

NEWSLETTER

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HELLENIC LINK-Midwest

(Formerly KRIKOS-Midwest)

A CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC
LINK WITH GREECE

Our New Name

Since its inception, our organization was known as KRIKOS (The Link) with chapters in New York, New Jersey, Chicago, Canada and Athens, Greece. As all our members know from previous communications, a small group of the organization from New York submitted a trademark application for the name and logo of KRIKOS and sued a number of us for using them. Through this process the court gave to them the name and logo of the organization. After this decision, the former KRIKOS central under the presidency of Dr. Constantine Efthimiou, and all the chapters, that is New York, New Jersey, Chicago, Canada and Athens, Greece, have decided to change the name of our organization into "Hellenic Link". Under this new name, that completely conveys the spirit of our previous name, we will continue our work with the same objectives as before. Please, ignore any solicitations related to our organization which do not come from the Hellenic Link.

Upcoming Events

Hellenic Link-Midwest Annual Dinner Dance

The Twelfth Annual Dinner Dance of Hellenic Link-Midwest will be held on **Saturday, May 2nd, 1998**, at the **Fountain Blue Restaurant, 2300 S. Mannheim Road, Des Plaines, Illinois**. The proceeds from the Annual Dinner Dance, the only fund raising event of Hellenic Link-Midwest, are used to support our scholarships, our cultural and educational programs, and all other activities of the organization. The generous support of our members and friends will be greatly appreciated. Our Dinner Dances are always distinguished for the excellent food, the unique kefi and the fine music. For tickets, \$50 for adults and \$15 for children, please call (847) 498-3686, (847) 967-7065, (312) 255-1824, or any of the Board Members.

Hellenic Link-Midwest Scholarship Awards

This year the Hellenic Link - Midwest scholarships will be awarded to the students: Dionysia Agalianos, DePaul Law School; Georgia Papavasiliou, Illinois Institute of Technology graduate School of Chemical Engineering; and Williams Spear, University of Miami, Florida, Medical School. The Hellenic Link scholarships are awarded to undergraduate or graduate students who have at least one parent of Greek decent and excel in their studies. The applications are judged by the scholarship

committee of the Hellenic Link - Midwest, and the primary selection criteria are scholastic performance and financial need. The scholarships are awarded during our annual dinner dance.

Hellenic Link-Midwest Humanitarian Award

At our Annual Dinner Dance, Hellenic Link-Midwest will present its second Humanitarian Award to Dr. Constantine Mavroudis, Dr. John Stinios and Dr. Charles Kanakis.

Dr. Constantine Mavroudis, Professor of Surgery and Division Head of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgery at Children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago, Illinois, and Dr. John Stinios, Director of Cardiovascular-Surgery at Aghia Sophia Children's Hospital in Athens Greece, are the founders of the Hellenic Heart Program. This is a not-for-profit program dedicated to improving the health and well-being of children from Greece who need specialized intervention for complex congenital heart disease. It is a cooperative effort involving Aghia Sophia Children's Hospital and Children's Memorial Hospital, the government of Greece, the Chicago Greek Orthodox Diocese, and the Philoptohos Society. The mission of the Hellenic Heart Program also includes the training and continuing education of surgical and medical staff in Athens, Greece.

To date, 25 Greek children have had successful open-heart surgery at Children's Memorial Hospital. On September 25, 1997, Children's Memorial Hospital inaugurated a telemedicine program with Aghia Sophia Hospital. Using sophisticated telephone and video conferencing technology, physicians in Chicago and Athens will be able to communicate medical information quickly, economically, and most important accurately.

Dr. Constantine Mavroudis, born in Thassos, Greece, is a division head and Willis J. Potts Professor of Surgery at the Children's Memorial Hospital. He also holds a position as Professor of Surgery at the Northwestern University Medical School. Dr. Mavroudis has served as the director of the Pediatric Cardiac Transplant Program since coming to Children's in 1989. He runs research labs performing both clinical and biomedical investigations, and has been involved in a number of significant studies, one of which is the evaluation of the use of nitric oxide in patients with pulmonary hypertension, making Children's one of the first centers to use nitric oxide for children.

Dr. Mavroudis' present research interest is in the modeling of an artificial lung for patients with lung disease. He has published over 130 articles, book chapters, instructional manuals, and

films. He is editor of Pediatric Cardiac Surgery, the major textbook in the field with worldwide circulation.

Dr. Stinios is the founder of the cardiovascular-thoracic surgery program at Aghia Sophia Children's Hospital. Under his direction, the program has expanded to include a dedicated pediatric cardiac intensive care unit, and now performs over 150 procedures each year. Aghia Sophia is the largest children's hospital in Greece and a national referral center for children throughout the region.

Dr. Charles Kanakis, Honorary Consul of Cyprus in Illinois, is the Medical Affairs Director of SAE (World Council of Hellenes Abroad). The medical program of SAE is 11 months old since Dr. Kanakis first went to Tbilisi to evaluate the medical needs of Georgia, a former Soviet Republic and an independent state after the collapse of the Soviet Union. He has been very active in raising money, medical supplies and equipment, and seeking the help and cooperation of individuals, non-governmental organizations (NGO's) and government agencies to provide medical aid to the people of Georgia, including the Greeks of Georgia. A 6,000 square foot building in central Tbilisi has been purchased and rehabilitated and serves as the Hellenic Medical Diagnostic Clinic, serving currently 80 patients daily. One container full of medical supplies from St. Francis Hospital in Milwaukee, Wisconsin has been shipped to Tbilisi, while in cooperation with UMCOR another shipment of pharmaceuticals, worth almost \$1,000,000, is under way. The program has made arrangements: for the Hellenic community of Ukraine to register with U.S. based NGO's; for a young Hellene to have a brain tumor removal at Lutheran General Hospital gratis; and with Sacred Order of Orthodox Hospitaliers to ship to Georgia one container of medical equipment. A worldwide telethon is being arranged for May 23-24, 1998, aiming to raise funds for the development of ten more clinics in Georgia, two medical centers in Ukraine, as well as clinics in Uzbekistan, Kazakstan and Azerbaijan.

Dr. Kanakis from 1974 to 1980 was assistant professor of medicine at Abraham Lincoln School of Medicine, Chicago, Illinois. Since 1980 he is clinical assistant professor of medicine at the same medical school.

A Love Affair: Modern Greek Music and Poetry

On Saturday May 17, 1998, KRIKOS Midwest, with the cosponsorship of HPSI, will present an evening of Modern Greek Music and Poetry with Gail Holst-Warhaft. The event will take place at the Hall of Saint Andrew's Greek Orthodox Church, at the corner of Sheridan Road and Hollywood in Chicago, at 7:30 P.M. Hors d'oeuvres and wine will link the Apollonian with the Dionysian spirit (donation \$10 per person).

The folk songs of many cultures are a marriage of folk poetry and music. What is unique in modern Greek culture, folk and non-folk, is the cross-fertilization of one tradition by another. The setting of high-brow poetry to low-brow urban folk music that took place in the 60's was one of the most exciting cultural

movements in Europe, and still seems to be unique in world music. Unlike the traditional marriage of folk song with folk poem, this movement was an illicit love affair. To hear Seferis sung by Bithikotsis, Elytis accompanied by bouzoukis, was a thrilling experience, all the more exciting because it was a combination that defied the rules.

Gail Holst-Warhaft travelled to Greece as a young girl and fell in love with the country at first sight. In the 70's, she was active in anti-junta organizations in Australia, wrote her first book, *Road to Rebetika*, played in Theodorakis's orchestra, and performed in Savopoulos's *Acharneis*. Her second book, on Theodorakis, was published in 1980. She has also written on Greek laments and has translated all of Nikos Kavadias's poems into English, as well as books by Alki Zei and Iakovos Kambanelis. Gail Holst-Warhaft is professor of modern Greek literature at Cornell University.

Hellenic Link International Conference

The Hellenic Link in cooperation with the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Stevens Institute of Technology, and the University of Patras organizes its Fourth International Conference on Protection and Restoration of the Environment. The Conference will be held on July 1-4, 1998 at Sani Beach Hotel, Halkidiki, Greece. Financial support is provided by the Technical Chamber of Greece (Section of Central Macedonia), U.S. Army Research, Development and Standardization Group-UK, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, and Stevens Institute of Technology.

Newsletter Questionnaire

With the last Newsletter we mailed to our members a questionnaire to help us to assess the value of the Newsletter to our members and receive feedback on how we can further improve it. We received forty five responses. On the question "Do you read the Newsletter (Most of it, Part of it, No)?" the response was: 93.3% Most of it, 7.0% Part of it, 0.0% No. On the question "If you read most of it, how do you rate it (Poor, Good, Very good)?" the response was: 0.0% Poor, 33.3% Good, 66.7% Very good. To questions on how we can further improve the Newsletter, and to the request for any related comments the percentage that responded was 53.3. We received a variety of responses that the space here does not allow us to present. The most common comment was "keep up the good work". Many respondents said that they like the information we provide on the upcoming events and the speakers, they enjoy the variety of the material presented beyond the upcoming events and the section "From the Riches of Our Cultural Heritage". Some respondents would like to see more in Greek, others would like to be able to have all the material in English, and one respondent would like to see the poetry in Greek and English, side by side. We would like to satisfy these requests, however, our resources do not allow us to have the Newsletter in both languages, and those of us who put the Newsletter together do not have the talent to

translate poetry from Greek to English. We greatly appreciate your feedback and will do our best to respond to it.

The Hellenic Community Of Georgia

Charles Kanakis, M.D

The presence of Hellenes in the region of the Black Sea dates back to the 10th Century B.C. with mass settlements of Greeks, mainly from Ionia, in the 8th century B.C. Those Hellenic Kingdoms and later communities that rimmed the Pontus (Black Sea) became known as the Pontians or Pontian Greeks. After Constantinople fell to the crusaders in 1204, the Pontian Greeks located along the southern coast of the Pontus (Northern Turkey today) formed the Empire of Trapezounta. These Pontians flourished in the Black Sea area for centuries. In 1461 A.D., eight years after the fall of Constantinople, the Ottomans conquered this area as well, and this initiated the migration of Greeks over the following centuries into many of the former Soviet Republics, including Georgia, although communities of Greeks existed along its Black Sea coastline from ancient times.

Between 1810-1873, the Russians allowed the Greeks surrounding Mariupol to form their own prefecture with a Hellenic court, and its own police department and administrative responsibilities. In fact, until 1859, settlements in Mariupol by non-Hellenes was prohibited.

Following the Greek War of Independence (1821-1829), the Greeks of Northern Turkey faced very harsh treatment and death if they tried to speak their own language, or practice their Orthodox Christian faith. Many of these Greeks emigrated across the mountains into Southern Georgia. Tsalka and its surrounding villages represent this migrant group. Many of these Greeks could only speak Turkish. It had been mandated by law by the Ottomans that only Turkish be spoken in their homeland in Northern Turkey. Many of the Greeks that we met on our mission to Georgia continued to speak Turkish, but have managed to maintain their Pontian Greek as well which, prior to their arrival in Georgia, was done at risk of death. These people upon their arrival in Georgia built Greek Orthodox churches that still stand, and maintained their Orthodox Christian faith. In Northern Turkey, the Greeks who remain speak Turkish and are outwardly Muslims, but many are so-called "Cypto Christians" in their homes.

The Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 posed still another threat to the Hellenic community's identity. Churches were desecrated and turned into barns and fertilizer depots. Icons were stripped from the halls except on the high domes of the village churches. The Bolsheviks followed a pro-Turkish stance. Lenin provided Kemal Attaturk with help to build his army and more Greeks

were driven out of Asia Minor. The Greeks of Russia had their goods confiscated, were classified as bourgeoisie, and many were sentenced to death or exiled to Siberia.

In 1928, the Greeks resisted collective farming and clung to their Hellenic identity rather than to a Soviet one. Many were exiled to Kazakstan. Many others were executed and labeled as "enemies of the people". Hellenic schools were banned in all of the Republics, including Georgia. Greek printing presses were destroyed and dumped into the sea. All efforts at cleansing the Soviet Republic of Hellenes were made. Between 1939 and 1941, many Hellenes who stubbornly continued to cling to their Hellenic identity were dispersed throughout Central Asia, but mainly into Siberian Kazakstan. Pontian Greeks who remained in Nazi-occupied areas joined the resistance. Despite their contribution to the resistance, their involvement was purposely hidden from public knowledge. Stalin labeled the Greeks as "aggressive peoples" who should be dispersed, or even be submitted to a worse treatment.

As a result of all continued efforts to rid the U.S.S.R. of the Hellenic presence many Hellenes died, some left, and today the Hellenic population of this area is a mere fraction of what it was or could have become. Today, some Hellenes of Georgia speak Pontian Greek, some speak only Turkish, while most speak Russian as well as Georgian. But despite centuries of oppression, they maintain a Hellenic identity and their Orthodox Christian faith. With the independence of Georgia and the fall of Communist rule, these people have again resurrected themselves. The churches have been cleaned and primitive icons or prints of icons have been reinstalled. People are trying to relearn how to practice their Orthodox faith. At villages Greek schools have been started and the bright smiles of the students, who are so proud to practice their newly-formed linguistic skills, were truly inspiring. These students, their teachers, and the whole Hellenic community are "heroes of Hellenism".

Although these heroes of Hellenism and Orthodoxy are helping themselves, they truly need additional help. Their medical needs are urgent. They have many highly-trained professionals, including physicians, nurses, professors, etc., but their hands are tied because of lack of medicines, of diagnostic equipment, instruments, and appropriate facilities. All medical care has to be covered by expenditure of personal funds, and such funds simply do not exist. Professionals who once earned \$1,200 per month are presently earning \$40-50 per month. Thus, although they are employed, their earning power is such that they are "effectively unemployed". Pensions have been reduced to \$6 per month. This "effective unemployment" is estimated to affect approximately 80% of the population.

The Georgian Hellenic community has appealed to humanitarian organizations (Greek Red Cross, Hellenic organizations, World Doctors, etc.) and have obtained some medications and assistance. Their needs, however, are far greater than the support they have received, and they are appealing to the World Council of Hellenes Abroad (SAE) for help.

From The Riches Of Our Cultural Heritage

Nikos Gatsos

Nikos Gatsos is the author of only one volume of verse, Amorgos, but it has had a disproportionate influence among the writers of his generation. In Amorgos, surrealism, the rhythms of the Bible, and the traditions of Greek folk ballads were combined in a strange, arresting, and elegiac manner. Profoundly influenced by the Ionian philosopher Heracleitos, Gatsos believes that the essence of life and art is to be found in nothing static, but in eternal flux. His verse is characterized by an ever-present tension between the violent and the lyrical, the harsh and the tender, the crude and the beautiful.

From Amorgos

How much I loved you only I know
 I who once lightly touched you with the eyes of Pleiades
 And embraced you with the mane of the moon and danced with
 you on the summery plains
 On the hewn stubble and ate cut clover together
 O Dark Enormous Sea, the multitudinous pebbles about your
 throat, the multi-colored shingle in your hair
 A vessel sails into the bay, a rusty millstone groaning
 A tuft of blue smoke within the rose of the horizon
 Exactly like the wing of the crane throbbing;
 Armies of the swallows await the brave men to offer them
 welcome
 Arms rise naked with anchors engraved near the armpits
 The cries of children entwine with the birdsongs of the West
 Wind
 Honeybees buzz in and out of a cow's nostrils
 The kerchiefs of Kalamata are waving
 And a distant bell dabbles the sky with bluing
 Like the sound of a small gong traveling amid the constellations
 So many centuries fled.
 From the souls of Goths and the domes of Baltimore
 And from the lost St. Sophia, the renowned cathedral.
 Year after year have I struggled with hammer and ink, O my
 tormented heart
 With gold and fire to stitch you an embroidery
 The Hyacinth of an orange tree
 A blossoming quince to console you
 I who once lightly touched you with the eyes of the Pleiades
 And embraced you with the mane of the moon and danced with
 you on the summery plains
 On the hewn stubble and ate cut clover together
 O Dark Enormous Solitude, the multitudinous pebbles about
 your throat, the multi-colored jewels in your hair.

Death and the Knight

As I behold you motionless
 journeying through the ages with the steed of Akritas and
 the lance of Saint George,
 I could place near you,
 with these dark forms that will assist you always,
 until one day you too will vanish with them forever,

until you become a fire again in the great womb of Fate
 that gave you birth,
 I could place near you
 a bitter orange-tree in the snow-covered meadows of the
 moon,
 could unfold before you the veil of some evening,
 with the red star of Scorpio singing of youth
 with the River of Heaven spilling into August
 with the North Star weeping and freezing,
 I could place pastures,
 streams that once watered the lilies of Germany,
 and this armor that you wear, I could adorn it
 with a basil-shoot and spray of mint
 with the weapons of Plapoutas and Nikitaras' trophies.
 But I who saw your descendants like birds
 tear the sky of my country one spring dawn,
 saw the cypresses of Morea hush
 there on the plain of Nauplia,
 before the ready embrace of the wounded sea,
 where the centuries have fought with the crosses of
 courage,
 I will now place near you
 the embittered eyes of a child.
 the closed eyelids
 in the mud and blood of Holland.

This black land
 will grow green some day
 The iron hand of Goetz will overturn the carts.
 will load them with sheaves of barley and rye,
 and in the dark forests with their dead loves,
 there where time turned a virgin leaf of stone,
 on breasts where a tearful rose trembled lightly,
 a silent star will shine like a spring daisy.

But you will stay motionless;
 with the steed of Akritas and the lance of St. George
 you will journey through the ages,
 with these dark forms that will assist you always,
 until one day you too will vanish with them forever,
 until you become a fire again in the great womb of Fate
 that gave you birth,
 until again in the river caves resound
 heavy hammers of patience
 not for rings and swords
 but for pruning-knives and ploughs.