

An aerial photograph of a historic city, likely Athens, Greece, showing a dense cluster of buildings with red-tiled roofs. A prominent church spire is visible in the background. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

Working to Preserve our Heritage: A Historical Review of the Development of Greek-American Community Services 1983 to 2002

BY ELAINE THOMOPOULOS AND JOHN PSIHARIS

**Co-founders of Greek-American
Community Services (GACS)**

**Elaine Thomopoulos
and
John Psiharis
1983**



Greek-American
Nursing Home
Committee began
as a committee of
GACS
but was
established as a
separate
organization in
1984 under the
direction of Dr.
Theodosios
Kioutas.



Greek-American Rehabilitation Centre in Wheeling, IL opened in 2001.



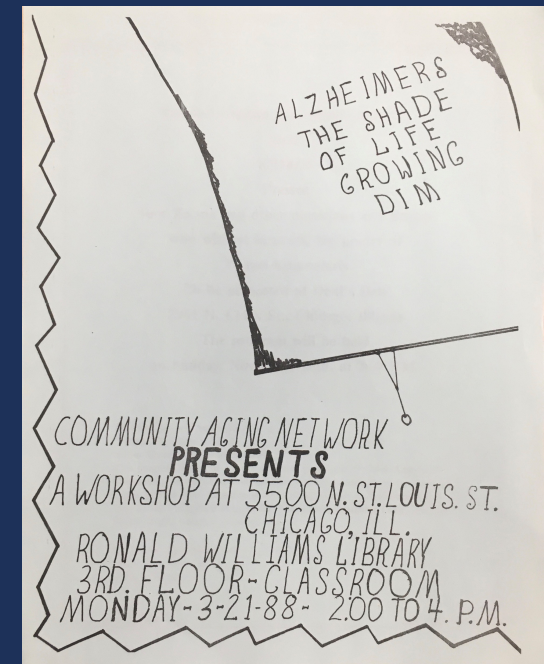
**YES
WE
CAN**

**C.A.N.
Community
Aging
Network**

**Neighbors
Helping
Seniors**



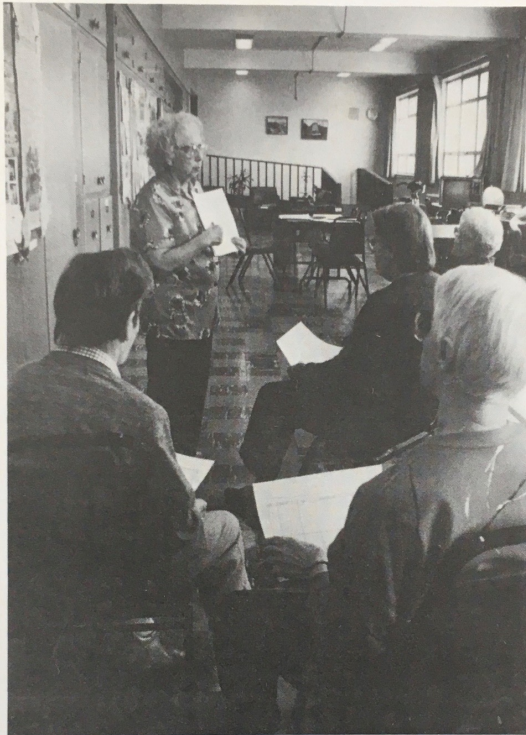
In 1986, Community Aging Network was established as a program of Greek-American Community Services. It offered home help, chore services, telephone reassurance, transportation, and educational programs.



ΝΕΑ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΑ

ΣΥΛΛΟΓΟΥ ΕΛΛΗΝΟ-ΑΜΕΡΙΚΑΝΙΚΩΝ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΩΝ

Ο Σύλλογος Ελληνο-Αμερικανικών Υπηρεσιών με πολλή χαρά ανακοινώνει τη δημιουργία των εξής Κέντρων Φροντίδας Υπερηλίκων.



Northwest
Chicago
Senior Care Center

Κέντρον Ημερησίας
Φροντίδας Υπερηλίκων.

Northwest Chicago Senior Care Center was established in 1990 to provide socialization and care to the elderly during the day with participants returning home at night. Pictured is a party for participants and family.



**Tornie the Cat offered
comfort and
companionship to
participants of the
Northwest Chicago Senior
Care Center.**



**The popular
Fabric Arts
Program
began in 1986.
Funding from
the City of
Chicago
helped
support this
program,
which met
once a week.**



The participants displayed their work at the State of Illinois Building, where thousands admired their work.



GACS helped organize a meeting of various ethnic groups that resulted in the formation of the Coalition of Limited English Speaking Elderly. The collaborative spirit of its members led to major improvements in service provision to limited and non-English speaking elderly.



This two-day conference, which featured 40 scholars and leaders in the Greek and Assyrian communities, was attended by 150 people. It included a banquet with Greek and Assyrian food and Greek and Assyrian music and dance.

**ASSYRIAN UNIVERSAL ALLIANCE FOUNDATION
&
GREEK-AMERICAN COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Present

**A CONFERENCE STRAINS ON ETHNIC PRIDE:
CONFLICT BETWEEN THE OLD AND NEW IMMIGRANTS
IN THE
GREEK & ASSYRIAN COMMUNITIES**



**SATURDAY & SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31st and NOVEMBER 1st, 1987
AT THE LAKE SHORE CAMPUS OF LOYOLA UNIVERSITY.
(Centennial Forum Bldg., 6525 N. Sheridan Rd., Chicago)**

This program is supported by the Illinois Humanities Council and the National Endowment for Humanities with additional funding from the Illinois General Assembly, Loyola University and the Greek and Assyrian Communities of Metropolitan Chicago.

A Cultural Event of Greek Heritage '87

G.A.G.S

PRESENTS

"THE GREEKS IN AMERICA:
A CELEBRATION OF FILMS"

DEPAUL UNIV.
Schmitt Academic Ctr.
2323 N. SEMINARY
Chicago, Illinois

Sunday,
September 21, 1986
Sunday,
October 19, 1986
Sunday,
November 16, 1986

SPONSORED BY: Greek-American Community Services

THE GREEKS IN AMERICA.. A CELEBRATION OF FILMS film festival



SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 1986 at 3:00pm "AMERICA, AMERICA" BY ELIA KAZAN
a compelling account of the struggles of a young poor Greek man and
his efforts to emigrate to the United States. Based on Elia Kazan's
autobiographical novel "America, America."
Guest Speaker: Dr. Charles Moskos, Northwestern University

SUNDAY OCTOBER 19, 1986 at 3:00pm "A VILLAGE IN BALTIMORE, A Look at
Greek American Women" BY DOREEN MOSES explores the assimilation process
that 4 Greek women go through as they integrate into American culture.
The film, made in Baltimore's Greek town looks at such issues as
marriage, family life, professional aspirations and traditions.
Guest Speakers: Doreen Moses, the film's producer/director and
Father Chris Kerhulas, film reviewer for the Orthodox Observer

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 16, 1986 at 3:00pm "GOODNIGHT SOCRATES" BY MARIA
MORAITES brings to life the hardship a family faces as they are forced
to leave "Greek town" in the face of construction of the University
of Illinois Chicago Circle Campus. The film looks at the family's
apprehension as they begin to assimilate into mainstream society
and shares such moments at their last Easter in their old neighborhood.
Guest Speakers: Maria Moraites, Writer of "Goodnight Socrates" and
Father Chris Kerhulas, film reviewer for the Orthodox Observer

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

AT
DePAUL UNIVERSITY - SCHMITT CENTER

2323 North Seminary Chicago, Illinois ROOM 154
TICKETS \$4.00 per person, \$3.00 for senior citizens & students-Available at door.
FOR INFORMATION CALL: 282-6816 or 282-6234, 775-6893 or 655-2077

SPONSORED BY:
GREEK-AMERICAN COMMUNITY SERVICES AND...

CO-SPONSORED BY:
DePaul University Hellenic Society

This project is supported by a grant from the Chicago Office of Fine Arts
CityArts I Program made possible by the City of Chicago, the Illinois
Arts Council, the MacArthur Foundation, and the Woods Charitable Fund.

COORDINATED BY:
Evangeline Mistaras, President, John Psiharis, Executive Director
and Elaine Thomopoulos, Ph.D. Administrator for Greek-American
Community Services.



Premier for “Solstice” by Jerry Vasilatos in 1994.

GACS hosted many literary presentations.

GREEK-AMERICAN COMMUNITY SERVICES

AND THE

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

PRESENT

THEANO MARGARIS

WHO WILL READ GREEK AMERICAN
POETRY WITH DISCUSSION FOLLOWING
AT

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

6044 WEST DIVERSEY
ON

SUNDAY DECEMBER 10, 1989

12:00 NOON

REFRESHMENTS TO BE SERVED

PROGRAM TO BE PRESENTED IN GREEK

This program is part of a series of events sponsored by Greek-American Community Services and made possible through funding from the Chicago Office of Fine Arts, Department of Cultural Affairs, with additional funding by the MacArthur Foundation, The Woods Charitable Fund, Inc. and the Illinois Arts Council, a State Agency.

For further information call
Elaine Thomopoulos, Ph.D.
(312) 539-2323

A Conversation with Christopher G. Janus

Sunday Afternoon

October 27, 1996

3:00 P.M.

at

Greek-American Community Services
3940 N. Pulaski Road, Chicago, IL
(Kennedy Expy. ~ Irving Park/Pulaski Exit)

Sponsors

Cultural & Arts Program
of
Greek-American Community Services
with
Greek Women's University Club
and
Hellenic Professional Society of Illinois

Refreshments

Miss Fourth of July video after lecture
Information (312) 545-0303

Beginning in 1987 and continuing through 1996, GACS became a co-sponsor of a series of Greek Nights held at several popular Chicago night clubs.



PANOS PRODUCTIONS **METAXA**
& CM COMMUNICATIONS
invite you to **A CELEBRATION OF GREEK CULTURE**

Friday, December 2, 1988
LIMELIGHT
632 N. Dearborn
Doors open at 9:00 p.m.

Panos Productions will film live for an upcoming segment of
GRECIAN SPOTLIGHT
hosted by Dino Tsoros.

FASHION
10:30 p.m. Journey to Greece ...
Experience the wave of the future with
ZAHAROFF wearable art
Furs by **GIANNO**
Hair & Makeup by **MICHAEL ANTHONY HAIR DESIGNS**
Choreography by **ROSE MANDEL STARDANCE PRODUCTIONS**
Soundtrack by **MUSIC EXPRESS CHICAGO**

11:30 p.m.
Designs by **MARIO N. STAMAS**
Furs by *Andriana*
Hair & Makeup by **GIGI & COCO'S HAIR SALON**

ART Featuring Maria Akouris James Lambrinides Angie Fotos Mohr
original Tassia Kamberos Leon Marinakos James S. Rousonelos
works by Antigoni Lambrinides Elizabeth Melas Sophie Toulon

MUSIC Traditional Greek Folk Music by **THE HELLENIC FIVE**
Performance at 10:00 p.m.

CUISINE MY PLACE FOR? Restaurant & Playbill Café
ESTIA RESTAURANT

Most Special Thanks To:
David Aaron & John Bash—MUSIC EXPRESS CHICAGO
Maren Karras—IMAGES, Etc. PUBLIC RELATIONS
Charles Mouratides Dino Tsoros Marianna Zaharoff
John Psiharis—GREEK AMERICAN COMMUNITY SERVICES
THE HELLENIC PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY OF ILLINOIS
Complimentary Admission for two with this invitation from 9:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.
\$5.00 per person thereafter with invitation. \$7.00 per person without invitation.
You must be 21 to enter.

GREEK-AMERICAN
COMMUNITY SERVICES
PRESENTS
THE LECTURE SERIES

GREEK-AMERICANS IN THE WORK PLACE



A
CULTURAL
EVENT OF

GREEK
HERITAGE
'88

"Greek-Americans in the Workplace" included fifteen lectures and a radio program. It was funded in part through a grant from the Illinois Humanities Council.

GREEK-AMERICAN COMMUNITY SERVICES
INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR A
LECTURE-DISCUSSION
BY
George Christakes, Ph.D.
ON
THE GREEK WORK ETHIC

With comments by Stanley Rosen
Professor of Labor Relations, University of Illinois
on the experience of other immigrant groups.

SUNDAY, JUNE 26th, 3:00 P.M.
At The COPERNICUS FOUNDATION
5216 W. Lawrence
Chicago, Illinois
Refreshments will be served
Admission \$4.00 per person
\$3.00 for Senior Citizens and Students

This program is supported by the Illinois Humanities Council and the
National Endowment for Humanities with additional funding from the
Illinois General Assembly. It is hosted by the Copernicus Foundation.

For further information call 539-2323

PROJECT DIRECTORS: ELAINE THOMOPOULOS, Ph.D. AND JOHN PSIHARIS

A Cultural Event of Greek Heritage '88

Greek-American Community Services
in cooperation with
Lincoln Land Community College
presents

Alexander Karanikas, Ph.D.
Professor of English, University of Illinois, Chicago (Retired)

on

"From Peddlers to Bankers,
the Greeks in American Fiction"

Sunday, April 17, 2 p.m.
at
Lincoln Land Community College
Menard Hall, room 201
Springfield, Illinois

Admission free
Refreshments will be served

This program is supported by the Illinois Humanities Council
and the National Endowment for the Humanities
with additional funding from the Illinois General Assembly.

This program is hosted by Lincoln Land Community College.

GREEK-AMERICAN COMMUNITY SERVICES
Is Sponsoring A Lecture and Discussion
by

Elaine Thomopoulos, Ph. D.

"The Greek-American Woman At Work"

Wednesday, June 28th, 1989
at 7:30 p.m.

At
The Diplomat West
681 W. North Ave.
Elmhurst, Illinois

Refreshments will be served.
Admission: \$4.00 per person,
\$3.00 for senior citizens and students.

This Program is supported by the Illinois Humanities Council
and the National Endowment for the Humanities,
with additional funding from the Illinois General Assembly.

For Further Information Call 539-2323.
Project Directors: Elaine Thomopoulos Ph.D., and John Psitharis

GREEK-AMERICAN COMMUNITY SERVICES
Invites you to a lecture and discussion

by

Yorgos Kourvetaris, Ph.D.
on May 22nd, 1988 at 3:00 P.M.
on

"The Greek American Professional & Entrepreneur"

hosted by

The Hellenic Society of DePaul University
Stuart Center, Room 206
2324 N. Seminary, Chicago, Illinois

Admission \$4.00, Senior Citizens & Students \$3.00

This program is supported by Illinois Humanities Council
and the National Endowment for the Humanities
with additional funding from the Illinois General Assembly.

A Cultural Event of Greek Heritage '88

“Ethnic Identity and Leadership Development in Illinois”

included nineteen lectures throughout
Illinois.

GACS co-operated with eight ethnic
groups in this project, which
was funded in part by a grant from the
Illinois Humanities Council.

GREEK-AMERICAN COMMUNITY SERVICES
THE HELLENIC SOCIETY OF DePAUL UNIVERSITY
HELLENIC PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY
and the
INSTITUTE FOR AMERICAN PLURALISM

present

MICHAEL BAKALIS, Ph.D.

*Professor, Loyola University
and former Comptroller, State of Illinois*

"A DEFINITION OF LEADERSHIP
AND THE EXPLORATION OF ETHNICS AS LEADERS"

response by

PETER PORR

Executive Director, Southeast Asia Center

Sunday, April 29, 1990

3:30 P.M.

DePaul University
Lincoln Park Campus, Stuart Center, Room 220
2324 North Seminary - Chicago

Refreshments will be served

Admission: \$4.00
Seniors/Students: \$3.00

This program is part of a series of lectures on
"Ethnic Identity and Leadership Development in Illinois"
supported by the Illinois Humanities Council
and the National Endowment for the Humanities

For further information:
312/539-2323

Elaine Thomopoulos, Ph.D.
Project Director

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Annual Heritage Awards
Dinners from
1987-1998 honored those who
made outstanding
contributions
to the the community.



*Greek-American Community Services
requests the pleasure of your company
at the
First Annual Heritage
Awards Dinner Banquet*

*Honoring
Alex Karanikas
Andrew Kopan
Yorgos Kourvetaris
Charles Moskos
Theano Papazoglou-Margaris
Harry Mark Petrakis*

*Friday, May 1st, 1987
Diplomat Banquets
5600 West Fullerton
Chicago, Illinois*

*Cocktails 6:30 p.m.
Dinner 7:30 p.m.*

Black Tie Optional

*Donation \$35.00
Music by Perry Fotos Orchestra*

*For additional information call:
Greek-American Community Services Office: 539-2323
or Lena Xydes 764-1076 - Evenings*

GREEK-AMERICAN COMMUNITY SERVICES HERITAGE AWARDS RECIPIENTS

1987

Alexander Karanikas
Andrew Kopan
Yorgos Kourvetaris
Charles Moskos
Theano Papazoglou-Margaris*
Harry Mark Petrakis

1988

Adeline Geo-Karis
Yiannis Lambros*
Antigone Lambros
Fotios Litsas
Leon Marinakos
John Nicholson*
Sam Stavrakas

1989

John Geocaris*
James Mezilson
Georgia Mitchell

* Deceased

1990

James Kirie
Frank Kuchuris
Very Reverend Nikitas Lulias
Kay Valone

1991

Kathryn Adinamis
Charles Mouratides
Evangeline Gouletas
Mike Tsolinas

1992

Roula Alakiotou
Soula Koutsopanagos
Helen Theodosakis
Athena Touloumis*

1993

George Stephanopoulos
Ted Spyropoulos
Chris Tomaras

1994

Greek Women's University Club
Hellenic Cultural Organization
Hellenic Professional Society of Illinois
Krikos

1995

Greek Press
Hellenic Community News
(Παροικιακός Λόγος)
Greek Star
Hellenic Life (Ομογένεια)

1996

Irene Antoniou
Eleni Bousis
Dr. Theodosios Kioutas
Loukas Pergantas

1997

Greek-American Nursing Home Committee
Hellenic Foundation
International Orthodox Christian Charities
Chicago Diocese Philoptochos Society

Greek-American Community Services closed its doors in 2002 because of lack of funding. In its 19 years of existence, it accomplished the following:

- Helped thousands of seniors maintain their independence,
- Strengthened pride in ethnic heritage through humanities and cultural arts programs,
- Forged interethnic cooperation, including being instrumental in organizing the Coalition of Limited English Speaking Elderly,
- Initiated the Greek-American Nursing Home Committee (GANHC) that incorporated as a separate organization. The GANHC built the Greek-American Rehabilitation and Care Centre in Wheeling, Illinois.