

NEWSLETTER

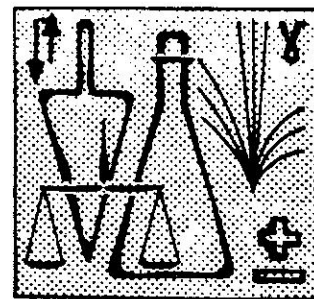
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No. 9, October 1994

KRIKOS

A CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC
LINK WITH GREECE
MIDWEST CHAPTER



NEW KRIKOS OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

After the elections of last May, the officers and board members of the Midwest Chapter of KRIKOS are: George Alexopoulos, president, Ioannis Kourbanis, vice president, Peter Metropoulos, treasurer, Stefanos Sakelaridis, recording secretary, Aphrodite Angelakos, corresponding secretary, Nikos Giokaris, Nicholas Holevas, Nikos Karnezos, Christos Takoudis, Constantine Tzanos, and Katherine Xenos. Congratulations and best wishes are extended to the newcomers: Aphrodite Angelakos, Nicholas Holevas, Christos Takoudis, and Katherine Xenos.

KRIKOS-MIDWEST ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

Its time to eat, drink, and dance with your KRIKOS friends. The ninth Annual Dinner Dance of the Midwest Chapter of KRIKOS will be held on Sunday, October 30, 1994, at Monty's Banquet, 703 South York Road, Bensenville, Illinois. Dinner will be served at 6:30 PM.

The Annual Dinner Dance is the only fund raising event of KRIKOS-MIDWEST. The proceeds are used to support the cultural and educational program of our chapter, the KRIKOS scholarship grant, and all other activities of our organization. The generous support of our members and friends will be greatly appreciated.

Our Dinner Dances are always distinguished for the excellent food, the unique kefi and fine music. This year we will be entertained with the music of the "Lambros Orchestra". For tickets, \$35 for adults and \$15 for children, please call George Alexopoulos at (708) 498-3686 or anyone of the Board Members.

KRIKOS-MIDWEST SCHOLARSHIPS

One of the objectives of our chapter is to help and recognize undergraduate or graduate students who have at least one parent of Greek descent and excel in their studies. During our Annual Dinner Dance five scholarships will be awarded to the winners of the KRIKOS-MIDWEST scholarship program. This year the winners are: Nectarios Broustas, Wright College, George Chelos, Wright College, Diego Casalino, Illinois Institute of Technology, Katherine Karnezis, National Louis University, and Nicholas Melissis, University of Illinois Chicago. The generosity of our scholarship donors, Columbia National Bank, and Dr. George and Annita Skarpathiotis is greatly appreciated.

Applications for the 1995 scholarship program are available, and the application dead line is July 31, 1995. The applications are judged by the scholarship committee of KRIKOS, and the primary selection criterion is scholastic performance, however, financial need is also taken into consideration.

KRIKOS-MIDWEST IS HONORED

The Greek-American Community Services at its Annual Heritage Awards Dinner Banquet on October 21, 1994, is honoring KRIKOS-MIDWEST, Greek Women's University Club, The Hellenic Professional Society of Illinois, and the Hellenic Cultural Organization. These organizations are honored in recognition of their cultural and educational services to our community.



HELEN PAPANIKOLAS

On Sunday, November 13, 1994, at 3:00 PM, KRIKOS and the Hellenic Professional Society of Illinois will co-host a lecture by Helen Papanikolas titled "Before the Past is Lost". The lecture will be held at Embassy Suites, River North Room, 600 North State Street, Chicago. Accepting the invitation to talk to us on her work, Helen Papanikolas wrote:

When I first began researching Greek-immigrant history, I was appalled at how little had found its way into American history books. What I did find gave a derogatory view of our people. All Greeks were placed in one category - that of undesirable aliens. I knew I had to write our people's immigrant experience before it was lost to history. Our early Greeks suffered terribly, but they were saved by a sardonic humor nurtured under the Turks and other invaders. They knew hard work, but also joy. Over the years I have accumulated incidents, anecdotes, stories of larger-than-life characters who to me are the essence of immigrant Greekness. I will relate my favorite stories that coincide with that experience.

Helen Papanikolas was born in 1917 in a coal town in eastern Utah where Greeks comprised the greatest number of immigrants. Her father Zeese (Yorgos Zisimopoulos), came from an isolated mountain village in Roumeli. Her mother, Emilia Papahristou, was born in a village in Halkidhiki and grew up in Constantinople. She received a degree in Bacteriology from the University of Utah, and "came to Northwestern in Evanston in 1973 with the notion that I would become a doctor" she says. "I soon learned I was not made to be one and was so homesick that when I went back to Utah for Christmas, I did not return."

In honor of the International Women's Day, and Women's History Month, last spring the Newsletter of the Greek American Labor Council presented Helen Papanikolas as follows: Helen Papanikolas is the premiere historian of the Greek American experience in the Intermountain West and has been referred to as the Gaia of Greek American Studies. Nearly forty years ago, she broke new scholarly ground with the first of many pioneering studies on the every day life of the Greek immigrants of the first wave. This overwhelmingly male population laid track for the railroad companies and mined coal and copper. In a fierce struggle against racial discrimination and exploitative Greek labor agents, traditional philotimo and newborn working class consciousness involved Greeks in every major struggle of the era, occasionally rifle in hand. Helen Papanikolas has presented this history in uncompromising detail. For a long time Helen Papanikolas was also alone in recording the female side of Greek American history. Her works contain priceless accounts of the picture brides, the healers, the gardeners, the rooming house ladies, and other women who shaped early communities.

Since 1954, when her first article, *The Greeks of Carbon County* appeared in the Utah Historical Quarterly, she has published *Toil and Rage in a New Land: the Greek Immigrants in Utah* and *The People of Utah*. In 1978, her book, *Aimilia-Emily: Yioryis-George* combined history and autobiography, a penetrating analysis of the experience of her parents, an experience she also shares as she observes and interprets tradition over time.

In her most recent publication, *Small Bird, Tell Me*, reveals herself as a gifted short story writer. It is here that she carried literary dexterity and grace to its ultimate. The book includes 14 short stories that touch the pulse of the Greek experience, not only in Utah, but in America. She writes, "*events that happened a hundred years ago, seemed through their telling to have happened but a little while past. In America they added to their*

repertoire: dishonest labor agents, magnificently defiant acts against authority, death in mines, mills, smelters; folk healers, gamblers, pimps, bootleggers. History and folklore can not tell it all, fiction comes close".

Helen Papanikolas has received Honorary doctorate degrees from the University of Utah and the Southern Utah University, she is a Fellow of the Utah Historical Society, and has received numerous awards including: Distinguished Alumna Award University of Utah, and Governor's Award for the Humanities, presented by the State of Utah and the Utah Endowment for the Humanities.

KRIKOS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

KRIKOS, under the leadership of its New Jersey Chapter, in cooperation with the University of Patras, and Stevens Institute of Technology, organized with success its second international conference on the Environment: "Restoration and Protection of the Environment II, 24 - 26 August 1994, Patras, Greece." The conference scientific committee, was comprised of scientists and engineers from: New Jersey Institute of Technology, Stevens Institute of Technology, University of Michigan, Stanford University, University of New Haven, University of Patras, University of Thessaloniki, and National Research Center "Democritos".

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SAYS THAT TURKEY USES U.S. ARMS TO SUPPRESS HUMAN RIGHTS

The internationally respected human rights organization Amnesty International (AI) believes that in at least two countries, Turkey and Colombia, U.S. supplied arms may be directly used to violate or suppress human rights. Last June's issue of AI's "Legislative Update" expressed this concern as follows:

Turkey is slated to receive an estimated \$1.3 billion in arms sales in 1995 in addition to nearly \$1 billion in security assistance. The U.S. government has not answered questions about the use of this assistance and of the military equipment bought.

The escalation of the armed conflict between the PKK (Kurdistan Workers Party) and the Turkish security forces has driven the deterioration of the human rights situation in southern Turkey. There has been a systematic evacuation and destruction of over 870 villages accompanied by threats, abductions, "disappearances," torture and killings of civilians. Amnesty International has documented several cases where foreign-supplied helicopters, airplanes and bombs, bought for the stated purpose of national security and defense were used to kill or abduct innocent civilians, including women and children. Amnesty International is urging all supplier countries to investigate the end-use of their transferred equipment, especially warplanes, helicopters and various types of bombs.

Amnesty's concerns in Turkey also include wide-spread and systematic torture by police, sometimes resulting in death, ill-treatment in prison, political killings, almost on a daily basis and detention without charge or trial. During 1993 at least 20 people died in custody allegedly as a result of torture. There are currently dozens of prisoners of conscience in Turkey. Six Kurdish members of Parliament have been arrested, for expressing their views, following the removal of their parliamentary immunity. Two of these members, Lily Zany and Ahmet Turk, are charged with expressing views before the U.S. Congress in a CSCE hearing.

Congress reacted with concern to the news of wide spread human rights violations in Turkey facilitated by U.S. assistance and arms sales. The House ordered that 25% of the direct loans for Turkey under the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Bill of 1995 be withheld until the Secretary of State had submitted a report addressing the

abuses against civilians by the Turkish armed forces.

For its part, the Senate, while it unfortunately removed this condition from the text of the bill, included the requirement that agreement for sale or provisions of U.S. military equipment to Turkey during fiscal year 1995 shall expressly state that it will not be used for internal security purposes. Moreover, the Senate Appropriations Committee requested the Secretary of State to report to it on allegations that U.S.-supplied equipment and material to Turkey, either grant, sale or defense drawdown, has been used in counter-insurgency operations against civilians.

It is intolerable that U.S. taxpayers monies be used to murder innocent people in other countries. Amnesty International will continue to monitor and hold the U.S. government accountable for every dollar in security aid that contributes to human rights abuses.

FROM THE GREEK AMERICAN HISTORY

The Early Greek Arrivals in America

This piece on the history of the Early Greek Arrivals in the United States of America was taken from the book of Dan Georgakas "Greek America at Work." Dan's permission to present it in our newsletter is greatly appreciated.

The first Greek to reach North America in the modern age may have been Juan Griego, a crewman serving in Christopher Columbus' second expedition. A percentage of subsequent Spanish crews was definitely comprised of Greek seamen, and Juan de Fuca who left his name on the straits between present-day Vancouver Island and Washington was likely a Greek from Cephalonia. The first undisputed Greek among the Spanish explorers was Theodore, a ship's caulker who sailed under Panfilio de Narvaez. When Narvaez anchored his ship off what is now Pensacola, Florida, in October 1538 to get fresh water, Theodore and an African went ashore as hostages to be held by wary Native Americans. Neither of them ever re-

turned.

Greek names are also found on the crew lists of such famed English adventurers as Sir Francis Drake and Richard Cavendish. Among the first known Greek settlers in the English colonies were Thomas Grecian, a sea captain who settled in Boston in 1660 and Michael Ury (Youris) who became an official member of the Maryland colony in 1725. Most of the handful of other Greeks to be found in the colonies were sailors who opted to stay ashore. Given the dearth of Greek women, most of these men remained bachelors or married non-Greeks. In either case their offsprings were rarely Greek-identified. This pattern would be typical for most Greek immigrants until the twentieth century.

The first massive immigration by the Greeks occurred in 1768 when some five hundred settlers arrived at New Smyrna, Florida. They had been contracted as indentured workers to help establish a new British colony. One of the colony's organizers was married to the daughter of a Greek merchant based in London and had been persuaded by her that Greeks, chafing under the rule of the Turkish Empire, would make industrious colonists. Accompanying the Greeks, most of whom were from the Mani region of Greece, were another thousand indentured workers, mainly either Italians from Leghorn or inhabitants of Minorca, one of the islands off the coast of Spain.

New Smyrna proved to be a disaster of mismanagement. Brutal working conditions, oppressive militaristic regulations, and inadequate resources led to the death of half of the colonists within two years. A worker rebellion headed by two Italians and a Greek from Corsica ensued, and the colony was abandoned. A remnant including about a hundred Greeks resettled in nearby St. Augustine. Although the Greeks frequently married non-Greeks, in 1777 they set up the first Greek Orthodox Chapel in North America. Some of the St. Augustine families that retained their Greek eth-

nicity would later resettle in Savannah Georgia. For the next hundred years total Greek immigration to the United States did not exceed five hundred persons. Many of these immigrants were involved in some aspect of international shipping and set up trading centers in the ports of New Orleans, New York, Boston, San Francisco, Savannah, and Galveston. The seamen fought on the American side in the Battle of New Orleans (1812), and Alexander Dimitry, one of the community leaders, became the first superintendent of education for the state of Louisiana. The New Orleans Greeks, mainly involved in the cotton trade, had sufficient numbers by 1864 to establish the first Greek Orthodox Church in North America exclusively supported by a Greek congregation.

Ordinary Greek seamen also remained visible on the American waterways so vital to national commerce and communication. Greeks worked in Great Lakes shipping and on the Mississippi river boats. An even larger number congregated in the Gulf states where they made a reputation as expert oystermen. The Greek sailors were highly regarded by their fellow Americans as sober and honest workers. A New York Times feature story of August 4, 1873 vented considerable enthusiasm for their skills and demeanor.

Another aspect of the maritime tradition was played out in the U.S. Navy where Greeks served in the ranks and as officers. The most extraordinary of these individuals was George Colvocoresses, an orphan of the Greek War of Independence raised by a New England sea family. While still a midshipman, Colvocoresses was chosen to serve in a historic four-year voyage (1834-1841) designed to assert the naval authority of the United States. The expedition established a claim to Antarctica and made charts of the Pacific Ocean still used centuries later. Each officer kept a personal logbook. In 1852 Colvocoresses transformed his log into a book for the general public that went through five editions in three years. He eventually rose to the

rank of Captain and commanded a Union ship in the Civil War. His son rose to the rank of Rear Admiral and was part of the administrative staff of the U.S. Naval Academy.

Perhaps the most colorful episode from this era of Greek immigration took place in the late 1850s when the U.S. Government sought to introduce camels into the deserts of the Southwest as pack animals. The first twenty-five camels were secured through the efforts of George Caralambo, the nephew of a Smyrna taverna owner, and Hadji Ali, a young camel driver and a pack outfitter. Caralambo and Ali came to the United States in 1857 with the second shipment of camels. The American military quickly dubbed Caralambo as Greek George and Ali, who was half-Greek and half-Syrian, as Hi Jolly. Several other Asia Minor Greeks who came at this time or shortly thereafter also got fanciful nicknames. All of the new immigrants would remain in the Southwest, and most would marry Mexican women. One child of such a union, Plutarco Elias Calles, grew up to be an important revolutionary and then President of Mexico (1926-1928).

The minuscule Greek American community of the early nineteenth century was particularly distinguished by its vigorous involvement with education, especially efforts on behalf of African Americans, women, working people, and the blind. Many American cities adopted Greek names and a handful of Americans, including at least one African American, crossed the Atlantic to fight in the Greek cause. Phil-Hellenes also brought thirty Greek war orphans to the United States. Some of these individuals, after graduating from American universities, returned to Greece to set up education institutions based on American ideals.

Among the Greek American educators and scholars of particular note were John Zachos, Michael Anagnos, and Lafcadio Hearn. Zachos' efforts were directed at opening educational opportunities for freed slaves, women, and the working class. He later served

as curator of archives at New York's Cooper Union, an institution famed for its working class orientation and dedication to progressive reforms.

Anagnos headed Boston's Perkins Institution for the Blind. Under his thirty-year stewardship, Perkins became the leading school of its kind anywhere in the world.

From the riches of our Cultural Heritage

A poem of Constantine P. Cavafy

In a Large Greek Colony, 200 B.C.

That things in the Colony do not proceed as they should
no one can doubt any longer,
and although, in spite of everything, we do go forward,
perhaps, as not a few are thinking, the time has come
to introduce a Political Reformer.

But the objection and the difficulty is
that they make an enormous fuss about everything, these
reformers. (It would be a blessing
if they were never needed). Whatever it is,
even the smallest detail, they question and investigate,
and at once radical reforms enter their heads
demanding to be executed without delay.

Also they have a liking for sacrifice:
*rid yourself of that possession;
your ownership is dangerous;
exactly such possessions damage colonies.
Rid yourself of that income,
and of the other connected with it,
and of the third, as a natural consequence;
they are essential, but what can one do?
they create an injurious responsibility for you.*

And as they extend their investigation
they discover endless superfluities, and these they seek to
remove.
things which are however renounced with difficulty.
And when, with luck, the business is completed,
and every detail is defined and circumscribed,
they retire, taking also the wages due to them,
allowing us to see whatever still remains, after
such effective surgery.

Perhaps the moment has not yet arrived.
Let us not hurry: speed is a dangerous thing
Untimely measures bring repentance.
Certainly, and unhappily, many things are wrong in the
Colony.
but is there anything human without imperfection?
And after all, look, we do go forward.