

news

Vol. II, No. 2 - Winter, 1993

THE HELLENIC PRESERVATION SOCIETY of Northeastern Ohio

HPS Ball Rates As Memorable Event

Laughter and applause filled the Crawford Auto-Aviation Museum at the Hellenic Preservation Society's Heritage Fundraiser Ball.

The sold-out event raised \$13,086 and left 300 members and friends of HPS with pleasant memories of Hope Mihalap's wholesome wit that covered humorous subjects and experiences, of an unforgettable, sumptuous dinner, and of wonderful Greek music. As evidenced on page 3, all ages celebrated HPS's festive event.

The Hellenic Preservation Society greatly appreciates the support of the attendees and the generous contributions

of the community. Proceeds will be used for programs, workshops and projects to perpetuate the Greek experience.

A big thank you also to the Ball Committee which included: Cleo Anton, Christ and Photia Boukis, Helen Collis, Sofia Economo, Rita Fourmas, Annoula Heffern, Terry Katzan, Charlotte LaJoe, Maro Mavrakis, Bea Meros, Ann Moore, Grace Pasiadis, Christine Rackas, Rose Rodis, Elaine Spooner and Chairperson Pauline Latkovic.

HPS Ball Committee would like to acknowledge and thank Mr. & Mrs. Andy Kartoles, Mr. & Mrs. Alex Kappos, and Mr. & Mrs.



Terry Katzan of the Ball Committee with Hope Mihalap

William Pappas of Pappas Insurance who made donations after the printing of the program's contributors list.

Contact Pan Theophylactos if you would like to have a video tape to recall the great time that was had by all. Portions of Hope Mihalap's presentation are included. You can purchase the tape for \$25.00; this includes mailing. Send your check to: Pan Theophylactos, 5965 Halle Farm Drive Willoughby, Ohio 44094-3000. hps

-Pauline C. Latkovic

Board's Fact-Finding Mission to Chicago

On September 22, 1993, HPS' Board of trustees *paid its own way to Chicago*, via the God-Send air fares of Southwest Airlines, for a full day of fact-finding and fun. Its mission: to learn as much as possible about building and running HPS' future museum and cultural center from two established centers: The Hellenic Museum and Cultural Center at 400 North Franklin Street in the heart of Chicago's gallery section and the Swedish American Museum Center.

The main event of the day's agenda was a well-planned meeting between the Board and representatives of the Hellenic Museum, which included Executive Director Elaine Kollintzas, Managing Director Themis Vasils, and Secretary James M. Mezilson. The meeting centered on a list of 30 pertinent questions devised by the HPS Board and sent to the directors of the museum in advance of the meeting. The list of questions referred to their Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation,

Welcome New Members

James & Angela Alex
Steve & Maria Alex
Dr. Michael & Hope Barkoukis
George & Kathie Catavalos
George Costakis
Nick Costakis
William & Mary Costakis
Penelope Demopoulos
John & Karen Dopoulos
Michael & Fouly Frangos
Blasios & Ethel Hronis
Josephine Kacroudias
Terry Kavourias
Tom & Joann Klonaris
Dr. Spiros & Elly Kyrkos
Arthur & Effie Natsis
Dr. Eleni Peleccanos
Dean Salivaras
Donna & Scott Thomas
Steve & Linda Tsengas
Philip Vasilakis
Angeline Vianos
Dorothy Ann Vianos
Irene Vianos
Xenephone & Lula Zapis

CONGRATULATIONS to William & Mary Costakis for enrolling their younger children George & Nick as student members. Their daughter Anna Marie has been a student member.

Total number of members to date is 418.

For membership information contact: Charlotte LaJoe at 235-1610.

the structure of their annual budget, the agreements signed by donors of artifacts and archival material, their procedure for handling accepted artifacts and archival material, their means of insuring the items, and the physical aspects of the museum itself such as special atmospheric conditions, storage space, and plans for a library, even a lending library. The director graciously answered the question during a two-hour meeting, interspersing it with humorous anecdotes and spicing it up with the occasional Greek turn of phrase that everyone understood and enjoyed.

Before the meeting, the directors guided the board through a tour of their present exhibition, "Macedonia: 4,000 Years of Greek History and Culture," and their permanent

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ΤΑ ΛΕΜΕ ΣΤΑ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ

Γαλαπτοι συμπατριωτες

Οπως ειχα υποσχεθει στο περασμενο τευχος, ψαρεψα λεπτομερειες για το Ηνωμενο Ελληνο-Αμερικανικο Κονγκρεσσο και σας τις παρουσιαζω... εδω και τωρα. Λοιπον το γραφειο εδω ανοιξε στους 130 δρομους της δυτικης πλευρας στο προαστιο της Παρμας. Εαν καμμια φορα βρισκεσται στο Ελληνικο εστιατοριο Γκρησιαν Γκαρντενς (Ελληνικοι Κηποι) περαστε να κανετε επισκεψη. Ειναι μονο πεντε λεπτα μακρια.

Δουλενει απο τις πρωτες Ιουνιου και μεχρι τωρα εχει αντιπροσωπευσει τον Ελληνισμο του Κληβελαντ και την οργανωση στην Γενικη Συνελευση των Χιακων Σωματειων και στο ενατο Συνεδριο Ελληνικης και Αμερικανικης Ηγεσιας στην Ουασινγκτων. Μαλιστα στο δευτερο ο συμβουλος του γραφειου κος Γεωργιος Τσιμπλης και ο γραμματεας του οργανισμου (που ειναι παρα πολυ κοινωνικος τυπος) μιλουσαν αρκετη ωρα με τον Ελληνο-Αμερικανο γερουσιαστη Παυλο Σαρμπανη και το παιδι-θαυμα του Ελληνισμου Γιωργο Σεφανοπουλο.

Μου φαίνεται ότι ο γερουσιαστής θα επισκεφθεί την πόλη μας πριν τις γιορτές των Χριστουγεννών.

Απο ότι καταλαβαίνω το γραφείο της πόλης μας είναι σαν ...πείραμα που εάν επιτύχει θα δώσει την ευκαιρία να ανοιχτούν και άλλα σε διάφορες πόλεις της χώρας. Σκοπός της οργάνωσης είναι να επιρρασει την Αμερικανική κυβέρνηση υπέρ Ελληνικών και Κυπριακών θεμάτων ΚΑΙ ΝΑ ΕΝΩΣΕΙ ΤΗΝ ΟΜΟΓΕΝΕΙΑ ΓΙΑ ΚΟΙΝΟΥΣ ΣΚΟΠΟΥΣ βοηθώντας όχι μόνο τα τοπικά σωματεία κάθε περιφέρειας, αλλά όλους τους Έλληνες του εξωτερικού.

Όταν λάβετε αυτό το τεύχος οι γιορτές θα έχουν περάσει. Αν και καθυστερημένα, σας ευχομαι η Αγία Γέννηση του Χριστού να σας χαρίζει παντοτε ΥΓΕΙΑ, ΧΑΡΑ ΚΑΙ ΑΓΑΠΗ και ο ΚΑΙΝΟΥΡΓΙΟΣ ΧΡΟΝΟΣ ΝΑ ΦΕΡΕΙ ΟΜΟΝΟΙΑ ΚΑΙ ΕΙΡΗΝΗ ΣΤΟΝ ΚΟΣΜΟ.

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Καλη Χρονια
Μαρκος

Vryonis Center Shows Hellenic Past with Academic/Cultural Outreach Program

Outside of Greece, academic institutions devoted to the study of Hellenism are rare. In 1985, Dr. Speros Vryonis Jr., a leading scholar in Hellenic studies established in California The Speros Basil Vryonis Center for the Study of Hellenism in Los Angeles, California.

The center, named after his late son, is a research facility that provides materials for the study of areas such as: Ancient Greece, the Byzantine Era, modern Greece, and cultures that have Hellenic influences. Besides being an institution for scholars, the Vryonis Center participates actively in educating the California Greek community. It does this through academic and cultural outreach programs. These programs include lectures and cultural exhibits highlighting the abundance of Hellenic history. The goal of emphasizing the history of Greek American immigration is also of great importance to the center.

Since its establishment the center has had a few changes. In 1989, the Vryonis Center was moved to Sacramento where Dr. Christos P. Ioannides, a noted scholar in Middle East-

ern and Greek studies, became its director. Future plans for the center are to see the construction of a facility that will provide a library and museum. This goal is expected to materialize with the help of Angelo Tskopoulos who established a generous endowment for the Vryonis Center.

The Vryonis Center is an example of the bold steps being taken by proud Hellenic visionaries like Dr. Vryonis. His recognition for the need of a Hellenic academic research institution in the United States is essential for the progression and credibility of Hellenic historical studies.

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-Tom Fourmas

A REMINDER to keep March 24, 1994 open on your calendars. That is when Dr. Vryonis will speak at a HPS sponsored luncheon at St. Paul Church in North Royalton, Ohio. The topic he will discuss is "The Greeks and the Sea." The luncheon is open to everyone.

Children's Program with Demetra Mihevic

It was a warm October afternoon and even though the weather reminded everyone of long-gone summer Sundays, Clevelanders were glued to their television sets for the football game of the season. All except a small group which was listening to Demetra Mihevic telling some kids at the Fellowship Hall of Sts. Constantine & Helen her life story through the eyes of a young girl named Maria.

You see, Mihevic was presenting a program based on her book *Where a White Dog Smiles*

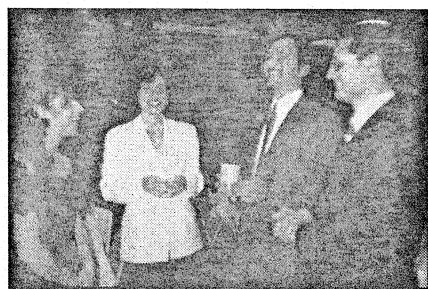
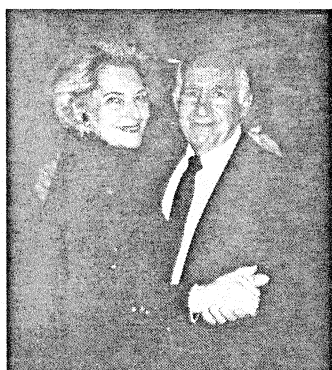
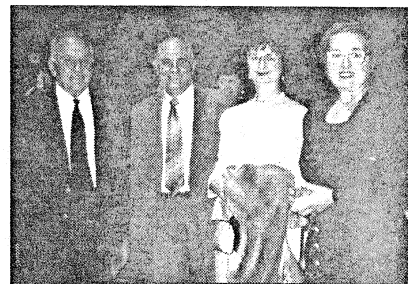
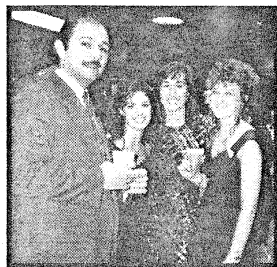
that was sponsored by the Hellenic Preservation Society of Northeast Ohio. By relating her experiences as a young girl in the United States, after her mother gave her for adoption, she told a tale of war, disappointment, pain and love.

In the book, Maria has to leave her mother behind in a small village in Greece and go live in the United States with an aunt and an uncle. The guerrillas had killed her father

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Hellenes of All Ages Celebrate Heritage!



Past Greek Athletes To Be Recognized

Our ancestors, the ancient Greeks valued human competition and recognized and glorified athletes. It was common for wars between city-states to come to a temporary halt when it came time to hold the ancient Olympic Games. The champions of the Olympic Games were honored by their various city-states as heroes, and received special status for their athletic accomplishments. Art and literature also speak highly of the special place that was reserved for athletic competition in the Greek culture.

It is hoped that HPS can begin, in a much smaller way, to recognize men and women who have experienced the challenge of competition and have gained recognition and fame. There have been many outstanding athletes, coaches and athletic administrators in the Greater Cleveland Greek Community, and the time has come to recognize them now in print.

It is the expressed hope of this column that the readers of the HPS Newsletter will provide the much needed information to start compiling a list of those who have gained athletic recognition and fame. There are no limitations to developing such a list, and recognition could come from the amateur, high school, college, or professional levels.

Of course, a great deal of research is involved in compiling such information. Yearbooks, school periodicals, newspaper clippings, athletic department records and personal remembrances and memorabilia are excellent sources of information. We hope this undertaking will spark a great amount of interest and involvement.

If you have the information we are seeking or wish to get involved, please fax to or call Mike Papouras at 486-1018 or mail to 25150 Chatworth Drive, Euclid, OH 44117. Your response will be featured in the next column of the HPS Newsletter.

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—Mike Papouras

HPS' Most Wanted List

Members who have received our renewal letter and have not yet responded are receiving this newsletter under a grace period. If you want to continue being on our mailing list, please renew. We value your membership and are waiting to hear from you. Remember how good it feels to be needed.

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—Charlotte LaJoe

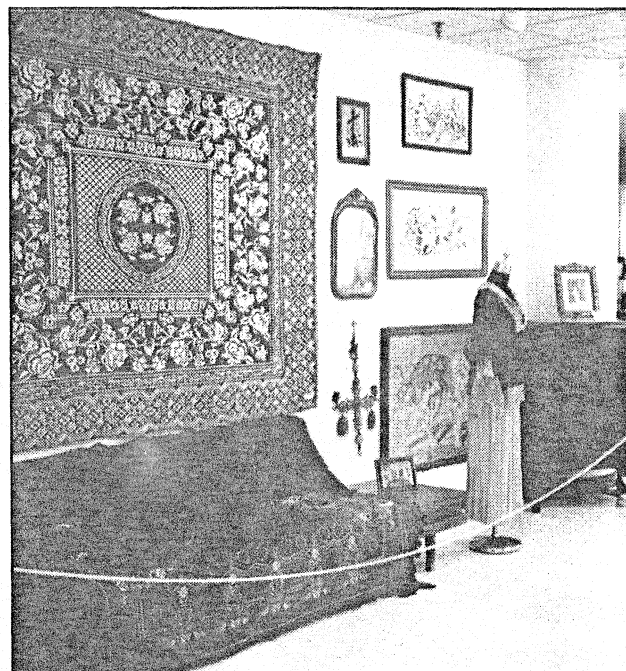
Chicago - continued

rooms reflecting the Greek-American Immigrant Experience. The Macedonian exhibition included lithographs and photographs depicting scenes of Greece's northern region; costumes worn by soldiers during the struggle at the beginning of this century to liberate Macedonia from Ottoman rule; books and audio visual materials, some of which were on loan from the Macedonian Society of Chicago and 12 of which the society donated to the museum for its permanent library collection.

The permanent rooms include a chapel displaying a bridal gown made by hand from silk, a brass baptism font, icons, and clerical robes; a replica of a Greek immigrant home is filled with well-preserved furniture and decorative pieces of embroidery or woven items made by Greek women as part of their dowries and brought to America; and a 1920's confectionery including beautifully detailed cafe tables and chairs, matchbox dispenser, candy boxes, scales, and a real showpiece cash register.

The visit also included some time in the museum's bookstore and gift shop where most of the Board found several things of interest. Lunch at the new Pegasus Restaurant in Chicago's Greek-town served as a

tasty mid-day break followed by a leisurely Greek-style "volta," or walk, down the main strip, stopping occasionally to window shop or buy some pastries. All in all, it was a good reminder of the vibrant culture HPS is trying



A replica of a Greek immigrant home

to preserve—especially the flaming saganaki!

In the afternoon the Board toured the Swedish Museum, a former hardware store building of four levels, purchased in 1986 for \$250,000 and then renovated for an equal

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Chapel displaying bridal gown, clergy robes and icons.

Children - continued

during the Civil War of Greece. This is the beginning of a learning adventure for young Maria who for the first time will experience a snowfall, see an African-American person and discover these sweet circles with funny raisins in them. Later she will learn that those are cookies (or as she will call them KOOOOKIES) and the funny raisins are chocolate chips.

Mihevic's experiences came to life with the help of a slide presentation about *Ellinohori*, the village she left behind in Corinth, Greece. She also used many props (like a hand-made "doll") to illustrate to the children the difference between Greek and American toys. By asking questions and being asked questions herself, she made this a "hands-on" presentation.

Personally, I was taken back by the stories to a place where everything was new to me—the people spoke a funny language and life would never be the same for a 12 year-old boy who just came to America. For two hours, I felt like I did when we first came here to live, scared and excited at the same time.

Afterwards, when I asked Mihevic if she remembers anything from her childhood in Greece, I was glad to see she hadn't forgot her roots. She mentioned that different smells, like those of carnations and *vasiliko* (basil plant) always bring her back to the village she left at a young age. "Everything I have written, has to do with my homeland," she said and added that she is trying to relearn spoken Greek from Athena Kalouminos, a Greek school teacher at St. Paul's. She finds that learning the language as an adult is much harder, but "my enthusi-

asm is so much more that I learn, I think, better than some of the youngsters," she was quick to say with a smile.

Does she consider herself a traditional Greek woman? You bet. "I love to feed people," she

ently under review by her publisher.

At print time, a meeting was being scheduled for the subcommittee. Its objectives will be to develop childrens' programs. Anyone who is interested in serving on the sub-



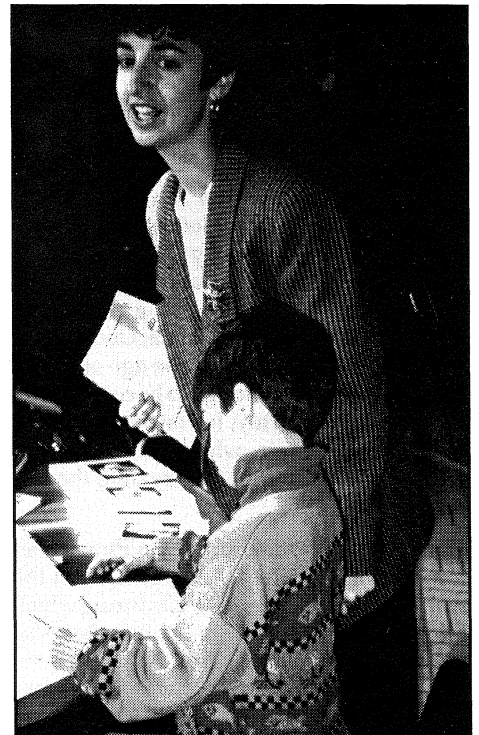
said. "Everyone who comes to my house will not leave without a *kerasma*, or some kind of a treat." In addition to cooking, she always liked to write. The whole idea for her book started at home. She wrote a story for her son about their dog, Petey. When she took some graduate courses at the Childrens' Institute for Literature in Connecticut, she had to finish a book as an assignment. She introduced the fictional character of Maria (based on her own experiences in the U.S.) and the rest is history.

committee, helping with the programs, or attending future meetings, is asked to contact Helen Collis at 247-5057. *hps*

—Mark Fikaris



The HPS connection was made by the Hellenic Hour, the radio show hosted by Pete Catavolos. Catavolos was talking about the book when Andrew Chakalis heard about it and contacted Helen Collis, who at the time was thinking about possible programs for children that HPS could sponsor. "I was extremely impressed with her presentation" said Collis who now serves as the chairperson for the Education Subcommittee on Childrens' Programming. In the future, she sees developing Mihevic's talents further with a possible workshop on creative writing based on Mihevic's second book, pres-



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THE HELLENIC PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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Cameos: The Protoporoi – George Janas (Tzanavaras) 1898-1993

Who pays tribute to the poet when the poet has been laid to rest? In the case of George Janas, it is his loving son.

John Janas, D.D.S., did not wait until the end to eulogize his father. He paid tribute to him much earlier, in 1979, when he published a collection of his father's poems. In the dedication passage, Dr. Janas wrote:

"A gentle giant of a man—a tower of strength.

"He was always there for me, and to this day, my heart throbs with a deep sense of pride and love." Dr. Janas also wrote a biographical sketch of his father, upon which this article is based.

Most Greek families in Asia Minor were forced to assume Turkish names. The family of George Janas, originally Paraskakis, had already been changed to Tzanavaras (The Wild One), by the time George was born in Vatziki, Asia Minor. By 1907, George's mother had passed sway and his father had re-married. With only a fourth-grade education, obtained in Kato Panagia, George was sent to work in Smyrna at the age of 12. By the time he was old enough to be conscripted into the Turkish army, his father had taken him to Xania, Crete, where father and son worked in a munitions factory until the end of World War I.

George Janas worked briefly in Piraeus before joining the Greek Army to fight in the war against the Turks, 1921-22, during which his father perished and his stepmother was expelled to Heraklion, Crete.

George immigrated to the United States in 1923 and headed for Cleveland, where he found work as a stock boy for The White Motor Co. Six years later, he returned to

Greece, where through an arranged marriage, he married Katina Klidas on the Island of Chios. The infamous "diogmo" took place after this.

Upon his return to Cleveland with his bride, George found employment with the Quality Pie Co., owned by the Psaltakis brothers. Following the failure of that business during The Great Depression, George went to work at a restaurant owned by Nick Apotsos. During 1939, in partnership with George "Kapetanios" Harouvis, he opened the Champion Cafe on East 9th St. and St. Clair Ave. Other restaurant enterprises in George Janas' career included the London Grill, Savoy, Mac & Jerry's, and the K.B. Cafe. Partners in those ventures included Steve Mekedis, Michael Hoty, Gust Karidis, John Pastis, and George Sarris.

His years as a restaurateur ended in 1960 when he retired and devoted his energies to

his real estate investments in Cleveland and Tempe, Arizona, as well as to a tireless dedication to his church, his poetry, and his family. His donation of time and efforts on behalf of the churches of Cleveland were legendary—first at the Annunciation Church and, from 1961 until the age of 92, and then simultaneously, to St. Demetrios, where he commanded the annual Bushel of Cheer raffle at the Festival.

George Janas was also a member of Lakewood Chapter of Ahepa #389, the Chios Society, and the Hellenic Preservation Society. He was honored by Ahepa and the Chios Society many times. George Janas is survived by his wife Katina, and two children, John and Mary Saviolis of Tallmadge, Ohio. He had four grandchildren, George and Katina Janas, and John and Rene Saviolis.

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—Mike Vasilakis

Chicago - continued

amount. The Swedish Museum has four permanent rooms, as well as movable walls that can be taken away for lectures and special events. It has a membership of 1,200 and a \$175,00 annual budget. Membership dues range from \$15 to \$1,000 and up and are creatively encouraged through a "movable wall of donors": as contributors donate more money, their names are moved higher on a prominently displayed wall chart in the museum's street level lobby. They also have profit-generating exhibits including a much enjoyed hands-on Viking ship that children can "row" themselves. It attracts paying tours from local schools and

children's programs. Just more good ideas for HPS' future museum and cultural center from a day packed with inspiring ideas.

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—Kathy Apotsos



A confectionary shop in the 1920's