

THE CASTELLORIZIAN NEWSLETTER

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THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CASTELLORIZIAN ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA.
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This month's Newsletter No. 30, gives details of our Debutante Ball; A Report on St. Constantine St. Helens Day; the Concert to be held by Elizabeth (Betty) Exindaris; the Result of our Negotiations to purchase the Kelvin Club; and details of the New Procedure for this year's Elections. We also complete the second part of "The Immortal Kastellorizo", by Daniel Spartalis, and translated by Tina Krontiris. Part 1 was printed in Newsletter No. 27.

TO CELEBRATE ITS 60TH BIRTHDAY
THE CASTELLORIZIAN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

Presents a

"DEBUTANTE BALL"

At

"LEONDA BALLROOM"

2 Wallen Road, Hawthorn,

on SATURDAY, 6TH JULY, 1985,

Under

The Patronage of the Consul-General for Greece,
(Mr. Dimitrios Manolopoulos and Mrs. Manolopoulos)

and

His Grace, Bishop Ezeikeil.Ticket Secretaries:

Dianne Spartels: 596 1787.

Anna Adgemis: 848 4447.

Christina Pavlou: 598 2925.

Please Note:

All Bookings must be paid for by the 25th June, 1985.
No Bookings will be finalized and no Seats will be
reserved unless paid for by the 25th June, 1985. All
details from our Social Secretary, Dianne Spartels.

DEBUTANTE BALL

We have pleasure in announcing our Debutantes, with their partners. We thank and congratulate them and look forward to their Debut on the night of Saturday, 6th July, 1985, at Leonda Ballroom.

Evelyn M. Spartels	Partner	Nicholas M. Spartels
Tania P. Adgemis	"	Demetrius N. Adgemis
Amanda Mavridis	"	Nicholas C. Paltoglou
Marissa M. Spartels	"	Basil Sakellaropoulos
Ana Mavridis	"	Michael Kovos
Evelyn G. Adgemis	"	Peter Vouzas
Lisa M. Jackomas	"	Tim Rolfe

Flower Girl: Alexandra M. Spartels.

Flower Girl's Partner: Stephen John Adgemis.

Master of Ceremonies: George B. Bisas

Matron of Honor: Mrs. Christina Pavlou

Social Secretary: Mrs. Dianne Spartels

C O N C E R T

Don't forget the Betty Exindaris Concert, to be held at Dallas Brooks Hall, Victoria Parade, East Melbourne - Saturday, 15th June, 1985, at 7.30 p.m.

Tickets: \$8.00.

Concession: \$6.00

Tickets Available from Ticket Secretary:

Mrs. Christina Pavlou,
Tel: 598 2925.

This Concert is worthy of your support! Ring now for your tickets: Tel: 598 2925.

KELVIN CLUB

Your Committee has been negotiating to purchase a city property known as The Kelvin Club, Melbourne Place, Melbourne. We made an offer of \$540,000 for the property, walk-in walk-out, with a period of 6 months to sell our property and have liquor licence, etc., transferred. Although our price was acceptable, the terms of 6 months were not.

Your Committee, however, was not in a position to finalize the purchase in less than the 6 months we requested.

The Committee of the Kelvin Club then, and without further consultation with us sold the property with a settlement period of 90 days.

The failure to acquire this city building was very disappointing after many weeks of inspections and intensive cost discussions.

Our property was valued by the Real Estate Company of Salmann & Company for a reserve price of \$350,000.

Your Committee regrets the decision taken by the Kelvin Club, who led us to believe that our offer was acceptable.

So another opportunity to purchase a City Licensed Club has once again eluded us.

ST. CONSTANTINE HELENS DAY

The Feast Day of our Club was held on Sunday, 26th May, at the Church of St. Constantines & Helens, Barry Street, South Yarra. The service was conducted by Father Dimitrios.

Over 100 members attended our Club Rooms for a Light Luncheon, and a pleasant day was held by all.

We thank Father Basil, who apologised on behalf of the Bishop, who is still overseas.

Father Elias Kentrotis spoke on the history of St. Constantine and Helene, and his informative and in-depth talk was appreciated by all.

The result of the Raffle drawn at our Club Rooms:

1st Prize: Donated by Castellorizian Club:

Rodd Silver Salver - won by Lisa P. Christofas.

2nd Prize: Donated by Michael and Dianne Spartels:

Dinner Set - won by Mrs. Maria Kominos.

3rd Prize: Donated by Mrs. Maria James of Sydney:

Punch Set - won by George S. Lucas.

We thank all those who assisted with donations, etc., and in particular - Anna Adgemis. It was a very successful function.

Some criticisms of the cost of having the St. Constantine Helene days have been received by your Committee. Let me make it clear, as I have on numerous times before - while this Committee is conducting the affairs of the Castellorizian Club, St. Constantine's and Helens Day will continue.

GET WELL !

Dimitri Karageorge - in hospital.

Mary Brondou - in Sacred Heart Hospital.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Once again it becomes necessary to ask members to notify us of any change of address. We cannot be expected to keep sending Newsletters to wrong addresses. Under the new postal regulations your Society is being charged for every letter not delivered and returned to us. This added cost, together with the postage, is causing us some concern and it would be so easy to ring or write to the Society when you change your address. Thank you!

IN HONG KONG

Joyce and Alec Pallaras visiting son Stephen and daughter-in-law Stacey in Hong Kong. Stephen is with the Crown Prosecutor's Department in Hong Kong and will be spending approximately 3 years in that position.

OVERSEAS

Alec and Merle Jackomas visiting Europe and Israel.

21ST BIRTHDAY

The 21st Birthday of Anthony Adgemis will be held on Saturday, 8th June, at the Greek Community Centre, Oakleigh. Anthony is the youngest son of Anna Adgemis and the late Anasastios (John) Adgemis.

We wish him a very Happy 21st!

VALE.

The death occurred in Queensland on the 22nd May, 1985, at the age of 77 years, of Mrs. Isodia Christofis (nee Patiniotis), Mother of Father Basil Christofis (and wife Mary), Theodoro Christofis, George Christofis (and wife Angelici), Nick Christofis (and wife Sophia), Daughter Dialecti and husband Con Simion.

The Castellorizian Society extends its sympathy to the family on its very sad loss.

VALE.

The death occurred in Melbourne on 8th May, 1985, of Paul Papalazaros. Loved brother of Evan (Snowy), brother-in-law of Dorothy, and uncle of Chris. Funeral from Evangelismos Church, East Melbourne, and to Fawkner Cemetery for a private interment.

The Society extends its deepest sympathy to the family.

40 DAYS

A Memorial Service to the late Con N. Miriklis was held at St. John's Church, Carlton, on the 19th May, 1985.

MEMORIAL SERVICE - 40 DAYS

A Memorial Service to the memory of the late Mrs. Evangelia Loucas will be held at Evangelismos Church, on Sunday, 9th June, 1985.

Mrs. E. Loucas died on the 29th April, 1985.

MEMORIAL SERVICE - 12 MONTHS

A Memorial Service to the memory of the late Mrs. Maria Mangos will be held at Evangelismos Church on Sunday, 9th June, 1985. Mrs. M. Mangos died on 9th June, 1984.

IN MEMORY

The following have donated to our Society in memory of the late Mr. Con N. Miriklis:

Mrs. Maria Karpoozes	\$10.
Mr. & Mrs. L. Koutsoukis	\$10.
Mr. & Mrs. Sam Alexander	\$10.
Mr. & Mrs. A.M. Miriklis	\$20.
Mr. & Mrs. C. Mangos (Adelaide)	\$10.
Despina Kratsis	\$10.

IN MEMORY OF THE LATE MRS. EVANGELIA LOUKAS

Mrs. Maria Karpoozes	\$10.	Mr. & Mrs. K.N. Miriklis	\$10
Mr. & Mrs. C.M. Mangos	\$10.	Mr. & Mrs. A.C. Mangos & Family (Adelaide)	\$10.
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Zervos	\$10.	Mr. & Mrs. K.N. Miriklis & Family	\$10.
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Exindaris	\$10.	Mr. & Mrs. J.A. Adgemis	\$10.
Mr. & Mrs. A. Stabelos	\$10.	Mr. & Mrs. G. Palasis (Adelaide)	\$10.
Mrs. Anna Adgemis	\$10.	Mr. & Mrs. C. Mangos (Adelaide)	\$20.
Mr. & Mrs. G.A. Adgemis	\$10.	Mrs. K. Anastasas (Adelaide)	\$10.
Mr. & Mrs. P. Christofas	\$10.	Mr. & Mrs. A. Bisas	\$10.
Mrs. V. Bisas	\$ 5.	Mr. & Mrs. L. Koutsoukis	\$10.

IN MEMORY OF THE LATE MR. S. KONSTANTINIDIS

Mrs. Maria Karpoozes	\$10.
Mrs. Anna Adgemis	\$10.

IN MEMORY OF THE LATE MR. BILL HONDROS

(who died on the 31st August, 1984)

Mr. & Mrs. L. Koutsoukis	\$10.
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A Memorial Service to the late Bill Hondros (9 months) was held at St. Raphael Church, on the 1st June, 1985.

BIRTH

To John and Fiona Adgemis, a Son (Phillip John) - the third for John and Fiona. Baby born on 25th May, 1985., at St. Vincent's Hospital. Eighth Grandchild for Renee and Steve Adgemis.

We thank Mrs. V. Gounaris for her letter in which she points out that we failed to mention that Mr. Manolis Augustes had become a Great Grandfather to the daughter of Flora and Jamie Pearce.

RAFFLE

Have you sold your Raffle tickets? Don't forget - all Butts must be returned by 5th July, 1985!

If you require any more books, contact our Secretary. This Raffle has been approved by the Bingo and Raffles Board, so have no hesitation in selling them.

To those who have already sent their money and butts - thank you!

GENERAL ELECTION

The Annual General Meeting of our Society will be held at our Club Rooms on Sunday, 18th August, 1985, at 2.30 p.m.

This Present Committee will have then completed three years in office.

Under the amended constitution, all positions will be declared vacant.

Nominations will be called for all positions and voting for Office-Bearers will be

GENERAL ELECTIONS (Cont.)

decided by the Members, and not, as in previous years, by the Committee.

Nominations will be on a correct Nomination Form and any member standing, must be financial at the time of nomination. Nominated members must be seconded by a Financial member, and all nominations must be posted to the Returning Officer by 4 o'clock on Saturday, 17th August, 1985.

So become financial for the year 1984-85 period, and we look forward to many new faces in our 1985-1988 Committee.

"IMMORTAL KASTELLORIZO" - (Continued)

by - Daniel Spartalis.

Translated by Tina Krontiris.

"Years go by and new masters set foot on the island. In 1512 Turkey comes to the island and occupies it for 400 years ...

In 1912 all the islands in the Dodecanese - all except Kastellorizo - are occupied by the Italians. They said that because it was located far from Rhodes (some 72 miles) it was strategically not worth the effort to occupy it. In 1913, one year later, that is, the Kastellorizians decide on their own to set themselves free. They revolt and get rid of the Turkish guard. The Greek flag is raised throughout the island. Local administration is set up and includes Greek rebels ("Antartes", as they were called) whom the nobles of the island had invited to strengthen their forces. Meanwhile, after regaining their freedom, the Kastellorizians send envoys to Athens, to meet with the prime minister, Eleftherios Venizelos and to discuss his support for the island's unification (enosis) with Greece. Unfortunately, the Greek foreign policy of that time disappointed the Kastellorizians. Thus these islanders were left without any help. They felt great bitterness.

The island is at this point in the centre of the whirlpool of war and is being mercilessly bombarded by the German artillery, which attacks indiscriminately from the coast of Asia Minor, directly opposite the island.

The panic-stricken inhabitants abandon their city and take to the mountains, the caves, and the chapel of St. George at the top of the mountain. The casualties are many. But diseases and hunger threaten even more. The island is blockaded and communication with the outside world is not possible. The sinking of the French airplane carrier in the port and the ensuing fire created a terrible havoc.

After the war, the French government, in recognition of the heroic attitude of the inhabitants during the common struggle, confers upon the island the Gold Medal of Bravery and places it in the same class as the legendary Verdun. This gold medal, along with the honorary diploma which accompanied it, were stolen from the Demotic Shop - as were many other objects during the massive movement into Palestine in 1943. In 1920, that is, eight years after the occupation of the rest of the islands in the Dodecanese complex, the French turn the island over to the new oppressor: the Italian fascism.

This period between 1920 and 1943, a period of 23 years, is the bitterest. Enchainings and persecutions; exiles and imprisonments. Confinements. Humiliations. And the worst, the most horrifying of all: the prohibiting of the teaching of the Greek language.

Your old pupils, respectful teacher, those among us today, are greatly touched by your presence. Kind Fortune willed that you come as a humble pilgrim to the paternal rock which persecution made you abandon some 45 years ago. Kind Fortune willed also that we Kastellorizians who were born in foreign lands, pilgrims like-wise to this beloved rock where our parents lived and created, should have you with us on this great day for our island. Your pupils, white-haired today but lively and tameless then, remember vividly those unique moments (the secret, conspiracy-like gatherings) when you were playing the mantolino and they sang - at first in a low voice and then louder - our national anthem. And you, dear teacher,

"IMMORTAL KASTELLORIZO" (Cont.)

do you remember how carefully you listened, lest we should be heard by any betraying ear but especially lest our anthem should not be rendered correctly as Mantzaros of Corfu had set it to music?

Kastellorizo, my dear friends, has gone through a great deal of suffering, through many occupations. But the most barbaric and ruthless occupation came with the shiny spears of the indescribable and insane actor of the "Roman Impero - Benito Moussolini. The fascist presence on our persecuted island, with the imposition of the new philosophies of Rome, created an unbearable atmosphere. People started leaving the island. Emigration to other countries created a tragic thinning of the population and reached the point of a real persecution.

By 1943 only 1500 inhabitants had remained on the island. Be it noted that before the Italian occupation the population of the island (including that of its "colonies" on the coast of Asia Minor) was around 13,000-14,000, while its commercial fleet claimed approximately 400 ships, which plowed the Mediterranean and reached as far as the Black Sea. Charters for Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Cyprus, Smyrna, Constantinople, and Odessa went on daily.

* * * *

September 13, 1943. Forty years back.

The numb memories begin to stir, to get excited, and to wander over the suffering-laden island. The Kastellorizo of 1,500 inhabitants celebrates the break of its bonds. The "Kountouriotis" brings from the independent Greek government in Cairo the great message: Freedom!

The incorporation with the rest of the island is very near. The blue and white flags, which were buried for generations in the trunks of the women, now flap in the free Kastellorizian wind. The ringing of the church bells and the songs of praise - Glory be to God - touch the heart of every islander. The small Italian guard gives itself up. But oh, how ephemeral this joy is! How short-lived is the happiness!

The "Kountouriotis" comes to the island carrying on board English commandos, Indians and other allies. Kastellorizo is fortified and is turned by the English into a provisions centre for the allied fleet. The Germans, after the capitulation of the Italians, are waiting anxiously. Kastellorizo is their big target and on 17th October, 1943 (that is, 34 days after the arrival of the "Kountouriotis") the Nazi hawks of the German military airforce hurl fire and hot iron, and bombard everything without discrimination, without mercy. A great fire breaks out; death spreads and enfolds the island. The British officer orders the immediate evacuation of Kastellorizo. With a heavy, ready-to-burst heart, and eyes filled with tears, the residents leave for the coast of Asia Minor, having hurriedly buried their more than 20 dead brothers and locked their houses. After staying in Asia Minor for a few days, they are then taken to Cyprus and given temporary lodgings. Sometime later, they are transferred, for a more permanent stay, to the refugee camps in Palestine - in Nouzeirat near Gaza and in "Moses' Springs" of the Suez Canal.

Fifteen hundred people - a whole island - stayed in these gypsy tents for two years. Two years in the inhospitable desert. Two years with all the privations that one can imagine. In October 1945 they decide to return, and they start heading back. They are approximately 900 souls. But evidently the freedom toll is very heavy. And there is still another toll to be paid in blood: in the terrible fire which broke out aboard the "Empire Patrol", the ship that was bringing back to the island a number of its inhabitants, 33 of our brothers died.

When the tear-drained eyes reach the bombarded and ruined island, they are unable to cry. They have no more tears left to shed. Their sighs are drowned too. Speechless they wander among the ruins of the new Pompeii - of the new Psara - trying to salvage, to tidy, whatever the ruthless bombarding of the Germans had left and whatever the English and the rest of the "allies" had disdained to steal. In a short time the bazaars of Beirut and Haifa were filled with the stolen household possessions of the Kastellorizians. They were filled too with the silver, the precious offerings, and the holy icons of the looted churches of the island.

* * * * *

But let us keep in mind that today we are also paying tribute to the great, the super human struggle of all our compatriots, who destined by the fate of Greece to preserve the "Thermopyles", defended them, falling proudly with a smile on their lips, defying all pain. We bow with respect and veneration to their image. And we offer these few words along with our gratefulness as the smallest possible token of honour to their memory. Among those first men is the hero whose bust we are unveiling today.

But how can I, unimportant as I am, show the greatness of the sacrifice? How is it possible to tell the tale of suffering of a modern-day Golgotha? Awe and awkwardness pervade the soul of the one who dares to try, and the pen stands still, unable to scribble the necessary lines for the completion of the task. But necessity is so pressing and the obligation and duty to the dead so great that I must with your permission attempt this speech. I beg you to excuse the plain words, the lack of cosmetic phrases, in telling the story of the colossal work of this hero; this beautiful boy of Megistri, the birthplace of braveness; this boy whose still-burning light led us, his heirs, to the brightly-lit avenue of honour and esteem, to the great crossroads where we will meet Freedom.

Nikos Savvas was only 28 years old. Just a 28-year old boy, full of faith in the struggle of his country, full of love for life - for free life - but above all, full of GREECE. This brave young man, who was born a slave, grew up in the uproar of the first war and became a man when our islands groaned under the fascist spears of the indescribable new ceasar of the Mediterranean, this young man didn't bend when the time came, didn't lose heart. Instead, he turned his head toward the blue colour of the sky and in it he saw reflected, as in a flash, the image of his ancestors, those before him. And he then thought of those who will follow ... He was in a brief moment those of the past who didn't retreat, and brought to mind those who would come later and would find an example. Then, like another martyr of the Greek Pantheon, he thrust his young breast forward against the execution squad of the enemy. And when he refused to be blind-folded, at that ultimate moment, he signed the secret contract of the unification, the "enosis", of our islands with mother Greece; he signed it with a steady hand and bold letters, with his still-hot blood which rolled on the thirsty earth, thirsty for Dodecanesean Justice. Then his pure as white soul flew upwards, like a dove, to unite high up in the galaxy with the other young men of the island and with all the heroes of Hellas, who like true children of their mother offered their life in payment for our freedom.

September 13, 1983. Today. Forty years later.

This gathering here today, this holy "synagoge", I would call it, of my compatriots from the "diaspora" at this dry and barren rock of patriotic ground proves the truth of the ancient phrase, "Nothing is sweeter than one's own country". On this spot, then, our own part of earth, all of us came to unite our souls and together to stir our memories so that we may resurrect the beautiful world of our mothers and fathers.

We came today to Kastellorizo, to this crystal spring, this contemporary baptismal font, to drink water, to quench our thirst; to drink not the water of the lethe, of forgetfulness, but the water of remembrance; to draw from our springs; to regenerate ourselves with our life-giving roots, and then full with the baptismal waters of this spiritual regeneration to transmit to posterity the splendour of the past. To transmit the great struggle of our parents for freedom, the struggle of our 200 compatriots whose image refuses to leave this national place today. And to declare to all from this here far-away corner of native land that this burned earth we are stepping on, this piece of rock is the beginning and the end of the Greek ground.

Kastellorizo is not only the past, the yesterday. Kastellorizo is also the present. It is all of us here today who sing the hymn of Glory and send our praises to heaven. It is all of our brothers in the "diaspora" whose thoughts at this sacred moment unite mystically with our thoughts. But above all, Kastellorizo is the tomorrow; it is those who will come later, those who will follow.

Let therefore this happy message leave this sacred place, and from the high bell tower of St. Constantine let it go higher up and spread to the steeples of all our churches on the slopes of our mountains. Let it climb up to the top of our "Bigla" and from there let the joyful and hopeful message roll down softly to the sea and let it become one with the white foam of the waves and let the favorable wind of the wide blue sea carry it to the hearts and the minds of our brothers over all the lands.

KASTELLORIZO LIVES !