

Ourania Papademetriou Sworn in as Philly Judge

By Eleftherios Kostans for Cosmos Philly

Philadelphia, PA—Ourania “Rainy” Papademetriou, was sworn into public office at City Hall, where she gave several shout outs during her acceptance speech to Hellenism, the Greek Orthodox Church, and to her Spartan background. Her new position of Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County officially started this January and carries a ten year term.

Courtroom 653 filled with friends, family, and colleagues as Papademetriou sat with husband Jon Belisonzi, Esquire, at her side. Before she was sworn in, her daughters, Eleni and Lisa, several judges and former Governor Ed Rendell spoke on behalf of Papademetriou’s career in public service.

Following the ceremony, Judge Papademetriou told Cosmos Philly, “This is really a great moment for all of us, especially for the Greek-American community – having one of our own in public office here in Philadelphia. We have so many other Greeks here that are accomplished and are leaders in our city. We need to recognize and support them as well.”

Judge Papademetriou resides with her husband of thirty-one years who she met in law school. They have lived and worked in Philadelphia for over thirty-five years and raised their daughters in the Philadelphia public schools. They all attend the historic Saint George Greek Orthodox Cathedral where Judge Papademetriou serves on the Board of Directors of the Saint George Senior Housing Corporation. Both of her daughters are directors of the Saint George Sunday School, the same Sunday School they attended at the same Cathedral where they were baptized.

Judge Papademetriou has devoted her professional life to helping others. Whether as a teacher, prosecutor, domestic violence advocate, or lawyer for the underserved, she understands the challenges of everyday people and will work to ensure everyone has a fair shot in court. A Temple Law graduate, Judge Papademetriou was the managing attorney at Philadelphia VIP, a nonprofit corporation that provides free legal services to those in need. She has also served as the Director of legal services for Women Against Abuse and was an assistant district attorney in the Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office. In 2010, she was awarded the prestigious Philadelphia Bar Foundation Award, for her extensive work in public service in Philadelphia.

In an interview in April of 2015 with The National Herald, she gave her reasons for running for this position. “I have dedicated my entire career as an attorney to promoting equal access of justice to the courts, helping to give a voice to those who need legal assistance and have nowhere else to turn. I believe that my experience in public service and my extensive work in public interest give me the experience and a strong foundation to listen to and be fair to the litigants that come before me. Those who know me and have worked with me, know I am understanding, patient, compassionate, even-tempered, and open-minded. I am able to deal with difficult and challenging situations with fairness, confidence and common sense.”

The City of Philadelphia, the Court, and the citizens of the City will certainly benefit from the experience and dedication to law that Judge Papademetriou brings and the Greek-American community can be proud that another of its own has ascended to this prestigious position.



Rainy Papademetriou sworn in

Kali Parea Gets on the Map With First Formal Luncheon

Both veteran Kali Parea members Tom Pousatis and George Burlotos were called on by moderator Jerry Karapalides to speak on their take of the group’s early beginnings during the Parea’s first Bi-Annual Luncheon that took place at the luxurious Adelphia restaurant in Deptford, NJ on Saturday, February 6 2016 and included the members’ spouses and friends. Attendance nearly reached 85.

Pousatos described the group’s origin and its early start with only three members meeting at the Moorestown Mall, later multiplying the number and arriving to the enviable membership figures of today. Burlotos on the other hand examined the subject from the point of view of the meaning of the group and its given name.

The only other speakers that afternoon was the President of the Senior Citizen Association of the Saint Thomas Greek Orthodox Church of Cherry Hill, of which Kali Parea is part, Jerry Hanos and Archimandrite, Fr. Christoforos, pastor of St. Thomas Church, and who personally greeted everyone present, going around from table to table. After everyone settled down at their tables and began enjoying a delicious Avgolemono soup, a musical group played some sweet melodies to dine by. The combo was composed of the violin played by Nikos Hondros, Laouto by Dimitris Pappas and the clarinet played by Grigorios. Lunch choices were Sirloin tip, Stuffed Flounder and Chicken Francaise and the group enjoyed the meal and the company until the late hours of the afternoon.

19-Year-Old Queens Guy Kills Dad with Wheel’s Lock Club

A 19-year-old has been arrested and charged for allegedly beating his father to death with a steering wheel lock club during a drunken brawl in Queens. Police say the incident happened Friday (Feb 5) night when police were called to the Utopia Parkway home of victim Ioannis “John” Safetis’ ex-wife. The News reports that suspect Dimitrios Safetis, Ioannis’ son, and his 16-year-old brother had been visiting their former stepmother, and were partying with the woman’s 20-year-old son when things turned into a drunken fight between siblings.

Ioannis — already annoyed because his sons remain friendly with the ex-wife — jumped in his car and drove to the woman’s Utopia Parkway home where he threatened her, his sons and her son, police sources said. As the level of vitriol escalated, the father bolted for his car and came back waving the club. The elder boy wrestled the deadly weapon from the father and inflicted the fatal blows, sources said. “I saw them arguing and the next time I looked the man was (lying) in the street,” a neighbor told the Daily News. “They were pumping his chest ... but I could see that it wasn’t working. I was pretty sure he was dead.” Cops say the father sustained trauma to the left side of his head and scratches to his face. He was transported to New York-Presbyterian Queens, where he was declared dead. According to neighbors, Ioannis and his sons had a fractured, difficult relationship: “The dad gets really, really drunk,” Oliver Hue, who lives next door to Ioannis in Auburndale, told the Post. “He has words of disappointment for the sons. It’s like a pleading tone. ‘Why did you do this to me? Why are you acting like this? You ruined me?’” Another neighbor told the News that Dimitrios was “a little off. ... It’s a shame now that kid’s gonna go to jail for some stupidity. His life is done.” The son has been charged with manslaughter, assault and criminal possession of a weapon.

Neolea Hellenic Dancers Show Off in Chicago

The exhibit The Greeks: From Agamemnon to Alexander the Great coming to Chicago’s Field Museum March 26 of this year, will be enriched by the colorful performance of the Neolea Hellenic Dancers. This will be Neolea’s second performance around this exhibition.



The first one back on December 4, the opening night of the exhibit, took place with the joint work effort of some students from the celebrated Joffrey Ballet’s Community Engagement Program, which went under “a successful showcase of traditional meet modern under the umbrella of Hellenic music and dance.” For sure the Greek American community the Greek American community went all out for the group when the Neolea Hellenic Dancers went public last summer lighting up the Chicago White Sox Stadium’s Jumbotron on Greek Heritage Night.

«Agamemnon» by Aeschylus, Plays Limited Engagement at La Mama

La MaMa presents “Agamemnon” by Aeschylus directed by Zishan Ugurlu in Modern Greek, translated by the 2003 Greek National Literature Award recipient Mr. Dimitris Dimitriadis and English supertitle translation by Robert Fagles, had a limited engagement at La Mama downtown on February 18, 19, 20 and 21 2016. The renowned jazz musician Costas Baltazanis composed and performed live the music of the show. The production was a collaboration of “Eclipses Group Theater New York” a non-profit organization that serves as a cultural bridge between Greece and the USA and “Actors Without Borders – ITONY”, an ensemble-based theater company committed to introduce well known and highly regarded but rarely produced playwrights to American audiences. Collaborating with a group of accomplished Greek actors, La MaMa resident director, Ms. Zishan Ugurlu, explored a modern interpretation of the play through the lens of today’s culture and politics. The audience had the unique opportunity to experience an Ancient Greek Tragedy performed by Greek actors in modern and ancient Greek with English supertitles. The first play in Aeschylus’ The Oresteia trilogy, Agamemnon is one of the finest achievements of Ancient Greek drama and a masterpiece of world theatre. The play is a meditation on female revenge, sexual bleeding, male pomposity, self-consuming truth, and a sense of justice. The narrative of provocation and premonition are incorporated into the production by the objective: “to trap the living fact alive.” “AGAMEMNON” was performed in Greek with English supertitles and was under the Auspices of the Greek Consulate General in New York and the A.S. Onassis Program in Hellenic Studies at New York University

AGAPW To Award a Scholarship

In Celebration of Women’s History Month The Officers and Directors of the Association of Greek American Professional Women (A.G.A.P.W.) Request the Pleasure of Your Company at Our Signature Annual “Greek American Woman of the Year” Award Gala Honoring Nancy Papaioannou, President of Atlantic Bank and President of the Hellenic American Chamber of Commerce. An Excellence Tuition Scholarship will be Awarded in Honor of Nancy Papaioannou Tuesday, March 8th, 2016 7:00-9:00 p.m. at The Metropolitan Club, the Library1 East 60th Street, New York, NY 10019 Open bar and hors d’oeuvres reception Please RSVP. Preregistration is required by February 26th, 2016.

EasyJet Connects Zakynthos With London in Summer

The budget airline easyJet is to add a flight between the Greek island of Zakynthos in the Ionian Sea and Stansted Airport in London to its Greek destinations this summer, the airline announced on Thursday. With the addition of the new flight, Zakynthos will now have a direct link to two London airports, Stansted and Gatwick. The easyJet flights will begin on May 28, with a weekly flight on Saturday. Also for the summer season, easyJet intends to link Zakynthos with the UK cities of Bristol, Liverpool and the Italian city of Malpensa. It will add six new flights to its network to Greece, including a flight from Santorini to Venice, Mykonos-Venice, Amsterdam-Rhodes, Mykonos-Lyon and Mykonos-Nice to reach a total of 71 flights. According to easyJet’s Route Manager Dimitris Schinas, the company aims to carry up to 2.3 million passengers to Greece this year.