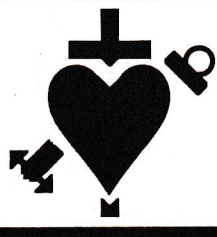


# CASTELLORIZIAN NEWS

*Newsletter of the  
Castellorizian Association of Victoria*

## ΚΑΣΤΕΛΛΟΡΙΖΙΑΚΑ ΝΕΑ



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NUMBER 92 • MARCH 1994  
EDITED BY JACK BISAS O.A.M.

CASTELLORIZIAN NEWSLETTER NO. 92 gives details of a new initiative by your Society on Saints Constantine and Helene's Day on May 22nd, 1994. In conjunction with our second Castellorizian of the Year Award, we will be making presentations to all those students who passed their VCE in 1993. Details in this newsletter.

Not one member has contacted us with any records or details of the history of our Society between the years 1925-1964. We will now have to find other means of recording these historical records.

### V.C.E. PASSES

- ✓ John P. Mangos, Business Computing at Broadmeadows
- ✓ Basil A. Salvaris, Property at RMIT
- ✓ Yvette A. Salvaris, Arts, at Victoria College
- ✓ Melissa M. Christopher, Commerce-Computing at Deakin
- ✓ George C. Lucas, Business at RMIT

*Congratulations and well done to them all.*

### VALE

✚ In memory of the late Mrs. C. Kanis, Eva Lucas has donated \$10 to our Society.

### CONGRATULATIONS

✓ To Constantine Ernest Hondros on graduating his Masters Degree in Science from Edinburgh University, Scotland. From Melbourne to attend the graduation ceremony his Godmother Tessie Hondros. While overseas, Tessie also visited her brother Ernest Hondros and family in Holland.

✓ To Mr. Michael Diamond M.B.E. of Rose Bay, Sydney, for his award of the A.M. in the Australia Day Honour "for services to the Greek community".

### 80th BIRTHDAY

✚ On the 26th February, 1994, a Cocktail Party to celebrate the 80th birthday of Vania Pitsikas was held at the home of his daughter Tina and Andrew Salvaris and sons John and Vania in Melbourne. Friends and relatives enjoyed a most pleasant day. Our warm Congratulations to Vania. From Sydney for the occasion Vanias' God-daughter Daisy with her husband Peter Kalaitzis.

### 60th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

✚ Mr. & Mrs Eustathios and Kristulla Kontillos (of Sydney) celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on the 16th January, 1994. A Party was held at the home of their children Antonios and Andranna Stavrianou at Woollahra, where family and friends attended. Mr. & Mrs. Kontillos are the parents of Betty and Nick Adgemis of Melbourne. Telegrammes to congratulate were received from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Prime Minister Paul Keating, the Governor General of Australia Bill Hayden, the Premier of NSW John Fahey Archbishop Stylianos, and many more. The Castellorizian Society of Victoria Congratulate Mr. & Mrs. E. Kontillos and we wish them all the best for the future.

### HONOUR BOARD

We thank all those who have sent in their names and details. This is a worthwhile and long overdue recognition of those who served their country in the armed forces. If you still know of any member who is not aware of our Honour Board, please forward their names to us. We are at present in receipt of 15 names.

### HOME AFTER A STAY IN HOSPITAL



Mr. Theo Conos



Mr. Terry N. Bisas



Mr. Nick Zographou

### GET WELL



Christina S. Bisas (in hospital)



## WEDDINGS

🕒 In Adelaide, on Saturday, 29th January, Senator Nick Bolkus married Mary Patetos. Best-man was Dimitri Dollis. From Melbourne for the occasion, Andrew and Tina Salvaris with their sons John and Basil; also Irene Douglas and Anne Vassiliades.

🕒 In Brisbane for the marriage of Anne Kiosoglou to Jim Boubaris on Saturday, 18th January, 1994: Nick and Betty Adgemis, Anna Adgemis, John Anastasi Adgemis, Betty Peter Exintaris. Anne is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Kiosoglou of Adelaide.

## ANNIVERSARIES

🎁 Congratulations to Peter and Koula Adgemis on their 40th Wedding Anniversary on 21st February.

🎁 Congratulations to Nellie and Steve Zombos on their 37th Wedding Anniversary on 24th February.

🎁 Congratulations to Jack and Maria Miriklis on their 40th Wedding Anniversary.

## BIRTHDAY

☀️ Tina Papadopoulos gave a family Birthday Luncheon for her husband George's 40th birthday. George is the son-in-law of Peter and Koula Adgemis.

## BAPTISM

👶 On Sunday 13th February, at Evangelismos Church, Nick and Penny Loukides baptised their daughter Kalliope-Anastasia. God-father Andrew Caripis, Refreshments at The Gobles, East Malvern.

## IN MELBOURNE

👤 To visit their mother Athanasoula Hondros, sister Tessie & brother Peter Hondros. From Brisbane Con, Helen & James Hondros and Mary Coronis.

👤 To visit her parents and family, Zefi and Basil Barboutis from Brisbane. (*We thank them for their \$20 donation to our Society*)

## A TALE OF TWO TOWNS

I am indebted to Katrina Fermanis Cavouras from Adelaide, S.A., for two excellent articles from the December issue of "The Athenian" magazine. We print the first in this Newsletter. The second will be printed in our next Newsletter. The first is entitled "A Tale of Two Towns" and refers to the islands of Kos and Kastellorizo. The second is entitled "Dionysian Rites on Kastellorizo".

*All gentlemen are invited to a*

## PLEASANT SUNDAY MORNING

*for the*

## AUSTRALIAN GREEK WELFARE SOCIETY

*on Sunday, 17 April,  
994, from 11am to 1.00pm  
at 52 Chapel Street, St. Kilda*

### FUND RAISER

*NO OFFENCE TO THE LADIES • MEN ONLY*

*Donation \$15*

*ALL WELCOME*

## PAN-DODECANESE ASSOCIATION

The Pan-Dodecanese Association are organising a number of functions over the next few months. Members are invited to take part as our Society is a member of this Association.

• 13th March at St. Dimitrios Church, 1 Gladstone Street Moonee Ponds, Church Service followed by a light luncheon at the hall next door.

• 26th March (Saturday), a Dinner Dance will be held at the hall of Saints Constantine and Helen, Barry Street, South Yarra. Tickets \$30 single. All details and bookings should be addressed to Mr. Steve Zombos, Telephone 808 4239. All welcome.

## OUR SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUB

Our Senior Citizens' Club which meets on a monthly basis at our Club Rooms, on the 1st Wednesday of every month, have formed a Sub-Committee to supervise and conduct this very successful initiative by your Society. We wish them luck.

President	Nick Patiniotis
Vice-President	Kyriakos Miriklis
Secretary	Steve Zombos
Treasurer	Sylvia Coates (Kotsoglou) and Katina J. Miriklis

Michael and Nina Kyriakos have donated \$20 to the Senior Citizens' Club *In Memory* of the Late Con Emmanouil (Theoharis).

Kevin and Maria Kominos have donated \$20 *In Memory* of the Late Marika Augustes.

**SAINTS  
CONSTANTINE  
&  
HELEN'S  
DAY  
SUNDAY, 22nd MAY, 1994**

at  
**SAINTS CONSTANTINE & HELEN'S CHURCH**  
Barry Street, South Yarra

and afterwards to a  
**LIGHT LUNCHEON**  
at our Club Rooms, South Melbourne.

**At this function,  
your Society will make its presentation  
to the**

**1994  
CASTELLORIZIAN  
OF  
THE  
YEAR**

Presentations will also be made to all those students  
who have passed the VCE in 1993. Please nominate  
students in your family and forward the proforma to:

**V.C.E. Presentations  
Box 112  
South Melbourne, 3205**

*Nominations to reach us by 10th April, 1994*

.....  
(Name)

.....  
(Address)

.....  
(Telephone Number)

.....  
(Details)  
.....  
.....

## HISTORICAL RECORDS

If you can help, could you please forward details to us  
as soon as possible. All records from 1964 are intact.

1925	President Michael Conos (Oikonomides)
1926	President .....
1927	President .....
1928	President .....
1929	President .....
1930	President .....
1931	President .....
1932	President .....
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1964	President .....



GREEK SECTION  
EDITED BY STEVE ZOMBOS

ΕΝΘΕΤΟ ΣΤΑ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ  
ΕΠΙΜΕΛΕΙΑ: ΣΤΕΦΑΝΟΣ ΖΟΜΠΟΣ

*"Η παλληκαρωςύνη  
δε μετριέται με το στρέμμα  
αλλά  
με της καρδιάς το πύρωμα"  
(Κωστής Παλαμάς).*

Σήμερα που γιορτάζουμε την ενσωμάτωση της Δωδεκανήσου με τη μητέρα Ελλάδα, η σκέψη μας πάει πίσω 80 χρόνια, όταν οι σκλαβωμένοι τότε καστελλορίζιοι, ενθουσιασμένοι με τις νίνες του Ελληνικού Στρατού εναντίων των Τούρκων, αποφάσισαν να επαναστατήσουν και να διώξουν τον σουλτάνο κατακτητή από το νησάκι μας.

Στις 1η Μαρτίου 1913, οπλήστηκαν σχεδόν όλοι οι άνδρες και με την βοήθεια 30 περίπου Μακεδονομάχων Κρητικών, αιχμαλώτισαν τους Τούρκους στρατιώτες και ανύψωσαν την Ελληνική σημαία.

Δυστυχώς, όμως, το Καστελλόριζο δεν παρέμεινε ελεύθερο για πολύ.

Το 1915 το κυρίευσαν οι Γάλλοι, και το 1920 το παρέδωσαν στους Ιταλούς και έτσι το νησάκι μας παρέμεινε σκλαβωμένο μέχρι την ημέρα που ενώθηκε μαζί με άλλα 11 νησιά με τη μητέρα Ελλάδα.

(Το κείμενο αυτό το έστειλα προς δημοσίευση και στην παροικιακή μας εφημερίδα Νέος Κόσμος.)

#### ΣΥΓΚΕΝΤΡΩΣΕΙΣ ΗΛΙΚΙΩΜΕΝΩΝ ΚΑΣΤΕΛΛΟΡΙΖΙΩΝ

Συνεχίζονται με επιτυχία οι συγκεντρώσεις των ηλικιωμένων Καστελλοριζίων στην αίθουσά μας, κάθε πρώτη Τετάρτη του μηνός. Στη συγκέντρωση που έγινε στις 2 Μαρτίου, είχαμε μαζί μας και τον κ. Βάνια Πίτσικα από το Σύνδεύ, καθώς και αρκετά νέα πρόσωπα από του συμπατριώτες μας.

#### ΕΙΔΙΚΗ ΑΠΟΝΟΜΗ ΣΤΟΥΣ ΑΠΟΦΟΙΤΟΥΣ V.C.E.

Το Διοικητικό Συμβούλιο αποφάσισε να δωρίσει αναμνηστικά δώρα στους φοιτητές και φοιτήτριες που τελείωσαν τις δευτεροβάθμιές τους εξετάσεις VCE επιτυχώς. Η απονομή θα γίνει την Κυριακή, 22 Μαΐου, στον εορτασμό των Αγίων Κωνσταντίνου και Ελένης. Όσοι ενδιαφέρονται, να στείλουν τα ονόματά των στην διεύθυνση του συλλόγου μας.

#### ΠΑΝΔΩΔΕΚΑΝΝΗΣΙΑΚΗ ΟΜΟΣΠΟΝΔΙΑ

Η Πανδωδεκαννησιακή Ομοσπονδία, της οποίας μέλος είναι ο Καστελλοριζιακός σύλλογός μας, διοργανώνει χορό το σάββατο, 26 Μαρτίου, στην αίθουσα της Κοινότητας των Αγίων Κωνσταντίνου και Ελένης, Barry Street, South Yarra. Τιμή εισιτηρίου \$30. Για να κλείσετε τραπέζι, τηλεφωνήστε τον κ. Στέφανο Ζόμπο (τηλέφωνο 808 4239) ή τον κ. Νίκο Πατινιώτη (τηλέφωνο 859 8158).

#### ΥΦΗΓΗΤΗΣ ΒΙΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ ΔΗΛΩΝΕΙ:

#### ΤΟ ΚΑΣΤΕΛΛΟΡΙΖΟ ΕΧΕΙ ΤΟ ΥΓΕΙΕΣΤΑΤΟ ΚΛΙΜΑ

Και κάτι που ίσως σας ενδιαφέρει: Σε ομιλία που ο Υφηγητής-Lecturer της Βιολογίας στο Πανεπιστήμιο της Αθήνας, είπε ότι το Καστελλόριζο έχει το πιο υγιεινό κλίμα της Ελλάδας. Παράδειγμα όταν το καλοκαίρι, την ημέρα, η θερμοκρασία στην Ρόδο και στο Καστελλόριζο είναι 35 βαθμοί, τη νύκτα η υγρασία-humidity ενώ στη Ρόδο είναι 40 βαθμοί, στο Καστελλόριζο είναι μόλις 18 βαθμοί.

*Καημένο Καστελλόριζο*

*βούλα σου γερατίξαν*

*τσαί καλατσαγκαριέτσες σου*

*τσαι τσίνες εμυρίζαν.*



# A TALE OF TWO TOWNS

by Willard Manus

Kas and Kastellorizo — a symbiotic relationship between the easternmost Greek island and the neighboring Turkish mainland town has persisted despite political antagonisms. At Christmas last year, the Mayor of Kas invited the whole population over for dinner.



Sketches by Christos Dimos

If the struggles between Christians and Muslims in Yugoslavia, Lebanon, Georgia, Armenia and other countries are making you fear for the good will of the human race, take heart — there is at least one spot on earth where the people of these two faiths not only tolerate but like each other.

This spot is on the south coast of Asia Minor where the Greek island of Kastellorizo lies just three kilometres from the Turkish town of Kas. Years ago these two communities were organically one, since Kas on the mainland of Lycia with its long fertile valleys and populous, thriving Kastellorizo were part of the same Empire, first Greek, then Ottoman. Kas was the entrepot of Lycian produce and Kastellorizo provided the ships and the seamen to carry the trade, shipping olives, citrus fruit and cotton not only to the Greek mainland but to Smyrna, Lebanon, Cyprus and Egypt. That commerce, combined with fishing and sponging, enabled Kastellorizans to enjoy a luxurious lifestyle. They built large stone houses lavishly furnished with kilims, carpets, mahogany furniture, Venetian glass,

English porcelain, French silver and all kinds of modern conveniences.

In its heyday during the early part of this century, Kastellorizo had over 20,000 inhabitants, half a dozen schools, several important churches and monasteries, numerous social and fraternal organizations, and a well-endowed library. Its natural U-shaped harbor was so long and deep that it served as a landing site for Air France's seaplanes, which landed for refueling and service before proceeding on to Alexandria and Africa.

"Many mainland Turks used to fly in to Kastellorizo, stay overnight on the island before crossing over to Kas," recalled Savvas Mastrothalasitis, a present-day Kastellorizian hotel-owner. "My family thought nothing of putting them up for a day or two. Not only that, my grandfather invited them to our house, to break bread and become friends, not just hotel guests."

"Many Turks worked for the Greeks, but did not think of them in an ill way," said Mehmet Fidan, the Mayor of Kas. "We were all one people then, with simi-

lar characteristics. We ate the same food, drank the same drinks, had an identical mentality and way of communicating. The only thing that divided us was religion, but this was nothing we ever fought about. There was tolerance and understanding on both sides, a feeling of live and let live."

What changed all that was the war of 1922 when the Turkish nationalist army defeated the Greek forces in Anatolia and brought an end to the Greek presence in Asia Minor. Most Greeks on the Lycian coast were expelled and their holdings confiscated. Kastellorizo had already gone into a decline when the island, along with rest of the Dodecanese, was ceded to Italy a decade earlier. The 1923 exchange of populations triggered a mass exodus from Kastellorizans as well, some of whom went to Athens and Rhodes, others to such farflung havens as America, Ethiopia and Australia.

"We were sorry to see so many Greeks leave," Mayor Fidan reflected. "Though there had been war between our countries, we still did not feel personal animosity towards them. We needed them, as they were good traders and merchants. When Kastellorizo declined, we declined as well."



World War II delivered more blows to the island. The Italian garrison (whose history inspired the Oscar-winning film *Mediterraneo*, shot on Kastellorizo in 1989) was seized and replaced by the German army in 1943. Subsequent bombing by the RAF destroyed about two-thirds of the village and most of its fleet of fishing and transport boats.

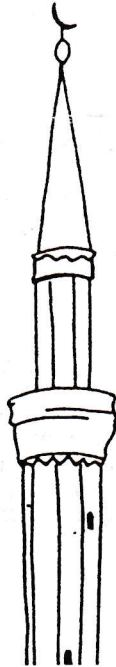
When the British drove the Germans out, the remaining islanders were evacuated and sent to refugee camps in the Gaza Strip. After the war, most sur-

traband as well. Many Jews fleeing Hitler's holocaust escaped Europe via the Kastellorizo-Kas route. Greek and Turkish sailors were also involved in handing over downed RAF pilots or British commandos on secret missions.

Today that pipeline is still in operation. Kurds fleeing the troubles in their homeland pay to be taken to Kas and then across to Kastellorizo, where the Greek police put them on the next boat to Rhodes, after which they are sent to the mainland and a refugee camp outside Athens.

the countryside," Mayor Fidan said proudly. "It was not only fun but very moving as well, as some of the islanders visited family property and homes for the first time since the war."

Traffic between Kas and Kastellorizo largely originates at the Turkish end, if only because Kastellorizo has not yet been designated an official Greek point of entry for boats and yachts. Turkish tour boats are licensed to make daytrips to Kastellorizo, but it's not supposed to be allowed the other way around. How-



vivors joined the Kastellorizan diaspora, with only five families choosing to return to their devastated island. With little water or food available (the island is beautiful, but dry and barren), the Kastellorizans would have starved had it not been for the Turks of Kas. Having survived the war in better condition, they sent over enough water and staples to keep the 30-odd Greeks alive until help finally came from other sources.

"I can remember my father sending over packages of food with a fisherman friend," said Mustafa Girgin, a third-generation shopkeeper in Kas. "The Kastellorizans could not pay for the food, but my father did not let that bother him. 'We need them and they need us,' was his view. 'One day they will prosper again and pay us back.'"

In effect, the symbiotic relationship between Kas and Kastellorizo had never been severed. All through the war communication and trade lines were kept open, in unofficial, underground ways. Certain goods were smuggled by boat under cover of darkness -- human con-

"One night I heard a scratching at my door," said Kostas Paul, a Kazzie (a returned islander from Perth, Australia). "When I opened the door, there was a white-faced, dehydrated man in a wet suit. It turned out that he was a Kurd who had swum over from Kas in a suit and flippers donated by a sympathetic Turk."

Paul is proud of the warm relationship between Kastellorizo and Kas. "It's a village-to-village thing," he explained. "Nobody had to order us to be friends - we just are. It's especially true in winter when the tourists are gone. If a group of Turks comes over from Kas for the day, somebody will always invite them for a drink, offer a plate of food."

Last winter Kas reciprocated in an official way, thanks to the urging of Mayor Fidan. At Christmas, everyone on Kastellorizo was invited to celebrate the holiday in Kas. The Turks not only cleaned up the ancient Greek Orthodox chapel of Aghios Nikolaos but threw a lavish feast and party that lasted two days.

"We put everyone up in hotels and pensions, arranged bus excursions into

ever, it is easy to find a Greek fisherman willing to take you over (15 minutes by fast boat; roundtrip \$20). Police and customs agents turn a blind eye to these crossings and, evidently, to the brisk smuggling trade still going on at mid-sea. How else to explain the stacks of American cigarettes, Scotch whisky and French champagne on sale in Kastellorizan shops at shockingly cheap prices?

"We do good business with Kastellorizo," admitted Mustafa Girgin. "But it's not just the money that motivates us. We are genuinely fond of the Greeks and I believe they will say the same of us. I don't think anything will ever come between us."

Kas and Kastellorizo are only flyspecks on the map, miniscule backwater communities, but the world might do well to take a close look at what is happening there. It would see that it is still possible for people of different religions and ethnic backgrounds to live in brotherhood and peace, that the Cross and the Crescent can fly side by side in times to come.