



# KARYES

## Lakonia



### Karyates Association's News Bulletin

Issue number 42

Autumn 2024

#### Summer 2024

We enjoyed another beautiful summer in Karyes. This year, in Greece, we had a summer of very high temperatures that lasted for many weeks and as a result we enjoyed beautiful evenings, without the need for a cardigan until the morning.

Many compatriots from all over Greece and overseas spent many days of their summer holidays in our beautiful village. Many visitors from the neighboring towns who wanted to escape the heat and many vacationers from the neighboring villages also visited Karyes. As we have mentioned many times, that was logical as Karyes offer an unbeatable combination.

Natural environment of great beauty, commercial and catering businesses of high-quality level (grocery store, traditional products, restaurants, cafes, patisserie etc), public spaces that would be the envy of even big cities (2 stone-built and large squares, groves), monuments, projects and activities for every modern vacationer and visitor (bicycle routes, marked paths, football and basketball courts, indoor gym). And to all of the above, let's add the many events organized by the Karyes' Clubs. As a result for many days the settlement was bustling with life, especially in August.

We should have this image as a guide for institutions and businessmen, young and old, permanent residents and compatriots leaving all around Greece and abroad, in order to cross the path to the future together with sympathy, cooperation and mutual respect.

We wish a fine fall to everyone!

#### In this issue there are articles of:

**Mr. Theodoros Mentis**  
for the 60 years of Agios Andreas Church

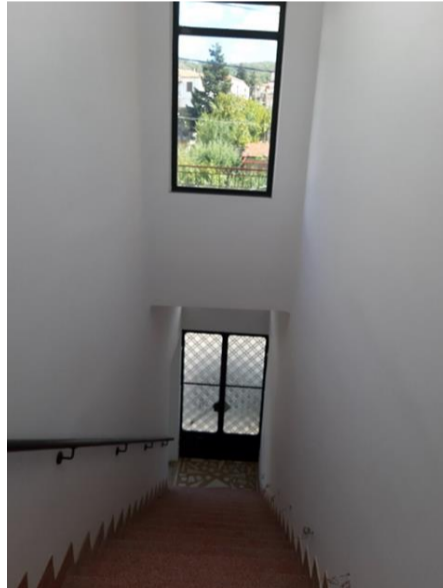
**Mr. Paraskevas Kolantzianos**  
for Athanasios Matalas

**Mr. Michael Repoulis**  
for the Karyates Association's projects

#### Karyes Cultural and Memory Centre (K.C.M.C.) One step closer to the conclusion



The building works on the complex of buildings owned by the Karyates Association in the Central Square are moving intensively towards completion. Weather permitting, the project is expected to be delivered in the **spring of 2025**. The top photos show the ground floor and first floor, respectively, of the former Police-Station building, and the bottom photos show the staircase to the main building floor, as well as the event hall (former blacksmith shop). The dream of two generations of members of the Association is getting closer to its realization, thanks to the offers of our compatriots and the tireless contribution and professionalism of the members of the Board of Directors.



The Karyates Association Board of Directors

announces his intention to proceed

**in the rental  
of his property plot**

**area of 9 acres  
near the chapel of Agia Barbara,**

Anyone interested  
may contact the Association  
via the email address  
[karyates.association@karyes.gr](mailto:karyates.association@karyes.gr)

#### HAVE WE PAYED OUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP?

Dear patriot

The Karyates Association for over half a century serves its purposes thanks to your love and support. To achieve its goals, the only thing that asks from you is the annual membership fee of

**€ 5.00 or US\$ 5.00**

Anyone may pay that small fee, "digitally" through internet banking.

The bank account number (IBAN) is:

**GR 560110 662 00000 66200 228709**

**SYNDESMOS TON APANTAHOU KARYATON SWIFT  
(BIC) ETHNGRAA / NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE**

The same account is available to anyone for donations and any financial support desired for the purposes of the Association.

Regarding the Newsletter, although the cost of postage is high, it will be sent FREE OF CHARGE.

However, every contribution helps us cover the costs and gives us strength to keep going.

*With Patriotic greetings,  
The Karyates Association Board of Directors*

**Plot for sale area 1,234 sq.m.  
with permission to build  
in Kokkinorahi, Lakonia**

Information

on the telephone number **+30-6986-835-980** or  
at the real estate office **5 Star Realty**  
78 Leonidou str. Sparti tel. **+30-697-710-5639**,  
**+30-27310- 22635** or email [info@5starrealty.gr](mailto:info@5starrealty.gr)

**DO YOU WANT TO BE ADVERTISED  
IN OUR NEWSPAPER?**

Contact us at **0030-6974-720909**  
or at the email:  
[karyates.association@karyes.gr](mailto:karyates.association@karyes.gr)

**REQUEST**

Those who wish to receive  
this news bulletin via e-mail,  
please inform us by sending your e-mail  
address at our e-mail address:  
[karyates.association@karyes.gr](mailto:karyates.association@karyes.gr)



# KARYYES SUMMER 2024

## Karyes Parish

The great annual summer religious celebrations of Karyes/Arachova, those of **Agia Paraskevi on July 26<sup>th</sup>** and of **Agios Panteleimon on July 27<sup>th</sup>**, apart from their annual religious character, this year were also an opportunity for the congregation to admire the renovated Churches up close.



The image of the interior of the Church of Agia Paraskevi is truly beautiful. In the previous issues we mentioned those who had contributed financially to the renovation of the icon of the Sanctuary.

The oil painting work of the Temple has now been completed. All the work was done under the close supervision of the Archaeological Service of Sparta since the temple is from the 16th century.

In his speech, Father Leontios, among other things, mentioned that all the Karyates should be proud given that the projects were financed from the income of the **Parish Fund, that is, from the contributions of all of us.**

It should be noted that the Troulos with the Pantocrator and the spherical triangles were painted at the expense of **Mr. Vassilios Matalas** for the health of his wife, children and grandchildren.

On July 27th at the celebration of the memory of Agios Panteleimon in the Church of Agios Andreas where the icon of the Saint is located, **A memorial service at the end of the Solemn Liturgy was also held in favor of Church benefactors and donors**, on July 27th.. The congregation saw a Temple with a new roof and new marble steps in all exits.

Article of the retired middle school Teacher and for many years president of the "Karyatis" Sports Club and the "Skiouris" Foundation, Mr. Theodoros Mentis



Dear compatriots and friends.

We live in a place that has become known as for its ancient and old history first as for its current life. This is evidenced by the marble commemorated plaques mentioned not only the era of each project realization, but also the number of benefactors and donors.

Ladies and gentlemen, in the life of every area, the various social and economic conditions and situations dictated from time to time, the overwhelming need that has been evident for decades to change things, to carry out projects to improve the life of the place.

Thus, for the older to remember and the younger to learn, here in Karyes, the well-known Arachova, projects of enormous importance and value were carried out: The aqueduct, the school, the stadium, the clock, the main church of Agios Andreas, the Community Hall, the lake, the squares and so many other smaller ones that continuously and systematically help to improve the life of our small area.

So today, on the second day of the festivities, on the **feast of Agios Panteleimon** and in this Holy Church, in addition to the solemn celebration, a **memorial service is held in honor of the great benefactors and donors for its construction**, which has been a **landmark and characteristic work for 60 years in its life in the center of the Community.** And on this occasion, dear friends, in addition to the prayer, it is worth mentioning briefly but also essentially the need to carry out this project that the residents of the time found, decided, and implemented.

It was clear, friends, that despite the immigration in the 1950s, the small church below was inadequate for its needs and role. As can be seen from the **texts of the Ecclesiastical Council** at that time, with deed number 5 on January 29, 1960, the land was assigned at the location of Vigla, that is, here. The Parish Committee, as it was called then, consisted of **Anastasios Anastasiou (Priest), Dimitrios Anglezis, Nikolaos Vastis, Ioannis Harakas and Nikolaos Christopoulos.**



On **March 13, 1960**, the work of beautifying the site began and then an expense was approved for the transfer of the soil from the Vigla location to Agioi Anargyri. On **June 2, 1960**, the Holy Temple was established and immediately the crews of that era, without machines, went to work. The work was mainly carried out by hand and on **October 23, 1960**, it was confirmed that the outer walls and roof were finished and the amount allocated is 850,000 drachmas, with an additional amount of 700,000 drachmas required.

In **1961**, the work continues, and the amount spent amounts to 950,000 drachmas, the old house of N. Karygiannis is purchased for the extension of the courtyard and the sale of the timber of the fir trees in the precinct is carried out. In **1962**, additional works took place and on **July 7, 1963**, a vote was passed for the opening of the Church. It is decided to perform them, which takes place with all solemnity and in the presence of the residents on **July 28, 1963**, by the **Metropolitan of Canada Mr. Anatolios.** Subsequently, on **October 20, 1963**, it was decided to demolish the old Church and sell its old materials.

After the glorious opening ceremony and the commissioning of the New Church, the Parish Committee meets and announces its Benefactors and Major Donors.



The Commission of that era consisted of **Spyridon Kotinis, (Priest)** and members **Nikolaos Christopoulos, Ioannis Anglezis, Spyridon Prekezes and Panagiotis Diamantouros.**



Therefore, according to decision **number 7**, on **October 20, 1963**, **Ioannis G. Darnos** was declared a **Great Benefactor.**

According to decision **number 9** on **November 17, 1963**, the following were declared:

- **Benefactors** **George K. Costalas** and the **Arachovite Brotherhood (Adelphotis) of Gastonia Carolina U.S.A.**
- **Major Donors** **George N. Charakas, Ioannis P. Stathakis** and the **Brotherhood (Adelphotis) of Arachovites of Canada.**
- **Donors** **Andreas Sar. Trakas, Konstantinos Geor. Voukidis, Demosthenes Geo. Voukidis, Antonios Gr. Karygiannis, Nikolaos P. Seimenis, Paraskevas Leventis family, Konstantinos P. Mentaulos, Konstantinos I. Karavos, Andreas G. Vastis, Panagiotis N. Charakas, the Brotherhood (Adelphotis) of Arachovites Chicago Illinois U.S.A. and the New England Brotherhood (Adelphotis) of Arachovites (Boston, Massachusetts) U.S.A.**

Ladies and gentlemen,

Over the years, the Holy Church acquired an office and a warehouse in the forecourt, and finally, it is only a few years since the canonization was completed with the assistance of expatriates and residents of Karyes. But as is natural, time, which wears everything down, managed to cause serious damage to the tiled roof, but as always happens, the love for the birthplace also did its duty.

The following list of donors, namely **Messrs. Diantzikis Vasilios, Dimitroulas Panagiotis, Diantzikis Panagiotis, Kastanas Panagiotis, Koutsogiorgas Panagiotis, Koutsogiorgas Georgios, Kyriazis Theodoros, Bonos Ilias, Darnos Georgios, Skiuris Odysseas, Skiuris Panagiotis, Span Theodoros, Spyropoulos Panagiotis, Sotiropoulou Eleni, Hasapis Konstantinos** and the **Panagiotis Kerchoulas Trust**, help so that the Holy Church of Agios Andreas looks like new, to continue its worship work with the beauty and magnificence that befits the glory of the Saint.

Closing this historical review, we wish for those who departed for the journey of Eternity that their memory on earth be eternal and their glory eternal in the heavens for their contribution to such a great work, and to the living to themselves and their families health and strength.

**Happy Birthday everyone!**  
**Theodore Mentis**



# KARYES SUMMER 2024

## Karyes Local Community

### The General Assembly of residents of Karyes for the year 2024

On the afternoon of Friday, **August 19, 2024**, the **General Assembly of residents for the year 2024** took place at the Karyes Community Building.

The meeting was organized after the Karyes Local Council decision on 15.07.2024 and according to the announcement, the topics to be discussed were:

- "The provision of social or other services to serve the residents of their area (water supply, fire-extraction, etc.)."
- Taking measures for the protection of the elderly and children within the framework of the Municipality's social policy.
- The projects to be carried out in the Local Community.
- The provision of services for the tourism utilization and promotion of the Local Community.
- The implementation of cultural, entertainment and sports programs".

Key speakers were the president and the member of the Council of the Karyes Local Community **Mr. Panayotis Mentis** and **Mr. George Dalakouras**, as well as the representative of Karyes in the Municipal Council of Sparta, **Mr. Dimitrios Arvanitis**, who in his capacity as head of the Sparta Municipal Water Supply and Sewerage Company (D.Y.E.Y.A.S.) made an extensive report on the actions that have been taken and are planned to be taken in order to deal with the problem of water shortage that plagues Karyes like so many other parts of Greece.

A dialogue followed with many of the attendees.

It should be noted that both the good organization and the good atmosphere that prevailed also impressed the present vice-mayor, **Mr. Pantelis Giannakopoulos**, who in his final statement - greeting stated that it should be an example for all the respective Assemblies of the Municipality.



### Arachovitika Panighyria 2024

The traditional Arachovitika Panighyria (Festivals) were organized again in the summer of 2024 with an even greater people's attendance as this year they coincided with the weekend.

The Panighyri/festival of **Agia Paraskevi** took place in the square of Rachi on the evening of **Friday**, July 26, and the Panighyri/festival of **Agios Panteleimon** took place next evening on **Saturday**, July 27, in the Central Square.

Apart from the visitors and the Karyates living in Athens and in the big cities around Greece, there were hundreds of expatriates who participated, since like every year the festivals are an opportunity for social gatherings.

#### At the Saint Paraskevi Panighyri at the Rachi Square



#### At the Saint Panteleimon Panighyri at the Central Square



## Karyes Parish: Religious Celebrations

On **August 29<sup>th</sup>**, the Orthodox Church commemorates the **Dissection of the Head of Saint John the Baptist**.



Therefore, the Christians went up to the grove of the Municipality's Clock to attend the divine liturgy at the beautiful Chapel dedicated to his memory. Father Leontios took the lead in the doxology surrounded by cypresses, firs, a bright sun, a view of the lower village and the "Rogia".

Bread and small raffle gifts were distributed in favor of the parish fund. The people then went down to the cafes of the central square spending time with the friends and relatives who these days started to return to their second homeland.

On **September 14**, the Orthodox Church commemorates the first **Elevation of the Holy Cross** that took place in 335 AD. At the Main Church of **Agios Andreas** the members of the congregation attended the solemn Divine Liturgy in the beautifully decorated church.



The **Genesis of the Theotokos**, or the Birth of the Theotokos, is a Christian holiday that refers to the birth of the Virgin Mary and is celebrated on **September 8<sup>th</sup>** by the Orthodox Church..



Karyes have a Chapel that is dedicated to that holy event and which is located in the **settlement of Foteinos**. Every year the celebration is an opportunity for a last gathering of the vacationers, as it is a few days before the start of the school year. Although the Church is the furthest from the village, the beautiful place, -in the green and the oak trees-, and the autumn weather the good organization of the members and volunteers of the Ecclesiastical Council along with the offering of snacks and wine from **Vangelis and Alcestis Ardamis**, contributed to the great gathering of people.



This year, in fact, after the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy by Father Leontios, in addition to the traditional treats and the lottery, there were also "sack races" with the participation of the children.



# KARYES SUMMER 2024

## Karyates Association

### The General Assembly and the elections results

On **Sunday, June 16<sup>th</sup> 2024**, the **General Assembly of the Karyates Association** took place in the events hall of the Philoproodos Association of Agiasiotas, 3rd September street no. 39 in Athens. Although the heat was intense, there were many compatriots who honored us with their presence.

The **agenda items** were:

1. Report of the Board of Directors.
2. Account of income and expenses.
3. Audit Committee Report.
4. Exemption of the Board of Directors from all liability.
5. Election of a new Board of Directors
6. Election of a new Audit Committee.
7. Miscellaneous Notices.

Below we publish the Report of the **Audit Committee** on the financial data of the Association for the period **19.05.2021 to 10.06.2024**.

#### REMAINS OF PREVIOUS MANAGEMENT

- 1) AT EUROBANK € 13,683.61
- 2) AT NATIONAL BANK € 1,024.61

#### CURRENT MANAGEMENT BALANCE

##### A. Account at Eurobank:

REVENUE € 270,362.30 (€ 13,586.61 balance of previous year + € 256,775.69)  
EXPENSES € 259,541.97  
Account balance + € **10,816.33 (deposits)**

##### B. Account at National Bank:

REVENUE € 24,894.61 (€ 1,024.61 balance of previous year + € 23,870.00)  
EXPENSES € 17,621.00  
Account balance + € **7,273.46 (deposits)**

##### C. CASH IN CASH

REVENUE € 2,420.00  
EXPENSES € 2,413.68  
Balance + € **6.32**

**GRAND TOTAL € 10,816.33 + € 7,273.46 + € 6.32 = € 18,096.11**

#### OBLIGATIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION TO THIRD PARTIES

Loans received by S.A.K. from its members, in the total amount of € **28,000.00**, which the Association has to repay and the rest of the debt to Real Estate Tax (EN.F.I.A.) 2024 in the amount of € **2,500.00**.

The composition of the **new Board of Directors** as shown by the elections and the subsequent first meeting of the newly elected members is as follows:

**President:** Michael Repoulis

**Vice Presidents:** Dimitra Mermiga-Karkalatos and Annita Gleka-Prekeze

**General Secretary:** Charalambos Konstantopoulos

**Treasurer:** Nikolaos G. Trakas

**Members:** Lefkothea Latsis-Kourmouzis, Helen Skevakis-Trakas, Spyridoula Koulogeorgiou and Helen-Chrysoula Prekezes-Bouloutas

**Alternate Members:** Evangelia Kopsiaftis-Gionis and Christos P. Prekezes.

The **new Audit Committee** consists of Michael Andrew Binis, Maria G. Koulogeorgios and Dimitrios Pan. Kyriazis and Anastasios P. Athanailos as an alternate member.

The newly elected members want to thank all the participants, but also all those who have always supported and continue to support the Karyates Association and promise to try with all their might for the realization of the objectives of the Association.

### The annual summer reception



The Karyates Association's annual summer reception was held once again with great success. The event hall of the Community Building on the evening of **Saturday 20 July** was filled with compatriots and proved to be small to accommodate all the people who wanted to attend the meeting. The members of the Board of Directors and the volunteers had prepared treats and drinks for everyone.

The event was honored, among others, by the president and members of the **Karyes Local Council** (the president, **Mr. Pan. Mentis**, addressed a greeting), the **Municipal Councilor of Karyes** in the Municipality of Sparta, **Mr. Dimitrios Arvanitis**, who also addressed the attendees, the **Priest of Karyes, Father Leontios**, the presidents and members of the Board of Directors of the **Cultural, Sports, Fire Safety and Blood Donation Clubs**.

There were also many representatives of the Karyatic Brotherhoods abroad, and a special mention deserves to be made of the presence of the president of the "AI KARYAI" Brotherhood in the Carolinas (Gastonia) for many years, **Mr. Nikolaos Karygiannis**.

After the welcome speech and a brief report by the president of the Karyates Association BoD, **Mr. Mich. Repoulis** concerning the progress of the projects undertaken by the Association, there was a presentation of the study about the beginning of the first phase of the creation of the Karyes Memory and Culture Center by the compatriot **Director of the Greek Culture Ministry Mrs. Vili Fotopoulos** (mother name **Anglezis**).

The members of the Karyates Association Board of Directors want to thank all compatriots who honored the event and all the speakers for their kind words.



### Donation in favor of the Karyates Association

In addition to the annual contributions, we receive, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts, faithful to what we have promised, we publish the significant amount of financial donations that the Association receives. For this purpose, we would like to thank:

- Ms Pota Vasti and her daughters Valerie, Maria, Ioanna and Andria who deposited the amount of € 700.00 in memory of Georgios Vastis,
- Mr. Aristotle (Arthur) Kakaris for the donation of € 200.00
- Ms Dimitra Galani-Roupa and Ms Vasiliki Roupa for the donation of € 80.00
- Ms Veneta Theodoridis-Panopoulou for the donation of € 40.00

### An outdoor cooking workshop for children

Once again, in the summer the members of the **Karyates Association** offered a beautiful event for the **village's kids**. Therefore, on the afternoon of **Sunday, August 4, 2024**, in the Central Square the "**Cooking Play**" took place, with the "**JOY TRAIN**".

It was an outdoor cooking workshop for children aged 3 and up, with team games and dance!

### A necessary clarification

In our previous issue, it was written that the Sarri coffee shop in Rachi square is managed by Sofia Lassos, which is a false statement since the business is still run by the **Sarris family**.

This recording was due to incorrect information and the editorial team of the Bulletin apologizes.



# KARYES SUMMER 2024

## Karyates Association

### The first phase of the museum study of the Karyes Memory and Culture Centre and the funding approval for the construction of the stone path to the Caryatid Monument

Article of the chairman of the Karyates Association Board of Directors **Mr. Michel Repoulis**

Dear Compatriots,

We are pleased to inform you about the positive developments regarding the two projects that the Association has undertaken to carry out in our beautiful village of Karyes Laconia, Arachova of Parnon.

In the great project of the **creation of the Karyes Memory and Culture Center (K.M.C.C.)**, the Association was first registered in the **Index of the Greek Ministry of Culture** by collecting several supporting documents. On 03.14.2024 the Association submitted to the Department of Museums of the Ministry a detailed and painstaking digital application for **funding the required museological study**, which includes three (3) phases.

The request concerned the A' phase and was for an amount of € 21,000.00. We are pleased to inform you that our application has been approved for the amount of **€ 15,000.00**.

The first phase includes:

1. Collection and study of all available archival and bibliographic material on Karyes (January 2024- June 2024),
2. preparation of an Open Workshop, possibly lasting two days, to inform the inhabitants of the village about the Karyes Memory and Culture Centre, the form the exhibition can take and how the inhabitants themselves can contribute to the creation of content and an
3. on-site collection of stories and artifacts (July to December 2024). Preparation of a list of documents to be utilized and finally – Classification – Documentation – Digitization (December 2024).

In the other project, that of the **construction of the stepped road (path) from the Main Street to the Monument of the Caryatids** and therefore the completion, in this way, of the Monument, as its creators had envisioned, we have good news there as well.

The Karyates Association has been trying for years to find a financier for the construction of the project, which was also **supported by the Karyes Local Councils**. But the Sparta Municipality was unable to find money, despite the occasional promises of the mayoral candidates, and that is why it did not complete the final technical study of the project. Following this, the Association turned to the **Region of Peloponnese**, where after repeated visits to the **Vice Region of Laconia**, we were promised that it would finance the project as long as the final and certified technical study of the project was presented to it. However, due to the inability of the technical service of the Municipality to compile it, the Association addressed to a private engineer, who, after many efforts and confrontations with the staff of the Technical Service, completed and submitted it.

The Exhibition was checked by the Architectural Committee and finalized in May 2023. All this at a cost of **€ 2,000.00**. Then it was sent by the Municipality of Sparta to the Region of Peloponnese with a request for the financing of the project.

Despite the pre-election period of the self-governing elections and the repeated promises received by the president of the Association for funding, there was no progress at all and thus the Board of Directors was thoroughly frustrated.

Unexpectedly, at the beginning of June, the **Regional Committee of Peloponnese** chaired by **Mr. Christos Lambropoulos** and with its decision published amended the technical program of 2024. Thus, it committed the amount of **€ 74,400.00** for the construction of the scale. Subsequently, at the Meeting of the **Sparta's Municipal Committee** on **Tuesday, August 20, 2024**, the approval of the conclusion of a **Program Agreement between the Region of Peloponnese and the Municipality of Sparta** for the project: "**Construction of a path to the site of the Caryatids monument of the Karyes Local Community**", which was finally approved.

We would like to thank those who helped, especially the **Deputy Governor of Laconia Mr. Theodoros Veroutis**.

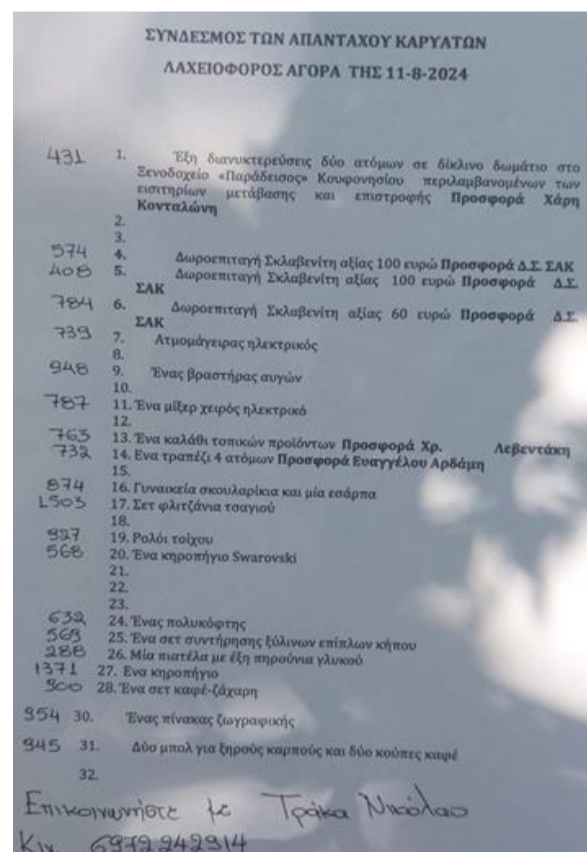
Finally, a vision of many years is coming to its realization.

### The annual summer dance

With much fun and dancing, the people of Arachova celebrated in the forecourt of Agia Paraskevi Church at the **annual summer dance of the Karyates Association**, on **Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup>**. The participants enjoyed classic traditional Arachovite songs performed by the music band of **Spyros Koutsovasilis and Irini Christofilakis**.



The Karyates Association Board of Directors awarded the university new graduates and offered a commemorative plaque to **Mr. Theodoros Mentis, former president of the Karyatis Sports Club**, for his social, sporting and cultural contribution to the village for more than 35 years.



The lottery tickets were drawn, and the two lucky winners won a seven-day stay on the Aegean islands.

Afterwards, the party was ignited by the folk, folk and artistic rhythms of the band and the dances lasted until morning with the participation of young and old Karyates.

See you next year.

On the left picture the lucky numbers.





# KARYES SUMMER 2024



## Memorial of the great benefactor Athanasios Matalas from Lakedemon

On the morning of **Sunday August 11<sup>th</sup>**, after the end of the Divine Liturgy in the **Holy Church of Agia Paraskevi**, the memorial service was held in memory of the great benefactor of the place **Athanasios Matalas**, predecessor of the priests **Father Georgios Blathras** and **Father Leontios**.

All the bodies of the village, the President and the members of the Local Council, presidents and members of the Board of Directors, of the clubs and a large number of people were present to honor the memory of this great benefactor.

It should be noted that an honorable mention was given to the former presidents of the villages of **Karyes** and **Vresthena**, **Mr. Devekos** and **Mr. Dimaras**, respectively, for the consistency of their duties during their tenure on the Board of Directors of the **Matalas Foundation** in which they participated due to their position.

We are publishing an article by our compatriot, retired middle school Teacher **Mr. Paraskevas Kollantzianos**, which was read that day.

Our village, our beautiful Arachova, was fortunate to have many of her children who adored her and benefited her in whatever way each one chose. Some of us younger people either got to know them through their donations or were lucky enough to live with them. But there are also the anonymous ones, those who did not want publicity. We thank all of them from the depths of our souls.

However, our village is lucky because even in modern times its children do not forget it. Their love and their bond with the homelands, wherever they are, is a motivation for great benefits. This is how stadiums, boreholes, aqueducts, renovations of holy temples, paths and anything else that can contribute to the progress of our village has been made.

But today is an important day for Arachova. It honors its **greatest benefactor Athanasios Matalas**.

Athanasios Matalas was born in the beautiful Karyes of Lacedaemon from the great generation of Matalas whose roots reach back to Byzantium. His father was Anagnostis Matalas. He learned his first letters in the village and continued at the Greek schools of Agios Petros of Kynouria, Sparta and at the Gymnasium of Tripoli. A restless spirit, thirsty for higher education, he studied at the **Law School of the University of Athens (1859-1863)** under the guidance of enlightened teachers.

He occupied important positions and coveted titles that many then and now would be jealous of and distinguished himself by leaving his indelible personal stamp. For 20 years (1862-1882) he worked in the **Greek Consular Service** as Secretary, Deputy Consul and Consul and for this he was honored with the **Order of National Services**.

He then served as Secretary and Consul in **Alexandria**, Egypt and **Thessaloniki**. There he made great efforts and managed to establish pure Greek Communities, to govern themselves in order to throw off the Turkish yoke and prevent the propaganda of the Bulgarian nationalists. In 1864 he served in the consulates of **Chania** and **Heraklion** in Crete and in 1864-66 in the consulate of **Constantinople**. In 1866 as vice-consul in **Sulina**, Romania, a large Greek Community - where he found a way to financially support the **Cretan Struggle** (1866-1869). He finished his term in the consular service of **Philippoupolis** (1874-1881) in Eastern Romilia (present-day Plovdiv, Bulgaria).

He played an important role with his activities in favor of the **Macedonian Question** and for this he was honored by the Central **Macedonian Association** in **1905** with an **Honorary Diploma**.

Athanasios Matalas, however, was also a **great merchant**. He imported yarn - being in Philippopolis - tobacco, timber and grain. In **1882** he settled in **Piraeus** where he continued his commercial activities.

As is understandable, he had acquired a large fortune, which is why he limited himself to the Flour Mill located in **Nafplion**. But when the homeland was needed, he willingly offered his services as the Prefect of **Argolida-Corinthia**, **Phthytida-Fokida** and **Arcadia**, for this reason the Greek Prime Minister **Georgios Theotokis**, a native of Corfu, praised him from the podium of the Greek Parliament as an **indefatigable and successful Local Governor**.

But it doesn't stop there: in **1900** he was elected **Mayor of Oinountas** (the Laconian region of the villages of northern Parnon, including Karyes). Under his guidance, 30 kilometers of roads were opened with the citizen's personal labor. His interest also turned to agriculture, forestry and Local Governance.

In **1882** he founded a **Greek school** in Arachova which he maintained at his own expense for a year. It was a 3-year school between Primary and High School. In **1886** he acted to build a **building for the Primary school** here in Agia Paraskevi. He distinguished himself as a private individual in the dissemination of the weaving art in the Oinountas municipality and was the **founder** of the **Sparta Gymnastic Association** and served as sports director for 15 years (1898-1912) organizing annual games. Finally, he tried, without success, for the building of the railway connection between the cities of Sparta and Tripolis.

The culmination of all his efforts was his **will**, that he drew up by hand in **1919** and which is a **culmination of his love for his special homeland, Lacedaemon and a sermon of love for youth and Man**.

The "**Foundation of Athanasios Matalas of Lacedaemon**" which he founded, and which includes the Municipality of Oinountas and a large part of Laconia has far more than 1,000 scholars. He died in **1922** at the age of **86**.

The life and activities of Athanasios Matalas - unfortunately - cannot be included in a presentation that requires a specific timeline. Anyone can fill in infinite details. However, what we ALL owe is to become reverent pilgrims in his memory and grateful for his enormous contribution and, if we can, worthy continuers of his life and his vision for a free country with prospects for the future.

I described his offer as enormous.

When they gave the honor of proposing me as a speaker, I faced a big dilemma: what should I say so that my peers and our even older ones don't think that what I say is too little, and our younger ones - and because our living conditions they are completely different - am I exaggerating?

I'll try to stand in the middle.

Alexander the Great had said the following: "*to my parents I owe my life ("zin"), to my teacher I owe my good life ("ef zin")*". I paraphrase the word "*my teacher*" with the word "*my benefactor*".

Let us ask ourselves, then, how many of us old scholars who faced insurmountable many times, difficulties - even for the tickets for our transfer to the place of our studies, or for the purchase of various aids would have succeeded, small or large, the little or the most that we achieved if that restless, bright mind was not found to secure the "scholarships" for us, so that after finishing the Primary school of our village, we could go on to our high school studies in Sparta and the various University Schools? And this because he saw that the future of our country rests on education.

Today, of course, things are a bit different: a lot has changed: there is greater financial comfort, the children return to their homes free of charge after school every day, they have their hot food and the warmth of the family along with the financial help of Matalas Foundation.

We must note at this point that scholarship holders until **1993** were only **boys**. With the amendment of the will, the **girls** also get a scholarship. That is why we can justifiably be proud of all the educated Arachovites: teachers, professors, doctors, pharmacists, lawyers, notaries, economists, engineers, biologists and anyone else who thrived in their field.

And, while we all expected that conditions would be better and our children and grandchildren would live better, finally, the economic crisis, the energy crisis, the various pandemics, the unemployment rate create insurmountable obstacles that only with cooperation, respect for opinion of the other, honest dialogue can be addressed.

And currently, fortunately, there is no shortage of people who want to contribute in any way. Let us all become a fist and try to be useful in our country. No one is left out.

For the value of sympathy, I only mention this as an example: In the distant 1971, as a candidate for the Faculty of Philosophy, I competed in the exhibition with a theme concerning a dialogue between the righteous Aristides and Themistocles before the naval battle of Salamis. It should be noted that Aristides had been exiled at the initiative of Themistocles - you see there were rivalries even then - and he returned voluntarily in the face of the Persian danger to help. "*We*," Aristides tells him, "*must argue about who will offer more to the Homeland*." To remember our national poet Dionysios Solomos who famously says in a stanza of our National Anthem: "*If they are hated among themselves, they do not deserve freedom*".

My reference to today has only one goal: **to see our village progress**. Karyes should succeed it and has the right to, because we are happy to see, after many years, young children playing in his squares.

I claim nothing at my 72 years. "*I am not dazzled by any passion; I play the lyre and I stand upright with the open mouth of my message*."

At the WEB SITE [WWW.KARYES.GR](http://WWW.KARYES.GR)  
NEWSPAPER DIGITAL ARCHIVES  
1986-2010

Ψηφιακό Αρχείο Εφημερίδας  
**Καρυές**

## ANNOUNCEMENT / INVITATION

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 the Karyates Association email address [karyates.association@karyes.gr](mailto:karyates.association@karyes.gr),  
or at the phones (+30) 6944-784563, 6974-720909.



# KARYES SUMMER 2024

## Karyes Cultural Club



The Karyes Cultural Club took the initiative, as it does every summer, to organize quality events for the residents and visitors to enjoy.

Therefore, the Club Members co-organized with the **Karyes Local Community** on **Wednesday August 7th** in the Central Square a **Greek music evening** with the band of **Spyros Koutsovasilis and Erini Christofilakis**. The event was essentially a musical tribute to the famous passed singers **Stratos Dionysiou and Rita Sakellariou**.

On **August 17th**, the famous annual **Summer Youth Party** took place once again, in the **Agia Paraskevi** grove.

The well-known DJs **Petros Karras and Maria Doukas** entertained the attendees with well-known greek and foreign music hits. Hundreds of people, residents, visitors and vacationers from all over Laconia and Arcadia came to Karyes to have fun.



The members and the volunteers of the Karyes Cultural Club organized a high-level event with a bar for drinks, a bar with cocktails, as well as stands with souvlakia and lukumades (Greek donuts). The party lasted until the morning hours.



ΔΩΡΑ ΚΛΗΡΩΣΗΣ SUMMER PARTY 2024		
1	ΘΑΜΝΟΚΟΠΤΙΚΟ ΕΧΟ SRM 420 TES ΑΞΙΑΣ 550€	1821
2	ΗΛΕΚΤΡΙΚΟ ΠΟΔΗΛΑΤΟ CITYS 27,5" ΑΞΙΑΣ 500€	2485
3	ΚΛΑΔΕΥΤΙΚΟ ΑΛΥΣΟΠΡΙΟΝΟ ΕΧΟ CS 251 TESCA ΑΞΙΑΣ 400€	1050
4	(1) ΔΙΑΝΥΚΤΕΡΕΥΣΗ ΓΙΑ 2 ΑΤΟΜΑ ΣΤΙΣ ΚΑΡΥΕΣ - ΠΡΟΣΦΟΡΑ ΚΟΛΟΝΟΣHOUSE PROPERTY	1808
ΔΩΡΟ ΕΙΣΟΔΟΥ		
1	ΤΕΝΑ VOUCHER ΔΙΑΚΟΠΩΝ ΑΞΙΑΣ 1000€ - EKDROMI.GR ΠΡΟΣΦΟΡΑ ΤΟΥ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΤΙΚΟΥ ΣΥΛΛΟΓΟΥ ΚΑΡΥΩΝ	324



All the previous news bulletin are at your disposal in digital form at [WWW.KARYES.GR](http://WWW.KARYES.GR)

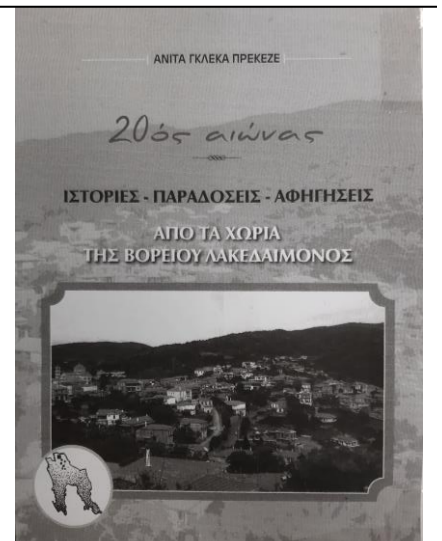


### Availability of Annita Gleka-Prekeze's book "20th century, Stories, Traditions, Narratives from the villages of North Lacedaemon"

This book, which was published two years ago, with the kind sponsorship of the Municipality of Sparta and our expatriates **Panos and Voulas Kopsiaftis**, is the work of the well-known author **Anita V. Prekeze (née Glekas)** and which the author dedicated to the **Karyates Association** whose she has been a key supporter for many years.

The first edition was sold out, since the books became literally rapturous and well-loved. The Association proceeded to a **second edition**.

Copies of this important book can be obtained from all members of the Board of the Association. More information at tel. **0030-6985-120559**, or at [karyates.association@karyes.gr](mailto:karyates.association@karyes.gr)





# KARYES SUMMER 2024

## SOCIAL NEWS

### They passed away

On June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024,  
**Dimitra Koutsogiorga, widow of Panagiotis Bonatsos,**  
passed away in Athens at the aged of 73.

Her funeral took place on June 6<sup>th</sup> in Karyes at the Cemetery of Agios Nikolaos.

A few days later, on July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024,  
her mother **Maria Koutsogiorga, nee Pantazopoulos,**  
passed away also in Athens, at the age of 95.

Her funeral took place on July 13<sup>th</sup> in Karyes at the Cemetery of Agios Nikolaos.

On June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
**Dimitrios Macheras**  
passed away in Karyes at the age of 90.

His funeral took place on June 8<sup>th</sup> in Karyes at the Cemetery of Agios Nikolaos.

On July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024,  
**George Andrianakis,**  
passed away in Karyes at the age of 93.

He was one of the nicest presences in the village, a sweet man. His funeral took place at the cemetery of Agios Nikolaos the following day, on July 10<sup>th</sup>.

Our deepest condolences to the families.



On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024  
**Fotoula widow of Dimitrios Koutsogeorgas, daughter of Pericles Mavrias**  
passed away at the age of 79.

She was the beloved mother of Thodoris, owner of the "Platanos" tavern in the central square and of his sisters Konstantina (wife of Ardamis) who lives in Karyes and Dimitra (wife of Dimaras) who lives in the USA. Her funeral took place on June 5<sup>th</sup> in Karyes at the Cemetery of Agios Nikolaos.

Our deepest condolences.



On August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
**Despina Boukidis** passed away at the age of 88 in Karyes

"Thia Despo" was one of the emblematic residents of Arachova. Her funeral took place on August 8<sup>th</sup> in Karyes at the Cemetery of Agios Nikolaos.

Her Children Panagiota (resident of Chios), Konstantinos and Konstantina wife of Kanja (USA residents) in their fb post noted "A Big Thank You for the respect and love you show our mother all these years and the respect you showed her until the last moment. Thank you."

Our deepest condolences.



On August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
**Nikolaos Kolovos**  
passed away in **Melbourne, Vic, Australia** at the age of 87.

He was a child of a large family and immigrated to Australia where he settled down creating a nice family. He leaves behind his wife Dimitra, his two children Konstantina (wife Dimitriou) and Ioannis and grandchildren Georgios, Nikolaos and Zoe.

Our deepest condolences



On June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024, **Panagiotis "Pete" Barlas** of Columbia, MD passed away

He was a devoted husband to his wife Angeliki Barlas, a passionate father to Eleni and Louis Kanaras, Irene Barlas, and George Barlas, and a loving grandfather to Alexandra and Christiana Barlas and Yianni and Taiki Kanaras. Great grandson, Dimitri Barlas.

With no more than a shirt on his back and a work ethic, Pete came to America in 1969, a country where he knew no-one and couldn't even speak the language. He took any job he could get, working day and night to save up money to bring his family with him. He moved to Columbia and with his sweat and determination, open Pete's snowballs and fruit stand.

His friendly demeanor, with the occasional free peach cut right from the tree, brought the community together for decades. He loved and knew every single customer on a personal level like they were family. Pete enjoyed traveling, boxing, his animals, and the not so occasional road trip. Despite his busy schedule, he was always there for his family and was a shining example of how life should be lived.!

Our deepest condolences

### Baptisms and weddings

Two baptisms of young Karyates from new families who have decided and live in Karyes took place in the summer.

On July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024, the current president of the "Karyatis" Sports Club **Ioannis (John) Mentis** and his wife **Maria Tsopela** baptized in **Agia Paraskevi** chapel in Karyes their son. And his name is **George**.

On July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, **Konstantinos (Kostas) Vastis**, owner of the coffee shop "SAVAS CAFE" in the Karyes central square and his wife **Marianna Heilakos**, baptized their daughter in the **Chapel of the Dormition of the Virgin (Panaghia)** in Karyes. And her name is **Martha**.

We wish them a good life as Christians!

On August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 the wedding of **Dimitrios Kenieris and Panagiota Nikolaos Vrynios** took place on the **Assumption of the Virgin Mary (Panaghia)** chapel in Karyes.

Their son's baptism followed. And his name is **Grigorios**.

We wish the couple a prosperous life and a good Christian life to their son!

### At the next issue (Winter 2024-25):



News from the Adelphotis  
(U.S.A. and Canada)

1924-2024,  
100 years

"KARYATIS" Sports Club:  
A Century full of offer

The Christmas celebrations



KARYATES ASSOCIATION NEWS BULLETIN QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

For information E-mail: [karyates.association@karyes.gr](mailto:karyates.association@karyes.gr)