

Ο Ανδρέας Δρακόπουλος «Πρόσωπο της Χρονιάς»

Η επιλογή του άνδρα ή της γυναίκας που θα αποτελέσει το «Πρόσωπο της Χρονιάς» που πέρασε, δεν αποτελεί κατ' ανάγκη μια τόσο εύκολη υπόθεση, όπως μπορεί να φαίνεται.

Διαφορετικοί άνθρωποι διακρίνονται κατά τη διάρκεια του χρόνου που κλείνει, με διαφορετικούς τρόπους, που υπερβαίνουν τις διακρίσεις όλων των άλλων σε ένα συγκεκριμένο πεδίο δράσεως, αλλά όχι πάντα σε το-

μείς που οι περισσότεροι άνθρωποι ταυτίζουν με την απονομή μιας τέτοιας υψηλής τιμής.

Για παράδειγμα, ένας τρομοκράτης που δολοφονεί τους περισσότερους ανθρώπους ή ακόμα ένας διευθυντής μιας χρηματιστηριακής εταιρείας που κερδίζει τα περισσότερα δισεκατομμύρια δολάρια, μπορεί μεν να είναι οι «καλύτεροι» στην κατηγορία τους σε ένα συγκεκριμένο διάστημα δώδεκα μηνών, αξίζουν όμως της απονομής του τί-



λου του «Προσώπου της Χρονιάς»;

Μα, ακόμα και μεταξύ εκείνων που είναι άξιοι μιας τέτοιας τιμής, η απόφαση της επιλογής του ενός έναντι κάποιου άλλου μερικές φορές δεν είναι πάντα εύκολη.

Αλλά όχι φέτος. Φέτος η απόφαση της επιλογής του «Προσώπου της Χρονιάς» είναι εύκολη.

Στην αμερικανική σκηνή το πρόσωπο που περισσότερο από οποιοδήποτε άλλο ταυτίζεται με

το 2016 είναι φυσικά του Ντόναλντ Τραμπ.

Του επιχειρηματία που ποτέ δεν υπήρξε υποψήφιος ή κατείχε δημόσια θέση και που παρά τους ασυνήθιστους μέχρι τώρα τρόπους για υποψήφιο - και εκλεγμένο - πρόεδρο της χώρας και ενάντια σε όλες τις προβλέψεις περί του αντιθέτου, κέρδισε. Και που, επιπλέον, δίνει ήδη την εντύπωση ότι η προεδρία του θα είναι άκρως ενδιαφέρουσα, αν όχι και επαναστατική.

Εμείς είμαστε Ελληνοαμερικανοί.

Ως Αμερικανοί, λοιπόν, θα αφίσουμε την επιλογή του Τραμπ ως «Προσώπου της Χρονιάς» σε Μέσα Ενημέρωσης όπως το περιοδικό «TIME».

Ως Έλληνες, όμως, αντιμετωπίζουμε τα πράγματα από μια άλλη οπτική γωνία.

Ψηλαφώντας τον ελληνικό κόσμο, αυτό που κανείς αντικρί-

Συνέχεια στη σελίδα 6

Το ΚΠΙΣΝ και τα μελλοντικά του σχέδια

Συνέντευξη του Α. Δρακόπουλου

Του Θεοδώρου Καλμούκου

ΒΟΣΤΩΝΗ. Στις 23 Φεβρουαρίου 2017, το Ιδρυμα «Σταύρος Νιάρχος» θα παραδώσει στην ελληνική πολιτεία το Κέντρο Πολιτισμού Ιδρυμα Σταύρος Νιάρχος αξίας 600 εκατομμυρίων ευρώ (624 εκατομμυρίων δολαρίων).

Πολλοί έχουν πει πως το Κέντρο Πολιτισμού Ιδρυμα Σταύρος Νιάρχος είναι το σπουδαιότερο έργο που έχει κατασκευαστεί στην ελληνική πρωτεύουσα από αυτόν τον ιδιον τον Παρθενώνα και σημειώνουν ότι κατασκευάστηκε στη διάρκεια μιας από τις χειρότερες οικονομικές κρίσεις που έχει πλήξει ποτέ τη χώρα.

Η καρδιά, η ψυχή και ο νους πίσω από αυτό το έργο είναι ο πρόεδρος του Ιδρύματος Σταύρος Νιάρχος κ. Ανδρέας Δρακόπουλος.

Η προσπάθειά μας, σε μια αποκλειστική συνέντευξη που παραχώρησε στον «Εθνικό Κήρυκα» ήταν να κοιτάξουμε σε μερικά από τα γεγονότα που συνέβησαν στο παρασκήνιο, καθώς και τις σκέψεις και τα σχέδιά του για το μέλλον. Η συνέντευξη έχει ως εξής:

«Εθνικός Κήρυξ»: Η κοινή γνώμη αναγνωρίζει την ίδρυση του Κέντρου Πολιτισμού Ιδρυμα Σταύρος Νιάρχος ως ένα από τα κορυφαία έργα που έγιναν ποτέ στην ελληνική πρωτεύουσα. Τώρα που τελειώσε και που σε δύο περίπου μήνες θα το παραδώ-

Συνέχεια στη σελίδα 9

«Πόλεμος» Ομπάμα - Πούτιν

ΟΥΑΣΙΓΚΤΟΝ. Μαίνεται η διπλωματική ένταση ΗΠΑ - Ρωσίας, καθώς ο πρόεδρος Μπαράκ Ομπάμα ανακοίνωσε τις κυρώσεις που θα επιβάλλει κατά της Ρωσίας για τις κυβερνοεπιθέσεις που δέχθηκαν οι ΗΠΑ την περίοδο των εθνικών εκλογών, ενώ αργότερα η κυβέρνηση του Βλαντίμιρ Πούτιν παρόλο που αρχικά διατεινόταν πως θα προβεί σε αντίποινα, τελικά επέλεξε να μείνει άπραγη εν όψει της ανάληψης της αμερικανικής προεδρίας από τον Ντόναλντ Τραμπ.

Ο κ. Ομπάμα αποκάλυψε την Πέμπτη πως ως αντίποινα στις προσπάθειες της Ρωσίας να επηρεάσει το αποτέλεσμα των εκλο-

Συνέχεια στη σελίδα 14

ΣΥΝΑΛΛΑΓΜΑ

Παρ. 30 Δεκεμβρίου 2016

€ 1 \$1.05
\$ Καναδά \$0.75

ΚΑΙΡΟΣ

ΝΕΑ ΥΟΡΚΗ: Αίθριος 31-42

ΑΥΡΙΟ: Αίθριος 40-50

ΑΘΗΝΑ: 34-43

ΛΕΥΚΩΣΙΑ: 37-55



1-888-547-9527
1-718-784-5255

ΓΕΝΙΚΕΣ ΠΛΗΡΟΦΟΡΙΕΣ
info@ekirikas.com

Μήνυμα του προέδρου της ΝΔ στην Ομογένεια



ΕΘΝΙΚΟΣ ΚΗΡΥΞ/ΚΩΣΤΑΣ ΜΠΕΗ

Δώρα Ιδρύματος «Ε.Κ.» και φίλων σε οικογένεια που μάχεται με τον καρκίνο

Ο «Εθνικός Κήρυκας» την Τετάρτη επισκέφθηκε την οικογένεια Χατζηπαντωνίου στο Ιστ Ράδερφορντ της Νέας Ιερσέης (πληροφορίες στη σελίδα 8). Από αριστερά, η Μαρία η οποία μά-

χεται με τον καρκίνο του εγκέφαλου, η Χριστίνα, ο Μανώλης Χατζηπαντωνίου που πάσχει από καρκίνο στο πάγκρεας και ο δημοσιογράφος Δημήτρης Τσάκας.

Δολοφονήθηκε ο πρέσβης

Υποπτη η Βραζιλιάνα σύζυγος και ο φίλος της

ΡΙΟ ΝΤΕ ΤΖΑΝΕΪΡΟ. Υποπτη για τη δολοφονία του Έλληνα πρέσβη στη Βραζιλία, Κυριάκου Αμοιρίδη, θεωρούν οι αρμόδιες Αρχές της χώρας την σύζυγό του, Φρανσουάζ Αμοιρίδη, λίγες ώρες αφότου το πτώμα του 59χρονου διπλωμάτη είχε βρεθεί απανθρακωμένο μέσα σε ένα καμένο αυτοκίνητο, το οποίο είχε νοικιάσει ο ίδιος, στην περιοχή Νόβα Ιγκουάτσου του Ρίο ντε Τζανέιρο.

Χωρίς η Αστυνομία του Ρίο να έχει κάνει επίσημες ανακοινώσεις, βραζιλιάνικες εφημερίδες μιλούσαν για έγκλημα πάθους, με τις Αρχές να φέρονται να ανακρίνουν και τον φερόμενο ως εραστή της συζύγου του πρέσβη, ονόματι Sergio Gomes Moreira Filho, αλλά και δύο άλλα άτομα, που θεωρούνται συνεργοί τους.

Μη δισταυρωμένες πληρο-

φορίες ανέφεραν ότι ο φερόμενος ως εραστής της Φρανσουάζ Αμοιρίδη είχε ομολογήσει το έγκλημα στους αστυνομικούς που τον ανέκριναν.

Αξιωματούχοι του Τμήματος Ανθρωποκτονιών που έχουν αναλάβει την έρευνα εντόπισαν κηλίδες αίματος σε καναπέ στο σπίτι που ο διπλωμάτης βρέθηκε με την γυναίκα του, στην περιοχή Ιγκουάτσου. Ο Αμοιρίδης «δολοφονήθηκε στο σπίτι πριν μεταφερθεί με το αυτοκίνητο που είχε νοικιάσει την 21η Δεκεμβρίου», γράφουν τα βραζιλιάνικα Μέσα.

Το όχημα βρέθηκε καμένο και μία σορός μέσα σε αυτό. Λίγες ώρες αργότερα, η τοπική Αστυνομία επιβεβαίωσε στον τηλεοπτικό σταθμό «Globo TV», ότι το πτώμα ανήκει στον Έλληνα διπλωμάτη.

Συνέχεια στη σελίδα 17



ΑΣΟΣΙΕΤΙΝΤ ΠΡΕΣ

Σε αυτό το καμένο αυτοκίνητο βρέθηκε απανθρακωμένο ένα πτώμα, το οποίο λίγες ώρες αργότερα η Αστυνομία του Ρίο ντε Τζανέιρο επιβεβαίωσε ότι ανήκει στον Έλληνα διπλωμάτη.



ΓΙΩΡΓΟΣ ΚΑΡΑΧΑΛΗΣ/ΑΣΟΣΙΕΤΙΝΤ ΠΡΕΣ

Κοινές δράσεις Ελλάδας-Κύπρου για το Κυπριακό

Η συνάντηση του πρωθυπουργού Αλέξη Τσίπρα με τον πρόεδρο της Κύπρου Νίκο Αναστασιάδη την Παρασκευή διήρκεσε τρεις περίπου ώρες, και συμφώνησαν να αναλάβουν κοινές δράσεις σε ευρωπαϊκό και διεθνές επίπεδο για να προωθήσουν αποφάσεις για το Κυπριακό (σελίδα 13).

Ομογενείς δεν ξέχασαν τους αστέγους της Αθήνας

Του ανταποκριτή μας
Αρν Παπαδόπουλου

ΑΘΗΝΑ. (Γραφείο Εθνικού Κήρυκα). Ο Σύλλογος Αθηναίων μέσα από το «Κοινωνικό του Παράρτημα» και το ομογενειακό Ιδρυμα Hellenic Relief διά του παραρτήματός του «Ελληνική Εθελοντική Συμπράσταση» και μακριά από τυμπανοκρουσίες, σε ώρα που οι πάντες κοιμούνται μεταξύ 3 και 5:30 τα πρωινά της Πέμπτης και της Παρασκευής, βγήκαν στους δρόμους και προσπάθησαν να κάνουν μία ιδέα πιο ανεκτά την παγωνιά για δεκάδες αστέγους.

Ηταν μία προσεκτικά σχεδιασμένη κίνηση ώστε να προσεγγισθούν άστεγοι που βρίσκονται και εκτός του κέντρου, σε δυσπρόσιτα σημεία, τα οποία δεν επισκέπτονται τα κλιμάκια άλλων φορέων που δραστηριοποιούνται στην Αθήνα. Ετσι με την αρωγή κοινωνικής λειτουργού και ψυχολόγου, καταρτίσθηκε πάνω 16 διαδρομών και πραγματοποιήθηκαν επισκέψεις σε 140 σημεία και των τριών Δη-

μοτικών Διαμερισμάτων (1ο, 2ο και 3ο).

Συγκεκριμένα, στις εξορμήσεις του διήμερου ενιούχθηκαν με κουβέρτες, sleeping bags,

Συνέχεια στη σελίδα 12

Προς τους αναγνώστες μας

Λόγω της αργίας της Πρωτοχρονιάς, η εφημερίδα μας θα κυκλοφορήσει πάλι το απόγευμα της Τρίτης, στη Νέα Υόρκη και το πρωί της Τετάρτης στις άλλες περιοχές, με όλες τις ειδήσεις του τετραήμερου.

Ο εκδότης-διευθυντής του «Ε.Κ.», Αντώνης Η. Διαματάρης και οι συνεργάτες του σε Νέα Υόρκη, Βοστώνη, Φλόριδα, Αθήνα, Τρίπολη και Λευκωσία, εύχονται σε όλους Καλή Χρονιά με Υγεία και Ευτυχία.

The National Herald

A WEEKLY GREEK-AMERICAN PUBLICATION

TNH's Person of the Year
Andreas C. Dracopoulos

Choosing the man or woman of the year is not always as easy as it might seem. Different people distinguish themselves over the course of a year in ways that exceed everyone else in particular fields or endeavors, and not necessary always in what most people usually associate with high achievement in life. For instance, a terrorist who kills the most people, or even a hedge fund manager who amasses the most billions of dollars might have been the "best" in that category in a given twelve-month span, but do such persons deserve the high honor of being Person of the Year?

And, of course, even among those candidates who are worthy of the honor, the decision of selecting one of them above the rest is sometimes difficult.

But not this time: this year, we find our choice for Person of the Year to be rather easy.

In the American landscape, the person who will most be identified with 2016 is, of course, Donald Trump – a businessman who never ran or held any public office until he entered the 2016 presidential race, and yet despite his unconventional ways went on to win in the face of nearly all predictions to the contrary. And on top of all that, he is already giving every indication that his presidency will be nothing short of interesting, if not downright revolutionary.

We are Americans first, yes, but we are also Greek-Americans.

Continued on page 5

Dracopoulos on SNF Cultural Center, Future

By Theodore Kalmoukos

On February 23, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) will hand to the Greek state the €600 million (about \$624 million)-valued SNF Cultural Center (SNFCC), in Athens.

Some have called SNFCC the most important project to take place in the Greek capital since the Parthenon itself, noting that the SNFCC was built during one of the worst economic crises Greece has ever endured.

The heart and soul – and brains – behind this project was SNF co-President and Director Andreas Dracopoulos. He gave a detailed interview to The National Herald about what transpired behind the scenes, as well as his thoughts and plans for the future, the text of which follows.

TNH: SNFCC is recognized almost universally as one of the most important projects ever to be built in the Greek capital. Now that is completed and in about two months will be handed over to the Greek state, please share your thoughts about that.

AD: All of us at the SNF and SNFCC feel very proud and happy. We feel that with the completion of SNFCC and its delivery to its true owners, the Greek people, we have contributed in many ways to our home country during a very difficult economic crisis – which is very difficult for all – that Greece is going through.

First of all, I want to thank the late founder of the Stavros Niarchos, my great uncle Stavros Niarchos, who made it possible for us to engage in the field of

philanthropy in such a significant way, we wouldn't (and neither would the SNFCC itself) be here today if it wasn't for him.

I also want to thank all of my colleagues throughout the last (and first for the SNF) 20 years for their hard work and commitment, but most of all for their sharing of our vision, to make our world a better place for all. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the creation of the SNFCC, all those that collaborated with us to bring to reality this beautiful project. Individuals and organizations from many different countries and backgrounds, but all sharing the common mission, with no other agendas other than that of doing the best possible toward delivering the best possible project; a common mission, strong and effective collaborations, and hard work indeed, can create small miracles and SNFCC is such a miracle.

Last but not least, I want to thank Renzo Piano, an amazing architect, but more importantly a beautiful person in everything he believes in, a true friend, personally and of our country, Greece.

TNH: Can you recount for our readers the process, and mainly the moment you made the big decision to undergo this project?

AD: There was no single moment when we decided to go ahead with the SNFCC. It was more of a combination of many thoughts, discussions, etc., with various parties, both from the private and public sectors, which

Continued on page 5

Wham! Gone Too Soon, George Michael was 53



TNH/COSTAS BEI

The National Herald and Friends Give Back

Manolis Hajiantoniou is battling pancreatic cancer, his daughter Mary, brain cancer. TNH and many generous benefactors donated funds to help this family in need. Left to right, Mary, mom Christina, Manolis Hajiantoniou, and journalist Dimitris Tsakas presenting the check.

Tragic Story of a Greek Mom and Son

TNH Staff

NEW YORK – Marcus Wallace has never met his birth mother. At age 31, the Brooklyn resident did, however meet the men who saved his life on a cold January morning. TAs a newborn, he was pulled from a dumpster behind a gas station where his Greek-American mother had dumped him shortly after giving birth. While growing up in Trinidad, he had called his aunt "mom" and only saw his birth certificate at age 20. The woman listed as mother was Dorothea Ballas, then a 21-year-old student at Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU) in Teaneck, NJ. A newspaper story from 1985 revealed the shock-

ing details of how Wallace started out in the world. Born in Ballas' dorm room on Jan. 19, 1985, Wallace was then placed in a garbage bag. Ballas knotted the top and threw out her newborn son in a dumpster behind a gas station on a freezing night with temperatures in the 20-degree range.

Upon finding out, Wallace said, as reported in the New York Post, "I broke down. I got on the subway and cried all the way from 42nd Street to Flatbush Avenue. I had a lot of whys. What was wrong with me? Why me?"

He said, "My mother threw me in a dumpster. It took me a very long time to deal with that, but I've gotten past it."

Wallace continued to research his story, finding a reporter who had worked for The Record of Hackensack and covered the remarkable survival of the baby thrown in the trash. After three decades, the Post arranged a reunion for Wallace and his three rescuers. They met on a cold December day by a lake next to the FDU dorms where the dumpster once stood.

"You're my hero," Wallace told Michael Randelman, a musician and painting contractor who now lives in Florida, the Post reported.

In 1985, Randelman, then 25, was driving home from a girlfriend's house at about 3 AM

Continued on page 6

Greek Cypriot/British pop star topped charts, helped needy

TNH Staff

He was known to millions of fans by his stage name, but George Michael was really Georgios Kyriacos Panayiotou, born to a Greek-Cypriot father living in London and an English mother.

Michael, who died on Christmas at age 53, said to be from heart failure, had a superstar career as a singer who transcended pop and was admired by more serious artists who performed with him, including legends Aretha Franklin and Elton John, and was lauded by critics as soaring past the success of his Wham! 1980s band hits to become an accomplished musician, producer, and arranger, displaying an array of talents.

Success didn't come overnight, but Michael's abilities took him to the top of the music world faster than many others who paid dues for years and toiled at their craft, and his 1980s album Faith sold 15 million copies.

AllMusic journalist Steve Huey described it as a "superbly crafted mainstream pop/rock masterpiece" while a review by Rolling Stone magazine, journalist Mark Coleman said the album "displays Michael's intuitive understanding of pop music and his increasingly intelligent use of his power to communicate to an ever-growing audience."

Georgios Kyriacos Panayiotou was born June 25, 1963 in East Finchley, London.

His mother, Lesley Harrison Angold, was a dancer and his maternal grandmother was Jewish. His Greek and Cypriot roots came from his father, Kyriacos Panayiotou, a Greek Cypriot

Continued on page 10

Mitsotakis' New Year's Message to Hellenes

Kyriakos Mitsotakis, President of the New Democracy Party, released his New Year's wishes for Hellenes around the world. The leader of the opposition party encourages all the Greeks of the Diaspora to contribute to Greece's recovery with words of hope for 2017.

Greeks of the Diaspora, On the occasion of the new year, I extend my best wishes for health, happiness, love and prosperity, along with the assurance that I will personally fight for 2017 to be the year that true hope will rise for the rebirth of Greece.

Over recent years, you have seen our country experiencing situations that did not make anyone proud.

But over the course of our long history, we Greeks have learned that when we have veered off the path of truth, sacrifice and hard work, we have been led to disaster.

New Democracy seeks to halt the destructive course that our country is following. And we will achieve this with truth, reason and common sense as our weapon, fighting against the populism which has dominated our homeland in recent years. The battle against populism and lies is the new patriotism which is forming and is reinforced day after day in the consciousness of the Greeks.

But to succeed in this endeavor we need the active support of Greeks worldwide. With our policy, we will do our utmost to bring back the credibility and respect from the international community that our country deserves, and the ability to defend the future and its integrity in an environment of global liquidity.

We would like for you, who prosper and do business in new lands but never forget Greece, to help with those forces available to you in order to revive and strengthen the Greek economy.

Continued on page 11

Chef Maria Petridis Wins on Chopped

TNH Staff

NEW YORK – Maria Petridis, chef and owner of Maria's Mediterranean Seafood and Grill in Bayside, moved to the United States from Skoutari, Serres, Greece 28 years ago and has lived in Bayside for 18 years. She and husband Gary (Kyriakos) Petridis opened the restaurant seven years ago. Now, she is taking home the \$10,000 prize as the winner on the Food Network's Chopped.

She said her experience as a contestant on the cooking show was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

"It was very exciting, very stressful, but at the same time, it was an experience that changes you. Makes you see into

Continued on page 2

Georgiades Talks to TNH about the Fur Heist

By Theodore Kalmoukos

NEW YORK – Expensive furs worth millions of dollars were stolen from designer Dennis Basso's New York City store on Christmas Eve.

Three thieves smashed into the store at 825 Madison Avenue using a large granite stone. Achilles Georgiades, one of the three owners, who are all brothers, spoke exclusively with The National Herald, relaying his account of the events as they occurred.

"On Christmas Eve at 3 AM TJ Security called me and told me that there were five alarms. They called me again after a little while and told me that I had to come down to the store because something had happened. I came down I found the door broken, glass everywhere, and many hangers on the floor. They broke into the store and stole the most expensive items that we had."

Georgiades said he had no idea how many pieces were stolen: "we are in process of counting now, but we know for sure without a complete accounting that they have taken about 20 pieces that were the most valuable pieces." The estimated value of the stolen items without a full inventory, is "in the millions," Georgiades said, "but I don't know exactly at this moment." All of the furs at the



TNH/COSTAS BEI

It took less than a minute for thieves to break in and steal millions of dollars-worth of sable coats from designer Dennis Basso's flagship store on Manhattan's Upper East Side.

Manhattan store are handmade in New York.

The store video shows three individuals who "entered the store and grabbed the items. One of them dropped some coats on the floor and then pulled a bag from his pocket

and put them in."

Georgiades explained that the police took fingerprints but had not identified the thieves.

"Now they are investigating the videos and cameras from everywhere, the stores, and the traffic lights, everywhere, to see

what happened."

As for the insurance, "we don't know how much it covers," Georgiades said.

Besides the Manhattan store, the Georgiades Brothers also

Continued on page 2

For subscription:

718.784.5255

subscriptions@thenationalherald.com



Wishes Do Come True: Beating Cancer and Going to Disney World

By Dr. Constantina Michalos

HOUSTON, TX - I contribute to many charities. I have the calendars and address labels to prove it. A few are political, some international, but mostly I focus on children. Their needs - medical, academic, economic, social - supersede all others. They are the future. They deserve a chance. They are way beyond their years, candid observers of the world we are shaping for them. We need to make it better for them.

But sometimes they make it better for us. And they make us better in the process. Lindsey McPherson, the dean of students at my university, took her 4-year-old daughter to urgent care on March 17th because Lauren had blood in her urine. Thinking her spleen was enlarged, her pediatrician recommended an ultrasound at Texas Children's Hospital the next day. Instead, the ultrasound revealed a large mass in Lauren's kidney. She was diagnosed with Wilms' tumor, a kidney cancer found in young children. Lauren's tumor was 3x3x5 inches.

The following Thursday, Lauren underwent a 5 1/2 hour surgery to remove her left kidney and the mass. A portacath was inserted at this time so that she could receive chemotherapy without weekly IVs. Since spots on her lungs suggested that the cancer had spread, Lauren was diagnosed with Stage 4 Wilms' tumor. However, after six weeks of chemotherapy, the spots remained unchanged. A biopsy revealed that they were benign, and so Lauren's tumor was downgraded to Stage 2 Wilms. She will, nevertheless, be monitored for several years.



The McPherson family met Mickey and Minnie Mouse on their trip to Disney World. Lauren's recent tests came back cancer free.

No one wants to hear the word "cancer," especially when it comes to our children. No one is prepared for the ramifications of such a diagnosis. "I'm not sure you can really be prepared for this process. We were told very early on by her oncologist, Dr. Jodi Muscal, that Lauren will be as strong as we are. So, both my husband and I were determined to be as strong as we could. After the initial shock and tears, we took each day as it came, tried not to think about what would happen tomorrow and did our best to remain positive." Even Lauren's 7-year-old brother had to be strong. Hudson understood that Lauren was sick and needed powerful medicines to make her better. But he still missed his sister and his mom through the hospitalizations. Lindsey says that, even today, Hudson anxiously awaits their return from doctors' appointments.

Some of the family's strength came from their faith. "Although in the beginning, we asked things like 'How did we get here?' we never questioned why. Our faith remained strong. I will admit though that my prayer was and still is that God give us the strength to handle whatever happens. I never prayed for God to heal Lauren, as I believe there is a Master plan that is way beyond my control or prayer. So, our prayer was for strength and peace. Our prayer was to keep our family strong together and to give Lauren the strength and courage she needed to get through whatever came her way."

Lauren was only four at the time of her diagnosis so, of course, she was scared. Maybe not of the diagnosis, but certainly of the surgeries and scans and x-rays and tubes and sounds and smells. "We would show her YouTube videos of the CT scan



process, and we even went as far as placing her on a garage creeper and moving it under a chair, simulating what it might feel like to be in a CT scan. We referred to the cancer as "bad guys." So, when we talked about the surgery, we would say that they are going to take out the "big bad guy." And chemotherapy was taking care of all the "little bad guys" that the surgeon couldn't catch. After her surgery, Lauren was so frightened, she didn't want to move or speak. "She would barely look at us. Making her get up and try to walk was the hardest thing I had to do. But, like everything she does, after taking the first step and realizing that she can do this, we quickly went from taking the first 3 steps on the first attempt, to walking about 20 steps on the second attempt, to walking laps around the hospital floor by the next morning."

Lauren underwent 13 rounds of chemotherapy over a 20-week period and endured weekly blood tests and visits with her oncologist. Her last chemotherapy treatment was August 23rd, and her portacath was surgically removed on September 15th. Two days later, she entered kindergarten after five weeks of being home-schooled.

To keep everyone updated as to Lauren's progress, Lindsey created a Facebook page. There are pictures of her in the hospital, at the zoo, wearing costumes and hospital scrubs, enjoying ice cream, with long hair, short hair, no hair, sporting cool hats and even cooler T-shirts. One boasts "No Hair. Don't Care!" Obvious in all the pictures is that Lauren has the most dazzling smile, she is surrounded by people who love her, and her brother Hudson is by her side throughout this journey.

On September 7th, Lauren's scans came back clear. Cancer Free!

And on December 5th, Lauren's other wish came true. Through the Make-a-Wish Foundation, she got to meet Cinderella and the other Princesses at Disney World. Lauren's wish was to dine with Cinderella at Park Fare, in the Grand Floridian Resort. From December 5th-11th, Lauren and her family stayed at Give Kids the World, a resort only open to Wish families through the various wish organizations, including Make-a-Wish. Each family has a villa and enjoys a heated pool, a carousel and arcade, a movie theater, a life-size Candy Land game, and ice cream all day, every day. Of course there is a visit from Santa and Mickey Mouse. During their stay, they visited the Magic Kingdom, Universal, Hollywood Studios, Epcot and Animal Kingdom. They even attended Mickey's Very Merry Christmas Party. Every time Lauren saw Cinderella or the other Princesses at the Magic Kingdom, they took time to talk to her, take photos, and give big hugs.

This little girl certainly deserved to have her wish come true. So did her family.

The challenge of a devastating illness teaches us about ourselves. Courage, patience, strength, anger, reason, endurance, humor, faith, selflessness, selfishness - we bring to bear qualities we didn't even know we had in ways we had never anticipated. Lindsey and her family are grateful for Lauren's cure, well-aware that not every family they encountered had the same outcome. But they are equally thankful for the new perspective. "The 'stuff' that I used to stress over, I no longer worry about. I appreciate the little things now, take a little extra time to read one more book to my kids each evening, and try to just appreciate the small rainbow that comes with every storm. I have learned that kids are so much more resilient than we think, and they definitely understand more than you think they do. Lauren and Hudson have always been close, and I think this experience for both of them, just strengthened their bond."

The poet writes, "The child is the father of man." That is, the strengths and values that we demonstrate as adults have been instilled in us since our childhood. Or it means that we learn from children how to be strong and resilient. Either way, Lauren has taught us well.

May all your wishes come true this Christmas.

TNH's Person of the Year: Andreas C. Dracopoulos

Continued from page 1

As Americans, we leave the president-elect to be recognized by the likes of Time magazine. In our capacity as Greek-Americans, though, we look at matters through a different lens.

In that sense, then, looking around the Greek world, what one sees is not pleasant. Indeed, it can only be described as depressing.

The fact of the matter is that Greece is slipping deeper into the already deep economic crisis. The suicide rates increase. The unemployment rate stubbornly remains above 20% overall and 50% among the youth, who have begun the flight away from home

for a better future. The sense of desperation increases. The refugees that have settled on the islands are revolting, and the Turkish president is questioning the very foundation - the Lausanne agreements - upon which Greco-Turkish relations rest. Meanwhile, the Greek- and the Turkish-Cypriots are holding talks for a possible solution, that no matter what will be controversial to one of the longest-lasting crises in the world.

Amid all this stands a government and a Greek prime minister bent on fighting the battles of bygone era, ignorant of the ways of the world, ruthless in manipulating public opinion even with money they can hardly afford

like the Christmas gift Prime Minister Tsipras granted to 1.6 million pensioners, but was later forced to direct his minister of the economy to write a humiliating letter giving assurances to Greece's lenders that it would not happen again.

In the center of all this entered the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF), and its co-President and Director Andreas C. Dracopoulos. This past June, the SNF Cultural Center opened its gates, in Athens, much to the delight of tens of thousands of visitors since, among them heads of state, including President Obama.

A project that is the most important structural undertaking in Athens since the building of the

Barthenon itself.

In a recent interview with the Financial Times, Dracopoulos stated: "I remember

there was a dark night in New York when I and several colleagues had some internal questioning: 'What are we doing? Greece is falling apart and we're going to build an opera house and a library?' Then I said we had to build it, this project will bring hope, we can't let the Greeks down. And let's do it all, not cut corners because of the crisis."

Consequently, a new state-of-the-art National Library and National Opera were completed, as well as a spectacular public park, which creates an oasis for Athens.



But it is not only the project itself that is so important. What is perhaps even more important at this historic juncture is that a Greek organization - in fact, a Hellenic abroad - demonstrated excellence in executing this huge project and in return is asking for

excellence in running it not only from the government - any government - but from the real owners of it, the Greek people.

That is what this grandiose architectural masterpiece project represents: excellence in all aspects and from all sides. And that is something that Greece sorely needs.

Moreover, it is an excellence that stands apart in its transparency, in its genuine appreciation of what the country has offered in its long history and in the spirit of what it can still offer under the right circumstances.

And so, for that reason, for the reintroduction of excellence into the Greek society by a Greek-American and the sense of pride it generated to the entire Greek world, we chose Andreas C. Dracopoulos as The National Herald's Person of the Year.

Dracopoulos on Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center, Future

Continued from page 1

led us to what today is the SNFCC. A process that started about 10 years ago, ratified in Parliament in 2009, selecting Renzo Piano as the architect, starting construction in 2012 - with the joint venture of the Italian Impregilo and the Greek Tema doing wonders together, a true joint venture - and completing it within time and overall within budget (main reason for the budget increasing was our decision to make changes for the better throughout the project's "birth," the final budget having surpassed 600 million Euro) in four years, and delivering it to the Greek government, as fiduciaries, for the true owners, the Greek people.

Another important point is that the end result proved our naming of it initially internally as the "triple" project (the Library, the Opera, and the Park), the importance of the Park as a destination, as a host of so many daily activities, has been of paramount importance to the early success of the SNFCC, the Park has been its soul.

TNH: In the long process of constructing SNFCC, there had to be some unpleasant and some pleasant experiences. Would you please discuss the most important ones?

AD: Nothing is perfect in life. We had a few bumps down the road, but we all recognized that our common mission was so important, and we all worked so hard that there was really no time to waste fighting over anything. But what stands out in my memory of this is the amazingly practical, efficient, productive collaborations we experienced throughout the last few years when we had the government committee meetings with participants ranging from SNF, the mayor of Kallithea, the leading representatives of the National Library and the National Opera of Greece, and from all the relevant Ministries (Education, Culture, Finance, etc.), and during these last eight years dealing with such representatives from many different governments,



A night view of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center dressed in lights for the holiday season.

and from different ideological backgrounds. But everyone believed! And delivered!

TNH: There is the perception that you have "magical" abilities, something that nobody else or very few could have achieved: to complete such an enormous and architecturally significant project, on time and practically within budget. So, people are rightfully asking: Will you keep control of some aspect of SNFCC?

AD: Thank you for the compliment, but for me it has to do with common sense (I know, not that common nowadays): hard work, good collaborations at all levels, belief in a common and good cause! If you want to call that magic, so be it!

We have been very clear from the beginning of this process, we have paid fully for this project

ourselves, and we are fully donating it to the Greek people; we will have no official involvement in running it; we will

though, as we have always shared publicly, be there to help, mainly financially, if the government, each and every government, runs it properly and professionally. We would be assessing the same even if it was built and donated by someone else, this is the new house of two very important pillars of our culture and civilization, the home of the Library and the Opera, we should be doing all we can to make sure this project succeeds. It is not because we built it, it is because of what it means to Greece and its citizens, maybe to change a spark for a new beginning!

TNH: Are you thinking of undertaking another significant

project in Greece or somewhere else?

AD: We view every grant we make as the "big" one: we have treated every single grant with the same respect and vision, and more will follow.

TNH: What are your thoughts about the situation in Greece and in our Greek-American community?

Dracopoulos: O Theos na valei to xeri tou! (May God insert His hand!) JFK had said "ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." It is time - if not now, then when - to stop procrastinating, for each one of us to do his or her part, to stop just blaming others, to work hard. To change our mentality in so many ways. Indeed, we need strong, ethical, and visionary leaders.

The Original Pocket-Less Pita®

kontos

We Are Flatbread™

FLATBREAD®

MEDITERRANEAN FOODS

- Over 50 Varieties of Flatbreads
- Mediterranean Pastries
- Ethnic Meats & Imported Foods

SPECIAL DISCOUNTS OFFERED TO: Communities, Organizations, Church Festivals and Other Events

find us on Kontos Foods, Inc. | PO Box 628 Paterson, NJ 07644
T: 973.278.2800, F: 973.278.7943 | www.kontos.com

John Thomas, MD, FACS

Δρ. Ιωάννης Θωμάς

Χειρουργική Χεριού - Άνω Ακρων
Surgery of the Hand, Upper Extremity
& Peripheral Nerves

Με ραντεβού • Μιλήστε Ελληνικά

Northeast Hand Specialists, LLC

30-16 30th Drive, 3rd Floor, Astoria, New York, NY 11102
Main: 718-274-HAND (4263) • Fax: 866-308-HAND
DrThomas@NortheastHand.com • NortheastHand.com

To my patients, colleagues and Hellenes, wishing you all a Blessed Healthy Happy and a Prosperous New Year

Ο κ. Ανδρέας Δρακόπουλος το «Πρόσωπο της Χρονιάς» 2016

Από Εθνικός Κήρυξ - 31 Δεκέμβριος, 2016



Ο πρόεδρος του Ιδρύματος Σταύρος Νιάρχος, κ. Ανδρέας Δρακόπουλος. Φωτογραφία αρχείου: Ευρωκίνηση.

Η επιλογή του άνδρα ή της γυναίκας που θα αποτελέσει το «Πρόσωπο της Χρονιάς» που πέρασε, δεν αποτελεί κατ' ανάγκη μια τόσο εύκολη υπόθεση, όπως μπορεί να φαίνεται.

Διαφορετικοί άνθρωποι διακρίνονται κατά τη διάρκεια του χρόνου που κλείνει, με διαφορετικούς τρόπους, που υπερβαίνουν τις διακρίσεις όλων των άλλων σε ένα συγκεκριμένο πεδίο δράσεως, αλλά όχι πάντα σε τομείς που οι περισσότεροι άνθρωποι ταυτίζουν με την απονομή μιας τέτοιας υψηλής τιμής.

Για παράδειγμα, ένας τρομοκράτης που δολοφονεί τους περισσότερους ανθρώπους ή ακόμα ένας διευθυντής μιας χρηματιστηριακής εταιρείας που κερδίζει τα περισσότερα δισεκατομμύρια δολάρια, μπορεί μεν να είναι οι «καλύτεροι» στην κατηγορία τους σε ένα

συγκεκριμένο διάστημα δώδεκα μηνών, αξίζουν όμως της απονομής του τίτλου του «Προσώπου της Χρονιάς»;

Μα, ακόμα και μεταξύ εκείνων που είναι άξιοι μιας τέτοιας τιμής, η απόφαση της επιλογής του ενός έναντι κάποιου άλλου μερικές φορές δεν είναι πάντα εύκολη.

Αλλά όχι φέτος. Φέτος η απόφαση της επιλογής του «Προσώπου της Χρονιάς» είναι εύκολη. Στην αμερικανική σκηνή το πρόσωπο που περισσότερο από οποιοδήποτε άλλο ταυτίζεται με το 2016 είναι φυσικά του Ντόναλντ Τραμπ.

Του επιχειρηματία που ποτέ δεν υπήρξε υποψήφιος ή κατείχε δημόσια θέση και που παρά τους ασυνήθιστους μέχρι τώρα τρόπους για υποψήφιο – και εκλεγμένο – πρόεδρο της χώρας και ενάντια σε όλες τις προβλέψεις περί του αντιθέτου, κέρδισε. Και που, επιπλέον, δίνει ήδη την εντύπωση ότι η προεδρία του θα είναι άκρως ενδιαφέρουσα, αν όχι και επαναστατική. Εμείς είμαστε Ελληνοαμερικανοί.

Ως Αμερικανοί, λοιπόν, θα αφήσουμε την επιλογή του Τραμπ ως «Προσώπου της Χρονιάς» σε Μέσα Ενημέρωσης όπως το περιοδικό «TIME».

Ως Έλληνες, όμως, αντιμετωπίζουμε τα πράγματα από μια άλλη οπτική γωνία. Ψηλαφώντας τον ελληνικό κόσμο, αυτό που κανείς αντικρίζει δεν είναι ευχάριστο. Η αλήθεια είναι ότι η Ελλάδα βυθίζεται περισσότερο στην ήδη βαθιά οικονομική κρίση.

Η ανεργία παραμένει πάνω από το 20% γενικά και 50% ανάμεσα στη νεολαία, που έχει αρχίσει ήδη την φυγή από την χώρα τους αναζητώντας ένα καλύτερο μέλλον. Η αίσθηση της απόγνωσης αυξάνεται, όπως και οι αυτοκτονίες. Οι πρόσφυγες που έχουν πια εγκατασταθεί, κυρίως στα νησιά, αντιδρούν. Ο Πρόεδρος της Τουρκίας αμφισβητεί αυτά τα ίδια τα θεμέλια - τις συμφωνίες της Λωζάννης- πάνω στα οποία στηρίζονται οι ελληνοτουρκικές σχέσεις.

Εν τω μεταξύ, οι Ελληνοκύπριοι αδύναμοι και οι Τουρκοκύπριοι, με αισθητό το βαρύ χέρι της Τουρκίας πίσω τους, προχωρούν σε καταλυτικές πιθανόν συνομιλίες για το μέλλον της Μεγαλονήσου.

Στο κέντρο όλων αυτών, σαν μια όαση, εμφανίζεται το Ίδρυμα Σταύρος Νιάρχος και ο πρόεδρός του κ. Ανδρέας Δρακόπουλος.

Τον περασμένο Ιούνιο το Κέντρο Πολιτισμού Ιδρυμα Σταύρος Νιάρχος άνοιξε τις πύλες του στο κοινό και έκτοτε δεκάδες χιλιάδες κόσμου το επισκέφτηκαν, μεταξύ των οποίων και ο πρόεδρος Μπαράκ Ομπάμα.

Ενα έργο, που θεωρείται ότι είναι το πιο σημαντικό -από κάθε άποψη- από την εποχή της ίδρυσης του Παρθενώνα. Ενα έργο που περιλαμβάνει μια νέα, τελευταίας τεχνολογίας Εθνική Βιβλιοθήκη και Λυρική Σκηνή και ένα καταπληκτικό Πάρκο.

Δεν είναι όμως μόνο το έργο αυτό καθ' εαυτό που είναι τόσο σημαντικό για την Ελλάδα. Αυτό που πιθανόν να είναι εξίσου σημαντικό σ' αυτή την χρονική συγκυρία είναι ότι ένας ελληνικός οργανισμός, και μάλιστα ένας Έλληνας της Διασποράς, άριστευσε στην εκτέλεση του τεράστιου αυτού έργου και επιπλέον ζητά -αν όχι απαιτεί- αριστεία και στη διαχείρισή του, όχι μόνο από την κυβέρνηση – την όποια κυβέρνηση – αλλά και από τους «πραγματικούς ιδιοκτήτες του» – δεξ συνέντευξη σε «Ε.Κ.»- τον ελληνικό λαό.

Αυτό εκπροσωπεί το έργο αυτό: Αριστεία. Και αυτό είναι που έχει τόση μεγάλη ανάγκη σήμερα ο Ελληνισμός. Επιπλέον το έργο αυτό αποτελεί την απόδειξη της εκτίμησης της τεράστιας προσφοράς της χώρας στην μακρά ιστορία της, και του τι ακόμα μπορεί να προσφέρει κάτω από τις κατάλληλες συνθήκες.

Είναι γι' αυτόν το λόγο, της επαναφοράς του πνεύματος της αριστείας στην ελληνική κοινωνία από έναν Ελληνοαμερικανό και του αισθήματος της υπερηφάνειας που πρόσφερε στον απανταχού Ελληνισμό, που επιλέξαμε τον κ. Ανδρέα Δρακόπουλο ως το «Πρόσωπο της Χρονιάς».

ΣΗΜΕΡΙΝΗ ΕΚΔΟΣΗ | ΕΝΘΕΤΑ | ΔΙΑΦΟΡΑ | ΣΧΕΤΙΚΑ ΜΕ ΕΜΑΣ | ΕΠΙΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΑ | ΣΥΝΔΡΟΜΗ



ΕΛΛΑΔΑ

TNH 's Person of the Year, Andreas C. Dracopoulos, Co-President SNF

By **Antonis Diamataris** - December 31, 2016



Όσιϋίϋόζός οίϋ θηϋέϋθίϋθñāίγ Άέγίγ Όόβθñά ιά οίι θñūääñī οίϋ Άείίέέζόέέίγ Όσιίαιεβίϋ οίϋ Έαñγίαδίϋ "Όδάγñίϋ Ιέϋñ÷ίϋ", Άίαñγá Άñάέϋθίϋεί, οίι Έδάέϋ άñ÷έδγέδίίά Ñýôæī Δέϋīī έάέ οίι έάέçāçðϋ οίϋ Δάίίδέόόçìβίϋ "Όæīī ×üðέείϋ", Ñúíάείϋ Ιόϋίέάέϋ, όçί Δάñάόέάðϋ 24 Έίϋίβίϋ 2016, όδī Ñýääñī Ιάίβίϋ. (EUROKINISSI/ΌÁÔΈÁÍA ÌÐĬΈΆÑÇ)

Choosing the man or woman of the year is not always as easy as it might seem. Different people distinguish themselves over the course of a year in ways that exceed everyone else in particular fields or endeavors, and not necessary always in what most people usually associate with high achievement in life. For instance, a terrorist who kills the most people, or even a hedge fund manager who amasses the most billions of dollars might have been the “best” in that category in a given twelve-month span, but do such persons deserve the high honor of being Person of the Year?

And, of course, even among those candidates who are worthy of the honor, the decision of selecting one of them above the rest is sometimes difficult.

But not this time: this year, we find our choice for Person of the Year to be rather easy.

In the American landscape, the person who will most be identified with 2016 is, of course, Donald Trump – a businessman who never ran or held any public office until he entered the 2016 presidential race, and yet despite his unconventional ways went on to win in the face of nearly all predictions to the contrary. And on top of all that, he is already giving every indication that his presidency will be nothing short of interesting, if not downright revolutionary.

We are Americans first, yes, but we are also Greek-Americans. As Americans, we leave the president-elect to be recognized by the likes of Time magazine. In our capacity as Greek-Americans, though, we look at matters through a different lens.

In that sense, then, looking around the Greek world, what one sees is not pleasant. Indeed, it can only be described as depressing.

The fact of the matter is that Greece is slipping deeper into the already-deep economic crisis. The suicide rates increase. The unemployment rate stubbornly remains above 20% overall and 50% among the youth, who have begun the flight away from home for a better future. The sense of desperation increases, the refugees that have settled on the islands are revolting, and the Turkish president is questioning the very foundation – the Lausanne agreements – upon which Greco-Turkish relations rest. Meanwhile, the Greek- and the Turkish-Cypriots are holding talks for a possible solution, that no matter what will be controversial, to one of the longest-lasting crises in the world.

Amid all this stands a government and a Greek prime minister bent on fighting the battles of bygone era, ignorant of the ways of the world, ruthless in manipulating public opinion even with money they can hardly afford – like the Christmas gift Prime Minister Tsipras granted to 1.6 million pensioners, but was later forced to direct his minister of the economy to write a humiliating letter giving assurances to Greece's lenders that it would not happen again.

In the center of all this entered the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF), and its co-President and Director Andreas C. Dracopoulos. This past June, the SNF Cultural Center opened its gates, in Athens, much to the delight of tens of thousands of visitors since, among them heads of state, including President Obama.

A project that is the most important structural undertaking in Athens since the building of the Parthenon itself.

In a recent interview with the Financial Times, Dracopoulos stated: “I remember

there was a dark night in New York when I and several colleagues had some internal questioning: ‘What are we doing? Greece is falling apart and we’re going to build an opera house and a library?’ Then I said we had to build it, this project will bring hope, we can’t let the Greeks down. And let’s do it all, not cut corners because of the crisis.”

Consequently, a new state-of-the-art National Library and National Opera were completed, as well as a spectacular public park, which creates an oasis for Athenians.

But it is not only the project itself that is so important. What is perhaps even more important at this historic juncture is that a Greek organization – in fact, a Hellene abroad – demonstrated excellence in executing this huge project and in return is asking for excellence in running it not only from the government – any government – but from the real owners of it, the Greek people.

That is what this grandiose and architecturally amazing project represents: excellence in all aspects and from all sides. And that is something that Greece sorely needs.

Moreover, it is an excellence that stands apart in its transparency, in its genuine appreciation of what the country has offered in its long history and in the spirit of what it can still offer under the right circumstances.

And so, for that reason, for the reintroduction of excellence into the Greek society by a Greek-American and the sense of pride it generated to the entire Greek world, we chose Andreas C. Dracopoulos as The National Herald’s Person of the Year.

[

[Week’s Paper](#) | [Special Issues](#) | [About us](#) | [Contact us](#) | [Subscriptions](#)



COMMUNITY