



# Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce

2008



## Greetings from the President

JOHN C. STRATAKIS

The last few years have seen a tremendous increase in the Chamber's activities and energy levels. We have experienced phenomenally successful dinner dances, standing-room only real estate lectures and shipping conferences, mobbed Greek wine and food tastings and an exciting new Greek Film Festival. It is fair to say that the Chamber's trajectory has been going in just one direction: up.

We owe this success to a strong crop of leaders who have taken the Chamber on this path to success, including the former presidents, the late Father Basil Gregory, Robert Shaw, George Kapetanakos, Bill Ioannides, Bobby Mitropoulos and Andre Gregory. Other key leaders, such as George Constantin, John Couloucoundis, Taso Pardalis and Jimmy DeMetro, have helped expand the Chamber's reach into exciting new areas. And the Chamber's untiring and hard-charging executive secretary, Stamati Ghikas, has kept the leaders focused on growth.

The challenge for the Chamber going forward is to continue to locate and attract new members and leaders to take the Chamber to higher and higher levels. The Chamber is recognized by Greek American businesspeople throughout the New York area (and beyond) for its professionalism and organization. For many years, we have enjoyed a fruitful relationship with the local representatives of the Greek government in New York, including the Consulate General, Trade Office and Press Office. We are working to develop stronger ties with business organizations in Greece as well, and I am confident that these interactions and relationships will serve to benefit our members and friends for generations to come.

I encourage all Hellenes and philhellenes to join the Chamber, become active and support our events. The benefits to your business may be easy to calculate. The benefits to strengthening the cause of Hellenism are harder to gauge, but are equally valuable and worthwhile.

With best regards,

## George Marcus Named Man of the Year 2008

The Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce has named George M. Marcus Man of the Year 2008. Mr. Marcus will be honored at the Chamber's 60th Annual Dinner Dance to be held on Friday, October 24, 2008 at The Metropolitan Club of New York.

### *A Great American Business Success Story*

George Marcus is the Co-Founder and Chairman of The Marcus & Millichap Company.

Founded in 1971, The Marcus & Millichap Company is the parent company of a diversified group of real estate service, investment and development firms, including Marcus & Millichap Real Estate Investment Brokerage Company, the largest commercial investment real estate brokerage firm in the nation with over 1200 brokers in markets throughout the U.S.; and Summer-Hill Homes, one of the San Francisco Bay Area's largest home builders.

Also among the Marcus & Millichap family of companies are Pacific Property Company, Hanover Financial Company, Meridian Property Company, Sovereign Investment



Company, Highland Development Company and Urban Housing Group.

Mr. Marcus is also Chairman of Essex Property Trust, a publicly traded company. Essex was recently inducted into the Real Estate Investment Trust Hall of Fame for having the highest return to shareholders of all multi-family Real Estate Investment Trusts over the last five years. His professional memberships include the Board of Regents of The University of California, as well as numerous other professional and community organizations.

Mr. Marcus graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from San Francisco State University in 1965; he was honored as Alumnus of the Millennium in 1999. He is also a graduate of the Harvard Business School of Owners/Presidents Management Program and the Georgetown University Leadership Program.

## Angeliki Frangou Honored at HACC 59th Annual Dinner Dance



John C. Stratakis, President (left) and Andre Gregory, Chairman, enjoy dinner-table conversation with Ms. Frangou.

The Chamber honored Navios Maritime Holdings' Chief Executive Officer, Angeliki Frangou, as 2007 Person of the Year at its 59th Annual Dinner Dance on October 19, 2007 at the Metropolitan Club in New York.

Ms. Frangou has been involved in shipping all her life but in the last five years has taken her business to great heights.

Navios is one of the largest bulk shipping firms in the world, publicly listed on the New York Stock Exchange and run by an exceptional professional staff. The company is headquartered in Piraeus and maintains offices in Connecticut, Belgium and Uruguay.

Navios Maritime has a long legacy of success. The company was originally the shipping arm of United States Steel Corporation, which used the Navios ships to transport iron ore from South America to its steel factories in the United States. U.S. Steel eventually sold Navios, and Ms. Frangou's company, International Shipping Enterprises, bought the company in 2005, and took on the respected Navios name. Since she bought Navios, Ms. Frangou has hugely expanded its shipping fleet, purchased a ship operator in Belgium and extended its logistics operations in South America.

Ms. Frangou hails from a family that has been involved in shipping

for generations. Her father, Captain Nikolaos Frangos, built a large shipping empire several decades ago, and the family has been a strong supporter of the Chamber for a long time. Captain Frangos himself was the Chamber's 1997 Person of the Year, and was delighted that his daughter received the honor as well. They are the first father/daughter team to be Persons of the Year.

The dinner dance turned out to be a tremendous success for the Chamber, due to the huge outpouring of support for Ms. Frangou, who has developed a reputation as an impressive businesswoman, financier, investor and philanthropist.

Nearly 400 people attended, and the Chamber was forced to turn away some who wanted to at-

tend. Indeed, the 2007 Dinner Dance was the Chamber's most successful event in its history, by virtually every measure. It was a real tribute to the respect and affection that the community has for Ms. Frangou and for the Chamber.

Former Chamber President Robert Shaw introduced his friend, Ms. Frangou, and spoke warmly of her commitment to family, friends, faith and the community.

Ms. Frangou was clearly moved by the tributes, which included greetings from the prime minister of Greece and the governors of New York and Connecticut.

The night was topped off by dancing in the banquet hall of the Club, and the crowd was delighted and looking forward to the next dinner dance.



Former Consul General of Greece in New York Hon. Catherine Boura with HACC President John C. Stratakis

### Farewell to Consul General Catherine Boura

The executive board of the Chamber gathered for a special dinner with guest of honor Mrs. Catherine Boura on the occasion of her return to Greece.

A clock was presented to Mrs. Boura, to be al-

ways at her desk and to remind her of the four successful years as Consul General in New York.

On her return to Greece, Mrs. Boura was appointed to the rank of Ambassador.

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Andre Gregory, Chairman • John C. Stratakis, President  
George Constantin • Katingo Kontoudis

## Are the Bulls *and* the Bears Right? A Classic Bubble or Unique Opportunities in Shipping

### **Fourteenth Annual Hellenic-/ Norwegian- American Joint Shipping Conference**

Our annual shipping conference, held in New York on February 5, was once again hailed as excellent, timely and relevant, indeed prescient of conditions in today's shipping markets.

Co-Chairmen of the conference were John Couloucoundis, President of Delta Navigation, and Craig Stevenson, Jr., Chairman, Ship Finance International Limited, and Chairman & CEO of Diamond S Management LLC.

The feedback we've received on the event has been overwhelmingly positive, with high praise for the speakers and for the discussion panels that formed the day's agenda:

- ◆ **Derivatives** ~ A useful tool in uncertain times, or catalyst for volatility?
- ◆ **The Currency Markets** ~ Is the falling dollar good news or bad news for shipping?
- ◆ **The Real Costs of Shipping** ~ Rising costs, insurance claims, regulatory pressures – trends and predictions.
- ◆ **Perspectives on Historical Highs** ~ How does today's financial community evaluate market risk and choose financing strategy?

Luncheon for speakers and delegates was very generously sponsored by Navios Maritime Holdings Inc. An outstanding luncheon address was delivered by Peter Kerr-Dineen,

Joint Chairman of Howe Robinson & Co. Ltd., who skillfully explored the theme, "Shipping: Bubble or Opportunity?"

Also addressing delegates in the luncheon period was H.E. Georgios Voulgarakis, Minister of Mercantile Marine & Island Policy of Greece. Mr. Voulgarakis presented his position on the importance of the maritime industry, not only to Greece but to the world. We are grateful to Mr. Voulgarakis for his participation.

### **Special Thanks to Sponsors, Speakers and Delegates**

Both Chambers extend sincere thanks to the industry-leading firms and organizations whose sponsorship has made this conference possible.

We are indebted also to our speakers, all highly regarded experts in their field, who have invested considerable time and resources in preparation for and participation in the conference. We are truly grateful.

Continuing a very popular tradition, a post-conference cocktail networking reception was sponsored by Blank Rome LLP and Jacq. Pierot, Jr. & Sons Inc. We thank these firms for their loyal support.

*Pictured, Top: delegates give their attention to luncheon speakers.*

*Middle: I. Tallaksen, L. Rutkowski, A. Gregory, J. Stratakis, H.E. G. Voulgarakis, J. Couloucoundis, P. Kerr-Dineen., Hon. Agi Balta.*

*Bottom: John Couloucoundis at the podium with speakers R. Hoey, P. Kerr-Dineen, G. DeKock and A. Karlsen*



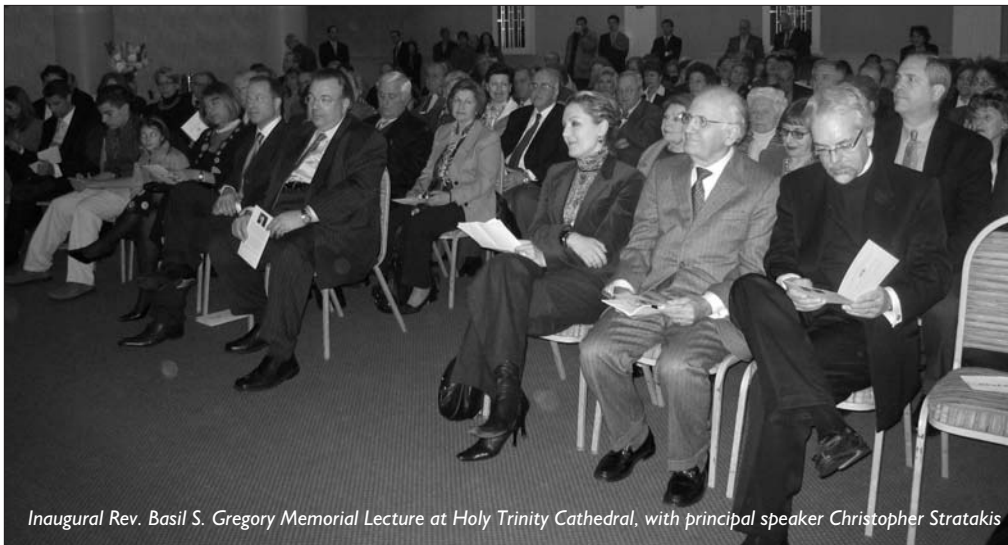
## Hellenic-American Conferences, Trade and Cultural Events



*HACC Real Estate Committee presentation at The Harvard Club.*



*Hon. Angelos Pagratis is flanked by Dr. N. Bellias, P. Mastoperou, Hon. Aghi Balta, - Consul General of Greece, Sophia Bebe, John Stratakis, Andre Gregory*



*Inaugural Rev. Basil S. Gregory Memorial Lecture at Holy Trinity Cathedral, with principal speaker Christopher Stratakis*

*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 10, 2007** The Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce • The Hellenic Medical Society • The Hellenic Lawyers Association • The Hellenic American Bankers Association, in association with the Children's Museum of Manhattan invited members to an Evening of Hellenic Culture & Conversation in support of "Gods, Myths And Mortals, Discover Ancient Greece" with a private tour and reception at CMOM. A high-tech interactive traveling exhibition for children (6 and older) featured guest speaker Eric Metaxas, Author, Cultural Commentator, Founder and Host of "Socrates in the City: Conversations on the Examined Life."

**September 25, 2007** The Real Estate Committee of The Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with The Hellenic-American Technical Society presented Mark Wigley, Dean of Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, who spoke on: Columbia University and the Future of the Built Environment at Harvard Club of New York City.

**October 30, 2007** Demetrios Contos Memorial Lecture. In Celebration of OXI DAY October 28, 1940, Prof. Roderick Beaton, Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, King's College, London, spoke on "A Greek Poet and Diplomat in the Middle East: George Seferis (Nobel

## Hellenic-American Conferences, Trade and Cultural Events

Prize for Literature 1963)" at The Greek Orthodox Cathedral of The Holy Trinity.

**November 5, 2007** The Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce, The Cyprus-US Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with The Greek Trade Office & The Cyprus Trade Commission invited members to participate in a Wine and Food Tasting featuring wines from Greece and Cyprus and food samples from top Hellenic restaurants, at Battery Gardens Restaurant.

**November 2-16, 2007** Our inaugural Greek Film Festival New York took off at Cinema Village in Manhattan and CineMart in Queens. The 2008 Film Festival will be held October 3-16. Read more on page 6.

**January 14, 2008** The Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce and The Hellenic Medical Society of New York cordially invited all members for the annual and Traditional Cutting of Vasilopita, Buffet Dinner at Holy Trinity Cathedral Ballroom.

**March 6, 2008** The Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals invited members to their First Annual Meet & Greet Reception, featuring Mr. John A. Catsimatidis, Chairman & CEO, Red Apple Group Inc., speaking on "The American Dream: How to Grow Your Business on the Streets of New York." at the Press & Communications Office, Permanent Mission of Greece to the UN. The event was sponsored by Elite Food Bar.

**March 26, 2008** On the occasion of Greek Independence, The Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce, in

cooperation with The Cultural Committee of Archdiocesan Holy Trinity Cathedral, Hellenic Medical Society of New York, Hellenic Lawyers Association and the Hellenic-American Bankers Association invited members to The Inaugural *Rev. Basil S. Gregory Memorial Lecture: "Adamantios Korais -Thomas Jefferson and the Establishment of the Modern Greek State"* by Christopher Stratakis, Esq., Senior Partner Poles, Tublin, Stratakis, Gonzalez & Weichert LLP, at Holy Trinity Cathedral Ballroom.

**April 17, 2008** The Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals held their monthly Happy Hour Networking event at Bull Run Restaurant in the Financial District.

**May 12, 2008** The Real Estate Committee of The Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce presented Kent M. Swig, President, Swig Equities LLC in a discussion of Current New York Real Estate Market Conditions at The Harvard Club of New York City.

**June 11, 2008** The Greek Trade Office and The Hellenic American Chamber of Commerce presented Hon. Angelos Pangratis, Minister - Deputy Head of the European Union Delegation to the U.S., in a discussion "**The Transatlantic Economic Framework and US-EU Economic Relations**" at the Greek Press and Information Office.

**June 17, 2008** Our Annual Meeting of Members and Election of Directors took place at Thalassa Restaurant, New York City.



*HACC Young Professionals first annual Meet & Greet Reception featuring Mr. John Catsimatidis, at the Greek Press and Communications Office.*



*To inaugurate the New Year, members gather for the traditional cutting of the Vasilopita at the Cathedral Ballroom.*



*Wine & Food tasting at Battery Gardens Restaurant, featuring wines from Greece and Cyprus, and food samples from top Hellenic restaurants*



*Representative example of screenings in Greek Film Festival New York*

## New Directors Elected to HACC Board



**Anthony Kazazis**

Mr. Kazazis is the Sales Manager of Hudson Land Com-

pany, LLC an elite title insurance company specializing in Residential and Commercial Property Transactions, 1031 Tax Deferred Services and Art Title Insurance. He is responsible for generating title sales revenue and maintaining personal relationships with his real estate clients. Previously, he held sales management positions with Landamerica/ Commonwealth, ARS Abstract Ltd. and Prota Equities.

Mr. Kazazis is the founder and director of the trade show "Queens Real Estate Expo." Most recently he established a successful networking group of real estate professionals who meet on a bi-monthly basis in New York City. Mr. Kazazis is a member of the National Realty Club and HACC.

**George Leventis**

Mr. Leventis is a senior principal of Langan



Engineering and Environmental Services and President of Langan International, a 650-person consulting firm specializing in Land Development, Geotechnical, Environmental, Site/Civil, Traffic, and Natural Resources Engineering.

As Technical Advisor to commercial banks, Mr. Leventis was instrumental in the successful financial closing for the US\$1 billion Rion-Antirion bridge in Greece. Recent related assignments (each with capi-

tal costs over €2 billion) include two 400 km motorways in Greece, evaluation of the potential privatization of the Athens Metro expansion, and the Chacao Channel Bridge in Chile.

In 1999 and 2000, Mr. Leventis served as Director General of the Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games, Athens 2004, S.A.

In New York, his involvement includes the new Farley Post Office Penn Station Redevelopment, Javits Center expansion, Giants/Jets Stadium, the UN Capital program, Lincoln Center reconstruction, the Hudson Yards Redevelopment.



**Anastasios Pardalis**

With a BA from CUNY, Taso worked in construction for two

years before attending New York Law School, where he focused on Real Estate, Construction/Development, Admiralty, and Commercial Litigation.

As an Associate in the Law Offices of Jaffe & Nohavicka, he focused on commercial litigation, Real Estate, Insurance Law and Subrogation. Taso was the youngest attorney ever published in the New York Law Journal on Construction Law. In 2006, he went into partnership at Mavromihalis & Pardalis where he focuses on Real Estate, Construction, Commercial Litigation and Insurance Law/Subrogation.

Taso is a member of the New York State Bar Association and the HACC, where he created the Young Professionals division with over 500 members. Taso also sits on the Journal Committee.

## Second Annual Greek Film Festival

The New York City Greek Film Festival, sponsored by the Hellenic American Chamber of Commerce, goes into its second year in October, bringing the latest in quality Greek films to Greek and American audiences.

Following the festival's successful inaugural season last year, the Chamber decided to continue its efforts to bring worthy Greek films to a city that has seen very few of them in recent years. The Cinema Village, at 22 East 12 Street in Manhattan, will host the festival from Friday, October 3 through 9. The following week, October 10 through 16, the festival moves to the CineMart Cinema, 106-03 Metropolitan Avenue, in Forest Hills, Queens. Performances will begin daily at 1 p.m. and run into the night.

A committee of devoted movie buffs has been working over the past months planning the festival and reviewing selections. So far, six feature films from Greece have been booked, representing the latest and best work of Greek filmmakers. All will be shown with English subtitles.

Among the selections is "Eduart," a much praised drama that was Greece's entry for Academy Award "best foreign film" consideration last year. Based on a true story, the film focuses on an amoral young man who commits a murder. Imprisoned under severe conditions, he begins his difficult journey toward personal redemption.

Also scheduled to be shown is "Little Greek Godfather," a charming political satire adapted by Nicholas Papandreou from his autobiographical story about the American-raised 11 year-old-son of a promi-

nent Greek politician who is sent to Crete to baptize a baby and win votes in the process.

Two emotionally powerful dramas are much anticipated. "Eyes of Night" tells the story of a decent man, a trucker, who behaves very badly and hurts the woman he loves. "The Homecoming" presents the difficulties of readjusting to life in a Greek village after years of hard work abroad, played against a story of marital infidelity and personal betrayal.

As a tribute to famed director Jules Dassin, who died in Athens earlier this year, the festival will screen "Never On Sunday," the joyous landmark 1960 film which has not been seen in a commercial theater for many years. In another special event, the festival will honor Greek American filmmaker Richard Ledes and show his latest film "The Caller," starring Frank Langella and Elliott Gould. Mr. Ledes will answer questions following the screening.

Full information and actual screening schedules will be available at [www.hellenicamerican.cc](http://www.hellenicamerican.cc) (click on film festival flag).

"Audiences will be surprised at the very high level of sophistication and achievement evident in these films," said festival coordinator Jimmy DeMetro. "We are working hard to offer films that range from commercial successes to films that audiences will continue to think about long after the lights go back on. And I promise. There will be no explosions, crashes or superheroes."

To support the festival or purchase advertising space in the festival program, please contact Stamatis Ghikas at 212-629-6380.

## Real Estate Committee News



At the Harvard Club of New York, left to right: HACC Board Member Anthony Kazazis, Guest Lecturer Kent M. Swig, HACC Real Estate Committee Chairman George T. Constantin, HACC President John C. Stratakis.

The Real Estate Committee of the Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce hosted Kent Swig, a major real estate owner and developer, at the Harvard Club on May 12, 2008.

George Constantin, chairman of the real estate committee, noted that -- in Kent Swig -- we again had the pleasure of hosting an exceptional speaker and one of the rising young owner/developers.

Mr. Swig's remarks kept the overflow crowd mesmerized. His articulation of current economic conditions put them into a contemporaneous context. Offering his views on the future, he noted that the current conditions create opportunity, citing New York as the most important city on a global scale.

He summarized political and economic data; he shared his views on the residential market and noted that the units entering the market would not have a significant impact. He also discussed Downtown New York, noting that the area is poised to grow and prosper as it

converts to a 24/7 mixed use neighborhood.

Mr. Swig entertained questions from the floor and remained for an extended period to meet and share one-to-one many of the members' questions.

Mr. Constantin thanked Mr. Swig and presented him with a gift from the Chamber in appreciation of his participation. At the same time, he thanked all the sponsors who helped fund the event as well as all of his real estate committee members, in particular, Anthony Kazazis of Hudson Land Company, who helped introduce Mr. Swig to the Chamber.

The Chamber's real estate events have been exceptionally successful, with well over 100 members attending every event.

The real estate committee has established itself as the foremost Hellenic-American forum for the interchange and introduction of the Hellenic business communities to the most important real estate persona of our time.

## NEW MEMBERS

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

### CORPORATE MEMBERS

#### CARTNER & FISHER, LLC

John A.C. Cartner  
1629 K Street NW, Suite 300  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
MBA; CEO of naval architecture firm; partner of law firm in Maritime/Admiralty Law.

#### FRIED, FRANK, HARRIS, SHRIVER & JACOBSON LLP

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*Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce members and their guests enjoying our 59th annual dinner dance, with presentation of the Person of the Year Award to Ms. Angeliki Frangou, Chief Executive Officer of Navios Maritime Holdings.*



**THE HELLENIC-AMERICAN  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

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