

# NATIONAL HELLENIC FREE PRESS GREEK AMERICAN NEWSPAPER

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## AN INSPIRING SPEECH ABOUT FREEDOM



**Speech given for the Dignitaries' Reception for the Greek Independence, on April 24, 2010, by Mr. Louis Palivos.**

Fellow Greek-Americans: The ENOSIS BOARD asked me to speak on Freedom. Right away, I went to the books and to Google I typed, "What is Greek Freedom about?" Well, it took Google 0.17 seconds to get me 26,900,000 sites. Where to start; where to finish?

Let's go back to Classical Greece to answer the question, how was freedom related to society? Greek City States were ruled by an elite, few, rich, powerful persons, commonly known as tyrants. The tyrants limited the freedom of the people, women and slaves.

Greece and its City States have a history of fighting for freedom. Freedom from wars among Greek City States, such as, Sparta and Athens and freedom from foreigners.

Greek Philosophers have given much thought to the concept of Freedom, in its multiple forms: political, economic and religious.

Freedom had fruition in Athens, Greece, with the introduction of written laws, by Solon, around 600 B.C. Solon instituted free exchange of goods by slaves who now were free to own land.

Cleisthenes around 550 B.C. introduced the concept of democratia, democracy, that is, "to live in consideration of the many, not the few." Such a simple idea yet so powerful! Cleisthenes' idea was Direct Democracy, that is, citizens convene and freely discuss and vote. However, Direct Democracy benefitted the upper and middle classes, as the free males had the freedom to vote. They became known as the Council or Boule. This Boule acted much like an Executive Committee over the entire Assembly (EKKLESIA), which constituted all of the voting members.

Gradually, there would be more freedom to vote on issues and pass laws, called Psephimata and Nomoi. Court cases would be freely decided by jurors, who were chosen by an allotment machine (Kleroterion). Judges were selected by lot. In a nutshell, free male citizens were free to vote, except women and slaves.

Socrates', circa 470-399 B.C., concept of freedom must be understood in the context of good, beauty and virtue. For Socrates, freedom was to obey the state, which he did to his death. He had an opportunity to escape but elected to submit to the State.

Plato's, circa 400 A.D., concept of freedom

involved the attainment of a perfected form of society. His Republic embodies this freedom in a way that most Americans would not see as a free society at all, but rather a strictly controlled community. Philosopher-Kings were Plato's conception of what a perfect ruler or rulers would be like. Some in America see the nine U.S. Supreme Court Justices as Philosopher-Kings. Freedom to Plato was not the idea of a person being able to go out and do anything he pleased, but of a person being exactly shaped to embody ideals that are as close to the forms of beauty, justice, and good as a person or society could possibly be.

Plato uses the "Allegory of the Cave" to give people an idea of what reality really is to the average citizen. He describes in detail about how most people do not ever venture far enough from their familiar realities to realize everything that truly exists in the universe. What can we say about Papou and Giagia in the village? People find it painful to grow and move toward a different reality even if it is a more correct version or will get them closer to the forms. In his "Allegory of the Cave" Plato proposes a very interesting idea. He argues that "If they [men in the cave] could lay hands on the man who was trying to set them free and lead them up, they would kill him." This is an astonishing claim to make, but one that holds true even in our own, very imperfect, American society. Looking back through history, those men and women who lead humanity to a new level of awareness about freedom have often been ostracized or even killed. For example, Martin Luther King, Ghandi and Jesus Christ were killed by the people who they were hoping to reach with their messages.

There is the story of Harry Houdini, the greatest escape artist. Houdini issued a challenge wherever he went. He could be locked in any jail cell in the country, he claimed, and that he could set himself free in short order. Always, he kept his promise, but one time something went wrong. Houdini entered the jail in his street clothes; the heavy, metal doors shut behind him. He took from his belt a concealed piece of metal, strong and flexible. He set to work immediately, but something seemed to be unusual about the lock. For

thirty minutes, he worked and got nowhere. An hour passed and he still had not opened the door. By now, he was bathed in sweat and exasperated, but he still could not pick the lock. Finally, after laboring for two hours, Houdini collapsed in frustration and failure against the door he could not unlock. But when he fell against the door, it swung open! It had never been locked at all!

Plato did not desire for people to think like Houdini, that they were locked in their jails.

Plato wanted to have people free from bondage. To use a modern expression, not just to "see the light at the end of the tunnel," but to get the people out of the cave, out of the tunnel.

Further, Aristotle limited freedom for slaves and women. For Aristotle, persons would find their greatest freedom in a just and virtuous monarchy.

How is freedom related to human dignity? Let me share another story with you.

A young girl was being sold at an auction one day. She was beautiful, tall and slender. The bidding quickly mounted higher and higher until, at last, only two men were left bidding for her ownership. The one raised his bid every time to outbid the other, a quiet man of refinement. Finally, the bidding stopped, and the gentleman who had bid so very earnestly was given the papers which made him the lawful owner of the young girl. The auctioneer presented her to her new master. Proudly and defiantly, she stood before him, hating him with every part of her being. Suddenly, a change came over her face: first, there was a look of pure amazement, closely followed by one of pure disbelief. Her owner was ripping the papers of ownership, and, with a smile of kindness, said to the now trembling girl, "My dear, you are free. I bought you that I might free you." Too stunned for speech, this girl merely stared, until finally, with a cry of happiness too deep for words, she cast herself at the man's feet, and through her tears exclaimed, "Oh, master, I'll love you and will serve you for life!"

Ancient Greeks treated their slaves with dignity. Slaves ate with the masters, laughed with the masters and cried with the masters.

Alexander the Great, in 324 B.C., issued a Proclamation stating, "Personally, I consider you all equal, white and black." Alexander did not care where one came from, but cared more about a person's virtue.

Adamantios Korais has stated, "a citizen has true freedom when he does not interfere with another citizen's freedom."

Greek history is full of wars of independence.

Freedom from the Persians in 490 B.C.  
Freedom from the Xerxes in 480 B.C.

Freedom after 27 years of the Peloponnesian War between Sparta and Athens, 431-404 A.D.

Constantine Decree, circa 275-377 A.D., allowed religious freedom.

Freedom from the Romans.

Freedom from the Slavs, who constantly attacked the Byzantine Empire.

Freedom from the Ottoman Empire, after 400 years of slavery in 1821 A.D.

Freedom from Fascism and Nazism in the 1940's A.D..

Thomas Jefferson said it well, "The tree of freedom must, from time to time, be watered with the blood of Patriots and Tyrants."

How is freedom related to Christianity?

Notably, the Apostle Paul, building upon Greek ideas, was able to expand Christianity to the Greeks. Paul's words, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, neither slave nor free, neither male nor female, you are all one in Christ." Galatians 3:28 must have resonated with the Greeks.

Furthermore, Paul, at the Areopagus at Athens, stated, "men of Athens, I have found also an altar with this inscription, "To an Unknown God: What therefore your worship as unknown this [God, Jesus Christ] I proclaim to you." Acts 17:22-23.

Can God love mankind so much that God would send his Son to free and save the Greeks and all of mankind?

Here is my last story to answer this deep and profound question!

There was a Greek man who fell in love with a prostitute. He wanted to marry her. She refused. He persisted to ask her. Finally, she said, "If you accept me the way I am, I shall marry you." He agreed, but told her that when she goes to do her business, to call him and tell him she was okay. This, she did a few times. Then, one day, as she was in the hotel, she picked up the telephone, but her hand froze. She could not make the call. She dropped the telephone and ran to her husband. She begged for his forgiveness and told him that, "no one has ever loved me so much; now I am free to love you forever!"

If this Greek man can love so very much, why can't God? Freedom is God's gift to us!

Let us say it loud and clear: Freedom! Freedom for Thrace! Freedom for Pontes! Freedom for Asia Minor! Freedom for Epirus! Freedom for Cyprus! Macedonia forever! Let freedom reign!

Zeto e Eleutheria! Zeto e Ellada! Zeto e Amerike!!



*A plane has crashed while trying to land at Mangalore in southern India, with about 160 people believed to be dead. Airport officials say the Air India Express plane, which had come from Dubai, overshot the runway. Survivors of the Air India Express crash have described the moment the plane crashed in Mangalore. About 160 people are feared dead, but the airline said eight people had survived.*



# NATIONAL HELLENIC FREE PRESS

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## THE EPLATFORM OF THE GREEK PRESS

- 1.To applaud the achievements of our ethnic group
- 2.To support the ideas of the Hellenic-Christian tradition
- 3.To promote the preservation of the Greek language
- 4.To encourage all worthy Community causes
- 5 To assist all the Greek-American fraternal, cultural patriotic and religious organizations
- 6.To install Americanism in the Greek-American community
- 7.To advance the just causes of Hellenism.
8. To promote the ideals Greece has given to humanity.

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# ENTERTAINMENT LIVE

*By Denise Rekoumis*

## MOVIE NEWS

A judge said recently that a filmmaker can wait until the end of the month to decide whether to comply with his order to release raw footage of a documentary about a legal dispute between Chevron and Ecuadoreans over oil contamination.

U.S. District Judge Lewis Kaplan in Manhattan had earlier set a deadline of last Friday for filmmaker Joseph Berlinger to turn over raw footage from the film, "Crude," which was released last year. He now has 10 more days to do so.

Berlinger has challenged the order on the grounds that the film's outtakes are protected from disclosure by the First Amendment. The



judge declined to block his ruling while the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals decides whether to hear the issue.

The lawsuit in Ecuador is the continuation of a 17-year-old legal battle. Ecuadoreans claim their land was contaminated during three decades of oil exploration and extraction by Texaco Inc., which became a wholly owned subsidiary of San Ramon, Calif.-based Chevron Corp. in 2001.

Chevron says the raw footage will help bolster its case that lawyers for the plaintiffs have worked to manipulate the judicial system in Ecuador for their own benefit.

Berlinger's lawyer was pleased with the judge's decision last Thursday. "We're just happy that this order gives us the time we need to raise these important issues concerning the rights of journalists to protect their privileged material from compelled disclosure," attorney Maura Wogan said.

## "Sex and the City 2" News

Kim Cattrall won't disappoint fans who expect Samantha to deliver sexy scenes with hunky guys in "Sex and the City 2." Unfortunately, it's a little more of a challenge since Samantha is coping with ... menopause. Cattrall, who looks even hotter on the big screen at 54, admits she identifies with "the change of life."

"Leave it to Michael Patrick King to take on one more hot-button issue," she laughs. "When I found out Samantha was going to be dealing with menopause, I didn't need to do any research. I don't think I need to say any more than that. But she's still a very honest and fearless personality. I've always loved that about her."

Cattrall also loves the message "Sex and the City" sends to females in general. "We have encouraged a lot of women to change the way they feel about being single, about getting married, being alone," she notes. "We've addressed issues they care about and encouraged them to come together. I think that's a very powerful thing in this era of post-feminism. I think that we've helped define what it is to be successful, smart, and also feminine."

Like her character, Cattrall is happy she has a group of girlfriends she can rely on. "I'm single at the moment, and sometimes you get very lonely being single," she admits. "Sometimes it's tough. It's great to have girlfriends in my life that I can call, just like the characters do in 'Sex and the City.' They get you through the rough times and you also have some amazing, fun times with them."

## The Real Housewives of New York

The claws (and knives!) came out last Thursday night on The Real Housewives of New York. It's day two on the island of St. John's for Ramona, Bethenny, Kelly, Alex and Sonja. Almost immediately, Kelly and Bethenny get into a shouting match while sitting down to a dinner cooked by Bethenny. (Kelly insists that Bethenny is just a "mere cook" but "not that she cares.")

Bethenny, pregnant with her hair in braids, yells at Kelly to "cut the bullsh—" at which Kelly admonishes her innocence by pretending not to know what Bethenny is talking about. Bethenny, in tears, leaves the table while Kelly still insists that she is the innocent one in the party here and that she has had dreams that Bethenny is out to stab her to death with a knife.

Later back at the villa, Bethenny tries to make nice to the ladies by leaving Skinny Girl tote bags filled with goodies at each of their doors, but Kelly calls the gift bags "creepy" and calls Jill to tell her all about Bethenny's supposed plot to kill her. Jill feigns concern for Kelly, but it's obvious that she's dying to be in on the action herself.

The next day, Kelly takes pictures of everyone on the beach and Bethenny opts to stay home. Meanwhile, Sonja (who prances around in a cheetah bikini) and Ramona enjoy the shoot while Alex seems to be having a hard time with her poses.

## Lindsey Lohan Update

After Lindsay Lohan violated her probation for missing a mandatory probation hearing on Thursday, the actress' attorney said she would return to LA today - but the starlet was photographed leaving a yacht in Cannes this morning at 7:30 AM local time in France.

According to TMZ, Lindsay spent last Thursday night partying in Cannes and didn't call it a night until early this morning. A TMZ source said the 23-year-old starlet has booked a flight back to LA on Saturday. The site also reported that Lindsay was hoping to take a private jet back, but has been unable make those arrangements. She will be here, certainly by tomorrow late afternoon, evening," Lindsay's attorney, Shawn Chapman Holley, told the judge on Thursday morning. Following the hearing, Chapman Holley told reporters, "[Lindsay] needs to get back to LA so we can resolve this at the earliest possible time."

## U2 News

The manager of U2 says that frontman Bono has undergone emergency back surgery in a Munich hospital after he was injured while preparing for the group's tour. The 50 year old, whose real name is Paul Hewson, is under the care of neurosurgeon Dr. Joerg Tonn and Dr. Hans-Wilhelm Mueller-Wohlfahrt, according to a statement on U2's website. Mueller-Wohlfahrt could not be reached for comment.

Band manager Paul McGuinness, in an MP3 posted on the website, said Friday that because of the injury, the band's "360-Degree" June 3 show in Salt Lake City, Utah, has been postponed. It was not immediately clear if other dates also were canceled. McGuinness says, "We hope to get things resolved as soon as possible."

## Justin Bieber News

BERLIN - Teen idol Justin Bieber walked smack into the glass of an automatic revolving door when trying to exit a German hotel, sending his fans into a blogging frenzy.

"Ouch! I just walked into that door ... my forehead hurts ... I walked right into the window," Bieber told a local broadcast team that captured the incident on camera as he was exiting the Radisson Blu hotel in Frankfurt.

Bieber can be seen in the video trying to push the automatic door, then turning to walk out, but instead smacking his forehead against the glass.

## Madonna's Causes

Madonna decries the ruling handed down Thursday in Blantyre, Malawi that will send a gay couple to prison.

"Today, Malawi took a giant step backward," the singer told UsMagazine.com in a statement. "The world is filled with pain and suffering; therefore, we must support our basic human right to love and be loved."

Tiwonge Chimbalanga, 33, and Steven Monjeza, 25, were convicted of unnatural acts and gross indecency and sentenced to 14 years of hard labor in prison.

Homosexuality is seen as an abomination in the South African country and most gays, lesbians and transgender people do not show public affections. The couple held an engagement party that was later splashed across the front page of a local newspaper. They were arrested two days later without bail.

According to the New York Times, Magistrate Nyakwawa Usiwa Usiwa said he was especially offended that the couple celebrated their relationship in public with an engagement party.



## 29th Annual Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago Jr. Olympics

This message is to remind one and all that the 29th annual Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago Junior Olympics is just a few weeks away. Planning for the annual event has been ongoing. The annual Memorial Day weekend event will be held on May 28-30 and hosted again by the community of SS. Constantine and Helen in Palos Hills, Illinois. This year more than two thousand young people, ages 7-18, from over thirty different parishes of the Six State Metropolis of Chicago are expected to participate in a conglomeration of individual and team athletic events.

This year's program will include swimming, track & field, soccer, softball, basketball, volleyball, 10K run, tennis, chess, checkers, backgammon, wrestling, bowling, and table tennis. Moreover, four collegiate scholarships (totalling \$2000.00) will be presented on behalf of the Junior Olympics to athletes showing a strong spiritual life, academic record, community involvement and writing skills.

Once again the facilities being used in the Jr. Olympics include SS. Constantine and Helen Church Complex, A. A. Stagg High School, and

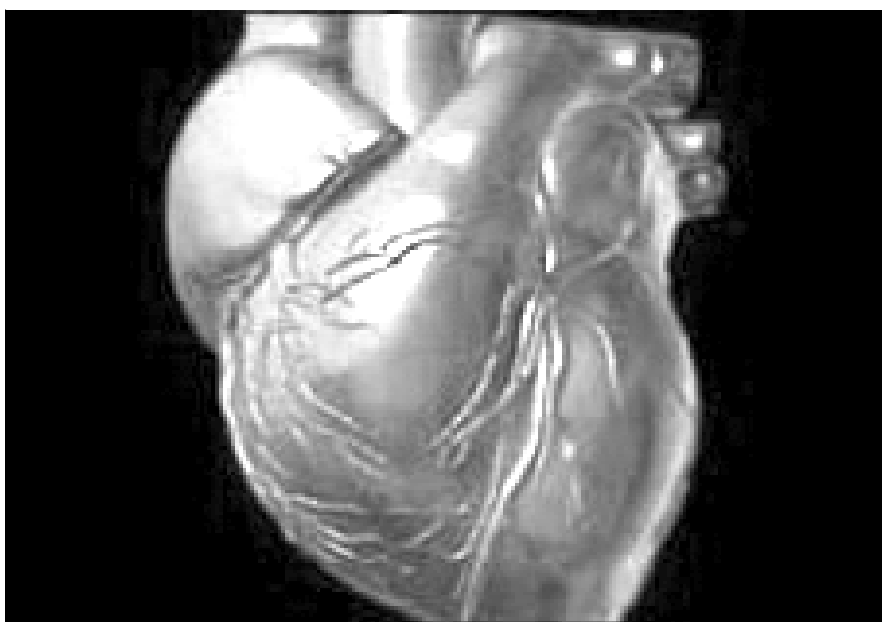
Moraine Valley Community College, all in Palos Hills, Illinois.

With each passing year, this event has become all the more larger and stronger. It is through the Stewardship contributions of the participating parish, various individuals, organizations and businesses as well as the hard work of each and every volunteer, that this event has been a success for twenty-eight years. The Junior Olympics are open to all young people, ages 7-18, of the Greek Orthodox Faith (with the 10K run open to all ages). Registration must take place through your own parish.

For more information regarding the Metropolis of Chicago Junior Olympics, contact your local Greek Orthodox Parish or Mr. Chris Avramopoulos, Director of Registration at 708-288-2876 or Mr. Tom De Medeiros, Director of Publicity and Volunteers, Mr. Jim Stavrou, Director of Operations or Fr. Nicholas Jonas, Spiritual Advisor, at 708-974-3400. Also visit us on the web at [www.stconstantinehelen.org/jrolympics.html](http://www.stconstantinehelen.org/jrolympics.html). SS. Constantine and Helen Church is located at 11025 S. Roberts Road, Palos Hills, Illinois.



*President Barack Obama has named two political veterans to head an independent US commission investigating the Gulf of Mexico oil spill, amid criticism of the government's response. They are ex-Democratic Senator Bob Graham and former Republican environment chief William Reilly. The president said he wanted to make sure such a disaster never happened again.*

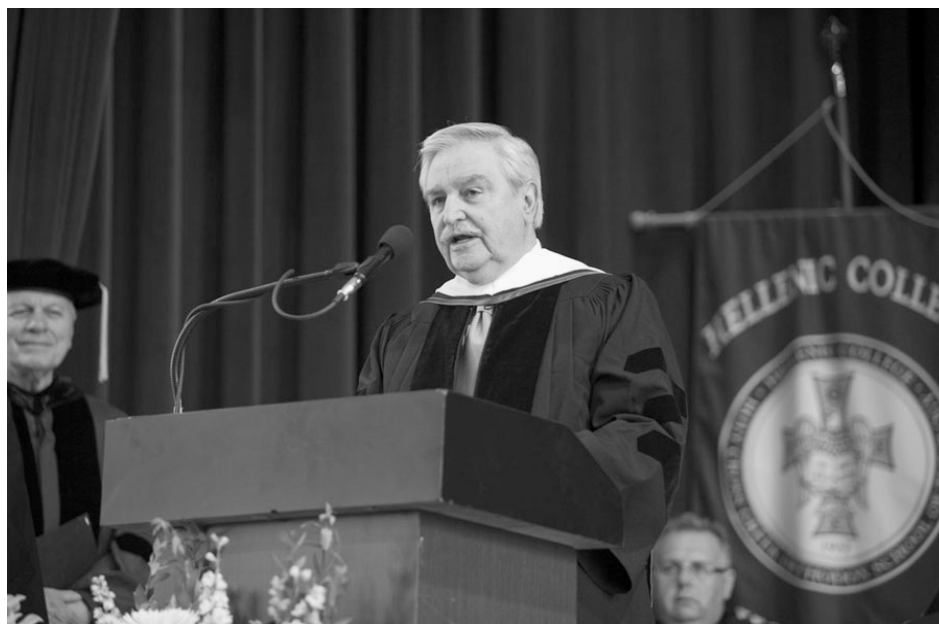


*Men with diabetes who are having trouble keeping an erection could be at increased risk of serious heart problems, suggests a study. Those with erectile dysfunction were twice as likely as other men with diabetes to develop heart disease. The root cause of both can be blood vessel damage caused by high blood sugar levels, the Chinese University of Hong Kong said. Experts said men with erectile dysfunction should see their doctor.*

## HELLENIC COLLEGE – HOLY CROSS RECOGNIZES HELLENES AT COMMENCE- MENT CEREMONY

The serene environment and the fullness of the spring flowers, with acres of beautifully cared for lawns, in Brookline MA were all ruffled by the buzz and excitement brought by the 68<sup>th</sup> Commencement Ceremony of the Hellenic College/

gradients for leadership and success are education combined with the values of Hellenism such as ethos, philotimo, integrity, philanthropia and self-respect, all of which are tied together and functioning under the guid-



Holy Cross School of Theology that took place on Saturday, May 15 at the school grounds.

Over 500 people from all over the country attended the event to congratulate the graduates, in a festive and joyful atmosphere. Thirty six students received a Masters degree in Theology and related studies and twelve students received a Bachelor of Arts degree after a 7 and 4 year study program respectively.

A special feature of the event was the conferral of honorary Doctorate Degrees to three individuals in recognition of their contributions to Hellenism, their philanthropic work and their support of the Church. The three honorees and their respective degrees were:

- \* Metropolitan Professor Dr. Gennadios of Sassima / Doctor of Divinity
- \* Andrew A. Athens of Chicago, IL / Doctor of Humanities
- \* Chris P. Tomaras of Chicago, IL / Doctor of Humanities

In his acceptance remarks and addressing the students, Mr. Tomaras pointed out that the in-

ance of the Church.

Mr. Athens referred to the living conditions of the Hellenes in Eastern Europe and his healthcare program for them there and reminded the students to always be mindful of their obligations to those in need.

Finally, Metropolitan Gennadios, addressing the students, referred to the significance of the Church and the Patriarchate while emphasizing to the graduates the power of the Faith in their careers.

Officiating the ceremony was His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, assisted by the Vice Chairman Dr. Thomas Lelon while the President Rev. Nicholas Triantafyllou conferred the degrees. Attending the event were also His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of Boston, His Grace Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos and other hierarchs, Supreme President of AHEPA Nicholas Karakostas, President of the National Greek Orthodox Philoptohos Society Aphrodite Skeadas and other dignitaries.

## PAPPAS HONORS THE ASSOCIATION OF NURSE IN AIDS CARE, CHICAGO CHAPTER



*Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas presents an award of excellence to the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care, Chicago Chapter. Accepting the award for the association is Norma Rolfsen (left). Founded in 1987, ANAC has become the pre-eminent leading nursing organization responding to HIV/AIDS. ANAC is composed of a dedicated group of nurses, healthcare professionals and others who are committed to HIV/AIDS nursing. ANAC has members around the world. Nurses across Cook County were recognized in a reception in Pappas' office in honor of National Nurses Week.*



# *Antonis Remos Concert Benefit for the Greek American Rehabilitation and Care Centre*

*The Greek American Rehabilitation and Care Centre of Wheeling held their annual benefit Antonis Remos in Concert on Saturday, May 15, 2010 at The Venue of Horseshoe Casino, Hammond, Indiana. The concert is the largest fundraiser of the year for the centre and it was a great success, with over 1500 attendees. The concert was produced by George Katerinis of Greek Music Live, Inc. who also donated all the proceeds to the nursing home. We thank him for all his work, dedication and loyalty to our home. Other income from the event included sponsorship and raffle tickets sales. The winners from our cash raffle were: 1<sup>st</sup> place = Frank Paganis, 2<sup>nd</sup> place = Pan Laconian Brotherhood, 3<sup>rd</sup> place = Helen Collis, 4<sup>th</sup> place = Tina Daoulis, 5<sup>th</sup> place = Demetra Kriadis, 6<sup>th</sup> place = George Kontomenas and 7<sup>th</sup> place = James Thomas. On behalf of the Gala committee, the board of directors, staff, volunteers and residents, we thank everyone for your participation, generous contributions and continuous support. Kai tou Xronou!*



**Left to Right – Eleni Ifantis, Administrator of GARCC, Peter Karahalios, Vice President Board of Directors for GARCC, Patricia Gerbanas, Director of Business Development for GARCC, Eleni Tzotzolis, large supporter of GARCC and Eleni Bousis, President Board of Directors for GARCC**



**Left to Right – Louis Palivos, Anna Sophia Loumis, Eleni & Dimitri Bousis, Ambassador Anastassios Petrovas and Mrs. Chrysanthi Petrovas**



**Eleni Bousis and Antonis Remos with Mrs. Evgenia Floudas and daughter Irene Floudas**



**Eleni Bousis and Antonis Remos – Dimitri Bousis and Antonis Remos**



**Antonis Remos with Taki and Maria Katerinis and son, George Katerinis, proprietor of Greek Music Live and producer of the show**



**Left to Right – Dimitri Bousis, Dr. Nicholas Papanos, Medical Director of GARCC, Eleni Bousis, President of the Board for GARCC, Dr. Ilioula Papanos**



# Plant Your Roots in Greece

The Birthplace of Olympic Ideals  
& Universal Spirit



Plant Your Roots in Greece

To Reverse the Loss of Greece's Forests

A HELLENIC AMERICAN NON-PROFIT, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

Under the Auspices of Hellenic-American National Council and SAE U.S.A. Region

Ecology and Volunteerism are notions that were coined in Ancient Greece. The worldview of the Ancient Greeks was based on the principle that nature is sacred and that human beings are not the result of a creation but a part of the evolutionary, in a sacred way, creation.

The "Plant Your Roots in Greece" Foundation, promotes the spirit of reconciliation of the modern man with his natural environment in combination with the Olympic ideal of volunteerism. In collaboration with groups of volunteers, students, athletes, fire fighters, citizens, and hunters and with the regional Municipal Authorities, it has reforested Greek regions affected by fire and natural disasters.

Trees are a source of life, a sign of civilization. You too can contribute and help Greece become green again, the sacred land where the great pan-humanitarian values were coined. Plant a tree in your name or the name of a beloved one. Make the dream come true.

"Plant Your Roots in Greece Foundation", is a non-profit tax-exempt organization, incorporated in Washington DC.

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## Plant Your Roots in Greece

*Yes, I will join the "Plant Your Roots Program" to reforest the Greek mountains and countryside.*

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☐ \$50 - 5 Trees

☐ \$100 - 10 Trees

☐ \$1000 - A "Grove" of 100 Trees

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms.

-Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ trees.

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2155 W. 80th Street, Chicago, IL 60620 U.S.A. or Deposits in Greece:

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To Honor/In Memory of (circle one) \_\_\_\_\_

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# NEWS FROM GREECE

## Papandreou receives Libyan PM in Athens

Prime Minister George Papandreou met with visiting Libyan Prime Minister al-Baghdadi Ali al-Mahmoudi on Friday, stressing afterwards that new prospects are being opened for stronger relations between Athens and Tripoli.



Papandreou underlined that the meeting focused on the sectors of energy, renewable energy sources (RES), construction and tourism. He referred to friendly relations of the two countries and underlined that the international community recognises Libya's important place and has restored relations with the country.

Papandreou stressed that "Libya plays a very important role in the Mediterranean region and serves as gateway of communication with African states." He also announced that

he will visit the country soon.

On his part, the Libyan prime minister referred to the close bilateral relations and focused on cooperation in the sectors of energy, power production, telecoms, RES, natural gas, infrastructures, tourism, sea transport and the prospects of Libyan investments in Greece.

## Samaras on student elections, Cosco



Main opposition New Democracy (ND) party leader Antonis Samaras visited the offices of the party-affiliated youth group ONNED on Thursday, following Wednesday's positive result for the party-affiliated student group DAP-NDFK in student elections.

"You have been winning for many years. This year, however, you won under very adverse and difficult conditions," Sa-

maras told ND's youth.

"In this way, you also gave a reply as well to those who want the party's perspective to darken. The reply is that you are the perspective, it is youth. We are together, you are by our side. And on behalf of all I congratulate you. And on behalf of the party I thank you very much. Congratulations to all. It was an amazing success," he added.

ONNED president A. Papamimikos said on his part that "it was a great victory, a great battle waged by DAP women and DAP men, who for the 25th consecutive year held the blue flag high in the universities and in the TEI (technical institutes). The flag of hope, the flag of optimism, the flag of confidence."

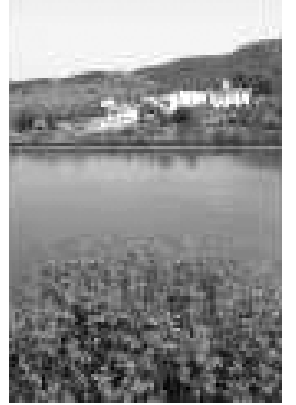
Main opposition New Democracy (ND) party Merchant Marine Political Responsibility sector chief Yiannis Plakiotakis said on Thursday that the statement by government vice president Theodoros Pangalos that PASOK's criticism of the contract signed by the ND when it was in office with COSCO was a misunderstanding was "comical and tragic. Plakiotakis said better late than never and noted that "we must also remind that the contract in question was signed during ND's governance, and this contract, for which PASOK is now jubilating, is very beneficial for our country."

## Gov't on Vatopedi affair

"We respect the independent operation of investigation committees; we will wait for their findings... The people can see for themselves who is responsible for the situation we are in," government spokesman George Petalotis said on Thursday.

He made the statement when asked to com-

ment on a main opposition New Democracy (ND) party proposal suggesting that Finance Minister George Papaconstantinou appear before a parliamentary examination committee investigating the Vatopedi land swap affair.



Petalotis stressed that "the government is determined to respect the findings of the committees and there will be no procrastination in making specific the responsibilities if they exist, even in the case of criminal charges."

"The autonomy of the MPs is guaranteed by the Constitution and it would have been unthinkable to set restrictions in the questions they table," Petalotis said when asked if the 10 ruling PASOK party MPs, in essence, have turned against the finance minister with a question they tabled seeking information on the Bank of Greece (BoG).

Petalotis said "the MPs express their concern for the state of the Greek economy," adding that "the government respects the duty of the MPs to exercise parliamentary control."

The question tabled for FinMin George Papaconstantinou concerns changes made by the Bank of Greece on Oct. 5, 2009, one day after the elections, to rules for the clearing of transactions involving Greek bonds.

Called to clarify why he denied, with a statement to Reuters, speculation over Greece's exit from the euro-zone, Petalotis said he rejected such rumours because he was asked by the specific news agency, explaining that "the rumours are not limited inside Greece and to specific political figures."

"Spreading rumours is a very popular sport and, unfortunately, when we haven't even considered taking the country out of the euro-zone, we have no other choice than to comment on and deny the obvious. We have reached that point," he said.

## Greek-Romanian diplomatic ties



Attending a ceremony held here on Friday to mark the 130th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Greece and Romania, Greece's Alternate Foreign Minister Dimitris Droutsas stressed the strong social and economic ties between the two countries in the last two centuries, which he said remained unaffected by the economic crisis.

In addition to historic ties, Droutsas also emphasised the support given by Greece to Romania's more recent efforts to join the European Union and NATO, as well as the close cooperation between the two countries at present for the EU accession of the western Balkans. He particularly emphasised their strong economic ties, noting that Greece had been one of the biggest foreign investors in Romania during the past 20 years, with 4.5 billion euros of Greek capital invested in the country and 30,000 Romanians employed by Greek businesses. "The current economic crisis cannot restrict the strong impetus of our relations," Droutsas said in his speech, adding that Greece looked to boosting and deepening strategic cooperation with Romania on all levels.



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# Luncheon Held in Appreciation of Volunteers for the Greek American Rehabilitation and Care Centre

On Thursday, April 23, 2010, as part of our celebration for Volunteer Appreciation Week, we honored our volunteers with a special luncheon at *Citi Restaurant* located in Lake Point Towers, Chicago. It was a beautiful sunny day which matched the beauty of all our volunteers. The scenery of Lake Michigan and the view of Chicago were breath taking. Add the additional elements of exceptional service from the Citi staff and a delicious meal, and you have an exquisite afternoon that our volunteers will never forget. Greek American Care Centre’s Volunteer Director, Mrs. Frances Kopsaftis stated “ this is just a small thank you on our behalf for all that our volunteers do for the nursing home and our residents, Many of our volunteers have given over 1,000 hours of service and continue serving with love and devotion.” We extend a warm thank you to Ms. Evangeline Gouletas for her generous contribution of the restaurant and superb luncheon. Mrs. Kopsaftis stated that when she approached Ms. Gouletas there was no hesitation, and she graciously offered to underwrite the luncheon. Please consider volunteering at our home, once a week or once monthly and see what a difference it will make. Not only will our residents appreciate the visit, but it will be a heartwarming and fulfilling experience for you that is truly rewarding.



Left to Right – Elaine Caralis, Eleni Bousis, President, Board of Directors for GARCC, Cathy Fasseas, Catherine Catchfores, Maria Dimitriou, Georgia Litsogiannis, Eva Apostolou and Frances Kopsaftis, Volunteer Director

Left to Right - Eleni Alevizos, Soula Intzekiotis, Demetra Kokinis, John Serafim and Chris Sarandopoulos



Standing Left to Right – Eleni O’Sullivan, Frances Kopsaftis, Anna Pohopos, Victoria Nikolakakis Sitting Left to Right – Connie James, Stella Drakousis, George Snurpus

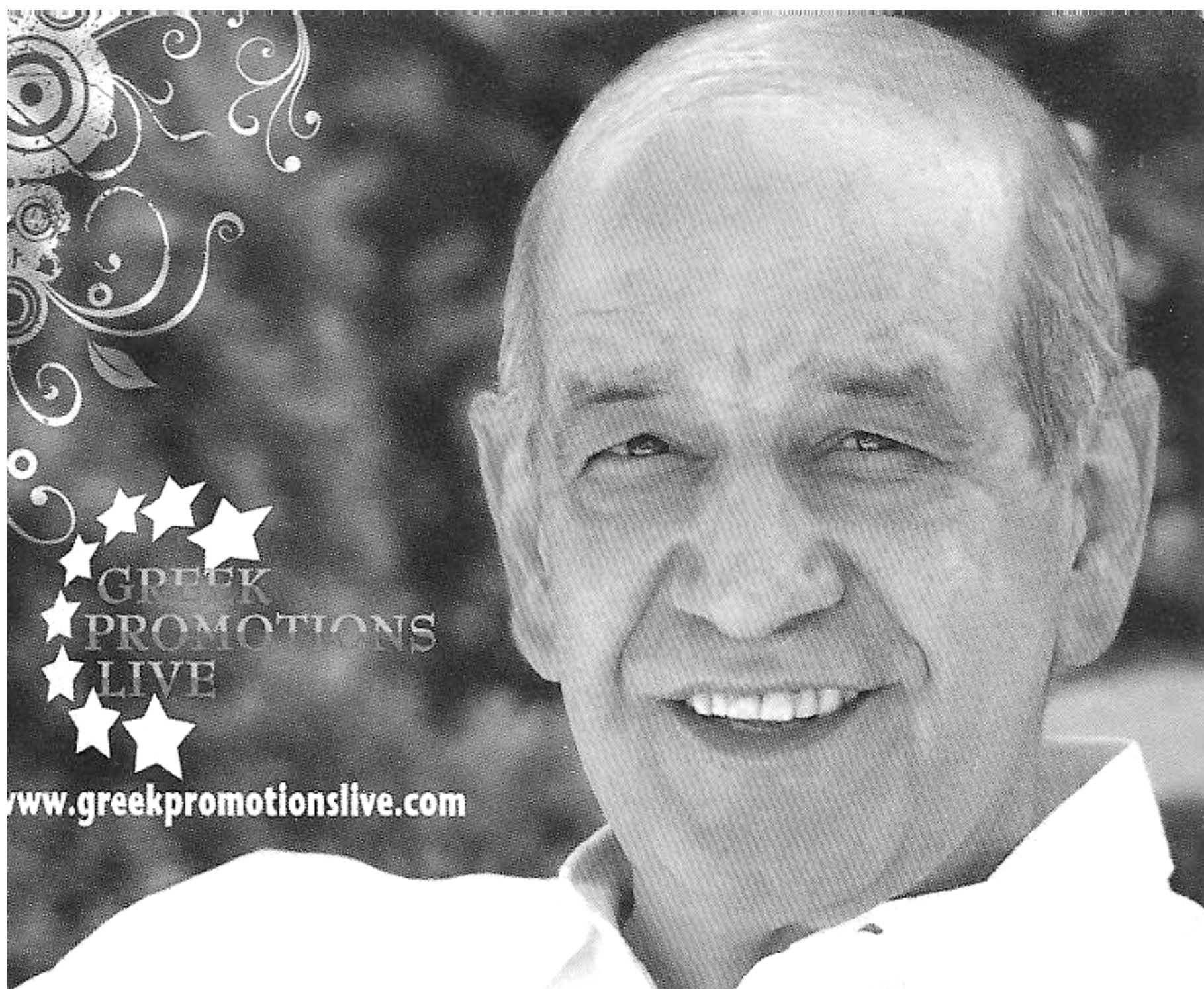
Sitting Left to Right – Soula Coutrets, Kathy Legatos, Frances Kopsaftis, Spiro Legatos Standing Left to Right – Voula Nasiakos, Georgia Pappas



Group shot of some of the volunteers on the grounds of the nursing home

Left to Right – Helen Asimos, Nicki Varvisotis, Amalia Phillips, Kay Mourikes, Penny Vassilatos, Maria Eugenis





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