



# NATIONAL HELLENIC FREE PRESS



GREEK AMERICAN NEWSPAPER

VOL. 31

NO. 343

CHICAGO, IL.

NOVEMBER, 2013

## PANEPIROTIC FEDERATION ELECTS NICHOLAS GAGE PRESIDENT AT CHICAGO CONVENTION

The Panepirotic Federation of America held its 38<sup>th</sup> biennial convention in Chicago on November 7 and 8 and elected author Nicholas Gage and a board of veterans and newcomers to lead the organization for the next two years.

“With a new government in Albania, we need to redouble our efforts to secure basic rights for ethnic Greeks in the country that they are entitled under international law but are continued to be denied by Albanian authorities,” Mr Gage said. “And we need to find ways to help Epirotes in Greece who have seen jobs disappear, austerity measures soar and their disposable income slashed by 40 per cent since 2008.”



“We will do all we can over the next two years to make as much headway as possible on both fronts,” he said.

The special guest of honor at the convention was Pyrros Dimas, who won three Olympic gold medals and one bronze in weightlifting for Greece in Olympic Games. Mr. Dimas was born in Chimara of Northern Epiros and is now a member of the Greek Parliament.

Mr. Gage, who served as president for two terms in the 1990s, will be supported by Menalaos Tzelios of New York, also a two-term former president, as vice president; Maria Vassiliades, one of the organizers of the Chicago convention, as secretary general; George Nanis of Worcester as treasurer, and Demetrios Koutoulas, the outgoing president who is also of Worcester, as assistant secretary.

The six-member board and the three alternates range from their 20's to their 70's and provide a multi-generational mixture of enthusiasm and experience, Mr. Gage said. The six-member board includes Amalia Lolli of St. Louis, Charalambos Mellos of New York, Efthimios Pappas of New York, Elias Tzias of Worcester, Dr. Lazaros Yiannos of Fitchburg, and Stavros Zhongas of New York. The three alternates are Stacy Koumbis of Chicago, Menalaos Sotiris of Boston, and Irene Tsoukas of New York.

The highlight of the convention was a gala dinner dance held in the grand ballroom of the Chicago Marriott O'Hare Hotel, the site of the convention, where Pyrros Dimas and four distinguished Greek Americans were honored for their contributions to the causes supported by the Panepirotic Federation. They included two honored by the Federation—Vasilios Mikelis, a former POA president, and Helen Alexander, an administrative leader in many Greek-American organizations including SAE and UHAC—and two honored by the Daughters of Epiros, the POA Chicago chapter that hosted the convention—Chris Kirkos, also a former POA president, and Chris P. Tomaras, the founder of the Panhellenic Scholarship Foundation.

A key guest at the convention was Constantina Beziani, who heads the Albanian bureau for minority affairs in the prime minister's office. She told delegates she consistently pressed Albanian authorities to adopt the European Union's guidelines on minority rights but that the government of Sali Berisha, which ruled Albania for eight years, consistently refused to do it. She said she was hopeful the new government of Edi Rama, whose Socialist Party handily won last June's election, will be more forthcoming on minority issues.

The convention adopted a resolution unanimously that called on the Albanian government to provide ethnic Greeks in the country all educational, religious, political, linguistic and cultural rights due them under international agreements and urged the European

(Continue p. 6)

## GREEK ARCHITECTS OF ISTANBUL IN THE ERA OF WESTERNIZA- TION EXHIBIT

The Greek Architects of Istanbul in the Era of Westernization Exhibit opened to a tremendous reception on Sunday, October 27, 2013 at the Damen Student Center at the Loyola University Chicago Lakeshore Campus. The exhibit traces the great contribution of Greek architects living in Constantinople (modern day Istanbul) during the modernization process of the city. The history of Istanbul and the contributions of the Greeks there, the “Rwmioi”, unfolds through 54 pictorial panels depicting building facades, designs, and plans. Over 250 guests were ushered by Loyola's own students from the Orthodox Christian Fellowship to the exhibit and greeted with champagne, punch and hors d'oeuvres.



(L to R) Sherif Soydan, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Niagara Foundation (a foundation which fosters civic conversations and sustained relationships between people of different cultures and faiths), His Grace, Bishop Demetrios, Pandelis Vingas, Mevlut Hilmi Cinar, Vice President of Niagara Foundation, and Brendan Dowd, Director, Center for Cultural Exchange & Interfaith Collaboration, Niagara Foundation. Photo Courtesy of MVP Studio Photography

At the request of the Exhibition Organizing Committee from Istanbul, the Metropolis of Chicago was invited to be the premiere host for the exhibit in the United States. In particular, His Grace Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos was selected to chair the premiere of the exhibit



(L to R) Popi Tsilenis, Savvas Tsilenis, Nikolaos Ouzounoglou, and Marina Drymalitou. Photo Courtesy of MVP Studio Photography

Mr. Pandeli Vingas, President of the Exhibition Organizing Committee and advisor to the Patriarchate, Dr. Savvas Tsilenis, Greek Curator of the Exhibit and Ms. Marina Drymalitou, Project Coordinator.

The opening reception began with a welcome from His Grace Bishop Demetrios followed by the reading of the Patriarchal Letter from His All Holiness, Ecumenical

(Continue p. 2)

## NATIONAL HELLENIC FREE PRESS

### PUBLISHER

SOTIRIS REKOUMIS

### EDITOR

DENISE REKOUMIS

### LAYOUTS

JOHN REKOUMIS

### CONTRIBUTORS

DR. STAVROS BASSEAS, JOHN REKOUMIS,  
DENISE REKOUMIS, DR JORDAN TSOLAKIDIS,  
CHRIS MERENTITIS, CHARLES MOURATIDES

### THE PLATFORM 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.

## LAW OFFICE OF MARIYANNA SPYROPOULOS



**180 N. LASALLE ST.  
SUITE 1801  
CHICAGO, IL. 60611  
PHONE: (312)456-8005  
FAX:456-8006**

## GREEK ARCHITECTS OF ISTANBUL IN THE ERA OF WESTERNIZATION EXHIBIT

(From p. 1)

Patriarch Bartholomew and a video presentation paying tribute to him. Greetings from The Honorable Ioanna Efthymiadou, Consul General of Greece in Chicago and Elif Okutucu, Vice Consul General of Turkey in Chicago followed stating the importance of spreading the contributions of these Greeks to the populations around the world. The presentations ended with remarks from the delegation from Istanbul and a short video



(L to R) Pandelis Vingas, His Grace, Bishop Demetrios, and Archon Harold V. Anagnos, Grand Benefactor of the Exhibit. Photo Courtesy of MVP Studio Photography

presentation summarizing the exhibit. At the conclusion of the presentations, Bishop Demetrios and Mr. Vingas offered gifts representing Istanbul to thank Rev. Michael Garanzini, SJ, President of Loyola University Chicago and Dr. Elaine Athas, Regent of



Jane Analitis, Hellenic Society of Constantinople President with members of the delegation from Istanbul, Pandelis Vingas, Nikolaos Ouzounoglu, Savvas Tsilenis and Popi Tsilenis and members of the Hellenic Society of Constantinople Nicholas Harisiadis, Angie Stephenson, Semiramis Karnezos, Poly Galanos and Hellenia Chrones, Chairman of the Organizing Committee.

Loyola University Chicago for welcoming the Metropolis of Chicago and the Exhibit to Loyola University. Archon Harold V. Anagnos, was also thanked and presented with a gift for being the Grand Benefactor of the Exhibit as were George and Patricia Loukas, for being Benefactors, and Archon Frank and Katena Lagouros, Mantea K. Schmid and Archon Harold A. Peponis for being Donors to the Exhibit. Mrs. Hellenia Chrones was also presented with a gift and a bouquet of flowers for chairing the Chicago Organizing Committee which included Roula Alakiotou, John Balourdous, Evangel Kokkino, Elizabeth Melas, James Metropulos, Laki Nikokavouras, Jeanne Novas, Cynthia Vranas Olsen, Gregory C. Pappas, and George Prosiliakos. The Order of St. Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Hellenic Society of Constantinople were proud co-sponsors of the exhibit. Mrs. Jane Analitis, President of the Hellenic Society of Constantinople was also thanked and presented with a gift. Following the program, guests attending were invited to view the exhibit and engage with the delegation.

The aim for the Exhibition Organizing Committee is to have the exhibit travel the country to expose as many individuals as possible to this otherwise unknown imprint of the Greek Orthodox community on the cultural life of modern Istanbul, Turkey. To date the exhibit has been seen in Istanbul, Thessaloniki, Athens, Mytilene, Chios, Xanthi and Chicago by over 12, 000 people. The positive comments on the Chicago debut have echoed throughout the Greek and Turkish communities here, and the Metropolis has been approached by organizations in Peoria, IL; Dubuque, IA; Champaign, IL; and Lake County, Indiana; as well as the Turkish Cultural Center in Mount Prospect, IL, to host the exhibit following its November 10 exit.

**ΛΥΣΤΕ ΤΟ ΠΡΟΒΛΗΜΑ ΤΩΝ "ΠΑΡΑΣΙΤΩΝ" ΣΤΑ ΡΑΔΙΟΦΩΝΙΚΑ ΜΑΣ  
ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΑ. ΑΚΟΥΣΤΕ ΜΑΣ ΑΠΟ ΤΟ ΚΟΜΠΙΟΥΤΕΡ ΣΑΣ ΠΕΝΤΑ-  
ΚΑΘΑΡΑ ΚΑΙ ΜΑΛΙΣΤΑ 24 ΩΡΕΣ ΤΟ 24ΩΡΟ.  
WWW.THECHICAGOGREEKHOURS.COM**

# Greek Embassy in Washing- ton hosts reception on Young - Agro Entrepreneurship and Innovation



Doughlas - Kefalogiannis - Panagopoulos

Ambassador Christos Panagopoulos hosted an event on November 5 to introduce the Re-Inspire Greece from the Youth Up that aims in substantially supporting young, innovative agro-entrepreneurship in Greece and tackle the staggering 65% youth un-employment that impacts Greece’s efforts to return to growth and social prosperity.

High-level officials from the State Department and the Department of Commerce, representatives from leading entrepreneurship and innovation organizations, key Greek Diaspora figures, media executives and other opinion leaders gathered in the Greek Embassy to find out about a unique initiative that offers real and actual tools for the Greek youth to rediscover the opportunities that lie in the agri-sector in Greece.

Ambassador Panagopoulos outlined the importance of reconnecting the economy with education and innovative entrepreneurship in order for Greece to return to growth. Gaea’s CEO Mr. Kefalogiannis stressed the importance of focusing on result and substance, to engage in a broader partnership that will move beyond analysis and inspira- tion and will provide real solutions and opportunities for the Greek youth.

Re-Inspire Greece from the Youth Up was created by leading international Greek food company GAEA, the American Farm School in Thessaloniki, Piraeus Bank, celeb- rity Iron Chef Cat Cora and RSM International and is supported by leading organiza- tions in Greece and the United States.

This pioneering initiative aims to stimulate our youth to envision and set-up their own agri-business by offering to each of the 10 best business plans, the necessary seed capital of EUR 25.000 as well as invaluable mentoring and business support from GAEA’s panel of business angels and global distribution network, that will ensure the sustainability of their project.

The initiative is funded by the limited sale of an exceptional extra virgin olive oil that has crossed the Atlantic all the way from the tiny island of Antiparos in the heart of the Aegean. “Agrilia Estate - Antiparos” olive oil is endorsed by celebrity Chef Cat Cora and is designed as a stylish gift that can be purchased at [www.reinspiregreece.com](http://www.reinspiregreece.com) and delivered across the United States.

# A Wonderworking Icon of the Archangel Michael Weeps in Rhodes



By John Sanidopoulos

*Inhabitants of Rhodes are talking about a miracle, having seen on Satur- day morning, November, 16, an icon of the Archangel Michael weeping in the Sacred Church of the Archangel Michael in the Old Cemetery of Ialysos.*

*At 2:00 PM Metropolitan Kyrillos of Rhodes went to the place himself where the icon can be found following reports from the faithful, in order to determine if this was a miracle or some other event.*

*The Metropolitan, after indeed verifying there were what looked like tears on the face of the Archangel, asked for the icon to be moved from the place it was hanging.*

*They then examined the back side of the icon as well as the wall on which it rested to determine if there was moisture which passed on to the icon.*

*Having established that this was impossible, the Metropolitan of Rhodes testified that this was in fact a miracle, and he asked that the icon be brought to the Sacred Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos in Ialysos for public veneration, as well as to see if a change in environment would halt the phenomenon.*

*"We will move it to the big church to see how the phenomenon evolves," Metropolitan Kyrillos told the faithful who had gathered in the small chapel.*

*The first to see the icon weeping were women who went on Saturday morning to open the church and who in turn informed the vicar of the church.*

*The vicar, Fr. Apostolos, informs us that the icon was constructed in 1896 and had recently undergone maintenance by the archaeological department.*

*As of today, the icon continues to weep in its new environment, some- times stopping but then continuing again, and it is even reported that a sec- ond icon of the Archangel Michael is weeping from the original church as well. Large crowds have gathered to venerate the icon and have been anointed with the holy myrrh.*

# I bet you did not know you are bilingual

If you know English then You know Greek with the start of the new Greek school year this is appropriate!

The article below was published in a British art magazine.

The words in dark are exclusively ENGLISH, the rest are Greek.....

“The genesis **of** classical drama **was not** symptomatic. An euphoria of charismatic and talented protagonists **showed** fantastic scenes of historic episodes. The prologue, the theme and the epilogue, comprised the trilogy of drama **while** synthesis, analysis and synopsis characterized the phraseology of the **text**. The syntax and phraseology **used** by scholars, academicians and philosophers in **their** rhetoric, **had many** grammatical idioms and idiosyncrasies. The protagonists periodically **used** pseudonyms. Anonymity **was** a syndrome **that** characterized the theatrical atmosphere. The panoramic fantasy, the mystique, the melody, the aesthetics, the **use of** the cosmetic epithets **are** character- istics of drama. **Even through** the theatres **were** physically gigantic,**there was no need** for microphones **because** the architecture and the acoustics **would** echo isometrically and crystal - clear.

**Many** epistemologists of physics, aerodynamics, acoustics, electronics, electromagnetics, **can not** analyze - **explain** the ideal and isometric acoustics of Hel- lenic theaters **even today**. **There were many** categories of drama: classical drama, melo- drama, satiric, epic, comedy, etc.

The syndrome of xenophobia or dyslexia **was overcome** by the pathos of the actors **who** practiced methodically and emphatically. Acrobatics **were also** euphoric. **There was** a plethora of anecdotal themes, **with which** the acrobats **would** electrify the ec- static audience **with** scenes **from** mythical and historical episodes. **Some** theatrics epi- sodes **were** characterized as scandalous and blasphemous.

Pornography, bigamy, homophilia, nymphomania, polyandry, polygamy and hetero- sexuality **were** dramatized in a pedagogicalway **so** the mysticism **about them would not** cause phobia **or** anathema **or** taken as anomaly **but through** logic, dialogue and analysis, skepticism and the pathetic or cryptic mystery **behind them would be dis- pelled**. **It is** historically and chronologicallyproven **that** theater emphasized pedagogy, idealism and harmony. Paradoxically **it also** energized patriotism a phenomenon **that** symbolized ethnically character and phenomenal heroism.”

*Adinamis & Corliss  
Funeral Directors, Ltd.*

Administrative Office:  
2720 South River Road, Suite 154  
Des Plaines, IL 60018  
Tel: (847) 375-0095  
Facsimile: (847) 375-0097

October 21, 2013

Mr. Sotiris Rekoumis  
Omogenia & Chicago Greek Hours  
7902 Maple Street  
Morton Grove, IL 60053

Mr. Sotiris Rekoumis and Staff:

It has come to my attention that rumors are circulating about me not being active in funeral service. I am here to assure you that those rumors are not true.

In 2012, I announced my business partnership with Eileen B. Corliss. Eileen has been with my company for over 12 years as a licensed Funeral Director / Embalmer, State of Illinois Insurance Producer and has been an integral part in the decision-making process regarding all aspects of the business. In 2013, Eileen and I finalized the company name change to **ADINAMIS & CORLISS FUNERAL DIRECTORS, LTD.**

There are some who impersonate and advertise as funeral directors when in fact, they are not duly licensed funeral directors / embalmers in the State of Illinois. We are licensed Funeral Directors / Embalmers in the State of Illinois.

Our business operations have not changed. I am not retiring and I am in good health.

Eileen and I appreciate your continued support.

Sincerely,

*John G. Adinamis*

John G. Adinamis

*Eileen B. Corliss*

Eileen B. Corliss

Car Wash Always Open to Castle Honda Customers.

# Fall Honda Savings

0.9% apr for 60 mo on new Civics



**\$0** **\$0** **\$0** **\$0**

DOWN PAYMENT<sup>3</sup>  
ON SELECT NEW MODELS

SECURITY DEPOSIT<sup>3</sup>

1<sup>ST</sup> MONTH PAYMENT<sup>3</sup>

DUE AT LEASE SIGNING<sup>3</sup>  
ON SELECT NEW MODELS



NEW 2013 Honda  
**CIVIC LX**

Auto. \*\$4 mo. lease. \$2,139 down with 1st mo. payment, plus tax, title, & doc. fees. 12K mi/yr. 16600mi/yr. Residual \$18,020. #9922700000000000

**\$119** /MO\*



NEW 2013 Honda  
**CR-V LX**

2WD. \*\$4 mo. lease. \$2,990 down with 1st mo. payment, plus tax, title, & doc. fees. 12K mi/yr. 17600mi/yr. Residual \$18,400. #9922700000000000

**\$199** /MO\*



NEW 2013 Honda  
**ACCORD LX**

Auto. \*\$4 mo. lease. \$2,100 down with 1st mo. payment, plus tax, title, & doc. fees. 12K mi/yr. 17600mi/yr. Residual \$18,011. #9922700000000000

**\$169** /MO\*



NEW 2013 Honda  
**PILOT LX**

2WD. \*\$4 mo. lease. \$3,290 down with 1st mo. payment, plus tax, title, & doc. fees. 12K mi/yr. 20600mi/yr. Residual \$18,434. #9922700000000000

**\$269** /MO\*



NEW 2013 Honda  
**ODYSSEY LX**

\*\$4 mo. lease. \$3,290 down with 1st mo. payment, plus tax, title, & doc. fees. 12K mi/yr. 20600mi/yr. Residual \$18,434. #9922700000000000

**\$269** /MO\*

NO CREDIT? BAD CREDIT? SHORT TIME IN THE COUNTRY? ASK TO SPEAK TO ONE OF OUR CREDIT SPECIALISTS!

**We Speak Greek**  
847.965.7070

Ask for  
**Tony Chammas**

I Can Help With  
New & Used Cars!



**Castle Honda**

6900 W. DEMPSTER, MORTON GROVE  
847.965.7070 • **CastleHonda.COM**

**SERVICE HOURS: MONDAY-FRIDAY 7AM-7PM, SATURDAY 8AM-4PM**

All offers to qualified buyers. 3) You must qualify. Not available on advertised vehicles. See dealer for details. 1) 0.9% APR for 60 mos; \$17.05 per \$1000 financed on select new Honda cars. You must qualify. See dealer for details.

**COOK COUNTY TREASURER****MARIA PAPPAS**

Invites you to

**CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS****AND VIEW OVER 80 HOLIDAY TREES  
FROM AROUND THE WORLD****Friday, December 6, 2013  
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.****Cook County Building  
118 North Clark Street • Suite 112****RSVP: 312-603-6931**

GREEK PROMOTIONS LIVE PRESENTS

# ΕΦΗ ΘΩΔΗ



## NEW YEARS EVE

@Chateau Ritz

### EFI THODI | DJ XENIA

TUESDAY/DECEMBER 31/2013  
DOORS OPEN @ 7:30/DINNER @ 8:30  
FOR MORE INFO CALL/630.234.2183/630.205.1403  
CHATEAU RITZ /9100 N MILWAUKEE AVE. NILES, IL 60714

FACEBOOK.COM/GREEKPROMOLIVE



Founded by Peter Parthenis Sr. in 1974 and still family-owned today, Grecian Delight Foods is proud of its rich Greek heritage. We manufacture and market top quality authentic Greek and specialty Mediterranean foods for the foodservice and retail industries. From the best gyro meats to Greek yogurt, hummus and fine pastries, people rely on Grecian Delight Foods' commitment to provide superior products made from the finest ingredients.

Grecian Delight Foods is always looking for candidates who strengthen our ability to grow and maintain the high standards of our customers. Our success is based on superior performance, competitive strategies, professional integrity, quality products and our people. We remain steeped in Greek tradition and encourage you to inquire about career opportunities. Please email your resume to [jadelman@greciandelight.com](mailto:jadelman@greciandelight.com)

**Ask for Grecian Delight Foods at your favorite Chicago restaurants and grocery stores!**



**GYROS • HUMMUS • SPREADS • GREEK YOGURT • PITA • FLATBREADS  
SHAWARMA • FALAFEL • MOUSAKA • PASTICHIO • BAKLAVA • AND MORE  
847-364-1010 • [www.greciandelight.com](http://www.greciandelight.com)**



*Last summer, a 15 year old girl decided to walk the beach listening to music on her iPod, not knowing that the decision would forever alter her life. Myrtos was attacked, her head and face continuously beaten with a rock. She then was raped and left for dead. Her mother and sister who were with her that day searched for her, and found her barely alive. She is now at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, fighting to regain as much function as she can after suffering a severe brain injury. She was initially in a coma, but is now starting to communicate with gesturing and with her eyes. Please help us to raise money towards her healthcare related expenses so that she may continue to receive the care and have access to the devices and items she so desperately needs. Thank you for contributing to a Miracle for Myrtos. If mailing a check, donations should be made out to Myrto Papadomichelaki and mailed to: Citibank, N.A. Attn: Helen Nicolopoulos 358 Cambridge Road Woburn, MA 01801. For more information on this story: <http://digitaljournal.com/article/350178>*

## **PANAPIROTIC FEDERATION ELECTS NICHOLAS GAGE PRESIDENT AT CHICAGO CONVENTION**

*(From p. 1)*

Union to freeze negotiations for admission of Albania until its parliament adopts all EU principles on minority rights. It also called on the United States, the European Union, the United Nations, and the Greek government to press Albania to fulfill all its international obligations to ethnic Greeks in Northern Epiros and throughout Albania.

Beyond Albania, the resolution called on the United States to do everything in its power to end the occupation of northern Cyprus by Turkish troops; to urge the Turkish government to end the harassment of the Patriarchate and re-open the School of Halki, and to press FYROM to stop expropriating the name Macedonia, which has been identified with Greece throughout its history.

## **SUGAR BOWL RESTAURANT Pancakes & More**



**1494 Miner Stree  
Des Plaines, IL**

**(847) 759-0500**  
[www.sugarbowlpancakesandmore.com](http://www.sugarbowlpancakesandmore.com)

Hours 6:00 am - 4:30 pm  
7 Days A Week

## **“KORAEES STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT SCHOOL BUS SAFETY”**



*Koraes Elementary School was excited to have Toby Tire of the Illinois Secretary of State's office teach our students about school bus safety. Kindergarten through third grade students took to the East Room and watched an eye-opening and interesting presentation that taught them many bits of information about proper behavior with school buses. The children were invigorated and so very excited by watching Toby Tire wheel back and forth, turn to face them head-on and teach them with a voice and movements very lifelike. It was a different and thoroughly entertaining presentation that Toby Tire gave our younger Koraes Elementary students. They learned a great deal about school bus safety, as a result.*



**Reclaiming revolution** In New York, a former rubbish dump at Fresh Kills is being turned into a massive recreational space, three times the size of Manhattan's iconic Central Park. (NYC Parks)



**Fresh perspective** Reclaiming Nature's Metropolis reimagined Chicago's business district, replacing traffic-snarled roads with acres of green space.

**ΛΥΣΤΕ ΤΟ ΠΡΟΒΛΗΜΑ ΤΩΝ "ΠΑΡΑΣΙΤΩΝ" ΣΤΑ  
ΡΑΔΙΟΦΩΝΙΚΑ ΜΑΣ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΑ. ΑΚΟΥΣΤΕ ΜΑΣ  
ΑΠΟ ΤΟ ΚΟΜΠΙΟΥΤΕΡ ΣΑΣ ΠΕΝΤΑΚΑΘΑΡΑ ΚΑΙ  
ΜΑΛΙΣΤΑ 24 ΩΡΕΣ ΤΟ 24ΩΡΟ.**

**[WWW.THECHICAGOGREEKHOURS.COM](http://WWW.THECHICAGOGREEKHOURS.COM)**

NEWS FROM GREECE

Worldwide child porn ring suspects include 11 Greeks

Eleven Greeks are among the 348 suspects arrested in an international Canadian-led operation to smash a pedophile ring, it emerged on Friday.

The Athens-Macedonian News Agency said that six of the suspects are from Athens, four from Thessaloniki in northern Greece and one from Hania on Crete. The 11 men were arrested in September last year on suspicion of trading and sharing indecent images of children.

Police in Toronto announced this week that their child pornography investigation led to the rescue of 386 children around the world and the arrest of 348 people. Officers said they began their investigation in 2010 and worked with Interpol in more than 50 countries including Australia, Spain, Mexico, Norway and Greece. The identities of the Greek suspects have not been made public.

Banks miss the target for SME funding

Credit to small and medium-sized enterprises via various funding tools missed the target set for October by 137 million euros, according to Development Ministry data.

It therefore appears extremely unlikely that banks will meet the 2-billion-euro target for credit given to SMEs by the end of

the year, a goal now postponed to end-February 2014.

Last month banks issued funding of 713 million euros to SMEs against a target for 850 million, with National Bank being the only systemic lender to make its target. Banks attributed this to the climate of uncertainty last month as well as their workload in arranging their own affairs.

The issue was the focus of a meeting on Friday between minister Costis Hatzidakis and the board of the Hellenic Bank Association.

"I expect banks will do everything they can to make up for the lost ground in the following months," Hatzidakis said after the meeting.

Greek importers see foreign mistrust easing

Greek importers of commodities ranging from cars to electrical appliances and baby food are starting to report a warming in relations with their foreign suppliers or multinational parent companies thanks to the restoration of the country's image abroad over the last year. However some importers say their foreign partners and associates

tend to display rather "imperialistic" attitudes characterized by mistrust.

The outbreak of the financial crisis in Greece and the major risk of default and a eurozone exit for about two years made multinationals and suppliers extremely cautious when dealing with their local partners and associates, and to a lesser extent with their subsidiaries in this country.

Depending on the sector, the credit terms imposed by multinationals and exporters on their Greek partners became particularly harsh, according to the latter. "The terms have always been rather 'imperialistic,' but the situation grew even worse with the crisis, as our foreign felt they had a pretext for that," Joseph Sinigalias, president of the Association of Electrical Appliances Manufacturers & Importers (SVEIS), told Kathimerini English Edition.

In a letter to Finance Minister Yannis Stournaras a few weeks ago, the head of the Central Union of Chambers (KEE) and the Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry (EBEA), Constantinos Michalos, stressed that "not only do foreign suppliers not offer any credit to Greek importers, but they also demand that the full price of the traded goods be paid before loading and forwarding."

Also speaking to Kathimerini English Edition, Dimitris Patsios, general director

of the Association of Motor Vehicles Importers-Representatives (AMVIR), added, "We were asked to supply high guarantees as part of our contractual terms, while the average period of credit was also reduced," given that the country risk had foreign companies worried about whether they would eventually be paid in euros or in drachmas.

Some importers – of baby food, machinery spare parts and other commodities – not only saw their credit lines evaporate but were asked to pay up front for imports at a time when local banks were also unwilling to extend credit. "Foreigners won't accept letters of guarantee from Greek banks because they have no confidence in them. They only accept them if issued by banks abroad with a top credit rating," noted Andreas Christoforidis, chief commercial officer at auto importers Viamar.

Of course it's not the same for all sectors: "The greater the volume of imports, the smaller the problem," explained Christoforidis. "When importing cars, the problem isn't so bad, especially after several years of cooperation, but if we were to import, say, pillows, it would have been very different indeed."

Savvas Balouktsis, president of the Machinery Importers & Representatives Association (SEAM), said: "In our sector there was a significant lowering of credit levels. This came along with a feeling of reservations on the part of the foreigners, though not to the extent that would have stopped trade. At least now things have improved somewhat."

Indeed, it appears that several sectors are starting to enjoy a small recovery in confidence from their foreign suppliers thanks to the risk of a Greek default being averted. "Foreign companies are clearly still worried, but the atmosphere is calmer and we no longer see the panic moves of two years ago," said SVEIS's Sinigalias, who is also the president of Candy Hoover Hellas: "It seems we are bottoming out."

Stournaras: Fresh austerity measures would be 'unnecessary' and 'dangerous'

Debt-hit Greece will resist pressure from its lenders for more austerity measures, the country's finance minister has said while downplaying a discrepancy in projections about the country's fiscal gap.

"No austerity measures are needed. They are dangerous; we should let the automatic stabilizers work. We are willing to take structural measures with a fiscal impact, but not austerity measures," Yannis Stournaras told CNBC late Thursday.

"Greece has achieved tremendous progress up to now, people have made huge sacrifices; so we have to be very careful now what kind of measures we implement to close the fiscal gap, if any," he said.

Late on Thursday eurozone finance ministers meeting in Brussels pressed Greece to speed up structural reforms and continue fiscal consolidation and privatization to unblock more of the international loans that keep its ailing economy afloat.

"The only way forward to strengthen economic perspectives, to strengthen competitiveness, is to follow up on what we agreed, on the commitments that we made to each other," the chairman of eurozone finance ministers Jeroen Dijsselbloem said after the Eurogroup meeting.

Responding to a question from CNBC regarding the discrepancy in projections about the country's fiscal gap, Stournaras said: "As an academic, this is not a precise exercise, so we are negotiating." Troika inspectors have said that Greece faces a 2 billion euro shortfall in achieving its primary budget surplus target of 1.5 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2014. Greek government officials say the figures is just 500 million euros.



BEST WISHES FROM AMERICA'S MOST POPULAR GREEK RESTAURANTS

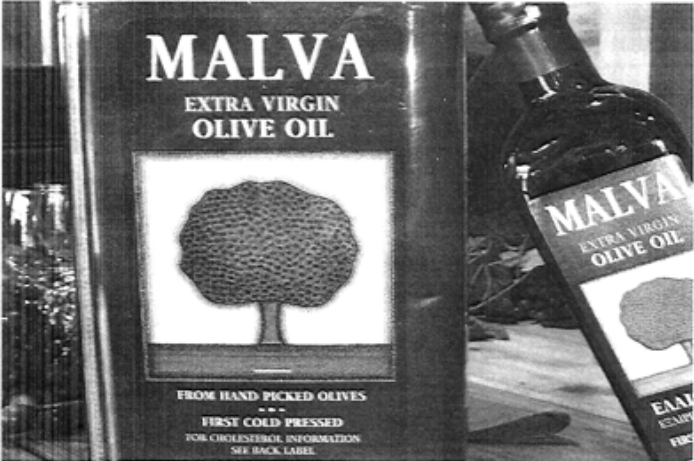
CHICAGO  
200 S. HALSTED  
(312)782-9855

LOMBARD  
300 E. 22<sup>ND</sup> ST.  
(630)932-4545

MONEMVASIA WINERY



MALVA OIL CO.



Imported exclusively for the Greek Islands Restaurants.

Please visit us for a delicious meal, and don't forget to purchase your wine, extra virgin olive oil, Greek honey, oregano and more...

'Quite possible' Iran, powers can reach nuclear deal soon



- Major powers and Iran are getting closer to an initial agreement to curb Iran's nuclear program, a senior U.S. official said on Friday, adding it is "quite possible" a deal could be reached soon. "For the first time in nearly a decade we are getting

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton and Iranian FM Zarif meet in Geneva. (Pool / Reuters)

close to a first-step ... that would stop the Iranian nuclear program from advancing and roll it back in key areas," the official told reporters.

"I don't know if we will reach an agreement. I think it is quite possible that we can, but there are still tough issues to negotiate," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity. The talks will seek to finalize an interim deal to allow time to negotiate a comprehensive, permanent agreement with Iran that would end a 10-year deadlock and provide assurances to the six powers that its atomic program would not produce bombs.

Iran has denied that it is seeking the capability to produce atomic weapons and insists its nuclear ambitions are limited to the peaceful generation of electricity and other civilian uses. U.S. President Barack Obama has urged skeptical U.S. lawmakers not to impose new sanctions on Iran while negotiations are ongoing and called for a pause in U.S. sanctions to see if diplomacy can work. In addition to lobbying lawmakers, the White House this week also reached out to progressive groups supportive of diplomacy with Iran to make sure they stay aligned with the Obama administration's approach, according to a source close to the matter.

Senior administration officials told supporters that they are guardedly optimistic about reaching an interim deal with Iran in Geneva and that the P5+1, including the French, are ready to present a unified position there, the source said.

A senior administration official estimated that Iran has about \$100 billion in reserves, the vast majority of which is held up in overseas bank accounts, which Tehran has limited or no access to. U.S.-imposed sanctions have hit Iran's economy hard. U.S. officials estimate that the economy contracted by more than 5 percent last year and its currency lost about 60 percent of its value against the U.S. dollar since 2011.



Koola holds her new baby and she takes good care of it!



Billy Goat Tavern owner Sam Sianis takes in the scenery at the original location on Lower Michigan Avenue in Chicago. Sianis told the Tribune he knew nothing of potential plans to replace the Realtor Building at 430 N. Michigan Ave. The plans, should they move forward, would displace the Billy Goat, if only temporarily. — Anthony Souffle, Chicago Tribune, Nov. 12, 2013

EU and US edge toward trade deal

A week of trade talks in Brussels have taken the European Union and the United States a little closer to a deal to liberalise bilateral trade. EU officials say the trade relationship with the US is already the biggest in the world, worth more than 2bn euros a day. But barriers remain, and removing them could make it even bigger. If it



happens, the agreement would be huge, capable of changing the shape of global trade.

Trade talks are never quick and easy. They can be fiendishly technical and contentious politically. They are also wide ranging - the great cliché of trade negotiations is: "Nothing is agreed until everything is agreed." But there is clearly a political will on both sides of the Atlantic to make it work. Both parties to the talks believe there are significant economic gains to be made from reducing trade barriers.

A study for the European Commission estimated the combined gains for Europe and the US at more than 300bn euros a year. A whole range of trade barriers are under the microscope in these talks.

Double regulation

Much of what they are discussing is regulation. Up to 80% of the gains could come from this area. This is not just about unnecessary red tape that can simply be removed, though there may be some of that. The problem is that businesses often have to comply with two sets of regulation if they want to sell goods in both markets. That means all the associated costs have to be paid twice over. The regulations often have the same objective - frequently safety. There are different rules, for example, on car lights and door locks and many other components.

If they mean the same level of safety then in principle each side could accept anything that has met the other's standards. That idea - "mutual recognition" as it's

called - is one of the key features of the EU's own internal market that eases trade between EU countries. There are some areas where mutual recognition will be a political minefield. Genetically modified (GM) food is the obvious case, where Europe takes a very sceptical approach to allowing new examples to be sold. It is a very unwelcome barrier to exports as far as American farmers are concerned. GM wasn't even discussed this last week according to the negotiators. It will be tough when they do.

Environmental concerns

There are concerns that regulatory reform might lead to the lowest level protection becoming the standard - "harmonising down" as it has been called. The environmental group Friends of the Earth has said the result of the negotiations could be "a dangerous deregulation of environmental and public health safeguards". The lead negotiators from both sides insisted that would not happen. After the Brussels talks, the chief American negotiator Dan Mullaney said: "Nothing we do to reduce unnecessary regulatory barriers will undermine the high standards of public health and safety and environmental and consumer protection that citizens on both sides on the Atlantic expect and enjoy." Another type of barrier to trade is tariffs, taxes that apply only to imported goods. Technically they are relatively easy to deal with - you can simply cut them. But politically it is more difficult as there will often be objections from industries and workers that lose protection. In this case the potential gains are limited because average tariffs imposed by the US and the EU are already relatively low. There are exceptions for some types of goods, but that is the general picture for these two trade powers.

These negotiations continue a pattern in international trade in which countries have increasingly sought to free up trade bilaterally or among small groups.

It is in part a response to the lack of progress in global talks at the World Trade Organisation. They started 12 years ago and have yet to yield an agreement. So we can expect more of these bilateral initiatives, though none quite as important as this one, between the two biggest economies in the world.



From a performance artist's contortions in Dresden, Germany to a sculpture representing Lady Gaga in New York