

Alexandros Stefanopoulos

From: Olga Alexakos [oalexakos@nyc.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, May 23, 2010 10:31 PM
To: apostoloz@greeknewsonline.com
Cc: Demetrius Kalamaras; asherjmat@aol.com; sirianos1@gmail.com; dafilios@msn.com; alexstefanopoulos@yahoo.com; smarm2ny@aol.com; panagos1@aol.com; nicholas.alexiou@gc.cuny.edu; dargyriades@nyc.rr.com; sullogos.asklipios@gmail.com; afjmg.us@gmail.com; athjcomm@otenet.gr; laselini49@gmail.com; aavdelas@gmail.com; lunaa@savion.huji.ac.il; gcawgerinos@hotmail.com; demetriosd@gmail.com; dsiokis@gmail.com; EliasGreek@aol.com; tim kakouros
Subject: Re: Reaction ...

Agaphtoi Simpatriotes,

not sure how my email got attached to this exchange because I am neither familiar with the issues argued here or with the people involved.

Please remember that we are all Greeks, and

yes also Greek Americans. Our motherland is suffering right now and we should focus on defending our interest s and our community, which I am sure we all equally care about rather than fighting each other.

I hope you all find a peaceful resolution and think twice before you insult each other.

Please remove my email address from any future exchanges.

God bless us all.

Olga Alexakos

On May 23, 2010, at 6:01 PM, apostoloz@greeknewsonline.com wrote:

Dear all,

Given that all these garbage come from the worst ever President of the Federation and a loser, a person who doesn't shame himself when he uses the "F" word referring to Greece (last time at the Neptune Diner in front of 4 people), makes me rest my case.

Those heroic Greeks that saved their Jewish brothers and the heroic Jews that died singing the Greek national anthem and holding the Greek flag in Birkenau, never used the "F" word speaking about their Motherland Greece.

So, I can't imagine what would have happened to these Greek Jews if their lives were depending upon Mr Kalamaras.

So, I will let Mr Kalamaras continue with his cheap talk. He wrote 1,972 words (!!!!!) to say what! A BIG 0!

Fortunately, our nightmare with this character will soon end. History has a place for characters like him, who give Hellenism a bad name.

Apostolos Zoupaniotis

----- Original Message -----

From: Demetrius Kalamaras

To: asherjmat@aol.com

Cc: apostoloz@greeknewsonline.com ; sirianos1@gmail.com ; dafilios@msn.com ; alexstefanopoulos@yahoo.com ; smarm2ny@aol.com ; panagos1@aol.com ; oalexakos@nyc.rr.com ; nicholas.alexiou@gc.cuny.edu ; dargyriades@nyc.rr.com ; sullogos.asklipios@gmail.com ; afjmg.us@gmail.com ; athjcomm@otenet.gr ; laselini49@gmail.com ; aavdelas@gmail.com ; lunaa@savion.huji.ac.il ; gcawgerinos@hotmail.com ; demetriosd@gmail.com ; dsiokis@gmail.com ; EliasGreek@aol.com ; tim kakouros

Sent: Sunday, May 23, 2010 1:26 PM

Subject: Re: Fwd: Reaction ...

Dear Mr. Matathias:

Please know that I was saddened at your uncalled for any perhaps scripted outburst at our General Assembly meeting of the other evening. Given your friendship and unreasonable alliance with those who have blindly opposed my presidency at every step, it sadly can be concluded, that notwithstanding your academic achievements, that you support those who only want the "karekles" and seek to bring down anyone in their way, notwithstanding the good-will of this administration, for no other reason but for the fact that they lost the last election.

As you correctly state in your letter to Mr. Robotis, you were an active opponent of mine during the Federation's elections of 2008. Nevertheless, while I could have easily put you to the side and not even considered your opinions after my election, I mistakenly believed that you may have had the better interests of the Federation in mind and I had faith that you were an otherwise fair-minded and progressive individual. Be assured that if your friends had won the election there would have been no non-partisan steps taken during their administration, nor would have there been any steps taken to reach out to anyone else unless it would lead to their personal glorification. In other words their opponents would have been silenced and wholly discounted had they won. To the contrary, and while the only thing I knew about you was that you and your society were fierce advocates of my opponents in the 2008 election, I have always treated you with courtesy and respect. As I hope you can realize, I could easily have tabled your Synagogue issue or deferred you to a sub-committee, as the topic was never on our formal agenda. To the contrary, based only upon your simple request to me just before the General Assembly, I allowed you to speak first, ahead of the entire evening's agenda, on two separate occasions and afforded you the rare opportunity to address the entire General Assembly. I ask you, is such courtesy and consideration standard operating procedure for the tyrannical and failed regime you attempt to eloquently define in your letter to Mr. Robotis. Or is it that all the while you were coiled waiting for this contrived moment to release your venom and revealed your true self.

Your convulsive outburst at this past General Assembly (that again I sadly allowed given my civil attitude towards you), as combined with the other disruptive and agenda-contrary rabble-rousers in the crowd (most of whom you interestingly refer to with the kindest words in your Robotis letter notwithstanding the discourtesy that they have shown at almost every General Assembly since my election), upset our last General Assembly meeting where we had many significant issues to address. A review of your letter to Robotis would lead one to believe that, among other things, the financial review of our two successful parades at the General Assembly was nothing more than a synopsis of my "incompetent and failed presidency" (your words).

Please know that I was sincere regarding my desire to write on behalf of the Federation regarding the Crete Synagogue matter, but had we blindly adopted your harsh and falsely accusatory letter, the Federation would have been properly adjudged "out of line", as the facts that unfolded after your and your ally Mr. Zoupaniotis' letter/article clearly proved. As I trust you are aware, Mr. Zoupaniotis, has had nothing but venom for this administration, spreading lies and misinformation due to his economic ties to your other ally Mr. Ralis. I say this as these two are not philosophically agreed on any issue other than their respective desire for personal advancement, their failed desire to see my administration fail and their link as Landlord and Tenant. Your errant condemnation of the people of Greece and Crete as anti-Semitic, vis a vis your hastily, albeit understandably hastily written letter is perhaps excusable, given your personal history. Although I think it is fair to say that but for the heroic acts of many Christian Greeks that you would not be able to now make false conclusions regarding the good people of Crete, whose selfless acts of heroism against the Nazis we celebrate this very time of year. Nevertheless, should the Federation have written something on the subject, "yes". But, should we have adopted your misinformed letter blindly, "no". Do we have many other issues to deal with, "yes". Did we address every issue we should have, "no". As the Federation remains a volunteer organization and as a Board Member for nearly 15 years working for the Federation irrespective of my being a minority member on the Board several times, I can say in an objective manner that this administration has been more open to hearing new and even critical voices and open to addressing new issues than any previous administration. If I am in error please point to any previous administration's policies to the contrary.

What you fail to understand is that your issue, as you addressed it, however important, was but one of the many issues we faced as a Board. We are not a public relation machine. Yet to turn things around, I ask you, where was your input on any other significant issue that was not related to the Synagogue in Crete. We represent nearly 100 member societies, with 400 representatives (regular and alternates) and you believe that your issue is the most paramount. As I trust you are aware, there are fellow Greeks suffering in Northern Epiros, others are suffering in Turkey and still others in Cyprus, not to mention the masses of our Greek/Eastern Orthodox Brothers and Sisters whose rights and property are being trampled daily in Muslim and Jewish majority countries. Our lands and heritage are being usurped regularly with the world's tacit approval. Where were you to shout at the top of your lungs about these issues, or are you, as it now seems, a selfish single-issue representative, whose real agenda is to falsely criticize me while attempting to bolster your cronies.

Further, I was most deeply saddened at your blind execution of the letter condemning the Federation's letter to Comptroller Lui. Did you read our letter carefully or even at all. As I know you read and understand English better than most of those who signed the letter with you, you of all people should have read it and understood that our letter was nothing more than a congratulatory letter to Mr. Lui, written so that he understands who we are and what we do, because Mr. Ralis and his friends desire to have Mr. Lui falsely believe that they represent the Federation and its hard worked for accomplishments. Given the scandalous and libelous letters that Mr. Ralis has written and distributed both publicly and directly to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese and the Greek Consulate in order to defame me personally as well as my administration, as combined with his failure to return to the Federation its property that he illegally holds hostage, his improper and abuse of discretion during his term as Parade Chairman that has led to litigation being brought against the Federation, to mention but a few of his "honorable" deeds, Ralis and you believe that we should sit silently as he is honored by our City at a function where we were asked to be both Co-Hosts and to sit on the Honoree Selection Panel. Would your Society honor or sit as a Co-Host where people who you know are unworthy and have harmed your organization are being awarded only because their friend, Mr. Mannesis, as the case herein, nominated them. Or would you merely, as we did, express your opinion to Mr. Liu that while he can and has the absolute right to honor anyone he wants to, that we as the Federation of Hellenic Societies, who suffer due to Ralis' abuses, improper, unreasonable and unethical acts, simply say that we cannot endorse such false honors. Notwithstanding our inability to endorse Mr. Ralis' selection, we advised Comptroller Lui in writing only, that we wholeheartedly endorsed his selection of Mrs. Kaloidis and Mrs. Koutsoupakis as honorees. We further advised the Comptroller that notwithstanding our inability to endorse Ralis' selection that we would encourage our friends and members to support the Event. But for a horrible and well documented traffic accident that occurred on my route to the Lui event, I too would have attended. Notwithstanding the above, your dear friends lied to Mr. Kaloidis and falsely advised him that I had "called Mr. Lui and advised him that we were sabotaging and boycotting the event due to Mr. Ralis' selection". Clearly Mr. Ralis is so full of himself that he truly believes he is at the center of the Omogenia Universe and that all I do is sit around and think of ways to get back at him. I ask you who has the chip on their shoulder, the winner of the election who offered an olive branch to Ralis, or Ralis who advised the press that "the Omogenia lost and not him" after the 2008 election and who later resigned from the 3rd Vice-Presidency for no cause and still later resigned from the Board after calling me a liar for no reason other than his own spoiled nature.

I ask you, Mr. Matathias, had we been asked to Honor or Co-Host an event where former Governor Spitzer was to be given a life-time achievement award, we would, as I believe you would agree, similarly express our dissatisfaction with such a selection and not formally attend.

Upon the foregoing, and your hateful and unprovoked letter to Mr. Robotis (as you cc'ed to me and numerous others), I can sadly only conclude that your otherwise superficially friendly demeanor towards me since my election has been nothing more than a veneer and perhaps an attempt by you to befriend me only so that your single minded agenda could be advanced through the Federation. My open-heartedness and non-partisanship nature is once again rewarded. I guess cynicism should rule as my governing standard. Please know that I abhor blind partisanship and cynicism as it has led to many tragic events where politics are put ahead of

people and good deeds. Be advised that I can turn my cheek only so many times before hurtful comments such as those you made at the meeting and in your correspondence to Mr. Robotis compel me to respond and to question whether I should have ever invested my time in earnestly attempting to work with people such as you and your ilk. Truth be known, that notwithstanding your assaults and those of your allies, there remain a great number of good, hardworking and decent people around the Federation who are truly concerned about our community and that is enough to give me strength to carry on.

As you are a teacher by trade, as I can't say by profession, as this requires further investigation, I am disappointed in your myopic views towards me and my administration. Further, your sarcasm in the Robotis letter with regard to your being "disappointed" with my Presidency as the first American Board President of the Federation is well noted. With people like you and your friends around who practice the politics of personal destruction over progress, the sad truth is that I may very well be the last American born President of the Federation. Upon the above and your dismissive characterization of the significant and hard fought achievements of this administration, I only ask one thing of you and that is that you kindly refrain from forwarding me any more of your e-mails that I would earlier review and consider, however unrelated to the Federation's business, as they are now nothing more to me than propaganda from an enemy that was formerly within.

Sincerely,

Demetrius G. Kalamaras

From: "AsherJmat@aol.com" <AsherJmat@aol.com>

To: dgkesqtcb@yahoo.com; apostolosz@greeknewsonline.com; ralisdino@yahoo.com; sirianos1@gmail.com; dafilios@msn.com; alexstefanopoulos@yahoo.com; smarm2ny@aol.com; panagos1@aol.com; oalexakos@nyc.rr.com; nicholas.alexio@gc.cuny.edu; dargyriades@nyc.rr.com; sullogos.asklipios@gmail.com; afjmg.us@gmail.com; athjcomm@otenet.gr; laselini49@gmail.com; aavdelas@gmail.com; lunaa@savion.huji.ac.il; gcawgerinos@hotmail.com

Sent: Fri, May 21, 2010 4:25:26 PM

Subject: Fwd: Reaction ...

**An important dialogue must commence, and sooner than later.
Asher**

From: AsherJmat@aol.com

To: neomagazine@earthlink.net

Sent: 5/21/2010 4:21:22 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time

Subj: Re: Reaction ...

B"H

Dear Demetri,

Thank you, for your grace in taking my points as they were intended, and knowing that I hold you in the highest esteem; indeed, an important part of a cadre of Greek-Americans who, together, can write new chapters and books of our communal progress in this great land! To conclude this subject, and aware of my affinity for the English language --- I often refer to this first love, before I fell for Annoula --- I would consider assisting in such editing that is done before publication, and for any article that appears in the magazine. That will add a new dimension to our considerable collaboration that has characterized our relationship.

On the aforementioned communal affairs, last evening's concluding Federation general assembly was an instance of how far we have gone in a reverse order of progress; how far we have to come to recoup the backslide under what now appears certain to be a new slate of leaders to be voted in on Sunday, June 13!

As I mentioned the scheduled meeting, in the main hall of Stathakeion Center, filled to capacity with chairs that were never completely filled --- even with more than 90 affiliated organizations in attendance --- began after 9 PM, and immediately erupted into controversy at the point of passing the read minutes of the previous meeting. The bone of contention was the embarrassing, even shameful, stance of the president and his executive committee so brazenly repudiating the will of the people who passed the resolution I submitted at the time condemning the repeated arson attempt of the Hania, Crete, Etz Hayim Synagogue.

Rising to endorse the timely observations of other speakers who severely cauterized the self-inflicted trauma by president Kalamaras, and with trembling voice, rising with emotion, I minced no words expressing the singular betrayal by a person who, after all, approached me to design a suitable expression of policy for the Federation. In this, the Federation was to be a Johnny-come-late participant, lagging behind the Patriarch, the Archbishop and scores of private organizations here and in our native land who expressed themselves in the most forthright manner; even Papandreou's government, eventually came around, but not Kalamaras and his minions.

Further, I revealed by frustration and indignation, even contemplating resignation with only the warm support of my brethren in our Argonauts' Association, along with support from Messrs. Daimantidis and Ralis, both of whom I hold in the highest regard, preventing me from such rupture. My hurt was somewhat assuaged by the regret and apology for inaction proffered by Dimitirius Kalamaras.

There is an irony here, of course. The best, most effective leaders are constantly engaged with their constituents, and I should have been warned by early signs that our incumbent president does not follow this model. Consider, that even though I was active in the campaign to elect his opponent, I immediately reached out to call him, and left him a voice mail, to introduce myself to him (he knew me, he said), and pledge my support and willingness to work to make his tenure a success. If you think he returned my call with alacrity, you would be in error. In the weeks before the last parade, I repeatedly heard on Hellas Radio the please of hosts that he should call in to instruct and inform the public of developments ... to no avail!

In the Hania synagogue issue, many messages from me, from Apostolos Zoupaniotis of the GreekNews (he editorially taking issue with the president's inability or unwillingness to fulfill his duties to respond), and others were heard by the proverbial wall of silence and inaction!

This is the sad state of affairs, as they are, in contradistinction to the multi-paged monologue that the president engaged in describing his tenure. That's too bad, for there were many expectations for this first president born in America; still, his incompetence and failed presidency should not discourage other young aspirants, born in the USA, from considering taking the plunge into the highest level of leadership!

Mr. Stathakos, a person I admire enormously, was even in his evaluation of current conditions in our Greek-American community: the lack of involvement, declining participation, rising expectations. We need to search for a coalition to lead our Federation in the short run, without the unnatural political or athletic divisions between PASOK and New Democracy and Panathenaikos and Olympiakos, respectively. We must be able to seek new, broader perspectives, for we live in America now, with the unparalleled opportunity to reinvent ourselves. Surely, we must be able to both take us out of Greece and Greece out of our soul --- if it is to lose the more toxic qualities of misogyny, xenophobia, intolerance, anti-Semitism, yes, being anti-democratic, for there are many I encounter regularly in our meeting who pine for "the good old days" of the dictatorships of Metaxas, Patakos, et al.

It is my devout hope that open, honest, debate will set us free, and my unsparing criticisms are voiced with deep-seated affection for all! They are responsible for me regaining a measure of optimism that even in the madness that I witness and experience, the darker sides of human nature and Greek culture, now confronted to be creatively altered in Greece, we will do well to do this also for ourselves! I wish to enlist in this effort with energy, and all the ability that I modestly possess.

Sincerely, and with fraternal affection,

Asher

Prof. Asher J. Matathias, Delegate
Argonauts' Association
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In a message dated 5/21/2010 3:27:05 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, neomagazine@earthlink.net writes:

Dear Asher,

thanks for taking the time to send me these observations. I will have to look over the piece again myself, because before it's published, it's supposed to pass a last inspection by our editor. There is a possibility that the original page wasn't replaced by the corrected one.

Regarding some other phrases that you find not in style, this page is supposed to be a bit unpredictable and unconventional. That's why this time I put the photo with city of **Skata** in Finland and made the obvious connection and last time I had **Merkel** and her cleavage.

Changing subject now, if you go to the online version, at the opening page where it says **NEO's** Watch, I put the video with the Holocaust Memorial in Athens that you sent me.

D

-----Original Message-----

From: asherjmat@aol.com
Sent: May 21, 2010 10:53 AM
To: neomagazine@earthlink.net
Subject: Reaction ...

B"H

Dear Demetri,

While waiting for the final assembly of the Federation to get underway, we did not begin until after 9 PM, I had a chance to read the current issue --- the special annual Cypriot-American edition --- of **NEO Magazine**. The publication holds an added appeal to me for having written for it, and because you, and other known figures, give it a becoming **pizzazz**.

Then, you can only imagine my disappointment with your assessment of the Cyprus problem, not for its content, but its convoluted, tortured style and evident grammatical and even spelling errors. Thus, I shall concentrate on a few glaring examples for I had given up after a while listing them.

To begin, path ways is not two words but one, pathways; in the first paragraph "Greece shall overcome it's Europe" is incorrect for there is no apostrophe even if the country could overcome the continent; "As most of you know" should never be assumed, it is known, or tell what you wish us to know would have been better; that becomes the start of a run on sentence with too many thoughts to keep up; it's Greek-Cypriot, with a connecting hyphen, not without it; Cypriot refuge it may be, but you mean refugees; later, the accusation of massacre of "millions"

is to outlandish to contemplate; in writing, there is never more or less, a lazy way of speaking; "even not sanctioned by the FDA," poorly constructed and the Food and Drug Administration has to be spelled out;

First of all, is another indelicate phrase; you write staple when you mean stable; it's the Turks who not that are asking;" in the third column, you mean face saving not safe saving; needless to say should not be written; also again, which starts the last paragraph (you have a tendency to repeat this on the air frequently, too); and, it's "to decide which" not what ... etc.

This is written with much fraternal affection, always,
Asher