

## Former U.S. Ambassador To Greece Phillips Talbot Reflects on Junta Years

By Antonis H. Diamataris  
Special to The National Herald

**NEW YORK** – The American Ambassador to Greece Phillips Talbot knew nothing prior to the April 21, 1967 coup which brought the colonels to power, he said in an exclusive interview with the National Herald, his first ever, shedding new light on those tragic events.

"In the winter and early spring of 1966-1967, we picked up rumors that there were groups within the military that wanted to take over the Greek Government. This concerned the United States, and under instructions, I talked with the King and made it very clear that the U.S. Government felt it would be appalling to have a NATO country come under a military dictatorship," Mr. Talbot told the Herald.

"We heard that there was a group edging towards trying a coup during the first week of April. We didn't know who they were exactly, but they were staff colonels. They were not the generals. So this left us feeling anxious. But the date that one of the sources gave us was early in April. We were watching very carefully, of course, but the day came and went," he added.

When pressed on the subject, Mr. Talbot explained that it made no sense for the United States to support a military coup.

This question whether or not the U.S. was involved in the coup is at the heart of the sharp turn in public opinion of Greece against the United States. The majority of Greeks, up until this day, continue to believe that the U.S. was behind the coup that brought to power a regime which created the national disaster in Cyprus; opened up the appetite of Turkey in the Aegean; and set the country back years in socioeconomic terms. And it is probably a question which will continue to linger no matter how persuasive Mr. Talbot's story is.

But for the sake of historical record, his story needs to be told.

U.S. Ambassador Philip Talbot

(retired), now in his 92nd year and in remarkably good health for his advanced age, granted the interview from his simple apartment in New York City. Our mission was to explore in detail the U.S.'s possible involvement in the coup, with respect to the widespread belief among so many Greeks.

Asked whether he believed there was any American involvement in the coup, Mr. Talbot said he did not "because it was so damaging to the American posture in Europe. There was nothing that we could have gotten from that coup that would have been an advantage to the U.S., nothing at all."

Asked if, looking back, there was something the United States could have done "either to prevent the coup, or afterwards to see that the Colonels went back to their barracks," Mr. Talbot said, "We were reacting, not acting, on this. We had been through periods with Turkey under military rule, but then the Turks moved back under Parliamentary rule. So we understood this kind of thing. My hope was that, what the Turks experienced, so Greece might also."

Asked what reason he was given by the regime for abolishing democracy in Greece, Mr. Talbot answered that Col. George Papadopoulos, the leader of the junta, told him that they seized power to save Greece from Andreas Papandreu.

"I don't think I would have been happy with an Andreas Papandreu administration," the Ambassador said wistfully, "but if the system had been advanced so that one day he would be succeeded by somebody else, then this would not too bad. Through that period, I felt it was more important for the elections to go ahead, and even if Andreas should win, we could deal with him if he won."

Mr. Talbot also said the U.S. Embassy had no advanced knowledge of the counter-coup staged by King Constantine against the Colonels on

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## George Tenet Answers his Critics with his New Book

### Former CIA Director Won't Pinpoint Who Tried to Push Him Out

By Mark Frangos  
And Evan C. Lambrou  
Special to the National Herald

**NEW YORK** – In a controversial interview with CBS' "60 Minutes" last Sunday evening, April 29, former CIA Director George Tenet said that, even though his Greek heritage inclines him to be "conspiratorial by nature," he did not want to speculate about who in the Bush White House was trying to push him out after intelligence on weapons of mass destruction proved faulty, but argued vigorously that he was treated dishonorably.

Currently on a publicity tour promoting his new book, "At the Center of the Storm: My Years at the CIA," for which he has reportedly received a \$4 million advance, Mr. Tenet had a somewhat contentious interview with 60 Minutes Correspondent Scott Pelley.

"Somebody who was in the Oval Office that day decided to throw you off the train. Was it the president," Mr. Pelley asked?

"I don't know," Mr. Tenet said. "Was it the Vice President," Mr. Pelley asked?

"I don't know," Mr. Tenet said. "Who was out to get you, George," Mr. Pelley asked?

"Scott, you know, I'm Greek, and we're conspiratorial by nature. But you know, who knows? I haven't let myself go there, but as a human being, it didn't feel very good," said Mr. Tenet, who noted that when he saw "slam-dunk" being cited by the Washington Post and other media, he realized the breach with the White House was total.

"And I remember picking up the phone and calling Andy Card (the President's chief of staff), who is a terrific human being and somebody I've always trusted – I call Andy and I said, 'You know, I believed he had weapons of mass destruction. And now what's happened here is you've gone out and made me look

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EUROKINISSI

### Honoring the memory of a legendary diva

Greek Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis was among many who attended an exhibition honoring the memory of Maria Callas at the Hellenic Parliament this past Wednesday, May 2. Greece has proclaimed 2007 as "Maria Callas Year" to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the great opera singer's death. Callas was also honored posthumously in the United States earlier this year when she received a Grammy lifetime achievement award.

## Devastating Lawsuit Hits Archdiocese

By Theodore Kalmoukos  
Special to the National Herald

**BOSTON, Mass.** – Two alleged victims of Rev. Nicholas Katinas, the retired former pastor of the Holy Trinity Church in Dallas who has been accused of sexual misconduct with minors, has filed a lawsuit.

The 32-page lawsuit was filed in Dallas District Court last Friday, April 27 (cause #0703807), and is posted in its entirety on the Orthodox Reform website (orthodoxre-

form.org). The National Herald first reported its contents in its Greek-language daily publication this past Monday, April 30.

The now adult victims, cited as John Doe I and John Doe II, have filed a combined lawsuit against Father Katinas personally, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Dallas, Metropolis of Denver, "by and through Bishop Isaiah of Denver in his official capacity," and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, "by and through Archbishop

Demetrios in his official capacity."

Both victims were members of the Holy Trinity parish community in Dallas, where Father Katinas served as a priest for 28 years. The sexual abuse allegedly took place while the plaintiffs – filing through John Doe I's mother "as next friend of John Doe II, a vulnerable (non compos mentis) adult" – were serving as altar boys under Father Katinas' guidance and supervision in

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## Greek American Professor Shares Letters he Exchanged With Constantine Karamanlis

By Nikolaos A. Stavrou  
Special to The National Herald

Funny things were happening a few months before the Cyprus tragedy and the collapse of the Greek Junta. For over a year prior to its collapse, I had reached some disturbing conclusions which proved to be tragically accurate:

First, that the Junta would abolish the monarchy to gain temporary reprieve from the left; second, that it would open itself to the Eastern bloc as a leverage against Washington, where pressure was mounting; and third, that it could be foolish enough to attempt to please Henry Kissinger with a "solution of the Cyprus issue," a certain disaster if carried out.

Months before the brave defections from the Hellenic Navy, the Velos affair, I alerted General Orestes Vidalis, King Constantine's man in America, of the impending abolition of the monarchy. The general advised me to write directly to the King in Rome, something I was reluctant to do. But under the emerging dire circumstances, I wrote a two-paragraph letter on May 1, 1973 (in straight Epirotic dialect) telling the King "your days are numbered," and that it might be useful for history if he spoke up pre-emptively against the Junta. I never heard back from His Majesty. Two months later, using the Velos defections as a pretext, the Junta abolished the monarchy.

Between 1973 and its eventual collapse, the leading members of the Junta made several gestures to Eastern bloc countries, culminating with a Nikolaos Makarezos trip to China (Makarezos was a senior member of the Junta, and served as minister of coordination in 1967-71 and deputy prime minister in 1971-74. In 1975, he was condemned to death for high treason, but the sentence was commuted to life imprisonment).

At the same time, a huge influx of Soviet bloc money poured into

Greece, investing in critical areas of the Greek economy, including shipping. The famous deal for hydrofoils (known in Greece as "flying dolphins"), which made a millionaire out of an ordinary Cretan crook, was sealed at that time; and lo and behold, with Soviet finances, the entire Great Soviet Encyclopedia was translated into Greek. No other Western country had even thought about undertaking such a thing, but a bunch of "anti-communist" hoodlums who decided to bring the Greeks up to date with the achievements of Bolshevism did.

At the beginning of 1974, matters took a tragic turn. One senior Junta man had set up shop in his brother-in-law's medical clinic, whose owner would brag about his "direct connections" with Kissinger and assured the Greek idiot that Henry, the de facto American President, would be pleased with a putsch against Makar-

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## Greek Gandy Dancers Met With Hostility

By Steve Frangos  
Special to The National Herald

Railroad work has a special place in Greek American lore. There is hardly a Greek American family with roots in the Great Migration of 1880 to 1924 which does not have a story about their ancestors working on the railroads. In the late 1880's up until the end of the First World War, Greek immigrant laborers streamed out to the American West to work in smelters, mines factories, and to help build the country's ever-expanding railroad system. These unsuspecting workmen were met with hostility.

The Greek workers soon learned that the American companies hiring them would take every opportunity to exploit and cheat them. Orga-

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## World's 1st Computer is Coming to Manhattan

By Stratos Boudourides  
Special to the National Herald

**NEW YORK** – The Children's Museum of Manhattan held its Spring Adult Benefit event at the Central Park Boathouse lastweek, in support of its upcoming exhibition "Gods, Myths, and Mortals: Discover Ancient Greece," set to open at the Children's Museum of Manhattan on May 25.

A main attraction of this major exhibition, which will be on display for 18 months, is a replica of the Antikythera Mechanism – commonly referred to as the world's first computer.

The replica was built by mathematician Dionysios Kriaris. Two Greek members of the research team who worked on this replica, Professors Xenophon Mousas and Ioannis Seiradakis, were on hand, along with many other distinguished members of the Greek American community who are supporting this exhibition through their donations. Archbishop Demetrios of America was also in

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The latest replica of the 2,100-year-old Antikythera Mechanism, believed to be the earliest surviving mechanical computing device, soon to be on display at the Children's Museum of Manhattan for the upcoming exhibition, "Gods, Myths, and Mortals: Discover Ancient Greece," set to open at the Museum on May 25.

## Lou Papan, "Dean of the California Assembly," Dies

By Rebekah Gordon  
The Oakland Tribune

**OAKLAND, Calif.** – Once known as the "Dean of the Assembly," former State Assemblyman Lou Papan, who represented San Mateo County for two decades and staunchly advocated for disabled children, died on Saturday, April 28. He was 78.

Papan's death was sudden and unexpected, his family said. According to his daughters, he suffered a heart attack at his home in Millbrae around 5:25 PM and never recovered. He was pronounced dead an hour later at Peninsula Medical Center in Burlingame.

"He was the kind of person who was able to take stock of the blessings he had in life," said his daughter, Diane. "He died a happy man."

A Democrat, Papan was elected to represent the California's 19th Assembly District in 1972. He served as speaker pro tempore from 1974 to 1976, and chaired the Assembly Rules Committee from 1976 to 1986, the longest tenure in



SAN MATEO COUNTY TIMES/RON LEWIS

Lou Papan

Assembly history. He left the Assembly in 1986 to run for State Senate, losing to Quentin Kopp. Papan returned to the Assembly in 1996, and chaired the Assembly Banking & Finance Committee, where he earned his "Dean of the Assembly" title. He served in the Assembly until 2002. Papan made another unsuccessful run for the State Senate in 2006.

"He was a major presence in the state political system," said Assemblyman Gene Mullin (D-South San Francisco), who now holds the seat in Papan's former district. "He certainly was not shy about making his feelings and his positions known to people."

Mullin said the he was adjourning Thursday's Assembly session in Papan's memory.

As a lawmaker, Papan was probably best known for his work to mandate reporting of child and elder abuse, as well as for improving public instruction for disabled students.

Papan's son John, who died at the age of 21, suffered for most of

his life from a rare congenital illness. In John's memory, Papan and his wife established scholarships for special-ed and late-blooming students in the San Mateo Union High School District, and John's Closet, which provides new clothing for low-income students.

Diane Papan said their family saw firsthand how tough the public school system was to navigate for disabled children and their parents.

"He was like a hero in those communities," she said. "Because he went through that on a personal level and because he saw injustices occurring to other parents, he took it on, and he took it on with a vengeance."

Born in Springfield, Massachusetts, Papan was named Elias Papandriopoulos. But the doctor who delivered him was not familiar with the name Elias, so he wrote Louis on the birth certificate. His parents, John and Flora Papandriopoulos, emigrated from the Peloponnese. Papan spoke only Greek

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Students at Saint George Greek School in Bethesda, Maryland during the school's Saturday program. School Director Eleni Petropoulos and Despina Stefanioros, one of the teachers, are seen in the background.

## St. George Greek School In Bethesda Going Strong

By Dimitri Soutlogiannis  
Special to the National Herald

**BETHESDA, Md.** – Only a few miles from the nation's capital, the Greek School at Saint George Church is one of the largest parochial school programs in the Washington metropolitan area.

The National Herald paid a recent visit to the school, and had the chance to speak with its director, Lena Petropoulos; the president of its school board, Elisabeth Vrahopoulou; and its secretary, Tessie Catsambas about the school's accomplishments.

The school has kept a steady enrollment of more than 200 students for its Friday and Saturday programs. The adult program, which runs the evenings on weekdays, has approximately 20 students.

"We came to realize very quickly that you can not keep students who speak Greek at home in the same classroom with those who don't," Mrs. Petropoulos said.

In order to satisfy the needs of all students who have different degrees of familiarity with, and command of, the Greek language, the school adopted two separate curricula. The Friday curriculum is geared towards students who do not have as many opportunities to practice the language, while the Saturday school curriculum is much more rigorous.

"Usually, those students who attend Saturday's school are the ones who want to take their Greek to the next level," Mrs. Petropoulos explained. "In some cases, they go onto read Greek literature."

During the current academic year, she added, there was continued excellence in student performance in all four proficiency levels of the Greek Language Certification Exams (Test Ellinomathias), which are sponsored by the Greek Embassy in Washington and the Greek Education Ministry's Center for Greek Studies.

"It is impressive that a high number of our 7th grade students and our graduates take these tests in Greek-language proficiency and succeed," Mrs. Petropoulos said.

The school has also organized educational workshops for Greek School teachers in the greater metropolitan area.

"For instance, this year we hosted the great Greek linguist, Professor George Babiniotis of the University of

Athens, as well as Dr. Aigil Zafeirakou, an educational specialist with the World Bank," Mrs. Catsambas said.

These exceptional presentations brought together the teachers of Saint George and other Greek schools in the area, she added, and gave them a chance to reflect on innovative practices, and to enjoy exchanges with peers on lessons from their teaching experiences.

The Saint George School Board also conducted a survey to solicit feedback from parents on the level of satisfaction with their participation in the Greek school and what they feel their needs are for the future.

"The overwhelming positive feedback from the parents was heartwarming and affirming for the efforts of our teachers and staff," Dr. Vrahopoulou said, who noted that the survey showed a difference in the goals and needs of Friday and Saturday students with respect to their Greek School education.

"As a result, the principal and teachers reviewed and revised the curriculum, further adapting it to the diverse needs of students," Dr. Vrahopoulou said.

Parents also encouraged more opportunities for social interactions among students, she added. In response, the Saint George School Board has organized different community activities, and is organizing a Greek movie night in the fall.

One of the School's top priorities currently is to institutionalize school governance, she said. "The School Board documented operational procedures for Greek School awards, graduation program procedures, yearbook and accelerated advancement criteria, as well as preparation resources for Greek-language certification exams. This is making our governance more transparent from year to year," Dr. Vrahopoulou said.

After receiving parent endorsement through the survey, the School Board also introduced Greek educational CD's in classroom, and purchased new laptop computers, printers and fax machines for the Greek School office, as well as more DVD's and CD's for the classrooms.

**Tuition is \$300 for members of Saint George Church (\$500 for non-members). For more information, call 301-469-7990 or visit the web at [www.stgeorge.org](http://www.stgeorge.org).**

## Chicago Set to Honor One of its Own: Andy Athens

By Theodore Kalmoukos  
Special to the National Herald

**BOSTON** – Metropolitan Iakovos and the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago are hosting an elegant banquet honoring Andrew Athens and his wife of 62 years, Louise. The event is scheduled for Saturday, May 5, at the Imperial Ballroom in downtown Chicago's Fairmont Hotel. Tickets are \$150 per person, and all proceeds will go to the benefit of the Saint Iakovos Retreat Center in Brighton, Wisconsin.

Mr. Athens is president and founder of the United Hellenic American Congress and former world president of the Council of Hellenes Abroad (SAE), and a lifetime member of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America's Archdiocesan Council.

Speaking to the National Herald, Metropolitan Iakovos said, "This is a small, but very heartfelt and sincere expression of thanks and appreciation for the long and very valuable services that Mr. Athens has offered to Greece, to Orthodoxy, the Greek American Community and Hellenism around the world."

Metropolitan Iakovos noted that he met Mr. Athens many years ago.

"I met Mr. Athens when he was vice chairman of the Archdiocesan Council during the late Archbishop Iakovos' archiepiscopal ministry. I also had the privilege to watch him working for the Church early on in 1974, during the Clergy Laity Congress here in Chicago, and since then, I had and still have the great honor of working with him and a great deal of appreciation for him," Metropolitan Iakovos said.

"Mr. Athens is a very nice person, with ethos, goodness, understanding, hospitable and generous. He is among the greatest supporters of our Church. If Mr. Athens was not President of SAE for the previous 11 years, that organization would have taken an all-together secular and anti-ecclesial path," the Metropolitan said.

"I was deeply impressed listening to former President George H.W. Bush, and even the current President of the United States, calling Mr. Athens by his first name, Andy. He is well known everywhere, in Washington, in Greece and the entire world," he added.

In an interview with Mr. Athens by telephone, he told the Herald he did not want the Metropolis of Chicago to make a fuss.

"I tried to talk them out of it because I felt that there are a lot of people who help Orthodoxy and Hellenism, but they convinced me that I should accept the honor, and I'm very happy to do it. I accepted it because it's not only for me but also for my wife, who has sacrificed so much," he said.

Mr. Athens, now 85 years of age, has worked hard for Greece and for Hellenism over the years. As a Greek of the Diaspora, he has maintained a powerful connection to Hellenism which he considers unbreakable.

When Turkey invaded Cyprus in 1974, encouraged by Archbishop Iakovos, Mr. Athens formed UHAC to act as a civic organization dedicated to combat the injustice brought about by the invasion. He felt strongly that only a unified, resolute organization of Hellenic Americans could help Cyprus by bringing and keeping the Cyprus issue to the forefront of American public awareness, and by strongly appealing to U.S. and international political bodies to take action.

"In 1945, I was performing an act of Hellenism in Belgium. I was



ABOVE: U.S. Army Captain Andrew Athens, right, behind a jeep in Belgium in 1945; BELOW: Andrew & Louise Athens during his farewell speech as world president of the Council of Hellenes Abroad (SAE) in Athens, Greece. Mr. Athens, one of Chicago's leading Greek Americans, was at the helm of SAE for 11 years and had held the organization's top job from the ground up before stepping down last year.

commanding a vehicle parking in a big airbase in Belgium, and the State Department gave the Greek Army about 300 vehicles. I sat down with them, and I evaluated what they wanted. I had 2,000 German prisoners repair the vehicles and take them to a Greek vessel," Mr. Athens said.

He met his wife Louise in 1944, he said, and said they are still "tremendously in love."

"We both love people and we love each other. She always understood me, supported me, cooperated with me and helped me in my endeavors for Hellenism, Orthodoxy and serving my country, the United States of America, and therefore I love her even more. People should know that marriage is a beautiful thing. There's no secret to a loving and healthy marriage. You must understand each other, and you must give into each other," he said.

Mr. Athens also spoke very sentimentally about his parents. "My father came here in 1904, and he went back to fight the Balkan War in 1912," he said. "He was a cavalry officer, and he talked to me so much about Ioannina and Kozani. He had five children, and when we turned 15-16 years old, we asked him why he and other Greeks went back to their country to fight for the homeland. He answered, 'It is my country.' He set an example for us. I enlisted in the military within one month after World War II began. My two brothers enlisted in the military within two months. When I told my father, he asked me why I would do that, and I reminded him about how he went back to Greece to fight for his country."

Mr. Athens established the Metron Steel Corporation in 1950. "I named it Metron from the Ancient Greek saying 'pan metron ariston' (everything measured in



moderation is good)," he said.

In 1984, Mr. Athens, together with Mike and Andrew Manatos, Philip Christopher, Panicos Papanicolaou and Nick Mouyiaris, formed the National Coordinated Effort of Hellenes in Washington to lobby U.S. policymakers on Hellenic and Orthodox issues.

Asked about the Greek American community's progress, he said, "We are doing wonderfully. There are no limits to what we can accomplish. The Greeks in America are doing tremendously well."

Asked how he felt when American presidents address him as 'Andy,' he said, "I feel wonderful about it. I think they have to respect you in order to call you by your first name. George and Barbara Bush embrace and hug me. This is a long relationship based on friendship and mutual understanding."

As president of SAE for 11 years, Andrew helped SAE through its early stages to become an organization with a purpose.

In 1997, he instituted the Primary Health Care Initiative (PHCI) to help revitalize the dilapidated medical facilities which were underserving people in underdeveloped countries, while helping to restore basic sanitary infrastructure. According to Mr. Athens, the PHCI has provided some \$125 million in

medical services (some of which was obtained through U.S. federal grants), food and clothing, and the program grew rapidly beyond its initial scope, requiring a new organizational structure, giving birth to Hellenicare.

"My unfulfilled dream is to serve Hellenes on a global basis, and I mean the forgotten ones in the former Soviet Union and in Albania," he said. "With the Hellenic Medical Center, we can treat 40,000 people a month. We've spent \$125 million, so far. We raised the money; we got support from the U.S. Government; and I put my own money and donations from Greek Ship owners. I'm telling you, for people in need, I'm the biggest beggar in the world."

Mr. Athens continues to spend much of his time traveling overseas for PHCI. Asked if he is tired of traveling so much, he said, "No. When I go to see these people in the mountains of Georgia or the Ukraine – they've been there 300 years, and they're still Greek. They're better Greeks. I thought I was a proud Greek, but when I saw them, they made me more proud, and I'm very proud of them."

Mr. Athens does not have any difficulty revealing his age. "I'm 85 years old," he said. "I'm twice 40, and I've added five years on top of that," he said laughing.

## World's 1st Computer Coming to Children's Museum of Manhattan on May 25

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attendance, and announced that the Patriarchate of Jerusalem would be donating two ancient coins depicting Alexander the Great to CMOM.

Dr. Mousas, an associate professor of Astrophysics and head of the Astrophysics Lab at the University of Athens, spoke to the National Herald about the Mechanism.

"The Antikythera Mechanism was estimated to have been built around 150 BC by a Greek astronomer, possibly Hipparchus. There are two gold spheres depicting the sun and moon on its front. The moon revolves around two axes, at a variable speed according to Kepler's laws of planetary motion – 1,700 years before he made this discovery," he said.

"On the other side, we can see two very precise almanacs. One predicts the solar eclipses that will take place, as shown on a spiral dial, spanning 54 years and one day – equal to the period of solar and lunar eclipse repetition cycles. There is also a 76-year almanac at the top, including the positions and phases of the moon and sun relative to the stars, which accurately charts all the major ancient feast days," he said.

"It accurately predicts the exact date of the Olympic Games, which is not something we expected to find in any calendar. Even if we were to reconstruct it today, with all our existing mathematical and

technological knowhow, we would encounter difficulties. We are very proud to be a part of this exhibition, and we believe that it will attract many children to the sciences," Dr. Mousas added.

**LAPTOP OF ITS ERA**

Dr. Seiradakis, Professor of Astronomy at the Aristotelean University of Thessaloniki, said the Mechanism is "as important to technology as the Parthenon is to architecture, and it will compel us to rewrite the history of technological advancement. It contains 29 interlocking gears, and has managed to transfer the theoretical knowledge of the ancient Greeks into a technological device. It is uncanny when someone considers the fact that the Mechanism could accurately reconstruct the irregular movements of a celestial body like the moon. The Mechanism was the laptop of its era, and was the product of the successful cooperation of an amazingly knowledgeable astronomer and a gifted engineer and inventor. It revolutionized the world 2,000 ago, and I would easily include it among the marvels of the ancient world," he said.

Archbishop Demetrios congratulated all those who worked on putting the upcoming exhibition together. "In 1990, UNESCO began to ensure the availability of an education for children from all around the world. These efforts have yet to be completed. In this land of liberty and justice, children possess a very advanced



Children's Museum of Manhattan Executive Director Andrew Ackerman is flanked by two of the Antikythera Mechanism Research Project scientists, Dr. John Seiradakis (L), an astrophysicist and radio astronomer at Aristotle University in Thessaloniki, and Dr. Xenophon Mousas (R), an astrophysicist and astronomer at the University of Athens, during the Museum's Spring Benefit at The Boathouse in Central Park this past April 24.

system of education, as well as a very beautiful museum to visit and sharpen their minds. These sorts of exhibitions are very important," he said.

Eleni Daniels, public relations director for the exhibition, noted that "children from all across the United States will get to know Ancient Greek civilization, and most

importantly, I think that it will influence their lives in the future."

CMOM Director Andrew Ackerman announced that the Jaharis Foundation made a \$250,000 do-

nation in support of the exhibition. The Stavros Niarchos Foundation, the John Calamos Foundation, John Catsimatides, and many other Greek American organizations and patrons of the arts also donated.

The Antikythera Mechanism was discovered in an underwater shipwreck off the Greek island of Antikythera, between Kythera and Crete, in 1902. Some scholars believe that the Mechanism was built in ancient Rhodes, which was a center of astronomy and mechanical engineering.

The device is remarkable for the level of miniaturization and complexity of its parts. It is possible that the mechanism is based on heliocentric principles, rather than the then-dominant geocentric view espoused by Aristotle and others. The heliocentric view proposed by Aristarchos of Samos (310-230 BC) did not receive widespread recognition, but provides for the possibility of the existence of such a system at this time.

Before its sojourn on the sea bed, the Antikythera Mechanism computed and displayed the movements of the sun, moon and possibly the planets around Earth, and predicted the dates of future eclipses. It is one of the most stunning artifacts surviving from classical antiquity. No earlier geared mechanism of any sort has ever been found, and nothing close to its technological sophistication is known to have appeared again for well over a millennium.