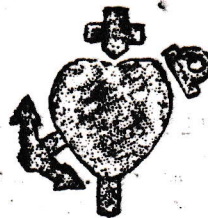


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NO. 11.

THE CASTELLORIZIAN NEWSLETTER OCTOBER/NOVEMBER
1983.

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CASTELLORIZIAN ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA.
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EDITOR: MR. JACK BISAS.

This Newsletter No. 11 contains copies of letters received from the World Castellorizian Brotherhood. These letters are a summary of the Fifth Annual Convention of The World Castellorizian Brotherhood held on The Island on Saturday, 17.9.'83. We also print an article by Marika Bisas - "No Not My Child". Marika's article was recently printed in Neos Gosmos and Education Department Publication - "Polycom".

FUNCTION

POKER MACHINE ALBURY BUS TRIP.

1983

A very successful trip to Albury was enjoyed by members on Sunday, 23rd September. An excellent bus trip and a first-class Smorgasbord was provided by the Albury R.S.L. There were many Jackpot winners, including Maria Cominos, Maria Bisas and Jack Bisas. The trip was so successful that we will be repeating it in the New Year on Sunday, February 12th, 1984. Special thanks to Dianne Spartels, Peter Coates, and Eva Lucas, for their assistance. We apologise to those members who could not get bookings for this trip.

PROFILES

This popular feature of our Newsletter has had to be temporarily discontinued because of the lack of members who are prepared to write and submit profiles for publication. It is most unfortunate and sad that we, for historical purposes, have not been able to continue this series. With the continued loss of many of our elder members we are in danger of losing many of the histories of our pioneers. Requests to members appear to have fallen on deaf ears.

INSTITUTE OF MULTI CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The Second Biennial Meeting of the Institute was held in Melbourne on Monday 17th - Tuesday, 18th October, 1983. In Melbourne for the meeting were many Interstate members.

From South Australia - Mr. John Klosoglous.
From West Australia - Mrs. L.B. Liveris.
From New South Wales - (Mr. C. Pandelakis
(Mr. Michael Diamond.

Representing Victoria
were - (Mr. Jack Bisas
(Dr. Spiro Moraitis.

Among many papers presented at the Conference was one by John Klosoglous on "The Law and the Migrant". This paper is available to members by ringing 256233.

The Institute of Multi Cultural Affairs was set up as a statutory body by the Fraser Government in 1980. It has a membership of 77 and a Board of 9. Its role is to advise Government through its members on the needs of the Ethnic Communities in Australia. Of the 86 members, 11 are of Greek background, and of those, 7 are of Castellorizian origin.

AUSTRALIAN GREEK WELFARE SOCIETY:

The Board of Management have pleasure in inviting members to take part in two functions organised by the Society to raise funds for its welfare work.

SUNDAY, 6TH NOVEMBER

At 52 Chapel Street, St. Kilda, a Pleasant Sunday Morning will be held.

Donation: \$10. Deeply regret Males only. All welcome.

Time: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

FRIDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER

The Society will be holding its 11th Birthday Party at "Diogenis Tavern" - 11 Leveson Street, North Melbourne. Cost: \$16.00 per person. Ring Sandra Kogakis for Reservations.

The A.G.W.S. was established 11 years ago to assist Greek migrants in welfare and associated problems. Today it has a staff of 38 and a Board of Management of 9. Its Annual Report shows a budget figure for 1983/84 of \$468,629, and it is the largest Greek Welfare Organisation in Victoria. At its Annual General Meeting held on 27th September, 1983, the following were elected to honorary positions on the Board of Management:

PRESIDENT
VICE PRESIDENT:
CHAIRMAN:

Mr. Jack Bisas
Mr. Kevin P. Zervos
Dr. Spiro Moraitis

W E D D I N G S

The Wedding took place on Sunday, 16th October, at Evangelismos Church, of Julie (daughter of Spiro and Nina Mangos) to Harry Constantas.

Over 300 people attended the Reception, which was held at "Oakville Receptions". From West Australia for the wedding - Mrs. Joyce Loukas with son Manuel, who was best man. From South Australia - Con A. Mangos and son Nick. We wish the couple every happiness.

On Sunday, 2nd October, a Reception was held at "Columns Reception Centre" to celebrate the Wedding of John Argyropoulos to Maria Platis. Maria is the daughter of Elaine and the Late Spiro Platis. From South Australia for the wedding were Mr. and Mrs. Charles, and Fortini Moshakis with sons - Jack, Nick, Peter, and daughter Kathy. Mrs. Fortini Moshakis is the sister of the Late Spiro Platis.

At "Nine Darling Street" a Reception was held to celebrate the wedding of Lynette Kyriakos and Cameron Anderson. Lynette is the daughter of Herbert and Maria Kyriakos. From West Australia for the Wedding - Mrs. K. Kyris.

In Melbourne visiting her brother, George Malaxos, Mrs. Evenia Kosterallos from Perth, West Australia.

BACK HOME

Back In Australia after a 12 months' stay in Greece - Shirley Koutsoukis, with son Jason.

Shirley is the wife of the Late Con G. Koutsoukis, who died in October, 1980.

CONCERT

We are pleased with the response by members who wish to take part in our Castellorizian Concert. This Concert will feature Songs, Music, Dances of Castellorizo, but more are needed. Please ring Betty Exindaris on telephone 2888159.

MEMORIAL PARK.

The City of Prahran in memory of its Past Mayor, the Late Harry Gregory, J.P., have dedicated a Park in Earl Street, Windsor, to his memory.

A moving but simple ceremony was held to dedicate the Memorial Park. Dedication by the Mayor of Prahran, Cr. David Cran.

ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to Bill and Athena Koutsoukis on their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Bill and Athena, who were formerly from Melbourne, now live in South Australia.

GET WELL.

In Epworth Hospital - Peter G. Paltoglou.

In Hospital - Frank Glandinoto (son of Yvonne and John Glandinoto). Frank is the Grandson of Vera, Con Constance.

Bill Piperoglou Get well - after a stay in hospital.

ENGAGEMENT

Mrs. Eva (Krisohos) Galatis with daughter Denise in Adelaide for the engagement of her niece.

NEW POST

Dr. Michael C. Koutsoukis to Saudi Arabia in 1984 for a 12 months' contract period. Michael is the son of the Late Con. G. Koutsoukis and Shirley Koutsoukis.

V A L E

The death occurred in Melbourne on the 24th October of Mrs. Christnani Koutsoukis, aged 83.

Mrs. C. Koutsoukis was the mother of 6 children - Con, (married to Katie Bayla), Nina, (married to Nick Zographou), Leo, (married to Helen Koutalis), Katie, Sylvia, (married to Tony Coufos) and Mary, (married to Luke Lucas).

Mrs. C. Koutsoukis, whose Maiden Name was "FTIARA" was one of 10 children - 5 Boys, 5 Girls. Born in Alexandria of Castellorizian parents she married Nick Koutsoukis in 1920 and came to Australia in 1921 - (Nick Koutsoukis died in 1953). They arrived and lived in Fremantle till 1934, then came to Melbourne in the same year.

(Continued)

She was well known for the many years she spent in restaurants in Melbourne - (Mignon, Catalina). She was a very active and popular person and will always be remembered for her very strong family ties and family responsibilities.

She was a great believer in tradition and the proxy way of marriage. She had 19 grand-children, and 24 great grand-children.

The Funeral was held on the 26th October at Evangelismos Church and the Burial at Fawkner.

We thank Mr. Con Zombos for his Eulogy on behalf of the Castellorizian Society of Victoria.

Eulogies were given by her grandson - Dr. Nick Lolafis and Anastios Zambelas.

From Sydney for the Funeral - Mr. and Mrs. Sylvia Coufos with sons Michael, Nick. Mr. S. Coufos, Mrs. Evdokia Koutalis, Maria Koutalis, Mrs. Katina Manettas, Mrs. Maria Lakendis, Mrs. Ange Gemenis, Mr. and Mrs. Max, Irene Kondos.

The Castellorizian Society extends its deepest sympathy to the family.

In memory of the Late Mrs. C. Koutsoukis -
To the Castellorizian Society of Victoria.

Mr. & Mrs. John Trellis	\$20.	Mr. & Mrs. Nick Verginis	\$10.
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Bisas	\$10.	Mr. & Mrs. Steve Zombos	\$10.
Mr. & Mrs. Con Kanis	\$10	Mr. & Mrs. Con Zombos	\$10.
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Kanis	\$10	Mr. & Mrs. George Verginis	\$10.
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Kominos	\$20	Mr. & Mrs. Jim Verginis	\$10
Mr. & Mrs. C.J. Mangos	\$15	Mr. & Mrs. Jack H. Miriklis	\$10
Mrs. Evangelia Mangos	\$10	Mr. & Mrs. John S. Adgemis	\$10
Mrs. Panagota Zervos	\$10	Mrs. Maria Karpoozes	\$10
Dr. Andrew Chrissie Varigos	\$10	Mr. & Mrs. A. Athanasio	\$10
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Bisas	\$10		

In memory of the Late Mrs. C. Koutsoukis -
To the Society for the Care of the Elderly.

Dr. Spiro Margaret Moraitis	\$20	Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Vovage	\$15
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Vamvakis	\$20	Mr. & Mrs. Steve Paltogolou	\$10
Mr. & Mrs. Nick, Smini Exindaris	\$10	Mr. & Mrs. Economos Adgemis	\$10
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Hondros	\$10		

In memory of the Late Mrs. P. Christopher -
To the Society for the Care of the Elderly.

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Hondros	\$10	Mr. & Mrs. Jack H. Miriklis	\$10.
Mr. & Mrs. Michael, Dianne Spartels	\$20		

In memory of the late Mr. Savas Bollos -

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Hondros	\$10
Mr. & Mrs. Economos Adgemis	\$10.

In memory of the late Mrs. C. Alexander -

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Hondros	\$10
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In memory of the Late Mr. Alex Georgouris -

Mr. & Mrs. Economos Adgemis	\$10
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(Continued)

In memory of the late Coni Xanthos -
To Castellorizian Society.

Mr. & Mrs. Michael, Dianne Spartels \$20.

In memory of the Late Mr. J. Kalafatis -
To Castellorizian Society.

Mr. & Mrs. Michael, Dianne Spartels \$20.

"NO NOT MY CHILD"

by MARIKA BISAS
Greek Interpreter.

In my experience while working as an Interpreter with Greek parents of handicapped children, it has become evident that many migrant parents lack the knowledge and understanding of their child's handicap.

All handicaps cannot be diagnosed at birth. However, some can. In the latter case a full explanation could be given to the parents. Sometimes this is not done sufficiently and the mother and child leave hospital without the parents realizing fully that they have a handicapped child or, they do not understand the degree of the handicap, however, light or severe. It may be and what this entails.

As time progresses and they realize that all is not normal, they become very distrustful and disillusioned with medical staff and doctors in Australia. When realization occurs, like many people facing trauma, they experience denial of the facts. They sell up everything and return to Greece for medical consultation, second opinion, etc., or, if finance is a problem, they take out a loan for fares and, on return, are virtually paying interest for a better part of their lives.

At this stage I must say that Greek parents migrate for the betterment in every way of their children. It is a real trauma for the parents if everything possible is not done for their children. Their sacrifice for migrating has been to no avail.

I would like you to try to understand the trauma of being in a foreign country, of not being able to communicate, of realizing something is wrong with your child but not knowing quite what. And wondering where to go for help. Here in Australia, they may lack the support of an extended family, which has been their backbone for generations. Can you try to understand the parents' feelings, the stigma this handicapped child presents to the community at large? This brings a cutting off of friends and peripheral members of the family who may be living in Australia. Added to the feelings of isolation and shame may be financial sacrifices and deprivations caused by lack of knowledge of the Social Services available.

Let me give you an example

I have come on a case of Muscular Dystrophy where the parents of an eleven-year-old boy with the disease lacked the knowledge that he was eligible for a handicap allowance. This was five years after the boy was diagnosed as a Muscular Dystrophy. There may also be a lack of knowledge of associations which are available to assist. Sometimes even when an association is known, communication through language may prevent the assistance being obtained. There seems to be little on-going counselling available as a follow-up for these parents. They do not receive the sufficient guidance necessary for them to cope a little better with the situation they are in. They need help in facing the inevitable. This may be to understand the deterioration process which may follow in a certain illness and later support as they grieve for the lost child and their lost hopes for him. These aspects (which we, who know the language, may be able to understand) are taken for granted.

My next example is one of Cerebral Palsy

I can still see and hear the tears of joy in a Greek mother's voice I overheard her as she explained to her friend across the road the reason she was in that part of the neighbourhood. It was because at last "Kosta" was attending normal school.

Principals who integrate handicapped children into normal schools are to be congratulated and supported. It not only gives the handicapped child the right to

(Continued)

normal education when he has the ability to achieve at this level, but it also helps other normal children to learn to accept, to be tolerant and understanding of a handicapped one. A teacher has explained to me how this helps a normal child. Up to now, he has never accepted responsibility and suddenly he feels responsible and helpful in his attitude towards the handicapped. He had a low self-concept and was disruptive and a low achiever. He became aware of his own strengths and his work has improved since he has befriended and accepted some responsibility for Kosta.

Another example involves Spina Bifida

In this case it was found that, although the child suffered physical hardship, mentally she was very alert. This warranted normal school tuition; but she had a problem of hygiene. In discussing with the parents, it was explained to the child in English, to relay to mum and dad that, before anyone could be thinking of normal school, the problem of bladder and bowel control would have to be tackled. There would be two options - one was the use of a catheter, the other was for an ileostomy to be performed. The use of a catheter was described to her to explain to mum and dad. When this brought negative results, it was decided that perhaps the parents had not quite understood and that an interpreter should be called.

The parents at first were irate that the child had been told before them. They felt that they would have presented the idea of the catheter differently to her and would have had better results. As it was, under no condition would any of them agree to it.

I would like you to try to understand firstly how molly-coddled and over-protected this only child was - how she had grown up managing to manipulate both parents - as well as professional staff. Could you bear with me and try to understand that, when using children to interpret in any situation, as well as the power one gives them over their parents, it can also be detrimental in a serious situation which would be better explained by mum and dad.

The norm in Spina Bifida cases is that an ileostomy is performed and the child is placed in normal schools. Can we though, blame any parent, migrant or otherwise, for disagreeing and wanting something better for his child, when the option is an irreversible operation. This father reasoned that if in a few years' time somebody, somewhere, came up with a better solution, he could never forgive himself for making the wrong decision.

The family's top priority was the child living as normal a life as possible, irrespective of educational standards.

Programs of helping parents to understand and accept the handicap are needed and a follow-through with whatever therapy is advised.

Let me give you another example

This one involves hearing impairment. It is a case where a child is profoundly deaf and needs total communication methods. This entails oral and finger spelling. It takes migrant parents a little longer to adjust to this method because, firstly, the only experience they have had with finger-spelling has been what was termed in the old country as the "village idiot". Secondly, if they do accept, their lack of English is a handicap to them when trying to communicate with their child with finger-spelling. (I would like to see professional staff more understanding and tolerant of the migrant parents' attitude towards this tuition). Try to understand their priorities, their values, irrespective of whether they do not coincide with ours. It is more important to them to have the child communicating orally, even if it is only the basics rather than he be a proficient finger-speller.

With empathy and understanding, with structured programs, one would hope that things can be righted for the good of both child and parent.

In this case the Greek parents, after being told that their child was "deaf" were so shocked that they disappeared for six to eight months, thus handicapping the child all the more by depriving him of early assistance.

When a child is tested at school and found to have a hearing loss, he is referred to National Acoustic Laboratories. There he is tested and hearing aids may be fitted and he is sent home without proper explanation to parents. If the hearing impairment is only a mild one, the child has been able to hear quite well in a one-to-one situation.

Parents who have not received a clear explanation distrust the medical advice and get rid of the hearing aids, mainly because the child can hear when they speak to him.

(Continued)

It is only when the schoolwork suffers through the child missing sounds that a Central review is done and then the professional attitude is that "those migrant parents are at it again!" "refusing to allow their child to wear aids". Migrant parents are not alone in this attitude. I can see a lot of value in programs which could be set up to explain hearing loss fully to parents at the time of diagnosis. This could be done with diagrams, models, books, etc., and included the importance of the child being attended to immediately, the progress which may be expected, whether this will be a very, very slow one or not.

There is a need for continuity in services for special needs of Greek families. Unfortunately, the services provided do not meet those needs.

M. Bisas (Mrs.)
Greek Interpreter.

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