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# THE HELLENIC INITIATIVE THE THIRD ANNUAL BANQUET

# EMPOWERING THE FUTURE OF GREECE



New York • September 30, 2015

#### **PASSED HORS D'OEUVRES**

Chicken Saltimbocca | Crispy Duck | Grilled Lemon Shrimp | Artichoke Fondue | Truffled Mashed Potato | Spinach Souffle | Lime Cured Salmon | Lamb Chop

#### DINNER

#### **Roasted Kaleidoscope Of Carrots**

Baby Jewel Carrots, Saffron Greek Yogurt Puffed Rice and Upland Cress

#### **Mavrodafni Braised Short Ribs & Filet Mignon**

Pistachio Gremolata and Balsamic Jus Roasted Broccolini and Cauliflower Puree

#### **DESSERT, COFFEE & TEAS**

#### **Chocolate Terrarium**

Matcha Green Tea With Ginger Chocolate Mousse Buttermilk Chocolate Cake And Yuzu Dew Drops

#### **Passed Sweets**

Mini Fillo Funnel Cakes Micro Pavlova (Brown Sugar Mascarpone With Fresh Fig) Zumero (Ganache Soaked Chocolate Cake With Cardomom Creme Fraiche) Kourambiethes & Greek Yogurt Milkshake

# WINES

# Kidonitsa vintage 2014

White

#### 300 vintage 2005

Red

#### WELCOME

#### **George P. Stamas and Dennis Mehiel**

Banquet Co-Chairs

#### **GREEK AND AMERICAN NATIONAL ANTHEMS**

**Anastasia Zannis** 

#### **INVOCATION**

**His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America** 

#### **MASTER OF CEREMONIES**

#### **Emilia Bechrakis and Ryan Serhant**

Stars of Bravo's "Million Dollar Listing New York"

# **DINNER**

#### VIDEO PRESENTATION

# REMARKS

**Special Guest Speakers** 

#### PRESENTATION OF THE HELLENIC LEADERSHIP AWARD

**John A. Catsimatidis,** Founder, The Red Apple Group

George Marcus, Founder, Marcus & Millichap

The Agnes Varis Trust, Founded in 2011

#### **CLOSING**

#### Andrew N. Liveris

THI Chairman



John Catsimatidis is the Chairman and CEO of the Red Apple Group, which has holdings in oil refining, retail petroleum products, convenience stores, real estate, aviation, and supermarkets, plus investments in both medical and industrial technology. Catsimatidis has his own radio program that airs on Sunday mornings on WNYM, 970AM radio. The program, "Cats' Roundtable" has become the number one program in its time slot in the New York area.

Catsimatidis was born in Greece on the island of Nisyros. Both grandfathers came to America in 1913. His father Andreas stayed behind to take care of the family as a lighthouse keeper for 17 years. After World War II,

Catsimatidis' father returned to Nisyros, married, and immigrated to New York in 1948 while John was 6 months old. The family lived in a small, walk up apartment on 135th street in Harlem, New York.

Red Apple Real Estate has substantial investments in the NewYorkand NewJersey markets. Catsimatidis has become a major developer in recent years with four completed construction projects completed and more under way. The commercial and residential properties has added significantly to the sky line in Brooklyn. In the mid-1980's, Catsimatidis acquired United Refining Company of Warren, Pennsylvania. This refinery provides the energy

needs of western Pennsylvania, northern New York and eastern Ohio, and includes 400 gas stations and convenience stores. Catsimatidis has also become the largest generator of biodiesel fuel on the Eastcoast.

A licensed jet pilot, Catsimatidis started a corporate jet company in the late 1970's and built it up to 48 jets when he sold out to Net Jets. Currently his Red Apple Aviation operates personalized, large corporate aircraft.

John and Margo Catsimatidis' charitable interests are focused on young people, as well as the elderly, which includes the Kidney Foundation, Alzheimer's Foundation, Parkinson's Disease Foundation, Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Police Athletic

League, Boy Scouts and others like the Law Endorsement Foundation

In 2013, Catsimatidis sought the Republican nomination for Mayor of New York City. Catsimatidis finished second with 41% of the vote against an establishment candidate.

Mr. Catsimatidis is married to Margo Vondersaar Catsimatidis. Margo is President of MCV Advertising. They have two children, daughter Andrea Catsimatidis a graduate of NYU Stern Business School as is their son John Jr.. Both of the young Catsimatidis work with their father at Red Apple.



Born George Mathew Moutsanas in 1941 in Limni, Evia, Greece on the island of Euboea, one of the oldest-known confederation of Greek states in classical antiquity, he emigrated to the United States and in 1945. He graduated as George M. Marcus from San Francisco State University with a B.A. degree in Economics, was honored as Alumnus of the Millennium in 1999 receiving an honorary doctorate in 2011. He made his mark in business, founding G.M. Marcus & Company that evolved into Marcus & Millichap Company, where he still serves as Chairman. He also serves as the Chairman of Essex Property Trust (ESS) and Marcus & Millichap, Inc. (MMI), both of which he founded and took public.

Mr. Marcus received the high Offikion of Archon Exarchos in 1991 by His Eminence Archbishop lakovos at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New York.

His considerable commitments to the Greek Orthodox Church and his community include memberships on the Board of Directors at the Modern Greek Studies Foundation, CSU Foundation, UCSF Foundation, Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute, which honored him in 2012, the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco, which honored him in 2014. International Orthodox Christian Charities, Elios Society of Northern California and he is committed to Leadership 100.

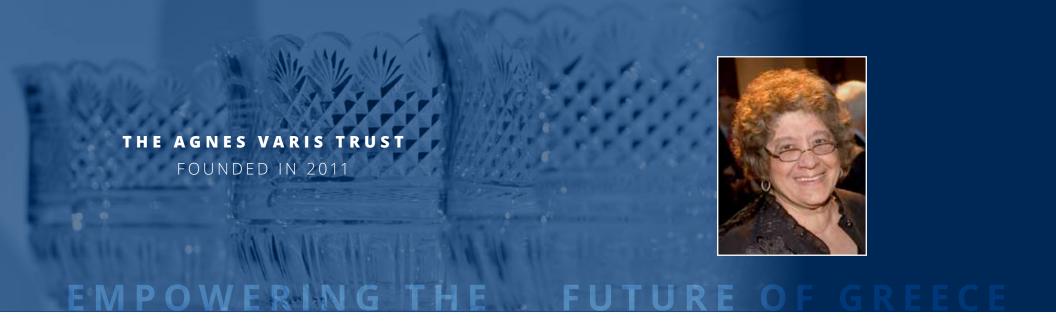
Mr. Marcus also founded and serves as the Chairman of the National Hellenic Society, which brings together distinguished Greek Americans on a national level to preserve their heritage. Other notable activities include involvement on the President's Council of United Religions Initiative and with The Hellenic Initiative. Mr. Marcus also serves on the Advisory Board of both the Washington Oxi Day Foundation and the Taube Foundation.

He is the majority owner of two renowned Greek restaurants in the San Francisco Bay Area; Kokkari in San Francisco and Evvia in Palo Alto. In 2014 Mr. Marcus participated in the White House Greek Independence Day celebration, where the authentic

cuisine of his restaurants was served, both President Obama and Vice President Biden were in attendance.

Mr. Marcus' many awards include the Oxi Day Award, Axion Award from Hellenic-American Professional Society, American Hellenic Institute Entrepreneurial Award and the Ellis Island Medal of Honor in 1993.

Mr. Marcus and his wife Judy live in Los Altos Hills, California. They have four children; Mary Jane, John, Demetra and Alexandria and three grandchildren; Jayden, Evvie and Marlowe



Proud daughter of Greek immigrants, Dr. Agnes Varis, (1930-2011), was an indefatigable businesswoman, activist, and humanitarian.

Born in Lowell, MA, and raised in Brooklyn, NY, Agnes blazed a path for women in the US pharmaceutical industry and influenced the birth of generic drugs. She opened three pharmaceutical businesses and helped draft both the Hatch-Waxman Act and the Greater Access to Affordable Pharmaceuticals Act. Though she had requested no obituary, upon her death she received three eulogies on the floor of the U.S. Senate for extraordinary citizenship.

Member of both The Metropolitan

Opera and The Jazz Foundation of America boards, Agnes fought for public access to the arts, as well as musicians' welfare. In return, New Orleans named a street in her honor, musicians dubbed her "St. Agnes," and Barack Obama appointed her to the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities.

The first in her family to graduate college, Agnes financed too numerous a list of educational projects to relay here. She underwrote scholarships, endowed professorships, and built facilities, many at Tufts University where she received an honorary doctorate.

Continuing Dr. Varis' vision, The Agnes Varis Trust supports public accessibility to healthcare, education, and the arts. Its medical projects include: breast cancer and epidermolysis bullosa research; HPV vaccinations and obstetric fistula operations in Africa; nutrition, social, and anti-addiction programs in the US and Middle East; and infant/ mother health agencies in Haiti, Kenya and Ghana; social service programs, orphanages, group homes, and developmental missions including the Greek Orthodox Hogar Rafael Arau (Guatemala) and Brother Themi School (Sierra Leone). The Trust funded scholarships at Bergen Community College, and at the Universities of the Sciences, and helped renovate the Hellenic Charter School, Brooklyn and St. Basil Academy dormitory (NY).

For the arts, the Trust funds many not for profit cultural organizations including the NYC International Greek Film Festival, the Language & Culture Institute of the Hamptons, and public media, including the construction of the WNET/NJTV Studio in Newark to bolster non-commercial television news coverage.

The Agnes Varis Trust is particularly proud to preserve Dr. Varis' roots and honor her spirit by supporting the work of The Hellenic Initiative. As she would often say: "Tell them a Greek woman did this so they know they can and should!"

#### **HONOREE CHAIRPERSONS**

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#### **SPECIAL THANKS**

Diane Kochilas

Anna Lee

John J. Mindala II

Paulette Poulos

Carla Ruben and Creative Edge Catering

Pam Skea and Flying Olive Farms

Leon Stavrou and The Next Generation Initiative







### **HELLENIC LEADERSHIP AWARD 2015**

The Hellenic Leadership Award 2015 is an object of exquisite beauty from Waterford.



The Ancient Greek inscribed comes from the seminal work of Western Civilization, the Iliad, the simple yet profound exhortation to Achilles by his father, Peleus:

# αίὲν ἀριστεύειν "always excel"

Thus, to all our recipients, the Hellenic Leadership Award is bestowed for a lifetime of excellence and philanthropy.

Investing in the future of Greece through direct philanthropy and economic revitalization.



We empower people to provide crisis relief, encourage entrepreneurs, and create jobs.



We are The Hellenic Initiative– a global movement of the Greek Diaspora.

TheHellenicInitiative.org

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