



KARYES

Laconia



Studio Photography Alexandros Bougadis

Καρόλος Δ. Στεφάνης

KARYATES ASSOCIATION NEWS BULETTIN

Issue Number 32

Spring 2022

THE KARYATES ASSOCIATION LOTTERY DRAW

The Karyates Association Lottery draw for the completion of the Karyes Memory and Culture Centre held on **February 20, 2022** in Athens in the hall of the "Aghiasos Lesvos Progressive Association" offices at 39, 3rd of September Street.



The draw took place in the presence of the notary **Mrs. Dimitra Kakari-Kranioti**, while the member of the Audit Committee of the Karyates Association **Mrs. Elina Prekeze** was also present. From the Board of the Association were present Messrs. **Michael Repoulis**, **Dimitra Mermiga**, **Lefkothea Latsi** and **Evangelia Kopsiafti**.



The results of the draw are as follows:

- Lottery no. **4.940 (€ 500)** **Mr. Greg Atkins (L.A.)**, resident of Spartanbourg, South Carolina.
- Lottery no. **0.301 (€ 500)** **Ms. Georgia Kon. Latsis**, resident of Charlotte, South Carolina.
- Lottery no. **1926 (€ 1.000)** **Mr. Achilles (Archie) Xouris**, resident of Greenville, South Carolina.

The Board **warmly thanks** all the Caryatans and the dear friends of S.A.K. who bought lotteries, thus significantly strengthening the effort of the KARYATES ASSOCIATION to complete the Memory and Culture Center on time.

INVITATION TO A GENERAL ASSEMBLY

To the members and friends of the Karyates Association

The Board of Directors of the Association during its meeting on 03.03.2022 decided to convene an emergency General Assembly.

Therefore, all the members of the Association are INVITED to a General Assembly that will take place in the Hall of the "Aghiasos Lesvos Progressive Association", at 39, 3rd of September Street, (1st floor) on Monday 28 March 2022 at 11 p.m.

In case the quorum provided by the articles of association is not reached, the General Assembly will be held definitively, regardless of the number of members, on **April 3, 2022, Sunday at 11:00 am**, at the same place and with the same issues.

AGENDA

1. Making a decision for the sale of three offices no. 5, 6 and 8, owned by the Association, texts on the 5th floor on 48 Stadiou Street apartment building.
2. Various Announcements.

The presence of all members of the Association is absolutely necessary. You can vote by proxy with a power of attorney with the authenticity of your signature certified by K.E.P., Police Department, the online service gov.gr or another Public Authority.

With patriotic greetings

<i>The President</i>	<i>The Vice -Presidents</i>	<i>The General Secretary</i>	<i>The Treasurer</i>
Michael Repoulis	Annita Prekezes	Charal. Konstantopoulos	Lefkothea Latsi
	Demetra Mermingha		
<i>The Members</i>			
Christos Prekezes	Evangelia Kopsiafti	Nikolaos Trakas	Helen Trakas

THE COMPATRIOTS SUPPORT

THE VISION OF THE KARYES MEMORY AND CULTURE CENTRE

The Board members of Karyates Association want, once again, to express their **gratitude for the continued support of the Caryatans and the friends of the Karyes** for their donations.

These financial contributions are a **practical proof of trust for the Association**, which during its more than 50 years of existence **has proved to be an organization being characterized by its transparent and absolutely healthy financial management.**

All the board members feel responsible for all the money that our compatriots donate to the Association and therefore they guarantee that every dollar or euro will be spent solemnly for the purpose of the creation of the Karyes Memory and Culture Centre.

In this issue, as we always do, we publish the names of the donators of the last period:

- **Stefanos Ardamis** € 30-.
- Anonymous donor € 500-.
- **Angeliki Panousi** € 1,000-.
- **Aristotle (Arthur) Kakaris** € 100-.
- **Konstantina (Constance) E Voukidi** € 100-.
- **Paraskevas Douvlis** in memory of Giannis, Telis and Stratos Kostalas, Christos Andr. Douvlis, Nikos Hatzidakis, his brothers Andreas, Zacharias, Elias and his parents of Christos and Kalirroee € 500-.



ΣΥΝΔΕΣΜΟΣ ΤΩΝ ΑΠΑΝΤΑΧΟΥ ΚΑΡΥΑΤΩΝ

DID WE PAY OUR ANNUAL MEMBER SUBSCRIPTION?

Dear Compatriot,

Due to the pandemic, we were not able to organize the events we hold every year in order to meet, discuss and have fun.

For this reason, **it was impossible to collect your contributions** that every year you always willingly give us and thus thank you from the bottom of our hearts. "But every obstacle is for good" our people say. For this purpose, since we live in the digital era, each of us **may pay his/her annual subscription easily through internet banking.**

The cost of the annual subscription to the Association is only **€ 5.00. / US\$ 6.00**

Payment is optional. The Association does not necessarily ask for anything.

The number of accounts is (IBAN):

GR 560110 662 00000 66200 228709

KARYATES ASSOCIATION

SWIFT (BIC) ETHNGRAA NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE

The same account is available to anyone for **donations and any financial support** he/she wishes for the purposes of the Association.

Regarding the **postal sending of the Newsletter**, although the cost of the postal delivery is high, it will be **free of charge.**

However, each of your contributions **helps us to cover the costs and gives us strength to keep going.**

Thanks in advance everyone.

With patriotic greetings,
the BoD of the Karyates Association

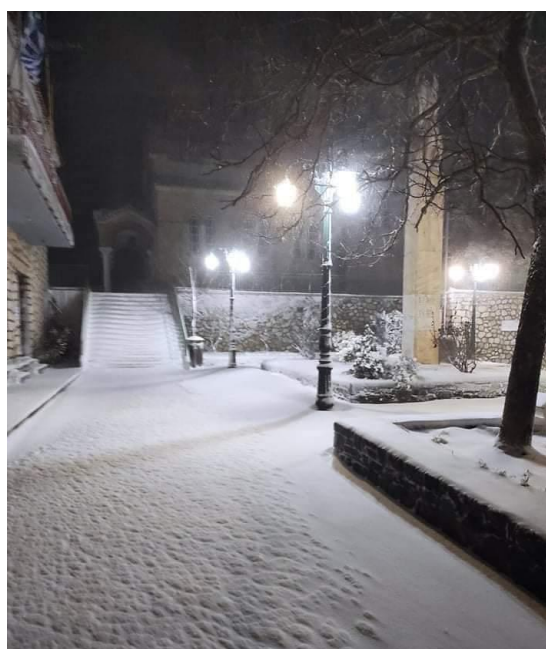
A COLD WINTER



This winter has proved to be heavy for Greece and that has affected the weather in Karyes too. Although last winter was mild and arid, this year, on the other hand, the snow has decorated houses and roofs several times in white. With the new year and almost every week until the 20th of March, it snowed with the culmination of the bad weather called "Elpis / Hope" which hold a record of snowfall for the last years.



Although the Sparta Municipality cleaned the main road to enable the access of the village with the city of Sparta, it did not clear the streets inside the village, making it very difficult for the daily life of the residents, the visitors and especially the movement of the buses that transported the excursionists. Fortunately, significant help came from the permanent volunteer of the village, Mr. **Spyros Sioutos**, who on his own initiative and means (tractor) cleaned part of the square and many streets.



Let's hope at least with these snowfalls will contribute to create enough water reserve during the summer and to avoid the water shortage that afflicted us in 2021

TECHNICAL WORKS TENDER
COMPLETION FOR WORKS IN KARYES

At the beginning of the year, the open electronic tender for the project "ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND TECHNICAL WORKS OF THE KARYES LOCAL COMMUNITY 2021", was completed containing a total Budget of € 74,668.36 + VAT. (total amount € 92,588.77). The financing of the project is from Sparta Municipality's own resources and the total deadline for the execution of the project is set at one hundred and eighty (180) days from the date of signing the contract. The essential features of the project are the following:

1. Demolition of old cement pavements on the municipal road from the property of Paraskevas Georg. Kolovos to the property of heirs Petroulias. Construction of new concreting in sections of the road with a total length of 100m. about and width about 1m. In front of the property Paraskevas Georg. Kolovos, a new concreting will be done in the form of clam in a length of about 13m. and width 2.5-5m. Outside the hostel "Ta Petrina" will be demolished old cement paving and new concreting will be about 12m. long and width 1m.
2. Asphaltting of the road (in sections) from the Karyes central square (owned by Theodoros Koutsogeorgas) to the intersection to the property of Despo Voukidis with a total length of approximately 90m. and variable width from 4-7m. Placing handrails along the road.
3. Cement paving of the road in sections, from the property of heirs Panagiotis Diamantouros to the property of Paraskevas Kolantzianios with a total length of about 80m. and floating width 3-4.5m. It will be preceded by demolition of old cement pavements.
4. Partial demolition of an old cement pavement and new concreting on a municipal road perpendicular to the Provincial Road to Varvitsa between the properties of Marigoula Bakou and heirs Zacharias Leventakis in a length of approximately 15m. and a width of about 4.5m. Care will be taken for the smooth assembly (altitude) of the municipal with the Provincial Road.
5. Reconstruction of a collapsed retaining wall supporting a municipal road, next to a useless building owned by the heirs of Theodoros Harakas, approximately 7m. long and a total height of 5m.
6. Demolition of an old cement paving and new concreting in a section of a municipal road in front of the properties of Konstantinos Diamantouros and Despos Diazikis, with a total length of about 27m. and about 2m wide.
7. Cement paving of a part of a common area in front of the house of Efstathia Pitsios in a length of approximately 5m. and a width of about 3m. The surface call will be such that the rainwater will be removed from the house.
8. Demolition of old concreting and construction of cobblestone on the municipal road from the central square of the settlement to the property of Panagiotis Georgopoulos, approximately 43m. long and 5m. wide.
9. On the municipal road north of the Holy Temple of Apostolos Andreas and near the central square of the settlement, cement paving of a common area approximately 14m. long and floating width 2-4.5m.
10. Demolition of an old cement pavement from the property of Thomas Kontalonis to an intersection in front of the property of Georgios Devekios, approximately 40m. long. and 4-5m. wide. Construction of paving which will be extended to an adjacent common area 11m. long about and 2.5m. wide.
11. Demolition of a section of road paving next to a house owned by Andreas Christopoulos in a length of 14m. about and width 1m. New concreting of this section with a slope towards the center of the road.
12. Kennel lining with concrete next to the property of Ioannis Velonis in a length of about 20m.

RELIGIOUS CELEBRATIONS

The "fota" (Jesus Baptism)



The Karyates, residents and visitors from all round Greece celebrated our Lord Baptism at the Divine Liturgy that took place at the St. Andrew Church in Karyes on January 6, 2022.

At the photo Father Leontios, the new Karyes Priest.

THE DONATION OF THE
"STAVROS NIARCHOS"
FOUNDATION FOR
THE NEW SPARTA HOSPITAL
HAS BEEN ACCEPTED
BY THE GREEK GOVERNMENT

The donation of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation for the design, construction and equipment of the new General Hospital of Sparta was ratified.

The law includes all the necessary actions for the implementation and faster possible completion of the General Hospital of Sparta I.S.N. construction and operation. The new hospital will meet modern standards and will upgrade the health infrastructure of the Regional Unit of Laconia, but also of the Southeastern Peloponnese in general.

With the implementation of the new General Hospital of Sparta I.S.N., the Ministry of Health and the "Stavros Niarchos Foundation" (I.S.N.) aspire to create a modern health unit that will be a model of hospitalization and health care with the implementation of innovative systems of organization and operation. The aim is to create a new modern nursing example, based on best international practices, which as a model of good medical nursing and functional practices will contribute to the improvement and sustainable development of the Greece's National Health System.

The new General Hospital of Sparta I.S.N. will provide a wide range of medical and nursing services for the adult and child population of the Southeastern Peloponnese region and in particular of the Laconia Regional Unit. The new facilities will enable the development of the digital operation of the clinical services, the modern management and maintenance of the hospital, as well as its connection with other collaborating Health Units. At the same time, training and research in new technologies will be developed with the aim of continuously evolving the capacity, ability and efficiency of the staff towards the creation of a modern hospital that utilizes the advantages of digital technology in the progress of its quality and operation.

MOMENTS OF KARYES HISTORY

THE SPECTACULAR STORY OF AMERICA'S FIRST KARYATIS

THE ADVENTURES OF AN ARACHOVITE FAMILY'S MEMBERS ON 4 CONTINENTS AND 4 OCEANS

The story of the three brothers **Constantine, Demosthenes and Agamemnon**, sons of **Anargyros** and **Marina Leventaki** (par. **Kapilos**) could in itself be a novel or even an adventure film.

In Arachova of **1860**, only 30 years since the end of the Greek Revolution War, three young brothers live. Their father Anargyros is poor and so he decides to send Demosthenes to **Sparta** to learn the art of **shoemaker**. The young man becomes a good craftsman, but as he is restless, he fights with his boss and returns to the village. The shoemaker looks for him because he is a good craftsman and arrives in Arachova to meet his father. But Demosthenes does not even want come back to him.

As a result his father decides to send him to **Piraeus** where there are some Arachovites live and work to find his way. At that time the railway had not been built yet and the journeys were made by sea from the town of Astros. When Demosthenes arrived in Piraeus (port city of Athens), he settles there and although at the beginning he practices the same profession, (shoemaker), after a while he finds a job in a **bakery**.

The arrival in Africa

After a while his brother Constantine come from Arachova and join him. It was a time when many compatriots were migrating to the Balkans and Russia. However the two brothers learn that there were opportunities in **British-occupied Egypt**. So they took the decision and sailed by ship, arriving in **Alexandria, Egypt** in **1866**. There Demosthenes finds work as a silversmith, while his brother works wherever he can.

The daring plan and the arrival in America

However, for Constantine things are not very good. During his stay in Egypt, he understands that the British are treated differently from the rest of Europeans and so he creates a daring plan in his mind: To reach the U.S.A., to get the American Citizenship and to return in Egypt as an American citizen! Having met **Ioannis Lykouras** from **Vassaras, Laconia**, they sail and after crossing **two oceans, the Indian and the Pacific** and a long journey, they face the coasts of **California** in **1867**, arriving in **San Francisco**.

In order to understand the era we are talking about, the California State was liberated from Mexico and integrated into the Union just 17 years ago, while just 2 years ago it ended in the eastern U.S.A. the American Civil War!

There, the two pioneering Laconians will remain selling fruits and vegetables as itinerants in order to raise money and obtain Citizenship.

The adventures of Demosthenes in Sudan

Back in Egypt, Demosthenes learns that **British General Gordon** is campaigning in **Sudan** and that there will be opportunities for him. So he takes the big decision and follows the British Army reaching the capital city of **Khartoum**. There, he will work as a baker and seraphim. The years pass and Demosthenes thrives since as a baker he is well paid by the British to feed the army. But in 1885 things got difficult. The Sudanese Arab Rebellion cuts off General Gordon's forces, which are surrounded and the Europeans are in danger. The British army, taking among with all the white civilians and our compatriot too, boarded ships in order to cross the Nile to the north to reach Egypt. Unfortunately, the plan fails and the Arabs with shots from the shores after a short attack kill the General and capture all the remaining army and the whites as hostages, along with Demosthenes, who was wounded by a bullet in hand. Terrible tortures follow and in the end they declare that those who convert in Isam will stay alive. Unable to resist our hero enters the tank they had prepared and "becomes" a Muslim. In fact, he takes the Qur'an in his hand (where he hides the general's receive of the "debts") and becomes "Hotzas".



Demosthenes An. Leventakis after his escape from Sudan

blind and injured.

After some months the obligation for the presence of the prisoners 2 times a day in the administration of the camp becomes once at the end of the week and so Demosthenes together with another Greek from Kamari, Tegea decide to try to escape by riding a trunk on the Nile. But they knocks on the banks and the trunk turns over. The two Greeks are in danger of drowning by the river stream or being eaten by crocodiles. Fortunately they manage to return at night without being noticed. However, they do not give up and finally realize that they have to escape through the desert. Indeed, in the second attempt, they succeed. They cross the **Sahara Desert** and after **40 exhausting days and nights of thirst and heat** they reach near the city-port of Alexandria. Then and while they are resting under a date palm, Demosthenes shouts to his partner: "I can not see anything"! Indeed, due to the strain and the intense brightness, our hero has been blinded. Then his companion removes the Qur'an from his hands without knowing that the general's receive was inside and Demosthenes arrives In Alexandria

The return of Constantine to Alexandria

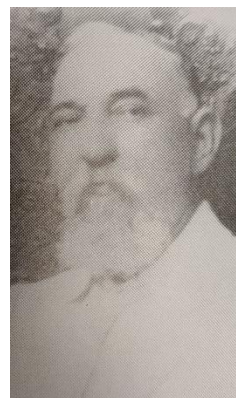
Meanwhile, after a stay in San Francisco, Constantine manages to raise some money and

taking American citizenship, completes his purpose by traveling back to Egypt. Arriving in Alexandria in **1874**, however, things changed: His brother lives in Sudan and the new local governor (Pasha) expelles all non-British foreigners, who were forced to find work within 24 hours. So the two Laconians are forced to leave for Greece as quick as they could.

Staying in Greece

In Greece, Constantine meets his brother who has left behind, Agamemnon, who is now married. In fact, the brothers decide the first son of Agamemnon who had just been born (**1873**) to take the name of their missing brother and that is the name of **Demosthenes Agamemnon Leventakis**.

In **1886** they received news from Alexandria that their brother Demosthenes is alive and blind. Immediately Constantine sails and arrives in Egypt where he meets his brother hit by a bullet and blind. He takes him back to Greece and with the money he has collected in America he buys him a house in Piraeus where Demosthenes will live the rest of his life until his death in **1904**.



Constantine An. Leventakis

The return to America

But Constantine is a restless spirit and he is not concerned with family but adventure. So he decides to go to America with Lykouras again. After arriving they wander together in different cities of the **Wild West**. In fact, during one of their visits to Chicago, he meets his first cousins, **Vassilios and Panagiotis Leventakis** (par. **Fafoutis**) who were officially the first Arachovites in America as they arrived in **Chicago** in **1887**.

The adventure in China and the shipwreck in Japan

Meanwhile, they are conceiving a new plan. Together with another Greek from Mani named **Xylaras**, they decide to visit **China** to buy opium and return to America to sell it. They do manage sail and to reach the shores of China and buy it. However, on the way back the ship sinks off the Japanese

coasts of **Japan**. There they are arrested, and their "goods" have been abstracted. After many hardships, they finally manage to return to San Francisco where Constantine will open the "**GREEK AMERICAN CANDY CO**" together with another Greek called **Varelas**.

Arrival of the niece and the years in Hawaii

In **1893**, however his nephew Demosthenes, who as we mentioned in 1875 in Karyes he had been baptized, arrived in the U.S.A. After crossing the Atlantic, he arrives in New York, where after a short stay he sails again and after a 9-day trip he arrives in San Francisco to find his uncle and work with him.

However, a few years later, in **1898**, our heroes will again move daringly after deciding to settle in **Hawaii**. There they will thrive and work for several years. Finally, in **1905**, Constantine will return to Greece to retire as he is now almost 60 years old and he will live in Karyes until his death in **1920**. A few years later, his nephew Demosthenes will return too.

Epilogue

How many daring journeys and adventures did the protagonists of our history go through on 4 continents and 4 oceans? Anyone should admire them for their boldness and their mood for adventure.

It is worth noting here that the family adventures in the U.S. will not stop. Although the nephew has settled in Karyes, where he marries **Barbara Nik. Harakas** in **1912** and has a son **Konstantinos** (named after his uncle) in **1913**, the "American Dream" is always on his mind. So in 1914, he leaves again and settle in **Austin, Texas**. Next year his wife arrives with his son.

In **1916** they have another son, **Anargyros** (his grandfather name), and finally they move to **Charlotte, North Carolina**, along with the rest of Arachovites. There, his wife will give birth to another son **John** and four daughters: **Marina** (spouse **Papadea**), **Paraskevi** (spouse **Retsky**), **Vasiliki** (spouse **Truesdale**) and **Anastasia**, all residents of **Columbia, North Carolina**, except Paraskevi who stayed in **Long Island, New York**.

According to the **Karyatika VOL. 1** (1950), their two eldest sons will have children, the first a daughter maned Barbara in **1944** from his marriage to **Elizabeth Maxwell** and the second **Barbara** and **Konstantinos (Gus)** from his marriage to **Dimitra Georgiou Manos** in **1945**.

In fact, the success of our compatriot motivated his two other brothers **Anargyros** and **Georgios Agamemnon Leventakis** also to immigrate to the U.S.A. and settle in **New England (Middletown Connecticut)**. Only their two sisters were left behind in Greece.



The "nephew" **Demosthenes Agam. Leventakis** with his wife **Barbara N. Harakas** and his little daughter **Anastasia**

All the data have been taken from the "KARYATIKA" volume I.

FESTIVITIES IN KARYES

THE “ATRAPOS” CHOOSE KARYES

The well-known throughout Greece alternative tourism company **ATRAPOS** chose the beautiful village place of Karyes in order to **celebrate its 25 years of operation** and at the same time to cut its **New Year's pie** for 2022.



The company aims to highlight, promote and protect the special natural, historical and folklore features of the mountainous areas of Greece and to promote mild and alternative forms of tourism.

The event took place on **January 29 and 30** and the program was essentially a two-day hiking trip to and from the neighboring villages of **Vourvoura** and **Varvitsa** and the **Caryatides Trails**.

The excursionists started from Athens on Saturday morning and arrived in Vourvoura from where they started a ~ 3 ½ hour hike to Karyes in combination with the "**Water Trail**" from the Karyatides trails. Then they followed the "**Village Trail**" from the Karyatides trails around Karyes to meet the most important sights of Karyes. This was followed by a visit to the "**Caryatides Monument**" and a stop at the cafes and taverns for coffee, tsipouro and light lunch.



In the afternoon they arrived at "**Arachovitika Kalivia**" Hostel for accommodation, where in the evening followed a dinner and the cutting of the New Year's pie (vasilopita) and the birthday cake of ATRAPOS.

On Sunday morning the walkers arrived in Karyes from where through a combination of paths "**Kastania**" and "**Velanidia**" lasting 4 hours they reached the village of Varvitsa. A circular route followed around Karyes on the same paths lasting 2 hours. At noon they returned to the hostel to enjoy a traditional meal and left for Athens in the evening.



It should be noted that in the previous days there had been significant snowfall in the village and visitors enjoyed a snowy landscape.



📷: «ATRAPOS» and Panaghiotis Doutsinas

KARYES AT THE PUBLIC TELEVISION'S (ERT1 - ERTWORLD) MORNING SHOW

Filming in Karyes was carried out by an ERT crew from the show "Me Nea Matia" to advertise the Caryatides Monument and the village too.



The show is broadcast by the first channel of Greek Public Television (ERT1) and was an initiative that was added to many others that have been made in recent years as a part of the efforts to Karyes Touristic promotion.



Congratulations to the well-known businessman (hotel "Archontiko tou Parnona" and tavern "Areti") Mr **John Koutsogeorgas** who had the initiative and Ms **Konstantina Tampakis** who presented the history of the place and the sights.



«MOREAS WINTER TRIAL»: REGULARITY MASTER HISTORIC CAR RACE IN PARNONAS AND TAYGETOS MOUNTAINS

A new car event took place in Laconia on **January 15 and 16, 2022**. The **Municipality of Sparta** in collaboration with the motorists of **Argolis Classic Car Club** and **AC3**, co-organized the race of historic vehicles. This new race in the field of the historic car aspires to be established and to be included in the annual motorist's program and the Municipality too.

The picturesque routes to the mountains of Parnonas and Taygetos, under winter conditions, gave great interest. On the first day, the cars that had started from Argolida upon entering Laconia arrived in Karyes at noon, followed by a route to the Mountainous Northern Laconia and specifically to the villages of Parnonas **Varvitsa**, **Vamvakou**, **Vresthena** and **Sellasia** to pass through Taygetos and the villages **Kastoreio**, **Loganiko**, **Soustiano**, **Trypi** and **Mystras** to finish in **Sparta** at the statue of Leonidas on Saturday from 18:00 -20:15.

The next row was Central Laconia and specifically again Parnonas and the villages **Chrysafa**, **Agrianni**, **Polydroso**, **Vassaras** and **Voutiani**, the valley of Evrotas with the villages **Skoura**, **Xirokambi**, **Polovitsa**, **Gorani**, **Liantina**, **Potamia** and **Amykles** and Taygetos with the villages of **Anavryti** and **Agios Ioannis** finishing at the Sparta Central Square from 13:30 - 17:00.

THE CLUB NEWS

KARYES CHURCH COUNCIL NEW YEAR'S PIE

The "cutting" took place on **Sunday, January 30, 2022**, after the end of the Divine Liturgy at the Church of the Apostle Andreas in Karyes.

The members of the Karyes Ecclesiastical (Church) Council wish to all the patriots and friends of Karyes a happy and blessed year!



“KARYATIS” SPORTS CLUB GENERAL ASSEMBLY



The General Assembly of the "**KARYATIS**" SPORTS CLUB took place on **Sunday, February 13, 2022** in the ground floor (Event Hall) of the Community hall in Karyes.

The members were informed about the current issues of the Club, while they also approved the amendment of the Statute, which was necessary to become suitable with the new Sports Law (L.4726 / 2020).

FESTIVITIES IN KARYES

EXCURSION OF ACHARNES ATTICA NATIONAL MOUNTAINING ASSOCIATION IN KARYES

Another excursion on the **Caryatides Trails** was made in Karyes by a mountaineering team.



Specifically, on **March 13**, **Acharnes Attica National Mountaining Association** visited the beautiful village and walked on its paths.



SOCIAL NEWS

THEY PASSED AWAY

Nikolaos G. Hatzidakis passed away at the age of **82** in Athens Greece,
husband of **Ms Panaghiota (Pota) Koutsogeorga**
His funeral took place at Kallithea cemetery in Athens



The deceased was born in Kalami, Chania, Crete in 1940. He studied at the Greek Military School, from where he graduated in 1963 as a Lieutenant of the Supply Corps (S.E.M.). Among other things, he served as Commander of the 865th and 866th Air Mission Battalions in Aspropyrgos, Attica and Larissa, respectively, in the 781 General Transport Battalion in Thessaloniki and at the Training and Transport Center in Sparta.

He was the Director of Transport Supply in the Special Forces Division and in the G.E.E.F. Cyprus and then served in the G.E.S. as Deputy Director in the Transport Supply Division and as Director in the Material Selling Division.

He studied, during his service, in all the schools of his weapon and in addition in the Infantry School, in the school of the War Material Corps, in the Technical Training Center, in the School of Military Information, in the School of Foreign Languages, in the School of Paratroopers, in the High School of War and at the School of National Defense.

He was honored with the following medals and medals for the services he offered to his homeland:

- **Medal of Military Value II Class,**
- **Officer of the First Class,**
- **Successful Administration A Class and**
- **Interim Leadership Formation.**

He was also honored with the **GOLD CROSS OF THE ORDER OF HONOR**, while he was also named **BRIGADE OF THE ORDER OF PHOENIX**.

With his wife, they had two children, **Manolis and Zenovia (Zina)**.

Helen Boukides-Cringa

died in **Scarborough Ontario Canada**
at the age of **97**
on **January 24, 2022**



George Hondros

passed away in **Joliet Illinois U.S.A.**
at the age of **92**,
on **March 1, 2022**

He was the son of Elias Chondros and Marigo Pouloukefalos. He left behind his wife **Katina** from Episkopi, Tegea, Arcadia and his three children **Elias, Maria and Sophia**.

John Karachalios

died suddenly in Karyes on March 5, 2022

He was the retired village's taxi driver and one of the liveliest presences in the village square.



Our heartfelt condolences to the families of our compatriots

TELLING STORIES AND TRADITIONS FROM THE VILLAGES OF NORTHERN LACONIC PARNON

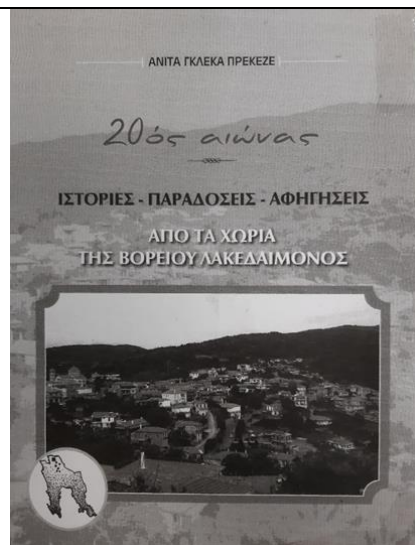
Annita Prekeze's book available for everyone

This book, published three 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 (genus Glekas)** and which the author dedicated to the Karyates Association.

The first edition was sold out, as the books became literally a hit and much loved. For this purpose, the Association proceeded to a second edition and now there are copies available for everyone. We believe that it is a book that all patriots should have in their library, since in its pages is written in an exceptional way the life in our villages with so much love and nostalgia during the 20th century and not only.

Copies of this valuable book can be obtained from all members of the Board of our Association.

For more informations call at **6985-120559**, or at karyates.association@karyes.gr



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THE KARYATID'S RETURN

Article by "modern" Caryatid Ms **Daphne Martin** on the return of the Parthenon sculptures

An excellent article by the "modern" Caryatid Daphne Martin, **daughter of Aigli Zafeirakou**, originally from Karyes, was published in the newspaper TA NEA. The article deals with the request for the return of the Parthenon sculptures to Athens and refers to its place of origin and the place of origin of the Caryatids.

Daphne Martin is an archaeologist, a graduate of Yale University and a PhD candidate in the Department of Classical Studies at Cambridge University.

Following is a republishing of the article in the newspaper "TA NEA", dated 24.01.2022.

Walking across Euston Road in London to go to the Subway I face a well-known image.

The Caryatids statues of St Pangras Church are staring at me from above. These elegant statue figures take the role of a classical column supporting the historic building. No one else seems to give them the necessary attention.

But I am personally standing for a while to admire them. Six ancient Greek women are standing proudly like they are observing the London traffic.

I feel proud as I stare them. I know them very well. Not only from the Acropolis as an Athenian, but also from my small village in Lakonia, Greece. You see Karyes, this small village is supposed to be their homeland. The famous traveler of the 2nd century Pausanias describes how the girls from Karyes (Caryatids) danced in favor of goddess Artemis (Diana) at the local temple of the Karyatis Artemis.

Therefore, on my village there is a Replica Monument of the Caryatides at the top of a hill where I remember myself visiting as a little girl. The monument has been built at the top of the slide "guarding" the village and giving to the visitor a spectacular view. Its purpose is to underline the Laconian origin of these statues that no one can deny.

On the contrary, at the Acropolis Museum in Athens among the 5 Caryatids there is an empty space. You see, the 6th sister has been stolen by Lord Elgin in 1802, while Greece was still occupied by the Ottoman Turks and was brought in London. The Acropolis Museum and her sisters await her in order to be united again

As a PhD candidate of Classical Art and Archeology at the Cambridge University, I place great emphasis on the importance of unification. That's the essence of the matter. The sculptures that were removed from the Erechion temple at the Athens Acropolis are integral parts of the monument.

Greece is their homeland. Once the ideal location for them to be exposed is now ready (the Athens Acropolis Museum that has been built since 2009 has already prepare its halls which will enhance the impact and value of the sculptures due to its visual proximity to the Acropolis) there is no excuse for no returning them so as the visitors to be able to admire them near their original place. The outcome from the reunification of the gables and the frieze of the Parthenon would be marvelous. For the first time after 200 years, it would be able to give us the true glory of the Monument.

The compromise proposed by Greece, i.e. the display of archeological treasures in the British Museum that have never left the Greece's coast is something more than fair. To be precise, it could be used as an opportunity to discuss the positive impact these objects had on British archaeologists and intellectuals. Neoclassicism was a current so strong that it pushed personalities like Lord Byron to shed their blood for a country that was not their bloody homeland (although certainly out of love therefore the term Friend of Greece "Filellinas"). This is something for which we Greeks will be eternally grateful, as the celebrations for the 200 years of the Greek Revolution have shown. I believe that the exhibition of other treasures would highlight this special relationship between Greece and Great Britain in a way more equal, than to keep these sculptures as a trophy. This would be a sign of true philhellenism, something that would make Lord Byron really proud.

The British museum has the opportunity to make the right decision, the moral one, at the ongoing negotiations. As an institution dedicated to the preservation and promotion of human history through its art and culture, I have no doubt that the Museum and its commissioners will have taken the time to understand the lessons of history. In this light the six caryatids could finally be reunite.



TAYGETOS: THE “MALE” MOUNTAIN

Article by our compatriot climber **George Ardamis**

Mount Taygetos is one of the dominant mountain ranges of the Peloponnese, with its altitude ranging from 40 to 2,407 meters at the top of Profitis Ilias. This peak is the highest point of the Peloponnese. Its total length is 115 kilometers, while it consists of about 14 peaks of which 6 have an altitude of over 2,000 meters.

At the same time, it is one of the most important areas of Greece in terms of biodiversity, while parts of the wider area as well as the "Mount Taygetos" itself, are part of the **European Network of Protected Areas Natura 2000**.



The winter ascent of this mountain range is a pretty good challenge for those involved in mountaineering, being a pole of attraction even for climbers from foreign countries. It is also suitable for the most daring, where they want to do some winter sports. So, although there is no ski resort available on this mountain, there are many who enjoy the adrenaline offered by mountain skiing on its snowy slopes.



A breath away from the city of Sparta, about 40 minutes drive, we reach the **Magganiari springs** (980m. altitude).

In fact, at this point there is a large parking and recreation area, which has been created by the forest department of Sparta.

From there, in order to reach the shelter, you can either follow the mountaineering path E4 (lasting 1.5 hours), or continue the route by car following the dirt road. It is worth mentioning that the trail is passable and ideal in winter, as it is located in the shade of the snowy mountain forest of black pines. From the shelter there is a path which connects it with the top of the mountain. The average time required to reach the top, since the field is snowy, is estimated at about 3.5 hours. During the ascent, we slowly enter the subalpine zone, where a few black pines and small bushes grow.

Then, we enter the alpine zone, which is located over 2,000 meters, where we are about to reach the peak. This whole route may seem tedious, but getting to this point every climber is rewarded, as the view is magnificent.



From that point, the route is about 25 minutes to the top, where we end up at the church of **Prophet Helias** (2,407m. Altitude). The landscape is fantastic overlooking the Messinian Gulf.

Of course, no one is expect to see the church of Prophet Helias during the winter months, because it is covered with snow.

In general, climbing this mountain during the winter months is a difficult process. Of course, it depends on the path that each climber will choose to follow, whether he will follow the mountaineering path or whether he will follow a path that requires technical experience.

