

AHEPA

Yankee District News

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

Issue Number LXVIII Vol. 3 Winter 2013



Merry Christmas

Καλά
Χριστούγεννα



and Happy New Year!

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2013-2014

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

Happy Holidays and
 Greetings to all in the
 Ahepa family!

Since our last issue,
 District 7 has been a
 whirlwind of activity.
 Let me describe some
 of our recent events.

- October 5, 2013: Testimonial for Past Supreme President Dr. John Gossomanides. This was held in Mystic, CT and was an evening full of nostalgia and love. District 7's "Favorite Son's" accomplishments were celebrated as we said goodbye to the era of John's tenure as Supreme President. We welcome John's return to District 7 and feel fortunate to be able to access his store of knowledge. Many Supreme Lodge members attended including Supreme President Kouzounis and Supreme Vice President Frangos.
- Oct. 19, 2013: Our Fall Conference was held in Norwich, CT. Supreme Treasurer Andy Zachariades was in attendance and spoke about national initiatives including membership, financial status, and aid to Greece. We had a productive session with much sharing of individual chapter activities. The Norwich chapter under the leadership of President Ernie Pool, hosted the event and performed admirably.
- Oct. 21, 2013: Ahepa hosted a dinner in Wakefield, R.I., in honor of the 12 volunteer firefighters brought to America for training in Rhode Island. They spent one week training under the supervision of several R.I. fire chiefs. This training is essential since they were lacking sufficient training as well as equipment. They will return to Greece and help train other firefighters. These men are truly modern day Greek heroes.
- Nov. 16, 2013: the 5th Annual Hellenic History Competition was held at St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church in Orange, CT. This contest, the brainchild of Supreme Governor Nick Nikas has become one of District 7's most important activities. Students from CT and neighboring states participated and a fierce competition ensued, all in attendance were impressed with the level of knowledge exhibited by all. Thanks to the New



Haven chapter and President Eugene Esares for hosting this event. There is more information in this issue with pictures.

- Yankee District News deficit: For several years District 7 has been operating the YDN under a deficit. John Melonopoulos was appointed by me to act as Business Manager of the paper with the primary goal of eliminating that deficit. I am proud to report the Brother John through the solicitation of ads for the YDN has nearly closed that gap. We continue to need your help in selling ads to your area businessmen. John is available to help or advise.

Upcoming Events:

- Sometime in February 2014 (Exact date to be determined) Ahepa will sponsor a Panel Discussion at Yale University on the subject of the current situation of Christians in the Middle East. Professor George Syrimis has been assembling a distinguished panel of academics who will discuss this important and timely issue. I thank Professor Syrimis for agreeing to coordinate this when I approached him with this idea. Thanks to Yale for agreeing to provide the setting for this event. Thanks also to the Hellenic Bar Association and Supreme Counselor Greg Stamos for offering their assistance. We will keep you informed as this is finalized.
- Night at the Races: April 26, 2014 this fun-filled event will take place in Waterbury and will have a horse racing theme with many interesting activities. More information to come to all chapters.
- Spring Conference: March 1, 2014 in Hartford, CT
- District Convention: May 2-4, 2014 in Newport, R.I.

We will all be sharing detailed information with you on all these events and any others we are considering. Ahepa is working closely with the Daughters of Penelope under the superb leadership of Governor Penny Pecka to bring all of these activities to fulfillment. Please invite me to a visitation if you have not done so. Finalize your per capita obligations and work to initiate new members and retain those we have.

Have a safe and healthy holiday season!
 Fraternally,



Jack

Jack Isaac
 District #7 Governor

Message from the Daughters of Penelope District Governor:

Sisters,
Greetings to all of you! I hope you have all had a very Happy Thanksgiving.



I had the privilege of attending the Testimonial Dinner for Past Supreme President, Dr. John Grossomanides, on October 5, 2013 in Mystic, CT; it was nice to see so many of you there. It was an extremely enjoyable event and I would like to commend the efforts of the Norwich, CT AHEPANS as well as Anna Helene Grossomanides, GVP, for organizing this wonderful event. Congratulations Brother John on all of your achievements over the past two years!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our AHEPA Brothers from the Norwich, CT chapter 110, for hosting the District Fall Conference on October 19, 2013. We had a great turnout and were joined by Grand VP, Anna Helene Grossomanides who explained the Growth and Expansion Program for this year. Also attending was Grand Liaison Zone II, Kathleen Tripodis, who informed us that the Grand Lodge has applied for non-profit status for each chapter. This means that each chapter will have its own 501(c)3 account number making it easier to open bank accounts and solicit tax-deductible donations! We also had a surprise visit from Antoinette Marousis-Zachariades, President of the DOP Foundation, who spoke about the Foundation's many initiatives.

Folders containing a timeline for all of the forms to be sent to National Headquarters and to the District Lodge were distributed to each chapter president. Those present were broken into three groups to discuss, Growth and Expansion, Publicity, and Ways & Means. The group reports will be presented at the District Convention which will take place in Newport, RI on May 2, 3, & 4, 2014.

My first visitation this year was to New Britain chapter 138. I would like to thank chapter president, Irene Sklavouris, for the hospitality she extended to those of us who attended. The New Britain Eretria chapter is doing quite well and has some great events planned

for the year. The second visitation to Newport, RI was made in my absence by Lodge members Myrsini Papoutsis and Karen Isaac. Sorry, (not really) but I was cruising the Bahamas at that time. I was tempted to forgo the cruise to attend the Newport visitation, but my husband insisted that I go with him; such difficult choices!!! I would like to thank Penelope Hiotas, president of Newport chapter 48 for taking such good care of my Lodge! I have 2 more visitations scheduled for Bridgeport and Waterbury and am waiting to hear from the rest of the chapters. Please contact me to schedule a visitation for your chapter!

The Yankee District News has a new initiative which allows those Sisters who do not receive a copy of the YDN through their AHEPA spouses or sons to receive one. Each chapter will have to find two sponsors to advertise in the YDN for \$100 each then each Sister who does not receive a YDN will get one for a 1-year period. Another way to receive a YDN is to pay \$6 for a 1-year subscription. Questions can be directed to Brother John Melonopoulos at 860-434-0306 or at john.melonopoulos@comcast.com

I would like to wish each of you and your families a Glorious Christmas and a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year.

Yours in ΘΠ,

Penny Pecka



BROTHER JOHN CALLAS INDUCTED INTO CONNECTICUT BOXING HALL OF FAME

UNCASVILLE, Conn (November 9, 2013) - Brother John Callas, a member of Nathan Hale Chapter 58, Hartford, was inducted in the Class of 2013 on November 9th which was held at the Mohegan Sun Casino. Brother Callas was joined by five other inductees: former world title challengers Luigi "Kid Dynamite" Campuratore; Israel "Pito" Cardona; broadcaster Al Bernstein; promoter Joe DeGuardia and USA Boxing administrator Roland Roy. "I'm humbled and honored to be part of this class," Callas said, going in with International Hall of Famer Al Bernstein, my all-time favorite announcers. This is

extra special for me since I'm being inducted with one of my boxers, Israel Cardona, who is a graduate of our academy (Call founded the Charter Oak Boxing Academy). He has a solid professional boxing career and is now coaching the Hartford Police Amateur Boxing Program. Brother Callas has worked for the past 24 years for the State Department of Children & Family, today serving a programs manager who operates a hot-line for children protective services.

WANT YOUR PICTURES IN THE YANKEE NEWS?! EMAIL KAZAKOS88@gmail.com

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2013 Yankee District #7 Hellenic History Tournament



The 39 contestants proudly holding their certificates of participation before the matches, with the AHEPA Executives behind them: Jack Isaac, Yankee District 7 Governor; Nicholas Nikas, tournament organizer and Region 4 Supreme Governor; Andrew Zachariades, Supreme Treasurer; John Ververis, SOP Supreme President, and Gregory Stamos, Supreme Counselor.

On November 16, 2013, the 5th Annual Hellenic History Tournament took place at St. Barbara's Greek Orthodox Church in Orange, CT. What an exciting event! This is what AHEPA and Hellenism is all about. Our younger generation is showing us the way.

Originally, there were 17 registered teams of 3 students each, but 3 dropped out in the last week, so only 14 teams showed up to compete. Also, 3 additional team members were unable to attend and could not find replacements, so there were 39 contestants. It was a truly regional contest with 10 chapters (Nashua #35, Paramus #54, New Haven #98, Stamford #99, Norwich #110, New Britain DoP #138, Newport #245, New Rochelle #405, Watertown #406 and Wyckoff #453) from 6 states (NJ, NY, CT, RI, MA and NH) and 5 AHEPA Districts (5, 6, 7, 8 and 9) fielding teams. It was a sudden death elimination tournament, with each team competing with another in the 1st round, with the losing teams dropping off until only 2 teams are left in the 4th round.

The tournament depends on many volunteers: Chaperones (members of the students' communities) make sure the students sign up, form teams, study, and show up at the event; the Set up Crew (members of the New Haven chapter) prepares the hall and the classrooms and provides and serves the food; our Technical Support team (Kip Kyprianou) sets



PSP John Grossomanides moderating a round 1 match between Stamford's Titans and New Britain DoP's Hip Hoplitids. New London President Demetrius Tasoulas scorekeeping.



Supreme Treasurer Andrew Zachariades delivers greetings from the Supreme Lodge. In the foreground, D5 PDG Philip Vogis.

up the computers and projectors in each classroom; Moderators (Nina Barclay has moderated more matches than any other moderator in the 5 year history of the tournament) operate the computerized match guide during each match; Scorekeepers keep a manual tally of as backup in case the computer malfunctions (has not happened yet); the Dispute Resolution Advisor (Greg Stamos) is ready to help resolve disputes among teams; the Photographer (Greg Simones) memorializes the proceedings. And of course, the prize money is provided by the sponsoring chapters. A big heartfelt THANK YOU to all our volunteers!

This year we had the opportunity to engage John Grossomanides, immediate Past Supreme President, and Alex Boutsioulis, Lieutenant Governor, as moderators. Following are some photos taken before and during the matches.

The Feta kai Psomi team, comprised of Nicholas Georgiou, Yiorgos Argyros and Christian DeKnatel, sponsored by the New Rochelle Chapter #405, won the final match and the Tournament. They each received \$1,000 and a Hellenic History Trophy. New Rochelle President, Joe Keane, received the shared chapter Hellenic History Trophy. They get to inscribe it with their chapter's name and number and to keep it for a year until the next tournament. This is the 1st time the Trophy was won by a chapter from another district.

Second prize went to the Newport Team, consisting of Theodore Panoutsopoulos and Nikolaos Spentzos. They each received \$500 and promised to come back for a first prize win next year.



Lunch being served by the set up crew.



Wishing you a happy & healthy new year!

(continued from previous page) Several AHEPAnS who attend the Tournament every year remarked that this one was the best yet. Let's hope that it continues to improve each year and that we get other Districts or Regions to conduct their own Tournaments so that we can start sending our winners to the National Convention and to a National HHT to determine the National winners.

The Hellenic History Tournament committee and the whole Yankee District express their gratitude to President Eugene Esares, the set up crew, the New Haven chapter and the whole community of Saint Barbara's for hosting the Tournament in style.



"AND THEY'RE OFF!"

YANKEE DISTRICT #7

AHEPA & DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE PRESENT

"A NITE AT THE RACES"

THE YANKEE DISTRICT #7 MOUNTAIN LAUREL DERBY

APRIL 26, 2014

Holy Trinity Banquet Hall

430 Chase Parkway

Waterbury, CT

Doors open at 6:30-Races start at 7:30

\$10.00 per person includes Food Stations

Cash Bar

Signature Drinks

"The Rose"

"Blackeye Susan"

"White Carnation"

Ladies Derby Hat Contest and more

Hotel accomodations available

Tickets: 860-635-5602

All net proceeds to benefit the philanthropic endeavors of

the Ahepa Family



Left : The final match between Feta kai Psomi on the left and The Newport Team on the right. In the foreground, L-R: Governor Isaac scorekeeping; Nina Barclay moderating.



Above Left: Some AHEPAnS who helped make this year's tournament a success. L-R: SG Nikas, PSG Kip Kyprianou, D9 PDG Nick Kallan, ST Andrew Zachariades, SC Stamos, New London President Tasoulas, PSP John Grosso-manides.

Above Right: Lt Governor Boutsoulis moderating the round 3 (semifinal) match between The Newport Team and Hip Hoplites. Newport advanced to the finals. At left a group of 7 Sons of Pericles who came from Waterbury to support the tournament and perhaps find new Sons.



Above: The *Feta Kai Psomi* team, Nicholas Georgiou, Yiorgos Argyros and Christian DeKnatel and with Jack Isaac, Yankee District 7 Governor; Nicholas Nikas, HHT creator and organizer; and Joe Keane, the Hellenic Cultural Commission Chairman and President of the New Rochelle chapter.

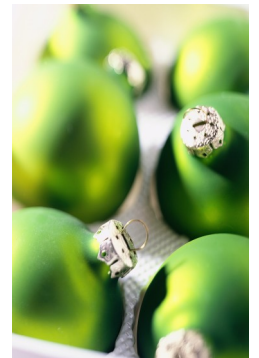


Sons of Pericles President John Ververis educating the attendees about the Sons of Pericles.



Bottom: L-R: District Governor Isaac; Second prize winners *The Newport team*, Theodore Panoutsopoulos and Nikolaos Spentzos; Supreme Governor Nikas; President of the hosting New Haven chapter, Eugene Esares. Theodore's brother, Panagiotis, was originally a member of the team but was unable to attend.

Providing our elderly with security & comfort
AHEPA #245 Inc
Newport, RI



Compliments of
AHEPA: Maud Howe Elliott #245 & Aves Daughters Of Penelope Chapter #49
Newport, RI

2013 Stamford Chapter #99 Fundraiser



Not all the honorees were able to fit in a single photo. Subset shown above, L-R: John Louizos, Jack Louizos, John Petsagourakis, Vasilios Diakogeorgiou, Petros Ramoglou, George Psathas, John Ramoglou, Fr. Constantine Mathews, Nikiforos Mathews, Theofilos Nikolis, Greg Stamos, Peter Stamos, Paul Stamos, Peter Poulos, Alexander Nikas, Peter Nanos, Paul Poulos, John Skoparantzios, Fr. George Poulos, Tom Hatzis, Van Hatzis, Chris A Nanos, Theodore Nanos, Nicholas Kiratsous, Chris P Nanos, Paul Nanos, Arthur Kiratsous, George Nanos, John Grossomanides Sr., Chris Paul Nanos.



L-R: Supreme Governor Nikas presents chapter President James W Cocolis with a chapter president's pin in recognition of his contributions to the success of the chapter.



L-R: Past Supreme President John Grossomanides receives a token of the chapter's appreciation in the form of AHEPA cufflinks from Supreme Governor Nick Nikas.

On October 26, 2013, the Stamford chapter held its annual dinner dance fundraiser for the benefit of the national AHEPA humanitarian relief effort for the people of Greece (which goes directly towards the acquisition and shipment of food and medical supplies) and the Stamford AHEPA Scholarship Fund (which goes mostly to the two Greek Schools of Stamford, Annunciation and Archangels, to neighboring Greek schools, to send local high school juniors to AHEPAcademy, and to sponsor teams competing in the Hellenic History Tournament).

The theme of the event was Passing the Torch, a tribute to the father/son (or son-in-law) pairs who are both AHEPAns. The elder AHEPAN of the pair received a "Torch of Hellenism" which he passed on to the younger AHEPAN. The younger honorees from Stamford who attended and received the "torch" plaque were Vasilios Diakogeorgiou, Tom Hatzis, Nicholas Kiratsous, John Louizos, Nikiforos Mathews, Chris Nanos, Chris Paul Nanos, George Nanos, Paul and Peter Poulos, Peter Ramoglou, and John Skoparantzios. Other AHEPA chapters were invited to send their father/sons to be honored. John Grossomanides joined us from Norwich, CT #110, Peter Handrinos from Norwalk, CT #387, Alexander Nikas from Norristown, PA #432, and Greg and Paul Stamos from New Haven, CT #98. In addition to Passing the Torch, the chapter acknowledged three individuals: Alexi Nikolopoulos, our scholarship winner for last summer's AHEPAcademy; James W Cocolis for his contributions to the chapter's success as President; and John Grossomanides for his outstanding leadership of national AHEPA and for his support of our chapter.

About 165 people attended the event at Norwalk Inn and were entertained by Grecian Nights. Among them were James W Cocolis, president of the Stamford chapter; Theologos Demetriades, president of the Norwalk chapter; Alex Boutsioulis, Lieutenant Governor, Yankee District #7; Nicholas Nikas, Supreme Governor, Region 4 (New England); Greg Stamos, Supreme Counselor; Andrew Zachariades, Supreme Treasurer; John Grossomanides, immediate Past Supreme President, and Grand Vice President Anna-Helene Grossomanides. The event committee was co-chaired by chapter Vice President John Louizos & Master of Ceremonies Nikiforos Mathews. Other committee members were chapter President James W Cocolis, Dino Kallenekos, Arthur Kiratsous, Brett Kubisek, Nicholas Nikas, Theofilos Nikolis, Paul Poulos, Peter Poulos, John Skoparantzios and chapter Secretary Dimitrios Vasquez.

Preliminary results indicate that we raised \$13,500. We have already given \$6,000 to the AHEPA Charitable Foundation (Greek Relief with Apostoli). We plan to give \$3,000 to Archangels Greek School and \$3,000 to Annunciation Greek School. We'll keep \$1,500 in our chapter's educational and philanthropic fund for future contributions to the Hellenic History Tournament, AHEPAcademy, etc.



Fast forward 3 weeks later: L-R: Supreme treasurer Andrew Zachariades receives the \$6,000 Stamford chapter contribution to the AHEPA Charitable Foundation (Feed the Children of Greece) from Supreme Governor Nicholas Nikas at the Hellenic History Tournament at Saint Barbara's in Orange, CT.



L-R: Vice President John Louizos displays the original chapter banner from July 1926; Master of Ceremonies Nikiforos Mathews explains the mission of AHEPA and how it ties in with our fundraising objectives; future AHEPAN Zachary Louizos looks on.



L-R: Co-chairs Louizos and Mathews; Alexi Nikolopoulos, AHEPAcademy scholarship winner, conveys her very positive impressions of the program.

Dr. John Grossomanides Testimonial Dinner



*October 5, 2013
In Mystic, CT
A big Thank You
Brother John for
all you've done!*



"A SALUTE TO A VETERAN" - *Ted Lainas*

Ted Lainas was born Telemahos Gus Lainas in Brooklyn, New York, April 21, 1924. His childhood was quite typical of that of immigrants' children. He worked hard in school and in his father's luncheonette. When it came time for high school, he was told that he would become an engineer like a cousin in New Jersey. No one, certainly not Teddy, spent a minute considering what **he** might want to do.



23, 1950, two days after his twenty-sixth birthday. My father picked that date so that he would not ever forget their anniversary. I was born the following September. Two years later, March 11, 1953, he was initiated into AHEPA.

Ted had a job offer from US Rubber in Mishawaka, Indiana and then moved the family to South Bend in 1954 with a plan to come back to the East. Imagine the culture shock of moving from New York to the Mid-west in the 1950s! In February, 1955, Ted was transferred to Naugatuck, Connecticut in 1956 on the heels of the great flood of 1955. He settled in Waterbury because that was where the church was. Both Ted and Romona became very active in Holy Trinity, my dad serving as president of the Parish council and my mother as a Sunday school teacher. My father also served as the Waterbury AHEPA Chapter 48 president.

Ted had a very successful career with Uniroyal, as US Rubber had become, as a senior research scientist. He was granted two patents and published in several industry journals. He was developing green technology at its nascent as a consultant for rubber and plastic extrusion. His work involved recycling tires for use in all-weather running racks, tennis courts, and automobile brake pads. He taught engineering courses at the University of Connecticut (Waterbury branch) and at the Waterbury State Technical College for many years.

Ted Lainas died June 5, 2010, fittingly, the day before D-Day, at the age of 86.

When he was 17, things changed with the attack on Pearl Harbor. His parents wanted to continue his education in college. He, however, wanted to defend his country. He enlisted in the Navy planning to be a pilot. The Navy had other ideas. He was put onto an LST and sent to the Atlantic where he was part of the momentous invasion of Normandy. After Normandy, he was shipped to Okinawa during the occupation. He was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, a Bronze Star, the American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific-Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal. After the war, he returned home and did indeed become an engineer, earning a BME degree from the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, NY. While he was in the Navy, his younger brother used to tell his Sunday school teacher, Ramona Harisiades, about his war hero older brother. One summer day at the beach on Coney Island, Ted and Ramona met. They were married April



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AHEPA District #7 Yankee News

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Email news to: yankeeneews@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:
March 15, 2014**

AMERICAN HELLENIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION

AHEPA YANKEE DISTRICT # 7 SCHOLARSHIP

2014 APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Eligibility

- A. Applicant must be currently attending college or postgraduate school and plans to enroll as a full-time matriculated student in the next academic year.
- B. Applicant must have at least a 2.5 GPA.
- C. The applicant must either be a member or child of a member in good standing of the AHEPA Family organization of District # 7. A member is defined as being in good standing if all financial obligations to their Chapter, District Lodge and National have been paid.
- D. Applicant or family member must have become a member of the AHEPA Family organization prior to **April 15, 2013**.
- E. Applicant may receive a total of **three** AHEPA District # 7 Scholarships.

2. Filing

- A. All information requested must be submitted for the application to be considered complete. Incomplete applications will, not be officially accepted or considered for a scholarship.
- B. All information submitted will be held in strict confidence, only the scholarship committee will review this information and it will not be returned.
- C. Only information requested will, be considered. Letters of recommendations or testimonials are not required and will not be reviewed.

3. Procedure

- A. This completed application must be typed out or legibly printed.
- B. A **sealed stamped official transcript** of the most recently attended academic institution. This official transcript may be mailed by the academic institution directly to the Scholarship Chairperson or submitted with the other required parts of the application.
- C. On separate paper submit a typed five paragraph essay on one of the following topics:
 - 1/ Why I want to become or already am a member of the Order of AHEPA or Daughters of Penelope.
 - 2/ How I have benefited from my Hellenic heritage.
 - 3/ My selected major and how it relates to my ultimate career goal.
- D. All material requested must be submitted to the Scholarship Chairperson by **April 15, 2014**

E/ Mail the completed application package to:

Andrew Aros
Scholarship Co Chairperson District # 7
284 Edgewood Circle
Southington, CT 06489
 Tel: 860-621-4384
 E Mail: aaros@cox.net

5. Awards

Scholarships will be awarded at a special AHEPA District # 7 event. Recipients will be notified and invited as honored guests of District # 7. Award winner or parent/guardian should attend to receive award. The District Lodge must be contacted prior to the award ceremony if the winner will not be able to attend. Checks will be issued upon receipt of a copy of your tuition bill for the September 2014 semester. The copy of your tuition bill is due **June 30, 2014**.

PLEASE DIRECT ALL QUESTIONS TO:

Co Chairperson Andrew Aros
C0-Chairperson Donna Rados

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**AMERICAN HELLENIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION
AHEPA YANKEE DISTRICT # 7 SCHOLARSHIP
2014 APPLICATION**

NAME _____ SOCIAL SECURITY # _____

PERMANENT STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

PERMANENT HOME TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

CELL PHONE # _____ E MAIL ADDRESS _____

NAME OF THE COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY APPLICANT ATTENDED DURING THE 2013-2014 ACADEMIC YEAR

COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

APPLICANT'S ACADEMIC INFORMATION FOR 2014 - 2015 SCHOOL YEAR

FRESHMAN ___ SOPHOMORE ___ JUNIOR ___ SENIOR ___ GRADUATE STUDENT ___

NAME OF THE COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY APPLICANT WILL BE ATTENDING IN SEPTEMBER 2014

LOCATION _____

COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

APPLICANT'S CURRENT MAJOR OR ULTIMATE CAREER GOAL _____

LIST ACTIVITIES, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS:

DATES OF ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

(Attach additional pages if required)

VERIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY

I hereby certify that _____ (applicant or applicant's parent) has

been a paid up member in good standing of Chapter # _____ prior to April 15, 2013, located in the city

of _____ in the state of _____

SIGNED _____ DATE _____

(Chapter President)

Chapter Number

YANKEE NEWS' HISTORY SEGMENTS: Volume I - Oral History (Myth)

By G.A. Rados, Historian/Hellenic Affairs Chair

Myth #2: Iraklis/Hercules, the most renowned hero and demigod

To begin with, the name is a composite of two words: Ira/Hera + kleos (fame/glory), in other words, it means: for the fame/glory of Hera (Hercules' labors meant to appease and glorify Hera but ended glorifying him instead).

I suppose most of us know that the 'Father' of gods and humans, Zeus (Zefs/Dias) was married to his sister Hera (Ira), both being 'primus ante pares' among the Olympian gods of the Greek pantheon. Zeus was well known for his extramarital affairs (Hera wasn't that innocent either!) which made his wife/sister very jealous. Since Hera could not do anything if and when Zeus had an affair with another goddess, she would direct all her anger and revenge at the mortal women foolish enough to consent to Zeus' advances. Further, she would direct pain and misfortune to that woman's offspring, so it would hurt a sinful mother.

In our case, Alcmene (Alkmini), a mortal woman from Thebes (Thivae) in Boeotia (Viotia) married to the king of Mycenae (Mykinae), accepted Zeus' advances and became pregnant. Hera got so angry, she promised to punish the soon to be born child in any way she could think! Meantime, Alkmini (royalty or not) could not escape some sort of punishment by her own peers and she was sent packing back to her parents at Thebes.

Nothing truly mythic thus far. Even in our days, 'higher-ups' tend to receive a lighter punishment for their sins than 'us common folk'. Additionally, royal house members in those times (the trend lasted well into our era) were considered to be descendants of deities or, at the least, god-appointed rulers representing the deity on Earth. Judgment of their acts was left to the deities only.

Back to our story: Alkmini's newborn was a male named Iraklis, in the hope that Hera would be appeased. The goddess though had nothing but revenge in her mind. While Iraklis was still an infant, Hera reportedly sent two snakes into his crib, to strangle the boy. He, being the son of Zeus, was gifted with extraordinary strength and he strangled the snakes, causing wonder among the mortals! Nice myth eh?! Not necessarily so, if we exclude the obvious exaggerations and religious fantasies.

First, we know that infants are blessed with surprisingly greater strength than their age would suggest, especially in their hands. If Iraklis did really exist and if by being of royal blood had better care than common infants of his time, wouldn't he be of better body condition? The answer is yes. Now if the snakes were two small garden snakes lured by the smell of milk in the infant's crib and got into it, couldn't he be playing with them for a while before his uncontrolled baby strength (accidentally or not) squeezed them to death? Possible? Yes, considering the feat was repeated -and recorded in a newspaper- in Greece during the 1960s! Would a royal

house take the opportunity to self promote its connection with the deities -if such an event took place- to further awe the commoners? You bet it would and the ignorant and superstitious folk would accept it in wonder! As an example, check the amazement our society shows in any silly 'achievement' of the House of Windsor!

So, our hero grew up as a proper royal always does, with plenty of mental and physical exercise becoming a smart and strong man! He got married and had a full sized family for a while. Royalty though has its shortcomings too! Having things coming always his way and plenty of flatterers around him, the stuff got into his head and, during a family argument on who's right, his anger led him to kill his wife and children! Obviously, a royal could not be brought to common justice for punishment -at least not in that era. Regardless of his hideous crime, he was to be judged only by the gods! Probably very remorseful himself, he went to Apollo's (Apollon) shrine and asked how he could be redeemed.

Apollo, also a son of Zeus and knowing well Hera's fits of anger and revenge, ordered Iraklis to forget all about royalty and throne aspirations. Instead, he should go to the service of his cousin and current king of Mycenae, Eurystheus (Evristheas) -the word's meaning is the one who can be seen broadly- as a common man and perform twelve labors. Each labor would be for each of the Olympian gods, as a means of exoneration and forgiveness. Provided he (Iraklis) would achieve these labors, not only would he be forgiven but, as the labors would benefit Evristheas and the common people, Iraklis could count on being declared immortal! Our hero, knowing well that due to his crime he had no chance of pursuing the throne, accepted and went in the service of Evristheas (the lure of becoming immortal on top of being forgiven was not a thing to take lightly, no matter who you are or in what era you live in!) His cousin, the king of Mycenae, was more than glad to have Iraklis do any and all of his 'dirty' works! First, it would keep Iraklis at bay, second, it may result in Iraklis' death (no throne competition), thirdly, achieving all kinds of benefits for the throne -in case of success! All these do not sound too mythic to me! They are rather too human and too pragmatic, applying in all ages' behavior! So, we will examine all labors next, excluding fantasies and exaggerations and leaving only what was/is possible and probable of happening in the story.

The first assignment was to have a man-eating lion exterminated from the realm's region of Nemea. Remember now the upbringing of our hero: well educated and trained in both mind and body! Observant, he knew what we all know today about a lion's habits. When a lion has its meal to contention (especially a male one), does not pay attention to any other potential food source, until hunger comes back! We all have seen document-aries showing gazelles

passing unmolested by lions which have recently had their meal and are laying down digesting and even taking a good nap! What did Iraklis do? He made sure the lion had its meal first, observed it being in a half-asleep condition, approached it and stunned it first with a heavy club, then killed it with a sword and skinned it, placing its pelt on him for effect! Reporting back to Evristheas, he left the part of the sword out of the story, for better self-promoting reasons (one would do the same today, given the circumstances)!

While the common people were happy and thankful, Evristheas ordered Iraklis to his second labor (athlos= achievement in Greek). The task was to deal with a stagnant lake Lerni/Lerna. Its waters (Ythor/Ydor in Greek) were causing great ills in the surrounding villages and ignorance combined with fear of death, sparked the peasants' imagination as if there was a monster in their midst, the Lernean Hydra!

The medical abilities of the local 'doctors' and the hygiene kept by the locals was creating worst conditions, to the point that one illness treated would most certainly produce two or more following up! No wonder the popular imagination had perceived the whole affair as a monster with nine heads! Our hero knew better (always remember his upbringing)! He called upon his nephew Iolaus (Iolaos) and the two of them with the method of cutting and cauterization when was needed, got rid of all the 'heads' of that 'Lernean Ydra' thus eliminating the cause of illness and death!

The popularity of Iraklis rose even higher among the thankful peasants and commoners, making Evristheas more anxious. Prompted also by Hera, he ordered Iraklis to perform what could be considered sacrilege, thus bringing the wrath of another deity on the head of our hero! Evristheas asked for the favored stag of the hunter goddess Artemis (Diana) to be brought alive before him! His aim was that the goddess would be so offended that she would kill Iraklis instantly! Here comes the connection/relationship of royalty/ priest-hood and self-appointed, god-given importance of the 'high-ups' in all eras of human History. One (Evristheas) consults and schemes with one deity (Hera), the other (Iraklis), goes to Artemis for a personal request. The hero explains to the goddess his predicament and she agrees (as sister of Apollo and daughter of Zeus she dislikes Hera too) to let Iraklis take the 'golden' stag to Evristheas unpunished.

You see, kingship and priesthood may be cooperating at times to keep commoners underfoot but they don't always agree and like one-another! Case in point all differences and hate existing to this date between religious sects, religious leadership, ambitions followed by crimes and led by king-priests or executive 'high moguls' throughout our human History! Why shouldn't Greek cases be among the first orally transmitted (and embellished) from one generation to the next? No reason at all!

Will be continued in next issue!



"A SALUTE TO A VETERAN"

Peter Stamos

Approaching his 50th year as an active AHEPAN of New Haven Chapter #98, Peter was born in Bridgeport, Connecticut and attended Bridgeport schools. Upon graduation from Bridgeport's Central High School, Peter immediately vol-

unteered in the Army and was in the service by September 1944.

"Once 18 and finished with high School, he was extremely anxious to do his part and serve the country. There were several parishioners of Holy Trinity Church who graduated from the 3 Bridgeport High Schools who all enlisted during that summer all good friends George Pappageorge and John Maltas. Our friend Peter Carwalanis shortly thereafter lost his life when his aircraft carrier was sunk in the Pacific."

After a short time training in South Carolina, Peter was rushed to Germany to fight with the 8th Army, Armored Division in the pivotal Battle of the Bulge.

"He was trained and subsequently manned a 50 caliber machine gun on a reconnaissance jeep". After the defeat of the German army in the Battle of the Bulge, Peter was shipped with the 8th Army to Czechoslovakia as part of the Army of Occupation. "After the war's end, while still in Czechoslovakia, He was able to visit various parts of the

country, seeing many beautiful areas and castles. This developed his love of travel and in later years he was able to travel extensively throughout many countries in Europe and the near east along with the Western U.S."

Thanks to the G.I. Bill, Peter was able to further his education. He received a B.A. in Education from New Haven's Teacher College (now Southern Connecticut State University), a M.A. degree in Administration from Columbia University, a Sixth Year Professional Degree from Fairfield University and has completed all course requirements for a PHD at the University of Connecticut.

"During this time he met his future wife of 53 years, Mary Vartelas, at a Greek dance in Bridgeport. Peter and Mary had 4 children (Gregory, Lisa, Paul and Paris) who gave us 4 lovely grandchildren and 1 great granddaughter. Peter has always believed in serving his church and community.



Greek Night at Vasi's in Waterbury on Thanksgiving night: L to R—Art Ververis, John Ververis (Sons of Pericles Supreme President, Nikolaos Spaniotis, and Miss Ahepa 2013 & Yankee News editor Krystyna Kazakos.



Important Dates to Remember



February 2014 -Yale Panel Discussion

March 1, 2014 - Spring Conference, Hartford, CT.

April 26, 2014 - Night at the Races, Waterbury, CT.

May 2-4, 2014 - District Convention, Newport R.I.

**October 17, 2013—Fall Conference
Taken place in Norwich—Hosted by Norwich chapter 110**



**Union of Hellenic Fire Service Volunteers Honored in Wakefield, Rhode Island
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In Memoriam

Stella "Jean" (Piendel) Edmonds, 97, of Newington, passed away peacefully on Saturday, December 14, 2013 at her home. She was the beloved wife of the late Victor Edmonds. Born in Utica, NY, she was a longtime Newington resident and a member of Holy Spirit Church, Newington. She was a member of the Ladies Guild at her church and was an avid bingo player. Jean retired from Sears retail store after many years of employment. A loving and devoted mother and grandmother, great-grandmother and great great-grandmother, she leaves her daughter, Donna Rados and her husband George of Cromwell, and eight grandchildren, Rebecca Martin, Jeffrey Rados, Katerina Hernandez, Andriana Donlon, Cheryl Russo, David Edmonds, Melissa Gore and Kenneth Edmonds, eleven great-grandchildren and two great great-grandchildren. She also leaves her two sisters Helen Bennett of Las Vegas, NV and Dolores Assaro of NY. She was predeceased by her son Victor Edmonds, III.

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Email—Kazakos88@gmail.com — Cell 860-462-8099

In Memoriam

Constantine "Gus" Hologgitas, 93, of Newport, RI, died Wednesday, April 10, 2013 at home in Newport, RI after several years of chronic illness. He was the husband of Dr. Joanne (Vardakis) Hologgitas of Newport for 57 years. Born at Newport Hospital on September 18, 1919, he was the son of the late Speros Hologgitas and Stella (Boukakeos) Hologgitas. Gus attended Rogers High School graduating in 1938 and shortly after was drafted into the US Army for WWII, serving until 1946. The majority of his assignment was at Ft. Sam Houston in TX. As a Tech Sergeant, he was responsible for the Mess Hall on the base, serving over 400 soldiers per day. After the Army, Gus attended Brown University and was a member of the Class of 1951. He went on to begin his career in life insurance working for Lincoln National and Prudential. He also sold real estate for the former Henry DeCotis Agency in New-

port. Gus then retired in 1980 for health reasons. He was a 73-year member of the AHEPA, serving the local chapter in all positions. He was part of the first committee to work with HUD to build the AHEPA housing on Gerard Avenue, providing 82 residential units for the elderly and disabled. Gus was also loyal member of St. Spyridon's Greek Orthodox Church, sitting on the Parish Board including position of Council President. He was one of the founding members of the Church Endowment, formed in 1986. He held a position on the Board until just a few months ago. Gus was also an active member of the Newport Players Guild in the 1950's and 1960's starring in many productions, including "Plaza Suites" and "Midsummer Night's Dream". He was an avid reader of newspapers and books, which gave him plenty of trivia and odd facts. Gus was also a member of the Newport Histori-

cal Society, Preservation Society of Newport County, Newport Art Museum, and the Blithewold Mansion in Bristol. He enjoyed watching the Boston Red Sox and the New England Patriots.

Estelle Antonio, 77, of Simsbury, a pillar of the St. George community died on Friday, December 6. Mrs. Antonio was born and grew up in Newport, Rhode Island and was a graduate of Central Connecticut State University. She worked as a kindergarten teacher in East Hartford from 1958 to 1964, when she and her husband opened Antonio's Restaurant in Simsbury and a local landmark still in the family. She was deeply involved in church and Daughters of Penelope activities for decades, as well as in a host of civic and educational activities. Her honors included Hellene of the Year and Mother of the Year.



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The members of the Stamford chapter (#99) congratulate the Yankee News team for winning 2nd place in the national district publications competition at the convention in Orlando.

Thank you Krystyna Kazakos and Jack Isaac for your talent, dedication and hard work that brought honor to our district!

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Happy Holidays!

