

GOLDEN GATE DISTRICT NO. 21

Ahepa Traveler



CHAPTERS THROUGHOUT NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN NEVADA

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District 21 Winter Conference will be held January in Sacramento - venue and date to be announced.

District 21 2022 Convention - venue and date to be announced.

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Will Travel



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2021-2022**

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2021-2022**

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AHEPA GOLDEN GATE DISTRICT 21

AHEPA District 21 Governor's Message



December 202

Dear AHEPA Family,

As we come to the end of 2021 We are still in a state of flux as to getting back to normal. We are starting to get together again and it's nice seeing everyone again.

We had a visitation to our District by the Grand President of the Daughters of Penelope, Kathy Bizoukas, and the Concord Daughters hosted a nice dinner reception in San Ramon for her to which I was invited as District Governor to represent AHEPA.

I attended the Daughters of Penelope EOS #1 San Francisco Chapter Founders Day luncheon. It was well attended and Brothers from our San Francisco chapter of AHEPA also attended. It was good to see you in person.

I hope that this is the start of having meetings and gatherings to help in the restart of our District.

We are working with the Sacramento chapter to plan an in person Winter Conference for January. Details will follow, and I hope to see everyone there.

Our District lodges are in discussions to host our District convention, as Seattle has decided that it cannot host the convention yet. District 20 may host the WRDC in Las Vegas in 2022. I am eagerly awaiting information as to what they can put together on short notice.

Our 2022 AHEPA scholarships are available on the website (ahepa.org/scholarships) and students will be able to apply until April 1st. Please share this information with your graduating high school seniors and college students as we hope to see many applicants.

I feel that we have an opportunity to invite new members to our organization as people are looking for social interaction. Our applications are available for download at AHEPA21.org.

Finally, the Supreme Convention will be held in Orlando, Florida from July 17-22 and should be an incredible event. Registration is now online.

Wishing everyone Kali Hristougena – Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year!

Respectfully

Chris Frangos

Dist. #21 Governor

Daughters of Penelope District 21 Governor's Message



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas surrounded by family and friends and many blessings for the New Year including peace, health, and happiness! It's been a challenging 2 years. Let's consider having more joint AHEPA/DOP social activities next year to reinvigorate our chapters. We've been isolated for far too long!

I'm pleased to report that DOP District 21 had the honor of hosting 2 events for Grand President Kathy Bizoukas on the days before Founders Day. Echo #4, Oakland and Harmonia #367, Walnut Creek members attended a dinner in honor of Kathy on Wednesday November 10. We also had representation from some D21 AHEPANS. Daphne #29, San Jose and Urania #290, Belmont members attended a

dinner/visitation in honor of Kathy on Thursday November 11. Both events were well attended, and we all had a great time. It was a great opportunity to get to know our Grand President!

92ND ANNIVERSARY DOP FOUNDER'S DAY - We celebrated a very special day on Saturday November 13th. It was DOP's 92nd Anniversary hosted by EOS #1. We had almost 100 attendees including D21 AHEPANS and our D21 Governor Chris Frangos! We had 5 grand officers attending: Grand President Kathy Bizoukas, Grand Vice President Georgette Boulegeris, Grand Secretary Marianthe Treppiedi, and Grand Governor Zone IV and Liaison Robbie Jackson. We also had 3 Past Grand Presidents attending: Joanne Booras, Jan Spanos and Celia Kachmarski. I want to offer my sincerest thanks to all the members of EOS No.1 for hosting this beautiful and memorable event that honors our Founder, Alexandra Apostolides. This event is a cornerstone of their commitment to our order. This is truly a labor of love!

I'd like to share my brief comments that were made on Founder's Day regarding Membership in our AHEPA Family: "Let's show our enthusiasm and passion through our words and actions to others around us. Let's be sure to promote and advertise what we do because many who are not part of the AHEPA Family do not really know the extent of our reach." "Think about an "ALL IN THE FAMILY" approach regarding membership. Look to your family members (children, grandchildren, spouse, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins) and friends and ask them to consider joining. Everyone has a skill that we can use! Let's not make it complicated and let's not overwhelm them.

"It is important to reach out to our youth. I know everyone is busy, but as you all know, what we have to offer these young men and women would tremendously benefit their lives. Our youth is absolutely our future!" Think about giving a Christmas gift of membership (AHEPA, Daughters of Penelope, Sons of Pericles, Maids of Athena) for your loved ones, near & far. it's a wonderful gift that gives them the opportunity of learning about who we are and what we do!

SCHOLARSHIPS - The 2022 District 21 Scholarship is open and posted on the District website <https://dop21.org/scholarships/index.htm#>. Please share the scholarship information. Please contact our Scholarship Chair Alicia Frangos at alifrangos@gmail.com with any questions or if assistance is needed.

DOP D21 FACEBOOK PAGE - Our DOP district 21 has a Facebook page. It is called '**Daughters of Penelope Golden Gate District 21**'. We post interesting articles from our National Daughters of Penelope as well from other DOP Districts and chapters around the world! Please check it out to see what we've been up to around the world!

SAVE THE DATE - 2022 Supreme Convention 100th Anniversary of AHEPA - Will be held July 17 - 22, 2022 in Orlando, FL at Disneyworld. Information is on <http://www.ahepa.org>

Sisters Alicia F., Mary K., Mary G., Angie L., Foula V. and I want to wish you a very **Merry Christmas** and we look forward to a very Happy and Healthy 2022! **Happy New Year!**

With Love in Theta Pi,

Linda

Linda Belba D21 Governor



SCHOLARSHIP SEASON HAS ARRIVED

AHEPA District Scholarship Foundation

Applications/Information are available from your chapter and on the District website:
ahepa21.org/

Daughters of Penelope District Scholarship

Applications/Information are available from your chapter and on the District website:
dop21.org/scholarships

National AHEPA and Daughters of Penelope Scholarships

Scholarship applications will be available starting January 3, 2022 on their respective websites: ahepa.org and daughtersofpenelope.org.

Scholarship applicants consider the following:

Qualities we admire in students. We strongly recommend all students to take one or more courses in the “classics” in order to understand their historical context as they relate to current events.

Academic Excellence. Higher grades help show us that you’re taking your future seriously and putting in the effort.

Cultural Appreciation. It is our organization’s belief, that the Hellenic or Classical Studies programs on college campuses are of great value.

Extracurricular Activity. Having a “work-life” balance during your professional career is important which is why balancing responsibilities outside of school shows us you’re on the right track

Volunteerism. Philanthropy and self sacrifice are attributes in the lives of those who leave well respected legacies.

“We Are What We Repeatedly Do. Excellence Then, Is Not An Act, But A Habit.” - Aristotle

AHEPA STUDENT PROGRAMS

Visit ahepa.org for more information about these student programs.

Washington Mentorship AHEPAcademy

Professional development program that educates, mentors, and networks exceptional Greek-American high school students as they progress through their high academic and professional careers.

Summer Excursion Journey To Greece

Immersive summer program that takes young students on excursions throughout Greece in order to learn about, appreciate, and celebrate Greek society and culture.

Study Abroad Odyssey In Athens

Students choose to spend either a semester or full year studying abroad in Athens Greece. The school and apartments are located in the Plaka area at the base of the Acropolis.

Master’s Program MBA Program

Webster University, through its Athens campus, is proud to offer for one time only its Higher Learning Commission [HLC], USA accredited Master of Business Administration in collaboration with AHEPA.



AHEPA Centennial Supreme Convention

JULY 18 - JULY 22, 2022

The Order of AHEPA turns 100 next year, and to celebrate, we're taking you back to the happiest place on earth, the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida! Pack up your families and bring plenty of sunscreen to join the AHEPA in this once in a lifetime celebration of a century of service!

Our 2020 Disney Convention had to be postponed due to the pandemic, so in 2022, we're going to make up for it and bring you a week full of fun that you won't want to miss out on! We've worked with Walt Disney World Resort to secure a special convention rate for our attendees of \$179/night plus tax and we anticipate that these rooms are going to sell out quickly!



Meetings will start on Monday, July 18th and Installations will conclude the convention on Friday, July 22nd, but we encourage you to take advantage of our rate and plan your family vacations around these dates. Our room rate is available at the Coronado Springs from July 13-26th! Visit the link below to book your room today!

mydisneygroup.com/ahepa2022

Guaranteeing the Future of AHEPA

AHEPA Capital Campaign

In preparation for the Centennial Celebration, the Order of AHEPA has created an opportunity for its members and supporters to become part of the organization's history, international presence and lasting legacy.

Special salutes in the historically significant AHEPA Global Headquarters building, located in downtown Washington, DC, may be reserved and secured by any member or Chapter, District and National officer. This permanent messaging, located on a commemorative wall in the lobby entrance, is limited to 1,000 donors, who may honor a chapter, a family member, a birthplace or a milestone (subject to the approval of the Campaign Chairman).

Individuals may secure their tribute with a \$250 donation. Donations in the name of a family are available for \$500. Recognition of AHEPA chapters are \$750 and courtesies to AHEPA districts are provided for \$1000.

Become an AHEPA Legend by joining the ranks of our Legacy Program. The Centennial Legacy program is a special status which enables AHEPA members to leave a lasting impression on our great organization.

When you become a Legacy member you

One: You are helping us strengthen the AHEPA – where no one does more for the Greek American (Hellenic) community.

Two: Making a strong statement of support in honor of our 100th Anniversary which is quickly approaching July 26, 2022.

Three: Setting an example to other AHEPA members who may not yet see the fulfillment of membership like you already have.

Learn more about the AHEPA Capital Campaign at: ahepa.org/ahepa-century-capital-campaign/

Daughters of Penelope Welcome Grand President Kathy Bizoukas

Harmonia Chapter #397 - Walnut Creek

Submitted by President Margo Drosos

As we all know, these past two years have been very trying. The highlight, however, for our District, is that Grand President Kathy Bizoukas visited our Golden State to participate in the 92nd Annual Founder's Day Luncheon. During her stay, Daughter of Penelope's Oakland Chapter Echo #4 and Walnut Creek's Chapter Harmonia #367 co-hosted Grand President Kathy with a nice dinner and social event. It was such a pleasure to get to know her on a one-on-one visit.

In attendance for Sister Kathy's visit, were various dignitaries; including, Linda Belba, District 21 Governor; Joanne Booras, PGP; Beverly Kennedy, PGG; and Mary Gavrilis, PDT. The dignitaries from Ahepa whom attended are Chris Frangos, District 21 Governor; George Booras, Past Supreme Treasurer; and Steve Miller, District Chaplain. A huge thank you to George and Joanne Booras for underwriting this special event.

Prior to Thanksgiving, Harmonia #367, delivered their annual Turkey Dinners to St. Demetrios

Greek Orthodox Church and BACS (Bay Area Community Services), to the homeless shelter in Antioch.

Fortunately, since mandates are easing, we were able to have our annual Christmas Dinner. It was such a nice event with quite a few in attendance. The atmosphere was one of gaiety, relaxation, and enjoyment of one another's company.

Fortunately, we have not heard from any daughters in our local area if anyone has contacted the virus. It seems most of our members, if not all, have been able to stay safe and be well. That being said, it is especially important during this Christmas Season that we reflect on our personal faith and the wonderful families and friends that surround us.



Above: Mary Gavrilis PDT, Beverly Kennedy PGG, District 21 Governor Linda Belba, Grand President Kathy Bizoukas, Joanne Booras PGP, Echo President Emily Fern and PDG & Harmonia President Margo Drosos.



Daughters of Penelope Welcome Grand President Kathy Bizoukas

Daphne #29 Chapter - San Jose

Submitted by President Joanna Dunn

Daughters of Penelope Chapters Daphne #29 of San Jose and Urania #290 of Belmont hosted a dinner visitation in honor of Grand President Kathy Bizoukas on November 11th at the Three Fames Restaurant in San Jose. "It was wonderful to meet and greet our Grand President" said Daphne Chapter President Dunn. The dinner, which was open to all members and guests, was well attended.



Daphne Chapter President Joanna Dunn, Grand President Kathy Bizoukas and District 21 Governor Linda Belba.



Reno AHEPA Chapter 281 News

Submitted by John Copolus

Members of AHEPA Reno Chapter 281 gathered to assist St Anthony's Greek Orthodox church with their to go order mini Greek Festival this year in Reno.



Food was prepared for orders received from the church festival website, then picked up by the customers at the church. Many years of Gyro cooking experience is reflected in this photograph. Guaranteeing the

Daphne Ornament Exchange



Daphne #29 had their Annual Ornament Exchange on December 4th. A good time was had by all - thank you to the Urania chapter for joining us - you helped to make it a fun evening!

Sacramento Chapter News

Weekend in Greece! – September 25th & 26th

AHEPA members operated the calamari & loukaniko booth at the Weekend in Greece festival held at the grounds of Saint Katherine’s Church in Elk Grove.



Monday Night Football – November 15th

Chapter members and guests gathered at Saint Katherine’s church in Elk Grove to watch the 49ers take on the Rams. It was an evening full of fun and camaraderie while enjoying food and drinks. The 49ers even won!

New Dimensions of 1821, Reception & Lecture – November 4th

The Hellenic Studies program at California State University Sacramento (CSUS) co-sponsored a symposium to discuss aspects of the Greek war of independence and its effects. The first conference activity was a reception held at the Annunciation Church Hellenic Center on Thursday, November 4th. The event included musical performances by the Orestis ensemble, a lecture by Professor A. Kitroeff, and introductory remarks by Consul General of Greece, Socrates Sourvinos. It was a very successful event and was well-attended by our local AHEPA and DOP chapters, with over twenty brothers and sisters participating.



Sacramento Chapter News continued on next page



Honoring 2021 AHEPA LIFE Status Members – November 21st

The Sacramento AHEPA chapter sponsored the coffee hour at the Annunciation Church. The chapter also organized a short ceremony to honor four brothers who have achieved Life status in 2021 after 50 years of service. Chapter President Nick Alexander presented the Life status certificates signed by the AHEPA Supreme President and the 50-year pins.



From left to right:
George Koumis (Chapter Secretary), Costantino Galaxidas, Phil Fotopoulos Theodore Carademos, Dr. Katerina Lagos for Angelo Tsakopoulos, and Nick Alexander (Chapter President).

Planned Activity: Christmas Luncheon - December 11th



The AHEPA and DOP chapters will join together at a local restaurant to celebrate the upcoming Christmas holiday. The event will be open to spouses and guests who would like to participate. As in previous years, during the luncheon, we will collect toys and gifts that will be donated to the local Shriners Hospital.

Submitted by George Koumis, Chapter Secretary

In their honor...

by Steve Bolaris, PDG 21, Past President Silicon Valley Chapter 251

San Jose Veterans Day Parade

The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, 1918. The armistice took place to end what is sometimes called “The War to End All Wars” from the 1914 book by H. G. Wells.

November 11th is the annual remembrance to honor those who served in all capacities and in all branches. It is right to honor these people for their service and to call them “Veterans”.

In San Jose, the parade honoring of veterans reportedly dates back to 1920 making the 2021 parade the 101st – that is second only to New York for continuous Armistice Day/ Veterans Day parades. For years our friend and active chapter member, Mike Frangadakis, has helped arrange participation by Santa Clara Corvettes. Those Corvette club members have taken up the organization and execution of honoring our Ahepan veterans as well as our community veterans by taking a veteran in a Corvette along the parade route.

The parade was a wonder filled event with club veteran members driving their Corvettes and other club members

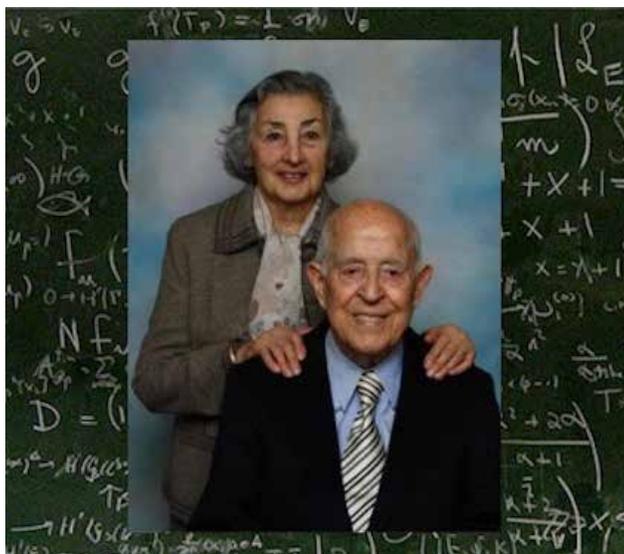
carrying veterans in the right side seat as did I on that special day. I am doubly proud that my father, Emmanuel “Mike” Bolaris - a young single man at the time, was serving as a US soldier in France in



1918. This year, the clapping and waving of the spectators along the route was only surpassed by the honor seeing salutes from veterans in the crowd and the return of those salutes from the veterans in the cars. Truly, we, as drivers, were humbled to be with those being honored.

A sincere wish that all Ahepans honor our member and community veterans throughout the Ahepa domain. And to all veterans, a sincere thank you for your service.

AHEPA Announces 2021 Constantine and Patricia Mavroyannis Scholarship Recipients



The AHEPA National Educational Foundation is proud to announce the 2021 Constantine and Patricia Mavroyannis Scholarship recipients. They are Georgia (Greta) Koumarianou of the University of California, Santa Barbara, and Ian MacCormack of the University of Chicago. Both recipients are of Greek heritage. Each student will receive an award of \$5,000 to support doctoral research in theoretical physics or physical chemistry for the 2021-2022 academic year.

“We congratulate Georgia and Ian on their outstanding academic accomplishments, and they are well-deserving recipients of the prestigious Constantine and Patricia Mavroyannis Scholarship,” Supreme President Jimmy Kokotas and National Educational Foundation Chair George Vorkas said in a joint statement, “We are proud to be working with the Mavroyannis Family to encourage educational achievement by Hellenes in the fields of physics and chemistry and look forward to the recipients’ continued successes in the field.”

Dr. Constantine and Patricia Mavroyannis established the Constantine and Patricia Mavroyannis Scholarship in 2013 in order to provide financial support to Hellenic students pursuing PhD programs in theoretical physics or physical chemistry. Since its establishment,

including this year’s recipients, Dr. and Mrs. Mavroyannis will have personally funded \$115,000 in scholarships to support 23 PhD students in these fields. The Mavroyannis family would like to congratulate Greta and Ian on their exceptional academic achievements in the fields of theoretical physics and physical chemistry.

About Georgia (Greta) Koumarianou

Greta is in her third year studying physical chemistry at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Her research area is using spectrometry to develop novel instrumentation and methods to study chiral molecules.

About Ian MacCormack

Ian is in his fifth year studying theoretical physics at the University of Chicago. His research area is quantum entanglement and dynamics in many-body quantum systems.

The Constantine and Patricia Mavroyannis Scholarship is open to graduate students who are either Greek or of Greek heritage and are enrolled in a PhD program in either theoretical physics or physical chemistry in the Faculty of Science at a North American university. The scholarship is in the amount of \$5,000 and is awarded on an annual basis in the fall semester.

The purpose of the Constantine and Patricia Mavroyannis Scholarship is to recognize the importance of education – specifically, to reward and encourage educational achievement by Hellenes in the fields of physics and chemistry and thereby support Hellenic contribution to the global scientific community. The scholarship honors the life and accomplishments of Dr. Constantine Mavroyannis and his wife Patricia.

Dr. Constantine Mavroyannis, an immigrant from Greece, achieved the seemingly unachievable – earning postdoctoral fellowships to complete PhDs from both McGill University and Oxford University – each in less than two years. He then became a career theoretical physicist at the National Research Council of Canada, publishing 140 scientific papers and teaching post-graduate PhD students from around the globe, continuing post retirement as a Physicist Emeritus at NRC’s Steacie Institute for Molecular Sciences.

Thank you Ahepa Traveler

Sponsors 2021-2022

Kalliope Fousekis PDG, Chairman

Compliments of

**DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE - DISTRICT 21
PAST DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S LEAGUE**

Diane Petersen PGS, Secretary/Treasurer

Pete Stathakos, President Nick Stathakos, Vice President

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OAKLAND CHAPTER No. 171

Meets 2nd Tuesday each month
Ascension Cathedral • 4700 Lincoln Ave • Oakland

John Aronis, Treasurer Steve Samoulides, Secretary

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**SAN FRANCISCO
GOLDEN GATE CHAPTER No. 150**

Meets 1st Wednesday of the Month
Holy Trinity Center • 999 Brotherhood Way, San Francisco, CA 94132

Wishing everyone good health, safety in all things and as much happiness as possible. As we continue to navigate through the endless variants of the coronavirus as well as the wildfires that plague beautiful Northern California ... vaccinated or not ... wear a mask ... protect yourselves from the hazardous particulates in the air.

JAN SPANOS

Past Grand President - Daughters of Penelope

**DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE
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Stacy Panayotopoulos - Secretary

Nick Pries PDG, President Dr. Vassilis Zarifis, Vice President

Compliments of

SILICON VALLEY CHAPTER No. 251

Meets 2nd Tuesday each month
St. Nicholas 1260 Davis Street • San Jose

Dr. George Zioulas PDG, Treasurer Bill Christie, Secretary

Amykles Villages History Project

Interview with Paula Antonakos & Diane Gotses

By Carol Kostakos Petranek, *Greek Ancestry*

As 13 and 28 year olds respectively, Paula Antonakos-Boswell and Diane Gotses Jackson dove into family history research with youthful enthusiasm. “I was the kid who sat at the table with the grownups listening to their stories and writing them on pieces of paper and drawing family trees on napkins,” Paula related. “I interviewed my grandmother when I was 28 and 29,” Diane said. Their curiosity and desire to explore their heritage was innate. Now they have joined forces and launched the Amykles-Sklavohori-Mahmoutbei-Godena-Peristeri Village History Group (“Amykles Villages Project”) which has been recognized as the recipient of Greek Ancestry’s October grant of the VPHI. This is a remarkable achievement, as the project is only a few months old, launched in February 2021 after Paula and Diane “met” online at Greek Ancestry’s virtual conference in January.

During the conference, Paula entered her village name of Amykles in the “chat” and Diane responded with her village of Godena. The connection was made and a collaborative spark was lit. They spoke off-line and explored ways to combine their research. The Amykles Project, an archival culmination of 44 years, which Paula formally began in 2016, was subsequently renamed the Amykles Villages Project, when Diane joined and it expanded both geographically and in scope to share ancestral histories, family archives, photos, family trees and stories of the interconnected villages of: Amykle, Sklavohori, Mahmoutbei, Godena, Peristeri, Riza, Vafeio (Marbali), Mandra, Tsaousi, Katsarou, Kalami, Gounari, Kalyvia Socha and surrounding areas.

The project’s Facebook page and website now make the village histories accessible to all. “It’s been a lifelong dream for me to summarize, archive and share all this information, and it has come true,” Paula related. “This is an evergreen process with the goal of becoming a repository of history and photos for the Amykles Villages.”

“Paula had the know-how to start a website,

so between the two of us, we carried it away,” Diane explained. Indeed, as a Greek Community Lead and Administrator of the Kingston (Ontario) Greek History Project 2016-2018, Paula wrote grant proposals, conducted oral interviews, created walking/driving tours of the area, and collected photographs and histories. Now housed at Queen’s University, the collection will be available to researchers for perpetuity.

Diane’s interest in research was augmented by her mother-in-law, a librarian and genealogist with roots in the founding of America, and her grandmother. “My grandmother was an inspiration; she would sit at her kitchen table and bring out the family history and get me going. I taped her stories and I am in the process of having them digitized. When my father served in the Army Air Corp, he was in Athens in 1945-46. While in Athens he became acquainted with his first cousin, Pericles Kourniotis. When Dad passed he had a foot locker from World War II in the garage. We opened the trunk and there was a Pavleros family tree that cousin Pericles helped my father complete. This was the beginning of the family tree.”

Paula was born in Canada and lived in Amykles for several years as a child. Her uncle Sarantos Antonakos, a noted archaeologist, author and historian, brought her on tours of ancient ruins, that he conducted in Lakonia, the Peloponnese and throughout Greece. “He took me on a dig and I was standing over an ancient house which was being excavated. This fascinated and forever affected me,” she recalled.

“In 1986 I was taking Classics 101 at Queen’s University. The Professor, Dr. Dietmar Hagel, brought out my Uncle Sarantos’ book about Amykles and asked, ‘Do you know this man?’ Those were profound words. That’s when I knew that Amykles, (5,000 miles away) was special and historical not just for me, but that it had international historical significance. Dr. Hagel had been on a dig in Amykles just the year before.”

During her many trips to Amykles, Paula and Sarantos went from house to house, village to village, interviewing as many family members as possible. Paula took notes, recorded interviews;

and obtained photos. After her uncle became ill, her father accompanied her and her children. “My parents instilled in me a love of family and Greece. I have a picture of my great and great-great grandparents – a treasure – which belonged to my uncle and I took a photo of it. I have a 1963 document, which is an interview scribed by my aunt Eleanor Antonakos, of where a great aunt gives the family history and family tree, going back six generations, and starts with a 1790 story of my great-great-great grandmother coming from Fanari, Constantinople!”

As Diane and Paula grow the Amykles Villages Project into a hybrid of genealogy and culture, they are inviting family, cousins and friends to participate. “We have harnessed the talents of many members, including story tellers, local historians, local newspaper editors, archaeologists and a photographer in Sparta, who has shared drone videos of the villages which younger people especially enjoy,” Paula states. They have partnered with various Amyklaion and Lakonian organizations in Greece and the diaspora. As a result, the family trees are sprouting new branches and the collection of village stories and photos is growing. “The website has a Book section, which lists books that have been written by our ancestors and their descendants, books written about the villages, and links to online articles,” Paula described. “We are working on a section to honor Military Heroes. We have found information that is historically significant about those who fought in wars—whether Balkan, World War II or as resistance fighters—from the 1900’s to the current time period. We hope this initiative will encourage people to contribute stories of their loved ones.”

Diane further explained, “We are finding relatives on my maternal side who fought in wars; and when they were gone, how their wives and children carried on. Think of the strength of the women left behind. Their husbands returned and were not recognized. Men marched from Albania to Argos. They were worn out. My great grandmother fed a man, but it was not until she shaved his face that she learned he was her husband! He had walked

so far, he was unrecognizable. The relatives on my paternal side were brought to life with the introduction of Nick Prevas, the Annunciation Church Historian from Baltimore, by Carol Kostakos Petranek. Mr. Prevas directed me to many pictures of my Great Grand Father, John Pavleros, and his assistance with many Laconians in starting the first Church in Baltimore.” Paula and Diane rely on oral interviews, family records and letters, village history books, archival records and DNA tests to expand the Project. Interviewing people is critical to learning about family histories.

“People like to talk about themselves and want others to know about where they came from,” Paula remarked. “They will explain who granted this field to them and who they married.” Sometimes there are written manuscripts, passed down in families, that provide information not found elsewhere. “I have a Kostakis family tree from Argos region that started in the late 1700s,” Diane said. “The priest wanted to make note of the family lineage because of wars, and he was afraid the book would get lost.” Online records such as the Election Registers of the Vlachogiannis Collection, records on Greek Ancestry, and the Sparta Marriages on MyHeritage are now easy to access and are invaluable for documenting families. Unfortunately, many village history books are out of print. However, they can be found in libraries in Greece and occasionally, online. These should not be overlooked as they provide a wealth of knowledge.

Paula and Diane urge people to use Village Facebook pages as a means of connecting with people and learning about the village families. “Upload photos, ask questions,” Diane recommends. “I post and they get back with me. I am meeting new cousins by finding names in common.”

“Everyone should be on their village’s Facebook page,” Paula reaffirms. “Search and see what groups are already there; join the group, start conversations.” If a person who cannot speak Greek plans to visit an ancestral village, Paula suggests using the Facebook page to find people to act as translators and guides.

In conclusion, Diane and Paula encourage people

to Just Start! Diane emphasizes: "I tell people, take your children with you and go talk to older people, they are the ones who can tell you about the family. This is something everyone can and should do, so their children and grandchildren can learn more about who they are." Paula urges: "We can all gather what is available now and we can learn about our peoples' lives. Start researching and gathering information that has been written about the region and who these people are. You learn more about yourself as you learn more about your heritage."

Paula Antonakos-Boswell born in Montreal,



Canada, descends from generations of ancestors born in Amykles villages. As a child, she lived in Amykles for five years before returning to Canada at age eight.

Paula is an active member of her Kingston Greek Community and Church

and the Greek Community Lead and Administrator of the Kingston Greek History Project for which she wrote grant proposals, conducted oral interviews, created walking/driving tours of the area, and collected photographs and histories. This collection is now housed at the Queen's University Archives: <https://kingstongreekhistoryproject.com/>.

Paula has degrees in Economics, Accounting and Finance from Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada. She is also TESOL certified in ESL and a Volunteer English Educator to Immigrant Syrian Refugees in Canada, and she taught English in Spain during the summer of 2018. Paula is also a professional instructor and has taught Accounting at the local Community College for many years.

As the family historian and archivist, Paula is administer of a family website. She is dedicated to her passion for researching and archiving family and village histories. After her retirement as a Canadian Public servant, she will return to Amykles in April 2022 to continue with the Amykles Villages History

Project to produce her own walking tour Vlog and to conduct villager Oral History interviews. She and her distant cousin, Diane Gotses Jackson, continue with their goal of making the Amykles Villages History Project a repository of history and photos and which will be accessible to all.

Diane Gotses Jackson was born in San Diego,



California and resides in Dallas, Texas. Her Amykles roots stem from her paternal grandmother, Vasiliki (Celia) Pavlerou, who was born in Godena. Her paternal grandfather, Dionysios V. Gkotsopoulos (Gotses), from Agoulinitza (now Epitalio, Elis), settled in Baltimore, Maryland where he met

and married Celia. Diane's maternal grandparents, from Kefalovriso and Neochori, Agrolidos, arrived at Ellis Island in 1921 and resided in San Diego.

Although she was always interested in history, Diane's research skills were augmented by the influence of her mother-in-law, a librarian and genealogist in Texas whose ancestors settled in the Americas and fought in the American Revolution and Civil War. The stories told by Diane's Greek grandmothers inspired her to research her roots in Argos and Lakonia, as did her trip to Greece in 1972. This work accelerated after attending the Greek Ancestry Conference in January of 1921 where she met her distant cousin, Paula Antonakos, and they created the Amykles Village History Project.

Diane is a member of the AHEPA family, continuing the legacy started by her grandfather in Baltimore. She also serves as an officer of the Daughters of Penelope Terpsichore Chapter #105 in Dallas. Diane has a Bachelors in Business Administration from Texas A & M University – Commerce, Texas. She is currently semi-retired and maintains a bookkeeping business. She is the mother of two daughters and three grandchildren.



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