



GNOSIS



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

 The Voice of District # 1 AHEPA Family

January, 2009

District # 1 Mid-Winter Conference to be held in Nashville, Tennessee

Special points of interest:

- * Since this is my 1st Endeavor in publishing the Gnosis I ask your patience and forgiveness for any errors or omissions.
- * To submit content for the next edition of Gnosis please email content to: tedk@mindspring.com
- * Deadline for the next edition is 4/15/09

Inside this issue:

AHEPA/DDP Apartments Dedication	2
Dedication (cont)	3
Atlanta Educational Foundation	4
Chapter Updates	5
Chapter Update- cont	6-8
Costa Pavlou	9
Nick Nichols	10

Hosted by Parthenon Chapter 343 February 13- 15, 2009

Holiday Inn Brentwood
760 Old Hickory Blvd.
Brentwood, TN 37027

Reservations can be made at (615) 373-2600
or www.artehotels.com

Ask for the AHEPA group
The room rate is \$109.00 plus tax
Included are two breakfasts each morning

Friday, February 13:

Welcome

Saturday, February 14:

Educational Foundation Meeting
Opening
Joint Meeting with Daughters of Penelope
Basketball Tournament
Tour of Nashville Parthenon
Tour of AHEPA House
Reception and Dance

Sunday, February 15:

Church
Basketball Tournament Finals

If you have any questions please call Demetri Pagonis at (615) 294-5575

AHEPA/ PENELOPE DISTRICT 1 APARTMENTS DEDICATION

SPECIAL EDITION

AUGUST 18, 2008

AHEPA Housing



HOOVER APARTMENTS

STATISTICS

HUD Award \$6,789,500, 50 Units, January 25., 2005.

Ground Breaking Ceremony was celebrated March 29, 2007.

The Project opened to residence on July 2, 2008

Dedication, August 18, 2008

AHEPA/PENELOPE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Costas Pavlou, President
 Frances Constantine, Vice Pres.
 Irene Fotos Secretary
 Audrey Marianes, Treasure
 Patrick Garland, AHEPA DG
 Melva Zinaich, DOP DG
 John Boosalis, Director
 James Pifudukis, Director
 John Krontiras, Director
 James Mitchell, ANCH Director
 Nick Stratias, ANCH Director

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Ann Marie Dalis, Artist
 Audrey Marianes, Interior Design
 George T Alexander, Constr.
 Alec Alexander, Construction
 Mike Miaoulis, Construction

AHEPA/PENELOPE DISTRICT 1 APARTMENTS OF Hoover, AL Dedication, August 18th



The Ribbon Cutting

The AHEPA and Daughters of Penelope came together to cut the ribbon on the latest Senior Citizens Housing Project. With the Dignitaries and Residents looking on this Project of District One officially became a reality. A milestone, the Building proudly displays the AHEPA and DOP Emblems and is the first time a project was undertaken by a District.

Master of Ceremonies, Nick Stratias, President, National Housing Corporation, said that this Project took a lot of heart. In the Lobby, is a painting of a Greek Fishing Village, painted by Ann Marie Dalis. Stratias explained the significance of the painting; that it was not unlike fishing villages in Greece where many of our parents and grandparents came from in search of a better life and greater opportunities for their families. As part of AHEPA's Mission Statement, we give back to our adopted communities as thanks, fulfilling in part, our civic and philanthropic responsibility.



Plaque Unveiling

"Only fitting that the first DISTRICT HUD housing project came to fruition within the Mother Lodge, District 1, said Melva Zinaich, DOP District Governor.

"...in this Dedication, the AHEPA Family continues to provide safe, clean comfortable, enjoyable and community accessible housing for the elderly, said Patrick Garland, AHEPA Dist. Governor.

AHEPA/ PENELOPE DISTRICT 1 APARTMENTS DEDICATION (cont)



Dedication Program

Master of Ceremonies, Nick Stratas, President, National Housing Corporation, said that this Project took a lot of heart. In the Lobby, is a painting of a Greek Fishing Village, painted by Ann Marie Dalis. Stratas explained the significance of the painting; that it was not unlike fishing villages in Greece where many of our parents and grandparents came from in search of a better life and greater opportunities for their families. As part of AHEPA's Mission Statement, we give back to our adopted communities as thanks, fulfilling in part, our civic and philanthropic responsibility.

Fr. Paul Costopoulos gave the blessing of the Apartments. Cindy Yarbrough, Alabama Director, US Dept. of HUD said that this partnership between AHEPA and HUD didn't happen by accident. It took a lot of work, dedication and commitment to the Senior Citizens Housing Program, by many members, to develop safe, secure and pleasant housing for our seniors. Tony Petelos, Mayor, City of Hoover, welcomed everyone to Hoover, and spoke of the City's commitment and financial assistance to this project.

Frances Constantine, Vice President, AHEPA/Penelope District 1 Apartments of Hoover, Inc., said that this project offers affordable housing for seniors and was jointly developed by AHEPA and the Daughters of Penelope of District 1. "A dream come true," Constantine said, as she credited Nick Stratas for the inspiration to keep going and double her efforts when ever she was discouraged. She can still hear him say, "Don't give up on this now."

Nick Stratas Honored

Nick Stratas was honored with a Tribute, as a man of vision, whose dedication and service helped make the AHEPA Senior Citizens Housing Program throughout the country, very successful. The third floor meeting room is named the "Nick Stratas Room" and his portrait, unveiled at the Dedication, will be placed in the meeting room, which will be used by Ahepans and Daughters for their meetings. Pictured (l-r) Nick Stratas of Mobile, AL and Jim Mitchell of Nashville



AHEPA Family Leadership Attends Dedication



Ike Gulas, AHEPA Supreme President (pictured on right) and Barbara Stavis Wolf (pictured on left), DOP Grand President and the Apartment Manager (center) from the AHEPA Sr. Citizens Housing attended the dedication ceremonies. They applauded the joint effort of AHEPANS and Daughters and said that this should be a "role model" for future Projects. District One is a pioneer in many AHEPA and DOP Programs including Penelope House for abused and battered women in Mobile, AL.

Mother Lodge Chapter no. 1, Atlanta, Georgia

AHEPA MOTHER LODGE CHAPTER NO. 1 EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION AWARDS \$37,050 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

The AHEPA Mother Lodge Chapter No. 1 Educational Fund, Inc. selected thirty-six recipients for the 2008 scholarships. The presentations were made during a special dinner and awards ceremony commemorating the 22nd Anniversary of the educational foundation Chairman Tom Kantsios welcomed the recipients and their families, who were invited to attend the Awards Ceremony and luncheon hosted by the AHEPA Mother Lodge Chapter No. 1 Educational Foundation, AHEPA Mother Lodge Chapter No. 1, Ahepa Prometheus Chapter No. 519 and the Daughters of Penelope Chapter No. 53. Board of Directors members George Skoufis, Athena Economy, and Karen Stamatiades made the presentations. This year's Johnny N. Economy Scholarship, in honor of Past Supreme President, Johnny Economy, was awarded to Styliane I. Hondros, who is attending Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. With this year's awards, the AHEPA Mother Lodge Chapter No. 1 Educational Fund Inc. has awarded over 389 scholarships for \$328,700 to deserving students for scholastic achievement and financial need.



Mother Lodge Chapter # 1 Update

The chapter sponsored the 21st Annual Ahepa Fellowship dinner on Thursday, October 23 at Ahepa One, Inc. The Brothers enjoyed a great BBQ dinner prepared by Ted Kipreos and others during the event that helped to raise over \$4,300 for the chapter educational foundation.

On Thursday, December 11th approximately 60 Ahepa Family members attended a Christmas Party at Athens Pizza . Athens served heavy Hor d'oevres. Everyone enjoyed the evening and para.

AHEPA brothers that volunteered their time on Dec 7th and 8th for the Annual Empty Stocking Fund, fundraising drive day. The Junior ROTC of North Atlanta High School collected a total \$2492.30 on Saturday and \$2638.54 on Sunday for a total of \$5130.84.

Brother John Boosalis and his committee once again helped to prepare and serve food to over 650 GOYANS attending the annual Winter Youth Rally in Atlanta on December 27 - 29.

Birmingham, AL Chapter # 3 Update

Working with Apartment Manager Michelle Dobbs, the Brothers of AHEPA Chapter 3 sponsored the Halloween party for the residents of AHEPA 3 on Thursday October 30th, 2008. The residents enjoyed trick or treating, good fun and food. Everyone was encouraged to dress in costume and there was a wide variety of costumed attendees. Prizes were awarded for various contests and a Fortune Teller was on hand for the residents to have their "fortunes" told.

We would like to thank Michelle Dobbs for including us in this and also for all her hard work in making this event enjoyable for everyone. To see the pictures of the event, please go to our website <http://www.ahepa3.org> and click on the link on the left for the Halloween page.

Memphis, Tennessee Chapter # 7 Update

Alexander Gogonelis, Memphis AHEPA Secretary, at the request of President John Kay, presented a brief recital of what the month of October meant for Hellenism. *October 26, 1912, October 28, 1940, October 23, 1942.*

It was on October 26, 1912, St. Demetrius Day that the Turkish Commander surrendered Thessaloniki to the Greek Army. Fierce battles in Kilkis, Lahana, Ioannina and Thessaloniki liberated those towns from Turkish domination. On October 28, 1940, the Italian Ambassador in Greece gave an ultimatum to Ioannis Metaxas, Head of the Greek Government. The ultimatum demanded that Greece should allow the Italian Army to have access to Greek Territory. Ioanis Metaxas replied, OXI (No). When Greece entered the WW II, war in Europe was already in progress. With the elimination of France by the Germans, Greece was the only ally Great Britain ever had during the dark years of 1940, and the Hellenic Heroism boosted the morale of embattled England.

It was on October 23, 1942, when the Greek Brigade, attached to the British 8th Army, fought against the German-Italian Armies in the battle of El-Alamein, in the Egyptian Desert. A monument in El-Alamein was erected to honor the 400 Greeks who lost their lives in the Western Desert. The anthems of United States, and Greece, and a brief eulogy of Father Vieron and Father Paul completed the program.

Charleston, SC DOP Chapter # 232 Update

Greetings and Happy New Year from Briseis Chapter 232 in Charleston, SC. 2008 was a very productive and exciting year as we launched our very first Godparents Luncheon. Working alongside our AHEPA brothers and Maids of Athena Sisters we were able to host a beautiful luncheon for our entire community. The sold out event brought individuals of all ages together and it allowed for many Godchildren to reunite with Godparents that they had not seen in several years. We are already looking forward to planning next year's event!

Our Founders Day Coffee continues to be a huge hit within the Charleston Community. Once again we raised money for our chapter by selling tickets for a 50/50 raffle. The Hellenic Center was booming with excitement as fellow parishioners enjoyed the wonderful food that was provided, learned about the DOP organization and the history of our local chapter, and waited to find out if they were the lucky winner of a fabulous cash pot!

In December we continued to reach out to the community by supporting a local family comprised of six children who are under the care of their grandmother that we have adopted. While we gathered together to celebrate the Holiday Season, we collected Christmas presents for these wonderful children and their grandmother. The family was overcome with joy upon receiving such wonderful gifts and it was wonderful to be able to bring Holiday Cheer to those around us.

Finally as 2009 draws near, we are pleased to announce that we will be hosting a Family Fun Night /Oyster Roast. We have been hard at work brainstorming ways to bring the entire community together so that we can ensure that we are constantly living up to the DOP mission statement.

Yours in Theta Pi,
Fannie Moore
Vice President

Mobile, Alabama Chapter 310 Update

Here's a picture from one of our Christmas parties. Chapter 310, Mobile has put on a Christmas party at each of the 10 Ahepa Senior Apartments, as well as the Penelope House. We served a turkey dinner and had a visit from Santa at each party this year. Santa gave each resident a present. Other entertainment included an Elvis, Minnie Pearl, and Hank Williams impersonator at various units. Overall we fed over 500 people.



Columbia, South Carolina Chapter # 284 Update

The 2008 year for Palmetto Chapter # 284 of Columbia, South Carolina has been a particularly exciting one. Of particular note, on a community level, was the groundbreaking of the third senior citizen HUD housing project and the receipt of another grant to build a fourth senior citizen home. Through the chapter's efforts, under the leadership of Brother Likie Beleos, hundreds of senior citizens now have decent housing.

Close to home the chapter witnessed the appointment of one of its members to President of the University of South Carolina. Dr. Harris Pastides was given this honor in the fall of 2008. With it comes a great personal responsibility and an even greater feeling of pride from Columbia's AHEPA family. Dr. Pastides embodies all of the tenets in the AHEPA Creed and personifies the eighth one.

The weekend of October 5th & 6th saw the 13th Annual Mid-Southern National Regional Golf Tournament generate thousands of dollars which will be used to fund scholarships for the sons and daughters of the Palmetto Chapter's members.

The chapter's membership roster has hit a record number of 126 and with the present administration's guidance under President Brother John Zourzoukis is on schedule to have 150 members by 2009 year's end.

Through the chapter's annual events the chapter was able to raise and disburse a total of \$ 16,000.00 to charities, building funds and AHEPA scholarships.

Palmetto Chapter # 284 keeps the AHEPA message alive with 12 monthly meetings and 7 additional annual events with the assistance from the Daughters of Penelope Chapter. We are forever grateful to the Daughters for their help and support.

Next year we are planning bigger and better things for the AHEPA community of Columbia, South Carolina.

Daughters of Penelope Aprons for Sale

Daughters of Penelope District #1 has aprons for sale! The chef-style aprons are available in black, navy blue, and Aegean blue, and are printed with the Daughters logo. These aprons are perfect for DOP Founders Day, DOP-sponsored coffees, and staffing DOP booths at local Greek fest events. (Men can wear them, too, and show their support for Daughters at the same time.) Price per apron is \$20, payable to DOP District #1. Contact Patty Chrysostom at pfc40@yahoo.com for ordering information.

Pensacola, Florida Chapter 296 Update



Front: Louie Pihakis, Vice President

Rear Left to Right: John Georgiades, Joe O'Neil, Secretary, Gus Argeris, Angelo Alexakos, Charles Stamitoles, President, Chief George Dodge, Zane Bentley, Adam Sanders, Spero Athanasios, George Apostle, Chris Bithos, Jim Mohamed, Jack Barker

Daphne Chapter 296 in Pensacola Celebrates Five "Firsts"

On December 16, 2008, Daphne Chapter 296 held its **first** initiation of five new members in the **first** housing project, AHEPA 296 Apartments, in Pensacola, Florida. This event followed the **first** Thanksgiving dinner for the apartment residents on November 20, 2008 and the **first** Christmas dinner on December 10, 2008.

Chief George B. Dodge, Sr., (Chief White Antelope) is the **first** Native American member of Daphne Chapter 296, is founder and president of the First Nations Intertribal Association, and was recently awarded the Governor's Point of Light Award for his humanitarian works on behalf of the indigenous peoples of North and Central America. Residents of the AHEPA 296 Apartments, members of Chapter 296, members of DOP Pallas Chapter 34, and Florosa Elementary School have been working together with Chief Dodge to collect supplies for the impoverished tribes of Louisiana and South Dakota. Our greatest challenge right now is funding the transportation to move the supplies from Florida to South Dakota. All Ahepans and Daughters are encouraged to support this effort. See www.FirstNationsIntertribal.com.

2008 Periclean Award Winner- Costas Pavlou

Costas E. Pavlou: An Ahepan's Ahepan

Costas Pavlou immigrated to America in 1960 at the age of 18. He settled in Jackson, Mississippi with relatives. On August 4th, 1968, he was initiated into the Magnolia Chapter, # 344, of the Order of AHEPA in Jackson, Mississippi. Over the next 40 years, he devoted much of his life's efforts in service to the AHEPA.

Beginning with service to the local chapter, in nearly every capacity, he advanced to the District level where he was ultimately elected as District Governor in 1972. Following his achievements at the district level, he became active at the national level, serving as supreme treasurer, supreme governor and a member of the Board of Trustees, all during the decade of the 1980's. In recent years, he has served on the district Scholarship Fund, and was largely responsible for survival of the Jackson Magnolia Chapter during the 1990's and early 2000 years. During these years, he continuously served as president of the local chapter, hosted the meetings and worked hard to make the Ahepa a part of the Jackson community. He also was instrumental in hosting several district conventions in Jackson. He has been local Ahepan of the year several times as well as on the district level. Brother Pavlou served as President of the AHEPA-Penelope District One Apartments of Hoover, Inc.

In other affairs, he was past president of the Holy Trinity-St. John the Theologian Greek Orthodox Church, held offices in the Iron Workers Union and was appointed by the then Mayor Dale Danks as a member of the Jackson Municipal Airport Authority Board.

For many years, he operated Costas Place at the Mississippi State Fair, a popular gathering place for fair goers. Currently, he works with the radio station in the broadcast of the Ole Miss Football games.

Brother Pavlou has accomplished many things in his life and has devoted years of effort toward promoting the Order of AHEPA. Truly, he is an Ahepan's Ahepan.

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.

In Memoriam

Nick J. Nichols, PDG

Brother Nicholas "Nick" John Nichols, 82 passed away October 15th at Memorial Health in Savannah, GA surrounded by his family. Nick was born and raised in Savannah, GA. He then moved and lived in Nashville, TN for 10 years. It was there he met the love of his life, Clarice Hood whom he married in Rome, GA on January 25, 1951. They returned to Savannah where they owned and operated The Village Market, until they bought and ran The Windsor Restaurant. It was there that Nick got involved in one of the many loves of his life, basketball and supported Armstrong State's team by feeding them and attending most of their games both at home and away. In the early 70s he once again left Savannah and moved to Aiken, SC where he worked at Owens-Corning Fiberglas for 20 years. He was a member of the Aiken Fiberglas Retirement Club as well as a member of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. Nick had many loves in his life but none greater than the Greek Orthodox Church. He served as president of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in both Nashville, TN and Augusta, GA. He founded the first Greek Festival in Augusta, GA. No matter his reason for traveling, while in any city he sought out and visited the local Orthodox church and Ahepa chapter. He was a life long member of St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church, Savannah, Georgia. He was a very proud 60 year member of The Order of AHEPA, (American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association). He served as President in both Nashville & Augusta's chapters and was a Past District Governor of District No. 1, District No. 1 Advisor and District Convention Coordinator. He received many honors including AHEPAN of the Year through his tireless service and loyalty through the years. Brother Nick and Clarice were honored as Ahepa Family of District No. 1.

His fellow AHEPANS were his treasured Brothers and family and he never missed an opportunity to express his love and gratitude to them and a few jabs and pokes. He encompassed the core spirit of AHEPA's mission, which includes philanthropy, education, civic responsibility, and family and individual excellence to the community. Nick's true passion in life was history and he lived his life to be a part of it, the history of his family the Nichols-Stelianos, his beloved church, St. Paul's Greek Orthodox, The Order of AHEPA and his hometown of Savannah which he returned to in 2004 and referred to as "paradise".

He is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Clarice Nichols. Two daughters and son-in-law; Cathy & Ben Berry and Joan Nichols, all of Savannah. Also, a son and daughter-in-law, Nick and Gini Nichols of Richmond Hill, Ga. A brother and sister-in-law Dr. Evans and Dee Nichols of Kennesaw, Ga. His sister-in-law, Maria R. Nichols and sister and brother-in-law Marilyn and George Dixon of San Diego, Ca. And by his grandchildren that he was a proud Poupou to; Ben & James Berry, Samuel and Niko Nichols and Brittney Pegram. Along with several nieces and nephews.

May his memory be Eternal.

Brother Nick's memory can be honored through a donation to the scholarship fund he and Clarice established:
The Nick and Clarice Nichols AHEPA Scholarship Fund.

Donations may be sent to: Melva Zinaich, 18 Riverdale Drive,
Charleston, SC 29407-7240.

2008 AHEPA Family District No. 1 Convention Report
Columbia, South Carolina
June 5 – 7, 2008

The 2008 AHEPA Family District No. 1 Convention in Columbia, SC, was hosted by AHEPA Palmetto Lodge No. 284 and Daughters of Penelope Alethia Chapter No. 302. The convention headquarters was the Hilton Columbia Center in the heart of the “Vista” Shopping, dining, and entertainment district.

The Columbia AHEPA Family planned a wonderful time for all in South Carolina’s great capitol city. On Thursday, June 7th, as the AHEPA Family members and delegates began to arrive, the Columbia AHEPA Family welcomed everyone at the ground breaking ceremony for the new AHEPA home #3. The ceremony was followed by dinner and entertainment at Zorba’s Restaurant. Later that evening members were again welcomed to the Convention with fellowship at the Hospitality Suite at the Hilton. Friday was kicked off with the golf tournament at Crickentree C.C. with a 9AM shotgun start. Ahepa and D.O.P. business meetings were conducted in the afternoon.

Opening Ceremonies started at 5 PM with welcoming remarks by Supreme President Ike Gulas, Grand President Karen Stamatiades, District Governor Alec Alexander, Palmetto Chapter President Nick Stefan and others. Father Thomas from Holy Apostles Orthodox Church gave the opening prayer. Cocktails at the pool, dinner, and softball coaches meeting completed the evening.

Saturday was a busy day for all. Dominating the day were the softball games, Daughters of Penelope Alethia Chapter.No. 302 hosted luncheon at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, and additional business meetings. Side trips to the Riverbanks Zoo and the State Museum were also available upon request. Rounding out the day was a Banquet and Dance at Holy Trinity G.O.C. The new Taki and the Grecian Keys provided entertainment. Honored guests at the banquet included, South Carolina Lt. Governor and AHEPA Brother Andre Bauer, Supreme President Gulas, Grand President Stamatiades, District Governor Alexander, D.O.P District Governor Fotos, Palmetto Chapter President Nick Stefan, D.O.P Alethia Chapter President Francis Scarpas, and others.

Brother Likie Beleos served as emcee for the event. The banquet included presentation of the Plato Award to South Carolina Lt. Governor Andre Bauer. Brother Bauer is also a member of the local AHEPA Palmetto Chapter No. 284 in Columbia. Also conducted was the induction and presentation of the newly elected District One Lodge which included members of the hosting Palmetto Chapter Lodge No. 284, Nick Stefan to Marshall and Daniel Kartanos to Warden.

On Sunday, AHEPA Family members attended the Divine Liturgy at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church.