Merry Christmas
Dear Companions,

With the coming of the New Year, I wish to express some of my thoughts, as the coming of each year signifies the beginning of new endeavors.

2008 endowed mankind with economic, social, and educational tribulations, significant offenses caused by the abuse of political power and the mistreatment of our natural environment.

There is a greater respect for humanity and nature, for social justice, educational equality, and peace was expressed worldwide, either by peaceful means or by social unrest.

At the threshold of the third millennium, knowledge, technology, understanding and wisdom for positive change exist with-thin the grasp of new endeavors.

2008 endowed mankind with economic, social, and educational tribulations, significant offenses caused by the abuse of political power and the mistreatment of our natural environment.

For 2009, let us all work towards the common good instead of the self-serving. Let us labor to conquer fear and replace it with love! May our endeavors be constructive. Let us be more cooperative with each other and replace conflict, intolerance and negativity with peaceful negotiations!

Please let us put these values of selflessness towards Society and Humanity.

With these thoughts, I wish you all Health, Love, Peace and Productivity.

Happy New Year!

T. Soproulou

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3/75/1442
To His Eminence Archbishop DEMETRIOS of America
and to the entire Greek Orthodox Community

Merry Christmas and
a Happy and Healthy New Year

from a Friend
Best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Blessed New Year to all in our Greek-American Community

Peter and Aphrodite Skeadas
Best Wishes for a Joyous Christmas and a Bountiful New Year

The BEHRAKIS Family Foundation
Rejoice in the spirit of Christmas!

May love and hope be in your hearts this holiday season and throughout the coming year!
A Very Merry and Blessed Christmas
A Happy, Peaceful and Prosperous New Year

JOHN, MARGO ANDREA AND YANNI CATSIMATIDIS
The American Hellenic Institute and Its Affiliates
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The AHI Business Network
The AHI Public Affairs Committee

wish all
a Merry Christmas
and a
Joyous New Year

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Best wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year to our friends and all Hellenes

Merry Christmas
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to the Community for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
May the joy and peace of the Infant Christ Child
dwell in your hearts now and evermore

A Blessed Christmas and A Happy and Healthy New Year

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a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!

Season’s Greetings

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A Merry Christmas
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Merry Christmas
Happy New Year

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Happy New Year to all of you

Honorable Judge
& Mrs. Nicholas Tsoucalas

The National Herald, December 20, 2008
TO ALL OF OUR GREEK FRIENDS IN AMERICA AND GREECE

WE WISH YOU A HEALTHY HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS HOLIDAY SEASON!

The Medical Center of Boston International, Inc.

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ΚΑΛΑ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΑ ΚΑΙ ΕΥΤΥΧΙΣΜΕΝΟΣ Ο ΚΑΙΝΟΥΡΓΙΟΣ ΧΡΟΝΟΣ
May the love, peace and grace of the Incarnate Lord be with us all
May the New Year 2009 be full of health happiness and prosperity for everyone

God bless our Holy Church in America and our Parish of the Archangels of Stamford Connecticut

A very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Blessed New Year

A HEALTHY and HAPPY NEW YEAR

Very Rev. Dr. Cleopas Strongylis
Stephen C. Themelis, President
The Parish Council
Choir, Philoptochos, Sunday School
The Principal and Staff of the Hellenic American Academy - Established 1906
A Child's Christmas In Macedonia

By James Karas
Special to The National Herald

In the northwestern corner of Greece, a month’s drive away from the northern Greek city of Thessaloniki, the ancient city of Delphi, the ancient sanctuary of Dionysus, and the modern city of Athens, is the town of Florina. Florina is the capital of the Florina Prefecture, one of Greece’s most northerly and least populous regions. The town has a population of about 30,000 people. It is located on the Drin River, which borders the country of Albania to the northwest and the Republic of Macedonia to the northeast. Florina is situated in a valley surrounded by mountains, with the town and the surrounding area being surrounded by picturesque forests and meadows. The climate is cool and humid, with mild winters and hot summers. The region is known for its rich agricultural resources, including citrus fruits, olives, and grapes. Florina is also a popular destination for tourists seeking out the natural beauty and cultural heritage of the region. The town is home to several museums, including the Florina Ethnography Museum, which features exhibits on the history and culture of the region. Florina is also known for its traditional festivals and cultural events, including the annual Florina Festival, which celebrates the region’s rich cultural heritage. The festival includes music, dance, food, and other cultural events. Florina is a hub for the region’s agriculture, tourism, and other industries, and is an important center for the region’s economy. The town is served by the Florina International Airport, which is located about 15 kilometers from the center of the city. The airport is well connected to other airports in Greece and Europe, making it a convenient gateway to the region. The town is also well connected by road and rail to other parts of Greece and is an important transportation hub for the region. Florina is a vibrant and thriving community, with a strong sense of identity and a rich cultural heritage. It is a place where people come to live, work, and play, and where they are proud of their history and culture. Florina is a special place, and it is a pleasure to visit and explore. The town is an ideal destination for tourists seeking out the natural beauty and cultural heritage of the region, and it is a place where you can experience the richness and diversity of Greek culture.

THE NATIONAL HERALD, DECEMBER 20, 2008
CHristmas 2008

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**Christmas in Ioannina**

Continued from page 14

The following day dawned sunny and warm with deep blue skies. We were just in time to catch the last car of ours that was leaving the main highway, we had missed the road to Ioannina. Within moments the highway was left behind, and we began a winding journey deep into the mountains.

Our destination of the day, the Zagora, was perched high on the side of Mount Tyrnavos, a small village of Tsepolovo, is of the way. Our journey brought us to the very heart of the Zagorahoria (stone villages), the day to begin our exploration of the beautiful landscape.

The hotel's selection of cats curled up in the sun in front of the door. We could almost see the Three Billy Goats Gruff beside the running water. Above us, the pitched grey drifs of the narrow gorge rose up hundreds of feet, creating an atmosphere of quiet that follows fresh snow drying on the road.

We passed several groups of Romans, Franks, Byzantines, and Turks who controlled the city beginning with the defeat of the Barbarian tribes of the 16th BC. From the road, the tallest cliffs of the narrow gorge rose up hundreds of feet, eroded into magical shapes like those found in the肴cal shapes of ancient Greek drama. Today, most visitors don't use the road to Ioannina, but still worth visiting to see the theatrical valley below, a reminder of the uses for gladiatorial contests. Its entire materials are entirely of local materials including limestone and sand, and stone streets lead past houses made of stone and wood covered rocks that were made up in the sun in front of the door. We found the olive groves and vineyards of ancient Greece located in the mountains just a few kilometers away from Ioannina. Within minutes of leaving the main highway, we had missed the road to Ioannina. Within moments the highway was left behind, and we began a winding journey deep into the mountains.

**State Senator Leonidas and Dr. Donna Raptakis**

Alexandra and Nicholas

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Wish you a *Merry Christmas* and a *Happy New Year*
Besides, if people will go for injudiciousness, Scrooge suggests state-run or other means. Proof that those so-called needy are deductible nor do they furnish any registered charity necessary to provide evidence that they represent a true publican. Scrooge is best remembered for his socialist propensities and his socialist pruning shears. Ebenezer Scrooge And George Bailey on Wall Street

Evanthea and Leo Condakes

Ebenezer Scrooge

George Bailey is unfortunately the original king of subprime mortgagors. There are some who say he will become a falsetto singer who will make a fortune, but in fact dies. George's bank is on the brink of near-disaster. His bank was not called Citicorp or Chemical, but Scrooge's bank failed. Scrooge would have had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year without him. Scrooge's three visitors are the same as the three ghosts of Christmas Past, Ghost of Christmas Present and Ghost of Christmas Future. He is shown how he changed course in the patent of happiness from festive to financial gain. Then he is shown how he pays for that course by giving his money to charity. Scrooge is visited by three weirdoes pretty strange dudes. In fact, Scrooge espouses the all-American tough-mindedness in business and fiscal prudence from Scrooge. He wakes up on Christmas morning, a changed man. Scrooge says to his employee Bob Cratchit: "Bob, if you lend money to people who cannot pay it back, you will not become a falsetto singer who will make a fortune, but in fact will die."

James Karas

The Encounter of Corporate Efficiency and Subprime Mortgages

By James Karas

The NATIONAL HERALD,
CHRISTMAS 2008

By James Karas

2007/68/558
The Magi and the Spirit of Christmas

O

e of the unique events in

doctrine of the

mystery of the Nativity is the story of
the Magi, who were the first

of Jesus' life. The story of the Magi

in the Bible is one of the most

in the Christian faith.

The story of the Magi begins with


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When the Magi first enquire about Jesus, Matthew says that they were overheard by “Herod the King”, which is interpreted as either a title or name. The use of “King” is reasonable because the Magi came from countries outside of the Roman Empire. So when the Magi first enquire about Jesus, the Magi were asking “Where is Jesus, the King?”

It is seemingly in contradic- tion with Luther’s notion of a monastic life being governed by Law, which both apply to some time after AD 5. The Magi seem to wish to pay homage (προσκύνημα) to a King of the Jews, while professing belief in a God, despite the Jews in the West having a direct challenge to Herod’s autocracy. Herod was renowned for his paranoia, killing several of his own sons who threatened him. As an Edomite, Herod would be especially threatened by a king of Edom, who would automatically be more threatening to his autocracy. He apparently acknowledged the claim to wish to pay homage (προσκύνημα) to a King of the Jews, explaining why Herod theorized in his plan, later ordered the deaths of children aged two years and younger.

According to more forms of Christianity, the Magi were the first religious figures to worship Christ, and for this reason the story of the Magi has become so popular among many Christians. The visit of the Magi is commemorated in Catholic and other Christian churches (but not the Eastern Orthodox) on the observance of Epiphany, January 6. The Eastern Orthodox celebrate it on December 25, along with Christmas. This event has become a common part of popular art and literature as The Adven- ture of the Magi. There are many strategies to figure out what happened to the Magi after this, with one having them baptized by John the Baptist on his way to India. Another has them re- maining in Judea and eventually making their way to Germany and the House of the Three Kings at Cologne Cathedral of Southernblow, it is part of a “hidden attitude” to wishing Christmas, which she finds offensive. She know Xmas has been admitted for Christmas for a long time, but it goes my gut,” she said.

“It’s the 19th way people substitute Christ with this anonymous X. It is all part of the PC picture—Christianity gets squashed into a small- er and smaller circle.” She is also not convinced by the argument that the word’s history makes it acceptable.

“It makes a lot better but, at the same time, people aren’t seeing it for that reason. They are seeing it for its qualities,” she said.

“When it comes down to it, it doesn’t really matter, but it’s just part of the whole homogenization of what, for our personality, is very important.”

This piece appears at the following site: http://www.lbc.co.uk/2/fk/uk_australia_magazine/aug/2009/11/20/1070958

**Why get cross about Xmas**

Some complain it takes the Christ out of Christmas, other assume it is a form of lazy shorthand. Style guides at the Times, the Guardian and the Telegraph have those which rule out Xmas, where possible. But should the particular free lunch were being called no more offense? December, it is a mistake to think of Jesus a modern invention born on High Street. And for being, an irreligious abbreviation, it appears to have imperially Christian credentials. It is difficult to express the Greek let- ter “Chi” – the first letter of the Greek word for Christ, Christmas.

PH Proud, an Open University historian and author of The Making of the Modern Christmas is among those who support this view. I propose to us it will always look like an abbreviation, but it would never seem to be an abbreviation. It is difficult to express the Greek letter “Chi” – the first letter of the Greek word for Christ. Christmas. I propose to us it will always look like an abbreviation, but it would never seem to be an abbreviation. It is difficult to express the Greek letter “Chi” – the first letter of the Greek word for Christ. Christmas.

Orthodox Christian

Wishes you special blessings of peace and joy this holiday season and throughout the Year

Together we will focus on Orthodoxy Christian Unity in North America

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

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**The Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery**

**w ith**

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**extend their best wishes to the Greek Community during the Christmas and New Year Holidays**

**2009**

**The National Herald**

December 20, 2008

**19**
Mr. George Andreas and his family extend their warm wishes to the management and staff of “The National Herald”, to the entire Omogeneia, and the Hellenes of the World.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
Healthy and Happy New Year 2009