

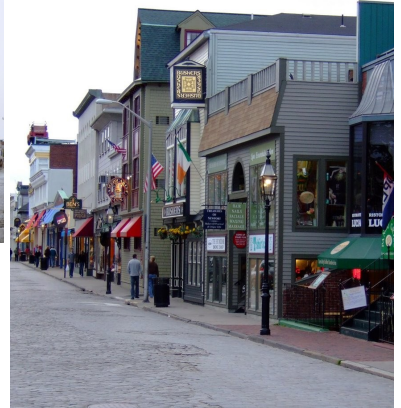


# AHEPA

## Yankee District News

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

Issue Number LXIX Vol. 1 Spring 2014



**District #7 Convention  
May 2-3-4, 2014  
Mainstay Inn  
151 Admiral Kalbfus Rd.  
Newport, RI**

*a sneak peek at what's in town...*





**AHEPA District #7  
District Lodge Officers  
2013-2014**

**District Governor**

**Jack Isaac**

15 Sylvan Road  
New Britain, CT 06053  
860-224-2183  
jckisaac012@gmail.com

**District Lt. Governor**

**Alex Boutsoulis**

671 Cortland Cir.  
Cheshire, CT 06410  
203-271-2929  
Alex.boutsoulis@uinet.com

**District Secretary**

**Andrew Aros**

284 Edgewood Cir  
Southington, CT 06489  
860-621-4384  
aaros@cox.net

**District Treasurer**

**John Melonopoulos**

14 Hartung Place  
Old Lyme, CT 06371  
860-434-0306  
John.melonopoulos@comcast.com

**District Marshal**

**Demetrius Tasoulas**

24 Lloyd Rd. Waterford, CT 06385  
860-444-2562  
deteagle400@yahoo.com

**District Warden**

**Rick Pecka**

1060 New Haven Ave, Unit 27  
Milford, CT 06460  
203-217-3091  
rpsupreme@gmail.com

**District Advisor**

**Emmanuel Moshovos PDG**

65 Primrose Dr  
East Hartford, CT 06118  
860-568-4383  
momosh@comcast.net

**Hellenic Affairs Chair**

**George Rados, PDG**

7 Cheryl Ct  
Cromwell, CT 06416  
860-635-5602  
makedonia@sbcglobal.net

**Sons Of Pericles Advisor**

**John Ververis**

83 Bridles Path Dr.  
Southington, CT 860-621-4770

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



Brothers,

As I approach the end of my tenure as Dist. Gov., I want you to know how honored and humbled I've been to be part of this elite group of Bros who have attained this position. Always aware of the historical significance of the position, I never took it lightly.

The past two years have been full of memorable moments, which include speaking at the newly opened Amphitheater at UCONN, participating in the expansion of the Hellenic History Tournament, meeting the group of volunteer firefighters from Greece who came for training and watching the tremendous response our District gave when Hurricane Sandy struck. I could name others, but they all left me with a sense that Ahepa is a an organization that is becoming a force in the world and that our best days are ahead. Our District is doing well. We have put our finances in order, increased our membership, and are becoming important in each of our communities. Ahepa is indeed "Giving Back" We continue with the important job of assisting our brothers who are going through difficult times in Greece.

I can't praise our District Lodge enough for all their help and guidance. I also applaud my counterpart in the Daughters of Penelope, Gov. Penny Pecka. She is talented, resourceful, and has helped to energize the bond between the DOP and AHEPA. With all that said, I am aware that there is still much left to accomplish.

- The Ahepa Family Capitol Hill Day on March 25th
- The Independence Day Parade in New York on March 30th
- The panel discussion at Yale University on the status of Christians in the Middle East on April 25th
- The "Nite at the Races" in

Waterbury on April 26th

- The District Convention in Newport, R.I. on May 2,3,& 4. Finally a bittersweet announcement. Our dear friend Alexander Vlantes' name will be on the float in N.Y. as we pay tribute to our departed brother from the Bridgeport chapter. A 75 year member of Ahepa, "Mr Ahepa " deserves this honor. May his memory be eternal.

My friends and brother Ahepans, May God bless you all, and may God bless the Order Of Ahepa.

**Jack**

Jack Isaac  
District #7 Governor

**AHEPA District #7 Yankee  
News**

Editor-in Chief : Krystyna Kazakos

Contributing Editor- Jack Isaac

Photographers: Jack Isaac,

John Melonopoulos

Loukia & Krystyna Kazakos.

Please visit us on our website:

[www.ahepad7.org](http://www.ahepad7.org)

Email news to: [yankeeneews@ahepad7.org](mailto:yankeeneews@ahepad7.org)

and If you would like it published in the

next newsletter email it to Krystyna:

[Kazakos88@gmail.com](mailto:Kazakos88@gmail.com)

**Next Yankee News**

**Deadline is:**

**June 1st, 2014**

**Chapter #110 Norwich  
AHEPA**



On January 28, 2014 New brothers were initiated into Norwich chapter #110. Pictured above left to right are Past Supreme President Dr. John Grosomanides, George Provatias, Peter Argiros, Tony Petros and District Gov. Jack Isaac.

## Message from the Daughters of Penelope District Governor:

Sisters,

I hope you have been surviving this terrible winter. Just think **spring** is just around the corner and all of the snow will soon be gone!



Thank you to all of you who attended our Spring Conference in Hartford, CT. We had about 30 attendees. A very special thanks to Sister Adele Antoniou and her Sisters from the Hartford chapter along with their brother AHEPANS for the fabulous job they did. They provided us with a delicious breakfast and lunch.

We had a special visit from the Board of Governors from Penelope's Place in Brockton, MA who spoke to the DOP and AHEPANS about their facility which provides services, support and a safe place for survivors of domestic violence. Sister Elaine Rice, PDG and current National Chairwoman of Penelope's Place spoke to us about how they got started, the services they provide and the needs they have. Also attending from Bay State District #8 were Kathy Chartier, District Governor; Thelma Toumi PDG, Euginia Christie PDG and Tina Niedbala PDG. They left with a number of monetary donations, a trunk full of coats, pajamas, personal hygiene items, children's books, toys and bags of non-perishable food. Thank you to each of the chapters that sent these items to the Conference for Penelope's Place; everything was greatly appreciated. Please remember Penelope's Place when looking for a charity to support.

It was a great privilege for me to install the new officers for our newly reactivated Norwich, CT Ly-sandros, chapter 181. With the as-

sistance of Sister Anna Helene Grossomanides, GVP we installed Chrsanthy Mangafakis as President (rodos75@aol.com); Virginia Argiros as VP (ginzy1@mac.com); and Geraldine Grossomanides as Treasurer (georgeg715@hotmail.com). Also in attendance was Maria Valkanos. Unable to attend were Virginia Valace (viriginavalace@gmail.com), Recording Secretary and Helen Sakellarides (hsak@outlook.com), Corresponding Secretary. It appears that these new Sisters are eager to get started and have already held one meeting and have 2 more scheduled within the next month. Please extend your congratulations and support to the new officers.

Please keep in mind the following deadlines:

**3/31/14** - Nominations for District Estia Award, National Obligations and National per capita dues;

**April 1, 2014** - District #7 Convention registration form

**April 11, 2014:** - District #7 Advertisement

**April 13, 2014** - Nomination for District Penelope of the Year

**4/15/14** - District Scholarship Applications and Chapter Report to the District Convention.

Hope to see many of you at the District Convention in beautiful Newport, RI.

Yours in OII,

*Penny Pecka*

**Want your pictures in the next issue?  
Email them to Kazakos88@gmail.com!**

## New initiations:

On January 9, 2014 the DOP Deucalion Chapter 199 of Waterbury, CT initiated 7 new Sisters. Picture on the right in bottom row l-r are: Maryann Boutsioulis, recording secretary; Gina Kotsaftis, corresponding secretary; Penny Pecka, District Governor; Sofia Ricciardi-Swaby, VP and Katerina Mouzas, President.

## Daughters of Penelope District Lodge Officers 2013-2014

### District Governor **Penny Pecka**

83 Midwood Ave  
Waterbury, CT 06708  
203-756-7651  
ppecka@NewHaven.edu

### Lt. Governor & District Marshall **Karen Isaac**

15 Sylvan Road  
New Britain, CT 06410

### District Secretary **Myrsini Papoutsis**

66 White Avenue  
Middlebury, CT 06762  
617-459-2498  
papm16@yahoo.com

### District Treasurer **Donna Rados**

7 Cheryl Court  
Cromwell, CT 06416  
860-635-5602  
Cell: 860-463-6948  
donnaJean9008@sbcglobal.net

### District Advisor **Lucia N. Kazakos, PDG**

554 Nott Street  
Wethersfield, CT 06109  
860-257-4257  
Cell: 860-558-4517  
luciakazakos@sbcglobal.net

### Maids Advisor **Penny Albini**

140 Upper Whittmore Rd.  
Middlebury, CT 06762  
203-217-6214  
stoneable140@yahoo.com

Top row l-r are: Myrsini Papoutsis, District Secretary and new members, Barbara Tzezos with her daughter, Katherine Tzezos, Claire Tsetsos, Elaine Dibble with her daughter, Stephanie Dibble, Cossandra Tracey, the daughter of current member Lula Tracey and Vicky LaVoie.





## Elpis Chapter #117 News

**Christmas charity for Greece:** At the December meeting Brother Costas Georgacopoulos asked the brothers present to please be as generous as possible, since the need in all of Greece is great. "However" he added. "the people we are helping are among those who need the most help." Brother Nick Bouras passed the hat, and \$ 575.00 were collected. At the chapter's annual Christmas Party, nearly \$ 300.00 more were collected. Elpis Chapter Treasury added more, for a total of \$ 1,000.00, and our second donation of the year was immediately wired to Greece. Stergia Georgacopoulos, who is a resident of Athens and daughter of Brother Costas, received the money and then divided it giving half to Philanthropic Department of St Constantine and Helen, with the rest going to PIPKA's Tandem in Boula. The church used its donation to purchase chicken, meat, rice and vegetables for its soup kitchen. PIPKA's Tandem is the residency for abandoned children of special needs. The money was used to purchase those items the director determined to be most necessary.

**Christmas Party:** Every year Elpis Chapter # 117 starts the Christmas season with its annual Christmas Party featuring a live band and a gourmet meal. Chairperson Jim Loukopoulos and Costas Georgacopoulos made certain that all went as planned.



**Nikos Koutovides:** The Harry Agannis Award was presented at the Christmas Party dinner. District Governor Jack Isaac and Supreme Counselor Greg Stamos presented Nikos Koutovides with the 2013 Harry Agannis Award. This annual AHEPA award is given to the Outstanding Greek American Athlete. Nikos Koutovides is a recently retired professional football player. After a standout career at Plainville High School, he played linebacker at Purdue University. He was drafted by the Seattle Seahawks and played in their first Super Bowl appearance. Other teams he played for included New England Patriots and the Denver Broncos.

**Kounaris Scholarships Awarded:** Education is a major part of our chapter's mission. The Demetrius Kounaris Scholarship is annually given to that person who has volunteered many hours of service to St. George. This year's recipient was Politimi Nasiakos. was awarded the Scholarship at our Christmas Party. The Nick Kounaris Charitable Educational Philanthropic Trust bequeathed Elpis Chapter # 117 a trust fund. During the past two decades this fund has distributed over \$ 500,000.00 worth of scholarships. The 2013 scholarship awards went to: Kristina Bolovis, Chrystina Christodlous, Demis Christodlous, Sevasti Galanis, Adamatios Koukopuves, Michael Moustakakis, Nikki Moustakakis, Matianna Nasiakos, Poliotimi Nasiakos, Angela Panagopoulos, Kristina Soultatos, and Jamie Vassiliou.

**Santa Visits :** Santa made a special visit to St. George the Sunday prior to Christmas. As it has done for many years, Elpis Chapter # 117 gives Christmas presents to the Greek and Sunday school students of St. George , and Santa takes time to distribute them. He also posed for pictures with The chapter thanks, Pericles Moustakakis and Ahillefs Papadimitriou for assisting Santa and the Daughters of Penelope of New Britain for wrapping the gifts. A special thank you goes to Stella and Scott DeLuca, for improvising the decorations for a classroom as well as Santa's Toy Drive Donations. The city of New Britain has many pockets of poverty. At Christmas the New Britain Police Toy Drive distributes toys and presents to needy children. Elpis Chapter donated a special group of gifts for distribution to these children of need.

## Niko Koutovides Honored



Nick Koutovides of Plainville, Connecticut was unable to attend the 2013 Supreme Convention in Orlando as he was in training camp with the New England Patriots, and therefore, Jack Isaac, Yankee District's Governor accepted Nikos' plaque of recognition as the 2013 winner of the Harry Agannis award, awarded annually to the outstanding Hellenic-American athlete in the professional or college ranks. Niko finished an illustrious 9 year National football league career with the Seattle Seahawks and the New England Patriots, and was a standout in the Patriots' most recent Super Bowl win. This followed a stellar All-Big Ten career as a linebacker with the Purdue Boilermakers, cupped by his recognition by the Walter Camp All-American Foundation as its winner of the 2004 Connecticut Collegiate Athlete of the Year award. Niko had made it clear to the Chairman of the Hall of Fame Selection Committee, Gregory J. Stamos, that he desired a personal opportunity to thank the Ahepa family for his recognition, and his wish was granted



at the New Britain's Chapter Annual Scholarship Awards Dinner, on Saturday, December 7, 2013 in New Britain, Connecticut. Niko, accompanied by his wife and parents, was presented his Harry Agannis plaque by District Governor Isaac and Committee Chairperson Stamos. He expressed his gratitude to Ahepa for this great honor, he reaffirmed his very strong Hellenic roots, and remarked that he always admired and looked up to Agannis as the premiere Greek-American athlete. He even noted that he always felt a certain kinship with Agannis, in that he also was a multi-sport athlete in high school, and ended up excelling in a sport that was not even his particular favorite, in that he remains close to his family and roots and was the youngest in the family, all common traits with Harry Agannis.





## Chapter #181 Lysandros



In Norwich, CT on January 28, 2014 Chapter #181 Lysandros of the Daughters of Penelope was re-activated. This group is very excited to be a part of the Daughters again!

## Ahepa Family Thanksgiving Dinner

In-lieu of a regular chapter meeting starting at 6:30 pm, the Thoas Chapter 198 and Nathan Hale Chapter 58 hosted a Thanksgiving dinner for the combined membership. The AHEPA Lodge room was decorated with a Thanksgiving theme using period table cloths, dinnerware and center pieces to the satisfaction of the Brothers, Sisters and friends. The evening started with a cheese, wine and beverage cocktail hour before all were asked to be seated. Father George Zugravu offered a prayer of thanks for the event. President John Melonopoulos asked that all remain standing for a silent prayer for all past, current member and Veterans past and current of our armed services. Sister Adele Antonioui also offered welcome to all from the DOP Thoas Chapter 198. Chefs Brother George and Mike Bonatsakis cooked over 80 lbs. of turkey; mashed potatoes; string beans; cranberry sauce- a meal fit for a king and queen. All the meals were presented to the members and guests by the AHEPA Family. A Special thank you goes to our Chef's: George & Mike Bonatsakis. Other members of the evening committee included the officers, governors of both Chapters.



## Spring Conference hosted by Ahepa #58 & DOP #198 On March 1st, 2014







**Daughters of Penelope  
Yankee  
District Lodge #7**

**Penny Pecka- District Governor**

**Karen Isaac- Lt. Governor**

**Donna Rados- Treasurer**

**Myrsini Papoutsis- Secretary**

**Loukia Kazakos- Advisor**

*Promoting Hellenism, Education, Philanthropy, Civic Responsibility and Family and Individual Excellence*

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



**George J. Scarveles**  
Director Of Operations  
3190 Whitney Ave. Building 4  
1st Floor Hamden, CT 06518  
(203)281-5755  
Cell: (203)410-9871  
George@ctbsllc.com



**"BUY A HORSE"**

You may also buy a horse prior to the event! Each Owner can name their horse, jockey and write their own description that will appear in the program book. (Example -"Pied Piper" -Has a good following Could whistle his way in. "Sea Shell"-May suddenly open up to change the tide of victory). The horses are \$50.00 per ownership and you can call 860-635-5602 for more information! Checks may be payable to Daughters of Penelope Yankee District #7!



**"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**

**937 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 accommodations available**

**Tickets: 860-635-5602**

**All net proceeds to benefit the philanthropic endeavors of  
the AHEPA Family**

**GREGORY J. STAMOS**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

200 MAIN STREET  
P.O.Box 166  
ANSONIA, CT 06401-  
0166  
(203)735-9293  
FAX (203)734-5065

[stamosatty@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stamosatty@sbcglobal.net)

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

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

By G.A. Rados, Historian/Hellenic Affairs Chair (Part 2 of 3)

Here comes then a co-operation between two kings with common interests: The next labor for Iraklis is to clean within a single day all the animal droppings stored for years in a huge stable of neighboring king Augeas (Avgias)! Both kings were leery of Iraklis' popularity growing among their people. Being neighbors, one's demise could easily mean the other was next. In the prospected case, if Iraklis would be unable to do his job in a single day, Avgias was to put him to death -ostensibly angered by the failure. In case of success, well all this filth and cause of various diseases would be cleaned for nothing and the king would be thanked by his people!

Remember again the court training of our hero! Iraklis was certainly nobody's fool. Being raised in court, he knew all the secret means of conspiring and his eyes and ears were accustomed to such details. He first inspected the 'stable' and its environ, calculating a desired approach to the task. He then hired a number of unemployed and, with personal work and directions (a little extra p.r. never hurts!), he diverted the channel of two rivers toward the said stables. He then reported to Avgias that he was ready to do his labor within the next day.

All he had to do in that day then was to open up the minor earth dike holding back the flow of the channeled rivers. The feat was done within hours and the water rushed through the stable cleaning all the dirt almost instantly! The thought and the planning was his, the credit and admiration rested on him, the unemployed commoners who put the actual work beforehand conveniently left out and forgotten! Does that sound mythical and out of context? I don't think so!

Evristheas did not give-up and sent Iraklis to his sixth labor. Stymphalia region via its stagnant waters of a lake had similar problems with the previous task of Lerneia Ydra but Iraklis was not allowed to use the same method to get rid of carcasses-fed vultures which were spreading illness with their close contact to near-by villagers. In combination of proper education with the royal privilege of consulting deities, Iraklis had a consultation with the goddess of wisdom -in other words put his mind to work- and also child of Zeus, therefore half sister, Athena (Athina). She thought (actually, his mind did) of a new solution to an old problem and contacted in turn the god of forging (actually a good smith), Hephestus (Yfestos). He in turn,

forged several huge pairs of castagnets (krotala) made of bronze and instructed Iraklis to keep on sounding them until he scared the vultures away, thus ridding the area of potential illnesses. Again, Iraklis received help from peasants eager to solve the problem but -as customary- the 'nobodies' were left out of the final account. The deed done in a different way, Iraklis reported success.

One would ask: Sounding castagnets would send the vultures away? Check the times the story was told. Back then, birds were used to hear only natural sounds and anything different would naturally scare them -if only for a while. Now, imagine that strange sound being produced day and night constantly and for some long time (hence the need of local helpers). The birds would definitely be scared and fly away, not to return - for a long time at least. Why, even today, cities especially tired of pigeon noise and droppings have employed sound devices to scare the birds away.

Number seven labor was to bring alive the famed bull of Crete (Kriti), a very potent bull famed of being Zeus himself in disguise and impregnating the local queen, wife of king Minos (Minoas) creating the monstrous Minotaur (Minotavros). Obviously, if one excludes gods and monsters, bulls in Crete were ostensibly very agile and productive animals. Evristheas had a good reason to bring in at least one (without pay) so his own herds would see improvement.

What better way than send one he disliked with two profitable options ahead: either success would better his own stock, or failure would have Iraklis killed by the Cretans, therefore no guilt of immediate murder connection to a relative could be attached! This was a win-win situation, as if it was conceived in our times! Well, the smart Iraklis arrived in Crete with a crew of capable thieves, stole one bull in the middle of the night and returned to Mycenae. Evristheas let the animal do its job with the cows in the small plain of Marathon.

A small parenthesis here is needed. Although Zeus reportedly presented himself on occasion as a bull, the prime protector associated with the animal was Zeus' own brother and ruler of the seas, Poseidon (Posidonas). Later Athenian propaganda tied up their local hero Theseus (Thisefs) to Poseidon and the bull cult. Coming back to our story, Iraklis was next sent for a similar thieving labor. This time it was the horses of the Thracian (Thrakian) king Diomedes (Diomidis). For the same reason as with

the bull, Evristheas thought his own horses needed better upbringing and line of descent. The Thracians were excellent riders of wonderful horses, sought in the markets by many for exorbitant amounts. If successful, Iraklis' help would better Evristheas' stock of horses. If not, Diomedes surely would kill the thief on the act. A win-win situation once more! Again, Iraklis got his thieving crew and successfully brought back four stallions. The rest of the story about ferocious man-eating horses is nothing more than exaggeration, because of the horses' abilities in battle. Getting desperate now, Evristheas assigns Iraklis his ninth labor. He is to go to the Amazon country and bring the precious belt of queen Hippolite (Ippoliti/Ippolita). The name translates to horse trainer/manager. Amazons? Now that's a myth! Yet, in the steppes of Ukraine and south Russia near the Black Sea shores, archaeologists have unearthed tombs of women warriors, horse-riding folk, dated to and beyond the chronological era of our hero's storytelling! Iraklis and his crew sailed to Efxinos Pontos (Black Sea) and met with the Amazon queen who originally agreed to let the hero take her belt willingly. Ah, but let's not forget Hera's anger and persistence in killing the hero! She spread rumors among the Amazons that their queen was about to be abducted and that caused enmity and a battle took place. Here, in actuality, some of Iraklis' crew -or even himself- did some naughty deeds probably, causing friction. As it happened, the Amazons were defeated, Hippolite was killed and the precious belt ended up in Evristheas' treasure chest. Many treasured artifacts have been taken under similar circumstances in our era and during our 'civilized' wars and behavior toward women, warring ones as well as civil servants or simple housekeepers. No 'paramythi' here either then! Next, came the labor of repeating the bull or horse stealing, this time with upended numbers. King Geryon (Gyrionis) was famed for having herds of healthy and milk producing cattle, better than those of the stock held by Evristheas. Well, once one gets used to taking unpunished, one keeps on repeating the deed. Geryon was a reputed giant with three heads and six legs (propaganda of the time to scare any potential enemies, as people were more prone to believing than they are today)... **Will be continued in next issue!**

At 10:00 Am on March 1, 2014, Hartford AHEPA # 58 President John Melonopoulos and DOP # 198 President Adele Antoniou welcomed the Brothers and Sisters of Yankee District # 7 and opened the 2014 Spring Conference. Over 70 members of the AHEPA family representing 10 different AHEPA and DOP chapters were present as well as a delegation of Daughters representing the Penelope House of Massachusetts .District Governor Jack Isaac introduced Supreme Governor Nick Nikas, Supreme Councilor Greg Stamos, Past Supreme President John Grossomanides as well as the District Lodge. Grand Vice President Anna Helene Grossomanides, Past Grand President Dr. Joanne Hologgitas and the other members of the District Lodge were introduced by District Governor Penny Pecka.

**Joint Meeting Highlights:** District Governor Jack Isaac announced several chapters have been submitted candidates for Miss AHEPA. Also a 75 year member of AHEPA, the late brother Alex Vlantess,, name will be honored on the AHEPA Greek Independence Day Parade float . Supreme Councilor Greg Stamos announced **The Symposium Concerning the Mistreatment and Martyrdom of Christians in the Current Middle East and Turkey** will take place in Luce Hall at Yale at 4:00 PM on April 25, 2014. The four professors serving on the panel are experts on the subject. He concluded by saying many Palestinians are Christians and 50 nations of the world Christians are suffering religious b persecution.District Convention Chair George Anagnostos announced the **82<sup>nd</sup> District Convention** will be held at Mainstay Inn, Newport, RI on May 2-3-4, 2014. Convention accommodation and dinner packages are available. They must be submitted by April 1, 2024. DOP District Treasurer Donna Rados invited everyone to The District # 7 Mountain Laurel Derby on April 26, 2014. A NITE AT THE RACES should prove to be a fun filled event. Patrons will be able to bet and view prerecorded races on a wide screen TV. To increase their odds, one can purchase a horse and/or jockey. There will be free food stations, signa-

ture drinks in recognition of the Triple Crown Races, and the possible highlight of the night a Kentucky Derby Ladies Hat Contest. PDG George Rados has authored the first volume of a three volume work of Greek History. The book is digitally produced. A portion of the sales will go to the District Lodges. Completed District Scholarship applications are due April 15, 2014. Application forms are available on line at our website [ahepad7.org](http://ahepad7.org). As of March 1,2014 one completed application has been submitted. The District Scholarship Dinner will be held August 17, 2014 at Holy Trinity Banquet Hall, Waterbury CT. Five Sisters of The Massachusetts DOP Penelope Place Committee attended the conference. Sister Elaine Rice explained the DOP of Massachusetts wished to emulate the Alabama Penelope House for battered women. They discovered they funds needed to start a home was beyond their financial capacity. They located in Brockton, Massachusetts home for victimized women that needed funds. The home accepted \$ 30,000.00 from the DOP, and changed its name to Penelope House. Since that time 15 years ago the DOP of Massachusetts has supported Penelope House with funds and volunteer service.

**AHEPA Spring Conference Meeting:** Assuming all chapters pay their 2014 per capita tax District Treasurer John Melonopoulos projects a District Income of \$ 15,803.00 Eight Chapters have yet to pay their 2014 District obligations. The largest District expenditure is the publication of the Yankee District News. The cost of publishing the Yankee District News is exceeding its income. Possible solutions include increasing revenue and decreasing productions, including changing the format of the publication. Supreme Governor Nick Nikas reported 17 teams initially agreed to participate in the Hellenic History Tournament, however only 14 teams were in the tournament. The HHT generated \$ 7,088.00 income. Scholarship awards, trophies, and administrative costs equaled \$ 5,515.00, leaving a reserve of \$ 1,575.00. District Governor Jack Isaac thanked Supreme Governor Nikas for his

efforts, and unanimously agreed to have an HHT in the autumn of 2014. District # 7 with an increase of 8 members was one of the few District in the United States that saw increase in membership. The chapter with the greatest increase is Meriden. Its membership increased 88%. Supreme Governor Nikas announce that while AHEPA membership has dwindled nationally, our Region 4 increased in membership. Supreme Governor Nikas stated that four chapters of our district donated a combined total of \$ 10,000.00 to the Greek Relief Fund. Other chapters are in the process of fund raising for this very needy charity. The Hellenic Caucus consists of members of House of Representatives and Senate who agree to support the policies favorable to Greece. Both Congressman John B Larson and Senator Chris Murphy have signed resolutions supporting Macedonia's entrance into NATO. The members are asked to contact the Congressman and Senator to educate them of the error of their actions. If they persist AHEPA could decide to withdraw their support of them. Lt. Governor Alex Boutsoulis stated as an organization we need to improve our use of newspapers and other media outlets. We need to publicize both educational and charitable activities. This in turn could help expand our membership among Pan Hellenes who are not of Hellenic extraction. Past Supreme President John Grossomanides reported the Congressional Banquet on Capital Hill will take place March 25, 2014. Admittedly this conflicts with Paidea's Greek Independence Day program in Hartford. If a brother can not attend the Capital Hill Banquet, then attend the celebration in Hartford. It would improve our District's image if we could get at least two dozen marchers for the March 30, Greek Independence Day Parade in New York. Meanwhile ground breaking for St. Nicholas at Ground Zero is scheduled for late 2014. Construction cannot begin until the underground infrastructure for the mass transpiration facilities are completed. **(Conference minutes written by District Secretary Andrew Aros, pictures are on page 5)**



## Important Dates to Remember



- March 30, 2014 - Greek Independence Day Parade , New York City
- April 15, 2014 - District 7 Scholarship Applications are due!
- April 25, 2014 - Situation of Christians in the Middle East @ Luce Hall, 34 Hillhouse Ave. Yale University , New Haven, CT
  - April 26, 2014 - Night at the Races, Waterbury, CT.
  - May 2-4, 2014 - District Convention, Newport R.I.

*Congratulations!*

Kathryn Wyland, a senior at Norwich Free Academy was selected as **Miss Ahepa 2014!** Kathryn is 17 years old and is the daughter of Larry Wyland, a member of the Norwich chapter #110. She was on the winning Hellenic History Tournament team of 2012. Kathryn will participate in the parade festivities in New York on Mar. 30th! Look for pictures in the next issue!



## Salute to Veteran: Peter Argiros

Rank: U.S.A.F. Staff  
Sergeant

During the early 1960's while the draft was still active and in the time of the Vietnam conflict in South East Asia, while attending design school, a draft notice was received from the Government to join the U.S. Army for a tour of duty to Vietnam. Realizing I had another option, I enlisted in the United States Air Force for 4 years of active duty. Once enlisted, I spent the next eight weeks in basic training at Lackland Air force base in San Antonio, Texas. After my basic training period and flight squadron graduation, I received my orders on November 1964 to become part of the Strategic Air Command located at Westover Air Force base, located in Hadley, Massachusetts. I was assigned to the 814 Civil Engineering Squadron, where my duties were working on engineering plans for the base infrastructure improvements, and runway restoration projects. In addition classes on surveying, layout and construction technology were being taken working towards my site developer specialist designation. This tour of duty ended in September 1966 where I was then assigned to Forbes Air Force Base in Topeka, Kansas. The purpose of the next 4 months was to receive combat and physical training being readied to ship out to Vietnam. Training was an endurance period of early morning exercises and physical training along with tactical classes on war and expectations. Early deployment readiness exercises were expected on a weekly basis.

During this period our squadron was able to bond together as we all were going to Cam Rohm Bay, Viet Nam. We were now assigned to the 555<sup>th</sup> Red Horse Squadron known as "triple nickel". This outfit was a Ready Equipment Deployment division for construction development similar to the Army Corp of Engineers and the Navy Sea Bees. Next stop was Cam Rohm Bay, the flight into the air field was somewhat rough and the landing as I remembered it as very bumpy. The AM2 metal landing mats had shifted under heavy loads. Once unloaded we were assigned to the squadron compound where the barracks were canvas tents with side flaps and screens to keep out the sand and mosquitoes. The bunks were placed on wood plank floors. This became home sweet home for the next coming year. A sign was placed after the 1<sup>st</sup> week over the door entry saying, "Son Over Beach", and it was that. As we ended our tour of duty I went on R&R to Sidney Australia. My flight was the first one into to Sidney. Seven days of freedom and women with round eyes! Bondi Beach was beautiful especially with lovely tanned women. What I found out there was a large Greek community in Sidney which allowed me to visit the local club and many Greek restaurants. As a Greek American I was welcomed with open arms as a family member. What lovely memories. Next stop after leaving Viet Nam, I headed home for a 30 day leave. During my leave at home was one memorable event as I met the love of my life

that I am happy to say that 42 years of marriage has been a God's blessing with two beautiful children and two grandchildren to date. After my home leave I had orders for the next seven months to be station to Laredo Air Force Base in Laredo, Texas, which was an air training command. At this duty assignment I met many great friends that still keep in contact with. During my first month at the base I received the Air Force Commendation Metal for outstanding service in Viet Nam. I was placed in the Civil Engineering Squadron working with military veterans and Civilian workers. The chief civilian head architect was of Greek origin. Peter Katsoulas, AIA who had his own personnel practice and office, and once he found out about my abilities offered me part time work designing buildings with him and for the next seven months we worked together day and night. I was discharged September 16, 1968 four years to the day. Now homeward bound for the start of the rest of my life. As you look back you understand that the people you meet in life help mold the person you have become. The things that you have done broaden your perspective and attitude of life. Life continues to allow the many successes ahead.

(Brother Peter is a member of Rose of New England Chapter 110, Norwich, CT)



## A Note from Daughters of Penelope Chapter #41



Hermes Chapter 41 started the year full of energy and purpose. Our opening meeting welcomed many members, an initiation and an 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party for one of our members. Through December, we have initiated three new members! We held our October Pink/Purple meeting for Breast Cancer and Domestic Violence Awareness. With our AHEPANs, we conducted a raffle for a

local cancer charity, Swim Across the Sound. Our Turkey Raffle supporting our scholarship program was a success with five turkeys being raffled. Along with members of the community and our GOYANS, we came together in early December to decorate close to 120 wreaths for our Annual Christmas Wreath and Planter Sale. We also put together boxes of food for 12 families needing help in our community. It was a beautiful day of fellowship and caring. We are now

in full swing of one of our favorite philanthropic activities, the Let's Keep Them Warm Drive. We have collected hats, gloves, scarves, socks and blankets for shelters, street ministries, inner city schools and the local hospital. Over 1,000 items have been collected so far for the cause. Twelve charities have received items so far and we will be collecting through January.

We look forward to 2014 and in continuing our work in our local and parish community with our Acts of Kindness and involvement with a local woman's shelter.



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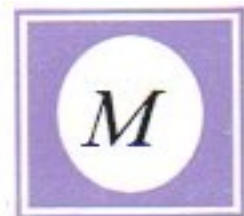
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**STAMFORD AHEPA**

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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