



Hellenic – American Chamber of Commerce

2012

Greeting from the President

As our 2011-2012 season comes to a close, it is my distinct pleasure to communicate with the members of the Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce to review the past year and present a preview of what is ahead for our organization.

At a time when all of us face unprecedented demands and options for our attention, it is essential for an organization like ours to show relevance and strength if it is to not only survive but flourish. I am happy to report that the HACC is strong and viable and more than ever responsive to the business, social and cultural needs of its members. We are fulfilling our mission, and the thousands of people who come to our events are a testament to our success.

As always, the major event of the year was our annual dinner dance last October, honoring Person of the Year John Angelicoussis of Anangel American Shipholdings, Ltd.. Mr. Angelicoussis proved to be a major draw as hundreds of people gathered from all over the world to honor this distinguished gentleman. The ballroom of the Hotel Pierre was filled to capacity, and many had to be turned away for lack of space. What a wonderful tribute to our worthy honoree, a gentleman who commands the respect of his colleagues in the shipping industry and of his many friends.

That same month, the fifth annual New York City Greek Film Festival continued to increase the visibility of not only Greek cinema but of the Chamber as well. Since its inception, the festival has presented over 40 films from Greece to more than 20,000 people in the New York City area. These sometimes controversial but always interesting and intelligent films would never have been seen here if it were not for the festival which, by the way, for the first time established a partnership last year with the prestigious Museum of the Moving Image to present screenings in Astoria.

Our annual Shipping Conference, held last February in conjunction with the Norwegian Chamber of Commerce, lived up to its reputation as a major and most important event in that industry. Held at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, the conference featured noted speakers and drew many participants.

Our Construction, Architecture, Design and Engineering Committee continued its successful policy of bringing together major business personalities for informative discussions. These events drew media attention and the capacity audiences.

The Harvard Club dinner in honor of Chicago-based financier John Calamos proved to be a wonderful networking opportunity. Mr. Calamos was both cordial and welcoming. His comments ranged from business opportunities here to a look at the economic conditions in Greece. Sponsored by our Finance, Insurance and Investments Committee, this exciting, well-attended event drew no fewer than four billionaires among the guests!

It is often said that the young people in any organization represent the future of that organization. I am proud to say that our Young Professionals division remains as vibrant as ever. It is such a pleasure to see so many young people achieving in their



Spyros M. Polemis Named Person of the Year 2012

Spyros M. Polemis was born in Greece and educated in Athens, London and the United States where he obtained a Degree in Mechanical Engineering, majoring in Naval Architecture, from Stevens Institute of Technology.

Following graduation, he did his national service with the Greek Coast Guard as an officer/ships' inspector and later joined the family business until 1970 when he went on to form his own company, Seacrest Shipping Company, Ltd.

Mr. Polemis' family has roots in the shipping industry dating back several centuries. He is Chairman and Managing Director of Seacrest Shipping Company, Ltd., the London representative of a large group of shipping interests with a history of more than 200 years in the maritime business. The companies under management operate various types of vessels such as bulk carriers, oil tankers, chemical tankers and other specialty carriers.

He is Chairman and sits on the Board of a number of organizations, including Chairman of ABS UK National Committee, Council member of ABS USA, Director of the Hellenic Mutual War Risk Association, member of the International Marine Industries Forum, current Board member and past Chairman of the North of England P&I Association, past Chairman of the Newcastle P&I Association and current Board member, and past Chairman of the International Dry Cargo Ship-owners Association (INTERCARGO). Mr. Polemis is the Immediate Past Chairman of the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) the International Association for Merchant Ship-owners, involved with all regulatory, operational and legal issues. He is also Immediate Past President of its sister organization, the International Shipping Federation (ISF), an international employer's organization for the industry that deals with labor affairs and training issues for seafarers. These world leading shipping organizations represent the collective interests of ship-owner associations from 36 nations including the United States, most of Europe, Japan and Australia. ICS membership consists of national ship-owners' associations representing more than 80% of the world's merchant fleet.



As head of the ICS, Mr. Polemis worked in the past with all shipping associations worldwide, government ministers and governmental agencies, most notably the International Maritime Organization (IMO), a United Nations agency with the responsibility for the safety at sea and the protection of the marine environment as well as the International Labor Organization (ILO), a UN agency overseeing labor affairs.

Mr. Polemis conceived and spearheaded project "Hellas Liberty", one of the last remaining Liberty ships in the world. It was donated to Greece by the United States government and converted to serve as a testament to the Hellenic maritime tradition and as a memorial to the sacrifice of all Greek sailors lost during the second world war.

In May of 2009, Mr. Polemis was elected to the Board of Trustees of Stevens Institute of Technology. In May of 2012, he was inducted to the International Maritime Hall of Fame.

Mr. Polemis is an Archon of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Constantinople, a Freeman of the City of London, a Liveryman of The Worshipful Company of Shipwrights, a member of The Royal Thames Yacht Club and a Member of The Queen's Club. He is a passionate sailor and yachtsman and likes sports as tennis and skiing. He also enjoys photography, model making, cooking and winemaking.

Mr. Polemis is married to Stacia and together they have a daughter Katerina. His older children Anna and Leonidas are actively involved in all aspects of the family business.

respective fields of endeavor, gathering together to connect with other young people and, in a sense, with their roots.

It is that same cultural connection that filled the Holy Trinity Cathedral Hall for our annual Vasilopeta event. Hundreds turned out as well for the annual Dimitrios Contos Memorial Lecture, commemorating OXI Day, the official statement of Greek resistance to the advancing Italian army early on in WWII. Mr. Contos was a long-time member of HACC, and his family has chosen to continue the connection with the Chamber by sponsoring this annual program.

In the past year, we continued to strengthen our relationships with the American Hellenic Chamber of Commerce as well as with the European American Chamber of Commerce. Also, our connection with the newly established Hellenic American Cultural Foundation began to blossom, and we were happy to have the opportunity to enjoy the wonderful University Club lecture by Senator Paul Sarbanes in honor of Peter Kourides, a long-time member of HACC and past president.

Next season promises to be at least as interesting and eventful. Our Fashion and Design Committee is hard at work planning its Greek American Fashion Week event for September. The sixth annual New York City Greek Film Festival will have many surprises for us in October, including a memorial program in honor of master filmmaker Theo Angelopoulos.

Our dinner dance in honor of Spyros Polemis is set for October 19 and is already accepting reservations. It looks like we are going to have another major success as friends and business associates of Mr. Polemis turn out to pay tribute to him. Mr. Polemis has been in shipping for over 50 years, and his family has roots in shipping that date back more than two centuries. He is chairman and managing director of London-based Seacrest Shipping Company, Ltd., and heads two of the world's leading shipping organizations—the International Chamber of Shipping and its sister organization, the International Shipping Federation.

And on and on we go. Of course, you, our members, are key to our success. All that we do is planned with you in mind. Your support sustains us. Your participation encourages us. Please continue to stand by us, and urge your friends to join us. Good things await us in the future.

HACC Honors John A. Angelicoussis, Person of the Year 2011

On Friday, October 21, 2011, the Hellenic American Chamber of Commerce held its 63rd Annual Dinner Dance at the Pierre Hotel in New York. The event was attended by over 400 people, in a glamorous setting in midtown Manhattan. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Person of the Year Award to John A. Angelicoussis, the chairman of Angelicoussis Shipping Group Limited (ASGL), a private company that is one of the largest ship owning and operating companies in the world.



In addition to being one of the largest shipping companies, ASGL is one of the highly respected, and its relationships with the world's largest oil companies, charterers and banking firms are a testament to that reputation. At the Dinner Dance, Mr. Angelicoussis was joined by his wife, Elizabeth, and his daughter, Maria, a medical doctor who is now involved in all aspects of the family business. Many ASGL associates and employees attended the event, from its offices in Athens, London and Houston, as well as New York.

The evening drew an impressive turnout of luminaries from the shipping, banking, legal, oil and chartering fields. Among the prominent attendees were Mr. Robert Somerville and Mr. Christopher Wiernicki from the American Bureau of Shipping, Gerassimo Spiridakis and Mike Carr from Citi Private Bank, Ted Petrone from Navios Maritime Holdings, Clay Maitland from the Marshall Islands Registry, and a who's who of prominent shipping executives including Craig Stevenson, Spiros Milonas, Costas and Mathew Los, Markos Marinakis, Philip Shapiro, Nicholas Hatzipateras, T. Peter Pappas and Sophocles Zoullas.

Another highlight of the evening was the presentation of the 2011 Award to Mr. Angelicoussis by Mr. Zoullas, the 2010 honoree. After the presentation of the award, Mr. Angelicoussis was introduced by his longtime family attorney, Christ Stratakis from Poles, Tublin, Stratakis & Gonzalez, who recalled the memory of Mr. Angelicoussis's father, Anthony, and saluted the continuing contributions of John Angelicoussis in honor of the family.

Mr. Angelicoussis then gave his address, in which he paid tribute to the many employees who contribute to the success of his company. He also honored his father for paving the way by founding the company in 1947. Mr. Angelicoussis then gave a rousing defense of Greece as a country and as an ideal. He said that his "confidence in Greece remains unshaken. Our main office with more than 200 people is in Greece. All our vessels fly the Greek flag and our ship's officers are all Greek.

We employ over 90 Greek cadets for training, and I am proud of that." He added that, despite Greece's present difficulties, he is "optimistic that Greece also will overcome the present setback. I am confident that Greece will emerge stronger and more vibrant." Mr. Angelicoussis ended his speech with a recital of the famous words of the Greek poet Dionysios Solomos: "Greece shall never die."

The evening continued with music and dancing late into the night, a fitting tribute to a special man.



Capacity crowd filled the Pierre Ballroom.



John Angelicoussis with his wife (l) and daughter.



Reception in honor of Mr. John Angelicoussis

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October 2011

Contos Program Highlights WWII Memories

Keynote speaker at the sixth annual Dimitrios Contos Memorial Lecture on November 15, 2011 was Lela Karagianni, the granddaughter and namesake of Greek resistance heroine Lela Karagianni. The elder Mrs. Karagianni was executed by the Nazis in 1944 for her clandestine work against the Germans who were occupying Greece.

In keeping with the "Memories of WWII" theme of the evening, the New York Choir of Greek Demotic Songs conducted by Athanasia Filiou performed music of the period. Readings were presented by Dr. Manolis Lambrakis and noted attorney and memoirist Christopher Stratakis.

Dimitrios Contos was a long time member of the Hellenic American Chamber of Commerce, and the annual tribute to him is presented by his widow Carol Contos, son George, and daughter Nicole Contos Liakas. Mr. Contos spent the war years in Athens, and the program in his memory commemorates OXI Day, Greece's official statement of resistance against the advancing Italian troops.

New York City Greek Film Festival Scores Many Firsts in 2011

The fifth annual New York City Greek Film Festival, held in October 2011, was a festival of many firsts.

The Stavros Niarchos Foundation awarded the festival the first of two \$25,000 matching grants to help assure the event's continuation and expansion. The festival also established a partnership with the Museum of the Moving Image, bringing Greek films for the first time to the refurbished theater at the prestigious museum in Astoria.

Another first for the festival was bringing two film personalities from Greece to present their films and meet with New York audiences. Talented actor Vangelis Mourikis, who was prominently featured in no fewer than three of the films shown, proved himself to be warm and cordial and thrilled with New York City, which he was visiting for the first time. Also here was young director Giorgos Georgopoulos, whose debut feature film "Tungsten" made an impressive US premiere showing at the festival.

Also for the first time, the festival was able to expand its offerings by presenting a concert of film music, "Singing In The Movies," featuring Christos Rafalides, Jazz Mediterraneo, and narrator Apostolos Pappas. Made possible by a grant from Alma Bank, the concert drew close to 600 people at the beautiful Frank Sinatra School of the Arts theater. A second "sold out" concert featured Mavrothi Kontanis and the Maeandros Ensemble at the Center for Jewish History in Manhattan.

"A 'first' I don't like to talk about was the surprise snow fall that occurred on the Saturday of our Manhattan run and seriously affected attendance," said director James DeMetro. "We've never had to fight the elements quite this way before," he added. "I hope we don't have to face this ever again."

In all, the festival presented eleven films to nearly 3,000 people. Among the selections were the controversial "Attenberg," the joyous documentary on the life of Rosa Eskenazy "My Sweet Canary," and the family drama "Gold Dust." The Eskenazy film was presented in cooperation with the American Sephardi Federation, another first for the festival.

"We are grateful to our sponsors and to the people who came to see the films," said DeMetro. "People are surprised to hear that it takes close to \$100,000 to present the kind of festival we can be proud of. We couldn't do it without the generous help of our supporters. Ticket sales alone cannot possibly cover our costs."

Plans are under way for the sixth annual festival that will take place in October 2012. Information and updates will be available at the festival website:

www.nycgreekfilmfestival.com

Hellenic-/Norwegian-American Chambers Present 18th Annual Joint Shipping Conference

On February 7 2012 the Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce and the Norwegian-American Chamber of Commerce held their 18th Annual Joint Shipping Conference at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York. We are happy to write that the conference was a great success with over 200 attendees.

The title of this year's program was "Boom, Bust, the Aftermath of Bankruptcy and the Future." While there were many stories of overcapacity, vessels operating below daily operating cost, banks not making loans, etc., all of which will most likely lead to several shipping bankruptcies in the near future, there were some glimmers of hope such as new building deliveries tapering off over the next couple of years, increased scrapping and the possibility of private equity looking to take advantage of the current dire shipping markets. The term "hope is not a strategy" was used throughout the day, and there were lively discussions about restructuring presenting opportunities and options to companies that otherwise might not have other alternatives.

While there was a general consensus about the current difficult markets, there was a great deal of discussion about where the industry will go from here. Hopefully keynote speaker Joe Pyne, CEO of Kirby Corporation, was correct in saying that as in prior major down cycles, survivors will grow at fantastic rates as they come out of the downturn.



Shipping Conference Panelists



Shipping Conference Speakers and Organizers

The Development Design Construction Committee of the Hellenic American Chamber of Commerce

The Development Design Construction Committee of the Hellenic American Chamber of Commerce had two highly attended panel discussion events in the 2011/12 calendar year, both at the Holy Trinity Cathedral Ballroom.

The first, in September 2011, was entitled "Construction 2012: The Phoenix Rises" and included principals of among the largest developers in New York as well as the largest lender. The panel discussion with Joseph Moinian of the Moinian Group, Jeffrey Levine of Douglaston Development, Chuck Olivieri of Minskoff Equities and Bernard Tyminski of Bank of America explored the changing New York development market in light of the recent financial crisis starting in 2008 and projections for new projects in 2012. The title reflected the mood and spirit of the event and the participants announced the launching of significant construction projects within the coming year. The event had high visibility media coverage within the greater design/development community as the panel discussions of the Hellenic American Chamber committee have developed an industry "cult following."

The second panel discussion, in March of 2012, was entitled "Construction Management: The Future-Prometheus Unbound" and included the largest construction managers in New York who are involved in billions of dollars of new construction work per year in New York. It was a Who's Who of the industry rarely (if ever) together on a panel. They included the President's of Tishman - Jay Badami, Lend Lease -Ralph Esposito, Sciame-Joseph Mizzi, Plaza- Richard Wood, and the Executive Vice President of Extell. The discussion as with "The Phoenix Rises" discussed new projects, trends in the industry and brought together many professionals within the design /construction community as well as lawyers, financial institutions and other service providers both for the panel discussions and the lively into the night business dialogues that usually follows among the participants of the events.

Construction Committee events draw major panelists and large audiences



May 2012

Dinner With John P. Calamos Sr.

On March, 27 the Finance, Insurance, and Investments committee of the Hellenic American Chamber of Commerce gave the members of the chamber the opportunity to dine and get acquainted with Mr. John Calamos from Calamos Asset Management.

The Harvard Club dining room was packed to the brim as everyone was eager to get the chance to introduce themselves to Mr. Calamos. Mr. Calamos is a pioneer when it comes to the use of convertible security investment strategies that help manage risk. The message that Mr. Calamos stressed was how important long term financial decision making really is.



Guests gather to meet John Calamos

June 2012

Members Elect Directors

Members of the Hellenic American Chamber of Commerce gathered on June 25 to elect ten members to the Board of Directors. Those chosen to serve three-year terms are:

Thomas Blenk (American Bureau of Shipping), James DeMetro (NYC Greek Film Festival), Brian Devine (Blank Rome), Constantine Ioannou (Constantine D & B), George Katsaounis (Alma Bank), Clay Maitland (International; Registries), Nancy Papaioannou (Atlantic Bank), Robert Shaw (Mystras Ventures), Ted Sogotis (Navios Maritime), and Paul Stathoulopoulos (Marathon Bank).

HACC President Michael Theodorobeakos told those attending that the Chamber continues to be very active, presenting a wide variety of events and drawing large audiences. Treasurer Nancy Papaioannou reported that the Chamber is financially sound.

The election meeting held in the offices of Blank Rome in the Chrysler Building was preceded by a reception hosted by Blank Rome.

New Board Members



Thomas Blenk currently serves as North America Regional Vice President for the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS).

Based out of New York City, Thomas has worked for ABS for more than 15 years where he previously served as Vice President of Global Operations for ABS Nautical Systems, one of the leading providers of asset management software for the maritime industry, Country Manager of ABS United Arab Emirates, overseeing day-to-day operations in the region, and Assistant Country Manager of ABS South Korea. In addition, Blenk has international exposure and expertise in directing complex state-of-the-art maritime projects in both major Korean and Chinese shipyards.

Thomas earned his B.S. in Marine Engineering from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, an MBA from Rutgers University, and has completed the General Management Program at Harvard Business School.

George Katsiaounis, Alma Bank

Ted Sogotis, Eagle Bulk Shipping, Inc.

6th Annual New York City Greek Film Festival 2012 Announces First Two Selections

The New York City Greek Film Festival has announced its first two selections for its sixth session coming up in October, 2012. Scheduled to be shown are "Christmas Tango" (To Tango Ton Christougennon) and "Two Men And A Baby" (Mia For a Kai Ena Moro), both major box office hits in Greece.

Based on the bestselling novel by Yannis Xanthoulis, "Christmas Tango" takes place in a cold and dreary army camp where a lonely lieutenant finds himself longing for the beautiful but unhappy wife of his colonel. Determined to ask her to dance at the upcoming Christmas party, the love-struck lieutenant complicates matters immeasurably when he recruits a soldier to teach him how to tango. Directed by Nikos Koutelidakis, "Christmas Tango" won three Hellenic Film Academy awards earlier this year for best musical score, art direction and costumes.

In "Two Men And A Baby," a desperately unhappy man finds his life changing when he meets Baby Persephone and her ne'er do well guardian. Directed by Nikos Zapatinas, this slick and entertaining road movie abounds in comic mayhem and surprises.

The New York City Greek Film Festival will be at the Museum of the Moving Image in Astoria on October 6 and 7. The Manhattan run will be at the Auditorium on Broadway, 62nd Street and Broadway, October 12 through 14. Still to be announced are dates and venues for a series of special events that will be part of the sixth annual festival.

The Hellenic American Chamber of Commerce, the Hellenic American Cultural Foundation and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation are co-presenters of this year's festival.

Greek American Fashion week Event

Featuring Spring/Summer 2013 collections from Angelo Lambrov, Timothy George, ENOE ME, and Tatiana Raftis.

7:30pm on Friday, September 7th
Midtown Loft & Terrace
267 5th Ave., New York City

This event is by invitation only, please rsvp to:
hellenicamerican@gmail.com and purchase tickets:
www.greekamericanfashionweek2012.eventbrite.com

The following firms and individuals have joined the HACC. Welcome to all.

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