

NATIONAL HELLENIC FREE PRESS GREEK AMERICAN NEWSPAPER



VOL. 25

NO. 301

CHICAGO, IL.

FEBRUARY, 2009

A resolution adopted by The City Council of the City of Chicago, Illinois



Presented by ALDERMAN BRENDAN REILLY on DECEMBER 17, 2008

Whereas, Christ Demos has been living an extraordinary life for seventy six years; and

WHEREAS, Christ Demos celebrates life each day with his wife Ekaterini; his children Trina Demos and Frances Carini; his grandchildren Christopher, Maria and Will; and many other relatives and friends; and

WHEREAS, Christ Demos was born in Nestani, Greece on December 25, 1931, emigrated from Greece to Chicago, Illinois in April 1951 and has been a United States citizen since March 22, 1960; and

WHEREAS, Christ Demos has owned and/or operated over 35 restaurant businesses in Chicago and throughout the State of Illinois, including Maxim's Restaurant located at 20 North Clark Street, which Mr. Demos has owned since 1961; and

WHEREAS, Christ Demos was one of the original founders of the Greek American Restaurant Association, which now has over 2,500 members; and

WHEREAS, Christ Demos remains true to his democratic ideals, having been involved as a charitable fund raiser and donor in the political community both nationally and locally; and

WHEREAS, Christ Demos remains true to his humanitarian ideals, regarded as a leader in the Greek community whose charitable contributions include: donation of one day's restaurant receipts from his two Round the Clock Restaurants to Our Lady of Angels School on the west side of Chicago which suffered a fire in the late 1960s; donations personally and on behalf of the Greek Restaurant Association to the University of Illinois at Chicago for the establishment of a Chair for Greek studies and to the Hellenic Nursing Home; and donations to the Metropolitan Greek Orthodox retreat for religious studies; and

WHEREAS, Christ Demos will always be grateful for the opportunities provided by his adopted hometown of Chicago and hopes to be able to contribute to the vitality of the City that he loves, and is already planning his menu for the Olympics; and

WHEREAS, Christ Demos will celebrate the 77th anniversary of his birth on December 25, 2008 among loving family and friends; and

WHEREAS, Christ Demos will be honored as the 0 to 50 block of North Clark Street is renamed "Christ Demos Way"; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and the members of the Chicago City Council assembled here this day of the seventeenth of December, 2008 does hereby join with the family and many friends of Christ Demos in celebrating his birthday, the renaming of his honorary street, and his exemplary life; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy be prepared and presented to Christ Demos and his family as testimony to his wonderful life.



Richard M. Daley
MAYOR

Miguel del Valle
CITY CLERK



On Thursday February 5th 2009, Koraes Elementary School, affiliated with SS Constantine and Helen Church in Palos Hills, held their annual Science Fair program. Students in grades 4th through 8th participated in the competition. Eighth grade: 1st place Alex X, 2nd place George W, 3rd place Gabriella G, Kayla K. Seventh grade: 1st place Austin E & John S, 2nd place Christopher K, 3rd place Andiranna J & Athena X. Sixth grade: 1st place Alesia K, Dimitri P, 2nd place Nick A, 3rd place Andonia S, Evan V. Fifth grade: 1st place Tommy R & Nick S, 2nd place John K & Athan T, Helen P, Aris P. 3rd place Alexander L. Fourth grade: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place Vaia M. Above is a photo of our winners with Father Byron Papanikolaou (Protopresbyter), Mrs. Mary Zaharis (Principal), and Mrs. Michele Ebert (Junior High Science/Math Teacher)

A Journey to U.S.A. An Encounter in Chicago

It was the year 1959 and I was employed at the Productivity Projects of Northern Greece (YPEM) with specific assignments in land reclamation and water control. The headquarters of my section were in the town of Serres, a prosperous and progressive town. One Monday morning sitting at my desk while waiting for my project supplies to be loaded on a service truck, I was approached and challenged by my office colleagues to show my academic competence by participating in the state scholarship foundation exams. I took the challenge and participated in the tests which lasted a month. I was successful in passing those tests. As a matter of fact, I won first place in the area of my choice; industrial production. At the time, unknown to me, I was the focus of bets among my colleagues, that I can beat the main contestant for scholarship. The scholarship program allowed a free choice of going to any country and University as long as there was a program in the chosen area of study. I chose the U.S.A. and in particular Michigan State University.

At the beginning of 1960, I was ready for my trip to East Lansing, Michigan, where the University of my choice was located. This was my first trip outside of Greece and I was planning to make it last as long as possible; which in reality became a two-week vacation in France, before I departed for the U.S. I expected this trip to give me new knowledge about people and places and new impressions of life by visiting places I was always dreaming about. The variety of novels I had read for many years since early in my childhood, such as "The Hunch-back of Notre Dame", "Les Miserables", "Count Monte Christo", Emil Zola's "J' Accuse", and a number of Julius Vern books, to mention only a few, would now appear alive in front of me. Old fantasies still alive in my memory for so many years will finally become real life entities. Two weeks is a very short time, but my finances would not allow any more time before my departure for the U.S. My final destination, a country familiar to me only from the movies I had seen, although I had read enough about its culture and history. Edgar

Allen Poe was a familiar name together with Washington Crossing the Potomac as well as the Empire State Building and of course, the Statue of Liberty.

The city of East Lansing and Michigan State University were completely unknown to me. A colleague in the service, who had studied there, recommended it and provided me with addresses and names for the particular department I was interested and was planning to enroll in. Not having any other option at the time, I corresponded with the University and was accepted in their program. I therefore, proceeded to complete my visa requirements and secure my tickets. The plan was to leave by train for Paris, France and from there take the ocean liner "Queen Mary", the largest ocean liner at the time, for New York. In the meantime, I notified my only relative who lived in Chicago that I was coming to the U.S. I also notified and old friend of mine who was living in New York City and she agreed to come and meet me at the ocean liner's dock. At the time my knowledge of the English language was very limited, about two hundred words which I could not form into any complete sentence. Nonetheless, I was optimistic that I will be able to sail through my trip smoothly. I did not realize the hardships that were waiting for me, to study for a Masters of Science degree and a Doctorate degree, while maintaining a B plus average.

One cold morning in February of 1960 at the age of 32, I left my hometown of Thessaloniki, Greece, by train for Paris, France, my mind full of dreams for the life I was going to have and the experiences I will obtain during my trip. After forty eight hours of traveling the train pulled into Saint Lazar station in the heart of Paris. A place central to a number of detective stories I had read in the past, all flashing back in my memory. My French was practically a big zero. Fortunately, there was another Greek passenger in my train car compartment who

(Continued p. 7)

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1. *To defend all who are unjustly attacked.*
2. *To applaud the achievements of all our people.*
3. *To support the ideas of the Greek Orthodox Faith.*
4. *To promote the use of the Greek Language.*
5. *To extend the knowledge of Hellenism, Greek culture and traditions.*
6. *To encourage all worthy community causes.*
7. *To further the just causes of the people of Greece.*
8. *To uphold the Greek Cypriot cause.*
9. *To assist all Greek-American fraternal, cultural, patriotic and religious organizations.*
10. *To install Americanism in the Greek-American community.*

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OFFICE OF THE COOK COUNTY TREASURER

Maria Pappas

118 North Clark Street, Room 212 Chicago, Illinois 60602

FOR RELEASE

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2009

Information: Maria Pappas (312) 603-6202

"LINCOLN LIVES" ART EXHIBIT IN PAPPAS' OFFICE

The 200th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln is being celebrated in February in the office of Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas with the art exhibit "Lincoln Lives – His Heritage and Legacy," Pappas announced today.

The exhibit honoring the 16th American President was created by members of the Chicago Society of Artists, created in 1887 and believed to be the oldest ongoing art society in the United States.

Lincoln, born in February of 1809, rose from humble roots to become President and dedicated himself to preserving the Union through the Civil War. He is regarded by many as the greatest American President.

"This artwork reminds us of the challenges that Lincoln confronted and strengthens our belief that America can overcome all difficulties," Pappas said. "His is a supreme example in history of intelligence, conviction and faith in the service of a great cause."

Pappas noted that the CSA educates local, national and international audiences with exhibits involving its painters, print makers, graphic artists, photographers, sculptors, art critics and art educators. Its membership has included the Albrights, Frances Fay, Frances Badger, A. Raymond Katz and LeRoy Nieman.

Pappas regularly shows work of Chicagoland artists in her Chicago office, Room 112 in the Cook County Building, 118 N. Clark Street.

A fundraising event for the Nikolas Bezanis Benefit Fund.

One of the most diverse performers in the world today, Basile has entertained millions with his unique blend of improv and characters. He currently stars in "Growing Up Greek in America," a hybrid Greek-English routine that has resulted in the sale of more than a quarter-million DVD's. His voices and characters have been heard on Armed Forces Radio, TV and North American radio. He's also appeared on HBO, Showtime, Comedy Central, and NBC's "Late Night with Jay Leno." Additionally, he's done voice-overs for Universal Studio's "Bullwinkle J. Moose" as well as for the Cartoon Network and many Japanese animated productions.

Vaili will be the star at the fundraising event for the Nikolas Bezanis Benefit Fund. The cost of \$75 per person includes show admission, hors d'oeuvres, beer, wine, carbonated beverages, coffee and sweet table. There will be a silent auction which includes: signed sports memorabilia, artwork, jewelry, autographed celebrity photos, gift certificates to salon and spas, personal training sessions, restaurants, theatres, and much more! There will also be a raffle with monetary prizes. Tickets are available now through the evening of the event and winner need not be present. If interested in purchasing raffle tickets, 1 for \$10 or 3 for \$20 please call or see Denise in the Regent Plaza, 9165 W. 151st St. Orland Park, 708/349-1010. All funds will be directed

to provide assistance for Niko's 'homecoming'.

This memorable event will take place at SS. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church, 11025 S. Roberts Road, Palos Hills, IL on Saturday, February 21, 2009 – 6:30 pm

On August 21, 2008, fun-loving Nikolas Bezanis was enjoying the company of family and friends during a late afternoon boat ride. Unfortunately, Niko suffered a serious spinal cord injury after unknowingly diving into shallow water. He shattered two cervical neck vertebrae leading to a severe and complete compression of his spinal cord in the thoracic area and preventing movement or sensation below the level of injury. It is not expected that Niko will regain function of his lower chest and extremities.

Nikolas has endured many setbacks and multiple surgeries during his three-month hospitalization at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital. He is currently at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago undergoing rigorous physical and occupational therapy to help him prepare for his much awaited homecoming.

Niko is a 2006 graduate of Carl Sandburg High School where he was active on the football and wrestling teams. The family resides in Palos Park. Parents, Paul and Roula are active in many community organizations and owners of Roula LaPaul Salon & Spa in Orland Park.

**For more information, please visit:
www.nbbc.me or call: 708/906-6180**



At least 30 pilgrims have been killed by a female suicide bomber south of Baghdad, Iraqi police say.

At least 25 people were also injured in the attack in Iskandariya, 40km (25 miles) south of Baghdad.

The blast targeted Shia pilgrims, many of whom have been travelling south to the city of Karbala to take part in an annual religious ceremony.

It is the third day of attacks on Shia pilgrims, with dozens killed in Baghdad and Mosul. The Iskandariya attack happened despite increased security along the route.

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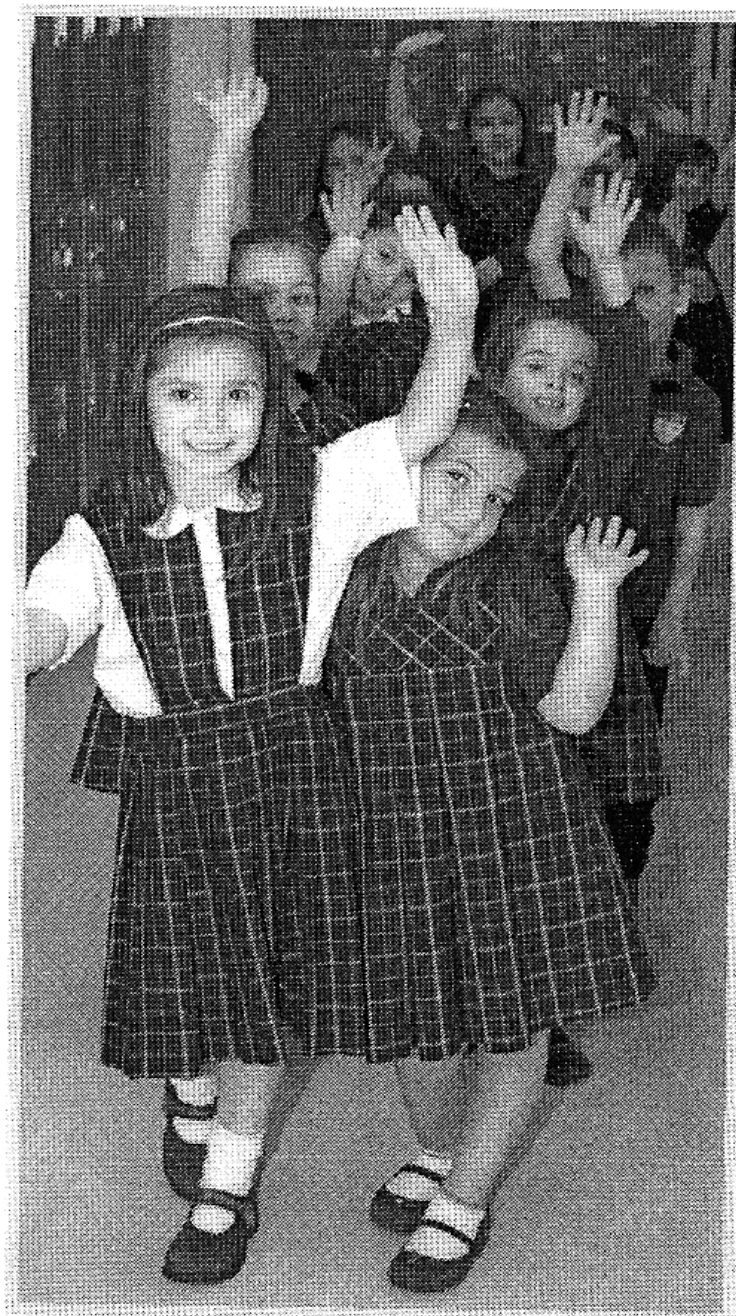
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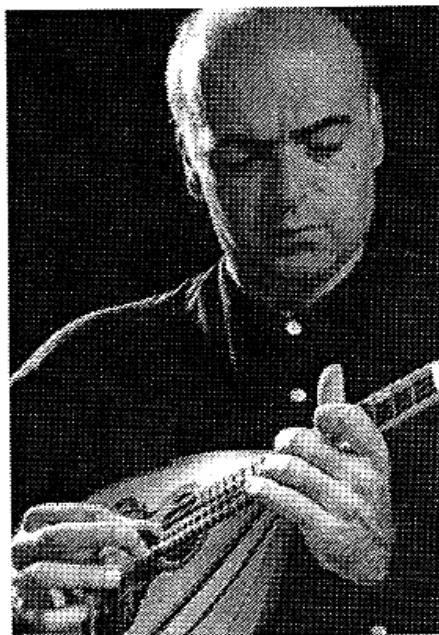
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NEWS FROM GREECE

Papandreou chairs PASOK council meeting

Main opposition PASOK leader George Papandreou said that the issue at hand was not who would manage the present crisis, but who would pay the cost of the crisis and who would gain from it, addressing a meeting on Friday of his party's political council, adding that PASOK did not want the financially weaker strata and the middle class to be the ones to pay.

He also said that the foundations should be laid, in the midst of the crisis, for the Greek society to exist the crisis stronger, and expressed concern over the risk of extreme forms of marginalization, poverty and violence would arise.

Papandreou questioned the reasons why the prime minister had instigated Thursday's off-the-agenda discussion in parliament on the economy, adding that premier Costas Karamanlis was constantly seeking "co-culprits" for the failure of his government's policy, but also consensus in order to remain in power, instead of for the country.

The opposition leader charged that the premier had failed again, in Thursday's discussion, to present a plan for the economy, adding that, conversely, PASOK has submitted guideline proposals, which would be made more specific, for fortification of the financially weaker, rebuilding of the social state, a new developmental model which aimed at green growth, and for the existence and function of a just state.

During a special event next Sunday, PASOK is scheduled to unveil its plan for the country, while similar events will be held to present the

party's positions on green development and the restructuring of the social state.

Also, within the next few days, PASOK will announce the establishment of an electoral campaign committee for the June 7 European Parliament elections.

Friday's meeting was the last to be held at the party's historic building at 50 Harilaou Trikoupi street in central Athens since 1977, as the PASOK headquarters are relocating to a new premise on nearby Ippokratous street.

The move, Papandreou told the political council earlier, also marked the party's renewal, but would always be a point of reference of PASOK's principles and values which the party "honors today as the opposition, and tomorrow as the government", noting that the Harilaou Trikoupi building was filled with memories of the struggles and great changes in the country.

Karamanlis confers with Culture Minister

Prime minister Costas Karamanlis met Friday with culture minister Antonis Samaras, in their first meeting since the latter's assumption of the ministry helm after the January 7, government reshuffle.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Samaras said he had a "substantive and fruitful" discussion with the prime minister.

Greek culture was a source of wealth for the country, Samaras said, adding that, in the present difficult and critical hours for the economy, it was necessary to further highlight this aspect. Samaras also announced that

the New Acropolis Museum would be inaugurated on June 20.

To a question on whether funds existed for culture, Samaras said that the ministry was naturally making the necessary cutbacks wherever it could, but the basic needs would all be fully met.

Caption: ANA-MPA file photo of Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis

FinMin: Focus on cutting deficit

The Greek government's economic policy remains absolutely focused on controlling and further reducing the fiscal deficit and this policy is not only the result of the country's obligations - in the framework of an EU Stability and Growth Pact -- but also reflects the deep conviction that reducing deficits and achieving balanced budgets will benefit the economy and ensure sustainable growth, Economy and Finance Minister Yiannis Papathanassiou said here on Wednesday.

Speaking to reporters, the Greek minister said the fiscal deficit fell significantly from 7.5 pct of GDP in 2004 and said that the deficit would rise to 3.7 pct of GDP this year, affected by the global crisis. He predicted that the fiscal deficit would remain around this levels this year as well and that would begin falling from 2010 to below 3.0 pct of GDP in 2011.

He stressed that the government's economic policy was based on two pylons, continuing a fiscal consolidation effort and strengthening economic growth through structural reforms.

Papathanassiou said the government has

adopted more conservative and realistic predictions over budget revenues this year, because of the effects of the crisis. Budget revenues are projected to be 2.5 billion euros lower compared with initial forecasts and underlined that the government was determined to intervene dynamically to contain spending and to save money. These measures included a 10-pct cut in spending on labour contracts in the public sector, setting a ceiling on public sector and the wider public sector executive salaries and reducing the number of board members to nine.

The minister said that despite the fact that in 2008 and early this year, state bond issuance was affected by the global financial crisis, Greece managed to successfully overcome adverse market conditions.

"Unfortunately, the Greek economy suffers from the burden of increased spreads. I want to stress that this development is not linked only with the fundamentals of the economy, or its rating by international firms. It is the result of market psychology, burdened by unjustified rumours related with the viability of the euro currency, the Greek economy's course, or Greece's and other countries' staying in the Eurozone," said.

"The fact that the market imposes higher spreads on Greek bonds compared with bonds issued by countries outside the Eurozone, has not justification. Eurozone is not in danger. The euro currency remains strong offering protection shield to its economies. Its positive role during this crisis is highlighted by the fact that other EU countries, like Denmark, are discussing entering the Eurozone. Of course, there is no case of Greece, or other countries, exiting the Eurozone," he stressed.

The crisis is a failure of the system

Coalition of the Radical Left (SYRIZA) leader Alekos Alavanos said Thursday that the present global financial crisis was the result of the accumulation of the policies that have been applied internationally and in Greece, adding that it was not only the New Democracy government that has failed, but the entire system.

"I heard the government saying it wants consensus. The people, too, want it because they don't want to keep looking at a fruitless and sterile game. However, it is not only ND that has failed, by the system itself. And there can be no plan without change," Alavanos said in parliament during an off-the-agenda discussion on the economy.

The present crisis, he said, was brought on by the example of Ireland, the toxic bonds and toxic policies that led to the collapse of the credit system in the US, "all the things that you admired and worshipped".

The crisis, he continued, was brought about by the policy that put self-interest above collectivity, opted for shrinking of the public sector and abolition of the social state and, addressing the government said that "you should have realized this and have stepped down with dignity, seriousness and self-criticism, instead of toying with the people, with the tolerance of Mr. Barroso (European Commission president) and Mr. Trichet (European Central Bank president), who controlled every shepherd but not UBS or the Royal Bank of Scotland".

The policy counter-proposed by SYRIZA demanded a "return to the public sector" as a tool of growth, and a clash with the developmental model imposed by the European Union, Alavanos said.

Relief from the crisis could be achieved only with a "different" banking system with a public, national, renationalized bank at the core, with a return to the public sector as a value, tool, control and means, he said, adding that Greece should take advantage of the situation and enter the field of technology and communications, which meant re-acquisition of the Hellenic Telecommunications Organization (OTE) and university research, a turn-around in education beginning with its funding with 5 percent of GDP, and public universities instead of profiteering.

He further said that a different stance was also required towards the EU, noting: "Armaments are necessary for our national defence, but not for NATO armaments, money for Afghanistan, bills for the prime minister's trips in order to achieve a friendly stance on one or another issue". What was needed was a boosting of demand and redistribution of the wealth, Alavanos said.



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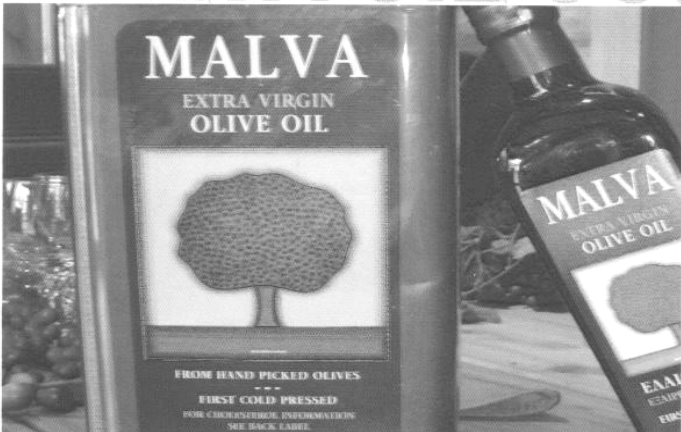
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A Journey to U.S.A. An Encounter in Chicago

(From p. 1)

helped me in securing a room in the hotel where he was staying, and also gave me some details of the life in this big cosmopolitan city. At last I was in Paris with two weeks time available to me before my departure through the Cherbourg port, for America. I had plenty of time which I used in visiting practically the whole central section of Paris, either on foot or using the excellent noiseless subway, the metro. I visited the many famous spots such as the Cathedral of Notre Dame, the Eiffel Tower, the Opera, the Louvre, Place de Concord, also the Versailles, The Fontainebleau with its famous Louis XVI staircase, the place Henry Toulouse Lautrec lived and painted the Montrose, the Pegall and of course the Boit de Bouillons a place mentioned frequently in the detective novels I had read. I simply wondered aimlessly through the streets of Paris to feel my fantasies. A few years later when I went to Paris with my wife for our honeymoon, she was surprised and amazed as to how well I knew the down town of Paris. I remember when one night I saw a restaurant that looked like a place where Toulouse Lautrec could be dining; I decided to have my dinner there. I found the food fine but the meat had a peculiar taste. Nonetheless, since I could not speak French to inquire of the peculiar taste of the meal, I decided to eat it. As I was leaving the restaurant, I turned my head back to check of the location and place it in my memory; I noticed a picture of a horse head. I found out later that it was one of the special restaurants that were serving horse meat.

Because my money was in short supply, I decided to find a cafeteria for my meals where I could see what I would eat. I found one very close to my hotel, around the Arch of Triumph, so I entered the place. As I went in I stood on the side to observe the people and the procedure they followed when getting their food. It was lunch time and it was very busy but when most of the people left the cafeteria I approached the counter. As I was looking the different kinds of food displayed I saw a tall pot with what seemed to be a thick crust of dough on it. Thinking that this alone will satisfy my hunger, I bought it. To my disappointment the crust consisted of a thin layer of dough and the pot was full of a black juice. That was my first contact with onion soup. Needless to say it did not fill my stomach as I hoped. The next day again at the same cafeteria, I noticed that most of the people were taking together with their food a small glass bottle with a wide opening. I decided to buy the same thing and to my disappointment again I discovered that the bottle contained plain yogurt only. This became my meal for the day. On the third day, I finally was able to eat whatever I wanted since I knew the routine by now.

The trip to America started from Paris, boarding on a special Cunard Lines train directly to the boarding bridge of Queen Mary at the Cherbourg port. The steward in charge, after checking with his officer took me down to the bottom of the ship next to the engine room, and I found myself in a small, hot, double bunk beds room. Two elderly men already were relaxing on the bottom bunk beds with their laundry spread out on the empty beds to dry. As a young man, this was not an attractive sight for me, especially since I thought I paid good money for a much better cabin, I never looked at the ticket of course, and did not know much about boat traveling. My disappointment was so great, that I started yelling at the steward. Of course fortunately for me he did not understand Greek as I was yelling at him in Greek. My yelling was so loud though, that he finally got the message as I

started to go upstairs with my luggage to the main deck, I indicated to the deck officer in charge of cabin assignments that I refuse to go down there. My upset look and apparently to get rid of me, in a time of a big rush for cabin allocations through the ticket screening, he finally decided to re-assign me on the main deck in a cabin with one empty bed. To my surprise, in this cabin were two French-Canadians of Greek ancestry, who also spoke Greek. Elated at my luck for finding Greek speaking roommates I settled for my trip through the Atlantic. They had crossed the Atlantic Ocean before with the same boat and they introduced me in to the boat protocol. The dinner table assignment shift, shower schedule shift, the swimming pool shift, the dress code and bingo game rules. The transatlantic voyage lasted five days and it was a wonderful introduction to the Anglo-social habits and experiences. The large open decks of Queen Mary with abundant reclining chairs gave one plenty of room to relax, or simply dreaming, looking at the boundless ocean, and take long walks.

Finally we came to the New York port; I came face to face with the well-known around the word and famous Statue of Liberty. After going through the custom formalities, I was finally on an American soil. What an exhilarating moment, I was in the land which at the time was the dream of every potential immigrant for economic prosperity and better life. My friend was waiting for me at the exit and soon we were seating comfortably in a suburban home of his relatives. I was invited to stay for a few days which I accepted as a good opportunity to see the city of New York. I managed to visit the Rockefeller Center and the Time Square Plaza. Two days later I was on a train for Chicago where I expected to meet my relatives, my grand-mother's sister and her married daughters and sons.

I arrived in Chicago on a very cold afternoon and after a short struggle with the taxi driver who could not understand the way I was pronouncing the street named Ridgeland I finally arrived at my destination address. Cold and tired I climbed the stairs to the third floor apartment of my relatives, also

carrying my heavy luggage. I knocked on the door excited to see my relatives whom I expected to meet for the first time. No response. Knocking again and again, produced no response. There I was all alone in the hallway of an apartment complex, desperate as to what to do in a completely foreign environment. I decided to try knocking at the neighbor's door across the hall. Lucky for me, the lady opened the door and was apparently trying to explain to me where my relatives were but without much success. The only word I understood was Florida. It became clear to me that they were vacationing in Florida, but I did not think that the whole family was there, since they were aware of my arrival date. Now I pointed my luggage to the lady if I can leave it there in the foyer and she said yes. Free from my luggage, I went out to the street and started walking aimlessly. My light coat did not provide me with enough warmth for me to stay outside for too long in the very cold weather so as I found a small diner, I entered it for a cup of coffee. I stayed there for a while contemplating as to what to do. Before I left from Greece I received in advance a two months salary totaling \$440 which I thought then, it was quite generous. Little did I know about the cost of life in America? Staying in Paris reduced this amount and not knowing the tuition cost of the University the situation with the money became very tight. The solution for me I thought was to find a hotel but where could I find one? It was getting dark, I was desperate as to what to do, and went outside again thinking that I had to solve my problem as to where I would spend the night. I knew that I could not afford a hotel with only about three hundred dollars in my pocket which was to sustain me for two months, plus the University expenses.

The street was deserted. Cold and the light snowflakes seemed to have restricted any pedestrian walking the street. Far away I noticed a person moving toward my direction. I waited until this old lady arrived next to me and getting myself next to her I starter talking to her using my best English. She continued moving forward ignoring my presence as I continued mumbling. Finally in desperation I uttered an expression in the Greek language, saying something like "this dumb lady does not understand me". Upon hearing this, the old lady suddenly turned around and speaking in Greek she said, "Are you Greek?" She simply did not speak English herself and never understood any of my heavy accented English words I was saying. She then invited me to her daughter's home where she was going, nearby. The daughter explained to me that probably my uncle is in down town Chicago working and that the work usually stops at five o'clock and given time for transportation he will undoubtedly be home around six or six-thirty. She offered to drive me to his apartment and indeed when at around seven o'clock, I knocked at his door again, my uncle opened the door.

I stayed with my uncle for three days, enough time to get acquainted with my relatives and to circulate in the down town Chicago area, walking its streets in the cold weather and a lot of dirty snow on the ground. It was the first time that I saw so much snow and indeed so dirty from the many cars splattering dirt on the snow. Fortunately, as I was walking I discovered a place where I could go in and take a break, relax, in a warm atmosphere; I discovered the YMCA and its hospitable open rooms. At this time, I also learned how to commute by the subway train to my uncle's place.

I left by train for East Lansing, Michigan and in a few hours I reached my final destination. A taxi took me to the Michigan State University campus. A huge campus! Unfortunately the taxi driver dropped me off in a far away street from my assigned graduate student's dormitory. Therefore, I had to carry my heavy luggage, stopping on the way to ask for directions showing them a previously prepared text on a piece of paper. After finding and entering the dormitory building, I registered at the desk and was assigned a room on the third floor. I went towards the elevator but I heard the desk clerk saying something and pointing to the elevator. I understood that my bad luck continued and the elevator was out of order. Exhausted as I was, I managed to reach my room and took one of the two beds, recognizing that I will have a roommate as I had asked in my application and who did not arrive as yet.

As I was going to my room on the third floor, I noticed in several places a combination of three Greek letters. Delighted that there were Greeks around and reinforced by the notion that the University was called

Spartan, I pointed my finger to the letters and to myself saying "Greek, Greek". All I understood was no, no Greeks were around. I learned later that these Greek letters represented Fraternities who were identified by Greek letters.

I began my classes in the spring trimester in March. That was a whole new adventure and experience for me just to arrive at the location of my classes and return back to my dormitory where a remained until the next day walking to my classes again. The cost of the tuition as an out of state student was much higher than the in state residents. This extra amount of money drained my money availability, leaving me with a very limited amount of money for food and other minor expenses. In a three month's period of time and no money to eat much I lost 25 pounds, eating only once a day and mostly the most inexpensive food in the local cafeteria.

My life as a student at Michigan State University where I spent five years to obtain a Masters and Ph.D. degrees is all together another story. It took me about a year to be able to fully understand what was going on around me. Once I understood somehow the social environment, five months after my arrival, I became the first and only foreign student landlord. I had leased a house which I used by renting rooms to about thirty students. With the increased income of money I started enjoying myself and participating in the local community activities, especially in the Hellenic community affairs, and also I was able at this time to buy a car, a huge Chrysler.

Easter Holiday was coming soon and I decided to go back to Chicago to meet my aunt and her mother, who was my grandmother's sister. On Good Friday, I took an early enough train but somehow there was a delay and I arrived in Chicago late in the evening. I knew the Randolph Street Station and I thought I knew the I.C. train going to Stony Island Station in the neighborhood where my relatives lived. Even though I thought I knew where I was going, when I heard the loud-speaker voice and saw the people moving, I followed them and entered the train. The train got out of the station and was moving fast, but the scenes I noticed at the lighted stations did not resemble the ones I had marked in my mind as identifications towards my aunt's home. When the conductor came I was able to pronounce correctly "Stony Island" and I said it repeatedly but he answered and repeated "Matteson", I thought he said Madison, Wisconsin and I did not wanted to go to Wisconsin so he pointed to me to get off the train. At the 72nd Street Station he showed me the sign of exit and pointed toward Stony Island.

It was about 12 o'clock midnight. I was somewhere in the south side of Chicago, east of the Dan Ryan expressway. I started walking in the direction that the conductor pointed to me. The

streets were deserted but I kept moving toward the lake, carrying my briefcase with my few belongings in it. Finally around 2 o'clock in the morning I thought I was in the right place but did not recognize the building. After a few agonizing moments, I realized that I was on the opposite side of the street and when I positioned myself properly I found myself in front of the building where my aunt lived. I went up to the third floor and ran the doorbell. Nothing, again I rang no response. I had this experience before but now it was about 2 o'clock in the morning. My thoughts were cleared. It was Good Friday and probably they were at the church services as they were good Greek Christians and the church lasted past Midnight. I went down and waited at the sidewalk. Indeed soon I saw in the distance two women walking slowly toward my direction. I waited until they came closer and I ran towards them. The younger of the two got scarred as she saw me, a stranger, approaching them and took some steps backwards, but the older lady let out a loud cry, Jordan! Jordan! My grandmother's sister met me as a child when she came to Greece in 1936. I was eight years old at the time, and now in 1960 when she saw me she had some kind of intuition and she recognized me right away. We then hugged and kissed each other and finally I entered their apartment. We stayed up all night talking and reminiscing about all the persons and relatives who were left behind during the population exchange between Greece and Turkey in 1923. I also discovered at this time, that my uncle was at home sleeping and did not hear the door bell ring.

My holiday visit was a short one and Sunday night, after we celebrated the resurrection services and had our Easter dinner, I left for East Lansing. The next time I visited my relatives in Chicago I drove there with my own car, quite an improvement from my last two attempts.

I continued visiting my relatives in Chicago whenever we had term brakes at Michigan State University. Of course always in short time intervals, since I was a landlord and I used to do most of the maintenance work myself when the students were also on breaks.

I spent five years in East Lansing, Michigan before I returned to Greece. By then I was already married to my wife Kondylenia and so we went back as a married couple. We stayed in Athens, Greece for two years during which time I was employed in the FAO/United Nation's Project and my wife was a teacher at the American Schools. We came back to Lansing, Michigan in 1967.

Jordan A. Tsolakides, Ph.D.
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A photo taken by Callie Shell from Aurora Photos of Barack Obama's presidential campaign won first prize in People in the News Stories.



A photo taken by Luiz Vasconcelos of the Jornal A Crítica/Zuma Press shows 'Woman tries to stop forced eviction of her people, Manaus, Brazil, won first prize in General News Singles.

Gregory Pappas of Chicago, Ill., Named Special Advisor to The American College of Greece

Dr. David Horner, president of The American College of Greece (ACG), has announced the appointment of Gregory C. Pappas of Chicago, Ill., as a Special Advisor to the College, effective January 1, 2009.

Pappas will advise ACG's president and senior administration on issues related to communications, community outreach, and development for the College's activities in the United States, as well as for strategy related to academic and study abroad programs.

ACG is the oldest and largest American-sponsored institution of higher education in Europe. Founded in Smyrna in 1875, the College relocated to Athens in 1922 at the invitation of Prime Minister Eleftherios Venizelos, following the Asia Minor Catastrophe.

Today the College is considered one of the most prestigious American international institutions, with a long list of illustrious alumni, which includes the current Prime Minister of Greece, Constantine Karamanlis, as well as many business, civic and political leaders who have assumed high profile posts throughout the world.

Deree College, the undergraduate division of ACG, was the first international institution accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, and offers bachelor of science and bachelor of arts degrees in 16 areas of the liberal arts and business.

The College's main campus is located on 64 green acres at the foot of Mt. Hymettus in the Athens suburb of Aghia Paraskevi. Minutes away, in the center of Athens, is ACG's downtown campus. The school's extensive course and extra-curricular offerings are highlighted at www.acg.edu

Gregory Pappas has spent the better part of his 15-year career working in the Greek American community. He founded and continues to publish Greek America Magazine, the nation's most widely circulated periodical for Greek Americans.

He attributes much of his career's focus on the Greek American community and love for his Greek heritage to the year abroad he spent studying at The American College of Greece in the early 1990s.

His company, Cosmos Communications Group Inc., handles a number of public affairs advisory-related services for clients in

Greece and the United States as well as strategic corporate planning, media relations and event planning throughout the world.

Pappas serves on the boards of several church or public benefit foundations and organizations. He is a Public Affairs Advisor to John P. Calamos Sr., Chairman and CEO of Calamos Investments in Naperville, Illinois.

He also serves on the Advisory Council of the X Prize Foundation, an educational non-profit prize institute whose mission is to create radical breakthroughs for the benefit of humanity. In 2004, the X Prize Foundation captured world headlines when Burt Rutan, backed by Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen, built and flew the world's first private vehicle to space to win the \$10 million Ansari X Prize.

The Foundation has a goal of announcing ten new prizes over the next five years, with a combined prize purse amount of \$300 million, including the \$10 million Archon X PRIZE for Genomics, the \$30 million Google Lunar X PRIZE, and the \$10 million Progressive Automotive X PRIZE. In his capacity as advisor, Pappas works directly with the chairman of the Foundation, Dr. Peter Diamandis, who is considered one of the world's foremost entrepreneurs.

He serves the Greek Orthodox Church of America in many capacities, including on the National Archdiocese Council. He is a member of the Leadership 100, an organization comprised of stewards of the church who support its national ministries by contributing to an endowment fund annually.

Pappas also serves on the executive board of directors of the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation, which awards \$250,000 annually to Greek American university students, as well as on the board of the Hellenic Museum and Cultural Center in Chicago.

In his capacity as publisher of Greek America—a magazine reaching over 250,000 readers throughout the nation, Pappas has interviewed dozens of business, religious, entertainment and political leaders throughout the world and has written dozens of critically-acclaimed articles and profile pieces. He also writes for a number of political and lifestyle publications in Athens, Greece.

Pappas, a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, supports a host of church and community organizations in his native Pittsburgh, PA, as well as his adopted home, Chicago.

Obama 'must act now' on climate

McCarthy said Obama had a window of opportunity to draw up green policies.

The planet will be in "huge trouble" unless Barack Obama makes strides in tackling climate change, says a leading scientist. Prof James McCarthy spoke on the eve of the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), which he heads.

The US president has just four years to save the planet, said Prof McCarthy.



If major policy changes do not happen within Mr Obama's term of office, they will not happen at all, he warned.

"We have a moment right now of extraordinary opportunity, with a new president, positioned with scientific leadership that has known no equal in recent times," the AAAS president told BBC News.

"The calibre of scientific advice that is close to this man is truly exceptional." If in his first

term, in the next four years, we don't make significant progress in these areas, then I think the planet is in huge trouble.

"Without US leadership, which has been sorely lacking, we will not get to where we need to be."

Climate change is high on the agenda of this year's AAAS meeting in Chicago.

Former US Vice President Al Gore is among the speakers at the event, with 10,000 scientists expected to attend across the five days of the meeting.

This is our window, with the science advice he has, with the realisation that these issues are pressing

On the eve of the conference, Prof McCarthy told BBC News there was now a moment of opportunity to draw up policies that would be effective in combating climate change.

He said: "Many scientists have wondered whether President Obama will be able to make commitments to investments in energy technology and understanding climate change - that were an important part of his campaign.

"I know many of my colleagues looking at the fiscal situation, have felt that these good ideas might be put on the back burner." That would be a terrible thing if that happened.

"This is our window, with the science advice he has, with the realisation that these issues are pressing, if they are made second order I think we have really lost it."

Should bushfire policies be changed?

Survivors of Australia's bushfires are demanding fundamental changes to the country's emergency response system.

They complain they had little or no warning that terrifying walls of flame were racing



towards them. The breathtaking speed with which the fires accelerated through many parts of Victoria is in large part responsible for the catastrophic loss of life and widespread destruction of property.

The rapid advance of such an unstoppable force took many residents by surprise, leaving them with just a few precious minutes to escape. "There was no warning," she told the BBC at an emergency relief centre in Whittlesea.

"The only reason I knew there was a fire was because my son rang me and said: 'The national park's on fire - get out.' I feel angry, so angry. People are worse off than us, but we thought we were safe. We prepared, I guess, for a high tide, a king tide even, but what ran over the state was more like a tsunami.

"The rangers were going up and down the road, and you're thinking that if there's something going on the ranger would tell you. We heard nothing," she said, as she sat clutching a small dog, surrounded by a few meagre bags of possessions.

Mrs Clover's house has been incinerated and she does plan to rebuild, but she wants there to be more protection. "I'd like to see a better fire system, a better warning system, alarms or big sirens that they do in the bigger towns so that when there is a fire people can hear the siren and know that there's trouble and get out."

Victoria's wildfires will be the subject of a judicial inquiry and there will be various inquiries, investigations and academic studies that will pore over this unprecedented calamity. The period of introspection will almost certainly last for many years, given the scale of the tragedy and its effect on a nation's

soul.

The disaster in Victoria is one of the most demoralising episodes in modern Australian history. Lessons will have to be learned and the government in Canberra has said that fire safety procedures must be reviewed. Alerting homeowners by phone is one option that has been suggested.

"I think we really do need to look at our early warning systems," said Attorney-General Robert McClelland. A woman looks over her burnt-out home in the township of Flowerdale

Local people are asking why officials did not do more to warn them.

"In fact, Victoria had been one of the states leading in developing an early warning system, but there are complications of creating a system that doesn't itself overstretch the telephone communication system."

Charities have been working to soothe the bitter frustrations felt by some wildfire survivors. The Salvation Army's Major Brad Halse has urged them to consider the bigger picture.

"We've been trying to help people see this was an enormously freakish day in terms of the weather, the combination of the extreme heat - the hottest day Victoria's ever had - and extremely strong northerlies," Major Halse told the BBC.

"It was very difficult for any fire authority to prepare for that. These fireballs were moving at enormous speeds [so that] by the time the CFA (Country Fire Authority) had given out advice over the radio it was obsolete."

"We understand why people are angry - it's not the majority but some are - but we're just hoping that they can concentrate on going forward." Like many others, Shane Williams lost his home when the fires raged through the hamlet of Flowerdale.

He too told the BBC that he did not receive any official warning that the outbreaks were moving quite so quickly, but was finally alerted by the screams of a distressed neighbour.

Thousands are left with just the bags they took with them when they fled. "There was a huge big orange glow coming in the distance and the thunder of the flames just got more intense," he said with tears in his eyes.

"There was a lady who ran down the road screaming: 'Get out now, we're all going to die' and that's when we really took notice and hit the panic button."

Victoria's Premier John Brumby has insisted that in such a savage situation the state's emergency services had done all they could to protect life and property.

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