

March 28, 2011

Dear Friends,

We are privileged to have you with us and look forward to meeting you on the evening of March 31, 2011, at 7:00pm. Our Cultural Committee is hosting a panel discussion on:

**"The Theological School of Halki: Past, Present & Future"**

*The Cathedral Center, 162 Goddard Avenue, Brookline, MA 02445*

The Program will consist of a multifaceted panel discussion on the history of the School, its significance – prospects and obstacles to its reopening, the position, actions and responsibility of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and at a broader scale, that of the United States.

For your information, we have attached a number of documents; the program and the brochure, with the panelists' names, their brief biographies and respective topics of presentations, along with a brief historical outline on the School of Halki.

With all our prayers,

**Debra Babalas**  
Event Chair

**V. Rev. Dr. Cleopas Strongylis**  
Cathedral Dean

**Demetris Photopoulos, Ph.D.**  
Parish Council President

***The Theological School of Halki: Past, Present & Future***

March 31, 2011 7:00pm

*The Cathedral Center, 162 Goddard Avenue, Brookline, MA 02445*

**Panelists**

***Mr. Christos Papoutsy, Historian, Philanthropist***

Author: Ecumenical Patriarchate of Orthodox Christianity Under Siege  
*The Holy Theological School of Halki - Historical Review*

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***Mr. George Rockas, Esquire***

Wilson Else Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP  
Chair, International Archons Religious Freedom Conference, Brussels  
*The Significance of Halki – Prospects & Obstacles to its Reopening*

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***Mr. Nick Larigakis, President***

American Hellenic Institute, Washington, D.C.  
*Halki – U.S. Position and Responsibility*

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***The Honorable Bruce Tarr, State Senator***

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
*Halki – The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Position & Actions*

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***Professor Michalis Psalidopoulos***

The C. Karamanlis Chair in Hellenic &  
Southeastern European Studies, Tufts University  
*Halki – An Economist's View*

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**Moderator: *Mrs. Mary Papoutsy***

**Brief Background:**

The Theological School of Halki, founded in the nineteenth century, (October 1, 1844) on the grounds of the Patriarchal Monastery of the Holy Trinity, located on the island of Halki, the second largest among the Princes islands in the sea of Marmara, and a few miles from the shores of Constantinople, has occupied the site for over 1,000 years.

Halki was the main school of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, until its closing. In 1971, it fell subject to actions by the Turkish government seeking to cease its activities. The closing of the School constitutes a breach of the Treaty of Lausanne, Article 24 of the Turkish Constitution and Article 9 of the European Convention of Human Rights, all of which guarantee religious freedom.

On Thursday evening, March 31<sup>st</sup>, an esteemed Panel, composed of the following members, will share with us their perspectives on its history, its legal implications, an economist's view points, obstacles to its re-opening and lastly the U.S. Position and responsibility.

**Panelists:**

**Mr. Christos Papoutsy:** Historian, Author, Businessman and Philanthropist. A business graduate of Southern New Hampshire University, has studied post-graduate courses at Harvard University in law, mediation and psychology. He has lectured on business and business ethics at universities and institutions, including Oxford and the American Hellenic Chamber of Commerce in Athens. His latest book release: *Ecumenical Patriarchate of Orthodox Christianity Under Siege: The Holy Theological School of Halki*. Copies of the book will be available at the purchase price of \$20.00. 40% of the proceeds will be donated to the Cathedral. An accomplished Santouri player, he is the conductor of the Hellenic and Near Eastern Philharmonic Orchestra. Mr. Papoutsy is an Archon in the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

**Attorney George Rockas:** A graduate of Cornell University where he received his J.D. and M.B.A. A Managing Partner with of the Boston office of Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman and Dicker LLP, is a practicing attorney in civil litigation for 26 years. A member of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Patriarchate, he served as the Conference chairman for the Religious Freedom Conference in Brussels in November, 2010.

**Mr. Nick Larigakis:** A graduate of political science from the College of New Jersey has studied as well at the American University in Washington, D.C. He is currently the president and chief operating officer of the American Hellenic Institute (AHI), a non-profit Greek American public policy center in Washington, D.C. He works with the United States Congress on U.S.-Greece-Cyprus relations and serves as President of the Greek American Political Action Committee. For his work, Mr. Larigakis has received numerous awards and recognitions. He is an Archon in the Order of St. Andrews the Apostle of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

**Professor Michalis Psalidopoulos:** Holder of the Constantine Karamanlis Chair of Hellenic and Southeastern Studies of the Fletcher School of Diplomacy, Tufts University and a professor of History of Economic Thought at the Department of Economics, University of Athens. A Fulbright Fellow at Duke University, a Stanley J. Seeger Fellow at Princeton University and a Visiting Research Professor at Kings College in London. An author and editor of numerous books and articles, he has been awarded the prize for the best economic treatise by the Academy of Athens.

**Honorable Bruce Tarr (Tamvakologos):** A graduate of Suffolk Law School was elected to the Massachusetts House of representatives in 1990 and in the Senate in 1994. A member of several key State Senate Committees, including: Senate Committee on Ways & Means; Children & Families; Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture; Higher Education; Public Health; Public Safety and Homeland Security; Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy. A powerful advocate for the re-opening of Halki was instrumental in raising awareness among his colleagues and co-authored a joint letter in 2007 to President Bush, asking for U.S. consideration and action on the matter.