

HELLENIC HAPPENINGS FROM COAST TO COAST

TNH Staff

NEW YORK, NY – The Top Ten List on David Letterman's Late Show is a staple of modern American late night television comedy. On May 20, the final show aired with the iconic Letterman as host – he is retiring and Stephen Colbert is taking over the show, which will begin on September 8. For his final ever (or so it seems) Top Ten, Letterman did not read the list himself. Instead, ten celebrities did. One of them, Greek-American TV star/comedienne Tina Fey. In fact, she was prominently billed at Number 2 on the list.

The full top ten countdown, including celebrities and their comments follows:

10. Alec Baldwin: "Of all the talk shows, yours is most geographically convenient to my home."

9. Barbara Walters: "Did you know that you wear the same cologne as Muammar Qaddafi?"

8. Steve Martin: "Your extensive plastic surgery was a necessity and a mistake."

7. Jerry Seinfeld: "I have no idea what I'll do when you go off the air... You know, I just thought of something--I'll be fine."

6. Jim Carrey: "Honestly, Dave, I've always found you to be a bit of an over-actor."

5. Chris Rock: "I'm just glad your show is being given to another white guy."

4. Julia Louis-Dreyfus: "Thanks for letting me take part in another hugely disappointing series finale."

3. Peyton Manning: "You are to comedy what I am to comedy."

2. Tina Fey: "Thanks for finally proving men can be



Tina Fey drew the prominent #2 slot on David Letterman's final star-studded Top Ten List. Behind her L-R are: Chris Rock, Jim Carrey, and Jerry Seinfeld.

funny."

1. Bill Murray: "Dave, I'll never have the money I owe you."

Fey, who has won the Emmy and numerous other awards more than once is best known for her years on Saturday Night Live and 30 Rock, and she and BFF Amy Poehler has become the go-to hostesses of the Golden Globe Awards, which Fey has also won more than once and was nominated for countless other times.

PHILADELPHIA, PA – Ourania "Rainy" Papademetriou won the Democratic Primary on May 19 for a judicial seat on the Philadelphia Court of Common

Pleas. Though the general election is in November, her victory is practically secured as in that heavily Democratic city, there is no Republican on the ballot to oppose her. Papademetriou is the Managing Attorney at Philadelphia VIP, a nonprofit organization that delivers free legal services to those in need. Previously, she was an Assistant District Attorney (ADA) in the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office and Director of Legal Services at Women Against Abuse.

CLEARWATER BEACH, FL – The United Greeks of America (UGA) began their annual beach party four years ago – and this year, over Memorial Day week-

end, had their fifth and largest one yet. The venue, Shephard's Beach Resort in Clearwater Beach, was packed to capacity for the event, with the UGA booking more than 100 hotel rooms. As the Clearwater Patch reported, what used to be a smaller event is growing year after year and is now talked about from coast to coast.

Organizer Constantino "Deano" Katsis said, the Patch reported, that "nowadays between school, work, and personal commitments it is difficult to really get everyone together. This weekend gives all of us a unique opportunity to party and celebrate life as a family."



(L-R) Dr. Aphrodite Navab, Dr. Olga Alexakos, Lila Prounis, Anthousa Diakopoulos Iliopoulos, Maria Logus, Evgenia

Soldatos, Maria Markou, and Irine Sarri at the AGAPW's Annual May Celebration, in New York City.

AGAPW Honors Mothers of the Greek Diaspora

By Constantine S. Sirigos

TNH Staff Writer

NEW YORK – AGAPW hosted its "Annual May celebration Acknowledging the Mothers of the Greek Diaspora" on May 26.

Anthousa Diakopoulos Iliopoulos, Maria Logus, and Lila Prounis were chosen both to receive honors and to pay tribute to "Greek American women, who through their volunteer philanthropic and charity work become 'mothers to the community,'" as the invitation noted.

The speakers were introduced by attorney Evgenia Soldatos.

Logus is prioritizing Philoptochos activities like feeding the homeless and acknowledged the presence of Catherine Moutousis, president of Cathe-

dral Philoptochos.

After recounting the humble backgrounds of the society's founders, Logus said "we are professionals now, doctors, lawyers, educators...but we are also the community's mothers, working to make a difference in the lives of others."

Dr. Olga Alexakos, AGAPW founder and first, called Prounis a great role model.

She represented the Archdiocese at the UN for many years and was one of the first women to be appointed to the Archdiocesan Council but guests were moved by her State Department career.

She began as one of only two female Voice of American (VOA) radio program producers, and their male colleagues undermined them. Her parents taught her to always strive for excel-

lence, and after winning the Ohio State University (OSU) Award for Excellence in Radio, they won the respect and admiration of their peers.

The guests were intrigued by Iliopoulos' presentation, a perspective of the unheralded role of women in the community's history. "Women have participated in and contributed greatly to the success story of Greeks in America," she said.

Iliopoulos, who has advanced degrees and has taught history, embraced Alexakos' invitation to speak despite not being a Greek-American.

As the wife of a diplomat – her husband is Amb. George Iliopoulos, Consul General of Greece – she has raised children born in two countries and grew up in six. She has lived the challenge of infusing the values and

traditions of Hellenism in the next generation despite being far from the homeland.

In addition to her research, through their 25 years of service among Greeks abroad Iliopoulos heard the stories of Diaspora Greek women and their mothers, which echoed some of her own family history. Her great aunt became a "picture bride" when her people lost everything in the Asia Minor Catastrophe.

Iliopoulos referred to Maria Iliou's film *The Journey: The Greek American Dream* and other sources, to paint a picture of both the humble women who formed the backbone of the community and those to stand apart, excelled, and inspired, like the woman – only her last name, Magerou, is known – who addressed the needs of the hard-pressed Greeks in America's mining towns as a self-trained midwife and physician.

She emphasized that Greek-American communities began to be organized and establish the institutions that enabled Hellenism in American to prosper and endure, only "when the women arrived."

Iliopoulos cited studies that showed that in places where women did not follow the men, the latter married non-Greeks and the Hellenic presence withered away.

When the women came, Greek Orthodox weddings and baptisms had to take place, requiring priests, parishes, and eventually, the critical component of schools.

But the mothers played perhaps the greatest role in conveying ethnic pride to the children of immigrants growing up in America at a time when diversity was either not valued – or directly attacked.

Alexakos thanked the guests for attending and invited them to network during the reception that followed. She also described the objects of art and fashion created by members that were raffled in support of the organization.

GOINGS ON...

■ THRU NOV. 1

TARPON SPRINGS, FL – Night in the Islands returns to the world-famous Sponge Docks of Tarpon Springs for 2015! Saturdays, 6-11PM: Jul. 11, Aug. 1, Sept. 12, and Oct. 3. A free event of Greek music, dancing, and dining! And we will offer an hour of free Greek dance lessons by the Leventia Dance Troupe from 6-7 PM. The festival is supported in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Come join us for authentic island fun in the warm Florida sun and mark your calendar and make this a regular destination! And if you're just in town for a week or two, make sure to mark your calendar as you will not want to miss this! Tarpon Springs is a unique Greek experience in the United States, one unlike any other Greek community. Come be part of this one-of-a-kind American experience that will make you feel as if, truly, you are back in the homeland!

■ MAY 28-31

HEMPSTEAD, NY – The Greek Orthodox Cathedral of St. Paul, 110 Cathedral Ave. in Hempstead, presents its annual Greek festival Thursday, May 28 through Sunday, May 31. Thurs: 6-10; Fri: 6-11; Sat: 6-11; Sun: 1-9. Greek food and pastries, Music and dancing, Greek Dance Performers, Vendors, Huge flea market, Rides, games, Raffle, Guided tours of the Cathedral. For more information, call (516) 483-5700.

■ MAY 30-JUNE 7

NORTHEAST US – Areti Ketime, who stole the hearts of Greece and the world as a 14-year old musician at the opening ceremonies of the 2004 Olympics, is making her American debut. Ketime and HER group will perform May 30 at Rutgers' Nicholas Music Center in New Brunswick NJ and May 31 at the Greek Town Community Center ("Plateia") at St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Baltimore, MD. Other performances include the Lefrak Concert Hall at Queens College in NYC on June 5, the Maliotis Cultural Center in Brookline, MA on June 6, and at a benefit for Hellenic Society Paideia at St Barbara's Cathedral in Orange, CT, on June 7. For information/tickets on any of these performances, contact 646-623-0270 or email at info@syn-ponia.com.

■ JUNE 5

MANHATTAN – All are invited to the Archdiocesan Cathedral Soiree on Friday, Jun. 5th honoring industrialist Dennis Mehiel and formally welcoming Fr. John Vlahos as Cathedral Dean. Enjoy one big party with "adults" and "young professionals" in a fantastic space. Cocktail hour 7PM, Soiree 8 PM until? Dancing, gourmet food stations, open bar, live Greek band/dancing and DJ at Guastavinos, 409 East 59th Street. For ticket information visit www.thecathedralgoarch.org/ and click above the Soiree image.

■ JUNE 13

MANHATTAN – The Greek-American Writers Association invites you to a special evening of comedy and poetry. Ellen Karis, the "Greek Queen of Comedy" humorist, actress and stand-up comedienne – will perform. Dean Kostos will present work from his new *This Is Not a Sky-scraper* (Red Hen Press), winner of the prestigious Benjamin Saltman Poetry Award. Penelope Karageorge will make the New York debut of her just-published poetry collection, *The Neon Suitcase* (Somerset Hall Press). Enjoy the special ambiance of Greenwich Village. Meet old friends and discover new at the easy-to-reach Cornelia Street Café, 29 Cornelia Street, located between Bleecker and West Fourth Streets. Subways A, C, E, B, D, M to West 4th Street or 1 to Christopher Street. 6-8PM. \$8 admission includes a glass of wine, beer, or soft drink.

■ JUNE 17

EASTCHESTER, NY – The Make A Difference with Loukoumi Dance Party and Awards Gala, which celebrates Loukoumi's 10th anniversary, takes place at the Lake Isle Country Club, 660 White Plains Road in Eastchester on Wednesday, Jun. 17 at 6PM. Guests include Oscar winner Olympia Dukakis and Tony Award Nominee Constantine Maroulis. Loukoumi, a fluffy little lamb, is the main character from the Loukoumi book series that wants to make the world a better place. The Loukoumi

Make A Difference Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that seeks to teach children to follow Loukoumi's lead and to make a positive difference in their lives and the lives of others. For more information about the organization and the event, visit loukoumifoundation.org.

■ JUNE 26

CINCINNATI, OH – The St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church of Cincinnati, at 7000 Winton Road, is happy to present its annual Greek festival on the Weekend of June 26-28. Friday, Jun. 26: 5-11PM; Saturday, Jun. 27: 3-11PM; and Sunday, Jun. 28: 1-8PM. Admission is \$2 per person and children under 12 may enter for free. For additional information, please contact the Church office at: you can contact our Church office at (513) 591-0030.

IRVINE, CA – St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church, 4949 Alton Parkway in Irvine, celebrates its 36th Greek festival Friday-Sunday, June 26-28. Friday 5-10PM, Saturday Noon-10PM, Sunday Noon-9PM. Delicious Greek Food and Pastries, Greek Folk Dancing, Carnival Rides, Opportunity Drawing, Church Tours, Boutique and Gift Items from around the world, Carnival Rides, and Cooking Demonstrations await! \$3.00 per person, Children under 10 are free, Seniors 65+ are free Saturday 12-5pm. For more information, please visit <http://irvine-greekfest.com> or call the Church at (949) 733-2366.

SHEBOYGAN, WI – The St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church, 1427 South Street in Sheboygan will hold its Greek festival Friday through Sunday, June 26-28 at the following times: Fri: 6-9PM; Sat: 11AM-9PM; Sun: 11AM-6PM. Featuring authentic Greek food and dancing at Deland Park on the beautiful Sheboygan Lake Michigan shoreline. Free admission, ticket purchase for food, beverages and children's activities. Lots of free parking. Liturgy on the grounds at 9 a.m. Sunday. Dine with us, or carry out available. For a complete list of entertainment and hours, call (920) 452-2296.

RACINE, WI – The Kimisis Tis Theotokou Greek Orthodox Church, 1335 South Greek Bay Road in Racine, will celebrate its Greek Festival from June 26-28 (Friday thru Sunday). Friday 5-10PM, Saturday 12Noon-10PM, Sunday 12Noon-8PM. Authentic Greek Food & Pastry, Greek Wines, Beer Tent, Carnival Rides, Greek Dancing & Music, Greek Coffee Bar, Agora Shopping, Church Tours, "Mysteries of Orthodox Christianity", Cooking Demos. etc., can you say "OPA!?" For more information, please call: (262) 632-5682.

■ JULY 10-12

LIBERTYVILLE, IL – The St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, 1400 N. O'Plaine Road in Libertyville will hold its annual Greek festival from Friday, Jul. 10 through Sunday, Jul. 12 from 11AM-11PM on all three days. Our annual Greek Fest is one of the many ways that our parish hopes to share our beautiful Greek heritage and traditional Orthodox Faith with our entire Lake County community. When you are ready to sample a taste of Greek hospitality, we have prepared a number of traditional Greek delicacies for your dining pleasure! At the Food Booth, choose from succulent Souvlaki, Athenian Chicken, Roasted Lamb, Tasty Gyros, Spanakopita (Spinach Puff) or Tyropita (Cheese Puff). While you are dining on our assortment of Greek delicacies, be sure to save room for dessert! We offer a tempting variety of Greek Pastries and Loukoumathes (Honey Puffs) to satisfy your craving. Visit our Kidz Zone to entertain your children! Browse through our Greek Marketplace and shop for artwork, music, clothing, jewelry, religious items, books, and much more! Free parking and free admission. For more information, call (224) 513-5530.

■ NOTE TO OUR READERS

This calendar of events section is a complimentary service to the Greek American community. All parishes, organizations and institutions are encouraged to e-mail their information regarding the event 3-4 weeks ahead of time, and no later than Monday of the week before the event, to english.edition@thenationalherald.com

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Do you really think ATMs in Greece will dry up this summer and there will be no cash available to withdraw?

Please email your response to scaros@thenationalherald.com

We may publish some responses as Letters to the Editor in a future issue.

DANCE PARTY & MAKE A DIFFERENCE AWARDS

IT'S LOUKOUMI'S BIRTHDAY!!

CELEBRATE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

DJ! Fun Food Silent Auction

Wednesday JUNE 17 6pm

10 YEARS with LOUKOUMI

Mulino's @ Lake Isle Country Club 660 White Plains Rd Eastchester, NY



Honoring Michael Psaros Inspiration Award



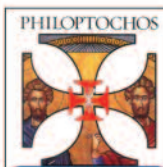
Guest Host Olympia Dukakis



Performance by Constantine Maroulis



Special Guest Nick Gregory



Make a Difference Award

For Tickets & Information: www.LoukoumiFoundation.org; 212-397-2804