
Trumbeta Shqiptare

Volume 109

June 2023

The Official Publication of the Albanian-American National Organization, Inc.



“We, American citizens and Canadian citizens, of Albanian descent and others interested in Albanian-Americans, desiring to form and perpetuate a federation and promote its objectives and principles; to effect a perfect and harmonious understanding between ourselves and others, to promote the cause of good citizenship in the country in which we live; to stimulate the spirit of good fellowship and good cooperation; do hereby establish and ordain these By-Laws.”

Please visit us at: www.AANO.org



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**2022-2023
NATIONAL OFFICERS & BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

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Albanian-American
National Organization

President's Message

Greetings, and I hope this message finds everyone well.

We are officially out of the Pandemic and now that's it's officially over, it's time to come together with all our Albanian friends to celebrate our 75th Convention and the 25th Queen Pageant.

This year the Detroit Chapter will host the 75th Jubilee Convention in Detroit, Michigan at the Fort Ponchartrain - A Wyndham Hotel. The weekend starts on Thursday night, August 3rd, with their famous River Cruise overlooking Detroit and Canada. On Friday there will be a symposium by Albanians with interesting careers. Friday night is the 25th A.A.N.O. Queen Pageant with dancing and traditional and modern Albanian music. On Saturday, the Detroit Chapter has planned various tours with one being a tour of the Ford Factory. The hotel is located downtown which is conveniently close to many attractions that are easily walkable. Saturday night will be our 75th banquet dinner with our Scholarship Awards, "Albanian of the Year" and "Lifetime Achievement" Awards. Sunday is our open meeting where we have the election of national officers and selection of the 76th Convention.

Mesazhi i Presidentit

The Detroit Chapter is working hard to make the Jubilee Convention a successful one. My family and I are looking forward to celebrating our Albanian heritage at the Convention and seeing our friends from Detroit. Make your reservations now and don't miss out on this historic event.

Visit our website: www.AANO.org

Johanna Foundos
National President

Albanian-American National Organization, Inc.



*The National Board wishes all of our members
... a spectacular summer !!*





CHAPTER ACTIVITIES



Chicago

The Chicago Chapter's monthly meeting on June 4, 2023 took place at Dole Branch Oak Park Library at 2:00 p.m. After the meeting, dinner was at Cooper's Hawk Restaurant which hosted Napa wine tasting and an extended wine membership club besides a great restaurant.

Now that Lea Bitta is the President of the Chicago Chapter, Diane Pero was unanimously elected as Vice President. Congratulations!

Detroit



First convention planning meeting for the 75th Jubilee Convention in Detroit. There were 33 people working diligently although not all made the photo. Happy to have a lot of young people excited about the Convention and so involved !!

The Detroit Chapter is busily working on the Convention to make it a great time for all!

Attention Past Scholarship Winners



We would love to know what you're doing

Please send your information to Christina Foundos (christinafoundos@yahoo.com) and list the year that you won your scholarship, where you attended school, your major, and what has transpired since. If you like, attach a photo.

We enjoy keeping up to date on our Scholarship recipients.

If you would like to make a donation to the AANO Scholarship Fund, please send your contribution to:

AANO SCHOLARSHIP FUND

c/o Lea Bitta

ebitta2@gmail.com



***Donations to the Scholarship Fund are
Tax Deductible***



The Detroit Chapter Presents

75th Anniversary Jubilee

AANO Convention!

August 3-6, 2023

Detroit

Fort Ponchartrain - A Wyndham Hotel

2 Washington Avenue

Detroit, Michigan

Join Us for an Amazing Time!

www.AANO.org



The AANO, Inc. has been perpetuating Albanian ethnicity since 1946 in the United States and Canada.

We are a non-religious and non-political organization.

Our goals are to maintain Albanian traditions, language, culture, education and social activities.

**Come to our 75th
Anniversary Jubilee
Celebration and enjoy your
Albanian heritage and friends
old & new in
Detroit– with the revival of the
Motor City!**



75th Jubilee Convention Events

Thursday, August 3, 2023

- Registration
- Welcome Boat cruise on Detroit River overlooking Detroit and Canada
- Rooftop bar following cruise - all ages

Friday, August 4, 2023

- AM Closed Board Meeting
- Queen Pageant interviews
- Symposium by Albanians with interesting careers
- Teen/Twenty something mixer w/ Queen
- Cultural Room Display
- 25th AANO Queen Pageant
- Dancing and Live Albanian Band –light appetizers
- After hours hospitality

Saturday, August 5, 2023

- Various Organized Tours - Ford factory; distillery, etc., - and explore Detroit
- Valle Class
- Cocktails starting at 6:00 pm
- Cultural Room Display
- Scholarship Fund Raffle and Auction
- 2023 Scholarship Winners Presented
- 75th Anniversary Banquet Dinner Dance and Albanian of Year & Life-Time Achievement Award presentations Semi-Formal or Formal Attire required
- Dancing & Live Music - Albanian Band
- After hours hospitality

Sunday, August 6, 2023

- Closed morning Board Meeting • Open General Session and Election of Officers
- 2023 Convention City Bids
- Coffee and Albanian Pastries
- Sunday Afternoon baseball game Detroit Tiger vs. Tampa Bay Rays Sunday Evening at the local casino After hours hospitality

See www.AANO.org for additional information regarding events

Friday and Saturday Evening Convention Ticket Information

AANO Members # _____ \$175.00

Non-AANO Members # _____ \$195.00

Children (16 and under) with Child's meal # _____ \$115.00

DEADLINE DATE July 15, 2023*

***Early bird special deduct \$5 for each ticket purchased/postmarked by June 1st**

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

List ALL names included in your reservation:

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

Email(s) _____

Who would you like to sit with (if we can honor it)

Reserve your tickets by mailing reservation to:

Julia Black

7421 Lake Forest

Clarkston MI 48346

If paying by different method, send details via email.

Email: tharburn1@gmail.com

Make check payable to: AANO Detroit Chapter or pay via zelle (designate breakdown) at 2489827797 or pay via PayPal: blacka@oakgov.com

Hotel Reservation

Fort Ponchartrain (a Wyndham) Hotel

2 Washington Boulevard

Detroit, MI 48226

313-965-0200

Check online link for hotel at AANO.org

\$199+ tax per night single or double-group rate

Hotel Reservation deadline July 23, 2023

Thursday, August 3, 2023, there will be a great kickoff sunset cruise on the Detroit River with Albanian and American music, dancing, and a cash bar! Sail with us as we get a great view of two great countries - United States and Canada! Cruise is from 8 pm-10 pm. Our website closer to date will have early boarding time and information.

This will be a unique and fun experience that will be followed by our group having an after party in a private space at a local Rooftop bar, also with Albanian and American Music! Limited space so secure your tickets now! Only \$40 and only first 150 people can be on boat!

Cruise tickets # ____ x \$40=Total \$ ____

Names: _____

Tigers Tickets # ____ x \$32=Total \$ ____

Names: _____

Payment details last page



On Friday, August 4, 2023, we will be crowning our 25th A.A.N.O. Queen at our Friday night event!

We would love to have all of our exceptional young ladies of the community apply for the pageant. The winner will receive \$500 and be our hostess for the next 3-year events, with paid tickets to the conventions, hotel, and a travel stipend to attend as well!

The application is available on the National A.A.N.O. website at <https://www.aano.org> and is due by July 2, 2023, and must be emailed and mailed. All 17-27-year-old, unmarried, and willing to travel young ladies of Albanian descent, are welcome and encouraged to apply!



The Detroit Chapter has arranged for various interesting tours:

Saturday morning: Ford Rouge Factory—

This is a great tour of all the latest automotive innovations!

Meet at Henry Ford Museum at 9:30 am
tour starts 10:00 am

This is an awesome bus guided tour that will take you from the entrance of the museum to the Ford Factory

\$24 adults, \$21.50 seniors/kids under 18 —
limited first come, first serve space.

Saturday morning Factory Tour:

Adults ____ x \$24

Senior/Kids under 18 ____ x \$21.50

Names:

Saturday afternoon: Supergeil distillery

Tour – 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm. There will be drink tasting and a tour of the distillery, small plates served with great food all included. A true Detroit experience in the first distillery in the area after Prohibition. Only 1.8 miles from the hotel, \$40 per person. Space is limited to the first 40 people that sign up!

Saturday afternoon Distillery Tour

____ x \$40

Names:

Friday late afternoon/early evening:

Symposium by several successful Albanians with interesting careers - some surprise guest speakers. Expected to last

approximately one hour. No additional cost (included in Fri/Sat convention ticket) as long as reserved in advance

Symposium ____ x \$0

Names:

The convention will also have a free Valle Class and a free Cultural exhibit.



www.AANO.org

Also check out www.AANO.org for additional chapter sponsored tours and activities to come!

Please email edmondaliza@gmail.com if you have interest in Henry Ford and/or Greenfield Village or Detroit Institute of Art Tour because if enough interest we will organize and get group rate.

There are so many other interesting and fun things to do in the Detroit area including not limited to:

Henry Ford museum and Greenfield Village
Greektown; Eastern Market; pewabic pottery, Detroit Institute of Arts; Detroit Zoo
3 casinos; Detroit Historical Society; Motown Historical Museum; Eastern Market;
Riverfront Walk; Roller Skating-Martius Park; Belle Isle (kayaking and tiki boat); bike & walking tours and bike pub excursions.

And so much more !!

Check out Instagram [AANODetroit2023](#) for more ideas!



**Join us as the Detroit
Tigers take on the Tampa
Bay Rays**

Sunday, August 6, 2023

1:40 pm

**Watch the game and see
our group get announced
on the big screen for
celebrating our 75th Jubilee
Albanian-American
Convention in Detroit!**

**Tickets are limited to 125
people, first come first
serve**

Only \$32 per ticket!

75th National Annual Convention Levels of Sponsorships

PLATINUM SPONSOR \$5,000 -- Includes 8 convention tickets for Friday and Saturday nights, plus:

- 4 Tigers baseball game tickets
- One Gold page in Ad Journal promoting sponsor's business
- Business advertisement at sponsors' table near registration desk
- Name printed on schedule of events
- Name/ business promoted on AANO National website and social media · Name announced at the Queen Pageant and at Saturday Program

GOLD SPONSOR \$3,000 -- Includes 4 convention tickets, plus:

- One Gold page in Ad Journal promoting sponsor's business
- Business advertisements at sponsors' table near registration desk.
- Name printed on schedule of events
- Business/name is promoted on AANO National website and social media · Name announced at the Queen Pageant and at Saturday Program

SILVER SPONSOR \$2,000 — Includes 2 convention tickets,

- One Silver page in Ad Journal promoting sponsor's business
- Business advertisements at sponsors' table near registration desk.
- Name printed on schedule of events
- Name is promoted on AANO National website and social media
- Sponsorship name announced at the Queen Pageant and at Saturday Program

BRONZE SPONSOR \$1,000 --

- Includes one Full page in Ad Journal promoting sponsor's business
- Sponsor can put advertisements at sponsors' table near registration desk.
- Sponsor name printed on schedule of events
- Sponsor name is promoted on AANO National website and social media
- Sponsorship name announced at the Queen Pageant and at Saturday Program

Ad Journal Prices**Commemorative 8 1/2 x 11 75th
Jubilee Anniversary Booklet**

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| _____ Gold Page | \$500.00 |
| _____ Silver Page | \$300.00 |
| _____ Inside Covers | \$300.00 |
| _____ Full Page | \$175.00 |
| _____ Half Page | \$100.00 |
| _____ Quarter Page | \$ 75.00 |
| _____ Eighth Page | \$ 50.00 |
| _____ Booster Page | \$ 30.00 |
| _____ * To add photo | \$ 25.00 |

\$ _____ Total

Ad Journal Deadline:
July 7, 2023

Ad and payment to:

Alexandra Black Wilson
8231 Brookstone Lane
Clarkston, MI 48348
E-mail: blacka@oakgov.com

Check made payable to:
AANO Detroit Chapter
Zelle number is 2489827797
PayPal: blacka@oakgov.com -
MUST designate all payments
"Friends and Family"

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

For all events and ads and sponsorship,
please pay via check payable to:

AANO Detroit Chapter
7421 Lake Forest
Clarkston MI 48346

or

pay via Zelle (designate breakdown) at
2489827797

or

pay via PayPal: blacka@oakgov.com
(must designate payment on paypal to
"friends and family")

Miscellaneous hotel and parking info:

Room block deadline: July 23, 2023, but first
come first serve basis.

Room rates will be extended 2 days before
and 2 days after event.

We have secured early and late check in for
our group of 2:00 pm check in and 12:00 pm
check out.

All cancellations must be 24 hours in
advance to avoid one-night penalty.

Hotel Parking is \$35 per day; however, \$15
for an 8-hour event. Hotel has other
suggested less expensive parking options
upon request.

We have secured unlimited in and out for
valet parking.

Please note the hotel is cashless and only
takes credit and debit.

**THIS CONVENTION IS A SPECIAL 4-
DAY EXTRAVAGANZA CELEBRATING
OUR 75TH JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY.**

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR A
CELEBRATION THAT YOU WILL NOT
WANT TO MISS!**

Social News

Engagements / Weddings



Detroit

Congratulations to Fitim Rakipi and Erita Brahimi on their recent engagement. They had a beautiful engagement party in May in Michigan, surrounded by family and friends, and will be getting married in August 2024 in Shkup. Fitim also just obtained his Master's Degree in Finance from Eastern Michigan University.

Chrismation

New York

The chrismation of James Oswald took place at St Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church with his Sponsor Elizabeth Liolin and Lucas Liolin.



Class Notes



Detroit

Sami Velu graduated from Canton High School with a Presidential Award for Academic Excellence. He will be attending Michigan State University in the Fall and joining their College of Engineering Program to study Computer Science. Sami is the son of Hysen and Lori Velu. His family is very proud.



Mirela Mamushlari, the daughter of Bujar and Shpresa Mamushlari, graduated from Michigan State University where she obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. Mirela had a great four years at MSI and her parents and her brother Alban are very proud of her!



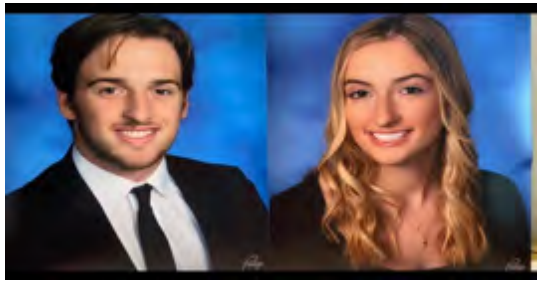
Congratulations to high school graduates Airanna Griecci, who just graduated from Chelsea High School; and Brandon and Lauren Wayburn, who recently graduated from St. Clair High School. They all have great futures ahead of them, and their families are very proud!

Airanna played multiple years of varsity soccer as a goalie and had a very successful high school career. She has signed on to play soccer at Kellogg College. Her parents are Stephen Griecci and Alberta Mestani Griecci.



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Picture here are Chelsea defenders (all juniors), Maya Valik (#12) Caroline Knight (#16) and Ella Day (#8) and goalkeeper Airanna Griecci. have been stellar for the Bulldogs. Photo by Rachel Krugh



Lauren Wayburn graduated Summa Cum Laude and has received numerous academic scholarships to Grand Valley State University. She is majoring in health sciences and is looking to go into the medical field.

Brandon Wayburn graduated with National Tec Honor Society Honors and has enrolled in the Career and Technical Middle College for Cybersecurity and will continue going to St Clair Community College. He will have his associates by next year and continue to further his education at a university to complete his Bachelor's degree.

New York

Alex Oswald, the son of Donna and James Oswald, graduated from Northeastern University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Engineering. We wish Alex much success and a bright future!



Get Well Wishes

Detroit

Get well wishes to Sulejman Nikollari. He has been having some health issues and we are sending best wishes to get well soon!

Travel

Albany

Paul and Vera Apostol and their daughter Angelica (Apostol) Trestick, husband Sean and children Christian and Cooper enjoyed an extended break in February at New Smyrna Beach and St. Augustine. Angelica and Sean also took time for a delayed honeymoon in Key West around Memorial Day which they cut short because they "missed the kids."



www.AANO.ORG

**Like us on Facebook
Albanian-American National Organization, Inc.**



Happy Birthday

Detroit



Long time AANO supporter Nina Kadi had a beautiful 90th birthday given by her children and the Black Family from Detroit and the Banka Family from Toronto were all there on her special day.

The Bankas want to tell all of their old AANO friends that they will be in full attendance at this year's 75th Anniversary Jubilee Convention, and they expect to see all of their old friends there!



Worcester

Happy 85th Birthday to Mary Ann Erickson as she celebrated her special day on June 7. Wishing her a wonderful year ahead!

New Addition

Detroit.



The Orlows have a new addition to their family. Loki has big shoes to follow, but they are sure he will fill them!

Saint Mary's Albanian Festival

JUNE 2, 3 & 4 2023



Next stop Albania at biannual festival at St. Mary's in Worcester

Telegram & Gazette

Local folks enjoyed a weekend visit to Albania without leaving town at the 40th biannual Albanian Festival at St. Mary's Assumption Albanian Church. The event is the oldest and largest Albanian festival in the United States.



Ilir Danga and Sergio Bacelis tend the kabob pit.



Kevin Llabushi, 7, enjoys petulla.

Welcome to the Albanian Festival!!!
Mirësevini ne Festivalin Shqiptar!!!



Trays of baklava being prepared at St. Mary's.
 Photo by Rick Cinclair/Telegram & Gazette

Attending the Albanian Festival are past and present
 AANO National Presidents:



Louis Foundos, 1969-1971
 Johanna Foundos, 2022-Present
 R. Normal Peters, 1964-1966

Missing from the photo are Paul Apostol and Phil Christo who also served as National President. They made an appearance at the Festival where Phil celebrated his birthday. Many years Phil !!



Worcester Chapter Members Barbara Pero
 and Shirley Pero



New York Chapter members Daniella Beno,
 Phil Foundos, Johanna Foundos, Andrew Foundos,
 and Linda Foundos

Obituaries

Chicago

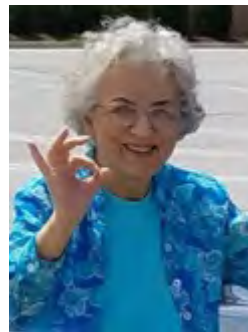


Andrew Spiro Bitta, II, passed away on May 22, 2023 at his home. He was born September 8, 1954 in Danville, IL and attended Prospect High School. He received his Bachelor's Degree and played on the basketball team at Western University and later completed his Master's Degree. Andy was a former health teacher at Libertyville High School and later Vernon Hills High School and a beloved soccer coach for both girls & boys soccer programs at both high schools, winning state championships at Libertyville H.S. in 1991 & 2017. Coach Bitta had also been an assistant varsity coach for boys' basketball at LHS for a couple of decades and received many awards throughout his entire coaching career.

He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Ann Marie Larson Bitta; two sons, Andrew (Mary Graham) Bitta and Austin (Alison Urbanski) Bitta; mother, Ramona Bitta; sister, Michele (Fred) Montgomery; brother, Michael Bitta and also by many loving family members and dear friends. He was preceded by his father, Andrew S. Bitta.

Andrew had an incredible career at Libertyville High School as a health teacher, assistant basketball coach and head coach of Boys and Girls Soccer, earning 13 trips to the State Soccer Tournaments. In 2017, Andy was named into the Illinois High School Hall of Fame. As stated in Chicago area newspapers, he was an "incredible humble man," who will be missed as a husband, father, grandson nephew, cousin, teacher, coach, friend and truly a remarkable human being who lead by example who was loved by all.

Pennsylvania



Evangeline Prifti of Media, PA passed away on May 16, 2023 at the age of 95. Beloved wife of the late Louis M. Prifti, she was predeceased by her parents Efthimy and Evridiqi Demas and her two brothers William and Peter Demas. She is survived by her son Michael (Dale) and daughter Joanne (Craig), four grandchildren (Christine (Mat), Adam, Stephen, and Ben) and one great-grandson (Noah). Vangie was a 1950 graduate of the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy, leaving that profession to become a homemaker and mother in Northern Virginia. She returned to the workforce, first volunteering as a kindergarten aide later rising to administrative assistant to the Principal of the Jackson Center, a school serving disabled students in Arlington, VA. She was a skilled seamstress, an avid gardener, devoted to a variety of craft projects, and a marvelous party hostess, with a sharp sense of humor and a knack of striking remarkable conversations upon first acquaintance. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in her memory may be made to St. John's Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church.



Shqiptari Magazine cover (October, November, and December issue 1948). Evangeline Prifti, seated on the left, served as executive secretary for the AANO.

Worcester

Paul Andrew Costa, 57 of Natick, MA passed away on Saturday, January 14, 2023. Paul is survived by his mother Margaret (Shuttie) Costa, his brother COL (Ret.) Christopher Costa and his wife Donna, and his sister Susan Stevens and her husband Charles. He is also

survived by his nephew Paul Costa and his wife Angela, his nephew Philip Costa and his wife Sara and his niece, Chloe Stevens. He also leaves behind three great nephews, CJ, Teddy and Luca Paul. Paul also received the love of his aunts, uncles, cousins and many wonderful friends. He was predeceased by his father, Paul Costa and his young nephew, Andrew "Drew" Paul Stevens. Paul's larger than life smile and personality were matched only by his love for his family and friends.

With grandparents that emigrated from Albania, Paul was incredibly proud of his Albanian heritage. He met with the Albanian Ambassador to the United States in Washington, DC, traveled to Albania, appearing on their national television station, and had an audience with the Metropolitan of the Orthodox Church of Korçë during Orthodox Easter.

Paul was a member of St. Mary's Assumption Albanian Orthodox Church, where he volunteered at numerous Albanian festivals and church events. He also was a past president of the Sons of St. Mary's, an organization dedicated to raising scholarships for deserving students, and a member of the Albanian American National Organization (AANO).



With the AANO, Paul coached the Worcester Basketball Team to the AANO National Championship, and left coaching as one of the winningest coaches in AANO history. He was also a long-time member of the Worcester County Reserve Deputy Sheriffs Association.



Norman Dono passed away on March 24 at the age of 89. His wife of 51 years, Germaine "Geri" (Angelo) Dono passed away in 2008.

He leaves a son, Howard Dono and his wife, Karen, their children, Jason and his wife, Christina, Kristin and her fiancé, Matt, and Natasha; a daughter, Anthy S. Angelo and her son, Jacob and his partner, Jordan, and their children, his two great-grandsons, Montgomery and Ashby, and her daughter, Katarina and her fiancé, Jacx; a daughter Rebecca Dono Healy and her husband, Patrick, and their children Gwendolyn and Fiona "Ember"; siblings, Danny Dono and his wife, Doris of Charlton, Arthur Dono of Dudley; and many beloved nephews and nieces. He was brother to Loretta Merty, her husband Theodore, and brother-in-law to Geri's nine Angelo siblings. He was the son of Nicholas and Vrisdha (Dennis) Dono, immigrants from Albania.

Norman had several loves in his life: his family, his Albanian Church and heritage, woodworking, and the Army. He was a member of St. Mary's Assumption Albanian Orthodox Church. From altar boy to youth basketball team to the dance in Southbridge where he met Geri, the church was central to his life. He physically donated his time and talent to build the wooden furnishings and decorative moldings that adorn the new St. Mary's where his children were married, grandchildren were baptized and where his funeral service was held. He was inducted into the Sons of St. Mary's Hall of Fame.



Richard Gaitane, age 84, passed away on May 10, 2023. He was the son of the late George and Mary (Vangel) Gaitane of Korçe Albania. Richard leaves his wife of 52 years Marilyn (McLaughlin), three children, Richard, Matthew, and daughter Amy, as well as his sister Lorraine and her

husband William Haddad, their daughter Mary and her husband Scott Harris with their daughter Madeline. and other relatives and several close friends.

Richard was a member of St. Mary's Assumption Albanian Orthodox Church and it's Sons of St. Mary. He was and will always be so loved and respected, forever living in our hearts. May his memory be eternal.



Diane Anas passed away on Saturday, May 20, 2023 after a valiant 2-year battle with ALS. She was 62 years old.

She was predeceased by her parents, Thoma and Grace (George) Anas and her nephew, Philip Anas, Jr. Diane leaves her brother Philip Anas and his wife, her sister Tina McNamara, and Barbara Sylvia and her husband Michael. Her family and friends will remember Diane for her strength, her smile, and her sense of humor, which she maintained until the end.

Katherine (Proko) Arakelian passed away on May 21, 2023, at the age of 80. She was a daughter of Thomas and Despina (Mina) Proko.



She is survived by her husband, Seth Arakelian, children Andrea Adams, Seth and his wife Aneta, Alexis and her husband Roderick McNeil, and her brother, Paul Proko and his wife, Ann. Her sister, Patricia (Proko) Morris passed away in 2012. She also leaves her two nieces, Despina O'Connor and Deanna Proko, many cousins and friends.

Kathy was an elementary school teacher in Lowell and the Worcester Public School system for many years.

She was an active member, Sunday School teacher and volunteer at both St. Mary's Assumption Albanian Orthodox Church and the Armenian Church of Our Savior. She was a longtime member of the Daughters of Vartan at the Armenian Church.



Our deepest sympathy to the families of our recently departed former members and friends of the AANO.

**I Përjetshëm Kutimi i Tyre!
May their Memories be Eternal!**

GET CONNECTED !!!

**VISIT THE
A.A.N.O. HOME PAGE**



www.AANO.ORG

**If you have information for the Home Page,
Contact David Sosnowski**

dsoz@microthunder.com



The Detroit Chapter Members
look forward to hosting you at
the 75th Anniversary Jubilee
Convention of the
Albanian-American National
Organization, Inc.



Join us for a memorable
weekend, August 3-6, 2023,
in Detroit, Michigan.

You won't want to miss this
jubilee celebration so make
your reservations now.

We promise a convention full of
fun and activities, while
meeting old friends and making
new ones.

Let's celebrate our Albanian
heritage together !



Photo of the 3rd National AANO
Convention in Worcester, Massachusetts



Evangeline Prifti, seated in the second row, fourth from the left,
served as a delegate from the
Bridgeport, CT Chapter.

Officers of the A.A.N.O. and Delegates to the 3rd National Convention held in Worcester, August 12, 13, and 14. Left to right, front row: Piro N. Spiro, governor; Mary Thoma, corresponding secretary; Charles Hassis vice-president; Thomas J. Detskas, president; Helen J. Spiro, recording secretary; John M. Ticco, treasurer; Terry C. Duro, governor; Louis M. Prifti, editor of Shqiptari;. Second row: Delegates Steven C. Tallcouch, Bridgeport; Athina Gjoka, Jamestown; K.M. Boria, Bridgeport; Evangeline Demas, Bridgeport; Dorothy Jurish, Cleveland; Julie Andrea, Jamestown; James Pepi, Elsie Moska; Larry Pillary, New York; Peter Mallios, Philadelphia. Third row: Castor Notskas, Philadelphia; Ramona Ford, Jamestown; Margaret Andrews, Cleveland; Kostaq Mihal, Cleveland; William Christo, Worcester; William Stavrou, Philadelphia; Ruth Lambert, Worcester; and Dr. Augustus J. Valauri, New York.



(submitted by Joanne Prifti-Nicholas)

**ALBANIAN-AMERICAN NATIONAL
ORGANIZATION, INC.**

AANO National Presidents

| Year | Name | Year | Name |
|-------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 1946 – 1947 | Vincent L. Theodos | 1985 - 1986 | Richard Rafail |
| 1947 - 1948 | Thomas Detskas | 1986 - 1987 | Luan Banka |
| 1948 - 1949 | Thomas Detskas | 1987 - 1988 | Luan Banka |
| 1949 - 1950 | Dr. Augustus Valauri | 1988 - 1989 | Luan Banka |
| 1950 - 1951 | Castor Notskas | 1989 - 1990 | Andrew Tanacea |
| 1951 - 1952 | Piro Spiro | 1990 - 1991 | Andrew Tanacea |
| 1952 - 1953 | Piro Spiro | 1991 - 1992 | Andrew Tanacea |
| 1953 - 1954 | Thomas Detskas | 1992 - 1993 | Andrew Tanacea |
| 1954 - 1955 | Castor Notskas | 1993 - 1994 | Andrew Tanacea |
| 1955 - 1956 | George Vasil | 1994 - 1995 | Irene V. Lepi |
| 1956 - 1957 | Peter Mallios | 1995 - 1996 | Jonathan Michael |
| 1957 - 1958 | Piro Spiro | 1996 - 1997 | Jonathan Michael |
| 1958 - 1959 | Peter Borzuku | 1997 - 1998 | Mary Anastas Tona |
| 1959 - 1960 | Peter Theodos | 1998 - 1999 | Julia Black |
| 1960 - 1961 | Peter Theodos | 1999 - 2000 | Julia Black |
| 1961 - 1962 | Demetri Plasari | 2000 - 2001 | Philip Christo |
| 1962 - 1963 | Demetri Plasari | 2001 - 2002 | Philip Christo |
| 1963 - 1964 | Demetri Plasari | 2002 - 2003 | Philip Christo |
| 1964 - 1965 | R. Norman Peters | 2003 - 2004 | Philip Christo |
| 1965 - 1966 | R. Norman Peters | 2004 - 2005 | Julia Black |
| 1966 - 1967 | James Lukes | 2005 - 2006 | Julia Black |
| 1967 - 1968 | James Lukes | 2006 - 2007 | John Lulgjuraj |
| 1968 - 1969 | Paul Costa | 2007 - 2008 | John Lulgjuraj |
| 1969 - 1970 | Louis Foundos | 2008 - 2009 | Harry Mertý |
| 1970 - 1971 | Louis Foundos | 2009 - 2010 | Harry Mertý |
| 1971 - 1972 | Constantine Pillary | 2010 - 2011 | Ferit Nazarko |
| 1972 - 1973 | Constantine Pillary | 2011 - 2012 | Ferit Nazarko |
| 1973 - 1974 | Constantine Pillary | 2012 - 2013 | Ferit Nazarko |
| 1974 - 1975 | Louis Pero | 2013 - 2014 | John Lulgjuraj |
| 1975 - 1976 | Louis Pero | 2014 - 2015 | John Lulgjuraj |
| 1976 - 1977 | Louis Pero | 2015 - 2016 | Julia Black |
| 1977 - 1978 | Nicholas Leacu | 2016 - 2017 | Julia Black |
| 1978 - 1979 | Paul Apostol | 2017 - 2018 | John Lulgjuraj |
| 1979 - 1980 | Paul Apostol | 2018 - 2019 | John Lulgjuraj |
| 1980 - 1981 | Paul Apostol | 2019 - 2020 | John Lulgjuraj |
| 1981 - 1982 | John Anas | 2020 - 08/2021 | John Lulgjuraj |
| 1982 - 1983 | John Anas | 08/2021 - 2021 | Lea Bitta |
| 1983 - 1984 | Richard Rafail | 2021 - 2022 | Lea Bitta |
| 1984 - 1985 | Richard Rafail | 2022 - 2023 | Johanna Foundos |


**ALBANIAN-AMERICAN NATIONAL
ORGANIZATION, INC.**

AANO National Queens

| Year | Name | Hometown |
|------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2019 | Klea Gjonaj | Chicago, IL |
| 2017 | Georgya Borova | Chicago, IL |
| 2013 | Anxhela Mila | New York, NY |
| 2010 | Blerina (Vila) Lumaj | Detroit, MI |
| 2007 | Zamira Aliko | Detroit, MI |
| 2004 | Gabriella Aquilino | New York, NY |
| 2001 | Alexandra Liolin | New York, NY |
| 1998 | Lirika Mestani | London, Ontario Canada |
| 1995 | Alexandra Ahmet | Toronto, Ontario Canada |
| 1992 | Michelle (Pero) Vasil | Worcester, MA |
| 1989 | Laura Giantris | Worcester, MA |
| 1986 | Alexandra (Bendo) Fiss | Aston, PA |
| 1982 | Lisa V. Tasi | Easton, CT |
| 1980 | Sandra (Dimitri) Bisceglia | Worcester, MA |
| 1979 | Marlene (Koltse) Catanese | Niles, IL |
| 1977 | Barbara (Kelapire) Filis | East Williston, NY |
| 1975 | Cindy (Nicholas) Marcinkowski | Mt. Prospect, IL |
| 1973 | Cynthia (Vange) Bradbury | Worcester, MA |
| 1969 | Cathy (Nicholas) Balinski | Mt. Prospect, IL |
| 1966 | Chrys Slider | Stamford, CT |
| 1963 | Nancy (Peters) Dhoku | Burlington, MA |
| 1961 | Pamela (Stavrou) Dove | Frederick, MD |
| 1957 | Barbara (Steffon) Clayton | Manasquan, NJ |
| 1951 | Dolores (Vishnja) Obert | Akron, OH |
| 1949 | C. Gloria (Lambert) Kesler | Worcester, MA |

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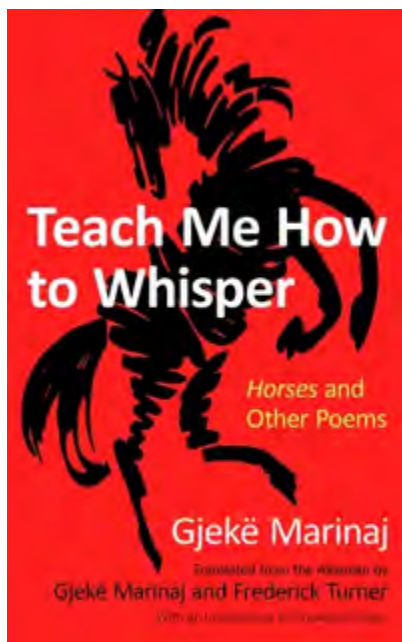
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For more information, please contact:

Richard Rafail, National Treasurer
(914) 843-7629

rrafail@yahoo.com



Lisa Kuerbis is the marketing coordinator at Syracuse University Press. They are publishing acclaimed Albanian poet Gjekë Marinaj's new collection **Teach Me How to Whisper: Horses and Other Poems** this Fall and thought the book would be of interest to our members. Gjekë is an Albanian-born American poet most well-known for his poem "Horses." He holds the title of Nation's Ambassador, Albania's highest cultural honor.

Description

The works of Gjekë Marinaj, Albania's leading poet, have been praised, translated, published, and discussed in over twenty languages and countries. His most celebrated poem, "Horses," drew the attention of the dictatorship's censors when it was published and forced Marinaj to escape his country pursued by armed men. Later, the poem became the anthem for the democratic forces that freed the country. He has won several of the world's most prestigious prizes for his poetry and criticism, but his remarkable body of passionate, profound, and wildly original poetry is only now translated and published in English for the first time.

Frederick Turner, a prizewinning Anglo-American poet, critic, and translator, has translated this generous collection of Marinaj's major poems into

English with the close collaboration of the poet himself. Gathered into nine sections—Home, Albania, Amor, Admonitions, Acheron, Heroines, Metaphysics, Poets, and The Earth—the volume concludes with an extraordinary long poem, "The Lost Layers of Vyasa's Skin." With his fascinating introductory essay, Turner contextualizes Marinaj's work, describing the ways in which Albanian history, culture, and politics have energized Marinaj's poetry and its poetics.

About the Author



Gjekë Marinaj is an Albanian-born American poet, world literature scholar, translator, and literary critic. He has received several international awards, including two National Insignia Prizes from the Vietnam Writers' Association, Italy's International Author Prize, Uzbekistan's Poet of the World Prize, West Bengal's World Poet Prize, India's ISISAR Award for seeking peace through literature, and South Korea's Changwon KC International Literary Prize.

Frederick Turner is Founders Professor of Arts and Humanities emeritus at the University of Texas at Dallas. A prolific and award-winning author of over forty books that include literary criticism, poetry, and science fiction, he is also a celebrated translator. His works include *Light within the Shade: Eight Hundred Years of Hungarian Poetry*, which he coedited and co-translated with Zsuzsanna Oszváth.

Washington, DC!

Washington, DC was established in 1790 when President George Washington signed the Residence Act into law, creating a federal district that would become the capital of the United States. The district was named after Washington and designed by French architect Pierre Charles L'Enfant, who included wide avenues, public spaces, and grand buildings to serve as the seat of government. Over time, the city grew into a bustling center of politics and culture, and it remains one of the most important cities in the world.

Visitors can explore famous landmarks such as the White House, the Lincoln Memorial, and the Washington Monument, as well as the Smithsonian museums, which showcase American history and culture.

DC's vibrant food scene is also a highlight, with many restaurants serving cuisine from around the world.

Finally, the city offers many opportunities to learn about American history and politics, with visits to government buildings and sites related to the country's founding. The cherry blossom trees are another attraction, drawing visitors from around the world to see the beautiful pink blooms.

AANO DC Chapter wishing all the members a Happy Summer and look forward to our 75th Anniversary Jubilee Convention in Detroit!

Submitted by:



Alicia Maluka
Board of Governor, AANO DC Chapter
and Iris Maluka

The Beauty of Washington, DC in Springtime !!



Swimming under Mesi Bridge, Kiri River, near Shkodra, Albania

Photo by David & Bonnie, Pinterest



The magnificent Mesi Bridge can be found 6 km north of the city of Shkodra. This large and well-preserved Ottoman bridge was built in 1770 along the ancient trade route from Shkodra to Kosovo, which itself dates to pre-Roman times. As an important source of gold and other metals, Kosovo was of incredible importance to the Roman, Venetian and other Mediterranean economies. Much of the original trade route is now submerged below the waters of the Drini valley dams, but here at Mesi you can get an idea of its importance. The route was not more than a donkey trail, a few meters wide at most, but the Mesi Bridge signifies its value: the bridge is 108 meters long, 3m wide and has 13 arches, of which the elegant main span measures 13m. The Kiri River, below, has incredibly blue, clear and refreshing mountain water.



Saranda's city port at Ionian Sea

Narrow alleys in the old town of Berat, Albania...

by Thomas Mulchi, Pinterest





Korçë – pretty as a picture!

(Photo courtesy of Wander-Lush)

Recipes

Hajde të Gatuajmë



Albanian Stew - Gjellë

Prep Time: 10 minutes

Cook Time: 50 minutes

Total Time: 1 hour

Serves 6

Ingredients

3 pounds of beef
4 onions
2 tablespoons butter
1 tablespoon vegetable oil
2 tablespoons tomato paste
salt and pepper to taste

Instructions

1. Peel and chop onions. Add butter and oil to a saucepan and heat slightly. Sauté onions.
2. When liquid dries up, toss in the meat. Stir and add tomato paste.
3. Pour hot water over the meat and season with salt and pepper. Simmer for 50 minutes.

Recipe courtesy of aspectacledowl.com

Recipes

White Bean Soup – Albanian Jani Me Fasule



Prep Time:

10 minutes

Cook Time:

30 minutes

Total Time:

40 minutes

Ingredients

2 cans white beans 13.5 oz. each,
drained
2 onions, chopped
2 cups red bell pepper, chopped
4 tbsp. olive oil
2 tbsp. tomato paste
2.5 pints beef stock
1-2 tsp. fresh oregano
1 tsp. paprika
salt and pepper to taste

Instructions

1. Heat the olive oil in a pressure cooker on low to medium heat and sauté onions and peppers until translucent and soft.
2. Add the tomato paste, drained white beans and beef stock.
3. Seal the pressure cooker and cook for 30 minutes. Release the steam naturally and then remove the lid.
4. Add the paprika, oregano and salt and pepper to your taste and stir.
5. Serve hot with crusty bread.

Recipe courtesy of Wandercooks

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