



ΣΥΝΔΕΣΜΟΣ ΤΩΝ ΑΠΑΝΤΑΧΟΥ ΚΑΡΥΑΤΩΝ

KARYES

Lakonia



Karyes' Primary school

News Bulletin

Issue Number 22

Autumn 2019

KARYES 2019 – A Review of the Summer Events

As summer has come to an end and most of us have returned to our daily routines in our hometowns in Greece or abroad, we are given the opportunity to take a look back and recall the events that took place in Karyes this summer.

The members of the Executive Council of the *Karyates* Association (SAK) believe that this year was by far the best in the last decades, featuring a plethora of cultural events of traditional, modern, folklore, and religious nature. **The traditional festivals “paniyiria”, music nights, children’s parties, art exhibitions, DJ parties for the youth, and the splendid religious celebrations** attracted many visitors from Lakonia and Arcadia, all of whom were thrilled with this year’s events.

We mention that nothing can be done without effort. It took several months of preparation, and a great deal of voluntary work on behalf of the members of the associations as well as the businessmen of Karyes for such an accomplishment. Though there is always room for improvement, **we should mention the efforts and praise all those who worked hard for this achievement.**

Today, the village of Karyes represents a **beacon of hope and optimism** in the area, especially since, unfortunately, many villages become desolated during the winter season. In Sparta and Tripoli, it is said that Karyes is the only alive and impressive mountainous village.

In conclusion, we are looking forward to many more successful events and **we invite all our compatriots to participate more actively in order to keep our village ALIVE and THRIVING.**

The Karyates Worldwide Association: Annual Pan-Karyates Reunion



On Sunday, July 28, 2019, the members of the Executive Board of the **Karyates Worldwide Association (S.A.K.)** held a reception for the members and friends of the association at the Community Hall of Karyes to celebrate their **Annual Reunion**. The local residents as well as those who visit the village during summer vacation gathered to hear about the activities and plans of the association and to exchange ideas regarding the present and the future of our village. Coffee and treats were offered to all attendees.

One Step Closer to the Implementation of the Big Project

Mr. Repoullis, Chairman of S.A.K., on behalf of the Executive Board, welcomed the guests and announced that after years of coordinated and systematic efforts, the big project of establishing the Memory and Culture Center of Karyes was eligible to receive funding from government and EU funds. He stated in his speech, “I will use the phrase “**Let there be light**” to talk about the museum’s building. Last year our association was informed about a funding program for cultural heritage projects in the area of Lakonia by PARNON DEVELOPMENT. After the confirmation of our eligibility for the program, we started a road race to collect the required documents to support our application in order to receive a grant. As a matter of fact, we had already prepared most of the documents required (studies, etc.) in advance. Towards the end of September 2018, the documents were submitted to PARNON DEVELOPMENT with the assistance of a consulting firm in Sparta. In April 2019, the initial list of the approved applications was published, including ours for a grant of € 313.000-. At the beginning of July 2019, after some objections, the final list was published.



We are much obliged to the engineers and the architects who contributed to the studies for the project; Mr. Giaxoglou, engineer from Sparta, the Iliopoulos brothers from Athens, Mr. Ioannis Dimakis, engineer from Sparta, and especially Mr. Ioannis Karahalios, who will hopefully continue to be with us during the repair process.”



All the previous news bulletin are at your disposal in digital form at WWW.KARYES.GR



**Karyates Association
News Bulletins**

The Board Members of our Association and the editorial team of the News Bulletin wishes to all compatriots

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Enjoy your reading!

REQUEST
Those who wish to receive this news bulletin via e-mail, please inform us by sending your e-mail address at
E-mail: info@karyes.gr

At the WEB SITE WWW.KARYES.GR
NEWSPAPER DIGITAL ARCHIVES 1986-2010
Ψηφιακό Αρχείο Εφημερίδας
**Καρυές**

KARYES – SUMMER EVENTS 2019

CULTURAL HERITAGE, TRADITION, CHRISTIAN FAITH MEET THE MODERN MAN

An Evening Devoted to Young Artists from Karyes



The members of the Executive Board of the **Karyates Worldwide Association** (S.A.K.) kept their promise to the young artists of our village and an evening was organized for the young artists to showcase their talents. On Saturday, July 20th, at the Karyes' Central Square, the talented youth performed an admittedly very good live concert.

The Chairman of the Executive Board of SAK, Mr. **Michalis Repoulis**, and the Public Relations Officer, Ms. **Lefki Latsi**, presented the promising young artists – see photo on the right – at a most crowded square, as all the village residents and the visitors had gathered to hear our young *Karyates* sing and play in the band;



Alkistis and **Artemis Traka**, singers, **Andreas G. Dalakouras**, bouzouki, **Nikos Koutovasilis**, **Evangelia** and **George Mavraeidis**, and **Dimosthenis Kolantzianos**, musicians. The members of the Association promise that more such initiatives will follow.

Beer Party : SPARTAN BEER

The Local Laconian Brewery "Spartan Beer" of mr. Papathanasiou provided all the guests with free beer during the festivities of July 20th and 21st.



Art Show of Works by *Karyates* Artists

An exceptional exhibition of works by emerging local artists and other enthusiastic friends of Karyes took place at the Community Hall from July 21 – 25. The artists were **Stefanos Melehes**, **A. Mega**, **Andriana Parisi**, **Vasiliki Papadopoulou**, **Freideriki Prekeze**, **Georgios Roupas**, **Evangelia Gkioni-Kopsiafti**, **Sayer El Nazar**, **Ioannis Goudes**, **Georgia Matafa**, and **Michalis Repoulis**.



The Karyates Worldwide Association aims to have the event recurring annually, thus providing all *Karyates* with the opportunity to showcase their works. Please feel free to contact S.A.K. if you are interested.



Greek Traditional and Folk Dance Show



On the evening of Sunday, July 21st, on the initiative of **Karyates Worldwide Association** (S.A.K.) dancers of the folk **Dance Club of Skala, Lakonia**, performed a special show of Greek traditional and folk dances at the central square of the village.



The folk dance club of Skala is one of the top folk dance clubs in Greece with a significant presence in various events. The dancers, dressed in traditional costumes, presented a remarkable program that eventually turned into a "paniyiri" when the audience and the dancers became one. The audio coverage of the event was offered by **Th. Matthaios'** crew and the main sponsor of the event was the Legal Entity of Culture of the **Municipality of Sparta**. **Th. Koutsogiorgas'** tavern offered free meals to the dancers.



People swarmed the central square, as shown on the pictures. On behalf of the Association, the Chairman, **Mr. Repoulis** with the public relations officers, Ms. **Lefki Latsi** and Ms. **Evangelia Gkioni-Kopsiafti**, thanked the members of the folk dance club for their admittedly remarkable presence.



KARYES – SUMMER EVENTS 2019

CULTURAL HERITAGE, TRADITION, CHRISTIAN FAITH MEET THE MODERN MAN

The “ARACHOVITIKA PANIYIRIA” Festivals had a Large Attendance

Divine Liturgy: Aghia Paraskevi



The traditional “paniyiria” of Karyes, the most famous in Lakonia and Arcadia, took place on **July 26 – 27**. In fact, this year, they happened to be on a weekend and thus attracted a bigger number of people compared to the previous years. The celebrations started with the **Divine Liturgy at the Holy Church of Aghia Paraskevi** in the morning of **Friday, July 26**, which was followed by the **procession of the Holy Icon** around the churchyard. In the evening, residents and visitors of the village gathered at the **Rachi square** for the traditional feast with live music and roasted pork offered by the Koutsogiorga and Sarri taverns in Rachi.



Central Square's Panighyri



Children's Party

On **Friday, August 9**, a children's party was organized by SAK where the fairy-tale-teller and playwright of educational theatrical plays Ms. **Eleni Koutsoukelou** presented the performance “*The Pirate's Treasure*”.

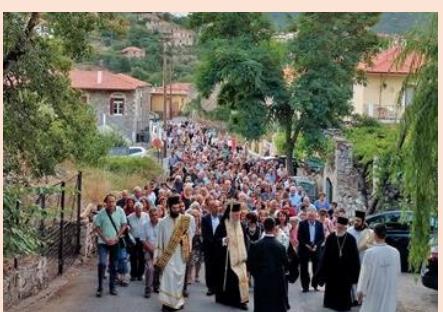
Later in the evening, the younger generation gathered at *Savas Café (Vasti)* where a DJ party followed until the early hours of the morning.

Worship Of the sacred relics of Aghia Paraskevi in Karyes

On **Wednesday, July 31, 2019**, the village of Karyes received, with all the proper splendor, part of the **sacred relics of Aghia Paraskevi** which have been kept at the Holy Church of the Nativity of Christ in Molaoi. The grand procession started at the *lower* village square and ended up in the **Holy Church of Aghia Paraskevi**. The **Philharmonic Orchestra of Sparta Municipality**, the **Holy Banners**, and the **Holy Icon** of the Saint led the procession. The **Great Hierarchical Vespers with Artoklasia (Feast day Bread)** was celebrated. Presiding was **His Eminence, Metropolitan of Sparta and Monemvasia Efstathios** with a big number of clergymen from the wider area.



In his speech, our venerable Metropolitan explained that the reason why the sacred relics were transferred to Karyes was no other than the mental empowerment of the faithful Christians in this area. He then referred to Aghia Paraskevi emphasizing that it is more important to take care of the “eyes” of our soul than take care of our eyes.



At the next day, August 1st, after the end of the Divine Liturgy (Orthos) the President of the Karyes Local Community and Chairman of the Management Association of the late expatriate Panagiotis Kerchoulas' Trust, Mr. **Georgios Devekos**, the Secretary, Mr. **Panagiotis Karachalios**, and the Chairman of the **Karyates Worldwide Association (S.A.K.)**, Mr. **Michael Repoulis** expressed their thankfulness to His Eminence **Efstathios** for the transfer of the sacred relics of Aghia Paraskevi to Karyes and his invaluable assistance in the settlement of **Panagiotis Kerchoulas' Trust**.

In fact, on behalf of the residents of the village, a Crosier was offered to His Eminence Efstathios. Moreover, the Hierarchical Commissioner and The Most Reverend Archbishop **Gerasimos Petrolekas** of Molaoi addressed the congregation and thanked His Eminence Efstathios for his initiative to transfer part of the sacred relics of the patron saint of Molaoi, Aghia Paraskevi, to Karyes for the blessing and mental empowerment of the faithful Christians in the area. He also thanked the authorities and the residents of the village for their warm welcome and offered them a book and an icon of Aghia Paraskevi.

The venerable shepherd-leader then expressed his delight that there is solidarity among the people in the village in reference to the utilization of the Trust in a way that benefits all **Karyates** and stressed that only unanimity and cooperation can bring progress.

He also expressed his thankfulness for the nice gesture to offer him the Crosier; however, he emphasized that during the forty years of his priesthood he has never received gifts; not out of disdain but because he feels that no one owes him anything. He believes that the **Crosier should remain in the Holy Church to be used whenever he visits Karyes** and went on to say that he is the one who owes to the people of this local Christian church for they surrounded him with love from the first moment he came to this place.

He ended his speech thanking all who contributed to the religious ceremony for the reception of the sacred relics of Aghia Paraskevi, and wished the people Aghia Paraskevi's blessings. His speech was followed by the **memorial service for Panagiotis Karchoulas**, the great benefactor of Karyes.



LOCAL NEWS

KARYES – SUMMER EVENTS 2019

CULTURAL HERITAGE, TRADITION, CHRISTIAN FAITH MEET THE MODERN MAN

The Assumption of Virgin Mary, August 15, in Karyes

The Assumption of Virgin Mary, the summer Easter of the Greek Orthodox Church, was celebrated with the proper splendor in Karyes.



In the morning of the feast day, all *Karyates* attended the Divine Liturgy at the “*Panaghia*”. Then the members of the Ecclesiastical Council offered *feast day bread* and treats to the congregation and a lottery followed.



Later, the people gathered in the Central Square to enjoy a cup of coffee or to have lunch at the village taverns.

The Annual Dance of the Karyates Worldwide Association at Aghia Paraskevi

Like every year, the rich program of summer festivities concluded with the annual dance of the **Karyates Association (S.A.K.)**, which was held at the school courtyard in the grove of Aghia Paraskevi on **Friday, August 16**. In the beautiful elementary school courtyard next to the Holy Church of Aghia Paraskevi, the *Karyates* enjoyed a live music program by Kostas Malavazos' band **ANEMOS**.



Three young musicians from Karyes started the music program on that pleasant, and warmer than usual, night: **Sarandos Kaperonis** with his bagpipe, **Andreas Dalakouras** in vocals and guitar and **Andreas Melehes** playing clarinet.

The youth, who honored us with its presence, kept the celebration vivid until the early hours. At the same time, young *Karyates* who graduated from their university schools were honored by the Association. Finally, there was a lottery with travels and cruises gifts.

The Members of the Board of Directors would like to thank all the *Karyates* and friends of the Association who with their presence in the event and their participation in the lottery give them the courage to continue their efforts.



Big “paniyiri” Festival – Musical Night Hosted by the Karyes Cultural Club at the “Karyatis Stadium”



On Saturday evening of August 10, hundreds of visitors from Lakonia and Arcadia swarmed the stadium during the big festival. The goal of the new executive board to organize a very big event was successfully achieved. With the assistance of a big number of volunteers, they welcomed the visitors in its beautiful, open field of the stadium during that pleasantly warm evening.



The performing band, one of the most famous in Peloponnese, played an important role in the event's success. Giorgos Velissaris and Giota Kokkori were the star singers while Sotiris Kokkoris and Panos Plastiras played the clarino.

SOCIAL NEWS

A baptism in Chicago.



On Saturday, May 25, Mr. **Panagiotis Demopoulos** along with his wife Dr. **Nikoletta-Ninet Voukides** baptized their twins sons at the Holy Temple of **Holy Trinity** in **Chicago Illinois**.

Their names: **George** and **Leonidas!**
Good Christians!

On July 14, Mr. **Michael Chikaras** along with his wife Ms. **Evangelia Dritsa** baptized their son at the St. **Paraskevi church**. His name: **Odysseas**. Good Christian!

On July 20, Mr. **Spiridon Margarites** along with his wife Ms. **Anthi Panagiotopoulou**, daughter of Maria Haraka, baptized their son at the St. **Paraskevi church**. His name **Christos**. Good Christian!

On July 24, Mr. **Konstantinos-Efstratios Kripintires** along with his wife **Helen Florou** from Chicago Illinois baptised their son at the St. **Andrew church**. His name: **Gabriel**. Good Christian!

Baptisms in Karyes.



On August 17, Mr. **Ioannis Koutsogiorgas**, along with his wife **Sofia** baptized their son at the St. **Andrew church**. The godparents were **Paraskevas** and **Natassa Koutsogiorgas**. His name: **Panagiotis**. Good Christian!

They Passed Away

On July 24, **Nikolaos Arvanitis** died in Karyes at the age of **75**. His funeral took place at St. **Andrew Church** on July 25. “Barba Nikos” owned the café-bar at the Central Square with his family for more than 20 years and according to the current president Mr. Theodoros Mantis, he was also the most strong supporter of the Karyatis Sports Club. Therefore, he served the Club for many years as member of the Board Council.

Our sincere condolences to his family!

Lilly, widow of Konstantinos (Ntinos) Kerhoulas died in Athens, at the age of **89**. She was one of the strongest supporters of the Association. Her funeral took place at the St. **Paraskevi Church** on July 28, Our sincere condolences to her family!

Dionyssios Ardamis died at the age of **83**. His funeral took place at the **Holy Temple of the Birth Virgin Mary** at the Karyes’ “Fotinou” settlement on **August 4**. Our sincere condolences!

Wedding And Baptism at Karyes

On September 7, the Christian wedding of Mr. **Andreas Sioutos** and Ms. **Konstantina Dritsa** took place at the church of **Saint Andrew** at Karyes.

After the marriage the couple baptized their son. His name: **Vassilios**.

We wish at the new couple which lives at Karyes along with their son a happy life!



ELECTIONS 2019

2019 turned out to be the year of elections for Greece as its citizens were called to vote for four different elections. Specifically, on May 26th, the Greek citizens voted for the European parliament, municipal, and regional elections. On Sunday, June 2nd, a second round of municipal and regional elections followed as no party received an absolute majority in the first elections. Finally, the Greek legislative election, which was announced in June, was held on July 7th, 2019.

NATIONAL ELECTIONS

The results in Karyes Municipality were: Voters 1.387, Voted 422, invalid 1, White 5.

PARTY	VOTES	%
NEW DEMOCRACY (conservatives-liberals)	141	33,41
LEFT COALITION	120	28,44
COMMUNIST PARTY	59	13,98
MOVEMENT OF CHANGE (Socialists)	38	9,00
Greek Solution (Right)	14	3,32
EPAM AKEL	12	2,84
MERA 25	9	2,13
GOLDEN DAWN	6	1,42
GREEK CONVENTION	5	1,18
ANT.AR.SY.A	4	0,95
CREATION AGAIN	3	0,71
PUBLIC UNITY	3	0,71
FREEDOM CRUISE	2	0,47
CENTRAL UNION	2	0,47
COMMUNIST PARTY ML	2	0,47
ML COMMUNIST PARTY	1	0,24

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTION

The Greek legislative election was preceded by the election of the Greek delegation to the European Parliament. Unfortunately, there is **no analytical data on the votes in Karyes** for this election either. The results for the political parties that elected representatives in the **Municipality of Sparta** are as follows:

PARTY	VOTES	%
NEW DEMOCRACY (conservatives-liberals)	7.678	38,94
LEFT COALITION	3.718	18,86
MOVEMENT OF CHANGE (Socialists)	2.114	10,72
GOLDEN DAWN	1.286	6,52
Greek Solution (Right)	897	4,55
COMMUNIST PARTY	814	4,13

The important news for Karyes is the election of **Aigli Zafeirakou**, *Karyatisa* in origin, as candidate member of the European Parliament with "KINAL"- MOVEMENT OF CHANGE (Socialists). Aigli Zafeirakou holds a PhD degree from Paris-Quest Nanterre University in France and works as an Expert in Educational Politics at the World Bank and other important international organizations such as UNESCO and UNICEF. Regardless of any political beliefs, this candidate nomination has been a great honor for Karyes. For those who know her personally, Aigli is an extraordinary individual and scientist who often honors our village with her presence; she visits Karyes whenever time permits due to her assignments abroad. She came 14th out of 42 candidates with "KINAL" nationwide and first in Lakonia!



A fine man from Karyes, Panagiotis G. Dalakouras, who has been a member of the executive council of the Karyates Worldwide Association for many years, has passed away

The Following Text is Written by His Daughter, Georgia



Our beloved, exemplary compatriot is no longer among us. He moved to the most beautiful neighborhood, the neighborhood of angels, on May 29, 2019 at the age of 83. He left this world peacefully and calmly, still having so much to hand down to his friends, relatives, and fellow men. He was a generous and compassionate man who offered unlimited love towards his family, relatives and friends, beloved neighbors, colleagues, and compatriots. His unique character distinguished his personality. He had an unsullied career and he made a name for himself through his hard work, integrity, and honesty; traits that characterized him well.

He was loved by so many people who remember him from many years back, colleagues and friends in his work and social environment. His service to all cannot be forgotten.

He was born into the large family of George and Marigo Dalakoura, among five loving brothers and one loving sister, in his beautiful village, his beloved Arachova, Karyes in Lakonia. He spent his childhood years in poverty and deprivation, like most families in the post-war Greek provinces. However, those years were filled with much love, memories, beautiful stories, feasts, carefreeness, and innocence. He built strong long-lasting relationships with earnest people and he raised his children to become serious, responsible, and impeccable individuals and parents.

He was an exceptional student at school, who thirsted for knowledge and loved education. Despite deprivation and with great effort and struggle he attended the High School of Tripoli and then the **University of Piraeus**. He continued his studies at the School of Law and Economics, **Aristotle University of Thessaloniki**. He had a zeal for reading and kept himself informed throughout his professional career while he served at the Ministry of Finance for approximately 35 years with success, love, mindfulness and integrity until his retirement at the position of Director. He was an educated man in all forms of knowledge; law, finance, and general knowledge but most importantly, he was socially educated and kind.

REGIONAL ELECTIONS IN THE PELOPONNESE

The New Governor Mr. Panagiotis Nikas

The citizens of Karyes as well as the rest of the Peloponnesian citizens were called to vote for the election of the **new regional governor**. Mr. **Panagiotis Nikas**, affiliated with New Democracy, was elected regional governor of the Peloponnese region to replace his predecessor mr. **Petros Tatoulis**, who was also affiliated with New Democracy but had decided to run on an independent candidate for the governorship. Specifically, in the first round, Mr. Tatoulis won **34.09%** of the electorate vote while Mr. Nikas won **33.60%**. In Lakonia, the percentages were 40.64% and 34.18%, respectively, while seven other parties shared the remaining votes. In the second round vote, the results were reversed. Mr. Nikas won **53.59%** and thereby the governorship over his electoral opponent, Mr. Tatoulis, who won **46.51%**. In Lakonia, the percentages were 55.65% and 44.35%, respectively. Unfortunately, we did not get analytical results for Karyes. Nonetheless, **Georgios Poulokefalos** was re-elected regional councilor with the coalition party "NEA DRASI" by Georgios Dedes.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN SPARTA

Mr. Petros Doukas, Mayor

In the first round of the elections for the **Municipality of Sparta**, where Karyes belong, Mr. **Stavros Argitakos** of "ENOMENOI POLITES" won first place with **39.59%** of the votes, followed by Mr. **Petros Doukas** of "DIMOS POU MAS AXIZEI" with **30.29%**. Both candidates are affiliated with New Democracy. Mr. Argitakos was mayor between 2012-2015, while Mr. Doukas has served as minister. Mr. **Evangelos Valiotis** of "DIMOTIKI ENOTIKI KINISI", currently the Mayor of Sparta, came third in the election.

Nonetheless, here as well, in the second round, we had a result reversal with Mr. Doukas' coalition receiving **57.79%** and Mr. Argitakos receiving **42.21%** of the votes. Therefore, Mr. Doukas was elected Mayor.

Karyes, however, was a different case as four political combinations received almost equal number of votes. More specifically, in the first round, the current Mayor, Mr. Valiotis received 108 votes and 26.2% and was followed by Mr. **Alexandros Vouvasis** of "LAIKI SYSPEIROSI", who, with only one vote difference, received 107 votes and 25.9%. Mr. Argitakos, who won 100 votes and 24.27%, came next and he was followed by Mr. Doukas who won 97 votes and 23.54%. In the second round however, the voters of Karyes supported the Municipality of Sparta and thus voted for Mr. Doukas' political combination which received 181 votes and 57.79%, while Mr. Argitakos' combination won 103 votes and 36.3%. Mr. **Konstantinos Stamatis**, who is affiliated with the political party of the outgoing Mayor, Mr. Valiotis, was elected **spokesman of Karyes in the Municipal Council of the Municipality of Sparta** as his political combination was the winner in Karyes.

The Karyes' New Local Council

At the same time, the results of the elections for the Local Council of Karyes, which consists of five members now instead of three in the past, are as follows: Mr. **George Ntevekos** was re-elected President while Ms. **Konstantina Koutsogiorga**, Mr. **Ioannis Kopsiaftis**, Mr. **Nikolaos K. Kolovos**, and Mr. **Dimitrios P. Ardamis** were elected members of the council.

We wish them good luck in their newly assigned posts.

SOCIAL NEWS

A fine man from Karyes, Panagiotis G. Dalakouras, who has been a member of the executive council of the Karyates Worldwide Association for many years, has passed away

He supported and extremely loved his hometown, "his Arachova." He was a **founding member of the Karyates Worldwide Association, S.A.K.**, and committed to it since its inception. Along with the other remarkable members of the association, they built a nice institution driven by love, passion, and a desire to plan and organize social events such as dances, gatherings, the pitta-cutting, excursions, and other activities. The other members of the association always sought his knowledge and advice. He gave himself up to whatever he was doing; he felt the joy of giving to his beloved homeland.

He was loved as a member of the Executive Board of SAK, in the position of the Secretary, performing his duties in an analytical, detailed and transparent way. Together with the other members of the Association, they managed beautiful and creative activities and actions during the 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s; those nice, favorite, and unforgettable times. He withdrew from the Executive Board after the unfair and premature loss of his beloved wife, Sofia. He did not have the mental toughness to continue as everything reminded him of the village that his wife equally loved, although she was not from there. Despite all the above, he was always close to his compatriots; he visited the village during the summer festivities and enjoyed very much the gatherings that SAK organized with big success.

He always had a good word for everybody. He always appreciated and listened carefully to the queries the other members had and gave them the advice they were seeking, based on his point of view.

Everyone loved him; he was a sweet, kind gentleman, who loved his children and grandchildren. He was a proud man of dignity and modesty. His grandson, Panagiotis Apostolou Dalakouras, talks of him "*My grandfather is proud like an eagle; the eagle opens his wings and so does my grandfather in order to protect us.*" He used to protect everyone and so he left like an eagle, flying proudly in the eternal skies.

A perfect husband, father, and a wonderful grandfather who supported his wife, children, and grandchildren like no other! It was an honor for him to have the appreciation and love of his fellows, friends, and compatriots; the love that he really deserved! He was proud of his beautiful village that he always praised everywhere he went. He was proud to be a *Karyatis* and *Lakonas* (*one who comes from Karyes, Lakonia*).

KARYES' CLUB AND BROTHERHOOD'S NEWS

The Ecclesiastical Council of Karyes – Volunteer Team for the Support and Maintenance of Churches and Chapels

On **July 18, 2019**, the volunteer team for the support and beautification of the churches and chapels in our village held an open meeting at the former Community Hall to inform the Karyates of the upcoming plans. Ms. **Jenny Kouvari** gave the following speech:

"Your Reverence, Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, good evening. Welcome for a second consecutive year to our informative session on the restoration works that need to be carried out in the churches of our village, a project that we have undertaken voluntarily, without charge.

Firstly, we would like to thank you for taking the time to attend this meeting. Your presence today gives us the courage and strength to continue our efforts.

Exactly one year ago, our first presentation took place here, in the same venue, to inform you about our team; the creation of the team, the projects we have completed, and the projects that are in progress.

Today, we will give you an **account of what we have accomplished over the previous year** and where we stand at the moment. Last year, we had informed you of the extensive repair works that took place at the Holy Church of **Aghia Kyriaki**, the painting and roofing of the Holy Church of **Aghios Ioannis**, the stairs and door repairs at **Aghios Andreas**, as well as the minor repairs that were completed at the churches of **Aghioi Taxiarches, Aghia Paraskevi and Aghios Dimitrios**.

Our main focus, however, was the churches of **Aghioi Anargyroi**, and **Panagia**, both of which have major construction problems."

The Holy Church of Aghioi Anargyroi



"As you may remember, we had informed you of the main structural issue of the church; we had also informed you that we had collected the amount of € 2.300 from donations for the repair works. This church has suffered serious damage and it is about to collapse. As this is a very critical issue, we consulted a qualified civil engineer with experience in stone building and church construction and we followed his instructions.

Firstly, he completed a technical report on the required works that needed to take place, which we sent to **Naodomia** (Church Building Service for Greece) for approval. Thus, an excavation around the church removed the tree-roots that were protruding from the walls into the church interior. The bulging floor, approximately 50 cm, was also dug up and the roots were removed from there as well. The **excavation revealed that the main problem lay in the foundations**. Almost half of the wall on the side of the Sanctuary was resting on rock while the other half was **without support**. Likewise, almost the entire wall around the church was in the same condition.

This was, mainly, what had caused the large cracks in the walls that placed the church at a **high risk of collapsing, which could have caused a very serious accident**.

According to the engineer, **specific structural repairs** were immediately required in order to strengthen the building to make it safe and operational. A contractor from Athens came twenty days ago and with a special machine made all the necessary repair work to strengthen the foundation of the church; specifically, 13 columns in 4 – 8 meters depth (as deep as needed to reach the rock in order to be sturdy). The project has cost € 6.000. The repair works are still in progress under the supervision of **Dimitris Dimas**.

The columns are connected with each other with iron and a beam will be built to rest on the columns to reinforce the foundation... Please forgive my plain description but these are specialized technical issues that I am not familiar with and thus, I cannot precisely describe. I am only trying to explain the complexity of the project. And of course, nothing could be more certain than the fact that the supervision of the project would be conducted by the remarkable and noble engineer, Mr. **Alexandrou**.

Following the foundation reinforcement, the cracks in the walls and the altarpiece and the bulging floor must be repaired while painting and other works must also take place. It is obvious that the cost of such restoration is very high and will definitely exceed the amount of **€ 30.000**."

"Why didn't you let it collapse?" was a question asked by many.

"Well, this is easier said than done. Who has the heart to let the monuments that represent the history, the customs and traditions of one's own country crumble? It took our ancestors a lot of effort, through times of difficulty and deprivation to build these monuments and now, at a time of abundance, are we going to abandon them?

The answer is **NO!**

We have decided to continue the restoration of the church and we trust that with **the help of God and our compatriots we will manage to complete this project**. About a month ago, we sent a donation request letter to all of our compatriots and associations of Karyates abroad asking for contributions.

Karyes Blood Bank



As every year, this year, on **Monday, August 5th** in the afternoon, the annual blood donation was held at the Community Hall by the "**Karyes Blood Bank**". We have mentioned many times the importance of this initiative and we expect from all the Karyates to be involved as much as possible because **BLOOD SAVES LIVES**.

As mentioned above, we started the repair works with the initial amount of **€ 2.300**- in our account and some **€ 200**- in cash as well as **€ 1.470**- that we collected at the "paniyiri" of Aghioi Anargyroi (from donations, *souvlakia*, and lottery), a total of **€ 3.978**- . So far, we have paid the amount of **€ 2.410**- . Therefore, there is a remainder of **€ 1.568**- in our fund but we still owe the amount of **€ 6.000**- to the contractor from Athens for the restoration services and the equipment and materials required for the repairs and the works are still in progress."

The Holy Church of the Assumption of Virgin Mary (Panagia)



"At the Holy Church of Virgin Mary, the situation is comparatively easier than that of Aghioi Anargyroi; at least, the church is not at risk of immediate collapse. Nonetheless, the problems, which have been caused mainly by excessive **humidity**, are major and the repairs are very costly. As you are aware, **great damage** has been caused to two parts of the **altarpiece** while the walls are peeling off, possibly due to the poor quality of the paintwork.

Panos and **Dimosthenis Kolovos**, who, notably, are repairing the altarpiece for free, have also begun the paintwork. They calculate that all the old layers of paint should be stripped off before the walls are repaired. Then they should be allowed to dry completely before being repainted. This work will cost approximately **€ 10.000**- . Additionally, according to the engineer, Mr. Alexandrou, one drainage system should be constructed, at least, on the north side on the exterior of the church. Moreover, according to Mr. **Lachanis**, an insulation specialist from Tripoli, the exterior joints should be repaired, wherever it is necessary, and the walls and dome should be covered with **insulation**. Although, the cost of these works has not been estimated yet, **they have to be completed in order to avoid recurring problems in the future**. We have collected the amount of **€ 2.570**- from donations for Panagia, in U.S., Canadian dollars, and Euros. We have not paid off the contractors yet as the works are still in progress."

The Holy Church of Aghia Paraskevi



"Excessive humidity and mold are the causes of the main problem in the church. We ordered screens and iron bars for the four windows in order to allow fresh air to circulate and ventilate the church properly. Their cost is **€ 560**- . The door and window frames are also being maintained and painted; the cost of this project has been covered by **Ntina Christopoulou**. We thank her very much.

In our efforts to have all the repair works done in a professional manner, we consulted professionals who specialize in insulation. More specifically, a specialist from Tripoli came and provided us with information and advice on the important issue of insulation. Moreover, we invited two monks from the **Monastery of Aghios Nikolaos Varson in Tripoli**, who gave us advice on fresh air ventilation systems, cleanliness, and the maintenance of church buildings.

We also invited Mr. **Karydis**, Director of the **School of Hagiography of the Holy Metropolis of Monemvasia and Sparta**, who was our advisor in making the correct choice of paint colors.

In conclusion, we would like to thank you all from the bottom of our hearts for honoring us with your presence in this meeting and listening to what we had to say. May you be blessed and have a happy remainder of summer!

We are at your disposal for any questions and clarifications".

The Kerhoulas' trust new Board of Directors

According to the Trust's announcement it's new Board of Directors consists of:

President	George Devekos
Vice president	John Copsiates
Secretary	Panagiotis Karahalios
Treasurer	Bill Vagenas
Member	Andrew Voukides
Member	Chris Drakopoulos
Member	Michael Chicaras

We wish them the best.

KARYATES ASSOCIATION NEWS BULLETIN

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

For information E-mail: info@karyes.gr