

news

Vol. V, No. 1 - Fall 1996

THE HELLENIC PRESERVATION SOCIETY of Northeastern Ohio

HPS Milestone: 5 Years of Success

Leslie Yerkes, President of Catalyst Consulting Group has helped the Hellenic Preservation Society with its mission and long-range planning from the start. She spoke at our spring General Meeting on May 16 to congratulate HPS on our milestone of five years of successful work on our mission.

Yerkes has consulted many start-up groups, some for-profit, other non-profit like HPS. The statistics for either type of a new group succeeding are daunting. Up to 87% of the groups fail within their first year of operation. Out of those that make it their first year, only a small number make it to five years running. Once a group has made it to five

years, it is generally considered healthy enough and well-designed and conceived enough to last for the long run. HPS is such an organization.

Yerkes cited the development of a clear mission statement and our commitment to it is the key to our success. The mission of the Hellenic Preservation Society is to present a unified voice of the Hellenes in Northeastern Ohio that will promote the Hellenic experience through education, collections, and preservation. This mission should carry HPS through many successful years to come. *hps*

—Kathy Apotsos

"Ding! Ding! Ding! Goes the Trolley"

Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 8. Get ready to board "Lolly the Trolley" for a fun-filled, free ride arriving at the Greek Cultural Gardens in style! The honor of hosting the city's "One World Day," part of Cleveland's Bicentennial celebration has been awarded to our beautifully restored Greek Garden in recognition of the impetus it provided for the renewal of the entire Rockefeller Park area.

"Hats Off!" to prime-mover, Andrew Chakalis, assisted by Gus Callas and Mike Papouras who also labored with spades, hoes, and rakes, supported from time to time by enthusiastic volunteers from HPS and the larger community. Photos taken before and after renovation (displayed at the site) will amaze you. The transformation has been remarkable!

The entire park area including the other ethnic gardens will be open to the public. East Blvd. from St. Clair to Superior Avenues will be closed to all but pedestrian traffic. It will contain a main stage as well as refreshment and food stands. East Boulevard borders the Greek Garden.

Dignitaries including Mayor Michael White and Councilman James Rokakis have been invited to the short rededication ceremony. The program features Greek Music by Pyros from 12:30-2:30 p.m., Hellenic Folk Dancing

from 2:30-3:30 with a festive parade starting at 4:00 p.m. (at the South end) and concluding at the Greek Gardens at 5:00 p.m. The grand finale will bring this festive day to a rousing finish with a concert by the 15 piece John Phillip Sousa Band, directed by John Petrone, which is partly subsidized by the Musicians Trust Fund.

Gus Callas, retired City of Cleveland engineer, who was involved in the development of the Flats, Erieview and Gateway, as chief of construction says, "This event will serve as a 'turn-around' for the Greek community." When first viewing the neglected, abandoned gardens, he thought it an "impossible task!" Now he is optimistic about the future and hopes that once people see the restoration and the area they will become involved.

Mike Papouras, retired teacher and high school wrestling coach, has also contributed more recently to this project by working weekends to maintain it. He thinks that the professional work contributed by the architectural plan was "tremendous" and that the master-plan was important to its completion in that it presented a unique challenge due to its being a sunken garden – the only one in Rockefeller Park. He also believes that "this event will serve as a 'catalyst' to unite our community!"

continued on page 4

Welcome New Members

George and Catherine Cashy
Paul and Toula Manos
Marilyn Rouvelas*
Dr. Peter and Christine Stamatis

* Author of *A Guide to Greek Traditions and Customs*

HPS Board Elects New Officers

By a unanimous vote, the following members of the HPS Board of Trustees were elected officers for the year 1996 to 1997: Maria Cashy, president; Sophie Karas, vice-president; Rose Rodis, secretary; and Steve Rackas, treasurer.

The outgoing officers were enthusiastically thanked for their leadership and enterprise during this past year: Pauline Latkovic, president; Rose Rodis, secretary; and Christine Janas, treasurer. (Manuel Glynias, vice-president had not been able to fulfill his duties and had not been replaced.)

Kali epitithia and best wishes to the new officers for an equally productive and successful year ahead! *hps*

—Dr. Themistocles Rodis

Members Meeting at Annunciation in Sept.

"From Greek Immigrants to American Politics" will be the topic of the program. Councilman James Rokakis will present at the Annunciation Church on Thursday, September 19 at HPS' General Membership Meeting starting at 7 p.m. with refreshments.

Councilman Rokakis was instrumental in obtaining a \$15,000 block grant from the City of Cleveland for masonry and stonework at the Greek Garden. The work was completed this summer.

Rokakis will present a non-partisan overview of what goes on behind the scenes of a political campaign. With the General Election in November, this should be a demonstration of the concept of Athenian democracy." *hps*

—Pauline Latkovic

Orphans of the Greek Revolution and American Civil War

This article by Fotine Z. Nicholas appeared in the Greek star (Chicago, Ill., October 8, 1987) and is reprinted here because it adds to the excerpt in the HPS Newsletter (Vol. IV, No. 2., Winter 1995) about other Greek orphans who were brought to America by philhellenes during or after the Greek Revolution. In the Winter issue of the HPS Newsletter, the stories of some outstanding Greek immigrants of the 19th century will appear.

Most aficionados of Greek American history have read about the 40 orphan boys of the Greek War for Independence. Natives for the most part of Chios and other Aegean islands, they were rescued by American missionaries and brought to the United States to study in American colleges. Among these young victims was Lucas Miltiades Miller, born in Livadia in 1824. Lucas was adopted by J.M. Miller, an American who was a colonel in the Greek army. In 1891, Lucas became the first Greek American to serve in the House of Representatives.

These few biographical details are common knowledge and Miller's success typifies the varied accomplishments of these transplanted orphans. Much less well-known, however, are the stories of those who served in America's Civil War – on both the Union and Confederate sides of the struggle.

In the National Archives in Washington is a memorandum that refers briefly to "Greek Company A" of the Louisiana Militia, 1861. It lists five officers of the company: Captain Nicholas Touloubief, First Lieutenant Alex Laxareado, and Second Lieutenants D. Gregori, N. Brazoroff, and Constantino Coratosas. But no other mention of these men has been found and thus they have disappeared from the pages of history.

About those who served on the Union side, however, more details are available. Take, for example, the prolific John Celivergos Zachos – educator, Unitarian clergyman, author, and inventor – who was born in Constantinople of Athenian parents. He was brought to America by Samuel Gridley Howe. In 1849, he married Harriet Canfield. He fathered six children, but also served as a father figure for his students. One of the first American educators to break with an existing stereotype, he proved that Negro children were educable. At the start of the Civil War, Zachos joined the Union army as an assistant surgeon and was stationed at Parris Island, South Carolina. He died in 1890 at the age of 70.

continued on page 3

Greek Isles Enchant U.S. Artists

Imagine seeing the captivating beauty of the Aegean Islands of the Cyclades through the delighted eyes of a group of artists – many for the first time. Such was the experience of "Flying Colors" – a group of twenty-two artists, including our own talented Rose Rodis.

Led by Johanna Morrel of Colorado, instructed by Linda A. Doll of California and accompanied by Rodis as the interpreter, the water-colorists flew to Athens for their initial gathering. They represented various ability levels and vocations: from a college professor to artists who exhibited their works in well-known galleries to the owner of a country inn, Fleming Godden of Virginia.

They arrived not only prepared to draw but also to appreciate Greece; they had "done their homework" and were well versed in its history and culture. The picture-perfect panorama was so "intoxicating," according to Rodis, that one woman even continued sketching during meals! Sketchbooks, pencils and cameras were in constant use. The play of light and shadow, the colorful profusion of wildflowers and bougainvillea, the

charming villages with their white-washed walls and blue trim, surrounded by hills and azure sea provided an artist's dream!

The group spent one week each on the island of Paros with its unspoiled beauty and another on Santorini (Thira) where they declared Fira (the capital) the most picturesque. Mykonos and its famed windmills were also enjoyed and they toured historic Delos (uninhabited). At Akrotira (Thira), archeological digs continue to this day.

The ancient site dates back three millennium! In the meantime, sight-seeing, shopping, relaxation and fun were not slighted and the friendly Greeks willingly obliged by posing for the visitors.

Rodis' services as translator with bus drivers, travel agents and shop owners proved invaluable. Next year the group will boast of two interpreters as Dr. Themistocles Rodis announced his intention to be along on the next trip!

hps

–Koula Stevens

Fifth Annual Heritage Ball set for Oct. 12 at Historic University Club

Elegance, ambiance and jazz will set the tone of this year's Heritage Ball. The Hellenic Preservation Society will host its Ball at the beautiful, historic University Club in downtown Cleveland on Saturday, October 12, 1996 at 6:30 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by KVJA-Jesse Dandy Jazz Pianist playing during the cocktail hour, then Comedian Mike Jelepis will amuse us after dinner fol-

lowed by the wonderful sounds of The Nea Kompania for everyone's dancing pleasure for the rest of the evening. Please mark your calendar and make your plans to attend this grand evening. There will also be free valet parking, a delicious dinner, raffle, and enjoyable company that will make for a very memorable evening.

hps

–Sophie Karas

What's Current in Collections

We're in business and rarin' to go! A storage space has been rented, racks and file cabinets have been donated and collection parameters have been set (meaning that we've set standards for donated articles). Some items have started to come in and it's getting exciting!

We need many more art objects, such as paintings, sculptures, decorative arts, prints/drawings, photography and textiles to add to our collection. We are making a request: *bring a donated artifact(s) that's been handed*

continued on page 4

HPS Newsletter

Vol. V, No 1 – Fall 1996

The HPS Newsletter is published by the Hellenic Preservation Society of Northeastern Ohio four times a year for members and friends. Send address changes to Charlotte LaJoe, 25026 Mill River Road, Olmsted Falls, Ohio 44138.

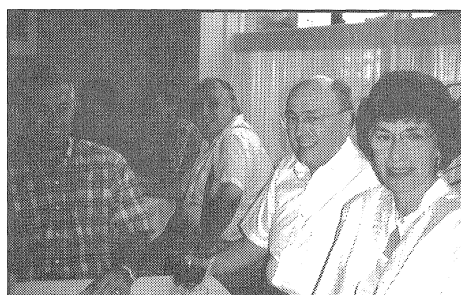
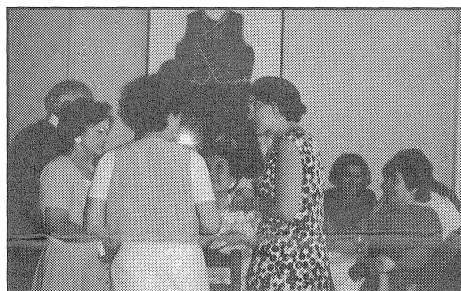
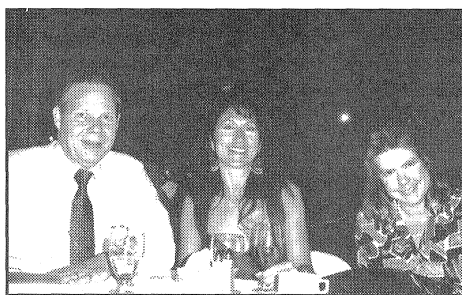
Editor: Dr. Themistocles Rodis

Layout: Pauline C. Latkovic

Writers: Kathy Apotsos, Mark Fikaras, Sophie Karas, Charlotte LaJoe, Pauline C. Latkovic, Mike Papouras, Rose Rodis, Dr. Themistocles Rodis, Koula Stevens

Photographer: Rose Rodis

Taverna Nite '96 at the Greek Isles



Orphans - continued

We know of at least four men who followed the seafaring tradition of Greece by serving in the union navy during the War between the States. Leonidas Rodokanakis, known as Rody, enlisted in 1861 and served on the USS Ohio. George Sirian or Sirianis was a kind of Moses of the Epanastasi. He was a child from an island that was raided by the Turks, and the story was that his mother put him in an empty boat which she then pushed out to sea. The boy was picked up by the USS Macedonia and adopted by its crew. During the Civil War, he served as a gunner. Sirianis died in Virginia in 1891 at the age of 73.

Another islander was Photius Kavasales, or Fisk, as he became known. In 1814, Photius was found crying in the streets of Smyrna, where all his family had died during an epidemic. Later, he was taken to Malta by missionaries and finally he and another Greek boy were put aboard an American ship bound for Salem, MA.

After attending Amherst College, Kavasales joined the Board of Foreign Missions and was sent to the Mediterranean to deliver provisions to the Greeks, who were still struggling for freedom. Having joined the Congregational Church, in 1828 Kavasales began studying for the ministry. After he was ordained, he served as a minister in New England. In 1842, President John Tyler appointed him as navy chaplain, chiefly on the recommendation of John Quincy Adams, a classical scholar who admired everything Hellenic. One of Kavasales-Fisk's accomplishments was the abolition of flogging on the American men-of-war. He died in Boston in 1890.

The best-known of Greek American naval officers of the period was George Musalas Calvocoresses. George was captured by the Turks in 1822 during the destruction of Chios and was taken to Smyrna. He was ransomed by his family and then put on a ship for America. After graduating from the Military Academy at Norwich, CT., Calvocoresses became a midshipman in 1832. When the Civil War started, he was a commander on the USS Supply, which captured a blockade runner that was carrying ammunition to the Confederacy. In 1863, he transferred to the Saratoga and assigned to duty off the South Carolina and Georgia coasts. He and his crew made several landings, destroying bridges and encampments, capturing enemy troops, guns, and ammunition, and freeing a number of slaves. Calvocoresses received two citations from Rear Admiral Dahlgren and a commendation from Secretary of the Navy Wells.

The Origin of The Ancient Olympic Games

In view of the modern Olympics just held in Atlanta, Georgia, the article below may be instructive in giving the history of the ancient Olympics, their origins and purposes. The fact that over 2,000 years later, the Olympic games continue to be held and respected is a great honor to the wisdom and practices of the ancient Greeks.

Historically, 776 B.C. is considered as the year of the first ancient Olympiad. Records and events were so well kept that scholars and historians have used the ancient Olympics as one way to study the history of ancient Greece. There followed a succession of 293 Olympiads (1,168 years – one Olympiad every 4 years) that finally came to an end in 393 A.D. by order of the Christian Roman Emperor, Theodosios I, because the games worshipped pagan gods.

Greek mythology suggests that Erakles (Hercules), a mortal son of the god Zeus, founded the games as an honor and tribute to his father Zeus. Erakles, after winning a grueling wrestling match against another mortal, declared that an *altis* (a sacred grove) dedicated to Zeus be created and that a temple to Zeus and Hera be erected within the *altis*.

Erakles also proclaimed that every 4 years games be held in honor of Zeus, and that statues and buildings be completed before the announced games on the site of Olympia (Mount Olympus).

Another more plausible story portrays the great god Pelops as the originator of the ancient Olympic games. Pelops was a sacred hero to the people of Olympia and was worshipped. Pelops won a great chariot race against King Oenomeus, married the King's daughter Hippodamia and declared that sacred games be held in Olympia every four years in his own honor. The *altis* was then developed by Pelops and he had a bronze statue of himself erected there, in the middle of the *altis*. All other buildings and the chariot track were placed outside the sacred grove. Upon his death a burial mound named the Pelopion Altar was erected next to his statue; the people of Olympia worshipped at his sacred altar and offered animal sacrifices to him. (Incidentally, Peloponnesian is named after him.)

continued on page 4

continued on page 4

Sotere & Sophie Karas
9714 Shenandoah Drive
Brecksville, OH 44141

for their generous donation to underwrite
this issue of the HPS newsletter.

PLATO & MARY ANTON

Members and friends of HPS thank

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Cleveland, Ohio
Permit No. 856

of Northeastern Ohio
6701 Rockside Road, Suite # 200
Independence, Ohio 44131

THE HELLENIC PRESERVATION SOCIETY



Trolley - continued

Andrew Chakalis, sculptor, has a story to tell that is very rewarding. While working there, a neighbor came across the street and told him how wonderful it was to see a community take such pride in its heritage that they would put in the work and effort demonstrated in the Greek Garden! This man was so impressed that he has volunteered to personally help next year!

Look for a flyer and announcement at your church. "Lolly the Trolley" will depart from all four churches at regularly scheduled times with more frequent trips from Sts. Constantine and Helen and the Annunciation churches. So pass the great news around and plan to be a part of this great celebration!
hps

—Koula Stevens

TROLLEY SCHEDULE:

Sts. Constantine & Helen and the Annunciation Churches: leaves on the hour, noon-7 pm; from the garden, leaves on the 1/2 hr. 12:30-8:30 p.m.

St. Demetrios and St. Paul Churches: leaves every 2 hours, noon-6:00 p.m.; from garden every two hrs. from 1:00-7:00 p.m.

If you have an authentic Greek costume, wear it and be in the parade. Easy "toga" children's patterns are available, call Linda Glynnias at 835-1566.

Orphans - continued

Captain Calvocoresses also served in the Antarctic and the South Seas. He wrote a book about these experiences and after his retirement often lectured on his career and on natural history. His life ended on a note of

HPS Calendar

Sept. 8	Bicentennial Celebration at Greek Garden
Sept. 19	General Meeting Annunciation Church
Oct. 5-8	St. Paul Festival
Oct. 12	Heritage Ball University Club

Collections - continued

over to you by family or friends of the immigrant generation to the September 19th General Members meeting at the Annunciation Church. Please don't be shy about bringing something - let the "experts" decide whether it's of museum quality!

Too often we've heard stories about these handed down articles that have been discarded or given away. Keep HPS in mind when it comes time to move from the family house, or you've decided it's time to clean house and make decisions about what to keep or throw out. If it relates to the immigrant experience, we'd like to see it - it's our business!
hps

—Rose Rodis

ironic tragedy: he survived the dangers of war and the rigors of frozen wastes only to be set upon, shot and killed by muggers in Bridgeport, CT, in 1872!

Olympic Games - continued

With the coming of Zeus to Olympia, Pelops' image was reduced in rank from god to demi-god and was superceded by Zeus himself, and Olympia became the sacred ground for Zeus. And, of course, the ancient Olympic games that followed were not only for the purpose of athletic participation and political maneuvering, but also for religious worship and celebration, notably in honor of the god Zeus.

Although 776 B.C. is considered the year of the first Olympiad, such games or religious festivals were also held in other parts of ancient Greece. For example, in the year 884 B.C., games were held in Olympia under the guidance of King Iphitus of Elis, who some believe may have been the true founder of the ancient Olympics. Unlike the image we hold of the olive branch wreath, the winners of 884 B.C. were given an apple for their victories. No records or written accounts of these games exist, only statues of the winners were erected. Coreobus, a stadesprinter, was the first winner in the first official Olympics of 776 B.C., and he too was rewarded with an apple. The practice of crowning the victors with wreaths of wild olive branches was begun in the 7th Olympiad when Daicles, another stadesprinter was officially crowned. And the practice that was respected over the centuries, the 3 month stopping of all war, was begun in 884 B.C. by King Iphitus of Elis.
hps

—Michael P. Papouras