



touch



Serving the Hellenic Community since 1922

**SOCIÉTÉ D'ENTRAIDE DES FEMMES HELLÉNIQUES
HELLENIC LADIES BENEVOLENT SOCIETY
ΦΙΛΑΝΘΡΩΠΙΚΟΣ ΟΡΓΑΝΙΣΜΟΣ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΔΩΝ ΚΥΡΙΩΝ**

Hellenic Ladies Benevolent Society Semi-Annual Newsletter • July 2015

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NEWSLETTER & PUBLIC RELATIONS

Matina Bisbikos-Priftakis

PRESIDENTS' REPORT

Dear Members of the HLBS,

It has been quite a year filled with successful activities that have helped us to continue our mission to serve the less fortunate in our community. All of our committees worked very hard to accomplish their goals.

The Membership Luncheon, co-chaired by Sylvia Xistris and Norma Paschalis, was a wonderful success at Zante Restaurant. This was also a first opportunity for most of our members to meet our new Consul General and his lovely family.

The next activity was to plan our major fundraiser, the 'Marathon Agapi' which was held in November through CFMB radio station as it has been for the past 45 years! Viola Vathilakis, chairperson, did a wonderful job coordinating this event with her committee and several volunteers.

In December, we held our Annual Family Christmas Luncheon, co-chaired by Belle Grivakis and Christina Maroudas, at Le Challenger in Ville St. Laurent. It was a tremendous hit with the appearance of Santa for the children and the Socrates & Demosthenes school choir under the leadership of Dimitri Ilias and his wife, Maria Diamantis. The proceeds from this event fund our Educational Needs Program.

And finally, our Spring event, the Ilios Gala, was held May 8, 2015 at Le Windsor to raise the necessary funds to send underprivileged and physically challenged children to attend sleep-away and day camps during the summer months. Our Camp Program provides a rich and life-changing experience for many children.

As our term as co-presidents is coming to a close, Mary Vosniades and I would like to take this opportunity to thank most sincerely our Board of Directors for their dedication and commitment throughout the year. Our Welfare Committee works tirelessly all year long answering the calls for assistance.

We are proud to have served this organization and we continue to honour the work that was started by those wonderful women, 'the pioneers' of the HLBS back in 1922!

We look forward to seeing you all at our General Assembly on September 15 at the Hellenic Community Centre of Greater Montreal so that you can be updated on the financial statements and the annual activity reports over the past fiscal year.

Thank you all for your continued support and generosity. Have a wonderful and safe summer!

Respectfully,

Matina Bisbikos-Priftakis
Co-President

Mary Vosniades
Co-President

WELFARE REPORT *Helping others together...*

During the year we held two open houses, one before Christmas and one before Easter. During these events we meet with the majority of our clients to update their files and offer them some holiday cheer in the form of food vouchers, clothing and household items. Help is also provided with rent, electricity, medical and dental care, etc. It all takes place in a friendly atmosphere while enjoying the refreshments being served throughout the morning.

During those days we receive about 80 families. However, we look after more than 125 families on an ongoing basis throughout the rest of the year. In the last couple of years, we have received numerous families from Greece that are repatriating to Montreal. These families require more help and assistance as they are starting their lives from scratch here. Their needs are numerous, i.e. clothing, furniture, school supplies for their children, rent, medical bills, and other necessities.

With the cooperation and contributions of many of our members and the diligent work of our dedicated Welfare Committee members, we have managed to make the lives of these people a bit more bearable and have brought smiles to their faces.

Thank you to all who have donated, in one way or another, as well as, those who have contributed to the Marathon Agapi, the main fundraiser for Welfare. Without everyone's help we would not have been able to continue offering help.

A big thanks also to the Committee members, Angie Scoufaras, Mary Vlahos as co-chairperson, and Bernice Tzicas as treasurer.

Wishing you all an enjoyable and safe summer. See you in September.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Zoumboulakis, *Welfare Co-chair*

2014 SUMMER CAMPS REPORT

Dear Members,

The HLBS Camp Program supports the enrollment of children from low income families and those with Government Assistance, to attend the camp of their choice. Such as various day camps in the Greater Montreal Area, a two week stay at Camp Edphy International, in the Laurentian Mountains, north of Montreal, and many specialized camps for children with various handicaps.

Last year 55 children went to these camps. Camp Edphy 20 children. Day Camps 25 children. Specialized Camps 4 children, and Dreams Take Flight 6 children.

The Dreams Take Flight is a one day flight to Disney World in Florida, organized and paid for by the employees of Air Canada. The HLBS has been approached for the past 15 years due to our successful camp program.

All of the above is made possible because of YOU our members and many devoted supporters. Proceeds from our annual "ILIOS" event exclusively fund our Summer Camp Program.

I would like to thank the organizing committee and chairpersons, Belle Grivakis and Maria Karteris, who did such amazing work for the "ILIOS GLENDI" 2014 to make our camp program accessible to more children in need of a camp experience that could make a difference in their lives.

Mary Vosniades, *Camp Chairperson*

MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON REPORT

The 2014 Membership Luncheon combined with the General Assembly was rather exceptional! It was attended by a phenomenal 93 Members on Sunday September 21 at the Zante Central Restaurant and we were delighted to have as our Guest of Honor the Honorable Nicolas Sigalas, Consul General of Greece, with his lovely wife Sophia and their daughter.

Zante dazzled our palates with some remarkable appetizers, entrees and dessert. The Members were entertained by upbeat Greek bouzouki music, eight diverse Door Prizes and actively participated in the drawing of nine

remarkable Raffle Prizes. The Raffle Prizes were donated by : John Gouzopoulos (a painting) , Aristia Scodras (2 Baskets), Zante, Elounda and Panama Restaurants, Metro Beaumont, Raffnalla Designer Clothing, Estetica Coiffure and Cineplex Movie Passes.

It was an afternoon enjoyed by all.

The Society's Membership as of April 2015 is 152 paid members.

Norma Paschalis and Sylvia Xistris, *Co-chairs*

ILIOS GALA *May 8, 2015*

The Hellenic Ladies Benevolent Society together with our most cherished honorary chairpersons, Helen Tyros and George Tsitouras, hosted the 2015 Ilios Gala on May 8, 2015. This successful event was held at the exquisite Le Windsor and included fabulous live entertainment by Paul Chacra & his 1945 band, delectable food, great raffle prizes and an impressive array of both live & silent auction items. This evening could not have been such a success without the support and collaboration of our Gala Patrons: Helen Tyros - Peartree Financial Services Ltd., George Tsitouras - EY, Haris Alexandratos - Elea Group, Julie & Socrates Goulakos, Ernie Grivakis - VVS Films, Tony Loffreda - RBC, Roulla Kyriacou, Pota & Chiko Nanji and Mary Karmanos & Nick Tsatsoulis.

Most noteworthy of mention was the gratitude we, as a committee, felt from seeing all of our guests having a great time as well as the infinite generosity of those who attended which proved to be truly contagious. No sooner had we auctioned off a Loge graciously donated by Pota and Chico Nanji for 12 people at the Bell Center for the 2015-2016 hockey season, did

the 2 gentlemen, Andy Kragaris and Denis Papakostas, who purchased it, put it forward by asking us to select 12 underprivileged kids to send to the future hockey game. This moment was truly a touching one felt by everyone in the ballroom. What happened next surprised us all, two other guests, Andy Kragaris and George Alexopoulos decided to give up their playoff tickets for the following game and so we auctioned them off as well in a bidding frenzy!

All in all, it was a glorious evening that enabled us to raise approximately \$55,000 for our Summer Camp Program. Our committee was so excited with the planning, the turnout and the success that we have already started planning our Ilios Gala 2016!

Wishing everyone a happy & safe summer!

Christina Maroudas & Belle Grivakis, *Co-chairs*

The HLBS Marathon Agapi took place on November 15, 2014. As in the past 45 years, it was broadcasted on CFMB radio station on free air time donated by the Stanczykowski family and the CFMB Team. I would like to express our appreciation to all involved especially to Michael Tellides, Producer and Director of the Hellenic Radio Program who has been a dedicated team member for all of the Radiothon years and to Dimitri Ilias, CFMB radio host.

As always, the Marathon was held under the Distinguished Patronage of the Consul General of Greece in Montreal, presently the Honourable Nicolas Sigalas. This year we were very happy to have two dynamic women as our Honourary Chairpersons: Mary Deros, the Deputy Mayor of Montreal and city councillor for Parc Ex, and great supporter for HLBS, and Rena Papathanakou, a woman devoted and committed to the Marathon Agapi since its beginning. I would like to thank them and the many speakers from the community at large who through their enthusiastic and passionate words encouraged the listeners to support this worthwhile event.



I would like to express my gratitude to the members of the Marathon committee who gave generously of their time. They ensured the success of this year's Marathon with their great effort and complete dedication.

A special thank you to the following people for their support: Chris Adamopoulos, Director General of Socrates and Demosthenes schools, George Guzman, Publisher of Ta Nea, John Kokonas, producer of the program Edo Montreal, Costas Kalavriziotis from The Odysse and Mr. Christos Manikis from The BHMA.

I would also like to thank all the wonderful volunteers who donated their time at the various churches collecting donations or taking pledges over the phone at CFMB. Many thanks to the priests of the following churches for taking part in this year's Marathon Agapi: St Nicolas in Laval, St. Dionysius in LaSalle, St. John the Baptist on Montee St. Hubert, St. Michael and Gabriel in VSL, Evangelismos and Koimisis tis Theotokou in Park Ex. and St. Constantine and Eleni in the West Island. The Ladies of all the Church Philoptohos' generous donations and support was greatly appreciated!

We have raised approximately \$34,000 for the assistance to the less fortunate of our community. This amount will be distributed this year, by our Welfare Committee, to help all those who find themselves lacking the bare essentials.

Our sincere gratitude to our supporters who gave generously in order to fulfill the needs of the underprivileged in our community. Thank you for showing such kindness and compassion.

Viola Vathilakis, Marathon Chair

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON "EDUCATIONAL FUNDRAISER"

December 7, 2014

It is with great pride & gratitude that we report on the success of the Hellenic Ladies Benevolent Society's Christmas Luncheon on December 7th, 2014 at Le Challenger Reception Hall together with many friends and loyal supporters. Is it just us, or can we all agree that every year brings fresh, new faces to the luncheon? We are seeing a larger turnout year after year and we are most grateful for this.

The goal of our annual Christmas luncheon is to provide scholastic needs such as school supplies,

uniforms, computers etc... to underprivileged children in our community.

This year's luncheon offered several festive & touching surprises including the beautiful & angelic voices of the Socrates-Demosthenes Choir; a BIG thank you goes out to Chroma Musika's Dimitri Ilias and Maria Diamantis for all of their hard work with the children, the beautiful & very talented harpist Isabeau Corriveau, the many donors of items ranging from desserts, to flowers to gift baskets and gift certificates and let us not

forget the surprise appearance by a real Santa Clause who distributed presents to all of the naughty & nice children that were present.

With your generous support, we raised close to \$10,000!

Thank you once again for your continued support & generosity. Let's keep working together to help all our children reach their full potential.

Christina Maroudas & Belle Grivakis,
Co-Chairs HLBS Annual Christmas Luncheon

Publicity is a great way to inform our membership, as well as the community at large, about all our upcoming events to ensure a successful outcome.

A few months ago we launched our new HLBS Web site designed by Maki Papadopoulou of 3Commedia Inc. Now everyone can connect with our organization online to read about our History, News & Events, who is on the BOD, Photo Gallery, Camp Program, Major Sponsors, and how to contact us. Just logon to www.hlbs.ca to check it out! There is also an HLBS page on Facebook.

We work closely with Michael Tellides at CFMB radio, Mr. Christos Manikis at our local Greek newspaper, the BHMA, Mr. George Guzman

at Ta Nea, the Laval newspaper, as well as with Jennifer Campbell of The Gazette, who publishes our upcoming events in her Social calendar. We thank them all for their continuous support.

Fundraising activities and donations are the main sources of revenue in realizing our goals. We must all help the HLBS achieve its goals by promoting the organization, supporting and participating in its efforts to benefit the community.

P.R. is all about raising awareness about who we are and what we do
"Serving the Hellenic Community for over 90 years!!"

Looking forward to seeing you all at our upcoming events,

Matina Bisbikos-Priftakis, PR & Newsletter

PUBLIC RELATIONS

HLBS GALA HIGHLIGHTS



HLBS UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual General Assembly : September 15, 2015
Membership Drive : T.B.D.

Marathon Agapi : November 14, 2015
*Christmas Luncheon : December 2015**

**Actual date to be determined at a later time.*

MISSION: HELPING THOSE IN NEED

The Hellenic Ladies Benevolent Society (HLBS) is an independent, chartered, non-profit organization, founded in Montreal, Quebec in 1922, with the mandate to help the disadvantaged within our community.

Since 1922, the HLBS has assisted thousands of families and individuals in need of financial support through the disbursement of funds generated through its various fundraising activities

The Hellenic Ladies Benevolent Society

Welcomes any donations in lieu of flowers or for any special occasion. Please direct your donations to:
The Hellenic Ladies Benevolent Society, C.P. 94, Mount Royal, Quebec, H3P 3B8