



Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce

2004

A Memo from the President

Dear Members
of the Chamber,

I welcome everyone back from summer vacations. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members and friends of the Chamber for their kind support. Thanks to all of you, this year 2003/2004 was one of the most successful years in our Chamber's history and I am proud and honored to serve as President of our revered organization.

Financially, we are stronger than ever. Our roster of members has grown tremendously. We have successfully hosted several important and noteworthy events. Starting with our Annual Dinner Dance, where our honoree was the Mayor of Athens, Ms Dora Bakoyianni, we were able to contribute to our charities and increase our budget to an unprecedented sum.

Our events agenda was pretty full this year, starting with the Greek food and wine tasting at the India Club, followed by our Christmas Party and the traditional annual cutting of the Vassilopita.

In February we hosted a Reception and Dinner at the Harvard Club for the Sponsors and Speakers of the shipping Conference that took place at the New York Helmsley Hotel. We were very privileged and happy that both events attracted worldwide guests and speakers.

In March, we celebrated the Greek Independence Day.



To commemorate this occasion we invited Professor Andre Gerolymatos as our main speaker. In April, together with the Hellenic American Women's Council, we hosted a Wealth Planning seminar at the Saint Regis Hotel.

In May, we were the hosts of a Real Estate Event that took place at the Harvard Club presented by Charles A. Gargano, Chairman of Empire State Development. We concluded our year's events with our Annual Membership Dinner-Elections evening at the India club.

Coming up in October, our 56th Annual Dinner Dance will be held at the Metropolitan Club and we will honor Mr. Peter C. Georgiopoulos, Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President of General Maritime Corporation.

In November, we plan a Real Estate Conference and in December we will celebrate the season with our festive Christmas Party.

The Shipping Conference is going to be hosted in February in cooperation with the Norwegian-American Chamber of Commerce. Other significant events of which we will be the proud hosts are: the celebration of the Greek Independence Day in March,

Peter C. Georgiopoulos Named Hellenic- American Man of the Year

Peter C. Georgiopoulos, Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President of General Maritime Corporation, has been named Hellenic-American Man of the Year.

Mr. Georgiopoulos will be honored at the 56th Annual Dinner Dance of the Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce to be held at the Metropolitan Club on October 22.

Peter Georgiopoulos is the founder of General Maritime Corporation and has served as Chairman, CEO and director since the firm's inception in 1997.

From 1991 to 1997, Mr. Georgiopoulos was the principal of Maritime Equity Management, a ship-owning and investment company that he founded in 1991. From 1990 to 1991, he was affiliated with Mallory Jones Lynch & Associates, an oil tanker brokerage firm.



Mr. Georgiopoulos previously was an investment banker at Drexel Burnham Lambert. Prior to entering the investment banking business, Mr. Georgiopoulos had extensive experience in the sale, purchase and chartering of vessels while working for shipowners in New York and Piraeus.

Mr. Georgiopoulos is a member of the American Bureau of Shipping, and holds an MBA from Dartmouth College.

General Maritime Corporation owns and operates a fleet of 51 tankers — 26 Aframax, 21 Suezmax and four newbuilding Suezmax contracts — making it the second largest mid-sized tanker company in the world, with a carrying capacity of approximately 6.2 million dwt.

a Real Estate event in May and our Annual membership meeting.

In conclusion, I would like to express to all of you my sincerest gratitude, primarily to our Board and Committee members for their invaluable time and efforts as well as to our Executive Secretary, Mr.

Stamati Gikas for his dedication and hard work.

I am looking forward to seeing you all being an integral part of all our events

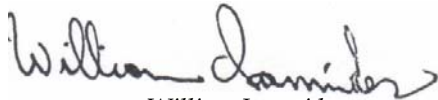
Bobby Mitropoulos
President

Greetings from the Chairman

As the articles and photographs in this newsletter indicate, the Chamber continues to prosper and showcase the talents and successes of our diverse Hellenic American community. From last Fall's spectacular Dinner Dance, honoring one of Greece's leading politicians, Dora Bakoyianni, to this year's fascinating shipping conference focused on China, and the real estate lecture from one of New York State's leading cheerleaders, Ambassador Charles Gargano, the Chamber's events have been outstanding and well-attended. The support and participation of dozens of businesses and individuals helps keep the Chamber's events constantly fresh and exciting.

As we move forward to another season of action-packed events, I would like to emphasize the importance of the continued involvement and support of each and every member. Every person who joins the Chamber has a valuable contribution to make to the community. The Chamber welcomes all those who want to act in the spirit of cooperation and unity which we have built over many years, and we hope and expect that spirit to carry our community to greater and greater heights.

The hard work and dedication of our executive committee, the board of directors and our executive secretary, Stamatis Gikas, have borne great success these last few years. It is up to all the members to help sustain those efforts in the future and I encourage all the members to take whatever active role their schedules and desires permit.



William Ioannides
Chairman



Pictured, from left: Stamatis Gikas, HACC; Consul General of Greece Dimitris Platis; HACC President Bobby Mitropoulos; HACC Chairman William Ioannides

Chamber Funds Refurbishing of Consulate General Premises Facade

Consul General of Greece, Hon. Dimitris Platis, welcomed HACC members to a reception at the consulate in recognition of the Chamber's providing the funds for refurbishing the building's facade.

Consul General Platis thanked the Chamber for

its special efforts, and marked the occasion with the placement of an elegant plaque.

During the same reception, HACC president Bobby Mitropoulos warmly welcomed new members to the Chamber. (See picture on page 8.)



From left: HACC president Bobby Mitropoulos, Stamatis Gikas, Consul General Dimitris Platis, HACC chairman William Ioannides.

Hon. Dimitris Platis Departs New York

In late January, The Hellenic-American Chamber hosted a luncheon at Oceana Restaurant in honor of departing Consul General Dimitris Platis.

Consul General Platis has been a strong sup-

porter of the Chamber, and an active participant in many Chamber events.

Mr. Platis takes with him the thanks of the board and membership, and hearty good wishes on his next assignment.

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EDITORIAL BOARD

William Ioannides, Chairman • Bobby Mitropoulos, President
Andre Gregory • John Stratakis • Stamatis Gikas

Issues in New York York Real Estate



MR. CHARLES GARGANO, Chairman - Empire State Development Corp., (seated in front, with papers) addressed a capacity HACCC audience at The Harvard Club. Twelve corporate members helped sponsor the event.



The Real Estate Committee of the Hellenic American Chamber presented Charles A. Gargano, Chairman, Empire State Development Corporation, at the Harvard Club on May 11th, 2004.

Mr. Gargano provided a stimulating and well informed presentation on Contemporary Issues in New York Real Estate Development, highlighting major incentives and growth areas such as the expansion of the Jacob Javits Convention Center, the new West Side Stadium, waterfront redevelopment, Downtown Transportation Hub and incentives for the outer Boroughs.

Charles Gargano was appointed by Governor George E. Pataki to his position. As Chairman

and Commissioner of Empire State Development, New York State's primary economic development entity, Chairman Gargano advises the Governor on economic policy and implements key initiatives and programs to further strengthen the State's economic competitiveness in attracting business and new jobs to the State.

This event continues the Real Estate Committee's efforts in organizing receptions and conferences featuring major addresses from some of the most prominent members of the New York real estate community to the Chambers members and friends.

The event was very well received and underwritten by 12 sponsor members of the Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce.

2003 Annual Dinner Dance



HON. DORA BAKOYIANNI and HACCC founding member and first president Peter Kourides, pictured at the 2003 Annual Dinner Dance with (from left) Bobby Mitropoulos, Emmanuel Caravanos, John Stratakis, Michael Theodorbeakos, Andre Gregory, William Ioannides, Stamatias Gikas



AT THE METROPOLITAN CLUB OF NEW YORK, the 2003 Hellenic-American Chamber's annual dinner dance was the most successful ever, with over 350 guests in attendance to greet Mayor Bakoyianni.

At the Annual Dinner Dance of the Chamber at the Metropolitan Club on October 17, we had the privilege of honoring the the Mayor of Athens, Hon. Dora Bakoyianni, as our 2003 Person of the Year.

Mayor Bakoyianni has the distinction of being the first woman ever to serve as mayor of this ancient and historic city.

Furthermore, Ms. Bakoyianni will welcome and host the world's greatest athletes as they converge on Athens for the 2004 Olympic Summer Games.

This gala event proved to be the most successful one ever in the history of the Chamber. With over 350 guests in atten-

dance the Chamber has again shown itself to be a dynamic organization, one that keeps growing year after year.

The Chamber allocated a portion of the net proceeds from this event to aid local New York Greek-American parochial schools as well as some deserving institutions of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, such as St. Michael's Home and St. Basil's Academy.

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming Dinner Dance on October 22nd at which time we shall have the privilege of honoring Mr. Peter C. Georgiopoulos as our 2004 Person of the Year.

Hellenic-American Conferences, Trade and Cultural Events

Our calendar of events is viewed as an important benefit of Chamber membership. The president, executive committee and a number of special committees of the board strive always to arrange events of direct value and interest to members.

We schedule a broad range of business, trade and social activities, as well as cultural events specific to the Greek calendar. Recent events have included the following:

Welcoming Reception to New Members

September 17 A reception was held at the Consulate General of Greece to welcome new members to the Hellenic-American Chamber. HACC president Bobby Mitropoulos and the board of directors expressed their satisfaction in the continued expansion of our membership rolls, and the diversification of businesses represented in our membership.

2003 Annual Dinner Dance Honoring Dora Bakoyianni

October 17 Three hundred fifty members and their guests attended the annual dinner dance at Metropolitan Club in honor of Hon. Dora Bakoyianni, Mayor of the City of Athens.

Greek Foods and Wine Tasting

November 17 The always-popular Foods and Wine Tasting was held at India Club in cooperation with the Cyprus-US Chamber of Commerce and the Greek and Cyprus Trade Offices.

Executive Board Meets with Greek-EU Representative

November 21 On a formal visit to New York, Hon. Anna Diamandopoulou met with the Executive Board of the Chamber.

The Annual Christmas Party

December 9 Guests at this year's Christmas Party -- held onboard World Yacht -- enjoyed the traditional Greek-American festivities while savoring the spectacular views of Manhattan decked out in holiday glitter.

Cutting of the Vassilopita

January 26 We gathered to celebrate the cutting of the traditional Vassilopita with a reception at Avra Estiatorio.

Reception and Dinner for Speakers and Sponsors of the Annual Shipping Conference

February 9 on the eve of the shipping conference, The Hellenic-American Chamber hosted a reception and dinner for speakers and sponsors at the Harvard Club.

Tenth Annual Shipping Conference

February 19 This highly regarded event continues to gain in importance within the international maritime community. The conference once more drew top level international speakers, earned excellent reviews in the industry, and the strong support of our sponsors.



GREEK FOODS AND WINE TASTING AT INDIA CLUB. Pictured from left: Michael Theodorobeakos • Antonios Hatzipoulos, President of ETKO • Consul Spyros Ambatzopoulos, Greek Trade Office • William Ioannides • Stamatias Gikas • Bobby Mitropoulos • Andreas Komodromos, President~Cyprus-USA Chamber of Commerce • Dennis Droushiotis, Cyprus Trade Office



HON. ANNA DIAMANDOPOLOU, a representative of Greece to the European Union visiting New York, met with the Executive Board of the Chamber.



THE ANNUAL CUTTING OF THE NEW YEAR'S VASILOPITA From left: George Kapetanakos, William Ioannides, Stamatias Gikas, Bobby Mitropoulos

Hellenic-American Conferences, Trade and Cultural Events



AT HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL, John Stratakis (left) greets Professor Andre Gerolymatos, who spoke to members on: *The Greek War of Independence in the context of world politics.*



ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTIONS AND DINNER Members pictured from left: Alexander Xenopoulos ~ PAX Associates, Paul Stathouloupoulos ~ Marathon Bank of New York, Constantine Ioannou ~ Constantine D&B, Ltd.



SEMINAR ON THE SUBJECT OF WEALTH PLANNING at the St. Regis Hotel was hosted by the Hellenic-American Chamber in cooperation with The Hellenic American Women's Council.



SPRING COCKTAIL RECEPTION AT AVRA RESTAURANT: Members gathered at this delightful location to catch up on the latest business news. Pictured from left: Stamatis Gikas, William Ioannides, Bobby Mitropoulos, Ed & Mrs. Hunter, Emmanuel Caravanos, Dr. James Doundoulakis, Constantine Ioannou, Andre Gregory, LeRoy Lambert, Dimitris Katsaras, Pandelis Gasparakis

Scholarly Discussion at Holy Trinity Cathedral

March 31 Professor Andre Gerolymatos spoke on "the Greek War of Independence in the Context of World Politics," at the Holy Trinity Cathedral.

Wealth Planning

April 27 Wealth Planning was the topic of a seminar held at St. Regis Hotel with the Hellenic American Women's Council.

Springtime Reception

May 3 Board and members met for a springtime cocktail reception at Avra Restaurant.

Contemporary Issues in New York Real Estate

May 11 At the Harvard Club of New York, the Real Estate Committee was proud to present Mr. Charles A. Gargano, Chairman of the Empire State Development Corporation, who briefed members on current conditions and projections in the real estate markets.

Annual Meeting and Elections to the Board of Directors

May 25 At the 2004 Annual Meeting of the Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce, Bobby Mitropoulos was elected for a second term as president. The Executive Board now comprises:

- WILLIAM IOANNIDES, Chairman
- BOBBY MITROPOULOS, President
- ANDRE GREGORY, Executive Vice President
- MICHAEL THEODOROBEAKOS, Vice President
- JOHN STRATAKIS, Treasurer
- LEROY LAMBERT, Secretary

Elected to serve as directors for three years:

- DIMITRIS DELLIS, Burger Heaven Restaurants
- DIMITRIS CONTOS
- GEORGE CONSTANTIN KATINGO KONTOUDIS
- ROBERT SHAW, Navios Corp.
- JOHN STRATAKIS, Poles, Tublin, Stratakis, Gonzalez & Weichert
- ANDRE GREGORY, Sete - John S. Latsis (USA) Inc.
- DERICK BETTS, Jr., Seward & Kissel LLP
- GEORGE KAPETANAKOS, Southern Star Shipping Co., Inc.

Tenth Annual Hellenic/Norwegian Shipping Conference

Powering the Markets: The Chinese Colossus

Dagfinn Lunde and Robert Shaw Lauded for Vision and Initiative

On the eve of the tenth annual Hellenic/Norwegian-American shipping conference, the Hellenic-American Chamber hosted a reception and dinner for speakers and sponsors at the Harvard Club.

A highlight of the evening was the expression of acclaim for Robert Shaw and Dagfinn Lunde, who were recognized for taking the initiative and setting the groundwork for this highly successful joint effort a decade ago.

Conference Co-chaired by John Stratakis and Blaine Collins

The 2004 conference, co-chaired by HACC Director John Stratakis and NACC Director Blaine Collins, built solidly upon the reputation for excellence established by the two Chambers over the past ten years.

Distinguished speakers from Europe, Asia and America provided delegates with expert insights and opinions on doing business with the rapidly expanding China market.

Conference delegates, by means of many astute and thought-provoking presentations, examined the salient issues in establishing and maintaining business relations with the vast Chinese marketplace.

Of unique value to the delegates was the fact that presentations were based on speakers' personal experiences, all being either executives of Chinese organizations, or leaders of international firms doing business in that market.



From left: Dagfinn Lunde and Robert Shaw, recognized for their vision in establishing the joint conference ten years ago; Blaine Collins and John Stratakis, co-chairmen of the 2004 conference.



Speakers and participants enjoy time for networking during the post-conference reception sponsored by Healy & Baillie LLP and Jacq. Pierot, Jr., & Sons, Inc.



AT THE HARVARD CLUB, from left: H.E. Adamantios Vassilakis, Ambassador of Greece to the United Nations, Calypso Nomikos—Director, AM Nomikos Transworld Agencies, Athens, Nicos Katsoulis, Bobby Mitropoulos.

In this full day conference, presentations and discussions were arranged under three main themes:

Trade • Transportation • Shipbuilding. Specific topics and speakers included:

China: Threat or Opportunity?

- Yuelin T. Yang, IMC Pan Asia Alliance, Singapore

The Chinese Factor in Trade and Transportation

- Jeffrey Goetz, Poten & Partners
- Paul Campbell, COSCO
- Bjørn Dingsør, Morgan Stanley
- Mathew Halsall, Louis Dreyfus Corp.

The Impact of China on Dry Bulk Markets

- Anthony R. Whitworth, Navios Corporation
- Robert Shaw, Navios Corp.
- Calypso Nomikos, AM Nomikos Transworld Agencies, Piraeus
- Gary Vogel, VOC Shipholdings

Shipbuilding in China

- Andy Westwood, DNV China
- Magnus Granrud, O.J. Libæk & Partners AS, Oslo
- Graham Westgarth, Teekay Marine Services, Ltd.
- Chris Williams, Graig China Ltd.

China Business: Developments in Banking and Finance

- Matt McCleery, Marine Money International
- Peter D. Yip, HSBC Shanghai
- Dagfinn Lunde, DVB Bank
- Paul Kontoyannis, Investments & Finance Ltd.

U.S. -- China Maritime and Tax Treaties

- J. Michael Cavanaugh, Holland & Knight LLP
- Derick Betts, Seward & Kissel LLP

Differences in U.S. and Chinese Laws

- John Stratakis - Poles, Tublin, Stratakis, Gonzalez & Weichert
- Genrong Yu, SLOMA, Shanghai
- Nigel J. Binnorsley, Healy & Baillie Hong Kong
- Larry Rutkowski, Seward & Kissel LLP

Keynote Address

- Dr. Edward Yardeni, Chief Investment Strategist, Prudential Equity Group.

Member News

The American Bureau of Shipping (ABS) announced recently that it will be classing the U.S. Navy's new breed of warship, the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS), by applying technical Rules and standards established in its newly developed Naval Vessel Rules. ABS is a leading international classification society devoted to promoting the security of life, property and the marine environment through the development and verification of standards for the design, construction and operational maintenance of marine-related facilities.

Avra Estiatorio The East Side Greek restaurant received outstanding rankings from the Zagat Restaurant Survey 2004, for its "exceptional" fish" ranking it as "one of the best in Manhattan."

Burger Heaven Zagat's Restaurant Survey 2004 says "the fastest decent hamburgers" come off the grill of these "great-value" Midtown "lunch-time staples." Kudos to this fast-expanding operation.

Marathon Bank of New York, a subsidiary of the Greek company Piraeus Bank S.A., completed its merger with Interbank of New York in January. Through the transaction, Marathon acquired five of Interbank's branches in New York City, including its flagship on Park Avenue. The combined bank, which will operate under the name of Marathon National Bank of New York, will have total assets in excess of \$600 million, approximately 130 employees, and 11 full service banking offices in Queens, Manhattan, and Brooklyn.

MKG Construction & Consulting The New York based construction management firm has opened an office on Long Island, at 313 West Old Country Road in Hicksville. The company will keep its Manhattan office on West 19th Street.

Peter Peterson The Chairman of The Blackstone Group and former Secretary of Commerce has an important new

book out titled *Running on Empty*, about the dangers that government deficits and out-of-control federal spending pose to the United States economy.

Sweetheart Cup Company

The leading manufacturer of disposable and beverage-related products completed its merger with the Solo Cup Company in an all-cash transaction. The combined company, which will keep the Solo Cup name, will be based in Highland Park, Illinois.

New Member Profiles

Eisner LLP - accountants and advisors - is focused on growing companies. Their mission is to help their clients navigate successfully through the opportunities and challenges they face as they seek to compete more effectively, to enhance products and services, to improve systems and procedures and — most important — to achieve significant and sustained growth.

Euclid Financial Group is a private investment company headquartered in Washington, D.C. Founded in 2002, the firm is building a diverse client base, including high net-worth individuals, family offices, financial institutions, insurance companies, pension funds, public funds, trusts and endowments, both in the United States and abroad.

Europa and Pax Wholesome Foods

Father and son team Peter and Alexander Xenopoulos continue to expand their retail chain of food establishments in Manhattan. The latest addition to the Europa group is 787 7th Avenue. The Pax group is adding a new location at 90 Broad Street. Both Europa and Pax groups attract a similar audience: business people and tourists seeking a respite from the city's chaos. In addition, websites www.europatogo.com and www.paxfoods.com enable customers to place food orders on the Internet.

NEW MEMBERS

The following firms and individuals have joined the Hellenic-American Chamber. Welcome to all!

~ CORPORATE MEMBERS ~

AMERICAN BUREAU OF SHIPPING, Houston, TX
Stewart Wade

AMERICUS, INC., New York, NY
Konstantine Drougos

EISNER LLP, New York, NY
Nicholas Tsafos

EUCLID FINANCIAL GROUP, Washington, D.C.
Andreas Pericli

MARINAKIS CHARTERING, INC., New York, NY
Markos Marinakis

PAX ASSOCIATES, New York City
Alexander P. Xenopoulos

SEA BUNKERS INC., Ft. Lee, NJ
Voula Tsevdos

STANDARD & POORS, Florham Park, NJ
Kleon Phili

~ INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS ~

MERCANTONIO ANTAMORO, Merrill Lynch

MICHAEL ATHANASON, Ernst & Young LLP

STEPHEN CHEPERLIS

WENDY COUMANTAROS

ANASTASIA ELEFThERIADES, Artistic Icons

DINA HASSABI, JP Morgan Chase

DESPINA HATZELIS

NICHOLAS G. KARAMBELAS, Sfikas & Karambelas LLP

GEORGE T. KOTROGIANNIS, Equis Corporation

VASILEIOS C. MASCHAS, Apex Bulk Carriers LLC

ALKIVIADES MEIMARIS, TBS Shipping

ELENI MOUSTAKIS, Century 21 Best Inc.

LITSA PAGONAS

ANDREW PANDIS

ANTHONY CHRIS PAPAPOPOULOS, Esq.

PETER PAPPAS

JOHN H. PAPASTRAT, Attorney at Law

JOHN POLITIS, Generic Trading

MARY THEODOREU, Coldwell Banker Hunt Kennedy

THEODORE VASSILAKIS

CAPT ALEX VALASOPOULOS, Scandia Shipping Canada Inc.

VASILIKI WEIDEN



IN A RECEPTION AT THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF GREECE , on 17 September 2003, HACC President Bobby Mitropoulos (at the podium) welcomed new members of the Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce. (See the list of new members on page 7.)



**THE HELLENIC-AMERICAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

ATLANTIC BANK BUILDING
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*For information about membership
in the Chamber, our events, services and
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