



# KARYES Lakonia



## Karyates Association's News Bulletin

Issue number 45

Summer 2025

### The time has arrived

On **Friday, July 25th at 8:00p.m.** the **Karyates Association** has the honor to invite all compatriots and friends of Karyes to the **inauguration of its renovated buildings in the Karyes Central Square**. These buildings will constitute a Center of Memory and Culture, a jewel of the village commensurate with its centuries-old history.



The complex of three buildings has been owned by the Karyates Association since 2007. Their purchase was carried out both from the Association's funds and from the offers of all compatriots, both small and large, in order to constitute a center of culture, which will also include the more recent history of the village, as an arc of memory for future generations.

Based on this mass decision, the members of the Association's Board of Directors worked systematically and with great effort and professionalism succeeded in submitting a comprehensive business plan, which led to its inclusion in a State Funding Program.

Thanks to this integration and with the financial support of all the Karyates and friends of the Association, we managed to complete the construction and renovation of the buildings with much effort and countless hours of work.

Of course, the struggle for the complete operation of the entire project continues, since the design has been completed and the implementation of museological study has begun, also through its inclusion in a financial program of the Ministry of Culture.

The members of the Board of Directors of the Karyates Association are pleased as the day of the inauguration of the renovation and reopening of the three buildings that will constitute the KARYES MEMORY AND CULTURE CENTER has arrived.

We are waiting for you all!

The President **Michael Repoulis**  
The Vice-presidents **Annita Gleka-Prekezes** και **Demetra Karakalatos-Mermiga**  
The General Secretary **Charalampos Ath. Konstantopoulos**  
The Treasurer **Lefkothea Kourmouzis-Latsis**  
The Members **Nikolaos G. Trakas**  
**Heleni Skevakis-Trakas**  
**Heleni-Chrisoula Prekezes-Bouloutas**  
**Evangelia Kopsiaftis-Gionis**

### ANNOUNCEMENT – APPEAL

From the president of the Karyes Local Community Council, **Mr. Panagiotis Mentis**, to the **local Associations, Trusts and Clubs**, to the **Adelphotis of U.S.A and Canada** and to **all the compatriots and friends of Karyes**.

Dear compatriots,

The Local Community Council, considering the needs of our village, has selected the following as **top priority projects** for the improvement of its residents' and visitors' lives:

- I. Widening and beautification of the road to the Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary (Panagia).
- II. Creation of a closed irrigation circuit.
- III. Paving of the "Steno" road.
- IV. Renovation and lighting of the Sakali spring and its access roads.
- V. Study and recultivation of the springs.

For the above projects, there is a **possibility of their inclusion in special funding programs from the Greek State as well as from the European Union**.

However, **Topographic Diagrams and Comprehensive Study** are needed in order to submit the relevant application file for funding.

For this reason, as a Local Council

#### We appeal

to all Bodies (Institutions, Associations, Clubs and Fraternities/Brotherhoods Abroad), as well as individuals, **to help finance these studies**.

If the studies are delivered within this year, the **Local Community is committed to ensure that the files will be forwarded immediately** in order to claim the inclusion of the projects for immediate implementation as possible.

Let us all help by proving once again, like previous generations, that the people of Karyates united can achieve miracles.

With Patriotic Greetings  
the President of the Karyes Local Community Council  
Panagiotis Mentis

### HAVE WE PAYED OUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP?

Dear compatriot,

The **Karyates Association** has served its purposes for over half a century 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

The **Karyates Association Board of Directors** announces its 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)



## A beautiful artistic creation welcomes visitors to Karyes



A unique work of art has been created in order to transform a public space and to illuminate the value of cultural contribution. The artistic creation of **Alexandros Papastratigakis**, within the framework of the action of “**EPIKYKLOS – Cultural Actions**”, aspires to transform the word “**KARYES**” into a **symbol of memory and local pride**. With basic materials of old metal and stone, the work respects the environment and the history of the place.

According to the creator Mr. Papastratigakis: “*EPIKYKLOS – Cultural Actions had the honor and pleasure of offering a monumental project in Karyes, a place that I love deeply – not because it’s my family’s village, but because, through my visits, I felt its special energy, the hospitality of its people and the strength of local identity. The word KARYES, formed with simple and natural materials, was born **with respect for the land and the history of the village**. It is not just an aesthetic intervention; it is a **gesture of memory, honor and love**, which aspires to be connected to the daily pulse of the community. My personal relationship with **Christos D. Leventakis**, a classmate and friend, also played an important role in shaping this idea. Christos is not just active in his village – he is one of the people who loves it in practice, supports it and serves it silently. From the very first moment, he embraced this effort and contributed enthusiastically to making it a reality. His presence was catalytic. I would also like to warmly thank the Community of Karyes and its President Mr. Panagiotis Mentis for the warm welcome and substantial cooperation. For us at EPIKYKLOS, culture is not a luxury; it is a way to stand next to each other, through creation, memory and respect.*”

The President of the Karyes Local Council, **Mr. Panagiotis Mentis**, stated: “*I feel the need – and the honor – to publicly express our warmest thanks to EPIKYKLOS – Cultural Actions and Mr. Alexandros Papastratigakis for the significant donation of the artistic work that now adorns the public space of our village. This artistic work, with the word KARYES formed into an artistic installation made of metal and stone, constitutes a point of reference for our place. This is not only an impressive construction, but an **act of love and support for our community**, which unites **local tradition with modern creativity**. In times when contribution to the common good is not given, such initiatives illuminate the value of collectivity and creative cooperation. Your contribution will remain indelible in the history of our place and will be a constant source of pride for all residents and visitors of Karyes. We sincerely thank you for your generous contribution.*”.

### A strange weather



After a rainy January with some snowfall, February followed, which although cold, unfortunately did not have enough rain. Fortunately, March had a surprise in store for us, as on **March 19**, the village’s residents were surprised by a relatively heavy snowfall that covered the village in white.

### March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025: The celebration of the Greek War of Independence and of the Annunciation of Theotokos (Virgin Mary)

This great holiday of Greece and of the Orthodox Christianity was celebrated with splendor in Karyes.

After the Divine Liturgy in the Church of Saint Adrew (Agios Andreas), wreaths were laid at the Monument to the Fallen Soldiers (Heroon) in the Central Square.

Afterwards the people of Karyes visited the **Grove of the Community Clock** where the women of the village had prepared beautiful Lenten dishes (see photo on the right). This was followed by dancing under the sounds of traditional Greek music.



### Easter 2025

Another traditional Greek Easter was celebrated in Karyes. Hundreds of compatriots living in the big cities, as well as other visitors and friends, decided to spend these holy days in our beautiful village.

The Karyes Local Community Council, with the help of many volunteer residents, had proceeded to clean all the streets and public spaces, while the appearance of the two cemeteries was, by general admission, quite good.

After the completion of the works in the Church of Saint Paraskevi, the custom of alternating the celebration of the Resurrection Divine Liturgy between the two central churches of Karyes was revived after a one-year break. In this context, this year it was decided to celebrate it in Saint Paraskevi Church, so on the eve, Good Friday, the procession of the epitaph started from the Church of Saint Andrew and ended at the Church of Saint Paraskevi. The congregation had the opportunity to admire both recently renovated Churches (see relevant tributes in previous issues of our Bulletin).

*In the photos on the **left**, the start of the procession of the epitaph at the Church of St. Andrew and its passage through the Central Square.*

*In the photos on the **right**, above, the epitaph at the Church of St. Paraskevi where the procession ended and below, the congregation in the courtyard of the same church on the evening of Holy Saturday in celebration of the Resurrection.*



## Car Races and Mountain Bike Races once again in Karyes

As we have many times in the past, Karyes has now become a Panhellenic destination for Sports events.



Therefore, once again the motor sports competitions entitled “**RALLY SPRINT MOLON LAVE**” were organized on **March 15 and 16, 2025** in the area of North Laconian Parnon Mountain, which were part of the **Panhellenic Cup of Dirt Road Cars Race** and the **Panhellenic Cup of Dirt Road Historic Cars Race**. Although the ceremonial Start took place in the Sparta Central Square (see photos), the Service Park was in the Karyes stadium, while the award ceremony took place in the Karyes Central Square.

Furthermore, the International and Panhellenic cycling races “**KARYES MTB RACE**” were organized on **April 12 and 13, 2025** (on Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday) with great success.





## Karyes: The program of the summer events

For another summer, the village of Karyes is waiting with joy for its children from all over the world. For this purpose, all -Local Community, Clubs and Associations-, have planned a series of events. We publish the program, as it has been prepared so far. It is understood that any modification or addition will be published on the village website [www.karyes.gr](http://www.karyes.gr).

- **Friday afternoon, July 25** Inauguration of the Karyates Association in Central Square.
- **Saturday evening, July 26:** Festival (Pangyri) of Saint Paraskevi at Rachi Square.
- **Sunday evening, July 27:** Festival (panigyri) of Saint Panteleimon in Central Square.
- **Sunday evening, August 3:** Greek Music Evening - Tribute to Bithikotsis by the "Koutsovasilis band" in Central Square.
- **Friday evening, August 8:** Summer Dance of the Karyates Association in the courtyard of the Elementary School – Saint Paraskevi grove.
- **Saturday afternoon, August 9:** Event - Presentation of the Linguistic Idiom of Karyes, by fellow Greek Doctor of Linguistics Mr. Theodoros Lyriotakis in the Events Hall of the Karyes Memory and Culture Center, Central Square
- **Sunday morning, August 10:** Annual Memorial Service in memory of the great benefactor Athanasios Matalas at the Church of Saint Paraskevi.



- **Wednesday, August 13th afternoon,** a book presentation by the writer Mr. Haris Konstantopoulos: "*Karyes (Arachova) Laconia, History and People 1700-1940*" in the Events Hall of the Karyes Memory and Culture Center, Central Square
- **Saturday evening, August 16:** Karyes Cultural Club's party in the courtyard of the Elementary School – Saint Paraskevi grove.

## A new shop opened in Karyes



The traditional products store of the "Melios" Café has started operating. After the operation of the traditional cafe - tavern, the company also opened the adjacent commercial store. Residents and visitors can purchase traditional products such as honey, jams, noodles, dried herbs, oregano, etc.

*Here's to a bright future for your new business!*



## A terrible hailstorm hit Karyes



On **Wednesday, May 28**, at noon, a strong storm hit Karyes and other villages of Parnonas, causing great destruction to walnut trees, chestnut trees, vineyards, vines, potatoes and vegetable crops. Houses were flooded, while damage was also caused to the rural road network.



## CLUB'S NEWS

### KARYES CULTURAL CLUB

The Club's Day trip to the beautiful island of Spetses on Saturday, June 14, was a great success. We should mention that the available tickets were sold in just a few days. The participants enjoyed the cosmopolitan island of Spetses while the program also included a visit to the museum of the Greek Revolution fighter "Bouboulina".

### KARYATIS SPORTS CLUB: Clean and tidy sports facilities await the summer vacationers



The members of the Sports Club, along with volunteer youth from the village proceeded to clean the club's sports facilities (see photo).

The image is now impeccable, and all facilities (football field, basketball court and indoor gym) are available for everyone, permanent residents and vacationers, children and adults, to use.

### KARYES FIRE SAFETY CLUB



The Karyes Fire Safety Club, in view of the fire season that has begun, is systematically cleaning the roads in the Karyes oak forest (see photo).

However, there is an increased need for further assistance. Therefore, an appeal is made to all compatriots and friends of Karyes to participate in the joint effort.

In this context, anyone who wants to help and is able to contribute may deposit any amount he/she wishes to the account number

**GR 440110468000046801237143 PYRASFALEIA KARYON LAKONIAS**

For any information, please contact:

- the president of the Fire Department, **Mr. Achilleas Sioutos**, at 6981-306196, or
- the President of the Karyes Local Community Council, **Mr. Panagiotis Mentis**, at 6973-774389.

In memory of **Konstantina Traka**, the following donated amounts to the Karyas Fire Department:

- Georgios and Nikolaos Pantazopoulos € 100,00.
- Anastasios Athanailos € 100,00. and
- Nikolaos Athanailos € 100,00.

The Board of Directors of the Karyes Fire Safety Club warmly thanks them.



UNITED STATES

The St. George's picnic

The St. George's picnic was organized with great success on **Sunday, April 27th** at the "Karyes" Park in Gastonia N.C.

According to a relevant message from the president of the Adelphotis, **Mr. Sarantos Kaperonis**: *"On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us for the Saint George Picnic on Sunday, April 27th at Karyae Park. It was a beautiful day, and this year's Saint George Picnic was one of the largest we've hosted in many years. It was a joy to see so many of you there, sharing in fellowship and enjoying the delicious meal prepared by John S. Vastis and Greg Vastis.*

*Special thanks to Father Johnathan for celebrating the Divine Liturgy at the Panagia Chapel, and to our dedicated chanters, Mrs. Niki Vastis and Ms. Panagiota Minakakis. We are also grateful to the ladies who prepared the church and beautifully decorated the dining hall. The General Assembly was also well attended, and we appreciated the opportunity to update the membership on various matters concerning the Adelphotis. A draft of the meeting minutes will be emailed in the coming weeks; they will be made official once approved at the next General Assembly".*

The Annual PANIGIRI: June 21st at Karyae Park

The greatest Adlephotis event, the Annual Panigiri is held this **SATURDAY, June 21st** at **Karyae Park**! The flyer is attached. According to the president of the Adelphotis, **Mr. Sarantos Kaperonis**: *"Don't forget to **purchase your discounted pre-sale tickets** online. They can be purchased here. Doors will open at 6 PM. We will have a rolling dinner buffet from 7:00 - 9:00 PM. There will also be a cash bar. **LIVE MUSIC** will be provided by **Endasi**. We will also have entertainment for the kids including **bounce houses**!*



ADELPHOTIS RAFFLE

We will draw the winners of our annual **Raffle** Fundraiser at the Panigiri with the grand prize valued at **\$5000!** Raffle entries can be purchased online here or at the Panigiri. The raffle is a key fundraiser to meet the organization's yearly financial obligations and your support is greatly appreciated! Tickets are \$100.

If you have any questions, reach out to Sarantos Kaperonis at 704-661-0881 or email at [info@karyaeagastonia.com](mailto:info@karyaeagastonia.com).

Bring your family to Karyae Park for our Annual Panigiri!

Thank you for your support.

CANADA

The first event of **2025** for the Canadian Adelphotis was the **Carnival Dance on February 16th** with great participation and lots of fun



The next event was the opening of the privately owned "KARYES" park on **Sunday, May 25**. Several compatriots decided to participate in the event while also helping with the necessary work.



Congratulations once again to the members and volunteers who keep the flame of the homeland alive!

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

SOCIAL NEWS

They passed away

On **March 13, 2025**, in **New York, U.S.A.**

**Philippos Sidiroglou** passed away at the age of **77**

He was the husband of Evangelia Kokokkios from Karyes. His funeral was held at the Saint Niklas (Agios Nikolaos) Cemetery in Karyes on March 28, 2025.

On **March 16, 2025**, in **Athens Greece**

**Georgios Korosopoulos**, passed away at the age of **91**

He was the husband of dentist Dimitra (Toula) Prekezes from Karyes. In his memory, Mrs. Annita Glekas-Prekezes donated the Karyates Association the amount of € 50.00-, and Mrs. Heleni-Chrysoula Prekezes and her husband Mr. Efthymios Bouloutas donated the amount of € 100.00 to the Karyates Association too.

On **March 17, 2025**, in **Athens Greece**

**Heleni Papadogiannis** passed away at the age of **91**

She was the wife of Georgios Papageorgiou from Karyes. In her memory, Mrs. Annita Glekas-Prekezes donated the Karyates Association the amount of € 50.00-, and Mrs. Heleni-Chrysoula Prekezes and her husband Mr. Efthymios Bouloutas donated the amount of € 100.00 to the Karyates Association too.

On **March 21, 2025**, in **Karyes Lakonia**

**Vasiliki Ardamis** passed away, at the age of **98**

She was the mother of the beloved singer and chanter Panagiotis (Panos) in the Parish of Karyes. Her funeral took place in Karyes the next day and her burial was at the Saint Niclas (Agios Nikolaos) Cemetery in Karyes.

On **April 24, 2025**, in the **U.S.A.**

**Theodoros Kyriazis** passed away.

On **May 3, 2025**, in **Karyes Lakonia**

**Dimitra Theodoridis**, passed away at the age of **89**

Her funeral took place on May 6 in Karyes and her burial was at the Saint Niclas (Agios Nikolaos) Cemetery in Karyes.

In the **U.S.A.** where she lived

**Heleni P. Kalantzis** passed away

**Konstantina Chondropoulos, widow of Ioannis**, passed away at the age of **89**

Her funeral took place on **Tuesday, June 10th** at the Church of Saint (Agia) Paraskevi, Karyes and her burial at the Saint Paraskevi Cemetery in Karyes.

Our deepest condolences to the families

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.



# Two benefactors compatriots passed away: the beloved Panos and Voula Copses

With immense sadness, Karyes bids farewell to two great Patriots: **Panos and Voula Kopsiaftis**

The emigration of the couple, a few days apart, on **March 23, 2025, of Voula, and on April 18, 2025, of Panos**, spread sadness to all patriots. They were a beloved couple who, over time, generously contributed to their birthplace, the beautiful Karyes.

**Panagiotis (Pano) was born on July 15th, 1928, in Karyes, Greece.** He was the son of **Ioannis Kopsiaftis and Trissoula Kerhoulas**, and the first boy of his six siblings. His family knew its share of tragedy, living through the German occupation of their village during WWII and losing their mother, who died when Pano was only a teenager. As the oldest son in a farming family, Pano took on early responsibilities tending to his family’s land, animals, and apple orchards, and helping feed his family during the impoverished conditions of the post-war village. He developed a lifelong love of gardening and quickly learned the value of hard work, a quality which defined his later life in America. He finished high school in Tripolis, Greece, then served in the Greek military. He moved to Athens with one of his best friends, Gus, where he attended a trade school to become a Communications Specialist. But like many Greeks of his generation, Pete was looking for opportunities to immigrate, and he eventually followed his younger brother, Bill, to Toronto, Canada in 1954. He learned English, changed his name to “Peter,” and got his first taste of the restaurant business working at The Uptown Lunch. When asked about life in Toronto, Pete had only a few words: “that weather is for bears.” Fortunately, he met his future wife, Voula, at a Greek wedding a year later.

**Paraskevi (Voula) was born on Christmas Day of 1932 in Karyes, Greece** too. As the oldest child and only daughter of **Fotini Diamadouros and Konstantine N. Harakas**, her childhood was anything but easy. Her family lived through the burning of parts of their village during the WWII occupation of Greece and they endured the impoverished conditions of its unsteady aftermath. Voula became a natural caregiver, watching over her 3 younger siblings. She developed strengths of kindness, hospitality, hard work, loyalty, and service that stayed with her all her life, even granting her the nickname, “Saint Voula,” amongst friends and family. She truly had a servant’s heart!

Like many Greeks of her generation, Voula’s family immigrated to America. Although she completed high school in Tripoli, Greece, she rose to the challenge of attending and graduating from Greenville High School while simultaneously learning English. Not only did she learn the English language but recently shared with her children that she also played on the GHS girls basketball team! She took a job at Thompson Handkerchief in Accounting, which was fitting for her as the daughter of a tailor, and which fostered her lifelong interest in sewing, lace, and fabrics.

Pano was smitten, not only to Voula, but to the idea of moving south. Therefore, Pete and Voula married in 1957 and eventually settled in Spartanburg, SC. They soon partnered with the Stathakis family to open the Sugar and Spice, a classic 60’s drive-in diner, where “Mr. Pete” worked for nearly 60 years, reluctantly retiring from his lunch shift due to Covid 19, while Voula contributed her talents as a Greek pastry chef and as a math whiz keeping the books for decades at “The Spice.”

Much of Pete’s life reads like the “American Dream,” and he was often quoted as saying “Only in America!” He worked tirelessly to give his wife and three children a better life, with every opportunity for success. While rarely spending money on himself, he splurged for the important things, putting all his children through college and his son through medical school, helping them achieve some of their life goals, and celebrate weddings and baptisms. He loved golf, gardening, cooking, hunting, photography, and most of all sun-bathing, whether on family vacations or in the lounge chair of his own backyard. He worked hard to carve out the life he could only dream of, and he shared the fruits of his success generously with his family, making annual trips to Myrtle Beach, taking his kids and grandkids to Greece in the summers, joining other Greek couples on February cruises to the Caribbean, and even sailing around the Greek Isles with his family on his 90th birthday!

Voula’s talents and heart for service extended seamlessly into her church family. She was a devout and faithful member of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Spartanburg since 1961, serving on the Ladies Philoptochos Society, including holding the position of Treasurer. She was also very active in the many successful Greek Festivals.

Although they live a nice life in America, **they never forget their roots.** Their relationship with their village, beautiful Karyes, was a relationship of devotion throughout their lives. They were among the most active members of the **Adelphotis of Arachovites "AI KARYAE"**, while they spent their summers in beautiful Arachova/Karyes. Grandpa Panos playing cards with his friends in the village square, making big daily rounds every morning in and around the village and staying with his wife until late at night in the taverns. They were always willing to contribute to the church life and culture of Karyes. They were honored **with two philanthropic commendations** for financing the important drilling project that, since the early 1990s, solved the water supply problem in the village for more than three decades.

They will also be remembered by cousins, nieces, and nephews in Greece and America as well as the many adoptive family members known from “The Spice” and of those whom they welcomed into their home for countless meals over the years.

Pete as hard-working as he was, he also knew how to laugh. He loved to entertain and to be surrounded by his friends and family telling stories. Though it seems a simple expression, he always declared “This is the best family!” He was not wrong. He was also a devoted and playful “Pappou” or “Popi” to his grandchildren, who will remember his generosity as well as his guidance to strive toward success while enjoying life along the way. Voula’s generosity, her delicate manner, and her sincere sweetness, perfectly represented by her legendary loukoumades and pastries. “Thea Voula” was a tireless hostess, never blinking at the idea of inviting 40-50 people for Christmas or Easter celebrations. She showed her love so tangibly by preparing her “tiropites,” her garden-grown “vlita” greens, and of course, her famous “dipla” desserts. Anyone sitting at her table understood Voula’s culinary artistry. “Kali orexi” (Bon Appetit!) was her love language and her pursuit of excellence. In our hearts and memories, we will forever see the two of them hosting an epic Greek Easter celebration in their backyard, surrounded by friends and family, eternally toasting and feasting.

Pete is survived by his sister, Eleni Kiriazis (101 years old), sister-in-law, Loula Copses and he was pre-deceased by siblings Panayiota Diangikes, Demetra Siarris, William (Bill) Copses, and Dina Georgas while Voula is survived by her brother, Billy Harakas (Maria) and she was predeceased by her two brothers, Dr. Nicholas K. Harakas, and Tony K. Harakas. They both are survived by their three children, Trissie, John (J.C), and Dino Copses (wife Meg) as well as their grandchildren Parras Black (husband Ray), Olive Copses, and Luca Copses.

**We extend our deepest sympathies to their family**



## A farewell message from the Karyates Association Board of Directors

Dear Panos and Voula Charakas-Kopsiaftis

Seven years have passed since, with the help and support of your sponsorship, Ms. Annita Prekeze's book "**20th Century Stories, Traditions and Tales from the Villages of Northern Lacedaemon**" was published.

Its release was an exceptional success, people loved it, and the Karyates Association is proud, since it will have this exceptional book that the author offered to our Association to honor our village, the beautiful Karyes.

The great writer and historian Sarantos Kargakos writes in the preface that these stories are not only stories from our villages, but stories of our entire homeland and that is why it was loved by so many people, both local and foreign. We believe that this book, which we will make available to all visitors to the Center of Memory and Culture in the Central Square of Karya, will be a spiritual gem of our village.

The Karyates Association thanks you not only for this sponsorship, but also for the many others that you have so generously given to your ancestral village, Karyes, Laconia, especially the one for the drilling of the year 1995, which brought abundant water to the village, as well as for the recent one.

**Eternal memory to you!**

**The President and the members  
of the Karyates Association Board of Directors**

## Article of Ms Annita Glekas-Prekezes author and Vice president of the Karyates Association

In America, their second homeland, the two distinguished Karyates, Panos and Voula Kopsiaftis, breathed their last. They were born and raised in their beloved village, but the migratory flow brought them to America. There they made their careers working hard and creatively. They were an exemplary couple with an excellent family of three children: Giannis, Trisso and Dino, whom they educated by giving them all the values of the Greek Christian family.

Everyone in the village knew an excellent Panos and a wonderful Voula. Their parents Kostas and Fotini Charakas and their grandfather Yannis Kopsiaftis with their children formed the core of the Karyatic/Arachovite community that exemplary supported Hellenism in the Southern States of the U.S., but they also participated in all the important projects that helped their ancestral village emerge from the disasters of World War II.

No matter how much I write, it is too little for the bonds of family friendship, the baptism and weddings of Dr. Dinos P. Kopsiaftis and all the bonds that this exceptional family supported with the entire village of relatives and friends.

The dedication to their memory published today by the Karyates Association (S.A.K.) is a small sample of the love and respect that the entire village maintains for Voula and Panos.

**May their memory be internal!**

**Annita Glekas-Prekezes**



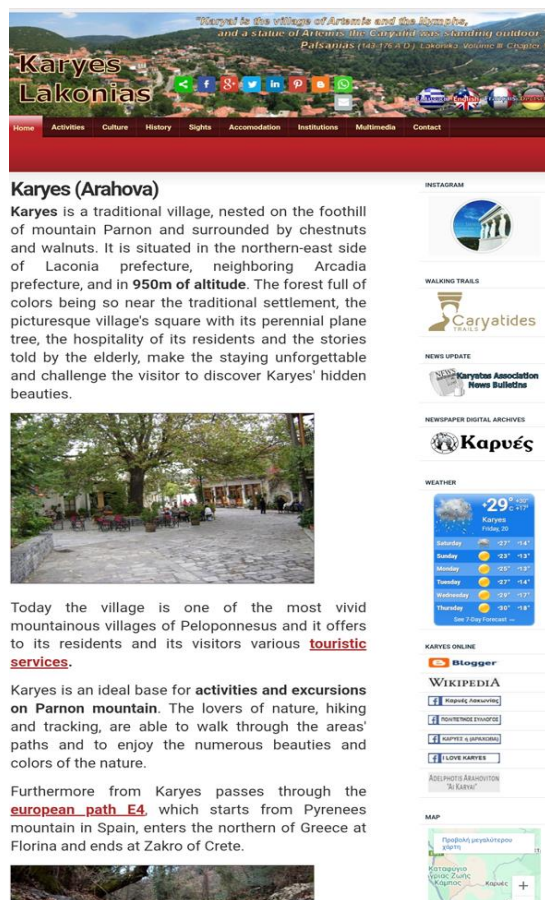
# A tribute to the 20th anniversary of the [www.karyes.gr](http://www.karyes.gr):

## A report for the last 15 years of the site

Article of Ms. Margie Konstantopoulos

The renewing for another 10 years of the lease for the domain name **Karyes.gr** was successfully completed on a personal initiative, in collaboration with the president of the Community, Mr. Panagiotis Mentis, and with the cost covered by the Karyates Association.

On this occasion, it is deemed appropriate to present an account of the work that has been carried out over the years for the creation, maintenance, development and evolution of this effort.



### Account of the last 15 years

When the management of the website was taken over, approximately 15 years ago by its previous management team, my desire was for a comprehensive approach to the project from a new perspective. First of all, the goal was to give priority to the needs of the village and its residents, offering an additional tool to enhance everyday life and development in their hands, based on the needs of that time and future ones with a horizon of at least 10 years.

### Initial Design and Implementation

The first concern was to record the current status of the website and the new project, which would be based on a diligent design to cover current needs and future modifications. This design resulted in the following goals-pillars:

- The conversion of the website into an information portal.
- The addition of information about the rich history and path of the village's residents, so that the young can learn and the older ones can remember.
- Information about the future tourist development of the village as a winter destination, a fact that is finally gradually becoming a reality, and the possibility of multilingual appearance.
- The information in the form of a bulletin board.
- The possibility of integrating additional independent information portals.

The design led to the implementation of the website from scratch, it took a lot of time and effort, but the result is considered successful, as it required minimal structural modifications along the way and was easily enriched. For the setting up of the project, historical and current material was collected in both texts and photographs, it underwent appropriate processing and was gradually posted on the website. This material was continuously enriched with additions, where this was deemed necessary throughout the years.

### Works and Additions

During its operation, the following improvements and additions were implemented:

- The multilingual profile of the website was completed with the ability to read in four (4) languages: Greek, English, French, German.
- There is a continuous enrichment of information and material as well as updating of information with telephone numbers, addresses, new businesses, professional bodies and activities.
- The digital archive of the Newspaper "**Karyes, Arachova Laconias and the villages of the former Municipality of Oinountas**" by Mrs. Annita Gleka-Prekeze was created, which was published from 1986 to 2010. This archive is a huge source of social, historical, folklore and cultural facts, both of Karyes (Arachova) Laconia, as well as the wider area and the surrounding villages. Through digitization, the archive was preserved over time and the remarkable contents of the newspaper were made available to an even wider audience via the internet. The project began in the summer of 2013 and was completed in the summer of 2014 and was posted via [karyes.gr](http://karyes.gr) as a separate information hub, in order to fulfill the purpose for which it was created.



- The Parnon Semi Marathon website was created as a separate information hub while the race was being held by Karyatis Sports Club and included information, results and relevant announcements. It is now inactive.



- A website has been created for the Karyes Laconia Memory and Culture Center. It is an information center for the project, its progress, and its implementation goals. In the future, it will be a place to inform the public about the Center's activities, when it is fully operational.



### Access to email accounts

Village bodies were given the ability to obtain email accounts via the Karyes.gr email server. So far, the accounts of the **website** ([info@karyes.gr](mailto:info@karyes.gr)), **the Karyes Cultural Club** ([politistikos@karyes.gr](mailto:politistikos@karyes.gr)) and **the Karyates Association** ([karyates.association@karyes.gr](mailto:karyates.association@karyes.gr)) have been requested and are operational.



# A tribute to the 20th anniversary of the [www.karyes.gr](http://www.karyes.gr):

## A report for the last 15 years of the site

### Renewal of the Karyes.gr name and other costs

The lease of the Karyes.gr domain name has been renewed twice (2). The first time was in 2013 and now in 2025. **The cost of the renewal has been borne by the Karyates Association both times.**

Regarding the cost of monthly rental and maintaining smooth operation, this is covered by the **Municipality of Sparta**, which has assumed the accounts of the Karyates Community towards the provider.

The initial design, maintenance and continuous renewal of information of the website remain a donation of the **writer**.

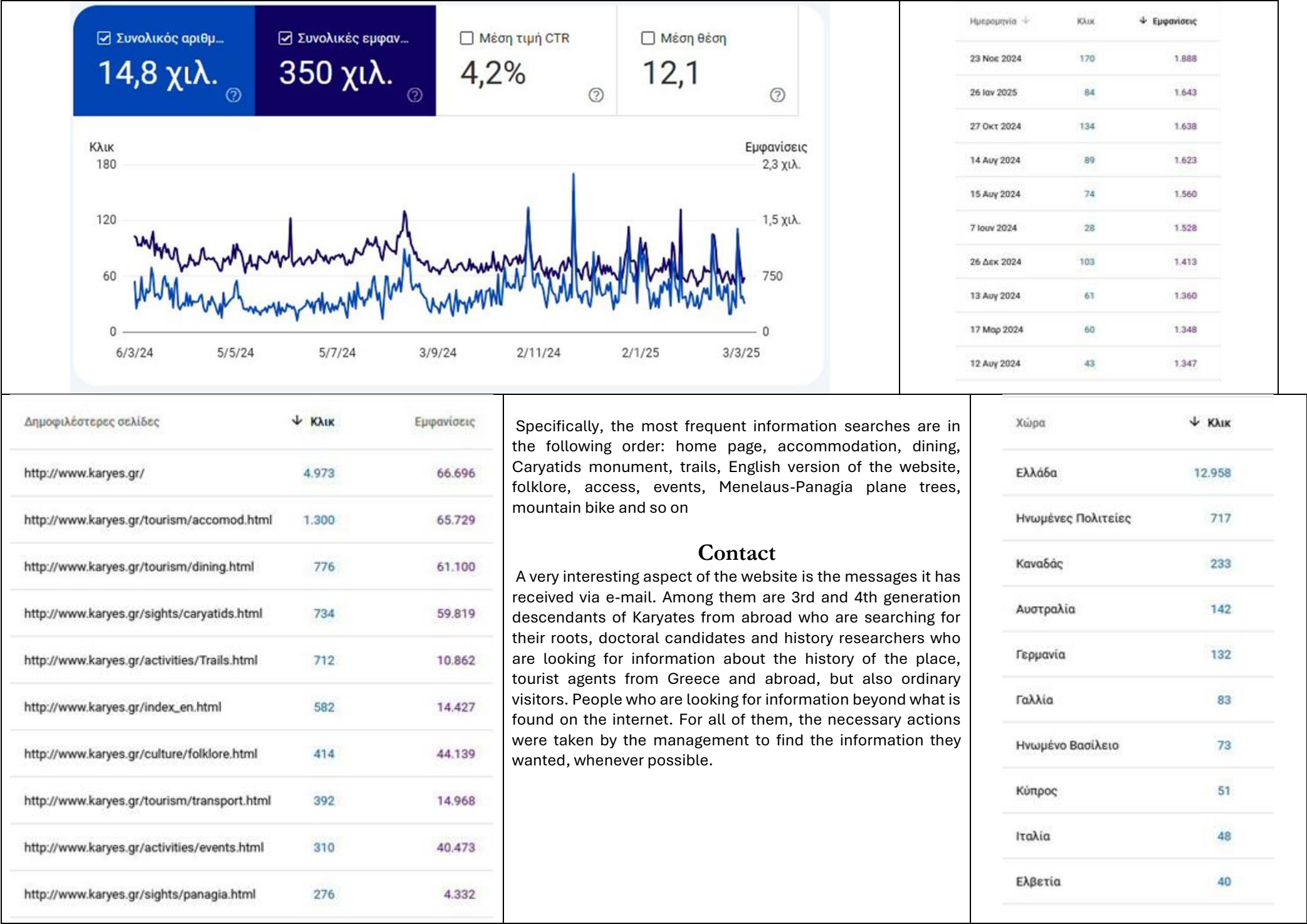
### Available Information Portal

- The information portal currently contains:
- Informative news and articles about events of interest to residents and announcements from village bodies.
  - Detailed tourist guide with information on activities, accommodation, catering, sights, events and ways to access the location.
  - Professional guide.
  - Historical overview of the place from antiquity to the present day.
  - Cultural and folklore information.
  - Presentation of the active bodies of the village in Greece and abroad.
  - Digital repository of the newsletters of the Karyates Association.
  - Links to state bodies and social networks concerning the village.

### Traffic Statistics

The website is cataloged to facilitate search engines and users seeking information. Its traffic is monitored on a monthly basis by the special Google Search Console tool. As part of the report, some statistics follow.

In the last year, it was found in **350 thousand** references and visited by **14.8 thousand** users, with more frequent visits in the months of October, November, December, March and August, showing a shift towards Winter Mountain Tourism.



Δημοφιλέστερες σελίδες

Κλικ

Εμφανίσεις

Contact

A very interesting aspect of the website is the messages it has received via e-mail. Among them are 3rd and 4th generation descendants of Karyates from abroad who are searching for their roots, doctoral candidates and history researchers who are looking for information about the history of the place, tourist agents from Greece and abroad, but also ordinary visitors. People who are looking for information beyond what is found on the internet. For all of them, the necessary actions were taken by the management to find the information they wanted, whenever possible.

Χώρα

Κλικ

### Acknowledgements

At this point, I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who contacted me and with their information and suggestions helped to improve and enrich the website. In particular, special thanks for the excellent cooperation I had with Mr. **Theodoros Mentis**, then president of the Karyatis Sports Club and the Skiouris Foundation, Mr. **Dimitris Arvanitis** as then president of the Karyes Cultural Club and current municipal councilor, Mr. **Panagiotis Mentis** current president of the Karyes Local Community, Mr. **Georgios Devekos** former president of the Karyes Local Community and current President of the Kerchoulas Trust, Ms. **Anita Gleka-Prekeze** Vice President of the Karyates Association for consenting to digitize the material of her newspaper, Ms **Elke Kardaras** as German language translator, Mr. **Haris Konstantopoulos** General Secretary of the Karyates Association as caretaker of the historical content and digitization of the newspaper and the members of the Board of Directors of the Karyates Association as sponsors and helpers of the effort. If I forget anyone else, please forgive me and I promise to mention them next time.

### Instead of an Epilogue

The effort certainly does not end here; there are future plans as the passion has not yet dried up. One of the plans is the complete upgrade of the website, where in the near future and when the project matures, there will be newer content, as well as the creation of a digital repository of material, which has been diligently collected over the years with the aim of making it part of Karyes.gr in the hands of everyone.

As for the businessmen-businesswomen and producers of the village, the website is available to them for promotion through the professional and tourist guide and they can communicate via e-mail and send material that advertises their services.

In closing, it should be noted that all of the above should ensure impartiality, as the website officially belongs to the Community of Karyes, now the Municipality of Sparta, and therefore must support a corresponding profile. In fact, in order to maintain the impartiality of the website, I have consciously chosen all these years to abstain from the decisions of the village associations and institutions, not for reasons of responsibility phobia but for reasons of conscience, preferring to remain a simple member of them.



# A tribute to the 20th anniversary of the [www.karyes.gr](http://www.karyes.gr)

## A report for the last 15 years of the site

### A Few Words about the Administrator of the Karyes.gr website

**Margie (Maria Dimitra) Konstantopoulou** was born in Athens where she grew up and studied. She is the daughter of Thanasis Konstantopoulos, originally from Athens and Evrytania, and the late Kaiti Konstantopoulou, née Kardara from Karyes. She is married to Kostas Soulantikas, from Tripoli, and has two (2) children.

She is a Computer Engineer, with postgraduate studies in Information Technology Management (MSc) and Adult Education (MEd). In addition to Greek, she has studied four (4) more languages at a higher or higher level.

In the professional field, she worked for several years in a banking and stock exchange IT Company, involved in software design and implementation, project management, as well as in research and development positions. Today, she works as a permanent IT teacher in secondary and post-secondary education, participating with students in competitions, student festivals and having received honorary distinctions.

For over a decade, she has been a scientific associate of the Institute of Educational Policy (IEP) of the Greek Ministry of Education and the National Organization for the Certification of Qualifications (EOPPEP), having participated in scientific committee projects concerning the development of curricula, the writing and evaluation of books, the subject bank, teacher training, etc.

She is an author and has published six (6) educational books in the field of Informatics, including the official book of the Ministry of Education in a nationally examined subject. Finally, she has participated in the publication of scientific articles in conferences on the topic of education and IT in the field of secondary and post-secondary education.

Today, she lives and works in Tripoli with her family and visits and resides in Karyes as often as her obligations allow.

### LOCAL NEWS

#### Celebration of Saint George



Although this year's celebration was not on Easter Monday, but on Easter Wednesday on **April 23, 2025** and many visitors had returned to the cities, a lot of Karyates went to the Holy Church dedicated to the Saint in the "Arachovite Plain" in the morning for the celebration, enjoying the spring weather.

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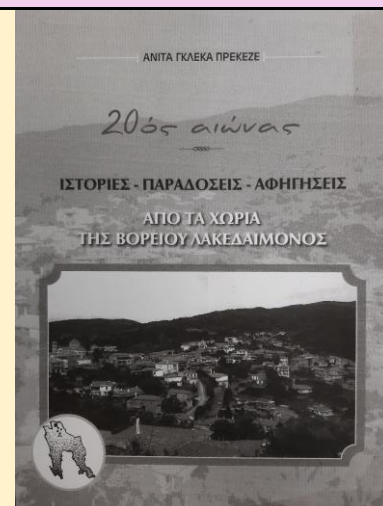
**Karyates Association  
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#### Availability of Annita Gleka-Prekeze's book "20th century, Stories, Traditions, Narratives from the villages of North Lacedaemon"

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)**. The author dedicated this book 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)



### SOCIAL NEWS

#### Konstantina (Dina) Trakas passed away, at the age of 95

The beloved Caryatid, mother of Nikos (for many years an elected member of the Board of Directors of the Karyates Association) and Jimmy, passed away on **March 28, 2025** in **Athens**.

The following is a text from her sons.



*Our mother, Konstantina Traka, née Mermiga, was born in 1930 and grew up in Arachova — as she always called it.*

*She emigrated, married her husband, gave birth to us and returned to her homeland, where it had always been her dream to raise us. She gave us the drive and ambition to strive for whatever we set our minds to and filled us with her values and dreams. This was our mother. "Levendissa", as the elders called her.*

*She passed away on March 28, 2025. We said goodbye but let us not mourn her death. Let us stand in reverence and celebrate her life — for it was a life of struggle, care, and meaning.*

*Mother, thank you for inspiring us to be better, to strive harder, to love deeper.*

*Your light will always guide us.*

*Have a good journey. Good heavens.*

In her memory, **Grigorios Metallinos** donated € 50.00, **Panagiota Harakas** donated € 100.00, the **Mermigas family** donated € 100.00, and the **Trakas family** donated € 200.00 to the aims of the Karyates Association.

#### Demetra, widow of P. Kopsiaftis Passed away in Sparta, Greece at the age of 93



Her funeral took place at the Church of Saint Paraskevi on **Monday, June 16, 2025**, and her burial was in Saint Paraskevi Cemetery.

She was the mother of three children who were and are active members of the local community.

*Evangelia*, for many years a member of the Karyates Association Board of Directors, *Ioannis*, who served, among other things, for many years as Secretary of the Karyes Community, and *Nikolaos*, a member of the Board of Directors of the Kerchoulas Trust.

*Our sincere condolences to the families*

#### Donations to the Karyates Association

**Mr. Anastasios Athanailos** € 100.00  
**Ms. Maria Pouloukefalos-Kolovos** € 100.00

In memory of Maria Paparizos-Paralikas, **Ms Heleni-Chrisoula Prekezes** € 100,00

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