



THE HELLENIC WOMEN'S CLUB



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

Spring 2019

Message from the President



As Easter approaches, The Hellenic Women's Club (EOK) gives heartfelt thanks to its donors who understand that philanthropy is an extension of our cherished Orthodox Christian faith and Hellenic heritage. Your annual contributions make everything we do possible and your generosity never ceases to amaze us.

Enjoy the articles in this issue of INK which highlight our history and the impact your continued financial support makes on our diverse charitable-giving programs. Our initiatives this year included:

- A redesigned website (www.hellenicwomensclub.org) to enable online donations and event ticket purchases and provide details about our activities and donations through Established Charities, Special Appeals and Major Gifts programs;
- A Christmas Charitable Donation to assist victims of the Gas Explosions in the Merrimack Valley through The Salvation Army's Disaster Relief Fund; and,
- An EOK Special Appeals donation to Paradise 4 Kids, a ministry run by Orthodox monk Rev. Themis in Sierra Leone, which serves the poorest of the poor afflicted by poverty, sickness and suffering as a result of the country's civil war.

How proud we are that in the past decade the EOK Demetra Fund for Breast Cancer Research and Patient Care has donated \$400,000 to the cause of fighting breast cancer through research and assisting women afflicted with the disease. Mark your calendars for **BLOOMING PINK**, on May 1, 2019, an afternoon of fashion and beauty to benefit The Demetra Fund at Neiman Marcus in Natick. At this event, Stelene Volandes, Editor-in-Chief of Town & Country Magazine will receive the second annual Demetra Award. It promises to be a splendid event for a worthy cause.

Again, thank you for your generosity which helps us accomplish our mission of charity,

Despina Koules Anton
President, The Hellenic Women's Club, Inc., EOK

Hellenic Women's Club, Inc., EOK Officers 2018-2020

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THE EDITORIAL STAFF OF INK

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

Through the Past The Founding Years: Precursors to Today

In 1936, the seven founders of the Hellenic Women's Club (pictured throughout) gathered on a back porch in Brookline to establish a club. It was to be both a social outlet for women of Greek background and a support network for their wider community. The women would have been astonished to know that 83 years and four generations later, their efforts still flourish with the very same goals.



Marianne Frangoulis, Urania Papas

Indeed, the activities of the founding decade from 1936 to 1946 gave rise to many present-day EOK pursuits. The first was a scholarship party (\$2) at a club member's home to raise modest sums for Greek-American college-bound girls and boys. The proceeds inaugurated the EOK's long-standing commitment to students.

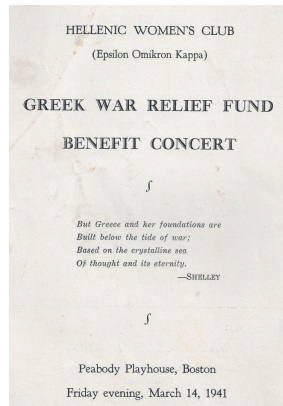
GREEK SCHOLARSHIP

The Hellenic Women's Club offers an annual scholarship of two hundred dollars to be awarded to a boy and a girl of Greek descent in the Boston Latin Schools on the basis of scholarship and need. The winner to be selected by the Head Master of each School. This year's Scholarship has been awarded to Students planning to enter Harvard and Wellesley College.

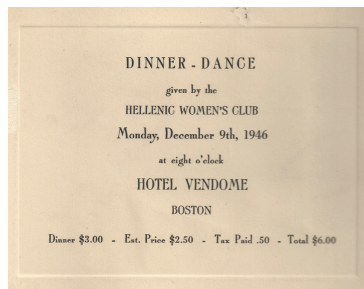
1952

Those early scholarships through the Boston Latin Schools were augmented in the 1960s by an annual scholarship (still in effect) to support a theological student at Holy Cross/Hellenic College. In the 1980s, yet another scholarship initiative – to assist a female Greek-American undergraduate annually – resulted in an endowed fund at Wellesley College (still in effect). But the most ambitious scholarship undertaking marked the EOK's 75th anniversary in 2011, with the establishment of an in-house awards program for higher education. Every year since, five or six women of Hellenic background have

received \$5,000 apiece to further their academic goals.



A second activity began modestly in 1941, when the club's first philanthropic effort – a Greek War Relief benefit piano concert – arose from the plight of a war-torn mother country. The printed program reminded the audience, "The Greek nation is fighting for freedom. It is our fight." For the next two decades, the EOK's charitable work escalated, but was totally focused on supporting nine institutions housing thousands of Greek war orphans "who had suffered not only the untold miseries of World War II, but the unspeakable horrors of the Nazis, the Fascists, and the murderess excesses of the Communist rebellion." From 1946 onward, a "dinner dance" supported the effort.



By the 1970s, the club's charitable giving had expanded, honoring Hellenic causes closer to home such as the Greek Orthodox diocese, churches, schools, and nursing homes. The succeeding decades brought even broader philanthropy including help for the homeless at Boston's shelters; research aid for thalassemia, cancer, heart disease, burns, and Alzheimer's disease at the city's fine hospitals; and support for the regions' cultural treasures in the worlds of ballet, fine arts, and classical music.



Kathleen Sculos, Pacey Cocoris

With the turning of the millennium, the charitable impulse sparked by the Hellenic Women's Club founders was burning stronger than ever. When one of the club members, Demetra "Toulie" Samellas, succumbed to breast cancer, EOKers inaugurated the most rewarding undertaking in their history: The Demetra Fund for Breast Cancer Research and Patient Assistance. Now a major player in Boston's oncology community, the Fund has provided \$400,000 to support research trials and patients combatting this dreadful disease.

Circling back to the seven ladies who founded the EOK, these were not women content to chat and sip tea. Rather, they exhibited singular skills and talents, especially for 1936. One was a painter of fine porcelains, another a restaurant proprietor, another an actor in Greek dramas, and yet another a Red Cross Motor Corps driver during World War II.



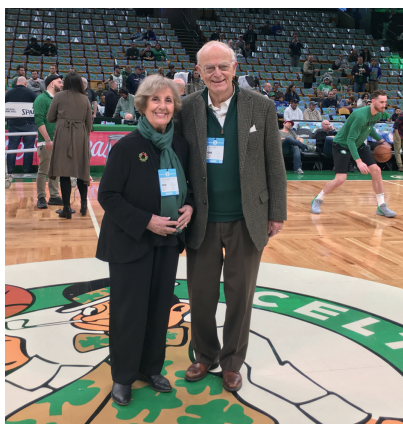
Lulu Peratsakis, Mary Voss

Just as their important initiatives live on today, these pioneers are themselves mirrored in the current EOK membership. Today's 45 accomplished women – be they businesspeople, doctors, volunteers, lawyers, teachers, homemakers, or scientists – all stand proud in supporting their Hellenic heritage and honoring the legacy of their remarkable predecessors.

One of EOK's Own Honored at Celtics Greek Night

Born in Athens, basketball star Giannis Antetokounmpo attracts Greek fans everywhere that he plays. On the evening of December 21, Antetokounmpo and the Milwaukee Bucks faced the Boston Celtics at TD Garden. For the second year in a row, fans celebrated Greek Heritage Night in honor of Antetokounmpo's visit to Boston.

Before the game, the youth choir of St. Catherine's Church in Braintree beautifully sang the national anthem. At half time, dancers from both the Metropolis of Boston and the Sons and Daughters of Alexander the Great performed traditional dances.



During the second quarter of the game, Dr. George Canellos and Hellenic Women's Club member and past President Jean Canellos were honored on the parquet as "Heroes Among Us." As photos of their careers and families (and the EOK!) flashed above them on

the Jumbotron, they were cheered enthusiastically by all of the fans in attendance, including a large number of Hellenic Women's Club members.

Dr. Canellos was the founding Chief of Medical Oncology at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and is a senior physician at DFCI and Brigham and Women's Hospital. He has researched and discovered treatments for leukemia and non-Hodgkins lymphoma, as well as a combination therapy for the treatment of breast cancer. He has served as a Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School for 43 years, and is regarded as a mentor to generations of oncologists.

Jean Canellos is a founding member of the Friends of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, which raises funds for educational programs, cancer research and patient care. She has served on the Board of Directors in many positions including president, and in recent years she was elected an honorary director by her peers. She provided leadership for several initiatives such as planning and supporting a non-denominational chapel and encouraging larger gifts for its projects.

In the forty-three years since its founding, Jean values greatly the many friendships which developed and marvels that the Friends' fundraising efforts have grown from \$15,000 in the first year to a collective amount of over \$34,000,000 today. At a recent event naming a joint Harvard Medical School/DFCI professorship in their honor, Dr. Canellos said, "Jean and I are a team. She is as much a part of Dana-Farber as I am through her participation in the founding and growth of the Friends of DFCI during as many years as I have been on the medical staff."

The Celtics staff treated Jean and George to a behind-the-scenes tour of TD Garden. They watched the Celtics and Bucks in pre-game practice for 20 minutes from front-row seats and had pre-game photos taken at center court with former Celtics great and radio analyst Cedric Maxwell.

In the end, the Celtics lost to the Bucks 120-107, but that didn't stop the Greek fans in attendance from enjoying an outstanding performance by Antetokounmpo, one of the premier players in the game.



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

Deadline for 2019-2020 academic year is June 30, 2019

EPSILON OMICRON KAPPA | ESTABLISHED 1936

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 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.

MassGeneral Institute for Neurodegenerative Disease (MIND) – Alzheimer's Research

Strives to translate laboratory discoveries into prevention, treatment and cures for Alzheimer's, ALS, Parkinson's and other neurodegenerative diseases. MIND, a division of MassGeneral, 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.

YES, I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A GIFT TO EOK

Assist us in helping students, aiding patients, sheltering the homeless, fostering education, supporting medical research, and honoring our faith and heritage with your donation in any amount

DONATE ONLINE

www.hellenicwomensclub.org

At bottom of page, click on "donate"

OR

DONATE BY CHECK

Payable to: The Hellenic Women's Club, Inc.

Mary Lynn Pergantis, Treasurer

The Hellenic Women's Club, Inc.

45 York Terrace

Brookline, MA 02446

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT!

EOK Demetra Fund

The Demetra Fund for Breast Cancer Research and Patient Assistance was established in 2001 through a generous gift of a club member, Dr. Helen Papoulias O'Leary, to honor her sister Demetra "Toulie" Samellas who lost her battle to breast cancer. With its mission of hope, the Demetra Fund has gifted and/or pledged a total of \$400,000 to both research and patient assistance programs at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (DFCI) and Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center (MGHCC)

EOK's most recent gift in 2016 to 2018 of \$100,000 was to advance the research efforts at DFCI 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.

Invitations are in the mail for **BLOOMING PINK**, a May 1, 2019 event to be held at Neiman Marcus Natick to benefit The Demetra Fund. Chairs of the event, Susan Anton Pasanen and Elaine Zouzas Thibault are thrilled to announce that Stellene Volandes, Editor in Chief - Town & Country magazine and author of *Jeweler: Masters, Mavericks, and Visionaries of Modern Design*, will receive the EOK Demetra Award. The afternoon's

festivities will run from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm and will begin with Bubbles and Light bites. Guests will be treated to a runway spectacular of fashion and beauty. Tickets are limited so be sure to act quickly!

For more information and to purchase tickets please visit www.hellenicwomensclub.org

DETAILS

- 11:00 AM -
REGISTRATION
BUBBLES AND BITES

- 11:45 AM -
WELCOME

- 12:00 PM -
FASHION AND BEAUTY SHOW BEGINS

- 12:45 PM -
PRESENTATION OF THE DEMETRA AWARD TO
STELLENE VOLANDES, EDITOR IN CHIEF
TOWN & COUNTRY MAGAZINE
and author of

*Jeweler: Masters, Mavericks, and Visionaries of
Modern Design*

RAFFLE, FOLLOWED BY
SWEETS AND SHOPPING!

Jewelry trunk show by Konstantino,
creator of the Demetra Award Pendant



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.

EOK Awards Scholarships to Six Deserving Women

In honor of its Diamond Jubilee in 2011, the Hellenic Women's Club (EOK) began offering annual Scholarships of \$5,000 each to young women in college or graduate school. Since then, the EOK has awarded over 48 scholarships worth over \$240,000. We are often asked the requirements for the annual EOK Scholarship Program. Here are some frequently asked Questions and Answers:

Q: What are the qualities EOK is looking for when awarding the scholarships?

A: We are looking for women who exemplify academic excellence, leadership, and community service.

Q: What are the qualifications?

A: The applicant must be a female 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.

Q: How do I apply?

A: An online application is posted on the EOK website (<https://www.hellenicwomensclub.org/scholarships>) each spring. The application, which has a deadline of June 30th, includes the requirements for recommendations, essays, grades, and extracurricular involvement.



Basiliki Speros, Fotini Anastopoulos, Marika Fox, Scholarship Fund Chair Bobi Koukounaris, Julianna Glafkides, Magdalini Poulimeni . Missing from photo Sophia Kryou.

Recipients of the 2018-2019 scholarship were provided with a complimentary invitation to and recognized at the Mistletoe Ball and included:

Fotini Anastopoulos of Norridge, Illinois, a junior, studying Psychology, at Harvard University, has been awarded both the Congressional Award for Service and the President's Service Award. Fotini loves to dance and has choreographed dances on campus.

Marika Fox of Worcester is a senior attending Clark University where she is studying Physics with a minor in Education. The American Association of Physics Teachers

has recognized Marika for her outstanding work. Marika also plays the bari saxophone in the Holy Cross Band and is a leader of her Ballroom Dance Team at Clark.

Julianna Glafkides of Hillsborough, California is a biology student at Boston College. Through the Center for Service Learning at Boston College, she spent time helping the women of Rosie's Place. In high school, Julianna was Senior Class Vice President and Captain of both her Lacrosse Team and Mock Trial Team.

Sophia Kyrou of Bedford, a sophomore with a double major in Political Science and Human Rights at Trinity College, serves on Trinity's Scholars Advisory Board. Sophia is a member of the CrossRoad Alumni Advisory Board and is the only female chanter in our Metropolis.

Magdalini Poulimeni of North Easton is a freshman at Merrimack College where she is studying Law Enforcement. While in high school, she volunteered at Boston Children's Hospital was on the Track and Field Team and was a finalist in the Miss Massachusetts Teen USA state pageant.

Basiliki Speros of Belmont, a senior studying International Politics and Business at New York University, is head of NYU's Global Media Club and head of marketing for NYU's Animal Welfare Collective. While studying in Shanghai, China she volunteered at Shanghai Children's Medical Center.

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



Kristina Barounis received an EOK Scholarship in 2016. "I graduated from Tufts University in 2017 with a degree in Quantitative Economics. Post graduation I am working in New York City at JP Morgan as an Analyst in Debt Capital Markets in the Public Finance department. My job allows me to work with municipalities across the United States to help them finance projects that are for public use (hospitals, railroads, schools, etc.). I love that what I do everyday is helping people in some way. I want to thank the Hellenic Women's Club for their generosity as it helped me on my path to graduation and ultimately to finding a meaningful career. It also solidified my belief that staying involved in the Greek community is important and provides numerous opportunities, because Greeks are always looking out for one another!" We congratulate Kristina on her accomplishments thus far, and we wish her and all our scholarship recipients much success in the future as leaders in our community. Keep in touch!

Spotlight on an Established Charity: Perkins School for the Blind

Since its inception in 1829, Perkins School for the Blind has enjoyed a tie to the Greek community. Perkin's founding director, Samuel Gridley Howe was an avid Hellenophile and supporter of the Greek Revolution of 1821. In 1886, Perkins second director, Michael Anagnos, who hailed from Papigo Greece and was Howe's son-in-law, received a letter from Helen Keller's parents asking him to consider educating their daughter. Anagnos sent them a young teacher, Annie Sullivan. Sullivan continued Keller's education on campus at Perkins and many of her ground breaking teaching methods continue today.

Over thirty years ago, the Hellenic Women's Club member, Virginia Mavraides, suggested that the Club consider adding Perkins School for the Blind as an established charity. After careful consideration, the club enthusiastically began supporting the school. The EOK has supported many areas of Perkins, including donating to its greenhouse which houses a garden of sensory experiences and the Infant-Toddler Program which provides family support and educational services vital to every child during the earliest years of development. Perkins' mission is to prepare children and young adults who are blind with the education, confidence and skills they need to realize their potential. While the school, which currently houses 200 children on its campus in Watertown, is the anchor of Perkins, its scope includes: Technology, such as the Perkins Braille and BlindWays app; E-learning, which provides resources to the field of blindness education and the Perkins library which circulates reading materials in all formats to over 25,000 users with visual impairments across the US.



In addition, Perkins International is a global leader in working to break the isolation and neglect that children with visual impairment and multiple disabilities face by providing access to education. For example, every year educators from around the globe come to Perkins for nine months of intensive advanced training.

Perkins International also works with various countries to build local partnerships.

In the fall, EOK member Stephanie C. Andrews, also a Trustee of Perkins, traveled with Perkins International to Kenya, where the government has



made a commitment to education and inclusive education. The Perkins team met with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as the US Ambassador, USAID and other organizations. The visit to the Kilimani School

in Nairobi, where Perkins has provided teacher training and resources such as Brailers, was a highlight with many of the visually impaired students performing a concert. A visit to the Nairobi Family Support Services located in Kibera, the largest slum in Africa, was impactful and demonstrated that Perkins has made a visible difference by providing resources and training staff. Mothers there travel for miles to get early childhood assessment and support for their children with visual impairments and multiple disabilities (MDVI).

Thanks to your generosity, the EOK has been able to support the work of Perkins for the last three decades.

To quote Helen Keller,

"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.."

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.

Special Appeals requests, made at the suggestion of a member, can be used for impactful donations. Through this program last year, three donations were made to the following organizations: Greek 4 Kids, a non-profit Greek Language school and Cultural Center; Paradise 4 Kids, a mission project in Sierra Leone; and The Wily Network, which offers services to students in Greater Boston area colleges who have aged-out of the foster care system and have no family support. Past Special Appeals donations have included, Community Cooks Volunteer Cooking Class, Peace First, Boston Ballet and Neighbor Brigade.

Major Gifts, also initiated at the request of an EOK member, can be used to support larger projects and in many cases, pledges that are funded over a span of three years. Past major gifts have included donations to the Harvard College Modern Greek Book collection, the St. Methodios Faith and Heritage Center Mosaic Cross and the Pine Street Inn .



THE HELLENIC WOMEN'S CLUB

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

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Upcoming events

May 1, 2019

BLOOMING PINK- Demetra Fundraiser

June 30, 2019

EOK Scholarship applications due

November 30, 2019

Mistletoe Ball

For more information email us at:
contact@hellenicwomensclub.org

Visit us at:

www.hellenicwomensclub.org

www.Facebook.com/HellenicWomensClubIncEOK

www.instagram.com/hellenicwomensclubinc

Mistletoe Ball 2018

Thank you to our loyal supporters who helped to make the 2018 Mistletoe Ball a night to remember! For information about Mistletoe Ball 2019, which will be held at The Fairmont Copley Plaza on November 30, 2019, look for an invitation in the fall or visit www.hellenicwomensclub.org



Photos by Michael Rose Photography