

# Ahepa Traveler

CHAPTERS THROUGHOUT NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN NEVADA

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## Ahepa Founding

By Stephen Bolaris, PDG 21

The founding in Atlanta on July 26, 1922 is an interesting time to examine and compare with today.

The 1918 "Spanish Flu" pandemic was beginning to subside at the time of the founding of Ahepa. Racial tensions must have seemed rather like they are in America today.

Greeks and Greek-Americans are not strangers to discrimination like our brothers from the continent of Africa. Many believe that the founding of the Ahepa fraternity and brotherhood was modeled on Masonry to an extent. "A Society with Secrets, Not a Secret Society" as I was once told about Masonry. When initiated into the Order of Ahepa (the old blind folded initiation) as a young man in Erie, PA., I became aware of the multipronged effort of Ahepa. It was not just an attempt to bring order and progress to Greek immigrants, but also a banding together for protection.

At that time, Greek immigrants were harassed and some even tarred and feathered by racists in the Ku Klux Klan (the KKK). Thus it was not only African-Americans who suffered although they suffered terrible beatings and even hangings. Meanwhile, the Greeks stood together from all points. Some of those arriving from Crete chose to delete the "akis" to just an "s" on the end of their last name – why? Because it was believed that the Turks added the "akis" to mean small or little and degrade the Greeks. Another form of oppression.

In 1922 it must have been a time of reveling in the freedom and opportunity of this new homeland. Taking full advantage, the Greeks must have felt a bit of kinship with other races doing the same at the time – including the Black community.

In the accompanying photo of a Greek establishment, Greeks can be seen serving Black patrons in Pittsburgh, PA alongside everyone else. True equality and this is in the 1930's! This level of equality took 30 - 40 years longer in other places that were controlled by small numbers of small minded individuals. We must remember that freedom and equality were proclaimed by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863.



In 1965 (just over one hundred years later), Archbishop Iakovos marched alongside Dr. Martin Luther King in Selma Alabama in peaceful protest. Whereas in other parts of the world, there is racism, that particular evil has not found a home in Ahepa or the greater Greek and Philhellenic community.

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Article III – This Order shall be non-partisan in politics and non sectarian in religion. All partisan political and all sectarian religious discussions are prohibited in any official deliberations thereof.

**EDITORIAL STAFF - AHEPA TRAVELER**

**BILL CHRISTIE**, Editor  
Editorial Staff for  
AHEPA and AUXILIARIES  
408 891-9225  
Email: billchristie1@mac.com

**Traveler Ads Manager**  
Tom Chiarchianis, PDG  
Cell 209 401-1179  
Email: 59tommyc@gmail.com

**Daughters of Penelope Traveler Editor**  
Laurie Sahines, PDG  
Cell 408 234-9226  
Email: laurie.sahinas@gmail.com

**AHEPA DISTRICT LODGE  
2020-2021**

**Website: www.ahepa21.org**

District Governor

**Alex Mallas**  
650 591-1010 Email: almallas@yahoo.com

District Lt. Governor

**Chris L. Frangos, Jr.**  
650 868-2402 Email: christofrangos@gmail.com

District Secretary

**Mark Hallock**  
916 956-5188 Email: mihallock@mac.com

District Treasurer

**Demos Papadopoulos**  
916 601-5569 Email: demos@MyCaRealtor.com

District Warden

**Alex Aliferis**  
530 400-5821 Email: aaliferis@yahoo.com

District Marshal

**George C. Buck**  
209 478-8903 Email: garrettbuck83@gmail.com

District Chaplin

**Steve Miller, PDG**  
510 569-2876 Email: fogmog2@yahoo.com

District Advisor

**George Zioulas**  
650 867-2594 Email: gzioulas@yahoo.com

District Athletic Director

**Stamus Cocolos**  
209 545-1787 Email: scocolos@yahoo.com

District Sons Advisor

**Dr. Ioannis Kokkinidis**  
540 260-5598 Email: piraesus34@gmail.com

Executive Secretary

**Tom Chiarchianis, PDG**  
209 401-1179 Email: 59tommyc@gmail.com

Chairman District Scholarship Foundation

**Mark Hallock**  
916 956-5188 Email: mihallock@mac.com

District Auditor

**Andrew Mastoras**  
559 439-3311 Email: amastoras@comcast.net

District Legal Counsel

**Steven Alfieris**  
559 696-9691 Email: sa@pappastv.com

**DOP DISTRICT LODGE  
2020-2021**

**Website: www.ahepa21.org**

District Governor

**Linda Belba**  
Cell 408 234-9226  
Email: ljbelba@yahoo.com

District Lt. Governor

**Laurie Sahinas, PDG**  
Cell 408 823-0111  
Email: laurie.sahines@gmail.com

District Secretary

**Angela Christon**  
Cell 510 326-5427  
Email: angeliki1014@gmail.com

District Treasurer

**Mary Gavrilis**  
Cell 209 765-2314  
Email: gavrilis1@comcast.net

District Marshal

**Sherri Darpinian**  
Cell 209 719-0812  
englishrose8288@yahoo.com

District Lodge Advisor

**Foula Vasilogiorgis**  
Cell 415 378-7200  
Email: fouladopdistrict21advisor@gmail.com

District Maids of Athena Advisor

**Helen Sexton, PDG**  
Cell 559 970-8315  
Email: h.valiou@sbcglobal.net

District Scholarship Chairman

**Alicia Frangos**  
Cell 650 245-2256  
Email: alifrangos@gmail.com



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WINTER ISSUE  
DUE NOVEMBER 15, 2020**

**PUBLISHING SCHEDULE  
DECEMBER 1, 2020**

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## *AHEPA District Governor's Message*



Dear Brothers and Sisters of the AHEPA Family,

Hope you and your families are safe and well with this continuing COVID-19 Pandemic that has impacted us World-wide.

I would like to thank the District Lodge, the Scholarship Committee, the Senior Housing / Memory Loss project committee and all of you staying in touch with each other and keeping the flame on during these difficult times.

We continue to have conference call meetings and monthly district meetings; and excited to see everyone's participation.

We are starting the new AHEPA year with optimism based on your enthusiasm and participation and looking forward to adapting new ways of ideas and action.

Our Goals for this year continue from last year, based on the last year 2019 District Convention:

- Membership, growth and expansion
- Fundraising to support the completion of the St Nicholas Ranch project
- Continue working on the Senior Housing / Memory Loss project in Northern California
- Strengthen our Sons of Pericles Chapters and
- Honor our heritage and history with online lectures starting with the Battle of Marathon Commemorative. \*Details to follow.

To achieve these goals we will use online and tele-conferences calls until we will be able to meet in person. Note you do not need a laptop to join the meetings or lectures; you can just dial in to the call.

Soon the District-21 will announce the schedule for the Chapter virtual visitations through web/ call conference and we will discuss the next Fall/ Winter District Conference and the WRDC 2021.

If any chapter needs assistance in setting teleconference calls please contact me directly and I am happy to help!

Stay Safe Stay Well!

Fraternally,

*Alexander Mallas*

District Governor 21  
650-591-1010  
almallas@yahoo.com

## *Daughters of Penelope District Governor's Message*



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Welcome to a new year for the AHEPA family! I know we will all approach this year with commitment and enthusiasm. We will have to design our meetings, activities, events, and fundraisers in a new way, but I have no doubt we will rise to the occasion. I hope that you and your family and friends are all safe and healthy.

**I am happy to report our District 21 Lodge will remain for 2020 - 2021:**  
 District Governor – Linda Belba  
 District Lt. Governor – Laurie Sahines PDG

District Secretary – Angela Christon

District Treasurer – Mary Gavrilis

District Marshal – Sherri Darpinian

District Maids of Athena Advisor – Helen Sexton PDG

District Advisor – Foula Vasilogiorgis PDG

District Scholarship Chair – Alicia Frangos

**Our Grand Liaison for 2020 – 2021** is Grand Secretary Georgette Boulegeris of Bedminster, NJ. We look forward to working with Georgette. She will be reaching out to chapters so please include her in any Chapter emails.

**We plan to have our visitations remotely** via videoconference or teleconference starting in October. I will be in touch with Chapter Presidents to coordinate these events.

**Our 2019 – 2020 DOP D21 Opportunity Drawing has been extended** for another year until the weekend of the 2021 WRDC convention in Seattle. The proceeds will go to the D21 Scholarship program and the St. Nicholas Ranch. Ticket price is 3 tickets for @20. Prizes: 1st Prize - \$1,000, 2nd Prize - \$500 (2 winners), 3rd Prize - \$300. Let's try to sell all our tickets by next June!

**The 2020 Leadership Seminar for Daughters of Penelope District Governors** will meet via Zoom on Saturday October 3, 2020. I will be attending this seminar. It is an excellent opportunity to learn and allow for exchange of ideas and information. It helps District Governors to plan for the year ahead for their district.

**The Daughters of Penelope Grand Lodge will remain for 2020 – 2021:**

Grand President Celia Kachmarski of Calgary, Canada;

Grand Vice President Kathy Bizoukas of Munster, IN;

Grand Secretary Georgette Boulegeris of Bedminster, NJ;

Grand Treasurer Marianthi Treppiedi of Spokane, WA;

Grand Governor Zone I Kathy Matrakas of Silver Spring, MD;

Grand Governor Zone II Charrie Regopoulos of Springsboro, OH;

Grand Governor Zone III Gretchen Holtsinger of Wimberley, TX;

Grand Governor Zone IV Beverly Rose Kennedy of Modesto, CA;

Grand Governor Zone V Margaret Draitsas of Ottawa, Canada;

and Grand Advisor to the Maids of Athena Kathy Leles of Tracy, CA.

**The DOP National Projects for 2020 – 2021 will remain the same:**

**Mandatory Obligations:**

- 1) Domestic Family Violence Center: Penelope House, Mobile, AL
- 2) The Sjogren's Syndrome Foundation
- 3) Limbitless Solutions

*continued on next page . . .*



**Voluntary Obligations:**

- 1) Daughters of Penelope Foundation, Inc.
- 2) Penelopean Day Care Center – Athens, Greece
- 3) Domestic Family Violence Center: Penelope’s Place, Brockton, MA

I am happy to congratulate Anna-Helene Grossomanides, PGP on her election as President of the **Daughters of Penelope Foundation, Inc.**

**AHEPA Family Presidents 2020 – 2021**

Congratulations to AHEPA Supreme President George Horiates, Sons of Pericles Supreme President Tim Noitsis, and Maids of Athena Grand President Theodora Ronstadt.

There are a few currently planned but ‘could be changed’ events that I would like you to put on your ‘save the date’ calendars:


1. EOS #1 **Founder’s Day** Celebration on Saturday November 14, 2020 It will be a Zoom event and the details will be announced soon.
2. Western Regional District Convention (**WRDC**) to be held in Seattle Washington June 17 – June 20, 2021 in Seattle and will be hosted by District 22. Details will be forwarded as soon as we receive them.
3. **Our next AHEPA Family Supreme Convention will be July 25 -31, 2021 in Athens, Greece!** The Supreme Convention Hotel is the Grand Bretagne located at 1 Vasileos Georgiou A, Syntagma Square Street, Athina 105 64, Greece. It promises to be an exciting week so save the dates! Details including a tentative schedule and hotel reservation information will be emailed to the entire membership this Fall/Winter. Hope to see you there!

I am looking forward to the year ahead and will do my best to help us all remain steadfast in our goals even with our extenuating circumstances.

May God Bless you all.


With Love In Theta Pi,  
*Linda Belba*  
 District 21 Governor





*Daughters of Penelope*  
*Elis Chapter 89*  
*Reno, Nevada*

Join us at [www.dopreno.org](http://www.dopreno.org) &  
[www.facebook.com/dopelis89](http://www.facebook.com/dopelis89)



*Daughters of Penelope*  
 Sparta Chapter #18  
 Stockton, California

*Founded September 28, 1924*



## A MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND GOVERNOR OF ZONE IV

Greetings Sisters,

I am pleased and excited to serve a second term as Grand Governor Zone IV. I am also most appreciative of the love and support extended last year from my Liaison Districts 20, 21 and 22 and the continued efforts of all Chapters throughout Zone IV to serve their members and grow their membership.

My Liaison Districts this year are Empire District 6 (New York), El Camino Real District 20 (Southern California, Arizona & Las Vegas) and Firwood District 22 (Oregon & Washington).

The Sisters of District 21 have an outstanding Liaison this year ... Grand Secretary Georgette Boulegeris. I know you will enjoy working with her!

Although I will not be your Liaison in 2020-2021, I will look forward to seeing you at any forthcoming events and conferences that we may be able to attend in person. I am also looking forward to the 2021 WRDC to be hosted by District 22 in Bellevue, WA and to the Supreme Convention in Athens, Greece!

Serving on the Grand Lodge has been an amazing experience! Although our last term was impacted by the pandemic, Grand President Celia Kachmarski has not missed a beat. Thanks to Zoom, our Grand Lodge has continued to meet every two to three weeks and is continuing its efforts to support our members with webinars, Zoom meetings and continued outreach via phone, e-mail, social media, etc.

There was an American Express slogan from 1987 to 1994 ... **“Membership has its privileges”** ... which I believe truly applies to the Daughters of Penelope. It is truly a privilege to enjoy membership in this stellar organization with so many energetic, intelligent, and dedicated Sisters throughout the world who share common goals and values.

Let’s make this year better than ever in spite of the obstacles we are facing today!

Love in Theta Pi,

Beverly Rose Kennedy

Grand Governor Zone IV

2020-2021 Liaison to Districts 06 – 20 – 22

Cell (209) 815-6052

E-mail [capoodlegirls@gmail.com](mailto:capoodlegirls@gmail.com)

## Greetings From Marvelous Artemis

by Diane Petersen PGS Secretary #5 Capitol City Sacramento

It was so long ago when we met,  
But we don't have one regret.

Not Tuesday night,  
But Saturday, the sun was so bright.

Something was different, we did have a hunch,  
Because we met for brunch.

We initiated two sisters into our order,  
By a table with a Valentine border.

Our chefs prepared a feast of eats,  
So fabulous for us to eat these treats.

We had so many plans galore,  
Then COVID19 appeared at our door.

In March, we cancelled the meeting  
and the rummage sale,  
And communicated by telephone,  
texting, mail, and e-mail.

The April newsletter was sent out,  
with masks on, and locked down,  
We did all of this with a frown.

But before this newsletter was sent to bed,  
An idea appeared in Secretary Diane's head.

A cute game came into view,  
Called "GUESS WHO".

Then in June, our President Jan had a tweak,  
She decided to send out a newsletter every week.

A variety of news comes from Jan,  
Edited by others that is the plan.

Birthdays, Thinking of You, Recipes,  
Pictures, and Health Updates,  
So much on our plates.

Who would guess what fun it is,  
To be part of the Artemis quiz.

### GUESS WHO

1. Watches Greek TV (soap operas)
2. Watches new episodes of General Hospital.
3. Animals gained weight
4. Cats love
5. Knits
6. Dogs love
7. Cross stitches
8. Works for the State

We are keeping ALEXANDRA'S DREAM ALIVE,  
So Daughters of Penelope will thrive and survive.

### **AHEPA Founding continued from page 1**

It is confounding to hear about so called peaceful demonstrations today that provided cover for murders, arson, injuries, and hundreds of millions in damages. There are NOT race riots. These are anarchists with a serious agenda to overthrow the US government and enslave us all.

At the Ahepa family, our tens of thousands of members, and our hundreds of thousands (perhaps millions) of friends need to demand peace as well as an end to racism. After all, we do not want to have "akis" added to our last names (as the Turk overlords did to the Cretans). We also do not want our freedoms degraded or taken away by government either not doing anything or responding in an overwhelming manner.

Each of us as members of the Ahepa family have our rich Greek heritage and our nearly 100 year

Ahepa history of inclusion. By example, we are all better united – all races, creed, colors and nations of origin, the United States will gradually get back to business after Covid 19 and the riots of the past months. We have a very bright future ahead indeed. As members of Ahepa, you are already showing leadership in the fight against racism.

PS In the general time of the lunch counter photo (1930's), Emmanuel (Mike) Bolaris, my father, owned a Kafenion at the foot of Wiley Avenue in downtown Pittsburgh, PA. The name of the Kafenion was "Omios" – translation "Homer".

Photo credit: Preventing Racism in the 1930's; Powerful photo of Greeks serving Black patrons. Taken from work by Tasos Kokinidis June 2, 2020 Greek USA Reporter <https://usa.greekreporter.com/2020/06/02/busting-racism-in-the-1930s-powerful-photo-of-greeks-serving-black-patrons/>

## EOS No.1 Welcomes the New Day

by Kathleen Courtney Bardis

**It's the Dawn of a new Age** and our Mother Chapter EOS No.1 welcomes our Sisters as we find new ways to come together to celebrate our Sisterhood.

We've Zoomed through the summer with informal gatherings and on Wednesday September 2nd we had our first Zoom meeting of the new year with 16 Sisters including our District 21 Governor Linda Belba and our Grand Liaison, Grand Secretary Georgette Boulegeris.

While we intend to adapt, experiment, simplify, and generally see how best to meet the needs of our Sisters during this period of pandemic and social distancing, we are committed to staying true to our core commitments.

At this time of so much change, EOS No.1 wants to recognize our Sister Toula Caloyanides who passed away March 5, 2020. Toula was initiated on August 8, 1947 and, in over 70 years as a

Daughter, in a quiet but marked manner, Toula fully participated in all EOS No.1 activities. She served as EOS No.1's President and also Vice-President, Treasurer, Marshall, Warden and Sentinel. She was awarded EOS No.1's Daughter of Penelope. Toula left a bequest of \$10,000 to EOS No.1 for a scholarship. Of that amount, \$5,220 was available for distribution. The EOS No.1 Board will design the terms of the scholarship for the review of our Sisters.

We will exercise our creativity again in designing the 91st Anniversary of the Founding of the Daughters of Penelope on November 14, 2020. A very special approach or two is on the agenda! More news will be coming soon. We look forward to Zooming with all who joined us for our 90th.

It's a New Dawn and EOS No.1 is excited to help lead the way!



This is a picture of some members of our Zoom meeting –



## Fresno AHEPA Chapter 151 News

by George Gianopulos and Ioannis Kokinnidis

Fresno AHEPA Chapter #151 was founded in 1927. It lives today! Yes, despite our current situation here in this Country, the Chapter was able to meet June 11, 2020, carryout elections and go dormant for the summer. First of all, know that that gathering in June to conduct regular business was done via ZOOM. It worked! Could have a some more participants but did have more than the minimum required.

Elections were held. President is Nick M. Tousounis. Nick's earliest involvement with AHEPA was as a Son of Pericles back 40 or 50 years ago. He brings to us a seniority, a life of business and exceptional experience. Vice President remains with Ioannis Kokinnidis. Treasurer also remains with the current holder of that office. Yours-truly, George Gianopulos, will continue as Secretary another year. The remaining official positions are Gus Argeres (Capt. Of the Guard), Fr. James Pappas, Chaplain, Board of Directors Michael Makredes and Robert Sexton.

Things functionally have been curtailed. ZOOM with clearly permit us to hold meeting beginning in September and maybe beyond. We look forward to society opening up before the end of this year and permit this Chapter to return to the many social events of the past.

### Sons of Pericles Events

This year the Fresno Sons chapter began with an ambitious agenda. Unfortunately, the pandemic intervened so much less was achieved. The Sons began with small changes in leadership and with a plan to fundraise outside the typical sources. The attempt to raise money through a bake sale at a retailer failed because the Fresno Sons lack the proper tax status. Our attempts at having a dance did not manage to attract people outside the church. These have been though invaluable learning experiences since the chapter does wish to raise its own money for its events. The Sons did forge ahead with the plan to participate in the Greeks in Seattle and the Greeks in New York basketball tournaments. A new member was recruited while several members became dual Sons/AHEPA members upon reaching the age.

The Fresno team did participate in the Greeks in Seattle event. At the basketball tournament our team won second place after two wins and one loss. Before the gala our new member was initiated in the Sons of Pericles. Unfortunately two weeks after our return the quarantine for COVID 19 began. The plans to take part in Greeks in New York were cancelled because no tournament took place after Greeks in Seattle. The chapter did meet though and has initiated the process to select 2020/2021 leadership.

## In Memoriam

Chapters reporting members of the Ahepa Family who have passed away in 2020. May their memory be eternal!

### Oakland AHEPA Chapter 171

*John Georgiou - January 25*

*John Kanelos (Life Member) - March 18*

*Eugene Zahas - April 7*

*Vasillios Bouzos - May 10*

*James Maneatis (Life Member) - August 8*

### Sacramento DOP Artemis Chapter 5

*Jennie Kleary*

*Katherine LaGuisa*

*Sophia Ellis Potiris*

*Frances Sellas*

*Sophie Zogopoulos*

### San Jose AHEPA Chapter 251

*Nick Stratigopoulos - May 20*

*Spyros Paxinos - August 25*

*Congratulations  
to the 2020  
Golden Gate District 21  
Scholarship Recipients!*



*Follow them on the next five pages.*

# ORDER OF AHEPA

## GOLDEN GATE DISTRICT 21 - 2020 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



**DIONYSIUS (Dion) COPOULOS** was awarded \$4,000. He seeks a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry at the University of Utah, which he now attends. Mr. Copoulos holds a 3.6 GPA as a second year Ph.D. student. His personal essay details strong interest to develop molecules “to inhibit antimicrobial growth in the global battle against bacterial resistance.” Dion was a member of the St. Anthony Greek Orthodox Church Dance Team, a Festival volunteer and other University volunteer events. He has also been an Eagle Scout, twice an Honor Roll recipient at Oregon State University, and member of various research group roles. Two reference letters are highly supportive. One from the AHEPA Chapter 281 President mentions Dion’s strong work nature,

sense of humor, and mature communication ability. The second letter is from the Chair of the Chemistry Department at Utah. Many supportive details are offered including Dion’s passion and “grasp of an incredibly complicated and scientifically diverse field,” his being a “well-regarded co-worker and lab-citizen” as well as the distinct possibility “to become a super-star scientist.”



**ALEXIA FRANCES KALOGEROPULOU** was awarded \$4,000. She currently attends the University of Dundee in Scotland for a Ph.D. in Biochemistry. She completed undergraduate study at UCLA in neuroscience in 2013 and is now continuing her career goal at a world-famous institution focused on neurodegenerative research. Her detailed personal essay outlines her impressive journey to investigate how human brain dysfunction affects movement disorders. She has published research, presented (and was awarded) conference poster sessions internationally, and won a prestigious Parkinson UK studentship. Her community activities are extensive and include teaching children about science, being a lab guide for public tours,

and others. Her two reference letters are exceptional. The first from a science unit general manager mentions Alexia’s maturity, leadership abilities, “a phenomenal standard of human kindness,” and her “natural aptitude for scientific research”. The second letter from another professor and lab supervisor writes “I rank Alexia amongst the most technically gifted researchers that I have had in my lab.”



**ANDRIANA MALHI** was awarded \$4,000. She attends Alliant University, San Francisco. She hopes to complete a PsyD. in clinical psychology and is well on her way. Her official transcript shows an overall GPA of 4.0. Her personal essay mentions a focus of her studies on correctional settings with the highly neglected stigmatized populations. Ms. Malhi lists two professional peer reviewed publications she has authored, truly an accomplishment for a pre-doctoral student. Andriana’s school activities include membership in the American Psychological Association and clinical work with low income women. She has participated in her Church food pantry, Oratorical Festival and mental health seminars for parish members. Also listed,

becoming President of her local Orthodox Christian Fellowship at UC-Davis as an undergraduate. She has two references both from her Alliant University Professors. One letter mentions Andriana’s “contagious energy to motivate passionate discourse” in the classroom, as well as her “caring, warm, thoughtful, empathy towards others”. The second reference highlights her successful work with “clients in poverty, women, and children,” as well as her thoughtfulness and personal ‘balance’ of empathy in work settings.

# ORDER OF AHEPA

## GOLDEN GATE DISTRICT 21 - 2020 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



**CONSTANTINE YEROCOSTAS** was awarded \$2,000. He attends UC-Davis with a goal of a B.S. degree in Biomedical Engineering; his overall GPA is 3.4. Mr. Yerocostas has received honors in 2018 as Winner of a Design-A-Thon (to design a post-earthquake shelter), Dean's Honor List awardee, and was an Eagle Scout. He is an active member of a Biomedical Engineering Society and works part time as a manufacturing associate at a local Biomedical Engineering lab. He is also active at the Annunciation Church in Sacramento. His personal essay is exceptionally well written and details his journey to further knowledge of human cells and discovering non-invasive therapies for several diseases. Two reference letters strongly support his application. One from his Program

Advisor stresses Constantine's high creativity and writing ability. The second reference mentions his natural curiosity about human health, his strong work ethic, and innovative ideas.



**KATHERINE E. PAPPAS** was awarded \$2,000. She attended James Enochs High School in Modesto where she has completed an impressive weighted GPA of 4.6. Her official transcripts show a stellar record of achievement in a broad range of coursework. Her SAT score is 1530. She will be attending the University of California at Irvine this fall. Ms. Pappas has a diverse list of accomplishments such as Best Prosecuting Attorney for Enochs for three years, an AP Scholar with Distinction and others. She is active in her school's Speech/Debate event, and Newspaper Managing Editor. She participates in Greek Dance and Food Festivals, and volunteers with the American Cancer

Society. Her personal essay notes interest in the law as a profession which seems like a natural career step. Her two reference letters while unsigned are stellar, one from her English instructor and the other from her Forensics US Government teacher. Both references mention her high intelligence, ethics, personal drive, and maturity.



**KATARINA M. ALEXANDER** was awarded \$1,500. She attends the University of Utah where she wishes to complete a B.S. degree in Kinesiology (Athletic Trainer/Physical Therapist). Her official St. Francis High School transcripts show a GPA of 3.3. Her SAT score is 1080. Katarina's resume lists an impressive range of school, Church, and community service activities. Some of these include public library volunteer, Certificate of Merit for Christian Service, member of Ambassador Leadership Board, National Honor Society, track and field team member, GOYA participation, and numerous others. Two reference letters are highly complementary. One from her teacher at St. Francis Catholic High School notes creation of a special award for cognitive diverse students; 'Kat' is the first awardee. The second letter is from her St. Francis Biology/Biotech teacher. This letter mentions her being a "dynamic and enthusiastic student"

who is always prepared for class and is comfortable leading groups. Katarina writes a well-constructed personal essay which details her interest in serving wounded military veterans while embracing the Greek philosophy of Philotimo.



# ORDER OF AHEPA

## GOLDEN GATE DISTRICT 21 - 2020 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



**KRISTINA LEONES** was awarded \$1,500. She attends Laguna Creek High School. She seeks a B.S. degree in Liberal Studies from Cal-State University San Luis Obispo. Kristina has an SAT score of 1280 and a GPA of 4.5. She lists several honors including Honor Roll member for four years, Student of the Month for three months and Novice Oarlock Award (River City Rowing Club). Also identified is participation in UNICEF Club, National Honors Society, Greek dance/choral, GOYA and volunteer work. Kristina's personal essay is very well written. The essay mentions her desire to become an elementary school teacher, and her desire at college to start a Hellenic Culture Club. Kristina has two reference letters. One from her High School counselor mentions Kristina's "terrific work ethic", and her being "a planner, a doer, and seeks opportunities to learn more about being a teacher."

The second letter (unsigned) from her youth director at St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church mentions Kristina's "demonstrated compassion through her service to Church and to others" ..." a level of dedication that one doesn't always find in teenagers."



**ANTHONY BANIS** was awarded \$1,500. He writes a nicely constructed personal essay which mentions his love for his Greek heritage, desire to attend the University of Washington and participate in its rowing team. His academic record from De La Salle High School lists an impressive 3.5 GPA. Anthony mentions a career goal of an undergraduate degree in Business. Academic honors are listed, such as the 'most improved rower' on the varsity men's rowing team member. He mentions being a GOYA officer, participant in Greek dance, and being an Altar server. Anthony's two reference letters are highly complementary. The first letter from his Instructor of Religious Studies and Health mentions him being a "leader in a quiet way", "a true team player", and his gift of a "pleasant outgoing personality". The second letter

from Fr. Zaferes of Oakland's Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Ascension mentions him as "a natural leader" and a "selfless willingness to serve others." He will be attending the University of Washington this fall.



**MICHAEL SALAZAR** was awarded \$1,500. He attended Edison High School in Fresno. He will be attending Humboldt State University this fall in pursuit of a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. The focus of his future degree is Fisheries Biology where he hopes to improve the environment of nature's fish so they may thrive. His personal essay details a long-standing interest in the natural environment. On campus he has been an active member of the Outdoor Recreation Club and five first place awards in Science Olympiad. Michael is also a dance group member, alter helper and officer of the outdoor recreation club. Two reference letters from his High School teachers are complementary. Both mention his foundational understanding of the natural world, his strong work ethic, involvement with the St.

George Greek Orthodox Church, and overall sense of community service.



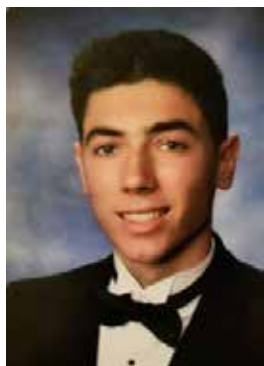
**NIKOLAS K. FLOCAS** was awarded \$1,500. He has a goal of a Bachelor of Science degree (no major is listed on his application although his personal essay mentions Business with an Information Systems focus). As an undergraduate he wishes to complete his degree at the University of San Francisco after spending two years at the College of San Mateo (which he currently attends). While no honors or certifications are listed several examples of school activities are mentioned. These include Hillsdale Yearbook participation, Soccer player for ten years and Church Basketball and Volleyball participant. Many Church activities are listed including Greek Dance, Goya, Acolyte service, and Church dinner volunteer for eight years. Niko has two very positive reference letters. One from his Special Education

Department Chair describes Niko as a model student who demonstrates "punctuality, diligence, dependability, and integrity. The second letter from Fr. Felactu of the Belmont Church of the Holy Cross mentions him being a consistent "faithful, respectful, and genuine loving young man."



# DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

## GOLDEN GATE DISTRICT 21 - 2020 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



### **Stelios Haralambos Kyriacou**

**Sponsor: Urania #290 San Mateo**

**District Scholarship Undergraduate \$2,000**

**Stelios Haralambos Kyriacou** has a long-term focus on his family, education, church and Greek culture. He graduated with honors from Carlmont High School and was accepted at four-year colleges. Due to the pandemic he chose to stay local by attending the College of San Mateo. He intends to transfer to UC San Diego to complete his B.S. in Biology and ultimately follow a career in medicine. Stelios is very active at Annunciation Cathedral, SF, serving in altar and participating in sports and Greek dance from the time he was very young.



### **Anthony George Frangos**

**Sponsor: Urania #290 San Mateo**

**District 21 Undergraduate Scholarship \$2,000**

**Anthony George Frangos** has completed his first year at College of San Mateo where he studies Economics and is Finance Director for the Associated Students. He studied abroad in Italy during his second semester at College of San Mateo, but had to return home after a month and complete classes online due to the pandemic. He is on track to transfer to University of California in 2021 to complete his bachelor's degree in Economics and Business, with interest in working on solutions for the homeless population. Anthony is an Eagle Scout, and has been active in church and soccer.



### **Danielle Marie Ellman**

**Sponsor: Urania #290 San Mateo**

**Past District 21 Govenors Undergraduate Scholarship \$2,000**

**Danielle Marie Ellman** attended Notre Dame High School and graduated with honors. She will attend Michigan State University aspiring to earn a B.A. in Interior Design with a minor Entrepreneurship and Innovation. Danielle worked at two jobs and volunteered at a number community organizations while taking several AP courses during high school. She also participated in varsity Dive Team and volunteer activities at school, in the community and at church, including being a Student Counselor for Vacation Bible Camp from 9th to 11th grade.

# DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

## GOLDEN GATE DISTRICT 21 - 2020 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



### **Angela Marie Fiorentinos**

**Sponsor: Urania #290 San Mateo**

**Angela Mouroufas Memorial Scholarship Undergraduate \$2,000**

**Angela Marie Fiorentinos** graduated with honors from California High School in San Ramon. She will attend UC Davis, majoring in Psychology with an ultimate goal of working in healthcare or education. Angela has been an athlete and a youth group Leader for Bible Camp. She has been involved in church activities such as GOYA, FDF, and has volunteered at church events and been a leader in youth activities. Angela is complemented by her science teacher for her critical thinking and depth of intelligence.



### **Jordan Christine Fernando**

**Sponsor: Urania #290 San Mateo**

**District 21 DOP Ann Jourganatos Undergraduate Scholarship \$1,000**

**Jordan Christine Fernando** graduated with honors from Hillsdale High School in San Mateo. She will complete a Bachelor's degree at the University of Nevada at Reno with a focus on Graphic Design. Throughout the years, Jordan has participated in community activities such as beach cleanup, farm volunteer, and summer church camp volunteer. She is active in her Belmont Greek Church. Jordan is also a National Honors Society awardee and her Chemistry instructor mentions her exceptional hard work as well as her skill and empathy when working with others.



### **Kristina Noel Gavrilis**

**Sponsor: Phaedra #64 Modesto**

**District 21 DOP Beverly Kennedy Undergraduate Scholarship \$1,000**

**Kristina Abel Gavrilis** attends Modesto Community College with a goal to transfer to Cal State University, Stanislaus to earn a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education with an emphasis on American Sign Language. She has been involved in many church activities including choir, Greek dance group, GOYA, YAL, and Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. She has also volunteered extensively at her school and in the community. Kristina is a gifted singer and has participated in the Stanislaus County Honor Choir. She is very dedicated to her church and Greek heritage.

## AHEPA Emergency Fund

Donations for AHEPA's COVID-19 efforts can be made through the AHEPA Emergency Fund

The AHEPA Emergency Fund was started in the early part of 2006 in response to natural disasters which occur around the world. The Order of AHEPA has donating hundreds of thousands of man hours and hundreds of thousands of dollars in financial aid for devastating natural disasters. From providing water to the first responders or milk for those in need.

We have helped clean up after Super Storm Sandy and rebuild homes in Houston. We feed thousands of homeless people through our chapters and we assist the elderly. All of our action need funds. We ask you and your chapters to donate to the AHEPA Emergency Fund.

You can donate by going to: [ahepa.org/donate](http://ahepa.org/donate)

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and so on including Corporate Sponsors!

*- See last page of this issue for details on submitting ads and pricing -*

Dr. John Lagios, President      George Pauls, Vice President

Compliments of

**RENO CHAPTER No. 281**

Meets 3rd Thursday, each month

St. Anthony Church • 4795 Lakeside Dr., Reno, NV

John Copoulos, Secretary/Treasurer

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## **AHEPA asks: What are you doing during the Pandemic Shelter-In-Place?**

*By Stephen Bolaris, PDG 21*

For our Ahepa Family and friends, this is a trying time in history as we approach the 100 year anniversary of the founding in Atlanta. For our families, friends, business associates, Koumbari, and relatives throughout the world, this is a dangerous time. Some of us have lost family members and friends. While my immediate family of four children and eight grandchildren are all well at this time, the fear is that letting down our guard will invite disaster.

The Covid 19 virus is thought to be one of the most contagious since the “Spanish Flu” pandemic of the 1918 post WWI period. While like us, nearly all of the people of the world living today were not born until much later. I recall hearing about my Uncle Tony, brother of my father, from Crete who lived in Pittsburgh, PA. His daughter, we believe, may have perished in the Spanish Flu pandemic as a girl.

Politics aside, according to the medical authorities and public health agencies, this virus will be with us many more months. For now it is in our best interest, according to medical experts, to stay healthy in mind, body and of course spirit.

Eating right while watching weight gain is a good start as pointed out by one of our recent speakers, Kiki. A good diet with exercise is essential. Keeping a good psyche is also very important. Read, discuss and talk to others by telephone. By keeping a good blood flow through exercise and by reading and discussion with friends, your mind, body and spirit will stay healthy. This may even support your immune system to further protect you from the effects of virus.

A suggestion here is to contact your health care company to ask what programs they have to offer for free. These programs may include dietary, exercise, self-care, visitations, online or phone contact, video doctor visits and more. Each health care plan is different, so call the number for member services on your health care membership card.

You want to stay as healthy as possible. Beware

the Covid 19 virus as it very contagious and dangerous. Covid 19 has caused 10’s of millions of infections and hundreds of thousands of deaths worldwide. What is this thing we call a virus?

When asking a PhD geneticist this question, the answer came back a bit perplexing. As we may have learned in primary or secondary school (think Biology Class), there are the Plant Kingdom and the Animal Kingdom – that was a very tidy summary until viruses and bacteria were discovered a few centuries ago.

There are unknown millions of bacteria and viruses on our planet. Many are not harmful to humans and some are necessary to human life – like gut bacteria. Some viruses, like the ones that cause the “common cold” may at times be controlled or eliminated by our own individual immune systems.

The usual definition is that a living thing (plant or animal as examples) must be able to have cells that self-replicate. Thus, we may not think of novel corona viruses as living things. The definition is blurred because a virus must enter a host cell to replicate itself. What are these viruses, how did they get onto the planet, and what can we do about them? So far, no one knows the answers.

Meanwhile, to compound the issues, the virus is thought to be mutating into more than just one strain.

Then along comes what many think of as the “hundred year” influenza or “flu” for short that causes a pandemic. A pandemic is an out of control epidemic that has the potential to go to every corner of the planet once it jumped from another species to humans. Not only can a pandemic like Covid 19 kill, it can also infect a person more than once according to some speculators. This is perhaps due to mutation – the evolution of the virus – but an unproven theory.

Reports in the news media discount the premise that Covid 19 is just another flu. Most recently, those recovered from severe cases have been found to have serious organ damage.



So count yourself lucky so far during this Pandemic if you are continuing to be virus free. If you have a mild case (and perhaps didn't even know that you had it) that is even better. Perhaps the immune system in your body has created the antibodies that protected you and may continue to protect you.

Who is most at risk: you and I, members of the Ahepa family: especially those over 60 years of age and with underlying health conditions. It is all over the news. So follow the guidelines. You have heard it hundreds of times. Wear a mask, wash your hands and think about wearing disposable gloves when outside your home. Disinfect touch points throughout your home including door knobs and light switches.

Consider ordering delivery of your food and household items including cleaning supplies. And, remember this Pandemic may well extend deep into 2021. Many pharma companies are developing a vaccine. Human trials will take many months – at least until the end of the year.

Watch for the developments of a vaccine and better treatments over the coming months. Until a vaccine is truly deemed effective, stay mentally sharp. Go back to the good ol' days of playing cards, board games and talking by phone. Or, go modern and play online video games against your family or friends. Get a subscription to YouTube TV, Netflix, or other streaming services to watch non network TV shows and new or old movies. No commercials and escape from the continuing annoyance of opinion mongers purporting to be reporting news. If you have Greek TV, tune in to practice your Greek. Or perhaps you need an appliance or car repair. Watch YouTube videos to get step by step tips on "DIY", do it yourself repairs. Find the model number of the item to be repaired and search for the repair part you need on eBay. It is good way to not have a repair person come in to your home and for you to save those per hour labor rates of over \$ 100 dollars. Confession: I have repaired my LG washer and dryer, my Jeep Grand Cherokee, my Craftsman Lawn tractor and many more household items and saved thousands.

Can't travel right now? Like many, you may stumble across some newer programming

via streaming. One such found programming alternative was "walking tours" of destinations where we may not be able to go to at this time. Examples are a walking tour of Venice, Italy, and another is a walking tour of Crete. While you cannot smell the street food as you pass by, you certainly can see some of the areas. When this Pandemic subsides, and it will someday, you will be able to better decide where you want to visit and where to tour.

Don't be overly concerned about the economy, business, church, and our Ahepa. Americans, like the Greeks, have a long history of resiliency. Stay healthy and happy. We will get through this to a "new normal" in work and prosperity. There will be challenges - together as an Ahepa family we will help our communities recover and prosper.

PS Consider joining a MasterMind group to exchange ideas and learn from others – this is a modern take on the Socratic Method of learning. It is exciting, invigorating, and potentially profitable financially as well. The best part is that many MasterMind groups are very inexpensive (perhaps 10 dollars per month) or even free. Be prepared to participate and my very best wishes to each and every one of you.

Bill Christie, President

Nick Pries PDG, VP

Compliments of

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**FRESNO CHAPTER No. 151**

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St. George Church • 2219 N Orchard Ave., Fresno

George Gianopoulos, Secretary Ted Bodikis, Treasurer

## 80 Years Ago...

By Stephen Bolaris, PDG 21

Many Ahepa family members have heard of war atrocities. These mass killings are as old as mankind – but that does not mean that they should be forgotten. Most of the younger members of the Ahepa Family have heard about the Jewish Holocaust in Europe during WWII. A few of us who were touched by other atrocities know that there were many, many more in history.

One such atrocity may be remembered on the 80th anniversary of the German Nazis murdering men in one village in particular. This village happens to be the birthplace of my mother, Anna Apostolakis. For that reason, this particular atrocity stands at the forefront of so many others in history and is more recent.

Professionals, such as Psychologists, seem to struggle with a unified theory as to why these events take place. For understanding, I requested information from Psychology PhD candidate, Stephanie Claudatos (daughter of Chris and Teena Claudatos). Here are conclusions by researchers summarized in this manner: “Researchers often point to social psychology concepts to explain participation in complicit behavior. Some of these concepts (e.g., obedience to authority, role assignment, ingroup-outgroup bias) are represented in research...”<sup>1</sup> The insights retrieved and reported from articles cannot point to any single driver for this behavior.

While this is at times an entire graduate school class, for our purpose here, a few key phrases were selected to illustrate the complexity. In the case of Nazis murdering innocent townspeople, the literature based on studies and experiments, does point to a few key issues:

- **Obedience to Authority:** (legitimacy of the authority, distancing from victim) Conclusions: any given person can be coerced into committing “evil” acts given the right circumstances.
- During the Nuremberg Trials, the defense used by Holocaust organizer Adolf Eichmann, was that officers were “just following orders” (Finch, 1921), which suggest a shift of responsibility.
- **Role assignment/conformity:** Zimbardo (1971); Stanford Prison Experiment: men were assigned the role of prisoner or guard in a simulated prison environment. All participants began to behave in ways consistent with their roles which extended

into behaviors such as physical violence, rebellions, and dehumanization.

- Sociopolitical persuasion (propaganda, political leaders, peer influence, antisemitism)
- Propaganda was the primary method of disseminating the Hitler’s ideology to “absorb individuals into a mass of like-minded people and the purpose of the suggestion was not to deceive but to articulate that which the crowd already believed” (O’Shaughnessy, 2009).
- **Realistic Conflict Theory:** (prejudice, discrimination, stereotypes, negative beliefs)
- **Conclusion:** Being faced with scarce resources increases hostility, feelings of prejudice, and discrimination, between competing social groups, promoting ingroup-outgroup bias.
- **Economic pressure:**
- The economics of the Holocaust is a many-faceted subject that is an integral part of the Holocaust’s history. This paper describes some of the results of the new research since 1990 and discusses the economic rationalities employed by the perpetrators in despoiling the Jews. Economic considerations accompanied the timing and pace of the expropriation of Jewish assets and their “Aryanization.” The new research also shows that there was widespread collaboration in the expropriation of the Jews by private interests both inside Germany and in German-controlled Europe and that networks of bureaucrats and private interests joined to achieve Nazi goals. The combination of expropriation and mass murder was one of the aspects of the Holocaust that made it unique.



While we will never know the full “why”, any atrocity is committed, we should not want to forget. Many of our contemporary organizations throughout the world such as the JDL (Jewish Defense League) try to educate as well as to protect. Closer to our own ethnicity, Ahepa, The Pancretan, Panarcadian and Chian Society come to mind.

The here and now is that next June, 2021 it will be 80 years since the June 2, 1941 massacre of villagers in Kondomarie Crete (outskirts of Chania). Photographs were taken by a Nazi photographer and later turned over to the trial in Nuremberg. The men were murdered in a sort of retaliation against those who refused to surrender and those who fought in hit and run tactics. There is some conjecture and some recorded reports but we will never know what was in the hearts of those Nazi soldiers as they killed those men who may have been innocent. One of those men was the brother of my mother, George Apostolakis.



While we cannot undo the massacre, we at Ahepa along with so many other organizations and ethnicities can educate and press our respective governments to do what we are able to condemn and stop these atrocities from happening in Greece or anywhere in the world.

The “E” in Ahepa is for education. It is a value traced back several thousand years in our Hellenic history. Socrates and Aristotle come to mind. The Rhetoric of Aristotle is still read today.

We can educate by making known to the world that this and other atrocities committed by the Nazis will not be forgotten. This coming June 2, 2021 on the 80th anniversary of this atrocity in Kondomarie, Crete, there will be a remembrance. The plan starts with information from this site followed on June 2 with remembrance in Kondomarie:

<https://europe remembers.com/trip/battle-of-crete-80th-commemoration-pilgrimage/>

So what is the takeaway from this: Were the Nazi soldiers following orders as was claimed? Or, is there a small part of each of us that given the circumstances we would allow ourselves to be swept into these brutal actions of killing because of socio-economic factors or propaganda?



Let’s all do our respective parts to grow the “E” in Ahepa. Each of us can mentor not only our own children and grandchildren. We can change the trajectory of the lives of other children and young people no matter what race, creed, sex, skin color, or national origin. Teaching, educating, and mentoring is a free legacy that all Ahepa family members can leave behind,

Perhaps through our unity as an organization that values education and defends our liberty, we can positively influence all peoples.



<sup>1</sup> *Mastroianna, Theory and Psychology, Obedience in perspective: Psychology and the Holocaust*



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AMERICAN HELLENIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION

ESTABLISHED IN 1922



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**AHEPA Supreme President George G. Horiates maintains  
AHEPA's stance to Sanction Turkey & Boycott Turkey!**

# SANCTION TURKEY!

**ACTION ALERT**



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## STAND UP & FIGHT

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## Sanction Turkey Overarching Message

NATO-member Turkey's provocative and aggressive behavior under the Erdogan regime 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.

### **Turkey continues to demonstrate it is an unreliable and dubious NATO ally**

- Turkey has acquired the Russian-made S-400 missile defense system, which has raised concern among NATO members.
- It has been reported that Turkey tested the system against an F-16 in November 2019.
- Turkey's acquisition of the S-400s is a violation of U.S. law – the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) – and subjects Turkey to U.S. sanctions under CAATSA.
- Turkey's acquisition of the S-400s also emboldens Russia's malign activities that are aimed to drive a wedge into NATO.

### **Turkey threatens to NATO ally, Greece, and U.S. Strategic Partner Cyprus**

- Turkey deliberately instigated a migrant crisis on its land and sea border with Greece, and consequently, the European Union.
- Turkey has escalated its violations of Greece's airspace and territorial waters to unprecedented levels, including issuing two illegal NAVTEX notices during the past month that encroached upon Greece's continental shelf and exclusive economic zone (EEZ) near the Greek island of Kastellorizo– the second one after the State Department urged Turkey to halt operations.
- U.S. Ambassador to Greece Geoffrey Pyatt and State Department officials have stated that Greek islands are entitled to continental shelf and exclusive economic zone (EEZ).
- Turkey has violated repeatedly the EEZ of the Republic of Cyprus, most recently in August 2020, and on one previous incursion, Turkey's violation prompted a response from U.S. ambassador to Cyprus Judith Garber, who urged Turkish authorities to "halt these operations;" and in yet another instance in December 2019, Turkey engaged with an Israeli research ship and deported it out of Cypriot waters.
- Turkey maintains 40,000 troops on Cyprus in violation of international law and has illegally occupied 37% of the island of Cyprus since its 1974 invasion of the island.

### **Turkey Violates International Law and Norms**

- Turkey has conducted a military incursion into Syria that prompted the House of Representatives to pass overwhelmingly (by a 403 to 16 vote) bipartisan legislation, H.R.4695, to sanction Turkey and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has passed a companion bill, S.2641.
- Turkey has engaged with Libya, signing a maritime boundary Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that has been dismissed as null and void and devoid of any legal standing by the international community; and by doing so, Turkey has violated the UN Security Council's arms embargo on Libya that prompted the EU to send a naval mission to the area to enforce the blockade.
- President Recep Tayyip Erdogan took formal action to change the status of Hagia Sophia, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, from a museum to a mosque, threatening its Universal Value.
- Turkey suppresses the religious freedom of minorities, including the Ecumenical Patriarchate, in violation of U.S. law (the International Religious Freedom Act).

**FRIENDS OF SAINT NICHOLAS**

## Archbishop Elpidophoros and Governor Andrew Cuomo Preside at Ceremony to Resume Construction

**H**is Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros and New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, with the leadership of the Friends of St. Nicholas and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, today visited the World Trade Center to witness the resumption of construction of the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine, the only house of worship destroyed in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Once rebuilt, the Church and National Shrine will serve as a powerful symbol of resilience and a beacon of hope, welcoming people of all faiths to honor the lives lost on 9/11.

In his remarks, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America stated, "Nearly twenty years ago, our Saint Nicholas fell with thousands of our fellow human beings lost in the ashes of 9/11, and countless others wounded in body, heart, and soul by a savage act of hatred and terror. We cannot, we must not, and we shall not let this stand. We are going to open the Saint Nicholas Church and National Shrine as a sign of love, not hate; a sign of reconciliation, not of prejudice; and a sign of the ideals that exist in this great American Nation, where one's religious liberty and freedom of conscience never excludes, but only embraces."

The Archbishop blessed the construction workers, praying that God might "protect the workers who have returned to this holy place to rebuild in safety and peace. Guide their hands aright, shield their eyes from harm, grant unto them and all who contribute to

this Holy Work every blessing of body and soul."

Governor Cuomo stated, "In the face of tragedy and destruction on 9/11, the St. Nicholas community literally held its ground against what was an inconceivable tragedy inspired by hate, instead relying on the power of love to restore what was lost and create a symbolism of faith and tolerance." Governor Cuomo continued, "In New York, we know from experience that rebuilding after a crisis means more than just restoring bricks and mortar or reviving an economy; it also requires healing a broken spirit. This church helps achieve that healing, and it will be a national shrine, rising on a place made sacred by the suffering that took place here and will send a powerful message to the world that New York is a state made stronger by tolerance and our respect for one another."

Rick Cotton, Executive Director of the Port Authority said, "Today marks a new chapter in the historic rebuild of Lower Manhattan. The new St. Nicholas Church and National Shrine will be a source of inspiration and peace, while also helping to share the historical contributions of the Greek-Orthodox community to all who visit and worship. The Port Authority is proud to have worked alongside Governor Cuomo to bring us to this important milestone and today, we are pleased to see construction resume. I commend the work of the Archdiocese and Friends of St. Nicholas

as they have worked hard to ensure that this project honors the strength and resolve of our World Trade Center Campus."

Kevin J. O'Toole, Chairman of the Port Authority said, "In a world filled with so much uncertainty, this restart brings hope that we are closer to restoring St. Nicholas as a solemn place for parishioners and visitors to worship, reflect, and honor the innumerable sacrifices made after the September 11th attacks. The church is a symbol of the continued resilience that has helped bring a rebirth to the World Trade Center campus, and today is a day to recognize those hard-fought achievements."

The election of Archbishop Elpidophoros in May 2019 reset the stage for a new, transparent approach to complete the Saint Nicholas reconstruction, which had been abruptly halted in December 2017 due to a series of managerial and financial crises in the Archdiocese. With the encouragement of Governor Cuomo, the non-profit Friends of St. Nicholas was formed to oversee the project. This group of prominent Greek Orthodox Christians, under the guidance of Archbishop Elpidophoros and Fr. Alexander Karloutsos, and the leadership of Dennis Mehiel, Michael Psaros and John Catsimatidis, raised the funds required to

Board of Trustees  
 Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, *Honorary Chairman*  
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 **ST. NICHOLAS NATIONAL SHRINE**  
**RESTARTS CONSTRUCTION**

# AUGUST 2020 | 4

complete the construction of the Church and National Shrine.

At the conclusion of the event, Archbishop Elpidophoros, Governor Cuomo and those in attendance at the event observed the placement of the first skylight in the dome of the Church. Dennis Mehiel, Chairman of the Friends of St. Nicholas, remarked, "We have just witnessed the placement of the

first piece of glass that what will eventually become a beacon of light at Ground Zero, shining brightly as a symbol of good versus evil and providing a peaceful and prayerful place for people of all faiths who visit the 9/11 Memorial."

The Church is slated to be completed in the fall of 2021.



Visit the **LIVE EarthCam**

[stnicholaswtc.org/webcam](http://stnicholaswtc.org/webcam)



**ROW 1**

1. Archbishop Elpidophoros offers a blessing
2. Archbishop Elpidophoros and Governor Cuomo inside Saint Nicholas Shrine



**ROW 2**

1. Archbishop Elpidophoros and Governor Cuomo inscribe the wall of Saint Nicholas
2. Archdiocese Council Vice Chair and Friends Member, John Catsimatidis with Chairman of Friends of St. Nicholas, Dennis Mehiel



**ROW 3**

1. Vice Chairman of Friends of St. Nicholas Michael Psaros
2. Father Alexander Karloutsos, Vicar General of the GOAA



*Editor's Note: For your information a portion of the publication "Friends of St. Nicholas" is included in this issue of the Ahepa Traveler. AHEPA pledged and fulfilled one million dollars donation to the St. Nicholas Shrine.*





## AHEPA VETERANS REGISTRATION

*AHEPA Medal for Military Service is awarded to all veterans in Honor of their service to the United States.*

“The Mission of the Order of AHEPA Veterans Committee is to archive and recognize all veterans of the Order and Hellenic community through sound communication and publication. Furthermore, to conduct fund raising and philanthropic outreach through a cohesive, limited, yet well defined activity that reflects well on the Order of AHEPA and brings credit to the organization at large.”

The AHEPA Medal for Military Service, approved by the 106th Congress, was presented to all AHEPA veterans present at the 34th Biennial Congressional Banquet, March 29, 2000. The Supreme Lodge then encouraged its districts and chapters to present this medal to its deserving veterans unable to attend this banquet. It is this committee’s intent to register AHEPA Veterans and have the AHEPA Medal presented at appropriate events at the District and Chapter levels. Funds collected through this effort cover medal production and other administrative costs to include shipping. Remaining proceeds will be donated to the Wounded Warrior Program annually.

Eligibility requirement for AHEPA Medal for Military Service includes Honorable Service and Discharge. Service includes Active Duty, National Guard, or Reserve status of the United States Armed Forces.

**Register online at [www.ahepaveterans.org](http://www.ahepaveterans.org).** File a copy with your chapter Secretary after registration is complete. Medals are normally shipped in the fall and in time for Veteran’s Day celebrations in November.



### *AHEPA Supports Military Family*

#### *Reading Program Through The USO!*

*AHEPA National President Dr. John Grossomanides announced the organization's support of military families by selecting the United Through Reading? Military Program as a national service project, working in cooperation with the United Services Organization (USO). United Through Reading is a program that enables service members to video record themselves reading books to their children back home and provides a DVD of the recording and a copy of the book to the child.*

***Go to the following links to learn more and make a chapter or individual donation for as little as \$10***

*Join Team USO-AHEPA and Make a Donation  
Read About the Last “I Love You”  
Feature in The Ahepan Magazine  
Read the AHEPA News Release*

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**DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE**  
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*The mission of the AHEPA Family is to promote*

*Hellenism*

*Education*

*Philanthropy*

*Civic Responsibility*

*Family*

*and Individual Excellence.*

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Tom Chairchanis, *Executive Secretary*  
507 Chabot Ave - Modesto CA 95354

for more information call or email  
209 401-1179 Email: 59tommyc@gmail.com