



KARYES

Lakonia



KARYATES ASSOCIATION NEWS BULETTIN

Issue Number 39

Winter 2023 - 2024

Karyes central square ameliorates year by year!

Hundreds of visitors arrive at the beautiful Karyes every weekend this autumn. There are not only the beautiful human monuments and the natural beauties that contribute to this success, but also the ability for every visitor to enjoy a high level of service in accommodation and catering.

In fact, the year 2023 has been characterized by three important changes in the Central Square: The opening of the new cafe-restaurant on the ground floor of the Karyates Association building, the opening -under new management- of the confectionary-trading store of traditional products on the main street and the passing on from one generation to the next one of the well-known cafe Trakas family under Platanos.

All these changes are added to the operation of the marvelous "Savas Café", the two traditional restaurants "Platanos" and "Parnonas", as well as the grocery store - mini market of Diamantouros family on the main street that serves not only Karyes, but also the neighboring villages of Varvitsa, Vamvakou and Megali Vrysi.

«"Melios": A new gem in Karyes

A new cafe-restaurant beautifies the central square even more since the beginning of September. The "Melios" café-restaurant which operates on the ground floor of the building of the Karyates Association is run by Mr. **Theodoros Hatzistefanou**, the husband of Karyatis Ms Voula Melehes. The layout of the space is really very beautiful with the traditional element being present everywhere, a fact that was mandatory for the members of the Karyates Association Board of Directors. Among other things, the new Café-restaurant offers tasty dishes of the day, prepared by a specialized Chef, while the opening of the traditional products shop in the neighboring space on the main street is soon under development.



Captions of the interior



Tasty dishes



The president of the Karyates Association Mr. Repoulis (on left) with Mr. Latsis husband of mw Lefkothea Latsis member of the Bod enjoying their coffee at the beautiful wooden tables.

"To Kafepoleion": passing to the new generation

The traditional coffee shop owned by the Trakas family has been passed to the next generation. Mr. **Harris Bakirtzidis**, son of Ms Pota Traka, officially took over its management, bringing a new air of renewal.

Under its new brand "To Kafepoleion" (the coffee shop) any customer may enjoy, in addition to coffee and drinks, also delicious dishes, pizzas and club sandwiches either inside the beautiful space or under the plane tree



The strong values



Strong values in the Karyes main square of course remain the famous taverns of the Koutsoyorgas family "Platanos" (bottom left) and of the Papastavros family "Parnonas" (bottom right), as well as the amazing "Savas café" of the Vasti family (left).



The new traditional products store "Leventaki" (λ)

Since its operation under the new management of Mr. **Christos Leventakis** at May, the new pastry shop that also functions as a commercial store of traditional products on the main street has really upgraded the tourist image of Karyes. Each morning the visitor is able to enjoy savory hot delicacies such as cheese pies, casserole pies, spinach pies and vegetable pies, as well as sweets such as "bougatse", "diples", "galaktoboureka" and "melomakarona", while the stalls are full of packaged traditional products and honey and herbs.



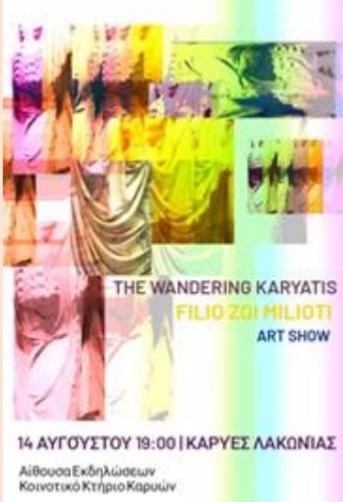
KARYES SUMMMER 2023

PART B' - AUGUST

Art exhibitions by young artists

By responding to the call of the Karyates Association, two young artists exhibit their works in Karyes during August. The Karyates Association's invitation has as purpose, to encourage young artists by providing to them a space free of charge so as to present their creations and make their work known. Furthermore, that initiative gives the opportunity to permanent residents and vacationers to get in touch with modern cultural events of contemporary art. Both exhibitions and presentations took place in the Karyes' Community Building Event Hall.

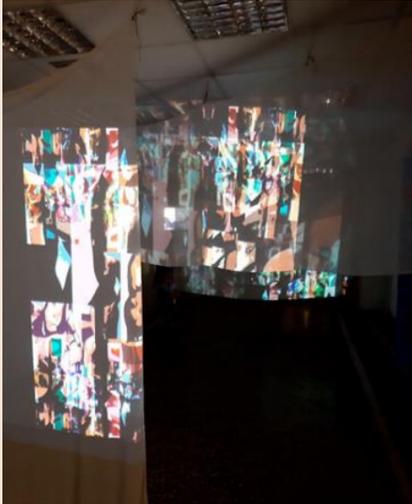
"The Wandering Karyatis"



On **August 14**, Ms **Filio-Zoe Milioti** presented her ART SHOW.

The exhibition included two tactile projects where through touch the blind can create mental images. The first work consisted of four-square boxes on the floor which form a footprint of a human foot. It is about the wanderings of the Caryatid until it reaches the British museum. The second tactile work consisted of five large canvases with a plaster representation of the dresses of the Caryatids. Each canvas has different abstract aspects of the Caryatid garments and are tactile and sensory works. Through touch the audience comes to a complete experience of tactile work. This particular series have a symbolic number as there are six Caryatids but only five were created as one of the Caryatids is in the British Museum.

In addition, Ms. Milioti had created two sounds and a "wandering" sensation path that visitors could navigate and listen to beyond the artificial sounds of the work, the natural sounds of fabrics and water. The artworks were created in collaboration with Faros, a Greek blind organization for the visually impaired.



Ms. Zoe - Filio Milioti is a graduate of the **Theological School** of the National and Kapodistrian University of **Athens** with a specialization in **Byzantine Art** and has been living in Chicago for the last few years where she studies fine arts at the **College of Dupage** and is the wife of compatriot Mr. Vassilis Trakas.

It should be noted that the artist's wish is for the exhibits to be given as a **permanent exhibition at the under construction Karyes Lakonia Memory and Culture Centre** which will be inaugurated in 2024.



Painting Exhibition



From **August 18 to 20**, the painting exhibition of the painter compatriot Ms. **Fotini Christophilis**, who lives in **Greenville, N. Carolina, USA**, was presented at the Karyes Community Hall.

Ms. Christophilis holds a BA from the **College of Charleston** (2008) specializing in studio art and art management and has also received a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) from the **Boston Museum School** and **Tufts University** (2016). She has received two arts grants from the City of Charleston, N.C. Office of Cultural Affairs to present group exhibitions, including painting art at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival.

She has exhibited her work nationally throughout the US in galleries in cities such as New York, San Diego and St. Louis, as well as the City Gallery at Waterfront Park and the Halsey Institute of Modern Art in Charleston and the Museum of Fine Arts of Boston. Her work has been published in Elle Décor magazine, Studio Visit magazine and other publications and art and literary magazines. Works by Fotini are in private collections throughout the US and Europe. She is represented by Artios Gallery in New York.



The works presented were focused on landscapes of the village of Karyes, her family's hometown.



The poet Mr. Thanasis Saltas and the performer Ms. Marina Voloudakis in Karyes



On **Saturday, August 5**, a beautiful poetry evening took place at the guesthouse "**Arachovitika Kalyvia**". The event entitled "**BIG Bang Love**" gathered enough people who enjoyed the well-known performer Ms **Marina Voloudakis** performing the poetry of Mr. **Thanasis Saltas** to the music of **Spyros Lefkofrydis**.

According to a related post by the artists: "**Odysseas Elytis** and **Mikis Theodorakis**, these two great creators, gave us the inspiration of poetry and music. The station and occasion of our meeting was the recording of the upcoming album that we are preparing and which will be released soon. **Thanasis Saltas** came parallel to our street and opened his arms wide to us. This talented poet inspired us with his strong, direct and at the same time lyrical speech, to "sing" him!"

At the left photo, Ms. Voloudaki (on the left) with the public relations member of the Karyates Association Board of Directors Mrs. **Evangelia Kopsiaftis-Gionis**.

KARYES SUMMER 2023

PART B' - AUGUST Events of the Karyates Association



The reception

On **Saturday, August 5**, the **Karyates Association** annual reception honoring our patriots who live overseas took place at the Karyes Community Hall. Of course, all the Karyates who were present in the village were invited. Coffee and sweets prepared by the volunteer ladies of the Association were offered to all the guests. The president and the members of the Board of Directors welcomed all the patriots and the representatives of the Karyes Local Community Council, the Local Clubs and the Adelphotis of U.S.A, Canada and Australia.

After the welcome speech, an update on all the actions of the Association, as well as the plans for the near future was presented in a very warm atmosphere among the patriots. We all made an appointment for next year wishing the best to all the people who try day by day to transform Karyes in an even more beautiful place.



The annual summer dance

The **annual summer dance** of our **Association** was organized with unprecedented success on the evening of **Friday, August 11**. Our compatriots with their presences supported the members of the Board of Directors. Therefore, we want to thank everyone. It should be noted that all the tickets were sold out.

From our part, we prepared a beautiful night that we believe satisfied all guests.

Initially there was a surprise, since the event was opened by Ms **Marina Voloudakis**, performer of Thanasis Salta's new series of songs and poems set to music. She sang selected pieces from the play "Big Bang Love" that will be presented this year at "Lychnos Theater" in Gazi region in Athens every Tuesday from the December 2023.

Afterwards, the well-known musical band of Mr. **Spyros Koutsovasillis** and Ms. **Irene Christofilakes** with Mr. **Leonidas Starogiannes** and the clarinet of Ms. **Vassilis Velos** took over.

The dance lasted for many hours with the thundering presence of the youth.



At the same time, the raffle of the lottery with rich gifts took place.

We hope to meet you again next year!

KARYATES ASSOCIATION



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.

KARYES SUMMER 2023

PART B' - AUGUST

Youth Party of the Karyes' Cultural Club



Once again, the **Karyes' Cultural Club** organized the **Youth Party** on **Saturday, August 13**, in the courtyard of the School in Agia Paraskevi Chapel.

It is no exaggeration to say that the success was such that it surprised even the organizers of the party! More than a thousand people came to dance and have fun to the sounds of International and Greek pop music by two of the most famous Greek DJs. The venue was very nicely set up with colorful spotlights, clouds of steam, and there were two bars (drink and cocktail) as well as souvlakia for the hungry ones.

Of course, the music played until the morning!



Parish of Karyes

Honorary plaques were given to the donors by Metropolitan Efstathios of Sparta

On the afternoon of **Friday, August 4, 2023**, a Holy Supplication was held to the Most Holy Theotokos, in the Chapel of Agia Paraskevi in Karyes, under the patronage of our Reverend Metropolitan Mr. **Efstathios**.

This was followed by the awarding of honorary plaques to all those who contributed to the project of tiling the Church of Saint Andrew (Aghios Andreas), but also in the upcoming embellishment of the surrounding area, where preliminary work has already begun. Before the awards, the vicar of the village and a member of the brotherhood of Holy Monastery of Agioi Anargyroi Paronias, Archbishop **Leontios Vardakis**, thanked our venerable Pastor for his presence, for his constant interest in the Parish, but also for the resolution of procedural issues for the tiling project. Afterwards, Father Leontios mentioned by name and thanked all those who mobilized for the realization of this wonderful project, emphasizing that the beginning was made by the couple of our expatriates, Mr. **Panagiotis** and Ms. **Athena Skiouris**.



*The President of the Kerhoulas Trust
Mr. Georgios Devekos*



Mr. Georgios Diantzikes



Mr. Panaghiotes Skiouris



On behalf of mr Odysseas Skiouris his mother Athena

Shadow Theater (Karaghiozis) performance

The **Sparta Municipality Cultural section** in collaboration with the **Karyes Local Community** organized a shadow theater performance on **Monday, August 21** at Karyes central square.

The kids enjoyed a beautiful performance by the Shadow Theater of Mr. **Tassos Tsonis** with the title:

"KARAGIOZIS WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE!"



His Eminence pointed out in his speech that with his presence in Karyes he wanted to pray together with the pious residents of the village to the Blessed Virgin Mary, so that she would always have this blessed place under Her Protection. Furthermore he thanked personally all those who, in a spirit of love and cooperation, offered from their surplus or deficit on that project. Metropolitan Efstathios especially glorified our expatriates, who are always willingly present at everything good that happens in our Homeland, proving that they have closed Christ and Greece in their hearts. In conclusion, he gave a message about the ephemerality of life and the need for "life in Christ", so that we are ready at any moment for our heavenly apology. During the Holy Prayer, both the Panagiotis Kerchoulas trust were honored with a plaque and in alphabetical order the following: **Dimitroulas Panagiotis, Diatzikis Georgios, Diatzikis Vasiliios, Kastanas Panagiotis, Kolovos Georgios, Koutsogiorgas-Couchell Panagiotis, Koutsogiorgas-Couchell Georgios, Kyriazis Theodoros, Bonos Ilias, Darmos Georgios, Skiouris Odysseas, Skiouris Panagiotis, Spanos Theodoros, Spyropoulos Panagiotis and Hasapis Konstantinos**.

Religious Celebrations

August 15

The great feast of the **Assumption of the Virgin Mary** was celebrated, as every year, by our compatriots who gathered at the Chapel dedicated to the Virgin Mary Assumption on **August 15**.

Under the cool plane historic trees in the middle of the heat, the congregation went to church to attend the Divine Liturgy. After the end and the exchange of wishes they moved to the cafes and to the restaurants of the Central Square to enjoy the sunny weather.



A beautiful initiative of the Karyes' Cultural Club

The Board of Directors of the Karyes' Cultural Club organized a collection of essential items for the flood victims in Thessaly between **September 11 and 15, 2023** at the village's Supermarket and at the Offices of the Cultural Club. They collected food, water, juices, Baby items, personal hygiene and pharmacy items, as well as medical items and clothing items.

Saint John

With the participation of many Christians, among them many little children, the anniversary of the **beheading of prophet John (Prodromos)** was modestly celebrated on **August 29** in the picturesque chapel of Saint John (Aghios Ioannis) near the Community Clock "Roloji" and under the shady pines. A light breeze also neutralized the sun's merciless rays.

After the usual lottery drawing of the parish with the most important gift being a small goat, the couple Kostas and Helen Kolovos hosted the congregation on the terrace of their house with a wonderful view, offering coffee, sweets and the first figs of the year.



The Birth of Virgin Mary

On **September 8**, many Karyates traveled to the settlement of "**Foteinos**" to celebrate the birth of the Virgin Mary in the beautiful chapel dedicated to her.



The heart of Greek Cycling beat again in Karyes

With great success, the international SPARTA MOUNTAIN BIKE RACES were organized for the second time in 2023 on the **three days of October 19-22, 2023**. **Ten (10) national teams** (along with them the **Team U.S.A.**) participated in the races confirming once again that Karyes has become a world destination for mountain biking. As the President of the Spartan Gymnastics Club stated, "*Karyes is the best village, since it combines great routes, hospitality and hotel infrastructure, while the impressions of the participants are so positive that they constantly advertise the beautiful village as perhaps the best place for the sport!*".

Many congratulations to the Karyes' Cultural Club and to the Local Council for the achievement.



Municipal and Regional Elections 2023

On Sunday, October 8, Greek citizens were invited to choose their representatives for the Local Government Bodies. So, the people of Karyes voted on the one hand in the Municipal elections for the **Municipality of Sparta**, as well as for the election of the **Local three-member Karyes Local Council** and on the other hand in the Regional Elections for the **Region of Peloponnese**. Given that no party, both at Municipal and at Regional level, did not manage to gather a percentage of at least 43%, as was the electoral measure, repeat elections followed on the following Sunday, October 15. The results in the first round of the municipal and regional elections that took part were as follows: Of the 1,375 registered, 403 voted. There were 4 invalid ballots and 398 valid ones. They received:

SPARTA MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS (Karyes)

Party Name	Mayor candidate	votes	%
SPARTI TOGETHER	MICHAEL VAKALOPOULOS	131	32,91
UNITED MUNICIPAL MOVEMENT	EVANGELOS VALLIOTIS	112	28,14
SPARTI NEW DIRECTION	ADAMANTIA JANETTEA	47	11,81
SPARTI FORWARD	ANASTASIA KANELLOPOULOS	37	9,30
SPARTI A MUNICIPALITY WE DESERVE	PETROS DOUKAS	9	2,26

However, at the overall municipal level, the 2 parties that were nominated were that of Ms. Tzanetea and Mr. Vakalopoulos, with a percentage of 33.51% and 30.26%, which qualified for the second round. They were followed by Messrs. Valiotis (15.53%), Kanellopoulos (12.06%) and Doukas (5.42%). In the second round, 273 voted, of which 253 were valid and 11 were white. The results:

Party Name	Mayor candidate	votes	%
SPARTI TOGETHER	MICHAEL VAKALOPOULOS	164	64,82
SPARTI NEW DIRECTION	ADAMANTIA JANETTEA	89	35,18

After the results the new elected Sparta's mayor is Mr **Vakalopoulos** and the new elected Karyes representative at the Sparta's Municipal Council Mr. **Demetrios N. Arvanites**.

PELOPONNESE REGIONAL ELECTIONS

ELECTIONS FOR KARYES LOCAL COUNCIL
At the same time, the vote was held for the election of the 3-member Local Council. Mr. **Panagiotis Mentis** as **chairman** and as members Ms. **Sofia Lassos** and Mr. **Georgios K. Dalakouras** were elected.

Finally, in the regional elections, Mr. **Demetrios Ptochos** who led the party "**PELOPONNISOS FORWARD**", supported by the central right party of "**New Democracy**", was elected as **new regional governor**. Specifically, on the first Sunday, he received a percentage of 42.61% against the independent candidate Mr. **Petros Tatoules** with the party "**NEW PELOPONNISOS**" who received 31.86% with the remaining 5 combinations receiving percentages under 9% each one. In the second round, Mr. Ptochos received a percentage of 52.77% against 47.23% of Mr. Tatoules.

OVERSEAS CLUBS NEWS

Arachovite Brotherhood "Ai Karyai" Toronto Canada



With fun and vitality, the members of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Brotherhood organize their annual events so that patriots would meet and keep the flame of the homeland alive. Therefore, they organized the annual **summer festival** on **July 30** in **Karyes Park**. Although most of the compatriots at that time were in Greece, all the rest gathered in the park, held a service in the Chapel of Agia Paraskevi and enjoyed traditional snacks and sweets prepared by the Board members and the volunteers.



This was followed on September 10 by the **autumn corn festival**. This time many of our compatriots had returned from their summer visit to their homeland and it was an opportunity for them to convey the news from the village to the rest Karyates.



SOCIAL NEWS

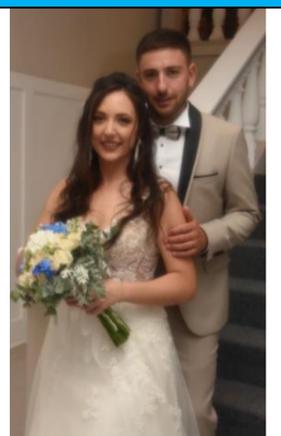
A beautiful wedding in Karyes



On **Saturday, September 23, 2023**, in at the chapel of the **Assumption of the Virgin (Panaghia)** in Karyes the wedding of **Fotoula Koutsoyorgas** from Karyes, daughter of dear **Thodoris Koutsoyorgas**, who owns the famous tavern in the central square, and **Marios Dryllis** from Naxos took place.

There were many guests who came from all over Greece and even from overseas to wish to the newlyweds and to enjoy a traditional Arachovitan wedding.

The members of the Karyates Association congratulate the newlyweds and we wish both of them all the best on their engagement and everything lies ahead!



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