουν κουράγιο. Άλλες κυρίες βοηθούσαν για την φανέλα του στρατιώτου, έπλεκαν φανέλες, κάλτσες, κασκόλ, γάντια για να τα στείλουν στα σύνορα στους στρατιώτες και να τους προσφέρουν λίγη ζεστασιά. Κι άλλες πιο κοντά στα σύνορα κουβαλούσαν στο μέτωπο πολεμοφόδια αφηφώντας κάθε κίνδυνο.

Πολύ δύσκολος ο χειμώνας στα βουνά της Αλβανίας με πολλά θύματα πολέμου με στερήσεις και κακουχίες. Όμως άντεξε ο Ελληνικός στρατός έως τον καιρό που χτύπησαν την Ελλάδα και οι Γερμανοί οπότε δεν ήταν δυνατόν η Ελλάδα ν' αντέξει τον πόλεμο εναντίον δυο αυτοκρατοριών Ιταλίας και Γερμανίας και υπεχώρησε.

Επακολούθησε μετά η τρομερή κατοχή. Φόβος και τρόμος επικρατούσε παντού κι έπεσε μεγάλη πείνα. Πολλοί πωλούσαν πράγματα αξίας για να μπορέσουν να πάρουν τα πιο απαραίτητα όπως σιτάρι για ψωμί, λάδι, ζάχαρη, σαπούνι.

Στις μεγαλουπόλεις ήταν ακόμη πιο δύσκολα, καθημερινά ακούγαμε θανάτους από πείνα. Μερικοί τυχεροί έπαιρναν κανένα πακέτο από Αμερική ή Καναδά με λίγα τρόφιμα ή ρούχα που έστελναν

συγγενικά τους πρόσωπα ή και φιλόπρωχα σωματεία. Επακολούθησε ο συμμοριτοπόλεμος, πολύ τρομερός, πολλά παλικάρια σκοτώνονταν κάθε μέρα και τους έφερναν να τους κηδεύσουν στην Καστοριά.

Είχε γεμίσει το στρατιωτικό νεκροταφείο. Τους κηδεύανε θυμάμαι με τιμές κι εμείς, η τότε νεολαία, προσκοπίνες και πρόσκοποι με βήμα πομπικό τους συνοδεύαμε ως την τελευταία τους κατοικία όπου εψάλλετο τρισάγιο, ανέφεραν τα ονόματα των απόντων ηρώων κι έριχναν κανονιές. Οι μνήμες αυτές συνταράσσουν το ηθικό μας, είναι μνήμες πολύ συγκινητικές στην καρδιά μας που τις κουβαλάμε σ' όλη μας την ζωή παρ' όλο που πέρασαν από τότε 70 χρόνια.

Πέρασαν περίπου δύο δεκαετίες για να μπορέσει η Ελλάδα με την βοήθεια των συμμάχων, Αγγλίας και Αμερικής, να ορθοστατήσει και να σταθεί στα πόδια της. Αυτά εν ολίγοις από τις πάμπολλες αναμνήσεις του πολέμου 1940. Αιώνια η μνήμη στους αθάνατους Ήρωες! Ζήτω η Ελλάδα! Ζήτω η Ελευθερία!

## Εκδρομή στο Atlantic City

της **Ανθούλας Καϊτέρη**

Μετά τις θερινές διακοπές, στις 18 Σεπτεμβρίου, 2010, η Φιλόπρωχος διοργάνωσε εκδρομή στο Atlantic City με υπεύθυνες τις αγαπητές κυρίες Ολυμπία Σμήλιου, Μαίρη Παπάζογλου και Άννα

Τσούκη.

Ένα λεωφορείο γεμάτο ξεκίνησε πρωί-πρωί από το Πολιτιστικό Κέντρο του Συλλόγου για το καζίνο Resorts. Οι υπεύθυνες κυρίες με την συνεργασία της προέδρου κα. Μίτζι Παπάζογλου έκαναν την εκδρομή πιο ευχάριστη με την εξαιρετική περιποίηση, προσφέροντας πίτες γλυκά και άλλα εδέσματα. Η Πρόεδρος αφού ευχαρίστησε αναφέρθηκε στη δράση της Φιλοπρωχου και ενημέρωσε τα μέλη ως προ τις μελλοντικές εκδηλώσεις. Η ημέρα πέρασε ευχάριστα στο πολυτελή εστιατόριο, στο καζίνο και στις γραφικές παραλίες του Atlantic City.

Ευχαριστούμε θερμά όσους μας τίμησαν με την παρουσία τους διότι με τον τρόπο αυτό ανταπεξέρχεται η Φιλόπρωχος στους φιλανθρωπικούς σκοπούς της.

Ευχαριστούμε τις υπεύθυνες κυρίες, Σμήλιου, Παπάζογλου και Τσούκη για την υπέροχη οργάνωση της εκδρομής.

## Αποβίωσαντα Μέλη της Φιλοπρωχου

Έλλη Βουτσιάδη

Ντότα Παπάζογλου

Μαίρη Σουφαράπη, η οποία για πολλά χρόνια εργάστηκε ως σύμβουλος.

*Η Φιλόπρωχος απευθύνει θερμά συλλυπητήρια στις οικογένειές τους.*

“The Special Fund is funded by the generous donations of our members sent in place of flowers for their beloved ones and from our club treasury. With your generous contributions we are able to help compatriots in need. Please continue to support the SPECIAL FUND.”



Miss Stavroula Traitses singing at the Christmas Luncheon

## Χριστουγεννιάτικο Γεύμα 2010

της Αρτέμιδος Τόσκου

Αθρόα ήταν η προέλευση των μελών και φίλων της Φιλοπτώχου στο Χριστουγεννιάτικο γεύμα που εδόθη την 2αν Δεκεμβρίου στο Milleridge Cottage, Jericho NY. Είχαμε πολλά χρόνια να δούμε τέτοια κοσμοσυρροή σε συγκέντρωση της Φιλοπτώχου. Οι κυρίες αρέσουν πολύ αυτή την εκδήλωση, αγαπούν τις γιορτινές ημέρες να βρεθούν μεταξύ φίλων και συμπατριωτών και ν' ανταλλάξουν τις θερμές ευχές των Χριστουγέννων, ευχές για ευλογημένα Χριστούγεννα, ευχές για την μεγαλύτερη εορτή της Χριστιανοσύνης που είναι εορτή αγάπης του Χριστού προς τον άνθρωπο με τη θεία γέννησή του. Επί πλέον ξέρουν ότι με τον ερχομό τους υποστηρίζουν το θεάρεστο χριστιανικό έργο της Φιλοπτώχου που δεν είναι άλλο παρά αγάπη και φιλανθρωπία προς τον συνάνθρωπό μας.

Από πολύ καιρό πριν οι υπεύθυνες κυρίες άρχισαν να εργάζονται για την επιτυχία της εκδηλώσεως κι έστειλαν στα μέλη μας τις ωραίες χριστουγεννιάτικες προσκλήσεις τις οποίες ανέλαβε κι εφέτος η Πρόεδρός μας. Υπεύθυνες ήταν κι εφέτος οι πρώην πρόεδρος κυρία Μαίρη Γερασπούλου, κυρία Ανθούλα Καϊτέρη, κυρία Άρτεμις Τόσκου και η κυρία Μαίρη Παπάζογλου με επί κεφαλής την δραστήρια και αγαπητή μας πρόεδρο κυρία Μίτζι Παπάζογλου.

Η γιορτή άρχισε με κοκτέιλ εν συνεχεία το γεύμα. Η αίθουσα ήταν υπέροχα διακοσμημένη, τα τραπέζια με τα χριστουγεννιάτικα center pieces, προσφορά της Προέδρου και της πρώην προέδρου και επίτιμου μέλους του διοικητικού συμβουλίου κυρία Λούλας Κατσαμάκη, εις μνήμη του πατρός τους Σωκράτη Σούλιου. Μεταξύ των επισήμων ήταν οι κυρίες Μαγδαληνή Πανίδη, Έφη Καραχάλιος από την τράπεζα Μάραθων, εκ Καστοριάς οι κυρίες Μάχη Αϊβάζη, Βάλαρα Μελλίδου και εξ Αθηνών η κυρία Ιουλία Μαντζουράνη. Τιμήθηκαν οι αξιόπαινες κυρίες του συμβουλίου Ειρήνη Μουσιάδου και Μαίρη Σαμαρά για την πολυετή, θαυμάσια υπηρεσία τους και τους απονεμήθηκαν τιμητικές πλακέτες. Την ξαφνική τους παρουσίασε έκανε ο Δήμαρχος Καστοριάς κ. Ιωάννης Τσαμίσης μετά της συζύγου του Μαρίας οι οποίοι ήταν προσκεκλημένοι και παρευρέθηκαν στην χοροεσπερίδα της επετείου των 100 χρόνων της Ομόνοιας. Ο κ. Τσαμίσης απηύθυνε χαιρετισμό προς την Φιλόπτωχο και συνεχάρη τις κυρίες για το έργο τους.

Με την ορχήστρα BYPON χορέψαμε όλες, τραγουδήσαμε τα κάλαντα, αφού πρώτα μας τραγουδήσε η μικρή Έφη Τραϊτση με την θαυμάσια φωνή της. Υπήρχε και πλούσια λαχειοφόρος αγορά.

Συγχαρητήρια σε όλες που εργάστηκαν γι αυτή την εκδήλωση.



Η πρόεδρος κα. Μίτζι Παπάζογλου και η πρώην πρόεδρος κα. Λούλα Κατσαμάκη, με το Δήμαρχο Καστοριάς κ. Γιάννη Τσαμίση και τη σύζυγό του Μαρία.



Οι κυρίες Ανθούλα Καϊτέρη, Μαίρη Γερασπούλου, Λούλα Κατσαμάκη, Λούλα Κουκούλη και Στέλλα Ανδρεοπούλου.

## Πρωτοχρονιάτικο Ρεβεγιόν

της Αρτέμιδος Τόσκου

Σαν μία οικογένεια γλέντησαν και υποδέχθηκαν τον καινούργιο χρόνο 2011 οι κυρίες της Φιλοπτώχου. Παραμονή πρωτοχρονιάς από ενωρίς άρχισαν να καταφθάνουν μέλη και φίλοι της Φιλοπτώχου στο Πολιτιστικό Κέντρο του Συλλόγου, παρ' όλη την κακοκαιρία που ήταν, για να διασκεδάσουν και να δεχθούν με χαρά τον καινούργιο χρόνο. Υπεύθυνες της βραδιάς ήταν η πρόεδρος κυρία Μίτζι Παπάζογλου με την αδελφή της και επίτιμο μέλος του συμβουλίου κυρία Λούλα Κατσαμάκη.

Η αίθουσα ήταν όμορφα στολισμένη, τα τραπέζια με ωραία στολίδια, μπαλόνια, καπέλα, κ.ά. για τον ερχομό του νέου έτους. Προσφέρθηκαν νοστιμότατοι μεζέδες, κρασιά (προσφορά της «ΟΜΟΝΟΙΑΣ») και άρχισε το γλέντι και ο χορός με μουσική DJ. Επακολούθησε φαγητό. Το γλέντι συνεχίστηκε, ο καινούργιος χρόνος δεν άργησε να έλθει. Ανοίχθηκαν σαμπάνιες και κόπηκαν οι βασιλόπιτες, (προσφορά της συμβούλου μας κ. Ελένη Κοθάλη). Η τυχερή ήταν η κυρία Ειρήνη Μουσιάδου η οποία έλαβε το χρυσό σταυρό που προσέφερε το ζεύγος Ανθούλα και Γεώργιος Καϊτέρη. Η κα Μουσιάδου προσέφερε στην Φιλοπτώχο \$50 καθώς είχαμε δωρεές κι από το ζεύγος Παντελή Καλαπούτη και το ζεύγος Ιωάννη Ρακκού.

Η Πρόεδρος απηύθυνε πρωτοχρονιάτικες ευχές για ειρήνη στον κόσμο και για ένα καλύτερο αύριο. Συνεχίστηκε ο χορός και σε λίγο αποχωρήσαμε με ωραίες ευχές για καλή χρονιά, υγεία κι ευημερία στον κόσμο, με πολλές χαρές και προσδοκίες.



DONATIONS TO THE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY LADIES OF KASTORIA

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Mrs. Mary Papougenis has donated an appropriate amount

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(donated at New Years Eve):

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& NOUNA FILARETI KOTSIS:

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 MRS. IRINI TATSIS,

FATHER OF MR. & MRS. TOM GAYLE:

Nick & Tessie Poulos.....\$100.00

IN MEMORY OF THEIR LOVED ONES

(donated at the Fasolada Function):

Mr. & Mrs. Pantelis Kalapoutis.....\$50.00

IN MEMORY OF HARRY KYROU:

Mr. & Mrs. Kostas Mousiadis.....\$40.00

IN MEMORY OF HIS AUNT LOULA LIAKAS, deceased in  
 Columbus, Ohio:

Mr. Alex Masiakos.....\$160.00

PHILOPTOCHOS - DONATIONS

IN MEMORY OF ASPASIA KLADIAS:

Mr. & Mrs. Fotios Katsamakias.....\$100.00

IN MEMORY OF EVA MELLIDES:

Mr. & Mrs. Fotios Katsamakias.....\$50.00  
Mrs. Mary Papazoglou .....\$20.00

IN MEMORY OF HER HUSBAND:

Mrs. Juliet Mantzouranis.....\$30.00

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Mr. & Mrs. John Rakkou .....\$250.00  
Mr. Charles Petkanas .....\$100.00  
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Mrs. Sonia Kasapis .....\$35.00  
Mrs. Dorothy Kambouris.....\$35.00  
Mrs. Dorothy Katopis.....\$70.00  
Mr. & Mrs. John Rakkou .....\$70.00  
Mr. Spyros Aggelopoulos .....\$20.00  
Mrs. Athena Hatzis.....\$35.00  
QUEENS AUDIOLOGY PLLC – (DR. JOANNA ROUFUS)  
\$200.00

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Mrs. Loula Koukoulis .....\$30.00  
Mrs. Molly Stoumpos.....\$30.00  
Mrs. Anna Tsoukis.....\$30.00  
Mrs. Nina Petkanas .....\$25.00  
Mrs. Eleni Cothalis .....\$20.00  
Mrs. Toulia Dodes.....\$20.00  
Mrs. Irene Mousiades.....\$20.00  
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IN MEMORY OF HER HUSBAND KOSTAS:

Mrs. Helen Bouklas .....\$100.00

IN MEMORY OF HELEN KRATSIOS:

Mrs. Helen Bouklas .....\$50.00  
Mrs. Artemis Toskos .....\$100.00

IN MEMORY OF HER HUSBAND NIKOLAOS:

Mrs. Kaity Dumas.....\$100.00

IN MEMORY OF HER HUSBAND KOSTANTINE:

Mrs. Sophie Aivazis.....\$50.00

IN MEMORY OF HER MOTHER:

Mrs. Doddie Karras .....\$50.00

IN MEMORY OF HER DAUGHTER:

Mrs. Koula Tarabanis.....\$100.00

IN MEMORY OF THEIR LOVED ONES:

Mrs. Stella Andreopoulos .....\$50.00  
Mrs. Kallitsa Zias.....\$50.00

IN MEMORY OF THEIR PARENTS:

Mr. & Mrs. Costas Kaliva .....\$50.00

IN MEMORY OF HER DECEASED FAMILY:

Mrs. Froni Vlahou .....\$20.00

IN MEMORY OF THE DEPARTED FAMILIES OF KYROU & PASHALIS:

Mrs. Cathrine Kyrou .....\$100.00

IN MEMORY OF HER PARENTS, PETROS & ARIADNE KRATSIOS, HELEN KRATSIOS & KLEONIKI PETRAS:

Mrs. Vivian Arzoumanides.....\$100.00

WE WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE & THANK THE KASTORIAN'S SOCIETY "OMONOIA" FOR THEIR DONATION OF \$500.00 FOR THE LOUKANIKA/SARMADES DEMONSTRATION

Corrections/Omissions from Previous Publications:

IN MEMORY OF OUR BELOVED MOTHER & YIAYIA HELEN DOUMAS:

Nick & Tessie Poulos & Family, & Tom & Laura Papachristos  
\$200.00

IN MEMORY OF KOSTANTINA HALVATZIS & VASILIOS MANTOS:

Mr. George Kaltsas .....\$75.00

IN MEMORY OF OUR BELOVED SISTER HELEN KRATSIOS:

George & Ann Kratsios .....\$250.00

IN MEMORY OF HELEN KRATSIOS:

Donald & Melody Fries.....\$100.00  
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Mrs. Tammy Tsavekou.....\$35.00  
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Mr. & Mrs. Kimon Tsoukis.....\$20.00

Louis & Eleni Nicozisis donated \$85.00 to the Philoptochos

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Anthony & Mary Chigounis & Family .....\$100.00

IN MEMORY OF HER HUSBAND CONSTANTINE:

Mrs. Sophie Aivazis.....\$100.00

IN MEMORY OF AMALIA PEKMEZARIS:

Mrs. Tammy Tsavekou.....\$35.00

THE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY LADIES OF KASTORIA APPRECIATES THE SUPPORT OF ITS MEMBERS & FRIENDS & IS VERY THANKFULL



The Ladies singing the Kastorian kalanta to the Presidents

## Τα Κάλαντα «Κόλεντα»

Λίγες ημέρες προ των Χριστουγέννων το Συμβούλιο της «ΟΜΟΝΟΙΑΣ» προσκάλεσε στο Πολιτιστικό Κέντρο του Συλλόγου τον Πρόεδρο, Δρ. Ηλία Πανίδα, τους πρώην προέδρους της “Ομόνοιας” και τις κυρίες της Φιλοπτώχου για να τραγουδήσουν τα κάλαντα.

*Αραδιαστείτε αμπρέ παιδιά όλοι με την αράδα, να πούμε τραγούδια ευγενικά ν’ αρέσουν στ’ αφεντικό μας...* με αυτό το τραγούδι, με σβησμένα τα φώτα και κρατώντας αναμμένα κεριά οι κυρίες ξεκίνησαν να ψάλλουν τα Καστοριανά κάλαντα στον πρόεδρο Δρ. Ηλία Πανίδα και πρώην προέδρους κυρίου Νικόλαο Μουστάκα, Γεώργιο Καϊτέρη, Παύλο Νάνο, Κωνσταντίνο Φράγκο και Χρήστο Γιώβε, καθώς και σε άλλους που παρευρέθηκαν εκεί.

Προσφέρθηκαν λουκάνικα από τις κυρίες Τούλα Ντότη, Ειρήνη Μουσιάδη και Αθηνά Γεωργιάδη, σπιτικό ψωμί, από την Αθηνά Γεωργιάδη και γλυκίσματα από τις κυρίες Μάλη Στούμπου και Λούλα Κουκούλη, τσιγαρίδες, τυριά, κρασιά, ρυζόγαλο και τί άλλο να ονομάσουμε, από την «ΟΜΟΝΟΙΑ».

Όλοι ευχαριστήθηκαν. Ήτο μια πραγματική Καστοριανή βεγγέρα



Standing from left to right: Toula Dodes, Athena Georgiadis, Irene Mousiades, Molly Stoumpos, Mary Kokkinides, Anna Tsoukis  
Seating from left to right: Loula Katsamakias, Mary Papougenis, Mitzi Papazoglou, Olympia Smilios, Loula Koukoulis, Anthoula Kaitery.



From left to right: Dr. Elias Panides, Christos Yioves, Nicholas Moustakas, George Kaitery, Paul Nanos and Constantine Frangos

## ΥΠΑΡΧΟΥΝ ΚΑΙ ΑΛΛΟΙ ΑΝΘΡΩΠΟΙ

του Ανδρέα Βασιλείου

Αναρωτηθήκαμε ποτέ σε τί κοινωνία ζούμε; Αναρωτηθήκαμε ποτέ γιατί κοιτάμε μόνο τον εαυτό μας; Η τεχνολογία με όλα της τα καλά κατάφερε να καταστρέψει τον άνθρωπο. Η δουλειά, το χρηματιστήριο, το τελευταίο μοντέλο του κινητού μας τηλεφώνου μας, έχουν απορροφήσει τελείως. Το καθημερινό άγχος δεν μας αφήνει να κοιτάξουμε δίπλα μας. Ή μήπως δεν θέλουμε; Κι όμως υπάρχουν άνθρωποι που η ζωή δεν τους φέρθηκε με τον καλύτερο τρόπο. Είτε από αρρώστια, είτε από μοναξιά, ζούνε κάθε μέρα το δικό τους Γολγοθά.

Ανάμεσα στις εκκλησίες και τις φιλανθρωπικές οργανώσεις πρωτοστατεί και ο Σύλλογός μας όπου δυο φορές το χρόνο, την Ημέρα των Ευχαριστιών και τα Χριστούγεννα, προσφέρουμε ένα χέρι βοήθειας σε άπορες οικογένειες. Μαζί με τα παιδιά μας μέλη του Συμβουλίου μοιράζουν φαγητά, παιχνίδια και ρούχα.

Του χρόνου ας ευχηθούμε πως θα βοηθήσουμε περισσότερες οικογένειες. Είναι ίσως το λιγότερο που μπορούμε να κάνουμε σαν φιλανθρωπικός σύλλογος για τους συνανθρώπους μας.

## ΕΟΡΤΗ ΤΟΥ ΠΡΟΦΗΤΗ ΗΛΙΑ

Ο Σύλλογός μας, την 18η Ιουλίου, 2010 τίμησε την εορτή του Προφήτου Ηλία, Προστάτη των Γουνοπιών.

Η εορτή άρχισε στην Εκκλησία του Τιμίου Σταυρού, Γουάιπστούουν, με Θεία Λειτουργία και Αρτοκλασία, χοροστατούντος του Θεοφιλέστατου Επισκόπου Μελόης κ. Φιλόθεου. Πλήθος Καστοριών παρευρέθηκαν εις την εκκλησία καθώς και φίλοι τους, δεηθέντες στον προστάτη για υγεία και ευημερία.

Ακολούθησε πλούσια δεξίωση στο Πολιτιστικό Κέντρο του Συλλόγου. Η επιτροπή της εκδήλωσης με υπεύθυνο τον κ. Θεόδωρο Τόσκο κατάφερε μέσα στον καύσωνα του Ιουλίου να δημιουργήσει μια δροσερή και ευχάριστη ατμόσφαιρα αφήνοντας ικανοποιημένους τους 200 και πλέον παρευρισκομένους. Και του χρόνου να γιορτάσουμε με υγεία.

## Εθιμα και Παραδόσεις Χριστουγέννων και Πρωτοχρονιάς σε όλη την Ελλάδα

Της Χαρίκλειας Αμανατίδου  
(Αναδημοσιεύετε «ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΦΩΣ», 1/2006)

Είμαι πολύ περήφανη για την καταγωγή μου και την ιδιαίτερη πατρίδα μου την Καστοριά. Θα σας μιλήσω για εθιμα των Χριστουγέννων και της Πρωτοχρονιάς, όπως μου τα διηγήθηκε η γιαγιά μου πέρυσι κατά την επίσκεψή μου στην Καστοριά.

Από νωρίς οι νοικοκυρές φροντίζουν τα σπίτια τους «Αρχοντικά να λάμπουν από πάστρα καθαριότητα» συνηθίζουν να λένε. Όλοι προμηθεύονται το παστό χοιρινό κρέας που μαζί με άλλα καλούδια όπως οι Σαρμάδες, λαχανοντολμάδες με αρμιά ή σκέτο λάχανο, είναι απαραίτητα σε κάθε καστοριανό σπίτι μέχρι σήμερα.

Τα γλυκά των ημερών είναι το «Ισλί», οι «Σαλιάρσι», οι κουραμπιέδες και οι δίπλες.

Δεκαπέντε μέρες πριν τις γιορτές ξεκινούαν οι Χριστουγεννιάτικες βεγγέρες. Μεγάλες παρέες μαζεύονταν στα σπίτια για να τραγουδήσουν. Είναι αλήθεια πως τα τραγούδια αυτά δημιουργούσαν συγκινήσεις, πόθους, περηφάνιες, νοσταλγίες, χαρές και ελπίδες. Βεγγέρες γίνονται και σήμερα.

Τα «Κόλιεντα» είναι ένα εθιμο όπου την παραμονή γίνεται μια γιορτή που συμμετέχουν έφηβοι και μεσήλικες Καστοριανοί. Πέρυσι συμμετείχα κι εγώ. Κουκουλωμένοι με βαριά γούνινα παλτά και καπέλα προχωρούν αργά στις γειτονιές και στα σοκάκια που τα φωτίζουν με τους «μασιαλάδες» για να σταθούν στην εξώπορτα κάποιου σπιτιού και ν' αρχίσουν το τραγούδι που ταίριαζε σε κάθε γνωστή οικογένεια.

Πάντα φιλόξενοι και κουβαρντάδες οι νοικοκυραίοι, ακούν το τραγούδι και φιλεύουν την παρέα με κεράσματα και λεφτά στην κάσα της. Η πόλη της Καστοριάς γιορτάζει σαν νύφη τις μέρες αυτές με αποκορύφωμα την πατερίτσα τις ημέρες των Φώτων και του Αϊ Γιάννη.

## ΑΓΙΟΣ ΜΗΝΑΣ



Miss Alexandra Vassiliou refers to the history of the date and her father Mr. Andreas Vassiliou, Chairman of the event

του Ανδρέα Βασιλείου

Όπως κάθε χρόνο έτσι και φέτος, ο Σύλλογός μας την Κυριακή, 7 Νοεμβρίου, 2010, εόρτασε με μεγαλοπρέπεια την επέτειο της απελευθέρωσης της Καστοριάς από τον τουρκικό ζυγό (11 Νοεμβρίου 1912), που συμπίπτει με την εορτή του Αγίου Μηνά, πολιούχου της πόλεως, στον Ιερό Ναό του Αγίου Ελευθερίου της Νέας Υόρκης. Εψάλλει δοξολογία μετ' αρτοκλασίας και μετά ακολούθησε πλούσια δεξίωση στην αίθουσα του Ναού.

Με την παρουσία τους τίμησαν την εκδήλωση η Πρόεδρος της Ελλάδος, κα. Μπαλτά, ο ιερατικός προϊστάμενος του Αγίου Ελευθερίου, πατήρ Αθανάσιος, ο Πρόεδρος της κοινότητας του Αγίου Ελευθερίου, κ. Μελής, η Πρόεδρος της Φιλοπώχου, κα Μίτζι Παπάζογλου, πρώην πρόεδροι της «Ομόνοιας» και της Φιλοπώχου και πλήθος Καστοριανών. Ο υπεύθυνος της εκδηλώσεως κ. Ανδρέας Βασιλείου ανεφέρθη στο νόημα της ημέρας και στην μεγάλη ευθύνη που έχουν οι νεώτεροι Καστοριανοί στις Ηνωμένες Πολιτείες Αμερικής να μην ξεχάσουν την ιστορία της πατρίδος των και του Συλλόγου.

Συγχαρητήρια στον υπεύθυνο της εκδηλώσεως και στην επιτροπή για την επιτυχία της γιορτής.

## 11 Νοεμβρίου 1912 11 Νοεμβρίου 1910

της Αλεξάνδρας Βασιλείου

98 χρόνια από την απελευθέρωση της Καστοριάς. Ιστορική ημέρα για την πόλη μας που κατακτήθηκε από Φράγκους, Σέρβους, Βουλγάρους και Τούρκους για να ελευθερωθεί οριστικά στις 11 Νοεμβρίου του 1912 ανήμερα του Αγίου Μηνά. Τιμή στους ήρωες που αγωνίστηκαν. Γερμανός Καραβαγγέλης, Παύλος Μελάς, Ιόν Δραγούμης. Οι Καστοριανοί Μαργαρίτης, Γκολογγίνας, Πακίτσας, Τουτουτζής, ο δάσκαλος Βασίλης Μαλεγκάνος και πολλοί άλλοι που έδωσαν την ζωή τους για να ζούμε εμείς ελεύθεροι. Τιμή και στους πρώτους Καστοριανούς που ήρθαν στην Αμερική και ίδρυσαν το Σύλλογό μας για να αγαπήσουμε όλοι εμείς που γεννηθήκαμε εδώ στην πόλη των προγόνων μας, την δική μας Καστοριά.

## GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Οι λαμπροί μας συμπατριώτες Βασίλειος και Αναστασία Τσαδήλα γιόρτασαν τα 50 χρόνια αρμονικής συζυγικής ζωής στις 25 Σεπτεμβρίου, 2010. Τα αγαπητά τους παιδιά Βικτώρια, Γιάννης, Αγαθή και τα λατρευτά τους εγγόνια Βασίλειος και Χρήστος τους έδωσαν πλούσιο τιμητικό γεύμα στο πολυτελή εστιατόριο LIMANI στο Roslyn, Long Island και τους ευχήθηκαν να ζήσουν και τα 75 να γιορτάσουν με υγεία και χαρά. Οι δε γονείς και παππούδες συγκινημένοι ευχαρίστησαν τα παιδιά και εγγόνια τους για όλα και τα ευχήθηκαν καλή τύχη, να ζήσουν και να γιορτάσουν και αυτά τα 50.

Οι συγγενείς και φίλοι τους εύχονται χρόνια πολλά και να χαίρονται την ωραία τους οικογένεια.

### February 12, 2011 marked the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Tom and Mary Vlahos.

Pictured below are Tom and Mary with their three granddaughters (Demetra, Maryann, and Christina Vlahos) at their 50th Anniversary Surprise party which was held on City Island. Eighty friends and family members, along with Grigoris Maninakis and the Microcosmos Band joined in celebrating this momentous occasion.



## ENGAGEMENT

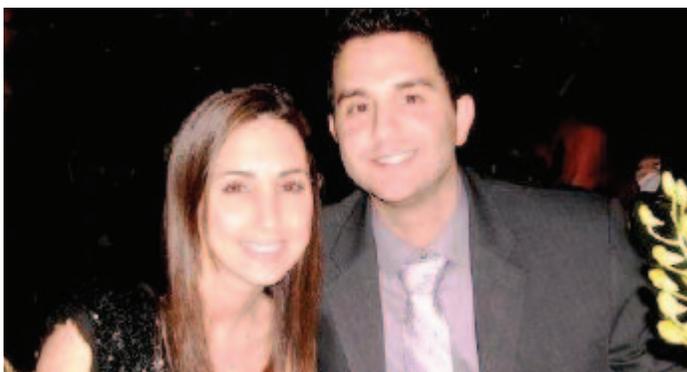
Mr. & Mrs. George Mellides of Allendale, N.J. and Boynton Beach, FL are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter Lauren to Mr. Dimitri Venekas, son of Mr. & Mrs. Kyriakos Venekas of Brooklyn, NY.

Lauren is the granddaughter of the late Evangelos T and Anastasia Mellides.

Lauren is a 2001 graduate of Northern Highlands High Schools and received a degree in Economics from Rutgers University in 2005. She presently completes her Masters in Business Administration from William Paterson University. Lauren has been employed by Stryker Orthopaedics in Mahwah for the last five years and currently holds the position of a Global Brand Manager on their Hip marketing team.

Dimitri is a 1998 graduate of Brooklyn Technical High School and received his degree in Integrated Information Systems from Long Island University in 2002. He is presently a Systems Administrator at Moon Capital Management in New York City.

A winter 2011 wedding is planned.



## Anastasia (Stacy) Nonas

Stacy Nonas is a proud participant in the New Jersey Special Olympics Program. Stacy is pictured here at her June 2008 games, which were featured in Sports Illustrated Magazine, marking the 40th anniversary of their founding. Since she was seven years old, Stacy has participated in the Special Olympics gymnastics program. Twenty-five year old Stacy is also active in other Special Olympics programs, such as track and field, bowling, and basketball. Every spring Stacy steps up to the plate for Ramsey, New Jersey's Challengers Baseball team!

In addition to sports, Stacy has many other interests. Stacy loves the performing arts and is an active participant in dance and theater. Her future goal is to be a filmmaker and is currently enjoying a course in filmmaking at a local evening adult school.

Stacy graduated from Emerson Jr. Sr. High School in 2005 and is currently working at ShopRite and Kohl's Department Store. She is an active member of St. Nicholas Church in Wyckoff, NJ as a Sunday school classroom assistant. Her family is very proud of her achievements.



## BIRTHDAYS

On May 16, 2010 **Angela Georgeou** celebrated her 90th birthday surrounded by family and friends. The celebration was held at her daughter Helen's house and guests were treated to a wonderful collage of photos commemorating some of Angela's many milestones of the last 90 years. The tables were decorated with the dolls Angela had crocheted over the years for her 10 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Angela's 3 daughters, Helen, Alexandra and Athena were at her side as she blew out the candles on her birthday cake on this most memorable day.

## BAPTISM

**AMANDA KARDIASMENOS**, daughter of Anna Marie and Kostas Kardiasmenos, was baptized in October of 2010 at the Cathedral of St. Paul in Hempstead, NY. Anna Marie is the daughter of Olga and James Georgakis. Maternal Great Grandparents are Kimon and Anna Tsoukis. We wish Amanda a blessed, healthy and loving life.

**2010 Medium Business  
Person of the Year:**

**Lou Vlahos, Partner at Farrell Fritz, PC**

*(Published in  
QUEENSBOROUGH- September 2010)*



“Louis Vlahos is a partner at Farrell Fritz, PC, where he leads the firm’s tax practice and its pro bono program.

Vlahos has extensive experience in corporate, individual and partnership income taxation and in estate and gift taxation, including tax planning, ruling requests and tax controversy. He advises clients in connection with corporate operations and reorganizations; sales and acquisitions of businesses; corporate distributions, redemptions, liquidations and spinoffs; shareholder and buy-sell agreements; partnership organizations

and transactions; real estate sales, exchanges and operations; executive and deferred compensation arrangements; estate and succession planning, including the transfer of business interests and estate and gift tax audits; charitable giving; private foundation, exemption, not-for-profit restructuring, charitable gift acceptance and excess benefit issues.

Vlahos serves on the boards of Queens Theatre in the Park, Queens Chamber of Commerce, Long Island City Business Development Corporation, Queens Economic Development Corporation and the Queens College Business Advisory Board. He is a member of the Society of Columbia Graduates and of the National Eagle Scout Association. He regularly provides pro bono legal services to many charities in Queens and on Long Island.

His commitment to the Queens Business and charitable communities has helped make Farrell Fritz a recognized provider of quality legal services in Queens. The firm’s attorneys represent a significant roster of clients, serve on numerous not-for-profit boards, provide pro bono services and are involved in many business and charitable events throughout the borough.

Among the Queens not-for-profits with which the firm is involved are the American Heart Association, Arthritis Foundation, Queens-Bronx Builders Association, Flushing Willets Point Corona Local Development Corporation, Flushing Council on Culture and the Arts, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Queens Botanical Garden, Queensborough Community College Fund, Inc., Queens Medical Society, Unisphere Inc. and St. Mary’s Children’s Hospital.

Vlahos received his LL.M in taxation from New York University in 1993 and his J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1987. Experienced in all areas of tax law, Vlahos has lectured on subjects such as corporate transactions, family partnerships, tax audits and tax issues in the not-for-profit community and has written for various legal publications. Vlahos was recognized by Long Island Business News in Who’s Who in Tax & Bankruptcy law (2008) and Who’s Who in Tax Law (2006). Vlahos is admitted to practice in New York State and in the U.S. Tax Court.

Vlahos is married to Marina Vlahos, a former resident of Astoria and New York City high school teacher. They have three daughters, two of whom are attending Columbia College and on who is in seventh grade.”

Louis is the son of our compatriots Thomas and Mary Vlahos of the Bronx and member of the Society of many years.

**Congratulations to our young Kastorian!!!**

**BROADWAY PERFORMANCE  
AT THE WHITE HOUSE**

**Submitted by Thea Aspasia Rousouli**

On Monday, July 19, 2010, a performance at the White House was recently filmed with Constantine Rousouli and several Broadway Tony Award Stars, who were invited to perform in the White House Music Series program in the East Wing as follows: Nathan Lane, Audra McDonald, Idena Menzel, Brian d’Arcy James, Chad Kimbal, Karen Olivio, Tonya Pinks, Assata Alston, Elaine Stritch and composer Marvin Hamlisch.

This special feature is the Broadway segment of President Obama’s and First Lady’s Michelle multipart salute to America’s music and top level cast signed up for the night. Mrs. Obama initiated all efforts to introduce and encourage the music and arts education to students and all the people throughout the country. It was a very entertaining and unforgettable evening for all the guests, especially for the Obama’s and of course a great honor for Constantine Rousouli.

Constantine Rousouli, who closed the Broadway show “Hair-spray” at the Neil Simon theatre in New York City, performed with fellow “Hairspray” actress Daniel Arci in the closing number of the evening, “You Can’t Stop the Beat”, with students from the Duke Ellington School of the Arts and the Joy of Motion Dance Center. Immediately following the program a reception was held. The performance was televised on October 20, 2010, on channel 13 at 9:00 pm and on October 24, 2010 on channels 13 and 21.

Constantine completed the “Legally Blond” national tour and his performance at the Paper Mill Playhouse (Regional Playhouse) of New Jersey on October 24, 2010. The Society of Kastorians “Omonoia” and the Benevolent Society Ladies of Kastoria, extend their heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Constantine for continued progress, success and all the best in his future.



**CONCERT**

On October 23rd at our Cultural Center, members of our Society and their friends experienced an unforgettable evening through the best melodies and songs from Thrace, Smyrna and Asia Minor to Rebetiko and the ever lasting songs of Theodorakis, Hatzidakis and Loizos with Grigoris Maninakis and his Mikrokosmos Ensemble along with guests second and third generation Greek American talented young artists. Miss Stavroula Traitses, a young Kastorian, was one of the young artists who song so beautiful. All proceeds were donated to the Kastorian Special Fund.

**BASIL LOUDAS: 4/25/1931 - 2/20/2011**

He was born in Kastoria, Macedonia, Greece on April 25, 1931. He grew up amid hardships and turmoil. He lost his father at a young age. He was raised by his widowed mother and his loving grandmother, uncle and aunt. He lived through the Axis occupation of Greece during World War II and the subsequent Greek civil war. But he excelled in school; was one of the handful students accepted at the University of Thessaloniki to study organic chemistry. After graduating, he served in the Greek Army and in 1957 Basil married his childhood sweetheart, Irene Papajannis in the Metropolis of Kastoria. Moved to the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota where his wife Irene had relatives. He did graduate, study and research at the University of Minnesota before being hired at the giant 3M Company where he did outstanding research, developed and patented Scotchgard carpet protector as well as numerous patents. He received the Star award from 3M twice in recognition of outstanding contributions to the company, the only researcher to do so. He was also an artist and painted several pictures including two very large ones that adorn the social hall at

St. George Greek Orthodox Church in St. Paul, Minnesota where he was a member for many years. He served as president of the parish council, was a member of several organizations including the local AHEPA chapter.

Basil had close relationship with his boyhood friends in Thessaloniki as well as in Kastoria. He loved the beautiful city of Kastoria and visited there often. He was a faithful servant of the Lord, was proud of his Greek heritage and loved his adopted country, the United States of America for all the opportunities given to him.

Basil Loudas, a Stillwater, Minnesota resident retired from 3M after 30 years with the company. He passed away on February 20, 2011 of a heart attack while vacationing in Mexico.

He is survived by his wife Irene, sons Luke and Paul and three grandchildren.

**COSTOPOULOS, Theophelos, "Phil",** age 81, died on Monday, February 21, 2011 at the Veterans Memorial Home, Paramus, after a long illness.

Born and raised in Manhattan, he and his beloved wife Helen lived in New Milford for the past 49 years where they raised three daughters.

The son of Greek immigrants, Phil served as Sergeant First Class in the United States Army where he earned the Bronze Star during the Korean Conflict. He went on to have a long career as a furrier. Following retirement, Phil spent his time reading about history, cooking and listening to jazz music, but he especially enjoyed spending time with his family. Phil was a member of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church of Wyckoff where he continued his involvement in the Greek community.

Surviving are Phil's beloved wife Helen, to whom he was married for 58 wonderful years, his three daughters; Eve Costopoulos and husband Douglas Brierley of Morristown, Nancy Costopoulos of Oradell and Christine Costopoulos of Slingerlands, NY, his six loving grandchildren; Katherine, Alexandra, Theo, Dean, Adrienne and Andrea, his sister Helen Tavantzis and husband John of Teaneck and his nieces and nephews; Menelaos and Chrissie, Karen and Scott, Paul and Becky, Bill and Missy, and Alexander and Ava.

**LEONIDAS MIHALTE - 11/11/1911 - 11/11/2010**

Leon was born in Kastoria Greece on November 11, 1911. His family included seven brothers and sisters and typical of the time was very poor. After serving in the Greek Army, Leon left Kastoria at 21 years of age and after a few years in Paris, immigrated to the United States as a stowaway aboard a freighter. Leon was an excellent soccer player playing in Kastoria, in the army and in New York. That's how he met his wife, the beloved Anne. They never dated but she would attend the soccer games with her uncle and they would see each other at the Kastorian youth dances. They married in 1938: she a 17 year-old just graduated from high school and he a struggling furrier making less than \$35 a week.

In 1941 he formed what turned out to be a very successful fur business

with partner Dino Kambouris and worked until the middle 1970s. Despite their lack of formal education, they gained an excellent reputation for the quality of their coats and the fairness in dealing with employees and customers alike.

Leon was a devoted family man raising two children, Donna and Bill. Nothing was too good for his wife and family. Education was very important to him since he had missed out on his so he sacrificed to send them to the best schools. When he had grandchildren (a total of three), he was in "seventh heaven". He loved them with all his heart.

Leon was very active in the community. He was a long-time member of the Kastorian Society and played a behind-the-scenes role in helping the society acquire and manage their real estate which has helped make the organization one of the strongest Greek organizations in the US.

Leon was also devoted to the Greek Orthodox community. He was a long-time and very active member of St. Nicholas Church first at the old Beech Avenue location and then at the new 196th Street location in Flushing, New York. He served as a member of the parish council for a number of years specializing in fund raising especially when the new church was being considered and planned. He was also the president of the furrier members of St Nicholas who funded the "pandocratora" icon that adorns the church.

In the early 1990s, Leon and Anne entered a new phase of their lives: they moved to Florida. There he was able to devote himself to his new passion: golf. While not a powerhouse on the links, he was accurate hitting the ball straight as an arrow and putting with uncanny accuracy. In his later years, very few younger weekend golfers could match his consistency and record a lower score.

In Florida, he joined in the Fort Pierce Greek Orthodox Church becoming active in the Men's Club and AHEPA Chapter. Even there, his fiscal sharpness and persuasiveness helped the church weather a dwindling membership and upheaval of clergy. He became a well respected member of the community.

In 1999, the death of his wife of 61 years made for a difficult time. He found comfort in his religion, his family and friends and his golf. He joined a community organization: the WOWs or Widows and Widowers. He became a beloved member of this group of 15-20 members who regularly went to dinner together and played twilight golf. In fact, this group honored Leon on the day he died by celebrating his 99th birthday with him. You could say he died happy having partied with his friends and family just three hours before the Lord took him from us.

Leon lived a remarkable and full life. We can all learn much from his life.

**ANGELA GEORGEOU** passed away August 16, 2010, she was 90 years old. She was born in Volos, Greece in 1920 and immigrated with her family to New York City 1931. Angela was married to the late Achilles Georgeou for 69 years.

She was predeceased by her sister Katherine Kalamarides. She is survived by her loving daughters Helen Nonas, Alexandra (Edmund) Kleiner and Athena (John) Papayani and her 10 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and her brothers John (Betty) Chokos and George (Joann) Chokos.

Eternal be her memory

**ANGELA GEORGEOU** - It's hard to put into words the way we feel about our grandparents. The word love doesn't even begin to scratch the surface. It is something so deep within us, it's a part of us, and it's what's made us who we all are today. Over these last few days as my cousins and I talked, we all were feeling the same way, sometimes at the exact same moments, as if we knew to reach out to each other. It's a feeling of emptiness and uncertainty because it's hard to imagine life without a YiaYia and Papou to guide us.

I have always known how lucky and privileged I am to come from this very close family. The love and compassion we have for each other is because of them. Holidays weren't just Christmas and Easter for us, we celebrated Mothers Day, Fathers Day, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Birthdays, Anniversaries, any excuse to all get together. In the early years, YiaYia always had all the holidays at her house, but she rarely sat down at the dinner table

with us. No sooner did she serve the meal and say the prayer, she was back in the kitchen doing the dishes. It would take a lot of insisting for us to get her to sit down already; she could be a tad bit stubborn. Her meals were always perfect, and we all had our favorite dishes. Even a simple roast beef sandwich always seemed to taste better at YiaYia's. But we all can agree her salad dressing was the best, and even when the holidays moved to her daughter's houses, we still insisted she dress the salad. Another favorite was her New Year's Day pita, and a wonderful memory for me is when Kathy and I went to her house a few years ago and she taught us how to make it. For Easter, the adults looked forward to her Mageritsa soup and her sarmades, a taste her grandchildren never quite acquired. She also made the most beautiful Easter baskets for us, and then when we got too old, although I don't think you can ever be too old for one of those baskets, she continued the tradition for her great-grandchildren.

YiaYia's freezer was always stocked with ice cream whether you made yourself an ice cream cone, had an ice cream sandwich or an ice cream bar- even ice cream just seemed to taste better at their house. I remember the little change purse YiaYia kept in her pocketbook where I could always find Dentyne red gum and LifeSavers pep-o-mint. YiaYia loved to crochet. There were dolls, Christmas stockings, scarves, scrunches, baby blankets, hats, booties, and more. If you showed her something, she would say- I can make that. We were still bringing her our slacks to hem and buttons to sew. And usually you received your finished items back in a plastic bag tied closed ever so lovingly with a tiny piece of yarn.

Our grandparents were there for all our milestones- birthdays, graduations, bridal showers, weddings, baby showers, christenings, concerts and plays. And if tickets were limited we found a way to get extras. They vacationed with us, whether it was a road trip to a candy convention, Windham, Disney World, Myrtle Beach, Greece, anywhere- they were always part of the adventure. And as we went off to college, they visited us there too, and with pride. Papou had grown a lot from his first college experience when he dropped off Aunt Helen and cried the whole trip home about how he was losing her. They were always a part of our lives and had a way of making each of us feel important and equal. YiaYia was easy to talk to and I treasured every conversation we had. And if she had read something in a newspaper that pertained to you, she would tell you all about it, and just in case she didn't get her point across to you, you received the article in the mail, highlighted with notes in the margin. It was an unconditional love that went both ways.

YiaYia was a strong, beautiful, elegant, loving, caring, compassionate woman whose whole life revolved around her family. I will always admire the way she cared for our grandfather until his last day, allowing him to die in the home they shared, as was his wish. We all hoped that after he left us she would be with us for a lot longer, but I think her heart was just too heavy and she just missed him too much for they had been together since she was 19 years old. Connie posted something that epitomizes our YiaYia, and it is a fitting way to bring this to a close. We will eternally feel compelled to pick up a piece of lint left on the floor in an otherwise immaculate room, because YiaYia wouldn't have stood for any less!

YiaYia we are going to miss you tremendously, please give Papou a big hug and kiss from all of us, and please stay out of the kitchen in heaven, I'm sure God knows how to cook just fine.

*Tina Kleiner  
August 21, 2010*

**Δρ. ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ ΓΙΑΝΝΟΣ** – Με τον διακεκριμένο ιατρό, μεγάλο ευεργέτη και συμπατριώτη Θεόδωρο Γιάννο συνεργάστηκα για 10-15 χρόνια στο Ταμείο Υποτροφιών. Όταν κατά την δεκαετία του 1970 ο αείμνηστος Αθανάσιος Γιάννος άφησε μία δωρεά στο Σύλλογο περίπου \$70,000 συναντήθηκα με τον γιό του Θεόδωρο και κατόπιν μακράς συζητήσεως με τον αγαπητό μου φίλο, προτείναμε τα χρήματα αυτά να πάνε για ένα ιερό σκοπό και να δημιουργηθεί το Ταμείο Υποτροφιών. Το τότε Διοικητικό Συμβούλιο του Συλλόγου μας το ψήφισε ομόφωνα. Ενθουμούμαι πολύ καλά την απάντηση του Θεόδωρου, «Ναι ρε, ας βοηθούν τα πατριωτάκια μας από την δωρεά του πατέρα μου». Έτσι η επιτροπή αποτελούμενη από τον Θεόδωρο Γιάννο, το δικηγόρο Νικόλαο Λιάκα, και εμού, γράψαμε το καταστατικό του Ταμείου Υποτροφιών Yanos Scholarship Fund. Τα υπόλοιπα είναι ιστορία. Ο Θεόδωρος Γιάννος εργάστηκε σκληρά στις γούνες για να σπουδάσει μόνος του, χωρίς τη βοήθεια κανενός. Απεφοίτησε από το Johannes Gutenberg University Medical School in Mainz, Germany, and έκανε ψυχαναλυτική εκπαίδευση στην Karen Horney Clinic in New York City. Δεν μπορώ να περιγράψω τον άνθρωπο, πατριώτη και συνάδελφο, Δρ. Θεόδωρο Γιάννο, καλύτερα από τον διαπρεπέστατο Προφέσορα, Φίλιππα Γιάννο στον επικήδειο που ακολουθεί. Ο Σύλλογος Καστοριέων του είναι ευγνώμων. Εκφράζουμε τα θερμά συλλυπητήριά μας στην οικογένειά του. Ας είναι η μνήμη του αιωνία.

*Δρ. Παντελής Έβδος  
4 Απριλίου, 2011*

#### EULOGY

I wanted to say a few words, to remind us of the full scope of the loss that we are acknowledging today, and of the full significance of the life of the man we are honoring. Although we are all different and special in our own way, there are different types of people in the world, and my father belonged to a rare and special category of person. In her book "Exuberance," psychologist Kay Jamison describes this rare type of person in detail. This type of person is boundless in energy, joy and zest for life. He makes friends quickly and easily and leaves a clear impression on all he meets. He is decisive and has clear convictions. A well-known example of this type of person is President Theodore Roosevelt, one of my father's personal heroes. I have no doubt that my father was also this type of person. My father's boundless energy and enthusiasm were immediately obvious to anyone who met him. No one who met him could forget him, those who met him usually liked him right away, and he had more friends than anyone I've ever known. He didn't accept that things couldn't be done, and famously did this by, after working as a furrier in New York's garment district for many years, beginning college at the age of 33 in pursuit of his goal of becoming a physician, at an age when most people said he was too old to change his life's direction. When people voiced amazement about his energy and accomplishments, he would respond with his trademark, which required no further discussion: "Yanos is the name!" There was no irony or cynicism to the way my father interacted with the world- what you saw was what you got, straightforward, sincere and true. My father loved his friends and was devoted equally to all of them, from all phases of his life, throughout his life. My father loved his work, and worked tirelessly to help his patients to get well. My father loved his family, and devoted boundless energy to us. Our childhood was comprised of a constant stream of travel, museums, operas, ballet, historical sites, church, sporting events and parties. And my father loved his community. His devotion and commitment to the Greek American and Kastorian communities were also well known. Even when confronted with tragedy, as he was when his wife died suddenly, he proceeded with determination and the attitude that life had to go on for the sake of the living.

Now, as most of us know, in the last 10 years, illness brought out a different side of my father. Although I initially found it difficult to accept, I eventually came to appreciate getting to know a different, more contemplative side of my father. For the first time, I was able to sit with him for long stretches reading, drinking coffee and just being together without doing anything in particular. In the end, I think that it was appropriate that he was granted an opportunity to slow down, appreciate life's little pleasures, and tell those around him - especially his devoted wife - how much he loved them.

So as we leave today, I ask that you remember Ted Yanos as a great man. A fun-loving friend, real New Yorker, a true Greek-American, a Kastorian, committed healer and public servant, and a family man.



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