

Volume 1, Number 4 October - December 2008

Price 5 euro

# In-On

Special Term Crete Business Issue

[www.e-inon.com](http://www.e-inon.com)

## A New Skyscraper in Taiwan



ISSN 1791 - 019



## The voice of Crete

# In - On

Special Term Crete Business Issue

www.e-inon.com

Volume 1, Number 4 October - December 2008

Price 5 euro



FOTO IGD

## Subscription

Dear friends, if you wish to subscribe to "In-On" magazine, we inform you that subscription cost is:

- Annually for Greek citizens 25 euro for companies 35 euro, for legal entities 50euro
- Annually for European Countries 60 euro and for the rest of the Countries 70 euro

Annual subscription contains:

- Four issues of the three-month magazine "In-On"
- Access to special units of our site [www.e-inon.com](http://www.e-inon.com)

Payment

1) We charge the credit card VISA or MASTERCARD by referring to the number, expiry date, the last three numbers at the back of the credit card where the signature is placed, full name and address, telephone numbers and send by fax to 0030 2102117497

2) Bank Deposit

- Swift Address: BIC CRBAGRAA ALPHA BANK (IBAN) GR 40014010101002101262486

- Swift Address: EFGBGRAA EUROBANK (IBAN) GR6102601110000240100719414 justifying that it is for "In-On" magazine Subscription.

It is also necessarily to send by fax to 0030 2102117497 the deposit receipt, with clear letters the Full name and the telephone number or by e-mail to [e-inon@e-inon.gr](mailto:e-inon@e-inon.gr) the number of the deposit and your full number.

## Table of Contents

**3 Periscope:** Address by the President of TIF, Mr. Dimitris Bakatselos for "In-On" magazine

**4 Projection:** Rethymnian Beer "The technical specifications are German"

**6 First ladies:** Cretans never saw women as competitors but as a wife, mother and sister

**8 Greeks living Abroad:**

- AHEPA branches are increasing in Europe
- The voice of Crete
- 10 Special edition:**
- New security system products
- A New Skyscraper in Taiwan
- "NIKPOL" Expands to new markets

**13 Personalities of Crete:**

- Vassilis Skoulas "A gifted

lyre and mandolin player"  
• Michalis Troulis "A lifetime's vision"



FOTO IGD

## ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF TIF, Mr. DIMITRIS BAKATSELOS FOR "IN-ON" MAGAZINE



One of the most successful aspects of TIF's regional policy is organizing the Pan-Hellenic General Fair on Crete, which is holding its eighth event this year. Increasingly more effort has been made every year, on the part of both the administration and the personnel of TIF, so that the national exhibition product offered to the local business community is of the highest quality and so as to ensure that local entrepreneurs will come closer to productive forces from every part of the country.

In recent years CRETE has acquired a new dynamism, in the context of the enhanced regional role TIF plays. Through this fair, TIF's target is to provide a credible forum for producers and manufacturers of peripheral regions, to offer incentives for extroversion and to contribute towards improving the competitiveness of local economies. It is not a coincidence that CRETE is a significant asset in TIF's regional portfolio; it will continue to play a leading role in the company's regional actions.

At this year's event every effort has been made so that CRETE is appealing to the business community as well as to the consuming public; furthermore, the foundations have now been laid so that the event may lead to new opportunities and cooperation prospects. CRETE is a top exhibition event for the island and we have every intention of making sure it remains one.

However, TIF's ties with Crete have become all the closer with time and have gone beyond the context of the fair: TIF has signed a three-year planning agreement with Irakleion Chamber and has launched a cooperation scheme that is developing in a very satisfactory and mutually beneficial manner. Irakleion Chamber has supported our actions on the

island and has helped us locate the promotion needs emerging for Cretan enterprises; besides, the Chamber participates in TIF's venturing outside Greek borders.

This year's 8th CRETE 2008 Pan-Hellenic General Fair is being held under the organizational responsibility of TIF from the 2nd to the 5th of October at Crete International Exhibition Centre in Gournes, Irakleion. This eighth consecutive event underlines TIF's will to exploit and further reinforce the exhibition potential of the island. Indeed, in the framework of CRETE 2008, TIF, in cooperation with the Irakleion Prefecture, is organizing a day meeting for the promotion of local products as well as alternative tourism. Two more day meetings are to be hosted by the Fair on topics related to entrepreneurial extroversion and franchising.

In recent years, TIF has placed special emphasis on peripheral regions, because of the great need to promote enterprises and products there. This is why the company proceeds to establish cooperation schemes with local agencies, promotes new initiatives, introduces new themes, so as to make the exhibition product more attractive; TIF is always alert to keep up with new quests and aspirations of local communities. This is proven by the support TIF offered to the 2nd Regional Exhibition "Corinthia 2008", from the 17th to the 21st of September, under the organizational responsibility of Corinthia Chamber. This participation inaugurated TIF's cooperation with Corinthia Chamber, which is to be sealed by the two sides signing a memorandum in the immediate future. Similar cooperation schemes are being sought by TIF's administration so that the network of regional exhibitions and convention centres the company has established in recent years may be fully exploited.

# Rethymnian Beer



FOTO IGD

## The technical specifications are German

The Rethymnian Brewery (Ltd), which is located at the 12th kilometer of the National Road from Rethymnon to Spili, Crete, produces fifty thousand bottles per month. The basic shareholder is the German Bernd Brink, who is a qualified mathematician and a lecturer in the University of Stirling in Scotland. Rethymnian Beer is sold all over Greece in a bottle of 0,33 liters (black and lager), it is created on the basis of the German law 1516 "about the clearness of the ale" and has the hallmark of certification from the organization of biological products "ΔΗΩ". Beer is produced by water, malt, hops and yeast. The process is the following: malt is put in the mill to ripen. The seed simmers gently in the water tank of 38 degrees Celsius until it reaches 78 degrees Celsius. Due to fermentation, an enzyme is created which converts starch to sugar. Then, the product is carried to another tank where it is separated into its solid and liquid part. The liquid part boils with the hops. Later, the mixture goes through a special slate-shaped machine, where, when it gets cold, reaches the fermentation tank through pipes so as for the yeast to be added. The yeast converts the



sugar of the malt into alcohol, carbon dioxide and vitamins. The initial intense fermentation is completed within a week and then the ripening period starts. The process of ripening must be realized in low temperature, the beer mellows and carbon dioxide is produced which is responsible for its full taste and character.

### Curriculum vitae

Bernd Brink was born in 1969 in Arusberg, Germany and studied mathematics at the University of Aachen, close to the borders of Holland and Belgium. As a student, he worked in small breweries while he was making his own beer at home. He finished his Ph.D studies in Scotland and he is a lecturer at the University of Stirling in Scotland. He met his wife in Scotland, as well, who she was there on holidays. Since his wife's place of birth is Rethymnon, Crete, they decided to live in the island and in 1998 they launched

into a business enterprise and the first beer production was available in September 2001.

# Europcar

YOU RENT A LOT MORE THAN A CAR.

**Stations all over Crete:**  
**Heraklion D.T.**  
**Heraklion Apt**  
**Rethymnon**  
**Ag. Nikolaos**  
**Chania D.T.**  
**Chania Apt**  
**Hersonissos**  
**Paleohora**

**Telephone numbers:**  
**Heraklion:**  
**0030-2810-222001**  
**Greece:**  
**801 11 33 33 4**



IGD



FOTO IGD

Gianna Kefalogianni-Birliraki is the key-person responsible for the communication between the Greek Cretans abroad and their place of birth. Mrs. Gianna Kefalogianni-Birliraki is an elected prefectorial councilor in Rethymnon Prefecture in the field of emigrants-immigrants and sensitive social groups. She reported in an interview to IN-ON magazine that the emigrants' soul is overwhelmed by Greece and their heart is full of love for their country. The hope to return is indelibly printed on their mind and thought.

For those people communication with their place of birth, information and participation to what is going on in Greece, constitutes the "oxygen" that keeps them emotionally "alive", each one for personal reasons. Mrs. Gianna Kefalogianni-Birliraki clarified that nature has endowed women with special sensibilities and a wide range of emotions. This helps visualize things from a different angle and emphasize on issues that need special confrontation, such as the issue of emigrants-immigrants as well as sensitive social groups. Immigrants for financial reasons who live and work in Greece- the speaker stressed- face their own problems, too. These problems are located to mainly their smooth incorporation to the local community, to job issues, to different language and culture but to phenomena of racism, which even though are rare, they are not completely wiped out. In order to solve these problems, there is a close and I believe an efficient cooperation with the immigrants' forum as well as with all the municipalities of the Prefecture, while we have proceeded to many interventions on government level. There is also cooperation with the local associations AMEA of Rethymnon Prefecture, so as to confront many, already problems.

My involvement to these sections- she mentions- constitutes a soul-destroying process, indeed. At times, I have used my feminine intuition to avoid reaching a deadlock and other times I behave as a mother, a sister and a friend. However, after a hard day- she continued- I feel full and absolutely satisfied as only a woman and a mother can feel; a mother who always gives without expecting anything in return. I firmly believe, then, that a woman's character helps taking over the necessary responsibilities, beyond knowledge, offering a warm and caring look, tenderness and love. Concerning her accession to the office of prefectorial councilor Mrs. Gianna Kefalogianni-Bir-

## First Ladies

Cretans never saw women as competitors but as a wife, mother and sister

liraki underlined that "Crete is, undoubtedly, a region with special characteristics which contribute in a positive way to the development of feminine activities in all fields: political, social, scientific, artistic e.t.c.

Among those characteristics are respect and support, which the Cretan women cherish by the male popularity of the island. It is like the sky that embraces the Earth. Especially, the Cretan women, today, can go far in life if she has abilities, will to succeed and stamina and above all love

for what she wants to deal with.

### Curriculum Vitae

She was born in Anogeia, Crete in 1958. Her parents are Vassilis Kefalogiannis and Persefoni Sbokou. She is married to Nick Birlirakis, president of the Union of Agricultural Co-operatives of Rethymnon and has two children, Vasia and Constantinos. Since 1984 she permanently lives and works in Rethymnon. She became a member of the Hellenic Socialistic Party (ΠΑΣΟΚ) since its onset. Today, she is a member of the Regional Committee in Crete, responsible for the Sector of Consultation and Cooperation with Institutional Social Associates and Mass Movements. She is the Secretary General of the LABOUR CENTRE of Rethymnon and responsible for the Equality of sexes Office. She is the president of the Accountants Association and Officials of Private Enterprises of Rethymnon Prefecture. She is the president of the Children's Cultural Centre (ΠΑΙ.ΠΟ.Κ). She is the vice-president at the Institute of Labor at Γ.Σ.Ε.Ε. (Regional Committee). She is a member of Π.Ε.Ε.Κ.Α. (Regional Committee for Professional Constitution) of the Regional Council as a representative of the LABOUR CENTRE of Crete. She is the president of the Prefectorial Committee of the Equality of sexes Office ( N.E.I.) of Rethymnon. She is a member of the Financial and Social Committee ( O.K.E.) of Rethymnon. She is a member of the Co-ordination of the Female Associations of Rethymnon. She currently works in O.A.ΔΥ.Κ. ( an organization for the development in West Crete) in the post of a foreman and she is responsible of Public Relations and Secretaryship. Finally, she is an elected prefectural councilor, responsible for the emigrants-immigrants sector and sensitive social groups as well as the representative of the prefectural Government of Rethymnon to ENAE.



## AHEPA branches are increasing in Europe

'Within the next three years the building construction of the spiritual and cultural centre in Candanon, Chania in Crete will have been completed. It will host Greek Cretans from abroad so as to get to know their country better and 'feel' the Greek Language as well as the Greek civilization', underlined Dr. George Atsalakis, the president of the AHEPA branch of Crete 'HJ-6 KYDON CRETE', during an interview to IN-ON



magazine. He mentioned that a variety of classes will be realized in the cultural centre such as History, Ancient Greek Philosophy, the Ancient Greek system of government, social structure and organization as well as environment and its protection. The aim is to inform and sensitize Greek Youth abroad, the maintenance of Greek Language, the promotion of our tradition, the reinforcement of cultural diplomacy and the elevation of Greek civilization.

University professors and school teachers will teach at the spiritual and cultural centre, while there will be a four star hotel (180 beds availability) in order the Greek emigrants to stay at a close distance. The prices will be appealing for longer residence. As Mr. Atsalakis clarified, the area was given for free by the municipality of Candanon and since May 2008 a study of viability was constructed the School of Polytechnics taking into

account the protection of the environment. The building will be complete through a funds program and particularly each Cretan company will fund a room, which will have its name and the workmen will come from the Municipality of Candanon. The building will be used by Greeks who live in the United States of America, Canada and Australia. AHEPA members always aim at the reinforcement of Greek civilization, while the campaign of recruiting new members in Crete is on process, as Mr. Atsalakis pointed out. It has to be noted that there are two AHEPA branches in Crete, one in Chania and the other in Herakleion, while it is expected a new one to be created in Rethymnon. At the same time AHEPA HELLAS today, attempts to create branches to the rest of Europe under its supervision.

### Curriculum Vitae

Dr. Atsalakis teaches at the School of Polytechnics in Crete at the department of Mechanical Production and Administration. He was born in Kalyves, Apokornou, Chania, in 1962. In 1986 he graduated from the School of Economics (ex A.Σ.O.E.E). In 2000 he finished his post-graduate studies in Organization and Administration from the School of Polytechnics of Crete. In 2006, he was awarded a

Ph. D concerning share prices from the School of Polytechnics of Crete. Since 1987 he works as ΕΔΙΠ ΙΙ in the School of Polytechnics of Crete. His main research is based on prediction and modelization of the magnitude of finances with the use of intelligent calculating techniques from the field of neuronal network, ambiguous logic, neuro indefinite systems and genetic algorithms e.t.c. His research areas mainly focus on prediction Stock Exchange securities, exchange, foreign markets e.t.c. He has published a book entitled 'Stock Exchange Prediction' and written many articles in international magazines as well as participated in scientific conferences. Since 1987 he serves as a specialized financial councilor of small and medium-range companies. He is, also, the president of AHEPA branch in Crete, 'HJ-6 KYDON CRETE'.

## The voice of Crete



FOTO IGD

Mr. George Aerakis, who is the new president of the International Council of Cretans, will be the coordinator of the Council. Mr. George Aerakis is, in fact the second president since the creation of the Council - during the first Council in 2005, Mr. Stavros Semanteres was elected as president. Mr. George Aerakis' aim is the promotion of the Cretan products abroad, the familiarization of European Programs, the recording of the problems of Crete so as to come up with solutions as well as getting to know Greeks from abroad. Mr. Aerakis along with the new Council has already made contacts with Mr. Tsokas, the Regional Officer of Crete, the presidents of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Export Union of Crete, the Prefect of Herakleion and other important people of the island. More particularly, during the formal visit that Mr. Aerakis along with the members of the International Council of Cretans realized with the Prefect of Herakleion, Mrs.Schinaraki- Heliadi, it was stressed that the co-operation and collaboration of the Cretans all over the world through the coordination of the council, is of utmost importance. Additionally, the target of the Prefectural Authority for the promotion of the local tradition, traditional products, Cretan Diet as a model of a healthy way of living, as well as the touristic promotion of the island, was underlined.

Mrs.Schinaraki – Heliadi pointed out that" the Cretans who live abroad constitute the best multipliers of the principles of Crete to the countries they live in. They are active citizens who produce civilization and project their country in the best way. Shortly, the members of the Board of Directors of the International Council of Cretans will realize meetings with Greeks who live abroad and are involved either in politics or not. President Mr. Aerakis will participate from now on to the proceedings of the Council of the Greeks Abroad (ΣΑΕ).

The common goal is for 'the voice of Crete' to be in every part of the world through the project of Cretan Civilization and the relative advantages of the island. There was, also, a special reference to the fact that Crete is highlighted as a unified tourist destination which has already started to materialize through the good cooperation of the four prefects. It must be noted here that the International Council of Cretans ([www.pask.edc.uoc.gr](http://www.pask.edc.uoc.gr)) is the supreme council of the Cretans Abroad and it consists of four federations. The Pan-Hellenic Federation of Cretan Unions ([www.poks.gr](http://www.poks.gr)), the Pan-Cretan Union of America ([www.pancretan.org](http://www.pancretan.org)), the Pan-Cretan Federation of Europe ([www.pankritiki.eu](http://www.pankritiki.eu)) and the Cretan Federation of Australia and New Zealand ([www.cretan.com.au](http://www.cretan.com.au)) as well as hundreds of primary unions.

### Curriculum vitae

Mr. George Aerakis was born in Anogeia and he is the third child of Lefteris Aerakis and Fereniki Manoura. Until he was 12, he lived in Anogeia but then his family, as many others of that time, moved initially to Herakleion and later to Athens. When Greece became a member of the European Union in 1981, he succeeded in a competition which was organized by the European Parliament and next year he was employed to work in Luxembourg, where he works till today. He has studied Modern European History at the University of Mets – Nancy in France. He speaks French, English, Italian and Spanish. In 1993 Mr. George Aerakis and other people who loved Crete, created the Luxembourg Cretans Association through which there was a chance to promote Greece and Crete. He is a member of the Pan-Cretan Federation of Europe (in the board of directors), responsible of the Department of Culture and a member of the International Association of Nikos Kazantzakis' Friends (in the board of directors), Luxembourg branch. He is married to Rena Kouvidi, a teacher of Physics at the University of Athens and translator at the European Committee. She comes from Seisarha in Rethymnon. They have three children. Jason who studies Architecture at the University of Thessaloniki, Hector, who studies Law at the same University and Apollo, who is a pupil at Junior High School.



FOTO IGD

## New security system products

Mr. Antonis Tsourdalakis, the Greek shareholder of PLEXUS Company in Melbourne, Australia underlined that they offer to their Australian customers “security systems of new technology for houses, industries and shops. Our products, he continued, are close-circuit cameras for 24hr surveillance, monitors with video cameras, fire safety systems with sensors, as well as, security systems for the personnel. According to the laws of Australia as Mr. Tsourdalakis said, who comes from Rethymnon, Crete- a house construction cannot be approved if there are no fire safety sensors. Our company employs 15 people- he clarified- whose first concern is to realize all our 600 customers’ demands. In this way we have accomplished not to spend enormous amounts of money on advertisement, since we have gained the trust of our consumers. At the same time Mr. Tsourdalakis, apart from PLEXUS is also the owner of a subsidiary company specialized in accessories and car alarm systems, which was founded in Melbourne in 1988. It has to be noted that those car accessories are already imported in Greece, as well, mainly screens which are placed behind the seats of the driver and co-driver. According to the financial data for 2008, PLEXUS will have a

turnover of about 2 million Australian dollars and the products are distributed, apart from Melbourne, to Sydney and Adelaide. There are also business transactions with Hong Kong, Taiwan, China and Las Vegas. As Mr. Tsourdalakis pointed out, there are many Greek businessmen in Australia in the fields of industry (sanitary articles, food, wood processing and printing), construction companies, restaurants, stockbroker companies, insurance companies e.t.c. It must be stressed, he added, that there are many politicians of Greek origins, while the first Cretan Association was created in Melbourne in 1956.

### Curriculum Vitae

Mr. Tsourdalakis was born in Melbourne, Australia, in 1970 from Greek immigrants. He graduated from the University of Victoria (Australia) and he is a qualified accountant. In 1990, he became the co- founder of the Greek Youth Association of Australia. He is the ex- president of Rethymnians Association, Arkadi, and a member of the Board of Directors of the International Council of Cretans.

## A New Skyscraper in Taiwan



“The antiseismic armoring of the Ataturk Airport in Constantinople, after the destructive earthquake of 1999, the structural analysis and restoration of the dome of the Capitol in Washington D.C along with the planning and construction of the highest building in the world: the “Petrona” Twin Towers (451 meters tall) in Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia” are among Manolis Velivasakis’ greatest achievements. Manolis Velivasakis is one of the leading engineers in the U.S.A today, vice president and one of the eleventh shareholders of the colossal American construction company “Thornton-Tomasetti”, president of the subsidiary company “LZA Technology Division” as well as president of the Pan-Cretan Association of America.

According to his interview to IN-ON magazine, he works for the planning of the next tallest skyscraper in Tai Pei, Taiwan, which will be 508 meters tall. However, even though his successful career, Mr. Manolis Velivasakis has kept his love and interest for Crete alive.

Mr. Manolis Velivasakis is known for his participation of the clearing of Ground Zero. He was elected as the 25th president of the Pan-Cretan Association of America at the National Congress of the Organization in Las Vegas, Nevada last July.

His vision to reinforce the Pan-Cretan Association of America, to promote Greek civilization all over the United States of America and his intention to collaborate with all the Greek Associations abroad, are the cornerstones of his two years presidency.

Manolis Velivasakis was born in Crete, where he finished primary and secondary education and also did his military service. He, then, went to the U.S.A., where he completed his University and post-graduate studies. Since he was a student, he was a member in many Associations of Greeks living abroad. He contributes to the Pancretan Endowment Fund (PEF) for the Universities of Crete since 1986, which supports summer courses (internships) and seminars for the American Greek students at the University of Crete. Concerning young people Mr. Velivasakis mentions that “they already work with the Committee of Strategic Projects in order to approach the youth of 25 to 40 years old, with the aim

to invite them to the breast of the Pan-Cretan Association. This year, due to the donation by Nikos Vidalakis (\$100.000), we will have the opportunity to increase the number of scholarships from 60 to 70. This generous donation will allow Pan-Cretan Association to send ten more children to Crete.

Among Mr. Velivasakis’ targets is his attempt to “revive” the Pan-Cretan Associations through attracting and activating young adults (professionals, businessmen, scientists and others).

There are two other targets that the Pan-Cretan Association under the leadership of Mr. Velivasakis will try to accomplish; the creation of the House of the Pan-Cretan Association in New York and the creation of the Cretan Village at Atsipopoulo,

which is next to the University of Crete.

It has to be mentioned here that because of an anonymous donation, the official records of the Cretans in America will be collected, classified and kept at the maliotian Cultural Centre of Boston. Regarding the Cretan Village Mr. Velivasakis explains that “the local parish offered a piece of land of 30 square meters. The preliminary study has already been conducted and we set up technical committees to examine the project.

### Curriculum vitae

Manolis Velivasakis was born in 1948 in Kamarioti, Malevizion at the foot of Mount Psiloritis. He received secondary education in Herakleion, Crete, did his military service

at the Greek Army and went to New York to study. There, he graduated and also completed his post-graduate studies as a civil engineer. Manolis Velivasakis worked as a teacher of Mechanics at New York Institute of Technology and now he teaches at the Institute of Design & Construction. For these achievements he was honored by: James R. Lincoln Engineering Foundation, City College Alumni Association, US Consulting Engineers Council, American Society of Civil Engineers and the City of New York. The Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Municipality of Athens honored him with a cup and an award for his initiatives regarding Ground Zero and the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople nominated him as a “Lord of Order of Jesus Christ Big Church”.





## “NIKPOL” EXPANDS TO NEW MARKETS

“NIKPOL” Enterprises is predicted to have 15% raise this year. The company, which has got 2.000 customers, manufactures and trades in as a representative furniture, bathtubs, kitchen fittings and fixtures and raw materials for carpenters. The central offices are located in Melbourne, Australia. The company was created by the Greek Cretan Mr. Nikos Nikolakakis and his wife Polymnia Nikolakakis. “NICPOL” Enterprises started in 1982 and the first products were doors for furnished kitchens. As the owners told us, they now have 5.000 items in stock, sell their products all over Australia and import from Europe and Asia. They have started importing from Greece, as well, especially from the region of Thessaloniki. Their business course in Australia was initiated in 1967, where Mr. Nikolakakis, after working as a salesman for three months in a private company, decided to set up his own business with dowry items. Until 1982, he was selling household items such as tablecloths and cutlery from China and other countries. The best customers are considered to be Greeks, Cyprians and Italians and Turks. So far, the company employs 40-50 salesmen in Melbourne.

### Curriculum vitae

Mr. Nikolakakis was born at Neriana, Cydonia in Chania, Crete and he is a member of the consultative committee of the Pan-Cretan Union in Australia. Until his military service, he lived in Chania, Crete. A few years later his future wife, who was born in Vryses, Apokornou, Chania, invited him to go to Australia. According to Mr. Nikolakakis' words this invitation was the result of a match-making by a woman they both knew through correspondence. This correspondence lasted for a year and Mr. Nikolakakis decided to leave Crete and go to Australia in order to marry his wife, who was already in Melbourne for a year and a half. He reached Australia in 1963 and got married to Polymnia. In Melbourne, he worked as an assistant for a short time and with the help of his wife he set up his own business. Today, the company is handed over to Mr. Nikolakakis' children (two boys and a girl). In particular, Giannis is responsible for the Public Relations while Spyros for the financial section.



## Vassilis Skoulas

An interview  
to Demetra Galonaki

## Personalities of Crete

### A GIFTED LYRE AND MANDOLIN PLAYER

“ She often used to see dreams that frightened her, as if she was a jasmine in the middle of a war” (lyrics: Kostas Fasoulas music: Marios Tokas). The interview to IN-ON magazine of the gifted Anogeian Cretan music composer and singer Vassilis Skoulas at the mountainous resort of “Delina” at Anogeia in Rethymnon, Crete, started with the above lyrics.

At the traditional kafeneio (coffee shop) of the resort, at the peaceful time of sunset, Vassilis Skoulas unfolded his life in front of Demetra Galonaki's eyes in a soft voice respecting, the sounds of nature.” I was born on 3rd February, 1946 in Anogeia, Rethymnon, Crete . I was the eighth of the nine children of my family. My father kept a traditional kafeneio in Anogeia, a place where people used to meet, have fun and create. We are close relatives to Xilouris brothers.

“My father bought me my first lyre when I was seven, he continued, but it was my grandfather who initiated me into the delights of Cretan music. Very soon, even though a primary school pupil, I composed my first melodies. At the age of eleven, I played the lyre for the first time during school sports. In 1958, when I finished primary school, I performed for the first time with the help of live orchestra at a wedding. I used to perform as a lyre-player at Herakleion region and soon I became known all over Crete not only for the Cretan songs but also for the European ones. When I was discharged from the army I started playing Cretan music at Herakleion. However, I would like to mention that I love playing the mandolin, as well”. He described the years of his military service briefly since according to his words “he had a rough time during his service at 22 EMA in Thessaloniki because his general was one of the most important people of the junta. Concerning the night of 21st April, he pointed out that” he was at Goudi on that dreadful night”. Just the day before, on April 20th, Pattakos and Makarezos made a speech “ about the ideals of the nation

and how the communists and especially Andreas Papandreou put it in danger”. On 21st April they imprisoned old Georgios Papandreou, Panagiotis Kanelopoulos, Georgios Mavros along with other political leaders.

In 1970, when Vassilis Skoulas finished his military service, he entered the music industry. In 1971 he got married to his first wife at Ohio, U.S.A. He was awarded a “gold record” in 1977 and he worked with Giannis Markopoulos in 1980. In 1981, he had two job offers; either to work for Smaroula Yiouli or to participate in the performance” Kafeneion Hellas”. He chose the latter and worked with Giannis Koutras, Lizeta Nikolaou, Mimis Fotopoulos and Aphrodite Manou. Concerning his cooperation with Mimis Fotopoulos he recalled that he was not only a talented actor but also a gifted painter. Actually, he said that Mimis Fotopoulos was called “the painter with the stamp” because he was painting using pieces of stamps. He continued by showing to the reporter a portrait of his father painted by Mimis Fotopoulos.

Since 1982, Vassilis Skoulas focused on Cretan and folk music. His sensual voice travelled all over the world offering unforgettable moments to Greek and International audiences. A special concert was given this summer when he was invited to Switzerland to sing for the Swiss Philhellenic Association, an audience that appreciates Cretan music. Some of his best-known musical pieces are: “ 10 songs accompanied by mandolin” entitled “Dewdrops”, “Wild Birds” (lyrics: Kostas Fasoulas, music: Giannis Nikolaou), “The Root of Fire”, in which Manolis Lidakis participates in a traditional song, “Aeolia” by Michalis Nikoloudis, lyrics: Paris Nitsos, “The Sad Hermit” (lyrics: Nikiforos Vrettakos, music: Panayiotis Konstantakopoulos) .In his last work, which is entitled “Wave a White Handkerchief”, he cooperated with Marios Tokas while Pantelis Thalassinou and Maria Alexiou participated.

● Michalis Troulis

## A lifetime's vision

‘At the beginning of 2009, the inauguration of the Public Library of Rethymnon will take place after 18 years of struggle, underlined to IN-ON magazine the chief librarian of the Public Library in Rethymnon and the president of the Historic and Folklore Society of Rethymnon, Mr. Michalis Troulis. Mr. Troulis has studied History and Archaeology at the University of Athens and the Library of Rethymnon was the goal of his life. In 1998 he started by buying a building site at the west part of Rethymnon and then he proceeded to the completion of an architectural study, which has been submitted to Rethymnon Town Planning Office. The whole process is supported by the Ministry of Education and the budget has been defined to four millions. However, Mr. Troulis' work is not limited only to the building construction of the Public Library. As a president, he has realized a journal publication of the Historic and Folklore Society of Rethymnon with 19 volumes containing Cretan literature. It is a rare edition with studies regarding History, Archaeology, Philosophy, Linguistics and Art. The published studies keep the scientific way of presenting facts with the necessary annotation and bibliographical documentation. Within the 19 volumes, the fights of the Cretan people for freedom are unfolded and all the names of the heroes, who played an important role in the liberation of the island, are mentioned. The editorial committee was consisted of Spyros Manieros, Aspasia Papadaki, Michalis Papadakis ( Dandolos), Giannis Papomytoglou, Michalis Troulis and Alexis Tsourdalakis. Indicatively, the 14th volume refers to the Cretan Liberation Movements (1898-1998), starting from the revolution of 1897 in the east regions of Crete, recording historical moments from the city of Rethymnon in 1897. The absolute poverty of the Christian population at Rethymnon from 1886 until 1898, is also, registered, along with

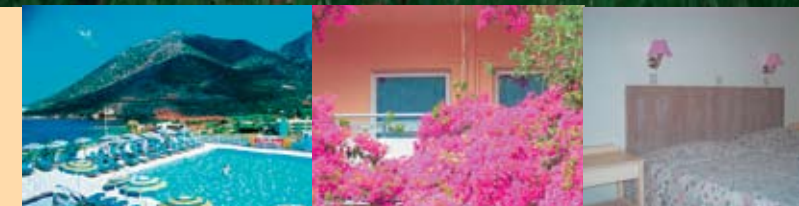


Lorentzos Mavilis, the patriots from Corfu island and Crete, the establishment of Cretan Muslims at the end of the 19th century to Rhodes island as well as public Christian instruction in Crete during the 19th and the beginning of the 29th century.

At the same time, Mr. Michalis Troulis proceeded to writing a book entitled ‘‘Emanuel Vyvilakis; his life, his activities and his work’’, which is available since 2005 at Rethymnon, Crete.

Mr. Michalis Troulis was born in 1943 at Agia Rethymnon in Crete. In 1960 he attended the Divinity School of Chalki from September to February (a whole semester). Then the Turks shut it down. He continued in the Divinity School of Thessaloniki and later in Athens when during the third year he left university. After that he got into the School of Philosophy and took his degree in History and Archaeology. During junta, he was a member of PAK and in 1970 he could not be appointed as a teacher because he had not been given the ‘‘conformity’’ certificate by the government. The main accusation was that he was acquainted with construction workers and longshoremen.

In 1972, PAK sent him to Crete, where he started teaching as a Greek Literature teacher. However, he was never able to become an archaeologist due to his union-trade action. In 1986 he had postgraduate studies for a year and when he returned he was seconded on the Department of Philosophical and Economical Studies where he was responsible for practical applications. He remained until 1993. Later, under his proposal the Regional Department of the Public Record Office was created by the name ‘‘ Public Records of Rethymnon Prefecture, where he worked until 1988. He was asked to return to the post of a school teacher but he did not wish to, so he resigned. His goals have changed and his priority now is writing books and the creation of the Public Library of Rethymnon in Crete. These goals are accomplished.



[www.baliparadise.gr](http://www.baliparadise.gr) ♦ [info@baliparadise.gr](mailto:info@baliparadise.gr)

Club **Lookéa**

Bali ParadiseBeach  
Gr 74057 Bali Rethymnon  
Crete Greece

Tel.: 0030 28340 94253  
Tel.: 0030 28340 94254  
Fax: 0030 28340 94255

Ελληνικά

English

News Agency

**In - On**

[www.e-inon.com](http://www.e-inon.com)

N  
A

