

# news

THE HELLENIC PRESERVATION SOCIETY of Northeastern Ohio

## HPS Engaged in "Strategic Planning"

The Hellenic Preservation Society Board has embarked upon the important journey of writing a strategic plan. This process will formalize the organization's mission and will help it develop the procedures and operations needed to ensure its success. Most importantly, HPS will create a vision for the future.

Why does HPS need a strategic plan? The major reasons are that it gives your organization a solid foundation on which to grow, provides long-term direction, eliminates the disruptions many organizations experience during leadership changes, and allows HPS to create a lasting legacy. If HPS does not intentionally plan for its success, it may flounder in the future.

This process is not for the faint-hearted or the uncommitted. Your Board will be working extremely hard to define its mission, develop a vision statement, set long and short-term goals, create strategies for the goals, establish operating plans, and

most importantly (and usually forgotten) they will create procedures to record and to measure the organization's progress. They will be planning for the long-term success of HPS.

In order for the strategic planning process to work extraordinarily well, the Board needs support and input of the entire membership. First, please take a few moments to think about HPS and what you would like to see it do now and in the future.

Next, call or write Mr. Christ Boukis, the Chairman of the Long-Range Planning Committee, or any of the Board members before the next Advisory Council meeting on Thursday, September 16. They want to hear your comments. They want you to become an active part of the HPS legacy.

- Leslie A. Yerkes  
President, Catalyst Consulting Group

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Consultant Leslie Yerkes reviews Strategic Planning Process with trustees. Clockwise: Yerkes, Themis Rodis, Pauline Latkovic, Christ Boukis, Helen Collis, Bea Meros, Maribeth Lekas, and Ann Moore.

## Committees and their Chairpersons

welcome volunteers . . . For information, telephone 449-5035.

Benefits ..... Pauline Latkovic  
Communication ..... Themis Rodis  
Education ..... Ann Moore

Icon Restoration ..... Andrew Chakalis  
Long-Range Planning ..... Christ Boukis  
Membership ..... Charlotte LaJoe

## HPS Elects Board of Trustees Members

At the May 12 Advisory Council meeting of the Hellenic Preservation Society, the two remaining positions on the Board of Trustees were filled.

The Nominating Committee of Rose Rodis, Ernie Fourmas, Donna Vassos and Kay Theophylactos selected the candidates after careful review. The nominees for a one year term were Pauline Latkovic, Charlotte LaJoe and Marguarite Stephanopoulos. Pauline Latkovic withdrew prior to the meeting.

The Council unanimously elected Charlotte LaJoe and Marguarite Stephanopoulos for the two vacant positions. All of us here at HPS News congratulate the two new board members and wish them good luck and much success in their new roles.

## Welcome New Members

We welcome the following new members to the Hellenic Preservation Society:

Dr. Edward and Katherine Bobak  
John and Becky Carvaines  
Angelo and Eve Castellana  
Kent and Effie Chapman  
Ann and Arlie Daniel  
Simeon S. Fotiadis  
Harry and Angeliki Giallourakis  
Nicholas and Anastasia Kackloudis  
Dr John and Aristi Kalucis  
William and Ann Kantralis  
Nick and Rhonda Latkovic  
George Mikonos  
Angelo and Stella Papadopoulos  
Jon D. Pierracos  
Peter and Anna Samarellis

The total number of members to date is 350.

## HPS News Staff

George Stamatis ..... Editor

Kathy Apotsos, Mark Fikaris,  
Thomas Fourmas, Charlotte LaJoe,  
Pauline Latkovic, Mike Vasilakis,  
Themis Rodis ..... Writers

Andrew Chakalis, Pan Theophylactos,  
Mark Fikaris ..... Photographers

# ΤΑ ΛΕΜΕ ΣΤΑ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ

Αγαπητοι συμπατριώτες

Ο καιρος της πόλης μας, αν και ακαταστάτος, έχει βελτιώσει ώστε να μας δίνει την εντύπωση ότι η ανοίξη έχει έρθει και το καλοκαίρι περιμένει να πάρει την θέση της. Με την αλλαγή του καιρού σκεπτομαστε την πατρίδα μας λίγο πιο πολύ.

Η επέτειος της Εθνικής Ανεξαρτησίας μας στις 25 Μαρτίου γιορταστηκε με κατή παραπάνησιο, φέτος. Ο δήμαρχος του προαστίου Μπρουκπαρκ, για να τιμήσει τον Ελληνισμό του προαστίου του και γενικά ολοκληρω του Κληβελάντ, απεδώσε επαινους, στις 30 Μαρτίου, στον Σύλλογο Διαφυλάξεως Ελληνισμού. Επίσης αντεπεδωσε επαινους στους προεδρο και αντιπροεδρο του συλλογου, κα. Ελενη Κολλινς και κο. Ανδρεα Τσακαλη, αντιστοιχα; κο. Κωστα Σεβαστο, προεδρο των Πανχιακων Σωματειων Αμερικης και κα. Μαρω Μαυρακη κατοικο του προαστίου και δραστηριο μελος του συλλογου. Μετα της εκδηλωσής, ακολουθησε μια μικρη δεξίωση υπο την αιγίδα της Μπεσν Βερτος. Επίσης για δυο βδομαδες, στο δημαρχειο του προαστίου, το προγραμμα του συλλογου για την αναπτύξη των εικονων του Ευαγγελισμού, ειχε παραταθει για δημοσια επιδειξη.

Μια και τώρα τα λουλουδια ανθίζουν, ο νους ταξιδεύει σε κηπους, και κυριως στους Δημοσιους Κηπους της πόλης μας. Το ελληνικο τμημα των κηπων είναι μια θαυμασια ιδέα για να ενώσει τα μελη του συλλογου και να καλλωπίσει και λίγο το περιβαλον μας. Η ιδέα αρχισε το 1916 απο Αγγλους μεταναστες, που αναπτύξαν τον κηπο του Σαίξπηρ. Το 1930 ο Ελληνικός Κηπος ξεπροβαλε μεταξυ του Ιταλικου και του Λιθουανου κηπου. Με το σχημα του σταυρου και κολωνες επηριασμενες απο την αρχιτεκτονικη του Παρθενωνα στις γωνιες του, ο κηπος συμβολίζει την συνεισφορα του Ελληνισμού τον πολιτισμο της γης.

Αν και λίγο νωρις, θα ηθελα να επιθυμησω οτι η επομενη γενικη συνελευση του συλλογου θα γίνει στις 16 Σεπτεμβριου στις 7 μ.μ. στο χωλ του Αγίου Παυλου. Επίσης ο ετησιος χορος μας θα λαβει μερος το Σαββατο 16 Οκτωβριου. Περισσότερες πληροφορίες και για τα δυο γεγονοτα, στο επομενο τευχος.

ΚΑΛΟ ΚΑΛΟΚΑΙΡΙ  
Μαρκος Κ. Φυκαρης

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## 225 Years of Greeks in America Commemorated

In American colonial history, Greeks, among other ethnics are commonly overlooked in favor of the British, French, and Spanish. But the truth is that the largest migration of Greeks, at one time, to the American colonies was done by almost 500 Greeks in 1768. On the weekend of June 26-27, 1993 the 225th Anniversary of their arrival to the New World will be observed at the St. Photios Shrine in St. Augustine, Florida, as Greek "Landing Day" because this represents the largest migration of Greeks to America prior to 1898 when 782 Greeks entered.

In 1766, Dr. Andrew Turnbull received a colonial land grant from the British Crown for 20,000 acres in what is now in the St. Augustine, Florida area. Dr. Turnbull intended to use this subtropical area for the cultivation of cash crops. He decided that the Greek people were best suited to withstand the climate and the hard labor that would be required.

Between 1766-1767, Dr. Turnbull visited Greece and a number of islands in the Mediterranean, where he recruited colonists for his settlement. Perhaps, because his wife came from Smyrna in Asia Minor, he named his colony "New Smyrna". Almost 500,

Greeks accepted the challenges of the New World choosing the risks of the unknown rather than continuing a life they detested under their Ottoman oppressors. As a result, on June 26, 1768, boatloads of nearly 1,400 settlers, including not only Greeks but Minorcans and Corsicans as well, landed in the colony of New Smyrna.

Unfortunately, like many early American colonies, New Smyrna eventually met its end due to disease, oppressive servitude, and the eventual transfer of Florida to Spain after the American Revolution.

Despite or perhaps because of its hardships and tragic ending, the New Smyrna colony and landing are commemorated each year in the St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine on St. George Street in St. Augustine, Florida. This year a wide variety of religious and cultural events will mark the weekend, reminding all Greek-Americans of the courageous efforts undertaken by Greeks in American history to find better opportunities, despite hardship, in the New World.

- Tom Fourmas

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## President's Message

As my term as president of the Hellenic Preservation Society draws to a close, I am grateful for its many challenges and opportunities. To be the first president of an organization is indeed an



honor; however the success of our organization must be attributed to its Board of Trustees as well as its many members who share a common goal of preserving and perpetuating the Greek experience here in Northeastern Ohio. The dedication and perseverance of this ensemble of talented individuals made these past two years as president a truly rewarding experience.

There has been a positive, enthusiastic approach by all chairpersons and their committees that has contributed to the growth of this organization. In two short years, HPS has grown to over 350 members. Our diversified programs of speakers and performers throughout the year have been well attended. Our project of restoring the Annunciation icons is underway and, through our traveling modular display, the Greek community of greater Cleveland has a greater awareness of the importance of this project.

We have seen the publication of four issues of our newsletter and it has been well received in over 2500 homes in the Northeastern Ohio area.

To undertake these projects, financial assistance is required. Membership dues provide a degree of our income. But it was through a successful Heritage Ball this past November that our organization realized over \$19,500.

The chairpersons and their committees are presently planning a schedule of events for the 1993-94 season. Our next Heritage Ball, which will take place October 16th at the Crawford Auto-Aviation Museum, promises to be a unique and entertaining evening.

Our association with the Modern Greek Studies Program of Ohio State University is one of the first of many ventures with institutions and organizations that will strengthen the goals of the Hellenic Preservation Society.

Our present committees will continue to function and thrive but their success requires your participation.

I thank you for your support throughout these two years. The future of the Hellenic Preservation Society offers exciting possibilities. With your continued interest, our goals will be achieved.

*Helen Keller*

## Brook Park Celebrates Hellenism

Greek Independence Day on March 25 was celebrated in a special way this year in Greater Cleveland. In addition to the different programs that the Greek schools of the four churches presented, the City of Brook Park honored the Hellenic Preservation Society and the Greek community by displaying the Icon Restoration Exhibit from March 24 through March 30 at its City Hall.

Mayor Thomas J. Coyne, Jr., on March 30, presented a proclamation to HPS for its efforts to preserve Hellenism in Northeast Ohio. Proclamations were also presented to Helen Collis, HPS president; Andrew Chakalis, HPS vice president; Gus Sevastos, President of the Pan-Chian Or-



Mrs. Maro Mavrakis and Mr. Mark Fikaris



Left to Right: Mrs. Angie Alexandrou, Dr. T. Rodis, Mr. David Lambros, Mayor Thomas J. Coyne, Jr., Mrs. Niki Poulos, and Mrs. Mary Vretos.

ganizations of North America and of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church Board, and Maro Mavrakis, a Brook Park resident and an active member of the Society.

After the presentations, a small reception took place at the Brook Park City Hall. The event was proposed by Bess Vretos, who coordinated it as well. Vretos hopes that in the future the idea of honoring Hellenism will be picked up by other cities in Northeast Ohio. This certainly will present an opportunity for our organization to promote more issues of interest about the Greek community of Greater Cleveland and Northeastern Ohio.

- Mark Fikaris

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## Greek American Humorist Highlights October Ball

Hope Christopoulos Mihalap, a nationally known Greek American humorist, will present a wonderful program filled with Vassar-inspired wit and wisdom at the HPS Heritage Ball on October 16. She is a recipient of the prestigious and rarely given Mark Twain Award for Humor from the International Platform Association, as well as the "Oscar" of the speaking industry from the Council of Peers Award of Excellence.

Mihalap is a speaker and writer who draws on her personal background as a Greek married to a Russian. Her wit, humor and parodies entertain groups at conventions and banquets across the U.S. and in foreign countries as well.

This year's Heritage Ball will be held at the Crawford Auto-Aviation Gallery of the Western Reserve Historical Society Museum is University Circle. Tickets are \$60 per person and include hors d'oeuvres, dinner, dancing, and entertainment. The HPS Ball Committee promises you an evening of dining, dancing and paroxysms of mirth. All proceeds will be used for programs, workshops, and projects to perpetuate the Greek experience. Look for more details in the next newsletter.

- Pauline Latkovic

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## Early Greek Migration to the Western Hemisphere

(continued from last issue)

There is an interesting "Greek" coincidence to the naming of the Strait of Fuca [after a Greek sailor] which was adopted as the boundary between the U.S. and Canada in the Northwest by the Treaty of Washington in 1871. The officer in charge of the U.S. team in 1842 that had been sent to investigate and confirm this boundary turned out to be a Greek himself. This was Captain George Mousalas Colvocoressis who was an orphan and had been brought to the U.S. from the island of Chios. His son also joined the U.S. Navy and achieved the rank of Rear Admiral. In 1898, during the Spanish-American War, he was the executive officer on Admiral George Dewey's flagship.

There is no evidence of Greek migration during the 17th century to the Western Hemi-

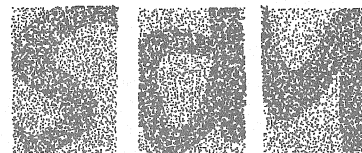
sphere, but the 18th century could be said to have more than made up for that hiatus. Aside from the ill-fated "New Smyrna" Colony which will be discussed in the next HPS News, there is evidence of several Greeks coming to America.

Michael Ury (also known as Urie, Youri, and Urion) migrated to the Colony of Maryland in 1725, and by a special legislative act of the Maryland General Assembly, he was made a naturalized citizen. At about the same time, John Paradise, referred to as a "learned scholar and linguist", migrated to the Colony of Virginia and settled in Williamsburg. He was said to have been on friendly terms with Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson,

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## Early Greek Migration to the Western Hemisphere

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and before that, while in England, he had been one of the "close circle of friends" of Samuel Johnson.

In 1783, another Greek, Eustrate Ivanovich Delaroff, arrived in Alaska in the employ of the Russian government. A native of Greece, he nevertheless was placed in charge of all Russian trading operations in Alaska and the Aleutian Islands. Furthermore, the Russians named one of their twelve fortified trading posts in Alaska, Port Delarof, in his honor. It was also in 1783, that the first Greek Orthodox institution in the Western Hemisphere was founded by Russian and Greek missionaries. *(continued next issue)*

-Dr. Themistocles Rodis

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## Hellenic Preservation Society

of Northeastern Ohio

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Yes, I want to become a member of The Hellenic Preservation Society of Northeastern Ohio. My check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Church Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

### ANNUAL DUES:

☐ Couples \$35    ☐ Singles \$25    ☐ Students \$15    ☐ Organizations \$35 - \$1000

Please make checks payable to *The Hellenic Preservation Society of Northeastern Ohio*.

Mail to: Mrs. Charlotte LaJoe, 25026 Mill River Rd., Olmsted Falls, OH 44138.

## Greek Garden's Beauty A Tribute to Culture

Richard Karberg, professor of Art at the Cuyahoga Community College, gave a lecture and a slide presentation on the development of the Cultural Gardens of Cleveland in Rockefeller Park, including our Greek Cultural Garden, at the HPS Advisory Council meeting on March 18, 1993. HPS members and their guests enjoyed the historical overview of Cleveland's commitment to the cultural social significance of the Gardens. Pete Catavolos also made a brief presentation on the Greek Cultural Garden of which he is the representative of the Greek community.

Although the first Cultural Garden (the Shakespearean) was dedicated in 1916, the Greek Cultural Garden did not come into

existence until 1940. Funds for the garden were first raised by the Greek social clubs, to help defray the costs by holding a series of lectures and other efforts. Among the individuals who helped in the success of the project were: James Mylonas, George Kalkas, Philip Peppas, Nick Copanos, Archimandrite Chrysogonos Lavriotes, Gus Pasalis, Dr. Elie George, Harry Collins, Moskey Moskos, Theodore Bibikos, Louis Pappas, Spiros Stratis, Antonios Hoty and many others.

F. Leslie Speer, in 1941, gave the following description of the Greek Cultural Garden.

"It is a sunken garden [the only one among the 20] in a simple classical style... [following

the lines of a Greek cross] ... in classical simplicity. The most striking feature is ... a pylon representing a wall of the Parthenon ... [which] is dedicated to the Greek writer, physicians, philosophers, and artists who contributed so much to the thought and beauty of the world. The simplicity and dignity of this garden is further highlighted by absence of flowers. Cedars, myrtles, and small shrubs predominate [instead]."

HPS members are urged to visit the Greek Cultural Garden, including the other gardens this summer—and bring some guests as well.

-Kathy Apotsos

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