

The New England Scene

By Sophia Nibi

The first American Thanksgiving celebrated in 1621 by the Pilgrims of Plymouth Colony, actually occurred in October. Thanksgiving Day can be as early as November 22 or, as is this year, as late as November 28. Only since 1941 has the holiday been on the fourth Thursday in November. Before then, starting with Abraham Lincoln, United States Presidents proclaimed the "last" Thursday in November as Thanksgiving — but Franklin Roosevelt in 1939 moved the day back a week to give more shopping time between Thanksgiving and Christmas (so much for those who complain that "nowdays there is too much commercialism during this season"). In 1939 Congress enacted the "fourth Thursday" compromise to celebrate this uniquely American holiday.

An official Day of Giving Thanks provides a reminder for all that we ought to be thankful — for people and things; for actions and reactions; for this and that. Indeed, there is no one who does not have someone and something for which to be thankful. Certainly, New Englanders are thankful for....



Alexander and Athena Padis celebrated their 40th anniversary with family and friends. Their precious legacy includes their children and grandchildren: Back row, left to right: Dean and Lee Katsoris, Athena and Alex Padis, Kathleen and Lex Padis. Front, left to right: Beth Katsoris, Laura, Nicholas and Mary Kate Padis.

Wonderful individuals as the members of the Padis family of Belmont, MA. Alexander and Athena Padis marked their 40th wedding anniversary this year and to help them celebrate, 60 members of their immediate and extended families participated in festivities hosted by their children at the Marriott Hotel in Newton. The evening, thoughtfully planned by Lex and Kathleen Padis and Dean and Lee Katsoris provided a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and to wish Alex and Athena the very best as they begin their fifth decade of married life.

During his distinguished career as a commander in the

United States Navy, Alexander Padis and his family traveled a lot, and thus, "our friends truly became our family," they say. During their forty years of marriage they have strived to follow what they learned from their parents: "Your legacy is your children". No one who knows them doubts that they have been successful. Their children and grandchildren are indeed a legacy for which they are, as they should be, very proud.

Editorial privilege allows me, at this point to get personal and express publicly to Alexander and Athena Padis my family's gratitude for 20 years of friendship.



Hellenic College/ Holy Cross Officially marked the beginning of the new academic year on the Feast Day of the Holy Cross at which time Archbishop Iakovos presented the Holy Cross Class of 1992 their rassa. Also shown in the background are Bishop Methodios of Boston, president of the School, Metropolitan Demetrius of Vresthena and Bishop Gerasimos of Abydos.

For Hellenic College and Holy Cross, the institution of the Archdiocese in the Americas which is singly responsible for the survival and perpetuation of Greek Orthodox Christianity and Hellenic cultural heritage. Forty new students from throughout the world, including happily this year from Albania, joined the small but unique student body which is bound by their faith and their belief in the teachings of the Church of Christ.

Since 1980, the Right Rev. Dr. Demetrios Trakatellis, Bishop of Vresthena, has been a member of the Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology faculty as a Distinguished Professor of Biblical Studies and Christian Origin. In August, The Diocese of Vresthena in the Archdiocese of Greece was elevated to a Metropolis and Bishop Demetrios became a Metropolitan.

I first met Metropolitan Demetrios when he arrived on the Hellenic College campus in 1980. What I still remember about my first meeting with him was his enthusiasm about

Hellenic College/Holy Cross. He spoke of the "noble mission" of the School and observed that it is "a center which radiates the truth of the Gospel and Orthodoxy." Visitors to the campus from throughout the country, and indeed the world, agree with Metropolitan Demetrios that Hellenic College/Holy Cross is "a new frontier line in terms of the Greek Orthodox Church, where the members of the faculty are warm, the students responsive, the administration involved in a positive way to make a visitor feel welcome and at home." We congratulate Metropolitan Demetrios on his recent elevation and thank him for his dedication to and love for Hellenic College/Holy Cross. Axios, Your Excellency.

For the Project Bread Inc. of Boston, the sponsors of the annual Walk for Hunger and Santa's Kitchen, two activities which attract thousands of participants — including members of the Greek Orthodox community - who join efforts, talents and resources to assist those in need. One of the beneficiaries of the annual Walk for Hunger is the Diocesan Philoxenia House which Bishop Methodios established in 1986. Santa's kitchen will be held on Saturday, December 7 in Boston. Thousands of artfully decorated spoons will be placed on a huge tree to show support for those in need. Many will come from the Greek American community. Hundreds of spoons were decorated this summer by the campers who attended the Diocesan Summer Camp at the Singing Hills campsite in New Hampshire. We know that entire families, Church organizations, college students, Sunday School students, just about everyone is busy decorating spoons! Special friends of Project Bread donate \$10 per spoon up to \$100,000, to raise much needed funds for the needy. Then, until December 24th, the nadcrafted ornamental spoons will be made available through Filene's Basement Stores for a further donation. This is an annual fun and helpful event which is fast becoming a holiday tradition in Boston.

For individuals such as Gregory Demetrakas of Rhode Island, president of Cemet Holding Co. in East Providence, whose caring personality enchoes around the world. Con-



The Rev. Fr. Meletios Kouraklis, Pastor of the Holy Trinity Parish in Lowell, Ma, represented Bishop Methodios at the ceremonies during which Project Bread Executive Director Shoshana Pakciarz presented a \$10,000 check for the Diocesan Philoxenia House.

sider the following correspondence: From Uganda, "We really appreciate your continued support and assistance... We received 20 boxes of which 12 were for seeds, 2 for plastics; were so useful in our Mission work. With hopes that the Lord is watching over you and finds you in the best of spirit, Michael M. Kiseambo." To Bucarest, Romania. "As I told you in my past letters, it is now the time for planting and harvesting of vegetable seeds. I have not forgotten the many people of your country... As of today, I have shipped out to you, in your care, packages of vegetables... 40-50 different kinds, everything from lettuce, tomatoes, beans cucumbers, squash... I wish you a successful harvest and may your stomachs never feel hunger again. Gregory Demetrakas. "From Logus, Nigeria and Nairobi, Kenya, "Thank you for the 45,000 aspirins, six hammers, assorted garden tools, ophthalmoscopes, otoscopes, 400 packages of seeds."



Greg Demetrakas' generosity in helping worthwhile causes is greatly appreciated by recipients throughout the world. Fr. Niholas Krommydas, the Chancellor of the Boston Diocese accepts one of Greg's many donations to the Philoxenia House and other ministries of the Diocese.

An Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Commander of the New England Archons, Greg Demetrakas is also the New England Chairman for LOGOS. He supplies many items for the philanthropic and youth ministry of the Diocese of Boston. "Just make a list of what you need," is Gregory Demetrakas' motto; within days he is on the spot, personally delivering his donation. Thanks Greg.

For our young people who are enthusiastically carrying on the noble characteristics of our heritage, young people such as Rebecca Katsenes of Newton, MA. Rebecca is an accomplished violinist who plays with the Portland, Maine, Symphony Orchestra. Rebecca will be presenting a benefit recital in the spring, in memory of her grandmother, Catherine Katsenes who died last year. Rebecca, who has played for the Canton and Youngstown, Ohio, Symphony Orches-

tras is a graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Music and of Boston University School of Music. We'll be learning more about this talented young woman in future issues.

For the entrepreneurial spirit of people like Michael H. Hatzopoulos, the President of AFCO Equipment Corporation of Newton. Michael, an engineer with the company for many years, acquired the business recently to continue its outstanding service to New England. AFCO is a full house Material Handling Distributor representing 200 factories that manufactures equipment for industrial, residential, commercial and warehousing facilities. It is recognized as the number one distributor in vertical Wheel Chair Lifts and is now introducing custom designed Hydraulic Handicap



How sweet it is! Michael Stephanou was in Boston in late summer to introduce the new Dove chocolate bar and on hand to greet him were Kristen, left and Irene Paleologos, daughters of the Rev. Dean N. Paleologos the dean of the St. Spyridon Cathedral in Worcester.

Elevators, equipment that the Federal Government requires in all public buildings.

Michael Hatzopoulos, his wife Jasmine and their Children Michael and Erica reside in Wakefield and are members of the Annunciation Parish in Woburn, MA, where Michael has served as President of the Parish Council.



Greece' Concul to Boston, Theodore Passas, left, was on hand to introduce newly arrived Consul General Alexios Cogeovina to members of New England's Greek American press including, left to right: Oscar Papanastassiou, Orestis Demetriades, Pauline Papanastassiou, Athanassios Voulgaropoulos.

And we are thankful for the delicious DOVE ICE CREAM BAR which has now introduced a dark and a light chocolate bar. Chicagoan Michael Stephanou was in Boston recently during a national tour to promote the chocolate bar which is as delicious as the now famous ice cream DOVE bar. Perfect for holiday eating!!

Alexios Cogeovina is the new Consul General of Greece in New England. He and his wife Shalimar were introduced to the Greek American press at a reception hosted by the Press Office of the Consulate under the direction of Marina Kasdaglis, the Press Attache. Held at the Park Plaza Hotel in Boston, the reception elicited a frank exchange of ideas and helpful suggestions. The Cogevinas are the parents of three— their newest daughter arrived days after they moved to Boston!

During this beautiful season of Giving Thanks, I extend my appreciation to the readers of the Greek American Review who have taken the time to write and call, to express their thoughts on the column, to offer ideas, and to make suggestions. Together, we have produced 11 columns this year. Each and everyone has been an educational experience for me. I have learned a lot. Since January, when the first New England Scene column appeared, I have had the privilege of meeting many new individuals and to get to know better many others. I look forward to working together with our readers in preparing future columns. Keep you ideas and suggestions coming. Thank you.

A THANKFUL PRAYER — O GOD, Thou has given so much to us, give one thing more — a grateful heart. Amen (George Herbert).



Jenny Olsen, from Indiannapolis in attended the Boston Diocesan Camp this summer and participated in the decoration of spoons for Santa's Kitchen. Jenny is the granddaughter of the Rev. and Mrs. George Bacopulos, now residents of Keene, NH. Fr. Bacopulos is a former chancellor of our Archdiocese.