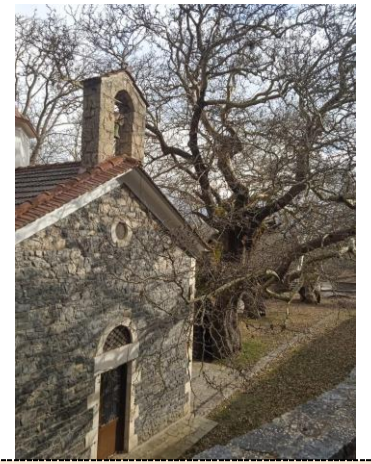




KARYES

Lakonia



KARYATES ASSOCIATION NEWS BULLETIN

Issue Number 36

Spring 2023

A DRY WINTER

The 2022-23 winter in the mountainous Peloponnese was characterized as surprisingly warm with a lot of sunny days. Therefore, the Christmas holiday visitors enjoyed a sunny and relatively warm weather.

Unfortunately, there was also low rainfall. Although there was some snowfall in early February, it was not enough to cover the lack of rain during the months of December and January.

As a result, the visitors of the Clean/Ash Monday long weekend faced the river Diros in Panaghia empty of water!

Fortunately, March seems to bring some rains which are so important for the nature balance.



At the Christmas time the weather was like September



Even for a few days Karyes went "white" again this winter



The village full of people during the long weekend of Ash/Clean Monday

It seems that the two years of travel restrictions due to the Pandemic has created a strong need for traveling to many people, therefore that long weekend combined with the good weather, has a result the village of Karyes, which has already turned into a tourist destination for the central Peloponnese, to be filled with visitors.

Meanwhile, on the initiative of the **Karyes Cultural Club**, a two-day celebration event was organized. So, both on the evening of the last Sunday of "Apokries" and on the morning of Clean Monday, a big fire was lit in the central square.

Αποκριάτικες Εκδηλώσεις
στις **ΚΑΡΥΕΣ**

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ 26/02/2023 - ΩΡΑ 19:00
ΑΠΟΚΡΙΑΤΙΚΟ ΓΛΕΝΤΙ, (κεντρική πλατεία Καρυών)
ΑΝΑΜΑ ΦΩΤΙΑΣ - ΜΟΥΣΙΚΗ (DJ) - ΧΟΡΟΣ - ΑΕΡΟΣΤΑΤΑ
ΣΟΥΒΛΑΚΙΑ, ΚΡΑΣΙ ΚΑΙ ΤΣΙΠΟΥΡΟ (ΔΩΡΕΑΝ)

ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ 27/02/2023 - ΩΡΑ 11:00
ΚΟΥΛΟΥΜΑ (κεντρική πλατεία Καρυών)
ΠΑΡΑΔΟΣΙΑΚΗ ΦΑΣΟΛΑΔΑ και ΣΑΡΑΚΟΣΤΙΑΚΑ ΕΔΕΣΜΑΤΑ,
ΚΡΑΣΙ ΚΑΙ ΤΣΙΠΟΥΡΟ (ΔΩΡΕΑΝ) - ΜΟΥΣΙΚΗ (DJ)

ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΤΙΚΟΣ ΣΥΛΛΟΓΟΣ ΚΑΡΥΩΝ



Furthermore, on Sunday evening, the members of the Cultural Club offered free tsipouro and wine while they baked and offered souvlaki to everyone. Dance Music was played by the loudspeakers and soon the gathering turned into a dance party that lasted for several hours.



On the morning of the Clean/Ash Monday at the central square near the fire many villagers offered Greek traditional Lenten dishes to the visitors. A large stall was set up with several delicacies and all this accompanied by traditional music.

At the same time, many families visited the sports field to fly the traditional kite.



Licence of use achieved for the “Carvelo” site drilling

With the issuance of the corresponding license by the Decentralized Administration of Peloponnese to the Public Water Supply Enterprise of Sparta (D.E.Y.A.S.) the president of the “Panagiotis Kerchoulas Trust Association” and of the Karyes Local Community, **Mr. Georgios Devekos**, stated that: *“The Trust Association will launch immediately, in cooperation with the D.E.Y.A.S., the elaboration of the following steps and procedures:*

- A) the fastest possible power supply to the electromechanical installation of the drilling and
 - B) the implementation of the construction project of the pipeline to transport the drilling water to the Karyes central water supply tank, based on the scheduling of the activities.
- The implementation of this vital project will be a milestone in the development and progress of Karyes”.



This was followed by an official announcement by the Trust Association Board Council according to which: *“Last November and at the initiative of the Trust, a group consisting of the deputy governors of Laconia **Mr. Veroutis** and **Mr. Tzinieris**, our fellow villager **Mr. Giorgos Pouloukefalos** and*

*engineers of a design company who were accompanied by our fellow villager civil engineer **Mr. Vassilis Voukidis**, visited the village for a first survey of the area with the aim of creating an irrigation project for the needs of the village region. On this occasion and with the aim, on the one hand, to make use of the Trust studies and on the other hand to help or even to push pressure to the competent Departments of the Peloponnese Region in order to promote the said project, we sent all the studies to the Region. The Region Government recorded the document and forwarded the file to its relevant Services.*

The Trust Board of Directors hopes that the project will proceed to its completion and will not stay “on promises”, and therefore the Bod will closely monitor every development in order to help where possible”.

At the WEB SITE WWW.KARYES.GR
NEWSPAPER DIGITAL ARCHIVES 1986-2010



A well-known store ceased its operation



The well-known workshop and commercial store selling traditional food products of **Tasia Arfanis-Mahaira**, that dominated the main street, unfortunately ceased its operation due to her retirement. According to her post: *“Unfortunately, as all good things come to an end, it's time for the last titles to fall for my shop as well. A shop that operated for 15 years with a lot of work, passion and love. I had the happiness through that to do what I really wanted, to make traditional sweets and pasta, but also to meet warm and special people who supported my effort all these years. I would like to thank these people, without whom the “Laboratory of Traditional Products” would not have been possible. But most of all I want to thank my family for their practical and moral support: my husband Panos and my children Kostas and Kalliopi. I hope you have the best memories as I do and we will not lose contact... See you in the square for coffee!”*

Public Works



Maintenance work continues on the roads within the settlement of Karyes. As mentioned in our previous issue, the works have already started 3 months ago. Funding has been secured and with the help of good weather the plan is to have these works completed by late spring.



Student visitors from Spartanburg S.C. U.S.A in Karyes



Every year, **Dr. Ioanna Kopsiavti**, an Art Historian Karyatis expatriate university professor and for many years a member of the Karyates Association organizes specialized visits and tours in Greece for students from U.S.A. universities. During these organized tours there is always a necessary stop at her parents’ homeland, the historic and beautiful village of Karyes.

Therefore about 50 young students-visitors from **SPARTANBURG SOUTH CAROLINA, U.S.A.** (an area that hosts hundreds of second and third generation Karyates), visited the village and even had a meeting on Sunday afternoon at 22 January 2023 with the Mayor of Sparta **Mr. Petros Doukas**. They discussed various topics of historical interest and all expressed enthusiasm for the visit (and the local gastronomy). Congratulations.

A presentation on Sparta of the music album «Arahova- Dances and Songs from Karyes Lakonia».

ΠΡΟΣΚΛΗΣΗ

Η Λαογραφική Ομάδα Λακωνίας σας προσκαλεί στην παρουσίαση του μουσικού Λευκώματος **ΑΡΑΧΟΒΑ** Χοροί και Τραγούδια από τις Καρυές Λακωνίας το Σάββατο 28 Ιανουαρίου 2023, και ώρα 18:00, στο Πνευματικό Κέντρο Δήμου Σπάρτης (ισόγειο Δημόσιας Κεντρικής Βιβλιοθήκης Σπάρτης)

Ομιλητές στην εκδήλωση θα είναι οι: Ρένα Λουτζάκη, Δημήτρης Μαντζούρης, Γιάννης Τσουλιάγιαννης, Νίκος Μπαριάμης

Θα τραγουδήσουν κάτοικοι των Καρυών και θα χορέψουν μέλη της Λαογραφικής Ομάδας Λακωνίας. Την εκδήλωση θα πλακωώσει το μουσικό σχήμα **ΠΕΝΤΑΧΩΝ**.

On **Saturday, January 28** at the Cultural Centre of the Sparta Municipality, the **Folklore Group of Laconia** presented the music album. The project was prefaced by **Ms. Rena Loutzakis**, Anthropologist of Dance, Associate Professor of the Department of Music Studies of the Greek Academy of Music, **Mr. Dimitrios Manzouris**, in charge of publications and traditional archive "K.E.P.E.M. Simon Karras", **Mr. Ioannis Tsoulogiannis**, PhD in History, Organist and **Mr. Nikolaos Bariamis**, Researcher, Editor of Publication, Artistic Director of the Laconia Folklore Group.



Residents of Karyes sang at the event, while members of the Laconia Folklore Group danced the village dances. The event was accompanied by the musical group "**Pentaikhon**".



Karyes once again worldwide destination for mountain bike

Once again, Karyes became a center of mountain biking with the organization of its annual race part of the World Championship as well as of the Greek National Championship. Furthermore, the residents had the opportunity to attend the course of the compatriot champion of Greece, **Stamatis Englezos**, grandson of **Spyros Vlachos** and **Eleni Kardaras**.

The International Mountain Bike Games are included in the program of the **World Cycling Federation (U.C.I.)** and are, among other things, the goal of collecting points for men and women, in view of the "Paris 2024" Olympic Games.

Cyclists from **France, Switzerland, Slovakia, Israel, Belgium, Czech Republic, Italy, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Kazakhstan** and **Greece** participated in the races.

The games are held under the auspices of the **Sports Organization of the Municipality of Sparta**, the expertise of the **Spartan Gymnastic Club** and with the support of both the **Karyes Local Community** and the **Karyes Cultural Club**.

"Atrapos" choose Karyes again this year



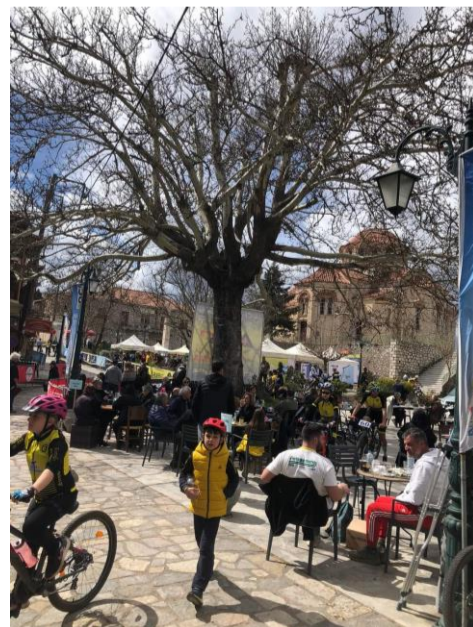
Karyes and the specifically the beautiful traditional guesthouse "**Arachovitika Kalivia**" were chosen again this year by the well-known ecotourism society "**ATRAPOS**" for the cutting of its New Year's pie.



The members of the Society feasted and walked the beautiful "**Caryatides trails**".

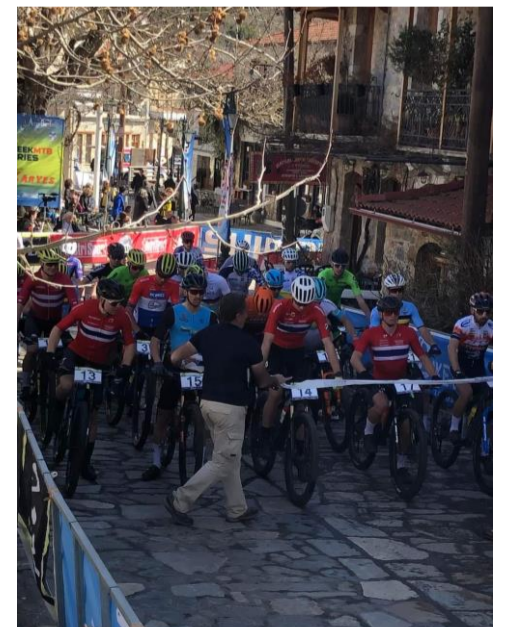


The Greek National Mountain Cycling Team. At the right Karyatis **Stamatis Englezos** (son of **Stevi Vlachos**)



At the same time, at noon on **Sunday, March 12, 2023**, inter-club races were held, included in the Program of the **Hellenic Cycling Federation**, in the categories of boys, girls, youths and mini.

Once again, warm congratulations to the organizers and the volunteers who take care of the promotion of Karyes.

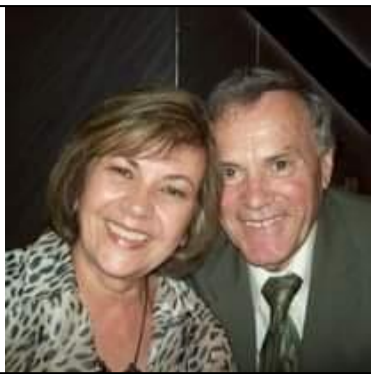


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They passed away



Haralambos Meletios Melehes

passed away peacefully in Karyes, at the age of 86, on February 28, 2022.

The Funeral service was held on March 3 at Saint Andrew Church and the interment was held at the Saint Nikolaos cemetery.

He was a truly decent man, with a sharp mind and very beloved. He and his family were strong supporters the Karyates Association.

He had been an immigrant in Canada for years and had returned in recent years to his beloved Karyes with his wife **Maria**. He leaves behind his daughters **Dimitras (Ioannis)**, **Venetia** and **Paraskevi (Theodoros)** residents of Greece and his son **Meletios (Christina)** resident of Canada.

Demosthenis Kollantzianos

passed away in Karyes at the age of 94, on December 28, 2022. The Funeral service was held on December 29 at Saint Paraskevi Church and the interment was held at the Saint Paraskevi cemetery.

Demetrios Kontalonis

passed away in Athens at the age of 96, on January 2, 2023. The Funeral service was held on January 4 at Saint Andrew Church and the interment was held at the Saint Nikolaos cemetery.

Evangelia Sideroglou-kokkokios

passed away at the U.S.A. at the age of 68, on January 20, 2023. The Funeral service was held on February 6 in Karyes at Saint Andrew Church and the interment was held at the Saint Nikolaos cemetery.

She will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by her father Evangelos, her husband Phillipos, her children Stylianos and Konstantinos, siblings and her four grandchildren.

Helen Harakas

passed away in Athens, at the age of 96, on January 18, 2023. The Funeral service was held on January 20 at Saint Andrew Church and the interment was held at the Saint Nikolaos cemetery.

Panaghiotis Giannouklas from Varvitsa

passed away in Sparta at the age of 104, on March 5, 2023. The Funeral service was held on March 7 at Saint Andrew Church and the interment was held at the Saint Nikolaos cemetery.

Ioanna (Giannoula) Karagiannis

passed away in Karyes at the age of 81, on March 9, 2023. The Funeral service was held on March 10 at Saint Paraskevi Church and the interment was held at the Saint Paraskevi cemetery.



Thomas Giannakopoulos, passed away at Atlanta Georgia, U.S.A. at the age of 88.

He was born on April 15, 1936, to Petro Giannakopoulos and Paraskevi Kontalonis in Karyes. At the Age of 15, Thomas "Tom" traveled alone by ship to the U.S. into Ellis Island. He was greeted by Chris Leventis and first settled in Columbia, S.C. He later joined "Big" John E. Linaditas and the Zesto family in Atlanta, Georgia. Tom was true Entrepreneur and ran a successful business, Zesto, in East Atlanta for over 50 years.

Tom was instrumental in bringing his brothers and sisters to the land of opportunity, America, where they have made Atlanta, Georgia their home.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, **Venetta Kardaras**; sons **Petro and Perry**; daughter **Vivian Syribeys** (Peter); and grandson **John Thomas Syribeys**. Tom is preceded in death by his sister, **Katerina Stathakis**; brothers in law, **Theodoros Stathakis** and **Ioannis Patsouris**. He is survived by his siblings, **Pete (Pauline) Giannakopoulos**, **Evanthia Patsouris**, **John (Theoni) Giannakopoulos**, **Constantina (George) Vlahakis**; brother n law, **Pete Kardaras (Nitsa)**; many nieces, grandnieces, grandnephews and grandchildren.

Tom will be missed by all those who knew him. His heart was full of love and caring for others. Services was held at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Chapel on Wednesday, January 11, 2023.



Nikolaos Dalakouras was called to heaven on February 4, 2023, at the age of 80.

Nikolaos was born on March 4, 1942, to Maria and Giorgios Dalakouras in Karyes (Arachova) Greece. Beloved husband of **Panagiota (Poulokefalos)** for 51 years. Loving and devoted father of **Maria (Nick) Papageorgiou**, **Georgia (John) Voutiritsas**, and **Vasilios (Devin) Dalakouras**. Cherished grandfather of **Victoria**, **Patricia**, **Sophia**, **Leftheris**, **Yianni**, **Elena**, **Nikoletta**, and **Niko**. Dearest brother of the late **Vasilios** (the late **Asimoula**), **Christos (Konstantina)**, the late **Aggeliki** (the late **Haralambos**), the late **Konstantinos (Stavroula)**, the late **Panagiotis** (the late **Sophia**), and **Dimitrios (Eleni)**.

Coming from a small village in Greece, Nikolaos knew life through hard work and dedication. Despite the lack of educational opportunities and fluency in the English language, Nikolaos braved the world with an elementary school education and moved to America in 1968. Through hard work fueled by his passion for providing for his family, and the loving support of his wife, Nikolaos established a loving and stable home for his family in his many restaurant business ventures. His hard work was evident in his blistered hands and feet as he worked tirelessly, without hesitation, to provide for his family. His strong passion, dedication, and love for his family live on in the hearts of all of his children and grandchildren.

Nikolaos adored his grandchildren as they were his prized possession. After retirement, Nikolaos found joy in spending his time with his grandchildren who he referred to as his maimoudakia (monkeys). He enjoyed driving his maimoudakia to school, feeding them fruit from the trees in his garden, and having sleepovers filled with love, αγκαλιτσες (hugs), φιλάκια (kisses), and κουλουράκια (cookies). Nikolaos lived and breathed for his wife, children, and grandchildren. Nikolaos was loved and will be missed by many, including cousins, koumbaroi, and friends.

Visitation was held on Thursday, February 9, 2023, at the St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church in Dempster, Des Plaines, IL. The interment took place at Ridgewood Cemetery.



John Antonios Karavos

passed way peacefully on Thursday, January 26, 2023 at Mount Sinai Hospital, in Toronto Ontario Canada at the age of 96.

John was born on November 27, 1927, in Karyes Laconia, Greece. He was son of Antonios Karavos and Maria Athanailos. He immigrated to Canada on August 2, 1951 to build a life for himself. Four years later, his beloved **Vasiliki (Betty) Andriopoulos** joined him and were married.

They lived a long and happy life together building their dream. John embraced his life in Canada and was a proud Canadian and equally a proud Greek. He was motivated and was active to maintain his roots. He was a co-founder of the Greek Community of Toronto and served on the board for many years. He was also a founding member and served as president along with being a board member of the Adelphotis Arahoviton "Ai Karyai".

John was ambitious and hard working. While working full-time, he attended night school to study bookkeeping and received his diploma. His hard work in the hospitality business kept him busy. He managed Diana Sweets Restaurant for several years before starting his own cafeteria on Bloor Street. John later became co-owner of the Corinthian Restaurant on Yonge and Eglinton.

He enjoyed spending time with friends, loved reading, was an art enthusiast and an independent learner. John is predeceased by his beloved wife. May he Rest in Peace and his Memory Eternal.



Sotirios Varlokostas

died in Toronto, Ontario on February 17, 2023 at the age of 97.

His funeral took place in Karyes on March 5, 2023, at the Saint Andrew Church, while the interment at the Saint Nicolas cemetery.

Sotirios was born in Karyes, Lakonia, Greece in 1925 and was the son of **Neilos** and **Panagiota Varlokostas**. At 19 years of age, he was drafted in the army and served our country for five and a half years. He returned to the village to marry his wife **Constantina Maheras**.

In 1966, he made the difficult decision to leave his home and move to Canada with his family to provide a better life for his children. The family settled in Toronto where they were welcomed with open arms by his wife's siblings. Despite the challenges of starting over in a new place and not knowing the language, Sotirios built a life and bright future for his family working for Brigham Pipes for over 20 years.

Sotirios never forgot his love for his hometown of Karyes, Greece. After seeing the successes of his children in Toronto, he returned to Greece in his later years with his wife Constantina. He took great pleasure in sharing his love of his hometown with his children and grandchildren who often visited him there. If Sotirios wasn't spending his days hunting or tending to his garden, he could be found at the "plateia" enjoying a coffee and good company. His final days were filled with peace as he was surrounded by loved ones.

He was predeceased by his wife. He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by his children **Panagiota (late Evangelos)**, **Panagiotis (Panagiota)**, **Georgina (Petros)** and **Constantinos (Maria)**; grandchildren **Matina (Tom)**, **Dimitri (Rita)**, **Lambrini (Spyros)**, **Sotiri (Victoria)**, **Anastasia (Akis)**, **Constantina**, **Anastasi**, **Constantina** and **Evdoxia**; and great-grandchildren **Petros**, **Eva** and **Grigorios**. Sotirios will always be remembered for his tenacity, wit, generosity and devotion to his family.

The Karyates Association express its sincere condolences to their families.

Karyes Church Council

With a great attendance the Karyes Ecclesiastical (Church) Council **New Year's pie** event took place on **January 29, 2023**, in the event hall of the Karyes Community Hall.

The event was attended by, among others, the president of the Karyes Local Community, **Mr. Devekos**, the president of "KARYATIS" Sports Club **Mr. Theodoros Mentis**, and representatives from **all the institutions of the village** (Karyates Association, Karyes Cultural Club, Fire Safety Club, Blood Donation Club) declaring, among other things, **their support to the Council under the guidance of Father Leontios**.

Happy New Year!



A briefing by the Karyes (Ecclesiastical) Church Council concerning the case of the Karyes' previous vicar

On Sunday morning, **February 26, 2023**, in the Karyes Community event hall, the Karyes Church Council proceeded to inform the institutions and residents of the village about the course of the court case concerning the management of the money of the inheritance of the donor, Helen Pauls, and for the general management of the finances of our parish, under the chairmanship of the former Priest. The ecclesiastical commissioners **Mr. Marinos Arvanitis** and **Mr. Panagiotis Kolovos** took the floor, as well as the Legal Advisor of the Council **Mr. Papadogiannis**.



According to what has been announced, this sad case that has been preoccupying the village for 2 years is at a critical point, after the Sparta's prosecutor's decision. According to that, although it accepts the fact that an amount was taken without justification, the total amount that appears to have been embezzled does not reach at the necessary level to be described as felony. Therefore, it appears as misdemeanor and according to the Greek Law the complaint is dismissed as there is a statute of limitations on the charges due to the lapse of five years. However, **an appeal was filed against the specific decision which was already accepted by the Nafplion Appellate Prosecutor's Office and therefore the prosecution will continue.**



Furthermore, a presentation took place about the efforts of the current Council in order to protect the real estate of the Church in Athens.

For those who are interested, the briefing has been recorded and will soon be available on the website www.karyes.gr, together with the decision of the prosecution.

Crisis at the "Saint Anargiri" Club

One of the side effects of the court case regarding the former Priest of Karyes is the crisis in the "The Saints Anargyroi" Club. According to a relevant open letter of members of "The refusal of the Bod to assist in the case with the former vicar, in combination with the issuance of the decision of the prosecutor's office", led to a sign of protest in the **mass resignation of members**, some of whom were also **members of the Club's BoD**. The relevant announcement is posted on the website www.karyes.gr. This was followed by a relevant response from the other members of the BoD, which is also posted on the website.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Are you involved in the arts (painting, music-song, dance, theater, photography, video, floristry, crafts)?

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

Contact now at our e-mail address: karyates.association@karyes.gr,

or at the phones 6944-784563, 6974-720909.



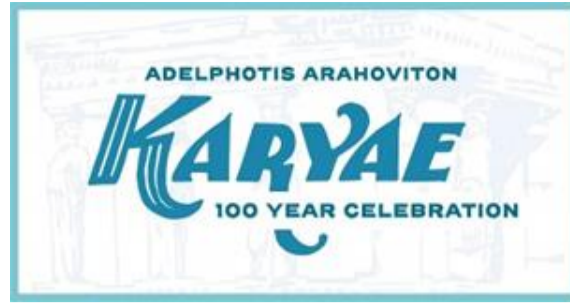
REQUEST

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Karyes (Arahova) was well represented at the annual Greek Folk Dance and Choral Festival (F.D.F.)

The festival which took place **February 16-20 in Phoenix, Arizona** is the largest gathering of youth and young adults in North America, and this year celebrated **46 years** of paradosi. The participants are all children of Greek heritage, some even in the fourth or fifth generation of being Greek-American, and take immense pride in wearing traditional Greek costumes, dancing the steps of their ancestors and singing songs from all areas of Greece. The goal of this shared experience is to encourage and promote our faith, heritage, culture and traditions in the diaspora of Greeks in America. For many years, Arahovites/Karyates from all over the United States have been participating and continue to participate at F.D.F. as dancers, instructors, musicians, parents, grandparents and volunteers for the event.



This year **Ms. Maria (Theodoridis/Theodorakakis)** was given the opportunity to work with **Mr. Niko Bariamis** and **Ms Angeliki Kokkini**, who are the instructors of the “**Laographiki Omada Lakonias/Foloklore Group of Lakonia**”. Mr. Bariamis is also the author of the recently published anthology of Arahova. For the first time dances from Karyes (Arahova) were showcased at F.D.F. and performed by elementary school students from the group of the Annunciation Church in Sacramento “*Oi Apogoni*”. They performed the dances: “*Tou Agianni to pigadi*”, “*Tris kakies mou sinifades*”, “*pou soun perdika kaimeni*”, “*stin apano gitonitsa*” and “*feto to kalokeraki*” and were accompanied by the wonderful musicians **Mr. Panos Skouteris**, **Mr. Panagiotis Stathakis** and fellow Karyatis **Mr. Sarantos Kaperonis**. For their efforts and their authentic representation, they received the second-place award in their age category and won a costume award for the costume of Karyes.

At the Photos, you can see the new generation of Karyes/Arahova, Maria’s children, performing in this dance group. **Vasiliki** sang “*sou pa spatata valonia*” and “*tris kakes mou sinifades*”, while **Yianno** led the tsamiko. Mr. Bariamis also collaborated with another group from Sacramento who presented dances from Kremasti, Lakonias. Finally, **Mr. Jimmy Devokos** also instructed a group in which his children participated and were awarded 1st place in their age group.



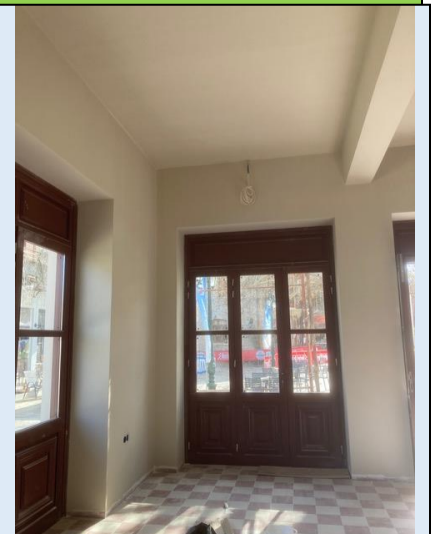
CLUB NEWS

Karyates Association Building

The works on the ground floor shops of the building has been completed and the two stores have already been leased for exploitation. The result, as we can see from the photos, is really very beautiful and soon the residents and visitors of Karyes will enjoy two beautiful places to eat, drink coffee and beverages and to buy traditional local products. The purpose of the Association’s Bod is that the stores will operate as soon as possible in order to upgrade furthermore the image of the Central Square.

At the same time, thanks to the good weather, the works on the floor that will house the Karyes Memory and Culture Centre are also progressing towards completion.

The members of the Karyates Association Board of Directors would like to thank once again all the compatriots and friends of Karyes who have help and continue helping at that great project which was a vision of two generations.



KARYATES ASSOCIATION NEWS BULLETIN QUARTERLY RUBICATION
For information E-mail: info@karyes.gr