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OF THE

75TH ANNIVERSARY
COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE

OF

AHEPA

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SUMMER 1997



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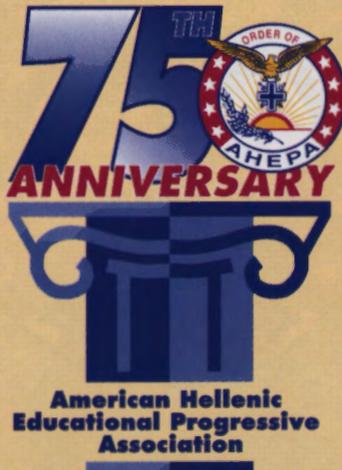
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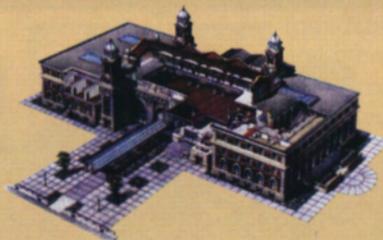
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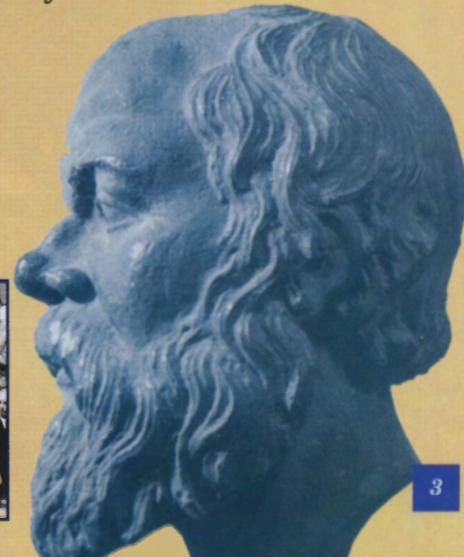
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Congratulations on 75 years of leadership for Hellenism!

from
The 1996-1997 Ahepa Supreme Lodge



The AHEPA Supreme Lodge for 1996-97. Standing from left: Governors Paul G. Pappas, of Poland, Ohio; James Katramadros, of Colonia, N.J.; Byron Smyrniotis, of St. Louis, Mo.; James Miller, of Portland, Or.; Ike Gulas, of Birmingham, Al.; George Anagnostos, of Portsmouth, R.I. and John Grossomanides, Jr., of Westerly, R.I. Seated from left: Secretary James F. Dimitriou, of Palos Verdes Estates, Calif.; Canadian President Anthony Mavromaras, of Agincourt, Ontario; President Spiro J. Macris, of Wilmington, N.C. and Vice President Steve A. Manta, of Chicago. Not pictured are: Counselor John Antholis, of Morristown, N.J.; Athletic Director Monthe N. Kofos, of Marlboro, Mass.; Governor Nicholas A. Karacostas, of Flushing, N.Y.; Sons National Advisor James Lolis, of Woodside, N.Y. and Treasurer Michael D. Papapanu, of Penfield, N.Y.

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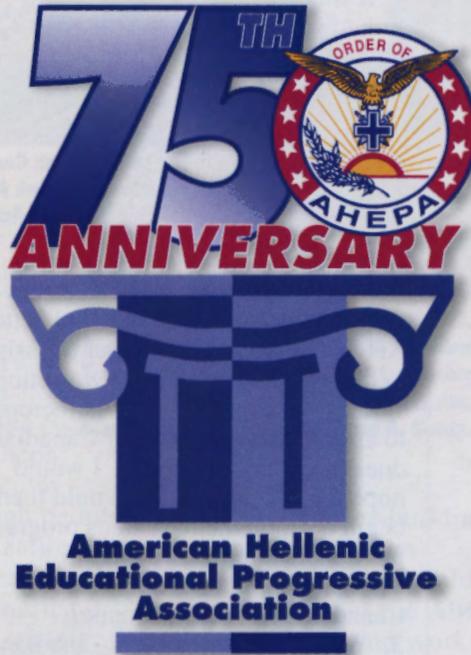
CHAPTER SECRETARIES OR PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTORS:

Your chapter news is important to *The Ahepan*. Send your news and photographs to: **Editor, George Savidis, The Ahepan, 1909 Q St., NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20009.** All news items must be typed and double spaced and include your daytime phone number. Please review our Chapter News section for style. Make sure all photos are captioned. No photos will be returned.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

An Obligation To History

As I was searching through various Ahepa archival materials for relevant photos and articles in preparation for this edition of the magazine, I was struck by the amazing number of events, trends, and ideas which have come and gone during Ahepa's 75 years. Here, in no particular order, is a sampling of some of them:



The fact that the Ahepa has outlasted all of these events and trends, great and small, is a testament to the organizations founders, leaders, and members and to the real need it has filled in the community. No other Greek-American organization has been around as long because no other group has been able to provide the same fraternal, cultural, and philanthropic services.



Nicholas Garnett
Executive Director

Ahepa's 75th anniversary carries significance and obligation – significance because it proves the organization's relevance and staying power in a world which has changed so much. Ahepa's obligation is to the thousands of members who built and continue to sustain it and to future generations for whom it must change to continue to survive and serve.

- World War II
- world communism
- the Brooklyn Dodgers
- short skirts for women (at least twice)
- 18 Presidential administrations
- rail as a primary means of continental travel
- radio as the primary means of communication and entertainment
- \$.25 gasoline
- the Great Depression
- energy shortages
- manual typewriters
- skinny ties
- wide ties
- the League of Nations
- CB radios
- fondue
- nuclear arms race
- carbon paper
- Watergate
- regional wars, revolutions and coup d'etats
- beatniks
- silent movies
- monarchy
- the Soviet Union
- beehive hairdos
- the Great Society
- the leisure suit
- the mood ring
- transatlantic crossings on luxury liners
- soda fountains
- zeppelins
- flappers
- EST
- love-ins
- green stamps
- trolley cars
- film noir
- 3-D movies
- Nazism
- rationing
- big bands
- eight-track tape recorders
- crooners
- the Edsel
- Fedora hats

In the Spring 1997 edition of *THE AHEPAN*, page 25, the obituary on Past Supreme President Nicholas Strike inadvertently left out the date of Mr. Strike's unsuccessful bid for governor of Utah, 1972. Our apologies to his family and friends.

A Look at The Past; A Glimpse of the Future

by Spiro Macris

This special issue of *THE AHEPAN*, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the AHEPA, is one which I believe we will all read with intense interest and appreciation, and one which we will treasure for many years to come. This issue presents a historical review of the AHEPA through its 75 years of existence, and touches on the multi-faceted nature of the organization.

This multifaceted nature is, of course, Ahepa's strength, for there is something in the organization to appeal to all Greek Americans. There are those who would say that this is also AHEPA's weakness – that it cannot focus on any one thing and deal with it in a definitive and concentrated manner. There is some validity to this

charge, but an inability to focus can be as much a product of an unwieldy structure as it is a lack of will to perform.

Along with many articles that look at the past, there are three articles that look at the future: Dr. Charles Moskos on "The Future of Hellenism in America," His Eminence Archbishop Spyridon on "The Future of the Greek Orthodox Church in America," and my own article on "The Future of AHEPA in America, and Beyond." I'm sure you will find these articles fascinating reading.



Canada

It was my pleasure to visit Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto in April. I saw wonderful members of the AHEPA family in each community. I saw talent, youth,

energy, vision, experience, wisdom and maturity – all ingredients necessary for building a stronger and better AHEPA in Canada. In order to assist in this process, I will take two actions: **1.** I will ask the Board of Directors to approve the payment of Canadian dues in Canadian dollars. I would hope that the Canadians would then begin a supplementary dues program for Canadian purposes only, for example, the publication of a Canadian AHEPA magazine. **2.** With the advice of the Canadian President, Tony Mavromaras, I shall appoint a Canadian Cyprus and Hellenic Affairs Committee which will seek to educate the Parliament and the Canadian Government in matters relating to Greece, Cyprus and the Patriarchate.

Annual Trip to Greece

In early May, the AHEPA once again undertook its annual two-week journey to Greece, Cyprus and the Patriarchate. The scope and depth of this trip has never been truly appreciated by the Greek-American community at large.



Left to Right: Canadian President Anthony Mavromaras, President Spiro Macris, Greek Ambassador to Canada Ioannis Thomougou and Greek Ambassador to Zaire Athanasios Valassidis.

Perhaps the fault lies with the AHEPA for not publicizing it adequately. Because of the nature of this special anniversary issue, a full article on the trip will appear in the next issue of the magazine. Let it be said, however, that this trip occurring year after year as it does, is an achievement which no other organization can come close to matching.

It is at the same time a fact-finding trip, an opportunity to raise the profile of AHEPA in Greece and Cyprus, a means of showing steadfast support for the Patriarchate, and finally a journey which nourishes the Hellenic roots of those who participate in it.

A Final Word

This will be my last message in *THE AHEPAN* magazine as President of the AHEPA. I thank all of you for having given me the opportunity to serve you. It has been both a trying and a rewarding experience, and I can only hope and pray that my efforts have made a difference in helping to build a better and stronger AHEPA.



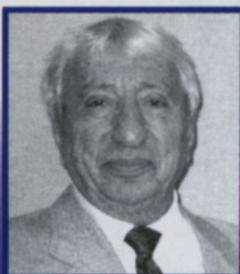
Left to Right: Daughters of Penelope President Joanne Hologittas, Vice President Steve Manta, President Spiro Macris, and Greek President Costas Stephanopoulos.



Members of the Ahepa delegation meet with His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew at the Halki School.

It's Time To Take A Step Back And Look Forward

It's been a tumultuous time in Ahepa's history to serve on its Board of Directors. Our thoughts and actions have been dominated by attorneys, law suits and counter suits, financial pressures, blame and retribution, some victories and many disappointments. We've seen the trust we placed in others abused and we have seen first hand what the combination of connivance and greed can do to an organization.



Sam Nakis
Chairman,
Board of Directors

But this anniversary is a time to stop, step back, and reflect on the best aspects of the Ahepa and its accomplishments: the proud, smart, tough people who built this organization; the role Ahepa has played in fully integrating Greek-Americans into every manner of this society; the thousands of students Ahepa has helped get an education; the millions of dollars Ahepa has raised for various charitable and philanthropic causes; the innumerable life-long friendships which have been formed; the recreational opportunities provided by Ahepa's athletic programs; our moral, political, and financial support for Greece and Cyprus; and the youths who have found friendship



The AHEPA Board of Directors for 1996-97.
Standing from left: Former AHEPA President A. Steve Betzelos, James Anas, Ernest Tsaptsinos, Steve Moskos, Secretary George Paul, and Spiros "Sam" Arfaras. Seated from left: Vice Chairman A. Jack Georgalas, Chairman Sam Nakis, AHEPA President Spiro Macris, and Vice President Steve A. Manta. Not pictured is Thomas J. Lukas.

and character-building opportunities in the youth auxiliaries.

It is the more noble and positive characteristics of the Ahepa which keep many of us loyal and working hard for its continued success. And it is these characteristics which will see us through present and future challenges. Ahepa's success can only continue if we build on its remarkable achievements and continue to serve our members and the community. On behalf of current and future board members, I express my gratitude to those that continue to give back to an organization which has given so much over the last 75 years.



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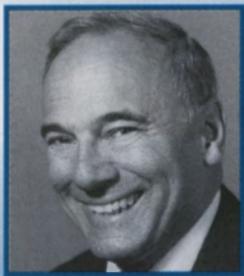
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How **AHEPA** So Richly Enhances Our Dynamic **American &** **Canadian** **Communities**

Since the time
of the KKK:
A historic
catalyst of
progress,
challenges and
opportunities



James Scofield
is Past Supreme
President of both
AHEPA and the Sons
of Pericles. He is an
award-winning
journalist and news
library expert
recognized
internationally for
his pioneering of
electronic news
information systems.
His father and uncles,
all Ahepans, risked
their lives and
livelihood to fight the
KKK in northwest
Indiana in the 1920's.

Fear and Tragedy

It is 1922. The evil shadows of bigotry, hatred and intolerance cast their malignant darkness on North America.

The newly-reorganized Ku Klux Klan rages over frightened immigrants and helpless minorities in the United States. It dominates politics in states in both the North and the South. In Canada, its dangerous wicked ways are transplanted and flourish.

Three million militant Klansmen stalk across our continent.

The Klan elects sixteen U.S. senators (nine Republicans, seven Democrats), eleven governors (six Republicans, five Democrats) and an undetermined large number of Congressmen during its reign of terror and power.

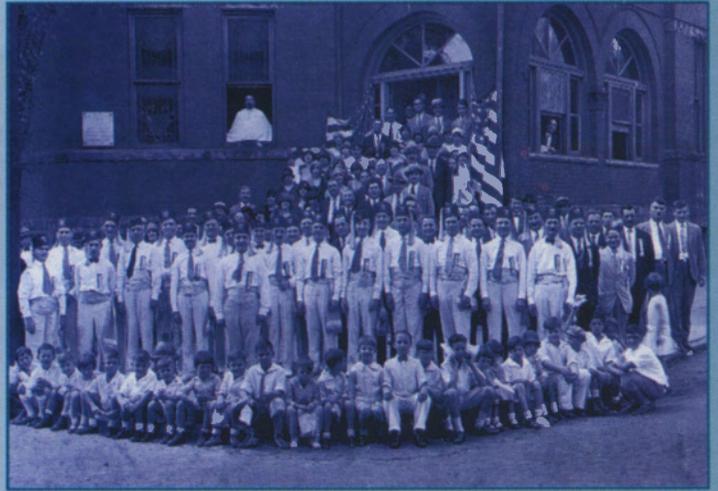
Klan organizations rule local politics in the major cities of Denver, Dallas, Indianapolis and Portland, Oregon, as well as in the smaller cities of Youngstown, Ohio; El Paso, Texas; Canon City, Colorado; Anaheim, California; and Portland, Maine, and elsewhere.

In 1922, California and Oregon voters elect a Klan-endorsed gubernatorial candidate. Then in 1924, a Klan candidate wins the governorship in Kansas. That same year, the Klan endorses U.S. Senate winners in Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, Oklahoma, Colorado and Texas. It also wins the gubernatorial contests in five of these six states, narrowly losing in Texas to an anti-Klan candidate.

North of the border, the Canadian Klan becomes a strong force in British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan, and to a lesser extent in Ontario. It is not as powerful, but has to be reckoned with in Manitoba, Quebec and the Maritimes.

At its peak, the Canadian Klan strikes boldly with violence and boycott, stages massive public rallies, lobbies successfully for changes in government policy and achieves considerable political clout, electing many officials on the local and provincial levels.

At U.S. election polls, the KKK hands out cards which read:



Ahepans,
circa 1927



AHEPA Headquarters in Washington, DC

*When cotton grows on the fig tree
And alfalfa hangs on the rose
When the aliens run the United States
And the Jews grow a straight nose
When the Pope is praised by every one
In the land of Uncle Sam
And a Greek is elected President
THEN—the Ku Klux won't
be worth a damn.*

A Dream Realized

Meanwhile, visionary Americans of Hellenic heritage create the Order of AHEPA in Atlanta and the high tide of infamy begins to recede.

Today the 1920's version of the KKK is long gone—and its weak successors are virtual nonentities.

Despite some unfortunate twists and turns, the AHEPA continues to thrive seventy-five years after its legendary birth.

But most important, primarily because of AHEPA action and vigilance, Hellenic Americans and Hellenic Canadians now are in the vital mainstream of accomplishment and leadership. They are accepted, validated and endorsed by their fellow American and Canadian citizens—elite and ethnic, native-born and foreign-born.

Inspired Invention

It has been wisely said that if the Order of AHEPA did not exist, somebody with inspired vision would invent it.

It would be invented out of sheer necessity—to protect our people everywhere in the world, to enhance our public image, to channel our philanthropy, to educate our young, to house our needy elderly, to fight diseases affecting us, to kindle the progress of our causes and to celebrate our triumphs.

Such a positive grass roots organization would capture the imagination and respect of the governmental leaders of both the United States and Canada.

The general citizenry would admire these Hellenes for their influence and prominence as an interested, involved and responsible group.

They would point to us as a model ethnic fraternal organization, worthy of flattering imitation.

But the real truth and reality is that we already have all this in our existing AHEPA family.

Deeds and Leadership

AHEPA has earned its laurels through noble deeds.

The patriotism of its members is exemplified by its success during World War II when AHEPA sold over 500 million dollars of U.S. War Bonds, a miraculous sum at that time—more than was raised by any other organization in America.

In another sphere, Ahepans have been the prime organizers and leaders of nearly 400 Greek Orthodox church parishes throughout North America, while maintaining the non-sectarian character of AHEPA. They also help to finance and lead national and diocesan church institutions.

AHEPA contributes more than two million dollars a year through its national, district and chapter levels to charitable endeavors. AHEPA fights for human rights. AHEPA fosters education. AHEPA funds medical research. AHEPA champions the preservation of Hellenism. AHEPA supports good government. It stands in the forefront of what is right for America and Canada.

Singular Success

Today, American Hellenes proudly rank number one among all ethnic groups in individual educational attainment and second in individual wealth. Canadian Hellenes appear to duplicate this remarkable status.

It is obvious that we have succeeded in every facet of American and Canadian life...despite discrimination and even violence against us.

AHEPA has played the key historic role in achieving this success, indeed worthy of our ancient ancestors.

Bridges and Missions

Yes, the Ku Klux Klan deserved to die—and died. AHEPA deserves to live—and lives. It lives as the true Number One organization of Hellenism.

It lives as the only bridge between those of us who are Greek Orthodox Christians and those Hellenes who are not. It lives as the lone gathering place for our people and those Philhellenes of other religions and nationalities who wish to join with us for the common good.

AHEPA goes far beyond the civic, the

political, the religious, the ethnic or the fraternal. AHEPA symbolizes and captures the magnitude and diversity of the people we represent and of the nation in which we live.

Deserved Praise

Former U.S. President George Bush eloquently and correctly described the Order of AHEPA as one of “the thousand points of light.” It is a dynamic and distinguished volunteer organization which makes America greater—and adds to the solid stature of Canada.

And the complimentary sentiments expressed by President Bush have been echoed again and again in words of appreciation by many U.S. presidents and Canadian prime ministers since our founding.

No other Hellenic organization or institution anywhere enjoys so unanimously the sincere acknowledgment, respectful admiration and great esteem which AHEPA holds among world governmental leaders—including those of Greece and Cyprus—and others in high positions.

A Bright Future

Yes, AHEPA will continue unabated its golden service to all humanity.

Yes, the future of AHEPA does indeed appear as bright as sunshine—with an unbroken span of productive and successful years beckoning over the horizon of the new century.

The AHEPA is more than just alive and well. AHEPA is on the rise...it is on the move...it is responding to and reflecting the needs, desires and hopes of our Hellenic people everywhere.

AHEPA is realizing the grand visions of its founders...and it is well on its way to fulfilling a brilliant future for generations yet to come.

It Depends On Us

Of course, the magnitude of such a promising future for AHEPA depends on the depth of our dedication, our forward thinking and our devotion to its precious principles of Fraternalism, Hellenism and Good Citizenship for America and for Canada.

It is an ancient certainty that the progress of any group is determined solely by its members. All the lofty goals, magnificent guidelines, lawful Constitutional mandates and fancy organizational charts mean nothing if the members do not respond effectively to challenges and opportunities. People make things happen.

Thus, it is up to each and all of us to make our AHEPA family better and greater...to make sure that our noble Order prospers and grows now and in the fast-approaching Twenty-First Century...and beyond.

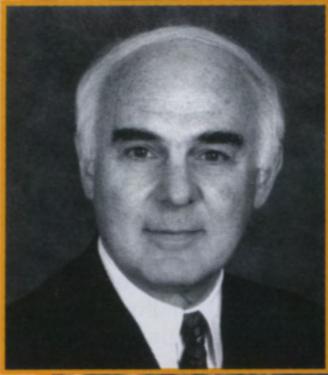
It will happen. Only because all of you are indeed worthy and deserving of what AHEPA has been, is now and will be—the glorious crown jewel of Hellenism—the mighty shining beacon of hope for Hellenes and Philhellenes throughout the world.

Thus, it is up to each and all of us to make our AHEPA family better and greater...to make sure that our noble Order prospers and grows now and in the fast-approaching Twenty-First Century...and beyond.

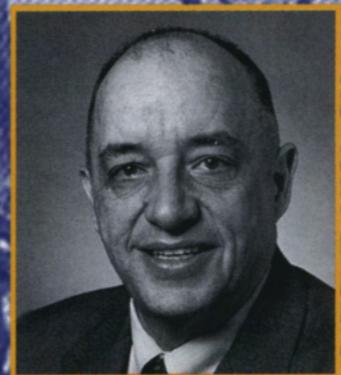


AHEPA throughout United States and Canada





**Supreme
President
Spiro Macris**



**Professor
Charles Moskos**

**His Eminence
Archbishop
Spyridon**

Our Future CHALLENGES

THREE UNIQUE VIEWS ON THE FUTURE OF AHEPA, THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH AND HELLENISM IN AMERICA

BY PROFESSOR CHARLES MOSKOS, ARCHBISHOP SPYRIDON, SPIRO MACRIS



The Future of Hellenism in America

Looking at the future of Hellenism in America, there is both good news and bad news.

First, the bad news. The demographics are not good. The era of migration is over. In 1995, the last year for which data are available, the number of immigrants coming to America from Greece was only 1,300. If one factors in returnees to the old country, there may even be a net loss through migration. To make matters worse, the Greek American population, along with other well off and well educated groups, has a low birth rate (as does Greece itself). In other words, we are not reproducing ourselves either through immigration or family size.

So what are the numbers of Greek Americans? According to the 1990 United States census there are some 900,000 Americans who state they have some Greek ancestry. Of these, about 200,000 are immigrants, 400,000 are American born of full Greek parentage, and 300,000 of mixed parentage. Needless to say, not all of those who acknowledge Greek ancestry identify themselves with the Greek American community. Independent survey data indicates that some 600,000 Americans report themselves as Greek Orthodox, a figure that probably comes closest to the number of identifying Greek Americans.

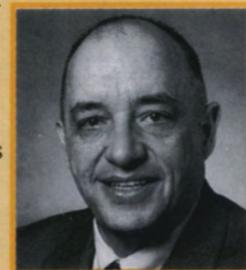
To compound matters, the Greek American population is relatively old. The children of the great wave of immigrants in the early decades of this century are now themselves reaching advanced age. Along with our immigrant forebears, this "second generation" has been at heart of the organizational life of the Greek-American community. In a decade or two, there will be few around with living memory of the pioneer Greek immigrants.

If these prognostications weren't gloomy enough, we

must also confront the growing ratio of intermarriages. Since 1980, over two-thirds of Church marriages involve a non-Orthodox. But even this figure understates the real number of intermarriages as we can safely assume that virtually all those who marry outside the Church — a large, if unknown, number — are marrying non-Greeks. At one time, Greek parents hoped their children would marry Greeks, now they hope their children will marry within the Greek Orthodox Church.

These elemental facts mean that, if there is to be a future for Hellenism in this country, a primary concern must be with non-Greek spouses and the children of the mixed marriages. The core question is what happens to the children of intermarried couples. Common sense suggests that these children will have less of a Greek identity than those who are the offspring of two Greek-American parents. Furthermore, for the large majority of the grandchildren of the immigrants and later generations Greek language competency ranges from meager to nonexistent, even among those with solely Greek ancestry.

Now to the good news. The Greek Orthodox Church could be on the verge of exponential growth within American society. We are seeing two exciting spiritual developments within Christian Orthodoxy in the United States. One is the emerging movement toward pan-Orthodoxy; the other is the phenomenal growth of Orthodox monastic orders in recent years.



Professor Charles Moskos, a life-long Ahepan, is professor of Sociology at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. Born in Chicago of parents coming from Northern Epirus, he is the author of many books and published pieces in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post* and many more.

Continued on page 12

The major liturgical churches in this country, moreover, are ripe for a mass conversion to Christian Orthodoxy. Roman Catholicism faces a crisis because of the celibate priesthood and the glaring gap between its proscriptions and what its members practice. Many Episcopalians are dismayed at the social trends they see as ascendant in their congregations. A significant movement toward Christian Orthodoxy from these disaffected parishioners can be expected to the degree our Church is not viewed as ethnically exclusive. Already, evangelical Protestants seeking a canonical Church are coming over to Eastern Orthodoxy in large numbers.

Paradoxically enough, the more the Church reaches out and accepts non-Greeks, always without compromise of its doctrinal tenets, the more it insures its own flowering and, therefore, guarantees some form of Greek-American ethnic survival into the indefinite future. Now that intermarriage has become the rule rather than the exception, its meaning has also been transformed. Marrying a non-Greek no longer carries a stigma, thus it is much easier for exogamous Greek Americans and their spouses to play an active membership in the Greek American community. Rather than bemoaning mixed-marriages, we should look at these marriages as opportunities for advancing the faith.

If Hellenism in the Church is to become less nationalistic, the maintenance of Greek identity in this country must follow a different path. The key to bolstering Greek ethnicity is to foster connections of Greek Americans with the old country. The advent of inexpensive airfare makes travel and stays in Greece much more feasible than ever before. Today's youth - and here we include those of Greek stock, mixed parentage, and even philhellene non-Greeks - will be the repository of future Hellenism in America.

Well designed education programs in Greece can be the major means to foster both a Greek American identity and a revival of the Greek language in this country. For example, more and more college students are spending a "junior year abroad." What better country for Greek American youth to do so than Greece? Already over a half dozen American college programs can be found in Greece. Likewise, excellent summer courses in Modern Greek and Greek culture already exist. Thinking ahead, we could easily envision an exchange program of a high school year in Greece or a "fifth year" of study in Greece following college graduation in America. Many older Greek Americans would also find a language and culture vacation in the old country very attractive.

In this country Hellenic studies programs in colleges and universities should be fostered and linked with continuing education in Greece. Whether in America or in Greece, it is the "E" for education in AHEPA that will matter most in the long run.

For Hellenism to have a future in America, then, we must proceed along two avenues: the religious and the ethnic. Each is different, yet complementary to the other. By opening up to the spiritually hungry, the Church will bring more Americans into contact with Greek ethnicity. By becoming more Greek in a secular sense, more people will find their way to Greek Orthodoxy in a spiritual manner.

In brief, as our Christian Orthodox membership becomes wider, our Greek ethnic identity must become deeper. This is the way for Hellenism to have a future in America.

The Future of The Greek Orthodox Church of America

After seventy-five years of expansion, adjustment, and adaptation to the American experience, the Greek Orthodox Church in the United States is now embarking on what may be the most critical stage of our growth as part of the American religious and cultural landscape. I would note the following three profound and life-changing questions which destiny is posing to us; for which we must be poised and ready to answer for our own sake and the sake of our children.

- 1) Are we going to be able to maintain and transmit to our children the **essential elements** of the Greek Orthodox Faith, Worship, Practice and Tradition within the pluralistic marketplace - the "agora" if you will - of this, the most powerful country on earth?

- 2) Are we going to be able to maintain - not a dual identity of Greek and American - but a **unified identity** as Greek Orthodox Christians who have both a proud Hellenic heritage and legacy and an equally proud citizenship of this great country?
- 3) Are we going to be able to embrace **diversity** in our local church communities, our families, our children's choices of spouses, and at that same time resist assimilation and homogenization of our unique gift and I would go so far to say our God-ordained responsibility to America - to be ourselves, to be who and what we are?! With pride, not arrogance. With humility, not embarrassment. With truthfulness, not compromise. With love, not envy.

The answers to these questions will speak volumes about the future of the Greek Orthodox People of America, and I believe that it is a bright future indeed.

After four or even five generations in this country, the process of simmering in the greater melting pot of America has changed the complexion of our communities. Local parishes, for the most part, do not serve the principal social and educational needs of the average Greek Orthodox



His Eminence Archbishop Spyridon was elected Archbishop of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America in July of 1996. He is the fifth Archbishop of America since the organization of the Archdiocese in 1922 and the first American-born elected as Archbishop of America.

FAITH, CULTURE, ETHOS,
HISTORY, LANGUAGE AND LOCAL
TRADITIONS FORM A COMPLEX
FABRIC OF SELF-IDENTITY AND
SOCIAL IDENTIFICATION.

Christian. The Greek Language, once part and parcel of home life, has disappeared from the daily experience of many families, if not most, of our young people. Dates like May 29, 1453, March 25, 1821 and October 28, 1940 are in danger of being relegated to remote corners in our collective memory. Even the most basic tenets of the Greek Orthodox Faith are often not transmitted in understandable ways for our young people, thus leaving them to grow up in a highly demanding society without the benefit of a firm grounding in the Faith.

These are serious challenges that we must face with a unified and consistent effort. It is no longer possible to assume that people of Greek Orthodox descent will remain so, unless the Church and the ancillary communities such as AHEPA, which together with the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese is celebrating its seventy-fifth anniversary this year, commence a proactive and focused response to the needs of our own people. Faith, culture, ethos, history, language and local traditions form a complex fabric of self-identity and social identification. The enormous advantage that we have as Americans is that we have the freedom and opportunity to pursue weaving this great tapestry of life in the most prosperous nation on earth. The disadvantage is that we become lax and/or overconfident about our ability to fulfill our truly apostolic mission to nurture the Faith within our own community and share the Faith with our neighbors.

This ultimately means that we need to see our **identity** as Greek Orthodox Christians as a fully integrated totality, representing the Hellenic patrimony we have received from our natural ancestors, the responsibilities and privileges of being Americans, and most of all, the **spiritual** inheritance we have as Orthodox Christians. Only with a full appreciation and acceptance of ourselves for what we truly are, can we avoid the divisions and divisiveness that would threaten our unified identity.

Not only will a secure sense of ourselves bring together all our best gifts, but it will enable us to share them with others. We know that in many of our communities, up to ninety percent of the marriages are with a spouse of a different Christian community. This would have been unheard of only twenty years ago. Here, in this sociological and demographic reality, is the key to our progress in the future. Where some would see this set of events to be a crisis, I see a remarkable opportunity.

In the first decades of Christianity, Gentile (or Greek) peoples were grafted on to the root of the Judaeo-Christian community, and thereby opened both groups to the riches each one had of themselves. (Let us not forget that the synthesis of the Hellenic Mind with the Christian Gospel was in accord with the divine plan, the *oconomia* of God; for it was through Greek *Paideia* that the transmission of the Gospel was made possible in the Hellenistic world of the first four centuries of the Christian Era.)

THIS ULTIMATELY MEANS THAT WE NEED TO SEE OUR IDENTITY AS GREEK ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS AS A FULLY INTEGRATED TOTALITY, REPRESENTING THE HELLENIC PATRIMONY WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM OUR NATURAL ANCESTORS, THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND PRIVILEGES OF BEING AMERICANS, AND MOST OF ALL, THE SPIRITUAL INHERITANCE WE HAVE AS ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS.

In our day, we have the extraordinary opportunity, by virtue of the efforts of our immediate forebears, to bear witness to the Gospel and spread this faith through the **inclusion** of spouses, adopted and step-children – the very experience of the American blended family – in the Greek Orthodox Church. It is no accident that that our mothers and fathers came to these shores

seeking a brighter future for themselves and their children. They were and still are part of the divine plan to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every nation under heaven. And what better place to start than right here in the United States of America!

It is a seemingly great paradox, but the plain and simple truth is that all that we hold dear: our Faith, language, culture, ethos and all the rest – can only be kept and preserved by giving it freely and lovingly away. As we share the totality of the Greek Orthodox experience, we shall find that we are strengthening our own foundations. And as we fortify those same foundations and make them strong, we shall find that our neighbors are attracted to the truth of our message. America is a great nation, not an archipelago. Let us not pretend that we can exist in isolation like some forgotten island in the cultural ocean about us. We have a transformative and transfiguring role to play.

Therefore, I would exhort every Greek Orthodox Christian to live in hope and expectation about the future. Let us, as we say in the Creed, the *Pistevo*, which we call the **Symbol** of our **Faith, believe, confess, and look forward.**

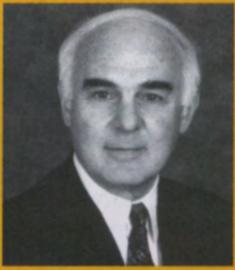
Let us **believe** with the conviction of our ancestors, who, as we chant at Pentecost, “caught the world with a net,” who built the greatest Christian Commonwealth in the history of the world, and who held onto their faith through four hundred years of religious persecution. Are we then destined to lose this “*parakatathiki*” – this great inheritance in a few paltry generations? I think not!

Let us **confess** our faith with boldness, with courage, with an eagerness to share with others borne out of our love, respect and genuine concern. This is not the pride that “goeth before the fall,” but a joyful and dignified self-respect which we should foster in our children.

And so, let us **look forward** to a bright and glowing future, filled with unheard of opportunity and virtually limitless possibilities. Truly, we are in the hands of God. And in these divine hands the future of the Greek Orthodox Church of America rests, for with His grace, with His blessings, with His power and according to His purposes, we can and will accomplish “all things to the glory of God.”

Continued on page 14

The Future of AHEPA in America, and Beyond



Dr. Spiro Macris has served two terms as AHEPA President. He practices orthodontics in Wilmington, North Carolina and has long been active in the Greek American community.

As the AHEPA celebrates its 75th anniversary, it is fitting that we step back and look at the changed, and changing, world about us, and then make some judgments about the role of AHEPA in this new world.

In 1989 the Berlin Wall fell and there followed a series of events which few could dream would happen so soon and so quickly: the reunification of Germany; the collapse of the Soviet Union; and the total emancipation of the nations of eastern Europe. Today the nations of Hungary, Poland, and the Czech Republic are about to become members of NATO.

The cold war is over; there is only one superpower and it is the United States. The old world view of two powers - the United States and the Soviet Union - in deadly competition

for the minds and hearts of the peoples of the world - has been forever shattered. Historians and political scientists, however, have been studiously at work devising new world views - new paradigms - of the nations and peoples of this planet.

One paradigm is expressed in Samuel Huntington's *Clash of Civilizations*, where he puts forth the notion that there are basically only seven or eight tribes, or civilizations - the Western, the Latin, the Islamic, the Orthodox, the Hindu, the Chinese, the Japanese and the African - and that at the contact points of these civilizations there will be continuing friction from time to time. This paradigm certainly explains what has always

been true in the Balkans, and what we are seeing today in Bosnia, a struggle for supremacy among the Western (or Catholic in this instance), the Orthodox and the Muslim civilizations.

If we are to accept this world view, or paradigm, then let us look at the Hellenic tribe a bit more closely. How large a tribe are we? In Greece, the motherland - *patrida* - or the metropolis, as the Greeks there would have it, there are approximately 10 million people. In the United States, the experts say there are approximately 900,000 Americans with

Greek ancestry - my gut instinct tells me there are more. In Canada there are some 400,000 people of Greek ancestry, and in Australia some 750,000 people of Greek ancestry.

The U.S., Canada and Australia are the countries with the largest numbers of diaspora Greeks. Interestingly, these countries are Anglo-Saxon in culture, English speaking in language, and totally free in religions and political expression. There are

other countries with Greek populations: Cyprus, Egypt, the Black Sea area, Russia, Germany, England, France, South Africa and South America. There are remnants of course in Turkey, the Balkans, and the Central Asian Islamic states.

There are then some 15 - 17 million members of the Hellenic tribe throughout this global village. More importantly, is this tribe, scattered throughout the world, at a point in its evolution wherein it can come together in a loose network of sorts, to help itself to face the coming competition of tribal or civilizational conflict - which will not be in the form of physical combat or war - but a more subtle but no less life-threatening form of conflict - an economic and cultural combat?

I say the answer is yes. And so does the government of Greece, which has just in the last two years established and promoted a new world organization of Greeks abroad - its acronym being SAE - its purpose being to bring together in a network all the various diaspora communities. And to what end? To promote Hellenic culture, to foster economic cooperation, and to seek assistance from these diaspora communities on the so called national issues - Cyprus, the Aegean, and the Patriarchate. Do these goals sound familiar?

The role of AHEPA in this new paradigm will not determine whether the AHEPA survives or not; the AHEPA will survive in some form or another. The type of role that AHEPA elects to play in this paradigm is of course the significant question. Will it remain primarily a social institution with some philanthropic goals, more inward looking than not, and more parochial than global in vision? Or will it become the secular voice of the Greek communities in the English speaking countries of the United States, Canada and Australia? This opportunity certainly is real, and my trip to Australia was made in an effort to reestablish ties and lay the groundwork for this eventuality. Can AHEPA be successfully established in other Greek diaspora communities of the world? Again I think the answer is yes. But obviously it will not happen without planning and effort. What will be the relation of AHEPA to SAE - one of cooperation or adversarial? That remains to be seen. There are important issues here that must be resolved.

Twenty-five years from now, when AHEPA celebrates its 100th

anniversary, what kind of organization will we be?

1. We must be an organization which seeks to educate its members and all Greek Americans about their history and the history of Hellenism. Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., in his book *The Disuniting of America* wrote these words: "For history is to the nation rather as memory is to the individual. As an individual deprived of memory becomes disorient-

ed and lost, not knowing where he has been or where he is going, so a nation denied a conception of its past will be disabled in dealing with its present and its future."

As Archbishop Spyridon says in his article on the future of the Church: "Dates like May 29, 1453, March 25, 1821, and October 28, 1940 are in danger of being relegated to remote corners in our collective memory."

WE SEEM TO HAVE COME FULL CIRCLE FROM OUR BEGINNINGS. FROM OUR ORIGINAL GOAL OF AMERICANIZING OURSELVES, WHICH WE HAVE DONE WITH A VENGEANCE, WE NOW HAVE THE NEED TO RETAIN OUR HELLENIC ROOTS, FOR THE SAKE OF OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN.

That is why articles such as the one which appeared in the Fall 1996 issue of *THE AHEPAN*, "September 6, 1955: Krystallnacht in Constantinople," by Dr. Speros Vryonis, Jr., must be an important part of every issue of the magazine. Book reviews and stories on significant cultural events must become a staple of *THE AHEPAN* magazine. Furthermore, the collection of historical records of our chapters and the Greek communities, and the establishment of a Greek American archives must be undertaken.

2. We must be an organization which continues to stress the "E" in AHEPA, as Dr. Charles Moskos states in his article "The Future of Hellenism in America," and as Dr. Minas Savvas states in his article "The E in AHEPA: A Reaction and A Few Modest Proposals" in the Winter 1997 issue of *THE AHEPAN*. Our chapters alone have well over 2 million dollars in trust funds and give out perhaps \$300,000 in scholarships each year. Should the extent and nature of these programs be reexamined? Dr. Van Coufoudakis and Dr. Savvas present fresh and imaginative ideas in their articles in the Winter issue about what the "E" should represent.

Dr. Moskos further states that "the key to bolstering Greek ethnicity is to foster connections of Greek Americans with the old country." He points out that with negligible immigration, an aging Greek American population, and a growing ratio of intermarriages, our efforts at retaining our Hellenic heritage must be focused on our youth. The journey to Greece for AHEPA youth unfortunately ended several years ago, and on a sour note. I am pleased to report that a new journey has been initiated this summer through the generosity of the Cyprus government for thirteen youths to spend two weeks in Cyprus in July. AHEPA must seek to expand this program to include a stay in Greece and a visit to the Patriarchate. This must become a number one priority and all the resources of AHEPA must be focused on this goal!

The issue of the Greek language must be reexamined. The Australia AHEPA has permitted a chapter in Melbourne to conduct its meetings in Greek. Should the AHEPA in the United States consider the idea of having Greek spoken at occasional meetings of chapters? Should the AHEPA become a source of financial support for Greek schools in communities around the country? We seem to have come full circle from our beginnings. From our original goal of Americanizing ourselves, which we have done with a vengeance, we now have the need to retain our Hellenic roots, for the sake of our children and grandchildren.

3. Finally we must be an organization which is aware of the world we live in and which is truly international in scope. I spoke on this point in the

Spring 1997 issue of *THE AHEPAN* in describing my trip to Australia. The global competition of which Professor Huntington speaks in his *Clash of Civilizations* is upon us.

Let me succinctly recapitulate: the AHEPA must promote a historical knowledge of Hellenism among all Greek Americans; it must initiate a program of trips to Greece for Greek American youth, in order to foster emotional bonding between the third and fourth generation Greek Americans and Greece and Cyprus; it must step up and assume great responsibilities befitting an international organization in regard to a global Hellenism. The AHEPA must do all this, and still remain distinctly and uniquely American.

Can we meet these challenges? It is our choice to make. We must not fail our parents and our grandparents. We must not fail our heritage.



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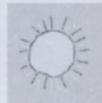
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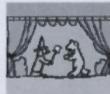
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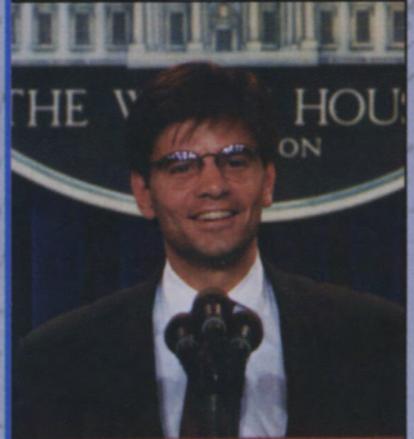
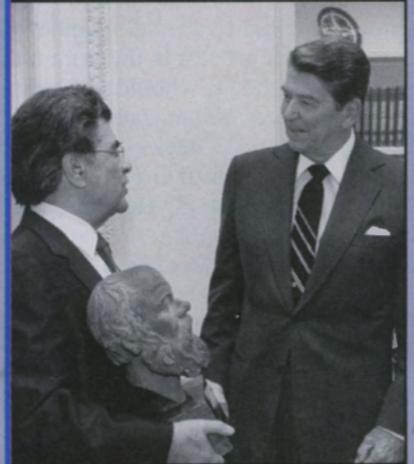
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BORN

July
26,
1922



75 Years
of Ahepa



EDUCATION, PROGRESS, AHEPA

One hot summer day in 1922, two Greek American businessmen, George Polos and John Angelopoulos, both traveling salesmen working out of Atlanta, met by chance in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Among other things, they talked about the growing wave of hostility that targeted their nationality and religion. It was a time when the Ku Klux Klan, reorganized in 1917 and thriving on militant patriotism, was enjoying a renaissance of hatred in the South. Meanwhile, in Washington, DC, Congress and the Federal Government were discussing ways to stem the tide of "less desirable" immigrants from "certain" countries, which invariably included the Balkan nations.

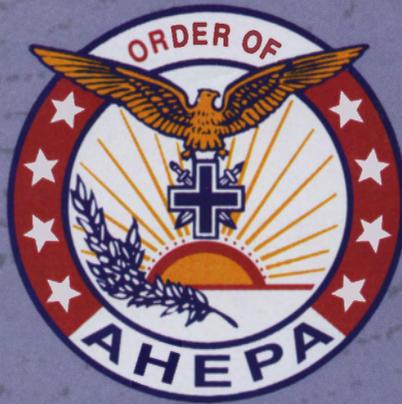
Both men agreed there was a real need for a patriotic organization that would direct and channel the energy of the Greek community in the United States, a group that would be politically non-partisan and religiously non-sectarian.

There was never a shortage of Greek fraternal organizations whose members came to America from the same region, island or village. These were the *topika somatia* that tended to departmentalize the Greek American community, keeping it well outside of the larger, mainstream American community.

These regional associations, along with the local parish church, brought the struggling immigrant some much-needed comfort, satisfying the basic human need of "belonging." In so many cases the members of these *topika* were instrumental in organizing and building the Greek Orthodox parish church across the land. Fortunate for future generations, many of these organizations are still around. So are the communities they helped establish.

However, faced with the tenor of the times, Polos and Angelopoulos agreed an organization with a much larger, national scope was needed.

The idea for a Pan-Hellenic organization wasn't new. There had been the Pan-Hellenic Union, established in 1907. But victimized by



its own fiscal mismanagement and charges that it was flat-out an agent of the Greek government, it suffered an ignoble end before the outbreak of World War I.

Both men agreed that a truly American fraternity of Greeks was the order of the day—a national group that could lead its members to rise above the political fights between Monarchists and Venizelists that typified Greek American community life, to its detriment.

They presented the idea to a group of twenty-five members of the Atlanta Greek community. Seventeen men offered their support. Now this group met in closed session. On July 26, 1922, the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association—the Order of AHEPA—was now a reality.

Twenty more meetings were held that year to lay the groundwork. Constitution and by-laws were adopted. It was decided that members had to be U.S. citizens or in the process of becoming citizens. English was adopted as the organization's official language. Annual dues were set at \$10. Officers were elected. The first president of AHEPA was Nicholas C. Chotas, an Atlanta businessman.

AHEPA'S FIRST DECADE

AHEPA's first decade was characterized by explosive growth. Initially it was a fraternity based in the South and Southwest. Of the 32 local chapters established between September 26, 1922 and October 14, 1923, just three were in cities north of the Mason-Dixon Line.

Appealing to a rising middle class

of Greek Americans interested in climbing the proverbial ladder of success and committed to raising their families in America, AHEPA had 49 chapters and over 2,800 members by the end of 1924. By 1928 there were 192 chapters and over 17,000 members nationwide including 1 chapter in Canada. Now many of the bigger chapters were in northern cities. Some of the larger cities were host to two or more AHEPA chapters.

The first national convention was held in Atlanta in 1923. The second conclave gathered in Washington DC in September of 1924. The delegates agreed that the Order should have its headquarters in the nation's capital, despite the fact that Washington had no enormous Greek community.

At this convention the 47 delegates laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and honored Greek American World War I hero George Dilboy, who was originally from Asia Minor. They also called at the White House, where they were cordially received by President Calvin Coolidge.

Above all, the most vocal critics condemned AHEPA's unabashed Americanism and what was perceived as unrestrained assimilationism.

COMPETITION WITH GAPA

By 1923 AHEPA had a rival: GAPA, or the Greek American Progressive Association. Along with publications of the Greek Press, GAPA charged Ahepans were "opportunists" and "pseudo-patriot" anti-Hellenes committed to a program of de-Hellenization."

On the language question AHEPA stood by English as the language of the country in which they'd chosen to live: AHEPA's publications were in English; GAPA's publications were in Greek. Greek was heard more or less exclusively at GAPA meetings. GAPA



Continued on page 18

Continued from page 17

chose to openly ally itself with the Greek Orthodox Church in America—an institution that in the '20s admittedly needed all the help it could get. AHEPA maintained its distance from religious affairs. GAPA made its headquarters in Pittsburgh, where it was founded, amid a large Greek community. AHEPA had quickly opted for Washington.

The Royalist-Venizelist controversies more or less a thing of the past, the rivalry between AHEPA and GAPA now kept community affairs lively and sometimes hostile.

Though by 1928 GAPA had organized fifty chapters, primarily in cities with large Greek populations, it never achieved the success AHEPA enjoyed.

AHEPA would be inherently better suited for the transition from a strictly Greek-born membership to one that accommodated Greeks born in the old country and the new world. It would prove more in tune with what it recognized early on was the inevitability of assimilation resulting from undeniably permanent residence in a multi-national country like the United States.

Nor was AHEPA as radical as its detractors charged. Once its super-patriotism cooled off somewhat,

AHEPA adopted a blend of what its members considered the most positive aspects of both the Hellenic and American cultures.

In 1924 AHEPA President V.I. Chebithes appealed to chapters to sponsor Greek orphans left homeless following the Asia Minor disaster of two years earlier. \$5 a month was required to sponsor a child, and some AHEPA chapters sponsored as many as thirty.

At its 1925 Chicago convention AHEPA urged the U.S. government to extend a \$50 million loan to Greece—and the aid came through. \$12,000 was also appropriated for a scholarship fund. And, in an effort to keep peace in the volatile Greek American community, AHEPA took pain to emphasize it did not oppose the existence of the foreign-language press in the United States.

AUXILIARIES ADDED: DAUGHTERS, SONS AND MAIDS

At the 1926 convention in Philadelphia a junior order, the Sons of Pericles, was organized for the 12-21 age group (see Sons and Maids article on page 48). The first Sons chapter was established a short time later in Manchester, New Hampshire.

In time, AHEPA would add auxiliaries for women and young women, too. The Daughters of Penelope (see article on page 37 and the Maids of Athena would round out a complete "AHEPA Family."

In 1927 AHEPA raised more than \$53,000 for charitable and philanthropic activities. The following year, in a matter of a few critical months, the members pooled over \$40,000 to aid the city of Corinth, which had been devastated by an earthquake. AHEPA was making a difference, insisted its members, and on both sides of the Atlantic.

A HIGHER PROFILE IN WASHINGTON

In 1929 a corps of Ahepans marched in President Herbert Hoover's inaugural parade—a "first" for any Hellenic-American group. It was a proud and genteel occasion that also included a visit to the White House.

In the coming years AHEPA built a stronger, more visible profile in Washington. Seventy-five Senators and Congressmen attended the Order's first Congressional Banquet, organized by George C. Vournas. Today that biennial event is an AHEPA tradition. In recent years honorees have included Presidents Lyndon Johnson, Jimmy Carter,



Through The Years



Ahepa and the Patriarch

(Clockwise from top) 1990: Past Supreme President Smyrnis, Past Grand President Julia Constantine, (89-90) Archbishop Iakovos, the late Patriarch Dimitrios, Past President Plumides, Past Supreme President Charles Tsaffaras (89-90) and Metropolitan Bartholomew at the Washington Ahepa luncheon in honor of the Patriarch. 1990: Past Supreme President Louis G. Manesiotes being greeted by the patriarch in Washington at the Ahepa luncheon in the summer of 1990. 1989: Past Supreme President Steve Betzelos (88-89) with Patriarch Dimitrios. 1979: Past Supreme President Nick Smyrnis (79-81) and past Supreme Vice President Gustav Coffinas with the late Dimitrios. 1981: Past Supreme Vice President Peter Cardiges, Spero Theros, Dimitrios, Past Supreme President Smyrnis and Past Supreme Vice President of Canada James Anas.



George C. Vournas

Ronald Reagan, George Bush, Bill Clinton, Vice Presidents Spiro Agnew (whose father, Theodore, helped found Baltimore's AHEPA Chapter No. 30 in 1922) and Hubert Humphrey, Greek Prime Minister Constantine Karamanlis, Patriarch Athenagoras and comedian-humanitarian Bob Hope (see his acceptance speech on page 27).

In 1932 AHEPA fought tooth-and-nail the speculations of the Wickersham Congressional Committee on Crime in the U.S. Its damning allegations infuriated the Greek American community, one of its victims. AHEPA, relying on its grass roots strength across the land, organized fact-finding forces in every state and succeeded in proving that the Wickersham Report was nothing more than a shameful and inaccurate sham.

AHEPA proved itself an anti-defamation group the likes of which the Greek American community had not had.

THE WARY YEARS

AHEPA's friendly, indeed brotherly relations with President Franklin D. Roosevelt also enhanced the organization's stature. FDR had been initiated as a member of AHEPA back when he was Governor of New York. Now AHEPA's regular visits to the Oval Office took on an added significance. They weren't the stiff, formal occasions they had been with Herbert Hoover and Silent Cal.

The dark days of World War II changed many a life, galvanizing the AHEPA membership and demonstrating just how much such an organization could achieve. The poignant turning point for Greek Americans came more than a year before Pearl Harbor. On October 28, 1940 Mussolini's troops invaded Greece from the north. That day is still remembered as revered as "Ohi Day."

An AHEPA visit to President Roosevelt a short time after brought about what the White House termed "an unusual procedure," as FDR

announced a promise of U.S. aid to Greece in her hour of peril.

The Greeks fought the Italians for five months and dealt Mussolini utter defeat. They managed to hold off Hitler's massive war machine for another three weeks before being overwhelmed. That heroism captured the world's admiration.

The Greek War Relief Association (GWRA), spearheaded by the Skouras brothers and other Ahepans in the movie theater business, raised \$4 million in food and supplies by May 1941. Ahepans in various businesses donated a day's or a week's profits to the cause, and many contributions came from non-Greeks. Ahepans provided about 90% of the labor force in GWRA efforts, speculates historian Theodore Saloutos, thanks again to its grassroots strength.

NOW A BROADENED SCOPE

In its so-called first phase, from 1922 to 1945, the emphasis was on "Americanization" and citizenship programs. Following the War, AHEPA broadened its scope and horizons. Now over half of the membership was American-born. Many of AHEPA's Post-War projects would be related to rebuilding a war-torn Greece and, in contrast to its original goal, keeping Hellenism alive among the American-born generations of Greeks.

CONCERN FOR HEALTH

Following World War II, Ahepans continued raising money for hospitals in Greece and other Greek war relief programs. However, civil war was raging in the motherland. Ahepans were concerned. So was the Truman Administration. On March 12, 1947 President Truman appealed to Congress for immediate military aid. Congress came through and the Truman Doctrine, as it came to

be known, was vital in saving Greece from Communism.

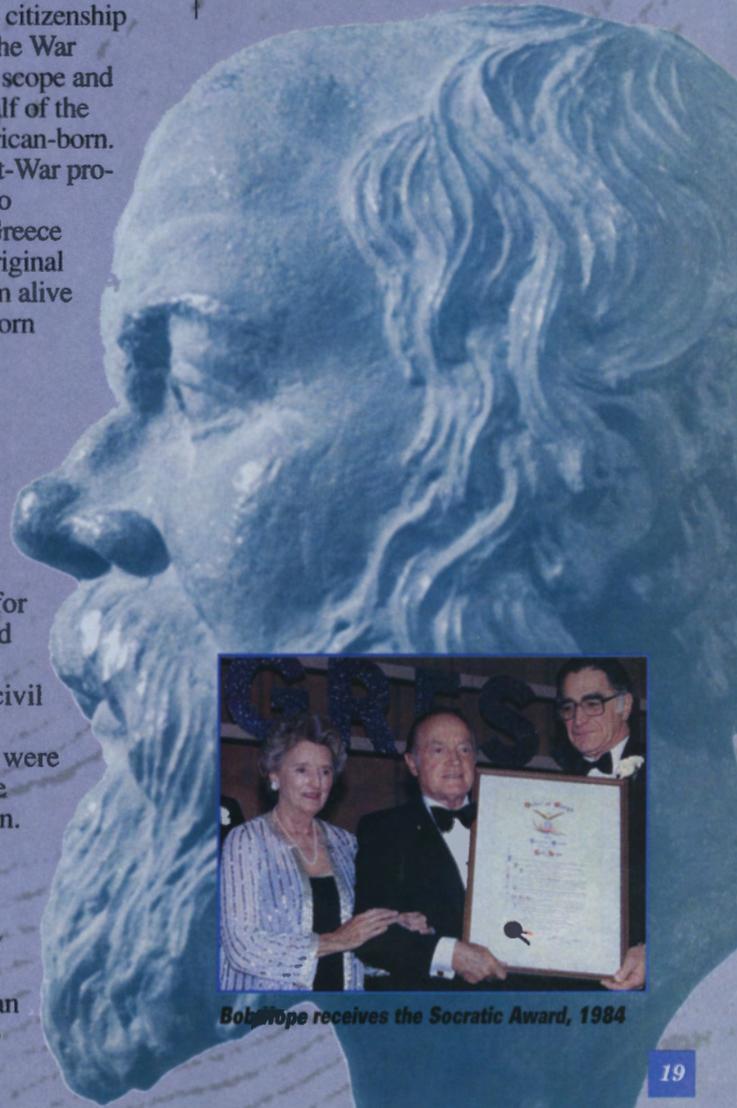
AHEPA maintained the warmest of relations with Truman, who was initiated into the Order on Greek Independence Day—March 25th—1946.

That year, AHEPA's first Health Center opened in Chrysoupolis in northern Greece. Construction began on an AHEPA Wing at Athens' Evangelismos Hospital. Other health centers were rising, though construction was often slowed and sometimes halted by guerilla attacks.

AHEPA had come of age. There was no question about the loyalty of Greek Americans to the United States or about citizenship.

AHEPA continued its educational and humanitarian efforts and civic-minded programs, focusing much of its energy on a homeland in desperate need of help.

Continued on page 20



Bob Hope receives the Socratic Award, 1984

FIRST DELEGATION SENT TO CYPRUS IN 1964

In the vanguard, AHEPA passed a resolution urging self-determination for Cyprus as early as 1946, setting up a Cyprus Affairs Committee two years later. In 1950 AHEPA called the world's attention to the estimated 28,000 children abducted by Communist forces in the Greek Civil War. In 1964 AHEPA sent its first delegation to Cyprus.

In an effort to inform the Greek American community, as well as the larger American community and the Washington community in particular, AHEPA sponsors conferences on foreign affairs that bring together government officials, political scientists, leading journalists and, of course, Ahepans. Not is it uncommon to find AHEPA leaders testifying on Capitol Hill before the House Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East or the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

EDUCATION: THE MAIN FOCUS

Indeed, education, in a variety of forms, has been a pillar of AHEPA since the very beginning. AHEPA started out educating the immigrant, acclimating him and, as AHEPA chronicler George J. Leber phrased it, "making him a gentleman."

In the early years AHEPA's education program emphasized citizenship and Greek as well as American history. Today it's a different story. With the third and fourth generations of Greek Americans coming of age, AHEPA is doing precisely what GAPA accused it of not doing: promoting and preserving Hellenism's spirit and values.

Scholarships have been part of AHEPA's civic service since the Chicago convention of '25. Paralleling that, AHEPA began building the bridge back to the motherland in 1928, when over 500 Ahepans set sail aboard the S.S. Sinaia.

Today AHEPA gives scholarships on the local and national levels to

THE REASON FOR
ESTABLISHING SUCH AN
ORGANIZATION WAS
NOW A PROUD MEMORY
AND AHEPA'S ENDURING
FOUNDATION.

promising Greek American students.

AHEPA and individual Ahepans have been a force in establishing Greek and Byzantine studies programs at colleges and universities around the country (see education article on page 50).

WE CANNOT FORGET OUR HELLENIC ROOTS

AHEPA has been re-focusing too, placing renewed emphasis on Hellenic culture, past and present. The AHEPA Cultural Foundation has sponsored an evening of Greek poetry and music and lectures on archaeological finds in Cyprus.

As a civic-minded group, AHEPA has always recognized Americans, Greek and non-Greek, who make valuable contributions to the community and society at large. These have included Presidents and Prime Ministers, ambassadors and humanitarians, recipients of AHEPA awards made in the name of Socrates and Pericles.

ATHLETICS PLAYS A KEY ROLE

The athlete has a very special place in Greek history and culture and, with AHEPA, so it remains. The Order has always taken enormous pride in the achievements of the Greek American athlete. AHEPA's Harry Agganis Award was established in 1955, in memory of the great All-American who died in his prime. Agganis honorees have included: in football, Detroit Lion

Alex Karras; in basketball, Boston Celtic Lou Tsiropoulos; and in baseball, Baltimore Oriole Milt Pappas. Among recent recipients are Olympic diver Greg Louganis and University of Georgia football coach and All-American Mike Castronis. (see Athletics article on page 59 for full list of recipients).

On the local, district and national levels, AHEPA and its junior orders sponsor a wide variety of athletic events and tournaments, believing, like the ancient Greeks, that sports and competition are an important part of daily and civic life.

HOUSING TOPS 320 MILLION

Nor has AHEPA forgotten the elderly. Soon the 41st Senior Citizen's Center organized under AHEPA's auspices will open. These facilities are being sponsored on the local level in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), requiring seed monies of at least \$10,000.

A TRADITION AND A LEGACY

Devoted to ideals of American and Hellenic culture, education and progress, AHEPA, despite its critics, has achieved a singular success. Since 1922 it has been a vital force in the life of the Greek American community.

Summing up the Order of AHEPA, Theodore Saloutos wrote: "More than anything else, through the years it accomplished more in identifying Greek Americans with the greater American community than did all the other organizations combined."

AHEPA's tradition is a proud one. Its legacy is a real one. Its mission goes on, setting sight on new horizons. AHEPA's active role in the Greek American community's development and achievements is a portrait of unselfish public service.

Initially written by Steven Phillips in 1984, Editor Peter Anas has updated this wonderful "Ahepa Story"

Our Magazine

Editor's Note: In tribute to the great leaders that have guided the course of the Order of Ahepa in the 75 years of its existence, we are reprinting articles, editorials and other interesting and informative material from past issues of the AHEPAN. The words of wisdom of the past will tend, we hope, to revive the old spirit of Ahepanism, as exemplified in the "golden years" of Ahepa.

1923

Address of Welcome
 Supreme President, N.D. Chotas
 First Annual Convention of AHEPA
 Atlanta, Georgia

As your Supreme President of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, it becomes my very pleasant and official duty to welcome my brothers to this, the first Annual Convention, of what we hope will be the greatest dominant influence ever to come into the lives of the Americanized Hellene.

Little did we realize, scarcely more than twelve months ago, when we started this wonderful movement, that the first gathering of representatives from our Subordinate Lodges would bring together such a splendid group of men, from such a large section of this glorious country. While we planned and hoped for strength to carry forward our work successfully, we hardly expected, even in our most optimistic mood, to achieve the



accomplishments which have been written into our history during the past year.

I can find no words strong enough to express the deep emotion and genuine affection I feel for those of you who sit here at a personal sacrifice, in order that you may render a service to those who need it. It has been written that — "No greater love hath any man than this — that he give his life for his friends." And surely, my brothers, you are living examples of that maxim.

If you will permit me, I wish to look back for a few moments, and to briefly review the history of the AHEPA.

The Greek, as a people, has been immigrating to the United States in considerable numbers for approximately thirty years. We are, you might say, the newest of American immigrants. Coming from a bleak and barren land, where education was attained only at a sacrifice, and where luxuries were practically unknown, we were hardly in a position to fit into the customs of the great American people, as have most of the other nationalities who have immigrated to this country. And yet, throughout the past thirty years, the Greek has not only succeeded in overcoming these handicaps, but has



"ΚΑΙ ΣΑΝ ΠΡΩΤΑ ΑΝΑΡΕΙΩΜΗΝ ΧΑΙΡΕ, Ω ΧΑΙΡΕ ΕΛΛΕΥΒΕΡΙΑ"

The First Annual Convention of the Ahepa... (transcription of the Greek text and its English translation follows in the article)

DANIEL WEBSTER
 Member of the House from Massachusetts

JAMES MONROE
 First President of the U. S.

HENRY CLAY
 Member of the House from Kentucky

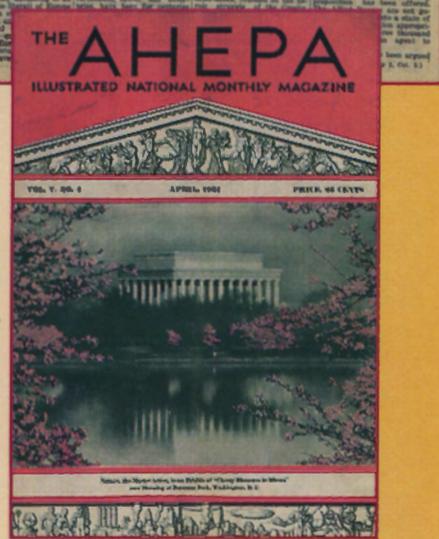
THE NATIONAL BROTHER OF GREEKS

THE ADDRESS OF THE NATIONAL BROTHER OF GREEKS

THE ADDRESS OF THE NATIONAL BROTHER OF GREEKS

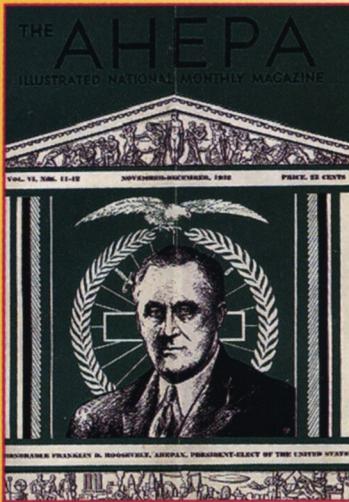
THE ADDRESS OF THE NATIONAL BROTHER OF GREEKS

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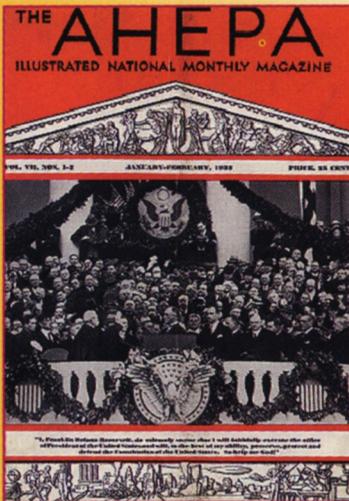


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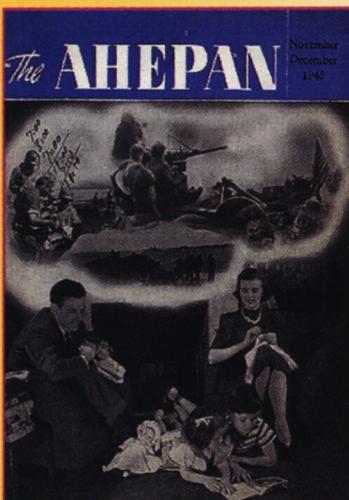
THE AHEPAN



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'45

Continued from page 21

established himself solidly in the commercial life of the American nation, and earned an enviable reputation as a peaceful and constructive citizen. He has, as a people, I dare say, a better record for accomplishments than any of his European brothers. The marvel of this is, that the Greek has succeeded individually and without the cooperative assistance which has helped other nationalities make progress in this great land.

During these thirty years, many of our countrymen have dreamed of an improved condition among the Greek, and have visualized the Greek as a United people, and have seen in their dreams, the Greek move forward to a political and social success equal to that which he has obtained commercially.

It is a most unfortunate fact, that up until the 26th day of July, 1922, no definite, tangible step had ever been taken to unite the Greek in a secret Fraternity, that would have for its ultimate purpose their advancement into a higher morality and civilization. Several attempts had been made to bring the Greek people together in Unions and Societies, for political and other purposes. But these, as you know, were miserable failures, because they were not inspired by the lofty ideals on which must be built the successful Brotherhood of Man.

Realizing the numerous failures that had been made by those who had previously attempted to organize the Greek, those who were responsible for the birth of this great Association determined that it should be built on a solid foundation, of an unbiased bond of Brotherly Love and Cooperation. With this principle thought in our minds, eight of us applied to the State of Georgia for a Charter which would permit us to attempt the organization of this Fraternity.

I shall not encroach upon your time by recounting the numerous obstacles we confronted, nor the many drawbacks which at times called for all the courage we possessed. It will suffice to say that we, each of us, pledged to the other the best effort of which we were capable, and with an initial fund of eighty (\$80.00) dollars, we attempted the organization of the city of Atlanta!



It has been said that "A prophet is not without honor save in his own country" and we certainly found this to be true. For after months of diligent effort we were rewarded with only suspicion and criticism from those to whom we looked for help and cooperation.

We then found it necessary to seek other fields in the attempt to realize our ideals. It was therefore in Birmingham, Alabama, from the worthy President of our Subordinate

Lodge there, that we received our first encouragement and placed the first stone in this great structure.

Lacking experience and capital, we found our path strewn with the almost insurmountable obstacles of political prejudice, mercenary suspicions, and lack of interest brought about by the slanderous statements of those who refused to understand our purpose. Thoroughly convinced, however, of the great necessity for an organization of this nature, and fully conscious of the justice of the project, we persevered. The result of that perseverance is to be found in your attendance here today. You Brothers represent the commendable pioneer, who saw the Mountain of Gold behind the Rain Cloud! I believe I can modestly say that we have advanced, and accomplished more, during the first year of our existence, than any other Fraternity in history. We look forward to a most brilliant future – a future filled with accomplishments brought about by your intelligent cooperation and enthusiastic encouragement. And when this Convention has adjourned, we hope that we shall deserve to have you say – "Well done thou good and faithful servant!"

1929

Ahepa and Character

By Dean Alfange
Past Supreme President, 1927 – 29

We become a part of every man with whom we come in contact. Man is the sum total of his past associations. Our conduct, good or bad, is governed by the impressions made upon us by those with whom we associate. Character is not altogether inherent. It is the aggregate of all the influences

to which we have been subjected throughout life. We can and will imitate the good things which we observe in others. We will also emulate the faults if the moral influences surrounding our lives are not strong enough to check us. A great crisis comes. Whether we go right or wrong in the crisis depends upon whether the good or the bad influences on our lives have been the most impressive. In other words, whether our associations have been good or bad. Character is tested in a great crisis where we must act on impulse. If on impulse we do the right thing it is proof that the influences of our lives have been good. Associations thus mould the character.

Things do not happen. They are the results of causes. Not one cause, but many. A climax may happen over night. The causes, however, which accumulate to bring about the climax may have been at work for years or even for centuries. Everything we do, our conduct, our success, or our failure, is the result of a long series of causes. If each one of these causes were to be individually analyzed and atomized they would perhaps seem insignificant and inconsequential. Taken in their sum total, however, they produce the efficient cause - - the thing that makes us act right or wrong, which determines whether we are a success or a failure. If we could only realize the ultimate effect upon our lives of each apparently insignificant or inconsequential cause, our whole conduct would be different. We would solve our problems differently. We would think differently. We would seek new and better associations. For, after all, it is the aggregate of these apparently insignificant causes that determines the course which our life is to take. Associations, to reiterate, provide the influences and the impressions which cause us to do one thing or the other. The sum total of these causes produces the effect; good or bad character, success or failure.

These simple truths on the effect of association are absorbed in a large way in the idea of organization, for here association plays its biggest part. In our Ahepa some 22,000 men have taken an oath which represents the highest code of ethics which the



human race has ever evolved. Each of these individuals, by living the principles embodied in his oath, radiates the influence which make for good, for success, for progress. Not only for himself but for those with whom he is to associate.

Scientists have told us that, if we could properly utilize the energy inherent in the atoms of a simple coin that we could derive sufficient energy to destroy a battleship. In our organization each individual is an atom. He is a force. He is a link in the great chain which make the whole. If each man exercises conscientiously the principles set down by the Fraternity there will be sufficient moral force in our Ahepa to carry on and execute the most stupendous and gigantic undertakings.

1937

Why I am an Ahepan

By George D. Vlassis
Governor of District No. 23

I am an Ahepan because I am a Canadian.— A citizen of Canada either by adoption or by birth. I am cognizant of the tremendous possibilities of this Country which spreads from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans, and from the International boundaries to Labrador and Hudson Bay, even beyond to North Pole. Vast and fertile as this Country is offers to everyone the opportunity of pursuing his happiness.

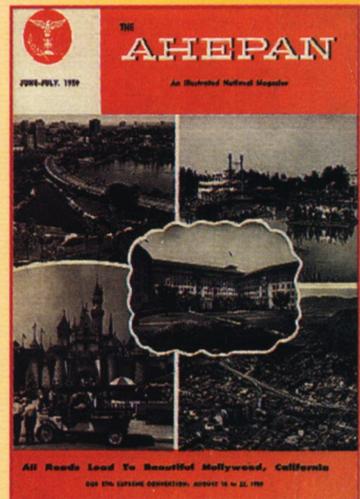
New as this Country is her traditions are as old as England and Scotland and France are and I am proud to partake of those traditions of Justice, of Freedom and of Fair play, traditions which have made possible the British Empire. As a true Ahepan I owe allegiance to the British flag, I obey her rightly constituted Authorities, and I am bound to defend her even with my own blood against outside enemies.

I am an Ahepan because I am a Greek.— A Greek by birth or because my parents have been born Greeks. Greece is the cradle of Modern Civilization. Every Art and Science has its origin in Greece. But History

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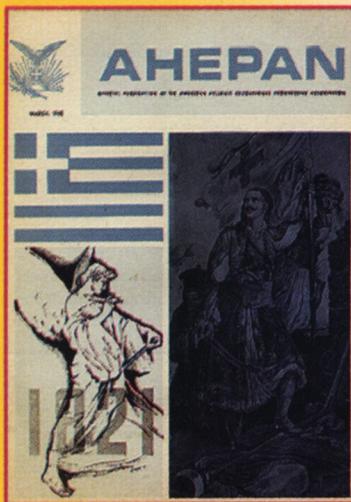
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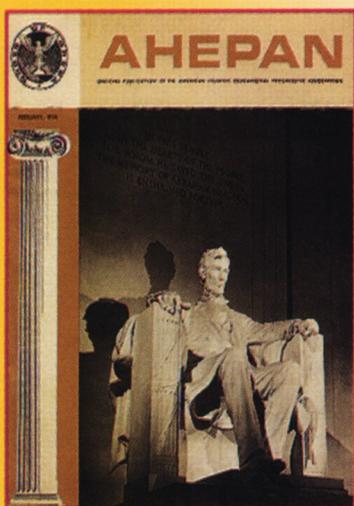
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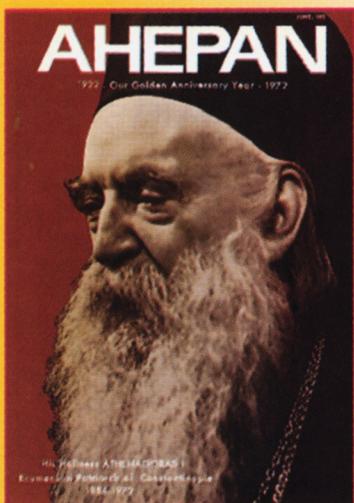
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weighs me down. The Modern Greek crushes under the glory of his ancestors. They were great, great in every field of human endeavor. The Modern Greek suffers in comparison. Yes. But beneath this superficial difference between the Classical and the Modern Greek lies the tragedy of a race which alone had to withstand the onslaughts of so many races much inferior in intellect. Persians, Romans, Goths, Arabs, Slavs, Albanians, Turks were seeking to devour that land. She withstood for centuries, and at last, weary and deserted had to submit to the Turks in 1453. But even then Greece in her defeat gave Europe the opportunity to throw off the superstitions of the Dark Ages by the reintroduction of the Greek language and thought through those scholars who fled the unspeakable slavery of the Turks.

Oh, yes, I have much to be thankful for having been born a Greek. This however imposes upon me the responsibility of proving myself worthy descendant of those glorious ancestors, and to prove also to my fellow Canadian citizens, by word and by actions, – and actions speak louder than words – that the Greek spirit is not dead in me but lives and shall live for ever.

As an Ahepan I pledge myself, to safeguard the honor of Greece and to protect and safeguard both the honor and territorial integrity of Greece, the land of my Fathers against calumnies, false accusations, and sinister design, of enemies hidden and unhidden within the law and the obligation I have undertaken as a citizen of Canada.

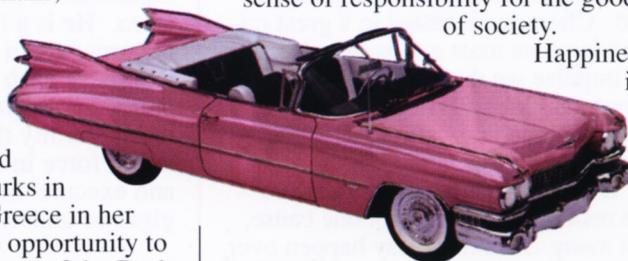
I am an Ahepan because I believe in Education. Education is not schooling, although that is a necessary preparation for the child. Education is Life, and life is Education. Life is a journey we have to take. Experience is the pilot. But not all experience is good for us or for Society. Society for its own protection is obliged to explain experience and make it subject to reason. That is the real purpose of Education. The very progress of Society depends on Education which Education means the active cooperation of the individuals among themselves and their adjustment to their environment and in general to the life of the Community.

Ancient Philosophers believed that man is born with three inalienable rights. The right to Life, to Freedom

and to Happiness. Education must teach an interest in life, in every phase of life. Education which is not related to life, which cannot be put in practice is absolutely useless and rather harmful.

Freedom is necessary to the progress of Society. Freedom however does not mean that we should have all our desires fulfilled. On the contrary Freedom is based upon the curtailment of our desires and upon a sense of responsibility for the good of society.

Happiness is



imperative.

And how to be happy and make others happy is one of the most important purposes of Education. Happiness however is not found in selfishness. Real happiness comes from the curtailment of our desires and from the services we offer to others. The happiness of the individual is bound with the happiness of Society around.

As an Ahepan I pledge any form of Education which fulfills the above purposes.

I am an Ahepan because I believe in progress. – Life is change. Everything changes. If anything remains stationary it decays and dies. So the World is ever changing. Not because the people in it are changed, but because new customs, new beliefs, new laws, new ways of living and thinking take the place of old. The Canada of today is not the Canada which Jacques Cartier visited 400 years ago. Russia has been turned upside down in the last 20 years. Modern Europe is not like Medieval Europe, nor that like the Europe of the Roman Empire. The way of doing business today is not the way of 20 or 30 years ago. Until a few years ago Capital and Labor were antagonistic and hostile. Today Society realizes that Labor and Capital need one another. One cannot exist without the other and their very existence depend on cooperation. And while the one pursues profits while it takes the risk of losing what it invests, the other is entitled to decent living wages, and proper treatment.

No man, no organization is justified in taking advantage of the need for work in which the individual finds himself.

As an Ahepan I pledge myself to be honest, just, upright and righteous in all dealings with my fellow man.

I am an Ahepan because I believe in association. Human life has to be spent with others, and since it is to be spent with others it is of primary importance that I develop the ability to enjoy being with them and the capacity to see their good rather than their bad points. The person who dislikes others, who always sees their weakness who never can speak well of another is bound to spend a life of unhappiness.

As an Ahepan I pledge myself to be honest, just, upright, to help my fellow member in every way I am able to do so, and to consider everyone my equal, as a human being, as a Creature of One and the Same God in Whom as an Ahepan I believe.

1984

Remarks of Bob Hope
1984 Socratic Award Recipient

I was invited here by my dear friend Alex Spanos and just sitting there, you know, listening to all this glowing tribute is really tough. All I can say is *efcharisto*. That's Greek for: "When Alex Spanos calls, you come or you'll find your radiator stuffed with grape leaves."

You know, my association with Alex Spanos goes back quite a ways, and he is one of our top amateur golfers of Greek ancestry in this country. But that doesn't mean he plays well. Who can read a score card written in Greek numbers? He is good, and he has a wonderful, smooth fluid swing. You would too, if you put olive oil on your corn-flakes.

I found out how he hits those 250 yard drives – he uses a Greek golf ball. It has a liquid center, 100-proof Ouzo. It flies 200 yards, then *gavottes* 50 yards.

I do want to thank Alex for putting his own personal transportation at my disposal to get here tonight from the Coast. It's the first time I've ever been on a space shuttle. It's almost true. I won't say Alex is wealthy, but whenever he feels like listening to the music from "Zorba the Greek," he presses a button and Anthony Quinn appears.

This is a beautiful affair, it really is. So many people walked up here just a little while ago and said, "I'm



from Cleveland," "I'm from Mansfield," "I'm from Ohio," and it kind of made me feel at home. They could be relatives – or creditors – anything like that. But it's great to see a crowd like this and it's easy to tell we're in Washington. Ed Meese is under the table collecting votes. But this is a great gathering, I haven't seen so many Greeks in one place since Christina Onassis held her Tupperware party.

You know, I've known Greeks for years. I go back, caddying for the Skouras boys – and believe me – all Greeks are so warm and gregarious. There were so many guys in the lobby kissing each other on the cheek, I thought I was back on Hollywood Boulevard.

I met a belly dancer out in the hall. She had a jewel in her navel the size of my eye, and they were both ready to fall out. I've been in Greece, and I'll tell you the big nightclub attractions in Greece are the belly dancers. And I must tell you, after seeing their movements I threw away my Timex.

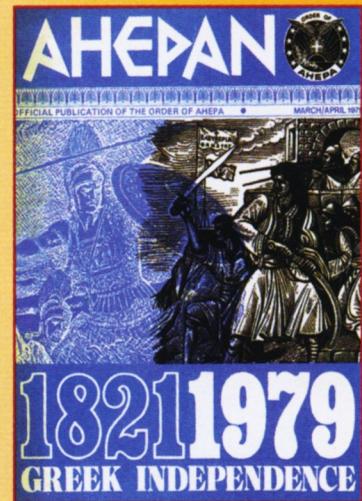
I owe an awful lot to the Greeks, if it weren't for mythology, I'd never be able to fill out my tax return. I was just thinking during the dinner, Greece invented democracy, and America is what helped it grow. And here we are in the city that provides most of the fertilizer. Ancient Greece was the Cradle of Democracy, and it had the first senators who were ever caught between the sheets.

Someone asked me earlier tonight if I'd ever seen the Acropolis. Hell, I played it in vaudeville! Brought down the house. It was a Greek who gave me that joke, too. Athens is a beautiful city, but they ought to fix it up – I've never seen so many ruins.

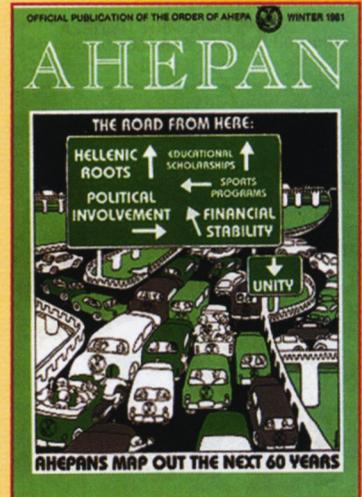
This is a kick for me. I don't have one of these awards, the Socratic Award. Socrates and I have a lot in common: Neither one of us have won an Oscar. And I can't imagine your organization giving the Socratic Award to a philhellene. I asked someone what a "philhellene" means, and they told me it was a Greek supporter. I thought that was what Alex wore when he played golf.

No, philhellene means "Ancient Greek lover." I'm not Greek, but I have been called an ancient lover – as recently as last night. The Socratic

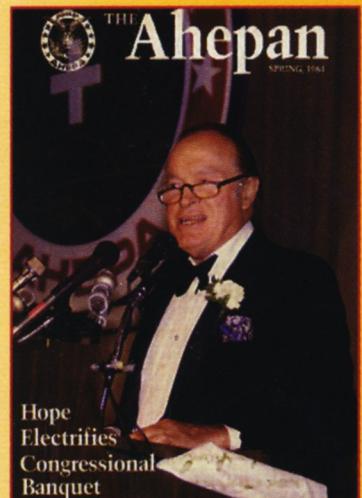
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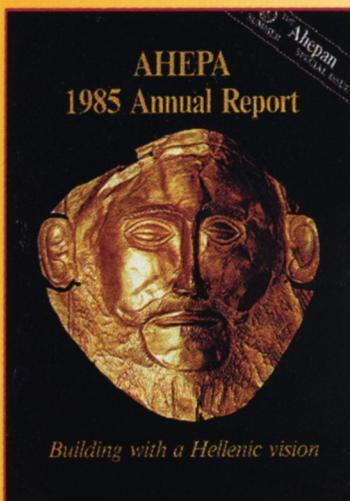
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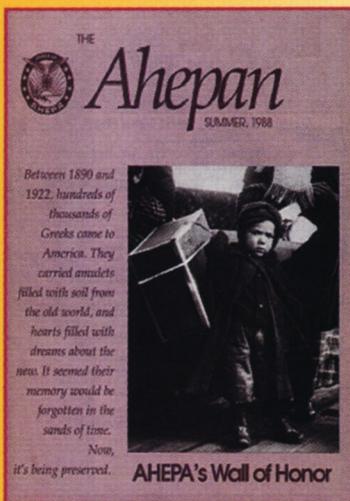
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Award reminds me that not only was Socrates a brilliant philosopher, but he also came up with the world's first advertising slogan. After he drank that cup of hemlock, he slapped his head and said, "Wow! I could have had a V-8!" I think it was him. And I'm not sure if Socrates really did die by drinking poison hemlock. Well, we'll soon find out – the case has just been re-opened by Quincy.

And I know how the Greeks got the idea for the Olympics: After eating a dinner like this, you have to run it off. This year the Olympics will be in Los Angeles and it will be a lot like Ancient Greece - people will be wearing togas and sandals - they'll be the Hari Krishnas at the airport. People in L.A. are worried about terrorists coming to the Olympics. My attitude is: If they get mugged, they get mugged.

The great philosopher Demosthenes was Greek. You all read about him in school. Demosthenes used to stutter, but he cured it by filling his mouth full of pebbles. Howard Cosell did the same thing, but he forgot to take out the pebbles.

I've known so many wonderful

Greeks - I really have. And you have had so many great Greeks: Socrates, Aristotle, Kojak - I get along very well with them. For instance Telly Savalas and I agree on practically everything, except barbers.

But there's one thing I've never been able to figure out - how could the Greeks give us Grecian Formula, and Telly Savalas? Every Easter Telly hides his head, and then all the kids on his block try to find it.

I understand President Reagan would have been here this evening, but he's busy preparing to debate Mondale - he's taking a nap. I think you ought to give the Socratic Award to President Reagan. I think that's appropriate considering he knew Socrates personally.

You know, I appreciate this award, and I'm grateful just to be this year's recipient of this coveted Socratic Award. Talk about Greeks bearing gifts! Coming from this organization, a group that has done so much for so many people, its significance is all the more meaningful and I'm deeply honored. I'll cherish it. It's going to hold a very, very high spot in my trophy room and my heart. Thank you very much.

WHO IS AN AHEPAN

By George A. Poulson

Secretary of the Air Capital Chapter No. 187, Nov. - Dec. 1932

A man who believes in America, upholds its principles, supports and fights, when necessary, for the lofty ideals of Democracy and freedom. Americanism is his motto and Hellenism is his keynote

He stands for Hellenism exemplified - the synonym of Americanism; propagates to his utmost the ideals of the great Hellas, the mother of civilization.

Enforces self-respect, through good conduct, and strives at all times to elevate to its rightful plane the name of a noble and illustrious race. The Hellenic Race! Education, brotherly love and self-sacrifice, he considers as part of his obligation.

Promotes good fellowship with all his might and encourages cooperation and unity among his fellowmen. Advocates respect for law and order and exercises his duties as a citizen. He is progressive!

Attains success through honest effort, love for his neighbor and the practice of the Golden Rule. Aids his fellowman in distress and asks nothing in return.

Never despairs, but places his faith and trust in the hands of his Master, the great Teacher of fraternalism. He is the good AHEPAN, and the world has been sweetened and made cleaner and nobler by his presence among us.

Unselfish Giving

SPARKED BY CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP



St Basil's Boys Dormitory

Eight ambitious Greek-Americans met July 26, 1922, at the Atlanta Greek Orthodox Church Hall, to set forth the objectives of this new association known as the Order of AHEPA. "To practice benevolent aid among this nationality" was one of the five objectives outlined by the Mother Lodge that summer day. This principle, to name one, helped lay the foundation for AHEPA.



Andrew Kaffes is the Assistant Executive Director for AHEPA. He graduated Cum Laude from Syracuse University in 1994 with a B.S. in Public Relations from the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications.

In the 75 years to follow that historic meeting, AHEPA has formed bonds among its members and districts which have transcended all other organizations. Through fundraising, AHEPA membership and its profile expanded to include Canada, Greece and Australia. In its history, AHEPA received tremendous accolades on numerous projects which enhanced its image. Whether on a local, district, national or international level, AHEPA and its auxiliaries have raised well over \$1 billion.

As AHEPA approaches its Diamond Anniversary, let us look back at some of its remarkable fundraising projects as a way of setting our sights for tomorrow's goals.

NEARLY \$2 MILLION RAISED FOR ST. BASIL'S ACADEMY

Prior to World War II, critics of AHEPA accused the organization of "disassociating itself from the Greek church." Yet (as the records show) this is hardly the case. The churches were a major recipient of AHEPA's benevolent aid, especially in the early years. More so than any other organization, AHEPA was a prime factor in the building of many Greek churches across the United States. The support provided by

Continued on page 28



Four boys pose for the camera in thier new room at St. Basil's.

Continued from page 27

AHEPA, both nationally and locally, was mostly financial. Eventually AHEPA directed its efforts nationally toward projects of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese.

St. Basil's Academy in Garrison, N.Y. is a school and dormitory for orphaned young boys and girls. In 1950, the delegates of the 28th Supreme Convention voted to donate \$5,000 to the orphanage. This began AHEPA's and the AHEPA Family's love affair with St. Basil's Academy.

In the Supreme Conventions to follow, AHEPA mandated that funds be raised at the local, district and national levels toward the establishment of the AHEPA Hall for Boys. By the end of the 1950s, the AHEPA Hall for Boys was completed with \$92,000 raised. In addition, AHEPA included the AHEPA School Building in its fundraising drive and construction began in 1959. Finally, in June 1962, Ahepans and Church Leaders gathered at the dedication of the AHEPA School Building at St. Basil's Academy.

The school was completed at a cost of \$245,000. Combined, the AHEPA projects at St. Basil's represented a cost of \$337,000.

However, AHEPA's commitment to St. Basil's did not end in 1962. In 1977, Past Supreme President Louis G. Manesiotes was appointed Chairman of St. Basil's by Supreme President Col. Peter N. Derzis. A fundraising campaign followed that eventually raised \$1.5 million by 1981. In 1981, on Mother's Day,

AHEPA found itself at yet another dedication ceremony.

"In 1981 we dedicated three more AHEPA Halls for Boys," recalled Manesiotes, "Also, we revamped the AHEPA School and the leftover money went into fund for the maintenance of St. Basil's."

In the end, St. Basil's Academy was the most aggressive fundraising campaign since the U.S. War Bond Drive during World War II.

U.S. WAR BOND DRIVE AMASSES \$162 MILLION

AHEPA's most impressive fundraising drive revolved around the unfortunate human act of war. During World War II it was announced that the Order of AHEPA had been named as an official Issuing Agent for U.S. War Bonds by the U.S. Treasury Department. This was an honor that no other civic organization was able to achieve.

In October 1942, the War Bond drive commenced with a goal of \$50 million. The drive was "motivated by AHEPA's desire to display its patriotism" as suggested by Supreme President George C. Vournas.

"The War Bond Drive came at a time when our people were thirsty for some form of collective action connected with the prosecution of the war. Now we have it. The opportunity to display our patriotic colors is here. We must not fail to grasp it . . ." said Vournas in 1943.

Behind the motivation and leadership of Vournas, the drive ended on May 21, 1943 by shattering the goal of \$50 million in sales.

Recognition did not go unnoticed by the U.S.



Unveiling of the "War President" bust of Franklin D. Roosevelt at Hyde Park in 1945

Government. Numerous individuals, chapters and districts were commended by Assistant Secretary of the Treasury John L. Sullivan for their efforts.

U.S. Senator Scott W. Lucas of Illinois said, "Under the leadership of the great Greek-American national organization AHEPA, which is dedicated to good Americanism, the American citizens of Greek descent have sold nearly \$50,000,000 worth of War Bonds."

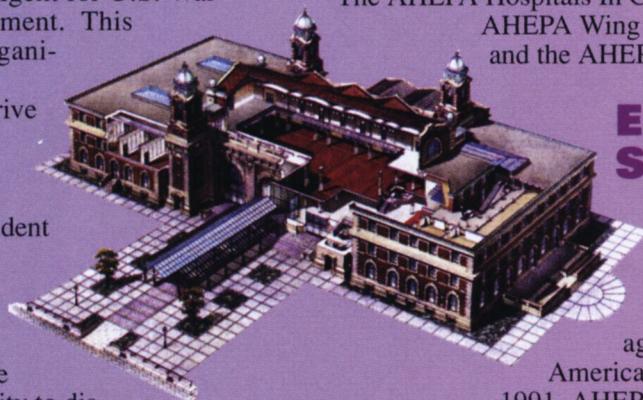
With the goal of \$50 million behind it, AHEPA announced War Bond sales would continue for the duration of the war. A second goal of \$100 million was reached by June 30, 1944. Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau, Jr. wrote, "I know that in the new campaign for \$100 million, which your fraternity is sponsoring, you will do your full duty as good Americans, and distinguish yourselves in the service of your country."

AHEPA did distinguish itself. By the end of July 1944, AHEPA War Bond sales amassed \$162 million, \$12 million more than the goal of \$150 million set by the Supreme Lodge 21 months prior.

During the National Conference in 1945, Ted Gamble of the U.S. War Finance Department paid tribute to AHEPA. "There has been no organized group in America who has done a better job in the sale and promotion of war bonds than the Order of AHEPA."

When the war ended, AHEPA was able to direct its phenomenal fundraising abilities toward the reconstruction of the Motherland—Greece. The Greek War Relief Association, which provided humanitarian aid, and the AHEPA Hospitals In Greece fund-drive were in action.

The AHEPA Hospitals In Greece fund-drive yielded the AHEPA Wing of the Evangelismos Hospital and the AHEPA Hospital in Thessaloniki.



ELLIS ISLAND/ STATUE OF LIBERTY RESTORATION PROJECT

In memory of our immigrant ancestors, AHEPA once again came together to promote

Americanism and Hellenism. In

1991, AHEPA closed its chapter on the Ellis Island and Statue of Liberty fundraising projects by donating over \$400,000 from 1986 to 1991 toward the restoration of these monuments.

As a result of its efforts, the U.S. Department of Interior made AHEPA an official underwriter of the Ellis Island restoration project. This status gave AHEPA exclusive use

of Ellis Island. On April 20, 1991, 1,200 Ahepans gathered in celebration of our ancestors and our history at Ellis Island. The successful event was chaired by Past Supreme President Nick Smyrnis.

Past Supreme President James S. Scofield, who was serving the office at the time, explained AHEPA's involvement with Ellis Island, "AHEPA has been actively involved in both the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island restorations because we believe these monuments should be revered as a central component of the American Dream."

Pictures donated by Ahepans and the names of Ahepans on the Immigrant Wall of Honor still stand in the official AHEPA Room on the museum.



AHEPA Supreme President James S. Scofield and AHEPA Board of Directors Chairman Phillip T. Frangos with some of the winners of the AHEPA Ellis Island Award of Distinction. From left: Steve Stavro, John Kapioltas, George Christopher, Scofield, George Vournas, Tom Korologos, Frangos, George Canellos and Charalambos A. Zarakiotis.

campaign was built brick by brick. The Brick Program was the brain-child of Vice President of the AHEPA Centennial Foundation Louis D. Zakas. For \$500 a personalized brick would be placed around the towering sculpture for all to see. The program proved to be a success.

In June 1996, 1,000 Ahepans and Atlantans gathered in a moving ceremony held in Centennial Olympic Park for the dedication of the sculpture. AHEPA's star, once again, shined bright. "We give you more than stainless steel, bronze and stone. I present our hearts, our history and our hopes" said Economy.

All of these events are the result of the work achieved when the fundraising gauntlet is thrown before the feet of Brother Ahepans. It is a true testament to the influence local AHEPA chapters have in their communities. AHEPA's success and future successes always will be attributed to the chapters and the individual member. It is what will keep AHEPA flourishing for another 75 years.



The AHEPA Tribute Sculpture in Centennial Park in Atlanta, dedicated in July, 1996

\$775,000 RAISED FOR TRIBUTE TO "OLYMPISM" SCULPTURE

One of the greatest contributions to humankind of which Greeks can be proud are the Olympic Games and the spirit they convey. The Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta marked the perfect opportunity for Greek-Americans/Canadians and Ahepans to celebrate our ancestors' gift to humanity. Thus, a project was launched—a "Tribute To Olympism" sculpture—to be displayed at Centennial Olympic Park in Atlanta. The project was conceived by a group of Atlanta Ahepans and was supported nationally by AHEPA chapters, Greek-Americans and Canadians alike.

Under the leadership of AHEPA Centennial Foundation President Johnny Economy, an innovative fundraising



The unveiling of the Olympic Sculpture In Atlanta.

Author's Note: This article could not have been written without the book "History of the Order of AHEPA: 1922 - 1972" written by former Executive Secretary George J. Leber and without the help of former Executive Secretary Basil Mossaidis.

A LOOK AT OUR PAST LEADERS

MOTHER LODGE ORDER OF AHEPA



▲
HARRY
ANGELOPOULOS



▲
GEORGE
CAMPBELL



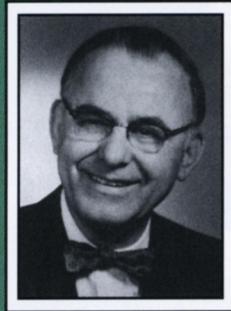
▲
GEORGE A.
POLOS



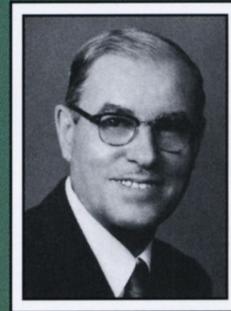
▲
NICHOLAS D.
CHOTAS



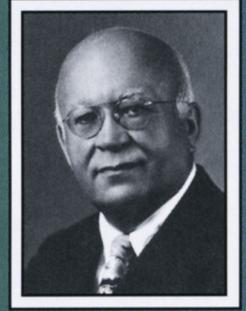
▲
JAMES
CAMPBELL



▲
JOHN
ANGELOPOULOS



▲
JAMES
VLASS



▲
S. J.
STAMOS

PAST SUPREME PRESIDENTS



◀
NICHOLAS D.
CHOTAS
1922-23
ATLANTA,
GA



◀
GEORGE
DEMETER
1923-24
BOSTON,
MA



◀
V. I.
CHEBITHES
1924-27
1935-40
WASHINGTON,
DC

▶ **DEAN ALFANGE**
1927-29
NEW YORK,
NY



▶ **GEORGE E. PHILLIPS**
1929-31
BUFFALO,
NY



▶ **HARRIS J. BOORAS**
1931-34
1945-47
BOSTON, MA



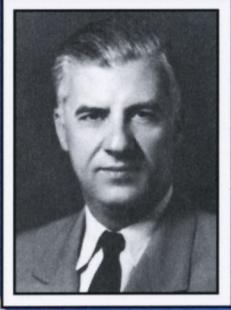
▶ **ACHILLES CATSONIS**
1934-35
SYRACUSE,
NY



▶ **VAN A. NOMIKOS**
1940-42
CHICAGO,
IL



▶ **GEORGE C. VOURNAS**
1942-45
WASHINGTON,
DC



▶ **WILLIAM HELIS**
1947-49
NEW ORLEANS,
LA



▶ **JOHN G. THEVOS**
1949-51
PATERSON,
NJ



▶ **PETER L. BELL**
1951-53
WORCESTER,
MA



▶ **LEO J. LAMBERSON**
1953-54
SOUTH BEND,
IN



▶ **STEPHEN S. SCOPAS**
1954-56
NEW YORK,
NY



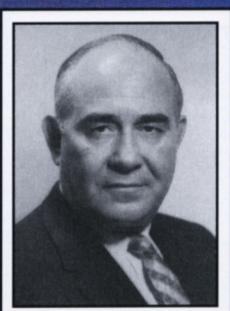
▶ **JOHN L. MANTA**
1956-57
CHICAGO,
IL



▶ **C. P. VERINIS**
1957-59
NEW HAVEN,
CT



▶ **GEORGE E. LOUCAS**
1959-60
WEIRTON,
WV



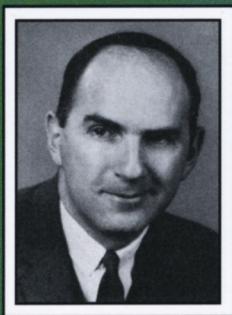
▶ **NICHOLAS COFFINAS**
1960-62
BROOKLYN,
NY



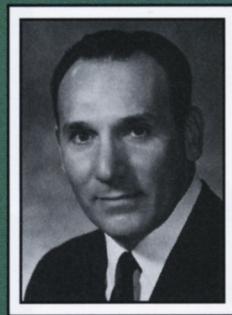
PAST SUPREME PRESIDENTS



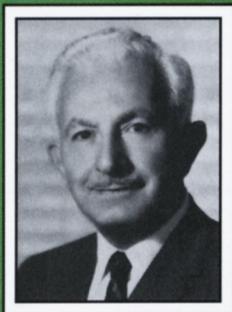
GEORGE J.
MARGOLES
1962-63
NEW HAVEN,
CT



JOHN J.
PLUMIDES
1963-64
CHARLOTTE,
NC



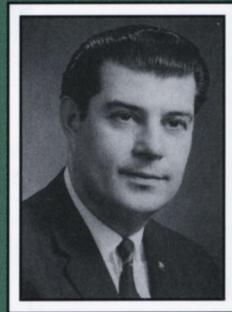
NICHOLAS J.
CHIREKOS
1964-65
CHICAGO,
IL



KIMON A.
DOUKAS
1965-67
NEW YORK,
NY



ANDREW
FASSEAS
1967-68
CHICAGO,
IL



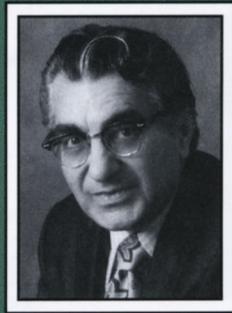
GUS
CHEREVAS
1968-69
FLUSHING,
NY



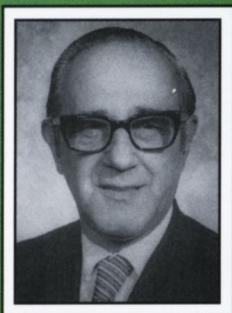
LOUIS G.
MANESIOTIS
1969-71
PITTSBURGH,
PA



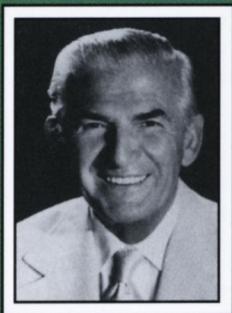
SAM
NAKIS
1971-72
ST. LOUIS,
MO



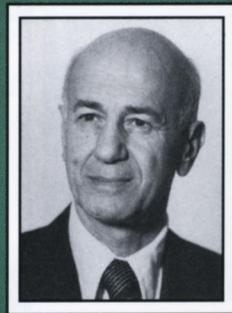
MICHAEL N.
SPIRTOS, M.D.
1972-73
LOS ANGELES,
CA



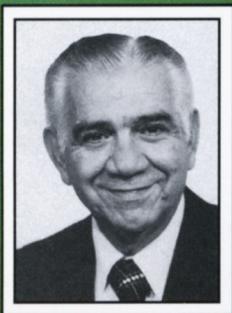
WILLIAM P.
TSAFFARAS
1973-74
LOWELL,
MA



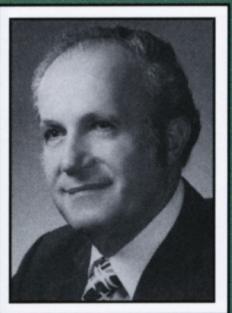
WILLIAM G.
CHIRGOTIS
1974-76
NEWARK,
NJ



XENOPHON K.
MICROUTSICOS
1976-77
TRENTON,
NJ



PETER N.
DERZIS
1977-78
ARLINGTON,
VA



DR. PETER V.
PAULUS
1978-79
PITTSBURGH,
PA



NICK
SMYRNIS
1979-81
INDIANAPOLIS,
IN

GUSTAV
COFFINAS

1981-82

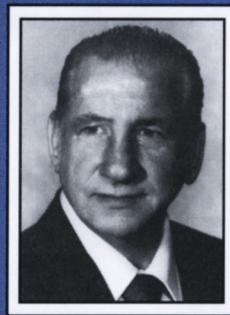
BROOKLYN,
NY



PETER
KOUCHALAKOS

1982-83

MIAMI,
FL



PETER
CARDIGES

1983-84

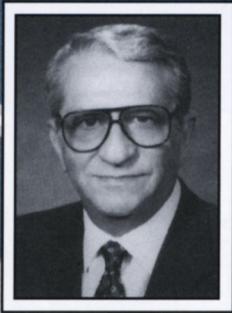
PITTSBURGH,
PA



CLED N.
ZAMBETIS

1984-85

YOUNGSTOWN,
OH



GEORGE
GABRIEL

1985-86

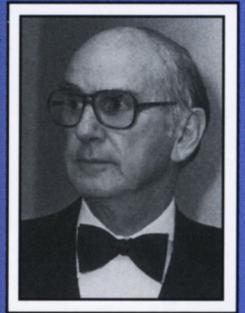
ALLENTOWN,
PA



JOHN G.
PLUMIDES

1986-87

CHARLOTTE,
NC



NICHOLAS
L. STRIKE

1987-88

SALT LAKE
CITY, UT



A. STEVE
BETZELOS

1988-89

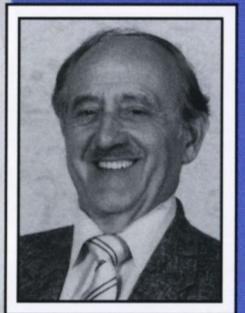
CHICAGO,
IL



CHARLES P.
TSAFFARAS

1989-90

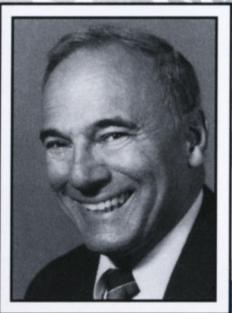
LOWELL,
MA



JAMES S.
SCOFELD

1990-91

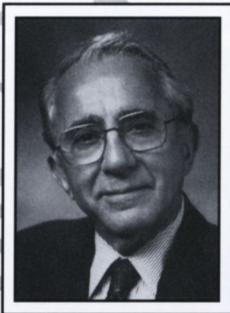
ST. PETERSBURG,
FL



JOHN T.
PAPPAS

1991-92

WASHINGTON,
DC



GUS
CONSTANTINE

1992-93

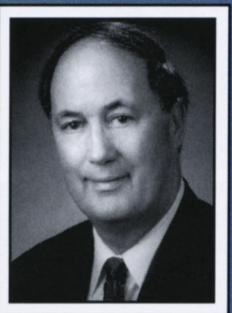
CHICAGO,
IL



JOHN N.
ECONOMOU

1993-94

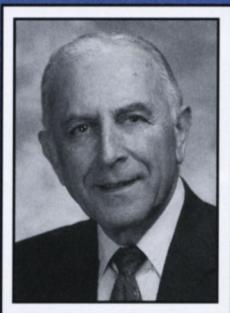
AKRON,
OH



CHARLES M.
GEORGESON

1994-95

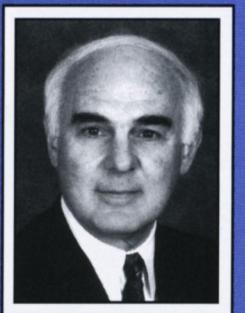
CLINTON,
MA



SPIRO MACRIS

1995-
PRESENT

WILMINGTON,
NC



HISTORY

Supreme Conventions

A Pictorial
History

1923



THE MOTHER LODGE AND DELEGATES TO THE FIRST SUPREME CONVENTION OF THE ORDER OF AHEPA HELD IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA, OCTOBER 14-17, 1923

1931



SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

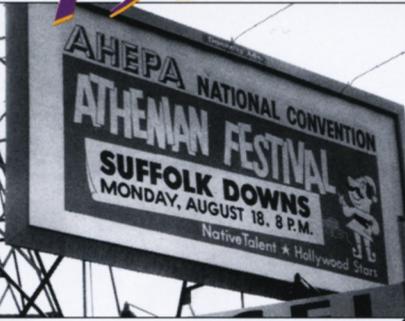
1949



MIAMI, FLORIDA



1958



BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

1960



MONTREAL, CANADA



Continued on page 36

1973



LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA



1970

ATHENS, GREECE



1975

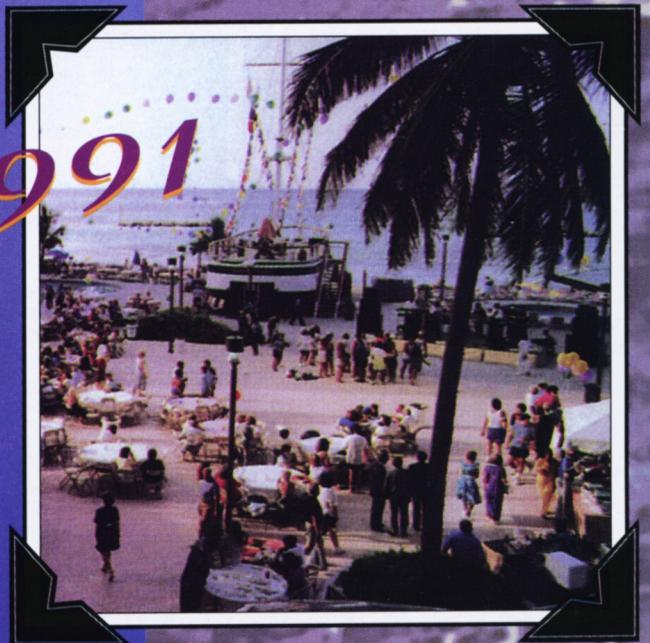
CINCINNATI, OHIO

1981



TORONTO, CANADA

1991



THE BAHAMAS

The Year of The Founder

Congratulations to our Brother AHEPAn, as they shall be celebrating their 75th Anniversary at the 1997 National Convention in Atlanta, GA, in August 1997. We, the Daughters of Penelope, wish you continued success and progress and hope that your future is free of the burden imposed upon you by politics and unfortunate management in the past. As equal partners, we can be stronger and accomplish much more. In the future, working together.

This has been a very interesting and challenging year. Our 1996-97 year started out with the death of our Founder, Alexandra Apostolides Sonenfeld, an inevitable, although sad event, for she was approaching her 100th year. It seems remarkable that one woman could have had such a profound effect on the lives of thousands of women, who were either of Hellenic origin, or in some way associated with the Hellenic ethos. Her vision in 1929 and the formation of our Sisterhood and its successes is now recorded in the Legislative Record of California,



Joanne V. Hologgitas, Ph.D. was elected Grand President of the Daughters of Penelope in August 1996 after over 40 years of chapter, district and national leadership. The Rhode Island native holds a Ph. D. in Chemistry.

where the Daughters of Penelope were first incorporated, and in the Congressional Record in Washington, D.C., where our current National Headquarters are located. It was with profound love and respect that I honored her memory, labeling 1996-97 The Year of the Founder, and made every

effort to keep her accomplishments in the forefront of our Sisterhood by sharing some of her poems with all of you in my bulletins. We must write her biography, so that history can be recorded, because her efforts and vision planted the seeds which resulted in amazing accomplishments: Penelope House in Mobile, AL; DOP/HUD Housing in Des Moines (Enkeny), IA; St. Basil's Dormitory for Girls, and swimming pool; and financial support for the Papanicolaou Cancer and Cooley's Anemia research; just to mention a few of our many projects. Many thanks to all of you who supported the endowment for her annual Scholarship award.

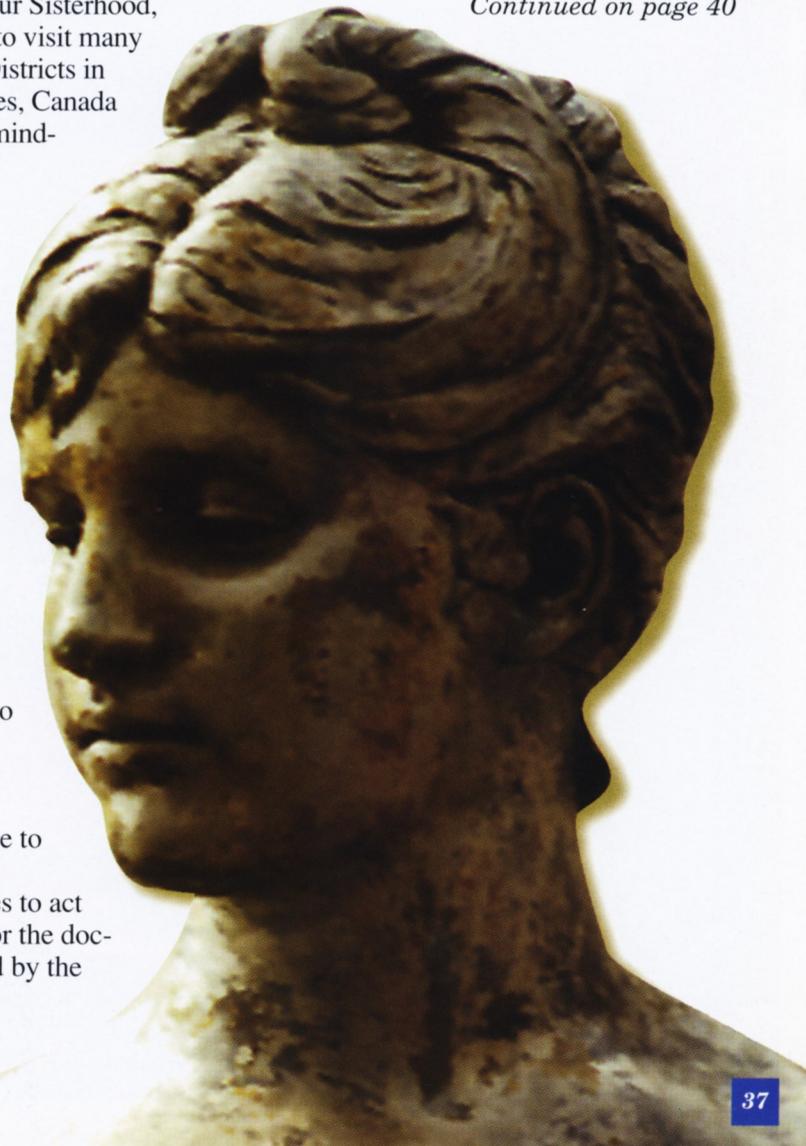
My year has been directed to the grass roots of our Sisterhood, and I was able to visit many Chapters and Districts in the United States, Canada and Greece, reminding one and all that we must continue to perpetuate our Hellenic culture and ideals. During my recent visit to Greece, I was able to visit five of our six chapters, and was very impressed with the enthusiasm of our Sisters there, who are so proud of being members of our Order.

The challenge to your Grand and Supreme Lodges to act as facilitators for the document produced by the AHEPA 2000 Committee,

necessitated attendance to many Conferences this year. Although all agree that there is a need to make changes and restructure our Order, and the entire AHEPA Family, setting goal and objectives goals and objectives as we approach the 21st Century, the Strategic White Paper did not seem to provide the answers.

Thank you all in the AHEPA Family for your most gracious hospitality and enthusiasm during my visits. It has been a great honor and privilege to serve as Grand President of the Daughters of Penelope this year. It is a year which will stay with me always, full of fond memories of energetic, dedicated and loving Sisters. continuously planning and working for the Good of the Order.

Continued on page 40





AHEPA National Project . . .

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George Vouvakis

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Olga Fotiou, St. Augustine, FL



Contributions to AHEPA's New Smyrna Memorial Project, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit Organization, are deductible to the extent permitted by applicable tax laws. Consult your Tax Advisor on specifics.

... New Smyrna Odyssey.

Perpetuating our American Hellenic Heritage.

THE EVENT

In 1768, an heroic and adventurous group of Hellenes undertook a personal odyssey. It began on Greek soil and ended as a significant part of American history.

They came with hopes and dreams to start a new, free life, but these hopes and dreams proved hard to attain.

Over 1200 Mediterranean colonists arrived in Mosquito Inlet (New Smyrna Beach) as indentured servants. With these Greek adventures were many Minorcans, some Italians and Corsican Greeks. The original agreements of indenture were honored by these trusting colonists, but the Turnbull group broke the agreements and promises.

These Greek ancestors escaped the tyrannical yoke of the Turk only to be enslaved in an unfamiliar and hostile land. In the ten year period between 1768 and 1778, the colonists were held as absolute slaves. By 1778, approximately 75 of the almost 500 Greeks who originally made the ocean crossing, survived. Two hundred years later, in 1968, our Order of AHEPA dedicated on the site a commemorative bronze plaque.

The time has now come for us to emphatically honor and perpetuate, with grandeur, the memory and location where these ancestors suffered and perished in search of freedom . . . and a new life.

THE APPEAL

Since this memorial to our heritage was proposed . . .

- Project site was unanimously approved by New Smyrna Beach City Council and AHEPA membership.
- The memorial design was approved by City of New Smyrna Beach and Historical Society.
- The project was approved by AHEPA District 2.
- The 1994 AHEPA National Convention approved the project as an AHEPA National Project.
- The project was approved in 1995 as a 501(c) (3) non-profit entity.

Philhellenes and fellow Hellenes . . . become part of this important AHEPA heritage project. Help us to educate our future generations, and to assist them in understanding this very important piece of our American history . . . and truly, our own Greek heritage.

Contributors to this NEW SMYRNA ODYSSEY Project will receive a beautiful custom designed lapel pin to be proudly displayed and, thus, quietly identifying the supporters.

FOR DETAILS OR CONTRIBUTION RESERVATIONS, PLEASE CONTACT . . .

AHEPA NEW SMYRNA MEMORIAL, INC.

Post Office Box 1632, Ormond Beach, Florida 32175
or Call, (904) 445-5020

The Evolution of the Greek American Woman

Daughters of Penelope

A Historical View

The Greek woman was not endowed with special powers giving her ability to rule equally with men, as were the mythical goddesses with the gods of ancient Greece. By custom, her assigned role in life was to preserve the sanctity of the home, rear children, render needed assistance to the older members of the family, and serve the church. Although she performed a meaningful service, she was restricted in decision-making powers. Late in the 19th century, many Greek men



Alexandra A. Sonenfeld

education, law and engineering. By her accomplishments, she commanded and received respect from her compatriots, though often grudgingly. Thus began the evolution of the Greek-American woman.

Seven years after the formation of the Order of AHEPA, on November 16, 1929, in San Francisco, CA, was laid the cornerstone of the first Greek-American women's organization in the new world, the USA, the Order of the Daughters of Penelope, the Women's Auxiliary of the Order of AHEPA. The ground work for

Founding Members



Varvara Solon



Arete Choppelas



Rubene Nicholson



Marie Petros



Sophie Caellos



Effhimia Choppelas

1931-40
Alexandra A. Sonenfeld

1940-41
Josephine Englezos

1946-48
Marie Z. Harris

1941-46
Poppy Mitchell

1948-50
Helen Karagiannis

1950-52
Irene Cox



Past Grand Presidents of the Daughters of Penelope

had migrated to this country. As the independent spirit of other nationalities was not to their liking, they dreamt of marrying women of their own kind, becoming part of this wonderful new world, enjoying its blessings, but retaining with as high a degree as possible the ideals, principles, religion, and customs of their Motherland.

Early in the 20th Century, many Greek women began migrating to the United States, some with their children to join their husbands, and

others sponsored by their fathers, brothers, or other male members of their families. The Greek-American woman, as we know her today, was a result of this migration. She cherished the unbelievable dream that in America, she would find freedom to chart her chosen course, and follow her dream of individualism. She began to feel the freedom of self-expression, and training, established her own business, could enter college and/or university to study for a profession in science, medicine,

this organization was begun at least two years prior, in 1927, by Dr. Apostolides and his young wife Alexandra. They had formulated their dreams for the Auxiliary, and had prepared the DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE Constitution and By-Laws, based on those of the AHEPA, and the Order of the Eastern Star.

Alexandra Apostolides Sonenfeld was filled with an ardent desire to create the woman's organization. She was inspired by her friends in the AHEPA, and envisioned a new

Objects and Principles

- a.) To encourage and Promote loyalty to the United States of America or another country in which a Chapter exists;
- b.) To encourage the interest of its members in duties of citizenship, and a further participation in the larger life of their country, as well as philanthropic, social, political, and civic life of their prospective communities;
- c.) To cultivate the ideals and traditions of Hellenism as our best contribution to the development of America, or another country in which a Chapter exists;
- d.) To promote opportunities of education;
- e.) To corporate by precept and example in furthering the purposes and ideals of the parent organization, the Order of AHEPA;
- f.) To promote the welfare of the Junior Order of the Daughters of Penelope, the Order of the Maids of Athena.

The betterment of mankind is of prime importance, and members of the Daughters of Penelope are encouraged to participate in worthwhile projects in their respective communities.

beginning for the first generation Greek-American woman. She proceeded to draft the basic principles of the organization, which was to

Today there are sixteen active chapters in Canada. The first Chapter in Greece was initiated in 1954. Today, Greece has six chapters, two in

San Francisco, established in 1929, the Daughters of Penelope today consists of over 280 chapters, contained in twenty-five districts, located within the United States, Canada, and Greece, with a membership exceeding 12,000 members. The first Canadian Chapter of the Daughters of Penelope was established on May 1, 1938, in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Penelope. This was to be a voluntary project, and the amount of funding suggested was \$50,000.00. It was found by General Chairman, Mary Chicos, that unfortunately, placing any kind of statue in Golden Gate Park was not permitted, according to the Mayor and the Parks Authority of San Francisco.

In a serendipitous manner, Dr. Joanne Hologitas, a member of Ares Chapter #49 of Newport, RI, discovered that there was a magnificent classical sculpture of PENELOPE, created by Franklin Simmons (originally of Maine, but living and working in Italy), in 1896, and commissioned by the Converse family of Boston, MA, which now was located at the home of Mary Kottis of Uxbridge, MA. By establishing a contact between Mary Kottis and Chairman Mary Chicos, an agreement was reached



1952-53
Pota Saratsis



1953-55
Hon. Adeline Geo-Karis



1955-56
Tula Zotaley



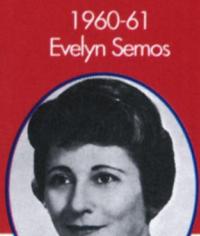
1956-58
Zoe Cavalaris



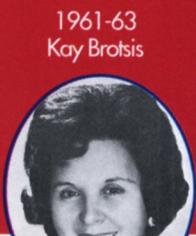
1958-59
Evelyn Mickles



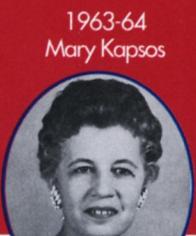
1959-60
Emily Tamaras



1960-61
Evelyn Semos



1961-63
Kay Brotsis



1963-64
Mary Kapsos



1964-65
Josie Chase



1965-66
Hon. Elizabeth Athanasakos



1966-68
Zoe Rummel

serve as an inspiration to all Greek-American women. The foundation was structured on two ideals; to perpetuate the study of American ideals, and to encourage Hellenic study of ancient Greek ideals. Her goals were to merge the two, the best of two worlds. With this active idealism and Greek heritage, she felt that the Greek-American woman would be able to repay, in some small measure, this glorious giving country, her adopted land, for the many blessings, advantages, and opportunities afforded her children and herself.

From the EOS #1 Chapter in San

Athens, and one in Thessaloniki, Verea, Nafpaktos, and Corfu (Kerkera).

60th Anniversary Commemoration

At the 1989 National Convention in St. Louis, MO, it was suggested by incoming Grand President Julia Constantine, that a statue be commissioned and placed in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the Daughters of



Placing of Franklin Simmons' "PENELOPE" in the M.H. de Young Museum

Continued on page 42

that the statue would be sold to the Daughters of Penelope. The only problem remaining was where could it be housed. While contacting Donald Stover, curator of the American Decorative Arts of the M.H. de Young Museum, to research the value of the white carrara marble sculpture, Mary Chicos found that the museum might be interested in acquiring the masterpiece, provided the Daughters would be willing to donate it to the museum. She found out that it was one of the finest pieces of neo-classical sculpture of the 19th century.

The diligent efforts of Mary Chicos and her Treasurer PGP Emily Tamaras, working closely with the curator, made it a successful project. The Board of Directors and the Board

Franklin Simmon's PENELOPE to the museum, resulted in the successful completion of the project to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the Daughters of Penelope. The statue will be on permanent exhibition at the M.H. de Young Museum in Golden Gate Park, two blocks away from the original home of our founder.

Education Through The Daughters of Penelope Foundation, Inc.



In 1983, another milestone for the Daughters of Penelope was the incorporation of the Daughters of Penelope Foundation, Inc., spearheaded by PGP Sonja Stefanadis. The foundation belongs to the Daughters of Penelope and to each

in areas of universal concern to the Greek-American women - cancer research, genetic research for deficiencies prevalent among descendants of the Mediterranean area; and support voter registration, offer citizenship assistance, and support like civic and educational goals.

The Foundation makes possible the National Scholarships given annually to deserving students. It also sponsors a re-entry award, which was instituted to assist a housewife/homemaker to obtain retraining so that she may reenter the workforce, after having stayed at home to raise her family. It has supported the District Governors' Conference, which is held yearly for newly elected District Governors; the publication of the 60th Anniversary Album; the preparation of the video history of the Daughters of Penelope,



1968-69
Alexia Damaskos

1975-76
Katherine Caravasio



1969-70
Joanna Merakos

1976-77
Ann Morris



1970-72
Helen Beldecos

1977-78
Mary Manitzas Georgiafandis



1972-73
Ellen Lagos

1978-79
Victoria Katsis



1973-74
Tina Zoumboulis

1979-80
JoAnn Pagonis



1974-75
Mary Dinell

1980-81
Toula Dallas



of Acquisitions of the museum approved acquiring of the statue, insuring it, and packing and transporting it from Uxbridge to San Francisco.



On November 17, 1990, the ceremonies of uncovering the statue by our founder, Alexandra Apostolides Sonenfeld, dedicating and presenting

chapter and member. It is tax-exempt, is governed by an all-volunteer Board of Directors, and is so structured that its activities will complement, enhance, and support the goals and ideals of the Daughters of Penelope.

The Foundation's primary objective is education. It cooperates with the Daughters of Penelope to sponsor research in the fields of art, education, public affairs, and science; to encourage standards of excellence in Public School and higher education; accept donations for the support of scientific research

a "Dawning of a New Era"; sponsors the annual Symposium held at the Daughters of Penelope National Convention annually during the past three years; and is helping to preserve our heritage with the Oral History Project, which resulted in the deposition of 63 tapes in the Library of Congress, in Washington, DC, with sets also deposited in the University of Minnesota Immigrant History Research Center (IHRC), and in the Library of the Greek Parliament, in Athens Greece. These tapes are preserving the history of the Greek immigrant in America.

Interpretation of the Daughters of Penelope symbol

The **HEAD OF PENELOPE**, in ancient headdress, symbolizes friendship and womanhood, and is significant of the very foundation of life, home, and country!



The **OLIVE WREATH**, encircling the head of Penelope, is symbolic of the only prize given to the victors participating in the famous Olympic Games. The **CROSS** is a symbol of our Christian faith, and the **CROSSED SABERS** are taken from the shield of the Greek Nation.

The **EAGLE** symbolizes the United States and the letters **QP** (Theta Pi) stand for **Thega-teres Tis Penelope**; thus we are known as "The Daughters of Penelope."

Daughters of Penelope (see Daughters of Penelope Foundation, Inc.) National Scholarship Committee awards Scholarships with annual renewals (up to two years) to young ladies meeting the requirements of the program. Other scholarships are also given at the district and local chapter levels. It is estimated that each year, throughout the United States, Canada and Greece, the AHEPA Family awards \$250,000 to deserving students at a national, district, and chapter level.

- Support of **ST. BASIL'S ACADEMY**, which originally opened as an Orphanage in Garrison, NY, reached a level of \$720,000. In 1953, a trust fund was



Orion Chapter No. 130, Boston, Massachusetts 1945

philanthropist and Past Supreme President of the Order of AHEPA, William Chirgotis, assisted the Daughters in completing the pool project, by enclosing it in a \$500,000 building, thus making the pool usable 12 months of the year. Currently, the Academy is kept as a voluntary national project, and the Daughters of Penelope contribute the funds collected yearly from the membership, to be



1981-82
Sonja Stefanadis



1982-83
Maria Spirtos



1983-84
Elaine Kevgas



1984-85
Thalia Banis



1985-86
Lillian Demitry



1986-87
Felicia Cookie Papuchis



1987-88
Kalliope Xenakis



1988-89
Becky Demeris



1989-90
Julia G. Constantine



1990-91
Cornelia A. Pappas



1991-92
Anna Lefes Topougis



1992-93
Theodora Papouris Dacales

During this current year, it assisted the Grand Lodge by making available video tapes, so that the Grand Lodge goals and projects could be brought directly and personally to all chapter members.

Projects

Since the basic objective of the Daughters of Penelope is participating in the betterment of mankind, the members have, since their earliest inception contributed to National, International, civic and local charities and programs.

- In promoting **EDUCATION**, the

established to be administered by a Trust Fund Committee, consisting of Grand President and Treasurer of the Daughters of Penelope, the Dean of the Academy and the Archbishop. In 1954, the Charity Seal Drive was established to raise funds for St. Basil's. The funds raised were responsible for the construction and furnishing of a dormitory at St. Basil's Academy, known as the "Daughters of Penelope Hall". In 1988, after six years of effort, and a cost of \$220,000, the Daughters of Penelope built a swimming pool at St. Basil's Academy. The

used as needed by the Academy's staff. A separate fund has been established for the upkeep and maintenance of the swimming pool.

- **THE PENELOPIAN TEEN AGE SHELTER HOME** in Greece was initiated by the Karyatides Chapter of Athens. The home opened its doors in 1966, and has been maintained by the chapter contributions, the "Big Sister" program, the efforts of the Athenian membership, and most recently by the Greek Government. In 1973, the home was

Continued on page 44

converted to a Day Care Center for babies and children up to the age of five years, to assist working mothers. Over \$100,000 has been donated to this worthy cause, and it continues to be an annual voluntary project.

• **THE PAPANICOLAOU CANCER RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

is noted for cancer research and the development of the famous Pap smear for cancer detection in women. Over \$100,000 to date have been raised and contribut-

Penelope was inducted as Founders of the University of Miami Donor Recognition Societies.

• In 1979, the **AHEPA COOLEY'S ANEMIA FOUNDATION** was assisted by the Daughters of Penelope to get this program off the ground with a Telethon, which resulted in \$100,000 in pledges. Since then many more donations have been made annually which have supported research for a cure of this genetically-acquired disorder, which primarily occurs in ethnic groups from the Mediterranean

want to make a difference in her community. Penelope House opened its doors to the public on March 19, 1979. During 1979, the Board enlarged and expanded to become a community based organization. As such, it now received not only community donations, but also some local foundation assistance, both Mobile and Washington Counties' United Way assistance, and is a United Way Agency since 1981. During that same period, Penelope House helped to seek legislation for the funding of shelters and the protection of families from family violence through Alabama State Legislature. From an average of 9 women and their children in a converted home in 1979, to a brand new 1.25 million dollar facility and an average of 18 women and their children daily on June 11, 1990, it has proven to be one of Mobile's most valuable and utilized resources. The entire Daughters of Penelope membership has generously supported this very worthwhile endeavor since its inception.

• **SPECIAL OLYMPICS** was the mandatory project during the 1988-1989 year headed by National Chairman Irene Margelos. Over \$27,000 was raised and presented to Eunice Kennedy Shriver, National Chairman of Special Olympics, during the year of the fourth International Special Olympics.

ed by the membership to support this project. In 1978, a commemorative US postage stamp was issued to honor Dr. PAPANICOLAOU. In 1984, the Papanicolaou Cancer Research Foundation merged with the University of Miami. From 1984 to 1989, the Daughters contributed over \$50,000 so that on March 11, 1989, the Order of the Daughters of

countries, and for conducting patient screening and counseling of high risk individuals.

• **PENELOPE HOUSE, INC.** was the first shelter for battered women and their children in the State of Alabama. It was begun by the local Daughters of Penelope Chapter in 1978, under the direction of Kathryn Coumanis, who had the vision, determination, and dedication to



1993-94
Angie Rallis Speliopoulos



1994-95
Elizabeth Pappas



1995-96
Mary M. Verges



1996-97
Joanne V. Hologgitas, Ph.D.

**AWARDS,
Penelope of the Year**

The Penelope of the Year program was instituted in 1958. Its purpose was to show that the activities of the Daughters of Penelope are not limited to the Greek community. Proud of their Greek and American heritage, their activities range from civic and charitable organizations, to political and the underprivileged. Thus, the Penelope of the Year Award is given to an outstanding Daughter of Penelope, who excels in one or several of these fields of endeavor. The following members have qualified for this distinguished honor:

- 1958 Adaline Geo-Karas - Zion, IL
- 1959 Joanna Tsanparlis - Tacoma, WA
- 1960 Irene Gorgan - Waukeegan, IL
- 1961 Joan D. Dianos - Tucson, AZ
- 1962 Stella Petrakos - Rosemead, CA
- 1963 Kris Ann Voggelpohl - Gaveston, TX
- 1964 *Dorothy Stacey - Milwaukee, WI
- 1965 Patricia Farria - Indianapolis, IN
- 1967 *Catherine Canakas - Sacramento, CA
- 1968 Vivian Hampers - Grand Rapids, MI
- 1969 Hionia Pipilas - Nashua, NH
- 1970 Millie Kontos Melton - Portage, IN
- 1971 Anne Mountanos - San Francisco, CA
- 1972 Suzanne Collis - Cazenovia, NY
- 1973 Bessie Markos - Ogden, UT
- 1974 Frances Mannos - Asheville, NC
- 1975 Angie Varlas - Wheeling, WV
- 1976 Mariko Drewes - Washingtonville, NY
- 1977 Cleo Laras - Middletown, OH
- 1978 Despina Veloudos - Dunedin, FL
- 1979 Mary Beldecos - Springfield, PA
- 1980 Peggy Gakas - Harrisburg, PA
- 1981 Kay Diamantidis - Northridge, CA
- 1982 Kallie Xenakis - Deerfield Beach, FL
- 1983 Lena Simizi - Ventura, CA
- 1984 Edith Makris - Ventura, CA
- 1985 Athena Laipis - Dover, NH
- 1986 Sophie Papas - Houston, TX
- 1987 Beth Gregory - Union Lake, MI
- 1988 Angie R. Speliopoulos - Edina, MN
- 1989 Katina Booras - Shreveport, LA
- 1990 Sara Angelos - Houston, TX
- 1991 Dorothy Jenis - Manchester, NH
- 1992 Goergia Apostol - Houston, TX
- 1993 Mary Georgio - Washington, DC
- 1994 Bessie Thornhill - Windsor Ontario
- 1995 Cecilia Koplos - Oakland, CA
- 1996 Ellen Anagnostos - Portsmouth, RI

*Deceased

Salute to Women Award

In 1970, due to the efforts of the then Grand President, Joanna Panagopoulos Merakos, and Past Grand President Elizabeth Athanasakos, there was a significant milestone in the history of the Daughters of Penelope with the establishment of the "Salute to Women" Award.



Congresswoman
Olympia Snowe, 1982

In the late sixties and early seventies, equal opportunity for all persons, regardless of sex, was an unpopular premise. The concept to recognize women was, in small part, a general attempt to assist in obtaining equal rights for all persons. The unprecedented award of recognizing, honoring and saluting women who have been, and still are in the forefront, constantly remind those in authority of the inherent injustice of the status of women as it existed in our society at that time.

The Salute to Women Award, sponsored by the Daughters of Penelope, is celebrated biennially in March, on the same week-end that AHEPA sponsors the Congressional Banquet in Washington, DC. The distinguished honoree last year, 1996, was Zoe Papadopoulou Couloumbis, Pediatric Nephrologist.

Women of today continue to aspire to be full and effective partners in the development of our society and environment. They are now part of the arts and sciences, education, banking, business and government, although not always as full equals. Today's woman continues to desire her full freedom, so that she may give her understanding, abilities and talents to the advancement of our society.

On the occasion of this 12th Salute to Women, the two founding members, PGP Joanna Merakos and PGP Elizabeth Athanasakos, were honored at a luncheon to recognize their foresight in instituting this very prestigious award.

Each of the women honored by the Daughters of Penelope with their Salute to Women Award are truly an outstanding "Woman" in the United States and the world. They include the following distinguished honorees:

Each of the women honored by the Daughters of Penelope with their Salute to Women Award are truly an outstanding "Woman" in the United States and the world. They include the following distinguished honorees:



Supreme Justice Sandra Day O'Connor with
Past Grand Presidents, 1986



Helen Thomas with Greek
Ambassador Papoulis, 1988



Barbara Spyridon Pope, 1992



Elaine K. Shocas, 1993

- 1970 Senator Margaret Chase Smith
- 1984 Matina Hornor, Ph.D.,
President Radcliffe College,
Betty White, Television Actress
- 1972 Dr. Sarah E. Stewart, M.D., Ph.D.,
Professor of Pathology and
Cancer Researcher
- 1974 Brigadier General Ann Mae Hays,
Brigadier General Elizabeth Hosington
- 1976 Former First Lady Betty Ford

- 1978 The Honorable Congresswoman
Lindy Boggs
- 1980 Ambassador Shirley Temple Black
- 1982 The Honorable Congresswoman
Olympia J. Snowe
- 1986 Helen Boosalis, Mayor of Lincoln, NE,
The Honorable Supreme Court
Justice Sandra Day O'Connor
- 1988 Helen Thomas, UPI White House
Correspondent
- 1990 Eunice Kennedy Shriver,
National Chairman, Special Olympics

- 1992 Barbara Spyridon Pope,
Under Secretary of the Navy for
Manpower and Reserve Affairs
- 1993 Elaine K. Shocas, Chief of Staff to the
US Ambassador of United Nations,
Madeline Albright,
currently Secretary of State
- 1996 Zoe Papadopoulou Couloumbis,
Pediatric Nephrologist in Yiannina,
Greece, and formerly at the NIH

• DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE / H.U.D. PROJECT

- The Daughters of Penelope in Des Moines, IA, completed a 50 unit facility for the elderly and handicapped in 1995. It is the first women's group ever to work with H.U.D. to provide housing for the elderly and the handicapped.

• **OTHERS** Throughout the years, the Daughters have promoted participation in: Presentation of Greek Classics to local schools and public libraries; National Safety Council; Gift packages to men in Vietnam; AHEPA excursions to Greece; and

have assisted and contributed to the following projects: Ypsilanti Greek Theater; UNESCO; Eureka-Thrift Shop in Athena, Greece; Brookline Theological Seminary; hospitals in Greece; Greek War relief; Sale of US Defense Bonds; Volos earthquake fund; Books for St. Basil's Academy; books for schools in Greece; books for the blind and handicapped; AHEPA Hall for Boys; CARE-Tool kits for Technical Schools; Columbia Cancer Research Fund; Peter Cass Memorial Fund for Neurological Disorders; Guadelupe Home for Boys; National

Association for Retarded Children; Multiple Sclerosis Volunteer Service; Sudden Infant Death Syndrome; SAVE-A-HEART, Linda Loma University; Truman Library, Truman Memorial in Greece; Queen Fredericka's Charities; Barbara Bush Literacy Foundation; and the National Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

In 1995-96 the Daughters of Penelope contributed \$70,000 to St. Basil's and \$47,000 to the TRIBUTE (sculpture honoring Hellenism & Olympics).

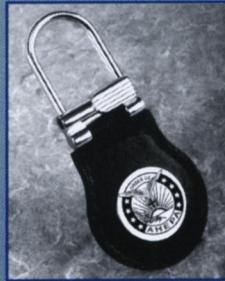
Ahepa Merchandise

Show Pride in Ahepa and Hellenism!

Join in the celebration of Ahepa's 75th anniversary by displaying these specially-designed, high-quality items you use every day. Order for yourself, your district, chapter, family and friends.



Ahepa Medal for scholastic excellence: award outstanding academic achievement.
Item # 108 – \$10.00



Ahepa Key Ring: silver, gold and leather and the AHEPA logo combine in a classic key ring.
Item # 104 – \$11.95



Pen and Key Ring Set: China Pearl ball-point pen and silvertone key ring with Ahepa logo in a gift box.
Item # 104A – \$34.95



Ahepa Pen: Gold trim, black lacquer finish with dome cap displaying Ahepa logo (Additional engraving on barrel available upon request).
Item # 105 – \$9.95

75th Anniversary Pen: Gold trim, black lacquer finish with dome cap displaying 75th anniversary logo (Additional engraving on barrel available upon request).
Item # 105A – \$9.95



Elegant Paperweight column by Nambe with 75th anniversary logo.
Item # 100 – \$34.00

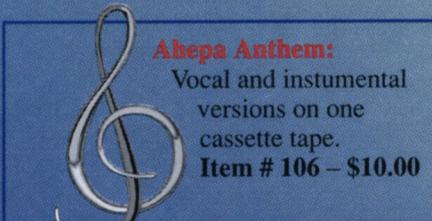
100% cotton T-shirt in solid white with AHEPA logo (Lg, XL, XXL). Item # 102 – \$12.95

100% cotton T-shirt with 75th anniversary logo (Lg, XL, XXL). Item # 102A – \$12.95



100% cotton polo shirt: in solid white with 75th anniversary logo (embroidered) (Lg, XL, XXL).
Item # 101 – \$29.95

100% cotton polo shirt: with AHEPA logo (embroidered) (Lg, XL, XXL).
Item # 101A – \$29.95



Ahepa Anthem: Vocal and instrumental versions on one cassette tape.
Item # 106 – \$10.00

White adjustable cap: with 75th anniversary logo.
Item # 103 – \$12.95

Black adjustable cap: with AHEPA logo.
Item # 103A – \$12.95



Ahepa Seal: ready to hang in your office, home, Ahepa hall, etc.
Pewter on wood, 18" diameter
Item # 107 – \$110.00

Ahepa logo stickers: peel off back and apply to any surface, 3" diameter
Item # 109 – \$1.50



*Volume discounts available, call Ahepa headquarters for prices.
Many items can be further customized for your chapter/district events! Call Ahepa for details.

Ahepa Lapel Pins

All new and improved! All pins are larger (3/4"), hard enamel or gold plate, many with imbedded diamond stones (see descriptions) and all have been redesigned for maximum legibility.



Item #	Type	Description	**Price
110	75th anniversary lapel pin	hard enamel	\$8.00
110A	Standard membership	hard enamel	\$8.00
110B	5 year	hard enamel	\$8.00
110C	10 year	hard enamel	\$8.00
110D	25 year	hard enamel, 1 diamond	\$15.00
110E	35 year	hard enamel, 1 diamond	\$15.00
110F	40 year	hard enamel, 1 diamond	\$15.00
110G	45 year	hard enamel, 1 diamond	\$15.00
110H	50 year	gold plate, 2 diamonds	\$20.00
110I	60 year	gold plate, 3 diamonds	\$25.00
110J	District Governor	hard enamel	\$10.00
110K	Chapter President	hard enamel	\$10.00
110L	Past District Governor	hard enamel	\$10.00
110M	Past Chapter President	hard enamel	\$10.00
110N	Supreme Governor	hard enamel	\$10.00
110O	Past Supreme Governor	hard enamel	\$10.00
110P	Sons of Pericles	hard enamel	\$8.00

**Volume discounts available, call Ahepa headquarters for prices.



114 Perpetual Plaque:

A flexible award which allows you to list and honor past presidents, athletic award winners, hall of fame recipients, chapter/district honorees, donors, etc. **\$59.95**

Additional charge for each individualized add-on plate. \$9.00 ea.



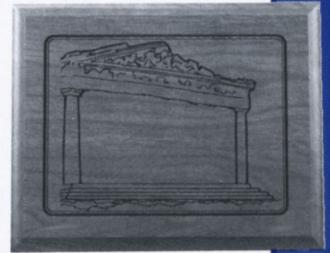
Custom-Designed Award Plaques

The center section of each plaque will be customized to suit your special needs. Plaques are 9"x12".

Item #

111 All purpose Award:

"Presented to (name) in sincere appreciation and recognition of distinguished service, loyalty and devotion given to (chapter/district)(date)." **\$59.95**



112 President/District Governor Award:

"Presented to (name) with deep appreciation for distinguished and unselfish service given while serving as President/ District Governor (chapter number/name)(date)." **\$59.95**

113 Ahepan of the Year:

"In recognition of outstanding leadership and service and for the unselfish donation of time and energy towards the advancement of the goals and interests of the Order of Ahepa. Presented by (chapter/district) (date)." **\$59.95**

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Name: _____ Telephone:() _____ Fax:() _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Item #	Quantity	Size	Price Each	Sub-Total
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_____	X _____	_____	\$ _____ =	\$ _____
_____	X _____	_____	\$ _____ =	\$ _____
_____	X _____	_____	\$ _____ =	\$ _____

*For shipping/handling (UPS ground) :

- orders from \$1-\$25 - add \$6
- orders from \$25-\$75 - add \$8
- orders from \$75+ - add \$11

- 2nd day air - \$10 additional
- overnight air - \$15 additional

Sub-total \$ _____

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TOTALS \$ _____



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Washington, DC 20009

Tel: (202) 232-6300 Fax: (202) 232-2140

I authorize Ahepa to charge my (check one) Visa Master Card:

Card #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Youth Provides A Solid Foundation

by Andrew Kaffes

What makes the AHEPA Family truly unique among other Greek organizations, or any organization for that matter, is one word – Family. Four separate auxiliaries, functioning on their own, with the ability to come together as a singular unit. The Sons of Pericles and Maids of Athena have served as

the Junior Orders of AHEPA and Daughters of Penelope for over 65 years making the AHEPA Family complete. Although separate, the two Junior

Orders successfully have worked hand-in-hand on numerous philanthropies, fundraising projects and formal affairs since their inception.

History Proves Sons of Pericles As Future AHEPA Leaders

When the young Greek-American men of the Manchester, N.H. community witnessed the impressive organization of their seniors into a group known as AHEPA, they too, realized that their own salvation lay in the same type of organization.

A letter was written by the youths to the Brothers of Manchester Chapter No. 44 asking them to help organize. A committee of Ahepans was formed, led by Dr. Alexander P. Cambadhis, to assist the youths in organizing and developing a ritual. Finally, on February 3, 1926, eleven members of the Mother Lodge of the Sons of Pericles were installed by Past Supreme President George Demeter. Queen City Chapter No. 1, in Manchester, N.H., was established.

Within the year, a second chapter formed in Haverhill, Mass. By the 4th Annual Convocation the Sons of Pericles numbered 33 members. The First National Convention was



1930-37 Sons Supreme Lodge provides 3 future AHEPA Supreme Presidents:*
(left to right) **Stephen S. Scopas,***
Daniel J. Nikolatos, John G. Thevos,*
Constantine P. Verinis.*

held in 1927, in Lowell, Mass., with 14 chapters in the fraternity. Official recognition of the Sons of Pericles as the Junior Order of AHEPA occurred in 1928 in Detroit. The Sons of Pericles became an international organization with the establishment of a chapter in Montreal in 1932.

The relationship between AHEPA and the Sons of Pericles is reciprocal. The Sons is proud to have provided AHEPA with numerous leaders and membership over the years. In return, AHEPA has provided a forum for the Sons to perform civic and philanthropic duties.

Four Past Supreme Presidents of the Sons have gone on to become Past Supreme Presidents of AHEPA: Brothers Stephen S. Scopas, Nicholas L. Strike, Constantine P. Verinis and James S. Scofield. AHEPA Past Supreme President John G. Thevos served as Sons Supreme Secretary under Brother Scopas' administration. Brother Arthur Lagadinos, a Past Supreme President, recently finished a term on the AHEPA Board of Directors. Currently, Brother Craig Clawson, who serves on the Board of Auditors, was also a Past Supreme President.

Even administratively the Sons of

Pericles has been a resource for AHEPA. Both Brothers George J. Leber and Arthur Lalos served as Executive Secretary for the Sons before holding that same position for AHEPA.

The Sons of Pericles is proud to be an auxiliary of AHEPA for 70 of the 75 years of its existence. It will continue to serve AHEPA for many



Members at the 4th National Convention Detroit, Michigan, August 1930, stand in front of the memorial for General Demetrius Ypsilanti who heroically fought during the War of Independence of Greece.

years to come by providing it with the most valuable resources of membership and leadership.

From Maids of Athens To Maids of Athena

The Maids of Athena was founded through the inspiration of Brother Thomas D. Lentgis on July 5, 1930. Brother Lentgis was serving as Supreme Governor at the time when the Maids were formed in Tacoma, Wash. Sparta

Chapter No. 1 was organized with 12 members, however, a charter was not granted until November 18, 1937. Subsequent charters were granted to Alethea Chapter No. 2, Seattle; Diana Chapter No. 3, Portland, Ore.; and Ariadne Chapter No. 4, Vancouver, British Columbia.



By the end of 1937, 20 chapters were chartered and the membership reached 444.

The Maids of Athena, originally named the Maids of Athens, developed its constitution and ritual in 1935. The organization was officially recognized as the Junior Auxiliary of the Daughters of Penelope at the 1950 Supreme Convention in Cleveland and by the mid 1950s a Grand Lodge was elected and a first National Convention was held.

In 1963 the name was changed to the present-day Maids of Athena. An anonymous writer stated "with the alteration of a single letter they were transformed from the spiritual citizens of a city to followers of the gray-eyed Goddess of Wisdom."

Like the Sons, the Maids also have spawned leaders into the Daughters of Penelope. Past Grand President of the Daughters of Penelope Becky Demeris also served as Grand President of the Maids of Athena.

The Maids of Athena today, like no other generation, identify with the pioneering Sisters that founded the organization 60 years ago. It is both the uncertainty and desire that binds the two. As AHEPA celebrates its 75th Anniversary, the Maids of Athena are dedicated to ensuring that its proud place in North America's preeminent Hellenic organization will continue for many years to come.

Youth Auxiliaries Combine To Donate Over \$ Half-Million To Charities

In the early years of the youth auxiliaries each one tended to work separately on various projects. The Sons of Pericles sponsored its own Excursion to Greece in 1938. On the excursion, the Sons decided to dedicate a monument at Missolonghi to commemorate the historic struggle that took place there during the Greek Revolution. The project was endorsed by the U.S. Congress and dedicated July 4, 1939. The Maids of Athena worked hard on its projects as well. The Maids contributed annually to the



Maids of Athens Diana Chapter No. 3, Portland, Oregon 1945

Daughters of Penelope Hall at St. Basil's Academy. In addition, programs such as the Mail Call Vietnam for servicemen and the Immigration Orientation Program assisting Greek immigrants were given much consideration by the Maids.

The Sons of Pericles and Maids of Athena combined efforts for the first time in 1971 and undertook the same national project, Multiple Sclerosis. The fundraising campaign against the disease raised over \$30,000. Since that project, the Sons and Maids have joined forces to raise funds to for the following worthy causes:

- **Cooley's Anemia Foundation**
- **Deborah Heart and Lung Center**
- **St. Basil's Academy**
- **Juvenile Diabetes Foundation**
- **Special Olympics**
- **AHEPA Bone Marrow Program**

In one year, 1989-90, the two combined to raise \$50,000 for Deborah Heart and Lung Center.

All told, the Sons and Maids have contributed \$500,000 toward these projects. This year, the youth auxiliaries chose Muscular Dystrophy as the national project, and together, plan to donate \$15,000 toward

the fight for a cure of the disease.

In addition to these joint efforts, the organizations also have worked together on the Salute to Youth banquets where they have honored the likes of Senator Paul Sarbanes and Sargent Shriver (1984), Broadcast Journalist Ike Pappas (1986), and Congressman George Gekas (1988). Elegant social affairs like Regional Miss AHEPA Pageants, where young women of Greek decent, who share the same interests and display their pride in their culture and heritage, take place all over North America.

No doubt exists that the two youth auxiliaries of AHEPA have been shining stars over the years. They take great pride in their philanthropic endeavors, scholarship programs, athletics and social functions.

Editors Note: Grand Govenors Karen Polyzos and Clea Reklitis and Supreme President George Vassilas contributed to this article.



Sons and Maids, Youth Salute Sargent Shriver, 1984

The Pivotal Role of Education

Seventy-five years ago a small group of visionaries in Atlanta founded the Order of Ahepa. They were a proud lot who faced persecution in the old South by people who neither understood nor respected the rich heritage and magnificent history they represented. Indeed, the AHEPA was founded to combat racist attitudes of the Ku Klux Klan that had led to the burning of Greek stores, meeting places, and even homes. It was under such circumstances the AHEPA set for itself three lofty goals: to bring the Greek immigrant into the American mainstream by helping him learn English and become a good citizen; to preserve Hellenism's customs,



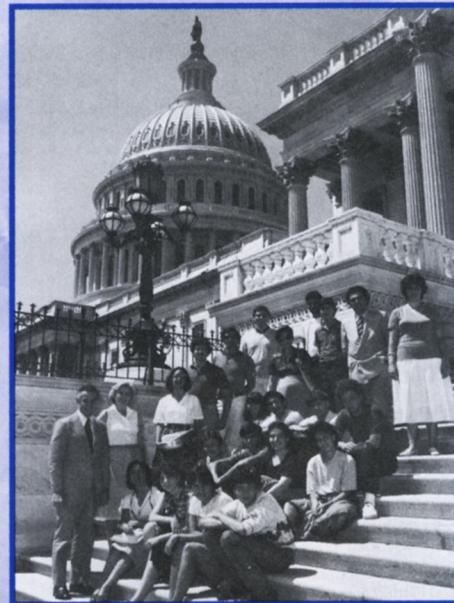
George Georgountzos was the public affairs intern at Ahepa Headquarters in 1992. A native of Newton, Mass., George served as secretary of Capitol Chapter 236 in Washington, D.C. He holds a BA from Tufts University and an MA from George Washington University. He plans to attend Suffolk University Law School in September.

traditions — and importantly — ideals; and to promote the education of its people. The AHEPA can look back to over seventy-five years of successes. It has played a pivotal role in helping our grandparents learn English and become citizens of their new country. Many of our progenitors first learned English and prepared for their

citizenship exams in AHEPA sponsored get-togethers for that purpose. Today, almost two million Americans who trace their ancestry to Greece can claim that the AHEPA has played an important role in preserving Hellenic culture and traditions in the United States and Canada. Many churches were established in cities and towns across America because of the hard work and fundraising efforts of Ahepans. While the AHEPA historically stressed the need for our community to learn English, it never turned its back to the importance of keeping the Greek language alive in our homes and community. And, by and large, the AHEPA has been successful and continues to work to preserve and teach the Greek language.

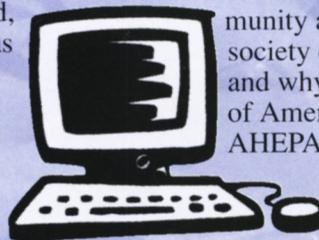
Perhaps the most important mission of AHEPA is tied to both cultural assimilation and preservation. It is the reason E is in AHEPA: Education. The AHEPA served to teach our immigrant parents on the way of life in America, about its language, laws and norms. AHEPA served to educate our younger generations on the importance of Hellenism and Greek traditions. Importantly, the founders of the Order and our community at large understand that education is the key to success. We hear it every day from our parents: "Get an education — it is the only way to get ahead."

Today, the AHEPA continues to actively pursue this prime mandate. We no longer need to assimilate — indeed, not only have we assimilated, but American culture has adopted many of our customs, styles, and ways of doing things.



In 1981, while in Washington, DC students met with Senator Paul Sarbanes of Maryland, who discussed American politics with them and arranged a tour of the Capitol.

[Don't you know that feta cheese is produced in Wisconsin and that gyro (no matter how you pronounce it) can be found in any town in the U.S.?] But we need to continue to stress education to our community and to train our society on what Hellenism is and why it is the cornerstone of American society. The AHEPA actively supports the education of our community and is on the forefront of protecting Hellenism from attacks on all sides.



Strong Local Chapter Scholarship Programs

The AHEPA supports education by offering scholarships to our young people. It is truly astounding to count the monetary value of the AHEPA scholarship programs throughout its reach. Every chapter and district offers scholarships to young members of our community.

For example, a truly unique program can be found in the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area. For twenty-seven years, the AHEPA Awards committee of the National Capital area reaches out to the community at large which provides individual awards that are given to

over thirty graduating seniors each year based on academic and athletic merit. Participating students are required to obtain letters of recommendation, transcripts, and write an essay. An independent, outside (and, I may add, non-Greek) panel of judges reviews the applications and rates them. Over \$300,000 has been given to more than 500 students as a result of this program.

Similar programs exist across the AHEPA. District 10 recently awarded over \$11,000 to sixteen bright college-bound seniors. This program has been in existence over twenty years, meting more than \$120,000 to worthy, aspiring students. The Winter 1997 issue of *The Ahepan* focused on education. As reported in that issue, over \$1.6 million has been contributed to district scholarship awards and endowment funds in 1996 alone! And this amount is only a fraction of the good work of individual chapters throughout the AHEPA family in this regard.

As a result of these and similar initiatives, our community can boast a very high level of education. In a speech in 1988, then-Secretary of Education Bill Bennett claimed that, as a community, the Greeks in the United States were the most educated ethnic group in the country. When measured by the number of our young people who go to college and by the number of Ph.D.s awarded to Americans of Hellenic descent, Secretary Bennett is right. Education is important. It is valued. We are fortunate that an infrastructure exists

to assist us in reaching the acme of our potential.

The establishment of the AHEPA Educational Foundation is a strong part of that infrastructure. It is paramount to remember that the bulk of AHEPA monies awarded to our young scholars come from the chapters across the entire country. The Educational Foundation offers scholarships on a broad, national basis to college-bound high school seniors, seminarians entering Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, as well as future lawyers and doctors.

A Rewarding Internship

The Ahepa Educational

Foundation also supports the outstanding internship program for future

“policy-works” and political leaders. Interns work at

Ahepa headquarters for a semester or during the summer monitoring our government’s actions on areas of importance to

our community. I had the privilege of serving as an Ahepa Public Policy intern and consider it one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.

Attacks Against Hellenism

The Ahepa Educational Foundation also supports the preservation of Hellenic studies programs throughout the United States and Canada. It is too well known that many universities are terminating their classics departments due to lack of student interest and financial support. And the elimination of programs in the classics is taking place while attacks against hellenism by afro-centrist thought are on the rise. While the Ahepa is not against afro-centric studies per se, our community must not allow classics departments to fall by



Past scholarship winner George Stephanopoulos.

the wayside. The study of the classics is an important pillar supporting the ideals of western civilization — hellenism is under attack in academic quarters and the Ahepa must redouble its efforts to support the study of classics and modern Greek studies departments in every university in the United States. A subcommittee of the Educational Foundation, the Hellenic Cultural Commission, is actively working on the front lines to lead Ahepa’s efforts in support of hellenism and the study of the classics.

Our community needs to protect its culture and heritage not just for itself so we can be proud, but because the Hellenic culture is the basis of Western civilization and free thought.

Democracy as a means of government requires an educated population: we are the heirs of a strong, honorable, and societally vital legacy. We must preserve, protect, defend, promote, and support education not just for the good of AHEPA, but for the good of our society and communities.

Unquestionably, the AHEPA has succeeded in meeting its original goals. The Order rightly may debate about what it’s future purpose ought to be, but one thing is clear. The original design of promoting education is still the core mission of the AHEPA. The Ahepa family actively pursues this mission through the financial support of its young people entering college and with a national effort to promote hellenism and the study of the classics for our society at large. We have a proud history but much needs to be done in the next century. The AHEPA is poised for the challenge.



Over \$1.6 million contributed to scholarship awards and endowment funds in 1996.



Students on the 1983 AHEPA-Anatolia College program.

AHEPA: THE VOICE FOR THE GREEK AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN WASHINGTON

In the 75 years since the creation of AHEPA, the organization has played the leading role in developing the Greek American political agenda and an important role in advocating the issues on that agenda to our government. Since the 1974 invasion of Cyprus, the Greek American lobby has grown to become one of the most respected and effective advocacy groups in the United States and Canada. This phenomena is part of a

long-standing tradition of Greek diaspora community activity in domestic politics. It has served both for the betterment of the communities themselves, as well as for the freedom and protection of Hellenism in Greece and Cyprus.

In the case of AHEPA, the organization was actually founded at the time when American nativism and anti-immigrant feelings shifted from social prejudice to U.S. government policy against groups such as Greek immigrants.

Immigration into the U.S. from Greece and all of Eastern and

Southeastern Europe had accelerated throughout the first two decades of this century. At the height of that immigration, the Bell Curve studies of that day indicated that groups such as Greeks and Jews were dragging down the Northern European gene pool of America. Literacy tests in 1917 and particularly unfavorable quota laws in 1921 and 1924 were instituted, essentially

ending the immigration. So, in fact, the real damage done to the Greek American community was not simply by intolerance groups such as the Ku Klux Klan, but also by government policy.

It was in this environment that AHEPA was created. Unable at that time to fight the immigration laws, AHEPA instead focused on building long-term capital for the community by helping develop a positive view of the Greek immigrant and Greek presence in America. Over time, both because of the work of AHEPA and because of the general success of the community, political and social threats to the community have all but disappeared, and that initial mission has been accomplished.

Before 1974 AHEPA did organize and conduct some direct lobbying for specific short term goals. These included post World War II lobbying for government funds for Greece (successful), for the return of predominantly Greek areas such as the Dodecanese from Italian control (successful) and the return of the majority Greek areas of southern Albania (unsuccessful). In 1955 the AHEPA also mounted serious protests against the Turkish riots in Constantinople which decimated the Greek population. In that period AHEPA also created its first Cyprus (later Cyprus and Hellenic Affairs) Committee, for the cause of independence for the then British-held colony.

Early on, AHEPA also created a Washington institution — the Biennial Congressional Banquet, which, to this day, remains a center-piece of the Greek American political calendar. AHEPA also made a point of encouraging its members to maintain contacts with members of Congress and local politicians and, as a perusal of George Leber's History of the Order of AHEPA shows, specifically recognized and supported Greek Americans in politics and public service above other pursuits.

True to its roots, AHEPA also preserved an interest in general civil rights

issues. Long after the Greek identity had been accepted in America, the 1963 AHEPA convention endorsed the civil rights legislation opposed by other established ethnic groups which had forgotten their own earlier minority persecution. Even recently, local members in Georgia allied us with the B'nai B'rith and the NAACP in amicus curie fights against the Ku Klux Klan's challenges to laws limiting their ability to threaten minorities.

The turning point which established a mandate for sustained Greek American and AHEPA lobbying was the 1974 invasion of Cyprus by Turkey. Immediately following that seminal event, AHEPA led the community's lobbying for the passage of an embargo against arms to Turkey in the U.S. Congress. The main factors in the passage of the embargo were: Greek Americans organized in every congressional district in America through AHEPA and the churches; an existing American and Greek American anti-junta coalition; the good will towards Greece; and the inherent equity of its



George Savidis, is Director of AHEPA's Public and Government Affairs Office in Washington. He has been professionally involved in the policy process in Washington for six years. He has also worked as an American correspondent in Greece, and as a political and communications consultant for national and statewide political campaigns.



AHEPA has maintained high level Administration contacts on behalf of the Greek American community, pictured here in 1966 with President Johnson.

stand. Also by that time, the community's social and psychological fears of assertive and direct ethnic lobbying had eroded, allowing the community to have the confidence to take a much more active stand in forming, or criticizing, the policies of their own government.

Although the rabidly pro-Turkish Secretary of State Henry Kissinger worked to circumvent the embargo, which was eventually abandoned, the action was none-the-less an effective



32nd
BIENNIAL
AHEPA
CONGRESSIONAL
BANQUET
FEBRUARY 12, 1996 • WASHINGTON, D.C.

victory which placed the Greek American community on the map in Washington.

The 1974 invasion and the period following saw the rise of several organized lobbying efforts along side of AHEPA.

Despite some competition (which is not always unhealthy) AHEPA maintained a policy of informally working together with those groups, while maintaining its own identity. The proliferation of other acronyms; AHL, AHA, UHAC, PSEKA and more recently, SAE, as well as the direct lobbying by the governments of Greece and Cyprus simply created an environment of opportunity for an increased Hellenic profile and presence in Washington.

Many of those efforts had an advantage of being specifically created for the purpose of political advocacy and of having control and direction held by a small group. Yet AHEPA has always held an unmatched potential and legitimacy (as well as a degree of inefficiency), because of both its broad base of members and its broad mandate and scope of activities outside of advocacy.

In the late 1970's through the 1980's, a certain amount of issue fatigue set in, but AHEPA continued a considerable effort. Legislative alerts, organized lobbying of members of Congress, community-wide petitions, regular contacts with high ranking officials and media, testimony before Congress, and conferences alternately targeted at educating Hellenic community leaders and decision makers in Washington, were all begun in that period and continue today.

More recently, AHEPA has created its own professionally staffed Public and Government Affairs office in Washington to regularly contact members of the administration, Congress, the media, and think tanks, as well as to assist members in pressuring their government representatives. Under President Jim Scofield AHEPA held an unprecedented Unity Forum of various Greek American leaders and under President Spiro Macris instituted its Congressional Report Card, which grades every member of Congress based on its agenda in Washington.

In the 1990's two difficulties arose in prosecuting the Greek

American agenda in Washington. One was the steady increase in the number of concurrent issues, especially the addition of the dormant Macedonian and Greek minority rights in Southern Albania questions, to the semi-permanent issues of Cyprus, Turkish threats in the Aegean, aid to Greece and Turkey, and freedom for the Patriarchate. Getting a response to a long Greek American agenda from Washington decision makers, known for their limited attention span, presented a difficult task.

On the Macedonian issue AHEPA drove a number of legislative efforts, staged an effective petition drive and held two major conference in Washington. It also secured the statement from then candidate Clinton which stalled U.S. recognition of FYROM for several years. It also worked closely and effectively with the Panepirotic Federation on human rights for the Greek minority in Albania. Those two issues have cooled down for the present.

Also in the 1990's the U.S. military aid to Greece and Turkey dropped to about five percent of its former levels. While AHEPA supports this decrease, it means that interest in Washington as well as lobbying opportunities which AHEPA vigorously used have been reduced at a time when Turkish threats to Greece and Cyprus have not decreased. With aid all but gone, military sales affecting the balance between Greece and Turkey have become more important.

Foreseeing these changes three years ago, AHEPA began working with a coalition of groups, other than Greek



1994, Senator John Glenn, AHEPA President John Economou, George Stephanopoulos and Ohio Democratic Party Chairman Harry Meshel.

Americans, fighting for a congressional bill that would block not just aid, but any military exports to states engaged in aggression. The "Code of Conduct Legislation" has received increasing support each year and is seen as having a direct impact on Turkey's increasing difficulties in buying American weapons in order to threaten Greece.

Also, AHEPA has begun more effective work with key players outside of Congress. It meets more than ever with administration, diplomatic, think tank and media policy makers and opinion leaders. When the State department suggested Greece and Turkey should negotiate Greece's sovereign rights at the height of the dangerous Imia crisis, President Clinton choose to announce a new policy at an AHEPA Congressional Banquet. That policy called for a judicial settlement as advocated by AHEPA. President Spiro Macris' recent trip to Greece, Turkey and Cyprus included an unprecedented number of meetings with U.S. diplomats and media and Turkish policy makers, as well as with Greek and Cypriot leaders. This is all part of a growing maturity and effectiveness for our efforts.

Ahepans can be proud — proud of the history and the increasing strength and assertiveness of their organization in the advocacy process. Whether it is chapter members writing or buttonholing their members of Congress and Parliament across the U.S. and Canada or high level contacts by their national officials, Ahepa is making the Greek American community's voice heard. Most of all, we should be proud of our legitimacy in a process where, in the end, our stands on human rights, fairness for Greece and justice for Cyprus, fall squarely within the principles of our adopted countries.

The 1974 invasion of Cyprus as well as the 1983 UDI were seminal events in the creation of AHEPA's lobbying activities



\$316 MILLION

WE BUILD MORE THAN HOUSING... WE BUILD HOMES!

by James Scofield

A Mission of Accomplishment

Across the United States, the AHEPA National Housing Corporation (ANHC) has helped to build 41 senior citizens apartment complexes . . . and is continuing to expand.

These centers are built from monies allocated by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and HUD has made a total commitment in mortgages and subsidies totaling more than \$316 million.

It all began in 1980 when the ANHC was founded with earned interest from \$1 million of funds earmarked by AHEPA for the elderly housing program. These funds were used for

outright grants to awarded facilities to fulfill HUD requirements and for possible costs incurred during construction or the first three years of operations.

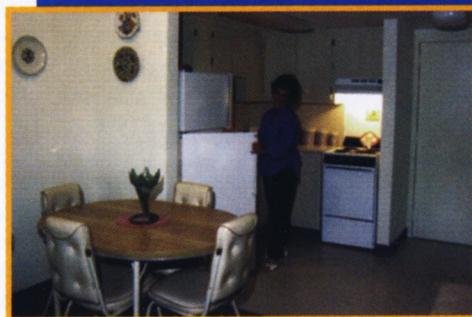
Progress & Genuine Success

In July, 1991, the AHEPA National Housing Corporation formed its wholly owned subsidiary, the AHEPA Management Company, Inc., (AMC) to manage the then 24 AHEPA apartment complexes in operation and those that were to be built in the future.

This subsidiary is staffed with skilled professionals who, in addition to their experience in renting and maintenance, have been trained to provide social programs and the basic supportive services to assist the residents. They also have gained extensive experience and knowledge in government rules and regulations.

AMC is now a not-for-profit organization and is experienced in long-term retirement housing management, construction coordination, financial and accounting analysis, computer expertise, marketing and public relations to provide management leadership to the ANHC system.

One of the most important aspects of ANHC and AMC is the close networking in each local community. This is accomplished by working with local churches, service clubs, fraternal organization, civic groups, local governmental agencies, and those who share the mission of providing quality, affordable housing for senior Americans.



Interior of an apartment built by Ahepa.



AHEPA NATIONAL HOUSING CORPORATION

41 COMPLEXES, OVER 2,300 UNITS & GROWING!

Companionship & Chapter Involvement

Residents are able to enjoy their golden years in a warm atmosphere, surrounded by old friends while making many new friends. They enjoy the privacy of bright, beautiful apartments, but they will never feel alone. Companionship is only a doorstep away, and each complex has a fully-staffed entertainment and community room where residents gather and mingle.

What make the AHEPA homes unique are their ties to the local community. Every apartment complex has been co-sponsored and built by a chapter of AHEPA, whose members take an active interest in the welfare and activities of the residents.

Albuquerque, New Mexico - Chapter #501

Ankeny, Iowa - Daughters of Penelope Chapter #38

Atlanta, Georgia - Chapter #1

Birmingham, Alabama - Chapter #3

Buffalo, New York - Chapter #91

Columbia, South Carolina - Chapter #284

Dayton, Ohio - Chapter #113

Des Moines, Iowa - Chapter #192

Detroit (Harrison Township), Michigan - Chapter #371

Gary (Merrillville), Indiana (3 facilities) - Chapter #78

Hartford (Wethersfield), Connecticut - Chapter #58

Haverhill, Massachusetts - Chapter #39

Houston, Texas (2 facilities) - Chapter #29

Indianapolis, Indiana (2 facilities) - Chapter #232

Mobile, Alabama (6 facilities) - Chapter #310

Montgomery, Alabama (2 facilities) - Chapter #23

Newport, Rhode Island (2 facilities) - Chapter #245

Niantic, Connecticut (3 facilities) - Chapter #250

N. Miami, Florida - Chapter #421

Norwich, Connecticut (2 facilities) - Chapter #110

Rochester, New York - Chapter #67

St. Louis, Missouri (2 facilities) - Chapter #53

Syracuse, New York - Chapter #37

West Palm Beach, Florida - Chapter #18

Wilmington, North Carolina - Chapter #408

Youngstown, Ohio - Chapter #89

AHEPA 53 APARTMENTS



AHEPA 78 officers and other members of the local housing corporation visit the future site of construction in the Spring of 1993.

West Palm Beach Chapter 18 dedicated its 98-unit apartment complex in 1996



The interest of the Ahepa in healthcare goes back seventy years, when, at the National Convention in 1927, the resolution was adopted to raise fifty thousand dollars for the Manna Tuberculosis Sanatorium in Greece.

It was ten years later that the Ahepa Silver District Sanatorium, on March 25, 1937, opened its doors to the first twenty-six patients to be admitted.

When World War II put a strain on the population, resources and growth of the Order, the Ahepa closed the Sanatorium doors by resolution at the Atlanta Convention in 1942.

Situated in Albuquerque, N.M., five thousand feet above sea level, the Sanatorium consisted of four main buildings and six cottages, constructed of brick, in a Spanish design. It was purchased from the Occidental Life Insurance Company, and contained facilities for one hundred patients.

By the time that Ahepa closed its Sanatorium, such facilities were on the verge of being doomed to obsolescence by the advent of antibiotic medicines.

AHEPA HOSPITALS IN GREECE

The Los Angeles Convention in 1947, just ten years after the Ahepa Sanatorium opened its doors, witnessed the resolutions to (1) erect a wing to Evangelismos Hospital in Athens, (2) erect an Ahepa Hospital in Salonika, Greece, and (3) construct Ahepa Health Centers in

A Devotion to Medicine

Greece at Chryssoupolis, Kalavrita, Paramythia, Molai, Meligala, and Ierapetra.

The first Ahepa Health Center in Greece was opened on March 14, 1948. Construction on the Evangelismos Ahepa Wing, and on the other Health Centers, had begun.

Not many months later the Ahepa Health Centers at Thebes and at Ierapetra were dedicated.

In 1949 the Ahepa Wing of Evangelismos Hospital, with four hundred new beds added to the original facilities, was completed.

Altogether, seven Ahepa Health Centers

became operable and served many thousands of patients monthly.

The Ahepa Hospital at Thessaloniki was dedicated on May 14, 1951. This Hospital, affiliated with the Medical School of Aristotelian University, is one of the finest such institutions in the Balkans.

THE AHEPA COOLEY'S ANEMIA FOUNDATION

On The Brink of a Cure

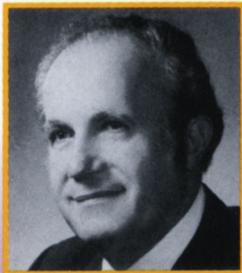
by Stephen S. Scopas, National Chairperson and Pamela Basedow, National Secretary

For nearly twenty years The Ahepa Cooley's Anemia Foundation has been a leader against the ravages of Cooley's Anemia. Twenty years ago, when it became evident that Cooley's Anemia was robbing young children of Greek ancestry of life itself, the leaders of the Order of Ahepa stepped forward and committed every

member to work until a cure was found. Twenty years ago children did not live to complete their teenage years. Today patients are no longer called children because they can live into their fourth decade of life.

Ahepa Hospital medical personnel participate in an exchange program at the Deborah Heart and Lung Center in New Jersey

The Order of Ahepa has supported every aspect of research that has brought us to this stage of development. Three major forms of research conducted by three totally different areas of medicine have been supported by our Foundation. Major strides have been made in the field of genetic engineering; it is believed that a total cure will eventually be brought about by this science. The other two areas of



Peter Paulus
AB, MA, Ph.D. (Chemistry),
Corporate Vice President, The Standard Products Co., Ahepa Supreme President 1978, Archon, Megas Hartofilax Greek Orthodox Church, Ahepa Educational Foundation Hall of Fame.



The AHEPA Wing of the Evangelismos Hospital in Athens, 1952

research supported by our Foundation include patient care and management. The goal is to keep patients healthy enough to be able to partake in the cure when such is perfected.

In the earlier days of our Foundation, grants were presented in the amount of \$2,000 - \$3,000, and recipients were selected from requests received from all over the country including students of hematology. In the past ten years we have narrowed down our recipient bank to include from three to five of the leading hematologist researchers in the country who are on the brink of a cure or a major finding. The Foundation has appointed Mary Katsafanas of the Daughters of Penelope as Chairperson of the Fellowship-Review Committee, with voting members Maureen Dwyer-Robertson, Vice President of North Shore Health Service, New York; and Peter Chletcos of the Order of Ahepa.

This year, the Ahepa Family, through the Ahepa Cooley's Anemia Foundation, issued grants in the amount of \$90,000. At our annual meeting on June 8, 1996, Doctor Sergio Piomeli, of Columbia University Physicians and Surgeons was awarded \$25,000 in fellowship monies to help defray the costs of evaluating new techniques in assessing cardiac failure, second to transfusion-related iron overload, as the main cause of death in Thalassimiacs. This will greatly aid in the maintenance of patient stability in the wait for a cure. Doctor Arthur Bank, of Columbia University Physicians and Surgeons, was also awarded \$25,000 in fellowship monies for his continuing studies in gene therapy or, genetic engineering. He has already been able to isolate the defective gene and insert a corrected gene back into the body. His research is on auto-transplantation, which will include the study to transfer and express normal human Beta and Gamma Genes into human cells. This, most likely, will

lead to the total cure for Thalassemia. Another fellowship of \$25,000 was awarded to Dr. Robert Grady of New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, who will continue his research in perfecting the oral chelator which will take the place of, or be used in combination therapy with, the infusion pump which is now injected nightly into the patients abdomen and worn for a twelve hour period each and every night to rid the system of the iron overload. A fellowship grant was also awarded to Doctor Phillip P. Wedemeyer of the University of Pittsburgh. He is conducting research which would be invaluable and lead to a cure, by better perfecting the method of bone marrow transplantation. The patient would not have to go through the ordeal and danger of intensive chemotherapy which now destroys

the patients entire marrow.

Educating The Public

While most of our efforts are in raising funds for much needed research, the Foundation has also taken on the responsibility of educating the public as to the necessity of screening for this genetic disorder. Throughout the years, screenings have been conducted by local Ahepa and Daughters Chapters throughout the country, and screening was set up at one of the Ahepa's National Conventions.

The Foundation also was responsible for the production of a Public Service Television Advertisement, featuring actor John Stamos, from television's Full House.

He carried the message, in the name of the Ahepa, to all those young people wearing the infusion pump, to



“Keep on Pumping - A Cure is in Sight”. This announcement was aired across the country for a period of three years because of the hundreds of people who called the networks inquiring about the Ahepa Cooley's Anemia. This was a source of pride to the Ahepa Family and an incredible source of encouragement for those who heeded Stamos' words.

A children's storybook, to be circulated to all departments of pediatric hematology across the country which will encourage youngsters to comply with the pump, will soon be in print.

It is sometimes made easy to measure the value of the Ahepa's contribution to medicine when one considers the words of Dr. Robert Grady of New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center who attributes his strides in finding oral medication to take the place of the pump, to the continued support of the Ahepa over the last several years. It becomes a little easier to measure, when we know that we have

COOLEY'S ANEMIA

What Is Cooley's Anemia?

Cooley's Anemia is a genetic and fatal blood disorder most frequently found among individuals of Mediterranean origin. It is a disease whose carriers are resistant to Malaria, therefore it is prevalent among populations originating in areas of the world where Malaria was or is endemic. The defect results from the inability to form B-globin, a part of the Hemoglobin. Thus, in the bone marrow, the precursors of the red blood cells die. As a result, the patient is profoundly anemic, and the bone marrow expands enormously. Untreated patients with thalassemia die within 1-2 years of life. All of these problems can now be circumvented by correcting the anemia with regular blood transfusion. This regimen of hypertransfusion is now a standard procedure followed throughout the world. Patients on this treatment now survive well into the second decade of life, and lead a relatively normal life. However, the repeated concentration of iron with each transfusion ultimately leads to death. In the 1960's deferoxamine was introduced as an Iron Chelator. This drug irreversibly binds Iron and leads to its excretion. Studies demonstrate that there is a greatly reduced mortality among compliant patients.

Continued on page 58

contributed to the longevity of the young people waiting for a cure. We can measure the value of our continued support by looking at the life of our poster child, knowing that she underwent a successful, though very difficult time with a bone marrow transplant. And we can examine our motives when her family asks us what will be available to save the life of their beautiful new baby boy, also born with Cooley's Anemia. We can only answer that the Ahepa will finish a job we started twenty years ago and help fulfill the obligations of mankind to all his brothers.

THE AHEPA BONE MARROW DONOR REGISTRY

Dr. Peter Gallas was stricken with acute myelogenous leukemia in February, 1987. He had received his MD degree from Wayne State University in Michigan, and was a resident in anesthesiology at the University of South Florida in Tampa.

The disease had been in remission for a few months but had returned. His best chance for recovery was to receive a bone marrow transplant. In this procedure a person who has been found to have the proper white blood corpuscle profile to match Peter's allows a needle to go into his hip bone from which bone marrow is extracted. This marrow then is injected into a vein of the patient where it finds its way into the bone marrow and regenerates.

Peter's father, Theodore, who had been a President of the Ahepa Chapter in Coral Springs, Florida, asked his Chapter for help in finding a bone marrow donor. It is not easy to match the white blood corpuscle proteins of another person. In fact, neither Peter's mother, Mena, nor his two brothers, nor any of his relatives in America as well as in Greece matched his. A donor among the general public, especially among the Greek people, had to be found.

Dr. Peter Paulus, of the Coral

Springs Chapter, volunteered to head up an Ahepa Committee to work with the Gallas family to find a donor. Peter's wife, Pam, her family, her godmother, Georgia Sekles, her sister, Effie Janis of Michigan, and Angelo Pantazes of the Eagle Rock, N.J. Chapter of the Ahepa in Livingston, N.J., began a nationwide campaign for funds and for donors. The Ahepa and the Philoptohos Society were instrumental agencies in this campaign. In a matter of months, with the public relations assistance of Mr. Peter Kovatis of Cedar Grove, N.J., a quarter of a million dollars was raised and five thousand potential donors were tested.

A blood match for Peter was never found and he eventually died from the disease. But his legacy was the Ahepa Bone Marrow Donor Registry, a dedicated group of volunteers whose new knowledge and experience are an invaluable source of assistance to the Greek people who are faced with fighting this disease.

The medical progress in transplantation grows steadily with a corresponding success of cures for many blood diseases, including leukemia. However, the explosive growth of the numbers of Greek donors originally experienced has not continued, due to avoidable reasons, although the services rendered by the Ahepa Registry are profound. Aside from finding donors for patients, the Ahepa Registry guides patients through the labyrinth of medical practices and procedures involved.

The people originally involved in establishing the Ahepa Registry are

ASIDE FROM FINDING DONORS FOR PATIENTS, THE AHEPA REGISTRY GUIDES PATIENTS THROUGH THE LABYRINTH OF MEDICAL PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES INVOLVED.

IT BECOMES A LITTLE EASIER TO MEASURE, WHEN WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE LONGEVITY OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE WAITING FOR A CURE.

still participating. The Registry is divided into a Patient Advocacy and a Donor Advocacy. These are kept separate by law, and the patient and donor are unknown to each other except if they both desire this knowledge. Peter Paulus is the Patient Advocate and George Smyrnios is the Donor Advocate.

The computer file, which is connected with central computers in Massachusetts and Alabama, is thus connected with the World Wide Web which includes almost two million donor profiles. In a matter of hours the white cell antigen profile of a patient can be compared with all of these. Assisting Peter Paulus and George Smyrnios are Theodore Gallas and George Pilavakis of Coral Springs, Florida, and Angelo Pantazes of Livingston, N.J.

The direction of the Ahepa Registry is about to take a dramatic turn since the recent advent of the use of umbilical cord blood instead of bone marrow to cure leukemia and related blood diseases. Cord blood banks are now being organized in various parts of the United States and in Canada. The Ahepa Registry personnel are determining how to exploit this new procedure and hopefully cure every patient of Greek descent in America.

Ten years after Dr. Peter Gallas was stricken with Leukemia, a new hope for fighting this disease has appeared. And a new challenge for the Ahepa Family presents itself.

It is interesting to note that the Poster child of Ahepa's Cooley's Anemia Foundation, Little Miss Xyloportas, received a bone marrow transplantation about a year ago and is now healthy.

AHEPA SCORES WITH ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

by Dr. Monthe Kofos, Supreme Athletic Director

The year of 1970 saw a rejuvenation of AHEPA Athletics after seven years of inactivity. With the election of Dr. Monthe Kofos in 1969, a concerted effort was made to revive Sports for the Fraternity with his appointment of a team of outstanding Directors who have for the past 28 years given AHEPA tremendous prestige in Athletics.

SOFTBALL

The Softball Program has been very successful over 16

Hall of Famer,
Jimmy Poulos

years, but lack of funds has cost us dearly in building up hundreds of members, unfortunately.

Cities such as Houston, Texas, St. Louis, Missouri, Marlboro, Massachusetts, Flint, Michigan, North Royalton, Ohio, Norwich, Connecticut, Richmond, Virginia, Atlanta, Georgia, Birmingham, Alabama and Oklahoma City have been the strongholds of this program.

This year's Tourney will be in Charleston, South Carolina, October 17-19 with St. Louis as the defending Champions.

GOLF

In 1971 Golf became one of the most successful areas of Athletics, drawing hundreds into joining AHEPA because of this well organized program. Eight Regional Tournaments culminate in a National Championship of 23 finalists.

The Convention City Golf Tourney is in its 28th year, played at each annual Supreme convention site.

The AHEPA Dr. Monthe Kofos

National Invitational Golf Tourney, a truly outstanding tournament, draws from 25 states, Canada and Alaska, has been held in Greece, Bermuda,

Bahamas, Las Vegas, Innsbrook, Saddle Brook, Myrtle Beach, Orlando, Scottsdale, Tucson, Hilton Head Woodlands.

This year, 182 golfers participated at Wild Dunes, South Carolina.

BOWLING

Two Major Tournaments, Ten Pin and N. E. Candlepin, continue to draw big attendance.

The Louis Asimakopoulos National Ten Pin Tourney is in Chicago this year, and Woodlawn of

Chicago is the defending champs. They will be hard pressed by Garfield, South Chicago, Shoreline and North Shore all of Chicago. Marlboro, Massachusetts, St. Louis, Detroit, Gary are all big contenders.

Some great scores are posted in this classic.



**North Carolina AHEPA Team:
1995 AHEPA National Softball Champions,
Winners of 3 national titles**



L - R: Jason Nicholas, 1995 National Regional Handicap Champion, Dr. Monthe Kofos, A.D. and Dan Nicholas, 1995 and 1996 AHEPA National Regional Scratch Golf Champions. Only two brothers, from Medina, OH, to ever win national titles in same year.

The 36th Annual N. E. Candlepin Tourney in New England draws 20 to 25 teams annually. Teams from Lynn, Marlboro, Boston, Lawrence, Biddeford, Portland, Brockton, Worcester, Portsmouth, Dover are big in their support.

Lynn, Massachusetts has a big streak of 14 wins in the past 15 years.



ALL-STAR BASKETBALL

In 1939 Van Nomikos, Past Supreme President (PSP) and the Father of AHEPA Athletics suggested the idea of All-Star teams going to Greece to participate in athletics. It was 31 years later that a handful of Ahepans finally put their foot forward in an idea that had great merit. Not only would it stimulate Hellenic Basketball in the United States, but it gave AHEPA the opportunity to become a leader in the move of introducing Greek American basketball players to Greece. It also provided our boys with the great thrill of playing in the land of their fathers, the chance of visiting Greece and also provided a natural vehicle of building a good relationship between the Hellenes of the USA and Greece.

In 1970 the first phase of the

Continued on page 60

AHEPA All-Star Basketball Program was put into effect through the combined efforts of many Ahepans by sending an all-Star Basketball Team to Greece to play a 20 game schedule during the convention for a stay of 27 days under the banner of AHEPA.

Since then nine more trips have materialized in 1975, 1980, 1982, 1984, 1987, 1989, 1991, 1993 and 1995. During these trips 114 different Greek-American players participated and over 60 subsequently went and played for numerous Greek teams in the Greek and European Leagues. The overall ten trip record is AHEPA 65 wins and 54 losses.

Instrumental in making the 1970 trip possible were Dr. Monthe Kofos (National Athletic Director), Louis Manesiotis, (PSP), Coach Lou Cotronis (NY) Andrew Fasseas (PSP), Bill Chirgotis (PSP) and George Vlogianites (NY).

The AHEPA program is indebted to Michael Kiritsis of Greece who since 1980 continues to use his influence to help the AHEPA meet influential basketball people in Greece who always lay out the red carpet for the AHEPA team while in Greece. Mike has coached both Panathinaikos (Athens) and Aris (Salonika) to championships of Greece. One such introduction to Nikos Nesiades of the Commercial Bank of Greece has grown into a reciprocal hosting of teams in the Untied States and Greece.

As the guests of the Commercial Bank for the last five trips, The AHEPA team has traveled throughout the mainland of Greece to play in Metsafo, Ioannina, Thessaloniki area, Athens area, Piraeus, Kalamata, Patras, Larissa, Volos and the islands of Corfu,



AHEPA's youth auxiliaries not only support causes such as medical research and the Special Olympics, but participate in highly competitive AHEPA athletic tournaments

Rhodes, Crete and Chios. The Bank has traveled for games in Reno, Nevada, San Francisco, California, Sacramento, California, Chicago, Illinois, Atlanta, Georgia, Cleveland, Ohio and Clearwater, Florida. Plans for a trip to Greece in 1998 are in the works.

BOOSTER CLUB ATHLETIC FUND

In 1987 the Athletic Department in order to survive began raising funds from donations by Ahepans and friends to establish a fund so that the interest could keep the Athletic Department alive. Over 1000 members are faithful donors raising over \$250,000.

THE AHEPA HELLENIC ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Great tributes have been paid to royalty and international figures, but perhaps one of AHEPA's greatest accomplishments has been its initiation and establishment of the AHEPA Hellenic Athletic Hall of Fame.

The real pioneers of AHEPA athletics began with the establishment of the athletic department in St. Paul in 1931. Van A. Nomikos, a theater magnet, and Lew Blatz were the leaders. Nomikos, an influential Hellene in the Chicago area befriended the youth of AHEPA, the Sons of Pericles, throughout the midwest and east and established the Great National Basketball Tournaments which flourish today.

AWARDS PROGRAM

The Annual Supreme Convention Sports Award Luncheon is one of the finest convention affairs where the following awards are presented:

Harry Agganis Award

To the Outstanding Person in the Field of Athletics, college or professional.

William Chirgotis Award

To the Outstanding Collegiate Athlete of Hellenic Descent.

Dr. Michael Spirtos Award

To the Outstanding Golfer at the National Invitational Golf Tourney.

Dr. Kimon Doukas Award (\$1,000)

To the Outstanding College Sophomore - Junior Scholar Athlete of Hellenic Descent.

John P. Vlahos Award (\$1,000)

To the Outstanding High School Scholar Athlete of Hellenic Descent.

AHEPA Booster Award (\$2,000)

To the Outstanding Hellenic High School Athlete.

Gus County Award

To the Convention City Golf Champion of Hellenic Descent.

Dr. Monthe N. Kofos Golf Award

To the National Regional Golf Champion.

George J. Triphon Award

To the Most Valuable Basketball Player of the National AHEPA Basketball Tourney.



Dr. Monthe N. Kofos, National Athletic Director awarding the Booster Athletic Award to Vicki Goetz, U.S. Womens Amateur Golf Championship in 1991 in Bahamas Awards Luncheon, won at ages 16 and 18.

Although AHEPA has been in existence since 1922 there have been very few national directors. Van Nomikos, the first Director was succeeded by Pete Clentzos, who expanded the program immensely in the years by organizing National Hellenic Olympiads, golf tournaments and other sporting events, and appointing regional directors to supervise the program. He served from 1939 to 1946 followed by Nick Contreas in 1946 and 1947. Pete took over again from 1948 to 1957. There were other directors from 1958 through 1966. Then came Dr. Monthe Kofos, who has reigned supreme from 1969 to the present, a thirty year period and ongoing.

In 1974 Dr. Kofos, National Athletic Director, presented a plan to the 1974 AHEPA convention that

was to give stature and dignity to further establish AHEPA athletics as one of the finest of ethnic groups in America.

The AHEPA Athletic Hall of



L. to R.: Peter Clentzos, Chairman of Hall of Famer and Members; Jimmy Caras, newly inducted member of Hall of Fame, World Billiard Champion; Dr. Monthe Kofos, Hall of Fame and A.D., presenting Jimmy Poulos, University of Georgia football great, inducted in the Ahepa Hellenic Athletic Hall of Fame.

Fame encompasses all the Hellenic greats; players, coaches, celebrities, and sports personalities as far back as the turn of the century. These are the sports heroes of the Hellenic race in America.

Their legendary performances and accomplishments should be preserved and serve as an inspiration to our youth, providing conscientious leadership, financial help and perpetuating the tradition so well established by Dr. Monthe Kofos.

Each year four individuals are selected and subsequently inducted into the Hall at the AHEPA National Convention Sports Award Banquet.

Hall of Fame Credentials

One has to:

- be of Hellenic descent or adopted legally by Hellenic parents.
- be of good moral character; a role model
- have achieved high honors in athletic competition such as All-American, All-Conference, Olympic experience or Major League status and similar achievements
- should have outstanding recommendations from coaches, sports writers or administrators who have witnessed their performance backed up by clippings, videos and other resume materials
- have been retired for at least 3 years from the sport if candidate had been a player.

1975

Harry Agganis - All American - Football and Boston Red Sox
 Alex Karras - All Pro Football, Detroit Lions, Iowa University
 Jim Londos - World Wrestling Championship
 Gus Zarnas - All American - Football - Ohio State
 Pete Pihos - All Pro Football - Philadelphia Eagles - Indiana University
 Peter Clentzos - Track
 Lou Tsiropoulos - Boston Celtic Basketball - Kentucky University
 Milt Pappas - All Star Baseball - 200 games
 Dee Andros - All American - Oklahoma University
 Alex Kampouris - Professional Baseball

1976

George Saimes - All American Football - Michigan State
 Alex Grammas - Professional Baseball - University of Michigan
 Johnny Morris - All Pro - Chicago Bears - University of California

1977

Dr. George Kaftan - All American Basketball - Holy Cross College - Boston Celtics, N.Y. Knickerbockers
 Gus Traindos - Pro Baseball
 James Kekeris - All American - Philadelphia Eagles - Missouri University

1978

Gus Zitrides - All American Football - Dartmouth
 William Macrides - All Pro - Philadelphia Eagles
 Mike Castronis - All American - Georgia University

1979

Billy Loes - Professional Baseball
 Art Gregory - All American - Duke University

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

1980

Gus Niarhos - Professional Baseball
 Anton Christoforides - World Light Heavy Weight Boxing Champion

1981

Andy Marefos - All Pro N.Y. Giants
 Chris Pelekoudas - Professional Baseball Umpire
 Nick Kerasiotis - All American - Football - Chicago Bears

1982

Nick Rassas - All American - Notre Dame - Atlanta Falcons
 Archie Matsos - All Pro - Buffalo - Oakland
 Nick Kladis - All American Basketball
 Dr. Monthe Kofos - AHEPA Athletic Director
 George Zaharias - Wrestler

1983

John Maskas - Pro Football
 Ted Karras - Pro Football

1984

Leah Poulos-Mueller - World Championship Skater
 Nick Mantis - All American Basketball

1985

Chris Farasopoulos - Brigham Young University - New York Jets

1986

John Mellekas - Pro Football
 Dr. George Poloyinis - Track
 Nick Rodis - Sports

1987

Plato Andros - All American - Oklahoma University - Chicago Cardinals
 Louis Manesiotis - Football - Niagara University

1988

John Karras - All American Football
 Menil Mavraides - All American Football

1989

Eugene Rossides - All American Football
 Nikos Spanakos - Golden Gloves Boxing Championship
 Petros Spanakos - Boxing Champion - Olympics

1990

Van Nomikos - AHEPA Athletic Director
 Peter Tountas - Pro Bowler

1991

Alex Athas - Basketball - All American
 Louis Karras - Purdue University - Washington Redskins
 Archie Kodros - Michigan - All Big Ten
 Mike Schooles - Washington - Jefferson Football - Pittsburgh
 Bob Costas - Sports Announcer

1992

Lee Palles - All American - Olympic Decathlon
 Nick Conteas - Northwestern - Football and Basketball
 George Theodoratos - All American - Track
 Bill Korinthias - Sports Writer

1993

Chirs Vagotis - University of Alabama - National Champion
 Sprio Siaggas - AHEPA Athletics
 Joe Collins - New York Yankees
 Ted Gregory - All American - Football

1994

Al Campanis - Baseball - Dodgers
 Peter Kouchalakas - Baseball - University of Miami
 John Scolinos - Baseball - California Poly
 John Diamantakos - Athletics

1995

Jimmy Caras - World Champion Billiards
 James Poulos - Football - Georgia University
 George Dales - International Track Star
 David Psaltis - Football - USC

Emerging Into A New Life

Not only did the Founders define the goals of AHEPA, they adopted the bold policy that its meetings must be conducted in English. This was a reasonable and sensible action to take, but at that time, in fact, it was extraordinarily courageous. During the first three decades of this century, there was significant migration of Greeks to the United States. Many came with the specific purpose of working in America in the first instance to earn money to send back to their families and relatives. Some wanted to

acquire sufficient resources to enable their return to Greece to enjoy a better quality of life than that to which they had been accustomed. Most immigrants chose to settle in American cities to which relatives or friends had previously migrated, thereby assuring support for the period of adjustment to a new home. Many associations were



which thirty chapters were established gave credence to the vision of the Founders that many Greeks desired American citizenship. They perceived national level. The AHEPA Supreme Lodge was officially designated as an agent for the issuance of War Savings Bonds by the United States Treasury Department. Though their quota was established as 150 million dollars, they exceeded that amount by many mil-

lions by July, 1943. This effort continued successfully to the end.

With indications of the war coming to a close, AHEPA took the lead early in 1945 to generate massive support for war-torn

Greece through the United Nations and the Greek War Relief operations. Befitting the emergence of AHEPA to the national scene, at a ceremony in the White House on March 25, 1946, the Supreme Lodge inducted President Harry Truman into the Order of Ahepa. Unfortunately, in 1946, Greece became a victim of communist aggression from the north. The threat to the very existence of a democratic society in Greece was at stake. On March 12, 1947, President Truman announced the Truman Doctrine to save Greece from communist domination. Financial and military support to Greece at that time are acknowledged by historians as being pivotal in the victory achieved by the Greek military forces in 1949.

From the time of its establishment in 1922, Ahepans were intimately involved in initiating the efforts to construct Greek Orthodox Churches in many cities and towns throughout the nation. Through the actions of the chapters, many social and philanthropic activities were sponsored by Ahepans.

In the recent past, the Greek American community received its greatest exposure to the national scene with the election of Spiro Agnew, an Ahepan, as Vice-President of the United States in 1968. In 1988, Michael Dukakis, an Ahepan, was the Democratic nominee for the Presidency of the United States. Today, six Greek Americans, four Congressmen, and two Senators, were elected to Congress, all members of the Ahepa family.

Throughout the span of seventy-five years, AHEPA has served as a vital vehicle for the progressive development and emergence of many Greek Americans into every facet of the American scene. As we look back to the vision that the Founders had defined for AHEPA and its members, it is fitting that we acknowledge their wisdom with a simple declaration, ΑΧΙΟΣ!

1922 PETITION

"The object of said association is to form a fraternal order and secure members therefore, with the purpose in view of advancing and promoting pure and undefiled Americanism among the Greeks of the United States, the territorial and colonial possessions thereof; to educate Greeks of the United States in the matter of democracy, and of the government of the United States, and to instill the deepest loyalty and allegiance of the Greeks of this country to the United States, its tenets and institutions and to teach the operation and meaning of the said government together with its laws, rules and regulations; and to promote American education among the Greeks; and to promote the highest type of American citizenship among the Greeks, and to promote a spirit of fraternity, sociability and benevolence among the members."

that learning English was the key to their adjustment to their adopted land. Furthermore, by doing so, it provided Ahepans with the tools to participate in community activities and thereby fulfill a major obligation of all citizens, civic responsibility.

As AHEPA grew in numbers and confidence, they and the Greek communities became more visible to the public at large. The heroic resistance of the Greek army to the invasion by the Italian military forces generated strong support and sympathy from the American people. It was at this point that the civic responsibility of AHEPA and Greek Americans emerged to a

formed whose identity related to the regions, cities or villages from whence the immigrants came. These served as a reminder of their origins and helped in preserving their traditions and ties with Greece. More importantly for these immigrants, the Greek language was the medium of communication. In sharp contrast, AHEPA chose a different course. Its focus was on educating the immigrant to become, as the

charter stated, a loyal citizen of the United States. The remarkable expansion of AHEPA during its first year in

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Dr. Theodore Perros

holds a dual professorship in Chemistry and Forensic Sciences at George Washington University. He has served as chairman of both Departments, named Distinguished Professor by Columbia College, is the author of a textbook and research publication in chemical journals. President Reagan appointed him Chairman of the Commission on the Potomac River Basin. An active Ahepan, he has served as District and Supreme Governor.

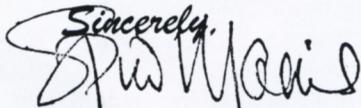
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A special 75th Anniversary invitation . . .

Dear Members of the Ahepa Family,

Some of the best things about being a member of the Ahepa family are the friendships we have formed and the camaraderie we share. The cruises described below will allow us to maintain those friendships and form new ones in a relaxed, fun setting. I invite all of you to join me and your fellow Ahepans, Daughters, Sons, and Maids to make one of these 75th Anniversary cruises your winter vacation. Book early to take advantage of the special rates for Ahepa family members negotiated by Odyssey Travel, the company which recently organized the successful official Ahepa excursion to Greece, Cyprus, and the Patriarchate.

Sincerely,


Spiro Mackris

Supreme President, Order of Ahepa



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