



The Herald

Newsletter of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Archangels • 1527 Bedford St., Stamford, CT 06905

January 2016

Taking Stock

Lest we turn the corner into a new year and neglect to realize what God has been doing in our midst, 2015 was quite a significant year in the history of our parish. Such sacred work can easily be overlooked for a variety of reasons. Only a portion of our entire community of faith comes regularly to worship on Sundays, so that we simply don't see a lot of what is happening. We generally tend to notice only certain things that involve the people we know or the groups we are most familiar with. We have our own circle of family and friends. So, just to make sure we avoid stumbling forward, here is a list of some of the most important advances:

- We launched a \$2.2 million Capital Campaign for the renewal of professional staff and our physical campus in September, with Chairman Elian Kulukundis making the announcement that included an anonymous \$250,000 matching grant;
- Following a 9-month intensive study of the Stamford Athletic Club, led by Jason Konidaris on behalf of the Parish Council, the Council decided to hire a new Management Company called Bilancio to bring a fresh approach for renewal; the decision was not an easy one since we had to say good-bye to Glenn Colarossi and Donna Garofalo who had directed SAC for more than 20 years. We publicly express our gratitude to them for all their devoted service and are thankful for their cooperation in the transition during the month of December;
- Almost twice as many qualified candidates for the Parish Council decided to run this year, prompting the Council to increase the number of voting members from 12 to 15 in order to accommodate more "new blood." How did this happen? On the one hand, it demonstrates the initiative of current Council members to encourage others to run; on the other hand, it indicates greater interest in serving by members who approve of the overall direction of our parish;
- We welcomed our first-ever, new full-time professional ministry staff member, Steve Sarigianis, who was the top pick of a special committee (of 2 Parish Council members, 2 parents of teenagers and myself) that scrutinized 16 applications and conducted 3 interviews; Steve has done a wonderful job since he began in August and has been well received by everyone who has interacted with him; the fruits of his work have already appeared in GOYA, Preschool, Church School, the Altar Boys, Handmaidens, and in other ways; he has endeared himself to us in a very short time;
- An unusually large number of weddings took place, compared to previous years: 8 instead of 2 or 3;
- I met and visited with many new families that are connecting with our parish – some from the surrounding area are deciding to worship with us; other have relocated from other parts of the country; some are from non-Greek Orthodox backgrounds (such as Romania); most involved mixed marriages (that is, one spouse who is Orthodox, and the other who is Roman Catholic or Protestant).
- We held our first ever "Ministry Fair" on Stewardship Sunday, December 6, in which all ministry and organizations were invited to create a visible table-top display of their good works (photos, diagrams, literature, etc); this generated a lot energy and interest, at least some of which may not have happened otherwise;
- Stewardship Pledges for 2016 have come in at a record pace – both in terms of Time & Talents, along with Financial Treasures. What makes this so significant is this: it is happening exactly during the time of our Capital Campaign when such commitment easily falls off.
- Now in our 5th year of weekly collection for the Lower Fairfield County Food Bank, our parish remains the largest single contributor to help lower class and working class families who struggle to pay their living expenses.

These are some of the more important indicators of renewed life, particularly among the younger generations who are not always as noticeable on Sunday mornings. But since each week also includes Monday – Saturday, it's no surprise that the energy level of this congregation continues to rise.

And that's more than enough reason to thank Christ, not just for what we've experienced in our personal lives but in our collective life as a family of faith!

Fr. Harry

WORSHIP FOR THEOPHANY

Tuesday, January 5: Royal Hours – 9:00 am

Tuesday, January 5: Vespertal Liturgy – 6:00 pm • Great Blessing of the Waters – 7:30 pm

Wednesday, January 6: Orthros – 8:30 am • Divine Liturgy – 9:30 am • Great Blessing of the Waters – 10:30 am

Thursday, January 7: Feast of St. John the Baptist • 3rd Hour – 9:15 am; Divine Liturgy – 9:30 am

PARISH COUNCIL

Blessing of Homes and Businesses

The annual brief blessing service (about 10 minutes) of home & work begins on the Great Feast of Epiphany (January 6) and continues throughout the month. All that is needed is an icon, candle, sprig of basil (or other green), bowl of water, and a list of the first names of family members (or co-workers), including the deceased. Please note that no honorarium is sought or needed, since this is part of Fr. Harry's normal responsibilities. To schedule an appointment contact either Jane in the office (203-348-4216) or Fr. Harry directly (frharry@archangelsgoc.org).

Parish Council

As we come to the end of year, the council is thankful for the past support of the parishioners and looks forward to a new year that, with God's blessing, will see continuing increases in the level of stewardship and ministry participation. The early responses from Stewardship Sunday are very encouraging. The council voted to approve the following charitable donations (\$2,050 in total): \$1,000 for Hogar Raphael Orphanage in Guatemala, \$250 for International Orthodox Peace Fellowship, \$250 for Emmaus House in Harlem (for poor & homeless in NYC), \$250 for Neighbor's Link (provides vital public services to immigrants in Stamford), and \$300 for Fr. Francis Ochom (impoverished priest in Uganda). The funding for these expenditures comes from a grant by the Foundation specifically for charitable donations. The council approved a preliminary 2016 budget for the church. This budget, together with the SAC budget, will be presented at a future general assembly for approval by the parish. Contact: George Papis

Parish Council Elections

Parish Council Elections were held on Dec. 13, with 110 valid ballots out of 119 that were cast. We elected the top 7 candidates to serve a 3-year term beginning in January, 2016 (vote totals are in parenthesis):

Jason Konidaris (108); George Nanos (104);
Dr. Steven Valassis (98); Elias Lolis (95);
Pamela Koutroubis (81); Maria DeVito (74);
Argyris (RJ) Vassiliou (74)

John Louizos (69)

Jane Dragonis Perkins (67)

After these results are confirmed by Archbishop Demetrios, these newly elected members will be installed along with the on-going members of the Parish Council (George Papis, Aggie Sotire, George Khouri, Chris P. Nanos, Jim Cocolis, Steve Fornaciari, Bill Grosso & Gigi Perimenis) through prayer on Sunday, January 10 toward the end of Liturgy. Then, following the Vasilopeta Program, they will meet privately in the Library to elect officers. We wish to thank outgoing members Nick Aivalis and John Louizos who have served honorably for many years. Contact the Board of Elections: Lou Blanco (chairman), Roula Stergianis and Peter George.



Parish Council Elections (Dec 13) - Peter Paspalis & Jane Konidaris pick up ballots (on left) while Jane assists Board of Elections members Lou Blanco and Roula Stergianis (on right)

Treasurer's Report

Year to date (January through November) income was \$907,640. Expenses for the same period were \$971,477, resulting in a loss of \$63,827 so far for the year. We have experienced higher than budgeted expenses in the following areas: Grounds maintenance & snow removal, natural gas use, cleaning costs, and significantly higher equipment maintenance costs. We expect to see lower equipment maintenance costs next year due to replacement of our oldest equipment. Our new church windows are expected to help us with our heating and cooling costs. Also, we have signed a fixed-price grounds maintenance (landscaping) contract going forward. We have one more month for 2015 Stewardship to catch up with our 2015 expenses. Please be vigilant in getting around to your 2015 giving if you have not done so already. Many thanks! Contact: George Khouri

Stewardship Report

The 2016 stewardship drive began with a highly successful ministry fair on Stewardship Sunday, December 6. Representatives from many of the Church's ministries including the Greek school, Sunday school, Philoptochos, HOPE/JOY, GOYA, Little Angels, Missions, Athletics, and the Capital Campaign created booths and spoke to fellow parishioners about their efforts at the coffee hour. It is very encouraging to see the significant and growing activity of these ministries. In late November we mailed out our 2016 stewardship cards. We encourage all parishioners to fill them out and return them to the church as soon as possible. As of late December, we had received 80 cards with financial pledges totaling more than \$225,000. The goal of our stewardship ministry is to help people grow in their relationship with Jesus through the use of the time, talents, and finances given to them by God. There is no minimum or maximum financial pledge to be a steward or member of the Church of the Archangels. Rather stewardship giving should be proportional to blessings received. With respect to our 2015 stewardship giving, the Church received \$12,300 during the month of November bringing the year-to-date total to \$315,900. December is generally a strong month for stewardship giving so we remain hopeful that we will reach our goal of \$365,000 for 2015. Note that even if you forgot to make a stewardship gift in 2015, you can still make a donation this January and ask that it be counted for 2015. Lastly, after many years of service, George Khouri is stepping down as head of our stewardship committee. Over the last five years under George's leadership, stewardship gifts have more than doubled. We are very grateful for his service to our parish, and we welcome Tim Hartch, who has been on the Committee for 5 years, as his successor.

Additional 2015 Stewards

Dr. & Mrs. Arthur Adams	M/M Stanley Esposito
Mrs. Penelope Basil	M/M Michael Poulos
Mr. Demetrios Efkarpidis	M/M John Lycouris
M/M James Fragione	M/M Spyros Malitzis
M/M Matthew Feldman	Mrs. Christine Maskaleris
M/M Elias Lolis	M/M Ilias Triantafylos
Mrs. Pandora Kolich	Mr. George Triantafylos
M/M Paul Jordanopoulos	M/M John Panulas
M/M John Louizos	M/M R. John Young

Buildings & Grounds

During this dormant period, our emphasis was clearing up our accounts payable. This major undertaking was spearheaded by Basil Vanech. Tracking the many projects completed in 2015 was tedious, but handled in a very professional manor. Payments were finalized after confirming that all aspects of our specification were completed. Nick Aivalis presented to the Board of Directors an

architectural rendering of a proposed marble cornerstone that would be located at the intersections of Bedford and Third Streets. This would identify the Church's origin, as well as our founding fathers. This project will be undertaken by Bill Grosso, who will make recommendations known to the Parish Council for final decision. We now look forward to the implementation of the Master Plan. We ask that all parishioners give serious consideration of their support to our Capital Campaign. Contact: Peter Licopantis, Nick Aivalis or Gregg Demetros

Master Planning Committee

Stamford City Planning & Zoning informally reviewed our plans. Thank you to Nick Aivalis for following through with P&Z. Internally, we continue to refine the proposed floor plan to address concerns and programmatic needs. We will meet as a full committee in January to revisit cost estimation reports. Questions: Jason Konidaris

Capital Campaign

As of December 20, the Capital Campaign had reached a total of \$1,142,750 in pledges from 53 donors of which \$677,527.30 has already been collected. Total cash received, including non-pledge donations, has passed \$700,000. While most people who made pledges payable in 2015 have already satisfied those undertakings, fifteen pledges due during 2015 have not as of this date been received. It is hoped that these will be received over the remaining ten days of December. We are well on the way toward meeting the anonymous challenge grant, but are still well shy of the total required. We encourage everyone making a donation of any sort to write 'Capital Campaign - Matching Grant' on their check so that their donation will qualify for the grant. Active solicitation of the community at large has only begun to get under way. We hope that those who have yet to be contacted will respond generously so as to enable us to reach our goal quickly, and that you will all consider making a pledge to be spread over three years. Reaching the levels prescribed by the General Assembly will enable us to move out of the planning stage and into actual construction, hopefully by Summer 2016. Contact: Elias Kulukundis

Capital Campaign Contributors

Pledges received (from Nov 20 to Dec 20, 2015)

Anonymous (1)	Arthur & Elaine Kiratsous
George Badoyannis	Nick & Pauline Kounavelis
Brian Irizarry & Gigi Perimenis	Pam Koutroubis
Katie Perimenis	

Non-pledge contributions received

Steve Katsetos

Correction: In the listing published last month, the name of Luisa Nanos was misspelled. Our sincere apologies to Mrs. Nanos.

MINISTRIES

Adult Education

- **Orthodoxy 101** – Fr. Harry will offer an introductory class on the basic teachings, worship, and way of life in the Orthodox Tradition to all prospective catechumens, inquirers, and others interested. Be on the lookout for starting date and time.
- **Adult Catechism** – the group will be pursuing a dual track this coming year:
 1. Centering Prayer – learning from Fr. Thomas Keating about a contemporary reformulation of the ancient practice of contemplative prayer through a series of DVD's and discussion led by Fr. Harry;
 2. Establishing a core group of Bible Study veterans chosen by Fr. Harry to be trained as facilitators for small groups called "Koinonia" (Greek for Communion and community) that will be launched in various geographic areas later in 2016. This pilot group will learn about leading informal prayer, facilitating small group Bible Study, and nurturing supportive fellowship.
- **Bible Study** – a unique ecumenical program of Bible Study called "Midwinter Sonlight" on the parables of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke will be offered in 4 different churches in Stamford on Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm, led by the host pastor:
 1. Jan 14 – "Introduction to Luke & Parables" by Pastor Duane Pederson @ St. John's Lutheran Church
 2. Jan 21 – "Parables of Grace" by Pastor Mark Lingle @ St. Francis Episcopal Church
 3. Jan 28 – "Parables of Judgment" by Pastor David Van Dyke @ First Presbyterian Church
 4. Feb 4 – "Parables of Life Before God" by Fr. Harry @ our church (Archangels)

An optional church tour at each location will be offered at 7 pm. All current members of Adult Catechism are encouraged to attend, especially since we will not meet on Mondays during these weeks. Here is a great opportunity to learn the parables of Christ along with the Christian traditions of other congregations in our area!

- **Baptism Class** – Fr. Harry will offer this as a requirement for all parents & godparents who are preparing for baptism on Sun., Jan 17, from 3-5:30 pm. Please provide your own childcare so that you can give your undivided attention to the material.

- **Great Tours: Greece and Turkey, from Athens to Istanbul** – a series of DVD lectures on ancient culture and history, sponsored by AHEPA. Details below.

Seniors

Our December 9th luncheon exceeded everyone's expectations. The 60 seniors who attended were participants in a feast. The vast spread of cheeses, dips, shrimp, meatballs, spanakopites, wines, baked ham dinner and desserts were enjoyed by all. Pam Koutroubis (our president) went all out and presented everyone with a personal holiday gift. She arranged a special raffle (in addition to our 50/50 raffle), consisting of gift baskets, wines, etc. We were entertained by George Kent and his pianist, who sang Greek and American Christmas songs. He truly brought us into the holiday mode with a sing-along and a few of us got up to dance. Our next meeting will be held on January 13th. Our guest speaker will be Louis Blanco, senior tax advisor with H & R Block. He will discuss the new tax regulations and will have a question and answer period. Come join the Kali Parea (meaning: Good Company). Contact Peter Licopantis or Pam Koutroubis



Peter Demetros collects his prize as the first Raffle winner (Dec 9)



Chanter Tom Monos entertains the Seniors with a Greek kalanda (Dec 9)

Ladies Philoptochos Society

Best wishes for the New Year to our community from the Ladies Philoptochos. We are most grateful for all the people who support us throughout the year. A beautiful Christmas brunch hosted by Mollie Sotire on Dec. 5th was enjoyed by many. Five of the charities that received the proceeds from our Turkey Bingo came to the brunch and gave us information about what they do. They were most grateful for the significant donation of \$1,650 that each received. What a wonderful feeling we had to learn more about them and know how important our donations were to these organizations. Our chapter also donated \$500 to the Greek Division of Ronald McDonald House to cover medication costs for a little girl from Greece so she can obtain necessary medication to maintain herself cancer-free. Our membership drive will begin in January. Please



President Pam Koutroubis thanks George Kent and his pianist for entertaining the Seniors (Dec 9)



Children enjoy playing with Sunny the Clowns's parachute (Dec 19)

join us or renew your membership, so we can continue to help people in need. God's Blessings to all. Contact Marion Vanson at marionvanson@yahoo.com

Church School

Happy New Year! Congratulations to our Church School students, Greek School students, and GOYANs for hosting a gleeful Christmas Program on December 20th. It was truly a joyful cross ministry affair! Thank you to Phil Costa and Seasons Cafe for providing an elegant brunch in celebration of our children! The Church School program will begin engaging in monthly Philanthropy Sundays that will be held once a month starting this month! Our children will be working collectively on missionary works and activities as a part of our regular curriculum. We are excited to begin this newly added element to our program and welcome the opportunity to grow in faith through such deeds of kindness and compassion for others. Dates and projects to be published soon. Wishing all families an abundance of every good gift for 2016! Thank you for your ongoing support of our program. Contact: Evelyn Biliadis

Greek School

On January 31st, the Archangels Greek School will celebrate the Feast of the Three Hierarchs and Greek Letters. On this day, we congratulate students, teachers and parents for their successes throughout the year. The children will perform immediately following the Divine Liturgy. Next PTO Meeting is January 8th at 5:30 p.m. Contact - PTO Board: Rebecca Kelesidis Rebecca@Kelesidis.com



Children are laughing hysterically at Sunny the Clown's antics (Dec 19)



GOYAns Mathew Poulos, Zach Muraskin, Annie Morrelli, Niko Giantomidis, and Nick Otis along with Advisor Bill Giantomidis at the Domus Holiday Mall gift giving event

GOYA

On Saturday, Dec. 19th, our GOYA participated in the annual *Domus Foundation "Holiday Mall,"* an open house gift, clothing, and food distribution event held at their east side center. Domus is a United Way agency partner which operates educational, residential and community programs to help vulnerable youth get on a right path in life. Our Archangels and Annunciation communities donated 125 toys for needy kids. This organized and inspiring event provided an opportunity for our teens to offer themselves in service to others, develop a deeper sense of empathy for those in need, and in doing so, bolster their Orthodox Christian faith. Our 8 GOYAns were thankful for the experience and we look to continue work with Domus in the future.

The annual *Christmas Wreath Fundraiser* was a complete success this year! All fifty* of the beautifully decorated wreaths were sold, grossing over \$725. (*December 2015 Herald mistakenly reported 25 wreaths). We wish to thank all of those from the community who helped support GOYA this Christmas season.

This past Wednesday, December 23rd, our GOYA enjoyed a *Bowling Night* over at Bowlmor in Norwalk, CT. With schools out for winter recess this was a great opportunity for the teens to decompress with friends, have fun and enjoy themselves over food and lots of bowling action.

Keep in mind the upcoming events for January 2016:

- **Sunday Jan. 7** – Monthly Meeting after Divine Liturgy with a special presentation on *CrossRoad*.
- **Saturday, Jan. 9** – Camp Saint Paul Reunion at Church of Our Savior in Rye, NY.
- **Friday, Jan. 22** – GOYA Dance, Holy Trinity, Waterbury, CT
- **Saturday, Jan. 30** – New Covenant House, Stamford, CT

Athletics

The *Connecticut Eastern Orthodox Volleyball League* (CEOVL) will be beginning Sunday, January 9th. Our girls are teaming up with girls from Annunciation to field **Junior Varsity** and **Varsity** division teams this year. The qualification for the JV team is 14 years of age or younger as of 8/1/15, and for the Varsity is 19 years of age or younger as of 8/1/15.

Contact: John at atozjohn@aol.com or 203-550-6894; Steve at 203-623-5896 steve@archangelsgoc.org



Sunny the Clown challenges children with a game of limbo (Dec 19)

Hope/Joy

Hope & Joy and Little Angels Ministries hosted a joint Children's Christmas Party on December 19th. It was an amazing event with a tremendous turn out of approximately 100 people. It featured fun activities with "Sunny the Clown", arts & crafts, and a visit from Santa, of course. Santa brought a special gift for each child! A deliciously catered dinner was served to all. Special thanks to Ladies Philoptochos Society for their generous donation of \$200 towards the Christmas Party as well. We hope you all had a blessed Christmas and we wish you a very happy and healthy New Year! Be on the lookout for details regarding our next event in February when we plan to visit the senior living facility at Atria to make Valentine Day cards with the residents. Please remember to bring non-perishable food items to church each week to support the Lower Fairfield County Food Bank. If you have any questions or ideas that you would like to share, please contact Chris and Luisa Nanos at 203-609-0749 or cnanos@optonline.net



Children's Christmas Program (Dec 20) co-sponsored by Church School, Greek School & GOYA

Little Angels

On December 19th, we held a very successful and festive Christmas party for our children! Thank you to all who helped and attended! I am very grateful to my co-organizers, Chris and Luisa Nanos, and also to Vasso Spanos for her indispensable help. Nikki Glekas generously provided our delicious, Eos cuisine. Thanks also to Maria Magliacano, Ruth Diamond, Leda Tsapralis, Denise Sullivan and everyone else who brought dessert. Matt DeVito was our great clean up helper. We look forward to keeping up this tradition in future years! Check out our photos!

We have distributed copies of *The Five Love Languages* by Gary Chapman and are beginning to read the book in preparation for our adult book group discussion with Presvytera Kerry on Friday, January 29th at 7 pm at my home! Please RSVP to me if you are interested in attending. If you have trouble getting to read the book, but would still like to be a part of the conversation, please do attend! This is a book about strengthening the marriage bond. We would like to open the book group discussion up to others in the parish who are interested in attending. We welcome ideas about fundraising and other ministry events, particularly philanthropic ones. Join our conversation! Contact: Anastasia Valassis, avalassis@gmail.com



Santa was the party's special guest from the North Pole! (Dec 19)

Stamford Athletic Club

As we move forward with the long-term goals of our Parish, we have hired a new management company to assume full-time management of the Stamford Athletic Club (SAC) at the Greek Cultural Center. We extend our sincere thanks to Glenn Colarossi and Donna Garofalo for their many years of service. We are grateful to them and to members of the Parish Council for their assistance in making a smooth transition to our new manager, Bilancio Fitness Management. Bilancio is the Italian word for "balance." We like to think of it as balance of mind & body, and budget. You may have met some of the Bilancio staff already. Our new General Manager's name is Jeff Kaminski. We welcomed Jeff and his family when they visited our Sunday Worship service on Dec. 20th. They had asked to come. As we transition the club, you will begin to notice and appreciate change. Please be patient; you will like the result. This is an exciting time and we believe this presents a wonderful opportunity for the future of the SAC. Contact: Jason Konidaris



George Nanos casts his vote for Parish Council as his daughter, Addison, looks on (Dec 13)

International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)

The IOCC announced in December that it was releasing emergency funds to assist the Ethiopian Orthodox Church in alleviating suffering caused by widespread drought conditions in southern and eastern regions of Ethiopia. Over 10 million Ethiopians are in dire need of emergency assistance due to the drought, which is likely to get worse due to El Nino conditions. The IOCC's response to the emergency will focus on the provision of water, sanitation and hygiene resources. Feed for livestock, a primary source of income and food for many rural families and subsistence farmers, will also be provided to help improve nutrition for families. There are over 40 million Orthodox Christians living in Ethiopia. To make a gift, please visit ioccc.org or call 1-877-803-IOCC (4622). Contact: Tim Hartzel

PARISH NEWS

Baptism

December 5 – Constantine Valassis, 2nd child of Haralambos & Vasiliki Valassis

December 5 – Sofie Barris Alfaro, child of Rafael Alfaro & Maria Ann Coplit. Sponsor: Alyssa Kietteros

December 12 – Giana Claria Carrasquillo-James, child of Abdiel Carrasquillo & Chelsea James. Sponsors: Andrew James Jr. & Nicole Williams

Hoppe Christmas support team update

Dear Fr. Harry,

As we celebrate the incarnation of God through the birth of our Lord in Bethlehem, we continue to be ever more convinced that, His authentic incarnation in our lives happens primarily through our participation in his body which is the church, at the level of the local Eucharistic community. We are conformed to the image of Christ as we encounter Him through our transforming relationships with our brothers and sisters. For this reason we are delighted to see development both in numbers, but even more importantly in depth of relationship at the different parish communities we are working in around the city of Tirana. You have had an important role in this work through your prayers and financial support. For this we thank you. Please read below to see some of what God is doing at the parishes of All Saints, Holy Transfiguration and in the neighborhood of Bathore as well as at the Resurrection Cathedral.



Nathan & Gabriella Hoppe and children in Albania, working under Archbishop Anastasios.

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

Foundation

The Board of the Foundation met on the evening of December 21st. Subjects discussed included the financial implications of the change in management at SAC and the state of the finances of the Church in 2015 and 2016. Contact: Elias Kulukundis

AHEPA

Get ready for our annual showing of educational videos for six Fridays in January and February aimed at helping our community get through the toughest part of winter “Great Tours: Greece and Turkey, from Athens to Istanbul”. The shimmering aquamarine waters of the Aegean await us. Join us for a unique cultural journey to the dramatic landscapes of Greece and Turkey — to dazzling ancient cities, majestic empires, and magical treasures of history. This is a land where great myths came to life and epic battles were fought, and the wondrous remains of ancient civilizations still call to us from across the centuries. To know these places is to know our own

beginnings. Professor John R. Hale, who gave us the “Greek and Persian Wars” a couple of years ago, is our guide in the films, giving us the chance to experience these important sites through the eyes of an expert archaeologist and scholar whose knowledge and depth of insight go far beyond any ordinary travel narrative. Through his vibrant commentary and extensive field footage, we discover monumental ancient cities, classical ruins, temples, shrines, fortresses, stadiums, theaters, churches, and palaces. In each site, we explore the critical history and culture that defined it and the ways in which it influenced our modern world. In their compelling historical and visual detail, the lectures offer a rich resource for travelers preparing to visit these sites, as well as a comprehensive review for those who have already been there.

The remaining two Fridays will be February 12 and 19. Happy New Year!

Contact: Nicholas Nikas at 203-554-5570 or niketes@yahoo.com