



# Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce

AUTUMN 2006



Andre Gregory (l) and Bobby Mitropoulos (r) present the Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce Person of the Year Award 2005 to Costas Kondylis.

## Annual Dinner Dance Honors Costas Kondylis

The Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual Gala Dinner Dance on October 21 at the Metropolitan Club in New York City.

Over 350 people were on hand to honor Costas Kondylis, our 2005 Person of the Year. Mr. Kondylis' firm, Costas Kondylis and Associates, is one of New York's most respected and sought after architectural concerns and has made its distinctive mark on the skyline of Manhattan.

In the newly established tradition, Fox 5 and Lite FM personality Nick Gregory again honored us by serving as Master of Ceremonies.

The chairman of the Dinner Dance Committee, Michael Theodorobeakos, extended his welcome on behalf of the Board of Directors.

The President of the Chamber, Andre Gregory, outlined the numerous events and accomplishments that were achieved by the Chamber during the previous year. He remarked, "the Chamber continues to grow, both in membership and in the number of quality events, thereby offering our members more opportunities to participate." He added that the honor of being elected President held special significance for him, as his father, the late Rev. Basil S. Gregory, had also served as President and later as Chairman of the Chamber.

Chairman Bobby Mitropoulos acknowledged the major contributors and donors to the Gala and thanked them for their significant support and their participation. *Cont. on page 6*

## C. Dean Metropoulos Named HACC Person of the Year 2006

C. Dean Metropoulos is Chairman and CEO of C. Dean Metropoulos & Company ("CDM"), a boutique acquisition and management firm with offices in New York and Greenwich, Connecticut.

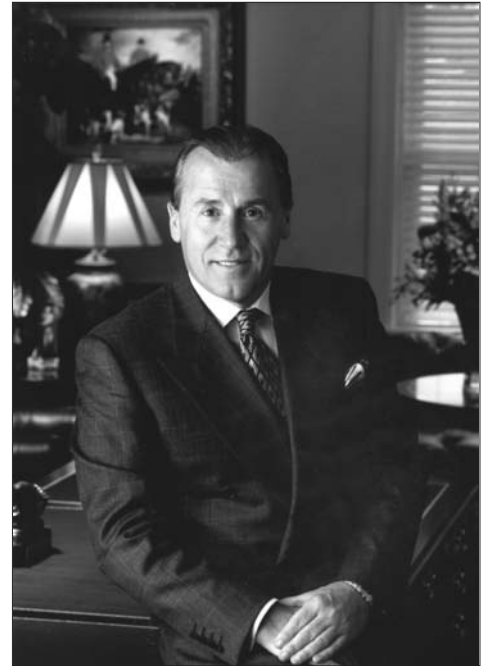
Mr.

Metropoulos has spent the past 20 years building, restructuring and growing

numerous businesses in the U.S. and Europe. Many of these were subsequently taken public or sold to strategic corporations. He is very well known in the private equity, investment banking, and financial community.

CDM has partnered with several high profile private equity firms including Hicks Muse, J.P. Morgan Partners and J. W. Childs. Some of the "buy-build" private equity transactions lead by CDM include:

- ◆ Stella Foods
- ◆ The Morningstar Group, Inc. (traded on the NASDAQ at the time)
- ◆ International Home Foods, Inc. (Chef



- Boyardee, Pam Cooking Spray, Gulden's Mustard & Bumble Bee Tuna) – traded on the NYSE at the time
- ◆ Ghirardelli Chocolate Co.
- ◆ Mumm and Perrier Jouet Champagnes (France)
- ◆ Hillsdown Holdings, PLC (Premier International Foods, Burtons Biscuits, & Christie Tyler – UK/Europe)
- ◆ Pinnacle Foods Group, Inc. (Swanson/Hungryman, Vlasic Pickles, & Open Pit Barbeque Sauce, Duncan Hines, Log Cabin Syrup, Mrs.

*continued on page 2*



## Greek Wine and Food Tasting

This year's Wine and Food tasting was held at Battery Gardens inside Battery Park on November 14th. Despite great views of New York Harbor, the Statue of Liberty, and the shimmering lights of New Jersey in the distance, the attendees focused their full attention on the outstanding food and wine inside the very graceful and airy room.

Once again, the event was well attended, with more than two hundred members and guests and twelve importers, restaurateurs and food vendors. The wine importers and producers that attended were Athenee Importers, Amerikus Importers, Fantis Imports, Nestor Imports, Stellar Importing Company, Sotiris Bafitis Selections, and Lolonis Winery. Great wines were

accompanied by excellent food from Avra, Thalassa, Zenon Taverna, Acropolis Bakery and Battery Gardens.

This year the selection of wines was much larger and the quality of wines much better, a sign of continued improvement in Greek and Cypriot wine making methods. The large selection of indigenous Greek and Cypriot grapes and blends is very distinguished and has been commented on by participants. The food was excellent and included both traditional and modern Greek preparations.

Everyone's reluctance to leave the event—until the food and the wine had run out—was a sign of the evening's success as was the increased awareness of a bigger selection of better Greek wines!

### PUBLICATION INFORMATION

Published by The Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce  
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MANAGING EDITOR  
Stamatis Gikas

### EDITORIAL BOARD

Bobby Mitropoulos, Chairman • Andre Gregory, President  
John Stratakis • George Constantin • Michael Theodorobeakos

## Clay Maitland Elected to HACC Board

Clay Maitland, a maritime lawyer since 1969, is a managing partner of International Registries, Inc. The company has a close relationship with the Greek shipping community, with an active office in Piraeus, as well as in New York City, and a dozen other cities around the world.

Clay is a member of the American Bureau of Shipping, the Merchant Marine Museum, the National Cargo Bureau, The Coast Guard Foundation, the National Maritime Historical Society, the New York State Maritime Academy Mu-



seum (Ft. Schuyler), and is a Trustee of the Seamen's Church Institute.

Clay was born in London, was educated in the USA, from grade school to Columbia University ('64) and New York Law School ('68).

### C. Dean Metropoulos ~ continued from page 1

Butterworth's Syrup, Aunt Jemima Frozen Breakfast, Mrs. Pauls Seafood, Van De Kamp's Seafood, Celeste Pizza, & Lender's Bagels)

C. Dean Metropoulos & Co. has been involved in more than 48 acquisitions involving over \$12 billion in invested capital over the past 20 years, and has earned some of the most attractive returns on Wall Street. Dean also sits on the board of a number of companies in both the United States and Europe.

Mr. Metropoulos is also a partner in Solar Shipping, a private international dry cargo shipping company. He also invests in high quality real estate properties and boutique luxury hotels.

Mr. Metropoulos holds a Bachelors and MBA from Babson College and worked toward his Ph.D. at Columbia University for two years. After Graduate School, Mr. Metropoulos joined GTE and lived and worked in Paris, Brussels and Geneva

for seven years. Returning to the U.S. as Senior Vice President at GTE International at the age of 30, he was the youngest corporate officer in GTE history.

Mr. Metropoulos has been featured in numerous national publications, including *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *The Dallas Morning News*, *Forbes*, *Fortune*, *Brand Week* and *Investor's Business Daily*.

Mr. Metropoulos and his wife Marianne who reside in Greenwich, CT are the parents of two sons, Evan, 25, who resides in Beverly Hills, CA, and Daren, 22, who lives in New York City.

The Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce is proud and pleased to nominate Mr. Metropoulos as our Man of the Year 2006. The award will be presented at our 58th Annual Dinner Dance at The Metropolitan Club on October 20, 2006.



# The Image of Shipping: Perception and Reality

## Twelfth Annual Hellenic-/Norwegian-American Joint Shipping Conference

Our 2006 shipping conference was held at the New York Helmsley on February 7. The conference, moderated by Bobby Mitropoulos ~ HACC and Larry Rutkowski ~ NACC, centered on image ... the all-important, yet difficult to define perception of our business performance.

We were privileged to present a panel of top-level speakers from international business and major maritime authorities. From their individual experiences, our speakers offered valuable insights and opinions on the influences, effects and consequences of image.

### Image/Reality of Shipping

- Hamish Norton, Bear Stearns & Co., Inc.
- Rear Admiral Thomas H. Gilmour, US Coast Guard
- Richard Udell, U.S. Department of Justice
- Paul Slater, Maritime Industry Foundation
- Miklos Konkoly-Thege, Det Norske Veritas
- Gail Yancosek, Gail Yancosek Consulting, Ltd.

### Jones Act Resurrection

- Stephen Van Dyck, Intertanko
- Morten Arntzen, OSG, Inc.

### The FFA Market

- Michael McClure, Navios Maritime Holdings Inc.
- Per Heilmann, Heidenreich Marine Inc.
- Greg Josephs, ACM-GFI-McQuilling

We are very grateful to our speakers, who volunteered their time and expertise as a service to our community.

We are grateful also to our sponsors for their financial support that allows us to offer this event at rates far below market norms.



Speakers and sponsors of the conference met, on the evening before the event, for a reception and dinner buffet at the residence of the Greek Consul General New York, Hon. Catherine Bouras.



Delegates listen intently as luncheon keynote speaker, Professor Scot Borgerson of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, presents his ideas and opinions on inter-ocean shipping.

### Our Sponsors

- Assurance Foreningen Skuld
- Atlantic Bank of New York
- Atlantic Container Line
- Bank of New York
- Compass Maritime Services
- Delta Navigation
- DnB NOR Bank ASA New York Branch
- Det Norske Veritas
- DVB Bank AG
- Eagle Ocean Transport Inc.
- Gard P&I
- General Maritime Corporation
- Healy & Baillie LLP
- Heidmar Inc.
- Holland & Knight LLP
- International Registries, Inc.
- John S. Latsis (USA) Inc.
- Navios Maritime Holdings
- Nordea
- Northern Navigation International / Navigation Finance Corporation
- Orion & Global Chartering Co., Inc.
- OSG Ship Management
- Jacq. Pierot Jr. & Sons, Inc.
- Poles, Tublin, Stratakis, Gonzalez & Weichert LLP
- Seward & Kissel LLP
- SigmaKalon USA LLC
- Southern Star Shipping Co.
- Wallenius Wilhelmsen Logistics
- Watson, Farley & Williams
- Charles R. Weber Company, Inc.

Healy & Baillie LLP and Jacq. Pierot Jr. & Sons, Inc. generously hosted a networking cocktail reception to conclude the day.

The annual Hellenic/Norwegian joint shipping conference has clearly affirmed its place as one of New York's most important maritime events.

## Hellenic-American Conferences, Trade and Cultural Events



AT HARVARD CLUB OF NEW YORK, from left: Hon. Martha Mavrommati, Consul General of Cyprus, HE Andreas Mavroyiannis, Ambassador of Cyprus to the U.N., Hon. Catherine Boura, Consul General of the Republic of Greece, HE George Iacovou, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus, Dennis Droushiotis, Trade Commissioner Of Cyprus, and Andre Gregory, President HACC.



DR. P. ROY VAGELOS, ret. Chairman & CEO of Merck & Co., addressed HACC, Hellenic American Bankers Association and the Hellenic Medical Society of New York on *The Changing Pharmaceutical Industry*.



ON BEHALF OF HACC, President Andre Gregory (center) expresses warm thanks and appreciation to Nicos Katsoulis (left) and Thomas O'Brien of Atlantic Bank for the bank's long standing support of the Greek American community.

*The following events, which took place over the past year, are typical of the activities arranged by the Chamber in response to the diverse interests of members.*

**September 19, 2005** ~ The Chamber arranged a reception honoring Dennis C. Droushiotis, Trade Commissioner, Cyprus Embassy Trade Center, at Harvard Club of New York.

**September 30, 2005** ~ A reception was held in honor of H.E. Dimitris Sioufas, Minister of Development of The Hellenic Republic, at Harvard Club of New York.

**October 21, 2005** ~ Close to 400 members and guests attended our 57th Annual Dinner-Dance. (See page 1.)

**October 28, 2005** ~ Dr. Christos Ioannides addressed an audience of 300 at Holy Trinity Cathedral Auditorium on *The Historical Meaning of the Epic of October 28, 1940-41*.

**November 14, 2005** ~ Wine and Foods Tasting event, in cooperation with Cyprus-US Chamber of Commerce and the Greek Trade Office in New York. (See page 2)

**December 15, 2005** ~ 110 members joined in the seasonal festivities of the annual Christmas party at Ithaka Restaurant.

**January 26, 2006** ~ Commemoration of Remembrance Day of the Holocaust of Greek Jewry. (See page 6.)

**February 6, 2006** ~ The Hellenic-American Chamber hosted a reception at the Consulate General of Greece for speakers and sponsors of the annual shipping conference.

**February 7, 2006** ~ The Twelfth Annual Shipping Conference. Report from the conference on page 3.

**March 7, 2006** ~ The Hellenic-American Chamber with the Hellenic American Bankers' Association and the Hellenic Medical Society of New York presented Dr. P. Roy Vagelos, Ret. Chairman & CEO, Merck & Co., who spoke on *The Changing Pharmaceutical Industry*, and discussed his book, Medicine, Science and Merck.

**March 23, 2005** ~ On the occasion of the Greek Independence Day, March 25, the Chamber in collaboration with The Alexander S. Onassis Public Foundation (USA), presented : *The Greek War of Independence* by Dr. Andre Gerolymatos, Professor of History and Chair of Hellenic Studies, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada and Dr. Fani-Maria Tsigakou, Curator of Paintings, Benaki Museum, Athens : "Philhellenic Images as Pictorial and Political Statements".

**April 26, 2006** ~ The Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce hosted a dinner in honor of Thomas O'Brien, President & CEO, and Nicos Katsoulis, Executive Vice President of Atlantic Bank of New York, in recognition of the dedicated, invaluable support given to the Greek American community over the past 80 years.



## Hellenic-American Conferences, Trade and Cultural Events

**May 11, 2006** ~ *Light, Liturgy and Icons at Sinai* ~ A lecture by Robert Nelson, Robert Lehman Professor of Byzantine Art at Yale University, was co-sponsored by the Hellenic Studies Program at Yale University, the Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce, Friends of St. Catherine, and the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. *Activities of the Hellenic Studies Program are funded by The Stavros S. Niarchos Foundation.*

**May 18, 2006** ~ The Real Estate Committee of The Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce presented Scott Rechler ~ President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman, Reckson Associates Realty Corp. (See p.6)

**May 25, 2006** ~ Annual Meeting and Elections to the Board of Directors of the Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce, at Thalassa Restaurant.

**June 20, 2006** ~ At The Atrium Café, Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation, New York City, The Hellenic-American Chamber and The Hellenic Lawyers Association invited members to a conversation and cocktails with Peter Canellos, Esq., Head of the Tax Department at Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz. Mr. Canellos shared his experiences as a Greek-American professional and gave an overview of recent developments in the tax field.

*We look forward to seeing members at future Chamber events. Please visit our web-site for dates: [www.hellenicamerican.cc](http://www.hellenicamerican.cc)*



*H.,E. DIMITRIS SIOUFAS, Minister of Development of The Hellenic Republic, addresses Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce members during a reception held in his honor at Harvard Club.*



*ENJOYING THE CHRISTMAS PARTY AT ITHAKA RESTAURANT : from left, Stamatis Gikas, Andre Gregory, Michael Theodorobeakos, Bobby Mitropoulos, Robert Shaw.*



*AT THE ATRIUM CAFÉ, ALEXANDER S. ONASSIS PUBLIC BENEFIT FOUNDATION, from left, Antonios Backos, Michael Xylas, Peter Canellos, The Hon. Judge Nicholas Tsoukalas, John Stratakis, and Maria Hartofilis.*



HACC President Andre Gregory addresses an audience of over 300 in the presence of Mrs. Rosina Asser-Pardo from Thessaloniki, who was a "hidden child" and who survived the Holocaust, and her childhood friend, Dr. Laura Molho Sard.

## Holocaust Remembrance Day

Under the auspices of the Consulate General of Greece in New York, HACC, the American Friends of the Jewish Museum of Greece, the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation and American Sephardi Federation, a ceremony was organized at the Center for Jewish History in Manhattan on January 26.

The event featured an exhibit "Hidden Children in Occupied Greece" from the Jewish Museum of Greece, and medal presentations by the Raoul Wallenberg Foundation.

Andre Gregory remarked that the original mission of the Chamber was to promote and strengthen economic and business ties between the US and Greece. "But these days, we try to broaden our scope by providing a network for our members to meet, exchange ideas and offer a perspective on

cultural and historical issues, as well.

Highlights were the moving testimonies of Mrs. Rosina Asser-Pardo from Thessaloniki, who was a "hidden child" and who survived the Holocaust, and her childhood friend, Dr. Laura Molho Sard.

Dr. Mimis Cohen, co-founder and board member of American Friends of the Jewish Museum of Greece, made a presentation on the figures of Archbishop Damaskinos of Athens who issued multiple petitions to the Germans to stop the deportation of the Greek Jews, Angelos Evert, Chief of Athens Police, Bishop Chrysostomos and Mayor Lukas Karrer of Zakynthos who refused to provide the Germans with a list of the island's Jewish inhabitants.

This was the second HACC co-sponsored Holocaust Remembrance Day in New York.

## 57th Annual Dinner Dance *continued from page 1*

Our honoree, Costas Kondylis, was called to the podium where Bobby Mitropoulos and Andre Gregory presented him with the Person of the Year award. Amid enthusiastic applause and the

warm congratulations of all in attendance, Mr. Kondylis expressed his appreciation for the honor of this prestigious award, and thanked everyone on hand for their good wishes.

## Scott Rechler Presents a Personal Vision of the New York Real Estate Market



HACC presents a token of gratitude and expressions of appreciation to our featured speaker. Pictured, from left, Andre Gregory, Scott Rechler, George Constantin and John Stratakis

At The Century Association on May 18, 2006, The Real Estate Committee of the Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce hosted Scott Rechler, President and CEO of Reckson Associates Realty Corp. one of the largest real estate investment trusts ("REIT") in the United States.

George Constantin, chairman of the Chamber's Real Estate Committee, introduced Mr. Rechler to the members of the Chamber.

Mr. Rechler spoke about Reckson Associates from its beginnings up to its current status as one of the largest, publicly traded real estate investment trusts in the USA.

The presentation continued with a summary of what the REIT investment vehicle is and how it has benefitted many individuals seeking to invest in the real estate market. It was interesting, indeed, to obtain historic numbers and the exceptional investment returns produced by well managed real estate assets.

Our very informative speaker went on to share with the Chamber his firm's strategy and his personal vision of the New York City real estate market. He provided many examples of how and why his company has been successfully investing within a fifty mile radius of New York City, and the role our city plays on a global scale.

Mr. Rechler discussed recent acquisitions and his raising investment money from Australia. He noted that demand for office space has been growing and with very limited new supply being built that we would be seeing higher rents in the short and long term. He announced his firm's planned multi-billion dollar development on Long Island.

The presentation was very informative, providing a great depth of market knowledge and vision for future growth. Mr. Rechler answered many questions from the floor and expressed his appreciation to HACC for the welcome shown by members.

## Member News

Compass Maritime Services and Charles R. Weber Co. will combine the expertise of both companies in a joint venture in Piraeus: WeberCompass Hellas. The Piraeus team will be led by Compass senior partner Bobby Mitropoulos, who will head the S&P division, and Basil Mavroleon of C.R. Weber, who will lead the tanker chartering operation. They have also brought in Piraeus-based broker Tom Protonotarios.

Healy & Baillie, LLP and Blank Rome LLP will combine their practices as of October 1, 2006. Healy & Baillie is ranked as one of the leading maritime law firms in the US with a notable international practice and office in Hong Kong. Blank Rome is a 500 attorney firm with a strong, well-connected Washington D.C. office. The combined firm will house the nation's largest Maritime practice.

Langan Engineering & Environmental Services has earned a Grand Award for Engineering Excellence from Florida Institute of Consulting Engineers for the foundation design to support the tallest high-rise building in Florida. The Four Seasons Hotel & Tower, a mixed-use development, has condominium, hotel, office and retail components.

Spyros J. Voutsinas, a long time member of the Chamber and past Member of the Board, was appointed President of Atlantic Bank, a Division of Community Bank of New York. Atlantic Bank of New York, a subsidiary of National Bank of Greece was purchased by the Community Bank of New York early this year. We wish Mr. Voutsinas every success in his new assignment.

## NEW MEMBERS

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

### ~CORPORATE MEMBERS ~

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**HUNTER ROBERTS CONSTRUCTION GROUP**  
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**THALASSA RESTAURANT**  
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Food-Textile

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Commercial Real Estate

**Peter Chrisanthopoulos**  
Senior Vice President  
Katz Television Group

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### ~INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS ~

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**Gus Lafkas,**  
Senior Mortgage/Broker  
Premium Capital Funding

**Esther Lainis**

**Vassilios M Livanos, Partner**  
Manhattan Group

**Pagona Maroulis**  
HSBC Bank USA

**Mache M. Mouzakis**  
Attorney, Corporate Law  
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP

**Taso Pardalis, Attorney**  
Jaffe & Nohavicka

**Dorothea Poli,**  
Senior Vice President  
Dominion Bond Rating Service  
Capital Markets

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Real Estate





*Reception preceding our 57th Annual Dinner Dance and presentation of the Person-of-the-Year Award to Costas Kondylis ~ at Metropolitan Club, October 21, 2005*



**THE HELLENIC-AMERICAN  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

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