



KARYES Lakonia



Karyates Association's News Bulletin

Issue number 46

Autumn 2025

Karyes celebrated with splendor the inauguration of the renovated buildings of the Karyates Association

With splendor, in the presence of a large crowd and representatives of the ecclesiastical and political leadership, the inauguration of the Karyates Association's complex of renovated buildings took place in the Central Square of Kary on Friday, July 24.

The entire Board of Directors of the Association welcomed the attendees, who had the opportunity to tour the spaces that house the new offices of the Association, the Multi-Events Hall, which is fully equipped with modern audiovisual and digital infrastructure, as well as the rooms intended for the operation of the Center of Memory and Culture.



The inauguration ceremony

Subsequently, the floor was given to the President of the Association, Mr. Michael Repoulis, who, after greeting all those present, described the struggle and effort that brought about today's result.

Finally, the Vice President of the Association and for many years President, Ms. Annita Gleka-Prekezes, took the stage, who moved with her reference to her 60-year and more contribution to the local community, place of origin of her late husband Vasilis Prekezes, a place that also became her own.

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The external look of the buildings

The inauguration event began with the consecration ceremony performed by His Eminence Metropolitan of Sparta and Monemvasia Efstathios. Then the Secretary of the Association and presenter of the event, Mr. Charalambos (Harris) Konstantopoulos, welcomed all the attendees. Furthermore, he briefly referred to the struggle of the Association's members for the realization of that vision, with the inclusion of the project in a state funding program and thanked all compatriots and friends of the Association for their long-term financial and moral support.



The attendees outside the building

The presentation of
Mr. Charalampos (Harris)
Ath. Konstantopoulos book

«KARYES (ARACHOVA) LAKONIA HISTORY AND PEOPLE 1700-1940»

On Wednesday, August 13, 2025, in the recently inaugurated event hall of the Karyes Memory and Culture Center, and with a large audience, the book written by Mr. Haris Konstantopoulos, "Karyes (Arachova) Laconia 1700-1940, History and People", was presented.

The book written by the compatriot, secretary of the Karyates Association is prefaced by the president of the Karyates Association for many years, retired teacher of the Arsakeia schools and author, Ms. Antita Prekezes.



The presentation of the book was made by compatriots Mrs. Margie Konstantopoulos, teacher, who was also the editor of the book, Ms Georgia Zacharakis, teacher of Foreign Languages, and Mr. Theodoros Mentis, retired teacher and for many years president of the "Karyatis" Sports Club.

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The kindergarten in Karyes reopen



After six (6) years of suspension of the operation of the Karyes kindergarten and one (1) year of the suspension of the elementary school, the bell rang again, and children's voices filled the corridors and classrooms of the school.

Karyes is not only being kept alive but is going against the tide of low birth rates and the abandonment of the countryside that is sweeping Greece.

Congratulations!



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**

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The event was honored with their presence, among others, by the Member of Greek Parliament with the Socialist Party (PA.SO.K.-Movement for Change), **Ms. Panagiota (Nagia) Grigorakos**, while greetings were also sent by the other two members with the New Democracy Party from Lakonia, **Mr. Davakis** and **Mr. Kritikos**. By the Peloponnese Regional Governance at the ceremony were present the Deputy Governors of Laconia, **Mr. Theodoros Veroutis** and of Spatial Planning and Real Estate Management, **Mr. Spyridon Tzinieris**, along with the Mayor of Sparta, **Mr. Michael Vakalopoulos** and **Mr. Spyridon Floros**, President of the LEADER Regional Development Committee as a representative of the Parnonas Development Company. All the above delivered a short greeting.



The awarding of special honorary plaques followed:

- to the chairman of the Association Board of Directors, **Mr. Michael Repoulis**, for his great personal contribution over the years to the implementation of the project, while an honorary bouquet was given to his wife and member of the Association's Executive Committee, **Mrs. Dimitra Repoulis-Kakaris**,
- to the Vice President of the Association and President for many years, **Mrs. Annita Glekas-Prekezes**, for her 40-year and more contribution to the Association and of course to the implementation of the original vision into the current project, and
- to the compatriot Architect Engineer of the project, **Mr. Ioannis Karahalios** of the office "**Plaini and Karahalios Architects**".

The award-winning **Mr. I. Karachalios** then took the floor, presenting a brief overview of the project from an architectural perspective.



Welcome speech of the Karyates Association Secretary Mr. Harris Konstantopoulos



Your Holiness, Father Leontios, Madam Member of Parliament, Mr. Deputy Governor, Mr. Mayor, Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, presidents and members of the Karyates Clubs and Associations in Greece and abroad, dear patriots, dear friends, good evening to all.

We welcome you today to the inauguration of the renovated complex of buildings of the Karyates Association (S.A.K.).

A project, which was envisioned by the members of our Association 25 years ago, but its implementation was embraced by all Karyates all over the world. It was this enthusiasm of our compatriots, but also of the village's friends, that made the first part of the implementation, that of the purchase of the buildings, a reality.

At the same time, however, this enthusiastic response also weighed on the shoulders of the members of the Board of Directors of the Association, so that they can mobilize and seek ways to find funding for the second part of the project, that of their renovation.

Therefore, moving with enthusiasm and, we believe, with a lot of professionalism, the project was included in a funding program, which covered most of the required expenses.

Of course, the implementation of the project proved to be a difficult process for an Association consisting of volunteers, whose motivation is none other than the love for the place and its people.

However, thanks to the continuous support of the Karyates/Arachovites, who throughout this period continued to help financially, covering the part that was outside the approved funding, they gave us the motivation to continue tirelessly and to face any difficulties.

Today, we are able to deliver to the society of Karyes this jewel, which includes the event hall, the offices of the Association and the space intended for the housing of the Center of Memory and Culture.



WOULD YOU WISH TO BE ADVERTISED IN OUR NEWSPAPER?

Contact us at 0030-6974-720909 or at the email: karyates.association@karyes.gr

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.

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

Karyes celebrated with splendor the inauguration of the renovated buildings of the Karyates Association

The welcome speech of the Karyates Association President Mr. Michael Repoulis

Good evening and welcome to the Karyes Center for Memory and Culture.

I thank our secretary Mr. Haris Konstantopoulos for the addresses of our guests, and I hope we have not forgotten anyone.

The presence of all of you honors and pleases us and I believe all the residents who, in today's inauguration, are bringing Karyes, this small - large village with a rich history, to the forefront of publicity.

It seems that it is in the DNA of this village to discover the right people, who over time, with their bold initiatives and their work, have pushed the village to make huge strides forward.



At the podium the President of the Karyates Association BoD Mr. Michael Repoulis, while sitting next to him the Vice-president Ms Annita Glekas-Prekezes.

And of course, the valuable associations and Clubs abroad, six (6) in number, who from time to time contributed generously to covering important needs and deficiencies of the village that the state was unable to cover.

Thus, the pre-war and post-war history of Karyes was slowly created and at the same time of immigration and immigrants, which was captured in the classic book by Mr. Pitsios "Karyae" and the "Karyatikan" of 1950 and 1972 by Meindanis.

Books certainly preserve historical reality, but they are not enough to preserve the documents they refer to, such as photographs, documents, objects of art and everyday use, events, festivals, songs, music, dances, objects of immigration, and finally the human stories and memories of locals and immigrants, which are slowly being irretrievably lost over time.

Thus, at the end of the 20th century, the idea of creating the Center for Memory and Culture came naturally to the members of the Karyates Association, -which was founded in 1970 in Athens and was fortunate to have an active and capable Board of Directors-. That Center would serve as a beacon of culture and as an ark of memory for the generations that toiled abroad, but also for the generations that remained in their homeland.

In 2007, under the tireless president of the then Board of Directors, a real pioneer, Ms Annita Prekeze, in which I was also a member, the first step took place. With the financial contribution of all the Karyates/Arachovites and of the Associations and Clubs abroad, the complex of buildings where you are today was purchased. It consists of three (3) buildings with different construction dates from 1910 to 1953.

At the reception you will find the booklet edited by our secretary, which lists all the donors, regardless of the amount, who have supported the association from 2007 to the present, whom we thank from the bottom of our hearts.

Since 2012, after the purchase, the work of reconstructing the buildings began in successive steps. Thus, we have hopefully reached the year 2019, a milestone year, as this year we managed to include the project in the Leader program of the Parnonas Development Company with 100% funding, of which Mr. Floros, president of the Board of Directors, is with us today. The construction, which began on September 6, 2020, was undertaken following an auction by the Joint Venture "Lampropoulos E. - Boulougaris I. - and Panagakis E."

The next five (5) years were difficult years, since the work was done in all seasons of the year, in cold or hot rain, fog, Saturdays and even holidays, with and without Covid. The work was always monitored by a member of the Board of Directors and mainly the speaker.

Today, therefore, with satisfaction and pride, we deliver this work to all Karyates in Greece and all over the world, as a sign of love and respect for the generations that preceded it, but also as a cultural legacy for the generations to come. With the completion of the work, I take the opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to its implementation.

So, I would like to thank:

- first, Mr. Evangelos Lambropoulos, for the very good cooperation we have had all these years,
- architect Mr. Yannis Karachalios and his associates, for the help he provided us in every phase of the project,
- mechanical engineer Mr. Yannis Dimakis, for our excellent relationship,
- the executives of the Parnonas Development Company, for the very good contact and mutual understanding we have had for five years,
- the office of Ms. Vagia Parcha, for her assistance in submitting the seven (7) payment requests and her impeccable professional behavior,
- the members of the Board of Directors for the support and trust they showed me in the implementation of this project,
- the sponsors of today's event,
- the Ministry of Culture, for the financing of the museological study and the moral support of the director, originally from Arachova, Ms. Vilys Fotopoulou-Anglezi, and
- the museologist Ms. Marlene Mouliou and her colleagues.

Finally, I thank my Caryatid wife, Ms Dimitra Kakaris, whose good-natured observations, as well as her moral support, helped me overcome many difficult moments.

In closing, I will refer to the thought of a contemporary philosopher, whose name escapes me at the moment, which I have embraced for many years: "I sleep and feel life as a beautiful dream, I wake up and see that it is a debt."

Thank you all

The welcome speech of the Karyates Association Vice- President Ms Annita Glekas - Prekezes

Your Excellency
Dear Guests

With great emotion, the President and members of the Karyates Association Board of Directors (S.A.K.) have invited you tonight to celebrate the inauguration of the renovated complex of the CENTER OF MEMORY AND CULTURE. The Center will include the HISTORICAL and FOLKLORE MUSEUM OF KARYES, whose museological study has been undertaken by the professor of the National Kapodistrian Athens University (N.K.A.U./E.K.P.A.), Mrs. Marlene Mouliou, and the museographic study by Mrs. Despina Tsafo, with funding from the Ministry of Culture.

With how much effort and struggle we managed to reach your celebration today, our worthy President, to whom we owe a lot, mentioned it.

Allow me to refer to my own special emotion, since I am celebrating the 65 years that I lived participating in the life of the village and the Association of the Karyates.

I thank my late husband, doctor Vasilis Prekezes, who made me a Citizen of Karyes for many years and a member of the Karyates Association for all these years.

I joined with love in all the Clubs and Associations of Karyates because I met excellent people in them, in the village, in Athens, in America and in Australia.

Therefore, with my short speech today, I would like to pay a Tribute by name to those Distinguished Karyates/Arachovites who honored their village with countless benefits. I will limit myself to the Karyates Association (S.A.K.) which is celebrating its 55th anniversary. During these years I had the honor of participating as a member of the Board of Directors, president, vice president and ordinary member.

In all these years I have met many Karyates/Arachovites and I truly admired their ethos, their decency, their kindness and other virtues.



That is why the Association (S.A.K.) has lived a long life and has accomplished great works for the village over time, and today it delivers to its community a true jewel for Karyes. We want to continue with the same zeal and celebrate many more years, accomplishing works worthy of the historic village we represent.

So far, the Karyates/Arachovites who participated in the Board of Directors were thirty-six (36). I have their list of names, and I wanted to honor them all by name. But the lack of time forced me to give the list of names to our secretary Mr. Haris Konstantopoulos, so that he could publish them in the Association's newspaper which he edits and publishes continuously, with the help of his sister Margie, and we thank them very much.

In conclusion:

- I thank you very much for the honor you have bestowed upon me and
- I thank God for allowing me to live 65 years, close to this village and close to the Karyates Association.



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

Ψηφιακό Αρχείο Εφημερίδας
Καρυές

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Finally, in the context of the already implemented **third part** of the project that of the implementation of the museum study for the operation of the Karyes Center of Memory and Culture, the representative of the Ministry of Culture, **Director of Modern Cultural Heritage**, compatriot **Ms. Stavroula (Villi) Fotopoulos**, delivered a short and emotional greeting. Subsequently, **Ms. Maria (Marlene) Moulios**, **Assistant Professor of Museology at the Department of History and Archaeology of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (N.K.U.A./E.K.P.A.)**, took the stage and, as the head of the team of museologists, explained to those present the basic principles of the program for the creation of the Center.

Also present were the **members of the Karyes Local Council** headed by the **President Mr. Panagiotis Mentis**, the **Reverend Father Leontios of St. Andrew of Karyes**, the representative of Karyes in the **Municipal Council of Sparta** and **president of the Public Water Supply Company (D.E.Y.A.) of Sparta**, **Mr. Dimitrios Arvanitis**, and the **Municipal Councilor and President of the "Sparta Institute"**, **Ms. Anastasia Kanellopoulos**. In addition, representatives of all the institutions of Karyes were present, the **Cultural Club**, the **"Karyatis" Sports Club**, the **Fire Safety**, the **Blood Donation Bank**, the **"P. Kerchoulas" Trust**, the **"G. Th. Skiouris" Trust**, while greetings were sent by the **Karyes Adelphotis of the U.S.A.** (read by Mr. Konstantopoulos) and **Canada**.

The members of the Karyates Association Board of Directors would like to thank the sponsors of the event: **Mr. Nikolaos and Sotirios Koutsogeorgas**, **Mr. Stavros Mermigas**, **Ms. Panagiota Charakas**, **Ms. Litsa Floris ("FLORIS SPECIAL EVENTS")** and **Mr. Athanasios Argyropoulos..**



At the central photo the members of the Karyates Association Board of Directors at the new Association's Offices.

From the left: **Ms Helen Skevakis-Trakas**, **Ms Dimitra Karkalatos-Mermingas**, **Mr. Nikolaos G. Trakas**, **Ms Lefkothea Kourmouzis-Latsis**, **Ms Helen-Chrisoula (Helina) Prekezes-Bouloutas**, **Mr Charalambos (Harris) Ath. Konstantopoulos**, **Ms Evangelia Kopsiaftis-Gionis**, **Ms Dimitra Kakaris-Repoulis**, **Mr. Michael Repoulis** and **Ms Annita Glekas-Prekezes**.

Greetings from Mr. Sarandos Kaperonis, president of the Adelphotis of Arachovites "KARYAE" U.S.A.

Dear friends and fellow villagers,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Arachovite Brotherhood "KARYAE" in Gastonia, North Carolina, U.S.A. —a society proudly founded in 1923 by immigrants from our village— it is my great honor to extend my warmest congratulations on the inauguration of the Memorial Center.

This extraordinary project is not just a museum; it is a living tribute to the identity of the Arachovites. It preserves our stories, honors our ancestors, and ensures that the voices and experiences of all generations of Arachovites —past, present, and future— will never be lost. Whether they were born here, return each summer, or migrated in search of a better tomorrow, their journey now has a permanent and honored place. We are deeply grateful to all who contributed: to those who envisioned, documented, funded, worked on, and believed in this vision.

Karyes/Arachova is a unique village, full of beauty, history and special places worth visiting. From the iconic Clock, the proud Caryatids, the Plane Trees at Panagia, to the lively squares, the unique cafes, the taverns with warm hospitality, and the local flavors and products, Arachova has it all.

Now, with the Memory Center, a space of special significance is added — where the soul of Arachova speaks, where memory is preserved, and where young and old can understand our common heritage more deeply.

Karyes today is growing, as a place of residence, as a tourist destination, as a living community. And each such initiative strengthens not only our cultural presence, but also the local economy, creating opportunities for everyone.

The Brotherhood of Arachovites "Karyae" is always present to offer support to our beloved village. After many years, our Association has restarted communication with local bodies, with the aim of cooperation and joint effort for the progress of our place.

We also declare our readiness to support the Memory Center in every possible way — with archives, documents, stories of immigrants who left their homeland for a new life in America. And their own story is part of the history of Arachova.

To all those who contributed to the realization of this dream, we express our warm thanks. Your work strengthens our bonds. It reminds us of who we are, where we come from and what we can achieve when we honor our roots.

With love, respect and pride,
Sarantos Kaperonis
President, Brotherhood of Arachovites "Karyae"

SOCIAL NEWS

Weddings and baptisms in Karyes

On **July 12, 2025**, at the **Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary (Panagia)** in Karyes, **Ioannis Antonopoulos** from **Vlachokerasia** and **Efstathia Meleche** from Karyes celebrated their wedding. We wish them a life filled with flowers!

This was followed by the baptism of their daughter. And her name is **Charoula**. Good Christian!

On **July 20, 2025**, at the **Church of Agia Paraskevi** in Karyes, **Stefanos Melech** and **Konstantina Tabakis** baptized their daughter. And her name is **Melina-Despina**. Good Christian!

On **August 31, 2025**, at the **Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary (Panagia)** in Karyes, **Andreas Tsoulos** and **Stavriani Lamos**, celebrated their wedding. We wish them a life full of flowers!

This was followed by the baptism of their son. And his name was **Georgios-Angelos**. Good Christian!

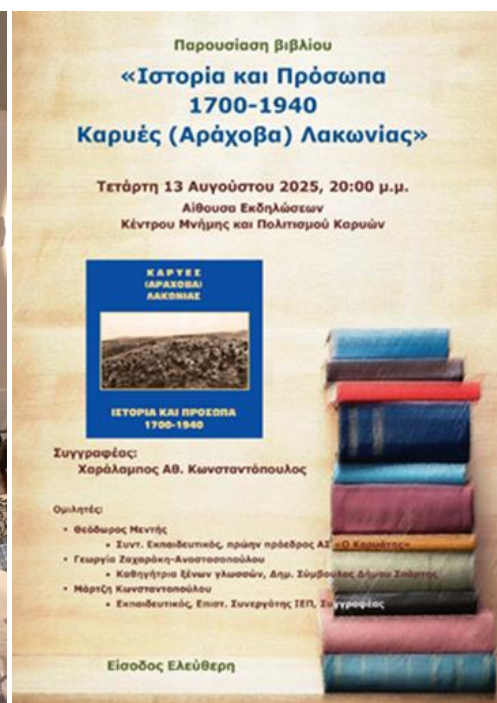
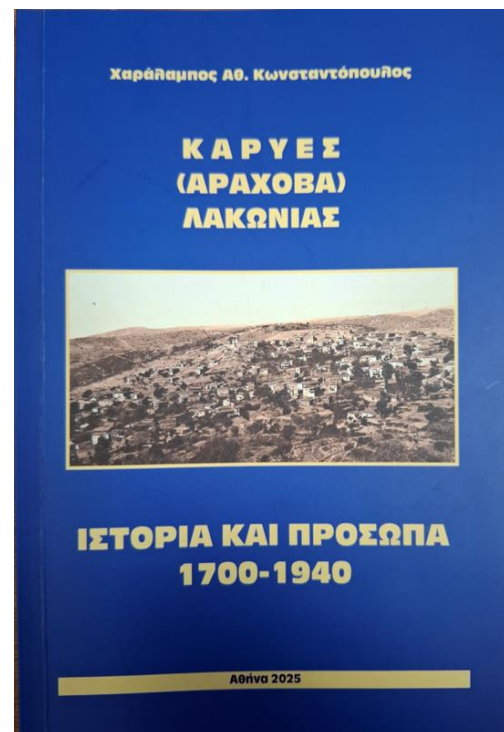
The presentation of Mr. Charalampos (Harris) Ath. Konstantopoulos book «KARYES (ARACHOVA) LAKONIA HISTORY AND PEOPLE 1700-1940»

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According to the author, the goal was to present a linear narrative of the recent history of Karyes, the historical Arachova of Mount Parnon. The narrative is based on the rich existing bibliography, but it is enriched with recent references and in each case connects local figures and events with the broader historical context of the era both in Greece and Europe, as well as in America. The main purpose of the book is to be easy to read and therefore to be attractive to the new generations who are largely unaware of the recent history of the place.



Through its study, the reader encounters the lives of previous generations and the events that marked their lives, while he will admire their love for their birthplace, which, combined with their practical spirit, led to the current image of Karyes, a living place that resists desertification.



The book received a great response, and anyone interested can purchase it in Karyes from the traditional products store "Leventakis", as well as from the traditional tavern - traditional products store "Melios".



It can also be sent by post upon payment of the corresponding fee and anyone who wishes can send a relevant message by email to the address:

karyates.association@karyes.gr.

All proceeds will be donated to the Karyates Association for the creation of the Center of Memory and Culture.

At the photos above the presentation
At the photos on the right and left the writer signs the books.



The celebration of the birthday of Virgin Mary

The **Nativity of the Virgin Mary**, the feast of the birth of the Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ, from her parents, Joachim and Anna, is commemorated on **September 8** by the Orthodox Church. On this day, Karyates gather in the settlement of "Fotinou", on the farthest limits of the Community.

So, this year too, in a beautiful setting of oak, walnut and chestnut trees, in the small but beautiful church dedicated to this feast, the compatriots gathered, attended church and then enjoyed a beautiful breakfast with traditional music and delicacies prepared by the **Ardamis** family.



The three-day Arachovite festivals on July 25-27 were celebrated in Karyes with a large crowd



The three-day events in Karyes were attended by many visitors on the last weekend of July.

On **Friday, July 25**, in the **afternoon**, a **Solemn Vespers** was held to celebrate the memory of **Saint Paraskevi** in the presence of the **Metropolitan of Sparta and Monemvasia Efstathios** at the **Church of Saint Paraskevi in Rachi**.

The Metropolitan and his entourage then went to **Central Square** where the **Inauguration of the renovated buildings of the Karyates Association** was held (see relevant main article).

The next day, **Saturday, July 26**, in the **morning**, the **Solemn Divine Liturgy** and the **Procession (Litany) of the Holy Icon** were also held at the **Church of Saint Paraskevi**.



In the **evening**, a large crowd gathered in **Rachi Square** for the **Greek Music Festival (Panigyri)**. The heat wave that prevailed in the country at that time, creating a suffocating atmosphere for the residents of the neighboring cities (Sparta and Tripoli) and the fact that the festival this year was on a Saturday night, resulted in the attendance of people surpassing any previous record.

The next day, **Sunday, July 27**, in the **morning** at the **Church of Agios Andreas**, where the **Holy Icon of Agios Panteleimon** is housed, a **Solemn Divine Liturgy** was celebrated in his memory and its **Litany** followed.

In the **evening**, hundreds of people flooded the **Central Square** for the **Agios Panteleimon Greek Music Festival (Panigyri)**, which is known to be, one of the largest in the Peloponnese region.

On both nights at **SAVAS CAFE** there was a **party** after midnight with a DJ with the entertainment lasting until the morning.



Immediate intervention of the Karyes Fire Safety Group



At noon on **September 9**, a fire broke out in the "**Monachogourna**" area of Karyes, which was extinguished with the **immediate intervention** of the Karyes Fire Safety Group, volunteers from the local community, as well as with the help of the Fire Department and the Municipality of Sparta.

The struggle to maintain cleanliness and order is continuous.

Despite the efforts of both the Local Community and the bodies of Karyes (Sports and Cultural Club, as well as the Fire Safety Club), in the field of cleanliness and orderliness, the results are mixed.

By general admission, the image at the monuments (Caryatides, Panagia, Stadium, Agia Paraskevi Grove, Sakali Spring), at Rachi Square, at the Playground, as well as at the two cemeteries (Agios Nikolaos and Agia Paraskevi) was clearly better than in other years. At the same time, a good image existed on the roads, where the vegetation had been cleared on the slopes, while due to the implementation of the recent law, all the plots had been cleared of grass.



The result of the voluntary cleanup

Moreover, the President of the Karyes Local Council, Mr. Pan. Mendis, in a relevant announcement, stated that: "*I would like to thank the volunteers who came today and cleaned up the garbage from the village fire safety point to the village and on the streets within the settlement.*"

The only problem, unfortunately, was the situation that prevailed for some days in the bins around Central Square, since several fellow citizens, while seeing that the bins were full, instead of throwing their garbage in other bins nearby that still had space, preferred to deposit it on top of and outside them. The result is images that do no one any favors.

In general, the situation in the Central Square area requires immediate action and as far as we know, the issue has been highlighted by the Karyes local Authorities and initiatives are expected soon.





The Annual Memorial Service in memory of the great benefactor Athanasios Matalas

On the morning of **Sunday, August 10**, after the Divine Liturgy at the **Church of Agia Paraskevi**, the Annual Memorial Service was held in memory of the great benefactor of Karyes and the wider region, Athanasios Matalas.

A large crowd attended, including many compatriots of all ages, who benefited at some point during their lives from the "**Athanasios Matalas Foundation of Lacedaemon**", which was created with the provisions of the benefactor's will.

Present were, among others, almost all the members of the Board of Directors, as well as the director of the Foundation, Mr. Theodoros Matalas.

The awards ceremony for the students followed (in the photo on the right, the President of the Karyes Local Council and member of the Foundation Board of Directors, Mr. P. Mendis, presents a relevant diploma) and then a trisagion was held in memory of the benefactor in front of his statue in the courtyard (photo on the left).



An Evening of Greek Music



On Sunday evening, **August 3**, a Greek music evening was organized with a tribute to Bithikotsis by the Koutsovasilis band in the **Central Square of Karyes**. The event was sponsored by the Municipality of Sparta within the framework of the "Summer Music Evenings" program.

The well-known quality of the music band, combined with the sweet warm evening, satisfied both the residents and the vacationers, as well as several visitors.

Musical events from Karyes businesses



The very beautiful space of the Café-Bar contributes to their absolute success, having now become a point of reference for the youth of Karyes and beyond.

This year, the company "**Melios**" organized a beautiful musical evening on Sunday evening, **August 17**, with live **REBETIKO** and **FOLK** Greek music in the Central Square with great success (photo on the right).

Alongside the established and non-established events of the Clubs and the Local Community, this year the residents of Karyes and visitors also enjoyed events organized by the coffee shops. Thus, first of all, **SAVAS CAFE**, as every year, organized a **party** on both evenings of the festivities on **July 26 and 27**, as well as on the evening of August 15 with a DJ (photo left).



The celebration of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary

On the morning of **August 15**, which this year was a Friday, all Karyates went to the Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary (Panagia) to attend Mass under the centuries-old plane trees.

Both the church and the outside area were clean and decorated thanks to the efforts of the Church Council and the Local Community. The entire congregation devoutly attended the Divine Liturgy, after which the Parish lottery draw with rich prizes took place.

Then, as every year, everyone went to Central Square, initially for coffee and then many stayed for food in the taverns.

A nice gathering for fun at "Rloi"



On **Thursday, September 11th**, the evening, the residents and many vacationers who were still in Karyes gathered at the Community Clock to have fun to the sounds of live Greek music.

On a warm evening and in front of the illuminated village's Clock, the ladies had prepared pies, food and sweets, while a fire had been prepared where souvlaki and meat of all kinds were grilled. The wine flowed abundantly, and the dancing soon began...



CLUBS NEWS

The Summer Party was a great success this year as well.

For another year, the Summer Party of the Karyes Cultural Club took place in the Schoolyard in the **grove of Agia Paraskevi in Rachi** on **Saturday, August 16**. The space was flooded with young people from both Karyes and the surrounding villages, who listened to the sounds of Greek and foreign music from a well-known DJ.



At the same time, in addition to the bar, there was also a special bar for cocktails, as well as a canteen with hot dogs and loukoumades.

Understandably, the party didn't end until after sunrise!





1η Αυγούστου 2025

Εθελοντική αιμοδοσία
στις **KARYATES**18:00-20:00, στην αίθουσα
της Κοινότητας

ΤΡΑΠΕΖΑ ΑΙΜΑΤΟΣ ΚΑΡΥΩΝ

ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ



Local clubs summer initiatives

All the Karyes Clubs were active during the summer.

Thus, first, on **Friday, August 1, 2025**, the Annual Summer Voluntary Blood Donation of the "**Karyes Blood Donation**" took place in the ground floor hall of the Community Center.

In the same space, at the initiative of the "**Agioli Anargyroi**" Club, on **Sunday, August 17** in the afternoon, a speech by the biochemist Mr. Antonis Karagiorgas entitled "ULTRA-PROCESSED FOODS AND HEALTH" took place.

Finally, with funding from the "**Kerchoulas Trust**", the **Community Clock** was renovated and illuminated.



Karyes Fire Safety Club

The Board of Directors of the Karyes Fire Safety Club warmly thanks the volunteers who carried out spring cleaning on the agricultural and forest roads of our village, as well as all those young and old who, on the days of August with a risk index of 5, worked shifts at the Kaminia location in order to ensure immediate information in the event of a fire.

We would also like to warmly thank the families for their financial support of the association:

- Nikolaos and Georgios Pantazopoulos for the donation of € 150.00.
- Nikolaos and Panagiotis Aristotelis Kostalas for the donation of € 200.00 in memory of Konstantina Trakas.
- Aristotelis Kostalas for the donation of € 100.00 in memory of Dimitris Leventakis.

SOCIAL NEWS

They passed away

Dimitrios Chr. Leventakis
passed away on **August 18th**, aged **58**.

Dimos, beloved by all, leaves behind his wife Eleftheria and his two children, Christos with Stamatia and Ioannis. The Karyates Association, to whom Dimos was always close, expresses its warmest condolences.



His funeral took place on **August 19** at the **Agia Paraskevi cemetery** in Karyes, with a large crowd accompanying him to his final resting place.

The following is a funeral speech by the former president of the KARYATIS SPORTS CLUB Mr. Theodoros Mentis.

"Dear compatriots,

always in the losses of our loved ones we choose to refer only to the positive aspects of their lives, and for the rest we simply ask God to forgive them.

However, on this difficult day, we have before us a distinguished man, the great DIMO, to whom is difficult to search and find anything reprehensible to accuse him, and now he is leaving so quickly. It is as if he had ordered it: he did not interrupt celebrations and festivals and gives us the opportunity to have our eyes filled with tears and a tear of true pain roll down our cheeks for the great loss and the void he leaves in our small society.,

Dear friends, there is no need to refer in detail to his actions and his contributions to the local community and to all the village's bodies and beyond, there is no need to talk about the maxim that he applied his life: useful to himself, to his family, to the society of our village. However, we need to emphasize that Dimos was an example of optimism, calmness, and kindness. His phrase full of love and understanding "OLA KALA (EVERYTHING IS FINE)" will never be forgotten by those who knew his soul and heart up close. Only such a person who loved the village, acquaintances and strangers would be a member of the Tripolis Rescue Team, where they volunteer their lives for the purpose for which they have been trained.

Ladies and gentlemen, let us reflect that in today's society where we are overflowing with knowledge and studies, something is missing: anthropism is missing, solidarity is missing, the role model of the patriot, the family man, the human being is missing. Demow generously had this something. He, dear patriots, was not distinguished for wealth and comforts nor is it going to enter some pantheon of donors and benefactors. However, it leaves behind a great surplus of spiritual wealth. Let us take advantage of it to make our small society better.

Dear Friend and Fellow Countryman, we thank you for what you have given us and we apologize if somehow, at some point we have hurt you with our behavior and our attitude. Demos, we wish you on your eternal journey: "ALL THE BEST".

To your loved ones Eleftheria, Christakis, Giannakos Matoula, we express our deepest condolences and may they always feel truly proud of you.

May your memory be eternal".

On July 9, 2025, Panagiotis Athanailos
passed away in Athens at the age of **96**.



He was born in Karyes, Laconia, in 1929, where he spent his childhood and after his military service, he emigrated to the USA, specifically to Chicago. With little money in his possession and little to no knowledge of the English language, he managed to excel in the catering industry, having created several restaurants.

Later, his beloved Nicoletta Efstratios Minakaki came to him and they had a son, Anastasios. He had great love for his family, relatives and friends, but his greatest love was for his homeland, where he returned and settled permanently in Greece until the end of his life.

His funeral took place on **July 13** at the **Church of St. Andrew in Karyes** and his burial was in the cemetery of **St. Nicholas**.

Our deepest condolences.

Christos Panagiotopoulos
passed away on **July 10th** at the age of **79**.

He was the husband of compatriot Maria Charaka and leaves behind his brother Konstantinos, his two daughters, Anthi with her husband Spyridon and Paraskevi with her husband Nikolaos, as well as his grandchildren Christos and Philippos.

His funeral took place at the **Church of St. Andrew, Karyes** on **July 12th** and burial at the cemetery of **St. Nicholas**.

Our deepest condolences.

Constantinos (Gus) Diamandouros passed away
on **June 28, 2025** in the U.S.A. at the age of **95**.



He was born in Karyes and was the youngest child of Petros and Paraskevi Diamandouros. He and his family endured the German occupation and as the youngest of all his siblings he remained in the village helping his family on the farms.

In the midst of the Greek Civil War, he finished high school in Sparta and then went to Athens where he graduated from the "Hephaestus" Technical School. There he lived with his three inseparable friends Panagiotis Kopsiaftis, Dimitris Kolovos and Vasilis Prekezes. After completing his service in the Greek Army (1953-1955), his father Petros, who had lived in Chester, South Carolina for 15 years before the Great Depression, convinced him to go to the U.S., since the borders had been opened for Karyates. Indeed, he sailed on the ship "Olympia" on May 24, 1956. He arrived in New York on June 4 and headed to Charlotte, North Carolina to meet his uncles and cousins. After a brief stay in the South, he moved to Chicago and worked at the Drake Hotel as a waiter in room service and attended Amunson College. While serving as best man at the wedding of his best friend, Panagiotis Kopsiaftis, who had also immigrated to Greenville, South Carolina, he met his future wife, Helene Pouloukefalos, who was also a bridesmaid.

They were married on October 18, 1959 and shared 65 years of marriage. Initially, the couple lived in Chicago for about a year and then moved back to Chester, South Carolina for a few years. They eventually ended up in Union, South Carolina when Gus purchased the Hearts Drive-In on November 18, 1963, which he operated until 1995. Although he sold the business, he remained active in the restaurant as he loved it and its customers and could not stay home. They had and raised two sons, Pete and Sammy, law school graduates who are now Family Court Judges - Pete in Spartanburg and Sammy in Union. Since 1984 they have been making annual trips to Greece. He was a member of many clubs and groups in Union, South Carolina, and an active member of the Adelphotis. He had 7 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren, who will remember him for his work ethic, his guidance, his stories, the life lessons he taught them all, and most of all, his unconditional love!

Our deepest condolences

At the next issue:

THE NEWS OF THE ADELPHOTIS IN U.S.A AND CANADA

KARYATES ASSOCIATION NEWS BULLETIN QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

For information E-mail: karyates.association@karyes.gr