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Editorial

Friends and tradition both have a role explaining the perfect Greek-American wedding. Whether you decide to have your wedding in the United States or in Greece, we have combined these two pillars to provide you with the perfect go-to guide to help you with planning your special day.

In this year’s special Weddings insert, we’re bringing you something old (the history of the picture bride), something new (all the latest wedding trends of 2019), and something different. Needlework and traditional wedding customs add so much to the wedding celebration. While clinging to a classical bent (elegant dinner party receptions), we have also included the Orthodox sacrament of marriage for you to become familiar with. If you’re considering a destination wedding in Greece, two of our articles focus on hotels that provide truly personalized service. Our articles on Greek-American weddings seem to be following the trend towards the bold (darker jewel-tone color palettes), while still stressing the belief in the Holy Trinity, in which God’s love is reflected. The traditions observed have been repeated three times over the history of the Greek Orthodox Church.

The marriage ceremony is abundant with symbols that reflect the special meanings and significance. These symbolic actions are often repeated three times over the history of the Holy Trinity, in which God’s love is reflected. The traditions observed have been repeated three times over the history of the Greek Orthodox Church.

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Greek-American weddings seem to be following the trend towards the bold (darker jewel-tone color palettes), while still clinging to a classical bent (elegant dinner party receptions). You’ll also read about Greek-Orthodox wedding rituals – and what they mean. This could serve as a handy guide for your wedding guests. In this year’s special Weddings insert, we’re bringing you something old (the history of the picture bride), something new (all the latest wedding trends of 2019), and something different. Need...
The Greek Orthodox Wedding Ceremony

Traditions, symbols, and meanings

the ring, and asks that this mu-
tual promise of betrothal, officially
given before God, may be
forever a reminder of their love
ded to each other for their life's
and days. This ring ceremony
represents the spiritual willingness of the couple to receive
Christ, the "Light of the World", into their lives together.

The Service of Crowning/
The Sacrament of Marriage
Lighting of Candles

The Sacrament of Marriage begins immediately following the
Betrothal Service. The priest hands the bride and groom
white candles that symbolize the couple's spiritual with-
gress to receive Christ in their life. Two candles are lit, one
each for the bride and groom, and the light from the candles
represents the spiritual willingness of the couple to receive
Christ, the "Light of the World", into their lives together.

The Three-fold Walk around the
altar set up in the sola is seen
as a religious dance.

The three-fold walk around
the altar set up in the sola is seen
as a religious dance.

The Removal of the Crowns
and the Benediction – The Blessing

As the conclusion of the ceremonial walk, the couple returns to
their places. The priest blesses the groom and says: “Be magnified, O Brides, as Abrahaim, and blessed be Isaac, and increased as was Jacob.” Turning to the bride, he says, “And you, O Bride, be magnified as was Sarah, and rejoiced as was Rebecca, and in-
cresed as Rachel, being glad in your husband, keeping the paths
of the Law, for so is God well pleased.”

Then, removing the crowns, the Priest says, “Accept their crowns in Your Kingdom unsealed and undefined; and present them without offerance to the age of ages.”

The priest then lifts up the Gospel and separates the couple's joined hands, reminding them that only God can separate the couple from one another. This gives emphasis once again to their oneness and the holiness of their union. "What God has joined together, let no man put asunder!"

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Historic Hotels of America

Top 25 Historic Hotels for a Romantic Proposal

WASHINGTON (District of Columbia)
The Willard InterContinental (1818) Washington, DC
The setting, the ambiance, the storied past, the staff service, and the romantic atmosphere is what sets apart this hotel from any other. The heart of Downtown DC, steps from the National Mall and the city's most iconic landmarks, the Willard InterContinental is the perfect setting to immerse yourself in the beauty and spirit of America's Capital City, offering a 360-degree view of Charleston.

NEW YORK CITY
The Pfister (1893) Milwaukee, Wisconsin
The Pfister is a true architectural masterpiece, the perfect setting to toast a significant milestone or engagement. From its superb crown molding, oversized Monticello windows, to the rich heart pine floors, and the restored English tea rose gardens and stoically assertive wonder that is Antrim 1844, guests leave enthralled and enchanted by this venue.

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA
The Broadmoor (1918) Colorado Springs, Colorado
The Broadmoor's Victorian castle is the perfect setting to immersify yourself in the beauty and peace of nature. With an award-winning Spa, gourmet cuisine, hardwooded cocktails, and smokeless recreational offerings, Mohonk Mountain House is the perfect place to toast to any event of your life without the stress of a romantic getaway. Sky Top Tower is one of the most popular spots at Mohonk Mountain House for a proposal. An elevation of 1305 feet, Sky Top Tower offers a panoramic view of the Skaneateles Lake and the valley below. After climbing the 110 steps to the top, visitors love this picturesque, inspirational location for popping the question. It makes for great photos and even better memories.

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CEMETERY (District of Columbia)
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BROOKLYN, NEW YORK
The Pfister (1893) Milwaukee, Wisconsin

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BROOKLYN, NEW YORK
The Pfister (1893) Milwaukee, Wisconsin

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Three women came from Greece to the United States as picture brides in 1921.
Credit: Courtesy of The Statue of Liberty National Monument

Greek-American picture brides in the 1900s were women who entered arranged marriages with immigrant men from their home countries. Women would often travel to the US to meet their partners for the first time at immigration stations such as Ellis Island or Angel Island. By Appointment
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Three women came from Greece to the United States as picture brides in 1921.
Donor Services of NY

Donor Services of NY offer Intended Parents and Egg Donors comprehensive services and support. While they may not otherwise receive the care they need when navigating the process of Egg Donor IVF to foster fertilization, I worked in the area of infertility and IF for 10 years. I have experience as an Egg Donor Coordinator within busy, high volume IF practices, and as an Egg Donor Consultant to help IF couples create their own egg donor programs, and I have been an egg donor myself. I offer my services for Egg Donors and Intended Parents to help meet their needs more personally and touch them than they may have with their own IVF clinics. They can work with my services and upon choosing an egg donor, they can then work with their IVF doctor for medical testing and cycle for egg donor IVF, Intended Parents and Egg Donors communicate throughout, as they receive the personalized care of the consultant, as well as the support of the team for their needs. I felt that by offering my services as a consultant, I could work more closely with both the egg donor and intended parents, and as such a little more to the specific needs of the woman. I am a trained on-site IVF cycle and work closely with their IVF doctor and the IVF clinics when they cycle. I can trouble shoot when needed and sometimes help the process to move along more smoothly and efficiently when needed. I can help both egg donors and Intended Parents. I am a New York City IVF doctor’s community and help find a doctor or practice that appeals most to them. I can also help educate women about the subject of egg donation and point them to resources that might be helpful to them in their IF journey.

What is the first thing women considering egg donation should know about the process? It is important to understand that there is a lot of incorrect information about egg donation. As a general topic of conversation between the donor and the intended parent(s), the medical community acknowledges that the egg donation process is a step by step process, and that is not complicated once you work through it.

An egg donor (way back when) I felt very little information was given. Then there was no opportunity to discuss concerns, costs, risks, or processes, and even the name of the doctors were not given to me. For me, these are examples of what not to do. Egg Donation is a very personal process, it is important to empower women with knowledge on what to expect, what works best for them and their family.

How long does the donation process usually take? Egg donors are matched usually (assuming) to an Intended Parent(s). The process of egg donation takes 8-9 weeks to complete (on average). Egg donors will undergo an extensive medical work up including physical exam, genetic screening, health questionnaires, family history, hormone screens and cultures, and an extended genetic test which takes approximately 3-4 weeks. For results to be returned. For most people, the work up is minimization everything involved will be free of charge.

Both the egg donor and Intended Parent(s) Reticent Partner (will) cycle in parallel with one another: though they never meet they will take medications at the same time. By the time the egg donor is ready to undergo retrieval, the recipient partner(s) will be ready to receive one egg(s) which will be fertilized immediately. For the egg donor, the actual cycle of egg donation takes about 12 days (give or take).

How has the process for donors and recipient changed over the years in terms of the technology or other characteristics? This is an excellent question! Conventional IVF, where a woman undergoes fertility work up will generally know their FSH levels and if they are able to stimulate their ovaries. The lower FSH levels indicate high quality egg donors. New technology has come through extensive research and has led to an extension of that to another level that should be tested called AMH or Anti-Human Methionine. These egg donors are seeking a good FSH and AMH when looking at prospective Intended and Intended Partners. Women with higher AMH levels often stimulate easily and have more eggs upon retrieval.

Another significant breakthrough for intended parents is the ability to test for embryo carriers. This is done through PGD (preimplantation genetic screening). This means that it can be determined if an embryo carries specific genetic determinants that run in a family. It also means that amniocentesis would no longer be required as genetic analysis would be complete before the embryo is transferred to the mother. Since Amniocentesis is a very invasive procedure, this is a wonderful breakthrough for intended parents.

Are you needing an increase in the demand for donors? No. There is plenty of increased demand for egg donation. It is more complicated than in previous years. It is a hard question to answer. If I get a couple right after the loss of their baby, they will want to get pregnant as soon as possible. If I get a couple who are coming a parent. For me, these are examples of what not to do. Egg Donation is a very personal process, it is important to empower women with knowledge on what to expect, what works best for them, and to help Intended Parents and Egg Donors communicate throughout, as they receive the personalized care of the consultant, as well as the support of the team for their needs.

What is the first thing women considering egg donation should know about the process?

Potential Egg Donors should understand that there is a lot of incorrect information about egg donation. There is a step by step process, and that is not complicated once you work through it.

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The special day will be an event to remember

By Eleni Sakellis

Organizing the wedding of your dreams in Greece can be a daunting experience without the help of experienced professionals. V.I.P. Events Athens offers a wonderful array of options to personalize your special day and make your dream wedding come true. Vassilis Pagonis, General Director at V.I.P. Events Athens, spoke with The National Herald about the company’s five-star service for customized weddings.

What can a couple expect when they choose V.I.P. Events Athens for their wedding?

Greek-Americans can expect five-star service for a customized wedding with a choice of backdrops from Athens to a registry of Greek islands to the Aegean and Ionian Seas. A wedding to be remembered by all for a lifetime can be achieved with a clear and concise discussion with our consultant.

How far in advance should couples book their wedding with you?

If the client decides to utilize our services, we require a time frame of 6 to 12 months looking in advance, depending on choice of location. The reason being that most weddings take place in the summer and an advance booking is needed with the church as the number of appropriate churches are limited on the islands and demand is high. We also provide civil ceremonies, if requested.

What do Greek-American couples look for the most when they plan their wedding with V.I.P. Events Athens as opposed to what Greek couples look for?

Are there any major differences, either in scale or preferences?

The local couples have had a lifetime of exposure to the local culture, food, and scenery. While their special day is marked by a certain event, it is a familiar backdrop. Greek-Americans can expect an introduction to the local culture from their night-seeing tours we provide. A choice of local cuisine can be made or a preference in musical taste can be noted. We can customize the level of local influence in all areas and can ensure one or expand the level of traditional cultural undertones according to taste. We customize everything according to the customers’ preferences while providing them with choices. Their special day will be an event to remember which is the purpose of choosing the family’s country of origin as the backdrop for the beginning of their new phase of life. Each event is unique as the couple and their families.

What should Greek-American couples be aware of when they decide to plan a wedding with you in Greece?

There are certain legalities to be organized prior to the wedding, such as documents stating both parties are free or legally separated if a prior marriage has taken place. If one of the parties getting married is of a different religion we must be notified. These are church requirements and all documentation must be translated and validated by local councils or institutions of civil authority. This is to secure the legality of the marriage-taking place and to avoid any complications from the country of origin.

More information about V.I.P. Events Athens is available online: vipevents.gr.
Hotel Archontiko Angelou offers a charming backdrop for weddings on Leros, a relatively small island in the Dodecanese island chain, with scenic views and the crystal-clear sea. Marianna Angelou, the owner of Hotel Archontiko Angelou, spoke to The National Herald about the lovingly restored villa that now serves as a picturesque destination for vacationers and an enchanting, intimate venue for dream weddings.

When asked what Greek-American couples should be aware of when they decide to plan a wedding at the hotel, Angelou replied, “Plane tickets to the island need to be booked well in advance because there are limited seats on the plane to Leros. There is a ferry boat connection from Piraeus to the Dodecanese islands a few times a week. Using a wedding planner is useful.” She added that the Hotel Archontiko Angelou has a service where the couple can file a registration form with the Office of Vital Statistics in the municipality where the wedding ceremony will take place. You must do this within 40 days of getting married, or else you’ll face fines. Marriages that aren’t registered aren’t considered legally valid.

When asked what a couple can expect when they choose Hotel Archontiko Angelou as an enchanting, intimate venue for dream weddings, Angelou said, “It depends on ten free and vegan, served in the garden under the shade of the over 100-year old fig trees, just a few minutes walk from the beach, shops, and tavernas – and swimming in the morning before breakfast is possible. They will enjoy good food (made on site) in a variety of tavernes on the beaches of Leros, picturesque chapels for weddings, daily excursions to small islands near Leros like Patmos with the famous Monastery of St. John the Theologian (UNESCO site) and the Cave of the Apocalypse.”

The hotel Angelou and the island of Leros is available online: hotel-angelou-leros.com.

The Paperwork and Documents Required for Weddings in Greece

Organizing your wedding in Greece requires time and money, however, the exotic location, amazing food, and warm atmosphere make it all worth it. The paperwork requirements follow:

- Birth certificates with both parents’ names inside with an apostille stamp.
- Proof of freedom to marry, or affidavit of marriage, notarized, in both English and Greek.
- A decree of abolition of your previous marriage, if applicable. Divorce certificate if you have been married previously.
- A copy of the local newspaper where your intent to marry was published. Greece has a funny custom: you must state your intent to marry in a local newspaper or at the local community office or town hall. Plan to do this at least eight days in advance of your wedding day.
- U.S. citizens may be able to avoid a wedding planner if they have a U.S. marriage license that can be amended to include Greece.
- Normally the family, the groom and bride, and household use. In-room amenities include hairdryers, mini-fridges, in-room broadband internet access, and ceiling fans in the upstairs rooms. They may even roll a baby across the bed to bless the bed with fertility. This happens the Thursday before the wedding.

More foreign couples (for some) are also combined. Family and friends spending time together, creating beautiful memories in appealing.

“More foreign couples for those living abroad, choose Archontiko Angelou and surprisingly many people who appreciate this kind of accommodation, the atmosphere, aesthetics, and philosophy,” she added.

More information about Hotel Archontiko Angelou is available online: hotel-angelou-leros.com.
Aegialis Hotel & Spa offers exclusive settings for the big event, complete with all the amenities necessary to make the rehearsal/dinner, wedding ceremony, and reception a huge success. The stunning views alone are a photographer’s dream.

Irene Gianakopoulos, Diner and CEO of Aegialis Tours-Aegialis Hotel & Spa, spoke to The National Herald about the type of weddings and the atmosphere offered by the only 5-star luxury hotel on Amorgos. When asked what a couple can expect when they choose Aegialis Hotel & Spa as the venue for their wedding, Gianakopoulos told TNH, “They can expect a fairy-tale atmosphere with a personal interest in the preparation and organizing of the wedding.”

Concerning how far in advance couples should book their wedding, she said, “They should plan their wedding at least one year before, especially if they wish to secure availability. However, we are very flexible in everything else related to the ceremony and the reception.”

When asked what Greek-American couples look for the most when they plan their wedding at Aegialis Hotel & Spa as opposed to what Greek couples look for, Gianakopoulos noted that “there are not many major differences or special preferences except that Greek-American couples, ‘like to have all their guests accommodated at the hotel, in order to be able to host everyone and have a memorable time.'”

When Greek-American couples decide to plan a wedding in Greece they should also be aware of the needed documents and paperwork. Gianakopoulos said, “The documents needed are copies of passports, birth certificates, and certificates of no impediment, which should be gathered at least 3 months before the wedding.”

As far as the personalized attention to detail, Aegialis Hotel & Spa offers a variety of options for the reception including menus featuring the high culinary arts, traditional local dishes, or vegetarian options and special requests. An exceptional vine cellar and outstanding service, all amid a magical setting overlooking Aegiali bay will ensure a wonderful experience on the special day. As for decoration, Amorgos is one of the richest islands in plant and flower species. There is the possibility of using local wild flowers for the bridal bouquet and the rest of the decoration, or other locally cultivated flowers. For special flowers, Aegialis works with florists on Naxos Island, and it is possible to order any kind of imported and out of season flowers as requested for the happy occasion.

Decorations vary for the venue and reception areas, according to the taste of the couples. Island-themed decorations with pebbles, star fish, shells, and candles are available as well as floral options which are also very popular, in combination with candles and special colorful materials.

Setting the mood with the right entertainment is another important aspect that can help make the wedding an unforgettable event. Whether couples prefer traditional musicians playing violin and laouto or a party with the finest artists and entertainers of your choice, Aegialis offers exclusive set-ups for the big event.

Decorations are the first deity that human reason perceived and acquired a protruding position in all religions. Meanwhile, the Sun, the only and unique form of natural light, the provider of life, was the first deity that human reason perceived and acquired a protruding position in all religions. The vital energy is symbolized by the cycle, the perfect geometrical form without beginning and end, which represents infinity and guarantees the order and harmony of the universe.

Stone, the witness of eternity, hard and solid struggles against time, having lived, met and formed the stages of human civilization. Meanwhile, the Sun, the only and unique form of natural light, the provider of life, was the first deity that human reason perceived and acquired a protruding position in all religions. The vital energy is symbolized by the cycle, the perfect geometrical form without beginning and end, which represents infinity and guarantees the order and harmony of the universe.
By Vasilis Koutsilias

With his grandfather and father both tailors, George Papadogamvros had to hard not to follow the same career path and in fact, took the family tradition to an entirely new level. He became a designer, his name synonymous with the finely tailored men’s suit, and in his postmodern atelier in Kifissia he creates masterpieces of art that satisfy even the most demanding customers.

Papadogamvros spoke to The National Herald about the handmade, bespoke men’s suit and many other issues relating to men’s fashion.

You follow a family tradition, you come from a family of tailors. What do you do differently from your grandfather and father?

My father and grandfather were tailors. The thing I do differently is that I have opened a postmodern atelier, I keep up with the fashions abroad, and the tailor gives advice to the customer on how to dress, that is, I am not so much a tailor, I am a designer. So we decide together with the customer about the garment.

You have studied in Italy. So your main influences come from Italian fashion?

I studied with Veloudakis and then I left and went to Milan to Marangoni and my influences are from both Italian and British fashion. I’m somewhere in between.

What is the secret of success for a designer?

Plenty of work, good taste, and love what you do.

Why should a man choose a bespoke suit?

First of all, when a man chooses a bespoke suit, this is a point of no return, that is, he will never go back to the readymade. What does it mean, however, when a man chooses a tailor-made suit? It means that it will be an exact fit to his body, it embraces him, and will be what he asks for. For bodies with some peculiarities, those can be hidden to show a much more elegant suit.

What is in fashion this year?

This year there is a lot of color for the summer, playing with the pastel colors.

Generally speaking, are Greek men and women well-dressed?

In recent years, the situation has improved a lot, but there is still a lot of work to do. I would say that about 50-65% of Greeks are well-dressed because they travel abroad, see fashion trends, and are more informed.

Has the crisis of recent years influenced your job?

The crisis above all has helped, because there has been a clearing up and people are no longer throwing away their money as they used to in the past. People are choosing quality.

It is known that many famous people, artists, politicians, athletes, trust you for their suits. How is it working with them?

I have plenty of customers, both in Greece and abroad. What I have succeeded in is that they trust me and they give me the freedom to design. I get the trust of the men whose suits you are creating. To gain the trust of the men who come in to have their bespoke suits made. If you also win the trust of the wife, then they are completely won over. That is, you pass some tests and then do it all yourself.

Textiles in Greece. Is there something of its old glory today? Where do you get your fabrics?

Unfortunately, there is nothing of the old glory of Greek textiles. I get raw materials from Italy and England. The Greek textile industry has died. They are trying to do something with something casual. At South we have to do something with silks, but we have a long way to go to reach the English and the Italians.

And what is next for you?

My next move is to expand to do a gang show in America, to come at least three times a year. Many of my customers, famous people, athletes, politicians, artists, want me to come to America, they wear my suits and people ask them about them.
Wedding Trends for 2019

Wedding trends almost always seem to be a reaction against last year’s trends, but they can still offer fun and, at times, helpful ideas for brides-to-be and wedding planners. A more personalized wedding has been the trend for a few years now with many couples choosing to highlight their personal style or individual theme in unique ways. Gone are the days of cookie-cutter weddings and reception that followed an almost uninspiring script from the entrance of the bridal party and the bride and groom to the first dance, the cutting of the cake, etc. Today’s couples choose to depart from the traditions they want to include, often forego the bouquets and garter belt toss altogether, and investing more traditions of their own making personalized dance routines, for example, to make their special day truly memorable. Pick and choose your favorites among the following wedding trends for 2019.

Modern accents and darker color palettes are “in” for weddings this year following the pastel blushes and cream shades of last year. Rich hues and panel tons of all seasons create a dramatic look for your wedding. Traditional design elements are also making a comeback in 2019, meaning the classic, elegant dinner party reception in the focus of the celebration with romantic candles and bouquets of flowers as centerpieces and tables set with lace and crystal stemware.

Statement Wedding Cakes with bold colors for backgrounds and personalized designs add fun and a strong visual element to the reception. Personalized place cards, especially for smaller weddings in any season.

Elegant Lalainou Ring Designs

For engagement rings, many brides opt for a classic solitaire. This year’s ring trends, however, may make many reconsider going for a classic, elegant wedding. For engagement rings, many brides opt for a classic solitaire. This year’s ring trends, however, may make many reconsider going for a classic, elegant wedding.

Statement lighting using lanterns, for example to personalize the space in another way to make the celebration a unique expression of style and the love shared on the happy couple’s special day.

Florists will gladly recreate the royal look for your special day. Incorporate and place cards in unusual mediums are also trending this year with with the fine paper-making originally from the skin of a calf, often colored stone accents and unusual shapes to the traditional route. From unexpected coordinated colors in patterns or patterns are arranged dramatic ly along a wall or door to create a unique touch. Velvet is a no-brainer theme offers the soft, subtle texture to place cards, table settings, and other aspects of the wedding. Available in various shades, touches of velvet add elegance to weddings in any season. Invitations and place cards in unusual mediums are also trending this year with

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You Heard About the Love Boat, but What About the Love Plane?

by Andreas Vasilatos, Esq.

I am a divorce attorney. I am often asked whether or not I am cynical when it comes to love. Oddly enough, I become a divorce attorney particularly because I am a romantic. So, I beg the question, why would a romantic such as myself gravitate towards an area of law that involves broken hearts? Good question – I better have a good answer.

I imagine that love is something similar to a jumbo jet Boeing 747. It has the power to take you high and take you places never before dreamt of (both physically and emotionally). I remember boarding these big jets as a child going to Greece for vacation and I remember looking at those four huge turbine engines. As a divorce lawyer, I began to “reverse engineer” these four turbine engines to figure out how love defies gravity to take flight. Love has four turbine engines.

The first turbine engine of love is friendship. The ability to have fun together and enjoy each other’s company. The ability to look past petty grievances (like socks on the floor, unwashed dishes in the sink), and also work on resolving these petty grievances so they do not happen again. The ability to respect each other enough to tell each other the truth, but also to have the courage to listen to what the other has to say, even if that hurts us. Without friendship, there can be no love.

The second turbine engine is compatibility. The ability to have the same interests and intellectually. If one person is very happy solving physics equations on a blackboard, while another person is very happy saving money like a drunken sailor and the other person likes to spend money like a drunken sailor, and the other person likes to save every penny. It is unlikely that this turbine will work. Sometimes people are compatible economically, but due to a change in either the husband’s or wife’s income, the couple needs to make adjustments and save. Not all people can make an adjustment in lifestyle, and when that happens this turbine engine fails.

I don’t know about you, but if I am in a Boeing 747 and a turbine engine stops working I want to grab a parachute and get off the plane. Love is a beautiful thing, but when one of those four engines stops working it can certainly be terrifying. So, my advice to you is to make sure to be aware of the four engines of love. Keep them fueled and well maintained, and you will be on permanent vacation.

Andreas Vasilatos is a lawyer specializing in divorce.
While working in financial services, Vana Koutsomitis realized that there was a gap that needed to be filled in the dating world. After the successful launch of her first dating app,Deep by DatePlay – launching February 14th) – Deep is the next generation of smart dating app which focuses on creating deep and meaningful bonds. Deep is the only dating app that requires individuals to take the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator Test (an introspective self-report questionnaire with the purpose of indicating differing psychological preferences on how people perceive the world around them and make decisions) as well as to define which of Gary Chapman’s five ‘love languages’ they ‘speak’ (the five ways Chapman outlined people express and experience love).

The app then pairs you with a sort of life coach that if they settle down with one person, they might be missing out on someone even better that they could have ‘matched’ with later on.

Dig ‘Deep’ to Find the ‘One’

Deep is the next generation of smart dating app which focuses on creating deep and meaningful bonds. The app forces people to see that what they want isn’t necessarily what they actually need. The concept of FOMO (fear of missing out) has been applied in the dating world. People are scared that if they settle down with one person, they might be missing out on someone even better that they could have ‘matched’ with later on.

The Joy and Warmth of Island Weddings

The 17th century Church of Panagia Chrysopigi – Our Lady of the Golden Spring, is the patron saint of Siphnos.

The windswept pathway was renovated and reci-
sed nighttime lighting in recent years as a gift to Si-
phnos by the Eugenides family of stopping and Eugen-
ides Foundation farm. The history of the Ephemerates of Siphnos is the book ‘Panagia Vromena’. A group of Christian youths seeking to escape Roman persecution hid inside a cave outside the city of Euboea in 250 AD and emerged 300 years later.

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Greek-American Couples Married 50+ Years Honored in Staten Island

By Michalis Kakias

For yet another year, the Staten Island community honored 11 couples who are celebrating more than 50 years of marriage with a modest ceremony held on Sunday, January 20, at Holy Trinity-St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church immediately following the Divine Liturgy.

The honored couples and members of the community are: Christos and Androula Papaiacovou with 62 years of marriage, Peter and Eleni Rassias 60 years, Harry (Haralambos) and Katerina Seremetis 60 years, Constantine and Helen Tzivas 57 years, Mark and Bertha Kapetanakis 57 years, Michael and Vicky Anastos 55 years, George and Margarita Seherlis 52 years, Konstantinos and Maria Kapetanakis 52 years, Emmanouil and Stella Vlahakis 51 years, John and Christine Charitis 51 years, Anastasios and Chloe Anastasios 50 years.

The presiding priest of the community, Rev. Protopresbyter Nicholas Petropoulakos, blessed the couples by citing the fact that they all together are celebrating 607 years of marriage. As he noted, “Our fellow-citizens for decades served the institution of marriage and the values of the family. They offer us a valuable life lesson. They are pillars of the Greek family and an example for marriage. I wish God to give you health and many more years of happy married life.”

“Communication and understanding are the basic ingredients for a successful marriage,” Charalambos Seremetis told The National Herald. He and his wife Katerina are celebrating 60 years of marriage. They are both originally from Lemnos and were married in 1958. They have two children and five grandchildren.

John and Christina Haritis with 51 years of marriage consider honesty, respect, and patience the secrets of happiness.

“1 grew up in the Bronx and John in Brooklyn. We met in 1964 at a GOYA conference in New Orleans and married in 1967 at the Church of the Three Hierarchs in Brooklyn,” Christina said. John Charitis originates from Sparti and Kalamata and Christina from Kranidi.

Anastasios and Chloe Anastasios, both of whom came from Cyprus, are celebrating 50 years of marriage. As Anastasios pointed out, “Our mothers were best friends in elementary school, so we met, we fell in love, and married.”

To a question about the secret of their marriage success, she replied with a joke: “We never fight, we do not argue, and we do not yell.” Anastasios and Chloe have three children and seven grandchildren.

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A Future Bride Seeks Advice from a Married Woman

By: Matina Demolis

Olympia Diomis: What do you imagine your relationships will be with your respective families in the future? Do you think you will remain close with your parents vs. in-laws, or do you think you will want to move closer to your new family?

Evangelia Karanikas: Because I grew up in a Greek household, I am very close with my family law and we visit them often. I will be close with my mom. My son will be my first priority and I am very close with my son-in-law. Your own family that you married into is part of you but you need to be 100% sure!

OD: The thing that you should always remember is that if you get married, your parents, in-laws, and your own family that you married into are going to be a big part of your life. So you need to be 100% sure before you marry anyone.

EK: I think that one of the reasons we see so many divorces is people don't want to face every situation respectful of other's bound ary. You need to be in your right place for the right person.

OD: When you disagree with something, tell them that you disagree and why you disagree or they will think you are wrong.

EK: I disagree with you because when you hold in things, it's not just about you actually believe. Sometimes, we want to explode one day for no reason. That's not good. Both people in the relationship should feel comfortable enough to express their opinion and both should be respectful of the other's thought and feeling.

OD: Do you have children? If yes, are they married?

EK: I have three boys: 34, 27 and 24. They are not married yet – even though I would like them to be. But I don't want to meddle in their personal lives. I can tell them my opinion of their girlfriends. And if I never think that there is something I should know about a particular girl – I always tell them: "I won't be part of your relationship unless you rather than a third party."

OD: When one of your sons gets married, what type of relationship would you like to have with your in-laws?

EK: I am not sure what kind of ground the girl will have. I believe I will be with the family the way one shares the same culture and background – that is not always the case. We parents should not become an obstacle in our children's relationship. It would be ideal if we could all come together for the holidays but if our children don't want that, we can't become angry and hold it against them.

OD: It would be easier if they were all Greek.

EK: I don't think that's necessarily true. Sometimes when the in-laws are of the same culture, the mother-in-law can really have all the power. The most important thing is for the families to have mutual respect for each other. And for one person not to dominate the other. One of my friends had a relationship with an Asian girl for many years. I don't think they have children. If you can be happy with her, we will respect her and not dominate her. Next to you – you will never dominate you in your happiness.

OD: I agree with everything you have said, Ian is American and sometimes our relationship is a little different. I think we are always going to be all about us to learn from each other. They are all open-minded and want to learn about each other.

EK: With open conversation and respect, everyone can have a smooth start to their lives. So long as there is no jealousy, envy, or greed. As humans, sometimes we become very petty, and focus on things that are unimportant. Unexpected and unenlightened respect are the end all, be all. For the world.

OD: I think that when you get mar ried, our relationship with our significant other will change. Later, when children enter the picture, our relationship will change again. What did you expect to change and what did you learn from that change?

EK: We all think, especially us women, that everything will be just like it was at first. But let's not forget that we are very different from our home. We have to learn to differentiate these three things. When you love someone, you need to give them time. Your husband may come home tired from work. He may want to go out for drinks with his friends. Even with the passage of time. It doesn't disappear if you change. Once children enter the picture, things change again. We sometimes have our husband by the hip when we deal with all our attention to our children. That is something that as women, we should be mindful of. Of course we need to love our children, but do not forget about our husbands.

OD: I agree with you – and I think that will ultimately be a good lesson for our children as they grow.

EK: Absolutely. In today's day and age, both women and men work for many hours outside of the home and it's very little that there are misunderstandings. This is something that everyone should be mindful of. But when you know that your foundation is strong, you know that the love is strong and everything will work out. In the old days, women didn't work. I always used to say that I wanted to work like my dad. I didn't grow up with a nanny or a babysitter but I had my grandparents. However, as I grow older, and as I become more and more successful in my career, I keep thinking about how it might be difficult for me to leave the work behind. The fact is, you may not be able to be there for my kids if I decide to continue my career. Do you have any advice for that?

OD: The evolution of life is definitely very different. But it's not without pros pection and children. Parents need to dedicate constant time to their children every week – even if it just for 10 minutes a day. When I was a child, the time that each parent will give to their each child, not just in name, but actually in practice too.

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Evangelia Karanikas with her fiancé Ian Migliorini.

"The evolution of life is definitely very different. But it's not without protection and children. Parents need to dedicate constant time to their children every week— even if it just for 10 minutes a day. When I was a child, the time that each parent will give to their each child, not just in name, but actually in practice too."
As Aristophanes depicts it, we are made to love as the cure for our wound, or the "wound of human nature."
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