



KARYYES

Lakonia



The beautiful interior of the St. Andrew Church

News Bulletin

Issue Number 25

Summer 2019

The project of the Memory and Culture Centre has been launched

The financial competition for the construction of the building, owned by the association in the Karyes Central Square was published by the **Karyates Association**.

The Project with a budget of € 284,747.45 (€ 229,635.04 plus VAT € 55,112.41) is in the framework of the Rural Development Program of Greece 2014-2020, MEASURE 19 "Support for local development through LEADER (LOCAL DEVELOPMENT WITH PROMOTION OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES) "and SUBMISSION 19.2" Support for the implementation of actions within the framework of the local development strategy on the initiative of local communities".

A great dream is one step further of its realization. We hope that everything goes well and that the competition will be completed soon so that the works will begin.



ANNOUNCEMENT

The **Karyates Association** announces its intention

to exploit the ground floor of commercial stores

in its property building, located at **Karyes Central Square**, which will house the **Karyes Center for the Memory and Culture**.

We invite anyone interested in leasing the property to please contact us either by e-mail at info@karyes.gr, or by calling +30 6944 784563, +30 6974 720909.

The BoD

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

The Great Challenge

Following the creation of the "Kerhoulas Trust" in order to utilize the money of the donor's will, a great opportunity appears for the village of Karyes. The proper use of the money will be crucial for the present and the future of the beautiful settlement, as there has been a "bitter" history of missed opportunities in our country' history.

Tourism in the 21st century: a complete experience

It should become obvious for all compatriots that **tourism development is an only way road for the survival of the settlement**.

However, when we talk about tourism, we should not keep in mind the traditional image of previous decades. Instead, we should talk about the creation of a destination that will give to the visitor a **complete unique experience**.

The visitor should come to Karyes in order:

- to walk through the village meeting with its beauties and the **religious and cultural monuments**,
- to enjoy the nature walking on **organized and marked trails**,
- to be informed about the Karyes' history and culture, either **digitally through the site www.karyes.gr** or by the **information signs**,
- to have his/her coffee in the coffee-shops and his/her lunch or dinner in the taverns at the two beautiful squares enjoying a **full professional service** and
- to buy **local traditional organic products** (in our case cheese products, honey, pastries, dips, herbs, nuts, chestnuts, apples, pears and meat).

Taking under consideration all the above remarks, the conclusion is that **cooperation** and **integrated plans** are necessary not only from the shopkeepers and hoteliers but from **all the residents**.

The tourist development of Karyes is an one-way road for the survival of the local farmers and the zookeepers

All the investments made in livestock, beekeeping and agricultural units are intended to produce quality products. The question is **what has to be done about after the production? Where will these products be sold? How will the Karyes' local products will compete the products from other regions which are more easily produced (eg due to better climate)?**

As we know many local milk producers have recently suffer by the delay in payments by various traders.

The only solution is **to turn to the visitors**, who will want to try the local products and if they will be satisfied they, **will recommend** these products to other customers. That of course requires **standardization of products and organized shops**.

Karyes is an underrated touristic destination

We listen about well-known touristic destinations in the Peloponnese and we are puzzled.

We do not know any another mountain village in the Peloponnese that has the beautiful and large squares, so many historical monuments, beautiful churches, springs and even natural environment like Karyes. All this in combination with the necessary infrastructure (event halls, sports center and now organized cycling and walking routes), restaurants and cafes that operate all year round, only two hours by car away from Athens.

And yet villages like Dimitsana and Stemnista in Arcadia, or Trikala in Corinthia, are famous and receive thousands of tourists.

The local institutions support the village's residents

The declarations of the Board of the "Kerhoulas Trust" in combination with the first samples of its works are characterized by a persistence in creating integrated projects, cooperating with well-known high profiled work partners. Therefore, we may be optimistic by their professionalism and vision. It is fortunate that these plans coincide with the implementation of the great project of the **Karyates Association**: the creation of the "**KARYES MEMORY AND CULTURE CENTER**". The will of the Board members of our Association is to establish a folklore center which will become one of the best of its kind (based in a village) in Greece. Meanwhile on the ground floor, a beautiful coffee shop and a grocery shop selling local traditional products will provide to the tourists and to the residents high quality services and products.

At the same time, Karyes has the good fortune to have local active Clubs. The **Cultural Club** with the advertising program-initiative for the local business (digital address "**in the Shadow of Parnon**") is moving in the right direction, ie highlighting the beauties of the village and promoting the local producers tourism professionals at the same time as promoting traditional products, while the "**Karyatis**" **Sports Club** with its **privately owned and modern Sports Centre** is an advantage that is missing from the other villages.

A public address

So we address the young men and women of the village:

"Dare and engage in business!"

There are many financial programs. You should ask the necessary information.

It is up to you to transform Karyes into the best mountain destination in the Peloponnese, receiving thousands of visitors every year.

The BoD of the Karyates Association

Kerhoulas Trust: The Trail's forming and signaling completed



The project under the name "CARYATIDES TRAILS" has been completed. Karyes has now a full completed pathways network of **seven (7) paths** with a total length of **fifty five (55) kilometers**. The project has been financed by the "Kerhoulas Trust" and it has been constructed by the "TERRAIN S.A."

As Mr. **Stefanos Psimenos**, company and project manager said "there are so many beauties inside the village and the forest around it, so many trails that are well known only by us. How we can make them famous to the rest of the world? Last fall we made that conversation with the village's people and now, six months later, the TERRAIN S.A. creates a full path network of almost fifty five (55) kilometers fully signed! So the "Caryatides Trails", here in Karyes Lakonia, at the shadow of the majestic mount Parnon will be the next top destination for those looking for earthly paradises!"



It should be noted that an innovation was applied to the signs: wooden niagon stakes with three layers of impregnation with protective varnish on the entire surface and two layers of asphalt insulating material at the base of the piles for absolute protection from soil moisture.

The project aims to bring to Karyes a significant number of visitors from Greece and around the world engaged in hiking, strengthening the local economy.



International Mountain Cycling Race "Sparta MTB Races" returns to Karyes

The competitive mountain biking came several years ago for the first time in Karyes and now the sport loves its routes. Alter Bike Tours and the **Karyes Cultural Club** are organizing three UCI MTB races called **Sparta MTB Races**. Specifically, from **16 to 19 July 2020**, where 3 XCO matches will be held on the match days.

The races will give **ELITE riders** a unique opportunity to earn many UCI points and test themselves shortly after the restart of the UCI MTB calendar and before the national championships and World Cups. The boys and girls categories will have the opportunity to be trained for next season's races, with amateur cyclists challenging themselves, all on the same track.

Sunday 7/19/2020

- 9:00 - 10:00 Registrations near the Start / Finish area
 - 10:30 Elite Women / Juniors Men / Women's Juniors XCO UCI C1 Categories
 - 12:30 Men's Elite XCO UCI C1 start
- The Men's Elite XCO UCI C1 racing track is 4.1mm x 7 laps
 The Elite XCO UCI C1 Women's racing track is 4.1mm x 5 rounds
 The Junior XCO UCI C1 Men's racing track is 4.1mm x 5 laps
 The Junior XCO UCI C1 Women's racing track is 4.1mm x 4 laps
- 14:00 End of the games
 - 14:30 Awards ceremony near the Start / Finish area

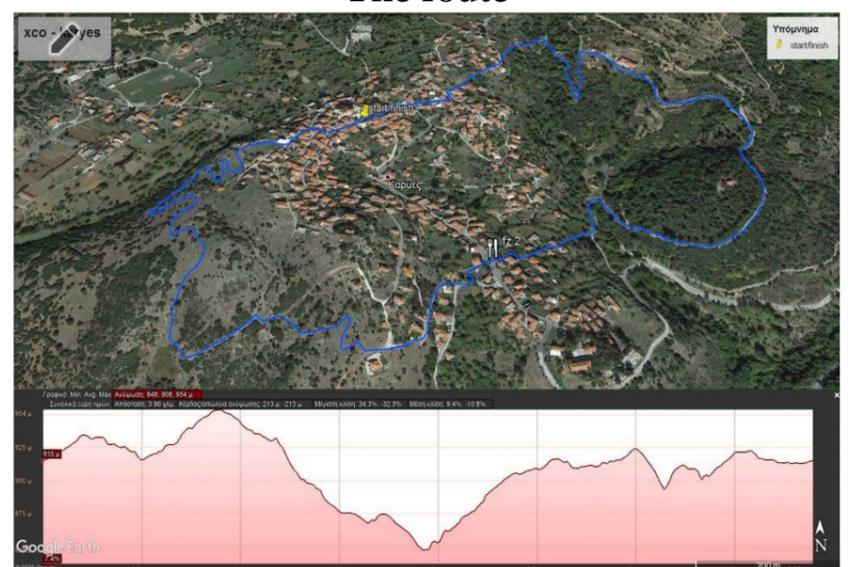
Registrations

- Participants can register using the following ways:
- **Online:** <https://www.alterbiketours.gr/registration-page/> (closes July 12)
 - **E-mail:** info@alterbiketours.gr, nantiafaka@yahoo.com
- The registration of the riders (by distribution of race number and timing plates) can only be done at the registration office that will be located in the Community Building of Karyes during the following working hours: July 15, 2020 17:30 - 19:30



With the specific categories Elite Men, Elite Women, Junior Men and Junior Women competing in the respective days as follows, while the contestants will receive points and cash prizes according to UCI Class Two (Europe 2)..

The route



For more information on registering for the races and other details, visit the Alterbiketours website.

Programme

Wednesday 7/15/2020

- 17:30 - 19:30 Registration and distribution of race numbers at the Community Building of Karyes
- 20:00 Meeting of coaches at the Karyes City Hall

Thursday 7/16/2020

- 9:00 - 10:00 Registrations near the Start / Finish area
 - 10:30 Women's start Elite / Juniors Men / Women's Juniors XCO UCI C2 categories
 - 12:30 Men's start Elite XCO UCI C2
- The Men's Elite XCO UCI C2 racing track is 4.1mm x 7 laps
 The Elite XCO UCI C2 Women's racing track is 4.1mm x 5 laps
 The Junior XCO UCI C2 Men's racing track is 4.1mm x 5 laps
 The Junior XCO UCI C2 Women's racing track 4.1mm x 4 laps
- 14:00 End of the games
 - 14:30 Awards ceremony near the Start / Finish area

Friday 7/17/2020

- 9:00 - 10:00 Registrations near the Start / Finish area
 - 10:30 Elite Women / Juniors Men / Women's Juniors XCO UCI C2 Categories
 - 12:30 Men's start Elite XCO UCI C2
- The Men's Elite XCO UCI C2 racing track is 4.1mm x 7 laps
 The Elite XCO UCI C2 Women's racing track is 4.1mm x 5 rounds
 The Junior XCO UCI C2 Men's racing track is 4.1mm x 5 laps
 The Junior XCO UCI C2 Women's racing track is 4.1mm x 4 laps
- 14:00 End of the games
 - 14:30 Awards ceremony near the Start / Finish area

The Greek Mountain Cycling Championship in Karyes on July 18

In parallel with the International Cycling Games to be held on 16, 17 and 19 July, the Hellenic Cycling Federation announced that the **Panhellenic Mountain Cycling Championship will be held in Karyes too, respectively, on Saturday 18 July and specifically for the categories (XCM) AN, GN, MASTERS.**

The renovation of Rachi Square, one step before its implementation

The Department of Technical Services of the Municipality of Sparta announced the project "DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC AREAS" which essentially concerns the configuration of Karyes' Rachi Square with a budget of € 440.00.00 (with VAT 24%). Another important project shows that it is going to be implemented, effectively closing a pending issue of many years. Residents of the lower settlement rightly complained that the square had been turned into a parking lot while there was no space for children to play safely.

Meeting of the Local Coordinating Body for Civil Protection of the Municipality of Sparta



On the morning of May 6 in Sparta, there was a meeting of the Local Coordinating Body for Civil Protection. The issues that have been discussed were the alertness of the necessary potentials and means concerning the 2020 firefighting period as well as the coordination of the institutions involved.

This meeting was followed by a visit to Karyes with the Commander of the Laconia Fire Services, Mr. **Georgios Alikakos**, and the Deputy Mayor for Civil Protection, Mr. **Athanasios Karlaftis**, for the final selection of the **summer fire station site**. That site will be created by the Sparta's Fire Department with the collaboration of the Municipality of Sparta.



Donations to the Karyates Association in memory of Telis (Aristotelis) Diamantouros

For many years Telis Diamantouros and his family were strong supporters of the Karyates Association and our beautiful village. Thus, his family asked everyone to donate money in favor of the Association in his memory. Many friends of Telis responded to that call and we wish to thank them. At the previous issue we had published many donor's names. Since then many more make donations and therefore we publish their names too.

- **Aristotelis Kakaris € 200**
- **Stefanos Kakakris € 100**
- **Ioannis Karantasis € 100**
- **Demetrios Karantasis € 50**
- **Michael and Demetra Repoulis € 50**
- **Panaghiotis and Erini Economides € 30**
- **Antonios and Marianthi Karyotis € 30**
- **Annita Prekezas € 20**
- **Lefkothea Latsis € 20**

Anyone who wish to donate in his memory, he/she may deposit at the following account number (IBAN):

GR 5601106620000066200228709

SYNDESMOS TON APANTAHOU KARYATON

SWIFT (BIC) ETHNGRAA

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE

We would like to thank all the donors and especially the family of Telis.

Repair works at the St. Anargyri Chapel



The restoration works at Agioi Anargyri Chapel are progressing at a satisfactory pace, thanks to the initiative of the Voluntary Conservation Group of the Karyes Chapels and the Karyes' Ecclesiastical council of Karyes.



As you can see from the photos, after the serious problem in the foundations was repaired, the reconstruction of the floor was completed.

The Karyes' barber shop: A small space with endless memories closes



Eventually, the difficult times brought with them a change in the Central Square and the life of Karyes, which makes us very sad. **Dimitrios (Jimmy) Chondropoulos'** barber shop in Karyes Square stops operating after 3 generations.

Most of the older people managed to watch Jimmy's father, **George Chondropoulos**, to cut the hair of men and boys of the village in the same small barber shop in the square. After his early death, his son, Jimmy continued working in the same place with the same passion. A small but warm space, with the old barber chair and wooden board that he had as additional lifting accessory for younger customers, old photos full of memories hanging on the wall, which in addition to haircut was also offered as a meeting and discussion point.

However, Jimmy is forced to close the barber shop, as he takes a new professional step in his life and we all wish him the best.

Karyes public space cleaning

The **Karyes' Cultural Club** among with the **Local Community**, in the context of the voluntary action entitled: "**We are cleaning our village, we are beautifying our place**" called the local residents on **Sunday, May 24 2020** and at 08:00 am, to participate in the voluntary cleaning of central points and attractions of our village. The meeting point was the Karyes Central Square.

According to an announcement by the Cultural Club: "*The BoD warmly thank all the volunteers who participated in the voluntary cleaning of the village. Although there were many of us, more should be involved. The beginning has been made and the result is satisfactory. The effort will continue in the coming days, hoping that every fellow villager will come out to clean around his house. So all the neighborhoods will become more beautiful, the village will change its appearance and will be ready to welcome visitors, locals and non-locals alike*".

Sparta Institute: Planning the celebrations for the 200 years anniversary of the Greek Revolution



A nice meeting took place at the "**Pelalion Foundation**" at the village of **Vresthena on Saturday, June 20, 2020**. The president of the "**Sparta Institute**", Mrs. **Kanellopoulou**, invited the collective bodies and institutional representatives of the mountain villages of the Laconian Parnon (formerly the municipality of Oinounta and the Karyes Community) in order to discuss about the festivities concerning the celebration of the **200th anniversary of the Greek Revolution of 1821 in Mt. Parnon region**.

The Sparta Institute is a non-profit organization based in the historic city of Sparta and whose main constitutional purpose is to strengthen scientific research on the history of Sparta and to promote the cultural reserves of the wider region. The ultimate goal of the meeting was to draw up proposals to the "Greece 2021" Commission to finance a series of events on revolutionary action demonstrated by the villages of Parnon in the Greek Revolution. The goal is to honor the heroic fighters of our country, to make known to the younger generations their sacrifice and struggle and to highlight the national importance of their presence, as well as the key role of Parnon region in the Revolution of 1821.

The meeting was attended by representatives from all the **villages of North Laconian Parnon** (Karyes, Varvitsa-Skoura, Vamvakou-Megali Vrisi, Vresthena, Vassaras-Verria, Selassia and Koniditsa). It was decided that each community would contribute both unpublished material, which is available in libraries and in private and public archives, in order to start a joint and complete recording.

The Karyes were represented by the **secretary of the Karyates Association**, Mr. **Char. Konstantopoulos**, who after giving a brief presentation of the **heroic Arachova's** contribution to the Revolution, pledged to inform the members of the Local Community of Karyes and the other Local Clubs in order to gather further material.

Moreover the representatives of the villages express their hope that this meeting will serve as a precursor for wider cooperation among the villages of Parnonas.



Kerhoulas Trust: Annual Report of Actions of the Board of Directors (BoD) - Part B

The BoD of the Trust published a detailed report of its activity so far, as well as the planning of its actions for the next period. Our Bulletin, faithful to its mission, which is, among other things, to inform our compatriots, considers that it must publish it as a whole.

Due to the limited space in the previous issue, we published the first part concerning the history of the money transfer to the village and the training and the support of the local producers. In Part B, published in this issue, there is a detailed presentation on the utilization of water resources and cultural and tourism projects.

The utilization of the Karyes' water resources

As the subject is our first Priority, an **exploratory study** among with an **issue of specifications** concerning the Karyes region water resources of Karyes was developed focusing on:

- the backup drilling and integration of additional sources in the **water supply network**,
- the construction of a water tank and / or a small dam (**irrigation network**),
- the closed garden irrigation circuit (for drastic reduction of drinking water use),
- the agricultural and technical study for efficient cultivation proposals and low water requirements and
- the utilization of the Sakali fountain and shaping of the surrounding area.



The hydrological engineer Mr. **Konstantinos Katsaounis** (experienced consultant of water bottling companies) was invited to Karyes on a reconnaissance tour of the area.

- mainly locating (without the use of instruments) in promising areas for test (low cost) water wells, after further investigation,
- highlighting issues of legalization of the existing infrastructure (sources, drilling, drinking water tanks, irrigation water tank, water transmission networks, etc.) and
- looking for the history of about 20 "failed" drillings in the area to avoid trial drilling in their perimeter.

The preliminary finding / proposal of the specialized design company "**ROIKOS**" was revised, headed by executives who had visited Karyes in 2018 and its surroundings. They had proposed the elaboration of class series of studies (**geological, environmental, hydrological-hydraulic, agricultural**) at the level of reconnaissance study, at a cost of € 30.000- and afterwards the support, promotion and approval of studies after consulting about the necessary procedures with local state services and agencies, in order to further promote and mature the projects.

The head of the design office "**ENCODIA**" Mr. **Fotios Fotopoulos**, with experience in small dam and water reservoir projects, was invited to visit Karyes (which he had visited before) to exchange views and submit a preliminary study / proposal for expediency at the points indicated to him, having at his disposal a topographic study downstream of the stream Mousga, which was prepared **voluntarily** by our compatriot Mr. **Ioannis Karygiannis**.

Mr. Fotopoulos, after an on-site visit to evaluate this and other points in the wider area, submitted a relevant feasibility study, **free of charge** (due to his friendship with Karyes expatriate Mr. **Efstratios Costalas**), which shows that the construction of an irrigation project (small dam or reservoir) **is not possible or has prohibitive costs and licensing difficulties**. He also mentioned that it is essential (without approaching the cost) a preliminary series of studies to draw safe conclusions concerning the location of Mousga.

After that development the Department of Water Resources of the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA) was invited. Thus a competent team of NTUA, under Professor Mr. **Dimitrios Koutsogiannis**, visited KARYES twice for AN on-site autopsy and data collection. Therefore,

- the findings of the initial tour of the area were discussed, as a basis for the elaboration of an exploratory study for the utilization of the water resources of Karyes and
- a research project was submitted for the development of the water resources of Karyes, lasting six months and a budget of € **70,000 € + VAT**, plus **other expenses** for visits of the six-member team to Karyes.

The above cost of the NTUA's offer was considered excessive and prohibitive for the **exploratory part** of the required studies and therefore the BoD. of the Trust **rejected it** without discussion, in a discreet way.

In the context of the above actions of the Board, came to the surface in order to discussed again the case of about 20 failed (timeless) drilling and specifically the case for one of them which was then measured with an yield of about five cubic / hour and It was proposed to use it as a backup. With the actions of the Board, there was followed retrial for an entire day (at the end of the summer season, last fall) and an interesting performance of about eight (8) cubic meters / hour was measured, which encourages the launch of its immediate use within 2020. Already, BoD moving in that direction.

At the same time, investigative efforts are ongoing to assess two (2) sites that appear to meet some of the basic criteria for multiplying water storage by the capacity of the existing reservoir ("lake").

It should be noted that the mentioned Trust actions on the top issue of the water utilization and the valuable knowledge accumulated for the future better approach, were completed without any payment given to the experts who visited and performed autopsies / findings on the spot.



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



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

AN ENJOYABLE SUMMER !

**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 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**

At the WEB SITE WWW.KARYES.GR
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via email: info@karyes.gr

Kerhoulas Trust: Annual Report of Actions of the Board of Directors (BoD) - Part B

The implementation of tourism and culture projects

- **The Integrated Path Network Development Action**
- **Its promotion, as the birthplace of Karyatides**

The Trust BoD, taking into account:

- the identity of Karyes as a tourist destination,
 - the options for developing tourist interest infrastructure in a short time and with low comparative (eg with thematic tourism projects) costs and
 - the current attraction of visitors to Karyes only by the quality and specifications of local businesses (eg Savas Cafe), combined with the level of service offered by them,
- examined in detail the development framework of an integrated path network in Karyes, in parallel with the promotion of Karyes as the birthplace of KARYATIDES, as well as the prospects of tourist development of the area.

Data from similar actions in Greece and abroad were investigated and the characteristics of successful path networks were identified, such as:

- Detailed / meticulous mapping and careful route design (by taking coordinates, selecting signage placement points, measuring time / distances, photographing intervention points, route difficulty measurements, etc.),
- European material / work specifications,
- European certification,
- the perfect signage and identity of the network of routes and points of interest of the area,
- the issuance of precision and top quality maps,
- the issuance of a quality travel information guide for the area,
- the integration of the network and the region in the global website and tourist map,
- the promotion in tourist exhibitions / events, in selected locations and in media,
- the utilization of the profile, the infrastructure and the natural beauty of the area and
- the promotion in both Greek and English languages.



It was found that "TERRAIN" is the **only** company in our country that meets the above demanding characteristics and a meeting was launched in Athens by members of the Board along with head of TERRAIN Mr. **Stefanos Psimenos**, where they were confirmed:

- The unique experiences and achievements of the head of the company Mr. Stefanos Psimenos, such as his many years of experience as an advertiser in well-known companies, as a leading cartographer in Greece and as a leading publisher of maps and travel guides, as well as his many years of experience in cartography and the development of hundreds of kilometers of hiking trails and trail networks in Greece and Cyprus,
- TERRAIN's European standards and top quality materials and work, focus on detail, elegance, durability, quality and perfection of deliverables,
- the diligent recording of routes,
- the publications of top, non-competitive maps,
- the versions of top, non-competitive, travel guides,
- the prospect of certification of the paths by a European organization,
- the perspective of effective promotion, in Greece and abroad, of the tourist infrastructure and the profile of Karyes and
- the prospect of utilizing the global name "KARYATIDES".

It was then requested and submitted by Mr. Psimenos an offer to undertake the **design study** of the Karyes trail network, exclusively by him.

The Trust BoD unanimously approved the assignment of the study / design and detailed mapping of the network of paths that will be indicated to it, for an amount of **€ 5,000.00 plus VAT** and accommodation and living expenses of Mr. Stefanos Psimenos for about 15 days in Karyes. The guest house of **Mr. Christos Drakopoulos** was provided free of charge for the stay of Mr. Psimenos and residents of the village offered to Mr. Psimenos unprecedented (according to him) daily hospitality, to the extent that no living expenses were requested in Karyes during his stay.

The study of the network of paths submitted by Mr. Stefanos Psimenos received very favorable comments for its completeness from all members of the BoD it was emphasized that we should continue our cooperation with him in the next phases,

- the development and marking of the **trail network**, independently,
- the publication, in Greek and English, of a quality **tourist map** on the one hand and on the other hand a travel guide and a relevant **website** for which TERRAIN has essentially no competition,
- the **promotion** of the project and profile of Karyes in Greece and abroad, as in travel agencies, on international and Greek sites with high traffic by nature lovers / walkers, in international exhibitions in Europe with high traffic by travel agents and nature lovers / walkers and in Greek media (Sunday leaflets, large readability leaflets and other Greek and foreign media) and
- the **marking**, which was additionally requested, of the four cycling routes of length > 50 km and the points of interest within the settlement, with specifications in Greek and English.

A successful negotiations on technical and economic terms were concluded among with an elaboration of a cooperation agreement (and the inseparable issue of economic and technical terms) between the Trust and TERRAIN S.A Based on them and the combination of quality and prices, the BoD **unanimously** approved the assignment of the project to the company TERRAIN. In particular the BoD took under consideration:

- the widespread acceptance of the BoD's choice for the **development and promotion** of an integrated network of paths, in parallel with the **promotion** of the ancient KARYES, along with its acceptance and the unconditional support by the **GUARANTEE** of the Trust Mr. Panagiotis Kopsiaftis,
- the outflow of a significant percentage (> 30%) of the capital invested in the local community (for the development and marking of the trail network, as well as the marking of cycling routes and points of interest within the village),
- the prospect of Karyes tourist development by attracting nature lovers and hikers from mainly European countries, usually outside the tourist season (Spring and Autumn), creating **opportunities** for fullness of hostels, renting rooms, promoting local businesses, expanding local production and the infrastructure of the village, developing jobs opportunities and possible increase of the value of the properties in the village and
- the Trust' BoD commitment due to the **unanimous** decisions of the residents of Karyes, on October 22, 2017, concerning the implementation of tourism and culture projects amounting to **€ 250,000.00** in order to promote Karyes as the birthplace of KARYATIDES and to the memorandum of understanding between the Trust and the Holy Diocese of Monemvasia and Sparta, among with the guarantee of the noble expatriate benefactor Mr. Panagiotis Kopsiaftis.

The cost of the development and marking section of the trail network, fifty-five (55) kilometers long with seven (7) routes of special calligraphy and various degrees of difficulty, amounts to **€ 73,233.30**, plus VAT and expenses (accommodation / living of the supervisor). The relevant contract has been signed between the Trust and TERRAIN and its execution is already underway and within the schedule.

The cost of independent action for the part of marking the cycling routes and points of interest within the village, the promotion of the above and the profile of Karyes in Greece and abroad, the issuance of a quality hiking / cycling / travel map of the polyart type, the issue of the **quality tourist guide** of Karyes and the development of a **promotion website** on the global website of the profile and the tourist infrastructure of Karyes, amounts to **€ 47,181.80** plus VAT and expenses. The suggestion of the BoD for this action was approved by the General Meeting of March 15, 2020 and was followed by the signing of the relevant agreement between the Trust and TERRAIN.

The implementation of the above actions is expected to be completed within 2020, except for any consequences due to the pandemic of COVID-19.



Epilogue

H The Trust's BoD received the Registration Assets amounting to **US \$ 1,507,955.60**, plus amount of **€ 554.00** from membership fees and also the interest for the period amounting to **US \$ 19,369.01**.

With a total expenditure of **€ 9,122.27**, the balance of the Trust accounts at the end of the financial year 2019 amounted to **US \$ 1,516,800.16** and the fund to **€ 631.73**.

In the context of its feasibility and capabilities, the Trust's BoD will focus in 2020 on launched projects and actions thus:

- the completion of the actions concerning the development and promotion of the trail network,
- the utilization of water resources, partially and at a steady pace and
- the local producers supports in issues of information and organization.
- At the same time, it will explore a number of issues, proposals, collaborations, programs and applications that aim at actions for Karyes development and upgrading.

Finally, the Trust's BoD convened the annual General Meeting of 15 March 2020 in which they **unanimously approved**:

- a. the actions, the deeds and the financial report of the BoD,
- b. the annual report of the Audit Committee,
- c. the budget of **€ 400,000.00** for the actions that have been launched within 2020,
- d. the promotion action of the network of paths and Karyes and
- e. the promotion of the noble expatriate Mr. **Panagiotis Kopsiaftis** as a member of "**Benefactor**", according to article 6.3 of the Articles of Trust, for his decisive contribution to the assets transfer from the Holy Diocese of Monemvasia and Sparta in order to achieve the desire of the late benefactor Panagiotis Kerchoulas "*to create opportunities in Karyes so that the young people of Karyes remain in their place*".

They passed away

**Paris Takopoulos:
a strong presence at the modern Greek theater**



The playwright and theater critic Paris Takopoulos passed away on **Sunday, May 3, 2020** at the age of **90**.

Paris Takopoulos was born in 1930, to a father from Constantinople and a mother from Karyes, Laconia. He was married to Marina Prouisianou without children.

His mother was **Ioanna Diamantourou**, sister of Giannis, Dinos and Eugenios Diamantouros.

His funeral took place on Tuesday at 12.00 at the First Cemetery of Athens.

Our heartfelt condolences

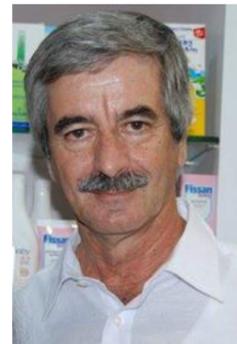
Philip Poulokefalos

The local communities of Karyes and Sellasia, where he lived in recent years, were shocked to the announcement of the tragic death of a well-known Karyatis businessman, who has been active for several decades in the field of decoration and household items and equipment.

Philippos died at **11:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 30, 2020** when he was fatally shot by his shotgun in his car while he was in a field owned by him in the area of Sellasia.

According to the police report, a man who was with the victim at the scene of the tragedy informed the Police and officers of the Sparta Security Department, led by Commander Mr. Zachos Agraniotis, rushed to the area to conduct an investigation, which concluded that the death was a tragic accident.

The deceased had initially developed a business in the city of Sparta and then in the suburbs. He was a well-known figure, low-key and loved by those who knew him, and, of course, have been shocked by this tragic development. The 65-year-old, whose funeral took place in Karyes in a state of severe pain, leaves behind his wife and one daughter.



Our heartfelt condolences

LOCAL NEWS

The Sound Recording of Karyes' traditional Greek songs



At the initiative of the **Folklore Group of Laconia** on **June 12 and 13, 2020**, at the Karyes Community building events hall, traditional songs from Arachova (Karyes) of Laconia were recorded. Local residents of the village, men and women, experiential performers, sang. During this two-day event, 35 music pieces were recorded, the result of 3 years of research that had preceded the village with on-site recordings and interviews.



According to a relevant post by the Group, "we thank the Demos Koutres, Despo Voukides, Alkisti Trakas, Demos Leventakis, Voula Dalakouras, Paraskevas Kolantzianos, Panos Ardamis for their participation in research and recording, their patience and trust. We thank the President of Karyes Local Community Mr. George Devekos, for his undivided support and valuable assistance throughout the research and recording. Finally, all the friends women and men of Karyes for their treats, hospitality, company and love ... there is going to be a second round"

The research, editing and coordination were by Nikolaos Bariamis, the musical editing of the group "Pentaichon", the digital recording of Ioannis Rousetos and the video-photography of Evangelos Rassias.

A Delegation of the Karyates Association met the Sparta's mayor Mr. Petros Doukas

A delegation Representative of the Karyates Association consisted of the Secretary Mr. **Charalampos Konstantopoulos** and the member of the Board and Public Relations Officer Ms. **Evangelia Kopsiaftis-Gioni** traveled to Sparta to meet with the Mayor of Sparta Mr. Petros Doukas.

The purpose of the meeting was on the one hand the acquaintance with the new Mayor, on the other hand the effort to integrate the project of the **completion of the Caryatids Monument** with the **construction of the stone-paved path** that will unite the base of the rock with the Monument.

The Association's delegation participated in a relevant meeting of the under establishment **Evrotas Development Company**. Afterwards the participants visited the "**KYNISKA**" Hotel in the foothills of Mount Taygetos to meet and discuss with the owner of the amazing hotel Mr. **Panagiotis Mazarakis** Finally the Mayor hosted a dinner in Mystras for all the participants.



The Sparta's mayor Mr. Petros Doukas with Karyates Association Secretary Mr. **Charalampos Konstantopoulos** and the member of the Board and Public Relations Officer Ms. **Evangelia Kopsiaftis-Gioni**



From left to right the owner of the KYNISKA Hotel Mr. Petros Mazarakis, the Sparta's mayor Mr. Petros Doukas and the delegation of the Karyates Association



Canada: the spring meeting



The annual spring meeting of our compatriots took place in KARYES Park, Canada on **Sunday, April 26, 2020**.

From the photo it seems that all the participants kept all the prescribed distances, following the government's directions to deal with the coronavirus.

We wish to all the Karyates in Canada to stay healthy, so that by the end of the pandemic to be able to hold their annual events.