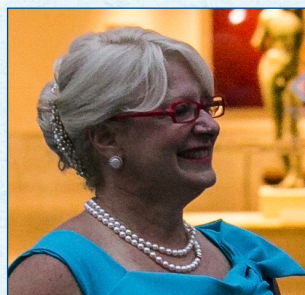




# Hellenic Preservation Society

## of Northeastern Ohio

### Letter from the President



Linda M Glynnias

**H**appy 2021! One thing we all have in common is our love of Greek culture, Greek history, Greece and just being Greek! Long ago, before the pandemic, seeing our family and friends and participating in events, gave us this connection. This past year, however, we spent more time talking on the phone about Greece, sharing photos of Greece, and watching movies and shows about Greece,

instead of actually going to Greece. Many large events were changed. Virtual meetings and zoom events became the new normal. We know that we need this Greek connection still. The HPS itself began with very lofty 2020 goals and schedules to fill this Greek connection, however these will now occur in 2021.

Our tentative 2021 event schedule is September 26, 2021 Collis lecture at The Cleveland Museum of Art.

In the meantime, regardless of the pandemic, the HPS has had several ongoing projects. We have a collection that is always growing. The Greek Cultural Garden commitment continues. Our educational and cultural mission of promoting Greek lectures, music, archeology and community is being communicated.

For 2021 I hope:

- To honor the late Dr. John Collis and Helen Collis for their creation and dedication to HPS.
- To remember our lost HPS members.
- To share our virtual collection.
- To have a community social event virtually and when safe in person.
- To have educational events for ALL ages, especially an ongoing music or art series.
- To begin an online version of the Greeks in NE Ohio, by beginning to gather new family histories and photos and videos.

My wish for all of you is that 2021 will be a happy, healthy year filled with hope and joy.

Linda M Glynnias

### Dr. John Collis

**W**ith a Heavy Heart We Announce the Passing of Dr. John Collis.

Dr. John Collis passed away on November 10, 2020. He is survived by his wife Helen, daughter Maribeth, (Steve) Lekas, son John III, (Katey); grandchildren Michael Lekas, Andrea (James) Cappello, Kacey Collis and Laina Collis.

Dr. Collis was born in Lexington, KY and was raised in Winchester, KY. His parents, John and Elizabeth, were both immigrants from Karpanisi, Greece. He graduated from St. Agatha's Academy at 15 and Kentucky



Dr. John Collis

Wesleyan at the age of 18. He graduated from the University of Louisville Medical School in 1955 and completed his neurosurgical residency at the Cleveland Clinic in 1961. After two years in the military, he returned to the Cleveland Clinic as a member of the neurosurgical staff.

After spending 16 productive years at the Cleveland Clinic, he went into private practice, to limit his practice to spinal surgery. He became the first neurosurgeon in the country to specialize in spinal care.

(article continued on page 4)



## New Board Members



Effie Sikoutris Tsengas

**E**ffie joined the HPS board in early 2020 but has been a member and participant of HPS for several years. She is a parishioner at Saints Constantine and Helen Cathedral in Cleveland Heights. Growing up in that parish, she went to Greek School, was a member of the Hellenic Dancers, taught Orthodox Education and served as co-director for the Junior Hellenic Dancers. For many years, she was on the Festival Committee overseeing the advertising and marketing. She is currently a member of the Parish Council.

Effie graduated from Cleveland State University in Communications. Throughout her career she's worked in communications and marketing in both higher education and the arts. She received her MBA from Kent State University in 2016.

Her interests include the visual and performing arts. She enjoys going to the Cleveland Museum of Art, visiting local galleries and attending arts lectures. She also is a fan of modern dance, chamber music and The Cleveland Orchestra. Her favorite is live theater at Playhouse Square and attending the summer outdoor theatre at Blossom Music Center, Porthouse Theatre.

She is blessed with two daughters, Eva and Demetra, her mother Penelope Sikoutris and her partner Grafton Nunes and his sons Matthew and James.

Effie also serves on the board of trustees for the Cleveland Arts Prize.



Chris Partis

**C**hris is thankful to have the opportunity to support his Greek heritage through participation on the board of the Hellenic Preservation Society.

Chris was born in Thessaloniki, Greece and came to United States with his parents when he was two years old. He grew up in Warren, Ohio, where he attended Saint Demetrios, went to Sunday School and Greek School, and served as an altar boy for seven years.

Chris is a proud graduate of Case Western Reserve University and is currently serving on the board of the CWRU Alumni Association.

Chris had a long and successful career in public health as an administrator with the Akron Health Department, where he served as grants coordinator and public information officer. He is a member of the Ohio Public Health Association, where he served on the board for ten years and as board president for two years.

Chris is a member of Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Akron, where he has served on the parish council and as parish council president. He has also been "the louks guy" for the church's Greek Festival for more years than he can remember.

Chris is married to Shelly Manos Partis, daughter of the late George T. and Helen Manos. Shelly is retired from her 34-year career as a teacher for the Akron Public Schools.

## Dr. Collis Was Founder of HPS

Dr. John Collis was involved in fundraising for, not only with the church, but for the Cleveland Museum of Art. In the late 1980s, Andrew Chakalis, head of the Extensions Department of the Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA) - for which Helen Collis was an active member and volunteer, was told of an important exhibition that was forthcoming to the museum, "Holy Image, Holy Space, Icons from Greece". CMA was in need of funding for its educational lecture and Dr. Collis willingly stepped in and took on the undertaking of fundraising for the exhibition. With the stalwart support of Judge John Manos and Mr. George Chimples they successfully raised the necessary funding. With the help of Bea Meros, a Cleveland native and current HPS board member, a newly created committee with members representing each of the four parishes was formed. The committee was enthusiastically involved with the lectures, the opening receptions and the hosting of the Greek curators/lecturers. So much so that the committee felt that there should be an organization that would represent the entire Greek/American community of Cleveland. It was the event at CMA that served as the catalyst for forming the Hellenic Preservation Society of Northeastern Ohio (HPS). Dr. Collis continued to assist HPS with fundraising for the many projects that the organization had undertaken. Today, Helen Collis actively serves as the Emeritus Past President and daughter Maribeth Lekas an active member of the board.

Currently, Chris is a free-lance writer for Leader Publications and is active in AHEPA while Shelly is serving as vice-president of Annunciation's Philoptochos Society. Chris and Shelly live in the Wallhaven area of west Akron and have been enjoying keeping busy with projects both inside and outside their home.



## Our Greek Cultural Garden

The Cleveland Cultural Gardens are a collection of public gardens located within the City of Cleveland's Rockefeller Park. Within the 276 acres of wooded parkland on the city's East Side are 33 distinct gardens, each commemorating a different ethnic group whose immigrants have contributed to the heritage of the city over the centuries.

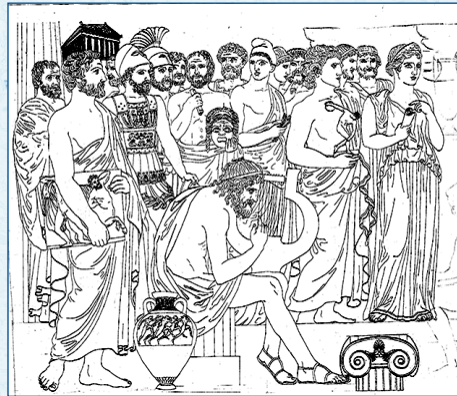
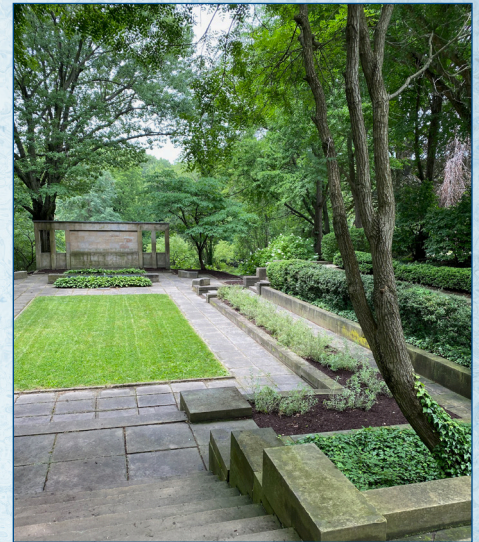
The Greek Cultural Garden was dedicated June 24, 1940. With the help of Ralph D'Alessio, our organization maintains the Greek Garden, restoring, replanting and preserving this landmark reflecting our Hellenic heritage to the city. Two doric columns frame the garden's entrance opening into a plaza, laid out in the shape of a cross, containing a reflecting pool. A wall and pylons symbolize the wall of the Parthenon. Stone tablets on the wall are inscribed with the names of prominent Greek artists, philosophers, writers and scientists.

Since HPS re-dedicated the garden in 1994, we have seen the realization of several new gardens. Our involvement has helped to sustain this unique cultural gem in the city of

Cleveland. We are in the process of having a stone relief sculpture on the Parthenon wall produced to fully realize the original garden plans. Master stone carver Nicholas Fairplay is currently creating this intricate design which will beautifully reflect our ancient culture. Note: A relief is a wall-mounted sculpture in which the three-dimensional elements are raised from a flat base. (See Drawing A.)

HPS looks forward to creating more community programming at the garden for all to enjoy.

The Greek Garden is a popular location for weddings and wedding pictures throughout the year.



(Drawing A.)



## Featured Item From Our Collection

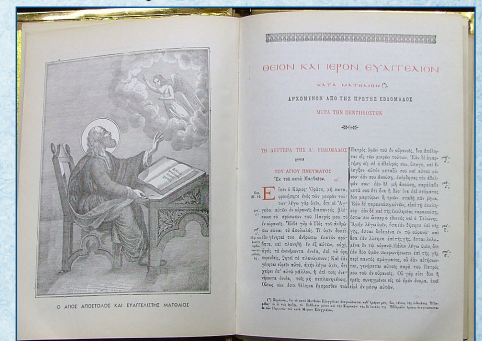
This breathtaking Bible was printed in 1899 in Athens, Greece. The brass cover features two saints and an angel in the center and four saints in each corner. Grape leaves, vines, and grapes compliment the background. The top of the cover says "IEROS NAOS EVANGELISMOU - CLEVELAND - OHIO" and on the bottom it says, "EIS MNYMYN ANASTASIOU FOURMA 1964". The book was used by the Annunciation church. Two clasps on the sides keep it shut. On the back of the cover is the crucifixion of Christ with two saints/disciples on either side of Him. Beneath Him there is a skull and crossbones. You can also make out three churches in the background, as well



Printed in 1899, 1964 is engraved on cover  
Dimensions are 10 5/8" w x 14" h

as grape leaves, grapes and vines. Each corner is complemented with four saints holding paper scrolls. The interior features print in both black and red ink, and there are some illustrations.

Donated by Rose Vourlis







Hellenic Preservation Society  
c/o Linda Glynias  
3146 Regency Place  
Westlake, Ohio 44145

### Save the Date:

Collis Lecture at the Cleveland Museum of Art  
Presents Mary Vasilakis  
a world-wide authority on Byzantine painting.  
2 p.m., Sunday, September 26, 2021  
More details to follow.

### Dr. John Collis (continued from page 1)

Dr. Collis wrote numerous publications on the care of spinal surgery and helped invent many devices and surgical instruments in spinal surgery. He was Co-Chairman of the Spine and Orthopedic Institute at St. Vincent Charity Medical Center.

Over the past 64 years, Dr. Collis cared for 400,000 patients and performed over 17,000 surgeries. However, the fact that less than 5% of his patients underwent surgery best exemplifies Dr. Collis' approach to medical care and his commitment to providing the safest, most effective treatment for each of his patients.

Dr. Collis was active in the Greek Orthodox Church, serving on the Archdiocese Council for 20 years. He served on the Board of Trustees of Hellenic College, Holy cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology.

Dr. Collis and his wife were longtime patrons of the Cleveland Museum of Art, establishing the Dr. John and Helen Collis Annual Lecture of Ancient Greek and Byzantine Art. They also named the Greek gallery at the Museum.

He was a member of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarch of the Greek Orthodox Church and a member of Leadership 100, a non-profit organization that supported projects and ministries of the Greek Orthodox Church.

John's love of faith, family and community, his contributions to medicine and to the arts will long be remembered.

### 2020-21 Board of Trustees

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