



ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ

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25Η ΜΑΡΤΙΟΥ

Ω πάρτε με απ' την ξενιτειά φτερά της φαντασίας
και φέρτε με στον Όλυμπο στον Κίσαβο επάνω
με λίγα αγριολούλουδα εδώ της Αυστραλίας
τους τάφους των ηρώων σου, Πατρίδα μου να ράνω.

Ω φέρτε με στο πλάτανο στην Άγια Λαύρα απ' έξω
εκεί που τόσοι γίγαντες στήσανε το χορό
ολίγα λιανοτράγουδα στη μνήμη τους να πλέξω
να θυμηθώ τη δόξα τους και το παλιό καιρό.

Πρώτοι οι Ιερολοχίτες έπεσαν στο Δραγατσάνι
τα παιδιά τα τιμημένα τ' αποδήμου Ελληνισμού
πρώτοι φόρεσαν της δάφνης το αμάραντο στεφάνι
πρώτοι μίηυσαν να φτάσει η στιγμή του Λυτρωμού.

Και μετά άλλη χούφτα Έλληνες ανδριωμένοι
εκεί στην Αγία Λαύρα και μπροστά στον Γερμανό
ορκιστήκαν στην σημαία την τρανή και δοξασμένη
να την φέρουν τιμημένη ως ψηλά στον ουρανό.

Καίγεται το Μεσολόγγι από άκρη έως άκρη
και πεθαίνουν τα παιδιά του μες τη μαύρη συμφορά
δεν ακούγεται ένας θρήνος δεν σταλάζει ένα δάκρυ
ούτε μεσ' την έρμη λίμνη δεν σαλεύουν τα νερά.

Και μιά μέρα αποφράδα της σφαγής δέ της μεγάλης
και σαν είδε ότι ήρθε η πιό κρίσιμη στιγμή,
για το Έθνος, στο μπαρουτί φωτιά βάζει ο Καψάλης
για το Έθνος που γνωρίζει να πεθαίνει και να ζει.

Εκεί κατέβηκε κι ο Βύρων δι' αυτό να πολεμήσει
για μιά ένδοξη Ελλάδα όπου είχε ονειρευτεί
κι' ήτανε το πεπρωμένο κεί τα μάτια να σφαλίσει
πριν προλάβει ν' αντικρύσει τη χρυσή τη χαραυγή.

Αλλά επρόλαβε και είδε την Ελλάδα αναστημένη
και τραγούδησε για κείνα τα ανδρεία της παιδιά
κι' είπε, ευτυχής είναι εκείνος που στη γη αυτή πεθαίνει
δω που λάμπανε τα φώτα, δω που ζει η Λευτεριά.

Κι' είδε τον καπνό μακριάθε απ' το δοξασμένο Σούλι
κι' άκουσε πικρό τραγούδι στου Ζαλόγγου το γκρεμνό
κι' άκουσε τα τηλεβόλα του Κανάρη και Μιαούλη
κι' είδε και στην Αλαμάνο το γεφύρι το στενό.

Το μικρό εκείνο γεφύρι κεί όπου τον Διάκο πιάσαν
και τον βάλαν να καεί
και το ρεύμα του Βοσπόρου, που τον Πατριάρχη σύρει
με την όψη τη σβυσμένη κι' είχε ακόμη το σχοινί,

που οι μαύροι δολοφόνοι εκρεμάσαν τον πατέρα
μα άναψε ο θανατός του εις τα στήθη όλων φωτιά
και εκδικήθηκε το Έθνος των Ελλήνων πέρα ως πέρα
την τρανή τότε Τουρκία την αιμοβόρα Αρβανιτιά.

Τα λεοντόκαρδα παιδιά του δεν τα τρόμαξε η φοβέρα
εις την Κιάφα, Καρπενήσι στου Ζαλόγγου το γκρεμνό
στην Τριπολιτσά, Ζητούνη, πολεμήσαν νύχτα μες
και κρατήσαν στην ψυχή τους ό,τι είχαν ιερό.

Κι' αψηλά στο δοξασμένο και αιματοβαμμένο Σούλι
ο Καλόγερος αρνείται να τους δώσει τα κλειδιά
και στη θάλασσα ο Κανάρης που μαζί με τον Μιαούλη
βλέπουν μόνη της τη δόξα να γυρίζει στα Ψαρά.

Κι' άλλοι μας θαλασσοπόροι ο Πιπίνος και ο Κατσώνης
και οι νέες Θερμοπύλες μικρό χάνι της Γραβιάς
Μπότσαρης και Καραϊσκος, Ρήγας και Κολοκοτρώνης
κι' οι χιλιάδες που τον τάφο σκάσαν τότε της Τουρκιάς.

Δεν πεθάνετε μα ζήτε στην ψυχή μας τιμημένοι
σεις όπου ελευθερώστε την Πατρίδα τη φτωχή
και η μνήμη σας για πάντα στην καρδιά μας θέ να μένει
η δέ δόξα σας στον κόσμο, αυτή αιώνια θα ζει.

Κι' αν βρισκόμαστε στα ξένα και αν ζούμε μακριά σας
μια ημέρα σαν και τούτη πάντα η σκέψη θα γυρνά
εις το χόμα της Πατρίδος που σκεπάζει τα οστά σας,
στα γαλάζια τ' ακρογιάλια και στα πράσινα βουνά.

**Απόσπασμα από ποίημα του αείμνηστου
Στάθη Ραυτόπουλου, που απηγγέλη εις το
OLYMPIC SWIMMING POOL
την 25ην Μαρτίου 1960.**



Αυτό το χρόνο, οι Έλληνες σε όλο το κόσμο
γιορτάζουν τα 200 χρόνια από την Επανάσταση
του 1821 και του Αγώνα για την ανεξαρτησία από
την Οθωμανική κυριαρχία. Ημέρα του επίσημου
εορτασμού καθιερώθηκε η 25η Μαρτίου ως εθνική
εορτή της Ελλάδος, διπλή γιορτή, της Ελληνικής
Ανεξαρτησίας και του Ευαγγελισμού της Θεοτόκου.
Σε όλο τον κόσμο, στις κοινότητες της Ελληνικής
διασποράς, συμβολικά κτίρια φωτίστηκαν με
γαλάζια και λευκά χρώματα γιορτάζοντας τη
διακοσαετία της Ελληνικής Επανάστασης (σελίδα
8). Στην Βικτώρια η Επιτροπή Οργάνωσης της
Ελληνικής Εθνικής Εορτής, έχει συντονίσει μία
σειρά εκδηλώσεων για το 2021, ξεκινώντας με την
επίσημη τελετή κατάθεσης στεφάνων στο Ηρώο
(Shrine of Remembrance), παρουσία εκπροσώπων
του Συνδέσμου. Στέφανα κατατέθηκαν από
Πολιτειακά και Ομοσπονδιακά Μέλη της Βουλής
και από τον Γενικό Πρόξενο της Ελλάδος στην
Μελβούρνη, Εμμανουήλ Κακαβελάκη (φωτό άνω).



Η Πρόεδρος Σπυριδούλα Διγαλέτου Κουτσουβέλη
και ο Αντιπρόεδρος Αντώνης Δρακόπουλος
στην άνω φωτογραφία, αφού κατάθεσαν στεφάνι
εκ μέρους του Συνδέσμου κατά την τελετή του
Ελληνικού RSL εις το Αυστραλιανό Ελληνικό
Μνημείο. Τελετάρχης αυτής της εκδήλωσης ήταν ο
Γραμματέας του RSL, Τέρρης Κανέλλος Ιθακήσιος
κληρονομίας και μέλος του Συνδέσμου
μας. Ο κ. Κανέλλος καλωσόρισε
τον Γενικό Πρόξενο της Ελλάδος,
Εμμανουήλ Κακαβελάκη καθώς και
την Αξιότιμο Κυβερνήτη της Βικτώριας,
Linda Desau, οι οποίοι και μίλησαν σε
αυτή τη συγκέντρωση.

Ο Σύνδεσμος μας επίσης απότεινε
φόρο τιμής σε αυτούς που αγωνίστηκαν
για την ανεξαρτησία της Ελλάδος,
στην πρώτη εκδήλωση της χρονιάς
στις 11 Απριλίου στην Αιθουσά μας με
τον εθνικό ύμνο, τη παρουσίαση στην
οθόνη του επίσημου **Ελληνικού 2021
Συμβουλίου** βίντεο και την ομιλία του
Κερκυραίου φίλου του Συνδέσμου,
Γεωργίου Πάγκαλη, εστιάζοντας
την συμμετοχή των Ιθακησίων στην
Επανάσταση.

Congratulations to Senior Member Diamantina Cominos celebrating 100 years in 2021



Bicentennial Greek Independence Celebrations 1821-2021 Εορτές Διακοσαετίας Ελληνικής Ανεξαρτησίας

This year, Greeks all over the world are celebrating 200 years since the outbreak of the Greek Revolution in 1821 and the ensuing War of Independence against the Ottoman rulers. The official commemoration day was on the 25th March, which is traditionally a national holiday in Greece celebrating Greek Independence and the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary. All over the world, in communities of the Greek diaspora, iconic buildings were illuminated in blue and white commemorating the bicentenary of the Greek Revolution (see page 8).

In Victoria, the Organising Committee for Greek National Day has co-ordinated a series of events to take place over 2021, commencing with the official wreath-laying ceremony at the Shrine of Remembrance, attended by representatives of the Society. Wreaths were laid by State and Federal Members of Parliament and the Consul General of Greece in Melbourne, **Emmanuel Kakavelakis** (pictured above left).

President **Spyridoula Digaletou Coutsouvelis** and Vice President **Anthony Drakopoulos** are pictured left after laying a wreath on behalf of the Society at the Hellenic RSL's wreath-laying ceremony at the Australian Hellenic Memorial. MC of this event was Hellenic RSL Secretary, **Terry Kanellos** who is of Ithacan heritage and a member of our Society. He welcomed the Consul General of Greece, Emmanouel Kakavelakis and the Honourable Governor of Victoria, **Linda Desau**, who both addressed the gathering.

The Society also paid tribute to the struggle for independence at its first function for the year on the 11 April at the Clubrooms with the playing of the national anthem, the screening of the official **Greek 2021 Committee** video and a presentation by Kerkyrian friend of the Society, **George Pangalis**, focusing on the participation of Ithacans in the Revolution.

Also at this event eight VCE/VCAL graduates, pictured below, were presented with their awards. The two successful applicants for the **Panoyiannis Raftopoulos Awards**, valued at \$1500 each and co-sponsored by **Spearos Raftopoulos**, were **Anthony Drake** and **Leeawuleena Horler Skiotis**. In congratulating all the graduates on their achievement, guest speaker George Pangalis emphasized *"the importance of investing in the pursuit of knowledge should never be underestimated. Your education will open up a world of opportunities for you and enable you to contribute to society in a meaningful way. Keep questioning, keep learning, as one's education is never complete"*.



Social News

BIRTHS



Twins **Maya** (girl) and **Femi** (boy) **Dracoulis-Terry** had their first birthday recently. They were born at the Royal Women's Hospital on the 19 March 2020. Proud parents Nicola Dracoulis and Yuniory Terry Cabrera are pictured above with their double bundle of joy. Nicola is the daughter of Elizabeth and the late George Dracoulis.



Evelyn Morraitis and partner Matthew Vider joyfully announce the birth of their firstborn, **Jackson Jim Vider**. Jackson, or JJ as dotingly called, was born at 9.49am on Thursday 25th February 2021 at 3kg and 48cm. Becoming the fourth generation Australia through the Morraitis lineage, Jackson is the first grandchild of Jim and Athina Morraitis, nephew of Nathan Morraitis, great-nephew of Noula McKenzie (nee Morraitis), the great-grandson of Evangelia Pastras (nee Raftopoulos) as well as the great-grandson of the late Spiro Morraitis.



Margarita Varigos and Rolf Koenig welcomed their son **Sebastian Nicholas Koenig Varigos** into the world on 11 November 2020 at 11:00am at the Mater Hospital in Sydney, weighing 2.95kg and measuring 47cm. Margarita is the daughter of Rena (Raftopoulos) and Nick Varigos, former President of the Society.



Kristina Tsalikis and Zac Couyant are thrilled to announce the arrival of their baby girl, **Zoe Ioanna**, on 9 January 2021. Zoe's birth has brought so much joy to the extended family including grandparents Eugenia and John Tsalikis and Melanie and George Couyant, and great-grandmother, Helen Vlass.

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Honorary Life Member and former President of the Society, **Peter Paxinos** turned 80 in October 2020 but due to COVID restrictions his family celebrated this milestone in January 2021. Peter spent a wonderful day with his wife, children and grandchildren, his sister and niece. Pictured, back row: Peter, Sam, Tim and Dean Paxinos and Spyridoula Maroulis; front row: Zoe Paxinos, Christina, Alice and Georgia McDonald, Anna, Peter and Georgia Paxinos, Penelope Maroulis. Congratulations Peter from all at the Club.

ENGAGEMENT



On Saturday 27 March, **Christopher Tsalikis** proposed to his long-term girlfriend **Jana Volfson** at the St Kilda Botanical Gardens during a beautiful picnic under the gazebo. They continued their celebrations with nibbles and champagne the following day with family and friends to commemorate the beginning of their wedding festivities to come. Christopher is the son of Jim and Toni Tsalikis and the grandson of Freda and the late Louis Razos. We wish the happy couple all the very best for their upcoming nuptials.

BIRTHDAYS



Congratulations to **Reg Beasley** who turned ninety on 20 October 2020. It was not until the lifting of COVID restrictions, that extended family were able to celebrate the occasion with him, together with his wife Sia, at a family Christmas gathering. Reg is pictured above with his sister-in-law Helen Vlass.

BRISBANE WEDDING



On the 14 November 2020, **Jenny (Ifigenia) Drakopoulos** married **Nick Bellas**. The ceremony took place at the Greek Orthodox Church of St. George, South Brisbane. The wedding celebration was held at the Greek Community Centre, South Brisbane in March 2021. Jenny is the daughter of Dennis and Sevasti Drakopoulos, and the granddaughter of the late Peter (Panayioti) Drakopoulos of Ayios Saranta and the late Ifigenia Drakopoulos (nee Karanges) of Paxi; also the granddaughter of the late George Pavlatos (of Vathi) and of Irene Pavlatos of Monolithos, Rhodes. Nick's parents are Tom and Matina Bellas both from Laconia, a province in the Southern Peloponnese. The Ithacan Society of Queensland extends warm congratulatory wishes to the beautiful young couple and wishes them happiness, joy, health and unending love.

100th Birthday

Εκατοστή Επέτειος Γενεθλίων

Τις πιό θερμές ευχές στην αγαπητή
Διαμαντίνα Κομνηνού για τα εκατό χρόνια των
γενεθλιων της, Πάντα χαρούμενη



Diamantina Cominos nee Vlassopoulou turned one hundred in March 2021. Born in 1921 in Laho, Ithaca, Mantina arrived in Australia in 1948. Until the last couple of years she lived independently in her own home, supported by her sons Nicko and Dimitri here in Melbourne and communicating long distance with her eldest son Xenophon who lives in Greece. She would occupy herself with her favourite pastime, reading, as well as writing poetry. Members of the Club visited her on the occasion of her milestone birthday. Pictured above are from left, son Dimitri Cominos, Helen Vlass, Olivia Paxinos, Eugenia Vlass-Tsalikis and Spyridoula Digaletou-Coutsouvelis.

Congratulations to our VCE/VCAL Graduates

Συγχαρητήρια στους απόφοιτους που τους απενεμήθηκαν τα βραβεία VCE από τον Συνδεσμό μας

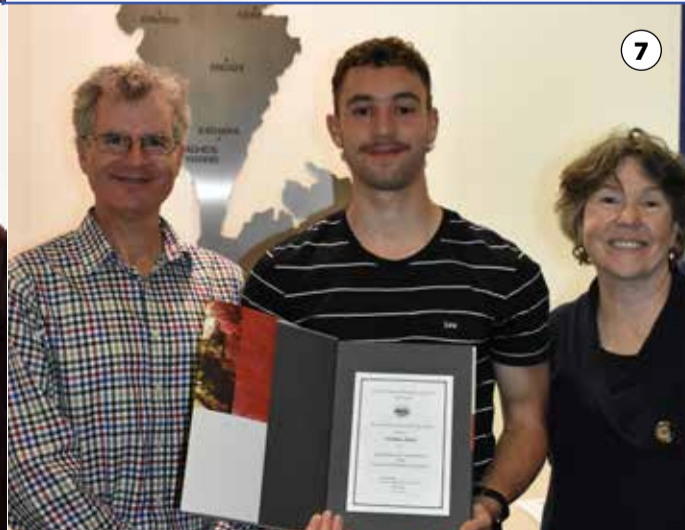


Mikayla Beasley (2) is the daughter of Michael Beasley and Sally Roberts and the granddaughter of Anastasia and Reginald Beasley. Mikayla completed her VCE at Firbank Grammar and is now studying a double degree at Monash University in Business and Marketing as well as working as a part-time nanny. In Year 12 she duxed her class in Business Management and was awarded the Butters Memorial Prize for achievement of personal best. She enjoys playing netball, going to the gym and reading. For five years Mikayla participated in competitive rowing, beating an Australian rowing machine record in 2018 as well as her school's record in 2020. Mikayla visited Ithaca in 2019 and has lasting memories of the beaches and stunning views.

Soraya Defteros (1) is the daughter of Peter Defteros and Megan Jenkins and the granddaughter of June and the late Spiros Defteros. Raya undertook her VCE at Albert Park College and received the school's Excellence Award for Literature. She is taking a gap year this year after accepting an offer to undertake the Bachelor of Film and Television at Swinburne University. She hopes one day to be a filmmaker and write for the screen. She was fortunate enough to do work experience with Director Robert Connolly on the Film "The Dry". Her interests are writing and creating, playing guitar and singing. Raya visited Ithaca in 2019 and was moved by the warm welcome her family received wherever they went.

Anthony Drake (4) is the son of Peter Drake and Jacqueline Beringer and the grandson of Florence and Honorary Life Member Antonios Drakopoulos. He completed his VCE at Carey Baptist Grammar where he studied Literature, German, History, Philosophy, Maths and Chemistry. He is continuing with his studies, undertaking a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Melbourne. Although unsure about his future career, he is certain of one thing – that he would like to start a family. His interests are reading, poetry and Manchester United. He has vivid and nostalgic memories of a trip to Ithaca – the winding roads, the church of Aghia Marina in Exoghi and the breathtaking view from the Church of Panagia Eleousa.

Leeawuleena Horler Sikiotis (3) is the daughter of Fionn Sikiotis and Lisa Horler and the granddaughter of Denis and Jean Sikiotis. She completed her VCE at Northcote High School and was Dux in Media, Legal Studies and Environmental Science. She is now studying a double degree in Arts and Science at Monash



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IPS Secretary, Tania Soulis secretary@ithaca.org.au

University after receiving a Monash Mentor Scholarship. She is passionate about the environment and social justice issues. Her career dream is to one day become either an environmental lawyer or a science communicator and to incorporate media and film into her field of work. Leeawuleena has many interests including basketball, Muay Thai kickboxing and singing. She has been to Ithaca three times and would give anything to be sitting down at Poli again, with a Lux in hand, looking out over the Ionian Sea.

Emily McQuillen (5) is the daughter of Janelle Caravias and the granddaughter of Paul and Helen Caravias. Emily completed the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning at Kambrya College obtaining a Certificate 2 in Salon Assistant. This year she is continuing with vocational studies, undertaking a childcare course at Chisholm Institute. Emily enjoys creative drawing, in particular designing fashions.

Nicholas Paizis (7) is the son of John Paizis and Therese Sweeney and the grandson of the late Themistocles and Christina Paizis. He completed his VCE at McKinnon Secondary College where he was elected Deputy School Captain in 2020. He is continuing his studies at Monash University, undertaking a double degree in Engineering and Commerce. Nicholas hopes in the future to have an impact on the construction industry as it faces the challenges of increasing population growth. He enjoys physical activities including AFL football, golf, running and weight training.

Timothy Paxinos (8) is the son of Joanne and the late Dr Anastasios Paxinos and the grandson of Georgia and Honorary Life Member Peter Paxinos. Completing his VCE at Caulfield Grammar, Tim is currently taking a gap year before commencing an Arts degree in Music Industry at RMIT. Music is his passion and he enjoys nothing better than strumming on his electric guitar playing a diverse range of music including blues, rock and funk. Tim keeps active by participating in indoor futsal soccer.

Anthony Turone (6) is the son of Christine and the late John Turone and the grandson of Lula Vasilopoulos Psiliakos and the late Hercules Psiliakos. He completed his VCE at Parade College, Bundoora and is continuing his studies with a Bachelor of Information Technology at La Trobe University. He hopes to follow a career path in information technology. He enjoys spending time on his playstation, and also has an interest in cars and motor sports, including Formula 1.



Ithacan Historical Society - Ithacan Business Series

Galatis Chocolates

Interval at Saturday night's Paramount Pictures double feature at Port Theatre, and cinema patrons surge across Bay Street for refreshment. Some pick up their sarsaparillas – or icecreams in dixie cups – from the milk bar in the Market shops. But others cross over Liardet Street to Galatis Chocolates.

What raptures are remembered when people recall this shop: the frozen banana treats ... the thick, frothy spiders and milk shakes, those very special chocolates made by hand by Mr Galatis, 'who always had his hat on'.

He made chocolate coated ice creams before anyone else ever thought of it. And did he not make the best malted milk in the summertime?

Extracts from "They Can Carry Me Out" Memories of Port Melbourne, edited by Paul Grainger, City of Port Melbourne 1991

My father Gerald Galatis was christened Christogerasimos and was born in Anoghi, Ithaca 13 November 1911 to Nicholas and Rodamanthi Galatis (nee Paizis also from Anoghi). The family *paratsoukli* was *Bourboulas*. Gerald was the eldest of three sons, his siblings being Vasilios and Spiridon respectively.

Gerald migrated to Australia in 1924 and came by ship from Greece via Port Said and landed in Fremantle, Western Australia. He settled with uncles Alexandros and Konstantinos Paizis, both brothers of Rodamanthi, and worked for some time in South Australia in fish shops, fruit shops, etc to support not only himself, but to send as much as he could afford back to Ithaca, particularly to assist his ailing father who was suffering from the chest condition called consumption (*phthisi*).

In the late 1920s, Gerald accompanied his uncles and their wives (who were both called Joyia, anglicised to Joyce) to Melbourne. His uncle Konstantinos Paizis opened a confectionery business at 225 Bay Street Port Melbourne, and it was here that Gerald learnt the confectionery trade from Konstantinos, who in turn had been tutored by a gentleman who Gerald always referred to as *Barba Bendigo*.

Once Gerald had accumulated sufficient savings and was confident with his newly-acquired skills as a confectioner, he bought the business from his uncle Konstantinos, in the early 1930s, which he called **Home Made Sweets & Specialities**

Leaving his uncle Konstantino to run the business, Gerald returned to Ithaca in 1934 to visit his ailing father. It was on this trip that he became engaged to Elli Rossolymou, the elder daughter of neighbours Kalliope and Dionysios (*paratsoukli: Nitsas*). Gerald returned to Melbourne and Elli followed in 1935, chaperoned by another migrating Ithacan family. They were married in October 1935 by a Greek priest in the lounge room of uncle Alexandros' Banks Street, South Melbourne home, as Gerald worked seven days a week. (Eventually, he contracted scarlet fever and was ordered by his doctor to take one day a week off.) The marriage was then registered at Evangelismos Church, East Melbourne. A year and a half later, Elli gave birth to son Nick on her seventeenth birthday.

Gerald and Elli successfully ran the confectionery/milk bar business in Bay Street for thirty plus years, while living at a rented dwelling at the rear of a pharmacy shop just five or six shops down the road. Gerald was very fastidious in his craft. In the photograph (far right) of the window display, where he can be seen standing



at the entrance with his short sleeve white over-jacket. The display chocolates were always lined up with strict military precision and stacked up in pyramids with the outer chocolates of the pyramid wrapped in paper foil - a very laborious but effective operation.

All the confectionery was made on the premises in a room approximately thirty square metres. The factory area doubled as a kitchen, dining room, study and music room (where I practised the violin) all rolled into one. It all worked because it had to! The chocolate centres consisted of glucose, egg white with a portion of cream of tartar to thicken the creamy centres. The glucose was heated in an 80cm high and 80cm wide cauldron and was then poured onto a two-metre long by one-metre wide and 15cm thick slab of marble. Next the egg white and cream of tartar mixture was added using a large paddle. The egg white and cream of tartar mixture had to be pre-mixed and added at exactly the correct temperature otherwise the glucose would drift off the marble slab. The mixture was then worked on until it had gone completely white.

The mixture was then transferred into a steel cone-shaped funnel and was literally drip fed through a hole in the bottom of the funnel into numerous rows of starch-moulded shapes where it was allowed to cool and harden enough for the chocolate dipping process. There were various shaped moulds for the different flavoured cream centres, such as squares for caramels, vanilla creams, fig centres, rectangles for dried apricots, round shapes for raspberry and strawberry flavours, banana shapes for the banana centres, etc. There was such a large variety of centres! In addition to the ones just mentioned, I also



remember peppermint, pineapple and ginger creams. The ginger and figs were purchased from fellow Ithacan proprietor and wholesaler Panoyiannis Raftopoulos of Regal Trading Company at 29 William Street in the CBD. As a manufacturer during the WW2 years when rations and coupons were necessary for many commodities, my father had a licence to purchase commercial quantities of sugar without coupons. He was therefore able to help out Panoyiannis with additional quantities of sugar.

As well as the cream centres, Gerald's confectionary range included peanut toffee, peanut clusters, coconut ruffs, butterscotch, milk rock (nougat) and slabs of dark and milk chocolates containing roasted almonds, coconut flakes etc. Chocolate Easter eggs were also a feature. Customers would ask, "Mr G, what's the Easter bunny bringing you?" Gerald would reply with, "Don't be silly I am the Easter bunny!" In the 1940s my father donated chocolates for the Children's Christmas Party at the Ithacan Club, as noted in the IPS minutes.

Customers would come from far and wide for our malted milks and milk shakes. Dad's secret was to keep the milk very cold to produce the best result. He created the *Two-In-One* chocolate-coated ice-cream (further developed by Sennitt's and Peter's Ice Cream into the different varieties of today). The vanilla ice-cream on a stick was hand dipped into warm chocolate and then quickly frozen. In the early days, this innovation became a frenzied favourite and interrupted my parents' usual practice of taking a lunchtime break. Despite the *Closed for Lunch* notice, customers would bang on the front door for service. My father would respond with plenty of Greek expletives!!



Photo above 1940s, courtesy of Margaret Couch, "They Can Carry Me Out" Memories of Port Melbourne. Gerald Galatis can be seen at the rear of the shop making the chocolates.



Both my parents enjoyed the break from daily routine and the mineral baths provided relief for their tired aching limbs. Before leaving for our vacation, Dad would always complain about having to clear the window display. He would place the pyramids of chocolates neatly on the concrete floor to avoid the possibility of the summer heat melting them.

By the early 1960s Gerald and Elli had had enough of work. The business was sold in 1963 and they retired to *smell the roses*. Retirement began with an extended holiday to Ithaca, which was my first. Back in the family home in Hawthorn, Dad took to gardening and supplied the neighbourhood with figs and tomatoes in season while Mum was able to pursue home duties, as well as care for her ailing mother Kalliope, whom my parents had brought out from Ithaca in the early 1950s.

Nicholas Galatis

Dad's handwriting was testament to his dedication to correctness and precision. His window displays of chocolates were praised far and wide and marvelled at because no props or fakes were used. Everything was freshly prepared and displayed. Window stock was rotated weekly, and the windows were cleaned and floors scrubbed between changes. Gerald's skill as a confectioner was recognised by George Polites (from Lefkada), proprietor of the Green Gate Confectionery & Milk Bar on the corner of Elizabeth and Flinders Streets. George was always trying to convince Gerald to move premises to the CBD, but the ever-cautious Gerald did not want to take any unnecessary financial risks.

My mother Elli helped in all aspects of the business including chocolate dipping and serving customers. Dad initially helped her to learn English, but she then further developed her communication skills by serving in the shop. She later took on a correspondence course to develop her writing and comprehension further.

I personally helped to keep the profits low and the dental bill high! My dentist said to my mother after numerous fillings, "We are building on sand!" I will never forget one of our customers who used to come to the shop over many years. He was a night watchman on Station Pier, the then migrant arrival port in Melbourne, just two blocks away. He would come into the factory where I would be practising the violin and would ask if he could touch the instrument while I played. The poor man was stone deaf and wanted to feel the violin's vibration. His hearing was damaged in the Second World War where, as a gunner, he never wore his earplugs. "I wish to Christ I could hear it", he would exclaim.

Gerald had a mischievous nature. Our telephone number was unfortunately similar to a local taxi company. He would respond to regular calls complaining about delays with, "Yes, it's on its way", and then would hang up! Holiday time was in January each year for two weeks and was always in Hepburn Springs, famous for its mineral baths, still operational to this day.



On the 30 January **Gerry and Mary Raftopoulos** celebrated their **50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY** with their children and grandchildren (pictured above). The children surprised them with a magnificent set-up at the iconic Kings Park in Perth. White and gold was the theme with twinkling lights on the tables. It was truly breathtaking against the Perth skyline. Each of their six grandchildren made a speech. It was very interesting to hear what they thought of their papou and yiaia. Some made us laugh and others brought tears to our eyes.

Fifty years ago, the newly-married couple left Durban, South Africa on the P&O liner *Canberra* and set sail for a dream honeymoon in Australia and the Far East. Gerry wanted to meet his family and cousins in Sydney, the Raftos (Spozi) family in Coogee. On the way to Sydney, the ship docked in Perth for the day. They did a tour of the city but remember little of the day. Never in their wildest dreams did they expect that they would leave South Africa, the land of their birth, move to Australia and settle in sleepy Perth. Now fifty years on, they are happily settled there, in beautiful Perth, with their children and Aussie grandchildren.

STEPHEN KIKIROS
1924-2021



**Recipient in 2017
of the
Inaugural
Michelides Award
recognising a
lifetime of com-
munity service
in Perth**

Stephen Kikiros was born on 14 September 1924 at the family home at 10 James Street, Perth. He was the youngest of seven children born to his parents, Constantine (from Paleros) and Spirithoula Kikiros (nee Kouvara, born in Exoghi, Ithaca). His parents had emigrated from Greece in 1912 with the two oldest children, Andrew and Jack. The remaining children, Mary, George, Nicholas, Kate and Stephen were born in Australia. Two of his brothers tragically passed away at a young age, which only cemented Stephen's commitment to family.

Stephen was educated at Highgate Primary School and then at the Perth Boys' High School. He passed his Junior Certificate in seven subjects. He commenced employment with the public service at the Forest Department. In addition to working full-time, Stephen studied for and passed introductory and intermediate courses in accountancy. When he was eighteen, Stephen joined the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) and trained at Point Cook, Victoria as a Wireless Telegraphist. He was posted to the Exmouth Gulf attached to the 11th Fighter Sector. He was then transferred to Onslow and later to Darwin, completing his service in 1946.

Stephen completed his accountancy studies with the Federal Institute of Accountants. He was awarded the

R.R. Long Prize for obtaining the highest aggregate marks in Western Australia for the four final examinations. He joined the Commonwealth Bank of Australia on 10 November 1948. Due to his fluency in Greek, he was deployed for a time to the Migrant Information Service. He accompanied several thousand Greek migrants on numerous trips to Melbourne and Sydney, helping them to find employment and assisting them to obtain finance. Later, he also aided several hundred prospective migrant families from East and South Africa and Kenya. Stephen worked his way up to bank manager and managed four branches over a period of twenty-one years. He was the first Australian of Greek descent in Western Australia to be promoted to bank manager. In 1985, he was promoted to the position of State Manager of Marketing Services, a position he held until he retired in 1987. In 1984, Stephen was made a Fellow of the Bankers' Institute of Australasia.

Stephen's contribution to the Greek community of Perth was unparalleled. He served as Vice-President of the Hellenic Community of Western Australia Inc. and was appointed Trustee of the organisation (2002), followed by the award of Life Membership (2006). He was also on the inaugural Greek Welfare Association Committee with Father Emmanuel, under the leadership of Bishop Ezekiel. Stephen was particularly proud of initiating the purchase of a property for \$16,000, by the Hellenic Women's Association. He helped obtain finance for the purchase which has increased significantly in value.

Stephen was appointed an inaugural Trustee of the Chapel of St John the Theologian in Prevelly, Western Australia. This church is a replica of a Chapel in Preveli, Crete and was built in honour of the monks who hid and protected Allied servicemen during the Second World War.

On 1 July 1999, Stephen was appointed to the Board of St Andrew's Grammar School, a multicultural private school. He served on the Building and Development Committee, Finance Committee, Staff Salaries Review Committee and Fundraising Committee. Later, during his term as Chairman of the Board, a decision was made to develop the school from Year 7 to Year 12. Stephen worked diligently for this to become a reality, leading a fundraising drive which raised more than \$1,000,000 in donations and pledges. Stephen was honoured with the establishment of the *Stephen Kikiros Honour Award* which recognises *Outstanding Citizenship and Service to the School* by a senior school student.

Stephen was an excellent Australian Rules footballer in his day. He played some senior games for the Claremont Football Club and also coached the Claremont Football Club Colts for a time.

Last but not least, the most important part of Stephen's life was his family. Stephen and his beloved wife of over seventy-one years, Katherine, met after WWII. They married in 1949 and shared a long, mostly healthy and happy life together. They were blessed with three children, Sylvia, Pamela and Colin. He was very proud of his three children, his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Στη μνήμη του αδελφού μου
Δημήτρη**

Ταξίδι σου τ'αλαργηνό
που μοίρα σού'χε γράψει
απ'το πρωί ως το δειλινό
το φρόντιζες με τάξη

Είσουνα χρόνια ναυτικός
με τάρματα στο χέρι
και ήταν η τύχη οδηγός
σου διάβα σου τα μέρη

Κ' εσύ με την υπομονή
το πλοίο είχες φτειάσει
το δούλεψες τόσο πολύ
το κύμα μη το σκάσει

Ο Θεός σου έκανε χάρη
μένα δώρο του μεγάλο
άγγελο στέλνει να σε πάρει
να μην υποφέρεις άλλο

Σε μας αδελφέ μου Μήτσο
η μορφή σου έχει μείνει
μα όσοι μείναμε δω πίσω
Λέμε! Αιώνια σου η μνήμη

Κώστας Μορφέσης
Καναδά

VALE DENIS SYRMIS

Denis Syrmis, a foundation member and committee member of the Ithacan Society of Queensland passed away on the 8 November 2020. He is survived by his wife Maria, daughter Kris and her husband Nino Zoccali, his son Nicholas, grandson Luca and siblings Voula Castan and Con Syrmis.



**A tribute to
the best big
brother a
little
sister could
have**

Voula Castan

My exceptional brother **Denis Syrmis** was a big-hearted, loveable, authentic person. What you saw was what you got; there was no politics, there was no game playing. He was born in Ayr, North Queensland on the 19 December 1928, winning a baby competition that was conducted there at that time. His education was interrupted by the movement of his father between two countries, World War 11 and the tragic circumstances of the death of his father and his little sister.

Denis had many talents and interests. He was artistic and had beautiful handwriting. He was a film buff, attending movies regularly, and knew all the stars and their film histories. He was a skilled diver, demonstrating extraordinary acrobatics in the air before hitting the water. Denis had an aptitude for mechanical work and at one stage wanted to be a pilot. He was a mechanic, an engine driver, a boiler maker, responsible for turning out all the beer at 4X. He had an amazing tool collection and would willingly help family and friends with their cars and lawnmowers. He loved cars, owning a *Blue Riley* as a young man, and was able to pull them apart, repair them and then put them together again. His own car was always impeccably clean and beautifully polished.

He learnt to box and gained a reputation for having such a great upper-cut that it took only one good uppercut to make a knockout. Mum and I were worried about his boxing success. To dissuade him from participating in this sport, we told him that he could get a broken nose and that would change his appearance. That had the desired result and he stopped boxing as he prided himself on his appearance and did not want to damage his *Tony Curtis* look-alike image.

He was also a celebrity rock and roll dancer in his day, performing with the Frango brothers and teaching various moves at Cloudland. Some of his fans of yesteryear have remained fans even today. He used me to practice his moves to loud rock and roll music, whirling me up in the air, through his legs, round his back and under his arms while his feet never stopped moving. He practised until he had perfected the move, then I was allowed to go back to reading my book.

Denis had a love of animals and plants and was as good a gardener as his mother. He kept two cats as pets. He would feed the Blue Persian kitten he inherited from his daughter with fresh prawns. Given this special attention, she lived for twenty years, a ripe old age for Blue Persians. The cockatoos were fed daily and the head cockatoo would bring flocks of them to Denis's back door and they would all line up squawking for a feed.

When he decided it was time to settle down, he asked his mother to write a letter of proposal to a young girl he had spotted in Anoghi, on a visit to Ithaca. Her name was Maria and she was still in his mind and heart. Though Mum made him sleep on it, Denis was adamant that she was the girl for him. And indeed she was; she was the great love of his life for all his life. His love extended to his daughter Kris and his son Nicholas, to his son-in-law Nino for whom he would do anything, and to his grandchild Luca who was so special.

**ΠΗΝΕΛΟΠΗ ΠΡΟΣΑΛΕΝΤΗ-
ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΑΤΟΥ
PINELOPI PROSALENTI-
ALEXANDRATOU**

Απεβίωσε στην Αθήνα, στις 19 Οκτωβρίου 2020, η γιαγιά μας Πηνελόπη Προσαλέντη-Αλεξανδράτου. Η Πηνελόπη γεννήθηκε στο Μεσολόγγι Αιτωλοακαρνανίας και ήταν κόρη του Παναγιώτη Προσαλέντη και της Διονυσίας Μαυροκεφάλου από την Εξωγή. Αποφοίτησε από την Ανωτάτη Σχολή Τραπεζικών Σπουδών και εργάστηκε στην Τράπεζα της Ελλάδος. Παντρεύτηκε τον Σπύρο Αλεξανδράτο από τις Φρίκες, αξιωματικό της πολεμικής αεροπορίας, τον οποίο ακολούθησε σε όλες τις αποστολές του σε διάφορες χώρες του εξωτερικού, χωρίς ποτέ να αποχωριστούν ο ένας τον άλλον μέχρι το τέλος της ζωής του. Απέκτησαν δύο κόρες, την Ντενίζ και την Τζίνα, και δύο εγγονές, την Πηνελόπη και την Μυρτώ, τις οποίες μύησαν στην αγάπη τους για την Ιθάκη, τον τόπο όπου πάντα επέστρεφαν.

Την γιαγιά μας χαρακτήριζε η αξιοπρέπεια και η ευγένεια. Η δυναμικότητα της λειτουργούσε ως στήριγμα και παράδειγμα για την οικογένεια. Πάντοτε περιποιημένη και κοκέτα συνέχιζε να φροντίζει τους αγαπημένους της μέχρι το τέλος της ζωής της. Έφυγε περιτριγυρισμένη από τα παιδιά της και τα εγγόνια της, που ήταν η μεγαλύτερη πηγή της χαράς της.



Our grandmother, **Pinelopi Prosalenti-Alexandratou** passed away on 19 October 2020. Pinelopi was born in Mesologgi, Aitoloakarnania and was the daughter of Panagiotis Prosalentis and Dionysia Mavrokefalou, from Exoghi. She graduated from the Banking Studies Institute of Higher Education and worked at the Bank of Greece. She married Spyro Alexandratos, from Frikes, Military Air Force Officer, whom she followed in all of his missions abroad, without ever parting from each other till his death. They had two daughters, Denise and Gina, and two granddaughters, Pinelopi and Myrto, to whom they infused their love for Ithaca, the place they always returned to.

What characterized our grandmother was her kindness and dignity. Her resilience and dynamic personality was a pillar of support and an example for all of us. Always well-dressed, she kept taking care of her loved ones till the end. She left surrounded by her children and grand children who were her biggest joy.

**CHRIS SOFIANOS
1932-2020**



Sadly, on 23 May 2020, **Chris Sofianos** passed away in Newcastle. Chris was born in 1932 in Agia Paraskevi on the island of Lesvos. He came to Australia at the age of seventeen and started work with his uncle in Barraba at the Monterey Cafe. In 1956 he met his love, Niki Cominos, the daughter of the late Peter and Maria Cominos from Lefki, and they were married in 1957. They were married for

sixty-three years and had two sons George and Peter. He built a lovely home on the island of Ithaki, where he spent many summers with his wife and his best friend and brother-in-law Arthur Cominos and sister-in-law Jenny Cominos, welcoming lots of friends and family, Chris was a man of few words but a man who was greatly respected in business and the community. He is greatly missed by all.

Dimity Megalos

**ANGELA PATERDIS
1978-2020**

The Ithacan Society of Queensland was saddened to hear of the passing of **Angela Paterdis** aged forty-two, a beautiful daughter, wife and mother. and extends its condolences to her husband Dr. Jason Paterdis, children Alexia and Phillip, to Angela's parents Leo and Anna Raftopoulos and sister Maree.

Με μεγάλη λύπη σας αναγγέλλουμε ότι στις 25 Δεκεμβρίου απεβίωσε η αγαπητή μας **Αγγελα Paterdis** ετών 42. Η Αγγελα ήταν θυγατέρα του Ηλία (Leo) Ραυτόπουλος (Τσόλης) και της Άννας Ζέρβος από την Brisbane, σύζυγος του Δρ. Jason Paterdis, και μητέρα των διδύμων Alexia και Phillip. Η Αγγελα γεννήθηκε στην Brisbane όπου και σπούδασε και επέτυχε το πτυχίο Bachelor από το πανεπιστήμιο QUT. Συγγενείς και φίλοι πάντα θα θυμούνται την Αγγελα, την αγάπη της, το χαμόγελό της και την αξιοπρέπεια της.



Angela Paterdis (née Raftopoulos) was born in Brisbane in 1978, the first daughter to Leo and Anna Raftopoulos of Brisbane, paternal granddaughter of Gerasimos Raftopoulos (Tsolis), originally from Frikes in Ithaca and of Eugenia Paxinou (Liri) from Anoghi. Her maternal grandparents were Jack Zervos from Rockhampton, originally from Kythira, and Angela Koutsis from Chios.

Angie, as she was better known, grew up into an attractive young lady with a vibrant personality. She was well mannered, always with a smile on her face, always teasing, joking and always with a positive outlook even when things were not going well, a characteristic that helped her later on in her short life. Angie attended the Indooroopilly State School and later the Queensland University of Technology from where she graduated with a Bachelor of Business majoring in Marketing. She worked in Brisbane, Athens and London and enjoyed the opportunity to travel extensively.

In 2009, everything changed for Angie. Dr Jason Paterdis came into her life and after a few months of courting they were married in 2010. All was going well for them, the world was at their feet. But a few months into their marriage, Angie was diagnosed with a highly aggressive cancer. Being Angie, she was not going to let this disease win. She fought it with all her might for nearly ten years whilst trying to live as normally as possible. Their twins, Alexia and Phillip, were born in 2015 and they kept her busy and distracted; but the disease continued spreading.

In the early morning of Christmas Day 2020, Angie lost the long battle. The funeral took place in the Church of St George, packed with relatives and friends and where, ten years earlier, her marriage

was celebrated. Angie, the dignity and the persistence with which you fought the cancer was inspirational. You gave it your all and now it is time for you to rest in peace, beautiful girl.

**DENISE (DIONYSIA) POLITES
ΔΙΟΝΥΣΙΑ ΠΟΛΙΤΗ
1934-2020**

Στις 11 Νοεμβρίου 2020 έφυγε από αυτή τη ζωή η σεβαστή και αγαπητή **Διονυσία Πολίτη**. Η Διονυσία γεννήθηκε στο όμορφο χωριό Εξωγή, στην Ιθάκη. Ήταν κόρη των Ορέστη και Δήμητρας Δευτεραίου, η μικρότερη αδελφή των Νίτσας, Τάκη, Γιώργου, Οδυσσέα και Ειρήνης. Ο πατέρας τους πέθανε όταν η Διονυσία ήταν δύο χρονών και τα παιδιά αναγκάστηκαν ένας ένας, να μεταναστεύσουν για μια καλύτερη ζωή, στην Αυστραλία, Αφρική και Νέα Ζηλανδία. Η Διονυσία με την μητέρα της και την νύφη τους Καλλονή έφτασαν στην Μελβούρνη το 1954.

Το 1955 επαντρεύτηκε τον Γεράσιμο Πολίτη από τη Λευκάδα και απέκτησαν δύο τέκνα τον Στάθη και την Αμέλια. Αξιώθηκαν να δουν εγγόνια, τους Ανδρέα, Κατερίνη, Διονυσία και Γεράσιμο. Ήταν μια αφοσιωμένη σύζυγος και μητέρα, λάτρευε τα εγγόνια της και ήταν υπερήφανη για αυτά. Αγαπούσε την Ιθάκη και πάντα υποστήριζε τον Συνδεσμό μας όπου με τον Τζέρι παρευρισκόταν σε όλες τις εκδηλώσεις μας. Αγαπητή από όλες στη παρέα του Μπίγκο, χαμογελαστή, πάντοτε έλεγε τη καλημέρα της, με μια καλή κουβέντα για όλους. Πάντα θα είναι στη θύμηση όλων με σεβασμό και αγάπη.



Denise Polites (nee Dionysia Deftereou) was born in the village of Exoghi, Ithaki on 17 December 1934. Records also show her birth as 1932. But my mother always insisted that those records were wrong. No one was going to add two years to her age and get away with it. So 1934 it shall be.

At the age of two my mother lost her father and consequently had no memory of him. Life in a Greek village for a widow with six surviving children would not have been easy. They had food, they had some milk, they had what they could grow, they had each other, but they did not have a future on the island. So one by one they left. Nitsa came to Australia, Taki went to South Africa, George and Othisea also came to Australia along with Irini, who then went on to New Zealand. The last to leave Ithaki was my mum, the youngest of the siblings, who together with her mother Dimitra and Kaloni (Dimitra's daughter-in law to be) left Greece on the ship the Himalaya, arriving in Melbourne in 1954. The following year, Denise married Gerry Polites.

On Sunday 12 February 1956 a tragedy unfolded with the sudden death of my mother's eldest brother George. George died from a heart attack in the back seat of my father's car during a mercy dash to the Royal Melbourne Hospital. George's death had a profound effect on my mother and her family. As a young woman of twenty-two, she wore black for five years as a sign of mourning. A month later in March 1956, I came along. My parents then bought a house with Mum's loving brother Othisea and his wife Marika and they all moved to Pascoe Vale. Six years later my sister Amelia was born and in 1970 we moved to Doncaster where our parents raised us as teenagers and young adults.

My mother taught me three important lessons. The first was that family is the most important thing in life. My mother lived for her family. She cared and loved us and worked tirelessly for us for sixty years. She would say that because her grandchildren: Andrew, Catherine, Denise and Gerry were her children's children, she loved them twice over. My mother was a staunch defender of family. No one could ever say anything derogatory about a Defteros, a Razos or a Polites in her presence without her jumping to their defence.

The second lesson my mother taught me was the importance of an education. She provided me with everything I needed to educate myself, the schools, the quiet home environment, the meals, the care and the years of commitment. Thirdly, my mother taught me what it means to be an ITHACAN. She was so proud of being an ITHACAN and loved all things ITHACAN. She loved the ITHACAN New Year eve dances, the Christmas lunches, the annual picnics, the trips away, the bingo sessions and all her bingo friends and much, much more.

From its position high up on the mountain, she would tell me that the view from Exoghi was beautiful. But how good could it be? It was not until six years ago when I visited Ithaca with my wife Mary and our children Denise and Gerry that I was able to understand my mother's passion. The view from Exoghi, looking down over the jade bay of Aphales, with the trees rolling down to the water's edge, literally took my breathe away. The bells of the church in Exoghi tolled in her honour and she has been laid to rest with a piece of rubble in her hands from the ruins of the house in which she was born.

My mother loved life and life loved her. She loved going shopping with her girls, Mary, Amelia, Catherine and Denise. She loved our Christmas and family functions, she loved all the fun times we had in Torquay, she loved all of her friends, and all of her children's friends, always opening her house and arms to them.

My mother fought a courageous battle in the final years of her life and showed incredible strength, courage and resilience. She is now at peace with God, her parents and her siblings. I love you *Mitera mou* and you will always be in my heart.

Steven Polites

**WALTER BILLETER
1943 - 2020**



Walter Billeter, 77 of Eaglemont, Melbourne, passed away on 3 October 2020 after a very short battle with lung cancer. Walter was born on 4 July 1943 to Carl and Martha Billeter-Geissbuchler in Muraz sur Sierre, Switzerland. He graduated from Naturwissenschaftliches Gymnasium, Basle and went on to study civil drafting. After working in Switzerland for a few years, he emigrated to Australia. In 1966 he met Penelope Kallinikos. They wed in 1970 and were blessed with two children, Karl and Annelies. Walter had many passions and combined these in his careers and leisure activities: drafting, writing, editing, translating and creating performance readings. In 1991 he completed a BA Hons in German, Italian and Literature followed by a Diploma of Education and went on to teach German, Italian and Computer studies at secondary school level.

After retiring, Walter spent his time on many building projects around the house, travelling back to Switzerland, being with his grandchildren, and enjoying his hobbies of Tai Chi and long walks with his wife and dog. Walter is predeceased by his parents and his sister Vreni. He is survived by his wife Penelope, his brothers Peter and Herbert, his two children Karl and Annelies and his three grandchildren, Sarah, Gemma and Tabitha.

**ANTONIOS SERVOS
ΑΝΤΩΝΙΟΣ ΣΕΡΒΟΣ
1932-2020**

Απεβίωσε στις 8 Δεκεμβρίου 2020 ο **Αντώνιος Σέρβος**, σεβαστό μέλος του Συνδέσμου μας. Ο Αντώνης γεννήθηκε στο Βαθύ Ιθάκης το 1932, όπου εκεί μεγάλωσε και πέρασε τα παιδικά του χρόνια. Είχε την ευκαιρία να μεταναστεύσει στην Νέα Ζηλανδία στην θεία του, όπου έζησε επτά χρόνια δουλεύοντας και βοηθώντας την οικογένειά του, ώσπου ήλθε στην Μελβούρνη με την μητέρα του και τον πατριό του. Διέμενε στο North Melbourne και αγάπησε την κοινωνία και το ομώνυμο Football Club. Σημαντικό στη ζωή του ήταν που είχε γύρω τους φίλους του και την Ιθακήσια κοινωνία. Το 1963 παντρεύτηκε την Αργυρούλα και μαζί ανέθρεψαν τρία τέκνα τους Μανώλη, Αλεξάνδρα και Ζήση και αξιώθηκαν να δουν εγγόνια, την Ζωή, Αντώνη, Κατίνα και Βαλεντίνα. Εξαιρετος σύζυγος, πατέρας και παππούς, θα είναι πάντα στη μνήμη όλων.



Antonios Servos, also known to many as **Spaniolo** was born in Vathi, Ithaca in 1932. He grew up as an only child, however, this did not hinder his ability to become one of the more well-known kids in Vathi. With his mischievous and outgoing nature, he certainly made a name for himself from a young age.

Antonios was given the opportunity to leave Greece and travelled to New Zealand where he lived with his aunty and cousins. Instead of having the chance to go to school, Antonios began working to help his aunty's family. He spent seven years in New Zealand before moving to Melbourne to be with his mother and stepfather. Living in North Melbourne, he instantly fell in love with the community, and started his love affair with the North Melbourne Football Club.

An important part of the maturing of Antonios, was the presence of his close friends and the strong Ithacan community that surrounded him throughout his life. In 1963 he met the love of his life Argiroula whom he cherished and spent the remainder of his life with. Together they raised three beautiful children: Manuel, Alexandra and Zison. He was dedicated to providing his children with the best life possible. Manuel, the oldest of the three, married Aphrodite who went on to provide Antonios with the first of his grandchildren, Zoe and Anthony. Zison married Antonia, who blessed him with two more grandchildren, Katina and Valentina.

We will remember Antonios for a certain story, joke or his witty one-liners. He lived a long and fulfilling life and left us with countless memories and a great legacy which we will all treasure forever. He will be missed deeply by all those he loved and loved him. We could not have wished for a better husband, father, grandfather or friend.

**OMIRO DELLAS
ΟΜΗΡΟΣ ΔΕΛΛΑΠΟΡΤΑΣ
1934 2020**

Απεβίωσε στις 2 Δεκεμβρίου 2020 το αγαπητό μέλος του Συνδέσμου μας, ο **Όμηρος Δελλαπόρτας** από το χωριό Άγιο Ιωάννη Ιθάκης. Ο Όμηρος ήταν τέκνο των Ηλία και Διονυσίας Δελλαπόρτα και το τελευταίο παιδί της οικογένειας, αδελφός της Αικατερίνης και των εκλιπόντων Φώτη, Γερασίμου, Ζαχαράτης, Πάναγιώτη, Γεωργίου και Δήμου. Ήλθε στην Μελβούρνη το 1955 που ήταν όλα τα αδελφια του, μόνο ο Δήμος έμεινε στην Ιθάκη. Δούλευε στο μανάβικο του αδελφού του Γεράσιμου. Το 1968 παντρεύτηκε την Σταυρούλα Λαγκούση από την Εξωγή και απέκτησαν δύο κόρες, τις Διονυσία και Ελένη. Για μια εικοσιπενταετία εργαζόταν στο Woolworths (Safeway), αφοσιωμένος και ευσενήδητος στην δουλειά του, όπου η υπηρεσία του αναγνωρίστηκε από τους προϊσταμένους του. Ήταν ένας καλός οικογενειάρχης, καλός άνθρωπος και αγαπητός σε όλους.



Στον Όμηρο

Έφυγε ο Όμηρος
ο γίος του μπάμπια Λιά
Τώρα πλέον κατοικεί
σε άλλη γειτονιά

Έφυγε στο ταξίδι του
πούναι το τελευταίο
που δυστυχώς για όλους μας
είναι και το μοιραίο

Στο ομορφό του το νησί
δεν θα ξαναγυρίσει
ούτε και κρύο πια νερό
θα πιεί από τη βρύση

Ήσουν πονόψυχος άνθρωπος
μία χρυσή καρδιά
τέτοια καρδιά έχουνε
μόνο μικρά παιδιά

Εκεί πάνω που θα πας
πολλούς θα συναντήσεις
γονείς σου και πεθερικά
το φίλο σου Άθα Μωραίτη

Σε περιμένει Όμηρε
και θα σε αγκαλιάσει
όταν αμέσως θα σε δει
το χέρι σου θα πιάσει

Δύσκολος ο αποχωρισμός
πικρό είναι το αντίο
όταν μια μέρα αναχωρεί
ο ένας από τους δύο

Νάναι το χώμα ελαφρύ
αυτό που σε σκεπάζει
ανθρώπους σαν και σένανε
η γη δύσκολα βγάζει

Ευαγγελία Μωραίτη

Omiros Dellas was born on the 25 November 1934 in the village of Ai Yianni, Ithaca to Ilias and Dionysia Dellaporta, the youngest sibling of Gerasimo, Zaharati, Panayioti, Giorgio, Nina and Dimo. In 1955 when he was twenty years old, he migrated to Melbourne to join members of his family who had migrated earlier. He worked at his brother Gerasimos' fruit shop in Glenhuntly and learnt the ropes of running a fruit shop. This held him in good stead when he applied for a job in the fruit and vegetable section of Woolworths Templestowe. He worked there for twenty-nine years from 1986 until his retirement in 2015 when he was acknowledged for his unstinting service and strong work ethic.

In 1968 he married Stavroula Lagcousis from Exoghi. They had two daughters, Denise in 1969 and Helen in 1981. Soon after his arrival in Australia, he was introduced to Aussie rules football by Anthony Drakopoulos, a staunch Essendon supporter. At one particular Essendon match, Omiro decided to barrack for the opposing team which happened to be Melbourne and he remained a loyal Demon supporter from that day. Omiro passed away suddenly on 2 December 2020. A caring and loving person, he will be sadly missed by his family and friends in the Ithacan community.

**LAMBIA NOUSATOS
ΛΑΜΠΙΑ ΝΟΥΣΑΤΟΥ
1941-2020**

Απεβίωσε στις 15 Νοεμβρίου 2020 η αγαπητή **Λαμπία (Πία) Νουσατού** από την Ακράτα Πελοποννήσου. Το 1963 στο Queensland, η Πία παντρεύτηκε τον Δημήτρη Νουσατό από την Εξωγή, απέκτησαν δύο τέκνα την Ελένη και τον Νίκο. Είχαν φτειάξει το σπιτικό τους στη Βρισβάνη, αλλά αργότερα ακολούθησαν την κόρη τους που παντρεύτηκε και ήλθε στην Μελβούρνη. Ταξίδεψαν πολλές φορές στην Ιθάκη και Ακράτα, τα μέρη που γεννήθηκαν. Αξιώθηκε από τα παιδιά της και τους συντρόφους τους Yvonne and Bill, τέσσερα εγγόνια και τρία δισέγγονα. Μιά ευχάριστη, χαμογελαστή κυρία θα είναι πάντα στη θύμιση όλων.



The Society was saddened to hear of the passing on 15 November 2020 of **Lambias (Pia) Noutsatos** after a long and courageous battle with illness. Pia is survived by her husband, member of the Society, Dimitri Noutsatos, children Helen and Nick, their partners Bill and Yvonne, her four grandchildren, Dimitri, Petrina, Pia and Demi, and three great-grandchildren. Pia and Dimitri married in Queensland in 1963. They set up home in Brisbane and when their daughter married and moved to Melbourne, they eventually followed suit. Pia and Dimitri enjoyed many trips back to Ithaca where they stayed in the family home in Exoghi as well as visiting Pia's birthplace, Akrata, on the Western Peloponnese. Pia was a warm and gracious lady, always with an endearing smile. She will be sadly missed by her family and friends in the Ithacan community.

**GEORGE POLITES
1926- 2020**



Long-time member of the Society, **George Polites** will be remembered for his passion for ballroom dancing and the dancing shoes which he would carry in his bag wherever he would have the opportunity to dance. George was born in Melbourne, the son of Spyridoula (Loula) Vlassopoulos and Spyros Polites. His parents were early immigrants to Melbourne, his mother left Vathi, Ithaca in 1920, aged fifteen, whilst his father hailed from Lefkada. The death of his father in 1929 when George was only three years old, left his mother facing difficult times as the kiosk the couple had opened on St Kilda Pier in 1923 was in considerable debt. George and his older brother

Nicholas spent time in an orphanage, so their mother could accumulate savings to support them. George completed a five-year apprenticeship as an electrical fitter with the State Electricity Commission at the Richmond Power Station and later opened Polites Radio & Electrical Shop, firstly in Brunswick Street Fitzroy and moving later to Bell Street Pacoe Vale South. In 1995, George visited Ithaca, realizing his mother's unfulfilled dream to return home.

**ALMA PAIZES
1931-2021**



Alma (Ernie) Paizes was born in Australia on the 26 June 1931 to Kosta and Helen Theodore and grew up in Carlton with her siblings who were all born in Cyprus. At a young age, Alma's mother became ill and as her siblings were working, Alma left school and cared for her. Being the most proficient in English, she would accompany her mother to the regular doctors' and hospital visits. Sadly, Alma lost her mother when she was just fifteen.

She met her husband Spiro Paizes while staying with her aunt in Albert Park. She would meet secretly with Spiro for a coffee or a milk shake and make up excuses to her strict father about where she was going. On one occasion her father caught her out, so Spiros came up with the perfect answer - he proposed. They married in January 1953 in the Greek Orthodox Church in East Melbourne. Alma was instantly attracted to Spiro's love of dance. As Alma's father did not allow her to go to dances when she was younger, meeting Spiros brought a breath of fresh air to her life. Alma and Spiro were a sight to behold jiving on the dance floor or dancing a zembekiko at many an Ithacan Club function. Alma loved Elvis and Greek music as well as listening to Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra and Gene Kelly.

Alma learned dressmaking and worked for years at Myer Melbourne and Figgins Diorama in Collins Street. She was excellent at her job, and being a very good salesperson, she received bonuses where the company would send her on all expense paid holidays to Mornington, which for Alma was as exciting as going to Paris!

Alma took great pride in her appearance, dressing elegantly, always colour coordinated, her hair regularly set and nails done, in pink of course, her favourite colour. Wearing her gold jewellery or her pearls, she would finish off with a spray of Chanel. Alma was a social butterfly. She loved going to the Ithacan Club and AHEPA and was supportive of their various fundraising and social events; in her latter years she particularly loved attending the Bingo days.

Alma's children, De-arn, Colin and Nick, recall road trips to NSW and South Australia for holidays, barbecues with family and friends, Alma's exquisite rolled pavlova and mouth-watering finikia and fish and chips on Friday nights. Alma enjoyed travelling and relaxing with a crossword or jigsaw or watching her favourite TV series including *The Bold and the Beautiful!*

Alma was an organiser with a strong work ethic. She loved beautiful things. She loved her garden, in particular her gardenias, and any animals landing on her doorstep. She dearly loved her two grandsons Kosta and Niko and they loved her in return. She will be remembered for her smiling face, her laughter and love of a good joke, and for being a caring, loving, supportive mother, grandmother, sister and friend. She will be missed by all those who walked their journey beside her.

**ANTUANETA TSOUCALAS
ANTOYANETA TSOUKALA
1933-2021**

Απεβίωσε στην Μελβούρνη στις 2 Μαρτίου 2021, η αγαπητή **Αντουανέτα (Λέτα) Τσουκαλά**. Η Λέτα γεννήθηκε στο Βαθύ Ιθάκης, κόρη των Νικολάου και Ναυσικάς Ξανθόπουλου, αδελφή του Βαρβαρή. Τα άλλα αδέρφια τους χάθηκαν από επιδημίες της τότε εποχής. Μετά τα δύσκολα χρόνια της κατοχής η οικογένεια μετοίκησε στην Αθήνα. Στην Αθήνα η Λέτα γνώρισε τον Χαράλαμπο Τσουκαλά και παντρεύτηκαν το 1956. Το 1958 απόκτησαν τον γιό τους Γιάννη και περιμένοντας το δεύτερο τέκνο τους Νίκο, μετανάστευσαν στην Αυστραλία το 1959. Ήταν εργατική και ακούραστη. Αξιώθηκε να χαρεί εγγόνια και δισέγγονα. Πάντοτε θα είναι στη θύμηση όλων, μια καλή ευγενική κυρία.



Mum was born in Vathi, Ithaca in 1933 to Nafsika and Nicholas Xanthopoulos. She survived a major infection as a child; her siblings were not so lucky and died of the disease with the exception of her brother Varvaris. Following the difficult war years of the 1940s and the constant danger and food shortages, the family moved to Athens, while occasionally holidaying in Ithaca during the warmer months. In 1953 while in Ithaca the large Ionian earthquake struck, destroying most of the houses in Vathi, so my grandmother Nafsika quickly organised a boat to safely return to Athens.

Mum met our father Charalambos Tsoucalas (Harry) in Athens, and they married in 1956. After losing a daughter at birth in 1957 mum gave birth to John in 1958. While pregnant with Nicholas, Mum and Dad bravely emigrated to Australia in 1959, living for a time in North Fitzroy with our grandparents. Mum immediately started working at Latoof & Cahill where she produced complex dresses in the days when everything was made in Australia by migrant workers. It was hard work in the 60s. In the 1970s Mum worked in the family service station in West Coburg, next to the house, in the days when filling up petrol was full service, unlike today. Mum would pump petrol, check cars under the bonnet, inflate tyres and more, not once complaining about the hard work and the long hours. We have fond memories of the holiday home in Portarlington which was a source of escape and enjoyment, especially during school holidays. Mum and Dad would always have guests around to enjoy a barbecue or fresh grilled fish from the boat.

Mum later settled in her Surrey Hills unit, enjoying her independence well into her 80s, and tending to her garden of flowers, vegetables, especially tomatoes, and even harvesting olives from her tree. She was well known in Scheele Street and became much loved by her neighbours, who entrusted her to look after their houses if they went away on holidays.

When Mum's health turned for the worse, she asked to be put into care, which was a brave decision by such an independent woman. She was always very pragmatic and enjoyed her last few years at Fronditha in Templestowe which provided a superb level of care. Here she continued to knit for relatives, the staff and their grandchildren. She will be remembered for her genuine love for everybody and her never

ending support when problems seemed overwhelming. Mum would simply advise, "Tomorrow will be a better day".

Love you Mum, John & Leanne Tsoucalas, Nicholas & Paula Tsoucalas, grandchildren George, Katherine, Lily, Paul and Ruby, and great granddaughters Natalia and Levi. You will always be in our hearts.

**JOHN MORAITIS
ΓΙΑΝΝΗΣ ΜΩΡΑΙΤΗΣ**



Απεβίωσε στην Μελβούρνη στις 18 Ιανουαρίου 2021 ο **Γιάννης Μωραΐτης** ετών 87 από το Βαθύ Ιθάκης. Από μικρή ηλικία είχε πάθος για τη μουσική και από δώδεκα ετών άρχισε να μαθαίνει σαξόφωνο και κλαρινέτο. Στα δεκατρία του χρόνια έγινε αποδεκτός στη Φιλαρμονική Ορχήστρα Ιθάκης. Εικοσιέξι χρονών ταξίδεψε στην Κανδήλα Ξηρομέρου, όπου γνώρισε την Άννα Μπούρα. Παντρεύτηκαν το 1959 και απόκτησαν τρία τέκνα. Το 1965 αποφάσισαν να έλθουν οικογενειακά στην Αυστραλία για ένα καλύτερο μέλλον.

Εργάστηκαν σκληρά και μεγάλωσαν μια αξιοσέβαστη οικογένεια. Ο Γιάννης δουλεύοντας ημερήσια εργασία, συνέχισε να ασχολείται μετά την δουλειά με την αγαπημένη του μουσική. Επαιζε σε μουσικά συγκροτήματα, καθώς επίσης τα Σαββατοκύριακα, πήγαινε στα ελληνικά γηροκομεία της Φροντίδας στο Templestowe και Northcote, να διασκεδάσει με τη μουσική του, τους ηλικιωμένους μας. Αξιώθηκαν με την Άννα και ταξίδεψαν πολλές φορές στην Ιθάκη. Ο Γιάννης μετά τη συνταξή του απολάμβανε μια απλή ζωή στο σπίτι του μα τα παιδιά και εγγόνια του.

John Moraitis will be sadly missed by his family and friends. A skilled saxophonist, John will be remembered by those who enjoyed his music and were mesmerised by the sounds of his saxophone.

**IN MEMORY DONATIONS
ΔΩΡΕΕΣ ΕΙΣ ΜΝΗΜΗ**

- \$50 Ross Andrews & Cynthia Koutsoukis in memory of **George & Sia Andrews**
- \$500 Voula Castan (Brisbane) in memory of much loved brother **Denis Syrmis**
- \$30 Anthony & Florence Drakopoulos in memory of **Antuaneta Tsoucalas**
- 100€ Ντενίζ & Τζίνα Αλεξανδράτου (Αθήνα) εις μνήμη αγαπημένης μητέρας **Πηνελόπης Προσαλέντη-Αλεξανδράτου**
- \$100 Ευαγγελία Μωραΐτη εις μνήμη αγαπημένου συζύγου **Αθανασίου Μωραΐτη**

- \$50 Φρειδερίκη Ράζου & Φωτούλα Κωστοπούλου εις μνήμη αγαπημένου αδελφού **Αθανασίου Μωραΐτη**
- \$100CAN Κώστας Μορφέσης (Καναδά) εις μνήμη αγαπημένου αδελφού **Δημήτρη Μορφέση**
- \$50 Ιωακείμ & Μαρίνα και Αννα-Μαρία Μεγαλογένη εις μνήμη πολυαγαπημένης κόρης και αδελφής **Κούλας Μεγαλογένη**

- Εις μνήμη **Διονυσίας Πολίτη**
- \$100 Γεράσιμος Πολίτης εις μνήμη αγαπημένης συζύγου
- \$50 Ελένη Βλασσοπούλου
- \$30 Γεώργιος & Σπυριδούλα Κουτσουβέλη
- \$20 Νίνα Ραυτοπούλου
- Εις μνήμη **Όμηρου Δελλαπόρτα**
- \$50 Νίνα Ραυτοπούλου εις μνήμη πολυαγαπημένου αδελφού
- \$50 Ελένη Βλασσοπούλου
- \$40 Αντώνης & Φλώρενς Δρακοπούλου
- \$30 Γεώργιος & Σπυριδούλα Κουτσουβέλη

**NORTH ITHACA
FAMILY TREE - yiamás PROJECT**

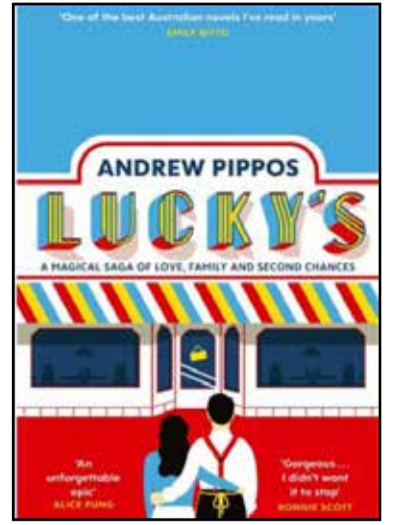
NIFTy

Initiated by **Nick Sikiotis** (*Romantza*) using the MyHeritage database the 'tree' currently includes thirty families and 2500 people. As people become members, their family tree is joined with NIFTy and they are able to trace back 13 generations.

To join, there is a 'Site-Invite', one-off nominal registration fee of \$A29 (discounted for active members of the Ithacan Philanthropic Society). The 'Site-Invite' provides unlimited time access allowing you to search and find relatives and connections.

Each year, 10% of registration fees is donated to the Children's Cancer Hospital in Sydney.

For further information please email: NorthIthacaFamilyTree@gmail.com



Andrew Pippos' widely praised debut novel "Lucky's" was shortlisted for the Mud literary prize 2021 and has been longlisted for the Matt Richell New Writer of the Year for 2021. The book follows the lives of Pippos' characters as they respond to failure and success and is set in the café world of outback NSW. In an interview with **Iris Papathanasiou**, **Neos Kosmos**, 27 March 2021, "Lucky's": *A must-read saga by Greek Australian author Andrew Pippos - Neos Kosmos*, Pippos explains why he wanted the café world to be at the heart of the book.



His yiaia's café in the town of Brewarrina in NSW was the most important place of his childhood "where all the cousins and uncles and aunties met" and where "story

telling was a big part of what we did, every day around the dinner table, late at night after the café closed." It was where he learnt about Greek mythology and where his love of storytelling began. He wanted to capture this world in his first novel because the café world he knew no longer exists.

A former journalist, Andrew has a doctorate in Creative Writing and tutors at the University of Technology in Sydney. His father's family hailed from Ithaca and his mother from Derry in Northern Ireland.



**Εορτασμός 200 Χρόνων Επανάστασης του 1821 - Στα Γαλανόλευκα
Φωτίστηκαν Συμβολικά Κτίρια**

Iconic buildings lit up in blue and white on the 25 March 2021 to celebrate the Bicentenary of Greece's Independence

Φωτογραφίες: άνω το κτίριο του κεντρικού σιδηροδρομικού σταθμού, Flinders Street Railway Station, Μελβούρνη (Nick Bourdaniotis Bourdo Photography), κάτω το κτίριο της όπερας στο Σύδνεϊ, Sydney Opera House (Photo: The Greek Herald)