

GOLDEN GATE DISTRICT NO. 21

Ahepa Traveler



CHAPTERS THROUGHOUT NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN NEVADA

Volume 73, No. 4

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Winter/December 2023

Best Wishes for a Joyful Holiday Season · Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



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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.

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**ARTICLES FOR
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2023-2024
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CONTRA COSTA CHAPTER 259

Petros Priftis

RENO CHAPTER 281

George N. Pauls

SAN MATEO CHAPTER 382

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2023-2024
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OAKLAND ECHO 4

Emilene Fearnle

SACRAMENTO ARTEMIS 5

Diane Petersen, PGS

STOCKTON SPARTA 18

Katherine Leles

SAN JOSE DAPHNE 29

Joanna Dunn

MODESTO PHAEDEA 64

Aliki Alexander

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Madelyn Jones

RENO ELIS 89

Yurie Pauls

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Claire M. Gagag

WALNUT CREEK HARMONIA 357

Margo Drosos

AHEPA District 21 Governor's Message



Dear AHEPA Family,

As we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ and look forward to the New Year, I am happy to say that our District is on its way back to normal.

We had a very successful District Conference hosted by the Oakland AHEPA family and honored Past Supreme President Andrew Banis for his service to AHEPA. I have visited San Francisco and the San Mateo chapters so far and look forward to visiting all the chapters as soon as we can set a date.

We have been working hard on planning the WRDC (Western Regional District Convention) and the convention package is available now. We also need to sell advertising to make this a successful convention. Ad forms, and the convention package are available here in the Traveler and the WRDC website. Make your hotel reservations early.

I attended the DOP Founder's Day event held by EOS #1 in San Francisco and it was a very successful event.

I am still looking to hold a Hellenic History tournament at the WRDC and need our Chapters to sponsor teams. This is a very educational event for the youth and the adults.

We will be celebrating District 21's 100-year anniversary in a few years and I have proposed putting together a history album celebrating our AHEPA Family. Each Chapter will be required to gather historical information for their chapter, including officers, founders of the chapter etc.

This will take some time to put together, but I feel

we need to document our history as part of the Northern California Greek community.

I hope every chapter is planning some event in their community to bring in new members.

Finally, the Supreme convention will be held in Cyprus to commemorate the Turkish invasion and to spotlight this tragedy to the world. It will be 50 years. This convention should be very memorable as our Supreme President is from Cyprus and has promised an incredible time to be had by all. National Headquarters is taking hotel reservations, and they expect to sell out.

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas Season and a Healthy New Year!

Chris Frangos

AHEPA District Governor #21



Editor's Note -

WRDC - Fillable WRDC registration, album and sponsorship forms on pages 26-28. Fill out, download and follow directions on forms for payment and mailing, or

Go online by clicking on [AHEPA-WRDC.ORG](https://www.ahepa-wrdc.org) fill out form(s) and pay on line with your credit card.

For hotel reservations click on:
<https://book.passkey.com/GO/GSAHEPA>

Daughters of Penelope District 21 Governor's Message



Greetings Brothers and Sisters, I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and I hope you are well and thriving as we enter the final stretch of 2023. November has been an incredibly exciting month for us, marked by our Founders' Day celebration

held on Saturday, November 18th at the Basque Community Center in South San Francisco. Our EOS #1 Sisters did a fabulous job putting on this event to mark 94 years of the Daughters of Penelope and we had over 150 people in attendance, including many Sisters, Brother AHEPANs and other guests.

It was a wonderful honor to have our Grand President, Marianthi Treppiedi with us for Founder's Day. From the Grand Lodge, we also had Linda Belba, Grand Governor, Zone 4, and District 21 Penelope of the year, and our Grand Liaison, Christi Finch, Grand Governor, Zone III.

Other distinguished guests included Past National Penelope of the Year, Mary Chicos and past members of the Grand Lodge: Nicki Douklias, Past Grand Governor, Zone 5, Diane Petersen, Past Grand Secretary and Past District Penelope of the Year, Joanne Booras, Past Grand President and Jan Spanos, Past Grand President.

We enjoyed a delicious lunch and a keynote address by Nicole Zaloumis, KPIX News anchor and former sports broadcaster. Nicole spoke on the obstacles she faced in her field and the strength and resilience we have as women.

Our EOS Sisters designated proceeds from the Founder's Day Luncheon to support Dress for Success, a nonprofit organization that focuses on empowering women to achieve economic independence by providing them with professional attire, career development tools, and a support network.

We had a great Fall District Conference hosted on Saturday, October 14th by our Oakland AHEPA

family at Ascension Cathedral. Over 60 people attended, and it was a great way to get our Sisters and Brothers from all over our District together for fellowship and collaborative work.

AHEPA Supreme VP, Chris Kaitson presented a Past Supreme President's pin to the family of Andy Banis, Past Supreme President. It was a heartfelt and emotional time for many. Grand Governor, Linda Belba was presented with the District Penelope of the Year award, and it was announced that Stephanie Leles, Sparta #18 is Daughter of the Year and will be presented with her award during an upcoming Chapter meeting/visitation.

Led by co-chairs Kathy Leles, PDG, Sparta #18, and Tom Chiarchianis, PDG, Stockton AHEPA #212, we are working on planning for the Western Regional District Conference (WRDC) to be held June 9-12, 2024 at the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, Nevada. We have not had a Western Region convention in some time, so it will be great to get back this event. We need help from the chapters in planning and chairing committees. Sponsorship and Convention Ad forms as well as the registration form are on the WRDC webpage.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and many blessings in the New Year.

Love in Theta Pi,

Alicia Frangos

District 21 Governor





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 DISTRICT 21 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

Founder's Day Celebration

EOS Chapter #1 Founder's Day celebration held on Saturday, November 18th at the Basque Community Center in South San Francisco.



Pictured from the left Joanna Dunn, President of Daphne 29; Grand President Marianthi Treppiedi; Sofia Fonti, EOS #1 Member; Linda Belba, Grand Governor Zone IV.

More luncheon photos on page 10.

Save the Date!

Modesto Ahepa Chapter 246

Hosting 30th Annual Crab Feed

Saturday, February 10, 2024

Fall Conference - Oakland, CA

When we arrived at the Ascension Cathedral in Oakland on Saturday, October 14, 2023 to attend the District Fall Conference we new we were at the right place. We stepped into the community center and the Oakland AHEPA Family welcome us with a banner.

We checked in with District Secretary Constantine (Kostas) Daviantes who gave us a detailed alphabetical list of all the attendees. How cool is that! We were given a copy of the conference agenda, one side the joint program and on the back side the breakout session agenda. My breakout agenda was for Ahepans.

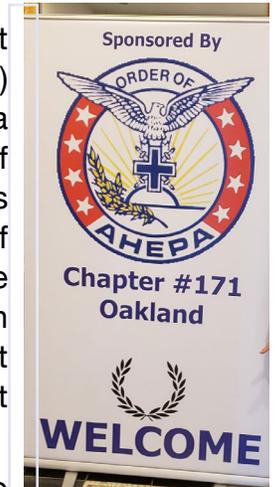
After we found a table to place our personal items we were able to meet and greet our brothers and sisters and enjoyed a Continental Breakfast. A delicious assortment of pastries, fruit, juices and drinks.

An opening prayer by District Chaplain Steve Miller, Pledge of Allegiance, welcome addresses and introductions by Oakland Chapter Presidents Pete Stathakos and Emmy Fearn and District 21 Governors Chris and Alicia Frangos led us into the joint session.

In a very moving tribute Supreme Vice President Chris Kaitson and Oakland Chapter President Pete Stathakos presented Past Supreme President Award Pin for the late Brother Andrew T. Banis to son Tom Banis. Some of the warm remarks are captured through photos on the following pages.

Following the tribute to late Brother Andy opening remarks were made by the Supreme Lodge and Grand Lodge members Supreme Vice President Chris Kaitdon, Supreme Councilor Themis Frangos, Supreme Governor Wynn Storton and Grand Governor Zone IV Linda Belba .

Tom Chiarchanis and Kathy Leles distributed 2024 Western Regional District Convention materials to chapter officers present. To take advantage of best hotel rates the convention will be held



Sunday, June 9 (check in registration day) through Wednesday, June 12 (check out day).

Tom Chiarchanis reported on the St. Nicholas Ranch renovation project,

Grand Governor Linda Belba was awarded District 21 2023 Penelope of the Year. Presentation by District Governor Alicia Frangos.



At the Supreme Convention held in Las Vegas this past summer. The *Ahepa Traveler* was awarded first place "In recognition as the outstanding Electronic District News-Letter Publication." District Governor Frangos displayed the award and congratulated Editor Bill Christie - photo above.



Break for lunch and then on to the breakout sessions. The lunch was wonderful - a variety of croissant sandwiches, salads, sides, specialty drinks and desserts. I noticed the Giouzelis sisters, Cathy and Eugenia, working away, I bet they a had a lot to do with the exceptional presentation.

Great job Andrew T. Banis AHEPA Chapter 171 and Daughters of Penelope Echo Chapter 4!

Conference photo credits: Wynn Storton, Steve Angelides and Kostas Davlantes - thank you!



AHEPA Golden Gate District 21 Fall Conference - Oakland, CA



Group photo L to R: Supreme Counselor Themis Frangos, Supreme Governor Wynn Storton, Oakland Chapter President Pete Stathakos, Tom and Marie Banis, District Governor Chris Frangos and Supreme Vice President Chris Kaitson

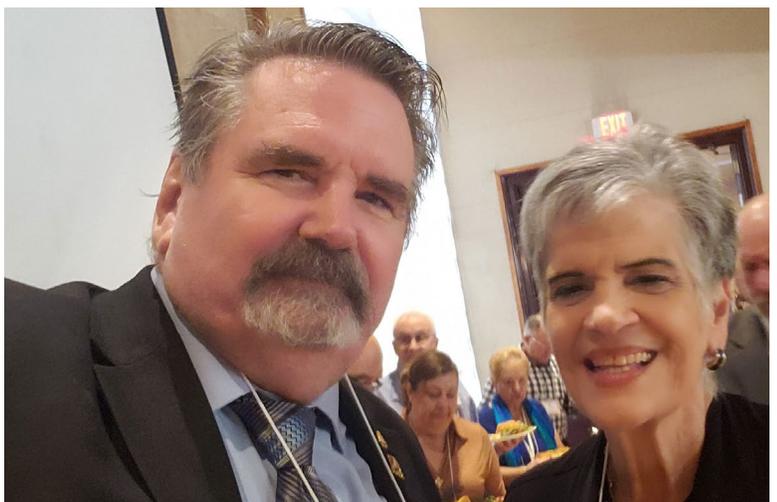


Tribute remarks above L to R: Wynn Storton, Alicia and Chris Frangos, Pete Stathakos. Tribute remarks below L to R: Chris Kaitson, Eva Skofis, Themis Frangos and Steve Miller.



AHEPA Golden Gate District 21 Fall Conference - Oakland, CA

Pictured clockwise starting with District Governor Chris Frangos and welcoming banner; Supreme Governor Wynn Storton and Marion Parashis; George Booras, PSG and District Chaplain Steve Miller; Wynn and Foula Vasilogiorgis; Wynn and Margo Drosos, PDG.





Left to right: Anastasia Alexander, MOA Treasurer; Aiki Alexander, Pres Phaedra 64; Michelle Stamos, Gloria Tronis, Mary Gavrilis, Recording Secretary; Kristina Gavrilis, MOA President.



Modesto Daughters of Penelope and Maids of Athena attended 2023 Daughters of Penelope EOS #1 Chapter Founder's Day Luncheon
 Photos submitted by Aiki Alexander



Ahepan Marcus Honored by Archons



AHEPA Silicon Valley Chapter 251 Member and Archon Exarhos George M. Marcus was honored with the prestigious Nicholas J. Bouras Award by the The National Council of the Order of Saint Andrew. The award is presented annually to an individual who has demonstrated extraordinary and incomparable stewardship to the Order, enabling Archons to vigorously pursue securing religious freedom for the Mother Church of Constantinople.

We commend Brother George for his contributions not just to the Greek Orthodox Church, but to the many philanthropies he supports, and applaud the Order of Saint Andrew for choosing such a worthy award recipient.

Fresno AHEPA Family

News from AHEPA Chapter #151 and Leto Chapter #71, Fresno CA.

Fall has been an active time for Fresno's AHEPA Chapter #151 and Daughters of Penelope Chapter #71.

The chapters' joint social event was our annual family fun night, Kebab Bingo. Families from our St. George parish enjoyed good food, camaraderie and a raffle. Our chapters' fundraising events raise funds to help AHEPA and Daughters of Penelope national charities and local non-profits that assist needy families, women and children in our community.

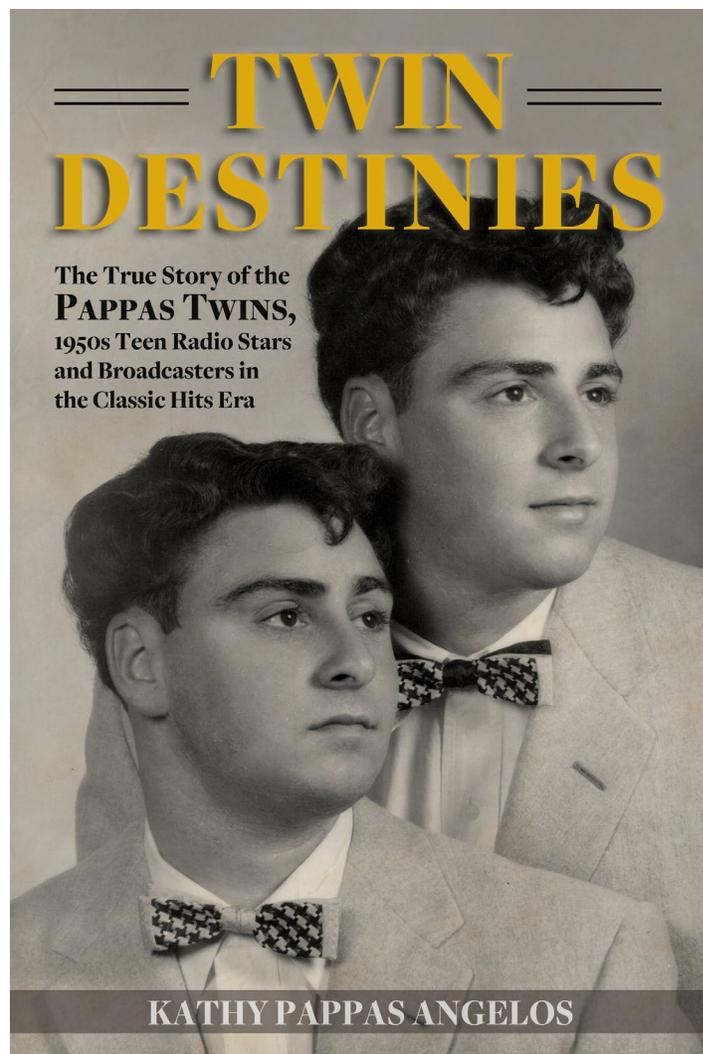


October also featured our Founder's Day tea which featured traditional apple pie along with everyone's seasonal favorite, pumpkin pie. Parishioners appreciated the great desserts and festively decorated tables as they claimed their raffle prizes.

Leto #71 salutes two of its members for their professional accomplishments. First, Dr. Kara Zografos has been appointed to the position of Dean for the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) at California State University, Fresno. Dr. Zografos has served in a variety of leadership roles in the CHHS for 16 years, leading many important initiatives. She previously served the university as tenured

faculty.

Second, author Kathy Pappas Angelos has published her first book, *Twin Destinies – The True Story of the Pappas Twins, 1950s Teen Radio Stars and Broadcasters in the Classic Hits era*. It's the life story of her father Mike and his identical twin brother Pete, the sons of poor Greek immigrants, who achieved great success in the radio and television broadcasting fields.



Congratulations to both Dr. Kara Zografos and Kathy Pappas Angelos on their achievements.

For questions or information, please contact Kathy Pappas Angelos (Leto #71) at kpaspartan@gmail.com or (559) 779-5553.

On The Go With Artemis #5

By President Diane Petersen, PGS

At the September 19th meeting, the Daughters held their 2023-2024 election. The following Daughters were elected: Diane Petersen PGS President, Vicki Meers Vice-President, Diana Bueche Secretary, Elaine Pavlatos Treasurer, Pauline Cazanis Chair Board of Governors, Board of Governors Margarita Jakovas and Sylvia Maritsas.

September members helped, attended, and/or performed at the following events. 8th to 9th St. Anna's Food Festival--Roseville. 9th Taverina Night--Sacramento. 16th Sister Melanie Hatzakos performed with the Stay Tuned Chorus-A Cappella Singers. 23rd to 24th Weekend in Greece--Elk Grove.

October members helped, attended, and/or performed at the following events. 6th, 7th and 8th. Annunciation Food Festival--Sacramento. 14th Fall Conference--Oakland. 19th Annunciation Senior League Luncheon--Sacramento. 24th Sister Pauline Cazanis--vocal recital. Reinstated Stephanie Bobolis and Andonia Cakouros.

November members helped and attended the following events. 11th Christmas Around the World--Sacramento. 18th Founders Day--South San Francisco. 19th Founders Day coffee hour luncheon--Elk Grove. Signed up a new member at the luncheon. The AHEPA Family announced at the luncheon that they have donated two 75" TV's to St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church to be mounted in the Tsakopoulos Hall.

December members helped and attended the following events. 2nd St. Katherine 35th anniversary dinner--Elk Grove. 7th Annunciation Senior League Luncheon--Sacramento. The Annunciation Choir will sing Christmas carols and we will honor our veterans. (Pearl Harbor Day) Video depicting this event will be shown at the luncheon. 16th Christmas Annual Luncheon with Ahepans. Raffle a Christmas tree \$300+ donated by Elaine Pavlatos. Membership pins will be issued 25yr to 60 yr pins. Once again, we will collect toys, books, and etc. for children. These gifts will be donated to Shriners Hospital in Sacramento. The District Lodge has been invited to join us for this wonderful occasion.

THAT'S ALL FOLKS!

Oakland AHEPA Chapter 171 Raises Funds For Service Dog



OAKLAND, CA, November 12, 2023—The Andrew T. Banis Oakland Order of AHEPA Chapter 171 sponsored the Artoclasia (blessing of the five loaves) and coffee hour honoring our veterans and commemorating the 83rd anniversary of OXI Day today at the Ascension Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Oakland, California. The event was co-sponsored by Oakland Arcadians Skopi Chapter 85.

The event raised \$1,300 in donations for the next AHEPA Golden Gate District 21 service dog for a veteran suffering from PTSD. District 21's first service dog, Bear, graduated from training in September, 2022.

AHEPA District 21 includes 10 chapters in Northern California and Northern Nevada, of which Oakland Chapter 171 is among the largest. District 21 is part of the American Hellenic Progressive Association (AHEPA), a 100-year old fraternal and charitable organization with over 400 chapters in North America, Europe, and Australia. The AHEPA Family includes the Daughters of Penelope for women and the Sons of Pericles and Maids of Athena for adolescents and young adults.

AHEPA Service Dogs for Warriors Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charity whose first service dog was sponsored by the Garden State Chapter in New Jersey in 2016. Since then this AHEPA project has raised over \$1,000,000 to sponsor more than 100 service dogs for veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

The Oakland event was organized by AHEPA member John Frangoulis and Daughters of Penelope and Arcadians member Cathy Giouzelis, under the guidance of AHEPA Life Member and Arcadians member John Stamison, and Chapter 171 Board of Governors Chairman and Arcadians Skopi Chapter President Bill Bournazos. The Proistamenos of Ascension Cathedral, Rev. Fr. Nicholas Mueller, presided.

For further information contact the Oakland AHEPA Chapter 171 Secretary at secretary@ahapa171.org.

Andrew T. Banis Oakland Chapter 171 Service Awards Luncheon

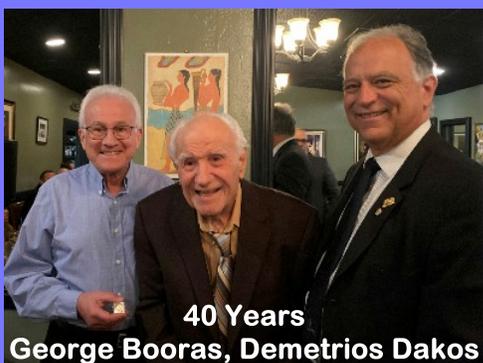
Service pins were presented to chapter members by District Governor Chris Frangos (far right in all photos) and Chapter President Pete Stathakos (at left in 50 year photo)



**50 Years (Life Member)
John Stamison**



**45 Years
Costas Bournazos, Nikos Yfantis**



**40 Years
George Booras, Demetrios Dakos**



**35 Years
George Konstantopoulos,
George Carathimas**



**30 Years
Nick Gianopoulos, Anastasios Piliotis
Anastasios Konstantin, Harry Metaxas**



**25 Years
Anastasios Patrikios, Michael
Meniktas, Constantine Fakaros**



**20 Years
Stephen Miller, Nicholas Giouzelis,
Dennis Metaxas, Nicolaos Theophanous**



**10 Years
Steve Samoulides, Costas Kagarakis,
Dennis Davis, Konstantine Giannoutsas
John Aronis, Bill Bournazos**

AHEPA Chapter 392



San Mateo AHEPA Chapter 392 participated in the Church of the Holy Cross Christmas Tree fundraiser event on Saturday, December 2nd in Belmont. The tree lot, located on the church grounds, had one of its biggest days ever and was staffed exclusively by AHEPA Chapter 392! Sales from Christmas trees, wreaths, garland and other decorations helped raise funds supporting the church's youth activities.

What a great way to spend some time together and execute on the AHEPA mission of Philanthropy for our Church and broader community. It was a great time, even before Leo brought along some 'spirits' to help us through the day.

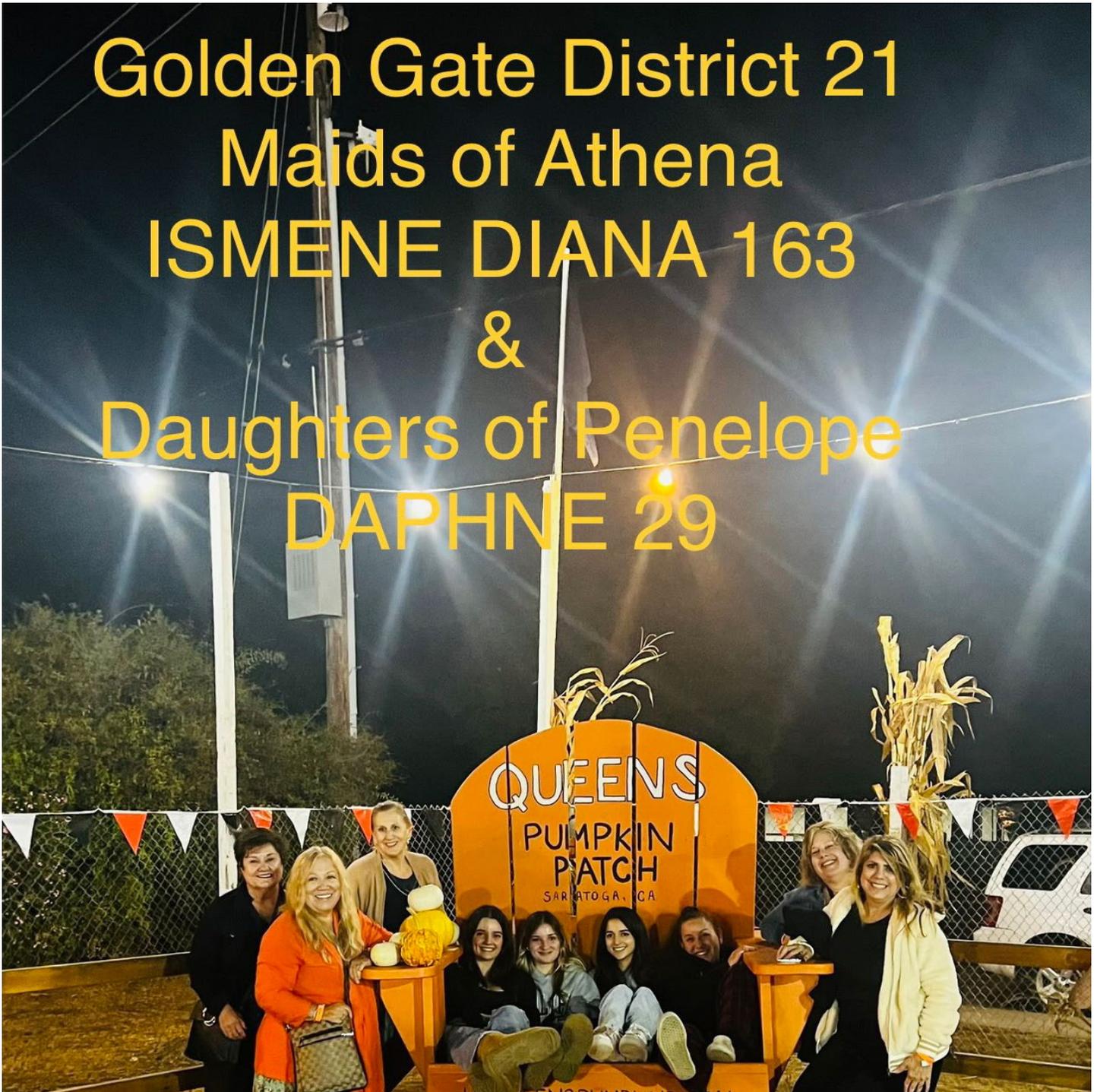
Thank you to those who volunteered working 3 hour shifts throughout the day: Brothers Michael Bazigos, Harry Breeze , Chris Frangos, Charles Gagas, Leo Maheras, Alex Mallas, Art Smith, Jr., and Taso Zografos.

Art Smith, Jr. - Chapter Secretary



Gathering at the Pumpkin Patch Harvesting Memories & Friendship

Golden Gate District 21
Maids of Athena
ISMENE DIANA 163
&
Daughters of Penelope
DAPHNE 29



All invited - RSVP extended to December 5th



PLEASE JOIN US FOR

AHEPA
FAMILY

Modesto & Stockton Chapters

CHRISTMAS

gathering

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9
5 PM

LELES RESIDENCE

1223 Pyrenees Ct., Tracy, CA 95304

**DINNER, DESSERT &
HOLIDAY CHEER**

Adults: \$15.00 Children: \$5.00 8 & under: Free

RAFFLE

DONATE

Pay your 2024 dues before or at the party and one lucky member of each chapter will be chosen that night to have their dues paid by their chapter instead!

This year, monetary donations will be collected and split to benefit each chapters chosen projects. The Maids of Athena will also be raffling off gift cards from their Christmas tree!

RSVP BY: NOVEMBER 26TH

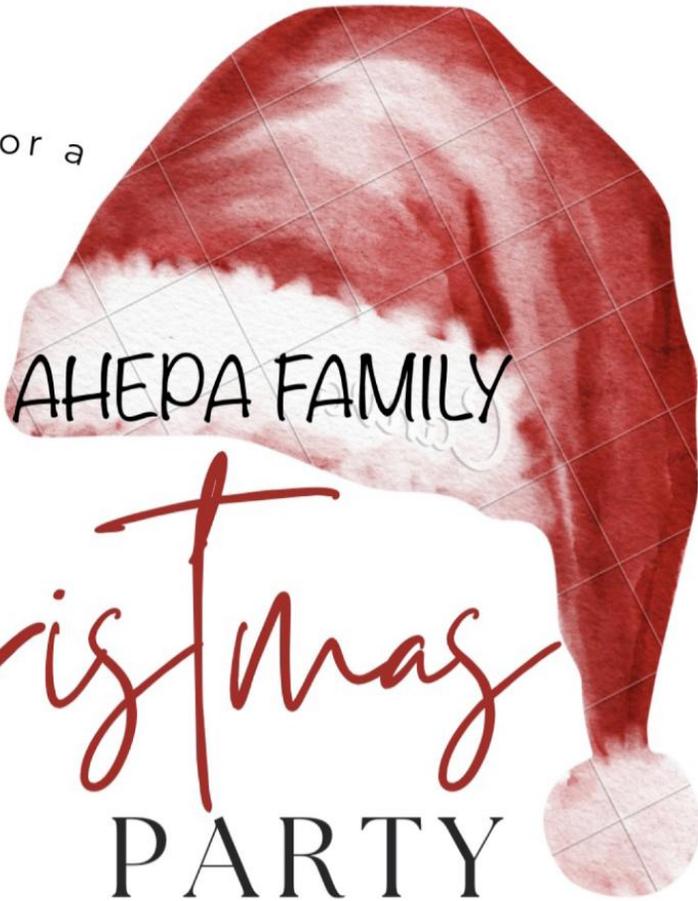
Kathy Leles 209.815.2935 (call or text)

kleles@att.net

Please Join us for a

AHEPA FAMILY

Christmas PARTY



DECEMBER 9



6-9PM

At Agape Grill
845 Stewart Drive, Sunnyvale
Buffet Dinner
W/Appetizers & Desserts
No Host Bar, Greek Music
Photos W/Santa Claus
Adults: \$60 Children 12 and Under: \$25
CHECKS & VENMO PAYMENTS ACCEPTED

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
VASSILIS ZARIFIS**

(650)796-9710 vgzari@gmail.com



Ascension Community Center
4700 Lincoln Ave., Oakland, CA

Sunday December 31, 2023

7PM to 1AM

HOSTED BAR & Family Style Greek Dinner

Home-Style Beef Souvlakia, Oven Roasted Chicken with Potatoes & Dessert

DJ Alex Mallas Playing Greek, Ballroom & Club

Midnight Champagne Toast

Hosted by AHEPA Oakland Chapter # 171

RESERVE NOW

Reserved Tables available for groups of 8-12. See opposite side for Table Groups.

Reservations REQUIRED - Deadline for "Early-Bird" Reservations AND Payment is **December 15th**.

NO tickets will be sold at the door. Please make checks to: AHEPA 171 and mail with completed form.

Or pay by Venmo @AHEPA-Oakland, or call to pay by credit card.

Name Phone Number

No. of Adults @ \$100 No. of Youth (5 to 20) @ \$75 No. of Children (4 & under free)

After December 15th until December 29th with Payment - NO reservations after the 29th:

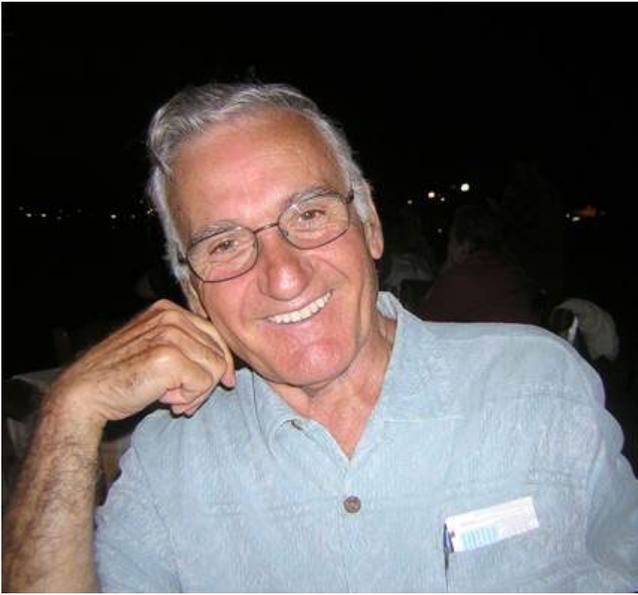
No. of Adults @ \$125 No. of Youth (5 to 20) @ \$100 No. of Children (4 & under free)

Total No. Reserved Total Included: \$
Mail to: Karen Kolokithas
3979 Alexia Place
Castro Valley CA 94546
Phone 510-517-0994
Email: karpolyzos@yahoo.com



In Memoriam

George Athanasios Tzanavaras



October 26, 1938 - November 3, 2023

Brother George died peacefully in his sleep on the afternoon of Friday, November 3, 2023, in San Jose, California just a few days past his 85th birthday.

George was born on October 26, 1938, in the village of Athikia, Corinthia in the Peloponnese region of Greece. He was raised on his family's farm and endured many hardships, including the loss of his father, grandfather and godfather at the age of two. His mother remarried and the family moved to Piraeus, where he was a hard-working and brilliant student. After completing his college degree in Engineering at the University of Athens, he was selected for a prestigious scholarship that brought him to the USA at the age of 19. As a scholarship student, he traveled throughout the United States and taught at various universities. Before he was due to return to Greece, he met and married his first wife Phyllis and they settled in Long Island. They had two loving children, Andrew and Catherine, and later moved to Burlington, Vermont where George worked for IBM. Eventually George transferred to San Jose, California, still with IBM. Although his first marriage did not last, he would remain in Silicon Valley for the rest of his life. It was there that in 1982 he met his future wife Simone during a job interview; she didn't get the job, but it was love at first sight, and they married just a few months later. They welcomed their loving daughter Helen Ariane the following year. Throughout the following decades, they built a rich and vibrant life surrounded by their extended families and friends

in San Jose, California.

George was also a pioneering and successful entrepreneur in the field of thin film technology and founded his own company in 1982, where he continued filing patents with colleagues and being active in international trade. George was so tireless in working to obtain his vision that his health eventually suffered as a result; he was forced to become less active in his company after undergoing open heart surgery in 1996. Instead he poured his indomitable enthusiasm and energy into the renovation of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in San Jose, spending countless hours meeting with local politicians and rallying support from the community. George was instrumental in building a spacious new office for the parish, rebuilding two homes owned by the church, and obtaining the many permits necessary for rebuilding the hall. George was also an active member of the AHEPA and was very proud to receive his 50-year Life Membership award in early 2023.

With his main missions accomplished, George began traveling to Greece more regularly with his family, exploring places he hadn't had a chance to see as a young man. George found special fulfillment in his trips to Mount Athos with close friends. Being in Greece always filled him with great joy, strength and pride. He also enjoyed visiting his in-laws in France, and especially loved Paris and the Loire country. Another of George's passions was tending to his garden. He was especially doting on his fig trees, grafted with cuttings from Greece, and always enjoyed sharing the bountiful harvests with friends and family. He was a friend to animals everywhere, feeding stray cats and dogs in Greece and preparing scraps for "his" songbirds early every morning.

George was one in a million, gathering friends wherever he went. If you knew him, you liked him; if you had just met him, you wanted to know him more; and if you had never met him you soon would, as he never met a person to whom he wouldn't talk, always ready with a story or joke to share, from the simple to the fantastic, stemming from a thirst for genuine connection and new experiences. He was deeply dedicated to his many close friends, family and community, but the greatest joy of his life was becoming a grandfather to twin girls in 2021.

George is survived by his wife Simone of 41 years, his children Andrew (Mayuko), Kati Graham (Mike) and Eleni (Martin); and two grandchildren (Athena and Iris). He also leaves behind several beloved cousins in Greece and a host of dear long-time friends and koumbaroi.

In Memoriam



Paul Peters

On the 3rd of November, Brothers Demo Papadopoulos, George Koumis, and Terry Kastanis conducted the AHEPA funeral ceremony in honor of the late Brother Paul Peters. Brother Paul, a distinguished member of the Greek-American community, had been a Life member of the Sacramento chapter for 56 years.

George Tzanavaras

Brother Tzanavaras, life member of Silicon Valley Chapter 251, burial on Tuesday, November 23 at the Oak Hill Cemetary, San Jose. District Governor Chris Frangos, along with Brothers Vlassis Fousekis, Vassilis Zarifis, Kenn Christie, John Kardaris, George Kasolas and Steve Sabanovich conducted the AHEPA funeral ceremony.



Once-battered Greece now in a boom cycle

Country is optimistic that better economy will reignite tourism.



Tourists at Hadrian's Arch in Athens study a guide pamphlet. Greece is one of Europe's fastest-growing economies, and while investors and tourists are flocking to the country, memories of austerity measures are still fresh for Greeks. Photos Marco Arguello - New York Times

By Liz Alderman - The New York Times

ATHENS, Greece — Paris Skouros pointed toward the sky outside his office in Athens on a recent weekday. In the past six months, four high-rises had sprung up, built by Greek and international builders to be sold for use as tourist rentals, foreign real estate investments and company offices. Farther afield, a fresh crop of new buildings dotted the horizon.

Greece's financial crisis almost ruined his firm, Skouros & Sons, an elevator company. Years of harsh austerity measures imposed by international bailouts had been wrenching, Skouros said, as new construction ground to a standstill. But now an economic recovery has barreled in.

"During the crisis, we just wanted to survive," Skouros said, as the sound of hammers hitting sheet metal rang out in his workshop. "Now we're profitable, and business is so strong that we can't find enough workers to keep up with demand."

Laden with debt it couldn't pay back, Greece

nearly broke the eurozone a decade ago. Today, it is one of Europe's fastest-growing economies. In a significant acknowledgment of the country's turnaround, credit ratings agencies have been upgrading their appraisal of Greece's debt, and opening the door for large foreign investors.

The economy is growing at twice the eurozone average, and unemployment, while still high at 11%, is the lowest in over a decade. Tourists have returned in droves, fueling a construction frenzy and new jobs. Multinational companies, like Microsoft and Pfizer, are investing. And banks that almost collapsed have cleaned up and are lending again, benefiting the broader economy.

Greece still faces risks. Its mountain of debt has shrunk, but at 166% of the economy, it's among the world's highest. The country's banks still hold a pile of nonperforming loans that is bigger than the European average. And the misery of austerity is still fresh for some people, made worse by stubbornly high inflation stoked by Russia's war in Ukraine.



Tourists view the Acropolis from atop Mars Hill in Athens on Sept. 8. A reinvigorated economy has enlivened Greece and reopened doors to a once-booming tourism industry.

Prime minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis was reelected by a landslide in June after being credited with spurring a recovery by reducing taxes and debt. The government cut red tape for businesses and raised the minimum wage. The country is even paying back international bailout money ahead of schedule.

Mitsotakis hailed Greece's return to investors' graces. "I will never allow us to relive the trauma of a national bankruptcy," he said a day after the latest upgrade.

Greece became the center of Europe's debt crisis in 2008. Ireland, Portugal and Cyprus were also forced to take international bailouts. But Greece had it the worst, requiring three rescue packages from 2010 to 2015, totaling \$343 billion with bitter austerity terms. Household incomes and pensions were slashed. The economy shrank by one-quarter, and hundreds of thousands of businesses collapsed as banks shuttered. By 2013, nearly one-third of Greeks were unemployed.

"We would have liked the austerity to be milder, but the measures were the Greek contribution to saving itself," said Yannis Stournaras, a former finance minister who is the governor of Greece's central bank and a member of the European Central Bank board. "Greece had to take these tough steps to survive."

Greece exited the bailout programs' strict fiscal controls in 2018, and the government's actions since then have earned confidence from the European Union. In 2021, Brussels policymakers approved another 30 billion euros for climate investments in Greece, part of a broader effort to bolster EU economies after COVID-19 lockdowns.

This month, DBRS Morningstar, a global credit rating agency recognized by the ECB, raised Greece's debt rating to investment grade, a move that opens the door for pensions and other big investors to buy bonds issued by the government. And that will lower borrowing costs for households, businesses and the government after the ECB has been raising interest rates to fight inflation.

Well over 10 million tourists swarmed into Greece this summer despite a spate of wildfires, bringing estimated revenues of over 21 billion euros. Construction has climbed on the mainland and on popular Greek islands, driven by a surging demand for hotels, Airbnb rentals and a program that lets foreigners get a visa to live in EU states if they buy at least 500,000 euros in real estate in Greece.

Roula Skouros, a hotel manager in Tripoli, doesn't expect Greece's investment grade rating to improve her life. "Someone who maybe works at the bank or at the stock market probably is affected, but I'm not," said Skouros, who is not related to Paris Skouros.

Her paycheck has always hovered around the minimum wage, she said. But with inflation running rampant at the gas pump and grocery store, an improved economy "doesn't mean anything if you can't afford gas and food," Skouros said.

The Sons of Pericles Announce New Project

Sons of Pericles Supreme President Alec Economakis announced that the SOP Supreme Lodge is now collecting recipes for the second installation of their Daughters & Sons Cookbook, a collaboration between Sons of Pericles (or former Sons of Pericles) and Daughters of Penelope members that they plan to make available in Spring of 2024. The submission period ends on January 31, 2024. Please consider submitting your favorite recipe today!

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



NEMEA 2024

28-30 JUNE



IN MILLER'S FOOTSTEPS

SOCIETY FOR THE REVIVAL OF NEMEAN GAMES

www.nemeangames.org | 2746024125



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

WRDC 2024

Western Regional District Convention



June 09 - 12
RENO, NV

AHEPA-WRDC.ORG

The local chapters of the Order of AHEPA and the Daughters of Penelope are excited to be a part of the AHEPA Family Western Regional District Convention to be held on June 9-12, 2024. This year's convention will be held at the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, Nevada and will include members of the AHEPA Family from four Districts – 17, 20, 21 & 22 – encompassing 13 western states.

Through this event we will be publishing a Convention Album to help celebrate our venture, and as a means of fundraising to support our continued philanthropic efforts, including donations to local area charities, scholarships, etc. The album will reach AHEPA members and their families throughout our Districts and beyond. The convention is expected to attract approximately 250 delegates plus family members. Related activities, including a bowling tournament and a dinner dance, open to the public, will expand exposure to 300+ individuals throughout the Reno area as well as several hundred more from nearly 80 chapters throughout the districts.

AHEPA (American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association) is the largest Greek-American organization in the world and is a registered non-profit organization. The mission of the AHEPA Family (AHEPA and The Daughters of Penelope) is to promote Education, Philanthropy, Civic Responsibility, and Family and Individual Excellence.

Throughout its history, AHEPA's commitment to education has been well documented with over \$4 million endowed at the local, district and national levels toward the use of scholarships and a half-million dollars is awarded annually. Thousands of young men and women have benefited as recipients of AHEPA scholarships in our districts and your generosity will allow others the same opportunity with your assistance.

We invite you to showcase your business as a sponsor of our upcoming convention. There are four sponsorship levels that are available which includes various complimentary incentives. In turn, your name or business will be included on a pull up banner and displayed at the 2024 convention. Please look over the sponsorship form to decide whether you would like to become a Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze sponsor. The deadline is May 10, 2024.

On behalf of the entire AHEPA/DOP membership within the Western Districts, we appreciate your support! Please contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Tom & Kathy

Tom Chiarchianis and Kathy Leles
WRDC 2024 Convention Chairs

Contact Information:

Tom Chiarchianis – Email: 59tommyc@gmail.com - Phone: (209) 401-1179

Kathy Leles - Email: kdeles@att.net – Phone: (209) 815-2935



WRDC 2024

Western Regional District Convention



June 09 - 12
RENO, NV

2024 SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Space Reservation Deadline: May 10, 2024

Camera Ready Ad Deadline: May 10, 2024

AHEPA-WRDC.ORG

Reserve Your Space:

Payment Using Credit Card/Debit:

<https://ahepa-wrdc.org/> for payment portal, OR

Payment By Check: fill out this form and mail it along with your payment.

Additional Details:

All advertisements are subject to the approval of the WRDC 2024 Committee.

Ads must be submitted as camera-ready artwork. (High resolution PDF preferred at 300 DPI resolution, for any questions regarding ad specs, please contact: Wynn Storton at wynn@stortoncreative.com)

Placements of ads are at the discretion of the WRDC 2024 Committee.

NAME

.....

EMAIL ADDRESS

.....

BUSINESS NAME

.....

BUSINESS ADDRESS

.....

PHONE NUMBER

.....

CHECK INCLUDED OR CREDIT/DEBIT*

*(Please check one.)

For credit/debit payments, <https://ahepa-wrdc.org/> for payment portal.)

Make checks payable to: **AHEPA Chapter 212**

NOTE: PUT "WRDC 2024 SPONSORSHIP" IN THE MEMO LINE

Mail to:

Tom Chiarchianis 507 Chabot Ave, Modesto, CA 95354

WRDC 2024 Convention Chairs

Tom Chiarchianis –

Email: 59tommyc@gmail.com - Phone: (209) 401-1179

Kathy Leles –

Email: kles@att.net – Phone: (209) 815-2935

PLATINUM \$1,000

- Full page, color ad in the convention program
- Prominent top placement on a pull up banner
- Four tickets to the Grand Banquet
- Mention in the album on the sponsorship page

GOLD \$750

- Full page, color ad in the convention program
- Prominent placement on a pull up banner
- Two tickets to the Grand Banquet
- Mention in the album on the sponsorship page

SILVER \$500

- Half page, color ad in the convention program
- Two tickets to the scholarship luncheon
- Prominent placement on a pull up banner
- Mention in the album on the sponsorship page

BRONZE \$250

- Placement on a pull up banner
- One complimentary ticket to Welcome Night.
- Mention in the album on the sponsorship page

♥ HEART \$150

- Sponsor a Sons of Pericles or Maids of Athena's WRDC Convention Package.
- Help them participate in the Convention.
- Mention in the album on the sponsorship page

.....
Name of sponsored

WRDC 2024

Western Regional District Convention



June 09 - 12
RENO, NV

2024 Commemorative Album Ad Contract

The undersigned hereby agrees to pay the sum of \$ _____ for a _____ page advertisement in the AHEPA FAMILY 2024 WESTERN REGION DISTRICT CONVENTION ALBUM, subject to the terms of this contract.

AHEPA-WRDC.ORG

Advertiser _____

Address _____ (____) _____

Street

City / State / Zip Code

Phone

Advertiser Signature _____ Date _____

AD SIZE CHOICES

- Full Page \$ 150
 - Half Page \$ 100
 - Special Quarter Page \$ 50
- Memorial ads only*

PREMIUM PAGES ALSO AVAILABLE

- Back Cover \$500
- Centerfold (2 pages) \$500
- Inside Front Cover \$250
- Inside Back Cover \$250

ALL ADS ARE FULL COLOR - Premium pages are on a first come basis.

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:

AHEPA District 21, memo: WRDC 2024

MAIL CONTRACT AND PAYMENT AND ANY HARD COPY ADS BY MAIL TO

Wynn Storton, Attn: WRDC 2024
53-795 Ave Mendoza La Quinta, CA 92253

SUBMIT AD COPY ELECTRONICALLY TO wstorton@gmail.com

AD & PAYMENT DEADLINE - MAY 10, 2024

Type or print ad here – use separate page if needed

Ads also may be submitted electronically to Wynn Storton at wstorton@gmail.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR DISTRICT Program CORDNATORS

District 17:

District 20:

District 21:

District 20: Pete Marudas 602-284-1638 rosemar2@msn.com

Program Creation: Wynn Storton 760-832-2825 wstorton@gmail.com

Copy and Contract Regulations:

- All copy and advertisements are subject to approval of the Convention Committee. Committee approval shall not relieve advertiser of its obligation to defend and indemnify as provided below.
- E-Mailed photos in PDF, TIF or JPG format are preferred. Otherwise, photos must be glossy finished. (Resolution 300 DPI Minimum)
- All payments and materials must be received by the deadline of May 10, 2024, for guaranteed placement in the album.
- The advertiser agrees to protect, defend, and indemnify AHEPA WRDC, its individual members and the publisher against any claim based on libelous statements, unauthorized use of photographs or other material, or any other matter based on or used within the advertiser's ad.
- Requests for photographs to be returned must be in writing. Please provide a self-addressed stamped envelope.

WRDC 2024

Western Regional District Convention



**June 09 - 12
RENO, NV**

EVENT REGISTRATION FORM

Registration Deadline: Tuesday, May 10, 2024**

NAME DISTRICT # CHAPTER #
 NAME DISTRICT # CHAPTER #

AHEPA DELEGATE DOP DELEGATE AHEPA ALTERNATE DOP ALTERNATE NON-MEMBER GUEST

ADDRESS WORK PHONE
 CITY-ST-ZIP HOME PHONE
 E-MAIL FAX

AHEPA & DAUGHTERS DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES MUST PAY FOR THE COMPLETE PACKAGE

Convention Registration Packages & Tickets	Cost per Person	Number	Total Cost
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AHEPA/DAUGHTERS Registration Package

Includes: Welcome Night, Scholarship Luncheon & Grand Banquet and Glendi **\$ 230**
 Scholarship Luncheon Meal Choice (check choice please) Chicken Vegetarian ****\$250 (After MAY 10 2024)**
 Grand Banquet and Glendi, Meal Choice Beef Fish Vegetarian

GUEST Registration Package (non-AHEPA or DOP)

Includes: Welcome Night, Scholarship Luncheon & Grand Banquet and Glendi **\$ 240**
 Scholarship Luncheon Meal Choice (check choice please) Chicken Vegetarian ****\$250 (After MAY 10 2024)**
 Grand Banquet and Glendi, Meal Choice Beef Fish Vegetarian

SONS OF PERICLES & MAIDS OF ATHENA Registration Package

Includes: Welcome Night, Scholarship Luncheon & Grand Banquet and Glendi **\$ 150**
 Scholarship Luncheon Meal Choice (check choice please) Chicken Vegetarian
 Grand Banquet and Glendi, Meal Choice Beef Fish Vegetarian

♥ SPONSOR A SONS OF PERICLES OR MAIDS OF ATHENA Registration Package \$ 150

Individual Event Purchase	Cost per Person	Number	Total Cost
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Welcome Night - SUNDAY, JUN 09 @ 6:00 PM **\$ 60**
Scholarship Awards Luncheon - TUESDAY, JUN 11 @ 12 noon **\$ 50**
 Meal Choice (check choice please) Chicken Vegetarian
Gala Banquet - TUESDAY, JUN 11 @ 6:00 PM **\$ 100**
 Meal Choice (check choice please) Beef Fish Vegetarian

TOTAL REGISTRATION AND/OR INDIVIDUAL EVENT PAYMENT ENCLOSED

Please include payment for total registration and/or individual event purchase payable to AHEPA District 21, please put "WRDC 2024" in memo box.

Mail registration form and payment to -Deana Chiarchianis, 507 Chabot Ave, Modesto, CA 95354 email at dzagorites@yahoo.com (209) 401-1179 Attn: WRDC 2024

Hotel Reservations: Grand Sierra Resort and Casino (GSR) located at 2500 E 2nd St, Reno NV 89595.

Link for online reservations: <https://book.passkey.com/GO/GSAHEPA>

Phone reservations are charged a \$4.95 processing fee. Phone number is 1-800-648-5080

The special room rate will be available until May 20th or until the group block is sold-out, whichever comes first.

EVENT CONTACT: Tom Chiarchianis and Kathy Leles at info@ahepa-wrdc.org

HTTPS://AHEPA-WRDC.ORG



SAVE THE DATE
AHEPA SUPREME CONVENTION
CYPRUS 2024
JULY 21-27, 2024
LARNACA, CYPRUS



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

Support Your Ahepa Traveler by being a Sponsor

Chapter Sponsorships

Individual and Group Tributes

Real Estate Sales and Rentals

Insurance - Business - Life - Health - Home - Car

Computer Services

Investment Planning

Retail Businesses - Restaurants - Food Markets - Home Furnishings

Beauty Salon - Barbershop

Automotive Sales and Service

Travel Services

Corporate Sponsors!

AHEPA TRAVELER ADVERTISEMENT RATES

Quarter Page \$50 per year

Half Page \$100 per year

Full Page \$150 per year

Full Page Single Issue ad \$50

The AHEPA Traveler is published four times a year.

Fall/September - Winter/December - Spring/March - Summer/June

Mail AD (electronic version preferred) and CHECK (payable to Ahepa District 21) to:

Constantine Davlantes, *District 21 Secretary*

192 Kerry Drive - Santa Clara, CA 95050-6646

for more information call or email

805 895-4345 Email: constantine.davlantes@gmail.com