



# AHEPA

## Yankee District News

Publication of District #7 (Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Western Massachusetts)

Issue Number LXVI Vol. 1 Spring 2013



# GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE - APRIL 7, 2013



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**2012-2013**

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**Message from  
 the  
 Order of  
 AHEPA  
 District # 7  
 Governor**

Greetings to the  
 Ahepa family,



Since my last message, two major Ahepan events have taken place. On March 2, 2013, a major fundraiser for PAIDEIA was held in Orange, CT. This was sponsored by the District and hosted by the New Haven Chapter with Greg Stamos chairing. Over 350 people attended this event and approximately \$16,000.00 was able to be donated towards the completion of PAIDEIA's theater. After meeting with Professor Tomazos of PAIDEIA, we agreed to hold one of two District Conferences at PAIDEIA next year. We also agreed to consult and collaborate as much as possible.

The District Conference in Bridgeport was an extremely productive meeting with some 60 people attending. 9 out of 14 chapters were represented and a member from each chapter gave a report on his chapters activities. The Bridgeport Ahepa and DOP were gracious hosts and made the day a very special one for all. Chapter presidents were introduced and their community activities and service were outlined. Much sharing took place with discussions ranging from attendance at meetings to use of the rituals, to fundraising. The minutes are currently being prepared and will be sent out to chapters shortly.

Announcements:

- Krystyna Kazakos was selected as Miss Ahepa District #7 and participated in the New York Independence Day Parade on April 7th. She is currently the editor of the Yankee District News and is the daughter of PDG Lucia Kazakos of the Hartford Chapter and Tony Kazakos.
- The name of deceased brother George Peter Harlamon from the Waterbury chapter is our selec-

tion to be honored on the float in the New York Parade. He was a past 50+ year member of the Waterbury Ahepa Chapter, a former Mayor of Waterbury, and served over 30 years on his church council. We are extremely proud to honor our brother's memory in this manner.

- Brother Greg Stamos of the New Haven Chapter is now District #7's Legal Advisor.
- Atty Stamos is to be commended for agreeing to volunteer his services whenever the District is in need of Legal Advice.

The final countdown for Hurricane Sandy Relief has now reached over \$8,000.00 in cash donations and supplies. This is a great tribute to our chapters generosity and illustrates the fact that "Ahepa Gives Back" I'm proud to have served District #7 as it's Governor and I am grateful to all our brothers who give so tirelessly to the cause of our order. My thanks also to the unending contributions from the DOP and Governor Penny Pecka.

Fraternally,

*Jack*

Jack Isaac  
 District #7 Governor

**Attention:**

**AHEPA District #7 Yankee News**

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Photographers: Jack Isaac, George Scarvelos, Loukia Kazakos, and Krystyna Kazakos.

Please visit us on our website:  
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 Email news to: yan-  
 keenews@ahepad7.org and if you  
 would like it published in the next  
 newsletter email it to Krystyna:  
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**Next Yankee News  
 Deadline is:  
 June 30, 2013**

## Message from the Daughters of Penelope District Governor:

Sisters, **Happy Spring!** I hope you are all well and have survived the Blizzard of 2013 and all of those other little storms that followed.



Congratulations to Krystyna Kazakos was selected as Miss AHEPA 2013 and rode on the Greek Independence AHEPA float in New York City on April 7, 2013. I know that she represented District #7 with great grace and charm.

I want to send a great BIG thank you to the Sisters from Hermes Chapter #41 in Bridgeport, CT for hosting the District #7 Spring conference along with their AHEPA Brothers; their hospitality was outstanding. We had a wonderful turnout; 38 Sisters from 6 of our 7 chapters were represented. Also in attendance was Demi Thomas, Grand Lodge Secretary who informed us about Capitol Hill Day on May 22, 2013 and encouraged each of us to try to attend this great event. Grand President, Joanne Saltas will give out the first Daughters of Penelope Award at the Congressional Banquet that night. It is a great opportunity for each of us to see how Congress works.

At the Spring Conference, the Sisters were broken out into groups and were asked to address different topics regarding the Grand Lodge, District Lodge, Chapter issues, and membership. Lively discussions occurred resulting in many questions which will be answered in some fashion or other. Some will be answered in the Yankee District News, some at the various conferences next year, some at visitations, some via email to the chapter officers, etc.

The first question is in reference to the **National Per Capita Dues**

and when it is to be paid. This year the National Per Capita Dues have increased to \$30 so please be sure to collect the correct amount for 2013. Past dues for 2012 remain at \$27. The National Per Capita Dues do not include any additional dues imposed by the chapter.

There seems to be some confusion about when the per capita dues are to be paid. The National Per Capita Dues should be paid as early as possible in the calendar year, preferably by 3/31 each year; do not wait until the end of the year to pay your per capita Dues. The District receives a reimbursement from National Headquarters each year based on when the dues are paid; so it is to the District's benefit that each chapter pays the per capita dues early.

Remember, only those Sisters whose dues have been submitted to National Headquarters by May 1<sup>st</sup> of each year are eligible to attend the National convention, vote, or be eligible for a scholarship for themselves or their children. The chapter treasurer is responsible for collecting the dues, so make your chapter treasurer's job a bit easier by paying your dues early!

The chapter Treasurer should submit the per capita dues to Headquarters as soon as she collects them. This doesn't mean to mail the per capita dues one at a time but to send them in small batches. Don't wait until all the dues have been collected to send them to Headquarters.

On a lighter note, the Joint District Lodge has been very busy planning events for the balance of this year. The **New England Regional Convention (NERC)** will be held from May 17, 2013 to May 20, 2013 in Newport, RI. The **AHEPA Family Night at the Rock Cats Stadium** in New Britain, CT will be held on June 11, 2013 with a June 13, 2013 Rain Date. Finally, the **District Scholarship Dinner** will be held on August 4, 2013 in New

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Britain, CT. More information will be sent out for these events. **Hope to see many of you at the NERC.**

Yours in ΘΠ,  
*Penny*

## New Britain Elpis Chapter #117 Events

### GREEK INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION

By George A. Rados, Hellenic Affairs Chair

On Sunday the 17th of March 2013, at the Greek Orthodox Church of St. George in New Britain, CT., the students of the Greek and Katechetikon schools -both sponsored and supported by Elpis Chapter- performed before the congregation, commemorating the Greek Independence from the Ottoman Turks.

(Picture on right was taken in Bristol, CT— L to R is District Secretary Andrew Aros, Governor Jack, U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal, George Rados, Mayor Arthur J. Ward, and Leonidas Sitalides)



The following day, Monday march 18th, the Chapter presented the Greek flag to be raised alongside the American one at the following Cities and Towns: Bristol (aside its Mayor, Senator Blumenthal honored the event), New Britain (its mayor and staff were present), Southington

(with its Town Manager and staff) and, lastly but equally important, the City of Middletown was visited and its mayor and staff participated.

(Picture below was taken in New Britain, CT— L to R is Father James Bogiatzis, Perry Moustakakis, Governor Jack, George Rados, and Mayor Tim O'Brien).

The events were attended by our District's Governor Brother Jack Isaac, our District's Secretary Brother Andy Aros (he also served as the photographer), The Elpis Chapter's President Brother Pericles Moustakakis, Brother Leo Sitalides, Brother Mike Vasiliou, Meriden's President Brother Mike Michael, Father Bogiatzis of New Britain's St. George, and yours truly.

Of even greater importance was the effort put forth by Brother Gus Pelarinos who argued our case before the West Hartford officials (they had refused to raise the Greek flag claiming it offends certain of the city's citizens!) and he won the case! He went and raised the Greek flag in West Hartford at the same time the rest of us were in Bristol!

Having Brothers of such caliber lifts one's spirit and keeps the hope alive

and well, as it serves as a bright example for others!!!!

(Picture below was taken in Southington, CT—L to R is Michael Michael, Perry Moustakakis, Gov. Jack, George Rados, Mike Vassiliou, Town Manager Garry Brumback, and District Secretary Andrew Aros)

The City and Town Mayors and Managers as well as their staff are to be praised for their treatment and honor given to us with their hospitality, praises toward their local Greek communities and our National pride as Greek-Americans! We thank them and, as good and true citizens of this wonderful Nation, we renew our pledge and eternal devotion to the

motto "Liberty and Justice for All", alongside our other civic duties as American citizens and members of the A.H.E.P.A. family! (Picture below was taken in Middletown, CT—L to R is Goerge Rados, Perry Moustakakis, Mike Vassiliou, Mayor Daniel Drew, Michael Michael, and Governor Jack).



### SANTA CLAUS VISITS NEW BRITAIN

After the Sunday and Greek School Students presented their Christmas Pageant on December 16th, Elpis Chapter # 117 and Daughters of Penelope



Eritrea Chapter # 138 sponsored a free pancake breakfast for everyone. Originator and planner of this breakfast was DOP President Irene Sklavouris, who along with sisters from her chapter, decorated the Community Center. Nick Koukouves and his AHEPAN kitchen crew made sure everyone had as many pancakes as they wished. (Continued onto next page) Just as everyone finished eating, Santa Claus appeared carrying a great sack of toys. Some unbelievers thought it was AHEPA Vice President Ahillefs Papadimitriou, imitating Santa Claus who brought the gifts. Enough gifts for every Sunday and Greek School Student plus a few extra for the Altar boys, had been purchased by Elpis Chapter # 117. The children knew it was Santa who came to New Britain that day. Just as he was leaving, Santa instructed the extra toys be brought to the Prudence Crandall Center for abused women and their children.

### CHRISTMAS AND AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

At the Community Center of St. George, the members of Elpis Chapter # 117 and friends from other AHEPA family chapters enjoyed themselves at the annual Christmas Dinner Dance on December 8, 2012. The efforts of Co-Chairmen Costas Georgacopoulos and James Loukopoulos made certain the food and music were excellent and the people present had a wonderful time.

After Dinner President Pericles Moustakakis, assisted by Scholarship Chairman and District Secretary Andrew Aros, awarded the Nicholas Kounaris Charitable Educational Philanthropic Trust Scholarships. During the past twenty years, this trust fund has distributed over \$ 500,000.00 worth of Scholarships. This year's scholarship recipients were: Chrystina Christodlous, Sevasti Galanis, Adamantios Koukouves, George Kouzelis, Michael Moustakakis, Nikki Moustakakis, Politimi Nasiakos, Galini Pelarinos, Alexander Sitalides, Joseph Soultatos, Kristina Soultatos, and Jamie Vassiliou, Some of their academic majors include: Business and Finance, Education, Engineering, Orthodontics, and Pharmacology.

Also awarded that night was the Demetrius Kounaris Memorial Scholarship.

## New Britain's Scholarship Awards

In addition to good grades the recipient must have a volunteer service record at St. George. This year's award was presented to Marianna Nasiakos.



Pictures above are President Pericles Moustakakis with recipients, Galini Pelarinos, Politimi Nasiakos, Sevasti Galanis, Sonn and Daughter of Pericles, Micheal and Nikki Moustakakis, Joseph Soultatos, Kristina Soultatos, Adamantios Koukouves, George Kouzelis, Marianna Nasiakos.

## A note from Daughters of Penelope Chapter # 41



Brothers from L left to Right : Tom Hal-las, Andy Poniros, Vangelis Gountas, John Bochanis, Jim Yeotsas, John Stevens

Sisters from L left to right are: Mary Pat-siarikas, Maria Mourizakis, Marina Silvestros, Barbara Tsoupas, Viola Skenderis



The Sisters of Chapter 41 were very honored to co-host the Spring Conference along with our Brothers in Chapter 62. Thanks for attending and we always enjoy the conferences and the sharing ideas with our Sisters from other chapters. We are running our Spring Raffle which benefits our Scholarship program. This year's raffle will be for ten gift cards to local grocery stores. Tickets are just \$1 and all proceeds go to the Fund. Our Sisters decided to do "26 Acts of Kindness" to honor the lives lost in the Newtown tragedy on December 14. We are having several small drives to benefit various charities, and we are doing things like donating and serving treats to our Sunday School students, helping elderly members with a ride to a meeting if they need one, buying coffee for a stranger, sending thank you notes to teachers, and much more! We thought it was a fitting way to pay tribute to those lost on that tragic day. In addition we lit 26 of the red vigil candles in church and our Pater Andreas did a Trisayion service. Our latest two drives are collecting Prom Gowns for needy young ladies, and we are also organizing a pet food drive for local animal shelters that always need the help. In May we will have our Flower Sale once again on Mother's Day weekend.

Happy Spring to everyone and a Blessed Lent!

*Helen Yeotsas* (President)

## New Haven Chapter #98

New Haven held a lecture series on January 23, 2013 with Keynote Speaker Professor Basil C. Gounaris. Professor Gounaris' lecture was funded by the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation (USA) and is co-Sponsored by the Hellenic Studies Program at Yale University. Professor Gounaris spoke on the topics of Macedonia and the Balkans. Professor Gounaris has vast Knowledge and experience in the history of the region. The shared experiences, similarities differences and conflicts of the peoples of Greece and the Balkans presented a fertile ground for a compelling presentation. This was Professor Gounaris's first trip to America.

## Yankee District #7 Membership By Nick Nikas

Chapter	ChapterCity	2007	2012	5 yr incr. 2007-2012	% Contrib.
48	Waterbury, CT	46	103	57	28%
58	Hartford, CT	47	73	26	13%
62	Bridgeport, CT	74	98	24	12%
90	Danbury, CT	36	23	-13	-6%
98	New Haven, CT	21	61	40	20%
99	Stamford, CT	55	103	48	24%
106	Providence, RI	71	63	-8	-4%
110	Norwich, CT	84	113	29	14%
117	New Britain, CT	53	44	-9	-4%
126	Meriden, CT	16	16	0	0%
245	Newport, RI	51	53	2	1%
250	New London, CT	32	34	2	1%
387	Norwalk, CT	11	20	9	4%
418	Danielson, CT	40	34	-6	-3%
Total		637	838	201	100%

Figure 1

Before we get into the numbers, we need to remember how important membership is. With increasing membership, people, talent and treasure flow into our organization and enable us to serve our community actively, successfully and proudly. Without it, our beloved Brotherhood withers into inactivity and irrelevance. Membership increase does not happen accidentally. It takes active planning and execution on the part of its leadership to grow a chapter's membership. It's simple math. You start the year with a certain number of members. You know some of them will die, move out, or drop out during the year. If you want to grow, you have to actively reinstate or initiate enough new members to overcome those losses and end the year in the black. You know it's easier to retain your existing members than it is to recruit new ones, so you put in place an aggressive program of collecting dues. Write. Call. Visit. Plead. For the good of the Order. If you don't plan and act this way, you are likely to end the year with fewer members than you started. If you continue this inactivity for a few years, your chapter becomes a shadow of its former beautiful self. If enough chapters behave this way, our district and national membership shrinks.

These ideas occurred to me only after I became district governor in 2008. Before that, I thought, if you are lucky, you get a few new members, and if not, you lose a few. After that, I thought, if every chapter becomes conscious of the importance of membership growth and they try their best to grow every year even by a small number, even by 1 member, then our district membership will be securely on a long term growth path. Grow by at least 1 member! Just think of it! How hard could it be? That was the origin of the Governor's Challenge that year, and I believe it worked fairly well.

Under the leadership of our favorite son, Supreme President Dr. John Grossomanides, our district grew by 201 members in the five years from year-end 2007 to year-end 2012. The accompanying table shows the contribution of each chapter towards this 201 member increase. This was not the result of a meteoric rise of one or two chapters while the others languished. Most chapter officers responded to John's call and managed to grow. Seven chapters grew significantly: Waterbury, Stamford, New Haven, Norwich, Hartford, Bridgeport and Norwalk. Newport, New London and Meriden managed to grow modestly or stay the same.

The only chapters that declined were Danbury, New Britain, Providence and Danielson.

During this same period, District #7 pioneered the use of numbers and graphs to ensure that our chapter officers knew where they stood and didn't fall asleep at the wheel. And indeed, overall, the district grew consistently for the first four of these five years, reaching a high of 867 in 2011, a level not seen at least since 1998, the first year for which we have data. This was accomplished by a combination of increased initiations, higher reinstatements, and a dogged determination to retain all members that could be retained. For the four years 2008-2011, District 7 had the highest retention percentage, as well as the highest membership growth rate of any of the 26 districts across the AHEPA domain.

Unfortunately, however, 2012 broke our four year winning streak and ushered in a decline of 31 members, or 4%. Of the 14 chapters in the District, only four had a membership increase: Bridgeport, New Haven, Stamford, and Meriden (Bravo Brother Mihali Mihali!) Waterbury and Norwalk managed to stay even,

# Yankee District #7 Membership By Nick Nikas

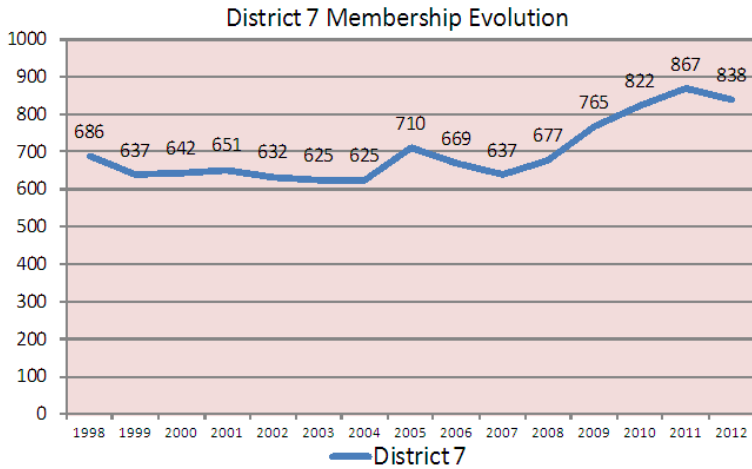


Figure 2

not a small feat given their large size. And all the other chapters declined, most by small numbers, but two by significant drops: New London by 16 and New Britain by 10. On a positive note, we now have three chapters with more than 100 members!

It's not clear to me why this decrease happened. In the Spring Conference in March of 2012, each chapter started the year by publicly declaring its self-generated chapter goal. Please note: these goals were not imposed from the outside. They were offered by the chapter officers themselves, in full knowledge of their chapter's situation. The idea was that if each chapter's officers knew where they wanted to end the year, they had ample time (9 months) to take appropriate actions to achieve their objectives. Unfortunately, the theory did not work in practice. Only New Haven and Stamford met or exceeded their goals.

District 7 was not the only district to decline year-year. Overall 14 of the 26 districts declined. District 7 retained its rank as the 8<sup>th</sup> largest district, but dropped from 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> place in terms of retention. Overall AHEPA membership declined by 3%, but there was a significant

shift in the mix between US and international membership: the US declined by 4% while international increased by 30%! Under the leadership of its extraordinary Governor, Nick Papadopoulos, Greece led the way with an increase of 62%! Brothers, our beloved Order needs your attention! With shining examples like Brother Nick Papadopoulos, how can we be content to let our chapters slowly wither away? As the leading organization of Greek Americans, AHEPA deserves better from us. We give away \$1,000,000 in scholarships annually; we have a Journey to Greece Program; we have a National Athletic Program; we strive to increase membership in the Congressional Hellenic Caucus; we have a Hospital named after us; we help Greece in its hours of need; we have AHEPA Senior Housing; we have an AHEPA Charter School in Delaware; we have AHEPAcademy; we have the District 7 Hellenic History Tournament; we fund research in Cooley's Anemia and offer a Bone Marrow Registry. No other Greek American organization compares to AHEPA. Please take your membership seriously, become knowledgeable, passionate and articulate about our

shift in the mix between US and international membership: the US declined by 4% while international increased by 30%! Under the leadership of its extraordinary Governor, Nick Papadopoulos,

Chapter	ChapterCity	2011	2012	yr-yr change
48	Waterbury, CT	103	103	0
58	Hartford, CT	76	73	-3
62	Bridgeport, CT	96	98	2
90	Danbury, CT	30	23	-7
98	New Haven, CT	56	61	5
99	Stamford, CT	94	103	9
106	Providence, RI	65	63	-2
110	Norwich, CT	113	113	0
117	New Britain, CT	54	44	-10
126	Meriden, CT	15	16	1
245	Newport, RI	54	53	-1
250	New London, CT	50	34	-16
387	Norwalk, CT	21	20	-1
418	Danielson, CT	42	34	-8
Total		869	838	-31

Figure 3

Order, and go out to educate and recruit new members into your chapter! You'll be glad you did!

## WHY PEOPLE SHOULD JOIN AHEPA/DOP

- Together we can achieve more.
- AHEPA/DOP would be stronger if it had 100,000 members.
- AHEPA/DOP support and protect the interests of the Greek community.
- AHEPA/DOP have a great Scholarship Program and educates thousands of Young Adults.
- We all should give back to our communities, Civic Responsibility.
- Hellenism is an important cause.

	2011	2012	yr-yr	yr-yr %
US Districts	14976	14387	-589	-4%
US At Large	561	465	-96	-17%
Total US	15537	14852	-685	-4%
Canada	489	534	45	9%
Greece	315	510	195	62%
Cyprus	54	54	0	0%
Other International	29	53	24	83%
Total Non-US	887	1151	264	30%
Overall	16424	16003	-421	-3%

Figure 4

## The Significance of March 25th

### American Philhellenes and the Greek War for Independence

By: **GEORGE C. CHRYSISS**

#### Early period of the American philhellenic movement:

The 1776 American Revolution was an inspiration to the then enslaved Greeks, not only during the actual days of the revolutionary war, but long after its successful completion and the eventual declaration of independence and the creation of the United States of America.

There are unconfirmed reports, that in the battle of Monmouth, New Jersey, which took place on June 28th, 1778, Greek volunteers fought under the leadership of a young man called Demetrios Ypsilanti, who allegedly later returned to Greece and might have fought or influenced the advent of the War for Independence.

Today, a town near Detroit, Michigan, bears the name Ypsilanti in honor of a Demetrios Ypsilanti. Historians point out that the town was named after the Greek Revolution hero Demetrios Ypsilanti, brother of "Philiki Eteria" leader Alexandros Ypsilanti, rather than the "Monmouth battle legend". Irrespective of whom the town was named after, the fact remains that the heroism of a Greek freedom fighter inspired judge Augustus Woodward to name, in 1833, a town after a man "who in the beginning of the 19th Century, in charge of three hundred men, successfully battled an entire Turkish army, inflicting damage and eventually escaped without losing a single man".

When the bell of the Revolution rang in 1821 and the cry "Freedom or Death" resonated over the enslaved Greeks, a number of American philhellenes started a lobbying campaign in the United States for the support of the Greek War of Independence, a campaign that captured the imagination of many influential political and civil leaders in America.

The Greeks on the other hand, knew from the very beginning of their War of Independence that the American people would understand their struggle, having themselves fought for independence a few years back, and sought the support and influence of the new Republic to advance and promote the Greek cause.

Thus, on May 25th, 1821, Petros Mavromichalis, on behalf of the Messinian Congress send a letter to the then Secretary of State John Quincy Adams, which was published in the American newspapers, asking for moral support. "Your virtues, Americans, are close to ours, although a broad sea separates us", wrote among other Mavromichalis. "We feel you closer than our neighboring countries and we consider you as friends, co-patriots and brothers, because you are fair, philanthropic and brave... Do not deny to help us..." Edward Everett, a Harvard professor and great philhellene,

who was also the publisher of the North American Review, published every correspondence of letters or appeals that he was receiving from Greece and through articles and speeches he made strong public pronouncements for the recognition of the Revolution and for sending military aid to Greece. On December 3rd, 1822, US president James Monroe in his annual address to Congress said: "A strong hope is entertained that the Greeks will recover their independence and assume their equal statue among the nations of the earth."

Unfortunately, on December 2nd, 1823, president Monroe announced the "Monroe Doctrine", which in essence excluded the United States from getting involved in European affairs and considered the then existing European governments as "de facto legitimate." On December 8th, 1823, Congressman Daniel Webster from Massachusetts made a motion in Congress for the appropriation of money, to send an American envoy to Greece and for the support of the Greek struggle for independence.

On January 19th, 1824, Webster gave a powerful and resonating speech in defense of his proposal. "I have in mind the modern not the ancient, the alive and not the dead Greece... today's Greece, fighting against unprecedented difficulties... a Greece fighting for its existence and for the common privilege of human existence", said Webster. Congressman Henry Clay, from Kentucky, supported Webster's motion and in a moving oratorical speech on January 20th, 1824, asked Congress to officially recognize the Greek War of Independence and to send an envoy to Greece to examine and report on the situation. He stressed the fact that the entire American nation was showing sympathy and support for Greece and urged Congress to suppress any fears and apprehensions and to help a Christian nation. In addition, General Sam Houston, a member of Congress, supported Daniel Webster's motion.

Unfortunately, due to strong opposition from members of Congress that adhered to the principles of the "Monroe Doctrine", the Webster motion was defeated.

However, the speeches of the great philhellenes, Webster and Clay, were widely publicized in America, Europe and South America and sparked the interest of many individuals, who decided to



(Pictured above is **Theodoros Kolokotronis (1770-1843)**, the leading military hero of the **1821 Greek Revolution of Independence**)

#### Thomas Jefferson and Adamantios Koraeas

It is worth noting that Adamantios Koraeas, a

Greek physician, intellectual, scholar and an early "prophet" of the Revolution, who believed that independence of Greece could only be achieved by educational progress, wrote many times to Thomas Jefferson asking for his support to the struggle of Greece for independence.

Koraeas, who at the time lived in Paris, met Jefferson there around 1785, when Jefferson served as the ambassador of the United States to France. Following Jefferson's return to America in 1789, the two men continued their friendship through correspondence. Koraeas' letters to Jefferson were passionate and full of patriotic zest, always promoting the case that it was to the best interest of America and the American people to help Greece attain its freedom. "Help us, fortunate Americans", wrote Koraeas in a letter dated July 10th, 1823, "We are not asking you for a handout. Rather, we are providing you with an opportunity to augment your good fortune."



**Koraeas and Regas helping a rising Greece**

Koraeas believed that appealing to powerful, respected and enlightened philhellenes to intervene and influence their respective governments for the recognition of the Greek cause, was a powerful and invaluable political tool. Himself an "enlightened revolutionary", he believed that the power of intellect and diplomacy was more effective than the might of soldiers and arms. Through correspondence and personal contacts, Koraeas convinced many foreign intellectuals that the continuing use of the Greek language since classical days, together with a continuous habitation of the same lands and of common religion, history and tradition, was conclusive evidence of the existence of a Greek national identity, thus establishing a strong argument for the recognition of an independent Greek state.

#### The American philhellenes

The first volunteer American to travel to Greece and join the Greek War of Independence was George Jarvis, a New Yorker, who went to Greece in 1822. He learned the Greek language, put on a "foustanelia" (Greek kilted skirt) and upon joining the "kleftes" (Greek guerilla fighters) he became known as "Kapetan Zervos". Jarvis was brave, participated in many battles and was repeatedly wounded. He died of natural causes in Argos on August 11th, 1828, but his appeals back home for aid and contributions to the Greek cause paid off. Jarvis became a role model for other American volunteers. In 1824, Captain Jonathan P. Miller, of Vermont, arrived in Greece.



He too learned the Greek language, worn the foustanelle and was fearless in battle. Miller was in Messolongi during its siege and in a letter to Edward Everett dated May 3rd, 1826, he described the heroic "exodus" and the subsequent fall of Messolongi and the massacre of its population by the Ottomans.

While in Greece, Miller adopted a four-year-old boy, whom he brought back to Vermont. This boy, Loukas Miltiades Miller, eventually graduated from Vermont University in 1845, and shortly thereafter he married and moved to the town of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, where he engaged in business and civic activities. In 1853 he was elected a member of the State Legislature and in 1891 he was the first American of Greek origin to be elected to the Congress of the United States of America!

However, by far the best-known philhellene is Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe, a Bostonian physician. Upon his arrival in Greece, he enlisted in the Greek Army and for six years he served as a soldier and a chief surgeon. In 1829 he established a medical center in Aegina and a school for the blind in Corinth. Long after the revolution, Howe continued to be active in Greek affairs, both in Greece and in the United States. In 1866, during the Cretan Revolution, he returned to Greece with his wife Julia Ward Howe, to organize support for the new uprising of the Cretans against Ottoman tyranny and enslavement.

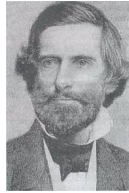
Other American philhellenes who went to Greece to offer their services during the Revolution were George Wilson of Providence, Rhode Island, who excelled in bravery during the naval battle at Nafpaktos; James Williams, an African American from Baltimore who joined the Greek Navy forces; Estwick Evans from New Hampshire, who left behind his wife and children in order to fight the Greek War for Independence; captain John M. Allen; and William Townsend Washington, a distant relative of president George Washington, who despite his erratic personal behavior and colorful life-style he was fearless and brave and fell heroically fighting in the battle of Palamidi. In the meantime, the Greek Revolution was gaining support among the American philhellene citizens and many were collecting money to help the Greek cause. Through the fundraising efforts of New York philhellenes, the amount of 6,600 sterling pounds was collected in 1824 and was forwarded to the Greek government via London, England.

During a fundraiser in New York City, Nicholas Biddle, a banker, offered the then largest personal donation of \$300 to the "New York Greek Relief Committee", while US president John Adams in a letter to the same committee encouraged the fundraising efforts. Leading the fundraising efforts in Baltimore was Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, a signatory of the Declaration of Independence, and in Philadelphia the leader was Mathew Carey. In 1825, the French General Lafayette, a great philhellene and staunch supporter of the Greek Revolution, visited the United States and in every affair that he attended in his honor, proclaimed the importance and the moral responsibility of help-

ing, in any way possible, the Greek struggle for independence.

However, by 1826 the initial enthusiasm of the American public begun to wane, partly due to conflicting reports about the success of the war and also because of disturbing news about infighting and rivalry among the Greek leaders.

To rekindle the American philhellenic movement, the Greek revolutionary leader Theodoros Kolokotronis, through George Jarvis, sent a letter to Edward Everett dated July 5th, 1826, in which the great Greek leader explained the situation in Greece, pledged unity and appealed for further help and support. "Greece is forever grateful to the philanthropy of our Christian [American] brothers", wrote Kolokotronis, "who share her struggle and who also support with their funds her just war [for independence]... the Greeks, determined to live or die free, do not fear shedding their blood... or the killing of their old, their women and their children... and they are ready to accept death rather than slavery; and now, more than ever, enthusiastically and united they are moving forward against [the Turks]... The Greek nation is not ungrateful to its benefactors. It is grateful to those who proclaim its epic struggle and their names will be recorded with indelible letters in the annals of the reborn Greece, in timeless display, for the respect of upcoming generations... Do not stop sending us your contributions... thus [you are] benefiting humanity and fulfilling Christ's will." The letter was translated by Everett and parts of it, along with parts from Jarvis' accompanying letter, were published in newspapers in Boston, Philadelphia, New York and other cities, sparking a new initiative of aid and assistance for the Greek nation.



(Pictured to the left is he great Bostonian philhellene, Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe, in an 1859 photograph)

#### Material aid to Greece

Captain Jonathan P. Miller returned to the United States in 1826 and through the efforts of the Greek Philhellenic Committee of New York, he was able to collect \$17,500 worth of various relief supplies, which he took back to Greece onboard the ship "Chancellor", on March 5th, 1827.

The same year two more ships, "Jane" and "Six Brothers", left New York harbor bound for Greece carrying various relief supplies of \$25,000 in the aggregate.

At about the same time, two more shiploads of supplies totaling about \$22,500 left the port of Philadelphia onboard the ships "Tontine" and "Levant", while from Boston the ship "Statesman" carried to Greece cargo worth over \$11,500. All these relief provisions that contained food items, clothing, medical supplies and other necessities, were distributed primarily to the suffering Greek civilian population, albeit soldiers and brigands usurped some supplies upon the arrival of the cargo to Greece.

On January 2nd, 1827, Congressman Edward

Livingston from Louisiana introduced a motion in Congress for the appropriation of \$50,000 to purchase supplies for the needy people of Greece. His motion was defeated, but through private initiatives and fundraising activities \$80,000 was collected in a combination of cash, food items and other in-kind aid.

In 1927 and 1928 a total of eight shiploads of supplies and relief aid worth more than \$150,000 (an extraordinary amount by today's standards) were dispatched to Greece and distributed by overseeing officials to needy members of the civilian population. It was obvious that the publication of Kolokotronis' letter had a great impact in rekindling the humanitarian interest of the Americans toward the ongoing Greek struggle. Furthermore, the various printed articles about Greece and its War of Independence that Everett and Carey published through their publications, along with the letters and reports published in American newspapers from the great philhellenes and humanitarians Howe, Miller and Jarvis, kept the struggle and plight of the Greeks in the forefront of the American public opinion.

It is estimated that thousand of Greeks were saved from starvation, exposure to the elements and disease through the efforts of these philhellenes. It may be safe to say that without the moral, intellectual, political, monetary and in-kind assistance of these American men, the outcome of the Greek War for Independence might have been different. And lastly, several these men arranged to transport a number of war orphans to the United States that were adopted by American families. Many of these orphans received College education, excelled in their professions and became productive and admired citizens of the United States, while others chose to go back to Greece to offer their expertise and advice to the newly created Greek state.

*(About the author: George C. Chryssis is a successful entrepreneur, philanthropist, civic activist, poet and author. He is a past supreme President of the Pancretan Association of America, a member of AHEPA, an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, a member of the Greek Archdiocese of America Leadership 100, former Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Hellenic College, and Trustee of Northeastern University and Wentworth Institute of Technology. He is a founder and a former publisher of "The Hellenic Voice", a national newspaper serving the Greek American community. George, has written and published several literary essays, technical articles, editorials and commentaries, as well as four poetry books (in both Greek and English), and an internationally acclaimed and highly recognized technical book in English (with a Chinese translation). For his contributions, activities and accomplishments, he has received numerous awards, citations and recognitions. He lives and works in Boston, Massachusetts)*



(Greece expiring on the ruins of Messolongi, by Delacroix.)

## Paideia Fundraiser—Orange, CT March 2013



Top left : Master of Ceremony Attorney Gregory J. Stamos introducing Rhode Island State Senator Len Raptakis . Middle : AHEPA Yankee District # 7 presented the Pan-Gregorian Society (Greek Diners Association) with Yankee District # 7 Recognition Award for it's generosity to Paideia and to Hellenic causes. From left: George Daoutis, one of the original founders of the Greek Students Club at the University of Connecticut, Master of Ceremoney Gregory J. Stamos. Top right : Master of Ceremony and Event Committee Co-Chair , Gregory J. Stamos. Pictured Below are the Pontian Dance Troupe of Norwalk.



Picture on right from left: Costa Tsilfides (Public Relations Director, Pontian Dance Troupe) Peter Losifides (Event Co-Chairman) Reverend Father Peter Orfanakos (St. Barbara Orthodox Church) PDG John Grossomanides, Sr, PDG Peter Stamos, Attorney Gregory J. Stamos (Event Co-Chairman) Yankee District # 7 Governor Jack Isaac, Professor Ilias Tomazos (Executive Director of Paideia, John Sahnas (Treasurer Paideia) Ernest Pool (President Norwich AHEPA Chapter #110), and Rhode Island State Senator Len Raptakis.

## Norwich Chapter #110 Initiation



On January 15, 2013 our Chapter initiated 3 new Brothers. They are Harry Toromanides, Tom Charas and Manny Konstantinidis. Officiating were Supreme President Dr. John Grossomanides, District Governor Jack Isaac and Chapter President Ernie Pool.



## Potpourri

### HELLENIC (GREEK) HISTORY - IS IT NECESSARY?

I remember years ago when I first became a member of the A.H.E.P.A. family, the Yankee News had a column written by a brother (I don't recall his name) dealing with informative subjects in Greek History. Yankee News was interrupted for some time and the column disappeared when the periodical resumed its circulation. Consulting first our esteemed Governor Brother Isaac and being the Chair of Hellenic Affairs in our District - along with being very much involved with History and Archaeology at C.C.S.U. - I asked to be allowed to resume such a task and my wish was granted.

My involvement has shown me that the importance of teaching History through our Educational System has been placed on the "back burner" the last fifteen or more years, starting from the Grammar all the way up to the Higher Education! In particular, deep cuts are made in Greek and Roman Histories in spite of the fact that our Nation is basing its Laws and Government on Greco-Roman cornerstones!

The "family tradition" of story-telling does not replace Historical knowledge, for the simple fact that what is told from family basis covers only what said family was and is involved with and at a certain time period, leaving out the bigger and most important National issues which concern everybody! As very accurately said in the past that "whoever doesn't know his History is doomed", I am of the conviction that the leadership shown by A.H.E.P.A. in all other venues ought to excel in this task too!

My 'story-telling' therefore is going to be an overall view of events, places and human involvement, not as it is mostly presented by 'special interests' proponents but as it should, without any fear or prejudice. As the Greek saying goes, I will hand it to you as "ta syka-syka ke tin skafi-skafi" meaning I will call it as is!

I will start then a series of Historical themes to be printed in the following issues of our Yankee News, in hope that this will be imitated by all other informative venues of our Fraternity. There will be subjects taken from Mythology as well as from written History, presenting the sides of Greek and foreign experts, friends and foes, so as to arrive at the most bi-Partisan view on each subject and as close to accuracy as humanly possible.

Knowing that I will come across disagreements, I nonetheless hope that my presentations will fill the void created by our Educational System.

Remaining Fraternally yours,

George Andrew Rados, Hellenic Affairs Chair and Historian



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## Dates to Remember



- New England Regional Conference May 17, 18, & 19, 2013— Best Western Hotel in Newport, RI
  - Relay for life—Dates and places to be announced
  - New Britain Rock Cats Game (Greek Night) June 11th, 2013
  - Scholarship awards Night District #7, August 4th, 2013 in New Britain, CT
- Supreme Convention, August 18-24, 2013—at the Portofino Hotel at Universal Studios in Orlando, FL

## Spring Conference March 16, 2013 Bridgeport, CT

