

news

Vol. III, No. 2 - Winter 1994

THE HELLENIC PRESERVATION SOCIETY of Northeastern Ohio

Recognition Awards Presented at Ball



From left: Award recipients Christ Boukis, Andrew Chakalis, Bea Meros and Awards Chair Manuel J. Glynias

At the Third Annual Heritage Ball on October 14, HPS recognized those who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and service in furthering the Mission of HPS. Awards were given to: Christ Boukis, past president and chair of Long Range Planning and Bylaws Committees; Andrew Chakalis, former vice president and chair of Greek Garden Project, Icon Restoration and Archives/Collections Committees; and Bea Meros, secretary of the board and all standing committees.

Last year's recipients were: Helen Collis, founding committee chair, president for two years and co-chair of the first ball; and Maribeth Lekas, treasurer for three years and provider of free space for all board and committee meetings.

Other highlights included entertainment by Spice of Life, seven raffle prizes of art objects, and dancing to Pete Pyros and the Greek Ambassadors, all at the picturesque Windows on the River.

hps
-Pauline Latkovic

Volunteers from Society/Key Corp. Assist with Greek Garden Project

The Hellenic Preservation Society's Greek Garden Restoration project had the good fortune of being selected by Society/Key Corp. Bank's "Neighbors Make a Difference Day" volunteer group to assist with the planting of the Central Court and the West slope of the garden.

Under the guidance of Andrew Chakalis, project chair, 22 volunteers from the bank and 12 members of HPS arrived September 13 at noon armed with shovels, rakes, brooms and other gardening paraphernalia prepared to undertake this endeavor. Within five hours over 2700 plantings of ground cover, shrubs and trees were placed

in their designated areas by this industrious group.

Before the volunteers completed their work, they were visited by Richard Konisiewicz, liason for Ethnic and International Affairs for Mayor Michael White at which time he presented a proclamation to the volunteers, lauding them for their efforts.

For all those individuals who were present, there was a sense of accomplishment and pride in realizing that they were instrumental in the restoration of this historic landmark. See photos on page 7.

hps
-Helen Collis

Welcome New Members

Domnichi Cappa
Arthur & Susan Karas
George & Judy Karas
Dr. George Kellis
Dr. Irene Costaras Vasilakis
Dikeos & Dr. Nikki Verikis
Stanley & Artemis York
Our total membership is 470

March Theatre Party Set for Bacchai

This spring, the Great Lakes Theatre Festival will present Euripides' *Bacchai* at the Ohio Theatre.

HPS has purchased a block of tickets for the Sunday matinee performance on March 16. Tickets are \$20 each and available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Get a group together from now and enjoy Greek classical theatre at its best.

Call 886-3208 for more information. Our February issue will include more details.

hps
-Ann Moore



From left: Andrew Chakalis, HPS; Amy Anderson, Key Corp.; Richard Konisiewicz, City of Cleveland liason, presenting proclamation to Society/Key Corp.

ΤΑ ΛΕΜΕ ΣΤΑ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ

Αγαπητοί φίλοι, γεια σας

Πριν μερικές βδομάδες μου συνεβήκε κατι που δεν μπορω να μην μοιραστω μαζί σας. Τελειως απο συμ- πτωση, ο οργανωτης των Δημοσιων Κηπων, με καλεσε να παραβρεθω μαζί του και με αλλα μελη της οργανω- σης, στην Εθελοντικη Ημε- ρα Εργασιας που διοργανω- σε για πρωτη φορα φετος γνωστη και μεγαλη επιχει- ρηση της περιοχης μας. Την ημερα αυτη, δηλαδη υπαλ- ληλοι της επιχειρησης αυτης δουλευουν την μιση ημερα και την αλλη μιση προσφερουν εθελοντικα τις υπηρεσιες τους σε διαφο- ρους φιλανθρωπικους σκοπους.

Ειταν πραγματικά μια υπεροχη εικονα να βλέπεις κοντα στα 50 ατομα να δουλευουν για ενα σκο- πο. Φυτεψαμε δεντρα, κα- θαρισαμε σκαλες και αυλες και σιγα-σιγα δωσαμε στον κηπο μια καινούργια, πιο ομορφη εμφανιση.

Οπως ειχα γραψει και σε προηγουμενα τευχη, οι εργασιες στους κηπους, επιδεικνουν να αφησουν κατι πισω για τις νεες γενεες που να θυμιζει την Ελληνι- κη κληρονομια. Επισης, ελπίζουμε οι γειτονες μας να μιμηθουν το παραδειγμα μας και να αναανεωσουν τους δικους τους κηπους.

Η Ελληνικη παροικια του Κληβελαντ ειναι πραγματικά φαινομενικη. Εχει κτισει τεσσερεις εκκλησιες, εχει μαζεψει χρηματα για νοσοκομεια, την Θεολογικη μας σχολη στην Βοστωνη, τα μονα- στηρια της Επισκοπης και για τοςους αλλους φιλανθρωπικους σκοπους. Πως αραγε να γιναν ολα αυτα τα ονειρα πραγματι- κοτητες; Η απαντηση νομιζω οτι ειναι μια. ΕΝΩΜΩΝΟΙ ΟΙ ΕΛΛΗΝΕΣ ΚΑΝΟΥΝ ΘΑΥΜΑΤΑ.

hps

Θα τα πουμε αργοτερα
Μαρκος

Profile: John Paul Boukis

John Paul Boukis, 24 year old son of HPS members Ken and Packy Boukis, is preparing to present his thesis for the degree of master of fine arts at Case Western Reserve University. His thesis topic is *Childe Byron*, which will be performed at the Eldred Theater, November 10 through 20.

While he was in high school, Boukis was bitten by the theater bug after he was cast as Dr. Rasmutin T. Finsdale in his school's senior play, *Little Abner*. In the evenings, after school, he also acted at several local theaters, including the Greenbrier in Parma Heights, where he had the lead of Eugene in the Neil Simon play, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, and for which he received the Best Actor of the Year Award; and at the Brecksville Little Theater he was in *The Foreigner* and *Tom Foolery*.

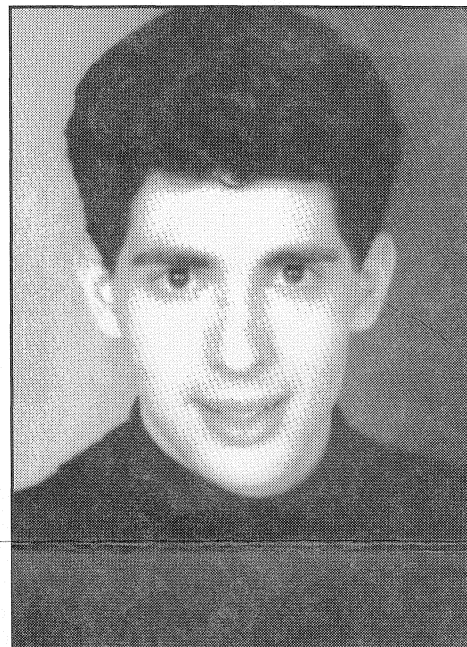
Upon graduation from Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School, Boukis attended Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. where he graduated with a bachelor of science degree in business administration majoring in finance.

True to form, while attending college, young Boukis did theater in the city and sang solos in various churches. He also did two shows a day at the Children's Theater in D.C., a library theater which took musical stories to inner-city children to encourage them to read and to resist drugs. This was his first professional job and he rotated roles for two years while he attended college.

Boukis also became involved with Corporate Cabaret where he organized "Evenings of Theater" for corporations. He was a soloist in four different musical productions for more than a year. Upon graduation, he returned home and enrolled in the master's program at CWRU.

Boukis prepared himself for the role of Lord Byron by researching Byron. He will attempt to capture his physical appearance (club foot and limp), thoughts, and other characteristics. His end performance will be critiqued and graded by the university community.

Like his father, who is well-known for his humor, young Boukis also enjoys comedy. His plans are to form an improvisational comedy group with two classmates and Russian comedy clowning expert, Tonya



John Paul Boukis

Belfot, and take it to off-Broadway Theater.

We join Packy, Ken and brothers Peter and Andrew, and sister, Elayna in wishing John Paul good luck in his ambitious endeavors and look forward to seeing his name on a theater marque, so we can proudly say, "we knew him when..." hps

—Christine Rackas

If you are interested in attending the performance of *Childe Byron*, November 10-20, call CWRU's Eldred Theatre at 368-6262.

Membership Update

With the addition of the latest Karases to our membership, this brings the Karas family membership to 17, this includes parents and children. If they continue, they may have a majority vote.

The Karas family has set the pace, but the Alex, Georges, Costakis, and Kappos families are also off to a good start.

As members of the Hellenic Preservation Society, we take pride in the knowledge that we are leaving behind a little of ourselves, our Greek heritage for those who follow us.

hps

—Charlotte LaJoe

HPS Planning Trip to Antiochian Museum

An overnight trip to the beautiful Laurel Highlands of Pennsylvania where the Antiochian Museum, Library, Iconographer's Studios and Bookstore are located is set for May 6 and 7.

The excursion will include a visit to the ethnic rooms at the University of Pittsburgh as well as Frank Lloyd Wright's

Fallingwater, his most widely acclaimed work and considered the best American Building of the last 125 years.

Transportation, room, three meals, a snack and all admission fees will cost \$85. For further information, call 886-3208. *hps*

—Ann Moore

Faces from the Past: Pete Choukalas

By the time he was ten years old, Pete Choukalas was playing baseball in the shadows of old League Park in Cleveland's eastside Linwood Avenue area. The Cleveland Indians then played at League Park and young Pete saw baseball's greats play there. Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Ted Williams, Joe DiMaggio, Mel Harder, Lou Boudreau, and Bob Feller were his heroes.

By the time he was 15 years old, Pete had developed into an outstanding baseball player. Scouts from many major league teams followed him closely and the St. Louis Cardinals even offered to sign him to a professional contract. Pete's father insisted that his son finish high school first. He attended Benedictine High School on a baseball scholarship. By the time he was a high school senior, Pete Choukalas was recognized as one of Cleveland's outstanding players. Batting an incredible .620 in his senior year, he earned first team All-Scholastic and All-State honors. In Cleveland's tough Class A sandlot league, Pete batted a league-leading .375 that summer.

Following high school graduation in 1950, Pete signed a professional contract with the Boston Red Sox as an outfielder. His professional career started that summer in the old Mountain State League at Big Stone Gap, Virginia. In 1951, Pete returned to Big Stone Gap where he hit .335 with 13 home runs and 82 RBI's. *The Sporting News*, baseball's leading periodical, recognized his outstanding season with an article about his playing and hitting skills.

1952 found Pete serving in the United States Army in Germany. He was assigned to Special Services to play baseball and entertain our troops. That meant playing baseball daily and traveling throughout Europe with his army base team and with many all-star teams, as well. Playing on all-star teams with many major leaguers gave Pete additional honors and the armed forces newspaper *The Stars and Stripes* said, "Pete Choukalas could draw a lot of paying customers in many major league ball parks in the states." Unfortun-



Pete Choukalas

nately, what could have been an outstanding major league career was cut short by illness following his release from the Army in 1953.

Choukalas, a Parma resident for many years is a grandfather of two, and has never lost his great love for baseball. But, like many other baseball fans, he feels for the game that used to be played on real grass by people who played it for the love of the game, and not for the big money, has changed. And that's why Pete Choukalas played the game and loved it, and "what better reason than that is there ... in life?" *hps*

—Mike Papouras

Philhellenes of the Nineteenth Century Risked Their Lives for Greece

continued from last issue

Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe (1801-1876) of Boston was probably the most outstanding of the philhellenes at this time. His lifelong interest and contributions to Greeks and Greek causes were legendary. He very early became an enthusiastic philhellene and never wavered in his commitment. A graduate of Brown University and with a recent medical degree from Harvard University, Dr. Howe first went to Greece in 1824, in the middle of the Greek Revolution and remained until 1827.

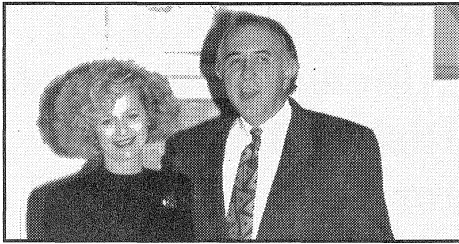
During this period he lived as a Greek among the revolutionaries not only eating and drinking as they did but even participating in several battles against the Turks. He said that he was "honored" when the Greeks appointed him Surgeon-in-Chief of the Greek armed forces, without salary (which he later declared he would not have accepted even if it had been offered to him.)

In 1827 when he returned to Boston, it was to solicit help from his fellow Americans for the Greeks who, although they were on the verge of independence, were also in dire economic straits. Then when he returned to Greece, he brought with him Colonel Jonathan P. Miller and Lieutenant-General George Jarvis, both of whom, like Howe, earlier had also fought in the Greek Revolution. As importantly, they brought with them a large supply of food, clothing, medicine and other provisions which were desperately needed by the Greek war refugees.

General Jarvis is thought to be the first American to participate directly in the Greek Revolution from as early as 1821 when it began. He not only fought alongside the Greeks but also participated in the distribution of needed supplies to the Greeks. He now joined Dr. Howe in helping in the construction of a hospital for the care of the Greek veterans. He and Dr. Howe also established an agricultural settlement as a model to teach Greek war refugees how to grow their own food.

In a letter to his father, Dr. Howe described, along with a picture to prove it, how General Jarvis had become "a complete Greek in dress, manners and language." Unfortunately, General Jarvis did not live long enough to see Greece become free because he died there in 1828.

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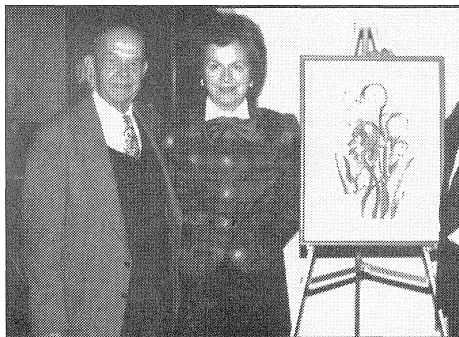
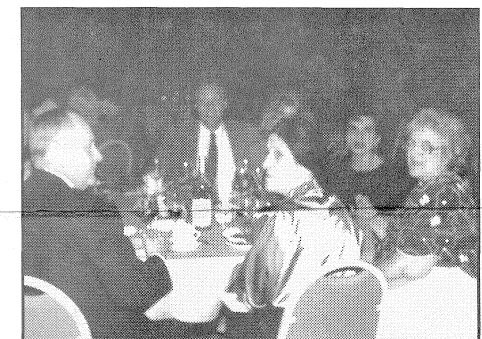
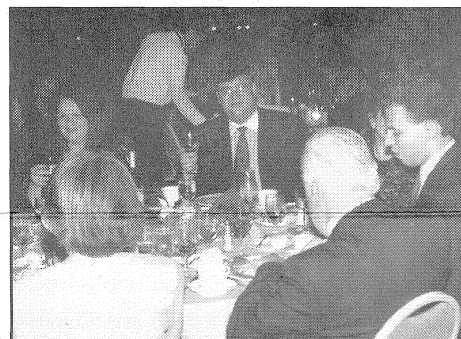
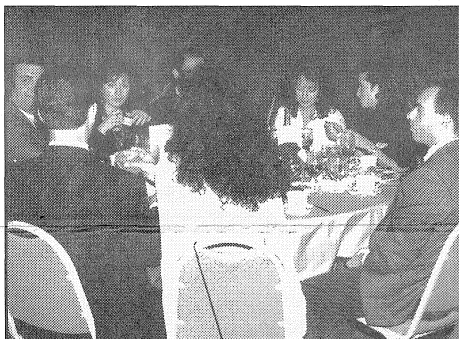
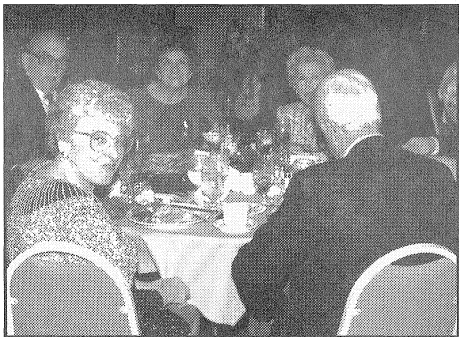
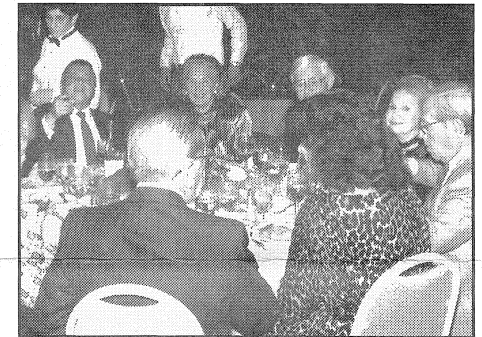
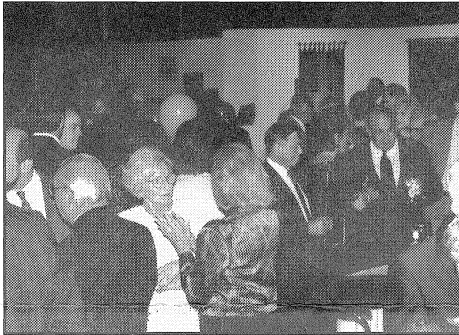


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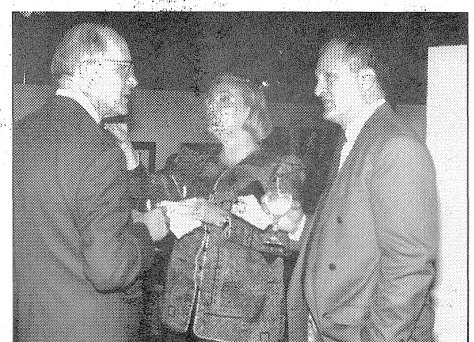
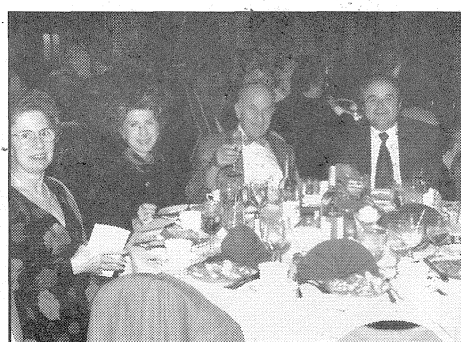
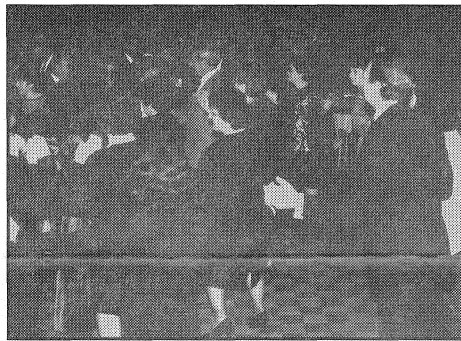
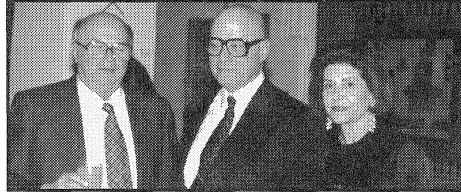
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YLE AT HERITAGE BALL

the program are belatedly recognized for

Orlando Baking Co.;
 es and Dr. & Mrs. Themistocles Rodis;
 (Photography by Mike Syntax)



Greek School Never Looked So Good!

Many of our older generation fondly remember the Greek School of yesteryear – reminiscing about the dingy, rented halls and knuckle-rapping teachers they grew up with. Thankfully, those days are long gone and replaced by today's modern Greek Schools.



Argie Spithas and Tula Spirtos

The innovative approach to teaching the Greek language and traditions of Akron's Annunciation Church Greek School, as introduced by Dr. Rick Newton of Kent State University and continued by its two co-superintendents, Argie Spithas and

Tula Spirtos, impressed everyone in attendance at the General Meeting held on September 8 at St. Paul Church.

Evidence of its success shows in the enrollment figures – 55 children attend each Wednesday for classes from 4:45 to 7 p.m.

Argie Spithas is a graduate of Akron University and holds an M.A. in Education from Kent State University. Tula Spirtos is a graduate of UCLA. They oversee a faculty of six teachers plus mothers who gladly volunteer their help by doing projects while they wait for their children.

Classes are made to be fun with incentives that make the children want to come and there is an award ceremony at semester's end to acknowledge their achievements. Progress reports also let the children and parents know of their development.

Since most of the children come directly from American school, a volunteer mother (or meal coordinator) has snack food prepared for them.

What is the key to their success? Early on the teachers found that the most important factor was that teaching the Greek language in a conversation format made it easier for the children as opposed to stressing how to write Greek. They have incor-

continued on page 8

Philhellenes-continued

Dr. Howe, however, remained in Greece and witnessed the confirmation of Greek independence in 1830. Upon his return to America, Dr. Howe proceeded to lecture on the Greek situation on behalf of the various Greek Committees and to campaign for Greek war relief. He also managed to find time to write a book about his experiences in Greece, entitled *An Historical Sketch of the Greek Revolution*.

Dr. Howe revealed that during the revolution, like Jarvis, he also "went Greek" to the extent of even wearing a *fustanella*, in which he also had his picture taken. Most importantly, Dr. Howe's interest in Greece did not end with the Revolution, but continued for the rest of his life. In 1844, he visited Greece with his entire family. He returned again in 1867 to again give his help when the Greeks in Crete fought unsuccessfully to also try to break away from Turkish domination. This time when he returned to America he brought with him as his secretary a young Greek by the name of Michael Anagnostopoulos (later shortened to Anagnos), of whom much more would be heard.

Anagnos not only married Julia Romana, one of Dr. Howe's daughters, but upon Dr. Howe's death in 1876, he succeeded Dr. Howe as head of the Perkins Institution for the Blind.

hps

To be continued.

–Themistocles Rodis



HPS Newsletter

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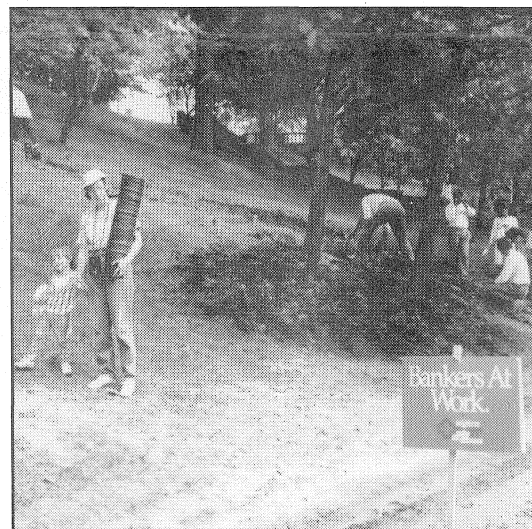
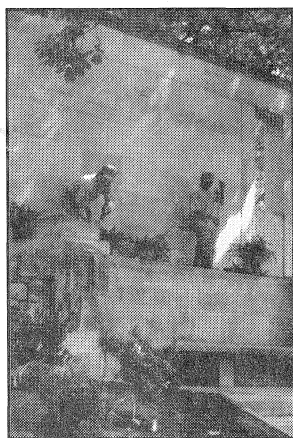
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Greek Garden Enhanced by "Neighbors Make A Difference" Day Sponsored by Society/Key Corp.

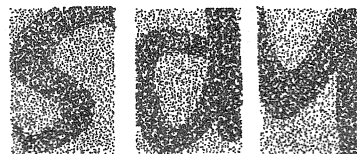


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THE HELLENIC PRESERVATION SOCIETY

of Northeastern Ohio
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- ☐ Bylaws Review
- ☐ Communications
- ☐ Development
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Finance
- ☐ Greek Cultural Garden
- ☐ Icon Restoration
- ☐ Long Range Planning
- ☐ Membership
- ☐ Organization & Institutions Liaison
- ☐ Program
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Hellenic Preservation Society-Membership Form

☐ Yes, I want to become a member. ☐ Yes, I want to renew my membership.

My check in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed.

Name _____

Address _____

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

I want to offer my skills or expertise in _____
to help HPS continue to grow.

Greek School continued

porated this into all classes. Writing and grammar are taught in the advanced classes.

The Education committee, chaired by Ann Moore, has to be commended for bringing these two talented teachers to our attention. *hps*

—Christine Rackas



HPS Calendar

Nov. 10-20	"Childe Byron" at CWRU's Eldred Theatre. Call 368-6262
Nov. 17	General Meeting & Program Sts. Constantine and Helen Cathedral
Feb. 16	General Meeting & Program Annunciation Church
Mar. 16	"Bacchai" at the Ohio Theater
Mar. 31	OSU/"the Importance of Modern Greek for the Study of Hellenism"- more in Feb.
May 6& 7	Antiochian Museum Excursion