



Yankee News



The Publication of AHEPA District #7
Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Western Massachusetts
In Continuous Publication Since 1949

May 2024



The District 7 AHEPA Family Convention June 15, 2024

Hosted by the Waterbury AHEPA and DOP Chapters
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Deadline: May 10, 2024

Nomination Form &
2023-24 Chapter Activity Report
Deadline: May 20, 2024

Registration & Delegate Form
Deadline: June 3, 2024

Download forms
& Program from
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<https://ahepa.org/events/>



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LARNACA 2024
JULY 21-27, 2024 ■ LARNACA, CYPRUS

The District 7 AHEPA Family Commemorates Greek Independence Day

Middletown



Central CT State University



West Hartford

Stamford



New Britain





A MESSAGE FROM THE AHEPA D7 GOVERNOR

Dear Brothers, Fraternal Greetings.

Best wishes to all for a meaningful spiritual journey during the forty days of Lent, a time of introspection during Holy Week and the joy of Resurrection on the Paschal Day, May 5, 2024. Happy Easter.

I hope this year's spring, now in progress, finds you all in good health and prosperity. Inevitably, as I gauge the budding of new life on winter-bared tree branches, I think of Robert Frost's poetry referencing springtime in *Nothing Gold Can Stay*, *'Nature's first green is gold, Her hardest hue to hold...'*

The winter-long hard work of the root system underground is eventually manifested in the green of tree leaves, first perceived as gold. Nature's rhythms are magical.

This flow of energy in nature's infrastructure could be a metaphor for the work of the AHEPA brotherhood, with the chapters as the root system gathering the energy of their members and directing it toward a higher plateau of communal existence. Embarking on the AHEPA journey, a lifelong undertaking for many, can be an adventure of discovery and personal transformation. There may be challenges along the way, but Ahepans of good will gather wisdom enough to overcome them.

This year, 2024, marks the 102nd anniversary of AHEPA's existence. Now an international fraternal organization, AHEPA has the potential to affect the Greek diaspora in manifold ways. As its membership grows, so does its voice gain more forceful authority. In our own District, we started the year 2024 with initiations of new members; six in the Stamford Chapter and two in the Norwalk Chapter. Both celebrated in the early weeks of February. Other District 7 chapters will surely follow suit as we continue to impress our Hellenic values and mission on our communities.

For the record, at the close of the year 2023, the D7 membership stood at 732 brothers, including 49 new initiates and 9 reinstated members. May we create opportunities for new members to come on board for a journey of discovery.

Events of note in District 7 in the months ahead are the College Scholarship Awards and Banquet on Sunday, June 2, 2024, to be hosted by the New Haven Chapter 98, and the spring D7 AHEPA Family Convention on June 15, 2024, with Waterbury Chapter 48 as the host. It is most opportune that Chapter 48 celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. At the Convention, we will have the chance to raise a glass to the chapter's next one hundred years. Further into the year, the D7 Hellenic History Tournament (HHT) is scheduled for November 23, 2024, at the Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox facilities in Orange. We are hoping for a robust participation of student teams from all D7 chapters. I would also remind the chapters to respond to an earlier request for a modest donation, for needed new computer hardware and software equipment to run the HHT competition. Checks made out to the *HHT Fund* can be sent to Gregory Simones, at 3 Longview Ave, Waterford, CT 06385.

At the national level, noteworthy events in the next few months include the Ahepa Congressional Banquet at the historic Mayflower Hotel in Washington D.C. on May 22, followed by AHEPA Capitol Hill Day on May 23. At the banquet, our own Connecticut Senator Richard Blumenthal will be honored with the AHEPA Pericles Award, a well-deserved honor for a friend and a philhellene of note.

The AHEPA Family Supreme Convention will be held in Larnaca, Cyprus, on July 21-27. AHEPA's presence in Cyprus is significant this year, the fiftieth anniversary of the Turkish invasion of the island in 1974. Looking to be the peacemakers, as our Christian faith demands, we wish for reconciliation, co-existence, and mutual respect among the populations of the island. That is the message AHEPA ought to bring to the island in July 2024.

Finally, on July 12, 2024, the national HHT competition will be held in Nashville, TN, with participation from first-place and second-place winners in regional HHT competitions of the previous year. District 7 will be represented by HHT teams from Watertown, MA, and New Haven, CT.

Further information about all the upcoming events can be found in the AHEPA website, ahepa.org/events/, and the D7 website, ahepadistrict7.org. I hope to see you in the months ahead, and especially at the D7 Convention on June 15.

As always, best wishes to all.

E. Vagos Hadjimichael



A MESSAGE FROM THE DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE D7 GOVERNOR

Dear Sisters,

I hope this message finds you well. Wishing you a bright and cheerful spring! Hope you had a joyous Easter holiday, eagerly anticipating the warmth and sunshine of summer ahead.

As we are entering the month of May (chapter election time), it's essential to remind all chapters that elections are imminent. Upon electing new officers, the chapter election results should be promptly submitted to both DOP Headquarters (HQ) and District 7. This step ensures a smooth transition and allows Headquarters to grant officers access to the membership application and reports. The process has to be completed before the Supreme Convention so all HQ communications with convention directives and information can begin. District elections will take place at the D7 Convention on June 15th. Encouraging members to identify candidates for District roles is vital for our organization's long-term success. By nurturing leadership potential and building a talent pipeline, we ensure a continuous flow of capable individuals ready to lead at various levels.

Fostering leadership development from the chapter, to the district, to the national level strengthens our organization's leadership capacity and ensures continuity in governance.

Having representation from all or most chapters in the District Lodge fosters balance in decision-making and guarantees that directives and information from District and Headquarters reach every chapter without oversight.

Promoting opportunities for members from various chapters to take on leadership roles creates a sense of ownership and investment in our organization's success, fostering a vibrant and dynamic organizational culture.

In line with this commitment to leadership development, I'm excited to share Grand Vice President Margaret Dristas' Growth and Expansion initiative, the Daughters of Penelope Leadership Academy. The objectives of the Academy are centered on leadership, education, and mentorship. We aim to empower our members to enhance their leadership skills, foster a sense of community and support, and provide educational opportunities for personal and organizational growth.

The Academy will feature online workshops and modules, with an emphasis on membership retention and succession planning. We want to instill confidence in our members to take on leadership roles, ensuring the continuity and growth of our organization.

Exciting News: The D7 Yankee News from the past four years is now available on the D7 AHEPA website. Check it out: ahepadistrict7.org/Yankee-News/ Please note that there hasn't been a February issue since 2020. The February issue would only be printed if the AHEPA/DOP Lodges authorize a Mid-Winter Conference.

As we continue our journey, I've been actively engaged in various activities since our last Yankee News issue deadline. From volunteering at a shelter to celebrating Founder's Day and attending chapter events and visitations, it's been a fulfilling period connecting with our sisters and community.

In closing, let's continue to support one another and nurture our organization's growth, striving for excellence at every turn.

Yours in Theta Pi,
Elisa Marotta



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BEST WISHES
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EDITOR'S NOTES by Jack Isaac

The Yankee News is excited to present the first in a series of interviews with past local, district or national scholarship winners. Our hope is that these inspire our current youth and present them with career possibilities.

"Where Are They Now" looks at these winners some years into their respective careers to see how they are progressing. Greek-Americans have been highly successful and our Scholarship recipients are no exception. The combination of

strong family units, an emphasis on education, and the influence of the church have created the perfect recipe for success.

For our first recipient, we have chosen Niko Koutouvides from the Elpis Chapter 117 from New Britain CT. Niko made the quantum leap from the playing fields of small town Plainville, CT to playing for the World Champion New England Patriots. He managed to complete a successful ten year career with the NFL always playing with high intensity and skill. Niko is the son of hard working Greek immigrants who became successful restaurateurs. He saw first hand, along with his brothers, the Greek work ethic and the many sacrifices his parents made for their growing family. He also saw the importance of the Greek extended family in his childhood.

Please let us know your thoughts about our new feature. We welcome any of your comments through our *Letters to the Editor* segment. Feel free to suggest candidates for future issues.



www.patriots.com

large support group handling the majority of his activities. When retirement comes that support group is gone, and you suddenly realize that you need a focus for the future years.

Ed.: How did the labor lockout of 2011 play into your thinking of your post NFL life?

Niko: This was the beginning of my post NFL career. I was unable to begin training for the next season and had a lot of time on my hands. I was always interested in real estate development as a possible future career, and began looking for possible projects. I saw a duplex for sale in West Hartford and quickly saw the possibilities of erecting an apartment building on the site. With the assistance of my two brothers, this was the beginning of Skala Construction. We moved on from that to a 110-unit apartment in Fairfield, and that was followed by a 160-unit apartment building. Currently a combination living and outdoor space complex is under construction on Batterson Park Road in Farmington.

Ed.: How have you assisted other retired players since retirement?

Niko: Many former players have fallen on hard times. They don't qualify for the NFL pension plan because their careers were short, and many did not take advantage of the NFL 401K plan. I am involved in the statewide program that identifies these players and offers assistance. I'm also President of the NFL in CT. Our goal is to help kids in need and we hold an annual golf tournament to raise funds for this endeavor.

Ed.: What is your advice to young people today?

Niko: Be careful with social media. Don't let it radicalize you. Increase your human interaction and become involved in school athletics and activities. Don't forget your Greek Orthodox faith and be grateful for AHEPA's help.

Ed.: Thank you, Niko, for letting our readers get to know an extraordinary young man. Your life will shine as an inspiration to others.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? by Jack Isaac

I recently sat down with Niko Koutouvides, assisted by Yankee News Secretary Andy Aros, for our first interview of former AHEPA scholarship winners. This took place, ironically, at the same restaurant his parents operated for so many years.

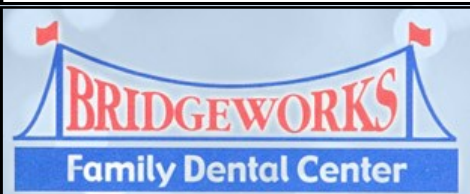
INTERVIEW

Editor: How did you develop your work ethic as an athlete and entrepreneur?

Niko: My parents Nikki and Stelios were my example. Owning a restaurant is both physically demanding and time consuming. I recall my mother returning from the restaurant at 1 a.m. and then beginning to wash the accumulated family laundry. I was fortunate to have a loving extended family, especially my Aunt Stamo who, along with others, was always available to help. My current career would have been impossible without the support of my brothers Daki and Ari. I also credit my high school, college, and professional coaches for their inspiration, and for teaching me the skills and determination to succeed. I was fortunate to receive a first-class education at Purdue which served as the springboard for future successes. I'm also extremely grateful for help provided by AHEPA in the form of scholarships.

Ed.: So many sports figures end their careers with little financial security. How did you avoid that?

Niko: I was fortunate to have a long career with Seattle, Tampa Bay and finally with the New England Patriots. The transition from professional athlete to retirement is abrupt and transforming. An athlete is a creature of habit with a



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To the outside world, we all grow old. But not to our brothers and sisters. To them we will live eternal.



John Louziotis passed away on March 15, 2024. He was born on February 6, 1931, to Andromache Konstantopoulos and Diamond Louziotis in New London, CT. He grew up there, braved the Hurricane of 1938, and helped his family run the local family business. He attended the Bulkeley School for Boys. He served his country in the United States Army, his church community as President of the Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Church Parish Council, and the Order of AHEPA as Past District Governor and Chapter 110 President for multiple terms. He worked in the radiological department of General Dynamics Electric Boat for many years. He contributed to the Metropolis of Boston Diocese Camp in Contoocook, N.H. He was a Mason. After his retirement, he ate a lot of peanut butter crackers and helped his daughter to raise his wonderful grandchildren into the people they are today. He watched a lot of softball and baseball.

"You are always and forever 'Papou,' 'Dad', and 'Sweetheart.' You will be so greatly missed by your family, and you will forever be in our hearts, especially mine. Thank you for everything big or small that you have ever done for us. Thank you for being my hero. Love always and until we meet again, Elizabeth, Christina, Alexis, Luke, Jarred, Alanis, Trinity, Dallas, (Pringle, and Duke)"

Ellen Anagnostos, 89, of Middletown, Rhode Island, died on February 22, 2024. Born in Goffstown, NH, on August 26, 1934, she was the daughter of the late Stergios and Athanasia (Athas) Kasiaras. She was raised in Manchester, NH, with her seven siblings. Through her childhood, she made friendships that lasted a lifetime, spent the winters skating in Central Park, and sang in the choir at Saint George Greek Orthodox Church.

Ellen married the love of her life, George, in 1957. They spent the first 26 years of their married life in the military, raising their three children in various duty stations across the United States. They settled in Portsmouth, RI, in 1978.

Ellen was a dedicated member of the Saint Spyridon Greek Orthodox community in Newport, RI. She worked as the parish secretary for 20 years until her retirement in 2017. She was a member of the Daughters of Penelope, where she served as District 7 Governor from 1991 to 1993. She was awarded National Penelope of the Year in 1996. Throughout her many years of service, she received numerous accolades, including the District 7 Lifetime Achievement Award in 2004 and the esteemed Estia Award in 2011, recognizing her exceptional commitment to our mission and values. In the church community, she was also involved in the Philoptochos Ladies Society and served many years on the Parish Council.

Ellen dedicated countless hours of her time to others, volunteering with the Red Cross, at her children's schools, and serving as Past President of the Naval Officer's Wives Club. Prior to her work at St. Spyridon, she worked at several doctors' offices as an assistant. She was a huge Patriots fan, an avid reader, an excellent cook and baker, and the best Yiayia to her six grandchildren.

Ellen is survived by her children; David J. Anagnostos and his wife Carrie; Paul D. Anagnostos and his spouse, Dr. Brian Price, and Lynn A. Cullins and her husband Chris. She also leaves her six beloved grandchildren,



her brother Nicholas Kasiaras of Bedford, NH; and dozens of nieces, nephews and treasured friends. Ellen is preceded in death by her husband of 60 years, George Anagnostos.

Ellen's legacy will forever be cherished by all who knew her. Let us honor her memory by continuing to uphold the values and ideals she held dear, ensuring that her spirit lives on in our endeavors.

Nicholas Metaxas, 96, of Danbury passed into eternity on the morning of January 10th, 2024. He leaves behind his beloved wife of 64 years, Annerose; two sons, Eric and John; three grandchildren, Nicholas, Melina, and Annerose; and one great-granddaughter, Liliana.



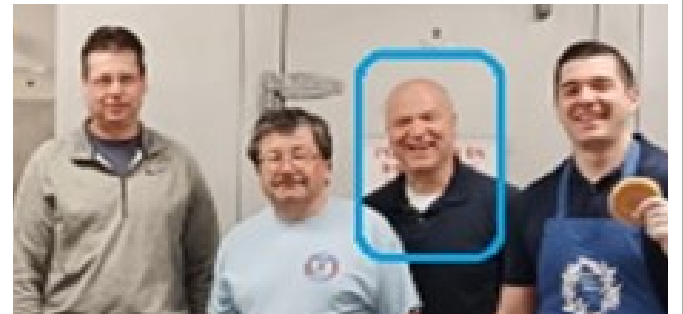
Born in Cephalonia, Greece in 1927, Nicholas served in the Royal Greek Navy before coming to the United States in 1955. His wife escaped communist East Germany and emigrated to New York in 1954, where the two met in an English class in 1956. They married in 1959. After graduating from RCA institutes in 1960, he worked for Bulova Watch Company and then rose to become a junior electronic engineer at Technicon Corp. in Tarrytown, NY.

Nicholas was very active at Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church in Corona, Queens until 1972, when he moved his family to Danbury, CT and become a virtual pillar in the Greek community by serving in innumerable capacities at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church. For four decades he was active in Connecticut real estate but spent most of his spare moments at home tending his vast gardens.

AHEPA Chapter 90 presented Brother Nicholas a Lifetime Service Award for his commitment and dedication of over 50 years, having served in all leadership capacities in the chapter. Nicholas was instrumental over the years in preserving and caring for the seed investment of the chapter's Constantine Macricostas Academic Scholarship Fund, through which over \$150,000 has been awarded in the last 20 years to local Assumption Greek Orthodox Church High School students applying for college.

George Dafulas

All the brothers of Pawtucket Chapter 121 are saddened by the loss of our Brother George Dafulas. George was a simple, loving, and



caring person with very strong faith and a commitment of service. He supported our events both in donations and by engaging in person. He always gave, never asking for anything in return. He was happy to join AHEPA and was a very proud Ahepan, too! He understood the mission our chapter had to fulfill and why it was important. George was among the first AHEPA Brothers who joined our Pawtucket Chapter many years ago, and our thoughts and prayers are with his wonderful family.

George was a lifetime member of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church in Pawtucket, RI. He was a man of integrity, faith and prayer who was loved by everyone. He was known for his profound love of his Church and his family. Due to his love of the Orthodox tradition, he completed the Archdiocese Permanent Diaconate Program. George will be sorely missed by all. May his memory be eternal. *Καλό ταξίδι Γιώργο!*

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YANKEE NEWS RECEIVES 4 GRANTS

Submitted by John Melonopoulos, PDG, CFO

We are pleased to announce grants given to the Yankee News from the 4 housing foundations in D7. These funds are not used as advertising. The sole purpose of the grants is financial support allowing the Yankee News to produce a hard copy for a year. This money supplements district per-capita for each member of AHEPA and the advertising money that is collected. We thank the presidents and board members who have approved these grants. Proceeds are from FY 2022:

- AHEPA Norwich Foundation, Inc. \$1000
- AHEPA New London Foundation, Inc. \$750
- AHEPA Hartford Foundation, Inc. \$500
- AHEPA Newport Foundation, Inc. \$500

We appreciate your support and look forward to working with you in the future.

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E. Vagos Hadjimichael, PhD

District 7 Governor, Past President Chapter 98
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AHEPA Senior Living, established in 1991, provides management for all the AHEPA projects.

In 2018, AHEPA National started a new assisted living venture for those seniors who need assistance with the activities of daily living. Hellenic Senior Living Communities offers a wide variety of services and amenities to live independent and offer the assistance they require.



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For Further Information Contact:



Ta Nea



Katina Arnold

The Alliance for Women in Media (AWM) and its Foundation recently announced the 2024 National Board of Directors and Officers, showcasing a diverse mix of leaders in the media industry. Among them is Katina Arnold, Vice President of Corporate Communications at ESPN, who has been appointed as the Chair of AWM. Katina Arnold brings extensive experience in corporate

communications, having overseen PR for various businesses and content areas at ESPN since 2002. Her remarkable career includes rolls at High Speed Access Corp. and AT&T Broadband, where she excelled in media relations and marketing.

Throughout her career, Katina has been recognized for her contributions to the industry, being named a Top Woman in PR by PR News and earning accolades from CableFax magazine. She is also actively involved in organizations like WICT and CTAM, demonstrating her commitment to advancing women in media.

Katina is the District 7 Daughters of Penelope Marshal and a Hartford Chapter 198 member. Congratulations, Katina. We are very proud of you!



George A. Rados

George is a historian and poet who attended Central Connecticut State University, majoring in History and minoring in Archaeology. George is retired, but is keeping busy writing, teaching, and sharing information about Hellenism. George most recently gave a talk at the Pan Macedonian Center in New York, NY, and another on the achievements of Hercules at the Hartford AHEPA meeting on April 3. George is a member of Chapter 117 in New Britain. He and his wife Donna recently

celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They have four adult children and grandchildren to spoil.



An AHEPAN mentor told me, "You get out of AHEPA what you put into it". I believe you get more. Opportunity awaits you. Get active in your chapters today!



Gregory C. Simones, PDG

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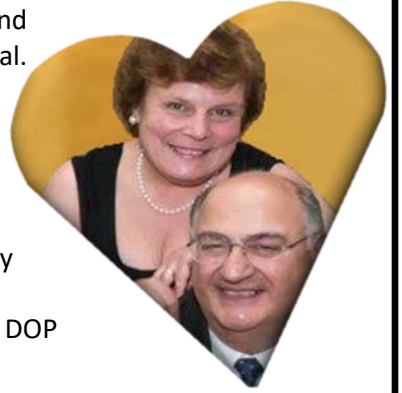
David is the son of Dave and Teresa Patrick, grandson of George Scarveles, and member of New Haven Chapter 98. David has been very busy in the last few years! In 2018 & 2019 he was a research intern to Dr. Yang Yang-Harwich at the Yale School of medicine, then in 2021 and 2022 he was a research assistant at the UConn School of Medicine. He was cited in three medical publications in 2020-2023. David received the School of Health Sciences Academic Excellence Award, the Dean's Excellence Award, and graduated from the University of New Haven Summa Cum Laude, Dean's List, Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society, and Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society. In his "free time", David has enjoyed hiking and camping, playing golf, football, and lacrosse. He was the University of New Haven's Men's Lacrosse Captain and won a Men's Collegiate Lacrosse Association Scholar-Athlete Award.

We cannot be prouder of David and his accomplishments. We know he will go far as he graduates from the UConn School of Medicine with his Medical Doctorate Degree this May and begins his first-pick residency at UConn Medical.



Jack and Karen Isaac

Congratulations to AHEPA Past Region 4 Governor Jack Isaac and Past Daughters of Penelope District 7 Governor Karen Isaac on their 50th Wedding Anniversary on April 15, 2024! Jack is a member of AHEPA Chapter 117 and Karen is a member of Eretria DOP Chapter 138 in New Britain.



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Friday, May 17 **Saturday, May 18** **Sunday, May 19**
11 am - 1 am 11 am - 1 am 12 noon - 8 pm

Homemade Greek Food & Pastries: Dine in or Take Home!
Greek Dance Performances | Vendors | Cash Prize Raffle
Greek music for Listening & Dancing - OPA!



Chapter 58, Hartford News Submitted by Glenn Arnold

The 2nd Annual Valentine's Dance took place on February 10th and was a great success as the support for the event increased from last year's inaugural event. The Saint George Cathedral dance group serenaded attendees with a plethora of dances from different regions of Greece. The event raised funds for AHEPA, DOP, and St. George Cathedral in Hartford.

Chapter 58 led a clothing drive to collect adult male and female socks, gloves, and blankets for the benefit of South Park Inn Homeless Center. Kevin Ward led this effort by facilitating the collection of over 200 pairs of socks for the organization. A formal presentation of the donation from chapter officers is scheduled to take place in the near future.

Chapter 58 will be running the bar at the 2024 St. George Cathedral Festival in Hartford scheduled for 30 May - 2 June 2024, and plans to present the Chapter's scholarships to recipients on AHEPA Day in May.



Chapter 110, Norwich News Submitted by Tony Petros

Rose of New England Chapter 110 sponsored a Gallery Tour and refreshments afterwards at Slater Memorial Museum, located at Norwich Free Academy in Norwich, CT on Saturday, April 6, 2024. We stepped back into ancient times in the Sculpture Galleries of the Slater Memorial Museum. We heard the story of our Greek Heritage as told by the 19th-century plaster cast collection of Greek, Roman, and Egyptian mythological figures, and by our guide and Museum Docent, Nina Barclay.



John Bochanis; George Bakes, Nick Tsocanos Steve Hatzis, Van Hatzis, Lee Tsouris, Nick Vlamis and Nick Fatibene.

Bridgeport Chapter 62 News Submitted by John Bochanis

The Bridgeport Chapter recently sponsored a "Field of Flags" fundraiser. The flags were placed on the lawn of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Bridgeport, CT to commemorate Greek Independence Day this past March.



Jimmy Maistros, George Mitchell, Panteli Kehayias, Steve Seferlis, James Scarles, Joe Josephides, Terry Mitchell, Milton Papanthasiou, Tony Vallombroso...and 10 turkeys!

Chapter 250, Winthrop News Submitted by John Fakis

On November 15, 2023 Chapter 250 prepared and distributed a complete Thanksgiving dinner to over 250 residents of our five AHEPA houses. Many members helped in preparing the food. A big thank you to the members who did the brunt of the work in buying the supplies, prepping, and cooking.

Winthrop Chapter 250 also hosted a family Christmas party on Sunday, December 10, 2023. The party was held at Langley's Restaurant in Waterford, CT. There were sixty-four AHEPA members, spouses, and friends that attended the dinner, the largest attendance we ever had. There was delicious food, great camaraderie, and a good time was had by all. The party ended with the singing of Christmas carols led by John Fakis.



Compliments of the
Officers of AHEPA
"Rose of New England"
Chapter #110, Norwich, CT



Democles Angelopoulos ~ President
Peter Patsouris ~ Vice President
Chris Valkanos ~ Treasurer
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Greetings to all the D7 Chapters and best wishes for continued success

- E. Vagos Hadjimichael – Governor
- John Fakis – Lt. Governor
- Gregory C. Simones, PDG – Secretary
- John Melonopoulos, PDG – Treasurer
- George Ververis – Warden
- Alexander Philippides – Marshal
- Gregory Stamos, PSC Athletic Director
- Alex Boutsoulis – Region 4 Supreme Governor

Celebrating our 94th Year



AHEPA
Southeastern Connecticut
Winthrop Chapter 250

Stamford Chapter 99 News Submitted by Kostas Koutsoubis, Secretary, Chapter 99

On Thursday, February 8, 2024, Chapter 99 initiated six new members into the Order of AHEPA: Andrew Tsendides, Yanni Lambros, Miltiades Panagos, George Kollias, Avi Gringuz, and Nick Mastromichalis. These admirable men, driven by a passion for the Hellenic heritage and a dedication to community service, have demonstrated their commitment to upholding the values and principles of AHEPA. The initiation ceremony, held on Thursday evening and officiated by District 7 Governor E. Vagos Hadjimichael and Lt. Governor John N. Fakis, marked a significant milestone in their lives. With great pride, they have joined AHEPA Chapter 99, embracing the rich cultural heritage and traditions of the Hellenic brotherhood. Their induction reflects a deep-rooted desire to contribute further to the community and carry forward the legacy of AHEPA. Their diverse backgrounds and shared dedication to Hellenic values will foster an inclusive and vibrant community within Ahepa District 7.

Andrew Tsendides, known for his unwavering commitment to service, has been actively involved in various philanthropic endeavors. His compassionate nature and drive to make a positive impact have inspired many.

Yanni Lambros, a true advocate for the Hellenic heritage, has been instrumental in promoting cultural awareness within the community. He has played a vital role in preserving the traditions and values that define the Hellenic brotherhood.

Miltiades Panagos, with his exceptional leadership skills and commitment to fostering strong relationships and promoting collaborations is a testament to his dedication to the AHEPA values.

George Kollias has dedicated countless hours to volunteering and community service. His tireless efforts have uplifted the lives of many, and his passion for giving back continues to inspire those around him.

Avi Gringuz is recognized for his unwavering integrity and strong work ethic. His professionalism and dedication have earned him the respect and admiration of his peers.

Nick Mastromichalis, a compassionate advocate for social justice, has been actively involved in initiatives that promote equality and inclusivity. Nick's passion for creating a more just and equitable society resonates deeply with the mission of AHEPA.

These exceptional individuals embark now on their journey within Chapter 99 with dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment to the Hellenic values and the Hellenic brotherhood. They will undoubtedly shape a brighter future for AHEPA and the communities it serves. We wish them all a happy and rewarding journey.



The new Ahepans of Chapter 99: George Kollias, Milton Panagos, Yianni Lambros, Nick Mastromichalis, Andreas Tsandides, and Avi Gringuz



New Ahepans with Chapter officers, Board of Directors Chair Nick Nikas, Treasurer Tony Tertiroopoulos, VP Michael Kourounis (center, partially hidden) and Secretary Kostas Koutsoubis (standing on chair).

*Compliments from
the Brothers of*
**SOPHOCLES
CHAPTER No. 106**
Providence, Rhode Island

~*~

**With Compliments of
Jack Isaac
Past Supreme Governor,
Region 4
&
Karen Isaac
Daughters of Penelope
Past Governor, District 7**

~*~

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*founded
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Chapter 121, Pawtucket News Submitted by Yiannis Apostolakis



On Sunday, March 3rd, our Pawtucket Chapter held a community seminar event where we educated our community about Eastern Mediterranean geopolitics. Our seminar was The Geopolitical Situation in the Eastern Mediterranean with special speaker, Savvas Kalenteridis.

Savvas Kalenteridis is a former officer of the Greek Army and National Intelligence Service, author, publisher, columnist, blogger, and geopolitical analyst. Kalenteridis covered many topics:

- The history of the Ottoman expansion during the Byzantine Empire
- Social, economic, and military transformations of Turkey during significant events in Eastern Mediterranean
- Current diplomatic focus and geopolitical goals of Turkey in the Eastern Mediterranean and world-wide (Pan Turkism, Pan Islamist)
- The rise in power of the current President of Turkey, Erdogan
- The role of the U.S. and England in several crisis incidents (invasion of Cyprus in 1974, tensions in the Aegean, Imia, summer of 2020, etc.)
- The history of Greek diplomatic efforts and their shortfalls
- The ripple effects of possibly establishing a Kurdish nation

At the end of the seminar we had an open questions and answers forum. Our event was well attended, right after Liturgy in our Community Center, and our AHEPA Chapter provided snacks for the attendees. We also invited the neighboring AHEPA Chapters of Cranston and Newport.

Special thanks to Brother Vasilis Chrysanthopoulos for taking the lead in the logistics for our seminar! We plan to continue our community seminars with topics such as health matters, identity theft, finances and, of course, more geopolitical related ones!



Chapter 106, Cranston News Submitted by Marios Zaharioudakis

2023 Christmas Party

On November 27, 2023, our chapter, together with the respective Good Samaritan Philoptochos chapter, held a successful Christmas party for the members at Annunciation Church. With over 90 guests, the night consisted of good food, dancing and, most importantly, the good company of our brothers, sisters and friends. We look forward to hosting many more.



L (back to front): Marios Zaharioudakis, Christopher Lambros, Dimitrios Markos, Stelios Trikoulis, Evan Andrikos, Brian Rawlinson, Dean Vose, Nicholas A. Lambros (taking picture) R: Constantine Coclin, Nicholas D. Lambros, Steve Sterpis, Anthony George, Panagiotis Trikoulis, Ilias Arsenis, Dr. Cosmo Haralambidis, George Coclin



Christopher Lambros, Marios Zaharioudakis, Constantine Coclin, Nick Lambros

December 2023

Fogo De Chão Dinner

On December 17, we held a brother's dinner at the Brazilian Steakhouse Buffet Chain Fogo De Chão, which just opened in Providence.

We also had brothers from our Newport Chapter join us for the event. We honored our Greek Heritage and ate more than we could handle, and all agreed to host more informal brother gatherings like this one.

New Members Initiation

At our chapter meeting on March 26th, we conducted an initiation, with 5 new members joining our chapter. We look forward to welcoming our brothers to our family and deepening our bonds.

March Madness

Our chapter has organized the Classic NCAA March Madness Pool for its members. We shall inform our district brothers of our winner!

100 Year Chapter Anniversary

May 2026 marks our Chapter's 100 year anniversary and we have just kick-started our preparations regarding the celebrations. The initiative will be led by our brother Steven Sterpis, and supported by many chapter volunteers. An event is expected to be held, composed of distinguished speakers and guests. We will be providing our district brothers with more details as the date approaches.

"We applaud AHEPA's first century of important contributions to our community, our nation and our world."

~
Angie and Ted Augustinos



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Chapter 387 Norwalk News Submitted by Lakis Demetriades
 On Saturday, February 17, 2024, Norwalk Chapter 387 held the initiation of two new members into the Order of AHEPA; Vasilios Aftentoulides and John Sahnas. The ceremony was conducted by District 7 Governor E. Vagos Hadjimichael. At the meeting following the initiation rite, long-term leader President Theologos Demetriades and the other officers (pictured below) outlined plans for the immediate and long-term future of the chapter. Its members intend to underline the presence and increase the participation of their chapter in District 7 through the pages of the Yankee News and the District 7 website.



Newly installed AHEPA Brothers John Sahnas and Vasilios Aftentoulidis

Priority among their goals is to establish a permanent home base in collaboration with the St. George Greek Orthodox Church of Norwalk, and to entice a younger generation of parishioners to join the ranks of AHEPA through imaginative programs and social interactions, education, philanthropy, and Hellenic affairs.

The chapter's elected leadership of President Theologos (Lakis), VP Vasilios Aftentoulidis, Secretary Panayiotis Tellidis, and Treasurer Leonidas Paschalidis are eager to get to work to realize the chapter's goals.



Chapter VP Vasilios Aftentoulidis, John Sahnas, D7 Gov. E. Vagos Hadjimichael, Sec. Panayiotis Tellidis, Nikitas Aftentoulidis, Pres. Theologos Demetriades, & Treas. Leonidas Paschalidis.

Daughters of Penelope Chapter 368, Danielson News

Submitted by Elisa Marotta, D7 Governor
 This past December, Asteria Chapter 368 of Danielson CT celebrated their 40th Anniversary. President Nikitoula Menounos, PDG of District 7, was the emcee of the event and highlighted the 40 years of the chapter.



The Danielson AHEPA chapter sponsored the event and presented flowers and gifts to the Daughters of Penelope members. Two Daughters were also recognized as founding members and for serving for 40 years, Nikitoula Menounos and Christina Menounos. Roxanne Broullaird was acknowledged as the first Chapter President and Jean Pappas as Past Chapter President. District 7 Governor, Elissa Marotta, District 7 Lt. Governor and chapter member Marcella Calagias were present.



The good news for the small but busy chapter is they also celebrated two new members joining.

Congratulations to the Asteria Chapter!

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Chapter 117, New Britain News Submitted by Andy Aros

Entertainment Chairman Panagiotis Palkanikos made certain New Britain AHEPA's annual **Christmas Party** was very successful. Palkanikos said the event would not have possible without the hard work of committee members: Cooks Chris Nasiakos, Pericles Moustakakis, Jim Babetas and John Stergakis; Bartenders Michael T. Michael, Andreas Aros, and Stergios Karamesinis; Ticket collectors Stamatis Kounaris, and Colette Polezonis. A special thank you to the Daughters of Penelope for setting the tables and decorating the Hellenic Center. After dinner and awards, music for our listening and dancing pleasure was provided by the excellent band FOTIA.



After dinner and before the dancing began, Chapter President and Scholarship Chairman Thomas Morikis distributed the **2023 Scholarships**. The Scholarship recipients were: Carlos Beltran, Eva Galanis, Andreas Karamanos, Georgia Lazaridis, Alexander Manos, Elias Manos, Sophia Manos, Nikolaos Morikis, Angela Panagopoulos, Alicia Polezonis, Colette Polezonis, Mika Stamos, Sophia Stamos, and Jordon Stergakis. Corr. secretary and chapter Santa Claus, Stamatis Kounaris presented the Demetrius Kounaris Scholarship to Mika Stamos for her service to the Community of St. George.



Twenty-Five Years of Service pins were awarded to: James Babetas, Sam Christodoulos, Constantine Galanis, Stelios Koutouvides, Michael T. Michael, Nicholas Nasiakos, Theodoros Panagopoulos, and Vasilis Varvatsis. It was also announced that the D7 and the Chapter 117 **AHEPAN of the YEAR** had been awarded to St. George Parish Council President Pericles Moustakakis. Chapter **Hellene of the Year** was awarded to Dr. Stephen Polezonis, and Chapter **Entrepreneur of the Year** was Dimitrios Dimopoulos. George A. Rados was presented with a **Lifetime Achievement Award** for his many years of service to AHEPA, which included several terms as President, two terms as D7's District Governor, and decades as Hellenic Affairs Chairman for both our Chapter and D7.



Sunday, Dec. 17th, New Britain Santa Claus Stamatis Kounaris distributed **Christmas presents** to the students of both the Greek and Sunday Schools. The students also took part in a Christmas piñata. Jim Babetas and Chris Nasiakos selected the student's gifts. Daughters of Penelope President Irene Sklavouris decorated the tables for the students, and Irene, Andrea Lemnotis, and Mary Aros wrapped the presents. Extra toys were purchased and brought to shelter to be distributed among needy children.



Saturday Feb. 3rd New Britain sponsored the **GOYA Ski Outing to Ski Sundown**. Corr. Sec. Stamatis Kounaris and John Stergakis chaperoned the Jr. GOYANS. Equipment was rented and the novice skiers were given lessons on how to ski.



Once a year St. George of New Britain celebrates **Godparents Day**. Godparents and their Godchildren take the Sacrament of Communion together. After Liturgy AHEPA hosted

Godparents Day Breakfast. Chaired by President Thomas Morikis, AHEPA served eggs, pancakes, hash browns and sausages. Members of President Morikis's committee included: John Georgopoulos, Stamatis Kounaris, Chris Nasiakos, Peter Palkanikos, and Emilio Theodoratos. A special thanks goes to Stella Deluca for decorating the tables. Again, AHEPA had the assistance of the Daughters of Penelope who collected the tickets and served the food.

Electronic Issues of the Yankee News

The Yankee News Staff is happy to announce that there are now **many years of current and past issues of the Yankee News** up and running for everyone to be able to enjoy. Kudos to Bro. Wynn Storton, PSG-8, PDG-D20 for getting them current. Bro. Storton is the webmaster of the District 7 Family website. Anyone who would like to view the newly updated electronic issues can go to ahepadistrict7.org/Yankee-News.

Publish Your Articles Today!
PLEASE send pictures and articles TOGETHER whenever possible, with those in the pictures named in the context of the article or with it. email to: YankeeD7News@aol.com

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2024	December	September	May	February
2023	December	September	May	February
2022	December	September	May	February
2021	December	September	May	February
2020	December	September	May	February
2019	December	September	May	February
2018	December	September	May	March
2017	December	September	May	March
2016	December	September	May	March
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The next Yankee News deadline for submissions is August 5, 2024 to: YankeeD7News@AOL.com.

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2024 Calendar of District 7 Upcoming Events

May 1	AHEPA Magazine Summer Issue Deadline
	RSVP Deadline for Capitol Hill Day 2024
May 17, 18, 19	Dionysos Festival, St George, New Britain, CT
May 19	AHEPA Sunday
May 22	2024 AHEPA Congressional Banquet, Washington, DC
May 23	Annual AHEPA Family Capitol Hill Day, Rayburn House Office Building
May 30-June 2	Hartford Greek Festival, Hartford, CT
June 1	Supreme Convention Early Bird Registration Deadline
June 2	District 7 Scholarship Awards Dinner at Saint Barbara Church, Orange, CT
June 15	District 7 AHEPA Family Convention Holy Trinity Church, Waterbury, CT
	Penelope Scroll Summer Issue Deadline
June 16-July 12	AHEPA Journey to Greece Program
June 21	Chapter 58 Awards Night, Hartford, CT
July 19, 20 & 21	Treasures N' Junque, St Barbara, Orange, CT
July 21 thru July 27	The AHEPA Family Supreme Convention, Larnaca, Cyprus
August 5	Yankee News September Issue Submission Deadline
August 19	AHEPA Magazine Fall Issue Deadline
Aug 30 to Sept 2	Odyssey Greek Festival, St Barbara, Orange, CT
October 23	AHEPA Magazine Winter Issue Deadline
November 8	Yankee News December Issue Submission Deadline
November 16	Hellenic History Tournament, Orange, CT



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