
Trumbeta Shqiptare

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The Official Publication of the Albanian-American National Organization, Inc.



“We, American citizens and Canadian citizens, of Albanian descent and others interested in Albanian-Americans, desiring to form and perpetuate a federation and promote its objectives and principles; to effect a perfect and harmonious understanding between ourselves and others, to promote the cause of good citizenship in the country in which we live; to stimulate the spirit of good fellowship and good cooperation; do hereby establish and ordain these By-Laws.”

Please visit us at: www.AANO.org



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**2013-2014
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Albanian-American
National Organization

December 2013

President's Message

Gëzuar Festat e Fundvitit!

Happy Holidays to you and your families!

First, I would like to extend my personal thanks to the National Board, the Board of Governors, to the wonderful people who have accepted appointment positions, to all the supporters and members of the AANO for their commitment and hard (volunteer) work to keep moving forward as we are getting close to 70 years of continued contribution of the AANO to the Albanian-American community. What is amazing is the fact that there are not many organizations that survive a single decade, yet the AANO is nearing seven decades with the vision of reaching the centennial and beyond!

Nothing can last this long without great people and their love and devotion to the cause. Preserving our proud heritage and supporting the academic endeavors of our students are worthy and honorable causes, deserving of our commitment and our devotions.

I want to thank the New York Chapter for putting on a first-class convention in Manhattan.

I congratulate the 2013 recipients of the AANO "Lifetime Achievement Awards," Dr. Anna Kohen, D.D.S., President of the Albanian American

Mesazhi i Presidentit

Women's Organization, AAWO, and Nicholas A. Vangel, President of St. Nicholas Church and a lifetime member of the AANO's Chicago Chapter. I congratulate the recipient of the "Community Service Award 2013," Vera Mjeku, Executive Director of the Albanian American Success Stories.

My congratulation to all the Scholarship recipients for 2013: Eliada Zraj, Anxhela Mila, Kein Bejko, Iliria Camaj, Iva Hoxha and Ferdeza Zekiri.

I congratulate the new AANO Queen, Anxhela Mile, wishing her the very best. We know she will make us proud for the next three years.

I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the former Queen, now the AANO Secretary, Blerina Vila, for her honorable and exemplary representation of the AANO for the past three years, and for assuming the responsibilities of the Secretary of the AANO, and doing an outstanding job. Our congratulations to Blerina on her recent marriage, with best wishes for long and happy lives together.

The New Year is upon us and the preparations for the 68th ANNO Convention are on high gear. Because many people take their summer vacations

in late July and August and travel to Albania, we have decided to move up the 2014 Convention to the third weekend in June. Therefore, please mark your calendars for June 27th, 28th and 29th, 2014, and join us in sunny Florida. This will be a convention to remember as we have selected a beautiful beach hotel to spend three warm and sunny days together, enjoying our heritage along with the white sandy beaches of Florida. You will not want to miss this event as we plan to go the extra mile to make it an exciting weekend. For more information please visit our website: www.aano.org.

We look forward to an exciting year, an exciting June Convention, and on your continued support.

I hope all of you and your families have a wonderful Holiday Season, and wishing you the very best for a Happy and a Prosperous New Year.

“Është kënaqësi me qënë Shqiptar”

Me shumë respekt,

John K. Lulgjuraj
National President

Albanian-American National Organization, Inc.



**The National Board wishes
each and every one of
our members a Happy Holiday Season !!**



Albanian-American
National Organization

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

The Albany Chapter

The Albany Chapter had their Christmas Party on December 8th at the St. Sophia Apartments Community Room. There were many on hand to share some holiday cheer!

The Boston Chapter

The Boston Chapter have been holding meetings and will be celebrating Albanian Independence (Flag Day) by going to a local restaurant.

The Chicago Chapter

The Chicago Chapter will be hosting a Holiday Party, in addition to celebrating their 50th Anniversary. All are invited!

The Clearwater Chapter

Greeting from the Clearwater Chapter of the AANO. First, we extend our sunny warm wishes to you, your families and friends, for a wonderful Holiday Season. May the New Year be the year that you accomplish all your goals and objectives, in good health and prosperity!

The Chapter has been pretty active during this year and ready to work hard to help the National at organizing the 2014 Convention on the beautiful white sandy beaches of Naples, Florida. They are also busy preparing for the upcoming 68th Annual Convention. Be sure to mark your calendars!

The Clearwater Chapter participated, along with other local organizations, to celebrate the 101st Anniversary of Albanian Independence. Dancing, music, good food and celebration of the Albanian

Independence Day was organized on November 30, 2013, with over 300 people participating.

The Detroit Chapter

The Detroit Chapter held its second annual picnic in September in Novi, Michigan. About thirty-five people attended throughout the afternoon and a good time was had by all. Another activity is being planned for after the holidays. The Chapter hopes to have a good showing at this summer's convention in Naples.

The Washington Chapter

The Washington Chapter celebrated Albanian Flag Day on November 23, and report they now have 30 members in total.



Anxhela Mile
AANO National Queen

Anxhela Mile was born in Tirana, Albania on May 9, 1995. In 1997, her parents, Ardian and Irma Mile, and her older sister, Iris Mile, left Albania and immigrated to Queens, New York. When Anxhela was six, her family moved to East Meadow, New York. They have

resided there ever since. Anxhela Mile graduated from East Meadow High School last spring and is now attending Boston College. She is pursuing a program in Pre-Law along with a double major in Environmental Geo-Science and Political Science. She hopes to become an environmental activist and work with the United States Government in an environmentally friendly society. She is also interested in international law and dreams of being involved with the United Nations one day.

Throughout high school, Anxhela ran many clubs and was president of her school's Environmental Club and the National Future Business Leaders of America Club. She was also the public relations chair of the Model Congress Club and event coordinator of the Science Honor Society. At Boston College, Anxhela is the Eco-representative of the FitzShawGa community and is a member of the Boston College Chamber ensemble. She is planning on becoming a Big Sister, a volunteer mentor, to a young girl at one of the elementary schools nearby Boston College. Anxhela Mile has been playing the violin since she was nine years old. She has played in many concerts, and performed a solo at New York City's Steinway Hall. She has a passion for music and the performing arts. She also enjoys spending time with children and has been a camp counselor for five years. During her spare time, Anxhela tutors middle school and high school students.

Anxhela Mile visited Albania two summers ago. She loved spending time with her family whom she does not often see. She says, "It was an eye-opening experience to see where my parents and grandparents lived and grew up. The moments that we spend time with our family and loved ones make us realize how precious life truly is." She hopes on visiting her family in Albania soon. Anxhela Mile has attended several AANO Conventions, beginning as a child. She is extremely proud to be the new AANO Queen and a recipient of an AANO scholarship. She wishes to express gratitude to the Albanian-American community for giving her such a wonderful opportunity. She is eager to become more involved within the community that brings together Albanian-Americans that reside all across the U.S.



23rd AANO Queen Pageant

Newly Crowned National Queen



Our Lovely Contestants

www.AANO.ORG

Like us on Facebook

Albanian-American National Organization, Inc.



Albanian-American National Organization, Inc.
(AANO, INC.)

Presents

The 68th Annual Convention

The Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club

Naples, Florida

June 27-29, 2014

Save these dates in your calendar.

A great gathering of Albanian-Americans from all over the United States, inviting the Albanian Community of Naples for a weekend of fun, entertainment, dancing and fellowship, for young and old, preserving our Albanian Culture.

For details, please visit us at www.aano.org as we will soon have more detailed information.

Organizata Kombëtare Shqiptaro-Amerikane, Inc.
(OKSHA, Inc)

Zhvillon

Kuvëndin Vjetor dhe 68 Vjetore e saj
The Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club

Naples Florida

Data: 27 - 29 Qershor, 2014

Shënoni këto date!

Ky është një bashkim i mrekullueshëm i Shqiptaro-Amerikanëve nga të gjitha vëndet e Shtetet e Bashkuara të Amerikës dhe Kanada, kur ëe bashku me Shqiptarët e Naples dhe zonës përreth, në një fundjave argëtimi, vallëzimi dhe miqësie, të rinjtë dhe të moshuarit, do të mblidhemi për të kremtuar vlerat tona kombëtare dhe për të ruajtur Kulturën Shqiptare.

Për më shumë detaje, ndiqni në ditët në vazhdim, duke vizituar faqen tonë elektronike në internet:

www.aano.org



Caroline Cotto is a past AANO Scholarship Recipient and we congratulate her on her accomplishments!



Caroline Cotto

In February 2013, Caroline traveled to Japan and onto to China where she studied Intensive Chinese at East China Normal University in Shanghai, China. She was also able to travel to the Tibetan region where she interacted with a student population and community that had never had Western visitors. She then traveled into Vietnam, which she loved.

When she returned to the U.S. in May, she served as an intern in the White House Office of the First Lady of The United States, Michelle Obama. She worked on the First Lady's Let's Move! initiative until mid-August when she returned to Georgetown University where she is finishing up her senior year. If you search summer 2013 White House interns on Google, you will see Caroline listed and related articles.

Previously, Caroline was also a co-coordinator of the Georgetown Office of Leadership Development (GOLD). Currently, she is serving as acting Community Relations and Special Events Chair on the Georgetown Framer's Market Board.

Attention Past Scholarship Winners



We would love to know what you're doing !!

Please send your information to Gayle Orlow (gorlow@comcast.net) and list the year that you won your scholarship, where you attended school, your major, and what has transpired since. If you like, attach a photo.

We enjoy keeping up to date on our Scholarship recipients.

If you would like to make a donation to the AANO Scholarship Fund, please send your contribution to:

AANO SCHOLARSHIP FUND

**c/o Nevrus Muftari
6531 Hubbard Street
Garden City, MI 48135**

nmuftari@hotmail.com



Donations to the Scholarship Fund are Tax Deductible

67th AANO Convention and 23rd Queen Pageant



The Roosevelt Hotel, New York City

The 67th Annual Convention was hosted by the New York Chapter in midtown New York at the Roosevelt Hotel. The hotel is a classic New York City hotel which opened in 1924. Its prime location at Madison Avenue and 45th St. allowed easy access to central New York.

The opening of the convention started Friday morning in the Sutton Suite with the officers and delegates meeting. Friday night's activities began in the Terrace Ballroom and Palm Room which was off the main lobby area. The main event was the 23rd Queen Pageant which had five contestants from different chapters across the country. The contestants were judged during the day and had one last question asked on stage before the judges made their final decision. The newly crowned queen was Anxhela Mile from New York. After the pageant ended, the contestants lead the audience in the opening dance of the night. The dancing and entertainment continued into the late night and was followed by a hospitality welcome in the Presidential Suite.

Attendees took advantage of the wonderful weather on Saturday to explore New York City. Shopping on 5th and Park Avenue was only a few blocks away. Around the corner was Grand Central. A few more blocks east was the United Nations building. Some people ventured up to Central Park while Times Square was on the agenda for others.

Saturday night's banquet was held in the Grand Ballroom. The room was absolutely stunning and filled to capacity. A welcome speech was made by Chairman Richard Rafail who also introduced the head table and recognized past presidents, queens and dignitaries in the room. President Ferit Nazarko addressed the convention and newly crowned Queen Anxhela Mile made her first speech. Lea Bitta, Scholarship Fund Raising Chairperson, addressed

the audience and informed them of the silent auction that was being held that night and the matching contribution that would be given by Nicholas Vangel. The next part of the convention was the announcement of the scholarship recipients for this year by Jana Foundos. The ones in attendance came to the podium to receive their award and make a few brief remarks. The final formal event of the evening was the presentation of awards. Nicholas Vangel of Chicago received a Lifetime Achievement Award for help in the Albanian community. Dr. Anna Kohen, D.D.S. also received a Lifetime Achievement Award for her work in the Albanian community as well. Finally, Vera Mjeku was awarded a Community Service Award for her direction in creating Albanian success stories. After the conclusion of the formal program, the Queen lead the National Officers for the first dance of the night. The festivities continued through the night again culminating with hospitality in the Presidential Suite.

Sunday's officers and delegates meeting was held in the Terrace Room and the meeting was open to the public in the afternoon when the election of new officers and the site of the next convention was decided. The newly elected officers are: President - John Lulgjuri of Clearwater; Vice President - Nerita Veliu of Detroit; Secretary - Belrina Lumaj of Detroit; and Treasurer - Richard Rafail of New York. The site of the next convention will be Naples, FL. The intent was to help build the Albanian community there. Because of the busy season there and people traveling to Albania in August, the date of the convention was moved up to June 27-29. Outgoing President Ferit Nazarko addressed the audience in his farewell speech and thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve and wished the organization well in the future. The convention was formally closed and pastries, dessert, coffee and drinks were served in the Palm Room.

The New York Chapter hosted a Sunday night event at Slate in New York City. There was food, drink, music and entertainment. All that came had a great time!

(Submitted by Rich Rafail)

**Meet our 2013 AANO
"Lifetime Achievement Award"
Winners**



DR. ANNA KOHEN, D.D.S.

Dr. Anna Kohen, D.D.S. is President of the Albanian American Women's Organization, AAWO. She was born in Vlora, Albania after World War II. She left Albania in 1966 with her seven family members and went to Greece. Dr. Kohen completed her dentistry studies in Greece at the Ethnikon and Kapodistriakon University of Athens, Dental School in 1970. After completing her education, she moved to the United States where she continued her studies at New York University's Dental School and received a DDS Dental Degree in 1976. After graduation, she was appointed as an Assistant Clinical Professor of Restorative Dentistry at NYU Dental School and taught there for ten years. She has been practicing general dentistry since that time.

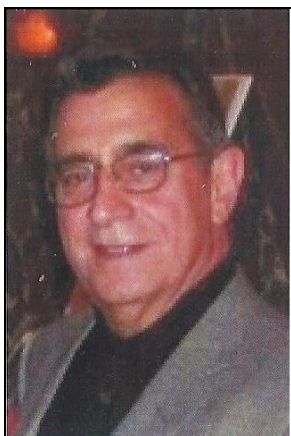
In 1990, with the help of several Jewish organizations, she brought 37 of her Jewish-Albanian relatives (a total of ten families) to the U.S., and assisted them in the process of integration. In 1991, she was invited to Albania to celebrate the formation of the Albanian-Israeli Society where she has been elected an Honorary Member. In 2004, The President of the Albanian Republic, Alfred Moisiu, recognized Dr. Anna Kohen during a meeting at the Presidency with the medal "For Special Civil Merits" under the motivation "For valuable contribution helping the Albanians during the Kosovar humanitarian crisis; for precious aid given to the new Albanian emigrants in the United States of America."

Dr. Kohen has realized over the years, and especially now in this economy, that she can help more people if she partners with other non-profit organizations that have a similar vision. For example, over the past two years, in partnership with the Fresh Air Fund, Dr. Kohen managed to send numerous underprivileged children to summer camp. She also recently started working with Allen Healthcare in order to provide free training classes in the Albanian language, for Albanian men and women to become home attendants for the elderly so that the Albanian elderly now have Albanian-speaking aides. After the need assessments were completed, Dr. Kohen said that domestic violence and healthcare are the needs of our community. In October, 2009, in partnership with the Italian Cancer Society, we provided free mammograms for Albanian women without insurance at The Bronx House. More such events continued in 2010 in other areas to satisfy the need.

In partnership with the Gift of Life, we assisted in bringing 2 children from Kosova for care who are both now back in their homes happy and healthy. With the Dominick Scaglione's Children's Foundation in Tirana, we will continue to assist in bringing more children for surgeries that cannot be performed in Albania. For that, we must also thank our new partners, The International Children's Foundation and the Little Baby Face Foundation.

Dr. Anna Kohen frequently visits the Albanian schools in the Bronx, teaching them how to take care of their teeth and maintain good oral hygiene. She has participated in countless community events and contributed moral, emotional and financial support to members of the Albanian community. She is consistently there for people in need; which is why for over a decade, Albanian women have honored her by electing her as the President of AAWO "Motrat Qiriazi," the most active organization in the Albanian community. Dr. Kohen is married to a Holocaust survivor from Poland and has two children.





NICHOLAS A. VANGEL

Nicholas A.. Vangel graduated from the University of Kansas with a degree in Business Management with a major in Economics.

As a member of the Chicago Chapter, Nick is always eager to work and serve for the betterment of the Albanian community. Nick has served as a Board Member of the Parish Council, and as President of St. Nicholas Church. He is solely responsible for helping many of the new arrivals from Albania enter into the work world and the church community. Many members of church members are so because of Nick's efforts in bringing them into the fold. His dedication in helping within the community has been overwhelming. Nick has worked with Albanian actor groups supporting the arts in presenting Carnavalle of Korça to the Albanian Community in Chicago.

Nick is a successful businessman and investor. He created, developed and supervised several catering facilities in the Chicago area. He has also invested in several upscale well-known restaurants in Chicago. He is an owner and serves on the Board of Directors for Butterfield Healthcare Group, running healthcare facilities in the greater Chicago area. Nick also acts as the Executive Director of other housing operations and Treasurer of an Illinois based health care insurance underwriter.

While growing up in an Albanian neighborhood that was also very heavily populated by Italians, he has kept many of those boyhood relations that have lead him also to be recognized in the American Italian Community. For the past 15 years, he has been dubbed "Honorary Italian" and has supported Dr. Grazioli in his work at the Boys Town of Rome, an orphanage in Rome, Italy. Nick has said that

at one time there were more Albanians at that orphanage than Italians.

But his story goes on; Nick was a former Board member of Casa San Carlo, Villa Scalabrini, and The Fra Noi, an Italian community newspaper. He served as an Auxiliary Board Member of the Good Samaritan Hospital and is listed as one of the co-founders of Casa Italia. He also serves on the committee for surgical advancement for the University of Illinois School of Medicine under Dr. Benedetti who heads the Department of Surgery and is a transplant surgeon.

To this man, Nick A. Vangel, the AANO and the Albanian community salutes, honors and is proud to award you the AANO Lifetime Achievement award at the 2013 5th Annual Ceremony. And to quote what was written in the Illyria Newspaper, we give this proudly to "The Albanian Gentleman from Chicago!"

2013 AANO "Community Service Award" Winner



VERA MJEKU

Vera Mjeku is the Executive Director of Albanian American Success Stories, a multimedia project that highlights the success and achievements of Albanian Americans. The project is a cooperation of Albanian Media Group, Fadil Berisha Studio, and American Councils for International Education, supported by an excellent Board of Advisers. Mrs. Mjeku oversees the implementation of the project, to include a deluxe publication, a website www.AlbanianSuccessStories.com, as well as, the production of a documentary, culminating with a Grand Event on May 3, 2014, in New York City.

The purpose of this project is to showcase the accomplishments, successes, and inspirational achievements of Albanian Americans in different walks of life, different generations, with an array of backgrounds in academic institutions, corporations, small businesses, entertainment, science, and arts inspired by the hard work of the people of Albanian heritage in the United States. These stories are the modern footprints of Albanians in the USA. These stories are unique, they tell the story of Albanian American successes and serve as an inspiration for the future generations.

Vera Mjeku is a graduate of New York University and is an experienced communications and marketing professional with more than fifteen years experience in public relations, ethnic marketing and advertising. Mrs. Mjeku has represented and worked in public relations campaigns of numerous clients in different fields such as Wittenauer International, Black Enterprise Magazine, Chevron Corporation, Charles Shwab, CBS Video, Fox 5 WNYW, Scholastic, Lyric Studios, among others.

Vera Mjeku has worked extensively with the Albanian American Community since the war in Kosova in 1999. Through her connections in the industry, Albanian Americans found a window into American media to share their thoughts and to tell their stories of what was happening in Kosova and the region. Her activities included featuring the President of Albania on CNN's Larry King, representatives of the Kosova Liberation Army, distinguished members of Congress, the community at large, ambassadors, clergymen and scholars. She supported campaigns such as Stop the Killing in Kosova, Kosova Relief Fund, etc.

For the past 10 years, Mrs. Mjeku has been involved in researching, developing and implementing a marketing, public relations, community awareness and event planning campaign for Albanian Yellow & White Pages, a targeted, ethnic directory, in print and online, published yearly since 1999.

Ms. Mjeku, originally from Tirana, Albania, is married to Mr. Ismer Mjeku, originally from Prishtina, Kosova. They live in Westchester County, NY and have two children, Rina (13 years old) and Kron (10 years old). She dedicates all her work in this project to her two children, as a legacy for them and all others to be proud of their Albanian heritage, their path to success and an even brighter future.

2013 AANO **Scholarship Recipients**



Congratulations to the following recipients of the AANO Scholarship Fund whose awards were presented at the 67th Annual Convention in New York:

Eliada Zraj

Livonia, Michigan

University of Michigan: Software Engineering

Anxhela Mila

East Meadow, New York

Boston College: Environmental Science

Kein Bejko

Toronto, Canada

University of Toronto: Undecided Major

Iliria Camaj

Shelby Township, Michigan

University of Michigan: Undecided Major

Iva Hoxa

Worcester, Massachusetts

Clark University: Biochemistry

Ferdeza Zekiri

Tacoma, Washington

Gonzaga University: International Relations

**We wish you all a bright, happy, and
successful future !**

SOCIAL NEWS

Weddings & Engagements



Detroit

Weddings were definitely in the air this year with the National Board and the Detroit AANO'ers. Since the last issue in June, Detroit Board of Governor and former National President, Julia Black, married Tadd Harburn, long-time AANO supporter on July 26, 2013. Their reception was held at the San Marino Club in Troy, Michigan.



Former National AANO President Julia Black and husband Tadd Harburn on their wedding day.

The Black – Harburn Wedding



Julia Black with husband Tadd Harburn, mother Rose Black, sister and brother-in-law Alexandra Black Wilson and Lonny Wilson, with nieces and flower girls Allonja and Kile Wilson, all of which are AANO members or future AANO members.



AANO'ers dancing up a storm: Vice President Nerita Veliu, Scholarship Fundraiser Lea Bitta, long time Detroit Treasurer Rose Black, Janet Modrakovic, Gayle Orlow (new National Scholarship Applications Chairperson, and Alma Koprencka and Aferdita Rakipi both members of the Detroit Chapter.



Paul Apostol, National Archives, with Nerita and Etem Veliu, and long-time AANO supporters Iuli Bey, Sami Veliu, and Jeta and Shaban Shemsedini enjoying Julia and Tadd's wedding reception.

Nevrus Muftari, who is in charge of the National AANO website, got engaged to another lovely Albanian girl from New Jersey and they will be married next year.

Long time Detroit AANO member Shpresa Muftari married long time AANO supporter, Afrim Veliu (brother of former Detroit Board of Governor Aferdita Veliu Karanfili) on October 6, 2013.



October newlyweds, Shpresa Muftari Veliu and Afrim Veliu

We announced the wedding of National Secretary Blerina Vila to Blerim Lumaj (June 16, 2013) that occurred a few weeks before the last issue, as well as that of John and Alicia Adam (June 9, 2013), son of Bukuri and Fatmir Adam (former Detroit AANO basketball coach), but we now have pictures of our beautiful couples to share. By the way, Blerina had the "tradional" three-day Albanian wedding !!



Blerina Vila Lumaj and Blerim Lumaj



Newlyweds John and Alicia Adam at their June wedding with John's proud parents, Bukuri and Fatmir Adam

We look at all of these unions to be a blessing because they all married people who have supported, and we believe will continue to support, their AANO endeavors. The Detroit Chapter sends congratulations and best wishes to all of these couples and their families!

Worcester

Congratulations to Kristen Alera on her recent engagement to Michael Bell. Kristen is the daughter of Keith and Roberta Alera and granddaughter of Sophie Christo and the late Peter Christo. The couple plan to marry on September 27, 2014 at St. Mary's Albanian Church in Worcester.

Të trashëgoheni dhe jetë të lumtur!

New Babies

Worcester

Congratulations to Franklin and Ina Zdruli on the birth of their second child, Nicholas, born on Sunday, December 8, 2013. Big brother Anthony is proud as can be !!

Charles "Chuck" and Susan Stevens announce the birth of their new baby girl, Chloe, born on December 12, 2013 and weighing in at 7 lb. Congratulations to the happy parents, as well as grandmothers Mary Stevens and Marge Costa.

May God bless all our new little ones with a long and healthy life. Për shumë vjet!

Get Well Wishes

Detroit

Well wishes to Danny Ramolli for continued speedy recovery. We are so happy with his progress after his accident. Many prayers.

New York

Linda Founos is becoming the **"bionic woman."** After pelvic reconstruction surgery this past year, she is now recovering from foot surgery and doing quite well. Linda will be doing the "valle" in no time !!

Worcester

Good to hear that Jean George is now home after a recent hospital stay. She is doing well and we wish her continued good health!

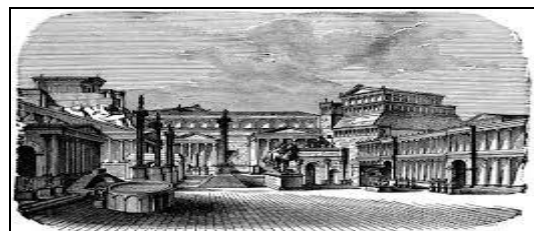
Academic & Class Notes

Boston

Last summer, Adrian Michael (*third from right*) was in Rome for the Boston Architectural College summer semester program and also studied in Florence, Milan and Venice.

Studies included producing a student center design in Rome and both historic and modern theoretical studies and site drawings ... drawings and more drawings!

He is photographed with his class and his two professors in Venice. This was Adrian's first European trip, starting his architectural travels and studies and Rome, Italy was a great place to start.



Obituaries

Detroit

Condolences to the Adam Family on the passing of the family matriarch, Zonja Zenepe Adam, in July. She will be greatly missed.

Condolences to Lumteri and Ekrem Bardha and family on the passing of her mother, Zymbryk Zagari, who was involved with the Detroit community for years. She will be remembered fondly.

Worcester

Tamara Walker, wife of Dr. Dennis Dimitri, passed away on September 19th. Besides her husband, she leaves 3 siblings, many nieces and nephews, as well as her husband's family, Nikola and Dhimitra Dimitri, Sandra and Matt Bisceglia, and nephews Adam and Nicholas Bisceglia.



Peter J. Christo passed away on October 28th at his home. He leaves his loving wife of 66 years, Sophia (Geotis), two daughters, Barbara Pero and her husband Louis, and

Roberta Alera and her husband Keith, along with five grandchildren; Michelle Vasil and her husband Paul, Dr. Stephanie Pero and her husband John Fournier, Steven P. Pero, Kristin Alera and Jason Alera, and four great grandchildren; David, Mathew, Charlie and Sophia. He also leaves a brother, William Christo and his wife, Loula of Henderson, NV and a sister, Mary Stevens, wife of the late Andrew Stevens, and many nieces and nephews.

**I Përjetshëm Kujtimi i Tyre!
May their Memories be Eternal!**

The Clearwater Chapter takes part in International Festival



**“Valle Shqiptare” at the International Festival
in St. Petersburg, Florida**

This year the Albanian-American Community of Tampa Bay participated in the International Festival, held each October in St. Petersburg, Florida. The Clearwater Chapter helped in the preparation to represent the Albanian nation in this festival. They are happy and proud to inform you that the event was a major success for all the participants, however, for their community in particular.

Besides organizing a rich cultural exhibition booth and authentic Albanian food, the newly-formed Albanian Dance Group was an instant hit with the audience. Dressed in 9 different costumes, representing different regions of Albania, they “hit it out of the park” with folk-dancing from different regions of Albania. They plan to have the Dance Group at the upcoming Convention.

Submitted by Mitat Idrizi, National Board of Governor

REMINDER ...



If you have any news, or newsworthy articles, you would like to see included in Trumbeta Shqiptare, please forward the information to the editor.

Thank you for your continued support!

Presidential Visit

September 27 and 28, 2013

Mr. Bujar Nishani, President of the Republic of Albania and First Lady Odeta Nishani and the presidential delegation, consisting of Mr. Besnik Konci, Diplomatic Advisor; Mr. Ledio Nuraj, Protocol Advisor; Zamira Mani, Official Photographer; Krenar Ahmeti, Security Officer; Jonela Sagajeva, Albanian Radio-Television Journalist; and Erald Vashi, Albanian Radio-Television Cameraman visited Boston. The delegation was accompanied by the Albanian Ambassador to the United States, Mr. Gilbert Galanxhi.



September 27, 2013, Logan Airport tarmac picking up the Albanian President

It was an honor and pleasure for the Boston Chapter AANO to be chosen as one of the local organizations representing the Albanian community and to be on hand to pick up the President and his entourage. The President had an informal meeting at the Seaport Hotel-Boston with Diaspora leaders from Boston and Worcester lead by Honorary Consul Stefan Kochi.



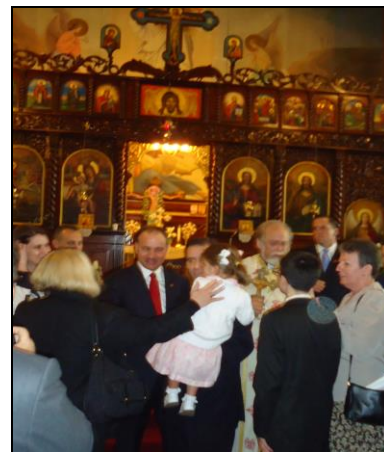
September 28, 2013, Forest Hills Cemetery

President Nishani and his Delegation paid homage at Bishop Fan Noli's gravesite by placing a wreath of flowers, as well as a bouquet of flowers at Faik Konica's gravesite.



Saint George Albanian Orthodox Cathedral in South Boston

From left: Albanian Ambassador Mr. Gilbert Galanxhi, Albanian President Mr. Bujar Nishani, Fr. Mark Doku (back), Very Rev. Arthur Liolin, Mrs. Nishani, young Albanians in National Albanian costumes, and Mr. Braho.



Ms. Jordan Gregory, in the arms of her dad Michael, was introduced to the Albanian President as the "youngest Albanian woman activist." President Nishani was totally charmed and said, "We Albanians are so very lucky."



President Mr. Bujar Nishani with Albanian children at St. George Cathedral

Luncheon at Restaurant ALBA, Quincy, MA



Mr. Leo Keka welcomed the Albanian President with a large contingent of Albanian Community Representatives



Standing: First Lady Odeta Nishani with Shpresa Theodhosi, AANO Boston Chapter, and President Bujar Nishani. Seated: Dr. Mark Kosmo and Albana Orgocka, MAASBesa, and Very Rev. Arthur Liolin.

The Albanian President was very impressed with the Albanian Diaspora of Massachusetts and very thankful not only of representing Albania but also preserving the Albanian culture and heritage.

Albanian Flag Raising Ceremony at Boston City Hall organized by MAAS Besa

Saturday, November 30, 2013



Albanian music and singing provided by Xhoni Athanas, and folk dances performed by the Bashkimi Dance Group



Dr. Mark Kosmo, one of the founders of MAASBesa, received the 2013 "Anthony Athanas" Albanian-American Community Award. Mark's dedication to the Albanian community is well known to all and his MAASBesa is truly an Organization that does the Albanian community better than "Greater Good." We at AANO Boston Chapter congratulate Dr. Mark Kosmo for his well deserved award and the best in the future to him and MAASBesa. Hot coffee and hot chocolate were served and after the ceremony cocktails at Vlora Restorant.

Ditën e Flamurit 2013

Flag Day and the 101st Anniversary of Albanian Independence



Flag Day 2013 was organized by the “Panajot Pano” Soccer Academy. The dinner-dance was held on Saturday, November 30, 2013 at the Holiday Inn in Dedham, Massachusetts. Singer Eli Rezo was wonderful and Luli Hasbegu, clarinet, was fabulous.



The South Albanian acapella singing group was great and very entertaining.

More Flag Day Photos



Part of AANO Boston table: Erina Dalvo-Pepi, Priftëresha Tuda, Klodjan Pepi, and Fr. Tuda from Holy Trinity Church of South Boston.



Jim Michael, AANO Boston, with members of the Kosova-Albanian Society of Boston, Afrim Hoxha and Hafez Kabashi and friend.



New friends.

Rozafa Fortress

Three kilometres southwest of Shkodra, near the southern end of Lake Shkodra, the Rozafa Fortress was founded by the Illyrians in antiquity and rebuilt much later by the Venetians and then the Turks. The fortress derives its name from a woman named Rozafa, who was allegedly walled into the ramparts as an offering to the gods so that the construction would stand. The story goes that Rozafa asked that two holes be left in the stonework so that she could continue to breastfeed her baby. There's a spectacular wall sculpture of her near the entrance of the castle's museum. Some nursing women come to the fortress to smear their breasts with the milky water that seeps from the wall during some months of the year. Municipal buses (30 lekë) stop near the turn-off to the castle, and it's a short walk up from there.



National History Museum

The largest museum in Albania holds most of the country's archaeological treasures and a replica of Skanderbeg's massive sword (how he held it, rode his horse and fought at the same time is a mystery). The mosaic mural entitled Albania adorning the museum's facade shows Albanians victorious and proud from Illyrian times through to WWII. The collection is almost

entirely signed in English and takes you chronologically from ancient Illyria to the postcommunist era. The highlight of the museum is a terrific exhibition of icons by Onufri, a renowned 16th-century Albanian master of colour. A disturbing and very important gallery devoted to those who suffered persecution under the communist regime is the most recent addition to the collection, though frustratingly almost none of this display is in English.



<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/albania>

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ALBANIAN RECIPES

Piperka edhe Domate të Mbushura me Oris

(Stuffed Peppers and Tomatoes with Rice)



Ingredients:

4 Peppers
2 Tomatoes
4 Onions
2 cups Rice (raw)
½ cup Oil
4 cups Water
Salt, Parsley, Oregano, Paprika to Taste

Cooking Instructions:

Saute onions in oil and a small amount of water until tender. Add remaining water, rice, and seasonings. Boil this mixture until rice is parcooked. Clean peppers and scoop out pulp of tomatoes. Add tomato pulp to rice mixture. Fill peppers and tomatoes; spread remaining rice mixture in a 9x13 inch pan adding an additional 2 cups of warm water. Place peppers and tomatoes on top of mixture and bake in a 350° oven for 30 to 45 minutes. Turn peppers once.

Recipes courtesy of "Albanian Cookbook"
Women's Guild

ALBANIAN RECIPES

Kuluraqka - Kulure

(Albanian Tea Cookies)



Ingredients:

3 to 4 cups Flour
½ cup Sugar
3 tablespoons Baking Powder
4 Eggs (reserve 1 yolk)
1 cup Butter
¼ cup Milk
1 teaspoon Vanilla
Sesame Seeds

Cooking Instructions:

Cream butter and sugra, add slightly beaten eggs, milk, baking powder and flavoring. Add flour until right consistency is obtained. Take a small amount of dough, roll out pencil thin, 8 inches long; twist into figure eight. Brush with slightly beaten egg yolk and sprinkle with sesame seeds. Place on cookie sheet and bake at 350° for 30 minutes.



St. Mary's Albanian Orthodox Church
Worcester, Massachusetts

Regency Hotel Korça, Albania



Regency Hotel Albania

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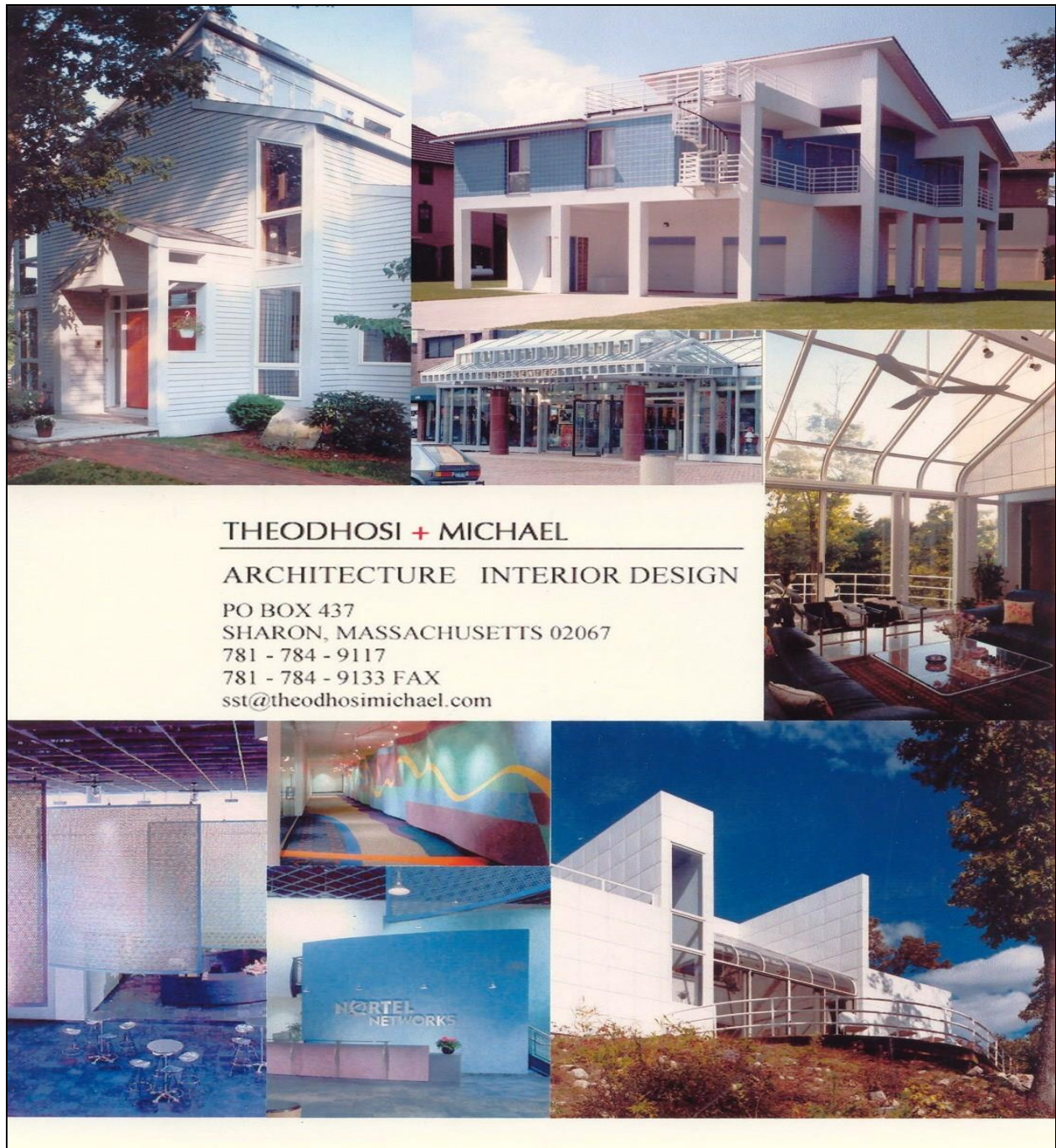


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(734) 355-1222 or nmuftari@hotmail.com

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and New York for their contributions to this
issue of Trumbeta Shqiptare.**



*To all Albanian Communities,
all best wishes for a Happy Holiday Season and Prosperous New Year !!*

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