
Trumbeta Shqiptare

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“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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**2015-2016
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Albanian-American
National Organization

May 2016

President's Message

Greetings from Michigan in the springtime!

I hope all is well with all of you and that your spring is a little warmer than ours has been so far, although we Michiganders can't complain about the winter which was extremely mild until we got to where it should've been spring. The good thing is, summer follows spring and this summer many of us are preparing to go to the 70th Annual Convention in Tiranë, Albania. If you're not making preparations to attend, you should rethink that and start booking flights! The convention committee has worked tirelessly all winter to make sure it is an amazing trip that will be unforgettable. We have so many tours also planned post-convention for people who are staying on and want to visit other areas in Albania, and whether you are joining for just part of it or staying after it is over, we are sure you will not want to miss this experience! Please check our website at www.AANO.org, for updates and booking instructions, as well as this issue for more information.

It has been a very busy year. It is always more difficult for the National Board when a chapter does not take on the hosting of the convention because in addition to their regular duties, the National Board must take on all of the convention preparations and planning rather than delegating it to a chapter. This is no small task under normal circumstances but when the convention is being held not only in another country but in another continent many time zones away, this increases the work by ten-fold! The convention committee should be commended for their yeoman's efforts. You should be so excited about what they have in store for you.

Mesazhi i Presidentit

As far as other AANO National news, the National Board is currently in the process of the arduous but rewarding task of evaluating 34 scholarship applicants for this year's scholarship awards. The process will be completed on June 18th, and we will select the final recipients at our national meeting that is taking place this year in Detroit. Everyone should serve on the National Board and participate in this process at least once because it would really make you appreciate the abundance of high caliber youth that are so well deserving of receiving our awards. They are truly so impressive and we always wish we could do more than we do. The winners will be announced at the convention in Albania.

Please continue to support the AANO and its activities. I am sure our predecessors didn't anticipate we would still be carrying on the tradition 70 years later, and going to Albania as a group no less! We need to continue to strive to make our organization appealing for the youth so that another 70 years from now when most of us will be gone, the legacy we have created will carry on because of the joy and excitement we are creating for the youth and future generations!

I really hope to see many of you in Albania in August! Safe travels and have a safe and happy summer!



Julia L. Black
National President
Albanian-American National Organization, Inc.



Albanian-American
National Organization

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

The Albany Chapter

The Albany Chapter recently met where elections were held. The new officers are as follows: Philip Christo, President; Dolores Bachandoris, Vice President; Angelo Christo, Secretary; Paul Apostol, Treasurer.

The Detroit Chapter

Many of the Detroit Chapter members like Mia and Gayle Orlow; Tadd Harburn and Julia Black; Rose Black; Sami and Adile Velu; Linda Velu; Jack and Lume Riza; Lisa Riza, and various others are making their plans to travel to the Convention in Albania in August. Come join them and have an amazing time!

The Detroit Chapter is making their plans for their second annual "*Shqipos at the Tiger Game*" trip to Comerica Park when the Detroit Tigers take on the Seattle Mariners on the first official day of summer, on June 21, 2016! Come join all of your friends and meet new ones for a great time! Contact Julia Black at julialisablack@hotmail.com for tickets. Tickets are limited.



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**

The National Board is having their National Meeting at the Days Inn at Detroit Airport on June 18, 2016. Stop in and see your friends from around the country!



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.



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

This will be the last issue of Trumbeta Shqiptare in print and mailed directly to our members. The Trumbeta Shqiptare will be available for view on our website (www.AANO.org). There will be a very limited number in print for those members who do not have access to the internet. If anyone wishes to continue receiving their issues by mail, please fill out the form below and mail it directly to The Editor.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

SOCIAL NEWS

Engagement/Wedding



Worcester

Congratulations to Alexis Dempsey on her recent engagement. Alexis is the daughter of Frank and Margarita (Boyatzi) Dempsey. Best wishes to the happy couple.

Babies

Detroit

Congratulations to Butch and Zena Ramolli on the birth of their second child in February, a beautiful and healthy son, Ali. May he live a long and happy life!

Birthday

Albany



Happy Birthday to longtime AANO member Dolores Bachandouris. Her special day was celebrated at the Albany Chapter's recent meeting. Wishing you many, many more !!

Graduations

Detroit



Congratulations to Mia Orlow on her graduation from the University of Michigan with a degree in Literature, Science, and the Arts and a major in American Culture/Studies. She hopes to get a job within a Community outreach foundation. Those four years seemed to fly by and we are very proud of her and wish her good luck on her job search. In the meantime, Mia will be attending the Convention in Albania with her mother, Gayle, and spending a little time on the Greek Island of Santorini. We know she can do anything desires!

Worcester

William J. Athanas recently graduated from Worcester Academy and will be attending the University of Tampa in Florida, majoring in Marine Biology. William is the son of proud parents Jay Athanas and Dr. Carrie Webb, and the grandson of Helen Athanas and Diana and Maury Webb.

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!

Career

Chicago



Women's Golf Journal features Lauren Pero's first-ever magazine column in the Spring issue. The article, entitled **“ONE GIRL'S JOURNEY TO THURSDAY,”** is highlighted with her picture. Watch for her future columns appearing in this quarterly magazine. We wish Lauren good luck on her new venture. We are very proud of her.

New Home/Welcome Back



Detroit

Congratulations to Sally Negip and the Majszak Family on the purchase of their new home in Grand Blanc, Michigan!

Welcome home to Meti and Sulejmani and their children who are moving back to Michigan from Colorado this summer! Their families and friends, including, but not limited to, National Vice-President, Nerita Veliu, who is mother and grandmother, are so excited to have them back!

Obituaries

Detroit

Condolences to the Idrizaj and Riza families on the death of their mother and grandmother, Dushe Idrizaj in February. She lived a long life of more than ninety-five years and will be missed by many.

* * * * *

Condolences to the entire Albanian community on the loss of their beloved Baba Arshi from the Teqe Bektashijane in Taylor, Michigan. At 109 years old, he was the last living Baba in North America at the time and served the Teqe in Taylor as a Dervish and then a Baba for almost 60 years. His funeral was attended by religious leaders of many different faiths from all over the world. May his memory be eternal. He will be deeply missed.



Baba Arshiu Bazaj of Taylor, Michigan

The Albanian-American newspaper *Illyria* has reported the death of *rahmetli* Baba Arshi Bazaj, may his mystery be sanctified, at 109 years of age. Baba Arshi was the head of the Bektashi Sufi *teqe* established in Taylor, Michigan, by the noted Bektashi figure Baba Rexheb Beqiri (1901-95).

Baba Arshi expired at the *teqe* where he had long served. He was born in 1906 in Sevaster, near Vlora in Albania. He was a life-long Bektashi. His diligent work for the Bektashi community began in Vlora and concluded near Detroit. His funeral was held on December 29.

He was close to Baba Rexheb. The *teqe* where they functioned kept Albanian traditions alive, motivating belief in continuing efforts for a new life and hope of liberation of Albania from the grip of Communism.

Throughout his work assisting Baba Rexheb, Baba Arshi preached their common values: the values of freedom, the values of a peaceful Albanian nationalism unique in Europe, the values of positive welfare and humanism.

The Bektashi faith symbolizes patriotism as expressed in the ideas of Mit'hat Frashëri (1880-1949).

Baba Arshi, you left traces of holiness when you lived that remained permanent in the form of the sanctuary at the mausoleum of Baba Rexheb.

"We pray to return to you for strength to continue preserving the values that you preached," wrote a message of condolence from the chairman of the Balli Kombëtar [National Front] party, Artur Roshi.

Farewell, Baba Arshi.

by Albanian Bektashi Sufis [Illyria \[New York\]](#)
December 26, 2015

Worcester



Olga Cozzolino, 89, passed away on April 15, 2016. She was predeceased by her first husband, Stavri Anas, in 1959, and leaves her three children, Peter Anas, John Anas, and Beverly Anas-Mabry. In 1969 she married Joseph Cozzolino and shared a loving marriage until his passing in 2000. ***Note: John Anas is a former National President of the AANO.***

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

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



**Albanian-American
National Organization**

PRESENTS

70th Annual Convention

August 4, 5, 6, 7, 2016

Tirana

Rogner Hotel

*Don't let it fly by
Tirana*



www.aano.org

EVENT INFORMATION

Thursday, August 4, 2016

- Early Arrivals
- ERA restaurant

Friday, August 5, 2016

- Board Meeting in the morning
- Tour to Kruje
- Hotel pool and tennis
- President of Albania
- Buffet, Dancing and Music by Indrit Lelo

Saturday, August 6, 2016

- City walking tour of Tirana
- Trip to Gjiri Lazit Beach
- Market Place
- Investment Seminar
- Afternoon at the Pool
- Cocktails starting at 6:00 pm
- Banquet Dinner Dance
(Cocktail Attire is required.)
- Prime Minister, Mayor of
Tirana and US Ambassador
- Music by the Prifti Brothers

Sunday, August 7, 2016

- Closed morning Board Meeting
- Open General Meeting and Election of
Officers
- 2017 Convention City Bids
- Coffee and Pastries
- Closing Ceremony

Sunday Night Event

- Evening in Durres

Monday, August 8, 2016

- Tour to Vllora
- Tour to Shkodra

Tuesday, August 9, 2016

- Tour to Saranda
 - Tour to Korce
- See AANO.org for tour details and pricing

Convention Ticket Information

AANO Members # _____ \$175.00

Non-AANO Members # _____ \$200.00

Children 16 & Under # _____ \$100.00

DEADLINE DATE May 31, 2016

SEMI-FORMAL ATTIRE REQUIRED FOR SATURDAY EVENING

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

List ALL names included in your reservation:

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____

Reserve your tickets online:

www.aano.org

or mail check (provide email) to:

Philip Christo
 53 Wellington Road
 Delmar, NY 12254
 E-Mail: philip982@yahoo.com

Make check payable to: AANO Inc.

**Hotel Reservations cannot be made until
 convention ticket(s) are purchased.
 Rate 80 to 110 Euros per night.**

Ad Journal Prices

Commemorative Booklet

_____ Gold Page \$500.00

_____ Silver Page \$300.00

_____ Inside Covers \$200.00

_____ Full Page \$125.00

_____ Half Page \$ 75.00

_____ Quarter Page \$ 50.00

_____ Booster Page \$ 30.00

* To add photo \$ 25.00

Ad Journal Deadline:

July 1, 2016

Ad and payment to:

Lisa Gregory
 371 May Street
 Worcester, MA 01602
 E-mail: imgregory313@gmail.com

Check made payable to:
AANO Inc.

Add text here:

ITINERARIES PREPARED FOR AANO 2016 CONVENTION - TIRANA

TASTES OF THE BALKANS: Interactive experiences in cuisine and wine, following traditional techniques in food collection, production and preparation from local experts. Growing organic, eating local foods and slow foods are still part of the everyday lifestyle across the country. We aim to seek out local restaurants preparing each meal the traditional way.

DAY TOURS: Day Tours from Tirana would start 8:00am with pickup and drop off at your hotel around 18:00.

DAY IN SHKODRA - Early morning start as we head our way North to the famous city of Shkodra. Shkodra founded in the 4th Century BC has been occupied by the Romans, Byzantines, Venetians and Ottomans. Here we will visit the Rozafa Castle which rises majestically on a rocky hills just outside the city, and explore the museum within the walls. We will visit the Venetian Mask Factory and see how a local brought back the ancient art technique of Venetian Mask making to Albania. He is known for his work in "EYES WIDE SHUT" film with Tom Cruise. Afterwards, we continue into the countryside for lunch where we will enjoy a slow food experience of Albanian specialities.

Min 40 persons (transfer, guide, lunch included) 6.5-7 hours



DAY IN VLORE - VISIT SAZAN ISLAND - Don't miss this opportunity to visit the historically "off-limit" military island of Sazan. Located just 12 miles from the Port of Vlore, Sazan Island was once the home of over 3000 military personnel and their families during the Hoxhe Period. Considered to be an ideal base for the Soviets in 1958 during the Cold War. Although the island is in poor state since it has been abandoned means nothing less than being well preserved. You will be transported via Ferry Ride from the Port of Vlore to Sezan where your Island Guide will take you back in time. There will be free time for relaxing on the crystal clear small beach before you head back to the port. We will stop for lunch at a local family restaurant before we embark on the 2 hour journey back to the capital.

40 person Min (Transfer, Ferry ride, guide, lunch in Vlore)

* Special Guest lecturer by Auron Tare - Director of Albania National Coastline -

*****exclusive to only Our Own Expeditions*****





DAY AT GJIRI LAZIT - Escape the hot summer sun in Tirana by spending a day at one of Albania's greatest sandy beaches. Gjiri i Lazit is located about 45 min North -West of the capital. Guest will be picked up and transported to the beach at a designated time.

Min group 16 persons. (Transfer only)

Suggested options -

*can reserve lounge chairs and umbrella space at the beach prior to arrival add 5.00 euro

*



CITY WALKING TOUR OF TIRANA - Guest will meet in the lobby where their English speaking guide will await for them. A short introduction on Tirana before they make their way around the city. Guests will take in the famous outdoor cafe atmosphere everywhere they go in the city. Making their way to the following: One of Tirana's up and coming architects will join the group at the beginning of the tour to share with them the architecture and historical influence of the development of the city. After the tour the guests can enjoy lunch in the city center.

National Art Gallery(includes tickets)

Main Boulevard - Mother Theresa Square, bunker display , Pyramid Famous Blloku area

Ethem Bey Mosque, Greek Orthodox Church, Catholic Church - Duration of Tour 4 hours Min 16 person



TIRANA - ELBASAN - OHRID - KORCA - POGRADEC - 3 DAYS/2 NIGHTS

After breakfast private transportation and guide will await for your departure to OHRID. As you travel along the way and enjoy Albania's countryside you will make friendly stops along the way. Stop for mid-day coffee in the town of Elbasen. Visit

Scampis's Castle which was built in the reign of Emperor Diocletian (284-305). It is built entirely by the Roman "opus mixtum" technique. Wall construction period to 3 m located anywhere in the lower level of the castle. Crossing the border over to the lovely lake side town of Ohrid. Here you will settle in for the evening and stroll the old town which hosts all the major attractions of the town. Walking city tour before dinner and free time for the evening. Next day you will head back over the border to Korca. Morning stroll around the town visiting the main attraction sites. Traditional Lunch before you head to Pogradec where you can spend the afternoon by the lake.

Options I: Overnight in Pogradec (Minimum 12 persons, Breakfast - Lunch - Dinner, guide, transport and overnight stay)3 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners

Option II: Overnight in Korca and no lake (Minimum 12 persons, Breakfast - Lunch - Dinner, guide, transport and overnight stay)

ITINERARIES FOR AANO for 2016

EXPLORE KRUJE

The name of the city is related to the Albanian word kroi meaning "fountain". In Albanian the city is known as Krujë or Kruja. Located just 60 minutes north of Tirana you will visit the town of Albania's National Hero Skanderbeg. Albania's historical hero, Skanderbeg is eulogised in the Skanderbeg museum, inside the walls of the Krujë castle. Its collection includes lots of 15th century military artifacts related to the Albanian-Ottoman wars, during which the castle was besieged four times by the Ottoman army. There is also a virtual shrine to Skanderbeg with modern sculpture and statuary. You will visit the castle, the museum (Ethnographic and Skanderbeg) and the old bazaar where you will have some free time to shop for local handicrafts and art work or Lunch, which is optional at a nearby traditional restaurant.



Tour Includes:

Fully guided tour, private transportation and ticket
Entrance to museum. 9:00 Departure (hotel lobby
pickup)
4:00 Return

Not included: Lunch typically 12-15 euro pp

Promoting the Convention in Washington, DC



Lea Bitta



Lea Bitta with nieces Cathy Nicholas Balinski and Cindy Nicholas Marcinkowski (both Cathy and Cindy are former AANO National Queens)



**With Daniela Kristo Nesho
Head of the Consular Office
Embassy of Albania
2100 S Street NW
Washington, DC. 20008**



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**

When in Naples ... do as the Floridians do !!



Lea Bitta in front of Mel's Diner in Naples, Florida. Looking forward to seeing the Naples Chapter in Tirana this August!



Kostika with his niece and an Albanian waitress.

The AANO, Inc. has been perpetuating Albanian ethnicity since 1946 in the United States and Canada. We are a non-religious and non-political organization. Our goals are to maintain Albanian traditions, language, culture, education and social activities.

Make your reservations now for the 70th AANO Convention Tirana, Albania August 4, 5, 6, 7, 2016



Sponsored by the National Board of the AANO



www.AANO.ORG

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Albanian-American National Organization, Inc.



Albania 
A New Mediterranean Love



Shpatat dhe helmata e Skenderbeut

*Pergatitur nga Alketa Kita Marishta,
Dublin Ireland, 21 Nentor, 2015*

Skënderbeu ose Skënderbej (Turqisht: *İskender Bey*; emri i vërtetë: *Gjergj Kastrioti Skënderbeu*), Heroi Kombëtar i shqiptarëve lindi në 6 Maj, 1405 dhe vdiq më 17 Janar, 1468.



(Foto: Gjergj Kastrioti Skenderbeu)

Gjergj Kastrioti ishte djali i vogël i Gjon Kastriotit dhe i princeshës Vojsava, fëmija i fundit midis 4 djemve dhe 5 vajzave. U mor peng pas thyerjes së të atit nga Sulltan Murati më 1421 dhe u dërgua në oborrin e Sulltanit në Adrianopojë. Natyra i kishte dhënë dhunti mendore e fizike. Atje mori emrin Iskënder (Aleksandër) që do të thotë Aleksandri princ ose fisnik. Ai nuk e harroi vendin e tij të dashur dhe priste me padurim rastin të kthehej në tokën që e lindi. Në vitin 1443 kur ai u nis në betejë kundër Janosh Huniadit të Hungarisë nën komandën e bejlerbeut të Rumelisë, së bashku me 300 kalorës shqiptarë e me të nipin Hamza Kastrioti, u kthye në Dibër, ku populli e priti si çlirimtar.



(Foto: Galeria Muzeu i Krujes)

Kështu më 28 nëntor, 1443 u shpall rimëkëmbja e principatës së Kastriotëve. Mbi kështjellën e Krujës u ngrit flamuri me shkabën e zezë dykrenare i Kastriotëve.



(Foto: Kalaja e Krujes)

Armet e Skenderbeut

Nga të gjitha ato që na kanë mbetur prej Skënderbeut janë vetëm katër objekte: dy shpata, një helm të veneciane dhe një libër lutjesh. Momentalisht armët (helmata dhe shpatat) janë të shfaqura në Muzeun Kunsthistorisches në Vjenë. Libri i lutjeve është i arkivuar në Shtëpinë Publikuese Shelley në Çelsi, Londër. Sipas historianëve Skënderbeu ka përdorur dy shpata. E para i është dhuruar nga Papa në Krishtlindjet e vitit 1466, shpata e drejte. Shpata e drejtë ka dy cepa dhe është e larë në ar, 85.5 cm e gjatë, 5.7 cm e gjerë dhe peshon 1.3 kg. Shpata e lakuar, të cilën Skënderbeu ka përdorur në betejë për sulmet kalorsiake, bashkë me dorezën, është 121 cm e gjatë dhe peshon 3.2 kg. prej çeliku të Damaskut me shumë zbukurime e stolisje. Nënshkrimi thotë: (Libehadur Allah Iskander beg – Kampion i Zotit, Skënderbe).



(Foto: Shpatat dhe helmata e Skenderbeut)

Helmata e Skënderbeut është e përbërë nga metal i bardhë, i zbukuruar me një shirit të veshur me ar. Në majë të saj gjendet koka e bronzit e një dhie me brirë, por që është e veshur me ar. Pjesa e poshtme përmban një shirit bakri me mbishkrimin * IN * PE * RA * TO * RE * BT *, që do të thotë: Jhezus Nazarene * Principi Emathie * Regi Albaniae * Terrori Osmanorum * Regi Epirotarum * Benedictat Te (Jezus Nazarene E Bekon Skënderbeun, Princ i Matit, Mbret i Shqipërisë, Tmerri i Osmanëve, Mbret i Epirit). Mendohet se shiriti i bakrit me mbishkrimin janë shtuar nga pasardhësit e Skënderbeut, kurse Skënderbeu vetë nuk ka mbajtur asnjë titull tjetër veç atij të “Lordit të Shqipërisë” (Latin: Domi inus Albaniae).



(Foto: Shpatat dhe helmata e Skenderbeut)

Udhëtimi i gjatë i armëve....

Pas vdekjes së Skënderbeut, ato u morën në Itali nga gruaja e Skënderbeut Donika dhe djali i tij Gjoni. Kush i trashëgoi pas vdekjes nuk dihet. Armët u rishfaqën në dekadën e fundit të shekullit të 16-të. Në 1590 një helmë dhe një shpatë ishin në pronësinë e Kontit Eolfgang i Sturnbergut kurse shpata tjetër ishte në Inventarin e Muzeut të Armëve të Arqidukës Karl të Stirisë, djalë i Perandorit të

Shenjtë Romak në Graz të Austrisë (ato paraqiten në inventarin e 30 Tetorit 1590). Personi që i grumbulloi të gjitha armët bashkë ishte djali i Perandorit dhe vëllai i Karlit, Arqiduka Ferdinand i Tirolit, i cili, duke vepruar me këshillën e Kancelarit të tij Jacob Shrenk von Gotzing, i bleu armët dhe i mbajti në të njëjtin vend. Më vonë, ky princ ngriti Muzeun e Ambrasit, pranë Tirolit, të cilin e mbushin me lloj-lloj materiale ushtarake, ashtu si edhe me piktura dhe protre të personalitetëve të kohës. Në 1806, armët u transferuan në Muzeun Perandorak në Vienë.

Mbas shume vitesh kerkesash per rikthimin e armeve te Heroit Kombetar nga qeveria shqiptetare, Vjena pranon por me kusht nje afat te shkurter mbasi siguron masa te repta sigurie dhe rikthim te armeve. Ne 100 vjetorin e Pavaresise, 28 Nemtor 2012-Janar 2013, dy shpatat e Heroit dhe perkrenarja , me shume se kater shekujsh do te expozoheshin per publikun ne Muzeun Historik Kometar ne Shqiperi.



(Foto: Harta e Shqiperise historikisht)



Note: *Alketa Kita-Marishta is a member of the Chicago Chapter.*

*Best Wishes for a
Successful Convention in Tirana*



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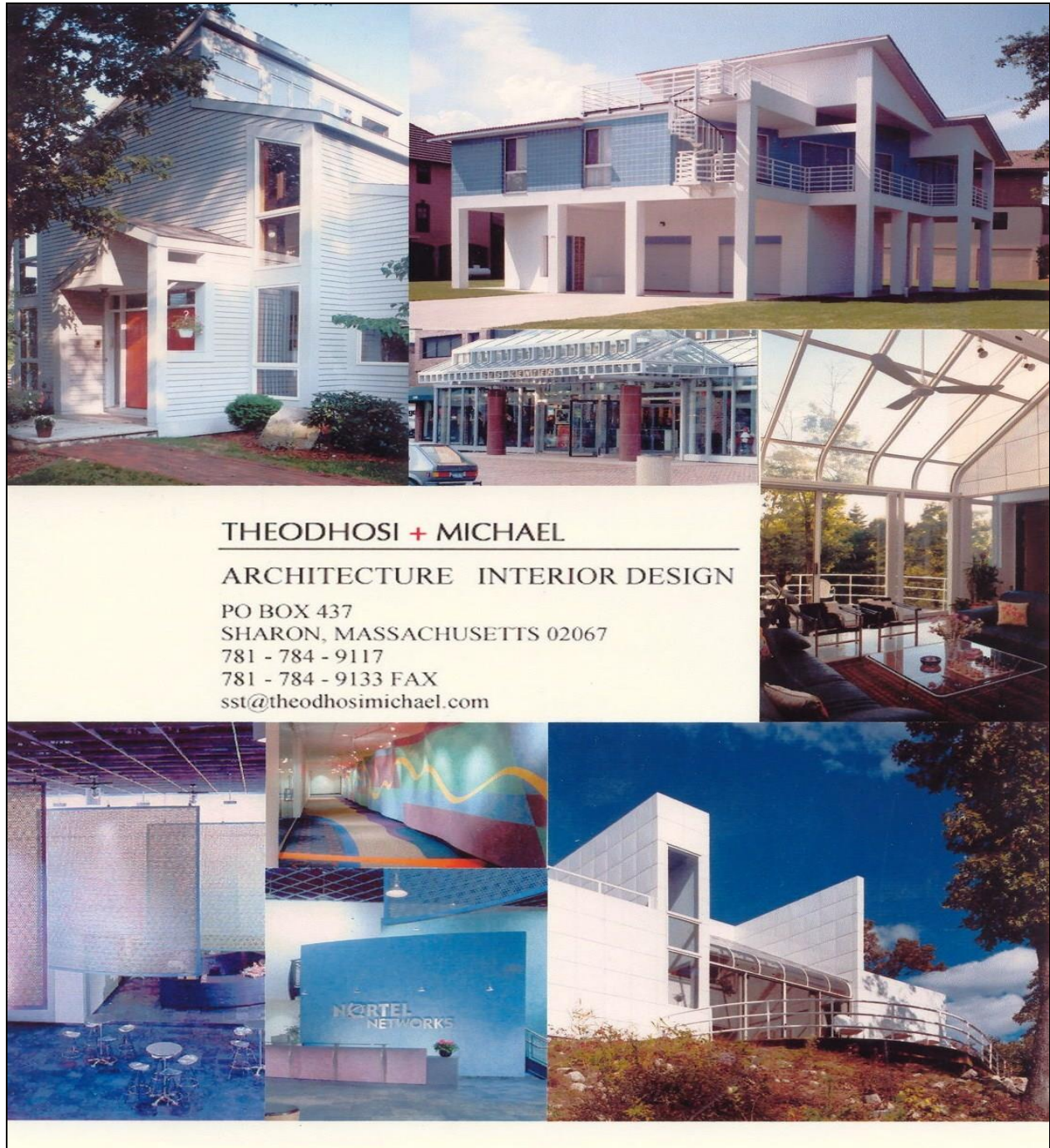
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**The National Board wishes
each and every one of
our members a Happy Summer !!**





Best Wishes for a successful 70th Annual AANO Convention !!

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