



Chian Federation eNews

**April 10, 2006
Issue 29**

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Chian News, Events, Articles & Pictures

"The Voice of the Chian Federation"

Picture of the Week



Photo: Vangelis Roufakis

Coming Events

All events at the Cultural Center of the Chian Federation unless otherwise noted

▶ **Every Friday, 9:00pm**
'The Voice of the Chian Federation' Radio Program

▶ **Sun. April 16th**
Women's Auxiliary Palm Sunday Luncheon

▶ **Sun. April 30th, 10:30am**
Agios Georgios Sikousis Artoklasia @ Prophet Elias Church, Yonkers, NY

▶ **Fri. May 5th**
Youth Dance

▶ **Sat. May 6th @ 9:00am**
Defensive Driving Course

▶ **Sat. May 6th**
Pispilounta Society Annual Dance

▶ **Sun. May 7th @ 1:00pm**
Panchiaki Korais Society Easter Luncheon

[Click here for The Chian Federation Calendar of Events](#)

Save The Dates

▶ **Sat. May 20th**
Chian Federation Sponsors Reception

▶ **Sat. May 20th**
Chian Federation Commemoration of the Chian

Editorial

Axios

As you will read in the *News & Events* section of eNews below, the Chian Federation has overwhelmingly decided to honor Mr. George Almiroudis for his many contributions to the Chian Federation, the Greek-American Community and Chios in general. For more than 30 years, Mr. Almiroudis' financial, personal work and other contributions have been invaluable in securing the survival and growth of our organization as well as countless other organizations and individuals. In the next issue, as we lead up to May 20th, the day of the Sponsors Reception, we will provide you with a profile of the honoree and a small sample of his contributions. In the meantime, let us be the first to say to Mr. Almiroudis: "Congratulations on a well deserved honor."

The Chian Federation eNews Editorial Committee

▶ **Oct. 26th - Oct. 29th**
Chios Societies of America &
Canada Annual Convention,
San Francisco, California

Chianfed.org Highlights

- ▶ [Chian Federation Picture Gallery](#)
- ▶ [Chios Picture Gallery](#)
- ▶ [Children of the Chios Massacre](#)

News & Events

The Chian Federation to Honor George Almiroudis

George Almiroudis, Chairman of
the Chian Federation Parade
Committee, 1978

The Board of Directors and the Executive Council of the Chian Federation take great pleasure in informing you that a testimonial dinner will be held in honor of Mr. George Almiroudis, a founding member and long time benefactor of the Chian Federation. The event will take place on Saturday, May 20th at the Hellenic American Cultural Center of the Chian Federation 44-01 Broadway, Astoria, NY.

George Almiroudis is truly a unique individual. His philanthropic and patriotic activities have earned him the respect and admiration of not only the Chian Federation members but the Hellenic community as well. A fervent proponent of Hellenic ideals he has served the Federation and the Chian-American community with distinction and dedication.

The contribution for the evening is \$100 per individual and it includes a reception, full sit-down dinner and entertainment until the wee hours of the morning. A Commemorative Journal where we can all express our feelings and gratitude to George will also be published. All proceeds from the event and the Journal will go exclusively to support the many activities and programs of the Chian Federation.

For more information, commemorative journal contracts and reservations, please call the Chian Federation office at 718-204-2550. Journal contracts may also be downloaded from our web site at the following link: [Journal Contract](#)<

We trust that we can count on your presence and support on May 20th as we all thank George Almiroudis for his dedication, support, commitment and most of all his friendship.

Palm Sunday Luncheon

Women's Auxiliary of the Chian Federation
Palm Sunday Luncheon
Sunday, April 16, 2006 2:00pm

This Week in Chian History

April 10, 1739 - A heat wave destroyed the fig trees and vineyards on Chios as if the trees were torched.

April 10, 1942 - The exodus of young Chians to Turkey to survive from the starvation and the German occupation continues with many victims. Over 200 drowned crossing to Turkey in small boats.

April 14, 1913 - The newspaper "Nea Chios" announced the start of operations of two movie theaters on Chios, "Rome" and "Edison".

April 17, 1556 - The Turkish fleet under the command of Admiral Piali Pasha with 120 galleys and takes Chios without battle. The Genoans who governed the island were exiled or put to death; their property was seized or plundered by the Turkish soldiers. With the annexation of the island by the Ottomans, Sultan Selim II grants Chians enviable privileges.

April 23, 1822 - Metropolitan Platon is hanged by the Turks in the public square of Chios, Vounaki. Together with Platon also hanged were the Chian elders held as hostages by the Turks for a year as well as his deacon Makarios.

April 27, 1748 - Adamantios Korais, the son of Chian parents, born in Smyrna. Korais a graduate of the University of Montpellier in

Women's Auxiliary Luncheon for the Children of Saint Basil's Academy



On Sunday March 26th, the Women's Auxiliary of the Chian Federation, hosted the children of Saint Basil's Academy, to a fun afternoon of food and dancing at the Chian Federation. All the children of the Academy as well as the over 150 Chians who attended the event, had a great time. All food and pastries were donated by various restaurants which allowed the Women's Auxiliary to donate all the

proceeds from the event directly to the children.

In our picture, the children receiving their gifts from the President of the Chian Federation alex Doulis, the newly elected President of the Women's Auxiliary, Maria Papagiannakis and the outgoing President Angeliki Perrikos.

New York Greek Independence Day Parade

The unusually mild and sunny weather, for this time of year, in New York, permitted tens of thousands of Greek to participate at the annual Greek Independence Day Parade up Manhattan's Fifth Avenue on Sunday April 2nd.

The Chians once again, just as every year, gave their best to present a large number of marchers. A few hundred Chians, marched behind the float representing the fire-ship of the great naval hero of the Greek War of Independence, Konstantinos Kanaris. As in the past few years, ALL Chians marched together under the Auspices of the Chios Societies of America and Canada.

Unfortunately the great display of the Chians was missed by most viewing the Parade since we were one of the last organizations to march. What's even more unfortunate, as we passed the stands for the dignitaries, to our surprise the stands were mostly empty. Many of our members raised the question (to which we couldn't find a good answer): "if the Greek and American dignitaries and church officials could not watch the whole parade, shouldn't at least some members of the Board of the Federation of Hellenic Societies, the organizers of the Parade, remain behind to observe the fine work done by those marching?"

After the Parade, all participants, were hosted at the Cultural Center of the Chian Federation where the Women's Auxiliary provided lunch and coffee.

Chian Dance Groups Perform at Nursing Homes

This past Saturday, April 8th, the Dance Groups of the Women's Auxiliary of the Chian Federation continued their program, which

1788, spent most of his life as an expatriate in Paris. A classical scholar and philosopher, Korais was repelled by the Byzantine influence in Greek society and was a fierce critic of the ignorance of the clergy and their subservience to the Ottoman Empire. He realized that education was a precursor to Greek liberation. He invented Katharevousa a cleansed form of the ancient Greek language. Korais had extensive ties with Chios and in his will bequeathed his extensive library to Chios.

Sources:
Hiako Imerologio tou 2000;
Chios Imerologio 1979;
Hiohronologio

Web Links

All links presented in eNews, and many more can be reached via the Chian federation Site at <http://www.chianfed.org/links>

► **Gallery Touri - Chios - Greece** An art gallery in Chios run by a Norwegian artist living in Chios, who paints mainly Chios.

► **Prometheus - Federation of Greek-American Teachers**

► **Cave of Olympi - Óδῶπέει Ἰεῦϊδούι ×βῖῶ**

Did You Know...

... the pilot of the first ship to circumnavigate the globe was Chian? His name was Francisco Albo. On August 10, 1519, Magellan sailed from Seville with five ships and a crew of 243 men, seven of them Greek, to find a passage linking the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

The ships were the Trinidad, the San Antonio, the Concepcion, the Santiago, and the Victoria. All seven Greek sailors who began the voyage survived. Three of them were on board the Victoria: pilot Francisco Albo from Chios, pilot's assistant Miguel de Rodas and sailor Miguel Sanchez de Rodas, both from Rhodes.

In September 1522, the

started last spring, performing for the less fortunate among us. The youngest and middle groups performed at the Ozanam Hall of the Queens Nursing Home in Bayside. This innovative program, has met with positive response from the residents of the institutions the Dance Groups perform. More performances by all the Dance Groups, are scheduled until the end of June.



Just as last year, our Dance Group has been invited to perform in front of 70,000 Mets fans on Friday June 16th, during Greek Night at Shea Stadium. In addition, as in years past, we can look forward to stellar performances this Sunday when all Groups perform at the Annual Palm Sunday Luncheon organized by the Women's Auxiliary of the Chian Federation.

Chios Bookshelf

Dr. Alexander Vlasto's "XIAKA"
CHAPTER VI.

A.D. 1453 - 1477.

Continued from the last issue of eNews

The Justinianis, anticipating the evils that would befall them, wrote (14th August, 1455) a letter to the Pope Callixtus III, in which they implored his assistance, and begged him to declare a crusade against the enemies of the Cross. At the end of the letter, they said that, if their prayers remained unanswered, calling upon the Supreme Judge to witness their abandonment, they would fight for their faith, up to their last breath.⁽⁶⁾ The Doge of Genoa, Peter Fregoso, sent two ships and 500 men to their assistance, as well as corn, and a good supply of other munitions of war (1456).⁽⁷⁾ But the Justinianis seeing, on one side, the terrible dissensions between Genoa and Alfonso King of Sicily, on the other, that Mahomet, having conquered Enos and the neighbouring islands of Thasos and Samothrace, was preparing to march against Chios in the spring, again sent him ambassadors, to try and divert the now close approaching storm. Mahomet, being satisfied with the payment of 30,000 ducats for the sunken ship, and a tribute of 10,000 florins, turned his arms against Lemnos, which he took, and postponed the conquest of Chios and Lesbos to some future time.⁽⁸⁾ Next year, some months after the Crusaders, led by the ever victorious Hunyadi, had defeated Mahomet at Belgrade, sixteen Papal ships, commanded by the Cardinal Ludovic Scarampa, appeared in the Aegean, coming to the assistance of the more important islands. Dropping anchor off Chios, the Cardinal urged the Chian authorities to refuse payment of the tribute to the Sultan (1457); but they, fearing the vengeance of the Turks, after the departure of the Papal fleet, refused to listen.⁽⁹⁾ (Who could have foreseen that after a lapse of 364 years this situation would be repeated?) Time showed that their fears were well grounded, for the Sultan, leaving them unmolested, sent his fleet to Lemnos, and punished it for having listened to the advice of Scarampa. The Justinianis, however, seeing that Mahomet had conquered Lesbos, fearing the same fate, and no longer being able to expect help from Genoa, on account of her own troubles, appealed to the Pope, Pius II.⁽¹⁰⁾ They also began further fortifying their city, to enable it to offer the longest possible resistance to the great forces of their oppressor. The Pope, being without money, had to have recourse to his spiritual treasury, and promised indulgences to all who should go to the assistance of Chios! The Chians, however, hampered both by civil dissension⁽¹¹⁾ and lack of money for their work of fortification, again sent envoys to Genoa, praying for help. The Genoese, who had just lost their rich colony of Kaffa on the Taman Chersonese (1474), fearing to lose Chios also, ordered four ships (two of which belonged to the Justinianis and the other two to

Victoria docked in Seville after being at sea for three years. The 18 sailors aboard who had survived the journey were the first men in history to circumnavigate the globe on a ship piloted by a Chian. Much which is known about the three-year voyage of discovery comes from Francisco Albo's pilot log.

A faithful reproduction of the Victoria which is currently sailing around the world, visited the largest port of Greece Pireas, in honor of the Greek contribution to the original voyage, two weeks week ago.

Chios Quote

“ It is now half a century since the name of Scio rang through the civilized world as the theatre of a deed which Turkish history itself can scarcely parallel, and the island is vigorously regaining its prosperity. It only needs to recall the outlines of the story. The fertile island, which is four times the extent of the Isle of Wight, was the home of one hundred and ten thousand inhabitants, of whom only six thousand were Turks. The Greeks of Scio were said to differ physically and morally from all their kindred; their merchants were princes at home and abroad, art and literature flourished, with grace and refinement of manner, and there probably nowhere existed a society more industrious, gay, contented, and intelligent. Tempted by some adventurers from Samos to rebel, they drew down upon themselves the vengeance of the Turks. The city of Scio, with its thirty thousand inhabitants, and seventy villages, were reduced to ashes; twenty-five thousand of all ages and both sexes were slain, forty-five thousand were carried away as slaves, among them women and children who had been reared in luxury, and most of the remainder escaped, in a destitute state,

Negri and Spinola, rich citizens of Genoa) to go to the help of Chios. Three years later too, they sent Francesco Sofia, Professor of Law, to the Pope, Sixtus IV, for pecuniary assistance, and received 5,000 scudi⁽¹²⁾ (1477). That the sovereignty of the island was considered a valuable asset to Genoa, was shown some sixteen years later. Hearing from the Genoese, in Galata, that the Turks were preparing a formidable fleet to conquer the island, they called a council, in which it was decided to arm five large ships to send 5,000 men, in addition to sailors, and to give the command to Thomas Justiniani Forneti. But Thomas arriving in Chios, found quiet and peace reigning there because the Turks, altering their plans, had again deferred their expedition against Chios to a more favourable occasion, as we shall hereafter see. At this time it is possible that, then serving as a simple sailor, Christopher Columbus may have set his foot on Chios.⁽¹³⁾

into other parts of Greece. At the end of the summer's harvest of death, only two thousand Sciotes were left on the island. ”

Charles Dudley Warner, "In the Levant", 1877



The Greek Exile
by
Christophorus Plato Castanis

FOOTNOTES:

- (6) "Sacra Scio," p. 49.
 (7) Sismondi, "hist. des rep. italiennes du moyen-age," vol. X, pp. 67-72.
 (8) Ducas, "Byz. Hist."
 (9) Ducas, "Byz. Hist."
 (10) The Pope was so zealous in his desire to free the Christians from their slavery under the Turks, that he even conceived the extraordinary idea of writing a letter to the Sultan Mahomet himself, trying to convert him to Christianity by force of argument. In order to convince him, he not only quoted arguments from the Apostles and Fathers of the Church, but even resorted to the profane faith of Solon and Lycurgus; and, in order to rouse his ambition, quoted Constantine the Great, who after being baptised and armed with the symbol of the Cross, became ever victorious and Ruler of the whole inhabited world. (Mich. "Hist. Crois," vol. VIII, p. 375).
 (11) These dissensions between the Maonenses and the Latin Bishop, Hieronymus Camolli, arose over the confiscated ecclesiastical property of the Greek conspirators, (of which we have made mention earlier). Eventually they referred the matter to the Pope Sixtus IV., who decided (1473) that the Maonenses should return possession of the property, but pay the Bishop a perpetual annual sum of 400 ducats, and a further single sum of 100 ducats, for the restoration of the Episcopal Church.
 (12) "Sacra Scio," p. 53. Serra, "Istoria," etc., p. 236.
 (13) Humboldt, "examen critique de l'hist. de la geographic a nouveau continent," in the newspaper "Presse." 11th April, 1831

Donations

As a not-for-profit organization, the Chian Federation depends on the kindness of members and friends to carry out its many programs.

Your kind donations are welcome and tax deductible to the extend allowed by law.



Continues in the next issue

From the Archives



Photo: Nikos Papagiannakis

The members of the Middle Dance Group of the Women's Auxiliary performing at the 2005 Palm Sunday Luncheon

*The Chian Federation Honors
George Almiroudis
Saturday, May 20th 2006*

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