

Ahepa Traveler

CHAPTERS THROUGHOUT NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN NEVADA

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Winter/December 2024

Daughters of Penelope Shine Bright in Times Square for 95th Anniversary

Diaspora in Focus

NEW YORK – The Daughters of Penelope celebrated their 95th anniversary this year with a special event in Times Square on Saturday, November 16. To mark this incredible milestone, the organization illuminated a celebratory billboard in the iconic New York City location. Every 59th minute of the hour, the message was displayed on the billboard, which was positioned between 47th Street and 7th Avenue.

In an email statement, the Daughters of Penelope shared their excitement: “As we mark this incredible milestone, we are thrilled to share that the Daughters of Penelope will light up Times Square! Every 59th minute of the hour on November 16th. Our presence will shine bright on one of the world’s most iconic stages. Our celebratory billboard will be between 47th Street and 7th Avenue.”

The statement continued, “This is a proud moment for our organization, recognizing nearly a century of empowering women, supporting families, and uplifting communities worldwide. Let’s celebrate together as our legacy reaches new heights in the heart of New York City!”

They also encouraged those who were at the event

to share their experience: “If you happen to be at our billboard on Saturday, take a picture with it, and post it on all your social media accounts and tag Daughters of Penelope and hashtag DOP95.”

For those who visited the area, the message could be seen at 1560 Broadway, right above the Pelé store in Duffy Square. The DOP Anniversary message ran for 15 seconds on the 59th minute of every hour for 24 hours on November 16.



The billboard up in Times Square commemorating The Daughters of Penelope’s milestone.

Photo: DaughtersofPenelope/Instagram

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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

Dr. Vassilis Zarifis
Email: vgzari@gmail.com

Daughters of Penelope Traveler Editor

Angie Legakis
Email: alegakis@yahoo.com

**ARTICLES FOR
SPRING/MARCH ISSUE
DUE FEBRUARY 15, 2025**

**PUBLISHING SCHEDULE
MARCH 1, 2025**

Have Ritual Manual . . .
Will Travel



Can Do:

Installations
Initiations

Seminars:

Chapter Duties
Membership Drives
Charity Raffles
Rituals

“YOUR FULL SERVICE . . .
DISTRICT 21 LODGE”

Contact District Governor

From the Editor . . .

Greetings! In this issue we offer congratulations to the Daughters of Penelope and EOS, the Mother Chapter, on their 95th Anniversary. Many chapters are holding holiday season events including a New Year’s celebration. Brother George Zioulas, SG visits Punta Arenas, the southern most village on earth. Scholarship season will soon be upon us. Several articles pertaining to scholarships, education programs, fund raisers and other articles with the educational theme. National and District scholarship applications will be available in January on their respective websites.

Thank you to those who contributed to this winter issue.

Wishing all a happy holiday season!

Bill Christie, Editor

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Up Coming Events

San Jose Daughters of Penelope Daphne Chapter 29
 Christmas Ornament Exchange - Sunday, December 1 - Flyer page 23

Reno AHEPA Family
 Christmas Dinner - Thursday, December 5 - Flyer page 24

Sacramento AHEPA Family
 Christmas Luncheon - Saturday, December 7 Flyer page 25

Modesto and Stockton AHEPA Family's
 Christmas Gathering - Saturday, December 7 - Flyer page 26

San Mateo and San Jose AHEPA Family's
 'Tis the Season to Jingle and Mingle Luncheon - Saturday, December 7 Flyer page 27

Contra Costa AHEPA and DOP Harmonia Chapters
 Christmas Luncheon - Saturday, December 7 - Flyer page 28

San Mateo AHEPA Chapter 392
 Christmas Tree Sale - Saturday, December 14 - Church of the Holy Cross See page 16

Oakland AHEPA Chapter 171
 2025 New Year's Eve Celebration - Tuesday, December 31 Flyer page 30

Fresno AHEPA Family District Lodge Visitation
 Saturday, January 11, 2025 9:30am St. George Church Hall

San Jose AHEPA Family District Lodge Visitation
 Tuesday, January 14, 2025 6:00pm St. Nicholas Church Hall

San Jose AHEPA Family Blood Drive
 Thursday, January 16, 2025 10:00am - 2:00pm St. Nicholas Church Hall See more page 16

Modesto AHEPA Chapter 246
 All You Can Eat Crab Feed - Saturday, March 1, 2025 Flyer page 30



2025 Golden Gate District 21 Convention

Friday, June 20, 2025 and Saturday, June 21, 2025

Hosted by the Oakland AHEPA and DOP Chapters

Headquarters: Stockton Hilton Hotel - Stockton, California



Daughters of Penelope 95th Anniversary Celebration

By Marion Parishes, Past President EOS 1

My heart is filled with love for my amazing, beautiful Sisterhood, the Daughters of Penelope! Words cannot describe my feelings of emotion! This past weekend was the 95th Anniversary Celebration of the founding of The Daughters of Penelope. Celebrations began on Friday, November 15th with the Welcome Night hosted by EOS#1 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church and chaired by Sister Christi Tsiplakos and her fantastic committee, Sisters Vaso Moulas, Kathleen Bardis, Eva Skoufis, and Diane Antonis. Our church's Secretary, Sister Eleni Stamatakis, helped as well. Dinner and dessert were delicious! Camaraderie was at it's finest! Our Ahepa Family was starting the weekend with a bang!! We were looking forward to our Founders Day Luncheon the next day and seeing our Brothers and Sisters with a fantastic family reunion!!



Left to right: PDG Alicia Frangos, Kathleen Bardis, Elaine Makras, Marion Parashis, and Eva Skoufis

EOS#1 is to be commended for a great job, brilliantly accomplished! Sisters Andrea Skoufis and Gina Agelopoulos were the Chairs and their committee consisted of Sisters Kathleen Bardis, Coleen Karkazis, Vaso Moulas, Pamela Pewitt, Eva Skoufis, Eleni Toubanos, Christi Tsiplakos, and Foula Vasilogiorgis. These gorgeous Sisters

of mine planned and executed the most elegant and fantastic Founders Day 95th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon! Kudos to all of them! AXIES!!!

The luncheon was held at the Crowne Plaza in Foster City, California. There were tons of glitz and glam, and believe me, we sparkled and shined!



Past Grand Presidents with PSP President Andrew Zachariades -Vasilia Kachmarski, Marianthi Treppiedi, Jan Spanos, Demi Thomas, Joanne Booras

Our Grand President Margaret Dritsas, Grand Vice President Antoinette M. Zachariades, Grand Secretary Gretchen Holtsinger, Grand Governor Christie Finch Zone III, Grand Governor Linda Belba Zone IV, Grand Governor Xanthe Vafopoulou-Steel Zone V, and Maids of Athena Advisor Helen McClure graced us with their presence which brought me to tears of overwhelming happiness. Thank God I didn't wear mascara, because it would have definitely been all over my face when I saw the next group of gorgeous Sisters!

Past Grand Presidents Joanne Booras, Jan Spanos, Vasilia Kachmarski, Demi Thomas, and Marianthi Treppiedi also attended!! Excitement totally filled the air!

Our District 21 Sisters, District Governor Athena Hallock, Lt. Gov. Angie Legakis, District Secretary Laurie Sahines, District Marshall Sophia Fonti, and District Advisor and Past District Governor Alicia Frangos also joined us to celebrate together. Some of our past beautiful District Governors, Sisters Kathy Leles, Margo Drosos, Joanne Panagopoulos, Kalliope Fousekis and Helen Sexton attended as well! Fantastic and amazing!

Our 95th Anniversary Celebration would not have been complete without the continued support of all of our handsome Brothers! Past Supreme President Andrew Zachariades, District 21 Governor Mark Hallock, George Booras, Chris Frangos, Alexander Mallas, George Fonti, Robert Sexton, and many Brothers from the Golden Gate Pacific Chapter #150 including Pete Kireopoulos, John Bardis, George Argyres, and Ernie Antonis also happily attended. It was a wonderful and exciting day!

“Empowered Together” our Grand President Margaret’s theme was present in action this awesome weekend. Father Nick Metrakos with his inspiring words and blessing added to my feeling of love and pride for my Sisterhood. The Consul General of Greece Grigorious Tassiopoulos also spoke with kindness. Reuniting with so many of my Sisters from here and afar and meeting new Sisters, I realized the pride, the love, the inspiration and total unity we all have in common. All of us had tears when kissing, hugging and saying “goodbye”, safe travels, and hope to see you soon. A beautiful day, a beautiful world, a beautiful Sisterhood, Empowered Together!

Years ago, I wrote a poem that speaks from my heart. Here is a part of it.

Spirit of Sisterhood

*When a Daughter is feeling
overwhelmed, devastated and blue,*

*Nearby, will be a Sister with an
encouraging word or two.*

*When a Daughter’s heart is broken
and filled with sorrow,*

*Nearby, will be a Sister with promises
of a better tomorrow.*

All of you Sisters here in this room

*Regardless of all the problems
and economic gloom,*

*Are filled with so much fire,
devotion, vim and drive,*

*That the Spirit of Sisterhood vigorously
will continue to survive!*

Again, Happy 95th Anniversary, my Sisters! May God bless us and watch over us as we continue to thrive and grow and have many more years of continued success! Love you all!

And . . .

Dear Sister Marion –

In your inimitable style you captured the wonderful “GLITZ & GLAM” celebration of EOS No.1’s 95th Anniversary.

Some more of the “Sparkle & Shine” of the event that was highlighted by Emcee & Board Member Pamela Karkazis Pewitt:

- Past District Governor and Past President Sister Foula Vasilogiorgis and Past President Eva Skoufis were recognized for their long-time mentoring and contributions to the Daughters of Penelope and EOS No. 1 with presentations of the Order’s beautiful new 95th Anniversary pins.

- EOS’ dearly beloved and recently departed Past DOP Penelope of the Year Sister Mary Chicos was remembered for her many initiatives on behalf of the Daughters and for bringing the statue of Penelope to San Francisco’s de Young Museum.

- The seniority of all attending Sisters was marked by decade with our “seasoned” senior Sisters left standing to the applause of all.

- EOS’ Corresponding Secretary Eleni Toubanos managed the design and production of the 95th Anniversary Daughters of Penelope Silk Scarf which was on sale and will be available through the District #21 web site. In addition to the beautiful Scarf, Sister Eleni delivered her first born four days before Founder’s Day. Her daughter is now the EOS No.1 daughter!

Thank you Marion and all the Sisters who made this Anniversary a wonderful success which will provide a donation to Project Glimmer, a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering girls through guidance, mentorship, and networking.

In Theta Pi, Kathleen Courtney Bardis, PS EOS 1

Editor’s Note - You can view many more pictures of the anniversary celebration by Kostas Petrakis Films by scanning the QR Code or by copying the link below and pasting in your browser.



<https://www.kostaspetrakos.com/Client-Galleries/DAUGHTERS-OF-PENELOPE-2024/n-dp8XT4>

Founder's Day Celebration Welcome Night



Left to right:
Grand Governor Zone V Xanthe Vafopoulou-Steel, MOA Advisor Helen McClure, Grand Secretary Gretchen Holtsinger, Grand Vice President Antoinette M. Zachariades, PSP Andrew Zachariades, Grand President Margaret Dritsas, Grand Governor Zone IV Linda Belba, Grand Governor Zone III Christi Finch



All past District 21 Governors including Past Grand President Jan Spanos and our Grand President Margaret Dritsas



A few of the EOS#1 chapter members at the 95th Anniversary Celebration of the Daughters of Penelope

Consul General of Greece Grigorious Tassiopoulos and Mrs. Tassiopoulos, with PDG Foula Vasilogiorgis.

AHEPAN'S enjoying the 95th Daughters of Penelope Founder's Day Celebration



Golden Gate District 21 Fall Conference

by Alicia Frangos, PDG

The District 21 Fall Conference was hosted at Holy Cross by Urania # 290 and San Mateo AHEPA #392, on Saturday, October 5th. The Conference was chaired by Alicia and Chris Frangos and Art Smith assisted in logistics with the Oaks. The event was well attended by people around the District. We had 31 Daughters and 24 AHEPANS in attendance.

Sophia Fonti did a beautiful job decorating and setting up. Christine Longinidis and Vivian Gavros assisted with serving and clean up and a number of Sisters brought delicious desserts that were enjoyed after a catered lunch.

All members of the DOP District Lodge attended, as well as DOP Past Grand Presidents, Jan Spanos and Joanne Booras and Past Grand Secretary Diane Petersen. A number of Past District Governors from both AHEPA and DOP were in attendance.

Oakland DOP and AHEPA volunteered to host the District Convention in June. The venue may be the Stockton Hilton.

The total income for the event was \$2,240.00 and expenses were \$1501.66, so the net profits were \$738.34. The District Conference is not a fundraiser, and proceeds will go to Holy Cross as a donation for the use of the facilities.



Christi Tsiplakos and Marion Parashis at the Fall C.

Daughters of Penelope at the District 21 Fall Conference



Golden Gate District 21 Fall Conference San Mateo - October 5, 2024



Fall Conference Summary 2024

The District 21 Fall Conference took place at the Church of Holy Cross in Belmont on Saturday October 5, 2024. The host Chapters of AHEPA San Mateo and DOP Urania did a fabulous job offering a delicious breakfast before the main joint session. There were about 52 prepaid registrations with some additional paying at the door.

In the main session, after the welcoming remarks from George Zioulas SG Region 8 and Linda Belba GG Zone IV, followed by opening remarks from the District Governors, we discussed:

WRDC 2024, closing report. There were 110 delegates from Districts 20, 21, and 22 and everyone agreed it was a very successful event held in Reno in June 2024. Net income, split equally among 6 Districts, was \$21,884.21

Finalizing work needed for the restoration of the library and adjoining restrooms at the St Nicholas Ranch. WRDC had voted to finalizing plans by end December 2024. Sister Foula Vasilogiorgis agreed to share with the District the Metropolis current spreadsheet with funds of approx \$25K

Two short Convention presentations from Helen Sexton and Vassilis Zarifis, two delegates to the Supreme Convention held in Cyprus in July 2024

The selection by plurality email vote for the name of the new Service Dog for Warriors sponsored by AHEPA District 21. The male name selected was Zeus and the female was a tie between Athena and Hera. The floor voted to promote Hera. The required donation of \$5,000 was sent following the Conference

Decided that next year's District Convention will be organized by AHEPA and DOP Chapters of Oakland. It will take place in Stockton CA, June 20 and 21.

A healthy discussion about the future of the Districts' Scholarship Foundations and ideas and suggestions of how to attract and retain members from scholarship recipients. Among the fresh ideas was the pay-it-forward approach of contacting past scholarships recipients, to increase the amount of the monetary awards and limit the total number, to establish a national mentorship program to include scholarship recipients and

volunteer members.

A renewed emphasis on kickstarting the first West Coast Hellenic History Tournament (HHT) and attracting competing teams of students; including among schools with Greek language programs. Students need not be of Hellenic descent. District champions are Chris Frangos, Vassilis Zarifis, and Ioannis Kokkinidis

At noon we all enjoyed a big spread for lunch!

The afternoon breakout sessions followed for about 2 hours.

The AHEPA topics were the schedule of the District's visitations, the Treasurer's report, given by the outgoing D21 Treasurer Vassilis Zarifis.

Our Supreme Governor George Zioulas provided insights on the grand vision for Region 8, including promoting and rewarding science and arts and honoring select individuals.

Summary of the Project Transformation we are championing; this is an environmentally friendly program that sponsors US artists to create sculptures from discarded and polluting construction materials in Greece. It thus provides a positive broad environmental impact and creates works of art!

The details of the new pilot program from National for online payments of dues from each member, with disbursements going directly to respective National, District and Chapter bank accounts monthly! District and Chapters will be informed how to sign up, if desired. It was a welcoming relief from many officers of Chapters as it will save a tremendous amount of effort yearly!

PDG Chris Frangos led another vigorous discussion about restructuring the Scholarship process, current issues and increased awards

Lt Governor Dennis Davis went through the list of all active and dormant district committees, identified the chairmen, if available, and solicited inputs and status offline. He will communicate the full list and status to the Lodge and stakeholders in the future

Dr. Vassilis Zarifis,
Secretary AHEPA District 21, and
President AHEPA Silicon Valley #251

Golden Gate District 21 Fall Conference San Mateo - October 5, 2024



San Jose DOP Daphne Chapter

Thanksgiving Cheers. Daughters of Penelope got together and wrote ~250 Thanksgiving cards that will be distributed to older adults with Meals on Wheels. A beautiful initiative for Santa Clara county in collaboration with Sourcewise.



Left to right: Laurie Sahines, Angie Legakis, Linda Belba, Joanna Dunn and Sofia Kotsiri

Daughters 95th Anniversary Celebration. Daphne members who attended the celebration pictured below.



Left to right: Angie Legakis, Athena Frangides, Laurie Sahines, Linda Belba, Tina Bundros, Elizabeth Fkiaras and Jacqueline Argyres

Sacramento DOP Artemis Chapter

By Diane Peterson, PGS

Breast Cancer Awareness Luncheon. The Daughters of Penelope Artemis #5 Sacramento held a luncheon on October 27th at St. Katherine GOC in Elk Grove in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Parishioners were greeted by pink table coverings as they entered the Tsakopoulos’ Hall. Everything was pink—plates, napkins, cups, silverware, and dessert. It reminded me of the “Barbie” movie set. Pink ribbons pins were given out to the women at the luncheon.

District Governor Athena Hallock spoke about Knitted Knockers. This organization was created by a breast cancer survivor. These lightweight prosthetics are knitted or crochet and sent free to cancer survivors. They recommend certain yarns, so they don’t irritate the body. Knitters and crocheters send the Knockers unstuffed to Knitted Knockers Support Foundation in Bellingham, Washington.

Our District Governor Athena Hallock has donated quite a few knitted knockers to this wonderful organization

President Diane Petersen told the parishioners that the money collected today (\$530) would go to Knitted Knockers to cover the expense of shipping them to cancer survivors. Everyone enjoyed the food and the information about this wonderful organization.



The picture shows knitted chemo hats by Diane Petersen and Knitted Knockers knitted by Athena Hallock DG. Also included on the table is the information about the organization.

Sacramento continued on next page

Celebrating Founder's Day

On November 17th, Daughters of Penelope Artemis chapter celebrated Founders' Day at St. Katherine GOC in Elk Grove. Usually, we celebrate this event at Annunciation GOC in Sacramento also, but there was an event already planned on the 17th. The décor was blue and white—blue coverings on the serving tables, blue plates, blue napkins, and blue cups. We also had a chocolate sheet cake with Daughters of Penelope printed on the cake. A blue covered round table contained items about the Daughters of Penelope and Penelope House.



Diane spoke about our founder Alexandra Apostolidis. She spoke highly about Penelope House, one of our projects. She has visited Penelope House three times and the last time rode on the Penelope House float during Mari Gras. Then she announced that the money collected today (\$500) would go to Penelope House.



Everyone enjoyed the food and were pleased that the money collected was going to Penelope House.

Sacramento AHEPA Family Christmas Luncheon

Saturday, December 7th we will have our annual AHEPA Family Christmas Luncheon at 11:30 at the Old Spaghetti Factory on Watt Avenue. We always have a choice of four entrees.

Members bring toys, books, stuffed animals, games, cars, etc. which again will be donated to Shriner's Children's Hospital UC Med Center in Sacramento. Last year we donated over 55 gifts to the UC Med Center.



Elaine Pavlatos has donated her famous decorated Christmas tree and matching wreath as our door prize. The Christmas tree is valued at \$300. This year the money collected will go to our Artemis #5 Scholarship Fund.

We would like to thank again Jan Spanos PGP (as she always does each year) for her generosity in paying the bill for the Artemis #5 Daughters.

Merry Christmas to everyone in District #21 from the AHEPA Family of Sacramento.



Modesto AHEPA Family and Golden Gate District 21 Lodge Visitation
Saturday, October 12, 2024

“Save the Date” 31st Annual All You Eat Crab Feed - Saturday, March 1, 2025

See Flyer in this issue





Join AHEPA San Mateo Chapter #392 on Saturday, December 14, 2024, for “AHEPA Day at the Christmas Tree Lot” at the Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross, 900 Alameda de las Pulgas, Belmont, CA, 94002. From 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM, chapter members will be selling Christmas trees, wreaths, and more, helping staff the church’s annual fundraiser to support youth activities. Stop by to pick out your holiday greenery or lend a hand at this wonderful philanthropic event!

For more info email: asmith.ahepa392@gmail.com



Join AHEPA Silicon Valley Chapter 251 for a lifesaving Blood Drive on Thursday, January 16th, 2025 at St. Nicholas Church in San Jose. Appointments are available between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM, offering a convenient way to make a difference in your community. Your donation can help save lives—schedule your appointment today and be a hero!

For more info email: ahepa.c251@gmail.com



District Lodge Stockton Family Visitation - October 2024

San Mateo DOP Urania Chapter

Submitted by Claire Gagas, President

District 21 Lodge Visitation

Urania Chapter #290 visitation by the District Lodge on November 9, 2024 at Holy Cross in Belmont.



*Pictured to the left:
Initiation of new sister Vicki Delegeane, District Governor Athena Hallock, President Claire Gagas*



Valerie Vasilakos, Cathy Pereira, Christina Longinidis, Katina Cosenza, Vivian Gavros, Vicki Delegeane



Demetra Sperow, Kathy Roque-Albert, Claire Gagas, Christina Longinidis, Irene Chapralis



Visitation: Foula Vasilogiorgis, Kalliope Fousekis, Laurie Sahines (District Secretary), Angie Legakis (District Lt. Governor), Alicia Frangos (PDG), Sophia Fonti (District Marshall), Athena Hallock (District Governor), Martina Polakis, Mary Anagnostou



95th Celebration: Eula Tsvikas, Roxanne Koston, Maria Igoumenopoulos, Terry Smith, Matoula Gialis, Irimi Kehahias, Dorothy Giotinis, Angie Vrakas, Virginia Coppock, Edie Christoforidis, Kitsy Anagnostou



Daughters of Penelope Urania Chapter #290 sponsored a beautiful, fall-themed coffee hour and membership drive at Holy Cross Church in Belmont on November 17 and raised \$90 for charities. We were blessed to share our warm and loving sisterhood with our Holy Cross community!

Pictured are Urania sisters: Valerie Vasilakos, Vivian Gavros, Christina Longinidis (Treasurer) Roxanne Koston, Barbara Karvelis, Cathy Pereira, Angeliki Trujillo, Mary Anagnostou, Demetra Sperow (Vice President) Claire Gagag (President), Maria Vavuris, Toulia Koirtoglou, Maria Bazigos, Irene Fotinos, Kathy Roque-Albert, Eddie Christoforidis



Pointsetta Fundraiser and coffee hour sponsorship on November 24. Oursisters lovingly prepared treats for our Holy Cross community and we raised over \$300 selling beautiful Pointsettas for our charities!

Urania #290 Sisters: Eva Canellos, Vivian Gavros, Cathy Pereira, Irene Chapralis (Co-Chair of Fundraiser), Matula Gialis, Mary Anagnostou, Roxanne Koston, Stella Charonis, Terrie Smith, Angelina Trujillo, Vicki Delegeane, Barbara Karvelis, Alicia Petrakis, Valerie Vasilakos, Christina Longinidis, Demetria Sperow, Claire Gagag, Maria Vavuris (Co-Chair of Fundraiser)

San Mateo Urania Chapter at the DOP 95th Anniversary Celebration



Kathy Roque-Albert, Irene Chapralis, Irene Fotinos, Maria Vavuris, Claire Gagas, Katina Cosenza, Demetra Sperow, Cathy Pereira, Mary Fiorentinos, Vivian Gavros, Angeliki Trujillo, Marie Gonis



Sophia Fonti (District Marshall), Virginia Coppock, Eddie Christoforidis, Cathy Pereira, Claire Gagas (President), Vivian Gavros, Katina Cosenza, Irene Chapralis, Demetra Sperow (Vice President), Irene Fotinos, Kalliope Fousekis, Kathy Roque-Albert

DOP, Christian Dior Couture Celebrate Female Empowerment, 'The Greek Bar Jacket'

November 7, 2024 by The National Herald



Left to right: Phaetuse Paris Chapter member Anastasia Karkani, Phaetuse Paris Chapter member Angelique Christaki, DOP Executive Director Elena Saviolakis, Phaetuse Paris Chapter Secretary Katherine Delikoura, film producer and director Marianna Economou, DOP Grand President Margaret Dritsas, and Phaetuse Paris Chapter President Niki Kalogera. Photo: Hippolyte Petit/BFA.com

NEW YORK – The Daughters of Penelope (DOP), a leading international service organization comprised of women of Hellenic heritage and Philhellenes, in cooperation with Christian Dior Couture proudly presented 'The Greek Bar Jacket' by Marianna Economou and Anemon Productions in New York City. The event celebrated female achievement and empowerment while benefitting the DOP National Project, Open Door, a Center of Education and Rehabilitation in Athens, Greece, providing daily services to over 240 children and adults with cerebral palsy.

The evening featured a cocktail reception followed by a screening of the acclaimed film 'The Greek Bar Jacket' directed by Economou. The film offers a profound exploration of the collaborations, influences, and emotions behind the Dior Cruise 2022 collection, designed by Dior Creative Director Maria Grazia Chiuri, which made it unique.

DOP Grand President Margaret Dritsas presented the Spirit of Penelope Award to Alexandra Winokur, President of Christian Dior Couture Americas, and Economou, the film's producer and director, honoring their contributions to dignity,

perseverance, and creativity, and their roles as empowering leaders for women.



Left to right: DOP Executive Director Elena Saviolakis, President of Christian Dior Couture Americas Alexandra Winokur (wearing the Bar Jacket), and DOP Grand President Margaret Dritsas. Photo: Hippolyte Petit/BFA.com

DOP Executive Director Elena Saviolakis served as the MC for the speaking program which included Dritsas, Winokur, and Economou. Open Door President Ioanna Koutrouvis, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Director of Administration Maria Andriotis, and representatives from DOP Phaetuse Chapter, located in Paris, France, Chapter President Niki Kalogera and Events Manager Katherine Delikoura, also provided remarks.

"Our Paris chapter, especially Chapter President Niki Kalogera, deserves tremendous accolades for starting this beautiful collaboration with Christian Dior Couture," Dritsas said.

Dignitaries in attendance included new Consul General of Greece in New York Iphigenia Kanara and Despina Karapostalaki, Executive Assistant

to the Consul General at the Consulate General of Greece in New York.

Dritsas added the DOP's special thanks to the Christian Dior Couture Team that worked to ensure the program's success, and to Open Door of Greece, led by President Koutrouvis and Founder Daphne Economou, whose vision and determination led to the creation of a center that stands by children and adults with cerebral palsy in Athens, Greece.



Left to right: President of Open Door Ioanna Koutrouvis, DOP Grand President Margaret Dritsas, New Consul General of Greece in New York Iphigenia Kanara, DOP Executive Director Elena Saviolakis, and AHEPA Past Supreme President and Chairman of the AHEPA Board of Trustees Nicholas Karacostas. Photo: Hippolyte Petit/BFA.com

Dritsas said: "We extend our heartfelt thanks to all our sponsors and attendees. Your support made this event truly special. The Daughters of Penelope are proud to support Open Door and to honor two women who exemplify leadership and inspiration."

About the Daughters of Penelope

Founded in San Francisco in 1929, the Daughters of Penelope (DOP) is the first women's service organization of its kind established in the United States. It is an affiliate organization of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (Order of AHEPA).

The mission of the DOP is to promote the ancient Greek ideals of Hellenism, Education, Philanthropy, Civic Responsibility, and Family and Individual Excellence.

NYT Spotlights Stellene Volandes' Digital Transformation of Town & Country

November 6, 2024 By TNH Staff



Town & Country Editor-in-Chief Stellene Volandes. (Photo: Andrea Klerides / Michael Priest Photography)

According to a recent report from The New York Times, Town & Country magazine has found new life under the leadership of Stellene Volandes, its editor in chief, who has revitalized the 178-year-old publication while staying true to its roots.

Stellene Volandes, editor in chief of Town & Country, has skillfully guided the magazine through a swiftly evolving media landscape, balancing its storied print legacy with the growing demands of the digital age. With a fresh approach to cover stories, engaging social media presence, and innovative content strategy, Volandes has transformed Town & Country into a modern luxury brand that continues to captivate audiences both online and in print.

Volandes has been with Town & Country since 2011, starting as the jewelry and accessories director before rising to editor in chief in 2016. Under her leadership, the magazine has embraced a youthful yet refined vibe, evolving with the times while maintaining its status as a go-to guide for the affluent. In 2020, she also took on the role of editorial director for Elle Decor.

Born to Greek immigrant parents, Volandes draws from her heritage in her approach to luxury and tradition. Her love of art, design, and craftsmanship—set habits she learned from her mother and father—shape her magazine's

approach. This close connection to her roots has informed her perspective on how to balance heritage with timeless elegance.

A key achievement under Volandes’ stewardship has been bringing luxury print into the digital age. Town & Country, which has a print circulation of 440,000, also has 2.3 million total monthly visitors to its website and a growing social media following. The magazine launched its own membership program, Town & Country Insider, which offers exclusive events, newsletters, and behind-the-scenes content.

Volandes is known for her active involvement in the world of jewelry and curating fashion shows. She has been credited with redefining the intersection between traditional media, in which personal op-eds and hosted events help bridge the gap between old-world luxury and modern, accessible sophistication.

This article is based on original reporting by Alyson Krueger in The New York Times.

DIGITAL HEPTAPOLIS – The City of Artificial Intelligence

October 17, 2024 *Press Release*

With the active collaboration of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Transformation, the DIGITAL HEPTAPOLIS platform is being built, which is planned to be ready by the end of 2025, including a huge collection of training courses for citizens of all ages, in all countries of the world.

Particular attention has been paid to the information of courses on topics of Ancient Greek Literature which are developed in a short but comprehensive concise manner, covering all periods of development of Philosophy in the ancient Greek world from the period of Rhetoric to the end of Neoplatonic Knowledge.

The basic purpose of Digital Heptapolis is to cover a constantly renewed “gap of ignorance” that the man of every era can have on every topic of his daily life, concerning the necessary “Cognitive Field”, in order to participate in the knowledge and developments of his time.

The Digital Heptapolis user’s visit to the platform

will be carried out with the advanced Virtual Reality technology.

The visitor entering the 3D Heptapolis will be able to navigate through the attractions of Polis, meet his/her friend(s), navigate through the training areas of special educational programs, browse through museum exhibits, as well as other digital activities.

The creation of Heptapolis involves two construction phases. One will involve physical construction and the other digital construction. In both construction phases, the image of Heptapolis will be the same.

The Digital Heptapolis platform was launched in 2020 and will be completed in the first phase in 2025, in order to include the tens of thousands of pages of Education with texts, photos, videos, 3D animation, philosophy lessons, virtual reality practices and will be continuously enriched, aiming at the evolution of Knowledge.

The Digital Heptapolis platform is the second part of the Heptapolis – International Green City projects, which will be built in the wider area of the Municipality of Delphi, in Desfina.



Introducing the St. Nicholas Tele-Santa Program!

Gift a call from Santa!

**Schedule a complimentary
video call from
St. Nicholas for
the child in
your life this
Christmas!**

**Learn more &
sign up at
stnicholas-tele-santa.com**

Supported by



The Order of AHEPA is proud to support the St. Nicholas Tele-Santa Program, a free service provided in collaboration with the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America to bring children closer to the church via a video call from Santa Claus, originally Saint Nicholas of Myra, a priest and bishop of the Greek Orthodox Church.

This holiday season, give the children in your life the gift of a video call with St. Nicholas himself! Simply visit the website and fill out a questionnaire about your loved one and Santa will be in touch to schedule a personalized video call just in time for the holidays!



*Best Wishes
for a
Joyful Holiday Season!*

Good Friends, Good Cheer It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

**You're invited to the
DOP CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT EXCHANGE LUNCHEON**

**PLEASE BRING A WRAPPED ORNAMENT OF \$20
VALUE & A CASH DONATION FOR THE ANGEL
TREE PROJECT**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1ST

AT 1:30 PM

**AQUI CAL-MEX
DOWNTOWN WILLOW GLEN
1145 LINCOLN AVE., SAN JOSE
(408) 995-0381**



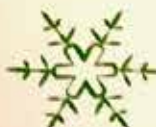
RSVP to Cathy Photopoulos at kaitoulamou@aol.com (408) 315-9450 or Elizabeth Fkiaras at fkiasas_grk@sbcglobal.net (408) 621-1625

AHEPA AND DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

CHRISTMAS

Dinner

DECEMBER 5, 2024



SPARKS WATER BAR
325 HARBOUR COVE DR SUITE 101
SPARKS, NV 89434

DATE: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2024
TIME: 5:30PM - COCKTAILS (NO HOST)
6:30PM - SALAD, DINNER & DESSERT

DINNER - SELECT AN ENTREE FROM LIST BELOW:

- ROSEMARY GARLIC PORK TENDERLOIN
- GRILLED SALMON
- CONCHIGLIE (CHICKEN/PASTA)

NOTE: ORDER TAKEN AT THE RESTAURANT

PURCHASE ONLINE:

<https://doprenonv.square.site> (adds online fee)

WRITE CHECK TO: DOP 89

MAIL PAYMENT TO:

DOP ELIS #89

P.O. BOX 21533

RENO, NV 89515

**RSVP AND PAY
BY NOV 21**

**COST: \$70.00
PER PERSON**



FOR THIS YEAR'S GIVING, WE ARE COLLECTING GRANOLA BARS TO DONATE TO EDDY HOUSE - BRING A BOX OR 2 OF GRANOLA BARS OR DONATE \$ AND WE WILL PURCHASE THEM.

CALL KATHY LOPER - 916-712-2801, IF ANY QUESTIONS





PLEASE JOIN US FOR

AHEPA
FAMILY

Modesto & Stockton Chapters

CHRISTMAS

gathering

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7
5 PM

ANNUNCIATION GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH

313 Tokay Avenue, Modesto CA 95350

DINNER, DESSERT &
HOLIDAY CHEER

Adults: \$15.00 Children: \$5.00 8 & under: Free

**DUES
RAFFLE**

Pay your 2025 dues before or at the party and one lucky member of each chapter will be chosen that night to have their dues paid by their chapter instead!

FUNDRAISER

Again we will hold a 50/50 raffle fundraiser - monetary prize will be awarded and other half will be split to benefit each chapters chosen projects. The members of MOA Eleftheria #278 will also be raffling off gift cards!

RSVP BY: NOVEMBER 30TH
Aliko Alexander 209.649.4207 (call or text)
aliko@aramsolar.com



'Tis the Season to Jingle & Mingle

*You're invited to an afternoon of
delicious food & holiday cheer*

Date: Saturday, December 7, 2024

Time: 11:30 AM

Location: Margaritas Mexican Restaurant
2098 Broadway,
Downtown Redwood City
(650) 701-0709

\$35 per person, all inclusive Prix Fix including vegetarian options. Includes soft drink or coffee.

Spouses/Significant Others Invited

1 Block from the Parking Garage at 850 Jefferson Avenue & 1 Block from the Christmas Market

PLEASE BRING A WRAPPED GIFT OF \$20 VALUE FOR OUR SECRET SANTA GIFT EXCHANGE

Downtown Redwood City will also be hosting their 18th Annual Hometown Holidays Christmas Market from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM

<https://redwoodcitydowntown.com/hometownholidays/>

Hosted by the San Jose & San Mateo Chapters of Daughters of Penelope & AHEPA

MUST RSVP & PAY IN ADVANCE BY DECEMBER 1st

Absolutely NO Walk-ins!

Pay via Check (payable to AHEPA 392) or PayPal to ahepa392@gmail.com

San Jose Chapters:
Jacqui Argyres
(408) 891-9419
ibenjou@hotmail.com

San Mateo Chapters:
Claire Gagas
(650) 740-2844
claire.gagas@att.net



AHEPA & DOP JOIN CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Saturday, December 7th, 2024
11:30 AM to 2:30 PM
OLD SPAGHETTI FACTORY
1625 WATT AVENUE (WATT & ARDEN)

MENU CHOICES

- LEMON CHICKEN
- SICILIAN MEATBALLS OVER PASTA
- PASTA WITH MIZITHRA & BROWN BUTTER
- BAKED LASANGA
- EACH MENU ITEM INCLUDES FRESH BAKED BREAD, SOUP OR SALAD, SPUMONI OR VANILLA ICE CREAM, COFFEE OR TEA
- PLEASE CALL or TEXT RULA MANIKAS 916 606-2193 BEFORE TUESDAY, Dec. 3rd WITH YOUR CHOICE
- \$32 per person for AHEPA members - Pay at the door
 - Open to spouses and guests
- Bring an unwrapped gift without any sharp edges to be donated to Shriners Hospital.
- AHEPA Service pins will be awarded - **Inform the Chapter secretary by 11/23 if you plan to attend**; otherwise, the service pin is not guaranteed
- District 21 Lodge will join us for the luncheon - Short meeting will follow



JOIN THE
DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE AND AHEPA
FOR THEIR ANNUAL



Christmas DINNER PARTY

WEDNESDAY	ZIO FRAEDO'S	AT
11	\$75/PP	6:30
DECEMBER	611 GREGORY LN. PLEASANT HILL	IN THE EVENING

RSVP BY **DECEMBER 2ND** TO:
LIZ WELLINGTON: 925-528-9227 OR LIZW3@YAHOO.COM

PAYMENT CAN BE SENT TO:
37 LOST VALLEY DRIVE, ORINDA 94563



Start 2025 New Years With A Celebration!

Ascension Community Center
4700 Lincoln Ave., Oakland, CA

Tuesday December 31, 2024

7PM to 1AM

HOSTED BAR & Dinner

Including Appetizers, Dinner & Dessert

DJ Playing Greek, Ballroom & Club

Midnight Champagne Toast

Hosted by AHEPA Oakland Chapter

RESERVE NOW

Reserved Tables available for groups of 8-12. See opposite side for Table Groups.

Reservations REQUIRED - Deadline for "Early-Bird" Reservations AND Payment is **December 15th**.

NO tickets will be sold at the door. Please make checks to: AHEPA 171 and mail with completed form.

Or pay by Venmo @AHEPA-Oakland, or call to pay by credit card.

Name Phone Number

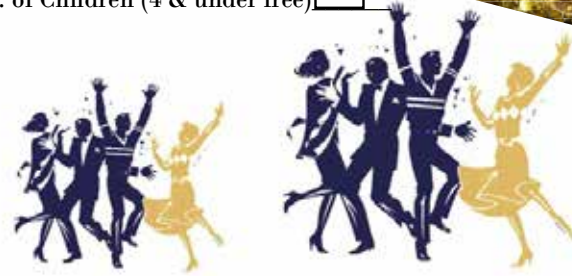
No. of Adults @ \$100 No. of Youth (5 to 20) @ \$75 No. of Children (4 & under free)



After December 15th until December 29th with Payment - NO reservations after the 29th:

No. of Adults @ \$125 No. of Youth (5 to 20) @ \$100 No. of Children (4 & under free)

Total No. Reserved Total Included: \$
Mail to: Karen Kolokithas Phone 510-517-0994
3979 Alexia Place Email: karpolyzos@yahoo.com
Castro Valley CA 94546



Thirty First Annual Ahepa Crab Feed

Save the Date

Saturday March 1, 2025

All you can eat, chowder, salad, pasta, and Crab

At Very Rev. Emmanuel Papageorge Cultural Center

313 Tokay Ave Modesto



\$70 per Adult (15 and under \$35)

Music – Raffle – The party you should not miss.

Proceeds support Church projects, local charities and scholarships.

Reservation forms will be in the January Monthly Church mail out.

For other requests or information contact Stamus Cocolos 209-545-1787.

With your support from the 2024 Crab Feed, Modesto Ahepa Chapter was able to make the following donations this year. Cloth-A-Child \$1,000 –Kids-n-Cancer \$700-- Modesto Gospel Mission \$700—Church Book Store Restoration Project \$2,000—Recent Hurricanes affecting Florida, Carolina, Georgia \$500.

In addition supporting Vasilopita, Greek School, Sunday School, Seminary Event, Food Festival Kickoff, Hosting Promotion/Graduation Day event.

Punta Arenas

A fascinating city in the extreme south of Chile, known for its natural beauty, history and importance as a gateway to Patagonia and Antarctica.



Brother George Zioulas displaying AHEPA Banner

Punta Arenas by Dr. George Zioulas, SG

Punta Arenas is the southernmost city on Earth, overlooking the Straits of Magellan. Situated astride one of the world's historic trade routes, its prosperity has risen and fallen with that trade. The **Greek and Spanish settlers** arrived in the area of Punta Arenas at the end of the 16th century, but the difficult climate and the remote location didn't keep them there for a long time. The town was eventually founded in the mid-19th century to enhance the Chilean presence in the Strait of Magellan and to protect the region from the attacks.

Few Greeks – and also few Spanish – know that there were Greek sailors on **the ships of the mission of Magellan and Elcano**, who five hundred years ago embarked on a long and turbulent journey that would become the first voyage around the world. This journey began under Ferdinand Magellan in 1519 and, three years later, developed into the longest journey of an entire era: the first circumnavigation of the Earth, completed in 1522 by **Ioannis Sebastianos Elkanos** and the crew of the ship Victoria. Among the crew members were 9 Greeks, Miguel de Rodas, Felipe de Rodas, Miguel Sanchez de Rodas from Rhodes, Francisco Albo, Simone de Axio, Antonio de Axio from Chios, Nicolao Griego, Juan Griego from Nafplio and Matteo de Corfu

from Corfu.

The town developed economically around 1890 when the region became an important center of the sheep-raising industry. Before the Panama Channel was built, Punta Arenas was considered one of the most important harbors in Chile and South America.

Punta Arenas enjoyed its first great boom during the California Gold Rush, when it served as a haven for great clipper ships. Although the port's importance diminished after the opening of the Panama Canal, the city reached even greater prosperity early in this century as the center of Chile's international wool trade. Today, Punta Arenas reflects a great mix of cultures, from English sheep ranchers to Portuguese sailors, and it remains an utterly fascinating testament to the Chile's rich history.

Over the centuries, the Greek population in Punta Arenas, which numbered only a few hundred in 1955 and was supported by a Greek consulate, has significantly diminished. Today, there are no Greeks residing in Punta Arenas. However, the remnants of their presence linger through the use of Greek words, serving as a reminder of their historical connection to the area.

As you step into this vibrant town, the air is crisp with the scent of salt and earth, inviting you to

explore its myriad wonders.



The city boasts an architectural heritage that ranges from the Magellanic vernacular of corrugated metal-clad houses with steeply pitched roofs to Francophile mansions commissioned by 19th-century wool barons. With its pure air and sophisticated European architecture, Punta Arenas is an urban metropolis comprising around 125,000 friendly locals.



The Chilean writer Francisco Coloane immortalized this characteristic, when he wrote,

“The sheer difficulty of living here brings people together. It creates a human solidarity and sense of honor that people from the rest of Chile don’t always share”.

Strolling through the streets of Punta Arenas feels like wandering through an open-air art gallery. They serve as canvases, where artists, both local and international, use the cityscape to show off vibrant masterpieces. Murals and graffiti in the form of trompe-l’œil - an art technique that creates

a highly realistic illusion of three-dimensional surfaces - flourish, adding to the city’s vibrant artistic atmosphere. This captivating fusion of Street Art and Murals gives the city both a unique identity and an undeniable charm.



The city’s aesthetic is marked by colorful wooden houses, grand public buildings, and a picturesque waterfront adorned with sculptures celebrating its maritime heritage. Among these is a striking monument to Ferdinand Magellan, the explorer whose name resonates deeply in this region. The statue stands as a testament to the town’s historical significance as a vital maritime hub before the Panama Canal’s opening.





The journey begun at Plaza Muñoz Gamero, the heart of Punta Arenas. Here, a statue of Ferdinand Magellan stands sentinel, a reminder of the daring spirit that charted these waters. The plaza is adorned with lush greenery and benches that beckon you to pause and soak in the atmosphere.



The grand Palacio Sara Braun, a national monument, captivates with its elegant design, while other historic buildings reflect the diverse influences that shaped this city. Each structure is a canvas painted with history, inviting you to imagine the lives that unfolded within their walls.



A short walk leads to Cerro de la Cruz, where panoramic views await. Ascend this hill to witness a breathtaking vista of Punta Arenas cradled by the Straits of Magellan. The sight is particularly enchanting at sunset when the sky transforms into a palette of oranges and pinks, casting a golden glow over the town and its surroundings. It is here that you can feel the pulse of nature intertwining with human existence.



Fuel up for a full day of sightseeing with a visit to Kiosko Roca. Open since 1932, it's one of the must-dos (and tastes) in Punta Arenas. The banana milk and choriqueso bread (Chilean sandwich with cheese and chorizo) are the signature dish.

Continued on next page



In Punta Arenas, enjoying a cold Austral beer is more than just quenching thirst; it's an invitation to savor the landscape.

A remarkable beer culture thrives, rooted in the pristine beauty of Patagonia. Among the standout brews is Austral, known as the southernmost beer in the world. Established in 1896, this brewery has become a symbol of local craftsmanship and quality, drawing upon the region's clean, pure water—considered some of the best in the world. This exceptional water source is not merely a backdrop; it is the essence that elevates Austral's beer to a level of excellence that enthusiasts rave about.

The journey of Austral beer began with German brewmaster José Fischer, who arrived in Punta Arenas with a vision to create a beverage that would satisfy the palates of early settlers. He named his creation "Patagona," which soon gained popularity for its rich flavor and high quality. Over the years, as the brewery evolved and changed ownership, it retained its commitment to producing exceptional beers that reflect the spirit of Patagonia.



Punta Arenas is more than just a destination; it is an experience woven from threads of history, culture, and stunning landscapes. In this southernmost city, every corner reveals a story waiting to be discovered, a poetic journey through time and nature that lingers long after you depart.

View more at link below

<https://sites.google.com/view/puntaarenas24/home>

or scan QR Code



SCHOLARSHIP SEASON HAS ARRIVED

AHEPA District Scholarship Foundation

Applications/Information are available from your chapter and on the District website:

ahepa21.org/scholarships

Daughters of Penelope District Scholarship

Applications/Information are available from your chapter and on the District website:

dop21.org/scholarships

National AHEPA and Daughters of Penelope Scholarships

Scholarship applications will be available starting January 2025 on their respective websites: ahepa.org and daughtersofpenelope.org

Scholarship applicants consider the following:

Qualities we admire in students. We strongly recommend all students to take one or more courses in the “classics” in order to understand their historical context as they relate to current events.

Academic Excellence. Higher grades help show us that you’re taking your future seriously and putting in the effort.

Cultural Appreciation. It is our organization’s belief, that the Hellenic or Classical Studies programs on college campuses are of great value.

Extracurricular Activity. Having a “work-life” balance during your professional career is important which is why balancing responsibilities outside of school shows us you’re on the right track.

Volunteerism. Philanthropy and self sacrifice are attributes in the lives of those who leave well respected legacies.

“We Are What We Repeatedly Do. Excellence Then, Is Not An Act, But A Habit.” - Aristotle

AHEPA STUDENT PROGRAMS

Visit ahepa.org for more information about these student programs.

Washington Mentorship AHEPAcademy

Professional development program that educates, mentors, and networks exceptional Greek-American high school students as they progress through their high academic and professional careers.

Summer Excursion Journey To Greece

Immersive summer program that takes young students on excursions throughout Greece in order to learn about, appreciate, and celebrate Greek society and culture.

Study Abroad Odyssey In Athens

Students choose to spend either a semester or full year studying abroad in Athens Greece. The school and apartments are located in the Plaka area at the base of the Acropolis.

Master’s Program MBA Program

Webster University, through its Athens campus, is proud to offer for one time only its Higher Learning Commission [HLC], USA accredited Master of Business Administration in collaboration with AHEPA.

\$17 Million AHEPA Gift Will Open Doors For A Generation Of Students

By Athena Efter on July 11, 2024 Neo magazine

In March of 2024 AHEPA, America's largest Greek-American philanthropic organization, announced it was the recipient of an historic donation of \$17.3 million dollars from an anonymous donor. It was a transformational gift, one that would significantly boost AHEPA in its mission to promote Hellenism. It is also another touchstone in Basil Mossaidis' successful two-decade tenure as AHEPA's Executive Director.



Basil Mossaidis, AHEPA's Executive Director

The gift was made to The AHEPA Foundation, Inc., the charitable arm of the organization's programs and will be devoted – as per the anonymous benefactor's request – towards scholarships for students of Greek ancestry who will pursue studies in the sciences, technology, and medicine. The assistance will be housed under The John George Tsitsos Scholarship Fund. Mossaidis reflected on its significance, saying: "This endowment has quadrupled our ability to support students in higher learning. Additionally, it provides a sense of permanency for the AHEPA Educational Scholarship program."

The idea of "permanency" becomes significant as we move through the 2020s and many Greek-American organizations find challenges to sustain their relevancy in an evolving community. More and more Greek-Americans today are third-generation and beyond, the language and culture growing a bit more distant in their daily lives – not to mention the revolution of the information age. "The advent of computers, the internet, social media, and 24 hour news cycles have made organizations like AHEPA struggle to maintain and increase membership," says Mossaidis.

So what does that effort look like? Well, the primacy

of a well-funded scholarship fund is a magnificent opportunity. And a well-coordinated effort at the chapter level to bring in more and more younger members. "AHEPA's strength lies within its chapters. We cannot dictate how that works in every community, but we try to motivate our chapter to host events to bring in younger people and to showcase their commitment to community service," says Mossaidis. And, he adds: "The AHEPA is here to stay."

But, there are also societal aspects that encroach on sustaining Greek identity and the core values AHEPA seeks to uphold. The recent political divide in America is foremost among them. Mossaidis finds the answer in finding common values. "I can clearly remember on of our past Supreme Presidents when he said 'America was built for us, the Greek-Americans – not only because she accepted our principles of democracy and law – but because America allowed our grandparents opportunities to advance their families with education and rewarding careers,'" he says. "I feel the same way. We must look back and find what makes us great Americans. That's the only we will be able to maintain our heritage."

Most certainly, Mossaidis has lived that example. Growing up in the Philadelphia area, he followed in his father's footsteps in joining AHEPA as a young man – a road that led to becoming its Executive Director, a position he's held since 2003. And, although, he and his family now live Washington, DC, he still maintains his membership at the St. Demetrios parish in Upper Darby, PA where he was raised – "The best church in America," he boasts proudly. And his own role as a parent has had him reflect on what it means to be a Hellene. "It is more than knowing two Greek words; it is a flame in your soul that make you love all things Greek."

Most likely, the answer to the preservation of Hellenism lies in simple altruism. And, that's truly at the core of AHEPA and many other Greek-American organizations – the idea of paying it forward. A newer generation of scholarship recipients and members, through gratitude, will surely find a path to preserving the cultural identity and values of those who came before them. It's a simple proposition. "If we help the young people, they will in turn remember us when it is their time to join," says Mossaidis. And with the legacy of the new Tsitsos Scholarship, it will prosper for generations to come.



AMERICAN HELLENIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION

"From the Desk of the Supreme President"

Since its establishment, AHEPA, the largest and oldest Greek American Organization in the U.S., has consistently dedicated itself to advancing education for the upcoming generations. The AHEPA Journey to Greece program, a cultural immersion initiative, enables high school seniors and college undergraduates to earn up to six college course credits. Originally initiated in 1968, the program transported a youthful generation of Greek American youths to explore their ancestral culture and land. After a hiatus, it was revitalized in 2006 in collaboration with Webster University. Now in its 19th year, the 2025 AHEPA JTG program is accepting applications for individuals eager to delve into the rich culture and history that Greece offers. Scheduled to run from June 15 to July 11, 2025, interested parties can find more details regarding costs, schedule, courses, and application submission at <https://ahepa.org/education/>.



Supreme President Tsivicos emphasized, "The program to Greece is more than just an academic venture, it's a cultural immersion experience. As generational stewards of our heritage, it is crucial to foster, promote, and transmit the rich traditions of our culture to the upcoming generation of Hellenes and Philhellenes."

We invite all college-aged students to submit applications and participate in this summer's program. It promises to be an unforgettable journey, brimming with valuable connections and a lifetime of cherished memories!

Savas C. Tsivicos
Supreme President
Order of AHEPA

SCHOLARSHIP AND INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES!

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION 2024-2025

\$250,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications are due **January 31, 2025**

The application, criteria, requirements, and guidelines are available at www.panhellenicsf.org



NEED AN INTERN?

RECRUIT INTERNS THROUGH THE PANHELLENIC SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION!



Discover New Talent: Tap into a pool of skilled young professionals ready to bring their perspectives to your company.



Make a Lasting Impact: Help shape the next generation of professionals in the Hellenic community by providing mentorship and real-world experience.



PANHELLENIC SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation
8501 West Higgins Road • Suite 210
Chicago, Illinois 60631

☎ 312.357.6432
☎ 312.872.0090
🌐 panhellenicsf.org
✉ info@panhellenicsf.org

Golden Gate District 21 Educational Foundation



Please consider a donation to our AHEPA District 21 Educational Foundation and receive a tax deduction as we are a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization.

Also we would like to ask you to consider bequeathing to our Foundation as part of your estate planning. We would like to increase our Scholarship Awards as costs for students have skyrocketed.

Consult your tax consultant for the benefits of a donation and/or a bequeath to our Foundation.

Additional projects to be considered with addition of donated funds . . .

- Sponsor the AHEPA Journey to Greece program for our District youth.
- A Hellenic History Tournament financed through our Foundation.

Donations to the Foundation can be mailed to:

AHEPA DISTRICT 21 FOUNDATION
% Chris Frangos
P.O. Box 447
Millbrae , CA. 94030

Thank you for your consideration,

Chris Frangos. PDG
Chairman
Golden Gate District 21 Educational Foundation

AHEPA Hellenic History Tournament



Jeopardy-style tournament for 8th Grade and High School students

- *Two 3-member teams compete against each other in a double-elimination format*
 - *District's winning team competes in the National Convention competition*
- *All questions and answers are taken from the Hellenika book by T. Peter Limber (1997)*
- *Topics cover the entire period of Hellenic History, from antiquity to modern times*
 - *Local AHEPA Chapters would sponsor or endorse each team(s)*
- *Each member of the winning team is awarded \$1000 plus a scholarship award*
- *Each member of the runner-up team is awarded \$500 plus a scholarship award*
- *Any student can join who is in grades 8-12*
 - *Students are allowed to participate in more than one tournament*

The tournament is popular on the East Coast and in Canada. Golden Gate District 21 would like to host a local tournament when enough teams are formed.

If you are interested, or you know someone who may want to participate, contact your local AHEPA Chapter or write to governor@ahempa21.org

**A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION!
AHEPA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
BENEFIT
FOR AHEPA JOURNEY TO GREECE**



DECEMBER 15TH 2024

6:00 PM

THE GRAYCLIFF

122 MOONACHIE AVENUE, MOONACHIE, NJ

**PROCEEDS GO TO AHEPA JOURNEY TO GREECE
DEFRAYING TUITION AND PROGRAM COSTS!**

**LAST YEAR'S SUPPORT FROM YOU AND OUR COMMUNITY
SPONSORED 22 COLLEGE STUDENTS, GIFTING EACH OF THEM WITH
6 COLLEGE CREDITS AND FOUR WEEKS OF AN
UNFORGETTABLE CULTURAL PROGRAM!**

DINNER, OPEN BAR, MUSIC, & MORE!

**\$125 SUGGESTED DONATION MINIMUM
SPONSORSHIPS ARE REQUESTED**

\$1,000 SUPPORTER

\$2,500 BENEFACTOR

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Why Invest and When

By Steve Bolaris, PDG B.S. Economics, M.B.A.

As AHEPA'S, and part of the AHEPA family, there is a keen interest in E for education. Financial education is often overlooked as each person pursues a passion such as engineering, medicine, or business. Contributions to society and progress of mankind is an honorable duty that the AHEPA family is adept at performing. One only needs to look at programs such as AHEPA housing, disaster relief, athletics, and scholarships to see the wide range of contributions to society and the world. Education is the key, not only to earn a living, but to put forth fact over opinion and protect the freedom that was hard won in the late 1800's when Greece fought for independence from the Ottoman Empire.

Coming back to one of the most overlooked parts of the education of an individual, as well as organizations, is investment. Successful investment provides the "juice" to be able to sustain the good works done by the AHEPA family. How to learn about investing – that which is rarely taught in schools, colleges or universities – is the education that starts with each of us and needs to be taught to our children and grandchildren. Financial stability in life allows for pursuit of the loftier goals of philanthropy, art, music, medicine, philosophy and so much more as the ancient Greeks sent to us down through the centuries.

Achieving financial security is accomplished in many ways – nurturing (informal education works for some) while education (the formal education as sent to us by the Socratic method as well as in a modern classroom) works for others. One only needs to ask the "right question" to learn more for self and others. Where to ask the question is another very debated point. The most recent contested area of information is from AI – Artificial Intelligence. The accuracy of that will continue to improve.

The important takeaway from this is to point out that investing and avoiding frivolous spending over a lifetime provides the financial stability as a basis for a family as well as for the fraternal family of AHEPA. Once the decision is made to begin saving, investing and restraint of spending, the next order of business is where to find unbiased information to exceed annual inflation.

While sources change over time or fall out of favor (university economics majors find this to be evolving continually) there are some basic historical facts. According to Brian Belski, Chief Investment Strategist at BMO Capital Markets, and others, the fact is that the US stock market generally returned approximately 10.5% per year (6.6 % inflation-adjusted) from 1957-2024. This is confirmed on the site www.officialdata.org. According to another source, Chat GPT, "The average annual return of the S&P 500 over the last 30 years is 10.733%, assuming dividends are reinvested. Adjusted for inflation, the 30-year average is 7.998%." Again, another view drawn from numerous sources, confirm that investing wisely and over a lifetime leads to financial security. Investing in tax deferred accounts (think IRA, Roth IRA, employer 401k or Solo 401k as examples) are wealth builders. This is the answer to "how much might I earn based on my financial education?"

Of course, this is pre-tax and post-tax and there is considerable question as to how the various years such as the Great Recession and more recently the Pandemic, sharply increased inflation, excessive government fiscal spending, and more, cause some years to be lower while others higher. Investing from early life through retirement years is your key to financial independence not including your personal residence as part of your wealth measurement.

And, when you get to the answer to your question of investing, how do you separate fact from opinion or worse yet, biased opinion. By never depending on just one source. This is similar to your own home study, research, talking with others such as friends and your financial advisor. Many firms such as Fidelity offer free financial education.

Be tenacious! The ancient Greeks were tenacious and look at the results of their education that has come through the ages to the Ahepa family today. Remember, the "E" in AHEPA is for (lifelong) education.

PS don't miss out! Belski is bullish on America via the S&P 500 measurement of the stock market which he asserted on October 7, 2024: the general market trend for stock pickers could return 15%/year over the next four years. Delbar implies the expectation of 10% growth per year over the same time frame.

Useful Simple Monte Carlo Simulation

By Steve Bolaris, PDG B.S. Economics, M.B.A.

Named for the famous casino located in Monaco, the modern simulation and analysis tool was first invented in 1940. Beyond the math, science and modern algorithms, the basic use for family investing is simplified. As the E for education in AHEPA, all members of the fraternal family should use all tools available to have financial stability in life.

Using a simple Monte Carlo simulation outside of trying to mimic what goes on in games of chance such as roulette – that is where education helps understanding and potentially greater success. Let's look at two examples.

A member of the AHEPA family wants to try to predict the outcome of an investment being made today with what the financial impact will be in the future. The proposed investment is \$100,000 in a real estate development project with a trusted builder. The developer has a history of success in choosing the right locations throughout the nation and your thoughts about the future of real estate coincides. The build is for multi-family apartments of four units (as one example). But wait, will this process work for commercial real estate, single family homes, manufactured and mobile homes, professional centers, data centers and more real estate variants in the USA and other countries? The answer is YES, but beware of the quality of the input information. For now, the assumption is that due diligence has taken place and the desire is to seek a higher risk, higher reward investment with a time horizon of five years without wanting the (headaches) of being a landlord. As an investor, the basics such as a personal residence, long term retirement savings, life insurance, emergency fund, and short-term budgeting are in place. Very important and not discussed here is that of zero credit card debt – before investing, save non income tax deductible 18-25% interest by paying off credit cards!

The decision is made to explore a high return investment that will compliment the financials that are already in place. But, how to gage what the result will be in five years. This is where the Monte Carlo type simulation/analysis can be helpful for the “E” of the AHEPA family member. Where to

get the data to create your own X-Y graph so that you may visualize the possible range of outcomes is the first order of business. As stated, you have trust thus far in the developer/builder with a very successful history in the specific segment of the real estate market – in this example, multi-family. You have the per forma that states estimated returns in five years (could be less with renovations of old construction or longer for very big new construction depending on the phases as listed in the per forma). Now that the time tme in this example is set at 5 years to build, sell, and distribute the return on the investment of the \$100,000. The pro forma states an “internal rate of return” of 25%. By using the IRR calculator on the www.investopedia.com site, the very complex calculations can be estimated. In this example, the IRR may be thought of as a compound annual growth rate estimator. In this instance, net present value is set at zero and the internal rate of return in 5 years will match the pro forma. By varying the expected return lower to account for unknowns, a graph may allow the user to visualize expectations and therefore determine if there is still acceptable risk. Again, this investment made in a solo 401k would expect to deliver a \$100,000 return on a \$100,000 investment in 5 years as a result of repeated calculations along differing rates of return and shorter time horizons. The return on doubling of money in 5 years is greater than the rule of 72 doubling in 7 years (10% interest). Caution: this type of investment is for “Accredited Investors” usually in a tax-sheltered portion of a portfolio and is high risk. The above is for educational purposes only.

Another example could be investing \$100,000 in taxable savings such as a money market fund (not a bank savings account that pays little or nothing). The current rate of 5% is a beginning assumption. Compounding this initial investment for five years and ignoring taxes and the rate of inflation impact on the result, in 5 years the account balance will be \$ 127,628. This simplified return was the result of input into a “Compound Interest Calculator” found on the www.investor.gov site. By changing the rate of return to 6% and once again to 4% on the calculator, the investor can gain a simple knowledge of the range of outcomes. Again, by keeping it simple, the time (in years) may be varied. Plotting the resulting numbers on an X-Y

graph will give the investor a visual presentation of the outcomes and a simplistic Monte Carlo simulation.

Complex algorithms developed and used by governments, public and private entities, investment advisors, and self-directed individuals are constantly evolving to account for more data in volume as well as quality of that data. As most “thinking adults” realize, if you input garbage, you output garbage (“garbage in; garbage out!”). Make sure that your data in is good before assuming the result is accurate. This is the lesson of Monte Carlo simulations and analysis and why the E in AHEPA has morphed from teaching Greek immigrants learning English and assimilating into their new “Patritha”, elevating the success of all Greeks and Phil-Hellenes as well as the nation and the people.

By the way, many reputable sites on the internet offer free educational courses. Vanguard; Fidelity; Merrill Lynch; J P Morgan Chase; Investopedia; and insurance companies such as Prudential – go, learn, be more successful. Listen to financial webinars and podcasts to gain insight and sort fact from opinion.

Honoring our AHEPA Veterans, 2024

Each November 11, Veterans across America are honored with parades, flags and more. Veteran’s Day was created to honor the Armistice Day marking the end of fighting in the “Great War” or the “war to end all wars”. Later the name was enshrined on calendars in the USA as Veterans Day to honor those who served not only in what is commonly called World War I, but also with deference to the second world war (WW II) that began in 1939 in Europe and earlier in Asia. The armistice in Europe to end the fighting there was signed on November 11, 1918 between the Germans and the Allies. The calendar reflects the date and it is noted that the armistice took effect on the 11th hour of that day of the 11th month.

Parades go on in many places in the country on November 11 of each year. The 106th annual parade in San Jose, California goes rain or shine; this year it was the former with rain until just before the parade was joined and carried a number of veterans including two of our own Silicon Valley Chapter veterans. Bill Christie (PFC US Army) and Adam Gonzalez (Cpl 3rd Marine Air USMC) were

honored guests of the Santa Clara Corvettes club and were passengers in Corvettes through the parade. The rain didn’t allow for the Convertibles to go “topless” but the many thousands along the parade route in downtown San Jose honored our Ahepa veterans along the way with shouts of “Thank you for your service!” and military salutes.

After the parade, the Corvette drivers, club member veterans and guest veterans, including Bill and Adam, went for pizza and beer. After enduring the cold and rain for hours before the parade, the delicious hot pizza was welcome!

Please remember to honor your chapter veterans as well as your respective family veterans. As Ahepans we honor those who served going back as far as to the veterans of the war for Greek independence from the Ottoman Empire and those who served in the Greek Army in past decades.

Steve Bolaris, PDG 21, Silicon Valley Chapter 251



Steve in his Corvette following parade



Bill and Adam enjoying pizza post parade

In Memoriam



Alex Louis Rigopoulos
March 17, 1929 - October 26, 2024

Alex Rigopoulos was born in Mavriki, Tegea, Arcadia, Greece, the 9th of 10 children of Elias and Magdalini Rigopoulos. He finished high school in Tegea near Tripolis and attended the University of Athens in the School of Business and Economics. He arrived in the USA in 1951 and attended San Diego State University (BA in Economics) where he met his beloved wife, Jeanette, the daughter of the late Professor James E. and Mary Crouch. After graduate studies at UCLA, they were married.

In 1957, Alex founded Global Insurance Agency in San Diego, a successful enterprise in which he partnered with his son James for 17 years. Alex helped many people to find new opportunities for business and always supported students from Greece who came to study in San Diego just like he had done. He obtained his notary public license which enabled him to help many Greek immigrants in the community.

Alex took pride in sending Jeanette with the kids to spend summers in his village, Mavriki, and the Peloponnese. All have learned Greek and immersed themselves in the culture and traditions of his roots. Alex took special pride in Jeanette's interest in "All Things Greek" and her activism in Greek service organizations. True to his agrarian roots, he also enjoyed the title "Gentleman Farmer" at the family's C & R Ranch in Fallbrook, purchased with his father-in-law, growing avocados, citrus, and everything else under the sun.

Alex's service and volunteer efforts involved a dedication to AHEPA, the Pan Arcadian Federation of America, the Greek Orthodox church, advocacy for preserving the Greek culture, and the liberation of Cyprus from Turkish occupation. In his 66 years of membership in AHEPA, Alex was a charter member of the George Polos chapter of AHEPA (North San Diego County) established in 1985. He served as a Supreme Governor and was a delegate in annual AHEPA National Conventions. In

2012, Alex was an honored recipient of the District 20 AHEPA Periclean Award.

In 2003, Alex was President of the Pan Arcadian Federation of America and was re-elected in 2004 at which time the Worldwide Arcadian Convention was held in Tripolis, Greece. He was a past District Governor of the Western District of the Pan Arcadian Federation. He chaired many Pan Arcadian Conventions and was honored at a convention in Richmond, Virginia.

Alex served as President of the Parish Council at St. Spyridon Church, and in 1977, he served as Chairman of the 50th Anniversary of the Parish. He was a founding member of Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church at Cardiff-by-the-Sea, California. He served as a Board member of the Patriarch Athenagoras Institute and was honored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

During the years 1960-1975, Alex was the owner and announcer of The Greek Radio Program of Southern California. Alex was a founding Chairman of the Save Cyprus Committee which was the predecessor to the American Hellenic Council headquartered in Los Angeles. Alex, along with other Greek leaders, visited the White House at the invitation of President Jimmy Carter to discuss the Cyprus issue following the 1974 Turkish invasion of the island. In 2005, the American Hellenic Council honored him with the Saloutos Award at their annual Gala. He was a member of the Friends of Classics at San Diego State University and the Hellenic Cultural Society of San Diego, which honored him with the Alexander the Great medallion. The National Herald devoted an article to Alex and Jeanette, titled: Two Worthy Ambassadors of Hellenism in San Diego.

The Order of AHEPA with the Pan Arcadians and the San Diego community at large honored Alex with a Testimonial Dinner where many acknowledgments of his service were made by local and state dignitaries. The Mayor, Maureen O'Connor, declared May 6, 1980: Alex Rigopoulos Day in San Diego.

Reflecting on his satisfying life of family and support for Hellenic causes through his involvement in all the above-mentioned organizations, Alex stated: "I recognize that all of these accomplishments were in concert with the participation, love, and support of my wife, Jeanette, an unbelievable partner in my life."

Alex is survived by his wife of 67 years, Jeanette, daughter Madelynn (Mary) and sons James (Demetra) and Paul (Gina), and grandchildren Alexi, Christiana and Emilia.

Serves were held on Monday, November 4, 2024, at Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Cardiff, California.



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. 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 Service Dogs for Warriors
ahepa-servicedogs.org



Ahepa Veterans Affairs
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Dr. Vassilis Zarifis, *District 21 Secretary*

Email: vgzari@gmail.com