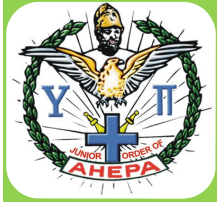




Yankee News



Publication of AHEPA District #7
Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Western Massachusetts
In Continuous Publication Since 1949



December 2020

*Merry Christmas
to You and Your Family*



from the Yankee News Staff





A MESSAGE FROM THE D7 AHEPA GOVERNOR

Dear Brothers,

Thank you for your confidence in electing me, in September, as your District 7 Governor during this tumultuous time in our lives. As a Lodge and as a District Brotherhood of The Order of AHEPA, we will strive to be innovative and bring in new members and welcome back Ahepans

during the COVID-19 pandemic, to continue to project the ideals of AHEPA and help the lives of many.

I want to welcome back Governor Marianne Boutsoulis of the Daughters of Penelope as we look forward in continuing our efforts, during the 2020 - 2021 term, to project the ideals which embrace us.

Many chapters are having Zoom type meetings while all of us should try to communicate with our brothers who are restricted by technological issues during this difficult viral pandemic. We all need to continue to educate the inquisitive as to the ideals of AHEPA and we should always relate the reasons for the establishment of AHEPA, its history, its establishments, the many housing initiatives, its worldwide progress in human rights and justice. I also will also encourage the establishment of Sons of Pericles chapters and hope for the best that chapters keep this mission active.

During the holiday season, we need to continue the new normal and to stay in good health. I wish you all a joyous Christmas season.

With best regards,
Demetrius E. Tasoulas



A MESSAGE FROM THE DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE D7 GOVERNOR

Dear Sisters,

We are now nine months into this awful Corona Virus Pandemic! I miss visiting with your chapters and all the amazing Sisters in them. I hope you and your families are doing well and staying safe.

A few Sisters did participate in our District Convention in September. We went over the budget, had the District books audited, and had wonderful conversations. We reviewed our National Mandatory and Voluntary Projects. An excellent video presentation of these projects can be accessed through the DOP website at:

<https://www.daughtersofpenelope.org/NationalProjects.html>

If you haven't already done so please pay your membership dues. The payments need to be made soon so your Chapter can send payments to National before the end of December. Make your membership count!

The Daughters of Penelope D7 now has a Facebook Page! If you have any events, happenings, or fundraisers that you would like to share please email your information to boutsie5@cox.net. If your chapter has a Facebook Page please let me know as I can share your posts to our District Page.

I thank all the Sisters who purchased Face Masks and supported the District Lodge in our fundraising efforts as we were not able to sell raffle tickets this year. The Face Mask Fundraiser was very successful, we exceeded the amount usually made by selling raffle tickets.

I would like to extend a congratulations to the new AHEPA Governor, Demetrius Tasoulas. I look forward to working with him over the next year.

I wish you and your families a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving and a Very Merry Christmas. I am looking forward to the day we can see each other in person. Until then be well!

In Theta Pi,
Marianne Boutsoulis

Yankee District 7 PDG Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting

Submitted by Greg Simones

The PAC was formed about 3 years ago with the intent to use the "brain trust" and experience of the PDGs to aid the Yankee District Lodge in its mission to serve the brothers and chapters of the district. The PAC met for the first time this year on Thursday November 5th. PDGs Alex Boutsoulis, John Grossomanides, and Greg Simones (Chairman) met via videoconference to discuss a variety of agenda issues. After discussing 7 major issues confronting the district, the PAC landed on two (2) where their activities would be of the most value and assistance. The 2 topics of focus are:

- 1) helping to rebuild, improve, and maintain the D7 website and social media and
- 2) sponsor fundraisers to provide resources for projects or programs that are yet to be determined.

The PAC meets on the first Thursday of each month.

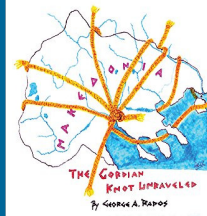
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EDITOR'S NOTES

by Jack Isaac

I begin this Yankee News' Editor's Notes with the tragic news of the passing of my friend and colleague. PSG Frank Fotis, of the Boston Massachusetts Chapter of AHEPA. Bro. Frank was an exceptional man whose life was extraordinary in every way. I had known Frank for a long time working with him on the Tri-District Convention

Committee. He was highly intelligent and a natural leader. When he became Supreme Governor of Region 4, we saw Frank on a regular basis in District 7 attending Chapter meetings, Conferences, Conventions, and social events. Full of energy with a cherubic smile, Frank was always a pleasure to be around. While always a gentleman, Frank was a stickler for proper protocol in dealing with Supreme officers and wouldn't hesitate to let you know if your behavior didn't show them the proper respect their positions deserved. It was Frank who encouraged me to run for Supreme Governor and meticulously presented the duties and responsibilities I would encounter. My five terms as Supreme Governor would not have happened without my friend Frank's confidence in me and his encouragement. It's hard to believe that a man so full of life is no longer with us. My heart goes out to his family and to countless Ahepans who will never know this truly unique man.

At the Oct. meeting of my home chapter in New Britain it was voted to show our support for our Armenian brothers by presenting a donation to the Armenian Relief Fund. We wanted them to know that we stand with them in their struggle against Azerbaijan who is supported by Turkey and a variety of Islamic radicals from around the region. Our gift was also a thank you to the Armenian community for their constant support of our causes. The Armenian community like the Greek and Assyrian communities, has a long history of suffering at the hands of the former Ottoman Empire. Along with the Greeks and Assyrians they have incurred the wrath of those anti-Christian forces. A contingent from the New Britain chapter visited the Armenian church in New Britain. This group, comprised of Bro's Andy Aros, George Rados and I, presented Fr. Kapriel with a modest check and a wish that our communities become united against those who seek to bring an end to religious freedom as we know it.

Finally, on a more whimsical note, one of the things I look forward to each year, along with our Publisher Terry Plumley, is the design of the front page of the Christmas Edition of the Yankee News. This year in particular, with all of the world suffering with the Pandemic, we felt we needed to make a bold statement that would capture everyone's sentiments. We wanted the picture to stand alone without the benefits of text. I hope you have found that we were successful.

On behalf of the entire Yankee News team including John Melonopoulos, Alex Boutsoulos, Greg Simones, Andy Aros, Adele Antoniou, Terry Plumley, and me, we wish you all safe and fulfilling holidays with prayers for better times to come in the New Year.

Letter to the Editor

It is time for our District Convention to revamp its schedule. The following recommendations will improve the pace of the convention and hopefully improve attendance. There is no need for all District Lodge Officers to make reports. There should be a "State of The District" report by the District Governor and a Financial Report by the District Treasurer. The other reports would be eliminated.

The second recommendation would require all chapters to submit a written "End of the Year Report." In March the District Governor requests all chapters to prepare end of the year chapter reports. The Governor includes guide lines of subjects he wishes the chapters to emphasize in their reports. At the convention, every chapter which submitted a written report, is allowed to speak to the delegates, explaining ONE past year's most important activity. In addition, the uniform reporting process will provide the District Lodge with an improved method of selecting the Chapter of the Year.

Andy Aros

Editor's response:

Brother Andy, This will be brought to the attention of the District Lodge. Thanks for writing!

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Patricia A. Martin

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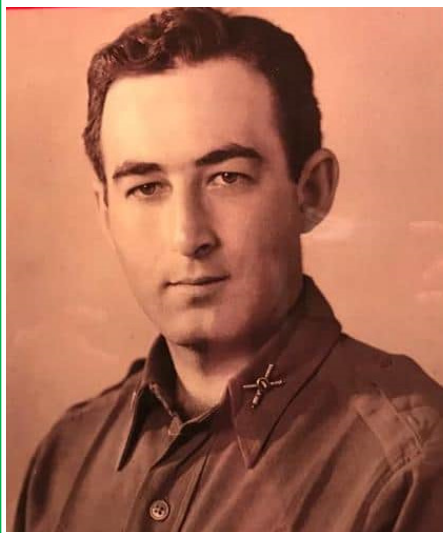
Compliments,

Brother
Fred
Stavropoulos



Brother
Nicholas
Stavropoulos

Salute to a Veteran ~ Sperie Perakos



Sperie Perakos, PDG, was awarded the Legion d'Honneur by the French government at a ceremony in Orange, Connecticut on October 29, 2020. The French "Legion of Honor" is the highest honor awarded to a civilian and was created by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802 to recognize women and men for acts of exceptional achievement for the Republic of France and her people.

Sperie, graduate of Yale University, past District Governor of D7, distinguished Life Member of AHEPA and parishioner of St. Barbara Church in Orange, was honored by the French Deputy Consul, Damian Laban, for his service and courage as part of the Allied Forces in World War II. Sperie was a Captain and Combat Intelligence Officer in the 448th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion, landing in France with General George Patton's Third Army as part of the Normandy invasion. They marched across France and secured vital territory, helping to liberate St. Mere l'eglise, one of the first territories freed by the American Army. For that, the Mayor of the village presented Sperie with the Coat of Arms of the city. Sperie went on to serve behind the enemy lines in reconnaissance and surveillance, assisting the French army and insurgents in battling Nazi troops.

Sperie accepted this great honor stating, "With deep humility, I share the French Legion of Honor with my comrades in arms – in Normandy, 1944 – our Thermopylae. With unabating sadness, I further share this significant honor with those of us, who, today, lie in France – under white crosses and stars of David – MY ETERNAL BAND OF BROTHERS!"

Deputy Consul General Laban presented this distinguished medal to Sperie at his home with a ceremony attended by a small group of dignitaries and friends. Major Patrick W. Dugan, Retired, U.S. Army, whose father Staff Sergeant William Dugan served with Sperie at Normandy, drove from Ohio to present Sperie with the American flag. Symbolically, Major Dugan and Deputy Consul Laban sprinkled soil from Utah Beach under Sperie's feet, indicating that "the people of France now trod on soil liberated by the Allied Forces".

Yale University was represented by Thomas C. Duffy, composer, Professor of Music and Director of the University Band, and by Adrian Bonenberg, '02, who served in Afghanistan and is president of the Yale Veteran's Association. Other guests were Allison Fox, spouse of a deceased Yale classmate, Joe Fox, both of whom served in WWII; George Kaouris, a St. Barbara parishioner whose family was under the Italian occupation in the island of Cephalonia; and Gregory J. Stamos, a longtime friend, representing his father, Peter Stamos, who served in the Battle of the Bulge. As past Supreme Counselor of the Order of AHEPA, Stamos spoke of Sperie's decades of service to AHEPA and to his Orthodox faith, "providing a constant example of leadership and dedication to all who served with him".

Stamos was asked by Sperie's devoted spouse, Nikki, to describe the mission of the Order of AHEPA since its inception almost a century ago, evolving from combating bigotry and advancing the life of immigrants to a current mission of philanthropy, service and freedom for all. Deputy Consul Laban noted that the nation of France shares common values with Greece and the Order of AHEPA, "Liberte, Egalite, Fraternite".

District 7 Convention Submitted by Greg Simones

District 7 Convention, Hilton Mystic, Mystic, CT, September 19, 2020: Twenty-three (23) AHEPANs attended the Convention, which was limited in attendance and duration due to COVID-19. Our honored guest in attendance was AHEPA Region 4 Supreme Governor Jack Isaac. AHEPA elections resulted in the following slate of officers for 2020-2021: District 7 Governor Demetrius Tasoulas, Lt. Gov. Evangelos Hadjimichael, Secretary John Fakis, Treasurer Alex Boutsoulis, PDG. Major issues discussed were: a comprehensive district strategy for Hellenic Affairs, a proposal that Convention City fees should apply to chapters every year except every during NERC years (every third year), and a proposal that the District support an athletic scholarship at the National level through our Scholarship Foundation.

Awards were presented for the AHEPAN of the Year: Alex Boutsoulis, PDG; Chapter of the Year: New Britain, CT Elpis 117; Hellene of the Year: Anna-Helene Grossomanides, PGP; and Entrepreneur of the Year: A.C. "Dean" Macris. An recognition certificate was presented to Greg Stamos from the Yankee News staff for his longstanding financial support of the District publication.

Four (4) Daughters of Penelope gathered to meet but not in a formal District Convention setting due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The officers of the District 7 Daughters of Penelope will remain the same. Governor Marianne Boutsoulis and past D7 Daughters Governor Anna-Helene Grossomanides were instrumental during the registration process and helping to keep everyone safe. Thanks to all who participated safely and proved meetings of this type could be done.



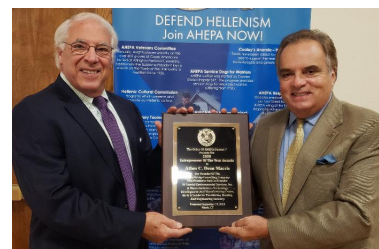
Ahepan of the Year, Alex Boutsoulis



Hellene of the Year, Anna-Helene Grossomanides



D7 President Marianne Boutsoulis receives Special Recognition Award



Entrepreneur of the Year, Dean Macris



Seated: John Melonopoulos, DG; Jack Isaac, SG; John Grossomanides, PSP; **Standing:** Terry Mitchell, PSS; Rick Semon, Sen. Lou Raptakis (RI); Ioannis Apostolokis; Vagos Hadjimichael; George Grossomanides; Manny Cosmas; Tony Vallombroso; George Bouzakis; George Ververis; John Fakis; Andy Aros; Greg Stamos, PSC; Demetrius Tasoulas, Lt. Gov.; Tony Petros, PDG; Paul Velezis; Alex Boutsoulis, PDG; George Scarveles, PSG; Greg Simones, PDG



Swearing-in of the new 2021 officers

Dr. John Grossomanides
Past Supreme President
AHEPA
&
Anna-Helene
Grossomanides
Past Grand President
Daughters of Penelope

A valued AHEPA mentor once told me, "You get out of AHEPA what you put into it".

I believe you get more. Get active in your chapters today!



Gregory C. Simones, PDG



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Eptahorian
Saint George Society
Founded in Nashua, NH in 1903
Since its inception, June 3, 1924, Greek-Americans from Eptahori, Greece have taken an active role in AHEPA Chapter 48 of Waterbury, Connecticut. Currently, over forty Eptahorians are also involved fraternally in the AHEPA and Daughters of Penelope.



To the outside world, we all grow old. But not to our brothers and sisters. To them we will live eternal.

Eugenia M. Christy

Eugenia Christy, 75, of Worcester, died Wednesday, September 9th in UMass Medical Center. She is survived by her sister, Stacey Christy-Terrio and her husband, Victor of Buzzards Bay; her niece, Helena A. Terrio and close friends, Karen Forsberg and Robert Healy.

Eugenia was born in Worcester, the daughter of Charles J. and Alice G. (Gouveris) Christy. She had been employed by Holy Trinity Nursing and Rehabilitation Center as a bookkeeper for many years and was active as a volunteer at many of their events. Eugenia was a long time member of the Daughters of Penelope Theano Chapter No. 122 at St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Cathedral and a member of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church.

Memorial contributions may be made to Holy Trinity Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, 300 Barber Avenue, Worcester, MA 01606 or to St. Nicholas Orthodox Church Building Fund.

Nikolaos Zikos

Nikolaos Zikos, 75, of Orange, passed away peacefully at home September 24, 2020 with his family by his side. He was the husband of Fedra Diamantis Zikos.

Nikolaos was born in Sisano, Kozani, Greece on September 28, 1944 a son of the late George and Aikaterini Komnaris Zikos. He worked as a fork lift operator for Bic in Milford until his retirement. Besides his wife Nikolaos is survived by his son, George (Christina) Zikos; two daughters, Angie (Nick) Haskos and Keti Zikos; a sister, Aspacia Koukoufikas; and his five grandchildren, Athanasia, Nikolaos, Panagiotis, Zoe, and Alexa.

He was a longtime member of St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church and a long-time member of AHEPA Chapter 98, New Haven. Memorial donations may be made in his memory to St. Barbara Church or to a charity of your choice.

AHEPA Strongly Condemns Turkey's Encroachment on Greece's Continental Shelf

In August, Turkey resumed energy exploration in the Eastern Mediterranean after Greece and Egypt signed a controversial maritime delimitation deal. Declaring the Greek-Egyptian deal "null and void," Turkey authorized activities in an area within the continental shelf.

Turkey has consistently opposed Greece's efforts to declare an exclusive economic zone based on small islands near Turkey, the country with the longest coastline on the Mediterranean.

The Oruc Reis together with two other vessels, the Ataman and Cengiz Han, conduct various geological, geophysical, hydrographic and oceanographic surveys, especially on the continental shelf, while also searching for natural resources.

The presence of Oruc Reis in the East Mediterranean Sea have again led to a standoff of Greek and Turkish military forces. Athens has warned that it is considering all possible scenarios, including military ones, to protect its sovereign rights. The Greek Armed Forces have been set on high alert and the General Staff published for the first time pictures of the Navy fleet monitoring the Turkish flotilla escorting the Oruc Reis. As Turkish warships are escorting the Oruc Reis, the Greek Navy has also deployed warships in the area off Kastellorizo, with the naval forces of the two countries lined up against each other.

SP George G. Horiates has issued the following statement:

"AHEPA strongly condemns Turkey's announced plan to conduct seismic surveys by encroaching upon Greece's continental shelf off the coast of the Greek island of Kastellorizo. The advisory issued by Turkey, which violates international law, and has placed Greece's armed forces on high alert, lasts until August 20.

Turkey's act destabilizes the Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean to the great concern of the American Hellenic community and diaspora. The region has become a tinderbox due to Turkey's blatant hostilities, which are dangerous and unnecessarily place lives in harm's way and are not in the United States' best interests.

We registered our alarm and concern about Turkey's action directly with the U.S. Department of State and requested the matter be addressed immediately by the U.S. government. The State Department's urging Turkish authorities to halt its operations is welcomed. However, any reference to Greece's continental shelf as "disputed waters" is simply unacceptable, erroneous, and runs contrary to repeated statements made by U.S. Ambassador to Greece Geoffrey Pyatt that Greek islands are entitled to continental shelf and exclusive economic zone (EEZ), as recently as last week.

We continue to be alarmed by Turkey's overall and repeated provocative and aggressive behavior that shuns American values, challenges American security interests, and threatens NATO allies and strategic partners of the United States in the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East. We echo the repeated calls for the United States and European Union to hold Turkey responsible for its provocations and hostile actions through the imposition of sanctions in the name of peace, justice, and stability."





What reaction has there been worldwide?


- Greece's **European allies** have largely backed its position, although the EU and Germany are pushing for dialogue.
- **French President Emmanuel Macron** has given Cyprus and Greece his full backing, condemning Turkey's "violations of their sovereignty". As tensions escalated, France said it was temporarily deploying a frigate and two Rafale fighter jets in the area for joint naval maneuvers with Greece.
- **The US** has called for the two sides to talk and NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg has called for the situation to be "resolved in a spirit of Allied solidarity in accordance with international law".
- **Germany's Angela Merkel** is seen as key to taking the heat out of the crisis and has talked to the leaders of both Turkey and Greece.

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Yankee District 7 Scholarship Awards Dinner in Waterbury, CT

Submitted by Greg Simones

Nineteen (19) college students received \$20,000 in scholarships at a dinner hosted by AHEPA Chapter 48 (Paul Velezis, President) and DOP Chapter 199 Deucalion (Gina Kotsaftis, President), on August 16, 2020. The event was held at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. Education co-chairs, Manny Cosmas and Sofia Ricciardi-Swaby, oversaw the scholarship selection process and presented scholarships to twelve (12) of the students present at the event.

Governor Marianne Boutsioulis (DOP) and Lt. Governor Demetrius Tasoulas (AHEPA) addressed the gathering. The program was chaired and emceed by Penny Pecka, PDG, Secretary of the Yankee District 7 Foundation. The blessing was given by Fr. Nikolaos Mataragas. The Yankee District #7 Foundation manages the investments that generate the money for these scholarships. The officers of the Foundation are Dr. John Grossomanides, PSP, President; Evangelos Hadjimichael, Vice President; Penny Pecka, PDG, Secretary; and Alex Boutsioulis, PDG, Treasurer.

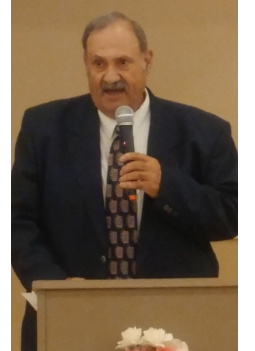
Thanks for all who donate their time to make this a yearly reality and for overcoming the additional hurdles 2020 presented us. Congratulations to the latest group of scholars for their many accomplishments. We wish you success!



Scholarship recipients shown with Penny Pecka, Father Nikolaos Mataragas, Demetrius Tasoulas, Alex and Marianne Boutsioulis.



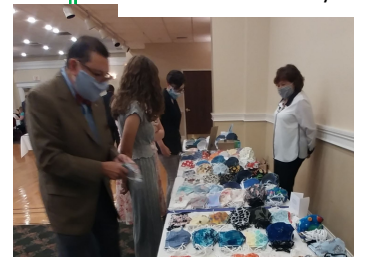
President Gina Kotsaftis



Manny Cosmas



Sofia Ricciardi-Swaby



Dr. Steve and Colette Polezonis peruse COVID masks in the banquet facility of Holy Trinity

Students were awarded the following named scholarships:

Mary & Angelo Pappas:

- George Antonellis, New Haven AHEPA #98;
- Claudia DeMatteis, Waterbury DOP #199;
- Gabriella Gagas, Waterbury AHEPA #48;
- Elias Manos, New Britain AHEPA #117;
- Aniela Olbrys, Waterbury AHEPA #48;
- Colette Polezonis, New Britain AHEPA #117;
- Marina Setaro, Waterbury AHEPA #48;
- Amanda Tougas, Hartford DOP #198.

Dino Macricostas:

- Micaela Gagas, Waterbury AHEPA #48;
- Stylianos Mysirlidis, Norwalk AHEPA #387;
- Zoe Olbrys, Waterbury AHEPA #48;
- Irene Soterios, New Britain AHEPA #117;

Yankee District #7 Foundation:

- Michael Antonellis, New Haven AHEPA #98;
- James Christodoulos, New Britain AHEPA #117;
- George Zugravu, Hartford AHEPA #98.

Peter E. Mitchell Memorial: Olivia Pappas, Danielson AHEPA #417;

Constantine Simones Memorial: Stacey Tasoulas, New London AHEPA #250;

Daughters of Penelope District Lodge #7: Alexandra Koulouris, Waterbury DOP #199;

Board of Directors Yankee District #7: Katerina Spanolios, New Haven AHEPA #98



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Announcement!!!! 2021 Yankee District 7 Education Scholarship Reminder

2021 Yankee District 7 Education Scholarship application forms will be available on the District 7 website (www.ahepad7.org) around the beginning of 2021. The District Scholarship Awards dinner will be held at Holy Trinity Church in Waterbury on June 13, 2020. We encourage interested students and parents to apply early (the deadline is April 15th) and be sure to follow instructions to the letter. Improperly completed forms will be rejected. Please ask your AHEPA and DOP chapter representatives or lodge members for information and assistance.

Education co-chairs, Manny Cosmas and Sofia Ricciardi-Swaby, oversee the scholarship and selection process. The Yankee District #7 Foundation manages investments that generate funding for the scholarships. The officers of the Foundation are Dr. John Grossomanides, PSP, President; Evangelos Hadjimichael, Vice President; Penny Pecka, PDG, Secretary; and Alex Boutsoulis, PDG, Treasurer.



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https://ahepa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Ahepa_ApplicationForm_fillable.pdf

https://www.daughtersofpenelope.org/pdfs/Membership_Application.pdf



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1500 BC
Mycenaean
Mask



1150 BC
Ruins of Dorian
Invasion



750 BC
Homer



450 BC
Pericles



45 BC
Cleopatra

The 12th Annual Hellenic History Tournament Sponsored by Yankee District #7

WHAT

- ☆ A \$1,000 prize for each member of the winning team (x 3 = \$3,000)
- ☆ A 500 prize for each member of the second team (x 3 = \$1,500)

WHO

- ☆ Any student who is in grades 8-12 in the 2020-21 academic year and who has not won two previous Northeast tournaments or one International tournament.
- ☆ Who is sponsored by an AHEPA chapter or other Hellenic organization; and
- ☆ Who wants to learn about the 3,500 year history of the Hellenes (Greek speakers)



HOW

- ☆ Form or join a three-student team and secure AHEPA chapter sponsorship
- ☆ Register by February 28, 2021 (mail registration form + \$25 or \$10)
- ☆ Receive a book on Hellenic history that also provides bibliography for further reading
- ☆ Prepare by reading it and other books during the summer
- ☆ Take part in a one-day quiz-show-type hybrid single-elimination tournament in the fall
- ☆ Win matches by answering more multiple-choice questions than the competing team
- ☆ Be a member of the teams that advance to the final match

WHEN

- ☆ Saturday, May 15, 2021 at 11:30 am to about 4:30 pm

WHERE

- ☆ St. Barbara Church, 480 Racebrook Road in Orange, CT 06477

Additional Information

- ☆ Nicholas Nikas, 203-554-5570, niketes@yahoo.com, or
- ☆ www.ahepad7.org

Please help get teams formed, volunteer to be a coach, or a helper at the event.



250 AD
Diophantus



620 AD
Heracilus



950 AD
Constantine VII
Porphyrogenetus



1300 AD
Andronicus II
Palaeologus



1610 AD
Domenikos
Theotokopoulos
(El Greco)



1960 AD
Makarios



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Waterbury Chapter 48 - News

Submitted by Alex Boutsoulis

On Sunday, September 13, 2020, Waterbury AHEPA Chapter 48 had its 24th annual golf tournament at the Hawks Landing Club in Southington, CT. The annual tournament, which had over 96 golfers participate this year (highest level ever), has raised approximately \$225,000 for the AHEPA Chapter 48 Scholarship Fund over its twenty-four-year history.



Waterbury "Ta Nea"

- ☆ David Gagag graduated from St. Lawrence University (SLU) with a Bachelor Degree in English and Business. He played basketball at SLU for 3 years. David, who has taken a job in New York City with BrightEdge as a Sales Development Representative, is the son of John and Janet Gagag.
- ☆ Eleni Tsetsos graduated from Southern CT State University with a BS in Sports Management. Eleni, who is planning to attend graduate school is the daughter of Michael and Despina Tsetsos.

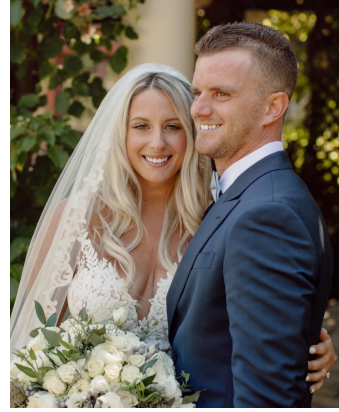


Congratulations to the recent newlyweds!

- ☆ James Crowell and Karina Walcott were married June 26, 2020 in Watertown, CT. James is the son of John and Joanne Crowell of Watertown, CT.
- ☆ Maria Albini and Matt Costa were married September 19, 2020 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Waterbury, CT. Maria is the daughter of Raymond and Penny Albini of Middlebury, CT.
- ☆ Rick Pecka and Kristen Harold were married October 17, 2020 at St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church in Orange, CT. Rick is the son of Dick and Penny Pecka of Waterbury, CT. Rick is a former Sons of Pericles National President and has served on the AHEPA District 7 Lodge as a Sons of Pericles Advisor and District 7 Scholarship Chairman.



Walcott ~ Crowell



Albini ~ Costa



Harold ~ Pecka

New Haven Chapter 98 News Submitted by E. Hadjimichael

Thanks to 21st century technology, the chapter has been active and ticking through the pandemic months. Monthly meetings take place on Zoom, as has the most recent meeting of the Board of Governors on September 27. We were also fortunate to have two outdoors physical meetings recently. It is remarkable what optimism rises up when Ahepans get together, when brotherhood and compassion prevail in fraternal relations and interactions. On September 11, the chapter held its third annual golf tournament, partnered by the Saint Barbara Church parish. The day-long event was fully subscribed with several sponsors and 98 golfers participating. Once again, Brother Jim Bitzonis had the lead role organizing the event. The participants enjoyed end-of-summer weather, and ended the day with a fine meal and a raffle drawing. A portion of the revenue from this event was donated to Saint Barbara church, with the balance slated to support the Chapter's scholarship fund.



George, Vagos, Angelo, and Anthony

On Thursday October 8, chapter brothers gathered at Hopps Beer Garden in Derby for a relaxed evening with pizza and beer. This gathering was balm on the anxiety we all feel in the midst of a pandemic; it was a time of peace and quiet satisfaction.

The chapter's support of veterans housed in the Harkness House continues unabated. Household goods are delivered bimonthly to Harkness to partially alleviate needs of the residents as they prepare for relocation to permanent housing and jobs. The Veterans committee (Manny Cosmas, Chris Hadjimichael, and George Scarveles) completed the October delivery, and is preparing for a year-end delivery in December. Brothers from all chapters in D7 are invited to assist Chapter 98 in the veterans project which truly reflects AHEPA's shared sense of purpose. If interested in offering support, contact George Scarveles at George@ctbsllc.com.

The Chapter 98 investment fund was recently the beneficiary of a donation of stock shares from Brother Sperie Perakos and his wife Nikki. In grateful recognition of the Perakos' generosity, Chapter 98 voted to name in perpetuity one of its annual college scholarships the AHEPA "Sperie Perakos Scholarship".

Chapter 98 is sponsoring the AHEPA Essay Contest for high school and college students again this year with monetary prizes for first and second place winners in two categories. Students from the St. Barbara Church community are eligible to participate. In addition to participating and hosting the Hellenic History Tournament for the last ten years, the chapter established the annual essay contest as another way to bring AHEPA to the attention of the very young in our community, and excite them about AHEPA principles and values.

It is with great sorrow that we said goodbye to brother Nikolas Zikos, member of Chapter 98 since 1972. The Chapter offers condolences to wife Fedra and the entire Zikos family. May his memory be eternal.

This year, 2020, will surely be remembered for the extraordinary civic strife and the COVID-19 pandemic, crises that tended to sap the nation's energy, creativity and accomplishments. May the dust settle in 2021 and we all forge forward with our customary good will for all and determination to be the best that we can be.



Proud of its members' immigrant roots;
Proud to have celebrated its 90th Anniversary in March 2016;
Proud chapter of AHEPA District 7.



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New Britain Chapter 117 News

Elpis Chapter Donates to Armenian Relief

Submitted by Andy Aros



In September control of Nagorno-Karabakh region of the South Caucasus resulted in renewed fighting between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The majority of the population of the region identify themselves as are Armenian. Azerbaijani troops have relied on strike drones and long range rocket systems supplied by Turkey, have trying to reclaim control of the region. Many of the victims are targeted "civilian populations or non-military objects" forcing more than 90,000 civilians or 60% of the region's population to flee the area.

November 2, 2020 Supreme Governor Jack Isaac, PDG George Rados, and Corresponding Secretary Andy Aros presented New Britain Chapter # 117 's donation of \$ 499.00 for the Armenian Relief Fund to Father Kapriel Mouradjian of the Holy Resurrection Armenian Orthodox Church of New Britain. The money will be forwarded to the Armenian Patriarchate in Armenia for distribution to needy war victims.

Respect Given at Giannitsa, Sister City of Cpt. 117

Submitted by George Rados

On October 19 and 20th 1912, the Greek army fought a two-day hard battle by our sister city of Giannitsa against the Ottoman Turks. The achieved victory not only liberated the city, it also opened the road to Thessaloniki which surrendered without any further blood shed! This year marked the 118th anniversary and, although due to COVID-19 there was no parade made, wreaths were placed at the commemorating statue for the fallen heroes and memorial services were given in every Church of the city!



On behalf of our AHEPA Chapter, the Pan-Macedonian Society, and the Sister Cities Fellowship of New Britain, brother G. A. Rados made sure that the appropriate number of wreaths were placed by fellow citizens of Giannitsa.

Hartford Daughters of Penelope Chapter 198 News

Submitted by Maria K. Tougas



During the Pandemic, the Thoas Chapter 198 DOP "Warriors" have marched on and have been very busy! During the Spring, the Warriors held Zoom meetings every month to keep up with their work and social events. This past June, they awarded Scholarships to two very deserving young women recipients, Claudia Dijmarescu (pictured here with her mom, Sister Elena Argintaru) and Madelyn Yaakob.



In September, new officers were initiated in an outdoor meeting held on the Church's back Patio (top photo) and Chapter President Sister Maria Tougas and Sister Elisa Marotta attended the District 7 Annual Convention in Mystic CT on September 17. This Fall, the Warriors held a very successful Fall Fundraiser, in which 6 beautifully themed baskets were auctioned off after Church on November 1. The baskets were chock full of goodies and were all smartly named based on their themes, and were called; "Back to School Survival, Faith and Hope, Evening of Relaxation, Welcoming Baby, Five O'clock Somewhere Wine Basket and Its Greek to Me."



AHEPA DISTRICT SEVEN LODGE

The 2019 - 2020 Yankee District 7 Lodge is working for you! Please support the Lodge by providing Chapter information & events!

- Demetrius E. Tasoulas – Governor
- Evangelos Hadjimichael – Lt. Governor
- John Fakis – Secretary
- Alex Boutsoulis – Treasurer
- Jack Isaac – Marshall, Region 4 Supreme Governor
- Andrew Aros – Warden
- John Melonopoulos – Advisor
- Greg Stamos, PSC – Athletic Co-Advisor
- Alex Boutsoulis, PDG – Athletic Co-Advisor
- Emanuel Cosmas – Education Chair

Meriden Daughters of Penelope Priam Chapter News

Submitted by Margaret Curtis

This has been a year quite out of the ordinary! Our last meeting was held in March, which was well attended. The plans made here have all been cancelled for the rest of the year due to COVID-19, but our Christmas charity is not. We support the Meriden Food Pantry again this year.

Stay safe, wear a mask, social-distance and wash your hands! Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy, SAFE New Year.

We are looking towards 2021 as a better year!

el

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

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 Lt. Governor - vacant
 Secretary - Donna Rados, PDG
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The "H" in AHEPA Stands for Hellenism

The Greek OXI (ochi - NO) day of October 28th, 1940

Submitted by Yiannis Apostolakis

Pawtucket Chapter 121 President; Hellenic Affairs Co-Chair District 7

The years before 1940 were very difficult for Europe. German dictator Adolf Hitler had plans to make Germany the only world power by attacking other countries in Europe. Soon several European countries, including Austria, Poland, France, Belgium and others were his allies. Only England and (among the Balkan countries) Greece and (the then) Yugoslavia were still free!

His ally, Italian dictator Benito Mussolini wanted to use Greece as an opportunity to show Hitler a quick victory. On August 15, 1940, the day Orthodox Christians celebrate the Dormition of the Holy Mother, the Italians secretly sent a submarine to torpedo a Greek frigate at the island of Tinos. Many sailors died and at that time Greeks knew that war was inevitable, but Greece continued to keep its neutrality.

The Greek government tried every possible way to avoid going at war. However, this was about to change. In the very early hours of October 28, the Italian ambassador to Greece, Gratsi went to the home of the Greek Prime Minister Ioannis Metaxas, woke him up and asked for free entrance of the Italian armed forces into Greece. He immediately gave a negative reply, in French, approximately as: "Alors, c'est la guerre!" and with him the Hellenic people answered "OXI" (NO!). Metaxas immediately called King George, and they called a war cabinet council. They informed the Greek citizens via radio broadcasts and extra newspaper editions. The war started early in the morning, around 5:30 AM. The war began, the sirens did sound, the enemy planes flew over the skies of Greece, and the Italian army, invading through Albania, was on Greek land. Greece had just entered the second World War. The following announcement was made on the radio:

"The Italian forces attack, since 5:30 this morning, our own troops at the Hellenic-Albanian borderline. Our forces defend our homeland". The days that followed, fierce battles along the mountain range of Pindus broke out. The Greek people responded with decisiveness and rushed to enlist in the army voluntarily. What might have seemed to Mussolini as an easy operation soon turned out to be a nightmare. The Greek general, Maj. Gen. H. Katsimitros, in charge of defending Epirus, send the following orders to his troops:

"We fight against a cunning and coward enemy, who suddenly attacked us without a pretext in order to subjugate us. We fight for our houses, our families and our freedom. Officers and enlisted men, keep your positions steadily and decisively looking forward, since in a short time we are going to counter-attack in order to throw out the enemy from our native soil that gets infected by their presence"...

Soon Greece started a counter-attack and forced the Italian army back deep into Albania (November 14, 1940 - January 6, 1941). The North Epirotan cities (under Albano-Italian occupation) of Sts. Saranta, Argyrokastron, Heimara, Korytsa, Tepeleni (and others) were liberated! It was a very harsh winter. Greek Epirotan women volunteered to carry supplies up the Pindos mountains to the troops in deep snow along goat-paths and almost impassable gorges. Greek soldiers had to fight both freezing cold temperatures and hunger as well as the Italian army. These events led Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister of England, to say, *"the world will no longer say that Greeks fight as heroes, but heroes fight as Greeks"*.

Adolf Hitler, unwilling to allow Italy, his major ally, to be humiliated, attacked both Yugoslavia and Greece on April 6, 1941. The Greeks had to fight Italy and Germany simultaneously. Resistance in Yugoslavia quickly collapsed. For weeks the Greeks fought the Germans at a line of underground forts, called the *Metaxa* line, between Greece and Bulgaria, but they had to face three fronts simultaneously - Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and Albania - with only a token of a "helping hand" from the English, with some Australian and New Zealand poorly equipped forces as allies fighting with them. With German troops, German tanks, artillery pieces, and daily bombardment by German planes, Germans entered Greece and German soldiers raised the swastika flag over the Acropolis in Athens on April 27, 1941.

The fight continued on the island of Crete, where Greeks, British, New Zealanders and Australians defended the island against German paratroopers. When Crete fell to German hands, despite the heroic fight of its people, the Greek government and whatever was left of the Army moved to Egypt.

People in Greece suffered through a very cruel occupation which cost hundreds of thousands of lives. Many of them joined the resistance in fighting the Germans and destroying their supplies, ammunitions and war equipment or disrupting their supply lines. Daily life was very hard, with limited food and the fear of death or imprisonment. Thousands of Greeks died from starvation or imprisonment and executions for fighting against the Germans. People were not allowed out of their homes during the night. They were also not allowed to listen to any radio news other than German news. This did not take their hope for freedom away and in October of 1944 Greece was free again!

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE GREEK CONTRIBUTION

The Greek heroism, against all odds was the first glimmer of hope for the allies. The axis... was not invincible after all. Perhaps the most important contribution of the Greeks to the victory in World War II was that, by trying to subdue the Greeks, Hitler wasted five precious weeks before invading Russia. As fate would have it, winter in Russia came early in 1941. The last three weeks in October - with heavy rain, snow showers, damp and penetrating mists - made movement impossible two days out of three. The Russians were able to counterattack and push the Germans back to Germany.

Today we celebrate October 28 to give the proper honor and respect to those who, against all odds, were the first to give hope of allied victory in World War II. Their epic achievements should be an everlasting example of sacrifice and pride for us, being their descendants. In addition, we should always have in our hearts the Greeks of Albania who, even today, under very challenging conditions struggle every day to maintain their Greek heritage and culture as well as their Orthodox faith. Let's all take a moment to pay our respects and honor those who fought and gave everything they had, including their own lives, for the love of Freedom, Hellenism and Western values!

"Thank you to AHEPA and the Daughters of Penelope for supporting, encouraging and inspiring the Youth of our Community."

~
Angie and Ted Augustinos

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Hagia Sofia and us, the Greeks, Greek Americans and the Philhellenes

Submitted by Yiannis Apostolakis, Pawtucket Chapter 121 President, D7 Hellenic Affairs Co-Chair
Brothers and Sisters of District 7,

In 1453, the Ottoman Turks conquered Constantinople, the cradle of Orthodox Christianity, while Western Christians looked the other way. On July 10, 2020, Constantinople fell again – at 20:53 p.m. Turkish time (1453 + 600 years = 2053!). Turkey’s President Erdogan celebrated the conversion of Hagia Sofia Church, the jewel of Christianity, to a mosque to start functioning on July 24. This was the exact day in 1923 when the Lausanne treaty was signed governing the status of the Aegean Sea and Greek islands to declare that the treaty which Turkey signed is invalid!

Since 1934, by order of Kemal Ataturk, the Hagia Sophia had been a museum where it was open for all to visit with no religious activities allowed. Built as the great Christian cathedral of the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire in 537, it was the seat of the ecumenical patriarch of Constantinople. In 1204, it was converted by the Fourth Crusade to a Roman Catholic cathedral under the Latin Empire, before being restored to an Orthodox cathedral upon the reestablishment of the Eastern Roman Empire in 1261. When Constantinople was conquered by the Ottoman Empire in 1453, it was converted to a mosque. In 1935, it was secularized into a museum. On July 10, 2020, a Turkish court ruling revoked the monument's status as a museum and a subsequent decree of the President of Turkey ordered the reclassification of Hagia Sophia as a mosque.

The building was constructed between 532 and 537 on the orders of the Roman emperor Justinian as the third Church of the Holy Wisdom to occupy the site. It was designed by the Greek geometers Isidore of Miletus and Anthemius. It remained the world's largest cathedral for nearly a thousand years, until Seville Cathedral was completed in 1520. The church was dedicated to the Wisdom of God, the Logos, the second person of the Trinity, its patronal feast taking place on December 25, the commemoration of the birth of the incarnation of the Logos in Christ. Although sometimes referred to as *Sancta Sophia* (as though it were named after Sophia the Martyr), Sophia is the phonetic spelling in Latin of the Greek word for wisdom. Its full name in Greek is *Ναός της Αγίας του Θεού Σοφίας*, Naos tis Hagias tou Theou Sophias, "*Shrine of the Holy Wisdom of God*". The church housed a large collection of relics and featured a 15-metre (49 ft) silver iconostasis. The Hagia Sofia has been a focal point of the Eastern Orthodox Church for nearly one thousand years.

Hagia Sophia is famous for the light that reflects everywhere in the interior of the nave, giving the dome the appearance of hovering above. This effect was achieved by inserting forty windows around the base of the original structure. Moreover, the insertion of the windows in the dome structure lowers its weight.

On this insult to Christianity, and especially to Orthodox Christianity, one more time the western Christian world was more concerned to be politically correct rather than to upset the Turks! The real challenge here is what this means to us – Greeks, Greek Americans and Philhellenes in this country. For how long are we willing to wait in the false hope that others will fight our battles? If this insult was targeting Israelis, Turks, Italians, Irish, Armenians, Chinese or Albanians what would their response be? Are we any less worthy when compared to them?

Where are the Greeks, Greek Americans and Philhellenes? Why so few voices? Have we become part of the “melting pot” and have we really forgotten who we are? Have we forgotten a few things such as

The slaughter of Orthodox Christians by Ottoman Turks? The genocide of the Pontian Greeks, Armenians and Assyrians?

The destruction of Smyrna? The invasion of Cyprus and the massive killings and rapes?

The clear and present danger of Turkey wanting to make the Mediterranean a Turkish lake?

The slaughter of Christians by the jihadists in the Middle East? The rise of fanatic and oftentimes militant Islam?

The constant blackmail of Europe with waves of immigrants unknown origin by Turkey?

Are we at peace that we fought the good fight and that we have tried to make a difference in defending Hellenism? Brothers and Sisters, please understand in your heart, that unless us - Greeks, Greek Americans and Philhellenes make a stand for our values and our heritage, nobody will rise in support of our causes!

I remember from the Greek Revolution of 1821 against the Turks the story of Papaflessas – a priest who took arms to liberate Greece from the Turks. When Ibrahim Pasha invaded the Peloponnese in 1825 (with an army consisted mostly by Egyptians), Papaflessas gathered a few hundreds of poorly armed men and went to the hills of Maniaki in order for him to have a better view of the enemy's movements and there Papaflessas established three lines of defense. On June 1, 1825, Ibrahim's forces led by well-trained French officers attacked Papaflessas' defense lines. Papaflessas continued to fight the Egyptians with a small force of 800-1000 men loyal to him and his cause .

Papaflessas knew that in choosing to face Ibrahim he would die on the battlefield. His defenses were ultimately broken by the heavy bombardment of Ibrahim's artillery and the repeated attacks of his infantry and cavalry. Fierce hand-to-hand fighting ended with the death of the last defender. After Papaflessa's death from a bullet in the chest, Ibrahim ordered that his body be cleaned of blood and dirt and tied to a tree. After a few minutes, Ibrahim walked up to the corpse and kissed it on the cheek as a sign of respect. In speaking of Papaflessas after his death, it is said that Ibrahim told his officers: "If Greece had ten heroes like him, it would not have been possible for me to undertake the military campaign against the Peloponnese".

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The Next Yankee News Deadline for submissions:
January 31, 2020 to: YankeeD7News@AOL.com
PLEASE send pictures and articles TOGETHER whenever possible, with those in the pictures named in the context of the article or with it.

Upcoming Events: Yankee District 7: 2021

- 01/31/2021: Yankee News (February Issue) Story Deadline
- 02/28/2021: 12th Hellenic History Tournament - Registration Deadline
- 03/25/2021: Greek Independence Bicentennial: Parade Dates TBD
- 04/01/2021: Yankee News (May Issue) Story Deadline
- 05/15/2021: 12th Yankee D7 Hellenic History Tournament, New Haven, CT
- 05/22/2021: Tentative District Convention Date; Location TBA
- 06/13/2021: District Scholarship Awards; Waterbury, CT
- 06/25-31/2021: 99th Supreme Convention (Athens, Greece)



AHEPA District 7 Yankee News

Production dates are scheduled in conjunction with Conferences & Conventions.

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