



ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ

49th YEAR

No: 234

Issue 1 - 2022

www.ithaca.org.au

Publication of the
Ithacan Philanthropic Society

Two scientists with Ithacan connections included in the list of 63 top Greek Scientists of the last 200 years 1821-2021

Sixty-three top scientists were selected from 120 distinguished scientists from a study entitled "1821-2021: Greek Pioneers and Innovators in Medicine and Biomedical Sciences" The study was carried out by the ARISTEIA Institute for the Advancement of Research and Education in Arts Sciences and Technology in partnership with The American College of Greece.

The list included physicians, clinicians, key researchers and scientists in the pharmaceutical industry, with names such as Georgios Papanikolaou (Pap Smear Test 1940s), Alberto Bourlas (CEO of Pfizer), Menelaos Pangalos (Executive Vice President of AstraZeneca) as well as Ithacan-born, Sydney neuroscientist and member of our Society **George Paxinos** and Greek-American neonatal scientist **Maria Delivoria-Papadopoulos** who has a surprising connection with Ithaca.

The selection of the scientists was based not only on bibliographic criteria but also on the originality of the scientific contribution, its leadership in international scientific activities, its global impact on medicine and research, and also for its timelessness.

CONGRATULATIONS GEORGE PAXINOS



George Paxinos is pictured above (left) with two other top-listed scientists who attended the presentation of the study in Athens on 26 November 2021, **Charalambos Moutsopoulos** (centre) of the National & Kapodistrian University of Athens Medical School and **Andreas Tzakis** (transplant surgeon Cleveland Clinic Florida).

George was recognised for his work in constructing maps of the different parts of animal and human brains which has had far-reaching impact in the scientific world and for which he is the most cited in the field. Paxinos' maps and concepts of brain organization are used by most scientists working on the relationship between the human brain and cognition, emotion, motivation, thought, and neurologic or psychiatric diseases such as Alzheimer's and depression, or animal models of these diseases, In ad-

dition, the accuracy of his human brain atlases for identification of deep structures, sees them being referred to in surgical theatres. George is currently a Senior Principal Research Fellow of the National Health & Medical Research Council at Neuroscience Research Australia as well as Scientia Professor of Medical Sciences at the University of New South Wales.

MARIA DELIVORIA-PAPADOPOULOS (1931-2020) THE MOTHER OF NEONATOLOGY



Maria Delivoria-Papadopoulos' listing in the top 63 acknowledged her pioneer work in neonatal critical care and pediatric medicine. Born in Athens Greece, she moved to the USA to undertake post-doctorate studies and remained there pursuing a medical career in Pennsylvania spanning almost 60 years. She reached the status of Emeritus Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine and was director of newborn services at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania for 21 years. Later she was appointed medical director of the neonatal intensive care unit at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children in Pennsylvania and professor of pediatrics and physiology at Philadelphia's Drexel University College of Medicine

Dr. Delivoria-Papadopoulos made significant and lasting contributions to the health of the world's children. Her work included studying the mechanisms of brain damage in infants, and finding therapeutic interventions for extremely ill premature infants. She performed the world's first successful ventilation treatment for premature infants by adapting ventilators used for polio victims for babies with respiratory distress syndrome. She also demonstrated the effective use of mechanical ventilation to treat lung disease in premature infants.

Although not of Ithacan heritage, Maria made Ithaca her holiday destination, returning every year from the USA to the cottage she had purchased at Dexia, outside of Vathy. During her stay on Ithaca she would volunteer her expertise and medical care to mothers and their children. The Municipality of Ithaca acknowledged her services by bestowing on her the title of **Honorary Citizen of Ithaca** and in 2010 she received the **Odysseus-Penelope Award** for some thirty-year service to the children of Ithaca.

Recognition of service to the Society - Αναγνώριση υπηρεσιών στον Σύνδεσμο



Congratulations to members **Andriana Zervoulis (nee Sofianou)** and **Anna Vlass** who were bestowed the title **Honorary Life Member** at the 2021 AGM. They were formally recognised and presented with their medals at the Christmas Luncheon on the 12 December 2021. Both ladies have worked tirelessly for the Society in a variety of capacities.

Συγχαρητήρια στα μέλη **Ανδριάνα Σοφιανού Ζερβούλη** και **Άννα Βλασσοπούλου** που τιμήθηκαν με τον τίτλο **Επίτιμου Ισοβίου Μέλους** στην ΕΓΣ 2021. Η αναγνώριση και η απονομή των μεταλλίων τους έγινε επίσημα στο Ετήσιο Χριστουγεννιάτικο Γεύμα στις 12 Δεκεμβρίου 2021. ΟΙ δύο κυρίες εργάστηκαν ακούραστα για τον Σύνδεσμο και πρόσφεραν τις ικανότητές τους με διάφορους τρόπους.

Andriana (left) has served on the Executive and Event Committees for over 20 years, always displaying an exceptional work ethic and creativity when preparing our Clubrooms for functions and assisting with catering. Renowned in the Ithacan community for her exquisite *fila*, Andriana has willingly shared her recipe and her expertise at the Historical Society's Cooking Classes.

Andriana was also part of the team of ladies who handcrafted the Penelope's Loom Centenary Tapestry hanging in the Clubrooms, a tapestry recreation of a painting by the late Spiro Sofianos which spoke to the journey of Ithacan migration. A senior member of our Society, Andriana is still very active in Club affairs, always willing to lend a helping hand. Her energy is an inspiration to us all.

Anna (right) has had a lifelong engagement with the Ithacan Club. For over 30 years she has been actively involved in numerous committees and projects and is currently the Secretary of the Historical Society. The last few years have seen Anna organising events, managing the club's communications and enhancing the Society's electronic/ digital presence.

Anna was chairperson of the Centenary Working Party and was part of the team which produced the Centenary book *The Ithacans*. She was instrumental in organising the Ithacan High School Year 12 Awards, which was a Centenary gift to Ithaca, as well as the successful Trivia events for the Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea Fundraising.



**2021
Children's Christmas Tree
at Victoria Park, Kew
More photos pages 2-3**

Social News



Yianni Collins and **Stacey Patsias** celebrated their engagement with family and close friends at Middleman Functions in Scoresby on Saturday the 27th November 2021. Yianni is the son of George and Kristalena Collins and the grandson of Andriana and the late George Zervoulis and the late Emilia and Yiannko Callinicos. Stacey is the daughter of George and Vana Patsias. Congratulations to the happy couple and **ΚΑΛΑ ΣΤΕΦΑΝΑ**.



Andrew Pippos has won the **2021 Readings Prize for New Australian Fiction** with his debut novel, **Lucky's**. Andrew's novel was chosen from a list of over 60 books and resonated with judges for being an outstanding and clever debut. The judges had this to say about why they chose the book:

Lucky's reminded us of a pre-covid, pre-hyperconnected time, one full of different challenges but still with much to say about our current moment where fortunes can flip quickly, and compassion is needed. There is a war just finished, a childhood changed forever by the actions of a parent, a shooting, an addiction, a new beginning or two. There is love, and loss, and a favourite television show we can all remember. There is humour and warmth in this story, as well as wisdom and madness. Pippos is never afraid to show a darker side to his characters; they can be unlikeable at times, but there is redemption too. He reminds us not to give up, to have hope, to trust. This is why we chose Lucky's as our winner this year, because it is an outstanding, clever debut, one so many Australians can relate to, and enjoy.

Pan Macmillan Australia 9 Nov 2021

ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΗΡΙΟ

Ευχαριστώ θερμά το Διοικητικό Συμβούλιο και τα μέλη του Φιλανθρωπικού Συνδέσμου Ιθακήσιων, για την τιμή που μου έκαναν με την απονομή του τίτλου Ισοβίου Επίτιμου Μέλους. Εκφράζω την εκτιμώση μου προς τον Συνδεσμό μας, ευχόμενη πάντα πρόοδο και ότι το καλύτερο.

I sincerely thank the Executive Committee and the Members of the Ithacan Philanthropic Society for bestowing on me the honour of Honorary Life Membership. My very best wishes for the Society's continued success.

Ανδριάννα Ζερβούλη
Andriana Zervoulis



Jonathon Megalos (son of Con and Dimity Megalos, Newcastle) and **Aliki Drakopoulos** (daughter of Yianni and Katerina Drakopoulos, London) finally married on 31st July 2021 in Ithaca after postponing their special day in 2020. Their magical wedding day started with a ceremony at Ag. Nikolaos Church at Mavrouna, Kioni and the celebrations continued in Frikes. Cocktails followed at **Dodoni** with the reception dinner at **Ageri**. They then partied with their wedding guests with lots of kefi to the early hours at **Fiorendino**. Jonathon from Australia and Aliki from London met on Ithaki years ago. With both sets of parents having North Ithacan heritage, the wedding was always going to be destination Ithaca! It was a shame and sad that no family from Australia could attend. Wishing them love, laughter, health and happiness always.



The wedding of **Elle Bethune** and **Lachlan Moorhead** took place in the cellar of the Mitchelton Winery on Saturday 3 July 2021. The marriage was celebrated with 150 guests over three days. Elle is the eldest daughter of Kaye Emmett and Rod Bethune. Lachlan is the eldest son of Marlana Collins and Simon Moorhead, and the grandson of Eula and the late Jack Collins. Congratulations and best wishes.



Δύο Επιστήμονες με Ιθακήσιους δεσμούς ανάμεσα στους 63 κορυφαίους Έλληνες Επιστήμονες των τελευταίων 200 χρόνων



63 κορυφαίοι επιστήμονες επιλέχθηκαν από 120 διακεκριμένους επιστήμονες που συμπεριελήφθησαν στη μελέτη "1821-2021: Έλληνες Πρωτοπόροι και Νεωτεριστές της Ιατρικής και Βιοιατρικής Επιστήμης". Η μελέτη έγινε από το ARISTEIA Institute for the Advancement of Research and Education in Arts Sciences and Technology σε συνεργασία με το Αμερικάνικο Κολλέγιο της Ελλάδος.

Ανάμεσα στους επιλεγθέντες επιστήμονες, με ονόματα όπως Γεώργιος Παπανικολάου (PapSmear Test 1940s), Alberto Bourlas (CEO Pfizer), Μενέλαος Πάνγκαλος (Executive Vice President of AstraZeneca) ήταν επίσης και ο γεννημένος στην Ιθάκη, νευροεπιστήμονας του Σύνδου και μέλος του Συνδέσμου μας **Γεώργιος Παξινός** και η Ελληνο-Αμερικανίδα επιστήμων νοογονολογίας **Μαρία Δεληβοριά-Παπαδοπούλου** που συνδέεται με την Ιθάκη.

ΣΥΓΧΑΡΗΤΗΡΙΑ ΣΤΟ ΓΕΩΡΓΙΟ ΠΑΞΙΝΟ

Ο Γιώργος αναγνωρίστηκε για την εργασία του στη κατασκευή χαρτών διαφορετικών τμημάτων του εγκεφάλου των ζώων και του ανθρώπου, που έχει μεγάλη απήχηση στον επιστημονικό κόσμο και που είναι ο πιο αναγνωρισμένος σε αυτόν το πεδίο. Οι περισσότεροι επιστήμονες εργαζόμενοι στη σχέση μεταξύ του ανθρώπινου εγκεφάλου και νευρολογικών ή ψυχιατρικών ασθενειών, ή ζωικών μοντέλων αυτών των ασθενειών, χρησιμοποιούν τους χάρτες εγκεφάλου του Παξινού. Η ακρίβεια αυτών των άτλαντων του ανθρώπινου εγκεφάλου επίσης βοηθούν πολύ και στη σχετική χειρουργική.

Ο Γιώργος επί του παρόντος είναι Ανώτερος Κύριος Ερευνητής του Εθνικού Συμβουλίου Υγείας & Ιατρικής Έρευνας εις Neuroscience Research Australia καθώς και Scientia Προφάσορ Ιατρικών Επιστημών του Πανεπιστημίου του New-South Wales.

ΜΑΡΙΑ ΔΕΛΗΒΟΡΙΑ-ΠΑΠΑΔΟΠΟΥΛΟΥ (1931-2020) ΜΗΤΕΡΑ ΤΗΣ ΝΕΟΓΝΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ

Η Μαρία Δεληβοριά-Παπαδοπούλου είναι μία από τις κορυφαίες ανάμεσα στους 63 πρωτοπόρους επιστήμονες που αναγνωρίστηκαν για την εργασία της στην εντατική φροντίδα νεογνών και της παιδιατρικής. Γεννήθηκε στην Αθήνα, μετανάστευσε στις ΗΠΑ όπου στο Πανεπιστήμιο της Πελοποννήσιας έλαβε μεταδιδακτορικό δίπλωμα στη φυσιολογία και παρέμεινε εκεί με μια επιτυχημένη σταδιοδρομία 60 χρόνων.

Έφτασε στη θέση της ομότιμης καθηγήτριας παιδιατρικής στο Πανεπιστήμιο της Πελοποννήσιας Parelman Σχολή Ιατρικής και ήταν διευθύντρια υπηρεσιών νεογνών στο Νοσοκομείο του Πανεπιστημίου για 21 χρόνια. Αργότερα διορίστηκε διευθύντρια της Μονάδας Εντατικής Θεραπείας Νεογνών στο Νοσοκομείο Παιδών St Christopher's Πελοποννήσιας και καθηγήτρια παιδικής φυσιολογίας στο Κολλέγιο Ιατρικής του Πανεπιστημίου Ντρέξελ Φιλαδέλφεια.

Η Δρ Δεληβοριά προσέφερε ανεκτίμητες και σημαντικές υπηρεσίες στα παιδιά όλου του κόσμου. Η εργασία της για τα πρόωρα βρέφη περιελάμβανε μελέτη και θεραπεία για εγκεφαλικές βλάβες, καθώς εκτέλεσε την πρώτη στον κόσμο θεραπεία αερισμού, σε αυτά που είχαν αναπνευστικά προβλήματα. Επίσης παρουσίασε τη βοήθεια του μηχανικού αερισμού για την θεραπεία πνευμονικών ασθενειών.

Παρότι δεν ήταν Ιθακήσιας καταγωγής, η Μαρία έκανε την Ιθάκη προορισμό των διακοπών της, ερχόμενη κάθε χρόνο από τις ΗΠΑ στο σπίτι που αγόρασε στα Δεξιά έξω από το Βαθύ. Κατά την παραμονή της στο νησί, πρόσφερε εθελοντικά ιατρικές υπηρεσίες σε μητέρες και τα παιδιά τους. Η Δημαρχία αναγνώρισε την προσφορά της, απονεμώντας τον τίτλο **Επίτιμου Δημότη της Ιθάκης** και το 2014 τιμήθηκε στο Επαρχείο με το **Βραβείο Οδυσσέως και Πηνελόπης** για την περίπου τριαντάχρονη υπηρεσία της στα παιδιά της Ιθάκης.



NEWS FROM ITHACAN HIGH SCHOOL
 ΝΕΑ ΑΠΟ ΤΟ ΓΥΜΝΑΣΙΟ ΙΘΑΚΗΣ



From left, Ithacan High School students, Katrin Gkouerini Kachrila, Georgia Stavropoulou, Aikaterini-Vasilopoulou, Flora Tsako, Natalia Karvouni enjoying a gelati in Sicily where in October 2021 they participated in the ERASMUS program: **Modern Odysseus Travels, Dreams and Goals in the Mediterranean Sea** which is co-funded by the European Union. The program provides opportunities for groups of students from participating schools in Greece, Italy, Malta and Spain to exchange visits with each other.

Ενημέρωση του Διευθυντή Γυμνασίου Ιθάκης κ. Δημήτρη Μολφέση για το πρόγραμμα Εράσμου και το ταξίδι των μαθητών στη Σικελία.

Με χαρά ανακοινώνουμε την ολοκλήρωση της πρώτης κινητικότητας μαθητών του σχολείου μας στα πλαίσια σχετικού Ευρωπαϊκού προγράμματος. Πιο συγκεκριμένα, όπως είναι ήδη γνωστό το Γυμνάσιο Ιθάκης συμμετέχει στο πρόγραμμα **ERASMUS: Modern Odysseus Travels, Dreams and Goals in the Mediterranean Sea** που συντονίζει η Περιφερειακή Διεύθυνση Εκπαίδευσης Ιονίων Νήσων με συμμετοχή συνολικά πέντε σχολικών μονάδων από τέσσερις ευρωπαϊκές χώρες: Ελλάδα, Ιταλία, Ισπανία και Μάλτα με κοινό παρονομαστή τόπου ορόσημα της Οδύσσειας. Στα πλαίσια του προγράμματος περιλαμβάνονται εβδομαδιαίες επισκέψεις πενταμελούς ομάδας μαθητών από κάθε σχολείο με συνοδεία δυο καθηγητών στα υπόλοιπα σχολεία αρχίζοντας από τη Σικελία και το σχολείο Bagolino στο Αλκάμο της Σικελίας 4-8 Οκτωβρίου. Είχαμε λοιπόν την ευκαιρία να ζήσουμε μαζί με τους μαθητές μας Αικατερίνη Βασιλοπούλου, Ναταλία Καρβούνη, Φλόρα Τσακο, Κατριν Γκουερίνη Καχρύλα και Γεωργία Σταυροπούλου μια ξεχωριστή εμπειρία που θεωρούμε ότι μας πλούτισε όλους σαν άτομα, προέβλεπε το σχολείο και το νησί μας και ίσως ανοίξει νέους διαύλους επικοινωνίας στο μέλλον. Ευχαριστούμε τους μαθητές και τις οικογένειες τους για τη συνεργασία αλλά και προσωπικά την εκπαιδευτικό του σχολείου μας Ευανθία Γκίλινα για την πολύτιμη βοήθεια της. Ανυπομονούμε για τις επόμενες μετακινήσεις μας αλλά και για την φιλοξενία όλων των άλλων σχολείων στην Ιθάκη τέλη Σεπτεμβρίου του 2022, σε μια εβδομάδα που ελπίζουμε να ανταποδώσουμε τη θερμή φιλοξενία που είχαμε και να διαφημίσουμε το σχολείο και το νησί μας παντού.



ITHACAN HIGH SCHOOL YEAR 12 AWARDS
 ΒΡΑΒΕΙΑ ΑΡΙΣΤΟΥΧΩΝ ΛΥΚΕΙΩΝ ΙΘΑΚΗΣ



On behalf of the Society, Melbourne-born girls, Poppy Pagoulatos (above left) - formerly of Rementzo Restaurant Frikes, and Jennie Vlass of Spavento Bar, Kioni, presented the awards, valued at 1000 euros each, to Year 12 students, from left, **Bleona Dylja** (Vocational Stream) and **Evdokia Karfitsa** (General Stream). Bleona's interest is in maritime studies whilst Evdokia plans a career in astronomy. Best wishes to the students for success in their future pursuits.

Τον Σεπτέμβριο 2021 απονεμήθηκαν τα καθιερωμένα βραβεία του Συνδέσμου μας σε αριστούχες μαθήτριες, των Γενικού και Επαγγελματικού Λυκείων Ιθάκης. Τα κορίτσια, μας έστειλαν τα κάτωθι ευγενικά ευχαριστήρια και μας πληροφόρησαν για τις σπουδές που θα ακολουθήσουν. Συγχαίρουμε την Μπλεόνα Ντύλια και την Ευδοκία Καρφίτσα ευχόμενοι πάντα σε ανώτερα και κάθε επιτυχία στη ζωή τους.

Ο Συνδεσμός μας ευχαριστεί θερμά τις **κ. Πόπη Παγουλάτου** και **Τζένη Βλασσοπούλου** για την βοήθειά τους και που μας εκπροσωπούν στην απονομή των βραβείων. Επίσης τον Διευθυντή του ΕΠΑ.Λ **κ. Ιωάννη Δενδρινό** για την συνεργασία και συμβολή του στην οργανωσή τους.

ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΗΡΙΑ ΜΑΘΗΤΡΙΩΝ

Θα ήθελα πρώτα από όλα να σας ευχαριστήσω για το χρηματικό ποσό, διότι η βοήθεια που μου προσφέρεται είναι τεράστια. Έχω καταγωγή από την Αλβανία, οι γονείς μου μετακόμισαν Ελλάδα όπου και γεννήθηκα, συγκεκριμένα στο Αργοστόλι Κεφαλληνίας, με βνήση όμως το Βαθύ Ιθάκης. Ασχολούμαι με διάφορες τέχνες, όπως η μουσική και το θέατρο, παρόλα αυτά το ενδιαφέρον για τη ναυτιλία ήταν αυτό που με κέρδισε και επέλεξα τις ναυτιλιακές σπουδές ως πρώτη επιλογή, με μεγάλη χαρά ανακοινώνω πως πέρασα! Μπλεόνα Ντύλια

Έλαβα τα χρήματα και σας ευχαριστώ πάρα πολύ για την οικονομική αυτή βοήθεια που μας προσφέρετε στην αρχή της φοιτητικής μας ζωής αλλά και για το βραβείο. Πέρασα 12η στο τμήμα φυσικής στο Πανεπιστήμιο Πατρών, η οποία ήταν και η πρώτη μου επιλογή. Από εκεί σκοπεύω να επιλέξω στο 3ο έτος την κατεύθυνση της αστροφυσικής και τελικά να ασχοληθώ με την αστρονομία. Ευδοκία Καρφίτσα

ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΗΡΙΟ ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΤΗ ΚΑΙ ΣΥΛΛΟΓΟΥ ΕΚΠΑΙΔΕΥΤΙΚΩΝ 1ου ΕΠΑ.Λ ΙΘΑΚΗΣ
THANK YOU FROM THE PRINCIPAL AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE 1ST VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ITHAKI

Με την παρούσα επιστολή, η οποία αποτελεί την ελάχιστη ένδειξη εκτίμησης της αξιόπαινης πράξης σας, το 1ο Επαγγελματικό Λύκειο Ιθάκης ευχαριστεί θερμά τον Φιλανθρωπικό Σύνδεσμο Ιθακήσιων Μελβούρνης «Ο ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ», για την υποτροφία που προσέφερε σε αριστούχο μαθητή μας. Σας ευχαριστούμε πολύ για την ανιδιοτελή σας στήριξη στο σχολείο μας, η οποία αποδεικνύει την κοινωνική σας ευαισθησία και την έννοια της προσφοράς, ενώ παράλληλα δημιουργεί κίνητρα και γεμίζει με αισιοδοξία τόσο τους μαθητές μας και τους γονείς τους, όσο και τους εκπαιδευτικούς. Σας ευχόμαστε ολόψυχα υγεία και καλή συνέχεια στο έργο σας.

With this letter, which is the very least we can do to express our appreciation for your admirable/generous act, the 1st Vocational High School of Ithaki warmly thanks the Ithacan Philanthropic Society Melbourne "Odysseus" for the scholarship offered to our top student. We thank you very much for your generous support for our school, which demonstrates your social awareness, and the meaning of giving, and at the same time motivates and fills both our students and their parents, as well as the teachers, with optimism. We wholeheartedly wish you good health and the very best in achieving your objectives.

Το Μερίδιον των Ιθακήσιων στην Επανάσταση του 1821

Το 2021 ήταν η επέτειος των 200 χρόνων της Ελληνικής Επανάστασης. Πρωταρχικό ρόλο έπαιξε η **Φιλική Εταιρία (ΦΕ)**, που ιδρύθηκε το 1814 στην Οδησό, κοσμοπολίτικο λιμάνι της Ρωσίας και Ουκρανίας. Οι Έλληνες ήταν από τους πρώτους που πήγαν από τον Πόντο, τα νησιά του Αιγαίου και κατόπιν πρόσκλησης από την Αυτοκράτειρα της Ρωσίας, Μεγάλη Αικατερίνη.

Ιδρυτές της ΦΕ ήταν ο Νικόλαος Σκουφάς από την Άρτα, ο Αθανάσιος Τσακάλωφ από τα Γιάννενα και ο Εμμανουήλ Ξάνθος από την Πάτμο, ο πρώτος που είχε αυτή την φωτισμένη ιδέα της σωτηρίας του έθνους.

Πολλοί Ιθακήσιοι έγιναν μέλη και έπαιξαν σημαντικό ρόλο, όπως οι **Νικόλαος Γαλάτης, Γεώργιος Βλησμάς, ο Γενικός Πρόξενος της Ρωσίας στην Πάτρα Ιωάννης Βλασσόπουλος, ο Επίσκοπος Ευδοκιάδος Πόντου Γρηγόριος Δενδρινός, ο Εθνομάρτης Μητροπολίτης Ευγένιος Καραβίας κ.α.** Για επτά χρόνια μούσαν μέλη και μυστικά προετοιμαζόταν για την επανάσταση του 1821.

Ο αρχηγός της Φιλικής Εταιρίας Αλέξανδρος Υψηλάντης, εκδίδει προκήρυξη ανεξαρτησίας, περνάει τον ποταμό Προύθο στις 22 Φεβρουαρίου 1821 και υψώνει τη σημαία της Επανάστασης στο Ιάσιο της Μολδοβλαχίας. Δύο μέρες αργότερα εκδίδει επαναστατική προκήρυξη με τίτλο **Μάχου Υπέρ Πίστεως και Πατρίδος**. Η επιλογή Μολδαβίας και Βλαχίας έγινε λόγω που σε αυτές τις περιοχές, απαγορευόταν η

παραμονή Τούρκικου στρατού, ενώ από το 1709 οι τοπικοί άρχοντες ήταν Έλληνες Φαναριώτες.

Στις 26 Φεβρουαρίου 1821 στο ναό των Τριών Ιεραρχών τελείται δοξολογία όπου ο Μητροπολίτης Βενιαμίν ευλογεί τη σημαία. Καταταφθάνουν εθελοντές από όλη την Ευρώπη για να καταχθούν στο στρατιωτικό σώμα που δημιούργησε ο Υψηλάντης.

Συγκροτείται ο **Ιερός Λόχος** αποτελούμενος από 500 σπουδαστές, σχολών και πανεπιστημίων της Ευρώπης. Στις 4 Μαρτίου οι Έλληνες ναυτικοί κυριεύουν και εξοπλίζουν 15 πλοία, ενώ στις 17 Μαρτίου ο Υψηλάντης υψώνει τη σημαία στο Βουκουρέστι, αντιμετωπίζοντας το στρατό τριών πασάδων στο Γαλάτσι, το Δραγατσάνι, τη Σλατίνα, το Σκουλένι και το Σέκο.

Το κίνημα της Ηγεμονίας δεν είχε επιτυχία. Ο στρατός του Υψηλάντη καταστράφηκε στη μάχη του Δραγατσάνι στις 7 Ιουνίου 1821 και τα ηρωικά παλληκάρια έδωσαν βαρύ φόρο αίματος, σώθηκαν μόνο λίγοι. Το μερίδιο της Ιθάκης ήταν 18 νεκροί, ο εκατόνταρχος **Σπυρίδων Αντ. Δρακούλης** που χάθηκε μαζί με τους **Παναγή Αλδίνη, Χρήστο Σταύρακα, Παναγή Καραβία-Καρδαρά, Άγγελο Γιαννιώτη, Ευστάθιο Καραβία-Γιανούτσο** και άλλους. Ο **Διονύσιος Ευμορφόπουλος**, από το Πολυκτάριο Ιθάκης, ήταν από τους λίγους που σώθηκαν. Συνέχισε τον αγώνα για την ελευθερία στην Ελλάδα, λαβαίνοντας μέρος σε πολλές μάχες, όπως των Δερβενίων με τον Κολοκοτρώνη, και με τον Καραϊσκάκη στις μάχες της Ακρόπολης. Έγινε αρχηγός του Επτανησιακού στρατού και τον προήγαγαν σε υποστράτηγο. Πέθανε στην Πάτρα.

Στη Ρουμανία, οι Θιακοί ελευθέρωσαν το Γαλάτσι, κατά τη συμβολή των ποταμών Προύθου και Δούναβη. Πολλοί Θιακοί τότε εργαζόταν στις Ηγεμονίες σε πλοία, περιπολούσαν τον Δούναβη και εμπόδιζαν τα Τουρκικά καράβια. Ιθακήσιοι ήταν οι **Νικόλαος Πεταλάς Φιλιστέως, Λάζαρος Μακρής, Γεώργιος Μαρούλης, Βασίλειος Μαρούλης** και οι αδελφοί του, **Γεώργιος Μάντζαρης, Δημήτριος Καίσαρης**, που φονεύθηκαν στο Γαλάτσι. Ο χιλιάρχος **Βασίλειος Καραβιάς-Τσεμπέρης**, πολιτικός και στρατιωτικός, ήταν διοικητής του Γαλατσίου, ο οποίος εξολόθρευσε την τουρκική φρουρά και το κατέλαβε επικεφαλής των Θιακών και άλλων Ελλήνων στρατιωτών εκ Ρουμανίας.

Οι Ιθακήσιοι συνέχισαν τη συμβολή τους στον αγώνα για την ελευθερία της Ελλάδας, με πολλές θυσίες και δίνοντας τη ζωή τους. Εμείς οφείλουμε να τους τιμούμε για την προσφορά τους στη γαλανή πατρίδα μας.

Χαράλαμπος Κανδηλιώτης

rule. Ithacans who lived and worked on the island, expatriate Ithacans who lived and worked in Istanbul, Moldavia and southern Russia, the captains and sailors who plowed the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, all espoused the cause.

Numerous Ithacans, locals and expatriates, became members of the **Filiki Eteria (Society of Friends)**. This was a secret organisation formed in 1814 in Odessa, Russia (now in Ukraine and which at the time had a thriving Greek community) formed by Greek merchants and intellectuals of the European and Russian diaspora. Its aim was the liberation of Greece from Ottoman rule and the formation of an independent Greek state. Amongst the members of the group were Ithacans **Eugenios Karavias, Nikolaos Galatis, Gregory Dendrinis, Fioros Zavos**.



The secret slogan of the Filiki Eteria was **ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΑ Η ΘΑΝΑΤΟΣ (Freedom or Death)**. The underlined letters form the slogan code as shown in the flag above

On the island, Ithacans showed their solidarity in a number of ways. They treated the wounded who arrived by boat from Central Greece, Epirus and the Peloponnese. They hosted refugees and supported women and children. They offered money and sent food and ammunition to their rebel compatriots. They took part in land or sea combat operations, either individually or through well-organised military units.

Continued on Page 7...

Ithacan Historical Society Updates

2021 -2022 Lecture Series

In late 2021, the Ithacan Historical Society (IHS) launched a series of lectures and discussion forums to promote the interest of the broader community in the history of Ithaca and the Ionian islands. Three lectures have been given so far, with several more planned for 2022. The presentations are given virtually via Zoom and streamed live via YouTube, with a discussion at the end of the lecture for interested participants to ask questions of the speakers. The response from members and friends of the Society was fantastic with over 100 participants from Melbourne, interstate and overseas viewing the presentations in real time via Zoom or YouTube. The first three lectures spanned diverse themes in the history of modern Ithaca, from the Venetian period to the British occupation in the 19th century.

The first lecture was on the **Ithacan Libro d'Oro of 1803 and Class Structures in Ionian Society After the End of Venetian Rule**, presented by **Kyriaco Nikias (Galatis)**. Kyriaco is a PhD candidate in ancient legal history at the University of Vienna with an interest in the history of power in the Mediterranean. His Ithacan heritage inspired his interest in the island's history, and he has recently published on Ithacan class structures during the early Venetian period.

A second lecture was given by **Dr Romina N Tsakiri** (National Library of Greece) on **Brigandry and Piracy in Ithaca during Venetian Rule**. Dr Tsakiri is a historian of the Venetian territories in Greece and completed her postdoctoral research at the Ionian University in Corfu. She has written extensively on the punishment of crime in Venetian Crete and the Ionian islands, and her interest in Ithaca developed during her postdoctoral research conducted at the State Archive in Venice.

The last lecture for 2021 took us to the 19th century, with a presentation given by **A/Prof Sakis Gekas** (York University, Toronto) on **Ithaca and the British Protectorate (1815-64)**. A/Prof Gekas has published widely on modern Mediterranean economic history. His monograph *Xenocracy* (2016) traced the rise of the merchant class in the Ionian islands.

Further lectures shall be given on a wide range of topics in 2022. More information about upcoming lectures in 2022 and for the link to view past lectures on YouTube go to: <https://www.ithaca.org.au/historical-society/ihs-2021-22-lecture-series>

Historical Archeion Ithaki

We are pleased to advise that **Mr Christos Miaritis** has been appointed as the new curator of the Archive. The IPS and IHS, in a joint letter, wrote to Mr Miaritis to congratulate him on his appointment and to express our interest in collaborating with the Archive, particularly with a view to increasing accessibility to its collections through digitisation. We are delighted to report that Mr Miaritis responded very positively:

Θέλω να σας εκφράσω τις ευχαριστίες μου για τις ευχές σας και να επισημάνω, ότι η επαναλειτουργία του Αρχείου αποτελούσε και για εμένα μια μακρόχρονη επιθυμία. Σας ευχαριστώ πολύ για το ενδιαφέρον και τις προθέσεις σας και είμαι πρόθυμος για οποιαδήποτε δημιουργική συνεργασία.

I would like to express my thanks for your wishes and to inform you that the reopening of the Archive was also a long-term wish of mine.

I thank you very much for your interest and proposals/suggestions and I am willing to participate in any productive collaboration.

We anticipate that a member of the IHS will visit Ithaki in the coming months and meet with Mr Miaritis and further discuss opportunities for collaboration.

Calling Greek Victorians

Museums Victoria is planning to host an exciting new international exhibition in 2022 exploring Ancient Greek journeys and cultural connections. As an introduction to the exhibition, they are seeking treasured photographs of Victoria's diverse Greek community. The Historical team has contacted Museums Victoria to inform them of the Ithacan Philanthropic Society and our historical collection and also sent a sample of photos from our photographic collection. Their response (25/1/22):

Thank you so much for your wonderful email and photos. Your collection sounds absolutely wonderful and we appreciate you getting in touch. At the moment the AskUs team is only collecting public photos on behalf of the exhibition curators. But please be assured that I have passed your details and email on to the exhibition team and requested a response, so you should hear from someone at Museums Victoria soon.

The IHS is now waiting to hear from the curators of the exhibition. In the meantime, if you have a snapshot in your personal collection that is dear to you and your family that you wish to submit, simply go to AskUs at: <https://museums victoria.com.au/ask-us/calling-greek-victorians/>. Participants can be of any generation, and the call-out is open to both families who first settled in Australia decades ago, as well as recently arrived migrants.

Renowned Ithacan-born heroes of the Revolution



Odysseas Androutsos (1788-1825) was born in Ithaca. His father was a bandit and his mother, who was from Preveza on the mainland, sought asylum on Ithaca to avoid persecution from the Ottomans. Androutsos was a member of the Filiki Eteria. He led another 115 Greek warriors in what was a significant battle of the Greek Independence struggle in the village of Gravia in the Peloponnese. Despite being outnumbered by about 100 to 1, his military strategy saw the Ottoman army withdraw from the Peloponnese.



Lorenzo Mavilis (1860-1913), born in Ithaca, was a poet, member of the Greek parliament representing Corfu and a passionate Greek patriot. His father was an Ionian court judge of Spanish origin and his mother was Greek. In 1896 he joined the revolt of Crete against Ottoman rule and in 1912, volunteered in the First Balkan War. Lorenzo was killed heroically in the battle of Driskos in Epirus for the liberation of Ioannina. According to fellow poet Nikolaos Karvounis his last words were: *I was expecting honours from this war, but not the honour to sacrifice myself for Greece!*

Ithaca's contribution to the Greek War of Independence

Ithaca and the rest of the Ionian Islands escaped the conquest of the Ottoman Empire, protected by the Republic of Venice which occupied the islands for centuries. With the collapse of the Republic of Venice in 1797, the islands continued to be ruled by outside forces including the French, the Russian-Ottoman coalition and the English.

Even so, the Ionian islands still considered themselves Greek and as such supported the revolutionary movement to liberate Greece from 400 years of oppressive and at times brutal Ottoman

It is not often you get the opportunity to examine a whole life, and explore how many bizarre coincidences, instinctive decisions and chance meetings make up our destiny, along with the global developments that mark the era we were born into. We got this unique opportunity, to travel back in time to the early 20th century in Melbourne, following the life of Dennis Varigos, a remarkable Ithacan who lived between 1918 and 2012.

On account of his participation in the junior cricket team that won the Victorian championship in 1932, he is making his way into The Australian Sports Museum at the MCG. It was highly unusual at that time for an athlete of Greek background to play competitive cricket and footy, sports which Dennis Varigos excelled in.

Sport, for Mr Varigos, was a way of gaining respect in an environment still hostile towards the new immigrants arriving in Australia, although the city of Melbourne in which he grew up had already around 200 Greeks, including several Ithacans, who had established themselves with great success in Australian society. Many of them came from his ancestral village, where immigration to Australia had begun in the mid-19th century.

“When someone from your village leaves and makes a lot of money, it’s sure to be talked about among the other two thousand villagers, and it won’t take long for others to follow the journey,” Dennis’ son, Nick Varigos, told Neos Kosmos, as he recounts his father’s life, and the journey of his Ithacan ancestors from the village of Exogi.

“As the name Exogi suggests, the village is out of this world!” Mr Varigos said, with a laugh, describing the beautiful settlement perched on mount Neios, almost 400 metres above the sea, on the north coast of Ithaca.

How Dennis came to be born in Melbourne is also an interesting story which depicts the courage and ingenuity of his parents who, until a few years before, had lived and thrived in Rhodesia, Africa. Nick’s grandparents, Ioannis and Yannoula Varvarigos, came to Australia as a result of a hasty decision made on the spur of the moment, in 1914.

They were on a ship, having left Greece and returning to Africa where they lived at the time, when World War I broke out, leaving them stranded at the Suez Canal which had closed due to the war. The boat docked next to theirs was heading for Australia, and without a second thought they decided to embark and “go as far away from trouble as they could”, leaving behind Greece, their life in Africa, for a country completely unknown to them. His grandmother at the time was pregnant with her third child, while the couple’s two older children were growing up with their grandparents in Ithaca, and would later join their family once they were settled in Melbourne.

From the Roaring Twenties and onwards

Dennis Varigos was born in 1918 in Melbourne, the year the war ended, and as the Roaring Twenties were about to begin, so his early years were carefree and optimistic. He spent his childhood in the city centre, living at 38 Bourke Street, where the family now owned a four-storey building that housed a successful café, The Palace Tearooms, later renamed Rigos Palace Tea Rooms. His playgrounds were the parks of East Melbourne, the MCG, Fitzroy and the city centre, where many Greeks also lived.

Growing up in the heart of the city were happy days, Dennis Varigos recalled in his memoirs. “We had two rooms on the top floor which my mother would let out to people who had just arrived from Ithaca, and we were always surrounded by people,” he wrote, adding that every Sunday, there would be at least 14 people around

From Ithaca to Rhodesia and then to Australia

The odyssey of one of Melbourne’s most historic Greek families

**Iris Papathanasiou
Neos Kosmos, 3 December 2021**

the table for lunch, in a home where they were only allowed to converse in Greek.

When Dennis Varigos started at North Fitzroy Central School, he was the only Greek boy and so he learnt first-hand, with fist and fight, how to deal with racism. Many times, he would come home from school with a black eye. And when his father would ask what happened he would answer that, “this is what happens when you say your name is *Menelaos Varvarigos*.”

Eventually, however, he was accepted by his classmates, who would stand by him when they started high school, where he would excel in sports, in footy and cricket, gaining respect and admiration amongst his peers and beyond. It was during this time that he joined the unbeatable cricket team that would win the Victorian Championship in 1932.

In the same year that Dennis Varigos’ future looked so promising, he was forced to give it all up, along with his schooling, as the Great Depression hits, affecting, along with everyone else, his family who need him to work so they can make ends meet.

“In the first years of his life he lived it all,” his son Nick Varigos, explained. “He lived through the golden post-war era of the 1920s, the global depression of the 1930s and World War II.” All this before his thirtieth birthday. When World War II broke out, 22-year-old Dennis, the youngest son in the family, not yet established in business, was forced to enlist in the army. Once again, the young Ithacan thought ahead and applied to transfer to the Royal Australian Air Force to work in the technical field.

“That saved his life,” his son believes. “Since he was a good technician and the Air Force was growing rapidly, he was kept in Australia to train others who were joining, so he never had to go into battle overseas.” There were many he knew who didn’t make it back from the war, he added.

Photos below, from left:

Dennis’ parents, Yannoula (Lekatsa) and Ioannis Varvarigos (Karlos) who reared seven children, Nikolaos born in Rhodesia, Ekaterini and Dimitrios (James) born in Ithaca, Andreas, Konstantinos, Menelaos (Dennis) and Olga born in Melbourne.

1932, Dennis aged fourteen in the North Fitzroy Central School Cricket Team which won the Central Schools Sports Association premiership in that year

1948, engaged couple, Dennis and Rita Paizes, daughter of Diamanto (Raftopoulos – Exogi) and Niko Paizes (Stavro)

The social Dennis at one of the many community events he supported. As well as sporting clubs, Dennis was active in the Ithacan Club of Melbourne and AHEPA. He was an Honorary Life Member of the Ithacan Philanthropic Society and was the first Australian-born Ithacan to serve as President. He was also an Honorary Life Member of AHEPA and was Grand Lodge President for many years.

“When the war ended, my father decided he wanted to become a pharmacist like his brothers, but it was difficult because he had not finished school.” Determined as he was, he took advantage of the government post-war repatriation programme and completed his schooling and exams within a year, gaining entry into the Pharmacy College, from where he would go on to study at The University of Melbourne.

He met the love of his life, Rita Paizes, whilst studying Pharmacy. They married and later found out that their families had crossed paths before they were even born. Her parents met in that corner on Bourke St. Her father was renting a room from Dennis’ family, at the same time her mother ran a business right opposite, at 39 Bourke Street. “It gives you an example of the tight-knit communities. And funnily, it is through the grandparents on one side that I got grandparents on the other!” Nick Varigos said.

Dennis’ passion for sport would lead him into many sporting clubs in Melbourne. “Dad was a very social human being, with a strong sense of community.” Nick Varigos said. He was known in the Greek community for his involvement in the different community organisations, but also beyond, through his participation in many sports clubs. “He was one of the first Greeks to become a member of the Victoria Racing Club and the Melbourne Cricket Club,” his son says, explaining that through his involvement in those clubs, he came to know many politicians, most of the specialist doctors in Melbourne, and other dignitaries. Connections that helped him establish his impressive pharmacy, at the top end of Collins Street, as the official pharmacy of the Victorian Government.

Nick Varigos recalls how his father lived life to the full. “Every day, right to the end, I remember him asking, as soon as he woke up: ‘Well! What are we going to do today?’ Every day of his life! That says a lot about his character,” he said.

“Little Ithaca” in Camberwell

Nick Varigos and his two brothers, John and Greg, grew up with their cousins, grandparents and uncles, in a “little Ithaca” his grandfather had created after he bought a huge house in Camberwell in the early 1940s. “One part of the house was bought by my father. The other part, my grandfather gave as dowry to his daughter. So we grew up next to my grandparents, my uncle who lived with them, and my aunt and her family.

“We were seven cousins living next to each other on the same street. My father soon brought his in-laws to live with us, so we had a whole village of grandparents, uncles and aunties.” Mr Varigos said all their crockery had their initials written with nail polish, so they wouldn’t get lost every time they partied and celebrated together.

Though Dennis Varigos had successfully established himself in Australian society, his ancestral home in Ithaca, was always in his heart. “My father didn’t go to the island until he was 50 years old. But he knew everything there. We went up to the village and found our *patriko* and then my father started telling me the names of those who lived in the neighbouring houses. ‘But how do you know?’ I would ask. He had memorised the village from the stories his father told him, without ever being there. He loved Ithaca. He went quite a few times, and when I finally bought a house there, he was so proud. Especially because his father had sold everything when he settled in Australia.”

Until the very end, Dennis lived life to the fullest. His son, Nick would accompany him everywhere growing up, and came to understand that age is just a number and nothing more. “My father was my best friend. There were no secrets between us,” he said, remembering the invaluable years he had with him.

“My father loved life fully,” Mr Varigos adds. So much so that he wanted to sum it all up in one phrase, inscribing over his final resting place, that “Life’s been wonderful”, giving hope and inspiration to his descendants.



CHRISAIDO LOURANTOS
ΧΡΥΣΑΪΔΩ ΛΟΥΡΑΝΤΟΥ
1940 - 2021

Στις 17 Οκτωβρίου 2021 έφυγε από αυτή τη ζωή, η σεβαστή και αγαπητή κυρία **Χρυσάιδω Λουράντου**. Η Χρυσάιδω γεννήθηκε στο Βαθύ Ιθάκης, κόρη των Φανούρη και Αμαλίας Μωραΐτη και αδελφή του Θεόδωρου, και πέρασε τη νηπιακή της ηλικία στα χρόνια της Κατοχής. Ο πατέρας της όπως οι περισσότεροι Θιακοί, ήταν ναυτικός και η Χρυσάιδω από μικρή βοήθησε την μητέρα της και πρόσεχε τον αδελφό της. Όταν τελείωσε το σχολείο της εξασκούσε το επάγγελμα της μωδίστρας.

Τον Ιανουάριο του 1964 παντρεύτηκε τον Χρήστο Λουράντο στο Βαθύ και τον Απρίλιο ήλθαν στην Μελβούρνη και άρχισαν μια καινούρια ζωή στην Αυστραλία. Απόκτησαν δύο τέκνα τον Νίκο και την Μαρία. Η Χρυσάιδω εργαζόταν ως μωδίστρα τα χρόνια του 70 και μετά βοήθησε τον συζυγό της σε διάφορα μαγαζιά, μέχρι το 1995 που σταμάτησαν να εργάζονται. Ταξίδεψαν με τον Χρήστο μερικές φορές στην όμορφη Ιθάκη,

Μια αφοσιωμένη σύζυγος και μητέρα, η οικογενειά της ήταν το παν στη ζωή της. Αξιώθηκε να δει τα παιδιά της παντρεμένα και ήταν υπερήφανη για τις εγγονές της. Μέλος του Συνδέσμου μας, θερμοί υποστηρικτές με τον συζυγό της, συνέβαλλαν και παρευρισκόταν στις εκδηλώσεις μας. Πάντα ευγενικά, χαμογελαστή, ένας εξαιρετικός άνθρωπος.



Our Yiayia **Chrisaido Lourantos**, a loving and kind-hearted wife, mother, mother-in-law and grandmother was born in Vathy, Ithaca on 1 October 1940 to Fanouri and Amalia Moraitis. She had one sibling, a brother Theodoris. Growing up, she looked after him while their mother worked and their father was away working as a sailor.

After the war, and having finished her schooling, Yiayia trained as a seamstress and went on to ply her trade in that field. She would also help her mother in the fields during the olive-picking season. This is where she met the Razos and Lourantos families. Yiayia married our Pappou Christo on 12 January 1964 in Vathy, and in April 1964, they arrived in Port Melbourne to start their new life together in Australia. In the beginning, they lived at the home of Pappou Christos' Uncle Andrea Razos and other family members at 5 Elm Street, North Melbourne.

In 1966, their first child our father, the *Kapetanio*, was born. Having no close family, Yiayia received welcome support from Eleni and Andriana Bouras, her brother-in-law Vaggelis Metaxas and Thea Anthi Chilianis who she looked up to as her mother. Thea Anthi taught her to cook many traditional Ithacan dishes. In 1969, they welcomed their second child, *little princess*, our Aunt Mary and forty days later they made the move to 23 Fortuna Ave, North Balwyn together with the Metaxas family. Yiayia

continued to work as a seamstress until the late 70s and then went on to help our pappou in a variety of businesses including fruit shops and a coffee shop until retirement in 1995.

While living at Fortuna Ave, many parties were held - especially the popular Christmas Day Feast to celebrate Pappou Christo's Name Day, Birthday and Christmas Day. Yiayia and Thea Rita would prepare for this event for days. Guests would come in and out of the house all day and all night. Fortuna Ave was also known as an open *kafenio* where Yiayia's much-loved Koubari Loui and Freda Razos and other neighbours would pop in for a *kafethaki*. Yiayia returned to her beloved Ithaca several times. In 1975 she was there for her brother Theodoris' wedding to Thea Efstathia. She also visited with Pappou in 1979 and again in 1995.

Yiayia's happiest moments were the weddings of her children, Nick's marriage to Carol in January 1993 and Maria's to Starsh in February 2005. An even prouder moment came with the arrival of her two granddaughters who gave her many moments of pleasure and happiness. She was also cherished as a Yiayia to our cousins Annie, George, Marguerite, Evangeline, Andrew and Dimitri, and she adored them. Her role as a mother and grandmother including being a mother figure to Effie and Gino was very important to Yiayia. This is where she drew her strength and left her legacy. Being with her family was what she enjoyed and lived for.

Yiayia struggled with dementia in her final years and passed away peacefully on Sunday 17 October 2021 surrounded by her children. Her love will forever be in our hearts, and we will always remember her kindness, her devotion and her culinary specialties - her yemista, pastitsio, karithopita and soupa. Thank you Yiayia for being a wonderful grandmother, a role model, and showing us how much family means. You taught us both so much growing up and we will forever cherish the memories we had together.

Christina & Georgia Lourantos

OLGA COSMAS
ΟΛΓΑ ΚΟΣΜΑΣ
1929-2021

Η **Όλγα Κουβαρά-Κοσμά** γεννήθηκε στο Σύνδι στις 9 Νοεμβρίου 1929. Ήταν κόρη των Τηλέμαχου και Ερασμίας Κουβαρά από την Ιθάκη και αδελφή του Πολ. Οι γονείς της αγαπούσαν την κλασική μουσική, κάτι που ενθουσίαζε την Όλγα και από μικρή έπαιζε στο πιάνο και αντίγραφε με φυσική ικανότητα τις μελωδίες που άκουγε να παίζει και να τραγουδά η μητέρα της. Κατά τον Β' Παγκόσμιο πόλεμο η Όλγα άφησε το σχολείο και τη μουσική για να βοηθήσει στην καφετέρια των γονιών της. Αυτός ήταν και ο δρόμος που χάραξε στη ζωή της, πάντα να θυσιάζεται για αυτούς που αγαπούσε.

Το 1950 ήλθε με τους γονείς της για διακοπές στην Μελβούρνη και τότε ήταν που συνάντησε τον μέλλοντα συζυγό της Ιωάννη Κοσμάς. Παντρεύτηκαν μετά τον θάνατο του πατέρα της, το 1953 και άρχισαν τη ζωή τους στην Μελβούρνη. Απόκτησαν τρία τέκνα τους Μία, Κοσμά και Ντάλλας. Ο Κοσμάς λόγω περίπλοκου τοκετού, ήταν διανοητικά ανάπηρος και η Όλγα τον υπεραγαπούσε και τον φρόντιζε αμέριστα μέρα νύχτα. Έδωσε τα πάντα για να δημιουργήσει για αυτόν μια ατμόσφαιρα γεμάτη με αγάπη και με

τη στοργή της. Ο Κοσμάς έφυγε από τη ζωή το 1977 και η Όλγα είχε παρηγοριά στο ότι η ψυχούλα του ήταν κοντά στον Θεό.

Αξιώθηκε τους γάμους των παιδιών της και τη χαρά πέντε εγγονιών και έξι δισεγγονιών. Η Όλγα όταν έπαψε να εργάζεται, πρόσφερε εθελοντικά την ώρα της, παίζοντας πιάνο σε διάφορα γηροκομεία. Η υγεία της επιδεινώθηκε και χρειάστηκε πλήρη φροντίδα. Αργότερα πέθανε και ο συζυγός της, μετά 65 χρόνια γάμου. Ποτέ δεν παραπονιόταν και πάντα είχε ένα καλό λόγο, και όλοι την αγαπούσαν. Η αγάπη της πάντα θα συνεχίζει σε όσους άγγιξε στη ζωή της.



On the 9th of November 1929, **Olga Kouvaras** was born in Sydney, the first child of Telemahos and Erasmia Kouvaras who both originated from the island of Ithaca. At the time of her birth, there were looming shadows of the Great Depression which was just starting to reverberate around the world. But baby Olga was kept safe by the love of her parents, dedicated to building their lives together in the seaside suburb of Coogee.

While Erasmia took care of the family at home with the birth of Paul in 1933, Telemahos was busy running the *Kosciusko Cafe* on Oxford Street, seven days a week. Despite her father's long hours absence, Olga had a very strong bond with him. One of her favourite childhood memories was of her father taking her to the beach, out past the waves on his shoulders at Coogee. As long as she was with him, she felt happy and safe.

A great love of Olga's parents was classical music and in particular, opera. They gathered a wonderful collection of records such as the great Caruso to play on the family gramophone. Little Olga was enthralled. Around the age of five, Telemahos, who had studied music back in Greece, purchased a piano for Erasmia. Soon, Olga was spending countless hours at the piano with her natural ability to copy the melodies her mother was playing and singing. Extended family gatherings in Sydney and regional New South Wales with close cousins, and outings to the cinema, were all happy memories for Olga. She was entranced by musical productions, a joy and great escape for the generation of her youth.

When World War 2 became a present threat in Sydney, Olga made the conscious decision to leave Sydney Girls High School and her music studies to help her parents at the cafe. This was the kind of path that Olga would take throughout her life, sacrificing her own gain for those she loved. Many long hours were spent at the cafe preparing sodas and milkshakes for the regular clientele plus the numerous GIs stationed in Sydney at the time. In spare hours, she would take long walks with her father to Hyde Park or the Mitchell Library.

Although by now Olga had stopped piano lessons, her strong ability to

improvise and play with great sensitivity allowed her to be the 'house entertainer' at the Olympic Club. There were many plays and musical nights with Olga providing the music staged at Sydney's top radio theatres.

By 1950, Olga's parents had sold the *Kosciusko* and she went on holidays with her father to Melbourne to visit family. It was during this stay that she would meet her future husband, John Cosmas. On first meeting through family friends, the feeling was mutual. They were both young, shy and smitten. Within months, the Kouvaras family returned to Melbourne. When John's father, Kosma, declared to Olga, "If my son loves you, then we love you too", the families agreed to an engagement. On a visit to Sydney, one of the fellows from the Olympic Club shook John's hand saying, "Congratulations. You're going to marry the loveliest girl in Sydney". Over the next two years, thousands of words were written in letters to each other and more visits with the families. But just before the wedding would take place, Telemahos Kouvaras passed away. Struck with grief, John and Olga postponed the wedding which eventually occurred in 1953. It was a happy, but subdued occasion.

With her father gone, Olga agreed to start her married life in Melbourne. Within a year, Mia was born, with Erasmia coming to stay from Sydney to help. Soon it became clear that the apartment on Park Street Brunswick would be too small to raise a family and they purchased their first house in East Bentleigh which was on the fringe of Melbourne at that time. In 1957 Olga had her first son, Kosma. The birth was complicated and traumatic. Kosma was born intellectually disabled. At this time, there was very little understanding to properly diagnose children of disability or provide a system of support.

For six years, Olga nursed, fed, bathed, cared and protected her son. At one point, the doctors classed Kosma as being deaf. Olga insisted this was not the case, as she spent 24 hours a day with him and observed how he could gesture at the record cabinet for his favourite music. Olga would play the piano for him and sometimes he would clap along. She gave all she had to create a loving environment for Kosma but the stress took a life-changing toll on her. Eventually, John found a placement for Kosma at Kew Cottages which provided state-care for children with various disability requirements. The bond between Olga and Kosma was always on display during visits as he always had a big smile when he saw his mother. Olga loved him with every ounce of fibre in her body and soul.

In the years that followed, Dallas was born and her mother Erasmia and brother Paul moved not only to Melbourne, but to live in the same street in support of the family. When John branched out alone in business, Olga was his right hand, working long past regular office hours or making emergency deliveries to customers far away. Despite the challenges and stress of a family business, Olga never swayed in giving her full support to her husband. As John would often say, "Olga puts everyone else before herself".

1977 was full of sorrow with the passing of Kosma, but Olga believed his sweet and innocent soul was now with God. This was followed by the marriage of Mia to Costa, and along the years, the birth of their five grandchildren, and six

great-grandchildren which brought her happiness over the decades. The love that Olga showed Nathalie when she married Dallas was deeply felt, reciprocated and extended to family in France. Although she never travelled overseas, Olga developed a wide perspective on the world around her. She knew that there is more than one way to understand a situation.

In retirement, Olga volunteered her time by playing the piano and entertaining at nursing homes. As her own health declined, it became necessary for her to go into full time care. Soon after celebrating 65 years of marriage, John passed away. Recently, she would sometimes talk of dreaming about him, and other times talk of him in the present. Through the good times and the bad times, their lives were full together.

In her final years, despite her body being physically constrained, her mind and spirit remained full of light. Her rich inner life and faith sustained her. She could vividly recollect her young years, humorous family conversations or talk in detail about a favourite film or music. She never complained, always had a kind word, and was loved by those who truly cared for her. At the end, she was at peace. With Olga's passing, the light of love and care she showed to those she touched in this life, will always go on.

JAMES DEFTEROS
1938-2021



James (Dimitri) aka **Jim Defteros** was born in Brisbane on the 9 August 1938 at St. Helena's Hospital at South Brisbane and passed away on the 3 December 2021. Jim was the eldest child of Spero and Angelica (Koula) Defteros, brother of Joan (dec) and Denise. His father, was born in Platrithia, Ithaca and his mother, was born in Brisbane. The family home was set high on the cliff at Highgate Hill.

Jim went to Marist Brothers' Primary School and completed his secondary schooling at Brisbane State High School. When he finished his education, he worked for a while as a valet at Lennon's Hotel. He also worked at Campbell's Hardware Stores for over three years and later worked with his dad in their well-known dry cleaning business - Ace Dry Cleaning in George Street, City. Jim had a close relationship with his grandmother who was a strong resilient lady named Elpiniki (nee Syrmis), first cousin to my father. She owned a large boarding house in Manning Street.

As a young boy, my brother Con Syrmis remembers meeting Jim while staying in a holiday house owned by his Uncle George in Redcliffe. Jim visited his cousins there and he showed his athletic skills when my brother Con challenged him to see who could run the fastest and the longest. Jim had no trouble outrunning all his cousins. He displayed this athleticism in playing tennis, his favourite sport.

Jim was a traveller. Over the decades he travelled through Europe, Asia and Canada. He also travelled and worked in the United Kingdom for two and a half years. Jim was well-read in history and culture and enjoyed coming to hear the talks at Solomos Greek-Australian Cultural Society. He had a fascination with words, their origins and meanings. He spent a lot of time researching words and was very knowledgeable in this area. He had endless conversations on the topic.

Jim was devoted to his sisters and lovingly cared for them throughout his life. The loss of Joan in 2004 was greatly felt by him. Jim will be sadly missed by all those who loved him, his sister Denise, his relatives and friends.

Voula Syrmis Castan, Brisbane

DONATIONS IN MEMORY
ΔΩΡΕΕΣ ΕΙΣ ΜΝΗΜΗ

\$100 John & Konstantina Manolatos (QLD) in memory of Konstantina's beloved twin brother **Jim Feros**

\$100 John & Konstantina Manolatos (QLD) in memory of **Antony Servos (Spaniolo)**, dear friend and relative.

\$100 Sophia Moraitis & family in memory of beloved husband, father & grandfather, **Costas Moraitis**.

\$100 Freda Lucas in memory of parents **Achillea & Artemisia Benias**, brother **Bill Benias**, sister and brother-in-law **Georgia & Stathi Mavrokefalou**

\$100 Stephen Kandiliotis in memory of **George Cominos**.

Farewell George, gone too soon. You were a great neighbour, and a friend, always helpful, with similar interests that we shared and enjoyed, as well as your great get-togethers and fun times. George you will be sadly missed, a really good man.

\$100 Lula Black & family in memory of beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather **Peter Black**.

\$150 Olga Black in memory of cousins **Denis & Jean Sikiotis**
Olga Kosmas
Pinelopi Prosalenti-Alexandratou

\$90 Olga Black in memory of **Kassiani Raftopoulos**
Toula Kandiliotis
Mike Kostos

\$100 Andriana Zervoulis in memory of beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather **George Zervoulis**

Donations received in memory of **Chrisaido Lourantos**:

- \$50 George & Loula Coutsouvelis
- \$50 Helen Vlass
- \$50 Eugenia & John Tsalikis
- \$50 Lula & Andrew Black
- \$20 Nina Raftopoulos

DONATIONS TO ODYSSEUS
ΔΩΡΕΕΣ ΓΙΑ ΕΦΗΜΕΡΙΔΑ

- \$100 Aphrodite Freda (nee Ventouras) Canaris WA
- \$50 Peter Lecatsas
- \$45 Kaliopé Paxinos
- \$30 Anonymous

SEND US YOUR SOCIAL NEWS & ARTICLES OF INTEREST FOR PUBLICATION
Editorial discretion may be applied.

Post: PO BOX 311
Balwyn North VIC 3104
or email: news@ithaca.org.au

BRISBANE NEWS



September 12 2021: Enjoying the Panagias Kathariotissa feast day at the Greek Club in Brisbane following the church service at the Greek Orthodox Church of St George, from left, **Andrew Pippos, John & Nia Icconomou, Barbara & Atha Vasdekis, Dialecti Helios, Voula Castan, Angelika Stamoulis, Vera Black, Lucky Pippos.**

The Panagia Kathariotissa is the protector of Ithaca. The title "Kathariotissa" was coined, according to tradition, because the Icon of the Panagia was discovered untouched by the flames in the ash of the "kathara" (the dry twigs and brush that are cut and burnt to clear an area). The Ithacans believe that the Icon of the Virgin Mary is miraculous and on September 8 the Monastery of the Panagia of Kathara, where the Icon was found, celebrates the feast day of the Nativity of Theotokou, the birth of the Virgin Mary.

BIRTH



Costa and Giselle Livanes were blessed with a wonderful gift for Christmas, welcoming **Elias Constantine Livanes**, born on the 26th October 2021 and weighing 3.6kg, at the Mater Mothers Hospital in Brisbane. Big brother Georgio was very excited to meet his new brother. Costa is the great-grandson of the late Aphrodite (Katsamas) and Gerasimos Metaxas. Congratulations and Να σας ζήσει.



Originally published in Greek, A River Divided by George Paxinos, neuroscientist and environmentalist, is now available in English. Available on eBook or hard copy.

A River Divided is such an unusual story. If you were to compare it to films, it would be a cross between Indiana Jones, the Da Vinci code, The Clones, and a David Attenborough documentary. If you think this sounds bizarre then you have the right image... There are many themes and ideas presented here for the reader to ponder over... *A River Divided* is not a light read nor one to read as a sceptic. It is about "This generation creating the conditions for the extinction of its progeny".

***A River Divided* – Blue Wolf Reviews (bluewolf-reviews.com)**

Almost Orwellian in a 21st-century context, the novel encapsulates some of the quintessential moral and social dilemmas of the modern era, inviting a reset of science, religion and culture.

George Paxinos – A River Divided

NEW COMMITTEE

On Wednesday 1 December the Ithacan Society of Queensland AGM was held at The Greek Club. All committee positions were declared vacant, nominations were received and a new committee elected as follows:

- President** Barbara Vasdekis
- Vice-President** Voula Castan
- Secretary** Anastasia Blake
- Treasurer** John Pippos
- The Management Committee:**
- Vera Black
- Eugenie Cowen
- Magdalini Margaritis
- Penny Pippos
- Atha Vasdekis

The committee warmly wishes all our members and Ithacans worldwide good health, happiness, peace and prosperity for 2022. Ευχές για το 2022.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4
Ithaca's contribution to the War of Independence

The fight for freedom and independence was a long, bitter and bloody affair. The freedom fighters fought their oppressors for nine years from 1821-1829. With the aid of France, Great Britain and Russia and, following intense international negotiations as to the nature of an independent Greece, a settlement was finally determined with the 1832 Treaty of Constantinople. The Ottoman Empire officially recognised the independent Greek kingdom and it was agreed that Greece will include the Peloponnese, the mainland up to a line between Árta and Vólos, and the Cyclades but that it would not include the other islands of the Aegean, the Ionian islands or Crete. This meant that significant areas of what is now Greece remained under Ottoman rule and for which the struggle for independence continued up until the Balkan Wars in 1912-13. The Treaty also agreed that the king was to be the seventeen-year-old Prince Otto of Bavaria who became known to the Greeks as King Othon.

The Ionian Islands, which were a British protectorate at the time, did not become part of the Greek state until 1864.

The Greek national anthem, which was written by Zakynthian **Dionysios Solomos** in 1824 during the War of Independence was entitled a Hymn to Freedom and is one of the few anthems in the world that strongly reflects the value of liberty. The music to the anthem was composed by **Nikolaos Mantzaros** who was a Corfiote (Kerkyrian) operatic composer. In 1865, the first three stanzas of the Hymn to Freedom (and later the first two) officially became the national anthem of Greece and, from 1966, also that of Cyprus.

2021 ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΙΑΤΙΚΟ ΓΕΥΜΑ ΤΟΥ ΣΥΝΔΕΣΜΟΥ

Μιά συνάντηση μετά τόσο καιρό, που απόλαυσαν
όλοι με χαρά, γέλιο και κέφι

2021 CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

The smiling faces captured in the photos from this year's Christmas Luncheon at Merrimu Receptions highlights the joy of being out and catching up with friends and relatives following such a long period of lockdown in Melbourne.

A great day was had by all enjoying Merrimu's great hospitality, wonderful music by UNick, and a fabulous presentation of wedding photos from the IHS collection dating from the early 1900s through to the 1960s.

Congratulations to the Events Committee for organising such a successful day. Thanks to all who attended and helped make our end of year celebration such a memorable day.

