

# PAN MACEDONIAN STUDIES CENTER, INC

Center for Macedonian Studies



Nick Vatsikouras built the Center's new bookcase and glass enclosed showcase (in the back).



The Pan Macedonian Studies Center, better known as the hospitable "Macedonian House".

## Investing in the Future

*Dear Friends and members of the Macedonian Studies Center,*

*We hope you are well and having a productive and happy fall season.*

*This newsletter was written to inform you about the renovations to*

*our building being completed in order to fulfill our vision, to create a Macedonian Studies Center to attract our younger generations, with the necessary infrastructure to operate as a center for Greek*

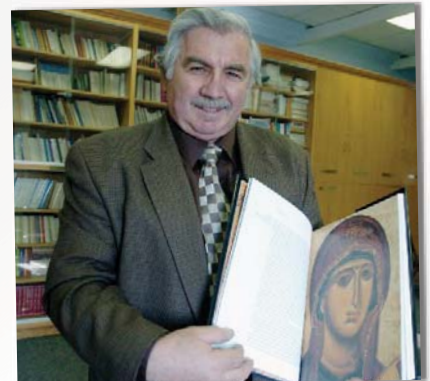
*Studies and a meeting place for young people.*



NIKOS VATSIKOURAS



PETER ALEXEAS



ILIAS NEOFYTIDES



## Our Vision for Hellenism

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In honoring the vision of our predecessors, particularly of Honorary President Ilias Neofytides, we have begun working on establishing a lending library and museum, thanks to the generosity and volunteerism by friends of the Center. Their generosity enabled us to build the necessary furniture, moving and installing the kitchen from the ground floor to the lower level, renovating and remodeling the space, and furnishing the main floor.

Mr. Ilias Neofytides has over the past 13 year collected historical valuables, including uniforms, artifacts, and a treasure of almost 30000 books. Among these books are rich and rare collectible editions covering several areas of interest: History, Language, Culture, Art, Geography, Orthodoxy, Economy, Health, Politics, Education, Music, dozens of magazines, journals, newspapers, albums, children's books, as well books on mythology and poetry.

The Executive Secretary of the Pan Macedonian Organization of America, Mr. Paris Xyrogianis, has documented, more than 2100 books in these areas of interest. The documentation and classification of these books will continue until the completion of all construction work.

The current board wishes to express their gratitude to the

Chairperson of the Pan Macedonian Organization of America, Nina Gatzoulis, her husband Bill Gatzoulis, and the treasurer of the organization, Costas Hatzistefanides for the ongoing support and encouragement of our efforts, Mr. T. Spyropoulos and Mr. S. Vahaviolos and all our members whose contributions have made all these projects at the Macedonian House possible.

Furthermore, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to two Omogeneis, who have dedicate their time and untiring effort toward the construction of the library, the renovation of the kitchen, and in general the restoration of our center.

Nick Vatsikourias who in just a few weeks in August through September has literally transformed the ground floor of the building by constructing a large library and showcase for our museum pieces. Mr. Vatsikouris not only dedicated his time and craftsmanship but has also poured his soul into this work. This phase of work would have cost the center \$20,000.00 to \$25,000.00, but was completed at no charge as a dedication to the memory of Barbara Papigkioti. Under his supervision more construction work has also taken place during these past two months. He has stated, "It is not what the

Macedonian Center does for us as individuals, but what we do for our country, Macedonia, and the Center".

Our second benefactor is entrepreneur Mr. Peter Alexeas from Kalamata. His daughter Megan is a member of the dance group, "Kolokotronis", which meets and practices at the Macedonian House. When he saw the work by Mr. Nick he envisioned a more open and spacious room. Within two days Mr. Alexeas arranged to have the kitchen moved to the lower level resulting in the opening the center hall. He supplied and delivered new cabinets, brought new equipment, and developed the area which housed the kitchen into a living/reading room.

Mr. Vatsikouras and Mr. Alexeas have contributed greatly to Omogeneia and to their homelands in Greece, always keeping a low profile, and always giving. They offer their services because they truly believe in the causes they support. We hope they become an example to all of us. We thank them with sincere love, hope and respect, wishing them good health and joy in their lives, and hope we will build on their generosity for future endeavors for generations to come.

We extend our gratitude to Mr. Thanassis Liampi and Mr. Elias Neofytides for their constant support and assistance of all our efforts. The restless spirit of Mr. Elias has ensured that the computers and other materials which will be replaced at our Center be donated to other organizations. He has also secured the delivery of hundreds of books donated to our library by Barbara Papigkioti and her estate.

The next task will be the classification, documentation and placement into the library of this large collection of books on each of the floors (ground and upper), the classification of archival material and the Macedonian Center's collections, cleaning and placement of relics, historical articles and traditional costumes. Planning for the design and reconstruction of the lower level/basement area into a Banquet Hall is also underway. Since the first floor will be used for lectures and meetings. Items which still need to be purchased included a dehumidifier, new air conditioner, coffee maker, photocopier, computers, printers, and general office equipment and some pieces of furniture.

We need to raise funds for all the above, but also for a program/database to correctly electronically classify and organize our collection of books. It would be most ideal for volunteers to perform these tasks, but realistically speaking we will need to hire experienced individuals.

The purpose of our library is to serve researchers, students, academicians, teachers and the wider Greek and American community, since many of the books in this collection are published in the English language.

149-14TH AVE,

WHESTONE

NY 11357-1730

TEL: 718 747 0488

FAX: 718 747 0489

CELL: 646 2385599

E-MAIL:

NBISKA@AOL.COM

In the very near future we will be announcing the new lectures being scheduled. You will also be kept informed about our library's progress.

The Center's financial report is available to anyone interested since all our funds are accepted donations.

***To implement our scope and vision, and to design education programs, we need your support, your participation, interest. We ask you to encourage all those who can offer their financial support to do so.*** This is a

collective endeavor, a legacy for future generations.

If you have books you would like to donate to our library, please contact us.

Our hope is to become a Cultural Center and Hellenic meeting place, with a lending library that will offer seminars, lectures and workshops on a regular basis.

This is our scope of work, our vision and our hope for the Macedonian Studies Center.



Ο χώρος στο ισόγειο θα αναδιαμορφωθεί σε αίθουσα συνεστιάσεων με σύγχρονο εξοπλισμό που μας διαθέτει ο κ. Αλεξέας και τα νέα τραπέζια που κατασκεύασε ο κ. Βατσικούρας.



## INVITATION

On October 10, 2009 we will convene with the Supreme Council of the Pan Macedonian Union of America, at 3:00pm, with the Macedonian Centers Board. There will be nominations/elections for the position of Secretary. Anyone interested, has the good intention of holding this position, has knowledge of English, Greek, and word processing skills, you may declare candidacy.

### Become a member: Enhance the Macedonian Studies Center

All chapters of the Pan Macedonian Organization of America are members of the Center and the chairpersons of all the chapters as are the presidents of all chapters as long as their memberships are active.

Anyone of Greek descent or Philhellene may become a member with a donation of \$20.00 annually.

All members may use the Center's facilities to promote their organizations objectives, once consulting with the building's/center's managers. The administration has the right to request a security deposit or small donation to cover the cost of cleaning. Please make all payments by check. All proceeds will benefit the Center and will be used to develop education programs.

The names of all doors to the Center from its initiation will be recorded in a table and will be displayed in the showcase in the main room. This table (categorized accordingly) will be updated on an annual basis:



Friends: \$100-\$500  
Patrons: \$501-\$1000  
Sponsors: \$1001-\$5,000  
Grand Benefactors: Above \$5,000  
Volunteers



Please make checks payable to: The Pan Macedonian Studies Center, Inc.  
Mail to: 149-14 14th Avenue, Whitestone, NY 11357-1730

The Pan Macedonian Studies Center is a 501 (c) 3 Non Profit Organization registered with the IRS and as such all donations are tax exempt to the full extent of the law.

On behalf of the Board,  
Nancy Biska, President & Argiro Agelarakis, Treasurer