

# **Pan Arcadian Federation of America**

**Arcadians of Oakland, Skopi #85**  
**1946 - 2010**

## **A Brief History**

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## INTRODUCTION

Oakland PAN Arcadian "SKOPI" Chapter #85 has a vibrant history that spans many years. The Oakland Arcadians have made many invaluable contributions to the community. "SKOPI's" on going devotion to the causes of philanthropy, education, and preservation of our glorious culture and specifically that of Arcadia, is significant.

Oakland Pan Arcadian Federation of America "SKOPI" Chapter #85 was officially founded and organized by Athanasios Kollkas, Governor of the 5<sup>th</sup> District, Evthokia Flessouras and Phillip Christopoulos on July 23, 1946. The Chapter was named "SKOPI" after Paul Christie's (Polyvios Christopoulos) village in Arcadia.

## MEETINGS

Meetings are currently held on the third Monday of each month at the Ascension Community Center in Oakland. Before the official organization of the Chapter in 1946, the Arcadians of Oakland gathered at the Adamantios Korais Hall, built in 1932, near the Brush Street Church in Oakland to socialize and enjoy good food. There were many unofficial get togethers of Arcadian families in the 1930's.

Those families included Tom and Demetra Kosmos, James Manos, Bill Chrissand, Peter Maragos, Harry and Olga Katsanos, Gus Stathopoulos, Gus Skiptaris, George Stamelos, Tony Demetrakopoulos, Chris Christopoulos and the entire Christopoulos clan.

Subsequently, the Chapter rented the Jenny Lind Hall on Telegraph Avenue for meetings, the Bjornson Hall on MacArthur Blvd., the Ahepa Center, and finally the Ascension Cathedral, our current home.

## MEMBERSHIP

"SKOPI" Chapter has averaged approximately 100 members through the years. Current membership is approximately 125. The Chapter always endeavors to bring in new members to continue the programs and events that were initiated in the past.

## MACARONADA

The first official "Apokriatiki Macaronada" took place in 1947. It as an instant success and for fifty plus years was the biggest sell-out event in the Oakland Community.

Everyone loved the food and dancing to the traditional "clarino" and "laouto" and singing the songs of "Moria" while socializing with friends. It was truly a family event and in early years the young Arcadians acted as servers. Cooks included "Barba" Louis Panos, George Katsifolis, Katina Papantoniou and many more volunteers who worked long and hard to make the Macaronada a popular event. (Remember Olga Katsifolis' diples?)

Our current head cook and chairman, Nick Apostolopoulos, does a stand-out job in organizing the kitchen along with George Giouzelis and a host of volunteers. Macaronades were held at the Liguria Hall, Columbo Hall, Ahepa Center and finally at the Ascension Community Center from 1979 until the present. The first Macaronada held at the Ascension Community Center in 1979 boasted an overflow crowd of 700 people.

The Macaronada is the only annual fundraiser the Chapter sponsors. A portion of the profits go to our scholarship program plus contributions to Greek National Projects, the Arcadian Hospital in Tripoli and miscellaneous church projects.

### CHRISTMAS PARTY

"SKOPI" Chapter hosts a Christmas Party each year for members and their families. The first Christmas Party was held in the early seventies, probably 1973, at the Sons of Norway Hall on MacArthur Blvd. The first Christmas Parties were pot-luck. After dinner and a magic show for the kids, Santa arrives to pass out gifts to all the children. Nick Alevizos was our original Santa. Since his retirement, various members of the Chapter have donned the Santa costume, our latest and best being Nick Leles. The Christmas Party is attended, free of charge, by over 100 members, family and guests and seems to be growing and getting better as each year goes by.

### INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

The installation of new officers in January was usually held in conjunction with the Man or Woman of the Year Awards which began in 1968. In the 60's and 70's the event was held at a restaurant. (Dino's, Spenger's, Kings X) The tradition of having a sergeant at arms, sword in hand, march the new officers to the podium to the strains of "Mavren I nihta sta vouna" to be sworn in, was started by Nick Alevizos and was carried on by Peter Katsifolis. Presently the officers are installed informally, on a meeting day, at the Ascension Cathedral.



## ALOSIS OF TRIPOLIS

The Alosis Luncheon was held after church for many years in conjunction with the awarding of scholarships. Currently, the Alosis is celebrated by inviting the entire parish to coffee and a light lunch after church.

## SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Our Chapter initiated a scholarship program in 1979. Initially it was offered to students of Arcadian descent throughout the District. When the District began its own scholarship program, "SKOPI" decided to limit the offering to our Chapter. The program has existed for 30 years and we expect to keep it alive for our youth for years to come.

## PICNIC

The Arcadian Picnics were legendary in the early days of the Chapter. They were held in Richmond Park, Elmhurst Gardens in Oakland, and on 85<sup>th</sup> Avenue below East 14<sup>th</sup> Street. The annual picnic is currently not a major event on our calendar and is attended mainly by members and a few guests. Alas, gone are the days of live music and dancing up a storm.

## PHILANTHROPY

In 1976 the 'SKOPI' Chapter gave \$3,500 to the Home of the Blind in Tripoli. This money was net proceeds from a benefit dinner hosted by the Chapter.

In 1979 the Chapter donated \$5,000 to the Ascension Cathedral. These funds were earmarked for the Richmond Room Beverage Area.

The Chapter worked hard to put together the first Arcadian float in the March 25<sup>th</sup> Independence Day Parade in San Francisco and has donated funds for the 2010 Arcadian entry in the Parade.

### SUPREME OFFICERS FROM SKOPI CHAPTER

JOHN STAMISON served as Supreme First Vice President , Supreme Second Vice President, Supreme Trustee and member of the Tripoli Hospital Committee.

NICK APOSTOLOPOULOS served two terms as Supreme Trustee of the Federation.

STERYIOS VALSAMIS served as Supreme Trustee.

EUGENIA GIOUZELIS served as Supreme Secretary and Supreme Youth Representative, 1996-1998.

'SKOPI' Chapter was blessed to have an Arcadian whose devotion to preserving our heritage will not be forgotten. Evangelos Constantouros joined the Chapter in 1957. Thereafter he served as Chapter President, District Governor, Supreme Vice President, and Supreme President. He created the Pan Arcadian World Federation which was comprised of the United States, Canada and Australia. Circa 1988, Evangelos was a founder of the Arcadiko Horio located in Astros and Agios Andreas Kinourias. EVANGELOS CONSTANTOUROS always looked to a bigger and brighter future for all Pan Arcadians and was not afraid to work to achieve his goals. He was truly a great Pan Arcadian and an inspiration to all. The Chapter is proud of his numerous invaluable contributions to the Pan Arcadian Federation of America at large.

### WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICERS FROM SKOPI CHAPTER

District Governor – George Constantouros, Evangelos Constantouros, Nick Gianopoulos, Nick Apostolopoulos, George Sideris, Soula Valsamis

Lt. Governor – Nick Apostolopoulos, Nick Gianopoulos

Secretary – Cathy Giouzelis

Treasurer – Athena Stamison, Eugenia Giouzelis

SKOPI CHAPTER has hosted two District Conventions, 1988 and 1994.

## CHARTER MEMBERS OF SKOPI CHAPTER July 1946

John and Dionysia Stavropoulos  
Phillip Christopoulos  
Paul and Mary Christie  
John Makris  
Soterios and Susie Mousalimas  
James and Angeliki Tyrovolas  
George and Evthokia Flesouras  
Nick and Marika Christo  
Dr. Basil and Toulia Christopoulos  
Panagioti and Helen Stavropoulos  
Gus Skiptaris  
James and Areti Chrissand  
Haido Katsoulis

## PRESIDENTS OF SKOPI CHAPTER

John Stavropoulos	1945 – 1948
Phillip Christopoulos	1948 – 1950
Paul Christie	1951 – 1952
Phillip Christopoulos	1953 – 1957
John Makris	1958 – 1960
James Tyrovolas	1961 – 1962
Steve Stavropoulos	1963 – 1965
Nicholas Alevizos	1965
Evangelos Constantouros	1966 – 1968
John Madronis	1969 – 1972
Paul Christie	1973 – 1974
Theodore Rozoles	1975 – 1977
John Stamison	1978 – 1979
Pericles Korkoneas	1980 – 1983
Costas Papanicolaou	1984 – 1985
Rosaline Colisos	1986 – 1987
John Leles	1988 – 1989
James Treposkoufes	1990 – 1991
George Sideris	1992 – 1993
Nick Apostolopoulos	1994 – 1995
Nick Gianopoulos	1996 – 1997
Steryios Valsamis	1998 – 1999
John Karkazes	2000 – 2000
Helen Apostolopoulos	2000 – 2002
Cathy Giouzelis	2003
Nick Leles	2004 - 2005
Bill Bournazos	2006 – 2007
Dionysios Litsas	2008 – 2009
Stephanie Landis	2010 –



#### ASCENSION CATHEDRAL PARISH PRESIDENTS FROM SKOPI

Soterios Scontrianos	1927 – 1928
Paul Christie	1936
Phillip Christopoulos	1939 – 1940
Andrew Mousalimas	1955
Nicholas Alevizos	1958 – 1959
Paul Christopoulos	1970 – 1972
Dan Christopoulos	1975 – 1977
Anthony Constantouros	1978 – 1979
James Vlamis	1983 – 1984
Peter Haikalis	1986
John Woods	2007 – 2008

#### ASCENSION CATHEDRAL PHILOPTOHOS PRESIDENTS FROM SKOPI

Aretie Chrissand	1941 – 1942
Evthokia Flessouras	1948 – 1949
Carrie Constantouros	1979 – 1981
Pat Georgiou	1987 – 1988
Georgia Filios	2005 – 2007
Helen Apostolopoulos	2008 – 2009

#### PRESIDENTS OF OAKLAND AHEPA CHAPTER FROM SKOPI

Nick Alevizos	1968
Theodore Rozoles	1978 – 1979
Evangelos Constantouros	1983 – 1984
Gregg Kosmos	1990
Nick Gianopoulos	2003 – 2004
Nick Gianopoulos	2010 –

#### DISTRICT GOVERNOR OF AHEPA FROM SKOPI

George Booras	1995 – 1996
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