



# The Hellenic Voice

Η ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΦΩΝΗ

*The Official Newsletter of the Hellenic Cultural Center of the Southwest*

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## General Assembly: Saturday, September 12, 2015 at Theo's

The Hellenic Cultural Center of the Southwest will have the annual General Assembly **Saturday, September 12, 2015** at Theo's Restaurant from **3:30 to 5:30 pm**.

Discussions will include the results of the past year and the upcoming events for 2016 and beyond. All members are welcome to bring ideas for all things cultural, educational and philosophical.

Our Mission is to promote an understanding of the rich history and legacy that Hellenes have given to civilization and to present the saga of the triumphs and sacrifices that were made.

We welcome you to become a contributing member and add your talents and abilities to HCC-SW. Attend the General Assembly to voice your opinions and become an active member of this extremely active group of dedicated Hellenes.

## OXI Day Celebration October 28th at Duchesne

The annual celebration of OXI Day will be held Wednesday, October 28th at Duchesne Academy, 10202 Memorial Drive in Houston. This year chairman Theo Doucakis plans to emphasize music, prose, poetry and film of that historical era. There will light hors d'oeuvres before the program at 7:00 pm. This event is sponsored by HCC-SW and the Greek Consul, George Papanikolaou.

**OXI Day** is celebrated throughout Greece, Cyprus and the Greek communities around the world on October 28th each year. OXI Day commemorates the rejection by Greek dictator Ioannis Metaxas of the ultimatum made by the Italian dictator Benito Mussolini on October 28, 1940. An ultimatum, which was presented to Metaxas by the Italian ambassador to Greece, Emanuele Grazzi, on October 28, 1940, at dawn (04:00 am). The ultimatum demanded that Greece allow Axis forces to enter Greek territory and occupy certain unspecified "strategic locations" or otherwise face war. It was allegedly answered with a single laconic word: *όχι* (No!) However, his actual reply was, "*Alors, c'est la guerre!*" (Then it is war!).

In response to Metaxas' refusal, Italian troops stationed in Albania, then an Italian protectorate, attacked the Greek border at 05:30 am—this was the beginning of Greece's participation in World War II. On the morning of October 28th the Greek population took to the streets, irrespective of political affiliation, shouting 'OXI'. From 1942 on, it has since been celebrated as OXI Day.

During the war, October 28th was commemorated yearly by Greek communities around the world and in Greece and Cyprus, and after World War II it became a public holiday in Greece and Cyprus. The events of 1940 are commemorated every year with military and student parades. On every anniversary, most public buildings and residences are decorated with Greek flags.



**WINSTON CHURCHILL**

*"Hence, we will not say that Greeks fight like heroes, but that heroes fight like Greeks."*

**Visit the Hellenic Cultural Center of the Southwest online at [www.hcc-sw.org](http://www.hcc-sw.org)**

## CAN GREEK AMERICA SURVIVE?

In a past issue of the *Hellenic Voice* we presented an article titled "Will Greece Survive?" In this issue I want to pose the question: *Will Greek-America Survive?* Put another way: Will Hellenic Culture in America survive? I have no doubt that Greece will survive. She always has and always will. But, I am not as certain that Hellenic Culture in America will survive.

First, let us look at the numbers. According to Dan Georgakas, director of Greek American Studies at Queens College CUNY, in the recent census only 1,174,064 people self identified themselves as being Greek-Americans. That is indeed a small number. It is much less than the estimated 2,000,000 we have been told in the past. One can argue that the census figure did not count all the Greeks in the USA for a number of different reasons (e.g. Some here illegally; just refused to answer the question; were 2nd or 3rd generation; were not US citizens, etc.). Even if the census figure is only close to being accurate, Greeks are only about one third of one percent of the American population.

The Greek Orthodox Church claims to have 1,500,000 members. This may well be true, especially if we include the non-Greek members such as those married to a Greek and their minor children and converts. As Georgakas points out: "However Hellenized the non-Greek spouse may be, children of such unions often do not assume Greek identity. Also negative is that in the decade from 1997 to 2007 marriages and baptisms in the Greek Orthodox Church declined by 30 to 40 percent."

Further evidence that the numbers are against us, consider the following: Circulation of the Orthodox Observer is only 140,000 copies, *The Ethnikos Kyriax* and its English language auxiliary the *National Herald* publish only 25,000+ copies. There are fewer newspapers and Greek magazines than there were 50 years ago.

The largest Greek-American organization is AHEPA that claims to have 40,000 members, but whose average age is well over 50. All the other Greek-American

organizations do not have numbers that can be a significant factor.

It is estimated that about 1,000 to 2,000 Greeks immigrate to the USA each year, but just as many repatriate yearly. We are not likely to significantly increase our numbers. The relative ease of going to Greece made possible by modern transportation is also a factor. The early immigrants were forced to adapt to the American culture to survive, but tried to bring the culture of their homeland to the USA as best they could. A trip to Greece was expensive and required 4 to 6 weeks away from work. The post WWII immigrants found this not as necessary. They could frequently return to their homeland and re-immense in its culture. They could take their children to Greece for extended stays---no need to have Greek culture in the USA.

Most of we Greek-Americans however were born in America not in Greece. We love our ancestral home but are proud to be Americans. We want our children and grandchildren to know about Greece and its incomparable contributions to civilization. Their DNA has an immutable Greek imprint that cannot be erased. I know, and I think you all know, that total and complete assimilation is a possibility and perhaps even a probability, BUT NOT YET! After all, Greeks never counted numbers.

Nick Checkles, MD  
Editor

### Upcoming Greek Events

- Sept. 5:** Olympian Dancers Heritage Gala
- Sept 12:** HCC-SW General Assembly
- Oct. 1-4:** The Original Greek Festival
- Oct. 28:** OXI Day
- Dec. 5:** Santa's Breakfast
- Dec. 13:** AHEPA Scholarship Gala
- Mar. 25:** Independence Day Celebration
- April 23:** "The Birds" Live Theater

#### HCC-SW Newsletter Editorial Staff

*The Hellenic Voice* is the official publication of the Hellenic Cultural Center of the Southwest and is produced by members and friends on a quarterly basis. Member organizations include: Consul of Greece in Houston, Alexander the Great Chapter #29, Order of AHEPA, Cretans of Houston, Daughters of Penelope, Macedonian Association of Greater Houston, Pancyprian Association of Texas, Inc., and the Marathon Exchange Organization. Postage is Paid at Houston, Texas. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to HCC-SW, P.O. Box 66431, Houston, TX 77266-6431. Send your comments, articles, suggestions for articles, and/or news to the HCC-SW Newsletter Editorial Staff. HCC-SW is a 501 (c) 3 Not For Profit organization.

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## AHEPA 29 Raises \$8200 for St. Nicholas Shrine in NYC

August 6, 2015 – a night to remember! The Brothers of AHEPA 29 gathered at the home of our President, Doug Harris and his bride Nancy Albritton, to raise over \$8,200 for the St. Nicholas Shrine at Ground Zero, NYC.

The **First Annual AHEPA 29 Whisk(e)y and Cigar Night** was, by all measures, a tremendous success. Members and guests filled the Harris loft that offered a spectacular evening view of downtown Houston. Greg Doxakis of **William Grant & Sons Distillers** provided the top shelf spirits for tasting, Mark Love of **Serious Cigars** supplied the smoothest cigars in Houston, and Ted Mousoudakis of **Theo's Restaurant** supplied the tasty Greek hors d'oeuvres.

We were honored to have our local clergy bless and be an integral part of the evening: Father Stelios Sitaras, Assumption of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church, Galveston, Father Luke Palumbis, St. Basil's GOC, and Father James Shadid of

St. George's Antiochian Orthodox Church.

AHEPANs and guests were treated to a delicious assortment of hors d'oeuvres, premium whiskies and cigars. Besides these extraordinary delicacies, the brotherhood and fellowship shared at this gentlemen's *time* truly embraced the reason why we were together. Lifelong friendships were renewed and the younger men were introduced to the real meaning of Christian brotherhood.

Our focus was the St. Nicholas Shrine that was destroyed during the 9/11 attack. Chris Pappas explained the process of reclaiming the land and planning for this phenomenal new cathedral. Fr. Luke Palumbis eloquently described the impact this new Orthodox Christian Shrine will have on the million visitors each month.

On that hot August night, the results were outstanding for this memorable event.



**THE BROTHERHOOD.** Generosity was the theme of the First Annual AHEPA 29 Whisk(e)y & Cigar Night. The Brothers and their guests joined to aide in the support of the rebuilding of the St. Nicholas National Shrine at Ground Zero in NYC. It was an evening to be long remembered for the comradery, brotherhood, great Greek delicacies and above the top shelf libations. Plus, some of the finest cigars legally available in the US.

Brother Harris' auctioneering ability was a surprise to many, but he managed to raise over \$2000 in the live auction. Thank you to all who purchased the many treasures that were donated to help in the rebuilding of this Orthodox Christian Shrine.

As Br. Spartalis said: *"Just wait until next year."*



# Houston: Our Continuing

*This is the story of the Seitanidis (George/Standish), Catsinas, Cazamias, and Ainadjoglou (Kostas) families.*

Growing up as a Greek-American in Houston, I often wondered about my heritage and how we ended up in Texas. Why not New York City or Chicago with the majority of other Greek immigrants? And if I'm Greek, why was my maternal side from present day Turkey?

I used to get that question from my Greek friends, too, when they would ask, "What "chorio" are you from?" My maternal grandfather and great-grandmother didn't talk about growing up in Turkey, but I do have a very vivid recollection of my grandfather telling me that "there is NO better country than the United States". My paternal grandfather was from Greece and came to the US because he thought, "money grew on trees", but my mother's side is from Asia Minor and Thraki. They were displaced from their ancestral homeland due to religious persecution.

Our story begins in the early 1900's when my maternal great-grandfather, Alexander George Seitanidis, born May 15, 1881, immigrated to Houston via Ellis Island Dec. 20, 1906 from Malgara. It was difficult to find any information about my great-grandfather because his last name was misspelled on almost every document and he used his middle name "George" as his last name on several documents. Alek George was a fruit dealer and cook (from 1906) at 610 Louisiana (now the site of Jones Hall) and later owned a fruit stall and restaurant at City Market Square. This is the block where Warren's and Treebeard's are currently located.

On January 20, 1911, Alexander George completed his Declaration of Intention to become a United States citizen and left the US to marry someone back in the Ottoman Empire. I believe the Catsinas brothers ( Efstratios "Stratos", and Petros) suggested he visit Aretsou, a prosperous Greek town 25 miles south of Istanbul on the Asia Minor side. It was there he met my great-grandmother (and nouna), Glykeria Ainadjoglou (aka Caria Brailas).

Her first name translates to "sweet lady" and her last name means "son of the mirror maker". In Greek, it was Katheropoulos, but Greeks changed their names to Turkish names to avoid persecution. Glykeria was born in Aretsou, Ottoman Empire on March 13, 1893. She was the youngest child born to Constantine Ainadjoglou and Anastasia Cazamias and later joined her older brothers, George and John Ainadjoglou (later changed to Kostas). As chance would have it, he met my great grandmother and decided to marry her instead.

I found the year 1911 inscribed on the inside of her wedding ring that later became a charm on my grandmother's bracelet. I also have a copy of a diary from 1911 with poetry, addresses and writing in Greek and French. She spoke Greek at home, but was tutored in French. Turkish was used for business only.

Also, around that time, I read that the Ottoman government called back citizens to serve in the army, but I don't know if this was another reason he went back. He had completed his Declaration of Intention, so I scoured [www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com) for information about Malgara and learned that his hometown had been occupied by the Bulgarians on November 23, 1912.

On December 9, 1912, rumors of Turkish troops occupying Gallipoli and massacring Christians persisted. It was said that the telephone lines were cut beyond Gallipoli, so the Turkish army retaliated by burning the villages, holding the villagers for ransom and its inhabitants put to the sword (Cincinnati Enquirer and The Watchman and Southron).

Later, it was confirmed by the Red Cross and Balkan War reports that the Turkish Irregular troops turned Malgara into a slaughterhouse in retaliation for the Bulgarian action. It continued, "Turks are wreaking dreadful vengeance on the Christian villages the Bulgarians spared." A later Red Cross report said reprisals resulted in 15,960 people killed, burned or dispersed.

Glykeria's two brothers, George Ainadjoglou (Kostas) and John Ainadjoglou (Kostas) immigrated to Houston on September 13, 1912 and December 12, 1911, respectively.

After they married, Alexandros stayed in Aretsou and Glykeria became pregnant in December. In June 1913, the Second Balkan war started and Alex Seitanidis returned to the United States along with her cousins, Demetrios Catsinas, and George Sakaroglou (Sacaris). More cousins from Aretsou came in August, too, Demetrios Cazamias, and his son, Panagiotis Cazamias, to avoid being conscripted in the Turkish Army.

Since she was pregnant, her mother wouldn't allow her to travel until after the baby was born and after the forty days or baptism. She gave birth to George Alexander Seitanidis on September 25, 1913. She arrived at Ellis Island on January 20, 1914 with her young son and uncle, John Cazamias. She was transferred by train to Houston to rejoin her husband.

John Cazamias and Demetrios Cazamias were her maternal uncles and owned flour and cement mills in Aretsou. John Cazamias and John Ainadjoglou (Kostas) were also original members present at the signing of the by-laws of the church in Houston on Nov. 16, 1916. Demetrios Cazamias was involved in trade and traveled around the world. The Cazamias family later moved to Nuevo Laredo in Mexico and started the Royal Fruit Co. as importers and distributors in Laredo.

Life in Houston with a new baby took time to adjust, but she loved the United States, per a first hand interview with Irene Cassis in 1983 that is recorded and transcribed at the Houston Public Library.

# Saga of the Early Greeks!

Her husband had an established business first as a fruit merchant and later as a restaurateur in the market across from City Hall. She said it was the first time they slept peacefully because there was no fear of Turks coming to the door to slaughter them.

Her son was swaddled as was the custom in Aretsou, but in America her new friends told her this was old fashioned. Her son would cry, and she would cry. They felt in the beginning, it was more difficult than today because there were only a few families who spoke Greek. She later had a daughter, Helen Seitanidis Sallas and another son, Constantinos Seitanidis (changed to Gus Standish).

She learned to speak English by helping her children with their homework. She felt her most important role was to raise her children in the church and to be good citizens. As an original member of the church in Houston, she mentions they held church in a building with a dance hall down below and the church upstairs.

I remember my grandmother, Helen Sallas, telling me that they had to move often because landlords didn't like renting to people with children. In those days, they could discriminate. They lived on Preston and later bought two lots and a house in Harrisburg on 213 Clifton St. In the Houston City Directories, I found him listed in business in 1917 at the Stratos, Christos & Co. restaurant and pool hall. In fact, one of Alexander's business partners, John Coroneos (originally Lagopoulos) pulled a gun on him and the Texas Rangers told John to leave the state of Texas, so he moved to New Orleans.

In August of 1920, Alex was barbecuing at a Greek picnic and became ill. He passed away October 29, 1920. In the 1983 interview my great-grandmother cited heart problems. He was only 39 years old and she was widowed with three young children under age seven. What would she do next? I have documents that show that early church members Chris Malavansos, Nick Giannoukos, and James G. Cafcalas held a surety bond for the probate of her husband's estate.

Her mother wanted her to return to Aretsou, Turkey to be with her. After World War 1 in Turkey, life in Aretsou was getting better. However, her brothers, John Kostas and George Kostas, lived in Houston and were in business with her husband and the Catsinas family. She and her husband were ¼ owners in the City Market Restaurant at the time of his death, so she continued to earn income to support her children.

Had she decided to return to Aretsou, it would've been a very bad decision. Tensions started heating up again in Turkey. A soldier named Dane warned the people in Aretsou in advance that the Turks were coming, so the entire town evacuated to Mytilini and other towns in Greece. Eventually, she met and married Nicholas Brailas, a widower from Dallas, on July 16, 1922. Nicholas Brailas owned a shoe shop and had lost a son and his wife in Dallas. Later they had three more boys, Louis, Angelo and Alexander.

Her mother, Anastasia Cazamias Ainadjoglou (Kostas), was later evacuated to Mytilini and moved to Houston to be with her daughter November 9, 1924. Her mother had an "arranged marriage" in Nuevo Laredo on July 8, 1925 with a friend to allow her to stay in the United States.

Life was difficult in the early 1920s, and Caria Brailas lost her son Angelo at 11 months, to a mastoid ear infection on March 11, 1926. But, despite hardships, they settled into their new life in the United States.

When her daughter, Helen Seitanides, was eighteen and in love, my great-grandmother wasn't sure the man would be a good match for her, so she took her to Galveston one weekend and introduced her to Paul Sallas (formerly Efstratios Paraskeva Efstratiades) from Myrioifiton, Turkey. They came home and my great-grandmother said, "So, do you want to get married?" and my grandmother replied, "Do I get a new dress?" Always the fashionista and "clothes horse"! Years later she would always tell me, "I had an arranged marriage, so I wasn't allowed to date." I asked her how she felt about it and it made me sad one day when she said she felt sold. However, after my grandfather passed away, I know she truly loved him and would always say, "There was no better man than Paul Sallas." I know he was a great dad to my mother and aunt, too.

In my own family, I never heard her or my grandfather speak ill of the Turks at all and I had to learn what I know from research. I only heard what a great country America is and I think they kissed the ground when they landed. I'll never forget my grandfather telling me when I was nine, "there is NO country like the United States!"

Caria Brailas was also my godmother. She was a godmother to many in our community, like Catherine Pontikes, Ella Pappas, Hrisanthe Pattas, and many others. When I was born in 1966, many people told my mother that Caria was too old to be my godmother plus she was my great-grandmother. My mother loved her grandmother very much and they traveled to Europe together in 1959 and made many trips around the United States.

After my father passed away in 1999, I felt an urgency to record the stories and learn as much family history as possible because my Greek language skills are very basic, so the names, stories, towns, etc. would be lost for future generations. In August of 2001, my mother and I traveled to all of the places my great-grandparents and paternal grandfather were from and in 2003 we traveled to Aretsou (now called Darica, Turkey).

Interestingly, my dad and uncles were in the oil business, my cousins are ranchers and my great-uncle married a woman who was half Cherokee. My friends used to refer to my grandmother as the "Yiayia who speaks Greek with a Texas accent". I guess Texas has entered our DNA, but we belong to the Aretsou Association representing Texas Aretsiani.

# Become a Member . . . Join HCC-SW Today

The Hellenic Cultural Center of the Southwest is committed to promoting the legacy and spirit of Greece throughout the area by hosting and fostering events with the ultimate goal of erecting a building that will serve as a headquarters for the numerous events, activities and community outreach which we wish to sponsor.

To that end, membership is the life-blood of the HCC-SW. Without your support, none of our events or outreach programs would be possible. With your continued generosity, the HCC-SW will continue to grow and flourish!

If you are not already a member, we encourage you to join so that together we can accomplish our goals. Along with your membership contribution, which allows us to pursue these goals, you will be invited to participate in our General Assemblies as a voting member, and also receive numerous advantages such as discounted tickets to our many events.

2016 promises to be a year full of exciting events

and added perks for our members! To become a member or renew a membership, visit our website at [www.hcc-sw.org](http://www.hcc-sw.org) or fill in the pertinent information on our form and return it along with your check or money order to:

HCC-SW

PO Box 66431

Houston, TX 77266-6431

## Application for Membership 2016

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Choose your membership level:

\_\_\_\_\_ Student \$20

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual \$50

\_\_\_\_\_ Household \$75

\_\_\_\_\_ Patron \$500

\_\_\_\_\_ Benefactor \$1000

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## Live Greek Theater Returns With “The Birds”

Live Greek theater returns to Houston *Saturday, April 23, 2016* with the production of “*The Birds*” performed by the Classical Theater Company of Houston.

Prior to the live performance, a lecture on Greek Classics will be presented by Dr. Harvey Yunis, Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Humanities and Classics at Rice University. He is also editor of *Rhetorica*, the journal of the *International Society for the History of Rhetoric*. His main topics of research are Greek rhetoric and poetics, fifth and fourth century Athenian literature and thought of Plato, Demosthenes

and Thucydides.

This event is co-sponsored by the Archeological Institute of America (AIA) and the Hellenic Cultural Center of the Southwest. The play will be held at the Duchesne Academy, 10202 Memorial Dr. and begins at 3:00 pm. Tickets for non-members are \$35, members \$30, \$10 for students and free to children under 12.

Following the performance, there will be a reception with Greek desserts along with music and dancing.

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## Daughter's *Down by the Sea* Style Show Set for Nov. 7th

“Down by the Sea” – the annual Charity Luncheon and Style Show – will be held at the Junior League Building Saturday, November 7th at 11:00 am. The Daughters of Penelope Chapter 54 sponsor this yearly event to raise funds for various organizations.

The clothes will be provided by **Soft Surroundings**, a national clothing store. In addition to the silent auction and door prizes, there will be three raffle prizes. First prize is a cruise for two to

Cozumel out of Galveston. Second prize is \$300; and third prize is \$200.

Most importantly, the Daughters will honor 50 year member Martha Stefanidakis for contributions and consistent dedication to the Daughters.

Luncheon tickets are \$50 per person and can be purchased from Delores Pappas at 713.861.5262. Raffle tickets are \$2.00 each and are being sold by Cathy Paraschos -281.288.8662.

# Marathon Exchange Exchanges Runners With Greece

The Houston-Athens Marathon Exchange (HAME), is a non-profit group of volunteers, founded in 1988 by George Sarantopoulos and several fellow Greek-Americans. The HAME was envisioned as an exchange program linking the ancient Greek running tradition with the modern international marathons to foster good will between two great nations.

The idea was so successful that it received the full blessing and support of Melina Mercouri, Minister of Culture in Greece at that time. The marathon organization has continued this unique exchange and is now in its 28th year.

Founded in 1982, The Athens Classic Marathon was founded in 1982 and attracts Greek runners as well as many international runners. The finish line is located at the Panathenaic Stadium, where a crowd of 70,000 spectators cheer the Olympic marathoners. Its course approximates the run by Pheidippides in 490 BC and Spiros Louis in 1896.

Since the beginning of the Houston-Athens Marathon Exchange, volunteers have sponsored an annual Pastichio Dinner on the Thursday night prior to the Chevron Houston Marathon. Funds from this dinner, which includes pastichio, Greek salad, and

baklava, are used to defray the costs of sending runners from Houston to Athens.

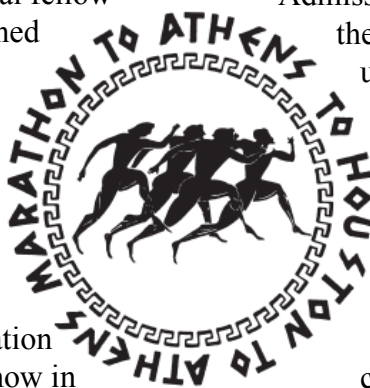
Admission to the dinner is \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door and \$15 for children ages 12 and under. Remember: Thursday, January 14th at S.P. Martel Hall.

The runners from Greece participating in the Chevron Houston Marathon, and any Houston winners of the trip to Greece in attendance, are introduced to an audience of local runners and members of the Greek-American community and other guests. This event

has been attended in recent years by many of the international runners participating in the Houston Marathon, including several of the male and female runners who have won the marathon a few days later. Pastichio Power!!!

This is all sponsored by The Houston-Athens Marathon Exchange, Consulate of Greece, Hellenic Cultural Center of the Southwest and Pappas Restaurants, Inc.

For more information about the dinner please contact: Anthony Kouzounis – 713.522.2300; Dennis Moustakis – 713.977.6143 or 832.978.3762 and/or Sophie Stenis – 713.686.2084.



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## The Original Greek Festival 2015 - Oct. 1 - 4

Houston, TX – August 24, 2015 – The Original Greek Festival will return for its 49th year October 1 – 4, 2015 at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral Complex at 3511 Yoakum near the Museum District. A centerpiece of the fall festival season in Houston, The Original Greek Festival features delicious Greek food, traditional Greek dancing, numerous shopping opportunities, and the chance to learn more about the Greek Orthodox culture and its faith.

The festival is the largest of its kind in the nation, with over 40,000 Houstonians expected to attend over the course of four days.

Visitors to the 2015 Original Greek Festival will enjoy the convenience of free park-and-ride shuttle lots, plus expanded festival grounds and the ability to pay for food and drinks with credit cards. This year's festival will also offer a selection of craft beers, including Karbach, St. Arnold's, Goose Island, and Firestone Walker. A third festival gate has been added near the corner of Mt. Vernon and Kipling to make entering and exiting the festival quicker and more convenient.

Original Greek Festival chairs Ted and Pauline Koinis are proud of the fact that the festival offers an authentic Greek

experience. "Many members of our congregation go to Greece every summer," Ted notes, "so we know what Greece is really like. What we try to do is bring a bit of Greece to Houston for four days every fall. Hopefully our hospitality, cuisine, culture, and Orthodox faith will transport festival goers to Greece, since many of them won't actually get a chance to go. They can smell the smells and taste the tastes."

Pauline adds, "There is also the richness and beauty of the Orthodox church itself. Some people come just for that."

### Heritage Gala Sept. 5th

The *Olympian Dancers of Houston* will be hosting their annual Heritage Gala September 5th at St. Basil's Greek Orthodox Church beginning at 6:30 pm.

This talented Greek dance troupe will showcase dances and costumes from various regions of Greece, emphasizing the authenticity of each dance and the costumes of each region. Tickets are \$50 per person and a table of eight is \$350.00. Go to [www.hcc-sw.org](http://www.hcc-sw.org) to purchase your tickets.



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