



# Yankee News



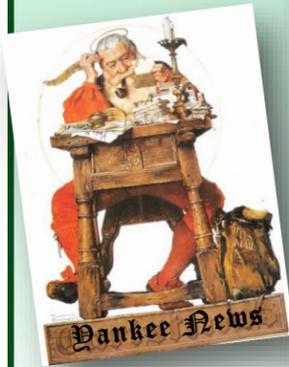
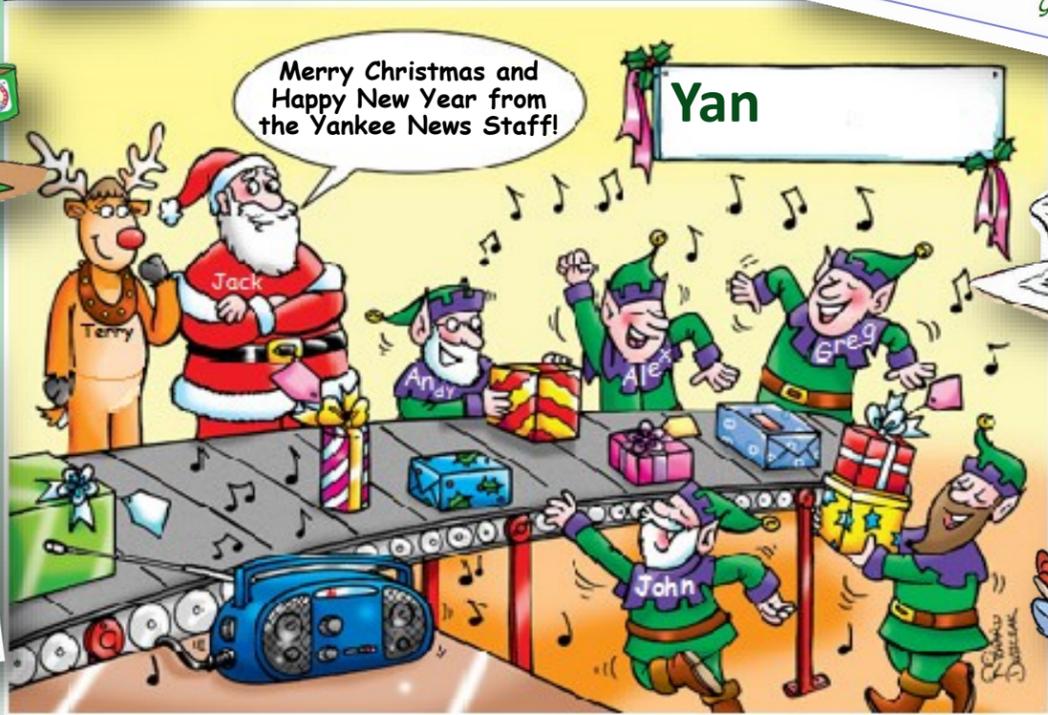
The Publication of AHEPA District #7



## The Auld Lang Syne Edition



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**A MESSAGE FROM THE AHEPA D7 GOVERNOR**

Dear Brother AHEPANS of Yankee District 7,

My main ambition for the year is to continue to successfully bring the 14 Chapters of D7 in closer interaction with each other, and so establish a community, or an alliance, among them in the joint pursuit of common goals and a shared vision for the future. I have succeeded in bringing the Bridgeport chapter into the District by having them host a successful

fall district conference in October. It was well attended. Danbury and Danielson are my next goal.

Another goal is to visit all the D7 chapters and establish a camaraderie with the brothers. I urge all the chapters to contact me whenever they have a special event. I would love to attend.

The 2024 District 7 Hellenic History Tournament (HHT) was held at Saint Barbara Church in Orange, CT, on November 23, 2024. Eight teams competed in the tournament. The results will be provided in the next Yankee

News issue and can be found in the D7 web page: [ahepadistrict7.org/](http://ahepadistrict7.org/).

Turning to future events in the months ahead, our Tri-District convention will be held in May 2025 and will be hosted by District 8. The tentative location will be in Worcester, MA. More information will follow. I am looking forward to meeting the 700+ members of the fourteen Chapters of District Seven during the year.

Fraternally,  
John Fakis

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**A MESSAGE FROM THE DOP D7 GOVERNOR**

Dear Sisters,

The air is finally getting crisp and leaves are crunching under our feet...it's definitely fall. Our Fall Conference was held in Bridgeport on October 12th. I thank our Brothers and Sisters from the Bridgeport chapter for doing an outstanding job hosting the conference. We welcomed our Grand Governor Laine Damaskos-Christou, who gave a presentation on

collaborative strategies. Our Grand Vice President Antoinette Marousis was able to Zoom in and gave her "Bee The Buzz" Growth and Expansion presentation. Sister Antoinette has challenged each chapter in our district to initiate three new sisters and reinstate three sisters. I know you will accept this challenge. We also saw the presentation from *Water by Women*. All of the presentations are available to view on the Daughters of Penelope website. If you need assistance accessing them please let me know!

As you all know, my favorite part of being in the Daughters of Penelope is getting to meet our wonderful Sisters! I was able to attend Hartford's Designer Bag Bingo and their Thanksgiving Dinner. Next week I will also be attending Norwich's Thanksgiving Dinner for the resident's of their AHEPA Housing. I was also able to perform a visitation at my own chapter in Waterbury.

We are working with Districts 8 & 9 in the planning of the New England Regional Convention for May of next year. The details will be announced once the arrangements are made.

The holidays are quickly approaching. I wish each of you, your families and all of the AHEPA Family Community a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. Remember ... in a world where you can be anything ... be kind.

Love in Theta Pi,  
Marianne Boutsoulis, PGG

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### EDITOR'S NOTES by Jack Isaac

There is an adage that says "All good things must come to an end". For me and for two of my colleagues, that time has come. For over a decade I have had the honor of serving as Editor of the Yankee News, working with a talented and hard working staff. We have been given many awards over that time, but disseminating the news and serving District 7 has been our greatest reward. We feel that

it's time to let others come in with new ideas and energy. I will miss this foray into the world of journalism, but this will give me a chance to expand and develop other interests.

I could not have succeeded without the work and creativity of Terry Plumley, our Publisher. I can't thank her enough for all she's done for AHEPA. Andy Aros, our Secretary, has also chosen this time to step down from his YN duties. Andy has been my confidant and right hand man since my days as D7 Governor. His advice and counsel have always resonated with me.

We have great confidence that the staff that remains will continue and expand on the successes of the Yankee News. With John Melonopoulos, Greg Simones, and Alex Boutsoulis, our paper is in great hands. They have vast experience having been part of our team from the onset. John's work as Chief Financial Officer has kept the YN on a strong financial basis while Greg and Alex have both been a big part of the creative process. Thank you all for allowing us to serve you.

**Eptahorian  
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*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.



### "WHERE ARE THEY NOW"

What follows is our second interview following former AHEPA scholarship winners to see how they are managing in their chosen careers. Andy Aros and I sat down recently with Peter Smith, a former scholarship recipient. Peter is an attorney in Hartford at the law offices of Rogin Nassau where he practices trust and estate law. He comes from a dedicated AHEPA family where his father Jordan was a Hartford President and mother Christina was a Hartford DOP President and is now serving on the District Lodge. Peter used his scholarship money to help pay for his studies at Boston College and later at UConn law school. He and his wife Mandy, an accountant, have two daughters who they hope will become strong independent women without any sense of entitlement.



Peter on the island of Aegina

**Editor: Tell us about your parents' influence on the development of your work ethic and values.**

**Atty Smith:** My dad is a graphic designer and my mom works at Aetna. Dad followed his passion for art while mom followed a more traditional path helping to support the family. They made sure I attended church and saw to it that I became a contributing member of St. George Cathedral. At church I learned ethics and philosophy and got a good view of what justice was.

**Editor: When did you begin to understand the work of the AHEPA?**

**Smith:** In high school I began to see that AHEPA was doing good things to support our youth. I enjoyed seeing scholarships being awarded to my older friends and became aware of the generosity of our local chapter and District.

**Editor: What were some of your most meaningful early experiences?**

**Smith:** After high school, I spent a semester at the American College of Greece in Athens enjoying the culture. After graduating from Boston College with a major in Philosophy, I took a year off to teach English in Vietnam. This experience gave me a better understanding of other cultures. Once back to Connecticut I enrolled at UConn law school, joined the Orthodox student group, and volunteered at a local soup kitchen. I am now an active member of St. George where I served on the Parish Council and teach Sunday School. I also help out in our festivals and am an active member of AHEPA Chapter #58.

**Editor: Any advice for future scholarship winners and final thoughts?**

**Smith:** If I could go back in time I would have worked harder to prepare for my adult life. I would say find your passion in life and develop it. Keep challenging yourself and grow. Learn the history of the Greeks and their determination to succeed. Be sure to pursue a spiritual life as well as a secular one.

**Editor:** Thank you Peter for taking the time to sit down with the two of us. We both enjoyed meeting you and learning of your life and work. You are a great role model for the future generations to come.

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-Demetrius E. Tasoulas-



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



**John G. Grossomanides**, age 97, passed away peacefully on Sunday, October 20th, 2024, in Westerly, RI after a long-distinguished life.

Born on July 11, 1927, he was the son of the late George S. and Mercina (Kyriazis) Grossomanides. John was a dedicated family man, highly respected for his caring and kind nature, embodying true gentlemanly qualities. John graduated from Westerly High School and from the University of Rhode Island. At the University, he majored in accounting, joined Phi Sigma Kappa and the URI ROTC

program. Following his graduation he became a commissioned officer in the Army. He served honorably in the Army for 30 years, retiring as a Lt. Colonel. One of his army assignments was to serve as the Rhode Island Liaison to West Point Military Academy, assisting in recruiting. Later he worked as an accountant for Electric Boat, a division of General Dynamics, for 37 years and offered his expertise as a public accountant doing taxes for people and businesses in the Westerly area.

John was very involved in his community and his faith. He served on the Parish Council of Holy Trinity Church of Norwich, CT. He served the AHEPA as President of Chapter #110, District Governor of District 7, and as Supreme Governor. He was the former Treasurer of the Electric Boat Management Association and Treasurer of the Electric Boat Retirees Association and served on the Supervisory Board of the Charter Oak Credit Union. John was also very involved in the Masonic Order.

John leaves behind his loving and devoted wife of 64 years, Vasiliki Celia Grossomanides, his son Dr. John Grossomanides, and daughter-in-law

Anna-Helene, along with his nephews George, Costas, Steve and Clifford, and nieces Marcia, Elaine, Kathy Sophia and Maria and a large extended family. He will be sadly missed by all. He was predeceased in death by his parents, George and Mercina, his brother Stephen, and sister Anastasia. Donations may be made to the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Endowment Fund in Norwich, CT, honoring John's memory and his commitment to his faith.



~\*~

**Van Hatzis**, age 92, of Trumbull, passed away peacefully on Friday, November 1, 2024. Van was predeceased by his parents, Thomas Hatzis and Aglaia Hatzis (Pyrita) and his sisters, Antigone and Olga. He is survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Christina Goumberis Hatzis; his children, Thomas Hatzis (Emily), Peter Hatzis (Ana) and Laura (Kevin Roetzel); his grandchildren, Alexander, Zachary, Lauren and Julia; and his brothers, Nicholas, Gus, Stephen and Stacey. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

The Rite of Burial took place on Wednesday, November 6, 2024 in Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church of Bridgeport, officiated by Father Georgios Livaditis, followed by interment in Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Trumbull. Van was an Ahepan for 37 years and was the Bridgeport Chapter 72 Secretary for many of them. Van was responsible for recruiting many of the Bridgeport AHEPA's current members. Memorial donations may be made to the Holy Trinity Church Iconography Project in memory of Van: 4070 Park Ave, Bridgeport, CT 06604.



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**Salute to a Veteran ~ Glenn Arnold ~**

Glenn Arnold was born in Schenectady, NY and raised in the suburb of Scotia. He was a star athlete at Scotia-Glenville High School, lettering in football and basketball, and played the trumpet in his high school's stage band. In addition to sports and music, Glenn had a leadership role in the National Honor Society and was the leader of his church's youth group. He graduated in 1988 and accepted an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY.

At West Point, Glenn played on the Army basketball team his first year and played the trumpet in the West Point Pep Band for 2 years. He graduated with a BS degree in Mechanical Engineering and received his commission as Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army to serve as an Ordnance Officer. Glenn attended the four-month Officer Basic Course at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland and the US Army Airborne School at Fort Benning, GA before heading to Germany to serve as a Platoon Leader of 50+ soldiers. Glenn's main roles were as Platoon Leader and as Detachment Commander. He led the deployment of soldiers to Somalia, Bosnia, and other missions in Europe. He received a master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Maryland and completed his four and a half years of active-duty service in the summer of 1997.

Glenn started his consulting career at Accenture in January 1998 as part of the Process Center of Excellence in Minneapolis, MN. He met his future wife, Katina, in September 1998 and after a year of a long-distance relationship, moved to Denver, CO and continued his career in business consulting. While in Denver, he served as the International Chairman of the Rotary DTC Club. Katina and Glenn were married in the summer of 2001 and moved to West Hartford in January 2002 as Katina had an opportunity to work in corporate communications at ESPN. Glenn started Tarigas LLC five-plus years ago, which is a wealth strategy consulting company. Today, he and his team help clients ranging from CEOs to retirees by taking a client centric and education-first approach to help with personal and business finances. Glenn is a current member of Nathan Hale Chapter 58 and District 7 Secretary.



Glenn (right) with his roommate during his junior year at West Point.

**Dr. John Grossomanides**

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**&  
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**The AHEPA Stamford Chapter 99 salutes the Yankee News editorial team for their dedication, hard work and good taste.**

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# Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to All

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Denis A. Bouboulis, M.D.  
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Pericles D. Caminis  
Peter L. Cholakis  
Fr. Evan C. Evangelidis  
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Dr. James D. Koutsoukos  
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Jack Louizos  
John J. Louizos, Esq.  
John C. Lycouris  
Spyros A. Malitzis  
Nikiforos Mathews  
George C. Melikokis  
Nicholas Moisiades  
Spiros P. Moisiades  
Evangelos Moshos  
John Moshos  
Angel Muniz  
George Nanos  
Paul Nanos  
Theodore Nanos  
Nicholas A. Nikas  
Theofilos Nikolis  
Steve Nikolopoulos  
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Fr. Harry S. Pappas  
John Petsagourakis  
John M. Psaltos  
George Psathas  
Dr. Stanley J. Sakellson  
Evan J. Skoparantzios  
John E. Skoparantzios  
Stephan Skoufalos

Agasilas G. Sotire  
Demetrios Sotiropoulos  
John D. Sotiropoulos  
Nicholas Stefanou  
Nicholas Stroumbakis, M.D.  
Stylianos N. Theofanidis, M.D.  
Efsthios Tournas  
Dr. Steven A. Valassis  
Argyris Vassiliou  
Nicholas C. Vlahakis  
James N. Volonakis  
Leonidas Zaharis  
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Lakis Andriotis  
Dr. George C. Coclin  
Haralambos Dafoulas  
James Degaitas  
Marcos Fountoulakis  
James D. Harritos  
Arthur Kazianis  
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George A. Scagos  
Andrew J. Taxiarchos  
Stylianos Triantafyllou  
Aristotelis Tsonis  
John Vanikiotis  
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Michael P. Vezeridis  
Charles S. Xynellis  
NORWICH 110  
Nikos Alevras  
Zisis N. Alevras  
Kostas Anastasiou  
Democles J. Angelopoulos  
Constantine G. Antipas  
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Dimitri Giatrakis  
Costas S. Grossomanides  
George S. Grossomanides  
Dr. John Grossomanides, PSP  
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Richard P. Hominski  
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Dino Kapilotis  
Thomas C. Katsouleas  
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Milan Kukich  
Stamatios Lahaniatis  
Theofanis Lamos  
John Liapes  
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Gary J. McManus  
John Mihalopoulos  
Rev. Stephen Natsis  
Anthony J. Neigel  
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James A. Panagakos  
George N. Panagos  
George Panayiotakakos



# of our District Seven Brothers and Sisters!

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Andrew J. Pappas  
Panayotis Patsouris  
Stephen Patsouris  
Anthony G. Petros  
Demetrios A. Petros  
Atty. Theodore N. Phillips, II  
Ernest G. Pool  
Thomas T. Poulos  
Sean J. Ryan  
Charles P. Scopelitis, P.E.  
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Fred Stavropoulos  
Nicholas F. Stavropoulos  
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David Toolan  
Dean J. Trantalis  
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William J. Trantalis  
Leonidas Tsantiris  
Anthony J. Valace  
Christos Valkanos  
Demo Ververis  
George P. Ververis, Jr., R.A.  
Peter T. Ververis  
Brian M. Violette  
Larry E. Wyland  
Konstantinos Zarboutis  
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Andrew S. Aros  
James K. Babetas  
Gregory G. Benios  
Mihail Bolovis  
Nikolaos Bouras  
John Bourlogiannis  
Richard A. Brander  
Fr. Spyridon Chatzis  
Sam Christodoulos  
Mike Demosthenous  
Dimitrios Dimopoulos  
Xenophon D. Dimopoulos  
Ryan P. Donlon  
Konstantinos Filippopoulos  
Constantine G. Galanis  
Costas N. Georgakopoulos  
John Georgopoulos  
Neofitos Giannakopoulos  
Dimitrios Giortzakos  
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Stelios Koutouvides  
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Dimitrios E. Litos  
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Dr. Christopher Michael  
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Michael Milios  
Nikolaos Morikis  
Thomas Morikis  
Pericles M. Moustakakis  
Angelo Moutogiannis  
Aristotle Nasiakos  
Christos G. Nasiakos  
Nicholas G. Nasiakos  
Panagiotis Palkanikos  
Theodoros Panagopoulos  
Nikolaos Pantermalis  
Ahillefs Papadimitriou  
Vasilios Papageorgiou  
Gus Pelarinos

Stephen N. Polezonis  
Spiro Proko  
George A. Rados  
Titos Ritsatos  
Gary J. Robinson  
Harry Sitolides  
Marios C. Soteriou  
Harry Spaniotis  
John Spaniotis  
Michael A. Stamos  
Emmanuel Stergakis  
John Stergakis  
Pete Strompolis  
Emilio Theodoratos  
Charles Tolis  
Ioannis Tyropolis  
Ioannis Tyropolis  
Mario Varvatsis  
Vasilis Varvatsis  
Evangelos Vasiliadis  
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Christopher S. Christopher  
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Demetri N. Damaskos  
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Petros Kyriakides  
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Thomas A. Christopher  
Theologos Demetriades  
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John N. Yanouzas  
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Evelyn Balamaci  
Janice Bouloubasis  
Anna Christopoulos  
Faye Demestihias  
Maria Fatibene  
Theodora Fatibene  
Constance Forkiotis  
Maria Gountas  
Pauline Halkias  
Christina Hatzis  
Alexis Koulouris  
Sophia Maragos  
Georgina Matsikas  
Maria Matsikas

Alexandra McGoldrick  
Kathy Mitas  
Joanna Nictas  
Mary Patsiarikas  
Katerina Pertesis  
Maria Pertesis  
Maria Psarofagis  
Angela Rountos  
Kathy Santella  
Selina Sattelberger  
Ann-Marie Servetas-Anderson  
Viola Skenderis  
Eleni Spyrou  
Dora Stavrolakes  
Ann Stevens  
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Christina Tsocanos  
Barbara Tsoupas  
Lisa Vancho  
Effie Vlamis  
Eleni Vlamis  
Cindy Waldron  
Christina Yeotsas  
Helen Yeotsas  
Anna Yiannoulis  
Kathy Yiannoulis  
Katina Zachariadis  
**DOP NEW BRITAIN 138 Eretria**  
Athena Androulidakis  
Mary Aros  
Stamo Dimitratos  
Eve Dimopoulos  
Karen Isaac  
Artemis Karamanos  
Julia Kara-Soteriou  
Andrea Lemnotis  
Susan Leppones  
Vera Metzner  
Terry Plumley  
Donna Rados  
Margo Sklavouris  
Irene Sklavouris  
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Stacy Bellas-Violette  
Elaine Billias  
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Clara Leoutsacos  
Pamela McCauley  
Heidi Petros  
Evangelynn Toolan  
Virginia Valace  
Maria Valkanos  
Maria Valkanos  
**Hartford Chapter 199 Thoas**  
Claudia Ale  
Irene Alexis  
Sylvia Andrews  
Adele Antoniou  
Thecla Antoniou  
Katina Arnold  
Kalpana Astras  
Barbara Bellas  
Katina Bouzakis  
Catherine Deros  
Andreea Emilian-Stergiotis  
Beatrix Fox  
Theresa Galizia  
Ioanna Kalas  
Sophie Kapetanopoulos  
Jordann Karabetsos  
Maria Karagiannis  
Lucia Kazakos  
Marie Klementon  
Priscilla Kokinis  
Priscilla Kokinis  
Wendy Kontogouris  
Alexia Koudellou  
Marguerite Lake  
Helen Limnios  
Staci Lynch  
Marilyn Mantziaris  
Seta Marangoudakis  
Elisa Marotta  
Helen Melonopoulos  
Alexa Melonopoulos Fleury  
Helene Moran  
Helene Myers  
Vera Nako

Donna Nakos  
Katie Patterson  
Anna Rafti  
Maria Reveliotis  
Harita Seiderer  
Christina Smith  
Nikki Statoulas  
Maria Tougas  
Aglaia Tsipouras  
Anthia Vardoulakis  
Elaina Varunes  
Catherine Walsh  
Christine White  
Sandra Wilcox  
Parthena Yaakob  
Stephanie Zapatka  
Phyllis Zerbini  
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Maria Alekshun  
Emilia Goldfarb  
Marianne Boutsoulis  
Eleni Bouzakis  
Katerina Bouzakis  
Elizabeth Broadbridge  
Tina Capobianco  
Constance Carrington  
Toni Coukis  
Katerina Curtis  
Jean Delbuono  
Jennifer DeMatteis  
Elaine Dibble  
Christina Forte  
Julia Forte  
Maria Forte  
Stephanie Fredericks  
Ann Georgetson  
Demetra Kaloidis  
Gina Kotsaftis  
Joyce Kotsaftis  
Virginia Kotsaftis  
Alexandra Koulouris  
Julie Koulouris  
Linda Koulouris  
Androulla Louca  
Matoula Luis  
Melissa Metevelis  
Anna Michael  
Grace Morikis  
Antigoni Mouzas  
Mary Nicholas  
Penny Pecka  
Anastasia Persico  
Mary Peterson  
Laura Petrakopoulos  
Laura Jean Petrakopoulos  
Tina Petrakopoulos  
Margo Ricciardi  
Cassandra Rinaldi  
Donna Rocco  
Violet Sakoulas  
Koulla Santiago  
Anastasia Skabardonis  
Cassie Skabardonis  
Sofia Swaby  
Eleni Tinios  
Cassandra Tracey  
Lula Tracey  
Despina Tsetsos  
Angela Tsitso  
Carrie Tzenos  
Barbara Tzepos  
Katherine Tzepos  
Lola Velezis  
Sonia Velezis  
Argiro Vithoulkas  
Georgia Vithoulkas  
Koulla Yalanis  
Athena Ziogas  
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Clara Angelos  
Eve Barakos  
Sophia Barbeau  
Marcella Calagias  
Colleen Giourelis  
Fani Haidemenos  
Christa Haveles  
Christina Jolliff  
Brittany Laraia  
Christina Menounos  
Nikitoula Menounos  
Eleni Moumouris



### DOP Chapter 41, Bridgeport News

Submitted by Helen Yeotsas

Our Hermes Chapter began the new season in September with a kick off meeting and plans for a busy year ahead! We planned our first annual Mum Sale and it turned out to be a huge success. Proceeds will go to Scholarships and giving back to our local community.



Our Chapter hosted the D7 Conference at our church this year and it was a wonderful day, sharing information and fellowship with the Sisters and Brothers of our District.

Thank you to our District Governor and officers for coming to Bridgeport!

We had a Pink, Purple and Blue special meeting in October, raising awareness for Breast Cancer, Domestic Violence, and Anti-Bullying. We sent a donation to SWIM

Across the Sound earmarked for helping women with Breast Cancer. Also, in October we had a Sock Drive and as of now, we have collected upwards of 500 pairs of socks!



These will be distributed to various charities in our area via "Kindness Bags". The bags will include socks and handmade hats, along with snacks. We plan to make up about 200 bags.

Our next fundraiser will be a Christmas Planter Sale, and this will help fund our Scholarship fund and our charitable activities throughout the year. We raffle off 10 beautiful planters each year and it's a popular event for us. During the holidays we prepare Food Bags for local needy families, that include Greek traditional items such as Olive oil and honey, as well as Koulourakia and Tsourekia. We are planning to make up these bags for 10 families this year and also include gift cards to local grocery stores.

Our Chapter continues to grow with new members joining steadily. We wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and New Year! Follow us on Instagram@dopchapter41 and on Facebook Daughters of Penelope – Bridgeport "Hermes" Chapter 41.

### Chapter 99, Stamford, CT News

Submitted by Nicholas Nikas

Our chapter did not meet during the summer months, so there is very little actual news to report. Our chapter contributed money and effort at the Archangels Church Festival on September 21. Some of our members plan to participate in the Bridgeport Tunnel to Towers event on Saturday, October 19.

Sometime before Christmas, we plan to serve breakfast at each of our two churches, Archangels and Annunciation, to ensure that the community is aware of our new lodge and planned activities.

Finally, on Saturday, December 14, we plan to hold a combination fundraiser and toy drive. The fundraiser will be a dinner/dance featuring Greek Movies and Music of the 1960's. We will also ask the participants to bring toys which we will deliver to the children of St Basil's Academy the next day, Sunday, December 15. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All!

### Chapter 250, Winthrop News

Submitted by John Fakis, photos by Greg Simones

On August 19, Winthrop Chapter 250 held its 6th annual lobster bake dinner. The lobster bake is a continued chapter tradition each summer. Members and their families were treated to a delicious appetizer table and lobster dinner with steamers, salad, corn on the cob, potatoes, and assorted delicacies for dessert. The event was held at the Niantic Yacht Club in Niantic, CT. There was a record crowd of 61 brothers and their spouses including SG Alex Boutsoulis and Grand Gov Marianne Boutsoulis from Waterbury. Tony Vallombroso received his award for Ahepan of the Year at the bake.



Tony Vallombroso, Ahepan of the Year with D7G John Fakis

It was a gorgeous evening with a beautiful scenic view of Niantic Bay, and everyone had a great time, making the event a huge success.



**BEST WISHES**  
to all of our  
**Brothers!**  
from  
**JOHN & STEVEN**  
**GAGAS**

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### YANKEE NEWS RECEIVES GRANTS

John Melonopoulos, PDG, CFO  
We are proud to announce 2 additional grants we received to support the Yankee News in its efforts to maintain our quality and to assist it to remain financially stable. We thank the following foundations for their support:

- AHEPA Newport Foundation Inc. \$1,000.00
- AHEPA New London Foundation Inc \$ 750.00

The above grants conclude all the housing foundations in D7 with money from the FY-2023 funding. Both Norwich and Hartford granted Yankee News \$1,000 in May of 2024. THANK YOU.



**SALUTATIONS**  
**AHEPA DISTRICT SEVEN LODGE**  
<https://ahepadistrict7.org>

**Greetings to all the D7 Chapters and best wishes for continued success**

- John Fakis – Governor
- Gregory Simones – Lt. Governor
- Glenn Arnold – Secretary
- John Melonopoulos, PDG – Treasurer
- George Ververis – Warden
- Alexander Philippides – Marshal
- Gregory Stamos – Athletic Director

~\*~

**With Compliments of**  
**Jack Isaac**  
**Past Supreme Governor,**  
**Region 4**  
**&**  
**Karen Isaac**  
**Daughters of Penelope**  
**Past Governor, District 7**

~\*~

**Alexa Melonopoulos Fleury Named Arts Schools Network 2024 Teacher of the Year** Submitted by Elaine Melonopoulos

Congratulations to Alexa Melonopoulos Fleury who was honored as 2024 Teacher of the Year by the Arts Schools Network (ASN), the nation's largest professional membership organization of specialized arts schools. This annual award recognizes a teacher whose dedication, talent, and achievement are exemplary. ASN recognized Ms. Fleury at the Awards Ceremony held at the Kennedy Center, Washington DC. For the past 11 years, Alexa has served as Dance Chair at the CREC Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts. She encourages students to take risks and challenge themselves in Modern, Improv, & Repertory Dance, and Dance History. She mentors her seniors as they make decisions about college and dance careers, launching alums into professional careers in dance. She makes decisions on the state-level about standards and curriculum, and fights for equity so that ALL students in CT have access to dance. Through performances, Alexa has built relationships with Arts Academy students, educating them about dance through Choreographers' Showcase, one of the school's signature arts events and a shining example of arts excellence. Alexa has danced professionally for over 25 years with The Judy Dworin Performance Project, a critically acclaimed dance and multi-arts organization in the Greater Hartford area.

Alexa is a member of DOP Chapter 198, and the daughter of John Melonopoulos (#58, Hartford) and Elaine Melonopoulos (DOP #198, Hartford). She resides in Unionville, CT with husband Ron and children Thea and Emile.



**Chapter 58, Hartford News** Submitted by Jim Triahos & Mike Zerbin

On November 5, Nathan Hale Chapter #58 and Thoas DOP Chapter #198 held their AHEPA Family Annual Turkey Dinner Plus Raffle at the AHEPA 58 Apartments in Wethersfield, CT. It was a very pleasant evening with over 50 members coming together for a delicious meal with all the delights of a Thanksgiving dinner! Chapter 58 Pres. Michael Bonatsakis, VP Michael Zerbin, Treas Costas Loukellis, and Secretary (& D7 PDG and Treas.) John Melonopoulos were there, as well as DOP Chapter 198 Pres. Anna Raftis, VP Barbara Bellas, Treas. Harita Seiderer, Corr. Sec. Priscilla Kokinis, and Rec. Sec. Elaina Varunes and Fr. George Zugravu of St. George Cathedral in



Mike Bonatsakis presents \$1k to Melina Marangoudakis



Pres. Mike Bonatsakis, Alexa Melonopoulos Fleury, Pres. Anna Rafti

Hartford. We were happy to have D7 Lt. Gov. Gregory Simones, Sec. Glenn Arnold, R4 SG Alex Boutsoulis, DOP DG Marianne Boutsoulis, Treas. Katina Arnold, D7 Adv. Elisa Marotta, PDG, and Sec. Maria Tougas as well.

An important part of the evening was the Annual Raffle to Benefit Scholarships and Philanthropic Programs. Thanks to the great work of George Bellas and Demetrius Triandyfilidis, this important raffle was a great

success! Monetary prizes were presented at the dinner and we held a small raffle for a Thanksgiving turkey. Alexa Melonopoulos-Fleury won the turkey!

Once again this fall season, Chapter #58 and DOP Chapter #198 have teamed up to serve dinner for the guests at the South Park Inn & Shelter in downtown Hartford, CT. South Park



George Bellas, Dave Johnson & Kevin Ward

Inn's mission is to improve our community by providing equal access to shelter and solutions for all people to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring. Kevin Ward led the effort by scheduling the volunteers for each evening session. The volunteers also purchased, donated and served a variety of desserts, which are not provided to the guests by the shelter.



Fr George & Presvytera Zugravu & Kevin Ward

**DOP Chapter 198, Hartford News**

Submitted by Elaine Melonopoulos

Fall has been a busy season for our Thoas Chapter with fun programs and new initiates. We congratulate our new officers and share some of the events and news from our chapter with our brothers and sisters. We also send along our greetings to all for a blessed Holiday Season.

**Installation of Officers** - We installed our new officers on September 10. They are Rec. Sec. Elaina Varunes, Tres. Harita Seiderer, VP Barbara Bellas, and Pres. Anna Rafti.

**Designer Bag BINGO** - This event was held on October 10. Fourteen (14) designer bags were won that evening, with 30 plus prizes and over 120 ladies in attendance. Also in attendance was Z1 GG Lainie Damaskos-Christou, DG Marianne Boutsoulis and PDG Elisa Marotta. We celebrated the birthday of Chapter 198 Pres. Anna Rafti that evening. Despina Demos surprised us with a delicious cannoli cake that was made by her husband at their restaurant, the Vernon Diner.

**Open Door Charity Event** - The Daughters of Penelope hosted a charity event on October 17 in collaboration with Christian Dior USA in NYC. There was a cocktail reception and a screening for the acclaimed film The Greek Bar Jacket by Marianna Economou. The event celebrated female achievement and empowerment while benefitting the DOP National Project, Cerebral Palsy Greece/Open Door, a rehabilitation center in Athens, Greece. The event was held at the Union League Club and was attended by D7 Treas. Katina Arnold and Chapter 198 President Anna Rafti.



Priscilla Kokinis & Maria Tougas



Despina Demos & Anna Rafti



Katina Arnold, Margaret Dritsas & Anna Rafti



Elaina Varunes, Harita Seiderer, Barbara Bellas, Anna Rafti with PDG Elisa Marotta



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

District Governor - Marianne Boutsoulis

Lt. Governor - Marcella Calagias

Secretary - Maria Tougas

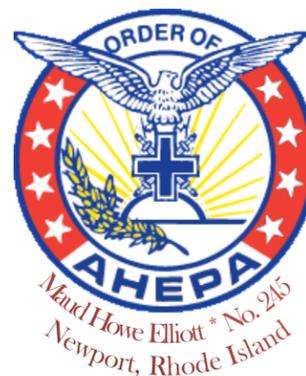
Treasurer - Penny Pecka, PDG

Marshal - Katina Arnold

District Advisor - Anna-Helene Grossomanides, PDG

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*Hellenism, Education, Philanthropy,*



**Maud Howe Elliott  
Chapter No. 245**

**Newport, RI**

*founded  
November 24, 1929*





Brian Rawlinson, Stelios Trikoulis, Steven Sterpis & Aris Tsonis

**Chapter 106, Cranston News** Submitted by Marios Zaharioudakis  
**Cranston Greek Festival** - The Annunciation Church Annual Festival was a success and all the food sold out! Almost all brothers of our Sophocles Chapter volunteered during the festival to ensure that only the greatest quality food reached the guests.

**D7 Conference** - On Oct. 12th, Chapter 106 Pres. George Coclin and Senator Leonidas Raptakis represented our chapter at the conference. Sen. Raptakis took the stand to highlight pressing topics in Greece-USA relations and work being done promoting Greece and Cyprus interests in the region.

**Initiation of New Members, Chapter Activities, & 100 Year Anniversary** - Our chapter had the pleasure of initiating 5 new members during our October meeting. We look forward to having fruitful and engaging experiences with them. Our new brothers bring our Chapter total to 2x what it was 18 months ago. The new brothers have been planning their own events and have stepped up to be our monthly communications, social media and archive experts. We had a Christmas dinner/dance event at the church for older Ahepans and at Fogo de Chow for younger Ahepans last year and this year we have continued the same pattern. Our annual Christmas Party dinner & dance will be Dec. 7th at Annunciation Church for \$75/pp, BYOB with upscaled food, door prizes, and our DJ from last year. As we had over 90 attendees from the Newport and Pawtucket chapters and ours, the younger Ahepans will set their event at our Nov. meeting based on a survey being conducted via social media. Our brotherhood is growing in Cranston and we continue to reach out to our brother chapters.

George and Constantine Coclin will attend the Newport meeting in November to share fellowship. Steve Sterpis is Chairman of our 100th year Chapter anniversary celebration planned for May 2026. We are planning a big event in RI and welcome all of our brothers and guests to join us.



Chapter President George Coclin



Leonidas Raptakis



Initiates Dean Andrikos, Nick Raptakis, Demetri Petrou, Evan Horiatis, Greg Zervos with Lakis Andriotis and Pres. George Cocli

## Compliments from



Emi, Marianne, Alex, & Cassie  
Boutsioulis

Please - send us any new ideas you may have for our chapter to consider.



### WE ARE LOOKING FOR OLD ISSUES OF THE YANKEE NEWS

If you locate any, please share with: **YANKEE NEWS – 10 Hillside Ave, Unionville, CT 06085.** The paper was originally called the **YANKEE DISTRICT NEWS** and the first editor was Phaethon J. Matthews (Chapter 58). Other persons involved were: Asst. Editor Peter Nichols, Gordon Bilides (98), James Constras (62), Michael Exharhou (48), Andrew Lazouras (121) & Charles Peterson (58). We found an issue dated May 1946 that included articles for: New Britain (117), Springfield (MA), Newport (245), Stamford (99), Meriden (126), Norwich (110), Hartford (58), Providence (106) & New London (250). Some programs that appeared then are very similar to what is in this issue of the YANKEE NEWS. The name change from YDN to YN happened with the passing of the By-laws of Yankee District 7. PLEASE HELP US LOOK FOR PAST ISSUES! It would be great to have some of these old copies. Thank you!

An AHEPAN mentor told me, "You get out of AHEPA what you put into it". I believe you get more. Opportunity awaits you. Get active in your chapters today!



Gregory C. Simones, PDG

*With appreciation for the mission of AHEPA*

Angie and Ted Augustinos



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OLD SCHOOL GRIT  
NEW WORLD IDEAS

## COMPLIMENTS OF



**NATHAN HALE CHAPTER NO. 58  
HARTFORD, CT**

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**Chapter 117, New Britain News**

Submitted by Andy Aros  
New Britain Elpis Chapter #117 sponsored its annual Hellenic Golf Open in September at Stanley Golf Course in New Britain. The shotgun, best ball tournament was chaired by Stamatis Kounaris, Chris Kounaris and Matt Golfin.

As soon as registration was completed, participants warmed up their swings at the driving range and then were welcomed to a complementary lunch buffet. After lunch the players took part in the pretournament putting and chipping contests. As they waited their turn in these contests, some of the players were treated to a back massage from a professional masseur.

Upon the conclusion of the tournament the contestants had an exquisite dinner at the Back Nine Restaurant and enjoyed a bouzouki band and singer.

The evening concluded with a raffle and the awarding of the winner's trophy. The Hellenic Golf Tournament was won by the foursome of a former member of the New Britain community Doug Kolpak and his sons. The profits from the tournament will be used to fund the charities and activities of the chapter.



Chapter 138 Pres Irene L. Sklavouris & Andrea Lemnotis

**DOP 138, New Britain News**

Submitted by Irene Sklavouris  
The members of the New Britain Eretria Chapter 138 have been keeping busy! One of our annual projects is the Chrysanthemum Memorial **Mother's and Father's Day Tree**. Sister Chrysanthemum was a long-time member at Eretria Chapter who started this beautiful tradition.

Of course, our members spent a lot of time volunteering for the St. George Church

**Dionysos Festival and Gyro Day**, annual fundraising times that are perfect opportunities to see our Greek families coming together for fun and food!

When it was still warm, we hosted a **"Sundae Sunday"** with ice cream and all the fixings for families and friends. It was fun for everyone who attended! Our Veterans fundraiser monies were donated to **"Boxes to Boots"** in Berlin, CT who sends care packages overseas to our active military service members. We also recently held a **"Nite at Charlie's"** fundraiser to support the St. George Church of New Britain's Building Fund drive, to help fund the purchase of property adjacent to the church. Treas. Artemis Karamanos and her family at **Charlie's** in East Hartford prepared a fantastic buffet and to our delight, Brian Peterson played the bouzouki all night. Terry Plumley had a blast supervising the "Hole in One" at the AHEPA Chapter 117 **Hellenic Open!** No one won a car, but it was a gorgeous day to spend with our AHEPA Family.

On a sad note, our prayers go out to Sister Stamo Dimitratos who lost her mother at 98 years old last month. May she live eternal.

In November our monthly coffee hour at St. George will be **Daughters of Penelope Founder's Day**. We will put out a spread, have literature, and membership applications for those who would like to join us.



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**\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF EMAIL ADDRESS FROM AOL TO GMAIL \*\*\***

The next Yankee News deadline for submissions is March 24, 2025

SEND ALL SUBMISSIONS TO: YankeeD7News@GMAIL.com.

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**Calendar of District 7 Upcoming Events**



March 24

Yankee News May Issue Submission Deadline

March 25

Greek Independence Day

May TBD

Tri-District Region 4 Convention, *location TBD*

May 18

AHEPA Sunday

June TBD

District 7 Scholarship Awards, *location TBD*

July 21-26

103<sup>rd</sup> Supreme Convention, Orlando Florida



*"My undying gratitude, especially to John & Jack, for providing a space for a little creativity for all of these years. This "Auld Lang Syne" Edition is a small compilation of Christmas cheer from a decade of Christmas Yankee News issues. Thanks for the memories! I will miss this." ~ Terry C. Plumley, Publisher. Mic drop.*

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To our AHEPA family:  
Wishing you all a successful & productive year.

Daughters of Penelope  
Thoas 198  
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