



GNOISIS



ALABAMA* FLORIDA* GEORGIA* MISSISSIPPI* SOUTH CAROLINA* TENNESSEE

The Voice of District #1 AHEPA Family

May, 2009

Special points of interest:

- * To submit content for the next edition of Gnosis please email content to: tedk@mindspring.com
- * Deadline for the next edition is 7/15/09

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District #1 Convention to be held in Birmingham, Alabama

Sam Nakos Chapter #3 will be hosting the 79th annual District 1 convention in Birmingham, Alabama June 4-7th 2009. The convention begins on Thursday evening with registration and ends Sunday morning with Liturgy at the Holy Trinity Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Cathedral.

The convention headquarters will be the Wynfrey Hotel. The address is 1000 Riverchase Galleria in Hoover. The phone number is (205) 987-1600. Ahepa has a special convention rate of \$120.00 plus tax and will have a block of rooms reserved. **You MUST call the hotel to reserve this rate!** Please mention Ahepa District 1 Convention when making reservations. **Registration deadline is May 22, 2009.**

Thursday, June 4: Registration/Ticket sales & Hospitality Suite

Friday, June 5:

Opening Ceremonies

Golf Tournament

Tour of our District DOP and AHEPA homes

Meetings

Hospitality Suite

Coaches Meeting for Softball Tournament

Dance the night away with well known DJ Disco Christo

Saturday, June 6:

AHEPA/DOP Meetings

Daughters of Penelope Luncheon

Softball Tournament

Hospitality Suite

Banquet/Dance/Awards Ceremony, Cash Bar

Sunday, June 7:

10:00 Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Cathedral

We have a fun filled weekend planned of seeing old friends and making new ones. Hope to see you all in the **MAGIC CITY June 4-7-2009.**



THE WYNFREY
HOTEL

Alabama's premiere property, selected for the AAA Four-Diamond Hotel Award for 21 consecutive years, the Wynfrey Hotel also distinguishes itself as a member of Preferred Hotels and Resorts Worldwide. We are proud to offer the excellent service, luxury accommodations and Southern Hospitality that are second to none. The following will outline some of the services and amenities, which we will offer your guests:

An elegant 15-story hotel with 329 guestrooms and 12 suites richly decorated in traditional classic furnishings. All guestrooms feature the "Wynderful" bed with pillow top mattress, down comforters, king size feather pillows and luxurious linens, high-speed internet, iron & ironing board, coffee maker, hairdryer, voicemail, in-room games & movies and automated mini-bar.

The **Chancellor's Club Level** offers private key access and the added amenities of Continental Breakfast and Evening Hors D'oeuvres, as well as VIP Turndown Service.

32,000 square feet of flexible meeting space for any event from 2 to 1,500.

Shula's Steak House— One of the Top Five White Tablecloth Steak Houses in America, where you can experience the winning tradition of Coach Don Shula. Shula's exclusively serves the award winning and famous "SHULA CUT".

Breakfast and lunch available in Shula's Restaurant

The relaxing ambiance of **Ivory's**, complete with a grand piano to set the mood for a quiet cocktail or a favorite cigar on dine on a lighter fare menu.

A full service spa...*Spa Japonika*, an Aveda concept spa.

An exercise room with sauna overlooking the outdoor pool and whirlpool.

A self-service Business Center creates your "office away from the office."

Complimentary airport shuttle provided – advance reservations required.

Riverchase Galleria – the ultimate shopping experience with over 200 shops, 2 full-service restaurants and 15 eateries under the world's largest skylight. In addition there are numerous restaurants on the perimeter of the 50-acre complex.

Birmingham International Airport provides over 175 daily flights. Major airlines include American, Continental, Delta, Northwest, Southwest, United, and US Airways.

Golf courses are only minutes away for leisure or tournament tee times.

This is only the beginning of the wonderful amenities that we can offer your group when you choose The Wynfrey Hotel. Please visit our web site www.wynfrey.com for additional information about the hotel, the city, and "Alabama the Beautiful."

AHEPA DISTRICT NO. 1 EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION AWARDS \$26,800 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

The AHEPA District No. 1 Educational Foundation, along with the chapter Educational Directors from across the District selected twenty-six recipients for the 2009 scholarships at the recent Mid-Winter Conference held in Nashville, Tennessee. Please take a moment to congratulate these well-deserving students for their scholastic achievement and continued success in the 2009-2010 school year.

<u>Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Scholarship</u>	<u>College</u>
Alexandra E. Lyberopoulos	Birmingham, AL	Dr. Harilaos E. Ladas	Undecided
Alexis E. Marianes	Tucker, GA	Johnny E. Economy Memorial	Johns Hopkins University
Angelo A. Anastopoulo	Pensacola Beach, FL	Angelo A. Anastopoulo (Triple A)	University of Florida
Anna G. Shoji	Alpharetta, GA	DQP District I Scholarship	University of Georgia
Calliope L.P. Corley	Montgomery, AL	AHEPA PDG's and Eugene & Martha Megerle	University of Alabama
Chris C. Koutsoukos	Charleston, SC	AHEPA District I & John and Katina Fokakis	Medical University of SC
Christine M. Hayden	Birmingham, AL	George Boukedes Scholarship	University of Mississippi
Christine M. Sapp	Atlanta, GA	AHEPA District I Scholarship	Georgia Tech
Eleni M. Weisnicht	Pensacola Beach, FL	George Boukedes Scholarship	University of Colorado
Elizabeth D. Economy	Stone Mountain, GA	John & Angeliki Durbetaki Scholarship	Undecided
Georgia M. Pavlotathis	Norcross, GA	John & Angeliki Durbetaki Scholarship	Agnes Scott College
Georgia Varlan	Knoxville, TN	AHEPA AEF National Scholarship	University of Virginia School of Law
Ian G. Conits	Greenville, SC	Terry Kapetanacos	Undecided
James N. Garilas	Greenville, SC	AJ Theodore Foundation	College of Charleston
Kyle Feagin	Vestavia Hills, AL	AHEPA District I Scholarship	University of Alabama
Lia Marianes	Tucker, GA	Johnny E. Economy Visual Arts	Emory University
Mallory S. Sigle	Montgomery, AL	John & Angeliki Durbetaki Scholarship	Auburn University
Mary J. Collins	Charleston, SC	DQP District I Scholarship	Clemson University
Michael G. Paxton	Grayson, GA	John Constantine Memorial Scholarship	Georgia College & State University
Nicole Paxton	Grayson, GA	Eugen & Martha Megerle	University of Notre Dame
Panagiotis E. Papanikolopoulos	Atlanta, GA	Irene M. Masterson Scholarship	Undecided
Peter A. Anthony	Duluth, GA	John & Angeliki Durbetaki Scholarship	University of Georgia
Rosalia Kolokithas	Travelers Rest, SC	Panayota Manos Chrysostomides (YiaYia)	College of Charleston
Valerie N. Garilas	Greenville, SC	AJ Theodore and DQP District I	College of Charleston
Virginia M. Cook	Atlanta, GA	Eugen & Martha Megerle	University of Georgia

Memphis, Tennessee Chapter # 7 Update

Excerpts from a talk given to Memphis AHEPANS, by Alex Gogonelis, to commemorate the March 25, 1821 Greek War of Independence:

GEOPOLITICAL LANDSCAPE OF EUROPE DURING AND AFTER THE GREEK WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

Not only the Greeks had to fight the Ottomans, but also the apathy of Foreign European powers-England, France, Austria and Russia. The Congress of Vienna in 1815 that was dominated by Prince Metternich of Austria aimed at suppress any nationalistic movement that aspired to revolt against what the Hellenes described as *KATESTEMENO*, the Status Quo. As much as the powers were not too sympathetic towards the Ottomans, they viewed the Greek uprising as a political *anathema*. They considered revival of Hellenism as being an extension of Tsarist Russia Grand Design to dominate the Eastern World. Unable to put an end to the Greek rebellion Sultan Mahnud II solicited the aid of the Egyptian Army to invade Peloponnese. It was the atrocities committed by the Egyptians that prompted the European intellectuals, like Lord Byron, to tilt the public opinion in our favor. The Treaty of London in 1827 forced the Ottoman Turks to grant autonomy to Greece. The Sultan did not adhere to it, and the Navies of England, France and Russia destroyed the combined fleet of the Egyptians and Ottomans in Navarino, on October 20, 1827. The Greek War of Independence continued until 1829 when the French Military caused the Turkish Army to withdraw from parts of Greece. It was not until 1832, Treaty of Constantinople, when Turkey granted Independence to Greece and in 1834 Athens became Capital of the Hellenic Nation.

Reminder to all Chapter president's and Secretaries:

Be sure to submit all District Convention documentation including nominations for AHEPAN of the Year, Educational Chapter of the Year, etc.

to District Secretary

Peter Scarmoutsos by the established deadlines.

These documents, including the remittances of your per capita dues and

District Educational Foundation Assessments are vital for the

Success of your District and the convention!

Knoxville Ahepa Chapter Re-activated and Active!

With the assistance of current and former District One officers, Ahepa Chapter No. 346 was re-activated in January of this year in Knoxville, Tennessee. Current District Governor Patrick Garland and former Governors John Boosalis, Chris Kapetenakos, and Bill Marianes made the trip to Knoxville to inform those in attendance of some of the current activities of Ahepa at the district and national level. The meeting included a luncheon for those in attendance. The Knoxville Chapter has responded with, at present, 18 reinstated or new members. And, Chapter 346 has hit the ground running, sponsoring an Apokreas Party in February for the Saint George Greek Orthodox Church community and donating \$2,000 of the dance proceeds back to the church. Future upcoming plans include induction of additional members and sponsorship of a summer picnic for the church community. Also, Chapter 346 has elected the following officers for the current year: President, Tom Varlan; Vice President, Christos Christopoulos; Secretary, Peter Jones; Treasurer, Paul Halkiades.

Palmetto Chapter # 284 Columbia, SC Housing for the Elderly

Palmetto Chapter # 284 of Columbia, South Carolina embarked upon an ambitious building program a little less than ten years ago. On September 23, 1999, the chapter opened AHEPA 284 Apartments # 1. Almost two years later to the day, AHEPA 284 Apartments #2 was finished. On May 23, 2009, the chapter is holding both a ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of AHEPA 284 Apartments # 3 and a groundbreaking ceremony for AHEPA 284 Apartments #4. His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta and other dignitaries will be in attendance. To commemorate the event, a program booklet is being published that will include the listing of Sponsors.

There are three levels for consideration:

Sponsor	\$ 25.00
Gold Sponsor	\$ 50.00
Platinum Sponsor	\$ 75.00 or greater

In addition, ads may be purchased as follows:

FULL page: \$300 - HALF page: \$150 - QUARTER page: \$ 100

Please complete the SPONSOR / AD FORM, located on page 9 of this edition of Gnosis, and mail to arrive by the MAY 15th DEADLINE.

Checks should be made out to: COLUMBIA AHEPA FOUNDATION 501(C)3

and mailed to ATTN: John Zourzoukis, 451 Pelham Drive, Columbia, SC 29209

Make your plans now to attend and SAVE THE DATE!

DDP Thais Chapter 344



The Daughters of Penelope Thais Chapter 344 was pleased to hold a joint meeting with our AHEPA brothers when District Governor Melva Zinaich was in Mobile, Alabama for Penelope House's Grand Affair.



Columbia, South Carolina Chapter # 284 Update



Brother Paul Tsalapatas, Lt Governor Andre Bauer, President John Zourzoukis

On April 2, 2009 members of Columbia, SC Palmetto Chapter 284 of the Order of AHEPA met with South Carolina Lt Governor Andre Bauer in his office. In honor of Greek Independence Day, the Lt Governor presented President John Zourzoukis with a proclamation recognizing the good works that the Order of AHEPA does for the citizens of South Carolina and throughout the country.

Following the meeting, the members were invited into the gallery of the SC Senate to observe the Senate session. During the session, the members were recognized from the floor by Senator Phil Leventis. The Lt Governor is an active Brother of Palmetto Chapter 284.

Pensacola, Florida Chapter 296 Update



Left to Right: Judge Nickolas Geeker, Chapter Secretary Joe O'Neil, Mr. Spyros Kouvelis, Chief George Dodge, Christ Bithos and Nick Papadopoulos

Daphne Chapter 296 Greets Greek MP Spyros Kouvelis in Pensacola, Florida

On March 17, 2009, members of Daphne Chapter 296, Pensacola, Florida, greeted Mr. Spyros Kouvelis on the occasion of his visit to Pensacola hosted by the Gulf Coast Citizen Diplomacy Council and sponsored by the U.S. Department of State International Visitor Leadership Program (ILVP). Mr. Kouvelis is the Shadow Minister of the Environment and is in charge of Environmental Planning for the Socialist Party (PASOK). He was accompanied by State Department personnel and he gave an outstanding presentation on the Mediterranean Ecosystem that he and his staff developed to identify the problems and solutions need to be addressed for the entire Mediterranean area.

The ILVP program for Mr. Kouvelis focuses on the many facets of the current debate around climate change and environment protection at the federal, state and local levels in the U.S.; the various approaches to urban environmental concerns and protection; and the importance of environmental awareness in education, marketing and city planning in the United States. Mr. Kouvelis is interested in studying land and urban planning/policy aspects, advanced technology to address climate change, waste management, especially incineration, best practices from EPA, and water management. He was particularly interested in these issues in the Gulf Coast area.

PALMETTO CHAPTER # 284
AHEPA HOUSING for the ELDERLY
GROUNDBREAKING and RIBBON CUTTING

451 Pelham Drive
 Columbia, SC 29209
 Phone: 803-695-1934
 Fax: 803-695-6997

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Name as you would like it to be displayed in the book (Please print clearly):

Greenville, SC Chapter 242 Update

We have had several events to occur since the last publication of the Gnosis. The Theodore family was named Ahepa District No1 Family of the Year for 2007.

On November 22nd Ahepa 242 Inc provided a Thanksgiving Dinner for all the residents at the Ahepa HUD project –everyone really enjoyed themselves.

The Christmas Party this year was a joint venture with the DOP and The Greek - American Society (GAS) and was held at the Hilton Hotel on December 14th.

Finally, District Athletic Director Bo Theodore is working very hard to get 8 or more teams to the Mid-Winter Basketball Tournament to be held in Nashville.

79TH AHEPA DISTRICT CONVENTION AND
HOLY TRINITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Birmingham, Alabama--- June 4-7th 2009

ALBUM CONTRACT

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Inside Cover...\$500

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Copy and Contract Regulations

1. All copy and advertisements are subject to the approval of the Ad Book Committee.
2. **Deadline for all copy is May 20th 2009**
3. **The advertiser agrees to protect the AHEPA Committee against legal action based upon libelous statements, copyright infringement**, unauthorized and/or improper use of photographs or other material in connection with advertisements placed on this contract. Please furnish "camera ready" art for ad, if possible. If "camera ready" art cannot be furnished or if no art or usable printed material is available, the **ad will be set by the Ad Book Committee.**