



# KARYAES

## Lakonia



### KARYATES ASSOCIATION NEWS BULLETIN

Issue Number 37

Summer 2023

#### We gathered again: The spring dance of the Association was a great success

After a three-year forced hiatus due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Board of Directors of the Karyates Association picked up the thread from where they had left it. In the spring of 2020, the annual spring dance was arranged to take place at the "Music Routes" Music Club. However, the coronavirus had other plans. So three years later and after the protective measures were lifted, it was decided to hold the event there again. Although there was a setback, since on February 5th that was originally announced as the date of the event, there was a heavy snowfall in Athens. As a result the event was postponed and finally took place on Sunday March 19th.



The members of the Board of Directors want to thank the many compatriots who responded to the call supporting the Association. Also, they want to express many thanks to those who offered gifts for the lottery, as well as those who bought them contributing to the goals of the Association. We rewarded them with good music from a famous traditional music band and tasty food in a truly beautiful venue.

See you next year!



On Friday August 11

#### the Karyates Association Annual Summer Dance

The Association's main summer event returns. A special music program by the famous Greek traditional music band of Spyros Koutsovassilis, Erin Christofilakis and L. Starogiannos will entertain all of us.

We are going to meet you at the Aghia Paraskevi – School yard at the evening of August 12, 2023.

#### Adelphotis Arahoviton "KARYAE" Everything is ready for the great celebration of the centennial



We need your photos!

Do you have great memories of your trips to Arahova or photos from picnics? If so, we would like to include them in the 100-Year Celebration photo gallery

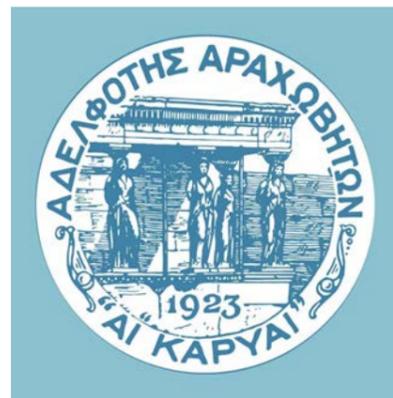
Send your favorite old (or new) photos of Karyae to: [karyaeassociation@gmail.com](mailto:karyaeassociation@gmail.com)

Dinner tickets are going fast, so get yours today! Can't make dinner?

No worries, come join us after 8PM! \$20 at the door.

Buy tickets here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/karyae-100-year-celebration-tickets-523181559127>



ADELPHOTIS ARAHOVITON

# KARYAE

SAVE THE DATE

## JUNE 17 & 18

WE'RE CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF KARYAE PARK!

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS UNFORGETTABLE WEEKEND

SATURDAY	SUNDAY
DINNER AND DANCE	11AM - DIVINE LITURGY
LIVE MUSIC BY ENDAS!	1PM - MAKARONADA
AND CASH BAR	SHORT PROGRAM HONORING PAST PRESIDENTS
DOORS OPEN AT 5PM	COFFEE AND DESSERTS
DINNER STARTS AT 7PM	FUN EVENTS FOR THE CHILDREN
ADULTS: \$60 UNDER 10: \$20 UNDER 6: FREE	ADULTS: \$20 UNDER 10: \$10 UNDER 6: FREE

TO PURCHASE TICKETS, PLEASE CONTACT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:  
HELEN MOFFAT AT 704-930-3388 • KIKI COUCHELL AT 864-621-2577  
PHYLLIS GIANAKOPOULOS AT 704-576-5850 • GEORGIA PISTOLIS AT 864-907-2268  
SARANTOS KAPERONIS AT 704-661-0881 • RENEE COLLINS AT 704-807-6120  
DEE GRUMBOS AT 864-230-7912

The Karyates Association congratulates the member of the Adelphotis and wishes to all the compatriots to enjoy the festivities!

#### REQUEST

Those who wish to receive this news bulletin via e-mail, please inform us by sending your e-mail address at our e-mail address:

[karyates.association@karyes.gr](mailto:karyates.association@karyes.gr)

#### ANNOUNCEMENT

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 our e-mail address: [karyates.association@karyes.gr](mailto:karyates.association@karyes.gr), or at the phones 6944-784563, 6974-720909.

### Installation of digital water meters in the villages of the Sparta Municipality

According to the relevant announcement:  
 "The Municipal Authority and the Administration of the "SPARTA MUNICIPAL WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE PUBLIC COMPANY (D.E.Y.A.S.)" are pleased to announce that on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, the project received the relevant approvals from the Special Secretary for Program Management (European E.S.P.A.) Mr. Giorgos Zervos and the proposal was included for financing. The project, with a total budget of € 6,134,366.00 concerns the **replacement of all conventional water meters** in the Municipal Units of Mystras, Oinountos, Faridos, Pellana and **Karyes** of the Municipality of Sparta with **digital water meters**, which will ensure the absolute managerial competence in the control of the water supply network.

In particular, the technical study drawn up by the Technical Service of the D.E.Y.A.S., and which was approved in its entirety, includes:  
 1) Supply, installation and commissioning of a total of 12,870 local consumption monitoring stations to monitor all critical parameters such as consumption, indication of leakage, breakage, water cut and malicious activities. Through these stations, the non-invoiced water related to the under-subscription of the existing outdated metering system will be drastically reduced, while the breaks and leaks will be detected immediately and with complete accuracy.  
 2) Supply of portable control stations for electronic water meter programming, control and spot detection of leaks in the network consisting of portable electronic water meter programmers, portable network surveyor and portable flow meter.  
 3) Expansion and upgrade of the existing Central Control Station where all the necessary work and additions of equipment and software will be done for the expansion of the existing remote-control system.  
 4) Training of the staff of the service in the new functions".

In addition, the Mayor of Sparta, Mr. Petros Doukas, stated "The concerns about the constant decrease in the availability of drinking water, the predicted upcoming decrease in rainfall worldwide by 40% by 2030, as well as the insufficient in many cases proper water management, make up the main factors that push us to take water management one more step forward for the benefit of all our citizens". Afterwards, he congratulated the Director of D.E.Y.A.S. Mr. Helias Trakakis, the Company's Technical Service and all those who worked to achieve the above development. Finally, the President of D..E.Y.A.S. Ms. Dedemidou, mentioned the great importance of the project and thanked the company's services for their actions in order to submit the relevant proposal on time as well as all the members of the Board of Directors for their cooperation.

However, we consider that while the project is necessary for the 21st century, it should also take into account the peculiarities of the region and especially of the mountain settlements such as Karyes. E.g. care should be taken so that the residents are not charged during the heavy winter season where for safety reasons the taps should be left slightly open so as not to cause frost damage..

### Memorial of Benefactor Athanasios Matalas

On **Sunday, April 30, 2023** and after the end of the divine service at Aghia Paraskevi, presided over by archpriest **Georgios Blathras** and the priest **father Leontios** the memorial service was held for the repose of the soul of the Great Benefactor of Karyes, **Athanasios Matalas of Lacedaimon**. Local and Municipal Authorities, members of the Board of Directors of the Matalas Foundation attended among with many people. The Karyates Association was represented by the president Mr. **Michalis Repoulis**.



The contribution of Benefactor to the place requires a whole book to be described and epigraphically it is worth mentioning his presence as consul in Balkan cities, where he opened the way for dozens of his compatriots to immigrate there, to do business in industries such as the grain trade, the distillery and catering. This wealth was transferred to Karyes, transforming the place and saving its residents in periods of low wheat production with massive food imports from these regions. With his presence in various government positions and his term as Local Mayor, he upgraded with his experience the standard of living in the entire region (creation of a walnut forest with seeds from the forests of Eastern Romilia, Bulgaria, construction of a road network, etc.).  
 His contribution to Karyes continues to this day and in the future through the system of scholarships for the students of Karyes and Lacedaemon region that he established in his will and is consistently implemented by the Board of Directors of the Matalas Foundation which was also created by his will.

May his example and offering find imitators.

### The celebration of the National Day of March 25

The anniversary of the Greek Revolution of 1821 was celebrated with the customary eulogy at the Main Church of Agios Andreas, followed by the recitation of poems by the students of the Karyes primary school and the laying of wreaths on the Heroon in the Central Square.



The President of the **Karyates Association**  
 Mr. **Michael Repoulis**



The president of the "**Karyatis**" **Sports Club**  
 Mr **Theodoros Mentis**



The president of the **Karyes Local Community** and the **Kerchoulas Trust**  
 Mr. **Georgios Devekos**

### Cementing, paving and asphaltting work continues inside and outside the Karyes settlement



EASTER 2023 IN KARYES



As every year, there were many compatriots living in the cities, who decided to spend the Holy days of Easter in our beautiful village. There were also several other tourists who chose beautiful Karyes to celebrate there as well.

The priest of Karyes, father Leontios, and the members of the Church council, together with the volunteers, worked in order to create a beautiful scenery to all the visitors. Two large wooden crosses had been erected in Herron (see left) reminding everyone of the Lord's martyrdom already on Good Wednesday.

On Good Friday, the congregation gathered in Rachi at the chapel of Agia Paraskevi where the Epitaph was decorated to attend the Divine Liturgy. A group of ladies sang his stirring hymn, "O gliki Ear (Spring)," while young girls dressed in white stood by the epitaph showering it with rose petals.



Μεγάλη Πέμπτη



The procession of the epitaph started with a march towards the Upper village since this year the liturgy of the Resurrection would take place in the main Church of Agios Andreas. The members of the Karyes Cultural Club had lit torches in many places on the left and right of the road, creating an impressive image.

The epitaph reached the church of Agios Andreas where the service was completed.

The next day they all gathered there to celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord.

The Karyates Association wishes to all

**Christos Anesti !**

SOCIAL NEWS

A couple passed away a few days apart in Karyes

First, **Eleni (Helen) Koutri** passed away on **April 1st** at the age of **90** with her funeral taking place the following April 2nd at the Chapel of Agios Andreas and to be followed by her burial in the cemetery of Agios Nikolaos.

A few days later, on **April 26**, her husband **Demetrios Koutris** also passed away at the age of **95**. His funeral took place on April 28 at the Chapel of Agios Andreas and to be followed by his burial in the cemetery of Agios Nikolaos next to his partner.

Our deepest condolences.

The businessman, philanthropist and founder of the "Greek Children's Fund" has passed away



On Sunday, March 19, 2023, the distinguished expatriate **Stylianos Matthaïou (Stanley Matthews)** died in New Jersey, U.S.A. at the age of 93. He was born in 1930 and grew up in a large family in Varvitsa, Laconia. In 1951, he came to America for a better fortune and together with his brothers, they got involved in restaurants. His family principles, his hard and honest work made him a worthy businessman with the famous restaurants "**Matthews Diner**".

The deceased was not only a worthy family man and an elite member of the Greek Community, but also his philanthropic work extended to his ancestral village and with countless philanthropic events in institutions of religious and public benefit. The highlight of his sensitive soul was the establishment in 1983 of the "**Greek Children's Fund**" (a foundation for Greek children with cancer) which has grown throughout America and offers valuable help to children with cancer from Greece and Cyprus, covering many of their hospital expenses in America..

At his last days he was accompanied by the love of his wife Niki nee Papadimitriou from Voutianus Laconia, his children, grandchildren, relatives and friends who will all remember him with appreciation and love.

The Karyates Association expresses its deepest condolences. Αιωνία του η μνήμη!

## Maintenance works at the chapels

Generally speaking, since the day **Father Leontios** assumed his duties, he has brought a new administration era at the Parish of Agios Andreas Karyes. Together with the members of the **Ecclesiastical (Church) Council**, he has planned and now is proceeding with important maintenance projects to the village's chapels. His presence inspires enough confidence for patriots to financially support these projects.

### St. George Chapel

The renovation of **Agios Georgios** Chapel, both internally and externally, has already been completed **using exclusively the Parish's reserve**.

The congregation who gathered to celebrate the Saint saw the new beautifully renovated Chapel.



### Main Karyes church of St. Andrew (Aghios Andreas)

A project that the patriots have been waiting for years has begun. With the Grace of God, the assistance of Father Leontios, the Church Council, many other individuals, Local Clubs and with the practical help of the Karyates from all over around the world, the **maintenance works of the roof** of the central Parish Church of St. Andrea Karyes have begun and proceed with fast speed.

Further details about the benefactors will be published in the next issue.



## A new store with traditional products has opened in Karyes

A new store with traditional products has opened in Karyes. With great joy the local residents and the visitors of our beautiful village face the new store selling local traditional products opened by the **family of Demos Leventakis** on the main street opposite the SAVAS CAFE.

The business is housed in the store that used to be the pastry shop of Ms. Tasia Arfanis-Mahaira, who retired, as we mentioned in the previous issue.



In a beautifully decorated store, the client can buy all the products of the land of Mount Parnonas (honey, tea, herbs), but also homemade products (bagels, jams, pasta, etc.).

May the business prosper in the years to come.



## Karyes Cultural Club's initiative for village's cleaning

The annual voluntary cleaning of Karyes public spaces was carried out by the members and friends of the **Karyes Cultural Club** on **Saturday, April 8, 2023**, a few days before the Holy Week. Specifically, and with the support of the "**Karyatis' Sports Club**", the voluntary cleaning of both cemeteries took place.



According to a related post on FB by the secretary of the Club Mr. **Demetrios Arvanitis** "unfortunately this initiative did not find the support it should have, as the residents' response to the call for voluntary participation was not what was expected", the cleaning took place.

The conclusion from the initiative was that "although the lower cemetery was in good condition, without garbage and with little grass, the situation in the upper cemetery is shameful. In addition to all kinds of vegetation (grass, cottonwood, ivy, figs, etc.), the doors are damaged, there is rubble everywhere, broken marble, and unfortunately garbage thrown everywhere."

And the post continues: "The municipal authority has an obligation to immediately take all the necessary actions so that these shameful images do not exist again. The Municipality collects € 15.00 per year for each grave, with the revenues being remunerative and must go to the purpose of their collection. People who have passed away deserve our least respect. We throw our garbage in the bins and not elsewhere."

With the no. 57/21-03-3023 decision of the financial department of the Municipality of Sparta, it has been decided to commission a service entitled "Cemetery cleaning and beautification works" except for the city of Sparta, with the amount of € 30,000.00 (78 cemeteries). Of particular interest is the work schedule table, where it lists the work that should be done each month from April to September.

*Waiting for the works, hoping that they will also be carried out in the cemeteries of our village. We will closely monitor the matter as for the payment of the contractor there will have to be a relevant certificate and receipt of the works".*

## Karyates Association building: the works continues at a feverish pace

The works in the complex of buildings of the Association in Karyes main square continue intensively. Indicatively, several works were completed in the spring, mainly in the interior spaces such as the installation of the elevator, the polishing of the mosaic floors and the completion of the ground floor bathrooms. At the same time, many external works were completed, whenever the weather conditions allowed, e.g. the installation of the roof in the area of the square, the external plastering at the back of the building, while the walls painting has also begun. It is worth noting that after many efforts and bureaucratic procedures a lot of things that had to do with the general operation of the building, such as the electrification with renewal and modification of the relevant licenses were completed.



The project continues and the contribution of the chairman of the Board of Directors should be highlighted. Mr. **Michalis Repoulis**, who together with his wife Ms **Demetra Kakaris**, all this time have been staying in the village in order to supervise the work, while they make continuous trips to Tripoli and Sparta to solve any issues.

SUMMER

*PARTY*

KARYES  
CULTURAL  
CLUB

Saturday  
August  
12

*Save the date!!*

## SOCIAL NEWS

**Helen "Lela" (Theodorakakis) Aggelopoulos** passed away on **May 18, 2023**, at the age of 84 in London Ontario Canada



She was born in Karyes on December 18, 1939, where she lived through the difficult years of the Nazi occupation and the first post-war years and was the daughter of Demetrios and Kalliope Theodorakakis. There she finished school while helping her family. At the age of 20, in 1959, she immigrated to Canada where she was preceded or followed by the rest of the siblings: Ioanna (Jeanette) widow of Georgiou Saldari, Maria widow of Jim Milles, Antonios (Tony) and Theodoros.

In Canada, she quickly got involved in the many lively activities of her new community and church and began building her large network of friendships that would last a lifetime. A few years later she met and married her beloved husband Konstantinos (Gus) Angelopoulos with whom they lived together for 58 years having two sons and three grandchildren.

She started her career in Canada at Forsythe's Dry Cleaners and then fulfilled a passion to run her own business Helen's Variety and Alterations (at the corner of Colborne and Pall Mall Streets in London), which she ran side-by-side every step of the way with Kosta from the early 70's until their retirement. Those lucky enough to have lived nearby will remember it being the heart of the community where you were welcomed as if you were a part of the family on every visit.

There's not a person that ever stopped by Lela's home that didn't end up staying over for coffee, a drink, or a bite to eat at a table full of lively and wonderful conversation. Life at the Aggelopoulos home was full of many joyous family gatherings, celebrations, Sunday family dinners, and special occasions.

She led a passionate life of volunteerism and commitment for her beloved Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church and community. Over the past 50 years there wasn't a single bake sale, Kavalkade, Panorama, OPA Festival, walkathon, fundraiser, or raffle just to name a few that Lela wasn't working at and rallying the ladies of the community. She also spent many years on the Board of Directors of the Hellenic Community Council of London and as President of the Greek Ladies Philoptochos Society.

Lela's life was a life of love for everyone she knew and met. She was a model of caring, compassion, generosity, and integrity. She was tough, and true to her Spartan roots she was a fighter, although she met with great adversity in her life, she always faced it head on with dignity and resolve and always without complaint. Despite her sudden, tragic, and unexpected passing Helen, a truly great lady and proud family matriarch, she will be remembered for her bright smile that lit every room she entered, her amazing positive attitude towards life, and her absolute devotion to her family and friends.

Our sincere condolences.



CANADA

The **Brotherhood ("Adelphotis") in Canada** is a vivid and dynamic organization. Our expatriated compatriots with constant effort and good mood not only organize events throughout the year but maintain a beautiful park and at the same time represent our village proudly in all the events of the Greek community in Canada.



The first event of 2023 was the «**Makaronada**» Dance.

After a forced three-year hiatus due to the coronavirus, the Board of Directors of the Brotherhood and the volunteers reorganized the dance with great success.



At the same time, the volunteers proceeded in the spring with the maintenance work of the "Karyes" park.



It was preceded by the presence of the Brotherhood in the annual parade of Greek - Canadian associations for the **anniversary of the Greek Revolution of 1821**, but also the participation in all the events of the Greek community in Toronto.



Finally, on **Sunday, May 28**, the "KARYES" park officially opened its doors for the summer season with the annual related event. There were quite a few expatriates who gathered to enjoy the beautiful sunshine.



At the WEB SITE [WWW.KARYES.GR](http://WWW.KARYES.GR)  
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