

Helen Zerefos, OAM



Sutherland Shire Symphony Orchestra presents a tribute to Helen Zerefos OAM

Sutherland Shire Symphony Orchestra Presents a tribute to Helen Zerefos OAM, 8:00 pm on Saturday, 3 Sep 2011, at Sutherland Entertainment Centre Eton Street, Sutherland. Conductor Sven Libaek will lead the orchestra for this special concert with award winning singing star soprano, Helen Zerefos OAM, in celebration of the wonderful contribution she has made in her 50 years as a professional singer and entertainer. Tickets: General \$25, Concession / Student \$20 / Child under 12 free. Book Online at: www.suthentcent.com.au or Phone Sutherland Entertainment Centre on 9521 8888.

Award winning soprano Helen Zerefos was born in Scone, NSW, Australia, her parents were both from Greece; mother Katina Andronicos Zerefos from Avlemonas, Kythera and father Paul Zerefos from Neapolis Vion, Laconia.

- Helen has appeared in over 600 television shows
- Compered her own television show
- Performed in a Royal Gala Concert for Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip in 1986
- Helen starred in many theatrical productions
- Performed in thousands of cabaret shows and concerts
- Recorded a number of CDs
- Was awarded an OAM (Medal in the Order of Australia)

As many residents of the Shire know, even though Helen had an illustrious singing career happening, she was often found working in the family shop, "Paul's Famous Hamburgers of Sylvania".

Represented Australia in 2000 in the concert that opened the Shanghai, China, Grand Opera House. Ran in

the Athens 2004 Olympic Torch Relay in Sydney. In 2006, the Sutherland Shire celebrated its centenary. To mark the occasion, one of the events planned showcased one hundred people "who had made an important contribution to the Shire over the one hundred years and who had a significant impact on the lives of others." Helen, a resident since 1956, was among the chosen one hundred. In 2007 won the Australian Entertainment "MO" Award for best Classical / Opera Performer.

In 2009 won another Australian Entertainment "MO" Award - The John Campbell Fellowship Award November 2009, Helen performed in Los Angeles, USA, a recital attended by the Australian Consul General, His Excellency Chris De Cure and the Deputy Consul General, Mr Graeme Fay. She also gave a very successful concert in Chapala, Mexico, hailed there as "the event of the year," supporting a wonderful school called Jaltepec.

Constantly performs in concerts throughout Australia Helen supports many causes and is Patron of Professor Tony Broe's Ageing Research Centre at NeuroScience Research Australia in Randwick (Sydney) where research into Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease is conducted. Helen was primary carer for her mother, afflicted by Alzheimer's disease, for ten years, curtailing her own singing career during that time. With her dear friend Sandra Forster, Executive Officer of the Ageing Research Centre, phone (02) 9382 4259, has produced and organised many fundraising events and functions supporting this research. This year Helen celebrates 50 years as a profes-

sional singer and entertainer. She was particularly thrilled to be able to celebrate this occasion with her friends in the Sutherland Symphony Orchestra when renowned conductor Sven Libaek invited her to participate in a "Helen Zerefos Tribute" concert. When Helen began her career in the TV series "Revue 61" & "Revue 62" at Channel 7 Sydney in 1961, Sven Libaek himself, was working on the same show and was in the studio that day of her first show; as was Ted Hamilton, the singing star of "Revue 61," who will be present at the Tribute. Not only but also in the studio that day, 50 years ago and in the audience for the Tribute will be Claire Poole, who gave Helen her first job in show business which started her long career.

Claire was one of the stars of the "Revue" series and as one of the musical directors of the show, chose Helen to be in the "Revue 20" singing and dancing choir on the series. That happy association at Channel 7, plus later in series at Channel 10, "Barry Crocker's Say It With Music" and Channel 9, "The Sound of Music," lengthened into many years - of course, Helen's friendship with Claire continues today.

Performed in the concert will be the premiere of the song "AUSTRALIA," words and music written by Australian show business legend Ted Hamilton. Helen sings "Australia" with Ted. The last time they sang together was in 1967 when they starred in the stage production, "The Music Man." Internationally acclaimed singer songwriter, Ted's songs have been recorded by Glenn Campbell, Dean Martin, Barry Crocker and Tom Jones.

FRAUDSTERS EXPLOITED HOPES OF CRISIS-WEARY WOULD-BE MIGRANTS

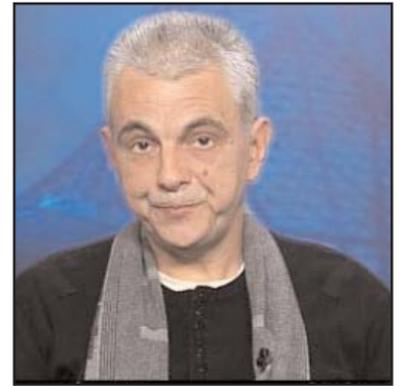
Scam targets Greeks eyeing Australia

A large number of crisis-weary Greeks eager to seek a more promising future in Australia have fallen victim to opportunists who allegedly set up a bogus office, promising residence and work permits but instead swindling thousands of euros from their unwitting customers, Kathimerini has learned.

The Australian police has launched an investigation into the alleged scam following a slew of complaints by Greeks and the intervention of representatives of the Greek community in Australia. "To begin with they ask for 300 euros, then they want another 4,000 euros," Costas Markos, the general secretary of the Greek Orthodox Community of Melbourne and Victoria, told Kathimerini.

According to Markos, the fraudsters gave an existing address for their bogus office in Melbourne, on a street close to the community's headquarters. A website was also set up, featuring photographs of beaches, skyscrapers and kangaroos under the banner "Australia awaits you - new opportunities, a new beginning."

One would-be immigrant, who narrowly escaped the clutches of the fraudsters, wrote in a letter to Markos, "it is a real shame that despondent people seeking to leave everything behind and seek a new life on the other side of the world are being exploited." The Greek man, who signed off only



Costas Markos, general secretary of the Greek Orthodox Community of Melbourne and Victoria

with his initials L.S., said he realized at the last minute that the enterprise was fraudulent and did not pay up.

Markos, the community leader in Melbourne, advised those interested in relocating to Australia to check the procedure - which remains rather complex and costs around 4,000 Australian dollars or 2,900 euros - on the website of Australia's Department of Immigration. There reportedly has been a surge in interest by Greeks interested in moving to Australia, particularly by professionals of all ages, prompting the Greek community to lodge a request with the Department of Immigration for a simplification of the procedure for Greek nationals. "Last week we were getting 20 calls a day from civil engineers, doctors and teachers," Markos said.

Foreign Minister Stavros Lambrinidis



Athens recognizes Libya's rebel-led council

Greece said on Tuesday it has recognized Libya's rebel-led National Transitional Council as the country's legitimate leadership.

Foreign Minister Stavros Lambrinidis said Libya can stand no more violence, and has called on the remnants of Moammar Gaddafi's regime to «realize they belong to the past.»

Lambrinidis said in a statement that the time has come for a na-

tional dialogue in the country.

Greece has had traditionally good relations with Libya and Gaddafi, with whom Prime Minister George Papandreou held talks on economic cooperation during a visit to Tripoli last summer. In March, Greece provided the southern island of Crete as an evacuation hub for thousands of foreign workers - mostly Chinese - ferried out of Libya by a relay of Greek ships.