

ΣΥΝΔΕΣΜΟΣ ΤΩΝ ΑΠΑΝΤΑΧΟΥ ΚΑΡΥΑΤΩΝ

KARYYES

Lakonia



The Caryatides Monument full of snow

News Bulletin

Number 20

Spring 2019

KARYATES ASSOCIATION: THE ANNUAL "PITA" DANCE

The 2019 Association's Annual Dance was successfully organized. One more time many compatriots not only from Athens, but also from other cities and towns of Greece gathered together. On Sunday February 10th Karyates enjoyed a tasteful meal and danced at the "CAPETANIOS" hall.



The board members of the Karyates Association

The Sparta mayor mr **Evangelos Valliotis** was also present and he addressed to the Karyates congratulating the Association for its efforts.

After that, the president of the Association mr **Michael Repoulis** welcome all the compatriots and present a brief report for the year 2018 and the new year's action plan.



Mr. Valliotis, Sparta Mayor

THE BULLETIN'S SPECIAL FEATURES CONTINUE

Following the positive response that our first special publication of the history of Education in Karyes had in our previous issue, this issue continues the series of tributes to the history of our country.

On the occasion of the Greek National Independence Day on March 25th, we publish a new tribute to the participation of Arachovitians/Karyates in the struggle of the Greek Nation to win its freedom from the Ottoman slavery.

At the same time, with the help of Mr. Theodoros Mentis, we publish a second special reference to the Karyes Dance Group.

The Vice President of the Association Ms Annita Gleka-Prekezes presented her new book "20th Century Stories, Traditions, Narratives from the villages of Northern Lacedaemon" mentioning that all the revenues from its sells will contribute for the Association's actions.

After the book's presentation the "glenti" started and all the guests danced modern and traditional Gremek dances with live music.



The members of the Association's Board of Directors want to thank those compatriots who responded to the call. Besides, the response was so great that we were in a difficult position to kindly refuse the invitation to friends, since the room was filled with compatriots only! We wish good rejoicing in the village during Easter and summer.



UNSTOPPABLE ARE THE CULTURAL EVENTS IN KARYES DURING THE WINTER

Ancient Greeks used to say “we become stronger if we are united”. That ‘s why all the clubs of our beautiful village (Karyates Association, Karyatis Sports Club, Cultural Club, Church Council, Karyes Local Council) decide to strengthen their cooperation. As a result the cultural events continue without interruption during the winter.

Thus on November 30th, on the feast of the patron saint of our village, Apostle Andrew, many people gathered in Karyes. On December 25th, on Christmas Day, an evening of Greek music with a live band was organized in the event hall of the Community Building. On January 27th in the same venue, the "New Year's Pita Cutting" event was held by the Karyes Church Council.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE KARYES PATRON SAINT APOSTLE ANDREW

The Divine Liturgy

At Karyes, on **Friday 30th November**, the celebration of the patron saint of Karyes, Apostle Andrew was celebrated. Hundreds of Karyates, permanent residents of the village but also residents of Athens, Sparta and Tripoli filled the brilliant Holy Temple in order to attend the Divine Liturgy.

Also, the Sparta Municipality had hired a special bus from Sparta in order to help many Spartans to visit the beautiful village. The Temple was full of people and in the Divine Liturgy, was held by Karyes' chaplain Father Eustratios and the representative of the Metropolis of Sparta and Monemvasia, Father George Blathras.



After the end of the Divine Liturgy at the exit of the church, the members of the **Karyes Church Council** offered treats, while a lottery with rich gifts was organized. The aim was to make the proceeds available for the maintenance of the Karyes many Holy temples.

The inauguration of the renovated event hall of the Karyes Community Building

Afterwards, everyone moved to the renovated Karyes Community Hall, where the inauguration of the **Center for Open Protection of the Elderly (KAPI)** of the Karyes Local Community was held. A reception with coffee and sweets was offered by the **Municipality of Sparta, the Karyates Association and the Karyes' Church Council**.

The Local Council of Karyes, headed by President **George Devecos** and the Board of Directors of the Karyates Association, led by President Michael Repoulis, welcomed the officials.



The event was attended by the Vice-Mayor of Lakonia, **Mrs. Adamantia Tzaneteas**, the Mayor of Sparta, **Mr. Evangelos Valiotis**, the MP of Lakonia, **Mr. Athanasios Davakis**, the Deputy Mayor **Mr. Vasilios Skrombelos**, the Presidents of the Legal Entities of the Sparta Municipality **Mr. Themistoklis Patsilivas** (Social Protection, Solidarity and Education) and **Ms Georgia Galanopoulou** (Culture and Environment), the Commander of K.E.E.M. Sparta, Brigadier **Mr. Jordan Hatzinikolaou** and representatives of the Police and the Fire Brigade.



The presentation of the book:

“20th Century Stories, Traditions, Narratives from the villages of Northern Lacedaemon” written by Ms. Anita Gkleka – Prekeze, Vice President of the Karyates Association

The book was presented by the author who mentioned:

This book is the result of a 25-year tour and study of the historic area of Northern Lacedaemon especially the Northwestern part of Parnon. It aims to preserve the historical memory not only of this region, but Greece in general. It is a guided tour through the life in the 20th century that began with poverty and ignorance for the people, who with enviable courage, through wars, disasters, invasions, and emigration, managed to progress and maintain their national identity.

There are numerous stories that revive memories of the years of the Nazi Occupation; those years of pain and sorrow, yet heroism, pride, and rebirth that the older generations remember and the younger are learning about. We are all thankful and appreciate the efforts of our ancestors who, despite the difficulties, maintained a decent life in our villages.

I wish we would find the same courage to save our country from the deadlocks it faces now in the early 21st century.

This book might not have been written without the help of some people that I need to thank dearly.

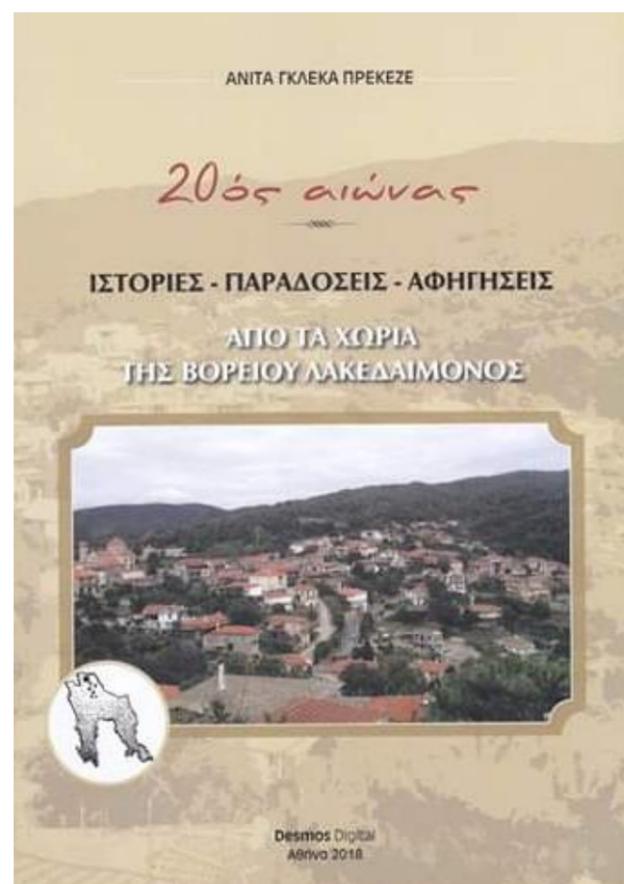
- To my late husband, **Vasilis Prekezes**, through whom I became a citizen of Karyes in 1961, and got to know this special village, his favorite Arachova (Karyes), Lacedaimon, and the neighboring villages of Lakonian Parnon, former Municipality of Oinounta.
- To the **Association of Karyates (S.A.K.)** that I have been a member since 1970 and shared thereof in the problems the village has faced and the help that the association has provided.

I would like to thank all those who, over the course of the 24 years that I have published the newspaper “**KARYES AND THE VILLAGES OF PARNONA**”, contributed articles to enrich its content. I thank everyone who allowed me to intrude into their lives and whose narratives revived the history and the memories of the past. Thank you to all who gave me rare photographs and details of the life in the village as the destruction of war destroyed the photographic depiction of the pre-war times.

A thank you goes to the Brotherhoods, the Associations and the Clubs of the villages in Greece and abroad that passionately supported my work recording and depicting the unique and rare characteristics of these villages from the past until now.

I would like to thank Harry and Margie Konstantopoulos who posted the newspaper online, making it accessible to everyone.

This has been my contribution to the people of Parnon and to all those who love their hometown, their roots, and wish to learn more about the lives of their ancestors.



CHRISTMAS IN KARYES

The Christmas Event of the Karyes Cultural Club



The new Board of Directors of the Karyes Cultural Club begins to realize its promise for a strong presence in the life of our village with events throughout the year.

For this reason, after many years, at Christmas Eve on **December 25th**, a Christmas dance with traditional Greek live music was organized in the Community Building's Event Hall.

The attendance was great and all the residents and visitors of the village drank, wine and tsipuro, entertained and danced. Please note that entry was free, while a lottery was organized by the Karyes Cultural Club.



THE KARYES CHURCH COUNCIL'S "PITTA CUTTING"



On the morning of **Sunday, January 27, 2019**, the **Karyes' Church Council** organized the event of "**vasilopita (pie) cutting**" after the Divine Liturgy.

The members of the Council offered **coffee and pastries**, followed by a **goat ('gida')** meal and other appetizers.

FEBRUARY: FLOOD IN KARYES

On **Wednesday February 6**, the disasters caused by the severe weather conditions in Karyes were unprecedented. After many days of continuous **heavy rain**, the soil did not bear to absorb any more water and **landslides** were caused in various parts of the village..



The overflowing of the river

However, the most significant damage was caused by the **overflowing of the River "Diros" (Panagia)**, where a huge amount of water passed over the bridge and **destroyed the road** that leads to the church and then to the villade of Aghios Petros.

In fact, the village of Aghios Petros had already been cut off by road due to landslides on its main road connection from Kastri and its left connections were only from Karyes and Astros.

According to information from the "Lakonia Live" website, on the morning of the same day, a car driven in the area was **drifting from the river of the Diros**.



The road to the hotel



The vehicle destroyed

The driver came out of the vehicle at the last minute and he was caught on the railings of the bridge. Then the residents of the village went with an agricultural machine and removed him from the spot. The car drifted off the rushing waters for about one kilometer and was completely destroyed.

At the same time in other parts of the village there were landslides, mainly from demolished terraces, while the road to the Hotel "ARCHONTIKO PARNONA" closed. A special machinery arrived to repair the road by the Sparta Prefecture.



The destruction of the road



landslides

A WHITE NEW YEARS' EVE

Strong snowfall hit Karyes on the night of New Year's Eve, and as result the beautiful village of Karyes was full of snow at the dawn of the first day of 2019.

We publish some nice pictures posted by our compatriots on the Internet.



CAUTION: INFORMATION FOR THE NATIONAL LAND REGISTRATION PROGRAMME

On **Thursday, February 14th 2019**, the **GEOKATOGRAFI Consortium**, which is the contractor of the National Land Registration Programme, organised a speech at the Karyes' Community Hall.

It is advisable that all our compatriots, both in Greece and abroad, to be informed and rush to secure their estates!

SPECIAL FEATURE:

THE GREEK WAR OF INDEPENDENCE IN 1821 IN KARYES AND THE VILLAGES OF MT. PARNON

Units of Arachovites/Karyates took part in almost all battles that took place in the Peloponnese and Athens during the years 1821 – 26. As there was no chief leader from Arachova to lead them at the outbreak of the war, they joined troops that were mostly under the command of Lacedaemonian chief leaders. However, in 1821, **Anagnostis D. Matalas**, formed a small troop of Arachovites and in 1826, **Paraskevas D. Matalas** was announced to be their chief leader. The majority of Arachovites joined the troops of the preeminent chief leader **Petros Barmpitsiotis** under the direction of the heroic Bishop of Vresthena, **Theodoritos B'**. It is important to mention these two brave personalities of Lakonian Parnon.



Theodoritos B'

Theodoritos B'

He was born in the village of Nemnitsa, in Karytaina, Gortynia, in Arkadia, in 1787. He was the nephew of Theodoritos A', Bishop of Vrestheni, posted in **Vamvakou**. During the early years of his education, he attended school in Vitina, and then he continued his studies in Vamvakou, next to his uncle who appointed him reader and subsequently deacon and presbyter to finally succeed him in the Episcopal throne, after his death, in 1813. While serving there, he took a lot of action building schools and repairing churches.

In 1819, he was initiated into the "Filiki Etaireia" by the Metropolitan Palaion Patron (Old Patras) **Germanos** and the *resurrection of our race* became his primary goal. Indeed, on the outbreak of the Revolution, he rushed to **Mystras**, to give his blessings to the revolutionary flag on March 28th and immediately after he began military recruitment in the villages of **Vamvakou**, **Varvitsa**, and **Karyes**.



His statue at the Vamvakou village's square

He was appointed leader of the **Lakonian** and **Tsakonian** army troops. His soldiers camped in the village of **Vervena**, and took part in the battles of **Valtetsi** and **Doliana**. At the **Assembly of Kalteza**, on **May 26, 1821**, he was **appointed President of the Peloponnesian Senate**, and in 1822, at the request of the Turks who were besieged in the town of Nafplion, he capitulated to them on the condition that they surrender. The Turks, however, encouraged by the fact that an Ottoman force led by Commander **Dramalis** was marching southward to crush the revolutionaries, imprisoned him for six months. He was released when Dramalis forces were completely crushed but his health was in very bad shape. At the **2nd National Assembly in Astros**, he was appointed **President of the Parliamentary House** (the Parliament) and, according to Fotakos, "everyone respected and valued his opinion as they would the Leader of the Nation".

Petros Barmpitsiotis (Anagnostopoulos)

He was born in the village of **Varvitsa** in 1785. His grandfather, Anastasios **Karadontis**, came to Varvitsa, after being chased away from **Dorio (Soulima)**, Trifillia in Messinia, following the failure of the Orlov revolt. There he got married and changed his name to Soulimiotis. His son, Konstantinos, earned the nickname **Anagnostis** because of the education he had received (anagignosko in Anc. Greek means study). Subsequently, his two children, **Petros** and **Dimitrios**, decided to change their last name to **Anagnostopoulos**.

Young Petros learned his excellent fighting skills from the famous **Captain Zacharias** and after his death in 1803 and the dissolution of his team in 1805, he led a peaceful life in the village of Varvitsa up until his induction to Filiki Etaireia by Bishop Theodoritos B'. With the onset of the Greek War of Independence, he was ready to fight for the freedom of his country. He immediately recruited army from the **villages of Oinounta** and led his own troops to Vervena. He took part in all the battles (**Vlachokerasia**, **Valtetsi**, **Doliana**) and **his bravery earned him the position of the leader**.

Kolokotronis immediately singled him out exclaimed, "There are many Anagnostopoulos; you should stand out. Why don't you change your name to your famous homeland Barmpitsa?" Since then, he has become known as **Barmpitsiotis**. He then participated as chief commander in the battle for the defense of the castle of **Argos** before the Ottoman troops led by **Dramalis**, as well as in the battles against General **Kütahı** on **Karaiskakis'** side in **Athens**, and against General **Ibrahim**. At the **National Assembly of Astros**, he was appointed **military representative of the entire region of Parnon**.



His statue at the entrance of Varvitsa

THE EVENTS OF THE REVOLUTION AND THEIR EFFECT ON THE VILLAGES OF MT. PARNON

The advent of Ibrahim

As already mentioned, units of Arachovites under the leadership of either Petros Barmpitsiotis or other chief captains, took part in all the great battles that **liberated the Peloponnese during the period of 1821 – 1824**. The Turks had no other choice but to call **Ibrahim Pasha**, son of the Governor of Egypt, for help. Thus, in **March 1825**, the Turkish-Egyptian fleet reached the shores of the Peloponnese, carrying the most advanced military forces of the East as the Egyptian army had been organized by French officers. They disembarked in Messinia and within two months of continuous fights (**Chalikaki** and **Militsa** in Koroni, and **Maniaki**), Ibrahim's forces occupied the whole area of Messinia; on **April 28th**, they captured the city of **Kalamata**. In early June, Ibrahim set off on campaign in Arcadia and occupied **Tripoli on June 10th**. He then ventured to Argolida, where on **June 14th**, he set off on campaign against the cities of **Argos** and **Nafplion** but he was stopped at the village of **Miloi** by **Prince Ypsilantis** and his troops, who resisted successfully. On June 17th, he returned to Tripoli. There, the revolutionaries from Vervena applied constant pressure to Ibrahim's forces and got in continuous battles with them (**Trikorfa**, **Alainstaina**, **Pizes**, **Piali**). In the end, his army managed to crush the Greek military camp in Vervena, on **July 27th**.

The first campaign in Lakonia

After this success, his army returned to Messinia and then they went back to Tripoli on August 15th in order to set off on campaign in Lakonia. In fact, on **August 16th**, they set off towards **Mystras**. The revolutionaries had entrenched themselves in bunkers at the base of Mt. Taygetos and Mt. Parnon to **protect our villages**. The Egyptian forces moved towards **Mystras** and **Monemvasia** looting and capturing the villages before their return to Tripoli, where half of the soldiers camped while Ibrahim himself went back to Messinia.

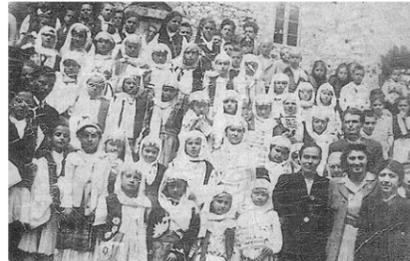
The second campaign in Lakonia and the burning of Arachova

The winter and **spring of 1826** found Ibrahim in **Messolonghi** assisting Kütahı's troops with the siege of the city. After the **heroic exodus of Messolonghi on April 10th – 11th**, he returned to Tripoli. He then decided to send a battalion on campaign to the villages of **Mt. Parnon**. Army operations began on **May 11th** and destroyed the villages of **Kastri**, **Aghios Petros**, **Vervena**, and **Doliana**, and by **May 12th** they reached the village of **Karyes** ("Rahova" Spiliadis), which suffered the same fate. The residents of the village found shelter in the forests and mountains while the entire village was **burned down to ashes** except for about six or seven houses and the holy church of Aghia Paraskevi, where only the altarpiece was burned. The villages of **Varvitsa**, **Vresthena**, and **Sellasia (Vourlias)** were destroyed next.

Ibrahim himself sets off on campaign from Kalamata to Mani but his troops were decisively defeated by the locals in **Mani** and **Almyros**.

The third campaign in Lakonia: Ibrahim in the ruins of Arachova and the battle of Vassaras

Upon his return to Tripoli, Ibrahim planned to attack Mani from the east. For this purpose, he advanced to Astros, where he faced strong opposition by chief captain **Nikitaras** and thus divided his army in three units to reach **Mystras via Mt. Parnon**. One unit headed towards **Tsakonia**, destroying **Prastos** on its way, the other moved through Vamvakou, and the third one led by **Ibrahim himself** passed through the villages of **Aghios Petros** and **Arachova**, which had been ruined already, and came to the valley of Evrotas. They killed every Greek that happened to be in their way. **Two** Arachovites were killed at Neraidovrisi and **twenty** at Kakoneri, while several others, women and children in their majority, were **captured to be sent into slavery** in the East. Fortunately, in the next days, many of those who had been captured and transferred to the town of **Pylos**, were saved by their relatives who paid ransom to set them free.



Karyes: Celebration 25th March 1947

At the same time, they set free 10,000 sheep and goats, 300 oxen, and 200 horses and mules. Ibrahim's army, with no more supply lines, was defeated by the people of Mani at **Polyravos** and humiliated retrieved to Tripoli and later to Methoni.

The way to Freedom!

Then, the Arachovites rushed to assist Karaiskakis in the **siege of Athens**, while in the following year, the **Battle of Navarino** and the destruction of the Turkish-Egyptian fleet signaled the liberation of Greece.

Our ancestors struggled with incomparable pain and sacrifice for our liberation. Tragic stories of killings and imprisonment are portrayed heartrendingly in related literature; stories of mothers who had been captured and returned to their ruined villages with only some of their children as the rest had been lost, while their husbands died in the battlefield. As the poet says, "the tree of freedom is watered with blood."

Honor and glory to the heroes of 1821!

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Ψηφιακό Αρχείο Εφημερίδας



Καρυές

FEATURE: KARYES' DANCE CLUB

By **Theodoros Mentis**, Educator and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Athletic Association "Karyatis" and the Institution "G. Th. Skiouris"

Dance blends movement with aspirations and songs and brings to memory feelings and values, hymns nature, recounts human condition and is an integral part of the folk traditions of our village from the ancient times until now. It has been a valuable component of our history, and occasionally has contributed to the cultural reproduction of practices, norms, identities, and representations.

In this regard, a group of Arachovites/Karyates, who are known for their gallantry, gave a dance performance at the **Panathenaic Stadium (Kallimarmaro) in 1937** and a group of girls "Arachovitopoules/Karyatides", dressed as "Amalias", performed local traditional dances in **Sparta in 1955**.



At the Rachi Square

Much later, in the **1970s and 1980s**, on the initiative of "**HEN - YMCA, Karyes**", the festivals in our village became an occasion to perform traditional dances. In the **spring of 1989**, an old festival came to life at the Holy Church of **Aghios Konstantinos**. The residents dressed in local traditional costumes danced local dances and revived old customs. The event was recorded by the state television (ET2) and was presented in the program "**Customs and traditions of our country**."

Thereafter, the **Athletic Association "Karyatis"** implemented their initiative to create a **dance club** in the **summer of 1992**. What motivated and inspired the leaders of this project was the love they shared for authentic tradition, folklore, customs and beliefs, and traditional Greek dances.



At the St. Constantine's fest

Thus, a group of 35 boys and girls performed a variety of local and other traditional dances in the courtyard of the **Holy Church of the Assumption (Panagia) on August 15th, 1992**, following the church service. The great enthusiasm led to a plethora of monetary contributions by the **Brotherhoods of Arachovites/Karyates of Chicago and Gastonia - Charlotte**, as well as the **Association of Karyates**, that carried on for a period of two years (**1992 - 1994**) and supported the Dance Club in the acquisition of several traditional costumes. The performances of the Dance Club continued to take place in the church courtyard for another two years. Then, the club limited their activities to the teaching of traditional dances in the Community Hall. Nonetheless, in **2001**, an initiative taken on by a group of students from elementary, middle and high school led to a series of very important cultural events in our village for five consecutive years between **2004 and 2008**. Every summer, this group performed traditional dances and accompanied by the choir sang songs of great Greek composers. For several years this group of students performed dances at the church courtyard during the **Carnival** and on **Aghios Georgios Feast Day** on the second day of Easter.

A significant event during that time was the visit of the theatrical group "**Theater Nefeli**" from the **Greek Community of Toronto, Canada on July 30, 2006**. The Dance Club of Karyes held a welcome reception where they performed local traditional dances, followed by a wonderful music and dancing program offered by the Greek expatriates of Canada.



August 15th 1992 in "Panaghia"



Summer of 2005 at the Central Square

However, as the years passed and the number of children in the village shrank, dance performances faded away. Nonetheless, we had two classes of traditional dances during **2016 - 17**.

The traditional costumes that had been acquired between 1992 and 2007 are stored in an appropriately set up room in the house of the benefactor G. Th. Skiouri and are donated every year to the students who participate in school celebrations and parades in honor of the **Greek national holidays March 25th** and **October 28th**.

UNIFORMS OF THE KARYES' DANCE CLUB

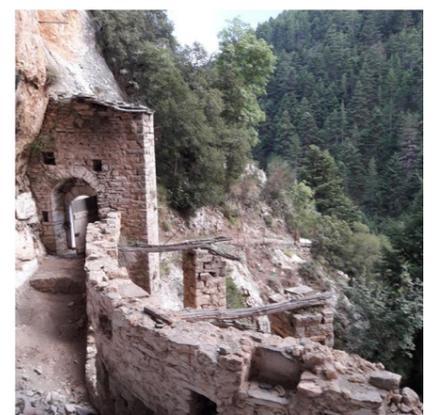
1	Island of Cythera	4 men's and 4 women's
2	"Tsolias" uniform	14 boy's
3	Florina	7 women's
4	Thrace	8 men's
5	Epirus	8 men's
6	Folk Dance	6 uniforms, 16 vests and 15 huts
7	Women's black vests	16 vests offered by local residents



THE MEDIEVAL MONASTERY CAVE OF AGHIA KYRIAKI VAMVAKOU

Many of our compatriots are still unaware of the existence of a unique, yet abandoned monastery cave in a close distance just a few kilometers away from our village.

The old monastery of Aghia Kyriaki, which has been declared a historic monument, is presumed to have operated during the byzantine and medieval eras in a gorge in Paleochora, possibly the first settlement before the village of Vamvakou was relocated to its present location. Anyone may access it fairly easily through a dirt road, rather a wide path, that starts from the bridge of River Vamvakitikos, 1 km before the entrance of Vamvakou village on the road from Varvitsa village. It is 2km away and it takes approximately 25 - 35 minutes to walk there. The beauty of the landscape as you walk alongside the river in a verdant gorge full of fir trees and the alluring monastery in the cave will compensate the visitors.



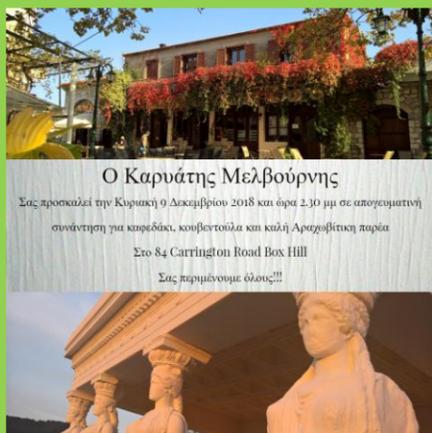
Beautiful drone's photos (Published by Nick. V. Trakas).



WISHES



We wish to all our compatriots a Happy New Year with health and joy!
Family of Panagiotis Dimopoulos and Nikoleta-Ninett Voukides



A delightful gathering of the Melbournes' Karyates took place on December 9th, 2018. It was an opportunity for compatriots to gather and re-establish old relationships and memories from their homeland.

At Tripolis Greece on February 10th, 2019,
our compatriot Panagiotis Efstr. Costalas,
New York resident, died at the age of 85

Brief biography in the memory of Panos Kostalas, a generous heart that has stopped beating.

Panagiotis Kostalas, son of Efstratios and Paraskevi Kostalas, was born on February 4, 1934, in Karyes, Lakonia. He lived in New York chasing the American dream for 68 consecutive years and he passed away on February 10, 2019 in Tripoli, Arkadia.

His family left Karyes to live in Athens during the Second World War. His father was arrested by the Germans and was sent to Germany where he was imprisoned for two years. Panos and his brothers were selling sunflower seeds and cigarettes at the fruit market in Athens to support the financials of their family.



At the age of 16, Panos had no other choice but to leave his beloved homeland seeking a brighter future for him and his family in the U.S.A. Having only a little money in his pocket, he migrated to New York to chase the American dream. He worked day and night doing all sorts of jobs, his first one being that of a scullion, and it was his firm belief that if one works hard one will succeed.

He quickly became the favorite Broadway Pete to those fortunate ones whose paths he crossed. Together with his two brothers, he launched a chain of well-known fast food restaurants in New York City: Munch Time USA, Socrates Pizza, Huckleberry Finn Donuts Shop, Arachova Coffee, Essex I, Essex II, Essex III, Vivian's Deli, Steve's Pizza, The Essex World, and Bridge Deli.

Panos and his brothers were athletes of the Pan-Hellenic Gymnastics Association of Athens. There, they cultivated a genuine love for sports. Like his father, who was a high jump athlete, Panos had a natural inclination towards sports; he played football and ran the 800m track. Ever since the boys got settled in New York, they became a bridge of communication for the Hellenic American Community and supported, in any way they could, the Greek athletes who came to New York. Rumor has it that before leaving for America, Panos had a proposal to play in Panathinaikos F.C., which he declined to remain loyal to Olympiacos F.C.

Although his love for the family was above everything, Panos treated everyone with the same love, kindness and generosity. Countless are the stories that show his love to the fellow man; the support he provided to the children of the Greeks who were hospitalized at Memorial Sloane Kettering and the supplies he offered to the homeless in the city are only a couple of examples. Panos was always there for anyone who needed help. He loved all the aspects of American culture, from the movies to football. He was a talented dancer and always the life and soul of the party.

As a Greek Spartan, he was a giving father, who offered his two children a comfortable life and a good education. Both his children attended the best schools in New York and the world in general, thus fulfilling the paternal desire for good education and a better life. The birth of his granddaughter Floris May in the summer completed his life cycle and filled him with joy.

His close relatives, his wife, **Litsa Floris**, his son **Stratos Kostalass**, his partner, **Irina Avetisova**, his daughter, **Vivian Mangira** and her husband, **Giorgos Mangiras**, his granddaughter, **Floris May**, his mother-in-law Georgia Floris, his brothers, **Giannis** and **James Kostalas**, and his nephews and nieces say goodbye to him with infinite love and grief, but keeping in our hearts and thoughts his bright smile and the wide laughter that will always accompany us.

Today, Panos is going back to his beloved birth place, to rest in peace in the ground of Karyes where his body will become part of the soil that will soon cover him.

Dad, we will always keep as a treasure in our hearts your love for the fellow man and your words that nothing is impossible in life as long as we fight for it without fear, but with nerve and perseverance to accomplish our dreams.

According to the Karyes Bishop, father Efstratios in Karyes, died:
 • On December 6, 2018, **Antonios Melehes**, died at the age of 70.
 • On December 15, 2018, **Georgia Melehe widow of Demetrios**, died at the age of 80.
 • On 31 December 2018 **Paraskevas Sar. Trakas**, died at the age of 74.

Our sincere condolences to their families.



Ο Παναγιώτης Γιαννάκης στις Καρυές Λακωνίας. Μαζί του οι Νίκος Φιλίππου, Ευθύμης Ρεντζιάς και Δημήτρης Μάζης. Στη φωτογραφία με τους Γεώργιο Ντεβέκο και Δήμο Λεβεντάκη.

Many famous Greek Athletes like **Panagiotis Giannakis**, former Captain and coach of the Greek National Basketball Team (at the centre) accompanied Panagiotis Costalas to his last residence.

The funeral of Panos Kostalas that was held in the Holy Church of Aghia Paraskevi on **Tuesday, February 12, 2019**, was attended by family, relatives, and friends, who had come from Sparta, Athens, and America for the last goodbye and a heartfelt RIP.

On behalf of the **Association of Karyates**, Ms **Anita Prekeze** and Ms **Dimitra Mermigka**, Vice-Presidents of the Association, have expressed their deepest condolences to the family of Stratis Kostalas, which for many years has assisted in many projects to improve the living conditions in their beloved village, Karyes, Lakonia.

THE OFFERS FOR THE
RENOVATION OF THE KARYATIDES MONUMENT

Many compatriots and friends of Karyes respond to the Karyates Association's appeal for the completion of the renovation of the Karyatides Monument. Thus, they continue to offer their donations in order to complete the maintenance of the monument's yard. The Board members of the Karyates Association wish to thank them all, and as we have promised we will publish all the offers in our bulletin.



- 11.26.2018 **Helen Volosof € 150-**
- 12.21.2018 **Spyridon J. Karygiannis € 50-**
- 01.09.2019 **Nikolaos Galanis € 50-**
- 02.14.2019 **Michael Binis € 150-**

WISHES

The members of the Karyates Association Board of Directors and the editorial team of our Bulletin wish to all our compatriots

A happy easter



Do you deal with the arts
(art, painting, music-song, dance, theater, photography, video, floriculture, crafts)?

The Association of Karyates invites you to contact us to present your work to our compatriots (permanent and holidaymakers) and to our village visitors in the summer either through an exhibition of your creations or through a cultural action.

Now contact us at info@karyes.gr or at 6944-784563, 6974-720909.

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

