

GREEK ETHOS



ΑΙΕΝ ΑΠΙΣΤΕΥΕΙΝ

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΗΘΟΣ

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THE OLYMPIC GAMES

They returned to Greece, the country where they were born 2780 years ago; were celebrated without any glitches, making us proud and so grateful

NEWSMAKERS

People and events that are making news in the Greek commercial community; Places to patronize for the products and services you need, indexed, and explained.

GREEK WORD POWER

NEWS FROM OSU

and much more...

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A Letter from Our President

Dear Members and Friends of the Greek Orthodox Church Community, and Philhellenes

The launching of the **GREEK ETHOS** periodical is a milestone in the 40-plus-year history of the Olympic movement in Columbus. We are grateful to Professor Eliseos Paul Taiganides who has proposed this project and has offered to publish 4 issues per year!

The Greek Olympic Society began as a soccer club in 1960s. The newly arrived young men and women from Greece formed a soccer team and organized a league so they can compete as their ancestors did in the Olympic games. The same young people, responding to the support they got from our community and church in their struggle to make a success of themselves, organized dinner dances that eventually led to the annual Greek Festival that today is one of the most prominent fiestas of central Ohio. We run the lamb roast at the Greek Festival and donate money to the church. We also organize the annual Apocreatico Dinner Dance and donate part of the proceeds to our church. As part of our mission and goals, we donate funds and time to philanthropic projects, too numerous to list at this time.

One of our publications is the annual "**CENTRAL OHIO GREEK COMMUNITY RESOURCE GUIDE**". It was started and is compiled by our past president Chris Bouzounis, who has been active since the inception of the club 40 years ago. The Guide lists impor-

tant firms and institutions that provide invaluable services to us all. I urge you to patronize the listed firms that are conveniently indexed for easy reference.

The **GREEK ETHOS** is another one of our efforts to educate our own members and the entire community of our mission, goals and activities.

GREEK ETHOS (ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΗΘΟΣ) is a title we have chosen because it embodies the essence of our distinct character, our guiding beliefs, our basic nature and morality, our evolution as one of the leading ethnic groups in creating the American ethos as a fusion of cultures and traditions from around the whole world. In the amalgamation of cultures and the globalization of human behavior, we risk losing our identity as a unique ethnicity. Therefore, it behooves us to pass on to the next generations our ethos and our ethnicity.

Eventually, with support from the commercial sector, we hope to expand our effort with a web page in the Internet so we can serve you better.

Come join us in celebrating our cultural heritage and help maintain our traditions.

Respectfully yours



Nick Geldis, President,
ngeldis@columbus.rr.com

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Greek Olympic Society is to promote fraternal fellowship and social interaction among all who embody and embrace the Hellenic principles and traditions.

The mission of Greek Ethos is to enrich our knowledge with the publication of stories and historical facts on our epic Hellenic past, traditions, language, and unique religion, which we are practicing in complete freedom in the heart of America, Columbus, Ohio, USA!

The goal of Greek Ethos is to raise the awareness of and pride in our ethos and ethnicity so that the next generations will continue to celebrate and preserve the Hellenic traditions and heritage.

Η ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΗ ΚΑΙ Ο ΣΚΟΠΟΣ ΜΑΣ

Κυριος σκοπος του συλλογου Ελληνικη Ολυμπιακη Λεσχη ειναι να προαγουμε την αδελφοτητα και τις κοινωνικες σχεσεις μεταξυ ολων εκεινων που συμμεριζονται τις Ελληνικες αρχες και παραδοσεις.

Αποστολη του περιοδικου Ελληνικο Ηθος ειναι να πλουτισει τη γνωση μας με τη δημοσιευση διηγησεων ιστορικων γεγονωτων σχετικων με το επικο μας παρελθον, τις παραδοσεις, τη γλωσσα, και τη μοναδικη μας θρησκεια, που εξασκουμε με απολυτη ελευθερια εδω μεσα στην καρδια των Ηνωμενων Πολιτειων, στο Κολομπους του Οχαιο!

Σκοπος του περιοδικου Ελληνικο Ηθος ειναι να αφυπνισει την εθνικη μας συνειδηση και την υπερηφανεια για το ηθος και την εθνοτητα μας ετσι ωστε οι επομενες γενιες να συνεχισουν να γιορταζουν και να διατηρουν τις παραδοσεις μας, τα ηθη και τα εθιμα της Ελληνικης μας κληρονομιας.

CRETE IS SPECIAL! CRETANS ARE DIFFERENT!

By Eliseos Paul Taiganides, eptai@aol.com

I should know! I have been married to a Cretan for more than 43 years. I first read about Crete in my college days in the early 1950s. One of my university professors had gone to Crete on a mission for the United Nations, and he gave me a copy of a bleak report about the poverty on the island. The first time I saw Crete was when I went there for my wedding to Maro Liapakis in December 1961. My family from Macedonia and I flew on a DC-3, the WW II propeller plane that rested inclined on 3 wheels, and the 6 of us were the only passengers on it. The second trip was in 1966, when we bought a microbus in Germany and drove it to Greece with our 3 children.

In 1966, we camped one weekend at Elounda beach by Agios Nikolaos in Crete. There was nothing at that magical spot. A shepherd cooked eggs and potatoes for us in a decrepit hut while attending his flock of sheep and goats that were devouring the vegetation of the beach. Then the Germans, who were still being taught classical Greek and Greek history in their schools, having recovered from WW II, started flocking to archaeological sites in Crete. The tourist boom of the 1970s followed and **Elounda Beach** became the site of 5-star resorts of

world renown (having Patakos, a Cretan army colonel, in the Junta of dictators that took over the Government in 1967, helped ease the acquisition of the shorelines and the issuance of building permits). The rich and the powerful vacation now in Elounda arriving on private helicopters and luxurious yachts. The entire north shores of Crete are filled with hotels and tourist shops to the dismay of environmentalists and the delight of bankers. Crete has become one of the richest regions of Greece. For holidays, there is no better place in the whole world to tour than Crete. I should know, I have been traveling around the globe for half a century now.

CRETE AS A TOURIST DESTINATION

Crete has some of the most magnificent mountain peaks. They are everywhere throughout the entire 260-km length of the island. There are more than 10 mountain ranges above 3000 feet eleva-

tion. Elegant Mount Psiloritis in the center and the aristocratic White Mountains in the west are above 8000 feet. Historical Diktis of the Lasithi range in the east above our village of Avdou is over 7000 feet. The island being only 56 km in width at its broadest, the luminescent blue sea is



in view everywhere from the pristine **pink beach** at Falásarna in the West to the imperial grove of palm trees at Vai beach in

the East. One can go from the populated North with the opulent resorts to the isolated cliff beaches in the South facing the warm waters of the Libyan Sea in a matter of minutes. The **Farangi of Samaria**, the longest gorge in whole of Europe, is a "must" for every visitor to walk its 16 km base from Omalos in the North to Agia Roumeli in the South where tavernas with cold beer and fresh fish await the exhausted trekkers. (A British submarine was awaiting King George and the rest of

the Greek government who escaped to Egypt by walking through the Samaria Gorge when the Nazis parachuted onto Crete in 1941).

Dining at sunset time by the quaint harbor of **Hania** in the west is an experience that cannot be matched

anywhere in the world. Cretan diet has been discovered as the best. In the center of Crete, I suggest the tavernas in the serpentine narrow streets of **Rethymnon** where the most massive Venetian fortresses in the Mediterranean surround its small harbor. The epicenter of business and entertainment is medieval, labyrinthine **Heraklion**, named after the "All Greek" hero Hercules. There, I suggest making several visits to the best endowed archaeological museum in the whole world and a pilgrimage to the ruins of the Minoan palace in Knossos.

There are hundreds of historically interesting monasteries to visit in Crete but my favorites are three. In the West, The church of **Prophet Eliseo** on a hill with breath-taking vistas in all directions, in Drosonero, 16 km south of Hania, on the spot where the last battle for independence from the Turks was fought in 1896 and was concluded with



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a truce on 14 June, the name day of Prophet Eliseo. In the center, the historical **Arkadi Monastery**, 16 km south of Rethymnon where the monks dynamited the convent rather than surrender to the Turks. In the East, the wonderful and unique Byzantine icons at the convent of **Panagia Kirá in Kritsá**, 16 km south of Agios Nikolaos. But we are jumping ahead of the story. Let us go back to the beginning of time.

SYNOPTIC HISTORY OF CRETE

The cataclysm of 7500 years ago caused by the melting of the ice that covered most of Europe filled up the Pontos Lake (Ευξεινός Πόντος) and made it into what is now called the "Black Sea". (A pejorative name given by the Ottoman Turks, who having come from the inland steppes of Asia did not have the skills of Jason and his Argonauts, and so the Turks could not navigate the tempestuous waters of Pontos). The Pontian farmers and fishermen who managed to escape the flood through the Caucasus Mountains settled into Anatolia and from there to the Aegean islands. By the 3rd millennium before Christ, there were settlements in Crete. This was the time that cultivation of olives began producing oil for cooking, for light and for therapeutic purposes. Community development with **palaces in Knossos, Malia, and Faestos** followed from wealth gained with extensive olive oil trade with the surrounding islands, Asia and Africa. With no enemies, the Minoan empire millennia were times of peaceful colonization of Karpathos and Santorini (Θεира), control of Athens and the Aegean Sea, and of major cultural breakthroughs of global significance!



Plumbing for cities, painting frescoes that could last thousands of years, urban drainage, systems for storage of grains and other food commodities, shipping, pottery, jewelry of exquisite quality and many other crafts were developed during the Minoan Kingdom. But the biggest contribution was the development of rudimentary alphabet that eventually produced the Greek letters and the passing of knowledge through the printing of words. To appreciate this, I suggest you visit the ruins at **Górdyna** in southern Crete, and stare at the marble tablets that have all the laws of that time inscribed on them in full detail including the punishment for sexual harassment! The best time to visit, by the way, would be on the night of the August full moon when the Gordyna basilica park hosts a night of classical music, under the stars, as is being done in many other archeological sites in Greece. Linear B that was finally deciphered in the 1950s by young M Ventris (who soon thereafter was killed in a car accident) was proven the foundation of an alphabet that led to writing and communicating in 750 BC when Homer published the **ILIAD** and the



ODYSSEY, thousands of years before Gutenberg produced the printing press in Germany.

A German engineer who was visiting me in Columbus a few

years ago became distraught when he saw in the car plates that Ohio was being advertised as the birthplace of aviation. He was taught that aviation was invented in Germany. Well I have news for both Ohioans and Germans. Ohio may be the birthplace of modern aviation, but **the original first ever human flight took place in Crete, 3500 years ago**. In fact, I even know the spot from which Daedalus and his son Ikarus took off on their maiden human flight. It is a cave on the side of a foreboding mountain of the Lasithi range that overshadows "our" village of Avdou. The cave is almost impossible to access. Even goats have difficulty clambering over the boulders to reach the cave. I know. We baptized 2 of our 9 grandchildren in the chapel inside that cave that houses the miraculous chapel of Agia Foteini. By the way, there are over 2000 caves in Crete and each one of them has a story to tell because they were used from thousands of years as shelters, as cult centers, as refuge from pirates, and later as grottos of Christian saints. The caves at Eleftherna south of Rethymnon are ingenious and thus worth your visit along with the latest excavations adjacent to the hideouts of escaped slaves in ancient times.

DAEDALUS AND IKARUS

The mountain facing Avdou is now used as the site for the national paragliding championships. The steep incline of the slope creates amicable thermal currents to help the parachutists take off and stay aloft for hours at a time at the pleasure of Aeolus, the god of wind, who helped Daedalus realize the first ever human flight. My legend has it that "our mountain" was the place from which **Daedalus and his son Ikarus** took off in their wax-winged aircraft back 3500 years ago. They were escaping the wrath of King Minos who did not want the architect of his palaces to reveal the secrets of the labyrinthine city to his adversaries. The Minoan palace in nearby Knossos, unearthed by Sir Evans of England in the early 1900s, had so many corridors and hidden rooms, that Ariadne, the daughter of King Minos, tied a rope from a ball of twine to the waist of Prince Theseus, son of king Aegeus of Athens for whom the Aegean Sea was named, so that Theseus could find his way back after wrestling and killing the Minotaur, the half bull-half man, whom King Minos kept imprisoned in the labyrinth. Theseus and Ariadne sailed away from Crete. But Theseus abandoned Ariadne on the island of Naxos, halfway to Athens, where Ariadne was rescued by Dionysus, the god of wine and festivals, a wonderful story that has become the theme for operas, mural paintings, and literary works by some of the greatest artists in the world.

Our mountain and our cave are a foreboding sight, which confirmed in my mind that Daedalus and Ikarus had used this cave to hide the enormous amounts of beeswax (which would explain why the sinuous cave footpath to the chapel is waxy and slippery) needed to build their wings. This region must have been a wax producing area. Until fifty years ago, my wife's grandfather had cauldrons (καζανιά) of beeswax in which he made wax (κερί) in the basement of his house in Hersonissos by the Aegean Sea, only a few miles north from Avdoú; also, a village a few miles south of Avdoú, across from the cave, is named Kerá, which could come from "wax," as the Greek word for wax is "keri". According to historians, Crete is the first place in the world where people cultivated bees, the first honey makers. Cretans were the first to herd sheep and the first to use bows and arrows for hunting; the first to cultivate and process olives on a continuous basis. Pezá and Arhánēs are famous for their wines from time immemorial. Daedalus and his son Ikarus took off from our cave during a foggy day when the clouds

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ΓΕΝΕΑ-ΛΟΓΙΑ: Cretan Family Names

By Nikos Apostolakis, nikos@udel.edu

Greek family names are "patronyms", that is they derive from the father's name with the addition of a diminutive signifying "little one" or "son of". But in Greek names, the ending varies based on what part of Greece your ancestors came from. For example, the ending **-poulos** as in Antonopoulos indicates Peloponnesian origin, meaning the son of Antonis. The same meaning would be Antoniadis in Macedonia, Antonakos in Mani, Antonatos in Kefalonia, Antonides in Pontos, Antonakis in Crete, etc.

The "-akis" in the majority of the Cretan names has an interesting historical origin. According to Professor Hatzidakis, uncle of the celebrated composer Manos Hatzidakis of the "Never on Sunday" movie fame, when the Turks occupied Crete, they addressed the Cretan men (as Muslims, they were forbidden to address women) using the neuter diminutive "-aki" along with a neuter article in front. This was to insult them and belittle them. So the Turks would say "To Antonaki". They had a special animosity against the Cretans because of the frequent uprisings against the occupation.

The Cretans however decided to turn the "insult" to a badge of honor. They "masculinized" the name by adding an "s". Thus, it became "O Antonakis" instead of "To Antonaki". The spelling varied.

Most spell it with an "eta" (Αντωνακης), but some insist on using "iota" (Αντωνακις). A proof of professor Hatzidakis theory is the fact that in most mountainous villages of Crete, which were not occupied by the Turks, some of the names do not have the -akis ending. For example, in Anogia, (a village up the slopes of Psiloritis, the highest mountain in Crete, and a hotbed of revolutionaries, even to this day), one finds names like Skordlis, Kallergis, Xylouris (the famous "Iyris" and folk singer Ξυλουρης, who popularized Cretan music in the 1970s). Tzagournis is a name from Ano Viano (even in the 1940s the Germans could not subdue that region of the inaccessible mountain ranges in the South coasts of Crete), and so on. Nowadays, Cretans are proud that their names have the -akis ending that distinguishes them from everyone else!

Of course, when Cretans started immigrating to America early last century, the Anglicized names they were given sometimes reflected more the ignorance of the immigration officials than the geographical area from which the immigrants came. For example, Michelakis became **Meshel**, which, fortuitously, proved useful for a Cretan who entered Ohio politics and rose to the top of the legislative ladder. 🙏

GREEK WORD POWER *Recognize Anglicized Greek Words; Enrich your Lexicon*

All 20 of the words selected to test your knowledge of Greek words that have been anglicized can be found in this the first issue of **Greek Ethos**. (The ANSWERS are given on another page) GRADING SYSTEM: **5-10** words, GOOD; **11-17** EXCELLENT; **18-20** EXCEPTIONAL.

1 agony	A tequila plant	B agency	C game battle	D anguish
2 autonomous	A rules for autos	B self governing	C automatic independence	D nomadic tribes
3 cataclysm	A enema	B flooding deluge	C waterfall	D against bad lyrics
4 chronological	A logical person	B crop science	C humming a tune	D order of occurrence
5 democracy	A demographic origin	B loud cries	C majority rule	D governed by a mayor
6 diaspora	A allergy spores	B diaper in Greek	C transparent	D people dispersion
7 ecstasy	A rapturous delight	B ecological event	C space economy	D ecology
8 eons	A virus	B centuries	C sons	D goddess of dawn
9 ethnicity	A ancestry	B egoism	C section of a city	D Greek
10 ethos	A echoes from far away	B Ethiopia man	C distinguishing character	D gasoline from ethanol
11 gymnasium	A gypsum factory	B ancient city	C gypsy place	D exercise/train in the nude
12 hierarchy	A priest	B hurrying	C hydrant	D administrative system
13 historic	A hysterical	B important past event	C drug for allergy	D part of a hitch
14 kilometers	A weight in kilos	B elevation in meters	C measure in kilos	D thousands of meters
15 labyrinthine	A laboratories at OSU	B thin lady	C lab fire	D complicated layout
16 lexicon	A Lexington KY man	B dictionary	C Japanese car model	D blood disease
17 magical	A magazine from abroad	B charming	C magnetic attraction	D maniacal
18 metamorphosis	A a change in appearance	B parable story	C translation	D mathematics
19 musical	A harmonious and melodic	B battling the Muses	C cacophonous poetry	D monetary unit
20 orthodox	A Jewish	B strange	C religious doctrine	D insecticide of phosphorus



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MANUEL TZAGOURNIS, M.D.: *A Model for Us All!*

By Eliseos Paul Taiganides



He is 70; 2 weeks younger than me! We both joined the OSU faculty about the same time in the 1960s, but I left to work for the United Nations. He stayed to make a name for himself and for us all. He rose swiftly to the top of the hierarchy of the Ohio State University.

From an instructor in internal medicine in 1968, Manuel was promoted to assistant, to associate, and to full Professor 6 years later in 1974; he was appointed Dean of the Medical College 6 years later in 1980 and **Vice President** of Health Sciences in 1982. Manuel served in those capacities until 1999 when he retired to return to his private practice. To appreciate the enormity and vastness of the **medical empire** he was administering consider the fact it is the most comprehensive health science center in the USA, and includes medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, optometry, nursing, veterinary medicine, hospitals, and public health. He played a leading role in the establishment of the school of public health that trains people in preventive medicine, community outreach, immunization, programs that are so critical nowadays. Let me give you a few statistics to get an idea of the phenomenal growth during Manuel's tenure. The budget more than doubled to three quarters of a billion dollars, but the endowment funds increased from \$40 to more than \$200 million, a 5-fold increase! Enough statistics; best you read the citation that went with the Distinguished Service Award he got from the Board of Trustees!

I sit across from Manuel for an interview at the university hospital clinic where he is now practicing medicine. His specialty is diabetes. Some of his patients are listed among "Who's Who" in the State Of Ohio. Aronoff, the Republican President of the Ohio Senate who beautified those Doric columns for which the State House is famous; Riffe for whom the building across from the State House is named, the powerful Democrat Speaker of the Ohio House; then there was Woody Hayes, (and I do not need to mention to you who Woody

was)! Manuel is a dedicated Buckeye who goes to most of the football games, home and away!

Manuel is surrounded with testimonials to his legacy and immeasurable services to the university, the society, the state; to the Greek community (he was **chairman of the Fair Share** plan for our church for some 30 years; He is a church ARCHON). He replies to all questions unhesitatingly, always with a sweet smile. He is smiling with empathy looking me straight in the eye. I can see that this man could never twist the truth or purposely hurt anybody! He does not seem to be the kind of Cretan fighter Kazantzakis wrote in his novels. But he feels Cretan 100%. So, I wonder how this man could rise so high in the fiercely competitive academic environment, and remain unscathed? The fact that Manuel was appointed to all these high posts by 4 different university presidents is proof that it was his **academic skills and innate talents** that propelled him to those dizzying heights; obviously, he had no rival in the whole country!

Manuel you have reached the top of your profession, so what is the thing of which you are the most proud? "**My family**" he replies without blinking an eye. Why? "Because they are good people, hard working, and serve the community and the church". Manuel and his wife Madeline whom he met during college days at OSU in Sigma Epsilon Phi meetings (so take notice young university students) have 3 boys and 2 girls, all married and with children, 14 grandchildren in all! What did you do to make them good? "Well, we were strict with them". Once again, I am reminded that successful kids come from parents who are firm with them. Do you feel Greek or American? "I feel that I have dual identity. Even though I function as an American, many of my friends and **my values are Greek**". Do you visit Greece? "About every 3 years since 1963".

He was born in 1934 in Youngstown, the eldest of 5 boys, all of whom have professional degrees. His mother is still living, but his father was killed in car accident in 1963. Why did you become a doctor? "It might sound like a cliché, **but I like helping people**". We know that you like to help, Manuel, and that is why we consider you a model for us to emulate! 🙏

OSU DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

"Ohio State's comprehensive Medical College, which today is internationally recognized for clinical and research excellence, is in great part the work of Manuel Tzagournis. As the longest serving Dean and Vice President in the College of Medicine's history, he served the University with unwavering dedication during a climate of great change. His legacy is one of compassionate physician, committed educator, and skilled administrator"

ΚΑΛΗ-ΓΝΩΣΙΣ: NEWS FROM THE MODERN GREEK PROGRAM, THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

30th ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROGRAM: In February 2005 the program celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of its founding in 1975 with the launching of the Project Paideia by the Greek-American community of central Ohio. This major event was recognized in a reception, which was held before the annual Sweetheart's Ball and which recognized the 70th anniversary of the establishment of Sigma Epsilon Phi. Featured speakers were George Brown and Nicholas Alexander.

HONORS TRIP TO GREECE. During March 2005 break Prof. Jusdanis will take a group of 26 Honors students to Athens who took his class, "The Culture of Contemporary Greece," and will be able to see firsthand

the country which they have been studying for a quarter. Students belonging to the Honors program are the brightest at Ohio State and follow an academically more rigorous course of study. This trip is the first one undertaken by the Honors Program to Athens.

THOMAS E. LEONTIS LECTURE. This year's Leontis Lecture will be given by Paul Magdalino, Bishop Wardlaw Professor of Byzantine History at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. The topic of his presentation will be "The Shared Culture of Byzantium and Islam". It will be held on April 5, 2005, at 3:30 pm in the Grand Lounge of the Faculty Club at the campus of Ohio State. EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND

May 5 - 6, the Modern Greek Program at OSU will acknowledge its 30th anniversary by hosting an international academic conference. Young scholars from Greece and the United States will speak about their work. 🙏

Professor Gregory Jusdanis, jusdanis.1@osu.edu



A GREEK FOR ALL SEASONS!

By Eliseos Paul Taiganides

He is 80 but looks and walks like man in his 50s. He is a WW II veteran serving as a Seabee in Philippines under the famous General McArthur and has 2 bronze battle stars to prove it. Went to college and graduated with high honors in 3 years, while working full time at a steel mill. He was the **first Greek-American/Orthodox** to be elected in the Ohio legislature, but today several Greeks, (one of them, Trakas, is running for Secretary of State), and many Eastern Orthodox are in the legislature. Hard working, Harry rose with phenomenal speed to the pinnacle of Ohio political hierarchy, serving in several leadership posts and 2 memorable years as **President of the Ohio Senate**. He has shaken hands with every President of the United States since Franklin Roosevelt; was a pal with several of them, especially with those of the Democratic persuasion or of Greek decent (like fellow Cretan M Dukakis who run for President in 1988). He has been a pioneering champion of legislation to **advance public education**, to ease the employment and challenges **facing the handicapped**, to **protect consumers** from fraudulent sales practices, and managed to get support from both sides of the aisle for these **noble causes**. He has made more than 60 international trips to more than 20 countries (20 to Greece) and served 22 years in the Ohio legislature, 1971 to 1993. His list of honorary citations, awards, certificates of extraordinary service to Greek and American organizations and institutions runs into the hundreds, but he is one of the **most approachable** men I ever met. He is neither a medical doctor (like his fellow Youngstown Cretan, Dr Tzagournis), nor a PhD, but you can address him as "Doctor", because he has been awarded the honorary degree of Doctor from 3 universities.

He is Haralampos Michelakis in Greek, **HARRY MESHEL** in the local jargon, and to all **A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS!**

When he got to the podium to speak during the dedication of the Kleisthenis bust in the Ohio Capitol in March 2004, a project initiated by one of his Greek protégés, Aristotelis Hutras, I watched with amazement how everyone in the legislative chambers were listening to him with admiration. Harry is a suave speaker with an uncanny sense of humor. He is a **great orator** in the tradition of Demosthenes of ancient Athens or more like fellow Cretan Eleftherios Venizelos. Venizelos was the maverick politician during the first 3 decades of the 20th century, who Harry credits with bringing Greece into the western fold (which resulted in the big schism, Vassiliki vs. Venizeliki, or in today's terminology, neo-conservatives vs. liberals).

Harry's father and mother left for America in 1916, 3 years after Chania hometown Venizelos managed the union of Crete with Greece, and a day after their wedding. One of 6 children, Harry was an honor student in high school, served in the Navy during World War II, got a BS from Youngstown State University (YSU, a school that Harry's friend Tressel brought into national prominence with 4 national football championships, the man that also coached OSU to a national championship). He got a master's degree from Columbia University.

As **Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee** from 1974 to 1980, Harry spent much time in Columbus (his daughter lives here) and helped financially not only his alma mater (one of YSU buildings is called Meshel Hall in his honor), but also OSU. Now I can see why the OSU president appointed me in 1974 in a committee to liaise with legislators, but I did not get to meet Harry, as I left to work for the UN in 1975. One of the projects he helped fund was the world renown James center for cancer in the OSU medical hospital complex. 🙏

Crete, From Page 4

(By the way, every villager and every taverna owner will avow that his wine and tsikoudia (ρακή) made from his own grapes or olive oil pressed from his own grove is the best in the world, even though for most of them their world does not extend beyond the borders of their village)!

covered the entrance but not the valley. The cool clouds protected their wings of wax from melting. When young brash Ikarus ventured above the clouds, when they were 125 kilometers into the Aegean Sea, his wings melted from exposure to the sun, and he fell into the sea. On the spot where he fell, near Naxos, rose the island of Ikaria. We have several people from Ikaria in our community. The academy where Greek Air Force pilots are trained to fly fighter jets is called "Ikarus Academy" (Σχολη Ικαρων). In the 1980s, a champion cyclist, Nikos Papadopoulos, pedaled the 125 km distance in the air from Crete to Ikaria on a contraption designed by MIT engineering students, demonstrating that **legends do indeed have a factual base**.

The tranquility of the Minoan civilization ended with the invention of iron in the North and the invasion of the militant Doric tribes from mainland Greece. Crete became a subject of the Kingdom of Mykines of Peloponnesos, and Crete's history thereafter became intertwined with that of the rest of the regions of Greece. **Odysseus** spent a few months in Crete on his wanderings home to Ithaca from the Trojan War. The chief naval officer of the expedition of Alexander into Asia and some 7000 soldiers were from Crete. Cretans became famous and notorious as mercenary soldiers. Crete became part of the Roman Empire 71 BC and part of the Byzantine Empire when Emperor Constantine moved the imperial capital from Rome to **Byzantium in 330 AD**.

Crete was Christianized by a pupil of **Apostle Paul**, Titus, who is the patron saint of Crete. His head is enthroned in the church of Saint Titus in Heraklion. In his letters to Titus, Apostle Paul urges him to be tough with Cretans because they are dif-

[See Crete, Page 11](#)



Greetings from OSU!





ΓΗ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΙΑΣ:

A story of the 5000-year old Cretan olive tree whose leaves were used to weave the crown for the winners of the Olympic Marathon Race in 2004

By Eliseos Paul Taiganides, eptai@aol.com

If you watched the opening ceremony of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games on August 13, you would have noted that the official welcome to the 16,000 athletic participants and 72,000 spectators was delivered under an olive tree (Ελιά in Greek; pronounced Elia). The Olympic winners, besides given medallions and a bouquet of herbal flowers, were crowned with a wreath made from olive branches. During the closing ceremonies for the Olympics 2004 on August 29, the crowning of Stefano Baldini of Italy, the winner of the men's Marathon race, was with a special wreath from an olive tree that is reputed to be 5000 years old. That tree is located in Vouves in western part of the island of Crete. This is my story of the 5000-year-old "lady" olive tree, the **Καβουσι Ελιά**, whose branches crowned the winner of the women's Marathon Race on Sunday, August 22.

While Ms Mizuki Noguchi of Japan, with her "omanmori" talisman tucked under her running suit, began her victorious race from the ancient sacred site of the Marathon battle and was sprinting through the historic 42-km route, Matheos Pahlitzanakis of the village of Kavousi in north-eastern Crete was showing me the branches that were clipped from the **Kavousi Elia** to make the wreath that crowned Noguchi, 2 hours and 26 minutes later in downtown Athens. We watched on TV her crowning at the marble Panathinaikon Stadium that was built by the Greek philanthropist **Averof** to serve as the venue for the 1896 inaugural modern Olympics when a Greek shepherd **Spyros Louis** won the first ever Marathon race.

Matheos was one of the people in the village of Kavousi who instigated the recognition of the Kavousi Elia. He lived in Dayton, Ohio for several decades before returning to his native village of Kavousi, sufficiently endowed to live a life of **cultural leisure**.

Elaía and Elissaion had arrived in Crete from Anatolia 5000 years ago on a boat from the Levant. In Kavousi, they settled by a small creek on the hill that overlooked the sea, but high enough to be protected from pirates. Elissaion, as was the family practice in Pontos, dug channels to divert water from the creek onto the side hills where Elaía planted the seeds that she had carried **sewn into her clothes**. Grapes, apples, pears, and vegetables grew immediately under the munificent Cretan sun.

Then on August 22, 2996 BC, a silvery plant rose from the heart

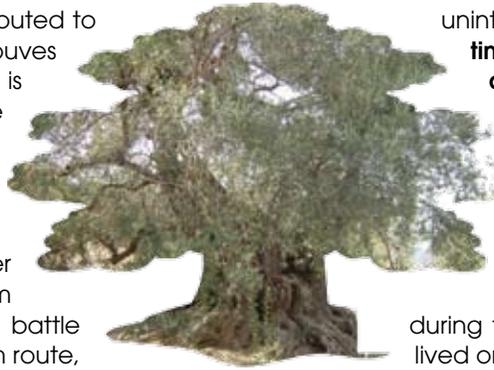
of the rocky earth. Their little girl Elaís was born that day also. Both the seedling and the little girl grew up together and multiplied. The silvery tree became the Kavousi Elia that produced daughters and sons (one of them was transplanted in Vouves) and her protector Elaís bore children. Without ever realizing it, they had started a revolution that brought great wealth and power not only for Crete but also for the entire Mediterranean for the next 5000 years. Today in Greece, there are 120 million olive trees, ten trees for every Greek. Olive production in Greece has been uninterrupted over the past 5000 years! **In ancient**

times, cutting down an olive tree was punishable by death. That legal protection, her titanic resilience against climatic changes and weather extremes, and innate tenacity were the reasons the Kavousi Elia survived these last 5000 years!

The Kavousi Elia grew in size and numbers under the Azori knoll that rises on the south side of the village of Kavousi, but during the Bronze Age, the only people in the area lived on top of the hill below, from where they had a wonderful view of the sunrise. Professor of Archaeology Hatzopoulos of the University of North Carolina unearthed a settlement of the Middle Bronze Age nearby where he found evidence of intensive cultivation of olives. Kavousi Elia was surrounded by several precipitous mountains that peaked over her giving her **solitude and protection**. Solitude is 1 of the 5 key elements for olive tree prosperity: the other 4 being in order of importance: sun (it comes almost every day in Crete), stony soil (that is all there is in Crete), periods of drought (no rain in Crete from April to October), water (it is sufficient in the winter and spring months). Olive trees have a partiality to sea breeze, but prefer to be far enough from the high winds to enjoy the silence of the inland.

Olive tree cultivation spread from Crete to Syria, Mesopotamia, Palestine, and west to Magna Grecia in Italy and beyond when those areas became civilized eons later. According to the Greeks, barbarians used animal fat as an energy source, while civilized people used olive oil. Amazingly enough only recently have the nutritional and salutary values of olive oil been recognized, too late to prevent the obesity epidemic besetting fat consuming countries.

[See ΓΗ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΙΑΣ, Page 10](#)



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ΚΑΛΛΙ-ΦΩΝΙΑ: Cretan Music

By Dr. Maria Hnaraki, mh348@cornell.edu

Crete, where music and dance were born, is famous for the glendi, the event where dancing, singing, drinking, eating, and merrymaking become panegyric. Through revolutions and subjugations, the Cretans refined the Greek notion of the **palikari**, a hero who defies death to defend liberty and who, at times of festive celebrations, displays his gallantry by showing off his dancing skills. It is the concept of the **leventis** and **meraklis**, who brings kefi to a party, turning simple events into joyful celebrations of life. It all started at the beginning of time with the **Kourites**, who, as mentioned in another article, invented dancing and singing to protect baby Zeus (ΔΙΑΣ), who himself became the **palikari** of Mount Olympus.

Kourites composed poetry called madinades, distichs that are associated with Crete, couplets of fifteen syllable lines. Live madinades, contests during which lyra-players-singers compete by improvising songs on the spot, are still common on the island. Well-known are also the **rizitika** songs, performed mostly in the foothills of the White Mountains (**Lefka Ori**, in the West) where most people used to be shepherds of sheep and goats.

The trademark for Cretan music is the **lyra**, which is "pear" shaped while the lyra of the Pontians is "bottle" shaped! Most of the Cretan groups that come and perform here in the USA consist



of 3 instruments, the lyra and 2 laoutos or lagoutos. In well or-

chestrated groups, many more local instruments make up the unique Cretan sound.

It is at weddings that one can enjoy Cretan dancing. The glenti starts with slow dragging dances and it gets faster and louder as the **kefi** increases and reaches its pinnacle with the girls dancing with swirls and turns that are fascinating to watch, and goes to the leaping (**pidichtos**) dances and crescendos into the **pedozali** that men (**palikaria**) dance showing off their mastery by standing on bottles or the edge of a chair and still move gracefully!

Cretans Mikis Theodorakis, who wrote the music for the film "**Zorba the Greek**", and Manos Hadzidakis, who composed the Oscar-winning music for "**Never on Sunday**" in the 1960s, popularized Greek music and dancing all over the world.

Anyone who has been to Crete will surely attest to the fact that Cretans are chauvinists, constantly bragging about their island. A lyra-player, Psaradonis, from Anogia where everyone is known by their nickname not their family name, brother of the famous singer Nikos Xylouris, said: "**Chauvinist is one who thinks his country is better than... CRETE!**" 🇬🇷

ΚΑΛΛΙ-ΦΑΓΙΑ: CRETAN VILLAGE FOOD

By Ann Trocchia-Taiganides, taiganides@adelphia.net

The roots of Cretan cooking, as it is practiced still in the villages, are from the Minoans times of several millennia ago!

For the past 10 years, our family has been spending summers in a village underneath the Lasithi range of mountains. Avdou is a typical Cretan village with old medieval serpentine lanes and small houses connected to each other. It is a paradise of fresh produce, olive groves for virgin oil, grape vineyards for the annual supply of wine and tsikoudia (raki), "klimataria" of hanging grapes for eating, fruit trees for healthy deserts, watered gardens for fresh vegetables, wild berries covering the property fences, and a profusion of flowers. It is here where we become the beneficiaries of the Cretan hospitality. Several times in a week, our neighbors will share some of their cooking, bringing us a plate of their day's lunch. Usually, the plates will be one of the following dishes.

Snails with Ground Wheat (Κοχλοι με Χονδρο).

INGREDIENTS: 1 kilo of snails, 1/2 kilo of coarsely ground wheat, 2 medium yellow onions, diced 1 large zucchini, diced, 5 very ripe tomatoes, diced, 2 cups olive oil, 3 cups water, salt/pepper to taste. COOKING: The snails should be boiled for 10 minutes, and then strained. Change the water, and then boil again for 10 minutes. Rinse the snails in cold water, then clean them (they remain in their shells!) and put them in a large stock-pot with the olive oil, onions, zucchini and tomatoes. Add two cups of water and let simmer for 30 minutes. Remove the snails and put them aside. Add the last cup of water to the pot and bring it to a boil. Add the wheat and turn down the heat to simmer. Stir constantly until the wheat softens. Finally, stir in the snails, add salt, and pepper to taste.

Stuffed Zucchini Flowers (Ντολμαδες με Κολοκίθοανθους)

INGREDIENTS: 30 - 40 zucchini flowers, 1 lb. rice, 1 cup olive oil, 4 ripe tomatoes, 1 onion, 1 bunch each: parsley, mint, dill, salt/pepper. The zucchini flowers must be picked in the morning, so they are open! COOKING: Wash the flowers and prepare the filling by chopping the parsley, mint, dill, onions and tomatoes, very finely. Add the olive oil, rice, salt and pepper, and mix well. Stuff the flowers and then place them in a pot. Cover them in water and place a plate over them to keep them from opening while cooking. Simmer on low heat until rice is cooked. 🇬🇷

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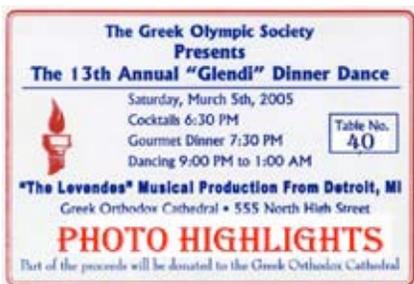
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ΤΗ ΤΗ ΕΛΙΑΣ, From Page 8

Kavousi Elia has a perimeter of 19 meters (62 feet; 9 feet diameter at the bottom where the trunk rises from the earth). It has a gorgeous plume that rises to 20 feet and spreads over an area of 40 feet in diameter. However, what I find the most fascinating of the olive tree is the trunk! The trunk reflects the thousands of years of the agony and the ecstasy of survival. It reminds me of the suffering I sensed in the Prado Museum in Madrid Spain when I first stared at the body of Christ on the Cross as painted by **El Greco** (Actual name: Theotokopoulos). I recently visited again the house outside the village of Fodele where El Greco was born. His house was and still is camouflaged with olive trees. I am sure that Theotokopoulos as a child playing under the olive trees noted the strange shapes that the trunks of olive trees took over their long life and suffering under the burning sun, and he might have even visited the Kavousi Elia for added inspiration. Despite her age, and the historic snowfall of February 2004 that froze the whole island for the first time in centuries, the Kavousi Elia had the strength to grow new branches in the 2004 Olympic Year right off her bushed trunk! I was amazed at her tenacity! I could not resist,

I too cut a branch of the Kavousi Elia for myself!

The beauty of the Kavousi Elia attracted dignitaries and deities to her site. King Minos of Knossos visited her when she had reached her first millennium. Minos, the creator of the first civilization that gave us the first ever alphabet, **sanctified olive production**, but was clever enough to share the knowledge with his trading partners in Anatolia where Jesus Christ spent His last night praying in an olive grove before being crucified. We Orthodox Christians use olive oil not only for nutrition and medicinal purposes but also for our religious sacraments at birth, baptism, marriage, and at death. Theseus, the visiting prince of Athens, in one of his amorous excursions with local princess Ariadne spent some time under the plume of the Kavousi Elia! Goddess of Wisdom Athena planted a branch from the Kavousi Elia on the Acropolis, and it brought unprecedented prosperity to the city. The grateful people named the city Athens in her name and built for virgin Athena the Parthenon, the finest temple ever. In 2004, the Kavousi Elia sent another branch back to Athens, this time to crown an Olympic winner. 🕊



400 ATTENDED THIS YEAR'S APOKREATIKO GLENDI, ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL EVENTS IN THE MORE THAN 40 YEARS THAT THE GREEK OLYMPIC SOCIETY AND ITS PREDECESSOR OLYMPIC SOCCER CLUB ORGANIZED THE EVENT

Our thanks to the co-chairmen

LEE ADAMANTIDIS AND GEORGE SOURVANOS



One of our noble inheritances is filial piety, which is to respect and to honor our elders. So a special table was reserved for the eldest of our community: Katina Barouxis, James Chakeres, Loula Christ, Ethel D'Fantis, George Jameson, Thomas Kanatas, Seraphim Michaelides, George Petropoulos. Shown with the co-chairmen Sourvanos (on the left) and Adamantidis (on the right) are Mr. & Mrs. Michaelides and Dr. & Mrs. Jameson.



Crete, from Page 7

ferent and fiercely independent, for which I can vouch, also! Crete, during the dark middle ages, produced world legendary iconographers like El Greco (Domenico Theotokopoulos) who moved to imperial Spain and M Damaskinos. A visit to the home of El Greco by the **village of Fodele** 20 km west of Heraklion is a "must" pilgrimage. After the visit, go for a coffee under the gnarled platanos tree by the stream that crosses the village, a tree that was there when El Greco was growing up. Another bright star was V Kornaros who wrote that astonishing poem story "Erotokritos".



When the Byzantine Empire began to decline, Crete became the arena of pirates like the notorious Barbarossa who burned down Rethymnon. Arab Saracens made Crete the center of their slave trade from 824 to 961. In 1204, the 4th Crusade was financed and led by the 80-year old blind ruler of Venice. Instead of leading his Christian army to free Jerusalem from the Muslims, he headed straight to Constantinople, raided the town after destroying the naval forces of the weakened Byzantine Empire, ransacked, plundered, and pillaged the city robbing it of its precious icons and wealth, and occupied Crete and other islands. Venice became the ruler of the seas. The Venetian castles and forts that dominate the entrances to all the three major harbors and strategic peninsulas on Crete and most of the capes of mainland Greece are testimonies to the Venetian rule that controlled trade in the Mediterranean for 4 centuries. The Ottoman Turks, after laying a siege of Heraklion (Candia under the Venetian name) that lasted 22 years during which 118,000 Turks and 22,000 Cretans were killed, subjugated the whole of Crete in 1648 and ruled until 1896 when Crete became autonomous. But Crete did not join Greece (Ενωσις) until 1913 thanks to the political brilliance of **E. Venizelos**, the man for whom the new Athens international airport is named.

Crete withstood successive waves of invaders over its long history but its resistance to the German parachute invasion in May 20, 1941, was indeed heroic and is now the subject of a documentary that a Greek-American filmmaker Christos Emerson made, whose web site is worth visiting for those interested in the details, www.crete1941.com. Nowadays Crete is being invaded again annually by millions of Germans but they are peaceful tourists who are spending enough money to make Crete a place where some locals can work hard 6 months and party the rest of the year.

But one cannot really appreciate Crete and Cretans without reading the most famous writer of all of Greece, the brightest son of Crete, **Nikos Kazantzakis**, for whom the modernized international airport is named in Heraklion. Kazantzakis is by far the writer who best captured the spirit of Greeks and the ethos of Cretans. His books have become classics: "Freedom or Death" (the struggle (παλικάρια) of Cretans against the Turks in the **19th century**), "Zorba the Greek" (the adventures of a free-spirit from Makedonia in Crete at the beginning of the **20th century**); "Greek Passion" (the tragedy of refugees from Anatolia trying to relocate after **WW I**); "Fratricides" (the tragedy of the civil war after **WW II**); "Report to Greco" (childhood in austere Crete and the influence of history and religion on a future writer, philosopher; **an essential read**). They are all published in several languages including English, but if you can read them in their original Greek, you will be delighted! His mastery of the Greek language is unparalleled. A few years ago, we had lunch with Michael Chaplin the son of the famous actor Charlie

Chaplin who flew to Heraklion from Switzerland with his wife Patricia specially to attend a symposium on the writings of Kazantzakis. The granddaughter of Zorba, who now lives in Serbia, also attended the symposium.

In modern times, many Cretans have become world renown. Is there any one who does not know and not enjoy the music of **Mikis Theodorakis** or **Manos Hadjidakis**? Nobel Laureate **Odysseas Elytis**, whose poems were in the classical Greek tradition starting with Homer 2700 years ago, was born in Crete where his family that was from Lesbos owned soap factories in Crete. Crete has produced sons and daughters who have reached the pinnacle of their respective professions in America, and in our mists, Let me stop here, because naming people is risky as one always misses a person who is someone's favorite.

But the most famous of all Cretans is **Zeus** (Jupiter in Latin; **ΔΙΑΣ** in Greek). When Kronos, the supreme ruler of the universe, was told that one of his sons would dethrone him, he began to devour his sons as they were born. His wife Rhea went to Crete to deliver Zeus and hid him in a cave in the Lasithi Mountains overlooking Avdou. To fool Kronos, she threw a boulder for him to gulp down instead of the newborn. Then she got some teenagers, the Kourites, to be the babysitters. The Kourites would crash their bronze weapons against their shields and sing loudly to prevent Kronos from hearing the cries of baby Zeus. The songs and dances of the Kourites was the beginning of the Cretan music. Zeus, with the aid of other Titans (like Ocean, Hyperion, Atlas, Prometheus, etc), dethroned Kronos who fled to Italy where he helped bring about the golden age of Rome that followed that of Greece. The Greeks and the Romans chose Zeus as the leader of their **12 OLYMPIAN gods** (in current times, the 11 national soccer players plus Zeus, their German coach, who won the European Football Championship beating the **TITANS** of world soccer France, Germany, et al, on July 4, 2004!). One of Zeus many intriguing deeds was his metamorphosis into a bull to entice the captivatingly beautiful daughter of the king of Phoenicia in Lebanon by the name of Europa to ride the bull. Zeus flew her to Crete, had children with her, king Minos being one of them, the bull became the revered animal of Crete, and Zeus honored his bride by naming the whole continent **Europe**.

So you too, dear reader, (if indeed you had the patience to read this far), must be convinced by now why historians consider **Crete the place where everything began!** Like my esteemed friend Sr. Eduardo Robledo, former Ambassador of Mexico to Argentina, who along with his wife Alexandra visited us in Avdou, Crete, in 2004 for the baptism of our granddaughter, told me: "**To get to know the world and the origin of our culture, it is necessary to begin with Crete! That is why, if I have my way with my own grandchildren, their first trip outside of Mexico will not be in New York, Paris, or Madrid; it will be CRETE!**"! There is no better compliment than that! ΠΑΝΤΑ ΓΕΙΑ, ΚΡΗΤΗ!

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POWER ANSWERS	7 A αγωνια	15 D λαβυρινθος
	8 B αιωνες	16 B λεξικο
1 D αγωνια	9 A εθνοτητα	17 B μαγκος
2 B αυτονομος	10 C ηθος	18 A μεταμορφωση
3 B κατακλυσμος	11 D γυμνασιο	19 A μουσικη
4 D χρονολογικος	12 D ιεραρχια	20 C ορθοδοξος
5 C δημοκρατια	13 B ιστορικος	

ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS! A Rememberance!

by Eliseos Paul Taiganides

As a newcomer to America in 1953 with limited English, I was perplexed by a survey carried out by the university newspaper on whether a Catholic could be President of the USA. It seemed, perhaps out of ignorance and prejudice, some people feared that a Catholic would bring theocracy, I suppose of the type that happened in 1980 when the Ayatollah and his Islamists assumed power in chaotic Iran (Persia). The answer came soon enough. In 1960, John Kennedy became the **first Roman Catholic** in the history of the USA to be elected President. But there on the black and white screen of the TV in January 1961, it was not the feared Pope from Rome, not even a Catholic bishop giving the prayer at the inauguration of President Kennedy, but a bearded **Greek Orthodox priest**, Archbishop Iakovos.

A few years later there was Archbishop Iakovos on the front cover of LIFE magazine standing next to **Martin Luther King**, the architect and martyr of the civil rights movement. Archbishop Iakovos was a pioneering and resolute foe of racial and religious intolerance, of prejudice and of discrimination. The civil rights movement helped not only the blacks, the African American minority, but also other minorities, like us Greeks, Jews, Mexicans, Catholics, etc. He was awarded the **Medal of Freedom** by President Carter for his record on the defense of human rights. He fought against the violation of human rights by usurpers of power. He dared to oppose the army colonels who took over the government in Greece in a coup in 1967 and who in 1974 toppled Archbishop

Makarios, an elected President of the Republic of Cyprus, triggering the tragic Turkish invasion and occupation to this day of one third of the island of Aphrodite. A talented and energetic leader, Archbishop Iakovos initiated and implemented many programs, some of which did not meet with universal approval, but that is the price of strong leadership.



He died at the age of 94 in April 2005, a week after they buried his friend Pope John Paul II (see photo). But it was the earlier meeting with Pope John the 23rd in 1959, the year he was enthroned as Archbishop of North and South America, which was **historic**. He was the **first Orthodox official** to meet formally with the Pope of Rome in almost 4 centuries. Of course, the meeting was orchestrated by **Ecumenical Patriarch Athinagoras** who finally met with the Pope of Rome in 1964. Those 3 hierarchs began the thawing of the relations between the churches, which were frozen for 10 centuries since the crucial Schism of the original Church in 1054.

Pope John Paul II went as far as to return in 2005 to the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople the relics of John the Chrysostom and Gregory the Theologian, two hierarchs who are revered as saints in both churches for their work in the ecumenical councils. John Chrysostom wrote the liturgical service used by both churches and even Protestants. The relics were pilfered by the unruly crusaders whose goal was supposedly to liberate Jerusalem, but spent much of their time in Constantinople pilfering the riches of **Byzantium**. Pope John Paul II apologized for the dam-



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age caused by the **Crusades**, when he visited Greece a few years ago, but the main ecclesiastical and political problems for the unification of the churches remain unresolved.

The 1972 clergy laity conference was in Houston. I was a delegate from our church along with Father Sarris and Jim Jelett who was the community president at the time. The keynote address was given by the then Vice President, the Greek American Spiro Agnew. The conference was cut short, when the sad news of the death of Patriarch Athinagoras reached us. With tears running down our cheeks, we assembled for a farewell service. Archbishop Iakovos ordered the priests to depart immediately to their parishes for memorial service for the beloved Patriarch.



I asked **Father Sarris**, our priest for 29 years from 1962 to 1991, for a comment. They were good friends. He had Iakovos as a teacher at the theological seminary in the 1940s. He remembers him as being very strict, demanding, a disciplinarian who "kept reminding us to always be priests first and foremost. Arch-

bishop Iakovos reminds me a lot of Pope John Paul II", said Father Sarris, who is shown in the photo receiving the blessing of Patriarch Athinagoras and Archbishop Iakovos. Archbishop Iakovos visited Columbus to dedicate the Solomonides recreation hall in the 1970s. By the way, the Ohio State University honored Iakovos with a doctor degree.

Of course, there have been many Greek Americans who have become national personalities, such as: VP Spiro Agnew, Senators Sarbanes and Tsongas, Representative Brademas, Michael Dukakis running for President in 1988, CIA Director George Tenet, *et al.* However, if there is one man who can be credited for single-handedly making us stand tall, both as Greeks and as Greek Orthodox, it was Archbishop Iakovos. Archbishop Iakovos was a clergyman of **global reputation**. He was on amicable terms with every one of the 7 American Presidents who served after he became USA citizen in 1950, with the political and religious leaders of Greece, the world council of churches, but not with the Turks.

He was born in 1911 on the Greek island of Imvros, which was regrettably ceded to **Turkey** by the British in 1923. Iakovos was well qualified to succeed Athinagoras. As a Turkish citizen, he could have been enthroned in Constantinople as patriarch in 1972, had it not been for his public and unrelenting lobbying of the American government and others against the dismal record of Turkey on human rights not only against the Greeks, the Kurds, and the Armenians but also against their own people. The army generals who at that time controlled the government in Turkey declared Iakovos *persona non grata* and would not even allow him to visit our Patriarchate in Constantinople.

I shall never forget Archbishop Iakovos. He was fearless, showed grace under stress, had a commanding presence with his handsome features, and no one can deny his devotion to our religion and to our **Hellenic heritage**. Keep in mind that some of our most revered saints were powerful men who used their position to promote their religion. Although he resigned in 1996, hierarch Iakovos remained active, continued to push for **ecumenism** among the 170 or more Christian denominations, and will be remembered by those of us he touched. ✠

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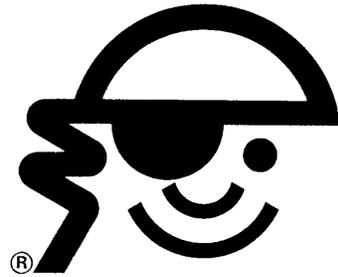
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GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

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Thanks to the efforts of Vasilis Konstantinidis, AHEPA, the Church leadership, our priests, Vicky Constantinidis, Rhea Ballas, and many others the 2005 Greek Independence Day was celebrated with kefi and flair this time. The Greek Olympic Society voted \$500 for the festivities. Vasilis coordinated the festivities, bought Greek flags for the children to keep, and contributed the food. Stelios Giannopoulos, Bill Antonopoulos, and Aristotelis Hutras invited the politicians who eagerly showed up at the State Capital to honor us with their presence. No, our celebrations could not match the 100,000 who were watching at the White House people watching the parade in New York, or compete with the dignitaries in the White House ceremonies (Antonoplos and Giannopoulos brought back the Proclamation from President Bush; for our community; Read excerpt on p. 15) but it was an excellent beginning.

It is interesting to note that out of the over 200 countries in the world, the USA Senate votes to recognize only one nation's independence! **Ours!** proclaiming March 25 Greek Independence Day. It is a unique honor for us Greeks and particularly for us here in Columbus because March 25 is also the Name Day of our Cathedral, the Annunciation of the Holy Theotokos.



The day started with liturgy in our Cathedral with the church Choir chanting a special Doxology. Afterwards a bus took us to the Capitol. Roman Fedkiw, an aid to Governor Taft, Attorney General Jim Petro, State Representative Demetrios Trakas, Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman, Franklin County Commissioners Dewey Stokes, and Paula Brooks spoke briefly inside the Capitol and presented to Ted Leakas, president of our community, and to regional officers of AHEPA, proclamations in honor of Greek Independence Day.



With our own two **leventes tsoliades** marching by enthusiastic kids waving flags, the Greek Flag was raised, while the crowd sang the first 2 of the 128 verses of the Greek National Anthem.



The children performed several dances in front of the Doric columns of the State capitol and cited poems that they learned in the Greek School on Sunday to commemorate with their special talents Greek Independence Day 2005. Yiannis Proestos from Cyprus, a doctorate candidate in theoretical Physics at OSU, gave us an inspiring speech in Greek. Young Anthony Harvey gave an excellent speech in English. The Greek Olympic Society supports in several ways the Greek language School and thanks the school superintendent Mrs. Mary Alatsis and her teaching staff (Maria Tzemos, Ross Kambouris, Chrissoula Matsa, Vicki Kalavakis, Anna Merkoziyas-Ruff, Lefki Kourea, Alexis Alatsis, Peter Patitsas) for their dedication and efforts.



EXCERPT

PROCLAMATION BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY, 2005

"Well before modern Greece gained her independence, the ancient Athenians adopted democratic principles that guided their society. These principles inspired our Founding Fathers to proclaim the imperative of self-government as they worked to build our great Nation. America's love for liberty has deep roots in the spirit of Greece.

On Greek Independence Day, we celebrate our special ties of friendship, history, and shared values with Greece.

Our country has welcomed generations of Greek immigrants, and we are grateful for their talents, wisdom, and creativity. We honor the Greek spirit that values family and education, public service, and faith.

Greek Americans have made a mark in every field by enhancing our culture, enriching our commerce, and defending our freedom. Their strong record of public service has also strengthened our democracy, and their contributions have made America a better place."

GEORGE W BUSH

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From the Editor

Taiganides, Eliseos Paul, Editor

From the positive response so far, it appears **GREEK ETHOS** is **an idea whose time had come**. Two people deserve special credit for converting the idea to a reality: **Chris Bouzounis** and **George Sourvanos**.

We expanded the first issue of **GREEK ETHOS** from 12 to 16 pages, but we could not accommodate some donors. We plan to publish 4 issues per year and will accommodate everyone. Many thanks to our **patrons, advertisers, and Church Council** for their vital support.

George Sourvanos thanks personally everyone for the enthusiastic response to his pleas for ads.



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