

THE HELLENIC PRESERVATION SOCIETY of Northeastern Ohio

"The Light of Icons at St. Catherine's Monastery on Mt. Sinai, Egypt" to be Topic of Annual Collis Lecture Series

The Fourth Annual John and Helen Collis Lecture devoted to Greek and Byzantine Art will present "The Light of Icons at St. Catherine's Monastery" on Sunday, September 30 at 2 p.m. at the Cleveland Museum of Art.

The free lecture and slide presentation of the finest collection of Byzantine icons in the world will be given by Dr. Robert S. Nelson who was the Curator of an extraordinary exhibition of Byzantine icons and manuscripts entitled "Holy Image, Hallowed Ground" for the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles.

This Greek Orthodox Monastery at the base of Mt. Sinai holds the most important collection of Byzantine icons, manuscripts and liturgical objects in the world and is the oldest continuous operating Christian monastery in existence today. The monastery escaped the destruction of religious images that were sanctioned by Byzantine emperors during the period of Iconoclasm in the 8th and 9th centuries.

Dr. Nelson is the Robert Lehman Professor of the History of Art and leading authority on Byzantine art on a variety

of subjects ranging from Byzantium manuscript illumination to the history and methods of art history. His most recent book "Hagia Sophia 1850-1950: Holy Wisdom Modern Monument" asks how the Cathedral of Hagia Sophia came to be regarded as one of the great monuments of world architecture.

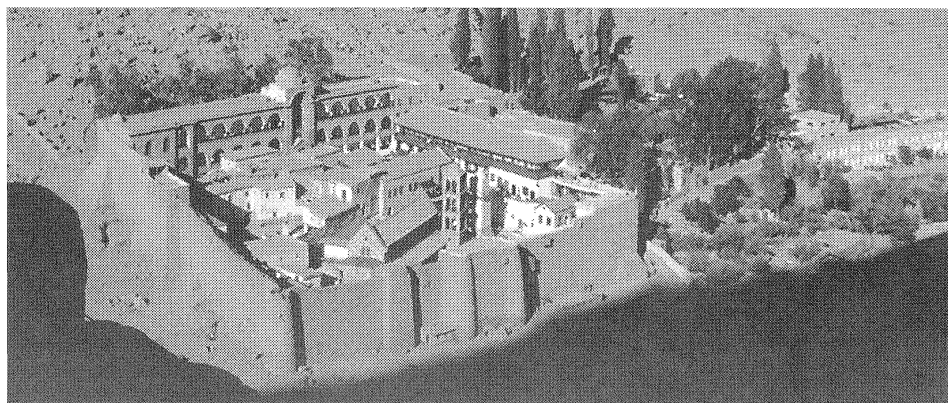
He has published numerous scholarly articles and books on a variety of subjects ranging from iconography, Byzantine miniatures and Christian painting in Muslim Egypt.

Dr. Nelson's professional experience includes: Onassis Foundation Service Visiting Scholar, Stanford University; Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus, University of Chicago; United States National Committee for Byzantine Studies and more too numerous to list.

The ADMISSION is FREE, however, lecture tickets are required and will be available at the HPS table in the N. Lobby of the Cleveland Museum of Art.

A flyer has been mailed to our four church community membership with reception and parking information. *hps*

- Pauline C. Latkovic

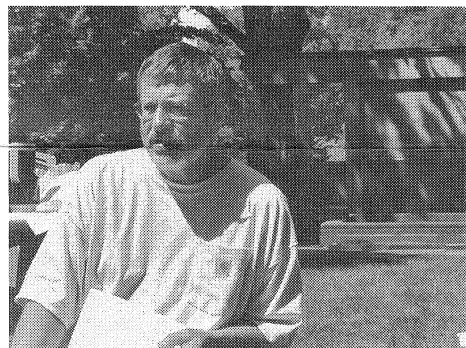


The Holy Monastery of St. Catherine at Sinai, Egypt, the oldest continuously inhabited monastery in the Christian world. Photograph by Dr. Robert S. Nelson

Welcome New Members

Dr. William and Roxie Michener

Chakalis Heads HPS



I am pleased to have the opportunity to serve as president of the Board of Trustees for HPS. Although I have been with the organization since the beginning, the presidency is one position that I have not held. First, on behalf of the Board, we would like to thank Gary Thomas for all his hard work and the dedication that he showed over the past six years. He continued to move our organization forward and through his leadership, initiatives such as the icon restoration were completed. Thank you Gary for all your leadership and for your continued involvement. You have certainly left a large pair of shoes to fill and I am confident that with the continued support of the Board our growth will continue.

The 2007-08 Board members are: Bea Meros, Vice-President and Secretary; Pauline C. Latkovic, Treasurer; Abraham C. Anderson, Pete Boukis, Kevaly Bozes, Helen Collis, Duke Karagiozes. Dr. Victor Papacosma, Rose Rodis, Athansios Sarantopoulos and Irene Vianos.

During my term, with the help of Bea Meros, an audit of each committee will be completed. The results of this review process will enable the Board to better understand the current state of each committee and to identify what changes if any need to occur to make certain each committee remains viable and is provided any additional help as needed. I will also be working closely with Rose Rodis on completing the cataloguing of the HPS collection. Finally, I will be working on the creation of a web site for HPS which provide access to our organization and its activities to a broader audience.

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- Andrew Chakalis

New Greek Radio Program Airs In Cleveland Area

This summer, a new Greek-themed radio program was broadcast on Cleveland's air waves. "The Grecian Spirit" with host Eleni Papouras-Jenks went to the air on WERE 1490 AM on Sundays from 4 to 5 p.m. The program features news from Greece, local events within the Greek community and Greek music with weekly spotlights on various artists.

The mission of the show is to bring a touch of Greece to Clevelanders of both Hellenic descent and to the many Hellenophiles who support our local festivals, etc. Hence, the news segments and announcements are in the English language.

"I noticed that many people, both Greek and non-Greeks, enjoy our music but when faced with dozens of CD selections at festivals and such, are overwhelmed with choices," said host Papouras-Jenks. She is excited about sharing her knowledge of singers and composers and bringing people a greater appreciation of the range of Greek music. Selections in any given week will vary from Rebetika songs of the 1920's to political songs of the 1960's and 70's to the most recent pop hits.

The show will periodically feature guest interviews on topics from the mission work of Greek Clevelanders to the current projects of prominent Greek Americans.

Papouras-Jenks is hopeful that the show will find a niche of listeners and enough sponsorship can be gathered to keep the show on the air in the long-term. She welcomes suggestions and feedback at 216-965-8131.

SAVE THE DATE

March 8, 2008

For the Distinguished Speakers Program, Dr. Nicholas D. Kokonis, author of "Arcadia, My Arcadia" will discuss his award winning novel about an Arcadian journey in this coming-of-age-story. This poignant tale is of a lad from a poor village in Arcadia who struggles to make a better life for himself and his family. More information will be forthcoming.

HPS Stars Youth Soccer Year in Review



The HPS Stars Youth Soccer Team had a great first full season of action and are looking forward to the start of the new season. The Stars finished first in February/March in the U 11 category over a series of eight indoor games. The team finished second place in March/April in another series of eight indoor games in the more competitive U 12 category. On June 15, the Stars had a third place finish in Avon Lake Father's Day outdoor tournament. Congratulations!

On behalf of the parents and the team, we thank HPS for their past and present financial support. Without your support

this team would not be possible. We thank Coach George Mallias for volunteering his time and for teaching his soccer skills to the team. The team has made tremendous improvement since last year.

The team is currently participating in a week-long soccer camp in preparation for the next season beginning in August.

Greek youth ages 9 to 12 are encouraged to participate and can receive more information by contacting Coach Mallias at 440-801-1877.

- Pete Boukis

Leah Barkoukis, Outstanding Intern for HPS

The HPS Collections Committee received a wonderful gift this summer in the form of a volunteer whose talents, interests and experience were a perfect match to work with the committee in documenting the collection on a data-base, researching artifacts' histories and photographing each item.

Leah Barkoukis' interest in the ancient world, both Greek and Roman led her to courses that taught ancient Greek language, the histories of Greece and Rome and other aspects of that time. Since she also has an interest in government, she is majoring in both Classics and Government at the College of William & Mary in Virginia where she will be a senior this year. She firmly believes that most all studies trace back to the ancient world.

An ad hoc committee with the following members: George Gary Thomas (past president), Andrew Chakalis (HPS President and former assistant curator at the Cleveland

Museum of Art), Paul Manos (former computer specialist at NASA) and Rose Rodis (Collections Committee chair) worked with Barkoukis. She conducted database entries in the documentation of selected artifacts, photographed each item and researched wherever possible to gain more historical information concerning that item. She worked with over one hundred artifacts in two months and the results are all that we could have wished. Her work is excellent and has brought us into the 21st Century and the new technologies. Crediting her parents for instilling in her the ethic of doing her best, she exceeded our expectations.

As she wrote recently, her experience was positive to her in that she was "able to play a leadership role in an important aspect of society ... and put to use my passion in photography in a different setting and to also research the history of many objects to add a greater scope of information to the collection."

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HPS President's Progress Report: Jan. '06-May '07

HPS made tremendous press in 2006 and the first half of 2007 in completing several projects and providing programs consistent with our mission and goals. This report summarizes these activities.

- **HELEN COLLIS** continued her dynamic leadership of the Programs and Education Committee. In February 2006, HPS sponsored the film "Secrets of Greece" at the Great Lakes Science Center. The attendance of over 600 at the film's premier was a Science Center record. The film ran over a year and broke records by having an attendance of 73,820 during 937 screenings. Dr. Holger Klein from the Cleveland Museum of Art made a fascinating presentation on the restoration of Orthodox churches in Turkey at the Rocky River Community Center in May 2006, and we sponsored an exciting Tall Ship cruise and dinner at the Science Center in July 2006. HPS sponsored a reception following the third annual Collis Lecture titled "Alexander the Great: A Man for All Seasons" presented by Dr. David Mitlen of Harvard University attended by 419. On Greek Letters Day at the St. Demetrios Metallinos Cultural Center, 250 attended the HPS co-sponsored lecture by Dr. Spiros Vryonis who documented the Turkish purge of Greeks from Asia Minor in the 1950's. Dr. Victor Papacosma educated our membership on the life of Protomarty Rhigas Pheraios at Annunciation Church in March 2007. We also had our third installment of the Hellenic Antique Road Show at Sts. Constantine & Helen Cathedral.

- Chair **ANDREW CHAKALIS** has methodically implemented the master plan for

the Greek Garden. All components of the garden has never looked better. Material on the gardens was discovered including five thousand drawings, among them a copy of the original 1938 planting plan for our garden. Sculptures of two mammoth urns and re-pointing of the Parthenon Wall were completed with matching funds from the Holden Trust. Several plantings were also made consistent with the master plan. Special kudos also goes to **DUKE KARAGIOZIS** who consistently assisted with the garden for the past three years.

- Chair **ROSE RODIS'** patient stewardship of the Collections Committee resulted in the most significant progress of this portion of our organization in many years. We added several items to our collection that now numbers over 200. A few are displayed at the three churches and were on display during the year long showing of "Secrets of Greece" at the Science Center. **PAUL MANOS** completed the software for cataloguing of our collections which was used by intern **LEAH BARKOUKIS** who documented half our collection including photos and detailed descriptions this summer. We also completed the design of new church display cases that are vertical and wheeled with a planned prototype being placed at Sts. Constantine & Helen Cathedral later this year.

- **ANDREW CHAKALIS** coordinated the completion of all remaining icons from Annunciation Church which are now stored with our collection.

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Greek Garden Update

HPS continues to support the restoration of the Greek Cultural Garden. This year, the upper section of the Parthenon was tuck pointed and the entire wall cleaned. In addition, a lead cap was installed on the top which will help to minimize further erosion. As with all major garden initiatives, the cost for this effort was paid for by HPS and the Holden Trust.

The Board had the opportunity to see the results of this effort at the July 7 Board meeting which was held at the Greek Cultural Garden. If anyone is interested in volunteering to help maintain the garden, please contact Andy Chakalis at 216-431-0470. *hps*

- Andrew Chakalis

HPS Newsletter

Vol. XIV, No. 3

Summer 2007

The HPS Newsletter is published by the Hellenic Preservation Society of Northeast Ohio three times a year for members and friends.

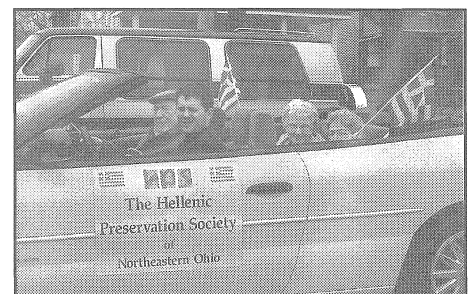
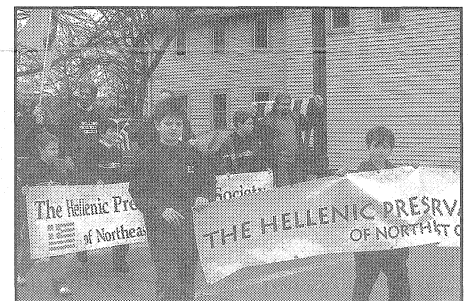
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Cleveland's March 25th Greek Independence Day Parade Celebration



HPS Board Member Toula Kalatzis-Spirtos Returns to Los Angeles

Forever enshrined in the hearts and minds of many members of the Greek American community as "The Greek Parade Lady," Demetra Kalatzis, better known as Toula Kalatzis-Spirtos, has moved back to Los Angeles, CA from where she departed several years ago.

Tall, attractive, ever gracious, cooperative and hard-working, Spirtos has been a loyal and dependent volunteer, not only in HPS projects, but in many other endeavors in Akron and in Cleveland. Unquestionably, she reflects in herself the best image of a Greek American

ethnic who appreciates the present, but has not forgotten her parental, cultural and religious origins.

An inspired leader, persistent yet flexible, she dedicated herself at first as a committee of one to initiate an annual Greek Independence Day Parade. With her strengths, she successfully established the parade as an annual event for the Greek American community in Cleveland.

In the meantime, she did not rest on her laurels. Not only did she turn over the Greek Parade to others, but she also

found time to be involved with HPS projects, church programs, Daughters of Penelope, writing feature articles for the HPS Newsletter and hosting a weekly Greek American radio program on radio station WERE.

She is already missed, but we sincerely wish her the best of luck in any of her future endeavors. Καλο ταξιδι και καλη επιτρεψη! Μιν μας ξεχασετε. Αδιο.

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- Dr. Themistocles Rodis

Progress Report - continued from page 3

- The Communications Committee under the leadership of **DR. THEMISTOCLES RODIS** and the publication skills of **PAULINE LATKOVIC** has continued to publish three newsletters a year.

- Under **CHARLOTTE LAJOE's** continued efforts as chair of the Membership Committee, we have continued recruiting new members and held our membership steady.

- HPS also began a youth initiative by sponsoring a Youth Soccer Team under Chair **PETE BOUKIS** that competed in the Cleveland hosted International Youth Soccer Tournament in 2006, valiantly challenging several community all-star teams. In 2007, our 14 enthusiastic 9 to 10 year old boys also won the league championship in an indoor recreational league. The team practices at the Zapis Activity Center at St. Demetrios Church thanks to the generosity of the St. Demetrios Community.

Our two disappointments were that the International Center Project we funded was cancelled by the International Community Council. HPS offered refunds to those that donated and were pleased the vast majority of our donors transferred their donation to HPS' ongoing programs and activities. This allows HPS to maintain our organization without a fundraiser until next year. The other disappointment was that we were unable to come to agreement on the distribution of a final manuscript of the publication "Greeks of Cleveland" and returned the copyright to the authors Dr. Themistocles Rodis and Mike Vasilakes.

It has been a tremendous honor and privilege to serve as president these past four years. We have been able to accomplish much during this time thanks to all the dedicated workers on the Board, our committees, our Advisory Board and our generous member-

ship. Our organization was established on a strong foundation that included the healthy principle of term limitations for our board and officers. We have never had a more qualified or knowledgeable president as our new President Andrew Chakalis and I look forward to working with him in my ex-officio role on the board this next year as HPS continues the progress we have made from our inception.

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- George Gary Thomas, Outgoing President

Intern - continued from page 2

Barkoukis is looking forward to her return in the spring of 2008 at the General Members meeting at St. Paul Church with a "power point" program showcasing the highlights of her work. More information about this event will be announced soon.

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- Rose Rodis

The mission of the Hellenic Preservation Society is to present a unified voice of the Hellenes in Northeastern Ohio that will promote the Greek experience through education, collection and preservation.

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