

GOLDEN GATE DISTRICT NO. 21

Ahepa Traveler



CHAPTERS THROUGHOUT NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN NEVADA

Volume 73, No. 2

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF DISTRICT 21 - EST. 1950

Summer/June 2023



Have An Awesome Summer!

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Article III – This Order shall be non-partisan in politics and non sectarian in religion. All partisan political and all sectarian religious discussions are prohibited in any official deliberations thereof.

EDITORIAL STAFF - AHEPA TRAVELER

BILL CHRISTIE, Editor
Editorial Staff for
AHEPA and AUXILIARIES
408 891-9225
Email: billchristie1@mac.com

Traveler Ads Manager
George Koumis
Cell 916 607-3020
Email: georgekoumis@outlook.com

Daughters of Penelope Traveler Editor
Maria Karapanos
209 559-5101
Email: maria@karapanos.com

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2022-2923
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SILICON VALLEY CHAPTER 251

George Zioulas

CONTRA COSTA CHAPTER 259

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John P. Lagios

SAN MATEO CHAPTER 382

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2022-2923
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- CHAPTER PRESIDENTS -

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Emilene Fearnle

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Margo Drosos

AHEPA District 21 Governor's Message



Dear Ahepa Family,

As we look forward to the summer months and vacation, I hope to end the year with a successful District convention sponsored by our Sacramento family.

As we start the second century of AHEPA, I look forward to celebrating our District's 100 year anniversary. I have proposed putting together a history album of our district so that our predecessors are not forgotten. We until recently didn't know that one of the founders of AHEPA in Atlanta, Spiro Stamos, was in the Sacramento Chapter in his latter years. We still have quite a few life members we can data mine for history on your chapters, including the list of presidents, founders of each chapter, and so on. Many of us were members of the vibrant groups of Sons and Maids of past years, so we need to highlight that.

Sacramento is working hard to put on a memorable convention, so please come support our organization. We are looking forward to having a productive convention and getting together again to provide synergy between our Brothers and Sisters. We have moved into a new era of social interaction being partly virtual, but one to one interaction cannot be replaced by zoom meetings. Breaking bread together cannot be done online. We will award our District Scholarships at the Glendi on Saturday night, so please come and support our efforts.

I was very pleased to be able to attend Chapter events, including Modesto and San Jose crab feeds, which were very successful and fun. The Flag raising in San Jose with the Metropolitan and the Mayor of San Jose in attendance, along with a nice program by the

San Jose Family was very inspiring.

I visited most of our chapters in person and a couple on zoom due to bad weather, and was pleased to see meetings getting back on track and business being done.

One thing I am concerned about is that we have been putting our Brothers in positions without training or a full understanding of what's expected of them. This is unfair and we need to be clear on what their positions entail. My goal is to prepare our chapters, their officers and the members for what's expected of them.

Our District project of St Nicholas ranch is about to finish and we need to discuss a new project. Please bring ideas to the convention for us to discuss.

As always we are trying to figure out how to attract new members to AHEPA and we will discuss what seems to be working and where we can look for new members. As we have discussed , the Hellenic History Tournament is a way to attract the elusive 40 year olds by getting high school age students involved and bringing their parents along for the fun. Another method is using Linked-in to find prospective members who want to get involved with the Greek Community.

Looking forward to seeing you in Stockton,

Chris Frangos

AHEPA District Governor #21



Daughters of Penelope District 21 Governor's Message



Dear AHEPA Family,
 Christos Anesti! I hope this message finds you well and I hope you are enjoying this vibrant spring season.

On May 11th, I attended the virtual Sisterhood Conference where reports were given by our Grand Lodge officers and the District Governors of the Western Region Districts (17, 20, 21 and 22). We heard that our Districts are growing in membership. A report was given by the Ad Hoc committee that was established to review the Ritual for possible changes and discussion followed. Many of our District 21 Sisters attended, and it was great to see people, even if it was by Zoom.

We are preparing to welcome you all to our upcoming District 21 Convention, which will take place on June 9th and 10th at the Stockton Hilton. Sacramento AHEPA #153 and Artemis #5 are graciously hosting us for the convention and we appreciate their work and dedication.

Our convention provides the opportunity for us to gather as a united community and work together toward shared goals. This year Daughters will devote some time to reviewing and recommending changes to the Ritual. We also look forward to welcoming our Grand Liaison, Grand Secretary Margaret Dritsas to our convention and having some conversations with her

This year, in lieu of the Scholarship Luncheon of past years, we have planned a Scholarship Dinner and Glendi for the evening of June 10th. This special occasion will be marked by the presentation of scholarships to deserving recipients from both the DOP and AHEPA. We are excited to support and empower the next generation of scholars and we need to continue to find new ways to raise funds for scholarships and to spread the word to worthy students when should apply.

I encourage you all to join us for the District 21 Convention. If you have not registered yet, please do so right away. We have work to do, and we will also have a great time. It is through our presence and participation that we can strengthen the bonds of our Sisterhood and our AHEPA family and continue to make a positive impact in our communities.

With love in Theta Pi,

Alicia Frangos
 District 21 Governor



**GOLDEN GATE DISTRICT 21 2023
 AHEPA FAMILY ANNUAL CONVENTION
 FRIDAY, JUNE 9 TO
 SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2023**

**STOCKTON HILTON HOTEL
 STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA**

**AHEPA FAMILY ANNUAL
 SUPREME CONVENTION 2023
 SUNDAY, JULY 23 TO
 SATURDAY 29, 2023**

**BALLY AND PARIS HOTELS
 LAS VEGAS, NEVADA**



JOIN THE AHEPA FAMILY FOR OUR 101ST ANNUAL SUPREME CONVENTION IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA THIS JULY! WE HAVE AN EXCELLENT WEEK IN STORE FOR YOU SO BOOK YOUR HOTEL ROOMS EARLY!

HORSESHOE - \$69 WEEKDAYS (MONDAY-THURSDAY) & \$99 WEEKENDS (FRIDAY-SUNDAY)

PARIS - \$99 WEEKDAYS (MONDAY-THURSDAY) & \$129 WEEKENDS (FRIDAY-SUNDAY)

ALL RATES ARE SUBJECT TO TAXES PLUS A \$25 RESORT FEE

ANYBODY BOOKING OUTSIDE OF THE AHEPA BLOCK IS CHARGED A \$45.95 RESORT FEE

VISIT [HTTPS://BOOK.PASSKEY.COM/GO/SPAHE3](https://book.passkey.com/go/spahe3) TO BOOK YOUR ROOM NOW!



**IF YOU PREFER TO CALL TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION:
877.603.4390 (HORSESHOE)
702.946.7000 (PARIS)
ASK FOR THE AHEPA RATE!**

MEETINGS WILL BE TAKING PLACE IN THE HORSESHOE CONVENTION SPACE. THE TWO HOTELS ARE CONNECTED.





GOLDEN GATE DISTRICT 21 EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Dear AHEPA Family of District #21,

Please consider a donation to our AHEPA District 21 Educational Foundation and receive a tax deduction as we are a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization.

Also we would like to ask you to consider bequeathing to our Foundation as part of your estate planning. We would like to increase our Scholarship Awards as costs for students have skyrocketed.

Consult your tax consultant for the benefits of a donation and/or a bequeath to our Foundation.

Additional projects to be considered with addition of donated funds . . .

- Sponsor the AHEPA Journey to Greece program for our District youth.
- A Hellenic History Tournament financed through our Foundation.

Donations to the Foundation can be mailed to:

AHEPA FOUNDATION
% Chris Frangos
P.O. Box 447
Millbrae , CA. 94030

Thank you for your consideration,
Chris Frangos
AHEPA Educational Foundation Chairman



HELLENIC HISTORY TOURNAMENT

*Jeopardy-style tournament
for High School students
(8th - 12th Grade)*

3-member teams compete in
a double-elimination format

PRIZES

Winning team: \$1000*

Runner-up team: \$500*

*** per team member**

1st & 2nd teams go to the National
tournament for higher prizes

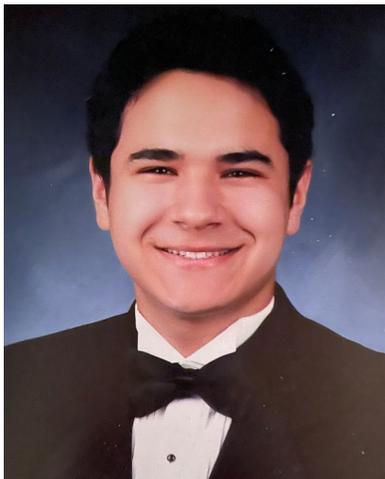
*Questions are from the 'Hellenika'
book by Peter Limber*

*Topics cover all periods
from antiquity to modern times
Book provided upon registration*

Students can participate for multiple
years

email: ahepadistrict21@gmail.com

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE GOLDEN GATE DISTRICT 21 2023 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



Michael Tsortos

Daphne Chapter 29 - San Jose

DOP District 21 Scholarship – \$2000

Michael Tsortos is a rising senior at the University of California, Davis, and a passionately scientifically-minded young man. In addition to future plans of medical school and a Master's in Public Health, he is pursuing a B.S. in Biology and Molecular Biology as well as a double minor in Quantitative Biology & Bioinformatics along with Global Disease Biology. He is well on his way to these worthy goals with his current experiences as a lab assistant at the UC Davis Veterinary Hospital and as an Undergraduate Researcher in the Shapiro Lab, also at UC Davis, plus active leadership as both a Public and Mental Health Ambassador for the students of UC Davis. Alongside his academic pursuits, Michael is active and appreciative in his Greek community, having danced and instructed in his church dance groups as well as participating in GOYA and Sunday School and planning to study abroad in Greece this summer.



Peter Skoufis

EOS Chapter 1 - San Francisco

DOP District 21 Scholarship – \$2000

Peter Skoufis is a graduating senior from Burlingame High School who is eager to explore and take full advantage of the many opportunities that await him during the pursuit of his college degree. He is committed to attending the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) and will be exploring Math and Science to determine his major within the Sciences. Peter describes his passion and drive found through his love of basketball, which he pursued in his church league and high school. He is a well-respected and well-liked counselor at the summer basketball camp where he works, and his employer states confidently that “the camp would not be a success without him.” Peter also describes his appreciation for his Greek heritage as being integral to his identity and confidence and plans to uphold the values he has learned by making a positive impact in his community through his future career path.

Congratulations!

ORDER OF AHEPA GOLDEN GATE DISTRICT 21 2023 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



Laith Ramzy Khoury

Fresno AHEPA Chapter 151/ Sons of Pericles
AHEPA District 21 Scholarship – \$2000

Laith Ramzy Khoury attends Fresno State College with an objective of a B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering. He holds a 3.55 GPA. Laith was a 7 semester California Scholarship Federation awardee, a Clovis Basketball Team member, GOYA Youth Group member, Altar Boy and Greek Festival Volunteer, as well as other Civic and Community activities. Laith writes well with his personal essay mentioning his Greek heritage and growth in the field of engineering. Two reference letters are highly complementary. One from his Math professor mentions his unique ability to make connections between course material and other coursework. The second letter from his Assistant Priest at St. George Greek Orthodox Church mentions Laith's being a founding member of the local Sons of Pericles Chapter, as well as his being "exceptionally thoughtful and caring for others". Also mentioned is Laith's "commitment to his religious, moral, and ethical convictions."



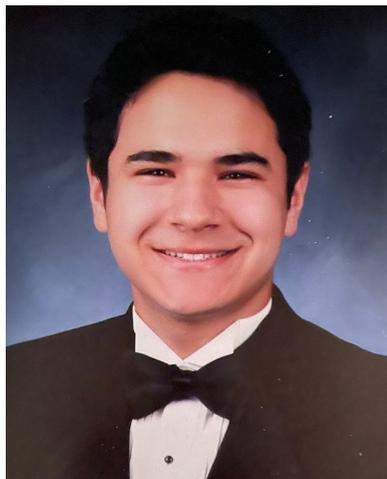
Eleni Voudouris

Sacramento Chapter 153
AHEPA District 21 Scholarship – \$2000

Eleni Voudouris attends Oak Ridge High School. Her goal is to major in computer science at the University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign; while no future degree is listed one can assume this would be a B.S. or B.A. degree. Eleni holds membership in her High School honor roll, National Honor Society, and AP scholar with distinction. She is active in student tutoring, Coding Club, Speech and Debate Club, a lab tech, and many others including an advanced senior in DEOS Dance Group through her Greek Church. Eleni holds a 1490 SAT score, and 4.28 GPA (unofficial transcripts) note she as a straight A student. Eleni writes exceptionally well with her essay noting deep interest in applying computer science to biotech research. One reference letter mentions her as a "mature, dedicated learner who capitalizes on her talents", and has "problem solving skills rare among teens". The other letter mentions Eleni's natural leadership and team player ability

Congratulations!

ORDER OF AHEPA GOLDEN GATE DISTRICT 21 2023 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



Michael Tsortos
Daphne Chapter 29

AHEPA District 21 Scholarship – \$2000

Michael Tsortos attends UC-Davis with a goal of a B.S. degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, followed by a Master's in Public Health and then a Medical Doctor degree. Transcripts are mentioned as being emailed, but are not attached in his application. Michael is on the Dean's Honor List, a GO club President (founder), as well as a Hematology Diagnostic lab-assistant, and former Greek dance instructor. Michael also mentions his mastery of B1 Greek language and his youth dance group second place award. Two reference letters are highly supportive. One letter from his Veterinary Medicine professor praises his lab assistant work and "strong passion for research and bettering human and animal health" while working with other researchers. The second reference from the Chair of Public Health Sciences praises his participation in the newly formed Mental Health Ambassador program to assist UC-Davis students; Michael is mentioned as "a great role model". His personal essay is well written, and mentions interest in research detection methods on the threat of environmental microplastics, as well as his Church participation and travel desires to visit Greece.



Evangelia Maria Romas
Sacramento Chapter 153

AHEPA District 21 Scholarship – \$2000

Evangelia Maria Romas is enrolled in St. Francis Catholic High School. She lists a goal of a Masters or Law Degree (Political Science and Economics) from LMU-L.A. or Cal Poly San Louis Obispo. She is a stellar honor roll (A+) student. Evangelia is an intern at the Sacramento District Attorney's Office, leader at her school religious retreat, President of the Mental Health Club as well as active in Greek Dance, GOYA, and many others. Evangelia writes well, tho her personal essay does not focus on a career goal. Her two reference letters are highly praiseworthy. One from her English Department Chair mentions her solid peer editing skills and leading Socratic seminars. Her second reference from her Counselor mentions her passion for law as a Mock Trial Team member as well as listing her "social, caring, and creative" nature.

Congratulations!

ORDER OF AHEPA GOLDEN GATE DISTRICT 21 2023 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



Theodora Christina Maheras

San Mateo Chapter 392

AHEPA District 21 Scholarship – \$2000

Theodora Christina Maheras attends Design Tech High School in Redwood City. She aspires to complete a B.A. degree in Psychology at Loyola Marymount University; her weighted GPA is 4.11. Her many accomplishments include an award in American Sign Language. She is a member of the Leadership, and Social Media Manager, of her High School clubs. Theodora is a volunteer at Hands-On-Bay (to support food insecure families), Jasper Ridge Farm (a therapeutic environment for animals), and a long list of other Church, Civic, and Community activities. Her emailed transcripts reveal an almost perfect A student. Theodora writes a highly personal essay which explores her mental health journey to communicate with diverse peers. Her reference letters are supportive and detailed. One letter lists her solid self-direction and creative confidence rare among peers” and her “mild spirit” and “strength of character”. Another letter from the school Director mentions Theodora’s high emotional intelligence, solid problem-solving abilities, co-founding of the school’s volleyball team, and many other accomplishments.



Teddy Kyriakis

San Mateo Chapter 392

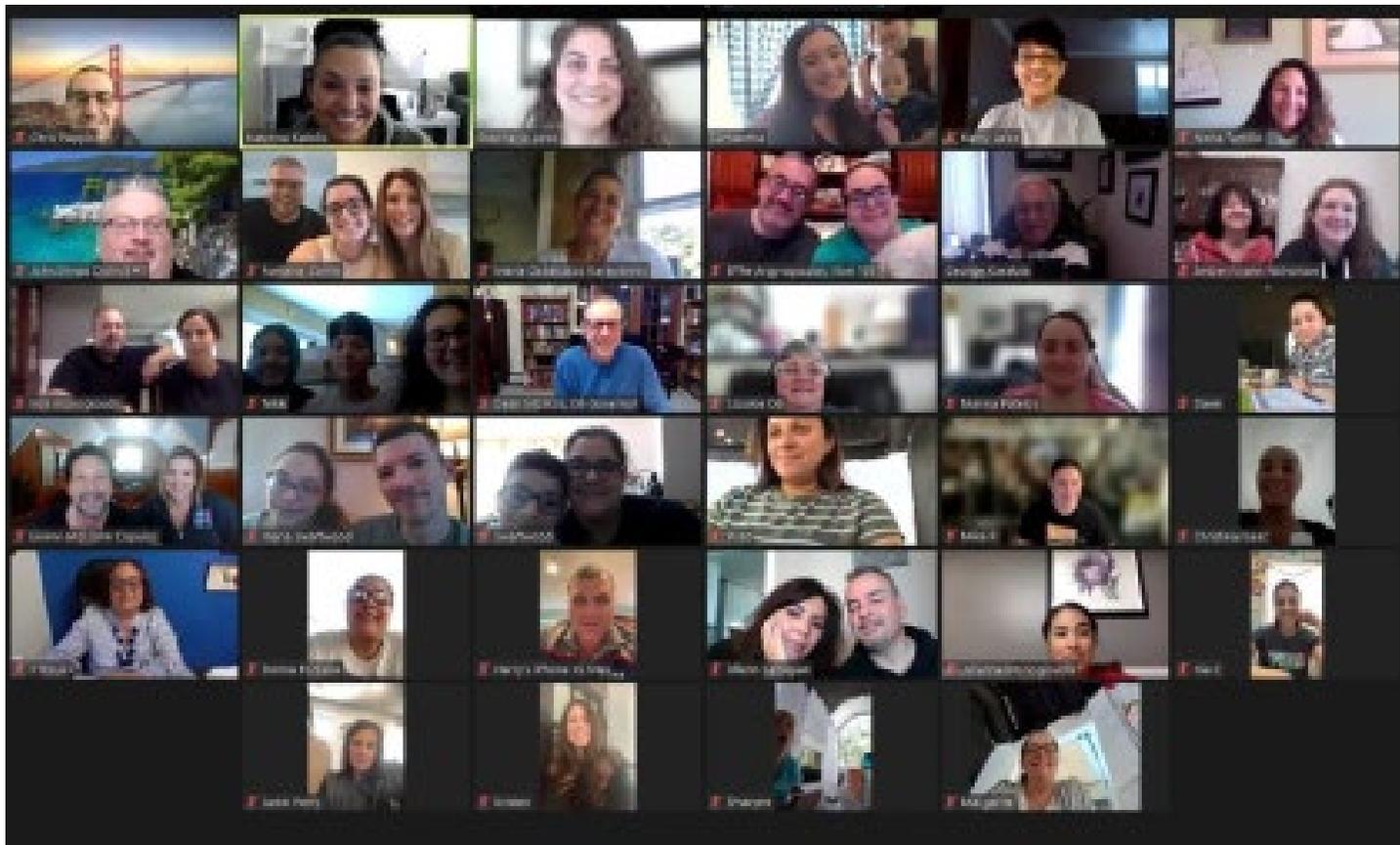
AHEPA District 21 Scholarship – \$2000

Teddy Kyriakis now attends the College of San Mateo. He seeks to transfer to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo to study Mechanical Engineering for a degree. Teddy is on the Dean’s List multiple times (with a GPA of 3.87) and is a scholarship awardee from Philoptochos and Epimenides/Ariadne. While no school activities are listed he has participated in Greek Dance, Greek Festival volunteering and others. Teddy’s personal essay notes his passion for his Greek heritage, and Greek activities especially festivals and dance. His reference letters mention his solid team participation, “leadership and professionalism”. A second reference from his Greek Orthodox Church Dance Director mentions his outstanding skill, his GOYA membership, humbleness and respect for others.

Congratulations!

AHEPA and DOP Join Together to Support the Family of Bobby Gemelas

May 10, 2023 by the National Herald



Daughters of Penelope (DOP) Sparta Chapter 18 in Stockton, CA held a virtual bingo event on May 6 to raise money for the family of an Ahepan from New York who battled cancer. (Photo: Katerina Katolis)

PORT JEFFERSON, NY – In a true display of fraternal-sororal spirit, Daughters of Penelope (DOP) Sparta Chapter 18 in Stockton, CA held a virtual bingo event on May 6 to raise money for the family of an Ahepan from New York who battled cancer. The chapter was honored to have AHEPA Supreme President Jimmy Kokotas and DOP Grand President Georgette Boulegeris in attendance to offer their kind remarks and support.



Brother Bobby Gemelas was initiated to Port Jefferson Chapter 319 on June 4, 2017. He passed away on April 23, 2023 after a yearlong courageous battle with cancer. He was a valuable member of the AHEPA District 6 Lodge who will always be with us forever. He left behind a beautiful wife Samantha and 8 month old daughter Kalligrace. Proceeds benefited the UTMA account for his baby daughter.



AHEPA District 6 Lt. Governor Chris Pappis worked very closely with Treasurer of Sparta #18 Stephanie Leles over two months to make this a reality. There was a total of 85 players and 500 cards sold. It was the largest virtual bingo event they have hosted thus far. Donations are ongoing to support the future of Kalligrace and her education. For more information, please e-mail: ahepa.district6@gmail.com.

Photos of Bobby Gemelas and Kalligrace (had so much fun at bingo) by Samantha Gemelas

Congratulations to our Art Winners!

Daughters of Penelope and St. Basil's Sunday School Staff partnered in an art contest with St. Basil Sunday School students and youth from St. Basil's congregation. Youth created art depicting Saints and religious art, over the last year and a half. The initial idea emanated with the pandemic and proposing a way for students to stay connected to their faith.

Art lessons were completed in Sunday School and at home, with work being reproduced in greeting cards and a calendar.

Certificates and awards were presented to participating Sunday School students on January 22 during Sunday School classes. All students were presented with certificates and an art/craft item. First, Second, and Third place winners received certificates and baskets with art supplies. All work is from the heart and precious!

Thank you, Judges-Gayle Maduros, Mary Caroll Bundy, and Kathy Leles
 Thank you, Parents, Sunday School Director-Anastasia Cook, Teachers-Maria Karapanos, Sali Graham, Alexandra Schoonover, Samira Bitar, Cynthia Pascarella, and Michael & Edna Fields for your encouragement of student's art and allowing religious art lessons in the classroom. Thank you, Father Pete, and Presbyteria Angie for your support!

Participating Students

Primary

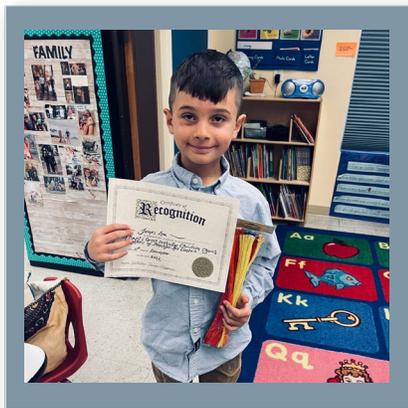
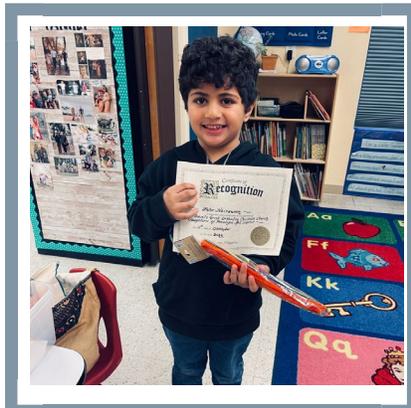
- Melina (First Place)
- Sevastien Agranovich (Second Place)
- Ezra Frank (Third)
- Logan (Farros-Hoepner) Arreola
- Kenleyay
- James Lell
- Peter Nasraween
- Aurelia Preti

Elementary

- Emily Vasquez (First Place)
- Theadora Graham (Second Place)
- Emily Vasquez/Theadora Graham (Third Place)
- Erene Sotiras

Secondary

- Kalirol Natsis (First Place)
- Justin Sotiras (Second Place)
- Thomas Graham (Third Place)
- Eva Natsis (Honorable Mention)



Card sets and calendars are for sale through Daughters of Penelope at the Book-a-Buck Table during Coffee Hour or by contacting Kathleen Farros-Hoepner ksfarros@gmail.com
 Card Sets of 6 for \$10.00 Calendars \$20.00 Proceeds go to student scholarship funds.

Sacramento AHEPA Family News

Mother's Day Luncheon

On May 13, 2023, St. Katherine Philoptochos Society hosted their annual Mother's Day Luncheon in Elk Grove. Eighteen Daughters of Penelope Artemis #5 attended this luncheon.

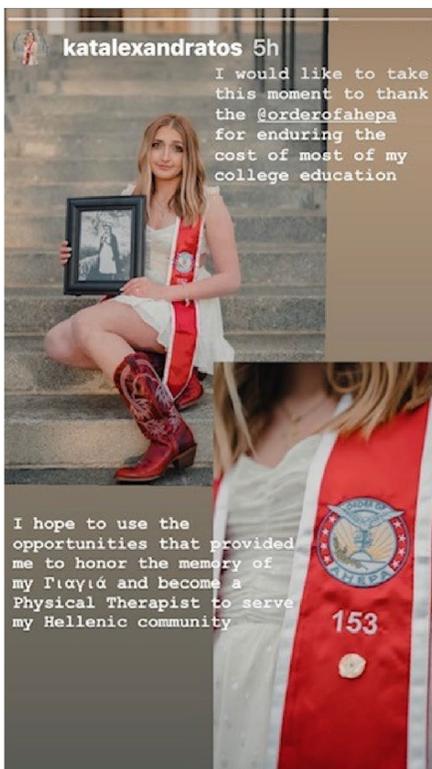
Elaine Pavlatos was the chairman and the following Daughters were donors or on the committee: Kathleen Almeida-Hull, Diana Bueche, Mary Kondos, Maria Villena Koumis, Diane Petersen PGS, Sophia Trotter-Goetze, Drosoula Tsakopoulos, and Antigone Vaccaro.

Daughters in the picture:
Diana Bueche, Maria Cazanis, Pauline Cazanis, Athena Hallock DT, Alexia Kavros, Mary Kondos, Maria Villena Koumis, Dena Kuchulis, Maria Leones, Sylvia Maritsas, Vivi Papadopoulos, Elaine Pavlatos, Diane Petersen PGS, Valerie Simvoulakis, Sophia Trotter-Goetze, Drosoula Tsakopoulos, and Deborah Middleton Cassidy, #175 Tacoma WA District 22.



Katarina Alexander honors AHEPA

Sacramento's AHEPA Chapter President Nick Alexander is sharing pictures of his daughter Katarina,



who is graduating from the University of Utah this week. To honor AHEPA, Katarina embroidered the AHEPA logo and the Sacramento chapter number on her graduation stole. Katarina also sends her thankfulness and gratitude to AHEPA for the help we provided through our Scholarship program. Katarina will continue her studies to become a physical therapist.

Sacramento Chapters Celebrate AHEPA Day

by Diane Petersen, PGS

On May 21st the Sacramento Ahepa Family celebrated Ahepa Day at St. Katherine' Greek Orthodox Church in Elk Grove and Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Sacramento. We sponsored a luncheon at St. Katherine in Elk Grove. Annunciation had too many functions going on so the Ahepa Family could not sponsor a luncheon.



President Pauline Cazanis represented the Daughters and Secretary George Koumis represented the Ahepans at Annunciation. They both walked down the aisle to receive the loaf from Father James.

Treasurer Mark Hallock represented the Ahepa Family at St. Katherine and received the loaf from Father Dino.

The following Ahepa Family members were present at St. Katherine and in the picture: Kathleen Almedia, Diana Bueche, Athena Hallock, Mark Hallock, Alec Karnezis, Mary Kondos, Eleftherios Koumis, Maria Villena Koumis, Maria Leones, Ted Pantazis, Demos Papadopoulos, Elaine Pavlatos, Diane Petersen PGS, Sophia Trotter Goetz, and Drosoula Tsakopoulos.

Not in the picture was Ourania Marandos and Deborah and Barry Cassidy District 22.



Annunciation



Luncheon at St. Katherine



St. Katherine



The Sacramento AHEPA family chapters organized the raising of the American and Greek Flags to honor Greek Independence Day on March 25th. The flag-raising event was followed by a luncheon attended by 300 community members and a program that included folk dance and poetry recitals by the local Greek School.

Daughters & Sons
OF PENELOPE OF PERICLES
COOKBOOK



AN AHEPA FAMILY COMPILATION

After months of anticipation, the collaboration between the Sons of Pericles and Daughters of Penelope is finally here! The cookbook is currently available for digital download only, but will be available for purchase as a printed book in upcoming months. Thank you to everybody who contributed to this project and made it possible! Only \$10

To purchase go to:

<https://www.sonsofpericles.org/shopcookbook>

Reno AHEPA Chapter Celebrates Greek Independence Day



From left to right: Senator James Ohrenschall, John Copoulos, Secretary & Treasurer Reno Ahepa 281, and Lt Governor Stavros Anthony.

Also, on March 25th, the Greek flag flew at the Nevada Legislature building, honoring the anniversary.

Modesto AHEPA Chapter News

Modesto Ahepa Chapter 246 celebrated “Christos Anesti” on Tuesday April 18 with a BBQ dinner meeting at home of President Stamus Cocolos. Honored to have Father Cosmas Halekakis attend and lead us with “Christos Anesti” chant. A wonderful evening of fellowship was experienced by all.



Left to Right, John Forakis, Jim Pappas, Chris Christie Jr., Chris Gianulias, Andrew Sirogiannis, Gavin Hartley, Rev. Fr. Cosmas Halekakis, Stamus Cocolos, Costa Papaioannou.

In Memoriam



In Loving Memory
 Modesto Ahepa Chapter 246
 Honors
Alexandros Klabanos
 63 year chapter member,
 Chapter Past President,
 Treasurer until his passing
 December 16, 2022
 Will be missed by all Brothers,
 May his Memory be Eternal.

San Jose Ahepa Family Celebrates Greek Independence Day

Photos by Victoria Smyrniotis

ID's by Jacqui Argyres



Evagelia Pries singing American National Anthem. Metropolitan Gerasimos with San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan welcoming guests at the celebration and Kyriaki Chalioris singing the Greek National Anthem.



Proclamation from the City of San Jose. From l to r: Rev. Fr. Nebojsa Pantic, St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church; Daphne Vitsikounaki, Economic & Commercial Affairs Officer, Consulate General of Greece in San Francisco; Nicolaos Theophanous, Honorary Consul of Cyprus in San Francisco, His Grace Bishop Ioannis of Phocaea, Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco; His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco; Alexander Mallas, AHEPA Supreme Governor, Region 8; San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan; San Jose Councilmember Bien Doan of District 7; Dr. George Zioulas, AHEPA Silicon Valley Chapter 251 President and Past District 21 Governor; Chris Frangos, AHEPA District 21 Governor; Marianna Frangides, Maids of Athena Ismene Diana #163 President; Joanna Dunn, Daughters of Penelope Daphne 29 President; Linda Belba, Daughters of Penelope Past District 21 Governor; Kanella Sarros.



Greek Community dancers with Fr. Nebojsa and Mayor Mahan



San Jose City Hall in blue and white

Crab Blast in San Jose!

by Dr. Vassilis Zarifis, Secretary AHEPA Silicon Valley #251 vgzari@gmail.com
and editorial assistance from Jacqui Argyres, Treasurer of DOP Daphne #29

The AHEPA Family in San Jose organized a successful fundraising event, shifting from a Cioppino Dinner to a Crab Feed, to replenish depleted funds after a two-year absence of social gatherings. The event, held in March 2023, honored esteemed community leader Bill Christie, known for his dedication to various initiatives. The organizing committee, led by Linda Belba, Laurie Sahines, George Zioulas, Nick Pries, Joanna Dunn, and Vassilis Zarifis, made strategic decisions to accommodate the high demand. With 420 attendees, the event featured tribute speeches, delicious food, live music, Greek dancing, and a fabulous raffle with many prizes. A generous distribution of net proceeds was split among the AHEPA and DOP Chapters as well as St. Nicholas Church. The success was attributed to the tireless efforts of volunteers and the support of sponsors and the community.

The event not only achieved its fundraising goals but also served as a heartfelt tribute to Bill Christie, a pillar of the community. Bill's dedication as the Secretary of the Silicon Valley Chapter since 1986 has been exemplary, ensuring the successful fulfillment of the Chapter's mission. His contributions extend beyond his role, as he actively organizes and publishes the quarterly District Traveler Magazine, the monthly St. Nicholas Church Bulletin, and passionately participates in the Pan-Cretan association and their events, as well as the annual Father Berris golf tournament. The Crab Feed event was a fitting honor for his tireless dedication and a testament to the strength and unity of the AHEPA Family in San Jose.

Bill Christie received a special recognition plaque, heartfelt gifts from our Chapters, and his well-earned Life pin, symbolizing his unwavering support for the AHEPA organization for over 50 years. The event also honored four other esteemed Life members who were present: Kenny Frangadakis, John Papadopoulos, John Constantin, and Chris Perakis (presented to his son Manoli). Their longstanding dedication and support spanning half of the AHEPA's existence

as a Hellenic American organization were deeply appreciated and celebrated. The event served as a momentous occasion to express gratitude for their unwavering commitment.

The successful fundraising event not only rejuvenated the AHEPA Family's resources but also celebrated the remarkable leadership of Bill Christie and honored the commitment of esteemed Life members. It stands as a testament to the strength, unity, and unwavering dedication that define our community. The event served as a heartfelt expression of gratitude and a reminder of the collective impact we can achieve when we come together with a shared purpose.



BILL CHRISTIE

IN RECOGNITION OF
OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP,
MASTERFUL "TRAVELER", AND
DEVOTED SERVICE TO THE ORDER OF
AHEPA PROGRAMS

FROM YOUR
SAN JOSE AHEPA FAMILY
2023

The green marble plaque was one of Bill's commemorative awards and gifts.

Event photos on next page



1- Spiros Kalogeropoulos, Joanna Dunn, Bill Christie, Alex Mallas, Themis Demas
2- Joanna Dunn, Vassilis Zarifis, Alex Mallas Supreme Governor R8, Bill Christie, Chris Frangos District 21 Governor
3- Bill receiving one of the gifts, Vassilis Zarifis, and Chris Frangos
4- Bill displaying his marble plaque.
5- Bill with Vassilis Zarifis after being pinned with his Life pin. The projector and screen behind us were showing pictures from Bill's past events in a loop throughout the evening.



In Memoriam

The AHEPA Family of District 21 mourn the loss of Past District Governor Bill Booras. Brother Bill passed away on Friday, June 2, 2023. He was a strong Ahepan and served his chapter and the brotherhood with distinction. In addition to holding the office of Golden Gate District 21 Governor he honorably served the Fresno Chapter and Golden Gate District 21 as Chapter Secretary and District Executive Secretary for many years. He was a life member of the order for 62 years.

May his memory be eternal!



Vasilios "Bill" Efthemios Booras

November 16, 1930 - June 2, 2023

Vasilios "Bill" Efthemios Booras was born on November 16, 1930 in San Francisco, and fell asleep in the Lord on June 2, 2023 in Fresno, California.

The first of two sons of Greek immigrant parents, he was raised in the Greek Orthodox faith and supported various Greek-American organizations throughout his life.

He met Sophia Zografos when in church choir together. In 1952, they were married, then shortly after, he reported for duty in the U.S. Army in Maryland.

After his honorable discharge, they returned to San Francisco where their son Daniel was born.

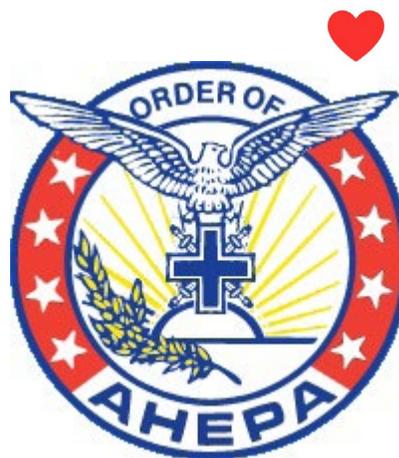
Having then moved to Fresno, daughters Becca and Mia rounded out the family of five.

Life-long roots were now being established in Fresno and in the local Greek community. His career as a draftsman and estimator for local firms, with the longest tenure being with Howell Air Conditioning, honed his organizational skills.

The locally famous Greek Food Festival, the philanthropic Order of AHEPA, and the Saint George Greek Church Sunday school program were just a few of the organizations that benefitted from his loyal commitment.

He was preceded in death by Sophia. Bill is survived by their children Danny (Amalia), Becca (Bill) Farray, and Mia (George) Papangellin, his brother Stavros (Barbara), 6 grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren, and 1 great great granddaughter.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests remembrances may be made to: Saint George Greek Orthodox Church Memorial Fund, or AHEPA Scholarship Fund – Chapter #151, 2219 N. Orchard Avenue, Fresno, CA 93703.



Embrace the Great Heritage America Shares with Greece

By Basil Mossaidis

March 30, 2023

Where can you find purpose in a cynical age? What brings you meaning when the culture aims to overthrow the great inheritance of American history and values? Many young adults today express little hope for a better life than their parents, a sad reflection on their faith in the American dream. Social media offers quick hits of affirmation, but that dopamine doesn't last. Humanity was made for more than staring at a screen. At the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), we think the best path to finding meaning for today, and hope for tomorrow, begins with embracing our American roots — including the great heritage our country shares with Greece.

The American idea of a citizen who plays an active role in strengthening democracy has a Greek origin. Thousands of years ago, in ancient Athens, Greek philosophers and statesmen advanced the concept of the polis, a city-state in which citizens were expected to take an active part in their government. It was the beginning of the time-tested idea which Abraham Lincoln expressed as “government of the people, by the people, for the people.” When it came time for the American Founding Fathers to forge a new form of government, they looked to the rich Hellenic tradition of democracy and independence for inspiration. In correspondence with his Greek friend, Adamantios Korais, Thomas Jefferson referred to the Greeks as a “splendid constellation of sages and heroes...whose merits are still resting, as a heavy debt, on the shoulders of the living and the future races of men.”

History came full circle in the early 19th century, when the American Revolution inspired the fight for Greek Independence, which was proclaimed on March 25, 1821. Greek freedom, like ours, was an outworking of the commitment to democratic ideals, republicanism, and patriotism. In 2008, President George W. Bush remarked that “all free people stand on the shoulders of Greece.” In this declaration, he echoed the historical reality that many American and Greek leaders have long acknowledged — that democracy is a gift from Greece to the world.

AHEPA is devoted to sustaining that democratic legacy. As the largest and oldest U.S.-based Greek

heritage organization, AHEPA has promoted the principles of Hellenism, unity, and assimilation into American society since 1922. During World War II, AHEPA answered the call and raised over \$350 million for war relief efforts. When President Truman gave aid to Greece through the Marshall Plan, he looked to AHEPA to assist him. More recently, AHEPA has helped provide places to live for 6,000 elderly Americans, donated thousands of gallons of milk to the people of Flint, MI where their water supply has been contaminated, and even organized relief efforts to help those affected by the train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio. AHEPA helps to carry on Greek traditions while supporting the non-partisan values that make America a glorious land of liberty and prosperity.

And while we aim to serve everyone, we also keep a special focus on the next generation. We have a proud history of awarding scholarships to a number of deserving scholar-athletes competing at the high school and collegiate levels. AHEPA also offers a variety of educational opportunities for students, including the AHEPAcademy, the Journey to Greece Program, our Odyssey in Athens semester abroad program, and even an MBA program. We do this because we know that our young men and women are the future of democracy, and they should be equipped with both classroom knowledge and real-world experiences that will serve them well throughout their lives.

People of all ages — especially young people — are searching for meaning in uncertain times. Many are also searching for a place where they can affirm the timeless values of patriotism, family, tradition, and care for their neighbor — things that we know are the fabric of any healthy society. Involvement in our philanthropic efforts that help others can provide that. And you don't even need to be Greek to join AHEPA in our mission to serve our neighbors — many of our 1 million members, spanning 400 chapters, are ethnicities other than Greek American.

Various voices in our society would have you believe that young Americans have given up on American values. But as a father myself, I know firsthand that's not true — the next generation just needs places where they can channel their enthusiasm for their country. American exceptionalism will only fade if we allow its light to go out. At AHEPA, we are committed to keeping the torch burning for centuries yet to come, and we hope that you will join us in that mission.

Basil Mossaidis is the Executive Director of AHEPA



AHEPA VETERANS REGISTRATION

AHEPA Medal for Military Service is awarded to all veterans in Honor of their service to the United States.

“The Mission of the Order of AHEPA Veterans Committee is to archive and recognize all veterans of the Order and Hellenic community through sound communication and publication. Furthermore, to conduct fund raising and philanthropic outreach through a cohesive, limited, yet well defined activity that reflects well on the Order of AHEPA and brings credit to the organization at large.”

The AHEPA Medal for Military Service, approved by the 106th Congress, was presented to all AHEPA veterans present at the 34th Biennial Congressional Banquet, March 29, 2000. The Supreme Lodge then encouraged its districts and chapters to present this medal to its deserving veterans unable to attend this banquet. It is this committee’s intent to register AHEPA Veterans and have the AHEPA Medal presented at appropriate events at the District and Chapter levels. Funds collected through this effort cover medal production and other administrative costs to include shipping. Remaining proceeds will be donated to the Wounded Warrior Program annually.

Eligibility requirement for AHEPA Medal for Military Service includes Honorable Service and Discharge. Service includes Active Duty, National Guard, or Reserve status of the United States Armed Forces.

Register online at www.ahepaveterans.org. File a copy with your chapter Secretary after registration is complete. Medals are normally shipped in the fall and in time for Veteran’s Day celebrations in November.

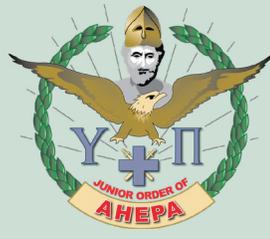


Ahepa Service Dogs for Warriors
ahepa-servicedogs.org



Ahepa Veterans Affairs
ahepaveterans.org

Learn more about
these and other
National Projects
by visiting
ahepa.org



Our Mission - To promote the ancient Greek ideals of Education, Philanthropy, Civic Responsibility, Family and Individual Excellence through community service and volunteerism.

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11548 Prospect Hill Drive - Gold River CA 95670**

**for more information call or email
916 307-3020 Email: georgekoumis@outlook.com**