



KARYYES

Lakonia

8

PAGES!!!

KARYATES ASSOCIATION NEWS BULETTIN

Issue number 40

Spring 2024

The Karyates Association annual dance



Members of the Karyates Association Board of Directors. From Left, the General Secretary **Mr. Charalampos (Harris) Konstantopoulos**, the vice Presidents **Ms. Demetra (Toula) Mermighas-Karkalatos** and **Ms. Annita Glekas-Prekezes**, the President **Mr. Michael Repoulis**, the Treasurer **Ms. Lefkothea (Lefki) Latses-Kourmozos** and the member **Ms. Evangelia Copsiaftes-Gkiones**.

On **Sunday, February 4, 2024**, the **Karyates Association** organized the annual dance of "New Year's pie cut". The event took place at the "Musical Routes" music center on Patision Street in Athens. In addition to the compatriots living in Athens, a small delegation of village residents led by **Father Leontios** also arrived. It was a pleasant surprise.



The Board of Directors welcomed all the attendees and wished them a Happy and Creative New Year. The secretary of the Board of Directors **Mr. Harris Konstantopoulos** conveyed the wishes of the president of the Karyes Local Community, **Mr. Panagiotis Mentis**, and the cutting of the board's pie followed by the president of the Karyates Association, **Mr. Michael Repoulis**. The lucky one winning the "flouri" was **Ms. Lefki Latsis**.

The pie, was offered by "APOLONION" candy store of **Mr. Vas. Evangelou** and **Ms Georgia Mermingas**. It should be noted that once again the compatriot **Mr. Bill (Vassilios) Ardamis** who maintains the **ARDAMIS GUESTHOUSES** in Monemvasia offered as a gift two nights stay.

There were also many other gifts and therefore the Karyates Association BoD wants to thank all those who offered them.

The event was continued with a lot of Greek dance music accompanied by the center's orchestra and led by the amazing singer **M. Soultatou**.

2024: A Year dedicated to Village's Clubs

As the Greek people say "every place has its own people". Likewise, in Karyes, where wherever you look, you may see the human works and legacies of previous generations, which individually but above all collectively created and bequeathed to us. Therefore, the Bulletin of the Association will try to highlight the work and future plans of the village Clubs too.

On the occasion of both the recent municipal elections where a new **Local Council** was elected, as well as the elections in a number of Clubs (**Cultural Club, Sports Club, Fire Safety Club**), we think that it is an opportunity for a more thorough presentation. The new members of their BoDs offered a radical age renewal.

We should also mention that election took place also in the "**Kerhoulas Trust**" and the "**Agioi Anargyri Association**", in which the newly elected Board of Directors are called to chart a new path keeping the "positives" and correcting any "negatives".

Of course, the entry of young people in every organization inevitably has as a side effect the departure from the spotlight of many compatriots who had offered a lot at the village of Karyes. To all of them we owe **gratitude** and we hope that their experience will help the new members to "follow their steps".

Obviously one issue will not be enough to make a complete presentation. However, the tribute will be spread over all four issues of 2024 in order to cover the theme as fully as possible.

8 pages!

Before we leave you to enjoy reading, the newsletter editorial team is pleased to inform you that the Newsletter is now increasing its pages from 6 to 8.

This decision was led by the need to record all the news of Karyes and Karyates worldwide, but also our willingness to publish special tributes, interviews and any other informational and cultural material.

Enjoy!



The Karyates Association Board of Directors announces his intention to proceed

in the rental of his property plot

area of 9 acres near I.N. of Agia (Santa) Barbara,

for the purpose of its tourist exploitation.

Anyone interested may contact the Association via the email address 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.

DO YOU WANT TO BE ADVERTISED IN OUR NEWSPAPER?

Contact us at **0030-6974-720909** or at the email: 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

Water supply works

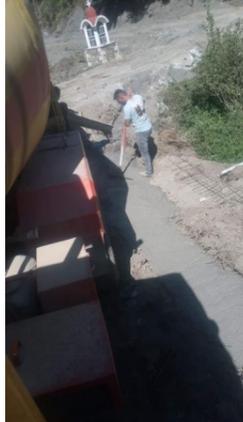
The Donation contract was signed between the "Trust Management Association of Panagiotis Kerchoulas" and the "Municipal Water Supply and Sewerage Company of Sparta" (D.E.Y.A.S.) for the project "New water supply network from drilling in the Karvelos location in an existing reservoir".



According to what is mentioned in number 12 of decision 113/2023, the Board of Directors of D.E.Y.A.S. approved on May 26, 2023, the cost of the project amounts to € 124,401.00 and the implementation will be completed within 3 months. Specifically, one (1) month is provided for the auction and two (2) months for the construction. Then there will be a period of 15 months where the contractor will maintain the project and then the final acceptance of the project will follow.



Also, a three-member **Donation Project Committee** will be formed with two members of the D.E.Y.A.S. and one of the Association and also afterwards the **Committee for Monitoring and Receiving the Donation Project** will be formed too consisting of 3 technical employees of the Technical Service of D.E.Y.A.S. We should mention that at the expense of the Kerchoulas Association, there was a



drawing up of the Technical Opening and Construction Report, by the preparation of the Technical Report on Pipeline Digging and Construction with the significant non-profit contribution of the compatriot Hydrological Engineer Ms. **Georgia Leventakes**, as well as the submission of a water use permit accompanied by its relevant chemical analysis which was submitted to Water Department of the Peloponnese Region.

It should be noted that the work in the drilling area has been completed (construction of a shelter for the electromechanical installation). The works, as can be seen from the photos, have started and are continuing normally.



Irrigation

According to the information provided by Mr. **Georgos Pouloukephalos** in his public post, at the meeting of August 28, 2023, the **Regional Council of Peloponnese** approved the funding for the study of the irrigation system of Karyes.

It concerns the **definitive study** concerning the water transport with natural flow from "Milia to Rema" to an open reservoir in a position above "Kamini" and from there with a closed network of transport distribution to the entire settlement and the surrounding area.

Burglaries

Disturbance was caused to the residents and vacationers of Karyes due to burglaries that took place during the summer in the village.

Burglars broke into some houses unfortunately in the summer, mainly during the evening hours and during the days of some events. A police team came from Sparta, recorded the data and carried out checks.

It is a fact that since then there have been no further cases, however we should all be careful and avoid having jewelry and large sums of money in our homes.

The celebration of October 28, 1940



The National Day of October 28 was celebrated with the appropriate splendor at the sanctuary of St. Andrea. The bell rang joyfully from early on and in the solemn eulogy of the day, "Ti Ypermachō strategō ta nikiteria..." was chanted by father Leontios and the participation of many from the congregation. Afterwards, the students of the Karyes Primary School enthusiastically recited poems and sang songs about the anniversary of "OXI - NO".

Later at the Monument of the "Nike", a memorial service was held and wreaths were laid by representatives of the local authorities, the national resistance representatives and a student of the Karyes Primary School. Finally, the National Anthem was sung and a minute's silence was observed in memory of our glorious dead.



Karyes: An autumn full of visitors

Another autumn confirmed that Karyes is now a destination of pan-Hellenic interest. The beauty of nature, the easy access, the hiking routes "Karyatides Trails" of the Kerchoulas Association, the Karyates monument of the Karyates Association, the beautiful guesthouses, as well as of course the provision of high-quality catering services are a magnet for a multitude of visitors from all over Greece. At the same time, numerous tributes in the press and in public media present Karyes, advertising the village to all over Greece and beyond.

We are republishing 2 indicative photos from members of hiking clubs that visited Karyes in Autumn.



Spring Events

On the initiative of the Karyates Cultural Club, two new events await the residents and visitors during the Spring of 2024.

On the **7th, 9th and 10th of March**, once again, Karyes will be the center of **Mountain biking** since the international races will take place.



On **March 30 and 31**, Mount Parnonas will hear the familiar sound of racing car engines, as the **Rally Sprint of the Panhellenic (Greek) Championship** will take part.

Both events are expected to attract hundreds of visitors.

A mild winter



The winter of 2023-24 in Karyes, as in all of Greece, was characterized by high temperatures and many days of sunshine. If we exclude a two-hour light snowfall at the beginning of December (photo left), the village saw a white day again only at the end of January (photo right) which was mild, as the snowfall lasted for a few hours. Since then, unfortunately, there have been no other opportunities for the village to dress in white. Let's hope that in the spring there will be enough rains so that during the summertime there will not be a water shortage problem.



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



The patron saint of Karyes, Apostolos Andreas, was celebrated with grandiosity

On November 30, 2023, the memory of Apostle Andreas, patron saint of Karyes, was celebrated with grandiosity and solemnity in the homonymous church of the village. On behalf of the Metropolis of Sparta and Monemvasia, **Bishop Theofilos**, several priests and, of course, **Father Leontios**, priest of Karion, were present.



The deputy mayor of Sparta, **Mrs. Georgia Zaharakis**, and the local authorities also attended.

Afterwards, the congregation was offered coffee and sweets by the members of the **Karyes Church Council** and the **Karyates Association**, in the ground floor event hall of the Community Building.

It should be noted that the event was attended by a group Sparta's Open Centre for Elderly Protection.



Christmas in Karyes



The Christmas, New Year and "Fota" holidays proved once again the fact that the village of Karyes has already become a popular winter tourist destination.

The guest houses were fully booked for several days, while every day the taverns, and the cafes served the numerous visitors of the beautiful village.

Both squares of Karyes were beautifully decorated, while at the same time on Christmas day in the evening, the Christmas party of the Karyes Cultural Club was organized once again at the event hall of the Community Building.

Furthermore, it should also be noted that in the new traditional cafe "Melios" on the eve of the New Year organized a Greek Music night (Rebetiko music).



The new Municipal Authority of the Sparta Municipality took over



The new president of the Karyes Local Community Council **Mr. Panagiotis Mentis** signs the formal paper, assuming his duties under the gaze of the other two new members **Mr. Georgios Dalakouras** (on left) and **Ms. Sofia Lassos** (behind)

On January 1, 2024, the new **Municipal Authority of the Sparta Municipality** under the **Mayorship** of **Mr. Michael Vakalopoulos** took over. At the swearing-in ceremony of the new Sparta Municipal Council, on behalf of the Karyes village, **Mr. Demetrios Nick. Arvanites** was sworn in as a new municipal councillor.

At the same time, in the same ceremony, the swearing in of the members of the new elected Local Communities Councils took place. In this context, the **new president** of the **Karyes Local Community**, **Mr. Panagiotis Mentis**, was sworn in, as well as the other two members, **Mr. Georgios Dalakouras** and **Ms. Sofia Lassos**.

The Board members of the Karyates Association wish them success in their difficult work.

Correction: In the previous issue, it was not mentioned that in the elections for the Local Council the "**People's Rally of Sparta**" received 62 votes, i.e. a percentage of 15.58% and as a result the party's candidate **Mr. George Dalakouras** was elected as a member.



Our young people and their studies

Ms. Kaliop Macheras successfully completed the "**Statistical and Service Research**" master's degree at the Mathematical School of Athens. She was sworn in with an **honors degree** on 12.12.2023. We wish her every success in her life.

“KARYATIS” Sports Club: A new era

On **December 3, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**, the elections for a new Board of Directors of the “Karyatis” Sports Club were held in Karyes. The following are the results of the elections, the financial report for the years 2021-2023, as well as the composition of the new Sports Club Board of Directors. Notable were the mandatory presence of a bailiff in the three-member composition of the electoral committee, the division of the ballot into two sections, one for the election of the president and one for the remaining members of the Board of Directors, as well as the mandatory presence of women as candidates in percentage of at least 1/3 of the number of seats to be elected for the Board of Directors.

Financial Statement

YEAR 2021	€
REVENUES	
Balance transfer from 2020	10.637,32
Football Subsidy	7.500,00
Athletics Subsidy	7.500,00
A' semester interest	0,48
Matalion Institution Subsidy	150,00
B' semester interest	0,52
Total	25.788,32
EXPENCES	
Pay Documents number 1 to 62	14.306,24
Total	14.306,24
REST AMOUNT	11.482,08

YEAR 2023 (until 11.30.2023)	€
REVENUES	
Balance transfer from 2022	14.273,41
Football Subsidy	7.500,00
Athletics Subsidy	7.500,00
Total	29.273,41
EXPENCES	
Pay Documents number 1 to 29	3.962,89
Total	3.962,89
REST AMOUNT	25.310,52



The new Board of Directors

After the completion of the electoral process, the elected members met on **Friday, December 8, 2023** in order to form a body.

So, the new form of the Board of Directors is:

- President: **Ioannis Mentis**
- Vice-president: **Marinos Arvanitis**
- Secretary General: **Konstantinos Macheras**
- Special Secretary: **Theodora Tsakona**
- Treasurer: **Charalampos Bakirtzidis**

The new Executive Committee (members):

- **Ioannis Leventakis**
- **Marina Arvanitis**
- **Spyridon Leventakis**

The members of the Karyates Association Board of Directors congratulate the newly elected members and declare their will to cooperate with the new council in whatever is needed, as was also the case with the previous administration.

YEAR 2022	€
REVENUES	
Balance transfer from 2021	11.482,08
Football Subsidy	7.500,00
Athletics Subsidy	7.500,00
A' semester interest	0,42
Matalion Institution Subsidy	150,00
Membership Fees	20,00
Total	26.652,50
EXPENCES	
Pay Documents number 1 to 48	12.379,09
Total	12.379,09
REST AMOUNT	14.273,41

Balance Analysis

BANK	ACCOUNT NUMBER	€
Piraeus	6340-125910-651	9.438,63
Piraeus	6340-142691-792	15.000,00
Amount in the "president's hands"		871,89
Total		25.310,52

At the same time, they want to express their thanks to the outgoing president Mr. **Theodoros Mentis** for his many years selfless contribution to the "KARYATIS" Sports Club. They hope that his contribution will serve as an example for the new members.

PETER KERHULAS TRUST: Results of the General Assembly / Elections



ΚΑΤΑΠΙΣΤΕΥΜΑ
ΠΑΝΑΓΙΩΤΗ
ΚΕΡΧΟΥΛΑ

PETER
KERHULAS
TRUST

On **Sunday, October 29**, the General Assembly of the Kerchoulas Association took place at the ground floor Hall of the Karyes Community Building,

According to what was recorded in the multi-page report (it is posted on the website www.karyes.gr) of the amounts that were decided at the establishment of the Trust an amount of € **252,000**- out of € 500,000- has been spent on **water resources** (along with other € 100,000- offering of Panag. Kopsiaftis) and there is a balance of € 252,000-, while another amount of € **213,000**- of the total € 250,000- has been spent on tourism and recreation, i.e. another amount € 37,000- remains available.

However, an amount of € **8,600**- out of the total of € 200,000- has been spent in the area of producer support. Finally, it should be noted that an amount of € 159,000 has been spent from "Unavailable".

In summary the **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT BALANCE SHEET 2022** is as follows:

CREDIT		
PURPOSE	AMOUNT €	AMOUNT US\$
Balance transfer from 2021	20.580,95	1.228.309,00
Conversion from U\$ D	597.531,73	-629.031,87
Other receipts of fiscal year 2022	238,00	1.122,38
TOTAL AMOUNT	618.350,68	600.399,51

DEBIT		
PURPOSE	AMOUNT €	AMOUNT US\$
Balance transfer from 2022	234.093,81	368,80
Balance transfer to 2023	384.256,87	600.030,71
TOTAL AMOUNT	618.350,68	600.399,51

At the same time, from **01.10.2022 until 09.10.2023** were spent the following amounts in €, including VAT. 24%:

1	Glazing materials for the Church of Agios Andreas	29.983,00
2	Students Financial support	8.012,00
3	Repair of Sakali spring barrels and supply of a 3rd barrel	2.808,00
4	Album presentation	4.741,00
5	Law Services	4.092,00
6	Defibrillator training	377,00
7	Emergency assistance to a producer due to bad weather	2.000,00
8	Construction of the "Karvelo" pipeline	39.679,00
9	Small expences	375,00
10	"Karyatides Trail" maintenance	570,00
TOTAL AMOUNT		92.637,00

The new Board of Directors

President: **George Dem. Devekos**
 Vice-president: **Nikolaos Pan. Kopsiaftis**
 Secretary General: **George Kon. Athanailos**
 Treasurer: **Andreas Kon. Voukidis**
 Members: **Demetrios Kon. Leventakis,**
Nikolaos Kon. Kolovos and
Sarantos Nik. Kaperonis

The Karyates Association Board of Directors congratulate the newly elected members and state that they expect good cooperation between the two bodies for the future of Karyes.

The new Executive Committee (Members):

Vasilios Kon. Voukidis
Paraskevas Chr. Kolantzianos
Konstantinos Elias Satamatis

Karyes St. Andrew Church Council: An interesting interview with Father Leontios

to the head of the Bulletin's editorial team **Mr. Harris Konstantopoulos**

About two and a half years have passed since Father Leontios took over as priest of the Parish of Agios Andrea in Karyes. During this time, much has been done regarding the maintenance and renovation of the churches that Karyes are so proud of. The Editorial Team of the Newsletter is launching a series of interviews with the people who represent the local clubs and institutions in order to inform all the compatriots about the works they done and the challenges that they face.

Char. Konstantopoulos: Father Leontios, we wish you a happy new year. You have been serving the parish for about two and an half years. What is the general picture you have obtained?

Father Leontios: Mr. Konstantopoulos, happy New Year wishes from me, both to you and to the members of the Karyates Association Board of Directors, but also to all Arachovites/Karyates. First of all, I want to publicly thank you both for your current invitation to present the work of the Parish regarding the maintenance of the village's churches, but also for the long-term presentation through the news bulletin of the Karyates Association about the actions it carries out from time to time. Regarding your question now, I want to underline that in the short time I have been serving in the parish, I have been amazed by the feeling of contribution of the patriots towards their village.

H.K. On behalf of all patriots, thank you for your kind words. First of all, let's start with a presentation by you of the interventions that have been carried out in the two central parish churches.



The works at the dome

P.L. In the central Church of the **Apostle Andreas**, the work on the new ceramic roof was completed with the help of expatriates, the "**Kerchoulas Trust**" and the Grace of God. For the happy outcome of all these efforts we should thank, among the others we awarded at the special event in the summer, the expatriate **Mr. Pangioties (Takis) Skiouris** for his active contribution.

After all, I had emphasized upon assuming my duties, that the first and absolute priority - before any other action of mine - would be the maintenance and good operation of the central temple of Karyes.



Today's external view after the completion of the works at the main church of Agios Andreas

In the church of **Agia Paraskevi** in Rachi, the doors of the church have been replaced and the "iconostasis" painted in accordance with the instructions of the Archaeological Service, grace to a donation from **Ms. Litsa Floris and her daughter Ms. Paraskevi (Vivian)**. The work will continue, given the permission of the Metropolis of Sparta for the oil painting of the Church's interior, founded by the parish money reserve.



The renovated iconostasis of Agia Paraskevi church

H.K. The truth is that the results are impressive and visible to everyone. Let us now proceed to the rest of the churches that are within the settlement of Karyes. What did you meet when you came, what did you accomplish and what is being planned?

P.L. From the four churches, **St. John on the Clock** was in the best condition and had recently been maintained both externally and internally. At the church of **Dormition of the Virgin (Panagia)**, recent works had been done before I took over (writer's note: at the initiative of the "**Agioi Anargyri**" Club and with the financial contribution of patriots as we have presented in previous issues) regarding the maintenance of the church. During my ministry, the interior oil painting was completed with the donation of the brothers **Mr. Panagiotis and Mr. Demosthenes Kolovos**.

Our current effort is located in the church of **Agios Nikolaos** in the upper cemetery. We recently completed the removal of the plasters and then the grouting. With the grace of God and the help of the Karaytes, we will complete the rest of the work related to the external image of the temple, such as the cleaning of the gables. All the works in this particular church have been financed only by the parish reserve.

Our future plans concern interventions in the church of **Agios Dimitrios**, which although is the most recently built within the settlement it has not actually been seriously maintained since 1980.

H.K. Let's talk now about the churches that are situated outside the settlement, but certainly belong to our parish. What is going on there?

P.L. After a fully completed survey, the conclusion is that the chapels of **Saints Constantine and Helen** and **Saint Barbara** in the forest above the village are in good



The renovated external view of Agios Nikolaos chapel

condition, as well as that of Chapel of **Archangels Gabriel and Michael** at the entrance of the village which is also the newest church (1998) of our parish. Furthermore, the chapel of the **Nativity of the Virgin Mary** in Foteinou is also in very good condition. Also, shortly before I took over, the chapel of **Agia Kyriaki** on the road to Sparta had recently been renovated (writer's note: in 2018 at the initiative of the "**Agioi Anargyri**" Club).



The Archangels "Taxiarhes" chapel



The Agia Kiriaki Chapel



The Nativity of Virgin Mary Chapel



The Agioi Anargyri chapel

For the Chapel of **Agioi Anargyroi**, when I took over, extensive foundation strengthening, maintenance and renovation work had begun and was completed at the initiative of the "**Agioi Anargyroi**" Club and with contributions from patriots, as you had presented in detail in your previous issues. These works have been completed and now the Ecclesiastical (Church) Council is proceeding, using money from its reserve, to implement the final phase of the works inside the Chapel (oil painting).

However, the chapel we focused on was that of **Agios Georgios** in the Karyatic plain ("Arachovitikos campos"), where we proceeded with oil painting works both inside and outside the chapel and in the maintenance of the windows, while the roof is immediately being repaired.

In conclusion, as you can see, a lot has been done, a lot is being done and a lot remains to be done. Our aim is to ensure that all the money resources of our parish are properly managed and the patriot donors to whom we thank them once again.



The renovated interior of Agios Georgios Chapel

I would like to note that our Parish systematically helps those parishioners who are in need, while it is next to the children of the village by organizing, for example, school trips, giving Christmas presents to the children of the Primary School, while assisting within its capabilities in any activity of the organizations of her village is requested.



Finally, I would like to underline that none of this would have been possible without the harmonious cooperation between the members of the Ecclesiastical Council and the volunteers of our Parish.

H.K. Father Leontios, thank you for the detailed information and we wish you, both you and the members of the Ecclesiastical Council, as well as the volunteers of our Parish all the best in order to achieve your goals.

Elections at the Karyes' Fire Safety Club

On Sunday, **November 12, 2023**, in the morning, the **Karyes Fire Safety Club** General Assembly took place in the event hall of the Karyes Community Building. The discussion was about the Report of the outgoing Board of Directors and the election of a new Board of Directors and an election committee. After the completion of the procedure, the elected members met and the **new Board of Directors was formed**, which issued a statement in which it warmly thanks the members who participated in the process.

The new Board of Directors

President: **Achilleas Sioutos**
 Vice-President: **Andreas Tsioulos**
 Secretary General: **Ioannis Mentis**
 Treasurer: **Stefanos Melechis**
 Public relations officer: **Konstantinos Kolovos**
 Material Officer: **Nikolaos Arvanites**
 Member: **Konstantinos Dalakouras**

The new Executive Committee (Members):

- **Ioannis Tsopelas**
- **Theodoros Mentis**
- **Konstantinos Macheras**

The Board of Directors of the Karyates Association wishes the new Board of Directors a good term and declares himself ready for any cooperation.

Alternate Members: **Ioannis Koutsogiorgas, Dimitrios Spiliakos**

Memorial for the benefactor G. Th. Sciouris, Ecclesiastical Council Pitta Cutting, Student Awards

Although there was a morning snowfall that "decorated" the village in white, on **Sunday January 28, 2024** Karyes once again celebrate.

After the Divine Liturgy in the **Church of the Apostle Andreas**, the **Memorial Service of the benefactor of the village G.Th. Skiouris** from **Father Leontios** took place. The **Foundation** that bears the name of the late patriot has been benefiting the village for many years, both through grants to the "Karyatis" Sports Club and to the village's youth.

This year's ceremony was of particular importance since the long-term key executive of the Foundation, Mr. **Theodoros Mentis**, left concluding his service after many decades. Inside the Church, Father Leontios delivered a speech as vice-president of the foundation and underlined the decisive contribution of the former president Mr. **Georgios Devekos** on the one hand, and Mr. Theodoros Mentis on the other, both in the initial creation of the Foundation, and in its flawless operation for more than 3 decades.

This was followed by the excellence honoring to last year's graduates of Karyes Primary School, where the students **Evangelia Papamichail** and **Marietta Katsaros** were awarded.

Afterwards, the attendees visited the Ballroom at the ground floor of the **Karyes Community Hall**, for the "pita cutting" ceremony of the **Karyes Ecclesiastical (Church) Council**. On the initiative of the **Karyes Local Community** and the village Clubs, a treat was offered to them.

The new **President of the Karyes Local Community**, Mr. **Panagiotis Mentis**, welcomed the attendees and thanked the guests, especially the re-elected **Deputy Governor of Peloponnese**, Mr. **Theodoros Veroutis**, and the **MPs of Laconia**, Mr. **Neoklis Kritikos** and Ms. **Naya Grigorakou**, for their presence.

The **new municipal councilor of Karyes**, Mr. **Dimitris Arvanitis**, conveyed the greetings of the new **mayor of Sparta**, Mr. **Michael Vakalopoulos**, while Ms. **Margie Konstantopoulou**, **manager of the Karyes web site www.karyes.gr** conveyed the greetings and wishes of the **Karyates Association Board of Directors**.



A photo from the celebration

Changes at the composition of the Skiouris Foundation Board of Directors

According to the results of the elections at the Karyes Local Community and at the "Karyatis" Sports Club there were inevitable changes in the composition of the Board of Directors of the Public Beneficial Foundation "G. T. Sciouris".

As is well known, the Foundation is managed by a seven-member (7) council which consists of the **4 ex officio** members, specifically the respective President of the Karyes Local Community, the Priest of the Karyes parish, the president of the "Karyatis" Sports Club, whose the testator was also a founding member and the Principal of the Karyes Primary School. The remaining three members are elected by the rest members.

Therefore, since 01.01.2024 the new Board of Directors took over as follow:

President: **Panagiotis Mentis** (President of the Karyes Local Community)
 Vice-president: **Konstantinos Vardakis** (Karyes Priest)
 Secretary General: **Panagiotis Kolantzianos**
 Treasurer: **Panagiotis Macheras**
 Member: **Georgios Diamantouros** (Principal of the Karyes Elementary School)
 Member: **Vasilios Voukides**
 Member: **Ioannis Mentis** (President of the "Karyatis" Sports Club)



Wishes for the new year 2024

According to a published announcement of the **Kerchulas Trust**, signed by its president **Mr. Georgios Devekos** at the WWW.KARYES.GR:

Following a written request submitted by local producers, the consulting company B.S.S. visited the village in order to prepare and examine the opportunities for investments under the European programs for local producers.

The program is free and anyone who wishes to be informed or participated should contact **Mr. Christos Leventakes** (tel. 0030-6972-460346), or **Mr. Andreas Voukides** (tel. 0030-6976-602096).

The Kerchoulas Trust has undertaken the obligation to pay only the services of the company for 6 months, while the company is the choice of the director of the initiative Mr. Christos Levantakes.

The Karyates Association BoD
wishes to all Karyates
wherever they are
a happy new year
full of love and solidarity!

The members of the Karyes Local Council
Wishes to everyone
a happy new year full of health and joy!!!

We hope that 2024 will be a creative year
And a new start for the progress of our village

We should work all together for a better future!!

The Karyatis Sports Club
Board of Directors
wishes a happy and a
creative new year.



SOCIAL NEWS

They passed away

On **December 2, 2023** **George Andrew** Vastis died at Barrington, Rhode Island.

He was born in Karyes and was the son of Andreas Georgiou Vastis and Vasiliki Macheras. He immigrated to the USA, to Boston in 1951 with his parents and grandmother to join his grandfather who was already there. He attended Boston Latin High School and worked in his grandfather's fruit stand throughout his youth. He was a self-made entrepreneur after being hired at Lechmere Sales in Cambridge, Mass., as a part-time assistant and leaving as Merchandise Manager. He moved to Cleveland, Ohio, where he was a salesman for American Tourister luggage, moving to their headquarters in Warren, RI, rising to Vice President of Sales, traveling the world, especially in the Middle East. He finished his career as Vice President of Sales and Marketing for the Baltimore Luggage Company.

He married **Panagiota Vergakis** and they lived together for over 60 years in Belmont, Massachusetts, having 4 daughters Valeria, Maria co. Avraham Saxionis, Joanna co. Fred Boccelli and Andria wife Kenneth Carlson and many grandchildren.

Our deepest condolences.

Konstantinos Christos Kouvaris
died in Patras Greece at the age of 84.

The funeral took place on **November 27, 2023** in the Holy Church of Apostolos Andreas in Karyes and the burial in the cemetery of **Agios Nikolaos in Karyes**.

The deceased was one of the beloved presences in the village and leaves behind his wife **Jenny** and two sons **Christos** (doctor) and **Nikolaos** (gymnast), as well as three grandchildren.

Our deepest condolences to the family.



On **February 13, 2024** **Georgia co. Sotiriou Floris**, surnamed **Koumountzis** died at the age of **91**

The funeral service took place in the Holy Church of Apostolos Andreas in Karyes and the burial in the cemetery of **Agios Nikolaos in Karyes** on Friday, **February 16, 2024**.

The following is a text by her daughter **Aglaia (Litsa)**:

Georgia Flori was born in the village of Geraki in Laconia. Proud daughter of Ioannis and Eleni Koumountzis, along with her sister Maria, were determined by the early death of their sister Evangelia (Vagelio), at a young age.

She was a Gerakite who became an Arachovitissa/Karyatissa thanks to her eternal love for Sotiros Floris. They got married and had two daughters, Aglaia and Eleni (Lena). He was blessed with 4 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. She lived to celebrate this August, the fifth birthday of her youngest granddaughter Floris May Sotiria, named after her husband, with family, friends, handymen, flowers and musicians from her hometown of Geraki.

She lived a life of love and giving, not only to her parents, children and grandchildren, but also of undivided care for her father-in-law. Everyone loved her and singled her out for her kindness, generosity and strength. Having survived a serious accident in 1979, he was the epitome of bravery, tenacity and an incomparable zest for life. Her prayers to Saint Demetrius filled her with hope and courage. Until the end, she lit his candle every day across from her house, as a sign of faith and gratitude.

Her origin from Byzantine Geraki, with its famous tradition in weaving, inspired her talent in the art of manual labor. Her grace, kindness and excellent technique made her woven and handiwork, everyday works of art with eternal value. The crochet became magical in her hands. Her home was open to all. Always full of flowers she had picked and delicacies she had made with her heart.

Her warmth, caring and magnanimity were known to everyone: relatives, friends and acquaintances who visited her in Karyes. Her blooming garden was a place of happiness. Every seed and flower she planted him with her soul. She tended her olives with respect. She always sent oil, olives, noodles and trachanas to her grandchildren. She had in her mind to treat others, to fill them with joy and love and her quality, defined lives, shaped characters, enriched our memories. Her memory will live forever in us, with eternal gratitude and love.

Good heaven Mom!!!

The family's request is that in lieu of wreaths, any donations should be deposited in favor of the **Karyates Association** in Account Number

GR 560110 662 0000 66200 228709

The Karyates Association Board of Directors expresses its deepest condolences to her family!

Bad news for Laconia: Leonidas Grigorakos has passed away



The deceased died at the age of **70** on **February 9, 2024**. He was a member of the **Greek Socialist Party (PA.SO.K.)** since 1974. He was elected Member of Greek Parliament for Laconia in 2000, 2004, 2007, 2009, May 2012, June 2012, January 2015, September 2015. Also, from May 2012 to June 2013, he was the **5th Vice-President of the Hellenic Parliament**, while from June 2013 to January 2015 he served as **Deputy Minister of Interior** and **Deputy Minister of Health**.

He was born in Sparta Laconia in 1953 and graduated from the School of Medicine of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in 1978 and in 1983 received the specialty of **Pulmonology**. Later and specifically during the period September 1983 – May 1984, he served as Deputy Head of the Medical Service of the National First Aid Ambulance System (E.K.A.V.). From June 1984 he retrained at the Kaplan Medical Education Center and Cook County Hospital ICU – University of Illinois-Chicago until November 1985, while at the same time he attended and completed Public Administration and Public Health courses at Roosevelt University, Chicago.

Apart from the important career in the medical field, his most important contribution was the period November 1985 – April 1986 when as Scientific Advisor at E.K.A.V. in matters of First Aid Assistance, he presented the **plan for the creation and organization of the E.K.A.V. as an independent organization of national scope** (as the subject of his PhD) which was accepted by the Greek government. As a result, the Creation of the Nationwide E.K.A.V. took place. In 1988, he was declared a Doctor of Medical School, Athens University with a grade of "Excellent" and in 1994 he received the title of Specialization in Intensive Care. He served the **Greek National Healthcare System (E.S.Y.)** for several years as a Coordinating Director M.E.T. of the K.A.T. Hospital, president of the Employees' Association of the "Sotiria" Hospital, president of the "Elpis" hospitals (1987-89), "Agia Olga" (1989-93) and "Elena Venizelou" (1995-96), while he has organized and operated eight Intensive Care Units of the public and private Health Care sector.

With a very rich teaching work, he served his country and Laconia at the same time, while he was also a regular visitor to Karyes village, where he had several personal friendships.

He was married to **Sofia Andritsopoulou** and they had two daughters, **Naya, Member of Greek Parliament for Lakonia with PA.SO.K. and Markella**.

The Karyates Association expresses its deepest condolences to his family!

40 years Caryatides Monument (1983-2023)

The landmark of Karyes completed 40 years of presence. The greatest work of the **Karyates Association** united the present with the past of the place and achieved its purpose of becoming the **symbol** of Karyes. Hundreds of visitors every year admire it and learn through this visit the history of the area.

It was the vision of the great Karyatian/Arachovitian **Paraskevas Meidanis**, who arrived as a poor child in America, work hard and became among other things one of the first Greek college graduates. A man who was the savior of the village during the Nazis Occupation thanks to his immediate intervention (he brought from Tripolis the representative of the Red Cross Swedish Olaf Persson when the Nazis had gathered the inhabitants in the square for execution).

A project that was planned and executed without any state funding by the Association thanks to the contributions of the Karyates from all around the world and whose existence today fills with feelings of pride the patriots wherever they live.

The Karyates Association has since maintained it and ensures that both the Monument and its surrounding area are in the best possible condition, with the vision of building a staircase that will connect the monument to the Sparta-Karyes provincial road.



At the WEB SITE 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,
or at the phones (+30) 6944-784563, 6974-720909.

ADELPHOTIS ARAHOVITON "AI KARYAE" TORONTO CANADA: The Christmas children party



With great success the active Brotherhood "Ai Karyae" Toronto Canada organized the annual Christmas party dedicated to children. For this purpose, on **Sunday, November 26**, the patriots met and enjoy a nice breakfast together with their family members.

The event is an example since it strengthens the ties between the new generation of Karyates, so that these Greek children in their turn will take over the Brotherhood in the future and keep alive the flame of the homeland.

Many congratulations to the President and the members of the Board of Directors. as well as the volunteers.

Happy New Year!

Donations in memory of Georgia Floris for the Karyates Association

- Stavros Mermigas € 50
- Theodoros and Maria Vazelas € 50
- Michael and Demetra Repoulis € 50

The members of the Karyates Association Board of Directors € 50

CLUB'S NEWS

The Karyates Association annual dance – (continue from page 1)



KARYATES ASSOCIATION NEWS BULLETIN QUARTERLY PUBLICATION
 For information E-mail: karyates.association@karyes.gr