



# The KYTHERIAN

The Newsletter of the Kytherian Association of Australia  
PO Box A203, Sydney South NSW 1235  
www.kytherianassociation.com.au

FEBRUARY 2008

## Παμε στο Καραβιτικο!

**DATE: SUNDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2008**  
**ALL DETAILS ARE ON PAGE 9.**



### **Nicholas Anthony Aroney Encouragement Awards Night**

*We are inviting Students of Kytherian descent to submit their Year 2007 HSC Results and UAI scores for the Nicholas Anthony Aroney Encouragement Awards.*

*This lovely Awards Dinner function will be held at*

**Venue : Twin Reception Centre**

**560 Botany Street, Alexandria**

**Date : Saturday 5th April, 2008**

**Time : 7.00pm**

**Cost : \$50 Adult & \$25 Children**

*Please send Results ( copy of UAI result and Higher School Certificate marks ) to:*

**Nicholas Anthony Aroney Encouragement Awards**

**c/- The Kytherian Association of Australia**

**PO Box A203 SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235**

Any enquiries should be addressed to Victor Kepreotis on 0408 216 108 and for bookings please call Kathy Samios on 9349 1849.

**The closing date for applications is 19th March 2008.**

## KYTHO CALENDAR

### FRIDAYS 8TH FEB. - 11TH APRIL

Weekly dancing lessons for Term 1  
(see page 18 for details).

### SUNDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2008

Karavitiko Symposium (See page 9)

### SATURDAY 5TH APRIL 2008

Nicholas Anthony Aroney  
Encouragement Awards.  
(details on front page).

### SUNDAY 27TH APRIL 2008

Easter Sunday (Pascha)

### SUNDAY 13TH MAY 2008

Agios Theodoros Ton Kytherion Liturgy.

## MUMS & BUBS

"Mums and Bubs" outings  
are held on the last Friday of  
each month, for babies and  
children up to 5 years. For  
more information please call  
Erenie on 0410 318 053.

## *Kytherian Debutante Ball*

*To be held at Star City on  
Saturday 31st May 2008.*

*Debutante applications*



*Enquiries to Esther Calligeros*

*Phone : 9344 0298.*

## Editor's Note



Happy New Year and a big 'thank you' to George Vardas for producing last month's excellent 'Summer Edition' newsletter. The general feedback has been that many of our readers enjoy reading historical articles about Kythera. We will try to provide these whenever we can.

On a personal note, I hope and trust that everyone had a lovely Christmas. My family spent the festive season with relatives in the U.S., enabling us to enjoy a totally different Christmas. I thought that I would share a few thoughts on our experiences for those readers who may be interested in travelling to the U.S. during the Christmas break. Honestly, it is a wonderful time to visit as it is low season over there and their school holidays are only two weeks over the Christmas/New Year period. Therefore, going to Disneyland or other tourist attractions are enjoyable as there are no long queues with which to contend. No one does Christmas better than the Americans! They set the benchmark when it comes to decorations and everywhere you go, you can hear Christmas carols echoing in the shopping malls and streets. We travelled to different parts of the country and encountered a variety of weather conditions to say the least. In Hawaii and Florida, we were experiencing hot and humid summer conditions while in California, we were walking around in 10 degrees Celsius. In San Francisco, we were fortunate enough to meet up with some truly beautiful people. Vikki Fraioli (a fellow Kytherian who came to the Canberra Symposium and has quite a few friends and relatives here) and her family, met and chauffeured us around their beautiful city. They helped make our visit even more memorable because of their kindness.

The Mid-West (Chicago & Dyer, Indiana) on the other hand, literally took our breath away.....minus 10 degrees Celsius! It set the backdrop for a white Christmas and that was an experience in itself, that for us began on Christmas Eve. We attended a Church Service in the evening and watched with pride as my cousin, who is a Greek Orthodox Priest, conducted the Service. At the end, along with the Antithero, we received a lovely Christmas tree ornament of the Nativity scene. While we lined up (in an orderly fashion, I might add) the Church choir sang beautiful Christmas carols. It was a truly moving experience that we will never forget!

Christmas Day was also unforgettable but for different reasons. We awoke to a house full of smoke caused by burning turkey fat that could have easily destroyed both the turkey and the house. All my nephew could think about was that he would need warm clothes as it was going to be freezing outside! Fortunately the fire alarm alerted us to impending doom and a competent rescue mission was executed (it goes without saying that I had nothing to do with it) and the turkey and house were spared.

That night everyone gathered in the basement (most homes have basements and they seem to be the hub of family life). We all sang karaoke Christmas carols and the kids (and by kids, I mean that they ranged from 12 to 24) played board games and foosball. For me, this was utopia! No TV, no Play Station, no iPods, no DVDs, and wait for it.....no mobile phone calls!! We created our own entertainment and treasured every minute of it.

Overall, there were so many special moments that it is difficult deciding which one stands out the most. For me however, what will always be a major highlight in my life is witnessing the launch of a spy satellite at Cape Canaveral in Florida. Mind you, the word 'spy' would suggest that it should have been a secret...but it wasn't. We experienced the countdown (just as it is shown on TV) and watched the launch. 'Exhilarating' is the word that I would use to describe it. All those childhood memories of following the launches of Saturn, Apollo, etc on radio or TV in the 60's came flooding back.

Overall, we were fortunate enough to have had a wonderful trip and despite a return flight that endured four hours of turbulence (trust me... nothing brings you closer to God than the fear of falling out of the sky) I would definitely do it all again!

# Kythera-Family.net

for the world-wide Kytherian Community

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## Our Famous Thrift

While in Athens in December I had lunch with my good friend Vassiliki Chrysanthopoulou. She's not Kytherian but she probably knows as much about Kytherians in the Diaspora as anyone living. As a research fellow and anthropologist at the *Hellenic Folklore Research Center* in Athens, her area of expertise is the relationship - both physical and emotional - of Diaspora Greeks to their family's place of origin. If you've been receiving this newsletter for a few years you might remember the survey we did about how Diaspora Kytherians relate to the island. Well, Vassiliki penned most of those questions and has been using your answers in various papers she has since written.

During lunch and the subject somehow got on to the Kytherians notoriety for thrift. First of all she told me this anecdote: at a dinner party in Canberra a few years ago, with guests of Castellorizian and Kytherian parentage, the hostess brought out an old amphora - a vase-shaped vessel with a long neck which was used to hold the wine or oil given as a libation at the temple of one god or another. The hostess asked the guests to guess how much the amphora - about a foot and a half tall - held. Various guesses ranging from a half to three litres came back. The hostess then proceeded to pour the contents of a full wine-glass into the empty amphora and before the glass was even half-empty the amphora was already overflowing. She tipped the wine back into the glass and showed the puzzled guests how the amphora had a false bottom quite close to the spout. That way the person offering the libation could save on wine or oil. One of the Castellorizians burst out: "it must have belonged to a Tsirigotis (Kytherian)" and all the guests, including the Tsirigotis among them, fell off their chairs in laughter.

One of the interesting aspects of the story, Vassiliki told me, was the way Kytherians themselves can laugh about their reputation for thrift. She has seen Kytherians passing the restaurant bill from one to the other giving tongue-in-cheek reasons why they shouldn't be the one to pay this time. My father has even told me that my grandfather was famed for preferring to walk a mile and a half from Central Station in Sydney to Wynyard rather than spend the penny on the tram. Perhaps you too have an anecdote or two about the care in which Kytherians spent their hard-earned money? If so then send them to me and I'll reproduce them in the next newsletter. (Don't be shy - thrift is a virtue!) One thing that I'd like

to add before I go on to the next part of this story: it is my experience that, while many of Kytherian descent felt real physical pain when parting with their money, I have never seen one being stingy with it in relation to their immediate family. Children were sent to the best schools, musical instruments were purchased for enthusiastic offspring, and the food on the table was always in generous supply.

Vassiliki and I pondered on the roots of this tendency towards thrift. Vassiliki is also an expert on the Castellorizian Diaspora, so we had a comparison group. Castellorizians are well known for flaunting their wealth, whether or not it exists. At a Greek function you could often tell who came from which island depending upon how much jewellery the women were wearing. Vassiliki believes that thrift (or lack of it) is learnt in the community: Kytherian role models were those who made the most out of the little they had (and most had little). And their conduct was thus copied. I, on the other hand, pleaded the case of natural selection. My case was based on the fact that those with the "thrift-gene" were more likely to have more children which survived childhood. People with money "in the bank" were more likely to be able to put food on the table in hard times, keeping their children healthier, and, should a child be seriously sick, would be better positioned to afford professional attention and the necessary medication. Those with savings would also be able to offer a more generous dowry for their daughters and in turn be able to hook a wealthier husband for her. The result: more children reaching child-bearing age and in a better position to bond with a family of similar levels of thrift. The island Castellorizians on the other hand, generally well-off as a result of their success as merchants (until they revolted from the Ottoman empire in 1913 and their main trading partners were lost - that's when they started coming to Australia...), were more likely to catch an optimal spouse by the open display of wealth and the accentuation of beauty. Perhaps I should suggest to Vassiliki that she study the success rate of marriage between those of Castellorizian and Kytherian descent (I can think of three off-hand, and all are/were happy unions...).

If you have any thoughts on the matter, or just wish to trash my (or Vassiliki's) theory, don't hesitate to send me an email or, better still, put your thoughts on the new "Blog" area on the site.

**James Prineas, KFN Team Leader Europe**

**You are the authors!** *Kythera-Family.net* - the online cultural archive for Kythera - aims to preserve and reflect the rich heritage of a wonderful island. Members of the community are actively invited to submit their family collection of Kytherian stories, photographs, recipes, oral histories, and home remedies etc. to the site. Uploading directly to the site is easy and free. Thus we can help make available valuable and interesting material for current and future generations, and inspire young Kytherians to learn more about their fascinating heritage.

## The Passing of Archbishop Christodoulos

The official announcement was stirring as a wave of across Greece and the January 2008 His Beatitude of Athens and All Greece, a short battle with cancer. The late Archbishop Christos Paraskevaïdis in mayor, Archbishop as a lawyer but switched to was elected the Greek 1998 and went on to become archbishops in the history of with reinvigorating the vast sermons and encouraged the more often, famously calling the church "as you are, with The late Archbishop had Catholic and Orthodox receiving the late Pope John



in the Greek language press grief and sadness descended Orthodox diaspora. On 28 Christodoulos, Archbishop had finally fallen asleep after

Christodoulos was born 1939. The son of a local Christodoulos first trained the priesthood in 1961. He church leader on April 28 one of the most popular the Church. He is credited institution. He enlivened youth to attend services on young people to return to earrings and all".

also attempted to bring the Churches closer together by Paul II in Athens in 2001 and in turn visiting the Vatican five years later. Pope Benedict XVI has sent his condolences and wrote in part: "I and Catholics around the world pray that the Orthodox Church of Greece will be sustained by the grace of God in continuing to build on the pastoral achievements of the late Archbishop and that in commending the noble soul of His Beatitude to our heavenly Father's loving mercy you will be comforted by the Lord's promise to reward his faithful servants."

Ecumenical Patriarch Vartholomeos, with whom Archbishop Christodoulos had some differences over issues such as the management of several dioceses in Greece, was also moved to issue an emotional tribute, commenting that the late Archbishop "strove his whole life to bring people closer to the Church, to the unique ark of salvation".

Prime Minister Karamanlis echoed the sentiments of many Greeks when he praised Archbishop Christodoulos as an enlightened cleric who reinforced the role of Orthodoxy in the world and brought the church closer to society, closer to modern problems and closer to young people and their concerns. Perhaps the late Archbishop's character and good nature is best summed up by George Papandreou, the leader of the PASOK opposition party, when he stated: "He was a charismatic man who was a pleasure to talk with even when you disagreed with him".

Archbishop Christodoulos was not without his critics. To many he was very conservative as he continued to target globalisation, the European Union and other institutions that he feared would strip Greece of its Orthodox Christian character and see Hellenism "sucked into the European melting pot". The church's unsuccessful campaign to stop the former PASOK government from removing religious affiliation from state identity cards brought Archbishop Christodoulos in direct conflict with politicians, causing him to remark that clergymen are "above kings, prime ministers and presidents".

The tributes from around the world continue to pour in. Perhaps none are more eloquent than the statement issued by Archbishop Demetrios of America in which he praised the courage of this "great Churchman and Hierarch" and continued:

"For those who regret that he died too soon, let them thank God that he was with them the way that he was. The legacy of Archbishop Christodoulos will surely exceed the years of his life. His dedicated and dynamic service to Christ and His Church will be permanently remembered as we pray for his eternal repose in the mansions of the saints a righteous of God."

May his memory be eternal.

George Vardas.

Note: This eulogy was prepared on the basis of articles appearing on the various news services in Greece and abroad, including the Los Angeles Times, the New York Times, Associated Press and Kathimerini, and also by reference to the website of the Greek Archdiocese in the United States. As at the date of writing this article, the website of the Greek Archdiocese of Australia had not been updated to record the passing of Archbishop Christodoulos.

## WIND GENERATORS ON KYTHERA?



My attention was caught by a recent, rather colourful blog by one of our Kytherian-Australians in residence on the island, Anna Cominos, on the Kythera family website. It appears that the local authorities have decided to allow wind generators on the island.

Now at a time when greenhouse gas emissions and talk about global warming are high on the public and political agendas, you might think that wind turbines on Kythera – where there is plenty of air, both hot and cold – would constitute an excellent renewable energy source, particularly on an island which historically has used both windmills and watermills for power generation.

Aeolian energy – so named because Greece is blessed by Aeolus, the god of wind – is becoming very popular in Europe and Greece is reported to be the eighth highest user of wind energy in the European Union.

Anna Cominos writes of the islanders' concern that this decision was apparently taken without any public discussion or debate and, more disturbingly, that there appears to be nothing in this for Kythera. According to Anna, the 60 or more wind-power towers would be set-up by a company to generate and sell all the energy off-shore. There would be no power generated for the island itself even though it is thought that Kythera only needs 3-4 wind-towers to meet all local demands including the heavy demand placed in the summer tourist season. The question that begs to be asked: why 60 wind towers?



### **Aeolian wind generators coming to an island near you?**

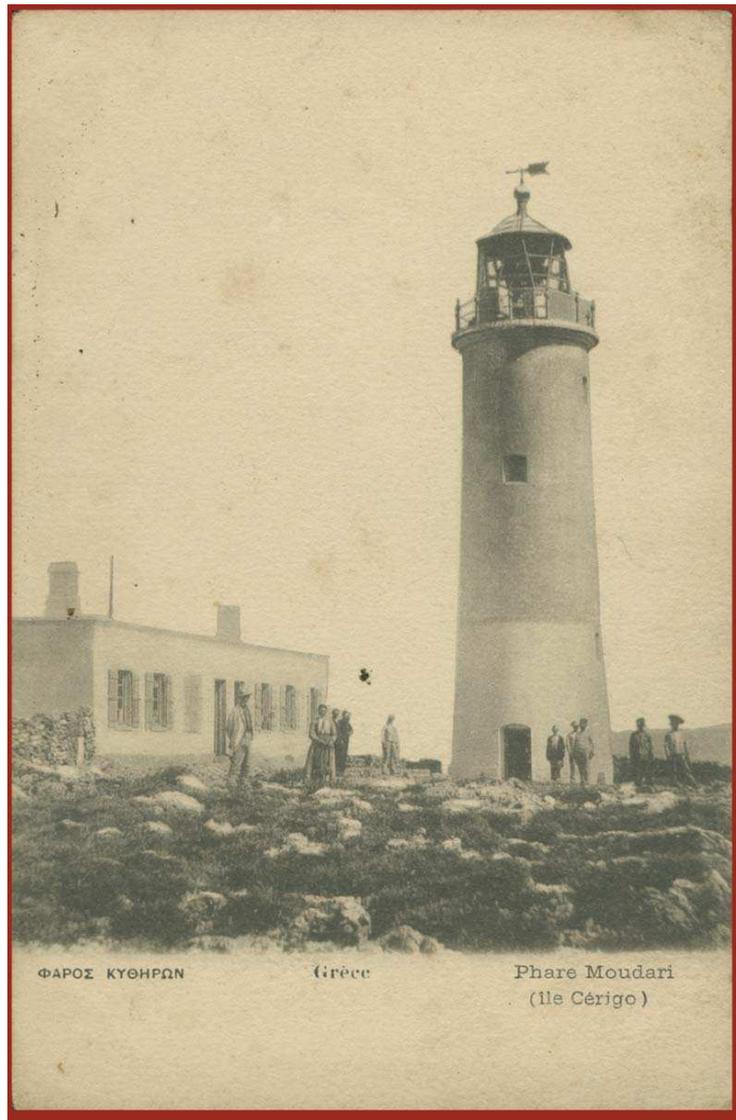
Anna writes that the towers would be between 60-110 metres high and placed 200 metres apart and would require between 500 and 1500 cubic metres of cement in their foundations to strengthen them against the winds. That is a lot of cement.

In locating wind towers, some of the relevant criteria include exposure to prevailing winds, open location, proximity to a local electricity distribution system, distance from houses, and respect for archaeological heritage and nature preservation. The winds are more powerful in isolated hills and we all know that Kythera abounds in rugged hilly and mountainous terrain. There are already wind generators in other islands, including the island of Evia (which is known for its massive wind farm), Kefalonia and Crete.

I suppose the real issue is to balance the economic benefits of non-renewable energy (provided the island can take advantage of the Aeolian energy) against the aesthetic impact of a wind park. It is a debate that we should all follow with interest.

George Vardas

## THE LIGHTHOUSE AT MOUDARI



Moudari – then and now

In the Summer edition of the *Kytherian* newsletter George Cassim reproduced a picture postcard of the lighthouse at Moudari or Cape Spathi on the northern tip of the island, near the village of Karavas. The lighthouse was constructed in 1901 and the postcard dates to about that time. It is interesting that a search of the internet reveals a number of sites involving what you could call "lighthouse spotters". These are people who are fascinated by lighthouses and visit them from time to time. Much like this writer's obsession with stone viaducts!

The early postcard shows a number of locals at the base of the lighthouse tower. In May 2006, more than a century later, lighthouse observers Sotirios/SV1HER, Theodor/SV1GRM and Likourgos/SW1GZL operated at Moudari under the call sign "SY8V" and posted on the web photos of themselves at the lighthouse.



### **Trekking to the lighthouse**

The lighthouse is still active today as an active navigational aid and is operated by the Hydrographic Office of the Hellenic Navy. The lighthouse comprises a 25 m round masonry tower with lantern and gallery, rising from one end of a 1-story masonry keeper's house. The lantern has a focal plane of 114 m with three white flashes every 30 seconds.

The Moudari lighthouse was erected in the sea of time. It is worth a visit when you are next on Kythera.

George Vardas.

# NEW YEAR'S DAY DANCE

Our New Year's Day Dance at the Grand Barclay Reception Centre was once again a very successful evening. The lovely venue, good food, and great music by our resident DJ provided all that was needed for a wonderful night!

I am sure all the parents, relatives and friends of our Kytherian Dancers would have been very proud of the children's dancing performances as selected by our very talented dancing teacher, Joanna. As always, there was plenty of "kefi" on the dance floor! Congratulations to all the lucky prize winners and especially to the winner of the gold sovereign, Emanuel Papapetros.

**Kai tou xponou!**

**Victor Kepreotis**  
**President**

## **RAFFLE PRIZES NEW YEAR'S DAY FAMILY DANCE TUESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY**

1ST PRIZE Colour Television (donated by Laiki Bank) won by Anthony Notaras

2ND PRIZE St George Smallgoods Gift Voucher (donated by the Haros family, valued at \$250) won by Persephanie Economy.

3RD PRIZE Lefteris Natural Skin Care (donated by Terry Xanthos, valued at \$170) won by Christopher Andrews.

4TH PRIZE Diethnes Greek Restaurant Gift Voucher (donated by the Management, valued at \$150) won by Mark Kremisis.

5TH PRIZE Designer Kutz Hair & Beauty (summer revitalising treatment /shampoo/cut/bd, donated by Gloria Papayianakis, valued at \$130) won by George Belissis.

6TH PRIZE MG Enterprises Gift Voucher (domestic & commercial cleaning products donated by Greg & Maria Karedis, valued at \$100) won by Nicholas Andrews.

7TH PRIZE Enigma Greek Restaurant Gift Voucher (donated by the Management, valued at \$100) won by John Poulos.

8TH PRIZE Enigma Greek Restaurant Gift Voucher (donated by the Management, valued at \$100) won by Toula Poulos.

9TH PRIZE Australians & Greeks Vol. 1 "The Early Years", by Hugh Gilchrist (donated by Angelo Notaras, valued at \$75) won by Helen Calligeros.

## **LUCKY DOOR PRIZES**

3 prizes: Villeroy & Boch Christmas Bowls (donated by John & Maria Notaras) won by Tony Kalligeros, Eleni Tzannes and Helen Magiros.



Two of our talented dancing groups who entertained us on the night of our New Year's Dance.



These photos were taken at the last dancing lesson for the year 2007. The photos reflect the success of Friday night dancing. It is a credit to our wonderful dancing teacher, **Joanna Tsakiridis** and her capable assistant **Penelope Samios**.

**KARAVITIKO SYMPOSIUM**  **ΚΑΡΑΒΙΤΙΚΟ ΣΥΜΠΟΣΙΟΝ**  
 Παμε στο Καραβίτικο!  
**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2008**

Dear Fellow Karaviti, Kytherian and Friend,

Once again it is our pleasure and delight to invite you to *Karavitiko 2008*. From its meagre beginnings some four decades ago, the *Symposium* is now one of the most significant events on the Greek social calendar, and this year promises to be as good as ever.

And to make things easy for anyone attending the *Symposium* this year: well, we have great news for you too.

The Church service will be conducted in the *Greek Orthodox Church, Kogarah, 2217*, and the luncheon will be held in the Hall right next door:

Prestige Function Centre  
 14 Belgrave Street,  
 Kogarah, 2217

When: Sunday, 10th February, 2008: 11.30 a.m.- 5.00 p.m

Price: Despite this year's higher cost we are charging the same as last year so this year your donation will be:

Adults: \$45.00, Earlybirds Pre-payment \$40.00 Under 12's: \$28.00, Earlybirds Pre-payment \$25.00 Children under 3 years admitted free

This year's *Symposium* features the NSW Launch of the brilliant book on Greek Cafes, *Aphrodite and the Mixed Grill* by Queensland academic Toni Risson. The book will be available for purchase at the *Karavitiko*.

If you wish to attend, contact:

**George (Hlihlis) Poulos**  
 PRESIDENT AND TREASURER  
 (02) 9388 8320  
 transoz@bigpond.net.au

**Peter (Kapetanios) Poulos**  
 VICE PRESIDENT AND PUBLIC OFFICER  
 (02) 9758 5884  
 psp1965@yahoo.co.uk

**Theo (Kapetanios) Poulos**  
 SECRETARY  
 (02) 9150 9069  
 kifs@optusnet.com.au

Or send a cheque made out to the *Karavitiko Symposium* to:

**Karavitiko Symposium,**  
 42 Eastern Avenue,  
 Dover Heights, 2030  
 NSW .

## THE EPIPHANY 2008

On Sunday 6th January, 2008 about 2000 Greek Orthodox faithful gathered on the pristine beach at Yarra Bay to celebrate the annual Epiphany Day. **George Cassimatis** was present representing St. Spyridon and briefly congratulated a fellow Kytherian (**John Veneris**) on recovering the Cross last year in the unusual icy cold waters. Gray, rainy skies cleared to sunshine as **Archbishop Stylianos** conducted the brief service on the beach at 12.45 pm. 80 keen men lined the barge about 70m offshore and waited for the Archbishop to finish the service by throwing the Cross into the water.

The Holy Cross was thrown out quite deep on this occasion with several swimmers arriving at the beach only to be told that the Cross was somewhat further out. As 4 young men, including **John Veneris** searched in the water in the vicinity of the Cross, the bottom became stirred up, making the water a little murky and hence presenting difficulty in seeing the Cross.

Kytherian **George Cassimatis** was also one of 2 to reach the beach first and quickly moved back out to where the other 4 men were already searching. **George** noticed something dark in the water behind the men and dove down to check if it was the Cross and it was. How lucky and what a pleasant surprise for **George**.

Fellow Kytherians **George Cassimatis** and **John Veneris** hugged each other and with arms over each others' shoulders as they posed for the cameras.

George Cassimatis.

The following photos were taken by George Voulgaropoulos.



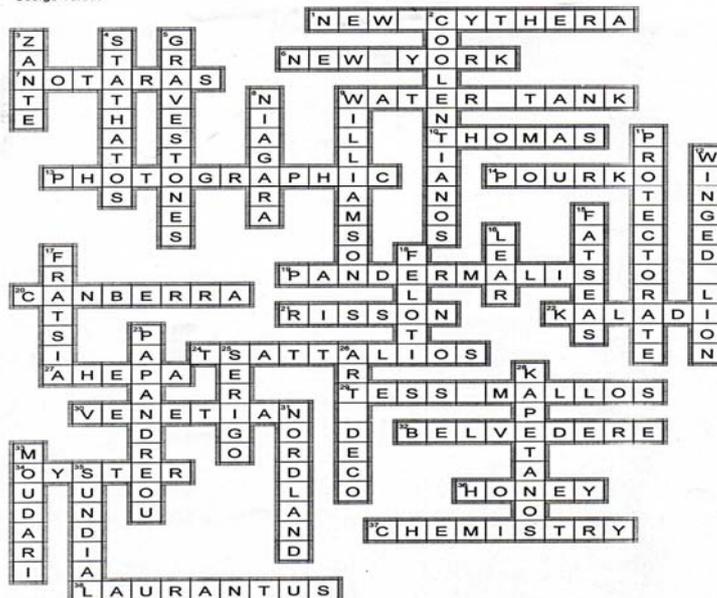
## KYTHERIAN LINKS TO OUR SISTER CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO.

The love of our beautiful island of Kythera is not restricted to our shores alone. The Kytherian Society of California takes its heritage seriously and embraces all things Kytherian just as their Australian counterparts do. An example of this is the creation of the beautiful mosaic icon of the Myrtydiotissa by **Jim Leonis**. It hangs in the narthex of the Annunciation Cathedral in San Francisco. The Kepreotis clan wishes to thank **Vikki Vrettos Fraioli**, secretary of the Society, for kindly chauffeuring them around her beautiful city as well as taking them to the Cathedral to view the icon. Our Kytherian heritage certainly brings people together despite the fact that many of us live on opposite sides of the world!



### KYTHERIAN 2008 SUMMER EDITION BUMPER CROSSWORD

George Vardas



EclipseCrossword.com

Answers to last month's crossword.

## PIRATES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

### Part V

By Luke Kepreotis

Finally, like a cork from a bottle, Leo shot out of his seat and yelled: 'Cuuuuut!!'

He broke into a shuffle, the top speed his aging body would allow him to travel, and feverishly shook the hands of everyone on set.

'That's a wrap, people!' he shouted from his megaphone. 'Pirates of the Mediterranean is ready for post-production!'

Eventually it came the time to shake the hands of his on-screen talents. First he looked at Nick, then at Desi, then over his shoulder to the actor who had played Cousin Spiro. He was currently taking the curly black wig from his scalp to reveal a bald head.

Leo leant against the willow and patted it reverently.

'You did good. Both of you,' he said, then turned to face Nick. 'The best performance you have ever given and it was during the Finale. Who could ask for more?'

Nick grinned a thick gaudy grin.

'But you know,' Leo went on, 'if you hadn't given me the performance you did, you would have been dog meat, you understand? Each day over the past three months I have been making a list of actors to replace you for the lead. Just in case things didn't work out.' He rested a hand on the actor's shoulder. 'I'm glad I didn't have to use it,' he said.

The Adonis beamed. That was the closest thing to a compliment you could get from Leo: an amiable threat. There were a hundred things he wanted to say: 'This is a huge milestone for me' or 'Now the world can take me seriously as an actor' or even 'See? I'm not just a pretty face', but instead his focus shifted to Desi who was balancing tentatively on her tiptoes.

'Desi deserves the thanks,' said Nick, glancing at her for a second. 'If she hadn't shown me the importance of the role, no matter how small-time it was, I would be out on my rear, just as you said. If the Producers of Aphrodite's Lovers ever heard about me being kicked off a set in Pitsinianika that would have been the end for me.'

'Not to mention the media,' added Desi. 'It would have been a feeding frenzy.'

Nick, never having been good with saying thank you, reached down and scooped up his co-star and gave her a hug that could have overwhelmed a bear.

'Bravo,' said Leo, more to himself than to anyone else. He turned his back on the duo and made the familiar but nonetheless well-earned stroll back to his trailer. As far as he was concerned it was time to celebrate, and he was sure there were a few bottles of a distilled substance somewhere to be found in his filing cabinet.

After a while Nick released his grip, letting Desi fall three feet back to earth.

She looked up at the Adonis. Something was different. Somehow he didn't look quite so distant.

'So what do you suppose that was about?' she said, combing the knots from her hair with her fingers.

'What do you mean?' said Nick.

'Leo shook our hands. *Our* hands. Maybe he's coming down with something?'

'He's just happy, is all.'

'Leo *happy*? Is that even possible?'

Nick gave a knowing smirk. 'I think anything's possible,' he said.

'So...now that we've finished filming the movie, it'll only be a short while before you're back in Athens with your adoring public.'

'Yeah' said Nick, peering at the sky through the draping leaves. 'But I don't have to leave right away. I heard that Pitsinianika was founded by the Venetians when they occupied Greece.'

'That's right!' said Desi, elated to hear someone other than her grandmother talking about the village history.

'Is there much of the Venetian influence left?'

'Not much. Why?'

'Because I feel like some homemade lasagne.'

Desi's face lit up like a Christmas tree.

'Oh, did you say *Venetian* influence? We've got plenty of that in my family. My grandparents speak fluent Italian. We can't understand what they're saying half the time. You could meet them, if you wish. I mean, if you want the lasagne *that* bad.'

Nick nodded. 'I'm starving,' he said, and offered his forearm.

Desi turned down the arm, but pulled the Adonis down by his collar and whispered something into his ear.

'Right now?' he said.

'Yes.'

'Like they way I do it on the show?'

'Yes.'

Nick shrugged to himself and then scooped Desi up and carried her in his arms.

She looked back over Nick's shoulder and waved goodbye to the crew and equipment and the three months of anguish Leo put them through.

What was the difference between working for a grouch in Athens and working for a grouch in Pitsinianika? In Pitsinianika the star carries you home.

Desi smiled to herself and then threw her arms into the air.

'I love The Pits!'

\* \* \*

Months passed as only months can in a haze of unmitigated drinking.

Leo Leonidas sat in his trailer and although it looked the same and smelt the same, things were quite different. He sat with a smile. One that weaved its way so unnaturally across his face, a cautious observer would say it didn't belong. No, Leo had not slipped into a mental enclave of depression, or an obscure form of madness. He was genuinely happy. His face just wasn't used to it.

Now, there was something strange about Leo's smile, because, quite frankly, there wasn't anything to be happy about. The camera crews and production supervisors were all gone. They had moved on to whatever project needed them next. All that remained on the once bustling site was the lone willow tree, the rusty old trailer and the memories of a burnt-out director.

A very special piece of paper lay on his desk, staring at the ceiling. It was a tax invoice, and a large one at that. The kind that people glance at, then scream at, then jump off a bridge. Quite simply, it showed Leo's financial losses having financed *Pirates of the Mediterranean* entirely out of his own pocket.

Leo Leonidas was in debt over his eyeballs. But he didn't care. He just sat there, at his desk, all alone in the middle of the night. And for some reason with a great big smile.

He glanced across his office at the jet-black window when the phone began to ring.

Leo eyed the flashing light of the plastic contraption for a while before pressing a button rather than picking up the receiver. A voiced laced with static fought through the interference. It crackled and cut out in parts, but the message was plain:

'Leo? Leo, are you there?'

Leo grunted.

'I'll take that as a yes. And by the way, if you don't cut out the sauce, you're going to put yourself in an early grave. Each time I call you, you're getting less and less coherent. So do both of us a favour and lay off the liquor.'

'Whaddaya want, Constantine?' said Leo, sluggishly.

'Please, call me Con,' came the crackly reply of the agent.

'I'm calling because I have the latest figures for *Pirates of the Mediterranean*.'

'And...?' said Leo, anxiously.

'They're not good,' said Con, flatly.

A strained silence fell between the two. For a time the phone crackled without a voice.

'But, hey,' said Con finally, 'it's not all bad. I've already begun negotiations with the Studio Chief in charge of Channel 54 to broadcast *Pirates of the Mediterranean* for an afternoon timeslot. We'll sell the television rights and before you know it, we'll plug up that hole in our savings faster than a spinach casserole. Just wait and see, Leo. Con will fix you up. I never let down a friend.'

'And what about a client?' said Leo.

'Clients are a different story. Anyway, it's getting late. Take care of yourself, Leo, and don't worry. Try to stay sane until I put this deal through. And after every TV in Greece is screening your little masterpiece, we'll sit back and watch the royalties roll in. Ciao.'

Con hung up without sparing another second. This suited Leo because he didn't feel very much like talking.

The jaded director lifted his heels onto his desk and reclined in his chair all in one sloth-like action. He was a man with a lot on his mind and a lot to complain about. But despite all his worries Leo Leonidas couldn't help but smile.

\* \* \*

*To Be Continued...*

# Social News

## *Engagements*



Congratulations on the engagement of **Manuel Syros**, son of **Jim & Anna Syros** of Kensington to **Katherine Mangos**, daughter of **Steven & Christena Mangos** of Maroubra. Best wishes to both of them for their future.

The following photos are of the wonderful Christmas picnic that was held on 2nd December 2007, at the grounds of Matraville High School....(unfortunately the photographer had a plane to catch and was forced to leave before Santa arrived to give presents to 100 excited children).



## *Birthdays \* 21st \**

January is always busy for **Arthur & Alice Conomos** of Kingsford as all their children celebrate their birthdays during that month. Their twin daughters, **Alexis and Marika** celebrated their 21sts with a wonderful party at the C-Side Restaurant at Brighton-Le-Sands. Friends and relatives had a thoroughly enjoyable time partying well into the early hours with great food, music and lots of “kefi”. Dancing alongside his sisters, was their brother **Peter** who turned 18 a few weeks later. **Alexis, Marika and Peter** are the grandchildren of **Con & Marika Tzannes** of Pagewood and **Alexandra & the Late Peter Conomos** of Kensington.

To all of them....NA TA EKATOSTISETE!



## *Birthdays \* 21st \**

**Mathew Kepreotes**, eldest son of **John & Bonnie** from Lugarno, recently commemorated his 21st birthday. Friends and family helped **Mathew** celebrate with a party at the Penshurst Hotel. Good food and lots of “kefi” ensured that everyone had a great time. **Mathew** is the grandson of **Charlie & Poppy Kepreotes** of Maroubra and the **Late Con & Late Helen Conomos**.

NA TA EKATOSTISI!

## MYSTERY SOLVED

The Editor  
Kytherian Association Newsletter.

I would like to congratulate Mr George Vardas for the excellent Summer Edition of the Newsletter. We, all the Kytherians are indebted to George and Kathy for taking "The Kytherian" to new 'professional journalistic levels'.

Setting this high standard makes it very hard for any future editors to keep up at this level, so I hope that you will both be available and interested to keep it going.

Congratulations also to George Cassim for his Post Card collection. Very interesting indeed.

As far as the post card of the Spaletta girls, I can help because I was right there when taken. It was part of a photo shoot that Manolis Sophios did at Mitata, inside a vineyard (Ambeli) as you travel to Mitata, past the Cemetery on the left, there is a 'dogleg' bend and the vineyard on the right. The shoot produced 4 or 5 good photos which Sophios published as "Post Cards" and they were used for many years afterwards.

The main one is enlarged and is hanging at the Kythera Airport as you pass Security.

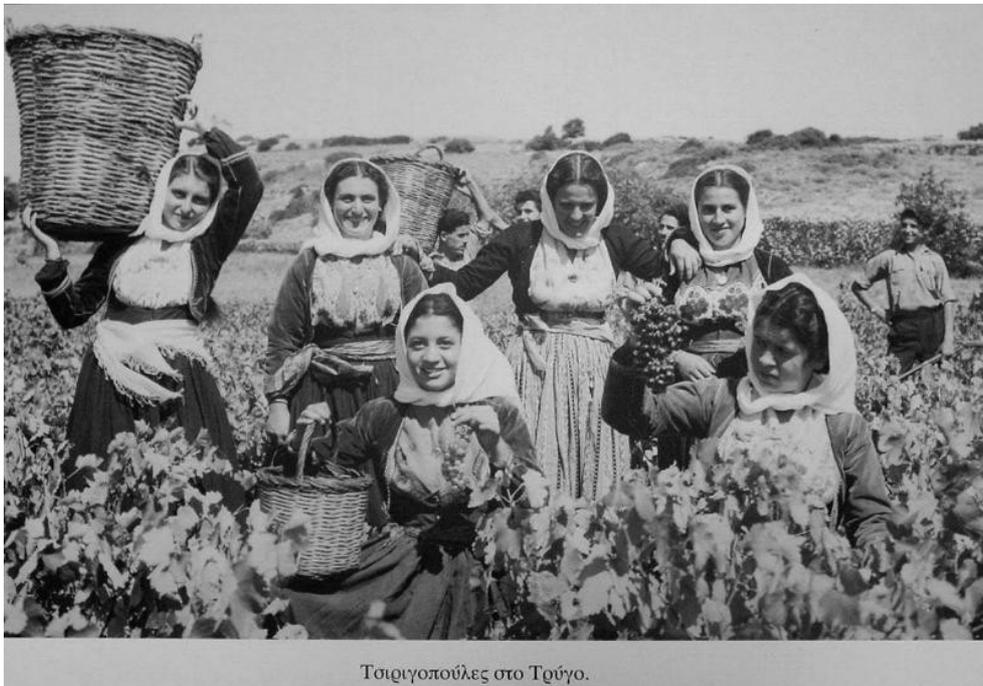
Now. The girls from left to right are:

My sister Matina Komninou (Prinea) bending. Next Back row standing is Eleni Petrohilos from Avlemona sister to George from Canberra. Next standing is Marika Prinea (Now Protopsalti living in Mitata) Next is Fotini Sklavos (Papa Antoni's daughter and sister to Manoli Sklavos Past President of the Kytherian Brotherhood,).

The two girls in the front row are sisters, Antonia and Eleni Kripsopoulou, nieces of Stefo Protopsalti from Mitata. (Stefo's son John is the President of the Kythera Honey Co-Op.)

Please refer to my website, [www.prineas.isfriendly.com](http://www.prineas.isfriendly.com) and click on 'Kytheraismos and Social News' page. Half way down you will see the Post Card below with the same girls but in different order, and if you look at the background, the 16yr old young man with the shotgun, is me, John Prineas. Feel free to click, enlarge and download it.

John Prineas.



Τσιριγοπούλες στο Τρύγο.

A big "thank you" to Mr Prineas for his kind words, continued support and for helping to solve this mystery.

**Books & CD's for sale -  
can be purchased from the  
Kytherian Association of Australia:**

- *History of Kythera* by Peter Vanges \$30
- *The Greeks in Queensland-A History from 1859 to 1945* by Denis A Conomos (RRP \$49.95)
- *Ta Tessera Spitia* by Jim Saltis \$20  
[Jim Saltis 47 Market Street Randwick 2031]  
email [saltisjim@optusnet.com.au](mailto:saltisjim@optusnet.com.au)  
phone (02) 93999767
- *Katsehamos and the Great Idea*  
by Peter Prineas \$35 available Plateia Press  
32 Calder Road, Darlington NSW 2008  
email [plateia@ozemail.com.au](mailto:plateia@ozemail.com.au)  
phone (02) 9319 1513 Mobile: 0429 322 857
- *Aphrodite and The Mixed Grill . Greek Cafes in Twentieth-Century Australia*  
by Toni Risson 130 Woodend Road,  
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email: s131107@uq.edu.au -\$49.95 plus  
postage & handling. Phone 3281 1525.
- *By George* , Harris George. Life stories by  
Harris Tzortzopoulos, parents born Karavas,  
Kythera. Naval Officer later prominent solicitor  
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\$17.50 including handling & postage.
- *Journey to Kythera* CD-ROM for Apple Mac  
ActionPoints@hotmail.com or 0417 590 194].

Please forward any items you wish to be  
included in our Newsletter to  
The EDITOR  
PO Box A203  
SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235

or

[kaanewsletter@optusnet.com.au](mailto:kaanewsletter@optusnet.com.au)

**Please Note:**

Those submitting articles to this  
Newsletter are advised that these articles  
may appear on the *Kythera-Family.net*  
website. **The deadline for articles is the  
23rd of each month.**

**CULTURAL ARCHIVE  
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***Kytherian Association of Australia -  
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More information about sponsorship can  
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Kytherian Association of Australia

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as well as details of our upcoming events.

Logon now & tell us what you think:  
[feedback@kytherianassociation.com.au](mailto:feedback@kytherianassociation.com.au)

Enquiries: Peter Samios

## GREEK DANCING CLASSES 2008

TERM 1 FRIDAYS 8TH FEB - 11TH APRIL

Matraville High School cnr Anzac Pde & Franklin  
Sts, Matraville.

<b>Infants</b>	7.00pm-
7.45pm	
<b>Primary</b>	7.45pm-
8.30pm	
<b>Junior High School</b>	8.30pm-
9.15pm	
<b>Senior Group</b>	9.15pm-

