
Trumbeta Shqiptare

Volume 95

June 2015

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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**2014-2015
NATIONAL OFFICERS & BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

<p><u>PRESIDENT</u> John Lulgjuraj 5601 Mariner Street, Ste. 475 Tampa, FL 33609 Home: (727) 394-8895 tsitampa@msn.com</p>	<p><u>VICE PRESIDENT</u> Nerita Veliu 4231 Cambridge Crescent Drive Troy, MI 48085 Home: (248) 524-0902 neritaveliu@hotmail.com</p>	<p><u>TREASURER</u> Richard Rafail 41 Thatcher Avenue Harrison, NY 10528 Home: (914) 843-7629 rrafail@yahoo.com</p>	<p><u>SECRETARY</u> Eliada Ziraj 3655 Grandon Street Livonia, MI 48150 Home: (734) 772-2905 e-ada@hotmail.com</p>
<p><u>SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS</u> Gayle Orlow 31057 Rivers Edge Court Beverly Hills, MI 48025 Home: (248) 761-1184 gorlow@comcast.net</p>	<p><u>SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISING</u> Lea Bitta 616 North Thistle Lane Prospect Heights, IL 60070 Home: (847) 259-5690 e.bitta@att.net</p>	<p><u>TRUMBETA SHQIPTARE</u> Linda George 100 Piedmont Street Worcester, MA 01609 (508) 757-9548 lgeorge@holycross.edu</p>	<p><u>PUBLIC RELATIONS</u> Vaske Progri 1146 Stafford Street Rochdale, MA 01542 Home: (508) 873-4194 vaske.progri@gmail.com</p>
<p><u>WEBSITE</u> Erjon Metohu 218 Shrewsbury Street, Ste. 2 Worcester, MA 01604 Home: (508) 981-1897 info@eridesign.com</p>	<p><u>NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS</u> Paul Apostol 71 Hubbs Road Ballston Lake, NY 12019 Home: (518) 877-7639 papostol@nycap.rr.com www.AANO.org</p>	<p><u>ALBANY</u> Philip Christo 53 Wellington Road Delmar, NY 12054 Home: (518) 439-0998 Philip982@yahoo.com</p>	<p><u>BOSTON</u> Shpresa Theodhosi P.O. Box 437 Sharon, MA 02067 Home: (781) 784-9113 sst@theodhosimichael.com</p>
<p><u>BRIDGEPORT</u></p>	<p><u>CHICAGO</u> Olga Titos 362 Sundance Drive Bartlett, IL 60103 Home: (630) 837-5875 olga1214@sbcglobal.net</p>	<p><u>CLEARWATER</u> Metat Idrizi 510 Island Way Drive Clearwater, FL 33767 Home: (727) 441-3242 metatidrizi@aol.com</p>	<p><u>DETROIT</u> Julia Black 2551 Voorheis Waterford, MI 48328 Home: (248) 682-7479 julialisablack@hotmail.com</p>
<p><u>NEW YORK</u> Jana Foundos 5 Twelve Pence Court Melville, NY 11747 Home: (631) 577-0032 janafoundos@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>PHILADELPHIA</u> Paula Bendo 335 Carlisle Drive Avondale, PA 19311 Home: (610) 268-0236 jamesbendo@comcast.net</p>	<p><u>WASHINGTON</u> Kreda Boci 21913 Larchmont Way Broadlands, VA 20148 Home: (202) 215-3503 kboci@gwu.edu</p>	<p><u>WORCESTER</u> Nancy Capstick 15 Ellis Drive Worcester, MA 01609 Home: (508) 753-7184 ncapstick@hotmail.com</p>

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Albanian-American
National Organization

June 2015

President's Message

Greetings to All,

As another cold winter is over for many of you and the warm summer days are slowly arriving, the AANO's Boston Chapter is busy, working very hard, to organize the 69th Annual Convention. It has been a while since the AANO has held an annual convention in the "HUB" and we are looking forward to returning to Boston on August 7, 8 and 9, 2015. The site of the convention is the Westin Copley Place, 10 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02116.

This promises to be a great convention and I would like to encourage all the Albanian-Americans in the Boston and Worcester areas, as well as all of our friends throughout US and Canada, to mark your calendars and join us for three days of great fun in the Albanian spirit and tradition.

As every year, during our 2015 Convention, we will be honoring several people from the Boston and Worcester area for their contributions to the Albanian-American Community, and we will announce the 2015 scholarship winners.

For all the details and to make your reservations, please visit our website at: www.aano.org.

As we are approaching our 70th anniversary, hoping that we will celebrate it in Tirana as we did our 60th anniversary, I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the AANO, an organization that, for nearly 70 years, has made a major contribution to the Albanian-American community, not only through the Scholarship Fund, providing financial assistance to the many Albanian-American college and university

Mesazhi i Presidentit

students, but equally important, the contribution that the AANO has made at preserving our special culture and heritage in North America.

I want to thank all of you who, year after year, continue with your generous support of the AANO. I thank the National Board, Board of Governors, and all the Chapters and their Leadership, for their commitment and passion to keep the AANO moving forward.

It is worth mentioning that only a few organizations last longer than one decade. Going strong for seven decades is an exception that very few volunteer organizations get to experience. I firmly believe that the only way an organization, such as the AANO, can experience such longevity is based on two factors, (1) have a worthy cause, and (2) have devoted people, who believe in the cause, and contribute to its existence.

Thank you, one and all, for your dedication to our worthy cause.

We look forward to seeing all of you in Boston on the first weekend of August.

Me vlerësimet më të larta,



John K. Lulgjuraj
National President

Albanian-American National Organization, Inc.



Albanian-American
National Organization

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

The Boston Chapter



The Boston Chapter cordially invites you to attend the 69th AANO Convention, to be held in August 2015. We promise a weekend to remember. Mark your calendars now and check our website for convention information.

The Chicago Chapter

The Chicago Chapter held a meeting and social get-together on May 31st which was well attended.

The Detroit Chapter

The Detroit Chapter is sponsoring "*Shqipos at the Tigers*" at the Detroit Tigers game on July 1st. The response has been overwhelming, with 67 people already signed up, and will try to accommodate last minute add-ons if possible. They are all looking forward to a great time and making it an annual event.

We understand that the Chapter will be announced during the game so be on the lookout for those red and black double-eagle t-shirts standing out in the crowd !!

www.AANO.org



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 Lea Bitta
616 North Thistle Lane
Prospect Heights, IL 60070

e.bitta@att.net



**Donations to the Scholarship Fund are
Tax Deductible**

Meeting of the National Board



The National Board of the AANO met at the Westin Copley Plaza Hotel in Boston on June 6, 2015.

In addition to final preparations for the upcoming 69th Annual Convention, this meeting is also designed to select the recipients for this year's AANO Scholarship. Four excellent Albanian-American students, selected among a field of many outstanding applicants, will be personally notified by Gayle Orlow (Scholarship Applications Chairperson) that their names will be announced at the Convention in August.

As always, we wish all of our winners and applicants much success in their future endeavors.



From left: Albany BOG Philip Christo, Chicago BOG Olga Titos, Scholarship Fundraising Lea Bitta, Clearwater BOG Metat Idrizi, National Secretary Eliada Ziraj, National President John Lulgjuraj, National Treasurer Richard Rafail, National Vice President Nerita Veliu, Scholarship Applications Gayle Orlow, New York BOG Jana Foundos, Boston Representative Vaske Proгри, Boston BOG Shpresa Theodhosi-Michael (*taking photos*).



The AANO National Board has elected Mr. Vaske Proгри to be National Public Relations Chairman (*first from right*).

Membership to the A.A.N.O. is valid for only one year. If you would like more information about becoming a member, contact your local chapter or look on our web site for a chapter near you.

The National Board wishes
each and every one of
our members a Safe and Happy
Summer !!

69TH AANO Convention

August 7, 8, 9, 2015

The Westin Copley Place
Boston, Massachusetts



Culture – Scholarship – Fellowship

The AANO is a non-religious and non-political organization established in 1946 to perpetuate and celebrate those special things that come with our Albanian heritage.

Our youth is our future. The education of our youth is of the greatest importance. It is for this purpose the AANO Scholarship Fund was founded in 1950 to support the educational pursuits of students of Albanian descent.



EVENT INFORMATION

Friday, August 7, 2015

- Board Meeting (10:00 am)
- Albanian Cultural Room
- Explore Boston
- Copley Place Mall
- Dancing and Music (8:00 pm-2:00 am)

Saturday, August 8, 2015

- Explore Boston
- Albanian Cultural Room
- (Cocktail Attire is required)**
- Cocktails (6:00 pm-7:00 pm)
- Banquet Dinner Dance
(7:00 pm-2:00 am)
- Presentation of Awards
- Music by Alba
- Silent Auction

Sunday, August 9, 2015

- Closed Board Meeting (10 am-12 pm)
- Open General Meeting and Elections
(1:00 pm)
- Coffee and Pastries
- Closing
- Sunday To be announced

THINGS TO DO IN BOSTON

Freedom Trail
Fenway Park
Boston Common
Public Garden
Museum of Fine Arts
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
Faneuil Hall
New England Aquarium
Paul Revere House
Old North Church
Boston Tea Party Museum
USS Constitution Museum
Boston Harbor Walk
John F. Kennedy Presidential Library
Newbury Shops
Prudential Tower

TICKET INFORMATION**RSVP BEFORE Friday, July 17, 2015****WEEKEND:**

Weekend Ticket..... \$165
 Children 12 and Under \$ 60

FRIDAY NIGHT:

Friday Ticket.....\$ 70
 Children Under 12..... \$ 25

SATURDAY NIGHT:

Saturday Ticket..... \$110
 Children Under 12..... \$ 50

PAYMENT Due by July 17, 2015

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please PRINT All Full Names included in your reservation:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

Write separate checks for each event
PAYABLE TO: AANO, INC.

MAIL TO: Dhimitraq Demiri
 417 Fellsway East
 Malden, MA 02148

For More Information:
 Dhimitraq Demiri: 781-535-2007
 or Shpresa Theodhosi: 781-784-9117
dhimitrid@yahoo.com
sst@theodhosimichael.com

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JUNE 15, 2015

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 781-721-2981



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Boston, MA 02116

Westincopley@westin.com
www.westincopleyplaceboston.com

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1-888-627-7216

*Mention Albanian American National
Organization Annual Convention*

SPECIAL ROOM RATES

Single/Double \$229
Deadline: July 9, 2015



2015 Recognition and Awards

The AANO will recognize the following distinguished Albanian-Americans for their invaluable contributions to our communities:

2015 Lifetime Achievement Award:
Mr. Xhoni Athanas

2015 Albanian of the Year Award:
Honorable Judge Robert Tochka

2015 Community Service Award:
Dr. Mark Kosmo



Lifetime Achievement Award



This year's winner of the 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award is Mr. Xhoni Athanas.

Tenor John Athanas, known for his extraordinary interpretation of the role of Scanderbeg in the Opera Scanderbeg of Prenk Jakova, was born on November 4, 1925 in Brockton, Massachusetts. His life has been a journey of interesting paths, some of them unpredictable, but the path of his singing was destined from birth, he was born with an incredible voice that continues to be his divine gift even in his golden years.

His parents lived in America for more than 15 years before returning to Korça, Albania in 1927 when John was only 2 years old. From an early age, he started to sing Byzantine psalms in the Christian Orthodox Church of Grapsh, as well as Korça's folksongs, which served as a foundation for his later vocal education and as an inspiration for singing and the art of music.

In 1940, he moved to Korça to pursue his passion for music and singing, earning valuable experience while participating as a soloist with the Metropolia Chorus and the Group "Lira." At that time, he was recognized as a tenor with a beautiful and powerful voice. He moved to Tirana in 1947, where he was involved with the Albanian Military Chorus, under the care of director Gaqo Avrazi. The chorus toured in Albania and in many Eastern European countries where Athanas earned significant recognition while interpreting as a soloist, along with Avni Mula, Ibrahim Turkici, Mentor Xhemali, Luk Kacaj, Ndrek Gjergji, Maliq Herri, etc. In 1952, he was selected as one of the best talents in Albania and earned a

scholarship to study at the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow as an Operatic Tenor. He studied with Prof. Alexander Baturin and at the end of his studies in 1957, was awarded second prize in the International Contest of new operatic voices in Moscow, with 110 participants from all over the world. He received the Honorary Degree signed by well-known tenor Tito Schipa, then director of the Jury.

After finishing his studies, he returned to Tirana and started his career at the Theater of Opera. During his career there, he was distinguished in the roles of Turidu from "Cavalleria Rusticana," Canio from "Pagliacci," Lensky from "Eugene Onegin," Schaunard from "La Boheme," Don Basilio from "The Marriage of Figaro," Dhimitri from "Lulja e Kujtimit," Bash Murgjini from "Borana," Kuestori from "Heroina," Doda from "Mrika" of P. Jakova, etc. He participated in hundreds of activities, concerts and tours around the world.

In 1959, the Moscow newspaper "Culture" wrote: "Every theater in the world would be honored to have a tenor like John Athanas." Brymorov, well-known professor of the Bulgarian Conservatory, praised the voice of Athanas as "a rare voice that deserves worldly respect." After listening to him in one of the studios in Moscow, famous Italian soprano Toti dal Monte said: "Athanas is a rare voice of a dramatic tenor."

In 1960, he married Sekine Sharofi, a classical ballerina, his wife of 49 years. He has two daughters, Mirela and Edlira, niece Juia and nephew Easton J.

From his personal diary, written between 1957-1993, we can count 1100 concerts and 450 operatic performances. But the role that raised him on the pedestal of his artistic performance was the role of Scanderbeg, in the Albanian Opera Scanderbeg of Prek Jakova. Scanderbeg is Albania's greatest hero. Jakova, the composer, loved Athanas' voice and wrote the opera particularly for his dramatic voice. Scanderbeg, staged in 1967 by the Theater of Opera of Tirana, gave Athanas the role of his life, the one role he dedicated so much time preparing

for, since it was not only important one to interpret vocally, but more importantly the image and strength of the legendary hero needed to be portrayed truthfully.

He taught bel canto at the Academy of Arts in Tirana for about 20 years, and also directed the staging of scenes from Norma, Rigoletto, Tosca, Madame Butterfly and Carmen in the 1990s. He worked on a few singing technique books such as "Singing, a way of expression and communication" and "The breathing techniques for the singer," as well as a book with a collection of the most beautiful and rare Albanian folksongs, visiting many forgotten little villages in Albania.

He returned to America in 1994 and presently resides in the Boston. He was given the Medallion of Gratitude from the President of Albania in 2006 for interpreting the role of Scanderbeg, and for his long career in singing, as well as in recognition of his involvement with the Albanian community in Boston, where he sings continuously at gatherings and feast events.

Albanian of the Year Award



The Honorable Judge Robert N. Tochka has been named the 2015 "Albanian of the Year."

The Honorable Robert N. Tochka was appointed to the Commission in 2014. Judge Tochka was appointed an Associate Justice of the District Court Department in 2002. He served in that capacity until 2004, when he was appointed to his current position as an Associate Justice of the Boston Municipal Court Department. Judge Tochka worked

as an Assistant District Attorney for the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office from 1984 to 2002. During his service with the Suffolk County District Attorney, Judge Tochka worked in the Appellate Division, the District Court, and the Superior Court. In 1996, he was appointed the Chief of the Anti-Gang Task Force for the Suffolk County District Attorney and served in that capacity until his appointment to the bench in 2002. In 2013, Judge Tochka received the Judicial Excellence Award from the Massachusetts Judges Conference. Judge Tochka is a graduate of Boston College and St. Louis University Law School.

Community Service Award



Mark Kosmo, Ph.D. will be presented with this year's 2015 "Community Service Award."

Mark Kosmo's grandparents came from Korça, Albania to America around 1915. His mother was born in Fitchburg, MA and raised in New Bedford, MA and later South Boston. His father was born in Pawtucket, RI and raised in Worcester -- later moving to Boston shortly after high school. His grandparents lived the immigrant experience, living in large extended families, working in various factories, and having their own small businesses such as grocery stores and a dairy. Mark's father served in World War II and was active in the Albanian American Veterans' Organization. He primarily worked as a salesman (including real estate and even once selling a fur coat to the famous actress Della Reese) and also as a clerk at the U.S. Postal Service in South Boston for 20 years. Mark's mother attended Boston University for one year, but withdrew after her father died in her first year. She

was a traditional mother, very religious, and raised four sons.

Mark Kosmo was born in 1955 and raised in Braintree Massachusetts. Mark earned his undergraduate degree in Economics and Mathematics at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. Then he proceeded to obtain a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and launched a career that primarily focused on international economics, with an emphasis on energy, environmental policy, and research. He is currently the Chief Financial Officer of the Mentor Group in Boston. Mark lived in Albania working as an independent consultant, worked for the World Bank in Albania and Washington D.C. as an economist, and served as a Professor of Economics at Dartmouth College. He is a past member of the Board of Trustees of the National Albanian-American Council, and is currently on the Board of Directors of Albanian-American Success Stories and the Massachusetts Immigration and Refugee Advocacy Coalition.

Though he was born and raised in Braintree, Massachusetts, this Doctor of Economics found himself living and working in the land his grandparents left behind and making lifelong connections. He often describes himself as a "born-again" Albanian for this reason. After working and living in Albania during the 1990s, Mark returned to Boston and quickly became active in the Albanian community.

Mark is the founder and chair of the Massachusetts Albanian American Society (MAASBESA), which was established in 2006. Under Mark's leadership and guidance, MAASBESA has grown into one of the leading Albanian organizations in the United States. He was honored by Mayor Thomas Menino of Boston for Community Service to the Albanian community. The activities of MAASBESA have included opening an Albanian School for language, dance, and culture; organizing the first Albanian Film Festival in Boston; numerous art shows, music performances, and literary events; meetings with high level delegations from Albania and Kosova that have visited Boston; fundraisers that have supported

10-15 local Albanians and children who have faced severe medical issues and many other activities to celebrate Albanian national holidays and culture.

For more Convention information, please visit our website: www.aano.org.

Tickets may also be purchased on the website using Eventbrite.

Convention Update:

The AANO Convention in Boston, August 7, 8, 9, will present Stefi and Endri Prifti.

The Prifti Brothers are coming from Albania especially for this event and will be performing at the Saturday Night Gala.

Make your reservations now !!



The Prifti Brothers

Editor's Note: Thank you to Shpresa Theodhosi of the Boston Chapter for submitting the National Meeting and Albanian Festival photos, and for her continued assistance to me with news and articles of interest. Shumë falemnderit !!

Albanian Festival 2015



On June 5, 6 & 7, 2015, St. Mary's Assumption Albanian Orthodox Church in Worcester, Massachusetts held this three-day event highlighting our proud Albanian heritage with traditional music, dancing, and ethnic foods.

After putting in a full day of meetings in Boston, we were proud to have our National Officers attend this event and join in on the festivities.



Manning the AANO table are young Boston Chapter members.





From left: Clearwater BOG Metat Idrizi, Boston Chapter member Harilla Theodhosi, National President John Lulgjuraj.



At the AANO table, Scholarship Fundraising Chairperson Lea Betta and Chicago BOG Olga Titos.



At the silent auction tables, Worcester BOG Nancy Capstick and husband Gary Capstick.



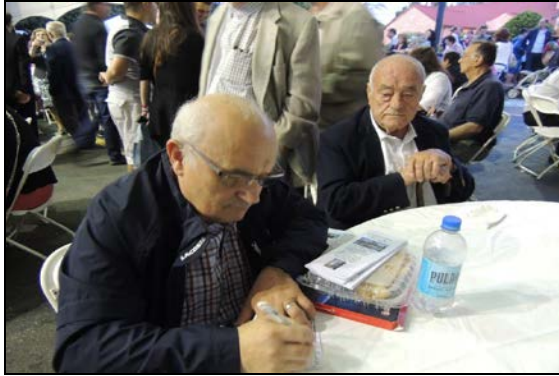
Miss Polikseni Manxhari, Miss Massachusetts 2015, with AANO 69th Convention Chair Ruth Karchenes, Boston BOG Shpresa Michael and Harilla Theodhosi from New Hampshire.



Miss Massachusetts, Polikseni Manxhari, an Albanian beauty.



St. Mary's Church, Spiro Theodhosi with his grandfather's Icon of Shën Spiridon.



Mr. Bardhi Kiazim, past President of the Waterbury Albanian Xhami, purchasing raffle tickets.

Busloads of people came to the St. Mary's Festival from Waterbury, Conn. and busloads will be going from Worcester and Boston to the Albanian Festival in Waterbury, June 12 to 14, 2015.



**Vallet Tona,
choreographed by Dhimitraq Demiri.**



Preparing to Serve !

St. Mary's Albanian Festival never fails to bring friends and relatives together for a good time. The Festival was a great success, thanks to the chairpeople and volunteers who helped to make this happen. See you two years from now !!

Also, special thanks to Mr. Franklin Zdruli from all of us at the AANO.

P.S. Mark your calendars as St. Mary's will be celebrating their **100th Anniversary** this coming September. More information can be found on the church's website.



Polikseni Manxhari



Miss Massachusetts USA 2015

Polikseni Manxhari is a 24 year old from the small town of Holden, Massachusetts. She was originally born in Albania and moved to the United States at the tender age of 5. As a graduate from Northeastern University in May

2013 with a Bachelor's of Science degree in psychology, Polikseni's passion of working with people and helping others has grown. She is looking forward to attaining a Master's degree in psychology from Harvard in the future and eventually working at a non-profit organization such as the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Polikseni has big dreams that she hopes to accomplish as Miss Massachusetts USA. The charity that is near and dear to her heart is Suicide prevention. Having lost a friend due to suicide and being an active volunteer on the Samaritans Suicide prevention hotline for two years, she understands the struggle that people go through and would love to bring more awareness to this issue and save as many lives as she can.

When Polikseni is not making a difference in her community, she loves to relax with family and friends, some of her favorite activities include, eating sweets, practicing her cooking skills, family movie nights, cheering for the New England Patriots and bringing a close friend with Muscular Dystrophy to the movies every weekend.

This was Polikseni's 5th attempt at the crown. She admits that she was unsure if she would return but decided to compete again this year because she didn't have the heart to let those who looked up to her down. The most important message that Polikseni wants to spread is to never give up on your dreams. Persistence, hard work and dedication pay off as long as you believe in yourself and are proud of who you are and where you come from.

Albert Einstein once said "Never give up on what you want to do, the person with big dreams is more powerful than the one with all the facts." Polikseni believes that these words can empower you and make you unstoppable.

SOCIAL NEWS

Engagement/Wedding



Chicago

Luiza Vasil, a member of the Chicago Chapter, got engaged on her Birthday ... April 20th to Ridvan Cungu.

He was born in Shkodër, lived in Toronto, Canada and has moved to Chicago. Both attended the University of Tirana. We want to congratulate them on their engagement.

New York

It started with a simple text on Tuesday, March 31st. "Are you around on Friday afternoon?" Rich Rafail's answer was no. The result: A wedding on Saturday, April 4, 2015.

Congratulations to Samantha Rafail and BJ Gobena, and we wish them a lifetime of happiness.



Anniversary



Chicago

The Chicago Chapter wants to congratulate Perry and Diane Pero on their 47th Wedding Anniversary. Wishing you many more years of health and happiness!

Babies



Detroit

Congratulations to the Riza Family who are excited about the birth of beautiful Enver Riza in March. He is the first child for Richard Riza and his wife Sonya.

Congratulations to Nik and Lidija Gjonaj on the birth of their third child, and first daughter, Lola, on April 15th. The whole family is ecstatic about the birth of the beautiful baby!

Congratulations to Murat and Valdete Muftari on the birth of their first child, a beautiful boy, Bastian, who is about seven months old as this issue goes to print. May he have a long and happy life!

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

Travel

Albany

The Albany members have been busy traveling lately and the hard winter made the South a favorite

destination. Dolorest Bachandouris traveled to Florida for a few weeks' vacation, as did Paul and Vera Apostol who spent some time in the Sunshine State.

The week of April 15th, our beloved Louise Mabin traveled to Branson, Missouri for some fun.

Philip Christo was active this winter with lots of skiing, including a trip to Banff, Alberta, Canada, followed by a trip to Cancun, Mexico in April to warm up. His next trip will be to Boston for the upcoming AANO Convention.

Chicago

Elena (Shomos) and Zach Smith are moving back to the States this summer and will be living in Philadelphia.

Get Well Wishes

Detroit

The Detroit Chapter sends get well wishes to Lirika Mestani Abi Khalil. Our thoughts and prayers are with you! Lirika Mestani is a former AANO National Queen.

GET CONNECTED !!!

**VISIT THE
A.A.N.O. HOME PAGE**



www.AANO.ORG

**If you have information for the Home Page,
contact Erjon Metohu:**

(508) 981-1897 or info@eridesign.com

Academic & Class Notes



Boston



Mr. and Mrs. Harilla and Marie Theodhosi are proud to announce the graduation of their son Harrison A. Theodhosi from the University of New Hampshire. He graduated on May 16, 2015 with a BS in Mechanical Engineering. Harrison started working this June at Symbotic in Wilmington, MA. We wish him much success.

Detroit

The Detroit Chapter wishes Mia Orlow a great experience and wonderful time on her study abroad for the University of Michigan in England this summer and spring.

Worcester/Boston

Congratulations to Kristina Nicole Vasil, daughter of Greg & Kathy Vasil, on her graduation from Wellesley High School in Wellesley, Massachusetts. Kristina, granddaughter of Peter & Pauline Vasil and Iliria Kolas of Worcester, will be attending American University in Washington, DC this fall. We wish her much success.

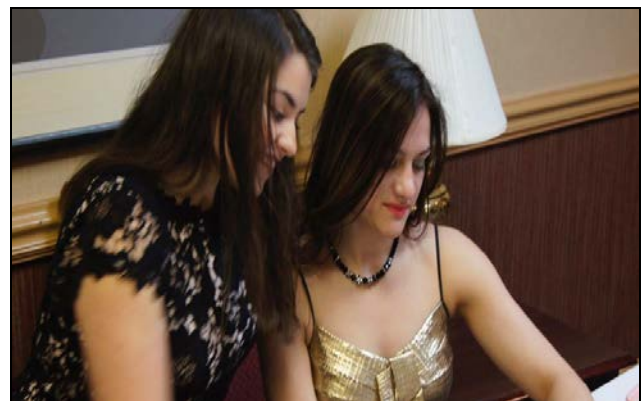
Teacher & Mother's Day

The Washington DC Chapter hosted another successful Teacher & Mother's Day celebration. This is the fourth time that our chapter is hosting this annual event. It has now become a tradition for the Metropolitan Community to celebrate such an important event.

Over 130 Albanians joined this wonderful event, and this time was more special because we had leaders from all the Albanian Organizations in the Metropolitan Area. What a great success. Way to go AANO DC Chapter! Thanks to all the members for making this a great success.



President Iris Maluka wishing a Happy Teacher and Mother's Day to all.



Evisa and Wendy welcoming Guests



Young Albanians having a great time!



Having a good time dancing the Valle



More Valle Dancing

Photos submitted by Iris Maluka,
President of the AANO DC Chapter

*Make your reservations
now for the 69th AANO
Convention to be held
August 7-8-9, 2015*



*Sponsored by the
Boston Chapter AANO*

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Obituaries



Boston

Diana Marie Prift passed away on April 10 at the age of 79. Diana was a lifelong resident of the Jamaica Plain section of Boston and was employed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as Assistant Clerk Magistrate at Suffolk Superior Criminal Court where she worked at the court house in Boston for 54 years. She was devoted to her faith and her Albanian heritage, was active in the Albanian-American National Organization, the Albanian Radio Program, and an active member at St. George Cathedral. Diana is survived by her loving uncle and aunt, many cherished cousins and numerous dear friends.

Worcester



Alexandria (George) Bardho passed away this past April at the age of 91. Her husband, Mike Bardho, died in 1984. She leaves two daughters, Eileen and her husband, Michael Roach of Worcester and Karen and her husband, William Balunis of Boylston; three grandchildren, six siblings, Elaine Dionis, Sophie George, Cleo George, Gus George, Anna Pillary and Jean George, and nieces and nephews. Three siblings, Naomi Veshi, Catherine Costa, and Mary George predeceased her.



Loretta J. (Nasse) Peters passed away on April 23, 2015 after a 19-year illness. She is survived by her husband, R. Norman Peters; her son, Jeffrey Peters and his wife, Sara Martin; her daughter; Deborah LeBlanc and her husband, Donald, three grandchildren, and her brothers, John and Robert Nasse of Rochester, New York. Loretta was born in Ohio, the daughter of immigrant Albanian parents, Theodore and Vasilika Shuka Nasse. In 1969, she married her husband, R. Norman Peters whom she met while she was a member of the Albanian-American National Organization, Inc., serving as National Secretary of the Organization and Norman was serving as the National President of the AANO.

Olga (Sthika) Nicholas passed away on May 5, 2015 at the age of 96. Her husband, Louis Nicholas, pre-deceased her in 1963. Olga is survived by a son, Robert Nicholas, a daughter, Joan Smith, two grandchildren; nieces and nephews. Olga was predeceased by her son, James Nicholas in 2008; and by two brothers and two sisters, Mitchell Sthika and Christi Sthika, Bessie Giantris and Connie Dhoku.



Sofea M. (Peters) Jarras passed away on June 12, 2015 at the age of 99. Her husband, George V. Jarras, passed away in 1986. She leaves two sons, Robert Jarras and his wife Victoria, and Gregory Jarras, a sister, Gloria Theodore, a granddaughter, great granddaughter, and nephews and nieces. She was predeceased by her sister, Violet Mina.

Our deepest sympathy to the families of our recently departed former members and friends of the AANO.

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

Nëna Tereze, gruaja e bardhë që më vinte netëve të zeza, netëve të luftës!!!



Qëndresa Halili

Nëna Tereze, gruaja e bardhë që më vinte netëve të zeza, netëve të luftës!!!

Mendoja se s' ishte njeri. Ajo nuk dukej si njerëzit e zakonshëm. Nuk e di, ndoshta pse bënte drite, drite që kurrë të fytyrat e njerëzve se kisha pare! Netëve të gjata, ajo më vinte, dhe dhoma ndriçohet. Te gjithë flinin... askush tjetër nuk shihte dritën e saj. A thua, ajo te këtë ardhur veç për mua?! A thua, atë drite ta këtë pare veç fytyra ime? Enigme, që e ruaj me shume dashuri, apo dashuri që me ruan në fshehtësi?! Tash po e di që edhe enigmat paskan dashuri. "Fshehtësitë me të mëdha kurrë nuk u zbuluan, njëjtë si dashuritë e tilla, që kurrë nuk zgjaten". Atëherë kur bashkohen dashuritë e tilla me fshehtësitë e tilla, aty është mrekullia. Ajo vinte... E kujtoj si sonte! Takimi me të kishte qene vet mrekullia. E bardhe, mbështjell me drite, një kryq varur qafës, e buzëqeshur me afrohet. Çudi, unë frikësohesha, qaja, bërtisja...e askush s' me dëgjonte. Bilës, njëherë kisha menduar se kisha vdekur e isha në atë botën tjetër. Ku kishte në këtë botë drite?! E nganjëherë mendoja, se tjerët rreth meje kishin vdekur, asnjëri s' lëvizte nga gjithë britma që beja, asnjëri s' i dilte gjumi, as nuk trembej! Nuk e di sa natë të gjata ajo ashtu me kishte ardhur, dhe sa here e kam takuar kam qe. Kisha dhe kam frike nga dashurit e mëdha (sa shpesh ju them njerëzve, mos me doni shume, edhe pse vet çmendem për ta). Kam frike nga



hyjnore, drita e madhe dhe njerëzit e arritshëm! Një nate me nuk më erdhi... (E unë ende kërkoj!) Misioni i saj kishte qene i shenjte, si ajo. Misioni i saj kishte qene të më shpëtoj nga çmenduria, ta zbardhe hijen e zeze të fëmijërisë sime të luftës. Tregoj se fëmijët e luftës janë më të fortë se të pagës, se pa lufte askund s' ka paqe, se pa errësi s' dallohet drita, dhe se ajo do të më mbronte kudo që jam! Drita e bardhe e saj ishte vet dashuria, që ende me ruan, që ende me mbronte. Netëve të luftës se fundit të Kosovës, unë kisha pasur takime me të. Atëherë isha fëmijë, s' kisha s' i ta njihja këtë grua. Gruaja shqiptare shpirtbardhë që shpërndante liri e paqe neper bote. Gruaja që më tregonte se nuk e kisha këtë emër rastësisht, që sa here e kujtoj qaj, dridhem, dhe nga brenda më vjen force, sa duket se po, unë mund ta rrotulloj gjithë botën! Çdo nate e kujtoj para se të fle gjumë, ngre kokën lart nga qielli dhe i buzëqesh një ylli (cili do qofte), sepse e di që ajo është aty, aty ku është drita! Ah, sa here e kam kërkuar vetëm edhe një takim me të, t'i tregoja se tash më s' jam fëmijë. Se më nuk do të qaj e trembem. Se jam be e forte. Se krejt jeta ime tashme është liri. Se jam në vendin e lirisë, Amerike i thonë. Se vet Qëndresa është be durim e liri! Por, ajo nuk vjen më... Qëllimi i saj kishte qene ky: Kur e she veten se je krejtësisht e lire, me dashuri e paqe, atëherë më kujto si din ti...! E unë, s' kam, s' mundem, s' di të kujtoj ndryshe, përveç të shkruaj disa rreshta për të. Tash mu kujtua diçka tjetër. Qëllimi i saj përfundimtar, paska qene, që unë të shkruaj... veç të shkruaj!!! E unë, kurdo që shkruaj jam me të. Me Nënë e madhe të Shqiptarisë e të krejt Botes. Nena Tereze, krenaria jone!

**Qendresa e Vogel (Femija yt i luftes)
02-06-2015 Brooklyn**



Albanian-American
National Organization

AANO Boston Chapter



We wish to welcome all to the 69th
AANO Convention in Boston.

We congratulate the 2015 AANO Scholarship Winners and wish them
the best in their studies, life and pursuit of happiness.

We congratulate the AANO Award recipients of 2015.

2015 Lifetime Achievement Award:
Mr. Xhoni Athanas - Operatic Tenor

2015 Albanian of the Year Award:
The Honorable Judge Robert Tochka

2015 Community Service Award:
Dr. Mark N. Kosmo Ph.D.

With your help we can make this a successful Convention
for our Albanian Heritage, for our Scholarship Fund and our
children's future.

From all the members of the Boston Chapter.

***Best Wishes for a Successful
Convention in Boston !***



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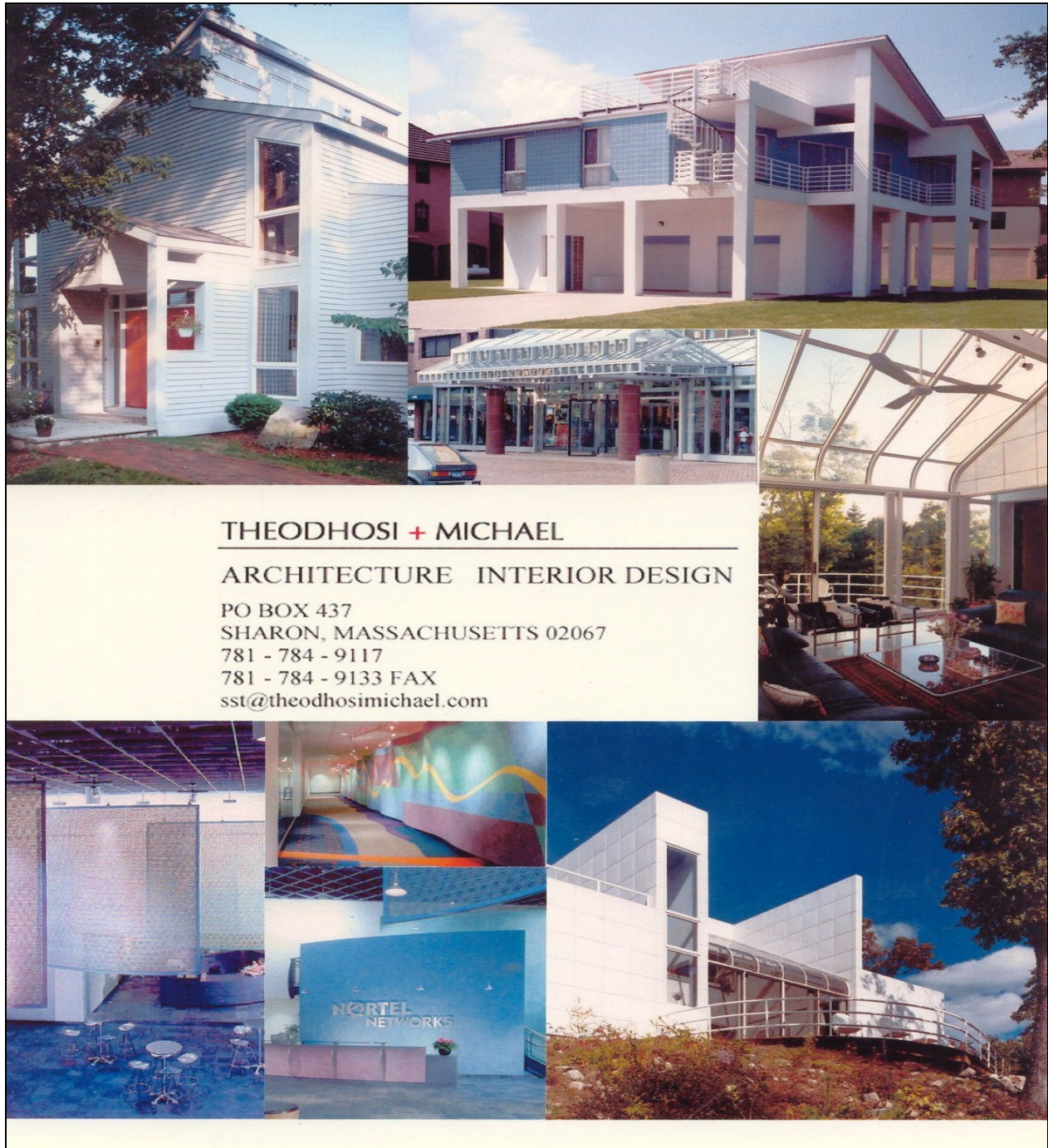
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