



CHAPTERS THROUGHOUT NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN NEVADA

Volume 57, No. 3

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF DISTRICT No. 21

September/Fall 2009

## Nicholas A. Karacostas Unanimously Elected Supreme President

New York City Attorney to Lead Organization into its 88th Year

SAN FRANCISCO - The delegates of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), a leading association for the nation's three million American citizens of Greek heritage, and countless Philhellenes, unanimously elected Nicholas A. Karacostas their supreme president at its 87th Annual Supreme Convention in San Francisco. Karacostas ran unopposed in elections that were held Saturday, July 4, 2009.

"Words cannot express how humbled and honored I am to be elected AHEPA Supreme President," said Karacostas, who emigrated from Kyrenia, Cyprus as a three-year-old with his family. "It is the culmination of 30 years of service to the organization, dating back to my membership in the Sons of Pericles."

He continued, "I look forward to working with our new Supreme Lodge, and entire membership, to keep AHEPA on the steady path set forth by my predecessors. There are many challenges facing the community, and new ones will emerge. However, I'm confident we will strive to overcome them together in true spirit to our mission."

Karacostas, who hails from Flushing, N.Y., is a 25-year member of AHEPA Gus Cherevas - Estia-Pindus Chapter 326, in Flushing. He has served AHEPA in numerous leadership positions including supreme vice president, two terms as supreme counselor, and on its Board of Directors. As supreme president, Karacostas' responsibilities include being the chief executive officer, and principal spokesperson, of the entire AHEPA Domain, which includes the United States, Canada, Greece, and Cyprus.

The newly-elected supreme president was born in Kyrenia, Cyprus and immigrated to the United States three years later. Karacostas, an attorney, is the senior vice president of Arch Insurance Group. He is a member of the American Bar Association, the New York Bar Association, and National Institute for Trial Advocacy. Karacostas received his J.D. from the City of New York Law School and is a graduate of New York University.

The 2009-10 Supreme Lodge is comprised of: Supreme Vice President Dr. John Grossomanides, Jr., Westerly, R.I.; Canadian President Nick Aroutzidis, Ontario; Supreme Secretary Anthony Kouzounis, Houston; Supreme Treasurer Col. Nicholas P. Vamvakias (ret.), Fairfax, Va.; Supreme Counselor Anastasios Konstantin, Oakland, Calif.; and Supreme Athletic Director Spiro Siaggas, Atlanta.

The eight Supreme Governors are: Region I: Peter S. Sergis, Rockledge, Fla.; Region II: John Mesogitis, Venetia, Pa.; Region III: Theodore Manolios, Lidenhurst, N.Y.; Region IV: Alex G. Geourtas, Roslindale, Mass.; Region V: Chris D. Kontos, Grosse Isle., Mich.; Region VI: Tom Gober, Highland, Ind.; Region VII: James J. Peros, Denver; and Region VIII: Peter T. Triantafyllos, West Hills, Calif. Mesogitis and Gober were re-elected.

### AHEPA Family Elections

The organizations that comprise the AHEPA Family also held elections. Elaine M. Sampanis, West Chester, Ohio, was elected Daughters of Penelope Grand President; Dean Tselepis, Wyckoff, N.J., Sons of Pericles Supreme President; and Sia Zois, Dayton, Ohio, Maids of Athena Grand President. ♦

District #21 Convention, Santa Clara, CA

## Nick Pries and Margo Drosos elected District #21 Governors

Delegates at the 77th Annual District #21 Convention, held this past June at the Santa Clara Marriott Hotel, elected Nick Pries of San Jose District Governor. Robert Sexton of Fresno was elected Lt. Governor; Tom Chiarchianis, Stockton, Secretary; Alex Bazos, Modesto, Treasurer; Richard Kylan, San Jose, Marshall and Elias Tsiknis, San Francisco, Warden.

The Daughters of Penelope elected Margo Drosos, Walnut Creek, District Governor, P.J. Richard, Stockton, Lt. Governor; Chrisanthi Panagopoulos, Stockton, Secretary; Helen Sexton, Fresno, Treasurer; and Vivian Leos, San Francisco, Marshall.

See Pages 2 and 6 for the balance of the new District Lodges and pictures taken during the convention.

The convention business meetings were well attended by delegates from the chapters throughout our District. The Golf Tournament at the Santa Clara Golf and Tennis Club on Thursday included thirty six players. Following the tournament a combined welcome night reception, golf awards and barbecue was held and enjoyed by all at the San Jose St. Nicholas Church Courtyard.

On Friday, business meetings, athletic awards and the grand banquet filled the day. At the Athletic Hall of Fame Luncheon Napoleon C. Dokos (deceased), Nick Garriss, and Nick Pappageorge were inducted into the District 21 Athletic Hall of Fame by District Athletic Director Stamis Cocolos. At the grand banquet, His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco spoke highly of the AHEPA Family. San Jose City Councilman Peter Constantin reflected on his Greek heritage.

Saturday meetings, District Scholarship awards, elections, Glendi and the Charitable Raffle Drawing were the highlights. At the Glendi Greek Consul General Xenia Stefanidou, who has been promoted to Ambassador to the Philippines, was honored and presented with a plaque and floral bouquet.

Finally, on Sunday, following church services at St. Nicholas, we were all, delegates and fathers (Father's Day), treated to a delicious brunch. ♦

## Jan Spanos Re-Elected Grand Governor

Our own Jan Spanos, Past District Governor, was re-elected to the position of Grand Governor of Zone IV of the Daughters of Penelope at the Supreme Convention this past July in San Francisco.

Grand President of the Daughters of Penelope Elaine Sampanis has assigned District 7 (Connecticut and Rhode Island); District 17 (Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico) and District 20, Utah, Southern Nevada, Arizona and Southern California to Jan as her Liaison Districts for the 2009-2010 year.

We wish Jan ke sanotera and all of the members of the 2009-2010 Grand Lodge good health every success in all of their endeavors. ♦

"**AHEPA TRAVELER** is published quarterly, four times a year March, June, September and December by Order of AHEPA, 3327 Lake Albano Circle, San Jose, CA 95135."

**AHEPA TRAVELER** is the official publication of Golden Gate District 21 Order of AHEPA (American-Hellenic-Educational-Progressive-Association). It is published and distributed to members and friends. There are thirty Ahepa, Daughters, Sons and Maids Chapters in Northern California and Western Nevada.

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.

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**DECEMBER 1, 2009**

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**AHEPA**  
**DISTRICT**  
**LODGE**  
**2009-2010**

Website: [www.ahepa21.org](http://www.ahepa21.org)

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**DISTRICT**  
**LODGE**  
**2009-2010**

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## AHEPA District Governor's Message



**Nick Pries**  
District Governor

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for electing me to the position of District Governor. With the help and cooperation of the new District Lodge Officers and all the Chapters we will have a good year. I wish to congratulate the outgoing District Lodge, Governors Steve Miller and Sylvia Golfes and their officers, for their hard work and dedication to the District.

Congratulations to Margo Drosos, the new District Governor of the Daughters of Penelope, and her officers. I look forward to working with Margo and her officers for the betterment of District 21.

One of my first duties as District Governor was to attend the 87th Annual Supreme Convention held in San Francisco the first week of July. Our District was well represented with eighteen delegates. There was a lot of discussion of various topics at the convention including making the Supreme Governors a standing committee, limiting the elected governors to two years, raising the per capita tax, and members must be in good standing for at least six months in order to be elected a delegate to the Supreme Convention..

Congratulations to Tasos Konstantin, Oakland, who was elected to the position of Supreme Counsellor at the Supreme Convention. Brother Konstantin is a Past District 21 Governor and Past Supreme President of the Sons of Pericles.

This year, as year's in the past, the focus will be to build our Chapters by bring in new members. Every member should make an effort to sponsor at least one new member this coming year. A friend, a son, a son-in-law, grandson or another relative to help us grow.

Another project for the coming year will be to distribute the Ahepa Traveler to as many members as possible via email. If you would like to receive the Traveler via email send your request to franciscanpress@sbcglobal.net. This will help us reduce the cost of printing and mailing plus the email version is in color. You can always print out your own hard copy.

A reminder to send your current officers, chapter events, and other useful information to our District Web site: [www.ahepa21.org](http://www.ahepa21.org). Email your material to brother Chris Frangos at [cfrangos@cbnocal.com](mailto:cfrangos@cbnocal.com).

The Fall Conference will be hosted by the Reno AHEPA Family on Saturday, October 17, 2009 at St. Anthony's Greek Orthodox Church Hellenic Center. See flyer enclosed in this issue of the Traveler for details and registration form. Plan to attend and why not make it a mini vacation.

I'm looking forward to meeting with as many brothers as possible during our chapter visitations. See you at the Fall Conference in Reno on October 17th. Looking forward to another great AHEPA Family year! ❖

## DOP District Governor's Message



**Margo Drosos**  
District Governor

As the 2009-2010 year begins, I would like to thank the District Convention Delegation for electing me as your Governor. I have accepted this position with complete dedication, honor, humility, and pride. The officers on our new lodge are PJ Rishard, Lt. Governor; Chrisanthi Panagopoulos, Secretary; Helen Sexton, Treasurer; Vivian Leos, Marshal; Sylvia Golfes, Advisor; and temporary assignment of Louise Metaxas as MOA Advisor. The 2009 District Penelope of the Year is myself, Margo Drosos, Harmonia #367, Walnut Creek.

A very warm and gracious thank you goes to the San Jose AHEPA Family for hosting this year's convention – all who attended enjoyed themselves.

The AHEPA Family of San Francisco was the perfect host for the Supreme Convention. It was a rewarding experience – having renewed friendships from all over the world, participating on committees and socializing with all who attended. The guest speaker on one occasion was Vicki Vlachakis of General Motors, who not only impressed and dazzled us with her knowledge and abilities, but is a most extraordinary professional. She truly was an inspiration to the young women in attendance.

Special congratulations go to Jan Spanos Past District Governor, Artemis #5 on her election to the Grand Lodge as Grand Governor Zone IV.

Our warmest congratulations also are extended to the newly elected Grand Lodge Officers and National Penelope of the Year. They are: Elaine Sampanis, Grand President; Diane Lygouriatis, Canadian Grand President; Christine Constantine, Grand Vice President; Nicky Stamoulis, Grand Secretary; Joanne Saltas, Grand Treasurer; Georgia Foundotos, Grand Governor Zone I; Deborah Fletcher, Grand Governor Zone II; Angela Magrames, Grand Governor Zone III; Jan Spanos, Grand Governor Zone IV; and Demi Thomas, Grand Advisor MOA. National Penelope of the Year is Angela Magrames, Hoosier District #12.

As our chapters are in full swing of planning their calendars, we can't help but to reflect on the past 80 years. On November 14th Eos #1 will be hosting their annual Founder's Day Luncheon. This year will be a reflection of 80 years, with a positive look into the future. I urge that you save the date and attend this most memorable event.

Please advise me of any events or occurrences in your chapters. I will include the information in my monthly bulletin and if there is anyway I can help with your Chapters, please do not hesitate to contact me. The District Lodge is looking forward to our visitations and the proposed schedule is in this issue of the Traveler. ❖

In Theta Pi,

Margo Drosos, District Governor



## ***Congratulations to the AHEPA Family***

### ***2009 Scholarship Recipients***



**Alicia M. Frangos**  
*San Mateo, DOP*



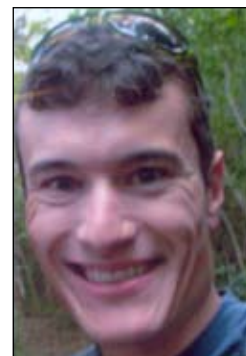
**Collie M. Kassab**  
*Stockton, DOP*



**Kera A. Lagios**  
*Reno, Nevada, DOP*



**Jessica Lynne Malekos-Smith**  
*San Mateo, DOP*



**Robert Woods**  
*Reno, Nevada, AHEPA*



**Vincent Stefani**  
*Pleasanton, AHEPA*



**Nicholas Terzakis**  
*Sacramento, AHEPA*



**Georgina Georgiou**  
*Modesto, AHEPA*



**Sarah Giakoumis**  
*Palo Alto, AHEPA*



**Dimitri Karahalios**  
*Castro Valley, AHEPA*



**Elizabeth A. Mitropoulos**  
*San Francisco, DOP*



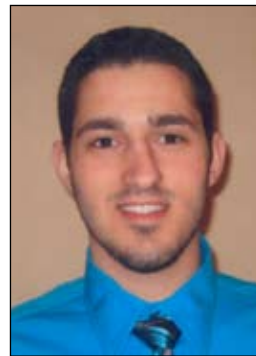
**Athena Carapanos**  
*Lafayette, AHEPA*



**Annika Chryssos**  
*Carson City, Nevada, AHEPA*



**Anastasia Demetriou**  
*Martinez, AHEPA*



**Stavros Stathoudakis**  
*Modesto, AHEPA*



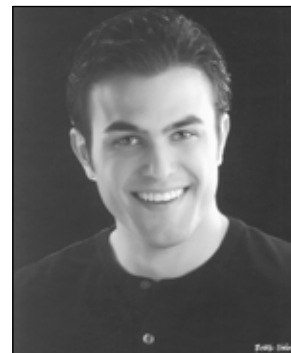
**Stephanie Leles**  
*Tracy, AHEPA*



**Kerry Mullins**  
*San Rafael, AHEPA*



**Eleni Leles**  
*Tracy, AHEPA*



**Marco Stefani**  
*Pleasanton, AHEPA*

ORDER OF AHEPA AND DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE  
GOLDEN GATE DISTRICT #21

# FALL CONFERENCE

Saturday, October 17, 2009

St Anthony's Greek Orthodox Church

*Pete Cladianos Sr. Hellenic Center*

4795 Lakeside Drive, Reno, Nevada 89509



## Hosted by the RENO AHEPA FAMILY

Welcome Continental Breakfast ----- 9:00 am  
Combined AHEPA/Daughters Meeting ----- 10:00 am  
Luncheon ----- 12:00 pm  
Individual AHEPA/Daughters Meetings ----- 1:30 pm  
Adjournment ----- 4:00 pm

## REGISTRATION FORM

(Reservation Deadline Postmark by October 12, 2009)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

AHEPA CHAPTER # \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DAUGHTER CHAPTER # \_\_\_\_\_

CITY-STATE-ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER IN PARTY \_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 EACH (by deadline)  
\$30.00 AT THE DOOR

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE ENCLOSE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AHEPA#281 MAIL TO: JOHN P. COPOULOS

P.O. BOX 2517

CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89702





**MEETINGS & EVENTS**

**AHEPA**  
 Salon A  
 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM - Meeting

Salon B  
 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM - Meeting

Salons D-E  
 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM - Lunch

Newport Beach  
 6:00 PM - 12:00 AM - Cohen & Rosenblatt  
 Wedding Reception



**CURRENT CONDITIONS**

Temperature	83 °F/17 °C
Wind	4 mph Southwest
Humidity	76 %
Barometer	29.81 "Hg

Iran's top leader warns of protest crackdown

House condemns Tehran







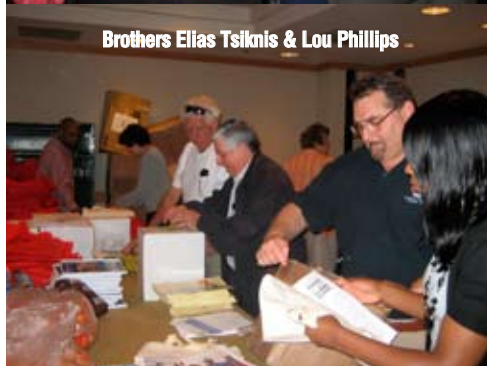
Pres. Jim Dariotes and Visiting Delegate Dimitrios Dimitropoulos



Jimmy with Elias Tsiknis



Jan Spanos, Grand District Liaison and Sister Sophia Eliopoulos, PDG



Brothers Elias Tsiknis & Lou Phillips



Eos and Ahepans helpers at Convention



Elias Tsiknis and Eva Skoufis Greek dancing





## Oakland AHEPA Family

by Ceil Koplos

The following slate of 2009-2010 **Echo Chapter #4** was duly elected at the May meeting: President Nancy Acuros, Vice President Linda Cliff, Coresponding Secretary Sophia Constantine, Recording Secretary Despina Kallas, Treasurer Antonia Fikaris. Board of Governors: Chairman Sophia Johnson, Christina Demetriou, Judy Earle, Mary Gianopoulos and Louise Metaxas. Also, Chairman of Penelope's Library Cathy Giouzelis.

**AHEPA Chapter #171** new officers are: President Nick Gianopoulos, Vice President Ben Gipson, Secretary Harry Metaxas, Treasurer Dennis Metaxas, Board of Directors Chairman Bill Anton.

**Robert Woods** from Reno, Nevada received the **Jim and John Koplos Scholarship Award** for \$1,000 at the District Convention. Robert is attending the University of Nevada at Reno majoring in business administration and marketing. He plans to enter the MBA program upon graduation. He was on the Dean's list in the past and has been a member of the campus Crusade for Christ. He volunteers for local groups helping the needy and those in grief and loss, severs with others at the local homeless shelter. He is a kind and caring individual with potential.

**James T. Koplos** three year memorial service was held recently at the Ascension Cathedral with His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos officiating. A luncheon was held at Scotts Restarurant in Walnut Creek hosted by

Ceil Koplos and family.



Attending the luncheon seated from the left Sophia Johnston, Ceil Koplos and Gregory Diamanti. Standing Kim Hamilton, Ben Gipson, Elaine Leon, Mary Ann Gipson, Jay Lynn Leon, Theodora Hamilton, Brandi Blaylock, Lore Baylock and grandson James Leon.



**Ernie and Merry Cheonis** celebrated their fifty years of marriage at a luncheon recently at the Round Hill Country Club in Alamo. Congratulations!



## Garden City #251 San Jose

by K. Gus Hazifotis, PSG

AHEPA Family Day was celebrated on Sunday, May 17, 2009 and included a memorial for all the departed members of the AHEPA Family. We then celebrated the Artoclasia for the health and well being of the San Jose AHEPA Family and all the families of the San Jose community.

Also, for the fourth year, we celebrated AHEPA Day by honoring our youth. On this day, we hosted a Luncheon for every High School Graduating Senior, recognizing their Scholastic Achievement by awarding them a Certificate, a check for \$100 and serving a luncheon in their honor, which does more for AHEPA than anything else we do throughout the year. As a wise man once told me, "We are honored by those we honor." How true.

Lunch was prepared by the Pries brothers, along with President Elect, Rick Kylan and served by the Daughters of Penelope.

Pictured below with the Graduating Seniors is Fr. John Asimacopoulos (right) and President Mike Frangadakis (left).



## SCHEDULE OF DISTRICT LODGE VISITATIONS & EVENTS 2009 - 2010

### October

7	6:30pm	Wednesday		San Francisco	Holy Trinity Church
16	TBA	Friday		Reno	Church
17		<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Fall Conference</b>	<b>Reno</b>	<b>St. Anthony Church</b>
24	10:00am	Saturday		Fresno	St. George Church

### November

10	TBA	Tuesday		Stockton	St. Basil Church
14		<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Founders Day</b>	<b>San Francisco</b>	
19	6:30pm	Thursday		San Mateo	Burlingame Womens Club

### January

2	11:00am	Saturday		Walnut Creek	DOP Only
12	7:00pm	Tuesday		San Jose	St. Nicholas Church
13	7:00pm	Wednesday		Contra Costa/AHEPA	St. Demetrios Church
19	6:30pm	Tuesday		Modesto	Annunciation Church
23	10:00am	Saturday		Marysville/Sacramento	Annunciation Church

### February

6	10:00am	Saturday		Vallejo	Sts. Constantine & Helen
9	6:30pm	Tuesday		Oakland	Ascension Cathedral

### March

6		<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Spring Conference</b>		<b>Vallejo - Tentative</b>
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### May

1		<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sisterhood Conference</b>		<b>Portland, Oregon</b>
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### June/July

25-26		<b>District Convention</b>		<b>Stockton</b>	
July 11		<b>Supreme Convention</b>		<b>Montreal, Quebec</b>	

## Grand Raffle Results

On behalf of District 21 Daughters of Penelope and Order of AHEPA, we wish to thank you for helping to make our charitable year a most successful one. The drawing was held at the Greek Glendi Festivities, Saturday, June 20, 2009. This was the final night of our 77th Annual District Convention hosted by the San Jose AHEPA Family. We are pleased to list the winners below. We thank our hard working sellers and once again tell all, there were no losers because the causes your money went toward are just and needed. Your financial support is most appreciated and we are hopeful that you will again support the AHEPA Family Charities Raffle in 2010.

Andrew Salis, Foster City, \$20,000; James G. Nicholson, Reno, NV, \$10,000; Stella Virginia Pappas/Sophia Eliopoulos, San Francisco, \$5,000; Kirk De La Mare, Modesto, \$1,500; Ralph Swenson, Modesto, \$1,000; Helen Moulats, San Jose, \$1,000; **Kalliope Fousekis, Belmont**, 1,000; Michael Klobuchar/Janella Thodas, \$500; Anna Gikas, Cupertino, \$500; Gus Eliopoulos, San Leandro, \$500; Dianne Angelopoulos/Mary Paras, San Francisco, \$500; Nick & George Pries, San Jose, \$500; Harmonia #367 Various Members, Pleasant Hill, \$500; *Early Bird drawing held March 14, 2009* - Chris Poulakidas, Reno, NV, \$500; Chuck & Bonnie Swanson, Modesto, \$500; Franklin Manios, Warren OH, \$500; Chris & Irene Kyriacou, Belmont, \$500.

We thank you for the opportunity to chair this worthwhile committee. . . it has been a gratifying experience. ❖

## Did you know the *Ahepa Traveler* is on the District #21 Website?

Go to [www.ahepa21.org](http://www.ahepa21.org)

to view current and back issues of the *Traveler* in color!

If you would like to go *green* and receive your copy  
of the *Traveler* electronically,

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You will receive the *Traveler* much sooner  
than by regular mail and save District #21 printing and postage costs.

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## Post your Chapter news on the AHEPA website!

List or update your Chapter Officers.

List upcoming Chapter events.

Add photos and artwork.

Post your Chapter's history or highlights.

It's easy, send information via email to:

Chris Frangos

[cfrangos@cbnocal.com](mailto:cfrangos@cbnocal.com)

---

## Where do We Stand in the History and Legacy of Our Roots?

*by Jan Spanos, Grand Governor Zone IV  
- Past District 21 Governor*

From the wind swept shores of Paros and Zakynthos; to the sunny hills surrounding Tripoli; to the echoes of ancient battles in the fields of Sparta; to the pine covered mountains of Roumali; to the tranquility of Thessaloniki; to the hustle and bustle of Athens; Greece is where we find our roots. Roots that are long in history and strong in years of struggles faced and overcome.

As we in the Despora take the time to reflect on those roots, their history and their strength, we can be proud of our heritage and the legacy of our families. Our legacies may not be in the riches associated with financial gains, but they are legacies built on generation upon generation of sacrifice for the

common good: family, neighbor, community and nation.

Where do we stand in that history, in that legacy? We are faced with many horrific struggles today due to a less than stable economy, are we ready to step up to the plate for the common good? Has the land of milk and honey become the land of gluttony? When do we draw the line of over indulgence in material things and start remembering those things that are of no material value but tremendous value to the human soul and the spirit and speaks to our ancestry?

It never ceases to amaze me that when we make our personal journeys to Greece each summer that we return refreshed in our inner being and renewed in our zest for life. We find our selves smiling at the oddest times and willing to give a hand up and a hand out to those that need one or the other or both. Why? Because we have returned from the land our roots and have felt once again the vitality that has

made it the Mecca of phil-hellens the world over. Is it any wonder that total strangers find inner peace and nirvana in the land our ancestry?

We are so very fortunate to be able to live in this time in history and have the opportunity to be the living testimony to the rich history of our forefathers on both sides of the Atlantic. I wonder if we take enough time to share that with others. Not to brag but to include. When we hear or utter the words adelfo or adelfe or filoz do we really consider each other brother or sister or friend? Or are they only meaningless words?

Our hearts are full when we greet those that we share a heart relationship with. We hug and kiss both cheeks and the lips of that person in acknowledgment of that special bond. Is it not part of our heritage to treat strangers as friends and always friends as family? And so we circle back to the question where do each of us stand in the history and legacy of our roots? ❖





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