



Η ΧΡΥΣΗ ΓΕΦΥΡΑ

*the golden bridge*



SUMMER 2012



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## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF IONIAN VILLAGE FR. EVAGORAS CONSTANTINIDES

Dear Fellow Ionian Village Alumni,

It's summer time, and that can only mean one thing: Ionian Village! For the 42nd summer, campers and staff members will be traveling to our campus outside of Glyfa, Greece to participate in a life-transforming summer. As you know, the time spent at Ionian Village is more than just camp, it's an experience. In this edition of The Golden Bridge, you will meet the young men and women who will join us this summer as Staff Members to lead our campers on their journey. This exceptional Staff is composed of young adults from all across our Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America who each bring their own special talents to our camping ministry. I am looking forward to working with each and every one of them.

Since our last edition, there has been an incredible outpouring of love and support for Ionian Village. I am proud to tell you today that by the grace of God, and the support of so many of you, we were able to completely fulfill all of the needs of our Summer 2012 Wish List! This incredible task was accomplished swiftly and with much joy by many members (and extended members!) of our Alumni Family eager to give back. I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of those people that donated towards our Wish List.

We are looking forward to two amazing sessions of campers this summer. The Summer Travel Camp (STC) session is completely full with over 200 registered campers, the largest number of campers in one session since prior to September 11, 2001. This is a major accomplishment for our program to be back at these levels! Our second session Byzantine Venture (BV) is still accepting registrations, and promises to be an amazing time for all! Don't miss your chance to be a part of this historical session!

Summer 2012 will see the enhancement of current excursions to include beaches and the addition of several completely new trips. On the islands of Zakynthos and Kefalonia, campers will not only venerate the resident saints of the island, but will also be given time to experience the beautiful beaches and island cultures. Throughout the summer, there will be several excursions that are completely new to the Ionian Village program including the island of Kerkira (Corfu) and the monasteries of St. Spyridon and Sts. Jason and Sosipater, Ancient Mystras, and the historic theatre of Epidavros. Check out our spotlight on these new trips later in the Newsletter!

One of the ongoing goals of Ionian Village must be to continually assess the daily at-camp program in order to recognize its strengths and improve upon its weaknesses. The at-camp program, especially when placed side by side with the life-changing excursions, is integral to the safety of our campers as well as to their spiritual growth and friendships. With these goals in mind, Summer 2012 is witnessing a completely new daily rotation schedule that allows each session to be meaningful while highlighting the core of our at-camp program – Orthodox Life.

Additionally, in order to allow for a greater variety of activity and increased interaction among campers and staff outside of their cabin groups, Summer 2012 Ionian Village campers will experience "FLEXITIVITIES." "FLEXITIVITIES" is an organized, supervised activity period that gives campers the opportunity to select from a variety of activities, unlimited by cabin or age constraints. This model of supervised and controlled activity time is in line with current camping models, and not only promotes choices for the campers, but also ensures camper safety and protection at all times.

It's going to be a great summer. As you can see, I am pretty excited about all the things that we have going on. We have an amazing, dedicated, experienced staff and a huge group of campers waiting for their Ionian Village experience. All I can ask for now is that you include us in your thoughts and that you join with us in prayer for a safe, fun, and life-transforming summer for all. Don't forget to follow our blog and pictures at [www.ionianvillage.org](http://www.ionianvillage.org) everyday. May the grace of God and the experience of Ionian Village and all our Saints be with you each and every day.

Have a wonderful summer!

*Fr. Evagoras*







## THE IONIAN VILLAGE WISH LIST

### THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS WHO HELPED US FULFILL OUR 2012 WISH LIST!

Anonymous

Fr. Nicholas & Presvytera Cyndi  
Anctil

Paul & Antonia Bregianos

Steven Cherpelis

Costa & Maria Fotopoulos

Jason Frangenes

Jim Gabriel

Prof. Helen Hadjiyannakis-Bender

Ted, Linda and Ana Maria Klingos,  
in honor of Pantazee and  
Anastasia Klingos

Tatiana A. Kyriakides

Jerry and Kris Lenrow

Alexander Maillis

Dr. Greg Papadeas and Family

Bill George Stotis

Fr. Nicholas Triantafillou

Cathy Walsh

## THE IONIAN VILLAGE ALUMNI PROJECT

The Ionian Village Alumni Project, which was launched in November of 2011, is an ambitious initiative to establish connections between the thousands of faithful who have experienced Ionian Village since its beginning in 1970.

In just a few short months, over 500 Alumni have registered online with the Alumni Project. This initial response rate speaks to the life-transforming experience that is inherent to Ionian Village, yet is still far from the over 16,000 that have participated. The overarching goal of the Alumni Project is to strengthen the shared love and appreciation for Ionian Village by not only reuniting friends from the past, but also by providing the opportunity for new relationships and memories to grow.

We hope you will join us!



The  
**IONIAN VILLAGE  
ALUMNI PROJECT**  
[www.ionianvillage.org/alumni](http://www.ionianvillage.org/alumni)



# MEET OUR SUMMER 2012 IONIAN VILLAGE STAFF!



## SOFIA BERBERIS

Sofia is a senior at San Jose State University studying biology with a minor in chemistry. She attends St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in San Jose, California, where participated in the Greek School and Greek Dance programs. Currently, she is a dance director the "Axios" Dance Group which perfectly combines her passions for Greek dancing and working with children. Sofia also volunteers her time as a docent at the Hellenic Heritage Institute in San Jose. She enjoys exercising, playing sports, cycling, and hiking outdoors in the California sun! Sofia loves traveling and enjoys visiting art and history museums. She spent every other summer in Greece visiting her Yiayia and Papou and is very excited to return to Greece as an IV 2012 Staff Member!

## CALLI COPOULOS

Calli is a Wisconsin native (Go Packers!) but lives in West Des Moines, Iowa teaching early childhood special education. She enjoys running, reading on her kindle, indulging in 49 cent cones from McDonalds, and spending time with family and friends. Calli looks forward to an amazing summer at Ionian Village!!!

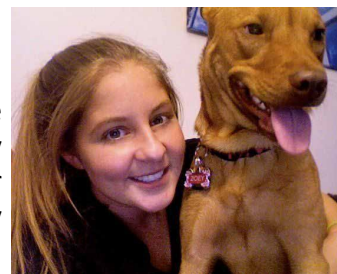


## KATINA DOULIS

Katina is from good ol' South Jersey - but it's not like any of the reality shows, she promises! This year has been an exciting time for her. Katina graduated from Rowan University last spring, and is now teaching Art in an elementary school. Her job is very rewarding and she enjoys working with children. The Arts are Katina's passion in life - she loves painting, cooking, playing music, and dancing. She performs with a semi-professional Pan-Macedonian dance troupe in the Philadelphia area. She also enjoys being outdoors, especially on the beach, and travelling. Katina belongs to St. Anthony's in Vineland, New Jersey which was practically been her second home growing up. She's looking forward to being a part of the Ionian Village family this summer!

## SEVASTE FILOSOFOS

Sevie is a senior majoring in Health Services Administration at the University of Central Florida. She attends church at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in sunny Orlando, Florida. Sevie attended Ionian Village as a camper in 2006, and Spiritual Odyssey in 2011 and is anxiously waiting to return again this summer. She's also spent six summers as a camper or counselor at the Diakonia center in South Carolina. When Sevie's not working or in class she's busy managing the UCF wrestling team or playing with her Basenji, Zoey.



## VASILIKI FKIARAS

Kiki is originally from San Jose, California and attended the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church. She is a senior at Sonoma State University and attending the Ascension Cathedral in Oakland, California. Kiki is half Greek and half Panamanian! She is majoring in Kinesiology to one day become a Physical Therapist. Kiki is obsessed with Greek dancing and sports. She loves to sing and dance, the outdoors and hiking, travelling, and making new friends. Her goal is to one day read the Bible from cover to cover! She is looking forward to having a great experience at IV this year and can't wait to create memories that will last a lifetime!

## ALEX FORNACIARI

Alex is from Stamford, Connecticut and is graduating in May from Saint Michael's College with a degree in Business Administration and a Minor in Finance, but only because they didn't have a degree in camp counseling! He is half Italian and half Greek. He loves the outdoors, food, to sing, dance, and have fun. Alex has been lifeguarding since he was 16. As a camper in 2005 and 2006, he knew he would be coming back as a counselor one day. Alex can't wait to meet everyone soon!







## JAMES HERACKLIS

Jimmy is extremely excited about being an Ionian Village counselor. Jimmy was an active member of the St. Nektarios Church GOYA, attending the Winter Youth Rally as well as Saint Stephen's Orthodox Youth Camp. Prior to college, Jimmy attended the CrossRoad Institute, a ten-day seminar held at Holy Cross for Orthodox young adults. Jimmy attends North Carolina State University (Go Pack!) and is a senior majoring in Textile Engineering-Product Development where he participates in the Student Government. Some of Jimmy's interests and hobbies are any sort of athletic or outdoor activity, learning about various cultures and their history, reading and learning about the church, watching the Wolfpack play, and photographing Orthodox churches. He is looking forward to helping campers grow in their Faith and have a once-in-a-lifetime experience in Greece!

## MICHELLE IOANNOU

Michelle is absolutely in LOVE with camp! This love started when she was a camper herself at Ionian Village in 2008 (IV BV Ela Pella!). This life-changing summer got her involved at Camp Saint Paul, where she was a counselor for the past three summers. She loves working with youth and cannot wait to share her excitement for camp! Michelle is from Queens, New York where St. Nicholas in Flushing is her (much loved!) parish. She attends Fordham University and studies Communications & Media Studies. She interns at the American Cancer Society, works in the Fordham Admissions Office, and is on the executive boards of both Fordham's Tour Guide Associate and Fordham's Relay For Life. Michelle is a huge sports fan – Let's Go New York Mets and New England Patriots!! She cannot imagine her life without camp, and is excited to put her ten years of Greek School to use this summer!



## IRENE KATRADIS

Irene is very excited to return to Ionian Village as a staff member this summer. Having been a camper in 2007, she had an amazing experience and is looking forward to making new memories and friends. Irene is currently a junior at Salisbury University and is studying Conflict Analysis and Dispute Resolution with an International Track and a minor in History and Art. When she is not busy volunteering at the Conflict Center as a mediator, or being active in the SGA, the TOMS Shoes Club, and her sorority "Zeta Tau Alpha", she is spending time with her family and friends. Irene loves to dance (especially Greek dancing), watching movies, reading, photography, running, playing basketball, and traveling. She has a passion for her Greek heritage and helping others! She is looking forward to a fun-filled summer in beautiful, sunny, Greece!

## J. DEMETRIOS KLONARIS

Demetrios, also known as Demi, is from Knoxville, Tennessee. Having been a camper himself at Ionian Village in 2008, he is so excited to share the experience of a lifetime with young Orthodox Christians.



## NONDA KOZAS

There are two things Nonda is passionate about, the water and his faith. He has competed in swimming and waterpolo since he was young and still enjoys doing them in his spare time. He currently attends Santa Clara University where he is getting his degree in Civil Engineering. His home parish, St. Nicholas, in San Jose where he has grown up, is conveniently down the street from Santa Clara. This close proximity has allowed him to take a more active role in the church while still maintaining a full class load. This will be Nonda's first experience with IV, and he couldn't be more excited to start creating epic memories.



## ANNE LENROW

Anne is from Washington, D.C. and will be graduating in May from Gettysburg College where she majored in Political Science and French and minored in Spanish. She loves languages, traveling, and politics! She spent the summer of 2009 studying in Spain, her junior year of college in France, and last summer on the Hill working for Congress. During the summer of 2005, she was lucky enough to be a camper at IV and is so excited to be a counselor this upcoming summer!



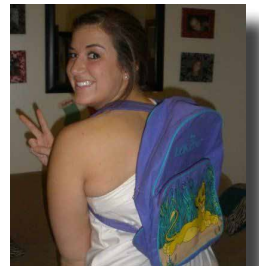
## CHRISTINA LORIDAS



Christina has always shared an extreme passion for the Greek culture and faith, cultivated from many summers spent in the beautiful country itself. Growing up as a camper at the Metropolis of Boston camp, she came to serve as a staff member. She developed a further love and appreciation for youth work through camp life as well as internships at Teen Voices magazine in Boston. Christina is a graduate from Suffolk University in Boston, Massachusetts and holds a Bachelor of Arts in communications with a concentration in print journalism. She enjoys nothing more than an ice-cold frappe in one hand and a notebook in the other, as well as imitating Greek men's singing voices (Vassilis Karras anyone?) and the breathless, heart-stopping sensation one feels during a night of live Greek music!

## ALYSSA LOUISION

Alyssa is a recent University of Connecticut graduate where she earned a BS in Human Development and Family Studies. She currently attend Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology to obtain a Master of Divinity, enabling her to follow her passion in Youth Ministry. She's a camp obsessed Pittsburgh native with a huge soft spot for Troy Polamalu! Alyssa was a camper at Ionian Village in 2005 (Shout out to Delphi!) and has been a staff member at Camp Nazareth and the Metropolis of Boston Camp over the past 5 years. She enjoys singing camp songs wherever she goes, owns the first two seasons of Spongebob Squarepants, and still believes in her heart that the Spice Girls will reunite. But most of all, Alyssa is looking forward to the best summer EVER at Ionian Village!



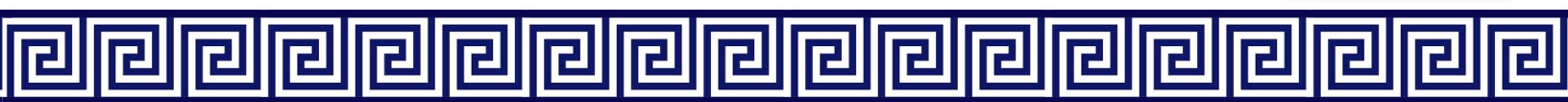
## ELIAS MAVROMATIS



Elias is from Damascus, Maryland and attends Virginia Tech where he studies Business Information Technology. Elias was fortunate enough to attend Ionian Village as a camper and really wants to help this year's campers have an amazing experience. He loves sports! Lacrosse and basketball are his favorites but if it's a sport, he'll play it. If you want to see him on the dance floor for some Zembekiko action, you better be ready for the big leagues because he doesn't mess around! You want a feta or halloumi eating competition? Bring it on! He can eat so much tiri, they'll have to start heading to the goats to make more before he sits down to start! Elias can't wait to make this a memorable summer!

## JOSEPH C. MAYES IV

Joe is thrilled to be a part of the 2012 Ionian Village Staff. He was a camper in 2005 and the inspiring experience changed his life. Since then, Joe has graduated from high school and is currently taking classes at Northern Virginia Community College. He is a swim instructor and has been a lifeguard since he was 16. Despite juggling two jobs, school, and an active social life, he attends Sts. Constantine and Helen's Greek Orthodox Church every Sunday as the alter boy supervisor. He enjoys all sports and playing guitar. Joe understands the importance of his Greek Orthodox faith and has seen the power of the love and connection had by all who participate in Ionian Village.



## GABRIELLE NEMCHIK

Gabrielle, "Gabby" is so excited to be going back to Ionian Village this summer. A natural nurturer, she will be going to Nursing School this fall. Gabby loves to sing, dance, and act, but she thinks it is most important to spread Hellenism and her faith with everyone she encounters. She is especially skilled in the art of Greek Dance and turning into a cheetah. She cannot wait to meet all the happy campers this year and get them fired up for their faith, Greek culture, and friendships that last a lifetime.



## CHRISTOPHER PALAMARA

Christopher is from Queens, New York, and a student at Hellenic College studying Business Management. He has been working in youth ministry for the past four years as a camp counselor at the Direct Archdiocesan District camp, Camp Saint Paul, and as a GOYA adviser at his home parish, St. Nicholas in Flushing, New York. As someone who has never been to Ionian Village as a camper or staff member, he is both nervous and excited. Despite the fact that he has never attended, he is familiar with the stellar reputation that Ionian Village has, and promises to do his absolute best to meet those high expectations!

## YIANNO PANTAZELIS

Yianno Pantazelos has a Bachelor of Arts from UMass Boston - College of Public and Community Service. He is currently pursuing a Master of Divinity from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. Apparently he likes to go to schools with long names! He loves being part of youth ministry! Yianno has been involved the Metropolis of Boston Camp as a counselor as well as mission trips to Tanzania, Guatemala, Mexico and New Mexico. He is excited to see Greece from a whole new perspective and to sharing the experience with the staff and campers! Pame, gia na fame!

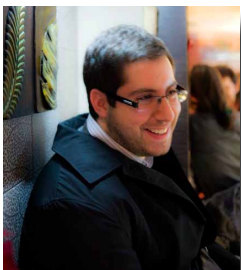


## SARA PESSIMISIS

Sara is absolutely thrilled to be serving the Orthodox Church as a Staff Member of IV! Having spent 3 summers as a Fanari Camp counselor in Chicago, she is ecstatic to take her counseling skills to a whole new level! Sara has been devoted to working with the youth as a Sunday School teacher and Youth Ministries coordinator during her college years. Sara will graduate in May 2012 with a double major in Communication and Spanish from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. Sara is a free spirited, nature loving, optimistic individual who enjoys running, yoga, and scrapbooking. She is looking forward to the wonderful experiences that await her and everyone else this summer!

## GEORGEA POLIZOS

Georgea will be joining the Ionian Village staff for the first time this summer! She attended IV as a camper and still remembers its amazing impact as she prepared for college. After finishing her bachelor's degree in Education, Georgea spent two years working with international college students in Thessaloniki, Greece. Her experiences in Greece and the Baltics led her to pursue a master's degree in International Affairs at Florida State University where she focused on Eastern Europe. While at FSU, Georgea spent eight months studying and interning in London and in Washington, D.C. Georgea currently lives in Atlanta, her hometown. Her hobbies include visiting new countries, drinking lots of coffee, playing tavli with her grandfather, and Greek dancing around the living room with her family.



## GEORGE SARRAF

George was born and raised in Peoria, Illinois. His parents came to the United States from a small town in Northern Lebanon, which is very unique and mostly populated by Orthodox Christians. George finished his ThM at Holy Cross a few years ago and currently lives in Thessaloniki, Greece, where he has been working on his doctoral studies. So, naturally, George speaks English, Arabic and Greek. His close connection and exposure to Orthodox Christianity around the world, in addition to his extensive experiences in educating our young people through programs like CrossRoad, means that George hopes to bring a great depth to Ionian Village this summer.





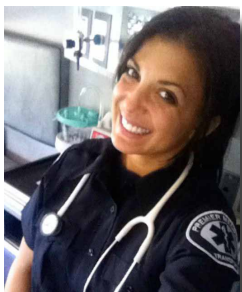


## NICHOLAS SAVAS

Nicholas currently lives in Boston, MA and is a seminarian at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. On the campus of Holy Cross, Nicholas serves as an ambassador for the school, leading youth retreats and living out his passion for youth work. There is nothing he enjoys more than watching his Chicago Cubs lose on a consistent basis and sipping down an iced coffee from Dunkin Donuts. He has a soft spot for N\*Sync and Backstreet Boys, and is looking forward to his wardrobe consisting of soccer jerseys, cut off tee shirts, and flip-flops this summer.

## CHRISTIAN STAMATES

The Greece! Who can't wait to spend a summer in The Greece? This guy! Christian served as a staff member in 2008 and 2009 and can't wait to assist Father Evagoras and his truly amazing team. Christian is once again blessed to share the Ionian Village experience and will treasure the spiritual impact it provides. Christian graduated from the University of California at Davis with a dual Psychology and Exercise Science degree. He is now the Athletic Trainer at Notre Dame de Namur University where he works closely with student-athletes in their recovery from athletic injuries. Christian is very involved with his Church of the Holy Cross in Belmont California. He can't wait for the Ionian Summer!



## ANASTASIA THEMELIS

Anastasia is full of fun! She was born and raised in Seattle, WA and now resides in Orange County, California. She graduated from Thurston County Fire Department and is now a full time EMT playing on an ambulance all day long! In her spare time, she soaks up the sun and the sandy beaches...only in preparation for IV 2012 of course! She can't wait for this summer and to meet everyone! She is an Ionian Village alumni of 2005 and if it's anything like that year, it's going to be the best time ever! Counting down the days!!

## MARIA TICHES

Maria Tiches is a small-town girl with a city heart. She grew up in Smithsburg, Maryland and literally travels over the river and through the woods to Washington D.C. for church on Sundays. She graduated from James Madison University, in Virginia, with a Degree in Philosophy and Religion and work as a Banquet Assistant Manager at a Country French Restaurant. Maria is a Long-boarding chick who is obsessed with tie dying and dancing on sidewalks. She has been blessed with the opportunity of experiencing Ionian Village three times in her life: twice as a camper in 2003 and 2005, and last year as a Staff Member! She is excited for another magical summer in Greece...Ellla IV2012!



## ARIADNE TZOUMAS

Ariadne is incredibly excited to embark upon the Ionian Village journey! She loves working with children. She is a New York State certified French teacher. Having majored in French language, literature & culture with a minor in European Studies, Ariadne graduated from Stony Brook University in 2011. Her passions include all things French, although she cherishes and never forgets her Greek roots and heritage. She worked for 4 years as a Fitness & Wellness Coordinator at school and maintains a healthy and active lifestyle. Ariadne is involved in her home parish, serving as a GOYA advisor, Sunday School Teacher, Judge in the Oratorical Festival and Volleyball coach. Having served as a camp counselor at Camp Saint Paul, she understands the importance of camping ministries.

## DESPINA VASTAKIS

After participating as a camper in this amazing program as a camper, Despina is very excited to be a part of the staff for Ionian Village this summer! Despina graduated from Georgia Tech this past December with a degree in International Affairs and German. While at school, she had the opportunity to both study and work abroad in Germany. Currently living in her home town of Atlanta, Despina loves frappes, playing tavli, Greek dancing, and all things Eurovision. She is very excited to spend the summer in Greece celebrating her culture and faith with fellow staff and campers!







## HELEN WILLIAMS

Helen was born and raised in central Virginia. With a degree in Psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, she plans on pursuing her Masters in Occupational Therapy. In her free time, she loves to play tennis, travel, watch Carolina basketball, and count the days until camp. Helen has been a summer camp addict for 14 summers and enjoys sharing her enthusiasm and love for camp with others. Helen is excited to serve on the Ionian Village staff and is looking forward to meeting "y'all."

## JOHN ZECY

John first came to Ionian Village as a camper in 2006 in cabin Epiros (the best cabin) and feels honored and blessed to come back as a staff member! For the past four years, he served as a camp counselor at Eastern Orthodox Youth Camp and as a GOYA advisor at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Kansas City. He will graduate in May of 2012 with a degree in Finance from the University of Kansas where he was president of the university's OCF and works part time as a business statistics teaching assistant. He loves swimming, soccer, his Frisbee, and going to Greece to survive on gyros and olive oil. He has the same initials as Jay-Z but contrary to popular belief, they are not related.



## KONSTANTINE SALMAS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Konstantine has been involved with Ionian Village since the late nineties. During his time at camp, Konstantine has participated in every aspect of being a staff member; he has led cabins, served in the office, led Orthodox Life sessions, and was the Program Coordinator. Konstantine has been an active part of the continual development of the Ionian Village program over the past decade or so, contributing many fun and exciting activities as well as new excursions. He is a graduate of the University of California at San Diego (B.A. in Creative Writing), Notre Dame de Namur, and Holy Cross School of Theology (M.Div). Currently, he teaches at the Graduate Theological Union. Konstantine is the director of education and youth at the Church of the Holy Cross in Belmont, California.

## ANASTASIA KALOYANIDES, PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Anastasia first came to love Ionian Village as a camper in 1996 and was blessed to return as a staff member in 2006, 2007 and 2008. She was involved in the Boston Diocese Camp in the 1990's and served as administrative staff at Camp Saint Paul in 2009. She received her undergraduate degree in developmental psychology from Northeastern University in 2003 and graduate degrees in educational psychology and counseling at Arizona State University in 2008. She is currently the triathlon coach at Northeastern University and is studying Sports Psychology at Boston University. Anastasia is happy to be back to serve Ionian Village and is looking forward to an amazing summer!



## DONNA BALAOURAS, CAMP OFFICE

Donna is a very passionate and dedicated youth worker! She was part of the fantastic 2008 Ionian Village Staff (Forever on the Dance Floor!) where she enjoyed a life altering experience. She lived the transformation that Ionian Village can have and is grateful to return to a place she loves in a new role! Donna was a Resident Assistant at Brandeis University and a camper and staff member at the Metropolis of Boston Camps. Through Teach For America, she works as a 5th grade special education teacher and LOVES IT! Donna holds a degree in Politics from Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts and will hold a Masters of Education in Curriculum & Teaching from Boston University before Summer 2012! She is planning a 2013 wedding with her fiancé Yianno Pantazelos!

## MARIA CONSTANTINIDES, CAMP OFFICE

Maria is ecstatic to be returning to Ionian Village. A four-summer staff member and camper, Maria appreciates the miracle of IV and cannot wait to share her enthusiasm. With art history degrees from the University of Virginia and Boston University, Maria loves museums, playing with her dog Elli, and all things Greek. She is modeling her amateur cooking career after her Yiayia and Kyria Sophia and is looking forward to a fun-filled summer encountering the beauty and inspiration of Greece!



## CATCHING UP WITH...

## TERRY MARKOU

(ALUM, 1987, 1988, 1990, 1992)

For this issue of the Golden Bridge we had the opportunity to speak with Terry Markou, an alum who was very involved in Ionian Village as a counselor and Orthodox Life leader in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Although Terry freely expresses his love and appreciation for the Ionian Village program, what he won't tell you is that he was the VERY FIRST Alum to register online with the Ionian Village Alumni Project!

Terry graduated from Cal Poly State University in 1980 with a major in Industrial Engineering. He went on to complete a Masters' in Theology at Holy Cross School of Theology in Brookline, Massachusetts. Terry served as a cabin counselor and a member of the Music & Greek Culture Staff in 1987 and as an Orthodox Life leader in 1988, 1990, and 1992. He is currently a Software Engineer at Kennedy/Jenks Consultants working on internet-based projects relating to various environmental topics.

Terry currently lives in Redwood City, California with his wife Olga and their daughter Fotini. Terry and his family are active members of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross in Belmont, California.



*Terry Markou with campers, clergy and fellow Staff Members in the Ionian Village Amphitheater.*

## "THE PEOPLE I MET AT IONIAN VILLAGE TAUGHT ME HOW TO

### THE GOLDEN BRIDGE: WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE IONIAN VILLAGE MEMORIES?

"I would say that my favorite memories are the times in Orthodox Life, in the pines. I was taken aback by the issues our young people were facing and going through. We often feel that our kids come from affluent families and that they are immune from the awful things American kids typically go through. It broke my heart listening to their pain. These times were especially memorable because they became healing experiences for my life as well. Issues we discussed were often issues I was dealing with in my own life. Those sessions were for myself as much as they were for all the kids there."

### TGB: TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOUR TIME AT SEMINARY.

"I attended Holy Cross and graduated in 1988 with a Masters in Theology. I absolutely loved my time at Holy Cross. I spent my entire college years outside the Church. At that time, I felt that the Orthodox Church's message was no longer valid – I didn't see peoples' lives affected by it. I totally immersed myself in every college Christian group and attended many protestant churches. Going to Holy Cross was a way for me to get answers to lingering questions. By the end of my studies there I left with a profound respect for our faith. I realized I was asking the wrong questions all along. My life was enriched in ways I could never have imagined."

### TGB: WHAT ARE SOME HOBBIES YOU ENJOY IN YOUR FREE TIME?

"I wish I had some spare time. One of my greatest loves in life is the design and building of anything from houses to redwood decks and furniture. I often say that if I had to do it all over again I would get into Architecture. I completely rebuilt my house and several other houses. I continually have a building project going. After we got



married, my wife quickly realized that it's not the finishing of a project that excites me but the actual process. She was saddened because she came to the realization that she will never live in a dust-free home."

**TGB: HOW DO YOU FEEL YOUR EXPERIENCE AT IONIAN VILLAGE HAD AN IMPACT ON YOUR LIFE?**

"My experience at Ionian Village has enriched my life in ways I could never have imagined. I met most of my closest friends through my involvement with Ionian Village. Some of these friendships go back twenty-five and more years. I dealt with many issues in my life at Ionian Village. In some ways I could say that I put aside some of my troublesome, adolescent tendencies at Ionian Village and finally gained real peace. The people I met there taught me how to love and live life."



*Right, above: Terry Markou (top right) with fellow Staff Members.*

*Right: Terry Markou front and center during an Ionian Village excursion.*

LOVE AND LIVE LIFE."



Visit Ionian Village online at [www.ionianvillage.org](http://www.ionianvillage.org)

Join the Ionian Village Alumni Project at [www.ionianvillage.org/alumni](http://www.ionianvillage.org/alumni)

Sponsor an event at your local parish for potential campers or alumni!

Connect with Ionian Village on Facebook and Twitter!

GET INVOLVED WITH  
**IONIAN  
VILLAGE**



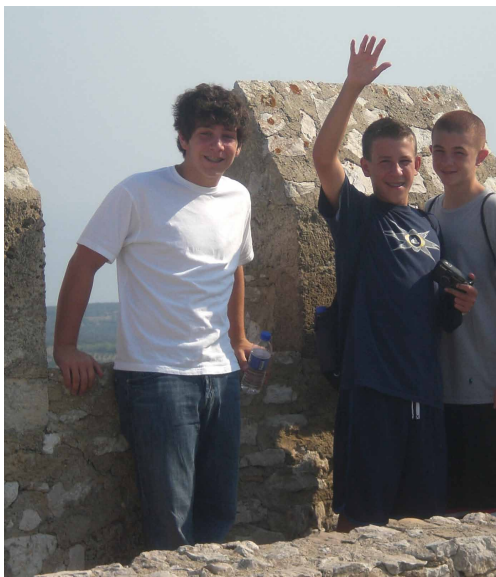


## KASTRO CHLEMOUTSI AND THE RELICS OF SAINT MAMMAS

*By Konstantine Salmas*

The trip to Kastro has always been a different kind of IV trip. The sky is so close when we are milling around the Kastro. The name of the mountain, Helonas, means turtle. Lack of speed, then, is at the pinnacle of this town. Also, nowhere else during the session can the campers and staff hear and practice the name, Geoffrey Villehardouin. This is one of the few possibilities for people to see the Frankish Kingdom in action.

The road to the Crusades passed through Kastro and left its mark on the top of a mountain. Chlemoutsi brings a visitor close to the sky. The walk up to the castle is a little steep. Lambs and cats peek through the tall grass and through the chain link fences. The houses on the hill are placed between the village church and the castle. The castle, now that thousands of campers and staff have walked through Kastro's architectural remains, has been woven into the story of Ionian Village. Likewise, Kastro knows Ionian Village. The historical visibility at a mountaintop was enough to initially draw Ionian Village to Kastro. But Saint Mammas keeps us here.





We get used to pointing things out and telling campers to look at things. “Look at that icon,” and, “This is where Phidias made the statue of Zeus, one of the seven ancient wonders of the world,” are two phrases the staff repeat often. Even though Greece is filled with images and art, things for staff to point out to campers and say, “Look there,” the Kastro, or Castle, Chlemoutsis does not have anything on walls to point out nor are there relics to venerate.

Fr. Panayioti pulled us off the mountain and within a millimeter of lions. He is the priest at the Church of the Koimoisis. When he didn’t know us, he wanted us to come and visit the church. He is a nice man like that. He remains a nice man when the seats in the church are filled with teenagers.

We added the church in Kastro a few years ago because of Fr. Panayioti and the relics of the Holy Martyr Mammas. Fr. Panayioti speaks with confidence about the central part Mammas has played in the rejuvenation of the town since an earthquake knocked down buildings and the spirit of the people.

Kastro the town doesn’t yet resemble the empty castle. Life happens here, not so high up, close to the Divine Liturgy and near Mammas. Mammas was killed very young. He lived as a shepherd and rode towards his martyrdom on a lion. The enormous quiet of the empty castle, a quiet that moves like a curious fly from room to room, is in the small reliquary containing the relics of Saint Mammas.

The historical visibility at a mountaintop was enough to initially draw Ionian Village to Kastro. But Saint Mammas keeps us here. The road to the Crusades passed through Kastro and left its mark on the top of a mountain. We also now pass through the town and our movement towards Christ passes through Saint Mammas.

*Left, top: A panoramic view of 13th century Kastro Chlemoutsis built on the strategic Helonatas Hill.*

*Left, bottom: Campers enjoying their visit to the medieval castle.*

*Right, top: The Koimoisis Tis Theotokou Church in the village of Kastro that houses the relics of Saint Mammas.*

*Right, center: Fr. Panayioti, proistamenos, waiting to welcome Ionian Village campers and tell the story of Saint Mammas.*

*Right, bottom: Venerating the relics of Saint Mammas, a third-century martyr.*





INTRODUCING...

## NEW EXCURSIONS IN 2012!



This summer, Ionian Village will be traveling to a handful of destinations that are completely new to the program's cycle of excursions. Summer Travel Camp will spend two nights on the island of Kerkyra (Corfu), visiting the monasteries of St. Spyridon and Sts. Jason and Sosipater, and spending time on the island's luxurious beaches. Byzantine Venture will visit Ancient Mystras and the historic theatre of Epidavros, in addition to the traditional pilgrimage to the beautiful island of Aegina and its resident St. Nektarios.

The island of Kerkyra was loved by its Venetian occupants throughout medieval times, and the Old Town of Corfu still reflects this in its picturesque Italianate architecture and narrow, cobblestone streets. The Church of Sts. Jason and Sosipater is dedicated to the two disciples of St. Paul who originally brought Christianity to the island in 70 A.D. The 11th century church is the oldest on Kerkyra and an excellent example of Byzantine architecture. The journey to Kerkyra, together with Zakynthos and Kefalonia, means that participants will be able to venerate the relics of all three "walking saints" of the Ionian Islands: St. Dionysios, St. Gerasimos, and now St. Spyridon.

In ancient times, Epidavros was an important healing center as it hosted a sanctuary of the god Asclepius. The income from continuous visitors allowed for the construction of the enormous 15,000-seat limestone theater with a breathtaking natural backdrop and astounding acoustics.

Mystras was first built under Frankish rule in 1249, but fell only ten years later to the Byzantine Empire who brought skilled architects and artisans to complete the incredible walled city that still stands today. The frescoes inside of the city's churches are some of the greatest examples of Byzantine ecclesiastical art and are said to have influenced Giotto at the start of the Italian Renaissance.





Left, clockwise from top:  
The bell tower of sixteenth century St. Spyridon Church seen from the streets of the Town of Kerykyra. The Church houses the relics of St. Spyridon;

The ancient Theatre at Epidavros with its stunning natural backdrop that was integral to ancient Greek theatre architecture.

The Byzantine Church of Sts. Jason and Sosipater near the Bay of Garitsa.

Right: The magnificently preserved thirteenth century Byzantine city of Mystras. Here, participants will literally walk in the footsteps of their Byzantine ancestors.



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IF YOU OR YOUR CHILDREN AREN'T ABLE TO BE WITH US AT IONIAN VILLAGE THIS SUMMER, BE SURE TO CHECK OUT THE MANY AMAZING CAMPING MINISTRIES ACROSS THE GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA!

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[www.holytrinityphx.org/ministries.htm#camp](http://www.holytrinityphx.org/ministries.htm#camp)

Ascension Cathedral Camp  
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