

Senseless Killing of Patouhas In Astoria

Community Mourns Good Samaritan Slain Inside His Liquor Store

By Demetris Tsakas and Constantine S. Sirigos

ASTORIA – George Patouhas, the 55-year-old owner of Astoria Liquors, was the latest victim or a series of attacks in the streets and subways of New York City. He was stabbed to death on afternoon of March 6 by a customer inside his Astoria store.

The viewing was held on March 10 at the Antonopoulos Funeral Home in Astoria and the funeral was scheduled to take place on March 11 at 10 AM at the Church of Sts. Catherine and George, also in Astoria.

Patouhas is survived by his wife, Despina, and their 7-year-old daughter, Parasekvi. His family, friends, and customers were plunged into mourning for man people called a Good Samaritan and said did everything he could to help people in need.

“George was a well-built, good-hearted, generous man and who never gave a second thought when he discerned that his fellow man was in danger. He was a Good Samaritan who never expected to be attacked by his killer,” his wife said.

Patouhas is also mourned by his in-laws Demetrios and Konstantina Petrides, his sisters, Christine and her husband, Athanasios, Stavroula and her spouse, Sotirios, his nephews, and relatives both in Greece and the United States.

When St. Demetrios Schools Principal Anastasios Koularmanis was informed of the death, he called Mrs. Patouhas to offer every possible assistance to her and her seven-year old daughter.

“The teachers, students, and parents are sharing in the family’s grief. They will attend the funeral and will do everything possible to help Despina and little Parasekvi” said Koularmanis, who was reminded that Patouhas’ cruel murder had much in common with the murder of his own mother, Areti, on September 17, 1970. She was the victim of an armed burglar who broke into their home in Jamaica.

Regarding Patouhas, Koularmanis said “we do not have here a simple death, but a hideous crime that has plunged the family and community into mourning. We are all standing by our colleague’s side and if they need

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Preibus Says Republican Party is Fine

By Constantinos E. Scaros

WASHINGTON, DC – The Republicans are one of the two major political parties in the United States, who have elected more presidents than any other party, including two deemed so great that their likeness was captured on Mount Rushmore – Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt – and two others who are often ranked in the top ten by presidential historians, Dwight D. Eisenhower and Ronald Reagan. Yet this “Grand Old Party” is now being portrayed by political analysts throughout the media as being fractured, dysfunctional, and even on the brink of implosion.

But the Republican National Committee (RNC) Chairman, Greek-American Reince Preibus,

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AP PHOTO/VADIM GHIRDA

Migrant Children Languish in the Rain

At a refugee camp near the Greek border station of Ideomni, migrant children wait in line for food after three straight days of rain. See related story on page 11.

Greek Hearts and Food for Refugees

By Andy Dabilis
TNH Staff Writer

ATHENS – Nastasia Messini looked a little dazed, holding two one-liter cartons of milk and looking around where to put them among people-high bales of food, medicine, clothes and other goods destined for scores of thousands of refugees trapped in Greece.

But she knew why she was there, at a collection drive in the city’s heart, Syntagma Square, almost under the tree where a pensioner hung himself in despair four years ago, crushed by austerity measures still in place even as the European Union has left Greece almost to itself to deal with a second year of hundreds of thousands of refugees and migrants pouring in and hoping to get on to other more prosperous countries.

“We all need help in this life, that’s life,” the 37-year-old dietician said as she stood among the piles and hundreds of people scrambling to find places to bring the materials they carried on buses, subways and double-parked cars.

“I’m just a human and when I see people suffering it’s very difficult,” she said.

“It’s very hard to see them. They couldn’t even live in their own countries,” she added. Most of the refugees have fled war-torn Syria and Iraq and Afghanistan, most reaching Greece on perilous short journeys by overcrowded rickety craft and rubber dinghies supplied by human traffickers in Greece.

Hundreds of them, including scores of children, have drowned in the process, taken down to watery graves or wash-

ing up on the beaches of Lesbos or off the coast of Samos and other islands close to Turkey’s coast.

Now, with FYROM and Bulgaria shutting their borders to keep the migrants and refugees locked in Greece, the EU is struggling to find a way to relocate them even as its Council President, Donald Tusk, told them to stop coming.

Stuck in limbo, thousands sleep on cardboard boxes in city squares in Athens or on the ground at the FYROM border, cold and sick and hungry and with little or no medical care, food, toilets, doctors, crying out loud at their plight while the EU talks.

The National Centre for Social Solidarity sponsored the drive that drew an estimated

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Despite Complications, Tzakis Pioneers First U.S. Uterus Transplant

TNH Staff

WESTON, FL – Dr. Andreas Tzakis, a Greek-trained physician, oversaw a uterus transplant on a 26-year-old woman that seemed a success before complications caused it to fail and the organ removed.

In what looked to be the first successful effort in the United States, Tzakis helped perform the delicate operation on Feb. 24 and the woman, identified as Lindsey, even appeared at a news conference with her team of surgeons.

The nine-hour procedure was done at the Cleveland Clinic here. The patient, born without a uterus, was recovering, it was reported, and in good spirits despite the loss.

Doctors and pathologists were trying to determine what went wrong. No information about the complication was provided.

It was challenging to find a matching donor, but just minutes after the woman’s name entered the waiting list for a transplant, match emerged.

“I was shocked,” Tzakis, the

Director of Solid Organ Transplantation in Weston told the New York Times. “I really considered it an act of God.” Less than 24 hours later the procedure was performed and hopes soared it would work.

In a statement the hospital attributed to Lindsey, she said her doctors “acted very quickly to ensure my health and safety. Unfortunately, I did lose the uterus to complications. However, I am doing okay and appreciate all of your prayers and good thoughts.”

“I have prayed that God would allow me the opportunity to experience pregnancy, and here we are at the beginning of that journey,” the woman said at a March 7 a news conference. She and her 26-year-old husband Blake have three adopted sons.

“Uterus transplant surgery, still experimental, is meant to help women who want to become pregnant but cannot because they were born without a uterus, suffered damage to it or had to have it removed. Between 3 and 5 per-

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TNH/COSTAS BEJ

Greek Independence Celebrated in The Bronx

The Church of St. Peter celebrates Greek Independence. (L-R): Councilman Costas Constantinides, honorees Peter Katsiitis and Gerry Stefanitis, Fr. Maximos Politis, honoree Demetra Plagakis, Bronx BP Ruben Diaz, Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas, and honoree State Senator Michael Gianaris.

Prestigious Hellenic Univ. Club Ascends Again

TNH Staff

NEW YORK – The Hellenic University Club of New York (HUC) is one of the most storied organizations in the Greek-American community. Its founders included the renowned Dr. George Papanicolaou and its impact extends beyond its membership to the thousands who have received scholarship through the years.

Over its more than a century of existence, the Greek-American community has seen its major organizations cycle through periods of glory and relative quiescence. Time and chance happened to HUC also, but a group of about 11 stalwarts heroically

kept the Club and its vital scholarship program going in recent years.

They never lost hope that the younger generations would pick up the torch and revive the club though new members and attractive events and last June, a new Board was elected which took that mission to heart.

Paid membership is now 60 and growing and on February 25 the members approved revised bylaws and a certificate of incorporation that the Board says are necessary for the Club to move forward.

President George Tsiatis told TNH “we’re trying to make an organization that has a rich history relevant again and putting

into action its mission of supporting young people of Hellenic ancestry pursuing the dream of higher education and keeping a lively and vibrant community for the members... continuing the path of education, culture in a positive social setting...with program for the young, old and in-between.”

They are beginning with simple networking receptions and look forward to presenting lectures, symposia, theater outings and plan to partner with other Hellenic organizations with similar aims.

Some technical matters had to be addressed. Due to the lapse of HUC’s 501c3 status, lawyers from Hughes Hubbard

and Reed working pro bono advised the Board that revising the bylaws and certificate of incorporation would help restore the tax exempt status, the loss of which puts into jeopardy existing and future substantial donations, including a six-figure distribution from the Frederick EG Valergakis Charitable Trust.

“The Board voted unanimously to present new bylaws to the members for approval,” Tsiatis told TNH, which happened in February 25.

Tsiatis applied simplified rules of order that eschewed cross-talk and required each speaker to wait his turn, ensur-

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Spiritual Ct. Weighs in On Dokos

By Theodore Kalmoukos

CHICAGO, IL – The Metropolis of Chicago convened its Spiritual Court on March 2 to examine the high-profile case of Rev. James Dokos.

Dokos pleaded guilty on February 22 to embezzling more than \$100,000 from a trust account from his former parish in Wauwatosa, WI.

Dokos was accused of taking the money from a fund that was intended to benefit Annunciation Church and instead spent it on himself, family members, and other church hierarchs, including Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos chancellor of the Metropolis of Chicago.

Dokos was transferred to Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Glenview, IL.

In a court-approved settlement that avoids jail time, Dokos agreed to plead guilty to felony theft, and prosecutors agreed to reduce the charge to a misdemeanor if he meets the terms of the agreement and remains out of legal trouble for one year. He has already paid the church full restitution, officials said, and also must serve 40 hours of community service.

Metropolis officials and specifically Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago argued that the matter should be settled by the church internally, rather than in court. Iakovos even sent a “sealed” letter to the court invoking the hierarchical status of the Church and also ecclesiological reasons.

A Metropolis written statement reads that “upon the entering of a deferred prosecution agreement with the District Attorney of Milwaukee County, the Metropolis of Chicago has di-

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Nancy Papaioannou, AGAPW’s Greek American Woman of the Year and president of Atlantic Bank and the Hellenic American Chamber of Commerce, expresses thanks and appreciation.

Papaioannou Is AGAPW’s Woman of Yr.

TNH Staff

NEW YORK – The Association of Greek American Professional Women AGAPW celebrated International Women’s Day on March 8 by presenting Atlantic Bank President Nancy Papaioannou with its “Greek American Woman of the Year” and presenting an Excellence Tuition Scholarship to Madelein Ball at a reception in Manhattan’s Metropolitan Club.

The men and women who filled the ornate hall on the second floor of were reminded by Emcee Aphrodite Skeadas, former President of National Philoptochos, that it was not long ago that women in America faced discrimination and that around the world the fight for women’s rights continues amid

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41st Anniversary AHI Awards Dinner Shines Spotlight on Hellenism

TNH Staff

NEW YORK – The honorees at the 41st Anniversary Hellenic Heritage Achievement and National Public Service Awards Dinner of the American Hellenic Institute on March 5 have distinguished themselves in the worlds of finance, construction and service to the community but what they had in common was a passion for Hellenism and a dedication to excellence.

Every year AHI, the Greek-American think tank and public policy center founded by Eugene T. Rossides 41 years ago fills the ballroom of the Capital Hilton when it shines a spotlight on some of community's most accomplished members and contributors to Hellenism.

This year' honorees included Peter J. Pappas, Sr., Nicolas Bornozis, Basil Mossaides, and Rena Papapostolou.

AHI's 2015 achievements and 2016 plans were spotlighted by its President Nicholas Larigakis, and greetings and congratulations to the honorees were offered by Dr. Spiro Spireas, the President of the AHI Foundation.

AHI Legal Counsel Nicholas Karambelas introduced Emcee Larry Michael who moved the program with grace and humor from the invocation offered by Fr. Steven Zorzos, Dean of St. Sophia Cathedral, through its culmination in dancing driven by music provided by the band Apollonia.

Pappas and his company P.J. Mechanical are the trusted providers of heating and air conditioning to many of the buildings on the Manhattan skyline and has donated the HVAC for the new St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox National Shrine at Ground Zero.

"Few of the iconic buildings in New York do not have his trademark," said Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney by video.

He praised fellow Cyprian Rossides for founding AHI and leading the fight for justice for Cyprus.

He again shifted the spotlight from himself when he urged the young people in the audience to seize the opportunities America presents them after sharing the improbable story of his rise from humbles origins.

Bornozis is the President and CEO of Capital Link, a leader in investor relations for the shipping industry and other companies and the founder of the annual Invest in Greece Forum which helps drive investors to Greece.

Those lauding Bornozis by video included former Greek Prime Ministers George Papandreou and Antonis Samaras,



1. Left to right: AHI President Nicholas Larigakis, honoree Nicolas Bornozis, Founder and President of Capital Link, and AHIF President Dr. Spiros Spireas at the AHI awards dinner. 2. AHI President Nicholas Larigakis, honoree Basil Mossaides, Executive Director of the Order of AHEPA, and AHIF President Dr. Spiros Spireas at the AHI awards dinner. 3. AHI President Nicholas Larigakis,

John Calamos, and Arianna Huffington.

Video comments about how Bornozis and his sister Olga Bornozis complement each other were echoed by many guests familiar with their dedication and professionalism.

Like most people in the public relations business, Bornozis said he preferred being behind the scenes. He noted AHI figured out that the way to get him to agree be an honoree was to go through his sister.

He concluded by saying "we have had the opportunity to thrive and contribute back to American society and we have to contribute to Greece...right

now Greece needs all of us."

Mossaides, Executive Director of the Order of AHEPA, has since childhood been a devoted member of the fraternal organization dedicated to mutual support, the promotion and defense of Hellenism and education, and the well-being of Greek-Americans, especially through the thousands of senior citizens housing units it has created across the country, and perhaps most impressively, by distributing \$1.8 million in scholarships each year.

John Galanis and Philip Frangos, current and past Supreme Presidents, respectively, praised Mossaides for his

dedication and his ability to strike the right balance in providing support from its Washington, DC headquarters to the organization's different groups, regions and chapters in America, and now around the world.

"I'm very humbled," Mossaides said. "I'm not accustomed to this...For me it's a very special honor to be here with my peers...this is what Hellenism is about to me...we are one big family."

Papapostolou charmed the guests and touched them with the praise and thanks she offered for her late husband Harilaos Papapostolou, past protopsalti at St. Sophia Cathedral.



honoree Rena Papapostolou, co-founder of Return to Origins organization, and AHIF President Dr. Spiros Spireas at the AHI awards dinner. 4. AHI President Nicholas Larigakis, honoree Peter J. Pappas, Sr., philanthropists and founder of P.J. Mechanical, and AHIF President Dr. Spiros Spireas at the AHI awards dinner.

BILL PETROS

bassador to the US Christos Panagopoulos.

"These award dinners are amazing because you discover these people whom you didn't appreciate how critical they are to the vibrancy of our community, but you here these testimonials and you understand why we are such a strong community," Congressman Sarbanes told TNH.

He was also impressed with the humility displayed by the honorees that is rooted in their upbringing. "Hellenism has many intrinsic values, buy I think number one is that commitment to family and community," he added.

Atlantic's Nancy Papaioannou is Honored as AGAPW's Woman of the Year

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violence and abuse.

AGAPW was established in 2010 as a 501c3 organization with a mission "to expand career opportunities and promote community and leadership building among Greek-American professional women by forging collaborations among ourselves and establishing partnerships with other organizations."

The guests representing a cross section of the Greek-American Community's leading professional and cultural organizations were proof of the fledgling organization's progress.

AGAPW Founding President Dr. Olga Alexakos, who offered opening and closing remarks told the guests "I'm filled with tears of joy from my heart of hearts for supporting AGAPW

Day.

"Greek-American women have been challenge to reconcile their heritage and their families' expectation with the great opportunities they found in the USA, and they accomplished it all...holding important positions" in all walks of life "and tonight we are honored to have one of these women in our company," she said.

Born in Athens and excelling in the Arsakeio school, Papaioannou "from a young age had a healthy competitive streak and always strived for excellence and to do her best," Kofinas said, which manifested itself in her career at Atlantic Bank, and as the first woman to be elected president of the prestigious Hellenic American Chamber of Commerce.

Kofinas concluded her remarks by saying that "she



ABOVE: Dignitaries and AGAPW officers surround Nancy Papaioannou as she holds her bouquet of roses. AGAPW Founder and President Dr. Olga Alexakos is 4th from left. LEFT: Keynote Speaker Dr. Miranda Kofinas was delighted to introduce and tell the life story of her dear friend Nancy Papaioannou, who was presented the Greek American Woman of the Year award.

who every day "do their job, do their duties, and really deserve recognition."

Papaioannou did acknowledge that she, like the other women in the room "worked hard to attain the positions I hold. I have faced problems and obstacles as a woman in both my personal and professional life, but so far I have experience many valuable things... the ones that have me the most are: to say 'yes' to any challenges and opportunities I came across."

Keys to her success, she said were "to always trust my instincts, be myself and never forget my background, to respect people and recognize teamwork," she acknowledged the work of her colleagues, including Elpida Ferguson and Kimon Bakos – "to find ways to give back to my community, my country and to my people, and not forget that when there is a will there's a way."

The reception was also the

occasion for the presentation of a Recognition Award to Greek Consul General Amb. George Iliopoulos whose tenure is drawing to a close. Guests noted that he and his wife Anthousa – and the art exhibitions they spearheaded - would be missed.

The couple were supporters of AGAPW and its mission from their arrival in New York in 2012 amid the fallout of the Greek crisis. Iliopoulos expressed thanks "for the great honor. I am truly humbled by it" and the community's support as he and his colleagues, including Consul Manos Koubarakis, dedicated themselves to maintain a high level of service to community despite cuts in funds and staff.

Board member Dr. Aphrodite Navab – it was noted that the participation of two "Aphrodites" made it an especially auspicious night – introduced Ms. Ball, who is a double major in Hellenic History and Journalism at NYU.

The Greek and Cypriot diplomatic corps was well-represented among the dignitaries, including Greece's Permanent Representative to the UN Amb. Catherine Boura, Amb. Asilios Philippou – who was just appointed High Commissioner of the Republic of Cyprus in New York and his wife Anthea – Greece's Deputy Permanent Representative Nancy Vraila, Greek Consul Manos Koubarakis, former Ambassador of Cyprus to the United States Andreas Jacovides, and Penny Tsilas, wife of former Ambassador to the United States Loucas Tsilas.

Joanne James, who has produced a movie on women chefs, and her co-producer Anastasia Ganiias, told TNH "we are thrilled to be here to support

AGPAW because our film is in that vein of congratulating the success of women all over the world and paying tribute to Greek culture and our unsung heroes."



with your presence."

Skeadas introduced Keynote Speaker Dr. Miranda Kofinas, who spoke about the significance of International Women's

proves that hard work, perseverance and ethics can lead you to your desired destination," prompting Papaioannou to exclaim "There are too many

things going on. I don't really deserve them, but I am very humbled, honored and happy tonight with all of you here... there are so many women here"