

Montsnigos, 41, Int'l Data Corp VP Killed in Hit-and-Run Accident

TNH Staff

WESTON, MA – Greek-American Alexander Motsenigos, 41, was struck and killed while riding his bike in his neighborhood in Weston, MA by a hit and run driver.

The police have interviewed a truck driver but no arrest has been made yet.

Motsenigos was born in Greece and immigrated to the United States in 1986. He was a Program Vice President for International Data Corp's (IDC) Global Services markets and Trends, married to Nilanthi, and the father of a six year-old son. The couple would have celebrated their wedding anniversary in a few weeks.

The accident took place on August 24 around 2PM on Weston Road in Weston, which is a highly regarded and economically advanced Community. Motsenigos was wearing a hel-



Alexander Motsenigos ,who died when struck by a truck while riding his bicycle in his hometown, Weston, MA.

met at the time of the crash, according to the police.

The WBZ-TV's I-Team reported that the authorities are looking very closely at the driver's past history. Police reportedly have found the truck.

The driver is described as a man between 40 and 50 years old with a commercial driver's license.

When TNH asked why no charges have been filed yet, sources said the case is "very complicated."

Local police, the Norfolk County District Attorney's office, and Massachusetts State Police are conducting the investigation. Police have asked for the public's help with information about the crash.

Motsenigos and the driver of the truck were traveling side by side on Weston Road, according to Lieutenant Maria Cleary of Wellesley police. Asked if there was a chance the driver did not realize Motsenigos had been struck by the vehicle, Cleary said, "yes."

In a statement, Motsenigos' family asked for information from witnesses: "We are so deeply saddened by the loss of our dearest Alex. He was gentle, kind, and loving father and devoted husband. The world has lost a special man. Our heart is broken but has room for forgiveness. Please, if you have information that will help us grieve with our loss, do come forward."

Last month, Montsenigos served as best man in his younger brother's wedding, they said. He had two other brothers.

At IDC, he analyzed outsourcing by technology firms such as IBM and Hewlett-Packard. He had worked for the company for 12 years.

Continued on page 6

Greek-American Navigates the Republican Ship



Metropolitan Methodios of Boston with RNC Chairman Reince Priebus. Methodios offered a prayer at the Republican National Convention, but it did not receive prime time coverage.

RNC's Chairman Revitalizes Party Finances, Morale

TNH Staff

TAMPA, FL – Reince Priebus, the 40 year-old Greek-American who in 2011 was elected chairman of a Republican National Committee (RNC) that was sinking from debt and disorganization, has sailed a stronger, more confident Republican party into Tampa, FL for its national Convention this week.

Presiding over his first national convention, Priebus has been described at the Weatherman-in-Chief as Hurricane Isaac wreaked havoc with the Convention schedule. He has also weathered the media storm – sometimes he endures 20 interviews per day – which included a live confrontation with MSNBC host Chris Matthews on Monday.

Exhibiting a human touch, he declared "I'd like to take a moment to recognize the hard work of the security personnel, emergency responders and volunteers who are working to keep all convention attendees and all of those in the path of Hurricane Isaac out of harm's way."

Priebus was born on March 18, 1972 in Kenosha, WI where he was raised. His mother Dimitra (Roula) was born in Greece and his father was of German descent. His first name rhymes with "pints" and his last name is pronounced PREE-bus. Reince spent many summers in Greece, learning the language and the other aspects of the country.

Fr. Alexander Karloutsos, Protosphyter of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, has come to know Priebus well and is not surprised at his devotion and success. "What I admire the most about Reince is that in addition to being a great American, and proud of it, he does

Continued on page 3

Papadopoulos Vital to Mars Mission

By Theodore Kalmoukos

TNH Staff Writer

SAN JOSE, CA – Dr. Periklis Papadopoulos, a Greek-American astronomer, was an instrumental contributor in landing the rover Curiosity on Mars on August 6, an event that captured the world's attention.

Papadopoulos was born in Kalamata, Greece in 1963. He graduated from Lycee Leonin High School and immigrated to the United States in 1982 to study aeronautics/astronautics with specialty in planetary ex-

ploration and hypersonics. He is a Stanford university graduate, where he earned a PhD in 1992. From 1987 forward, he worked at the NASA-Ames Research Center in Silicon Valley as senior staff scientist at the Aerothermodynamics branch for over 20 years.

Papadopoulos participated in several planetary mission studies, including the Mars Science Laboratory (MSL). Currently, he is a professor at the San Jose California State University and program director of the Aerospace Engineering department

for graduate studies and research. He is the founder of the Silicon Valley Space Center (SVSC) and the National Center for Advanced Small Satellite Technologies (NCASST). He has two young children, Panos and Elias.

His kind, calm, and humble qualities are evident through conversation. When we identified ourselves, he said: "your work is commendable at TNH, I follow your electronic publications."

Continued on page 4

Niarchos Foundation Entrusts Cup to Museum

ATHENS – The Stavros Niarchos Foundation fulfilled its promise to lend the famous cup that Olympic winner Spyros Louis won – against all odds during the first modern Olympics in Athens in 1896 – to the Athens Museum for one year. It was recently auctioned by his family and purchased by the Foundation so as to remain in Greek possession.

The event took place in the Museum's large and impressive entrance and was attended by Prime Minister Antonis Samaras and many other guests. Samaras won a round of applause when he said that Greece, like Louis, will win this marathon, too.

Foundation co-President Andreas C Dracopolus said "our actions were motivated by a sense of duty towards Greek history and towards our founder, my uncle, Stavros Niarchos. In these hard times for our country, all Greeks must draw from the strength, the endurance, and the determination that drove Spyros Louis to victory, not in

Continued on page 9



Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras (r), and his wife Georgia observer the silver cup won at the first modern Olympic Games, in Athens in 1896, by marathon runner Spyros Louis, at the Acropolis Museum in Athens, on Monday, Aug 27. The cup, recently sold by the Greek athlete's descendants, was bought by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation at an auction in London.

AP PHOTO/PETROS GIANNAKOURIS

Eleni Daniilidou Holds Tennis Clinic in Astoria

By Constantine S. Sirigos

TNH Staff Writer

ASTORIA – Eleni Daniilidou is one of Greece's great athletes. On Sunday afternoon, August 26 she could have been relaxing with friends and fans in advance of the U.S. Open, where she is competing in both singles and doubles matches with the best tennis players in the world. Instead, she presented a tennis clinic for the children of Astoria.

It didn't matter that few of the children were Greek-Americans. Wanting to connect with the community was Daniilidou's motivation and the Association of Greek American Professional Women (AGAPW) made it happen. Daniilidou told TNH she was astonished at the turnout and enthusiasm of the children – and she promised to be back.

Daniilidou's pledges are not to be taken lightly. She picked up tennis relatively late by tennis standards, at age 9 ½, in



Greece's tennis star Eleni Daniilidou.

Thessaloniki, but "I wanted to become the first international Greek tennis player," she said.

She doesn't mind that some other Greeks got into the spot-

light before her. Once on the tour, she made it to 14th the world – the highest ever achieved by a Greek. She characterizes her style as aggressive, liking to charge the net.

Her most memorable moment was beating Justine Henin at Wimbledon, when the latter was ranked number 1. She also savors victories against Monica Seles and Jennifer Capriati. "It was really amazing."

There are plenty of athletic genes in her family – her brother played for the Greek national volleyball team and her sister for the national basketball squad – but the two things that strike one upon meeting Daniilidou are her passion her down-to-earth friendliness.

Born in 1982, she has roots both on the island of Crete through her father, who was a dentist in the Greek armed forces, and in Macedonia, where her mother is from. Both regions are known for producing tall

people and at six feet tall Daniilidou does stand out among Greeks, indeed.

She and her father learned tennis at the same time, so he was not her first teacher. Her first serious coach was noted Greek tennis player John Rigas, who helped the latecomer make great progress. She began to tour professionally at 14.

Daniilidou has participated in three Olympics, and has been a consistent force in all major Grand Slam tournaments. She was won three WTA singles and two doubles titles.

She slipped recently due to injuries, "But I cannot complain. I am healthy now after four surgeries," including two serious knee operations.

Still recovering, this summer she broke a losing streak with two match victories. "It was good to find the winning feeling again," she said. There was a

Continued on page 2

Greek-Canadian Bride, 30, Drowns in a Quebec River At Fashion Photo Session

By Philip Caulfield

New York Daily News

QUEBEC, Canada - Maria Pantazopoulos, 30, wanted to have "have fun" with her wedding dress, so she arranged to have a fashion photo shoot near Dor-

win Falls, Quebec, months after her June 5 marriage.

"I can't anymore, it's too heavy."

Those were the chilling last words of a beautiful Canadian bride who drowned in a river during a photo shoot last week after her wedding dress became soaked and dragged her under, a friend told a Canadian news agency.

Maria Pantazopoulos, 30, was having a photographer take shots for a "trash the dress" photo series when she waded into a river near Dorwin Falls in Rawdon, Quebec, at around 2 p.m. Friday, authorities said.

Meant to evoke high-glamor fashion shoots, "trash the dress" photos feature brides posing in gritty or natural settings like beaches, forests or city streets.

Pantazopoulos was married on June 9, but wanted to immortalize the moment with a collection of playful snapshots, a friend said.

Her husband, Billy, wasn't there for the shoot.

"She's a really fun girl, and she just didn't want her wedding dress sitting in a box in the closet," family friend Leeza Pousoulidis told the Montreal Gazette.

"She said 'I want to have fun with my wedding dress. I want to have great pictures and memories of me in my wedding dress.'"

Louis Pagakis, her photographer, was taking some shots near the edge of the river when Pantazopoulos said she wanted to go in.

"At one point, she told him, 'I want you to take some photos of me floating in the water,'" Anouk Benzacar, the photographer's wife and a friend of the bride, told Canada's QMI Agency.

The garment quickly became soaked, and the deceptively quick tides swept the young bride downstream.

Pagakis jumped in to try to save her, but the water-logged

Continued on page 6

Greeks Gird for More Austerity

By Andy Dabilis

TNH Staff Writer

ATHENS – Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras' uneasy coalition government is planning ever harsher austerity measures than originally planned to make \$14.16 billion in in cuts demanded by international lenders to keep rescue loans coming, with signs that it could face social unrest soon, that is already starting to mount.

Samaras had reportedly convinced his reluctant partners, the PASOK Socialists of Evangelos Venizelos and the Democratic Left of Fotis Kouvelis, to go along with deep pension cuts and other Draconian measures, which would force the Leftists to renege on their campaign pledges ahead of the critical June 17 elections not to impose more austerity on workers, pensioners, and the poor.

The newspaper Kathimerini reported that the government

Continued on page 9

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A New Philadelphia Convention: Reform Party

By Constantinos E. Scaros

On a weekend in September 1787, America’s Founding Fathers traveled from all the states to convene in Philadelphia, PA, for no less a monumental purpose than saving the United States. The fledgling young nation was on the brink of doom, as its first form of government – based on the Articles of Confederation – was about to collapse.

Inspired by the authors of a series of writings that became known collectively as the Federalist Papers – Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay – as well as by the peerless Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, and Thomas Jefferson, the Founders wrote the Constitution of the United States, which to this day remains the country’s constant rampart.

Almost 235 years later to that very weekend, another group of concerned citizens traveled from all over the United States to attend another convention in Philadelphia. I was among them. We are members of Reform Party, and we chose the historic city of Philadelphia in which to hold our national convention.

It would not only be immodest but also downright delusional to compare ourselves to the Founding Fathers, although our purpose is no less noble. Utterly dissatisfied with an incompetent-at-best, corrupt-at-worst major party duopoly, we have chosen an alternate path. Some among the Conventioneers are original Reform Party founders – who were there in the mid-1990s when the party was established based on the principles and presidential candidacy of Ross Perot. I became interested in the party far later, in 2008, when it became clear to me that the Republicans were no longer a party deserving my support, and the Democrats were at least as bad, if not worse.

The Party’s motto, which I helped to write, is “Honest Leadership, Real Solutions.” Those are the two governing Reform Party principles. First, not simply paying lip service to honesty, and not even merely embracing it. Insisting upon it, with zero



TNH Associate Editor Constantinos E. Scaros was the moderator of the debates at the Reform Party Convention in Philadelphia.

tolerance for deception and duplicity, in other words, for politics as usual. Second, offering solutions for every problem, not simply whining about what is wrong. Taxes, the debt and deficit, the economy, jobs, immigration, health care, energy: we have solutions for all of these problems. Right or wrong, at least we do not criticize the status quo without suggesting a better way.

I moderated the Reform Party Presidential Debate, held among the Party’s three remaining candidates at the time of the Convention: Andre Barnett, Ed Chlapowski, and Ken Cross. The debate, which will soon be made available on YouTube by the Reform Party itself, and will be featured on TNH’s website as well, was held on August 11 and lasted approximately two hours, comprised of various questions about domestic and foreign policy.

On the following day, the Convention Delegates voted for president, implementing the Approval Vote system. That voting format means that a delegate may vote for as many candidates as he or she wishes. The only way such a system could

result in a tie would be if every single voter voted for all candidates or for no candidates at all – an extremely unlikely scenario. The advantage of the system is that it allows voters to express their true intentions, without having to vote defensively, for fear of handing victory to the greater of two evils.

Barnett won a closely-contested battle over Ken Cross, and there were a few of us who suggested that the candidates form a coalition ticket. The next few minutes were dramatic: Cross at first declined to be considered for vice-president, insisting that “Mr. Barnett deserves a better choice [meaning, a candidate of Barnett’s own choosing].” Barnett then threw a different name in to the mix, as the delegates continued to discuss the merits of a Barnett-Cross ticket, instead. As that was going on, Barnett and Cross emerged and declared that they had formed a coalition after all. A few minutes later, the duo made their presidential and vice-presidential acceptance speeches, both of which were filmed by C-SPAN and are contained within that network’s video archives, available through its website.

At this late stage, the Reform Party ticket is not likely to have an impact in this year’s presidential race. In reality, many of this column’s readers would not even know the names Andre Barnett and Ken Cross at all, were it not for this week’s installment, for good reason – there is practically no advertising or media coverage. Only political diehards would know, by scouring the Internet.

The Party is very low on funds, in the initial stages of a long-term rebuilding effort, and barely on a handful of state ballots. That means the majority of voters across the country will not even see the names of the Reform Party candidates on the ballot in November, let alone know who they are and what they believe.

Why, then, even discuss any of this? If they’re not going to make a difference, what’s the point? There would be no point, indeed, if one were to begin with the premise that the only benefit to running for office is to win. But if that were the premise throughout our nation’s history, then women and persons of color would not have the right to vote today.

The Republican Party got its start as a little-known third party that had one major goal: to abolish slavery throughout the United States. It is not that the two major parties of the day – the Democrats and the Whigs – were necessarily pro-slavery, any more than today’s progressives are pro-abortion. Rather, they were anti-government intervention; they did not believe that the federal government had a right to abolish slavery, and so, that institution persisted well through much of the 19th century. But the Republicans had a radical idea: abolish slavery, period. Soon enough, more people embraced the idea. After losing a few elections, the Republican Party emerged as a force to be reckoned with, nominating Abraham Lincoln for president in 1860. Lincoln won the election, of course, and proceeded to abolish slavery, unite the divided nation, and guarantee that race could not be a factor in denying anyone the right to vote.

Continued on page 5

GOINGS ON...

■ **AUGUST 31-SEPTEMBER 1**
ORANGE, CT – The St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church is holding its 32nd annual Greek Festival, which is held every Labor Day weekend, indoors and out on the Church’s 10 country acres. Hours: 12 noon to 10 PM Aug. 31, Sept. 1,2; 12 noon to 8 PM Sept 3. Free parking, free admission, rain or shine. All the usual offerings: Greek food, pastries, live music, dancing, agora marketplace (t-shirts, jewelry, bookstore, Greek grocery, baklava sundaes, and more), Church tours, and choir performances.

■ **SEPTEMBER 1-3**
MARLBOROUGH, MA – Sts. Anargyroi Grecian Festival in Marlborough Labor Day Weekend 2012, Saturday, Sept. 1 – 12PM to 10PM, Sunday, Sept. 2 – 12PM to 10PM, Monday, Sept. 3 – 12PM to 6PM. Greek Food, Greek Pastries, Greek Souvenirs, Greek Dancing Performers, Music by George Regan, Live Greek Music - Singer Dimitra Aristidou/ Anemos Band/ Argiris Siopsis Clarinet, Face Painting & Kids’ Games, Beer & Wine. Free admission. Located at 9 Cashman Street Marlborough, MA 508-485-2575.

■ **SEPTEMBER 7-9**
BROOKLINE, MA – The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral of New England is holding a Greek festival at the Cathedral grounds, at 162 Goddard Ave, in Brookline. The times will be from 3PM to 10PM on Friday, Sept. 7, 11AM to 11PM on Saturday, Sept. 8 and 11AM to 9PM on Sunday, Sept. 9. Both admission and parking are free. For more information call (617)-731-6633 or go to bostoncathedral.com.

SCHENECTADY, NY – Join us for our 37th Annual Greek Festival September 7-9 at St. George’s Greek Orthodox Church in Schenectady. Times are Friday and Saturday 11AM-11PM and Sunday: 12PM-5PM. Live Music by the Aegeans. Live Folk Dance Performances by Fotia Hellenic Society. Greek Food & Pastries, Arts & Crafts. Rain or Shine. Free Admission. Contact the Church Office at 518-393-0742 or visit the website for more information.

■ **SEPTEMBER 13-16**
ROANOKE, VA – The Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church is holding it’s annual Greek Festival from Friday, Sept. 14 to Sunday, Sept. 16. The hours will be from 11AM to 10PM on Friday and Saturday and from Noon to 7PM on Sunday. The festival will be taking place at the church, which is located at 30 Huntington Blvd. N.E. in Roanoke. Call (540) 362-3601 for more information. We are proud to offer Southwest Central Virginia’s Premier Festival, which attracts over 23,000 visitors who cherish our Greek food, desserts, drinks, live Greek music, Greek dancing, and childrens’ activities along with tours of our church.

NEW ROCHELLE, NY – The Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church is holding it’s annual Greek Festival on September 13, 14, 15, & 16, Thurs: 6-11pm Fri: 6PM-12 Midnight; Sat: 2PM-12 Midnight Sun: 1-9PM at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church 10 Mill Road in New Rochelle. Call 914.235.6100, for more information. Free Shuttle Bus on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, to and from Ursuline School and Anne Hutchinson Parking Lots. Donation: \$2.00 (under 12 free when accompanied by a parent).

COLUMBIA, SC – The Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church is holding its 26 annual Greek Festival September 13, 14, 15 and 16. Festival Hours-- Thursday-Saturday, Sept.13-15) 10AM-10PM and Sunday Sept. 16 – Noon to 8PM. Sample music, arts, crafts and culture, direct from Greek artisans. See all other details, including menu, on festival website at www.columbiagreekfestival.com. For further information, call (803) 461-0248. Festival location on grounds of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 1931 Sumter St. in Columbia. All fes-

tival activities, scheduled events, child care and restroom areas are marked on festival brochure, available from www.columbiagreekfestival.com.

CONCORD, CA – The St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church is holding its annual Greek festival on Friday, Sept. 14 5-11PM, Saturday, Sept. 15 12 Noon-11PM, Sunday, Sept. 16 Noon-8PM. There will be authentic Greek food and pastries, Greek wine tasting and live Greek music & dancing. It will be at 1955 Kirker Pass Road in Concord. Call 925-676-6967 for more information.

FITCHBURG, MA – The Holy Trinity Greek Church is holding a Greek Festival on Saturday Sept. 15 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church 1319 Main Street in Fitchburg 11AM–10PM. Enjoy Homemade Greek Food & Pastries, Wine, Music & Dancing and Games for the Kids - Shop for Unique Gifts. Performances by their own “Floga Dance Group” at 2PM and 7PM.

■ **SEPTEMBER 28-30**
ASHVILLE, NC – Held annually on the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Grounds at 227 Cumberland Ave in Asherville. Friday & Saturday 11am to 9pm, Sunday 11am to 7pm. Authentic Greek Food and Pastries, Live Greek Music, Traditional Greek Dancing, Church Tours, Greek Cooking Demonstrations, Market Place with Greek Grocery Store, Gift Shops, Jewelry, Religious Items, Art, Kids Rides and Activities, Greek Ice Cream, Kafenia w/Loukoumades(Coffee House), Taverna w/Greek Wines & Beer. Admission is free, call 828-253-3754 for more details.

PORT WASHINGTON, NY – The Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church is holding it’s annual greek festival at Bar Beach in Port Washington NY. Friday 4pm to 11pm, Saturday Noon to 11pm & Sunday 1pm to 8pm. Saturday night has fireworks. There is free admission and parking, for more information go to www.greekfestportwash.com

■ **OCTOBER 4-7**
HOPEWELL, VA – The Hopewell Greek festival is being held at 810 West Poythress Street from October 5 through October 7. There will be homemade Greek food & pastries; Taverna (under the tent) featuring Gyros & Greek Fries; Imported Beverages; Greek Music featuring Archilleas Greek Orchestra; Dancing; Church Tours; Great Gifts & Souvenirs; Jewelry; T-shirts. Call 804-458-4142 for more information.

MACON, GA – The Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church is holding it’s annual Greek festival on Friday, October 5th (11am - 10pm), Saturday, October 6th (11am - 10pm) and Sunday, October 7th (11am - 3pm) at 859 First Street Macon, Georgia. There will be church tours, live music and dancing, authentic Greek food, art, shopping, jewelry, religious artifacts and more. Call 478-621-0744 or go to holycross.ga.goarch.org for more information.

WILKES-BARRE, PA – Attend the 2012 Fall Greek Food Festival, hosted by the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, 32 East Ross Street (near the Wilkes-Barre Post Office) in Wilkes-Barre from Thursday, October 4th to Saturday, October 6th from 11:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. daily. An assortment of Greek food and pastries, including gyros, stuffed grape vine leaves, spinach pies, baklava, galaktoboureko, and others, will be available for eat-in or take-out purchases. Orders more than \$30 will be delivered free within a 2 mile radius of the church. Greek t-shirts and aprons will also be sold. Church tours will be offered upon clergy availability. Customers may pre-order their food by calling (570) 823-4805 during festival hours or by ordering online at greekfoodfestival.webs.com. For more information, please call (570) 823-4805.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Vote on our website!

You have the chance to express your opinion on our website on an important question in the news. The results will be published in our printed edition next week along with the question for that week.

The question this week is: Do you think the Republican Convention will give Mitt Romney the boost he needs?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe

The results for last week’s question: Do you think most of the fires in Greece are arson?

58% voted "Yes"
26% voted "No"
16% voted "Maybe"

Please vote at: www.thenationalherald.com

Tennis Star Daniilidou Holds Clinic in Astoria

Continued from page 1

setback in the first round of the US Open, however, losing to Russian Ekaterina Marakova. She reported some discomfort in losing the first set 6-1, but she came back strong 6-4 in the second.

Now she looks forward her doubles match later in the week when she teams up with Casey Dellacqua of Australia ,who played in the doubles final two years ago.

FUN AND WISDOM FOR ALL

The tennis clinic was a highly interactive event on a beautiful Sunday morning at Astoria Park, a New York City treasure along the East River famous for being decorated with a prime view of two great bridges.

There was an extensive question and answer period that covered everything from tips on tennis, to nutrition to exercise. She described a typical match day, when if she must play at noon, she wakes up at eight, has a good breakfast and undertakes a light warm-up to “wake up my body and get the feel of the court and the ball.” After another meal, she does more intense mental and physical preparations for the match.

When there is no match she plays twice a day and does fitness exercises, including track and field sessions. Day after day of that routine, it gets grueling. She says her only respite during the year comes around the end of November when she gets a two-week break. Then there is an intensive 5-8 weeks of preparation, 6-7 hours per day, for the next year’s tournaments.

Sunday’s highlight was the chance for every single participant – from the children to the elderly – to actually play tennis with Daniilidou.

The day ended with prizes raffled off to the delighted children, but Daniilidou thrilled Olga Alexakos, the founder and president of AGAPW, when she donated one of her rackets to the organization. When one participant suggested he take care of it himself, she said “No, this is for AGAPW.” It was just one indication of the impression Daniilidou made on her new friends in New York.

Alexiou told TNH many people were responsible for the success of the event, including Susan Friedman of the city’s Department of Parks and recreation, and the office of city councilman Peter J. Vallone, Jr. Julie Kelley was another crit-



Above: The children and AGAPW president Olga Alexakos (far left) pose for a commemorative photo after the tennis clinic presented by Eleni Daniilidou of Greece. Below: Daniilidou instructs the children, joined by her coach, George Hiristanidis, in Astoria Park.



ical link. She now lives in Athens, where she got to know Daniilidou, and was motivated by a desire to do something for Astoria, where she lived from 1996-2006 and still maintains an apartment.

She also wanted to help Daniilidou make a connection with the Greek-American community, and to stir up support for her in New York and she knew about AGAPW because she prepared the group’s income taxes a few years ago.

Kelley recruited Greek-Cypriot American Theo Neokli

to help with the promotion of the event. His sister Stella participated and told TNH she is now inspired to learn more tennis and looks forward to playing with her friends.

OTHER INTERESTS, OTHER HOPES

Daniilidou also loves music – especially Greek music, but definitely not Greek rap and hip-hop. She said that she and her fellow athletes listen to music almost all day long- it puts them in the zone practicing on the court, and helps them overcome the stress afterwards.

When she was a child she also loved her piano lessons, but when she was around 12 years old her teacher insisted she had to choose between tennis and music.

Like all Hellenes, she hopes Greece will soon emerge from its economic crisis, which has severely impacted cultural endeavors and sports. Daniilidou encourages members of the diaspora to support Greek athletes, pointing out that the life of an elite athlete is not only physically and psychologically demanding, but expensive.