

Clean Monday Benefit for Gennadius Library is Quite a Delicious Affair

By Constantine S. Sirigos
TNH Staff

NEW YORK – For 15 years, Greek-Americans and philhellenes have made the first day of Lent an occasion for the support of Orthodox Christian and Hellenic Culture by attending the Kathara Deftero/Clean Monday benefit dinner for the Gennadius Library of the American School of Classical Studies of Athens (ASCSA).

The Water Club, literally docked at the East River, was the venue on February 23 for the event beloved for fellowship and lenten fare too delicious for ascetics, overseen this year by celebrity chef Diane Kochilas.

Alexander Zagoreos, Chairman of the Library's Overseers, welcomed the guests. He called the Library, which now contains 125,000 volumes "the leading institution that contains within it the written record of Hellenism."

He reported that the Library is "fiscally sound and growing. We are one of the few construction sites in Athens now with the new West Wing going up. It is a model, a beacon for our heritage...at this time it has a special significance and needs our support."

Zagoreos thanked Mina

Lee, the School's Interim Director of Development, "for organizing and doing a terrific job" and invited Robert McCabe to the podium to make some announcements and acknowledge special guests.

After expressing deep appreciation to the donors in attendance, Zagoreos introduced Maria Georgopoulou, the Library's Director, who said "being on the water reminds me of Greece."

The view was spectacular, two bridges being visible as the East River glittered with reflected skyscraper light.

Georgopoulou also thanked the institutions' supporters and said the event's theme is connections, with the past, and between people.

She pointed out there are two current building sites, the West Wing and the Weiner Laboratory for archaeological science.

"For us the West Wing is just a big hole now...but it is something that will be transformative," with special collections space for rare books, open stacks and a museum area.

Amb. George Iliopoulos, Consul General of Greece, declared "My wife, Anthousa, and I are truly honored to be with you...I just want to express my



(L-R) Amb. George Iliopoulos, Consul General; Maria Georgopoulou, Gennadius library director; Mina Lee, of the ASCSA and Alexander Zagoreos, Chairman of the Library's Overseers.

Greece, that have a great tradition do important work," Amb. Vasilios Philippos, Cyprus' Consul General, said "This event shows that Greeks abroad are a bridge with the

homeland, supporting it economically and culturally," and thanked the Board for its work in behalf of an institution he calls a diamond of Hellenism.

Industrialist and scientist Sotirios Vahaviolos again attended with his wife, Aspasia, and is always impressed with the number of non-Greeks who attend.

Retired judge Leo Milonas is pleased the dinner makes the School and Library better known in America. "The collection is spectacular, the building is beautiful and the school has trained some of the greatest classicists in the world...I am so proud to be part of it, since my parents were poor immigrants from Greece," he said.

Robert Shaw has visited the Library, which he called a unique institution. "It is a great cause and I am happy to support it."

Paul Lountzis has been coming for years. He told TNH, "it's wonderful to support the Library in every way. I was introduced to it by Board member George Soterakis and this is a great event."

Music was provided by Grigori Maninakis' trio, which included Glafkos Kontemontis and Kostas Psaros.



Lol Estiatorio's sleek, contemporary design is apropos for its urban, fast-paced Midtown Manhattan setting.

Chef Maria Loi Opens a New Restaurant in Mid-Manhattan

NEW YORK – Less than a year after closing her Upper West Side location, chef Maria Loi has opened a brand new restaurant right in the heart of Midtown Manhattan.

As much as Loi is overjoyed about being in such a premier location, "what's so exciting is the kitchen," she told The National Herald. "When I first saw it, I fell in love immediately," she says about the "beautiful European stove-top, unlike anything I've seen in the United States."

"We subscribe to the Greek mentality of fresh and seasonal ingredients," Loi tells TNH. "Our menu is 100% butter free, using

only the highest quality Greek olive oil to make our food, which really makes the difference. We import our mostly all of our fish from Greece, because you can taste the Mediterranean and Aegean Sea when you eat them. We believe in quality over quantity, so if we have a limited number of items because that was the availability of ingredients, then we run with it."

As for those quick-on-the-go, how can we convert the city's burger and hot dog-eating population to grab a quick, satisfying meal that also happens to be good for them?

"I believe New Yorkers are savvy people," Loi explains, "who know the value of a good meal, even when they're in a rush. There are plenty of things that are really good for you that can be ready in minutes – the same amount of time you'd be spending waiting in line at McDonald's or Chipotle. Greek food isn't all gyros and souvlaki (though when done right, few things compare); Greek food is really all about the 12 pillar foods from my book, The Greek Diet, including olive oil, vegetables, beans, yogurt, nuts and seeds, chicken and eggs, whole grains, herbs and spices, and fresh seafood."

"There's no reason to sacrifice a healthy, flavorful meal in favor of something fatty and fried, especially when our Greek food is slow-cooked the right way just for you, and ready to pick up in mere minutes!"

She told TNH: "I'm really enthusiastic about this space and this team we've formed. I think Lol Estiatorio will be the best Greek restaurant, not only in New York, but all over!"



Make sure you save some room for dessert!

Hellenic Med. Society Prescription for Apokries: Joy

By Constantine S. Sirigos
TNH Staff Writer

NEW YORK – The Hellenic Medical Society (HMS) of NY welcomed the community to its annual Mardi Gras in the ballroom of Holy Trinity Cathedral on February 20. The left was fueled by food, music and the sight of children and adults in costume.

Roula Lambrakis welcomed the guests to the affair that was again celebrated in traditional Greek Apokries-Carnival fashion. She thanked everyone for their help and support and emphasized the value of transmitting Greek traditions to the community's children.

Dr. Stella Lymberis, 1st vice president of HMS greeted everyone and introduced the Apollo

Orchestra, including Lefteris Boumias, Mavrothi Kontanis, Thomas Vrettos, Kostas Konstantinou and Christoforos Eleftheriades.

DJ John Hilar added to the fun, which included all the guests joining in the singing of traditional Greek Carnival songs.

Kyriakos Myrdis, the chef of the Archdiocese – the guests raved about the fare – was another one of the evening's stars, but so were the adults and children who walked in with conventional dress and donned the blow-up costumes HMS provided.

One man criticized for coming in a suit whipped off his tie and prompted laughter when he declared, "I am the Prime Minister of Greece!"

Dr. George Liakos, donning a colorful costume, dispensed good will all night long. He thanked to those who contributed to the event's success, including Lambrakis, Dr. Lymberis and Evangelia Tsavari, the HMS administrator.

He delighted the guests with a traditional joke – told in fluent Greek – and announced the latest HMS outreach initiative, a series of lectures and panels during parish coffee hours on Sundays, beginning with Holy Trinity on March 1.

Maria Drakos, host of the monthly Hellenic American Networking Group reception at Lili Restaurant in Roslyn, said, "this group knows how to have a great time...everyone should come next year!"

Miranda Kofinas, the wife of Dr. George Kofinas, loved the event, and her friend Catherine Moutousis, President of the Cathedral's Philoptochos, who attended for the first time, came to support the Society and to honor the memory of her husband, Dr. George Moutousis.

"The Society makes an excellent effort to unite all the doctors and reach out to the community," she said.

James DeMotto, Director of the NY Greek Film Festival, who also attended for the first time, said HMS is a worthy group to support. "They have a wonderful scholarship program and it's good to celebrate the traditions of apokries. It's fun, and I am happy to see so many children here."



Dancers dance the night away: costumed guests danced the night away to the music of the Apollo Orchestra and DJ John Hilar at the Hellenic Medical Society's Mardi Gras at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Manhattan.

Caryatids Come Alive at Greek Consulate Exhibit in New York

The research of scholars like Dr. Katherine Schwab, professor of Art History at Fairfield University, make history come alive. An exhibit at the Greek Consulate in Manhattan encouraged by Amb. George Iliopoulos and his wife, Anthousa, titled "Photographs of the Caryatid Hairstyling Project," features photos of modern women that prove that the elegant hairstyles worn by the famous Caryatids from the Erechtheion were based on reality, not fantasy. (L-R) Archbishop Demetrios, Consul General Iliopoulos, Katherine Schwab, Marice Rose and Rev. Jeffrey P. von Arx, president of Fairfield University greeted the guests at the opening reception on Feb. 24. The exhibit runs through Mar. 27.



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