



# THE HELLENIC WOMEN'S CLUB



*The Newsletter of The Hellenic Women's Club, Inc., EOK*

Spring 2018

## *Message from the President*

Greetings



As I reflect over the last two years as President of the Hellenic Women's Club, I continue to respect and admire the unwavering commitment of the women of this organization to the EOK's philanthropic endeavors. These women have carried the torch since it was founded in 1936 by 7 female pioneers. It is a legacy

I am proud and honored to be a part of.

Articles in this sixth edition of INK include highlights of one of the most exciting events during the past year. The EOK joined forces with other Greek organizations in and around the city of Boston to organize "Greek Night at the Celtics". You will read how our very own EOK member, Athena Papas was honored by the Boston Celtics organization during the "Heroes Among Us" portion of the program.

Last May, we held our Blooming Pink fashion show fundraiser at Bloomingdale's to support our very own Demetra Fund for Breast Cancer Research and Patient Assistance.

We once again had a well-attended and successful Mistletoe Ball in November. During the Ball, six worthy recipients each received a \$5000 scholarship, continuing a tradition that began in 2011 in recognition of our 75th Anniversary. To date, more than \$240,000 has been awarded to deserving young women.

Through your continued support and generosity the Hellenic Women's Club has distributed over \$2,100,000 to worthy established charities over the past eighteen years alone. Spreading the word of our charities through this newsletter as well as social media outlets, we strive to grow and increase our fundraising goals. For your convenience, we have included an envelope in this newsletter if you choose to make a donation to our worthy causes. We cannot advance our philanthropic mission without your support! On behalf of the women of the Hellenic Women's Club, I thank you for your loyalty and continued generosity.

I hope you will enjoy the articles in the Newsletter!

Felicia Kiehm  
President, Hellenic Women's Club, Inc., EOK

## *Mission Statement*

*Founded in 1936 in Boston, the Hellenic Women's Club, Inc., also known as Epsilon Omicron Kappa, promotes fellowship among its members and engages in numerous philanthropic endeavors. Limited to a membership of forty-five and meeting monthly, EOK is a tax-exempt, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization characterized by a close, hard-working group of uniquely dedicated women who offer their talents, energies and spirit to the mission of charity.*

*For more than eight decades, the Hellenic Women's Club activities have embodied the values of selflessness and achievement for the benefit of others. Made possible through the generous and continued support of its patrons, the Club sponsors two major charitable events each year: the Mistletoe Ball in November and a benefit in the spring. These fundraisers enable the Hellenic Women's Club to support a variety of worthy causes.*

It is with sadness that we report the death in Osterville of our Associate Member, past president, and treasured friend, **Valentine Papas Mason** at age 101. She joined the EOK in 1947, 11 years after her mother founded the club. With Valentine passes the Hellenic Women's Club's final connection to its 1936 roots.

### **THE EDITORIAL STAFF OF INK**

Stephanie Andrews, Jane Kourtis,  
Mary Lynn Pergantis, Diane Speare Triant

# Through the Past Tangible Gifts Support Greek Heritage and Faith

Monetary donations totaling in the millions have been a staple of EOK philanthropy throughout its 82-year history. However, club members have also favored a more hands-on mode of giving, donating an array of tangible gifts to far-reaching recipients. In the club's infancy in the 1940s, for example, Greece was reeling from the onslaught of World War II. EOKers gathered regularly, rolling bandages, packing medications, and bundling clothing to be mailed to Greek soldiers on the frontlines.

Following World War II and the devastating Civil War, the Hellenic Women's Club dedicated its efforts to assist the thousands of Greek children left homeless. Many an orphan received a toy from the EOK at Christmas, while the Vrefokomion, Orphanage in Patras had its fondest wish fulfilled and shipped from America: a refrigerator!



Outdoing themselves, EOKers took on another monumental task, granting a request from the Athens Symphony Orchestra by shipping a baby grand piano to Greece. They also helped a young Greek patient in Boston by fitting him with a prosthetic leg, and another who had succumbed to the polio epidemic by providing him an iron lung.



In the 1960s, tangible philanthropy expanded to include other causes closer to home. The Hellenic Nursing Home in Canton was in its early years, and the EOK was able to outfit a physical therapy room with equipment, decorate the corridors with soothing paintings, and create an indoor garden oasis abloom with flowering bushes and exotic plants. Later, tangible gifts included hoist lifts for bedridden residents and a garden bench for those able to venture outdoors. And during many a Christmas season, nursing home residents joyfully unwrapped soft "shoe-socks" and other useful holiday gifts, personally delivered by club members.



At Hellenic College, EOK members were thrilled to provide 1980s-vintage computers for the earlier classes of students; and at the neighboring Maliotis Cultural Center, they helped outfit the kitchen with small appliances and cook-ware.

In the 1990s the club received a request from the Greek consul in Boston. He had recently toured Harvard College's Houghton Library, which houses rare books, including Greek volumes dating from 1459 forward. It was a collection in need of augmentation. EOK members visited the library and periodically have



been able to purchase books at auction to enhance the collection.

Another Boston institution enthusiastically supported by the membership has been the Museum of Fine Arts. The EOK participated in restoring and conserving a third-century Greek courtyard floor mosaic there, and later funded the restoration of a cracked marble dedicatory plaque from the Baths at Assos dating back to 2 B.C.



The Metropolis of Boston has been another beneficiary of tangible philanthropy. Philoxenia House (offering hospitality and lodging to visiting Greek patients) is especially beloved by EOKers. From the home's inception, the club "adopted" a bedroom to be furnished (and presently upgraded) with curtains, comforters, bed linens, blankets, towels, rugs, and other necessities.



And the Hellenic Women's Club's most significant material gift in recent times has been a thirteen-foot-high mosaic cross, beautifully hand-crafted for the Saint Methodios Faith and Heritage Center in New Hampshire. A striking work of art, it stands embedded into the Retreat House fireplace, representative of the hundreds of such EOK gifts – whether large or small – that have faithfully enhanced Hellenic life since 1936.

## *EOK's celebration of its Hellenic Roots*

Greek pride was on full display at the TD Garden as the Boston Celtics played the Milwaukee Bucks, who feature Greek basketball star Giannis Antetokounmpo. Born in Athens, Greece and nicknamed the “Greek Freak” for his heritage and athletic ability, Antetokounmpo has attracted crowds of Greek fans at NBA games across the country.

In Boston, “Greek Heritage Night” at the Celtics took place on the evening of December 4, 2017, with over 2,000 Greeks in attendance. As Greek flags hung from the balconies, the national anthem was sung by Crete native Eirini Tornesaki. Prior to the game, Greek youth, ages 8-12, played basketball on the Celtics parquet. At half-time, The Sons and Daughters of Alexander the Great dance group performed at center court while wearing traditional Greek costumes.



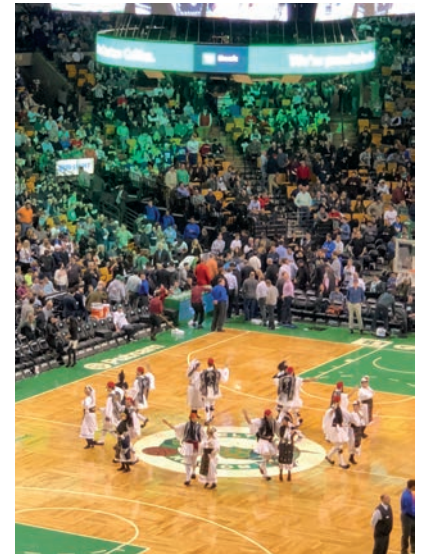
The evening came together with the cooperation of 17 Greek organizations, including the Hellenic Women’s Club, Alpha Omega Council, the Consulate General of Greece in Boston, Grecian Echoes, AHEPA of Boston, The Teddy K Classic Tournament and several others. According to Hellenic Women’s Club President Felicia Kiehm, “A member of Alpha Omega reached out to me and other Hellenic organizations in the Boston area to come together and work jointly to get as many Hellenes in the Garden as we could.”

According to Kiehm, the Celtics sales office was supportive and “very excited about our evening. They had only had a Chinese and French evening in the Garden before, so they were excited to have Greek Night as well. The young man in the sales office, Marc Rogers, came to most of our meetings and was very helpful in helping us plan the logistics of the evening.”



*EOK members Mary Lynn Pergantis, Susan Anton Pasanen, Felicia Kiehm and Dr. Tina Papas, recipient of the “Heroes Among Us” award*

During the game, the “Heroes Among Us” award was presented to Hellenic Women’s Club member Dr. Athena Pappas. The award is presented at each home game to an individual who has made “exceptional and lasting contributions to our community.” Dr. Papas is the Head of the Division of Oral Medicine at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine, and in 2016 was named a Distinguished Professor. She has been an EOK member since 1990, and served as President from 2006-2008. Dr. Papas said, “This was a totally unexpected and wonderful honor for me and the patients I treat. I am grateful to the EOK for their support and encouragement all these years.”



The event was so successful that the planning committee met recently to further discuss how they could again join forces to promote Hellenism in Boston.

As for the results of the game, Antetokounmpo scored 40 points, but the Celtics won, 111-100.

# The Hellenic Women's Club Philanthropy

EOK Established Charities-receiving annual donations for the past 15 to 50 years

## American Farm School – Tuition Support

Seeks to educate youth and adults to become professionally accomplished in the agriculture, ecology and life sciences in order to make Greece and its neighbors a better place.

## Boston's Childrens Hospital – Thalassemia Research

Works to understand the causes of cancer and blood diseases and to develop better treatments. The main research focus is clinical trials in non-malignant blood disorders, including thalassemia and iron overload, ITP and hemophilia.

## Hellenic Women's Benevolent Association -Hellenic Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

Seeks to provide long-term health care to the acutely ill and those with memory impairment in an environment of compassion and quality of life. In addition, rehabilitation services are also provided.

## Hellenic Women's Club, Inc., EOK Demetra Fund for Breast Cancer Research and Patient Assistance

Provides funds for internationally recognized research focused on basic science, clinical research programs, and/or patient care.

## Massachusetts General Institute for Neurodegenerative Disease – Alzheimer's Research

Strives to translate laboratory discoveries into prevention, treatment and cures for Alzheimer's, ALS, Parkinson's and other neurodegenerative diseases. MIND seeks to accelerate therapies that lessen the devastating toll of these diseases on patients and families.

## Perkins School for the Blind – Infant and Toddler Program- Toy Lending Library

Provides education and services that build productive, meaningful lives for children and adults, starting at a young age who are blind, deaf blind or visually impaired with or without other disabilities.

## Philoxenia House

Under the direction of the Metropolis of Boston, this Orthodox Home of Hope provides a "home away from home" for those who come mainly from Greece but

also from around the US and the world for medical treatment of serious illnesses.

## Rosie's Place

Provides a safe and nurturing environment for poor and homeless women in order to maintain their dignity, seek opportunity and find security in their lives.

## SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

### Hellenic College Holy Cross School of Theology – EOK Scholarship

Supports a student from the School of Theology who is a USA citizen of Greek heritage.

### Wellesley College – EOK Scholarship

Enables talented young women who are USA citizens of Greek-American heritage to pursue the dream of a college education.

### Hellenic Women's Club – General Scholarship Fund

Provides scholarships to deserving young women who are USA citizens of Greek –American heritage based on academic achievement, community service and leadership.



## SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Hellenic Women's Club, Inc., EOK is pleased to announce a scholarship program for deserving young women who have demonstrated community service, leadership and academic achievement.

**Each Award will be \$5,000**

For more information, including all application materials, please visit our website  
[www.HellenicWomensClub.org](http://www.HellenicWomensClub.org)

Deadline for 2018-2019 academic year is June 15, 2018

EPSILON OMICRON KAPPA | ESTABLISHED 1936

## Spotlight on an Established Charity: The Wellesley College Scholarship

As the EOK's 1986 golden anniversary approached, the membership thought that a fitting way for a women's club to mark such a milestone would be to assist deserving female undergraduates. Club member Clotilde Zannetos suggested establishing a scholarship for a young woman of Greek heritage at all-female Wellesley College. At the time, Clotilde was an administrator at Regis College and an academic colleague of Amelia "Amy" Nychis, the Director of Financial Aid (and a woman of Greek background) at nearby Wellesley. The club, as yet unable to undertake the complexities of an in-house scholarship program, felt that Amy would be the ideal person to administer such an award at Wellesley. Following several months of discussion, an endowed scholarship was established with the following guidelines:

*"The Hellenic Women's Club Scholarship Fund, a scholarship renewable each year, will be available to a woman who is a United States citizen of Greek-American heritage who meets the qualifications for scholarship aid as determined by Wellesley College. . . It is preferred that the same student receive the scholarship each year as long as she remains eligible."*

In 2018, the scholarship is still thriving. Eleven Greek-American women at Wellesley have found a champion in the EOK, many having received assistance for each of their college years. With the endowment now nearing \$100,000 (with a \$4600 per year award), the need-based Wellesley scholarship nicely complements the EOK in-house scholarships which are awarded for academic performance and community service.



**Georgia Patmios**

The Wellesley award is celebrating a 30th anniversary of sorts, as its first recipient, Georgeanne Patmios, graduated in 1988. Georgeanne was also the first in her family to attend college and has distinguished herself in a career at the National Institutes of Health where she is a specialist on aging. The present recipient, Irene Galarneau, is a Spanish major. Proud of her Hellenic

heritage, she has volunteered at the Greek 4 Kids language school in Newton and has recently completed a junior-year term paper on the architecture of Greek Orthodox Churches, with emphasis on the Cathedral in Boston.

Other recipients also display a fascinating array of career paths. They include a physicist, a finance manager, a forensic psychologist, a U.S. Attorney, an editor, and a retail buyer of fragrances. Perhaps the most intriguing pursuit is the one undertaken by Catherine Vatikiotis '15 in a field of study nonexistent when most of us were

students. Her Master's Degree at American University carries a concentration in Terrorism and National Security. Now a Special Agent with the U.S. Department of State soon to be deployed overseas, Catherine penned this message to the Hellenic Women's Club:

"Receiving the Hellenic Women's Club Scholarship was an honor and it truly made a difference during my time at Wellesley. It allowed me to focus on my studies and rewarding extracurriculars, rather than working to keep up with the expenses of college. I am very grateful to be one of the recipients of this wonderful scholarship."

### Special Appeals and Major Gifts

In addition to the many established charities that the EOK supports annually, the Club has a unique Special Appeals and Major Gift program. These programs allow for additional donations to be made to support timely and sometimes urgent philanthropic needs. Made at the request of an EOK member, a Major Gift can be used to fund larger projects and in many cases, pledges that are funded over a span of three years. Past major gifts have included donations to the Maliotis Cultural center, The Archbishop Iakovos Library at Hellenic College, the Mosaic Floor restoration at the Museum of Fine Arts and the Boston One Fund.

During the fiscal year 2016-2017, two major gifts were made. The first was to the rebuilding fund for the Ionian Village located in the Greek Peloponnesus. A devastating tornado in the fall of 2016 swept through the campgrounds just weeks after the final campers had left the summer program. For over forty years, The Ionian village has connected Greek Orthodox young people from across the globe and thanks to many donors like the EOK, the camp was able to rebuild and reopen in the summer of 2017. A second major gift was made to the Metropolis Camp of Boston located in Contoocook New Hampshire where youths in grades 3-12 from across New England gather to connect with God and each other. This gift provided scholarships for a number of girl campers attending the summer camp. These scholarships were made in memory of Fotini Tournas, sister of His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios who had recently passed away.

Special Appeals requests, also made at the suggestion of a member, can be used for smaller yet equally impactful donations. Through this program last year, a donation was made to Pencils of Promise. PoP is an educational nonprofit promoting global education for all. It has built more than 400 schools around the world, believing that every child should have access to quality education. . Other Special Appeals donations have included, Belle of the Ball, Beacon Academy, Horizons for Homeless Children, MedFlight and Neighbor Brigade to name just a few.



**Irene Galarneau**

# EOK Awards Scholarships to Six Deserving Women

Once again this year the Hellenic Women's Club had much to celebrate at its annual Mistletoe Ball. During a short program, the Hellenic Women's Club proudly presented academic/community/leadership scholarships of \$5,000 each to six deserving young women. The scholarship recipients, which included both undergraduate and graduate students, were impressive, with interests ranging from engineering, to chemistry and biochemistry, ancient Greek, writing, and nursing. These women tout the highest academic achievement, while simultaneously leading a myriad of community activities and demonstrating their commitment to the Greek-American community.

The EOK Scholarship Program began in 2011 in celebration of the organization's 75th anniversary, and since the program's inception, 41 scholarships have been awarded. There have been hundreds of applications. Scholarship Chair Bobi Koukounaris Lelon reports that this past year was no exception, and ruminates on how the decisions are never easy. To qualify, the woman applicant must be a resident of Massachusetts or attending a Massachusetts college or university; a U.S. citizen of Greek-American heritage or Greek Orthodox faith, and admitted to or attending an accredited U.S. college or university. All qualified women students are encouraged to apply. In addition to the \$5,000 scholarship, all recipients are provided a complimentary invitation to the Mistletoe Ball, where they are honored with their scholarship award. The deadline for the 2018 Scholarship Program is June 15, 2018.



*Eleftheria Horiatis, Niki Laskaris, Katerina Georgakopoulos and Katerina Connor*

The Hellenic Women's Club is grateful to its Sustaining Sponsors whose generous support allows the organization to continue the Scholarship Program.

We are proud to showcase our 2017 scholarship recipients and their accomplishments:

**Chrissanthi Boutalis** of West Roxbury is a freshman at Northeastern University where she is enrolled in the University Honors Program in the College of Engineering. In high school she founded the Greek Cultural Society Club

and volunteered as a peer tutor for five years. Chrissanthi graduated from Boston Latin School with a perfect GPA.

**Katerina Connor** of Newburyport graduated from high school at the top of her class winning the "Best in Class" for AP Chemistry. She is a freshman at Rochester University in New York. Recognized for her leadership, Katerina was a member of the clubs: Girls Forward and Active Minds. She also served as President of GOYA at her parish.

**Katerina Georgakopoulos** of Weston is a freshman at Brandeis University where she is studying Biochemistry and Ancient Greek. Katerina is a recipient of many academic and athletic awards including the prestigious Academic All-America award given by the National Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association.

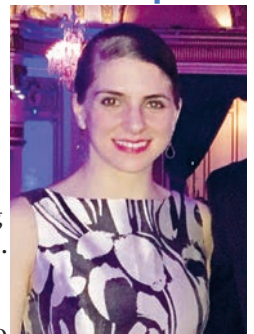
**Eleftheria Horiatis** of Lexington is a sophomore studying Mass Communications at Boston University. Part of a select group of students, she serves as an advisor on the Dean's committee at BU. While in high school, Eleftheria performed a very impressive 200 hours of community service.

**Niki Laskaris** of Swampscott is a graduate student in the Writing Program at Columbia University. As an undergraduate at Brandeis University, Niki played on the Varsity Basketball team. She was also elected for the leadership position of "Team Tutor" for her last three years at Brandeis.

**Alyssa Steele** of Burlington is a graduate student in the Nursing School at Regis College where her specialty is Primary Care Pediatric NP. As an undergraduate at High Point University, Niki was captain of her swim team, president of the biology club and a member of Alpha Phi Omega, dedicating hundreds of hours to community service.

## Where is she now? A look at a prior recipient of the EOK scholarship:

Pia Kurkuvelos was an EOK scholarship recipient in 2012, during her first year at Boston College Law School. Since then, she graduated from BC Law and was admitted to the Massachusetts Bar in 2015. She is currently an associate at Ropes & Gray LLP in Boston, practicing in the firm's Hedge Funds practice group. She has attended the Mistletoe Ball each year since she received the scholarship, and tells us, "I look forward each year to seeing deserving young women receive scholarships to further their own academic pursuits." We wish Pia the best as she continues her wonderful career in the law, and we too look forward to seeing her back at the Ball each year!



# EOK Demetra Fund



Supporters and friends of The Demetra Fund for Breast Cancer Research and Patient Assistance gathered at Bloomingdale's in Chestnut Hill for BLOOMING PINK an evening of fun, fashion, cocktails and shopping. The event, which was attended by over 175 people, including members of the O'Leary and Samellas families, featured a runway fashion show of the latest spring designer fashions and was emceed by

Bloomingdale's Chestnut Hill general manager, Matt Dunphy. Guests were treated to cocktails and hors d' oeuvres, an exciting raffle, gift bags and a day of personal shopping, with 10% of sales going to support the Demetra Fund. Chairs of the event, Jackie McCabe and Jamie Monovoukas announced \$60,000 was raised which is vital to continuing the mission of the Demetra Fund.

In 2016, the EOK made a gift of \$100,000 to advance the research efforts at Dana Farber Cancer Institute (DCFI) of Eugen Dhimolea, PhD, and Constantine Mistiades, MD, PhD. These talented researchers have developed a type of laboratory model that more accurately simulates how tumors, including metastatic ones, function within a body. Using this model this groundbreaking research grows tumor cells from various breast cancer types which are then analyzed to study different treatment options.

The Demetra Fund was started in 2001 by EOK member Helen Papoulias O'Leary, DMD to honor her sister and fellow EOK member Demetra "Toulie" Samellas who lost her battle to breast cancer. Since its inception, the Demetra Fund has gifted and/or pledged a total of \$400,000 at DFCI and Massachusetts General Hospital.



## Hellenic Women's Club, Inc., EOK Officers 2017-2018

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Dorothy Sophocles	Vice President
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Stacey Tsairis Kacoyanis	Assistant Treasurer
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Heidi Tourkistas	Sustaining Sponsor

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Tamara Lingos	Elaine Zouzias Thibault
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Katherine Karagianis*	Clotilde Zannetos
Liz Karagianis	

\*Former President



THE HELLENIC WOMEN'S CLUB

The Newsletter of The Hellenic Women's Club, Inc., EOK

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## Upcoming events

**June 15, 2018**

EOK scholarship applications due

**November 24, 2018**

Mistletoe Ball

For more information email us at:  
[contact@hellenicwomensclub.org](mailto:contact@hellenicwomensclub.org)

Visit us at  
[www.hellenicwomensclub.org](http://www.hellenicwomensclub.org)  
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## Mistletoe Ball 2017

Thank you to the community and to our loyal supporters who helped to make the 2017 Mistletoe Ball a success. For information about Mistletoe Ball 2018, which will be held at the Fairmont Copley Plaza on November 24, 2018, look for the invitation in the fall or visit [www.hellenicwomensclub.org](http://www.hellenicwomensclub.org)



Photos by Lori Whalen Photography