

Hellenic Bar Associations Pledge To Work Together

This July 2009, representatives from the Hellenic Bar Association of Illinois and the Hellenic Lawyers Association of New York, the two largest Hellenic bar associations in the country, met to discuss ways in which to promote the interests Greek-American attorneys. Diamond Mendonies, President of the Hellenic Bar Association (HBA) of Illinois, and Elena Paraskevas-Thadani, Vice-President of the Hellenic Lawyers Association (HLA) of New York, met at (where else) a Greek Restaurant called Yianni's Cafe in Schamburg, Illinois. Their meeting was a long-time in the making - HLA President Mamie Stathatos-Fulgieri and former



Diamond Mendonies, President of the HBA of Illinois and Elena Paraskevas-Thadani, Vice-President of the HLA of New York.

President Mark Pulakidas have been

discussing ways in which the two organizations can help each other for almost two years.

The meeting between the two organizations was very fruitful. The grounds were laid for more frequent communication, possible joint programs and conferences and a free exchange of ideas and resources. While the goals of both organizations are very similar - scholarships to law students, outreach to the community, and programs and networking for their members, specific programs and methods vary and the two organizations hope to learn from each other and improve their offerings to their membership. The cooperation of

these two associations is they key to the success of a national Hellenic lawyers association, which is in the works. For now, the groundwork having been laid, the leaders of the HLA and the HBA hope for more opportunities to break bread together.

The HBA and the HLA are believed to be the oldest and largest Hellenic Lawyer Associations in the United States. There are estimated to be about 500 Hellenic American attorneys in the Chicago area and more than twice that number in the New York City area. For more information on the HBA or HLA visit www.hellenicbar.org or www.helleniclawyersassociation.org

Loukoumi's Good Deeds Wins Disney's iParenting Media Award As Outstanding Book Of 2009

New York: *Loukoumi's Good Deeds*, the book and CD by Nick Katsoris, Narrated by Jennifer Aniston and John Aniston has won a Disney iParenting Media Award naming it *Outstanding Book of 2009*.

Loukoumi's Good Deeds is the third title in the award winning series of illustrated books about a fluffy little lamb named Loukoumi. Featuring a CD narrated by Jennifer Aniston and Days of Our Lives star John Aniston, the book follows Loukoumi through her day as she discovers how easy it is to make other people happy by doing something nice. The CD also contains an original song by GRAMMY award winning legend Gloria Gaynor titled *Make Someone Smile*.

Loukoumi's Good Deeds continues the adventures of Loukoumi and her friends Gus the Bear, Fistiki the Cat, Dean the Dog and Marika the Monkey. Whether it's cleaning the house, lending a helping hand or showing your grandparents how much you love them, kids will find that each good deed is unique in its own special way and can make a huge difference in the lives of those around them.

In addition to the Anistons, the CD also features the character voices



Frank & Olivia Dicopoulos, Nick Katsoris, Alexis Christoforou, Loukoumi, John Aniston, Gloria Gaynor, Constantine Maroulis, Marcy Rylan, and Teja Anderson at the Loukoumi's Good Deeds premiere last April.

of Oscar winner Olympia Dukakis, Gloria Gaynor (GRAMMY winner for *I Will Survive*), *American Idol's* Constantine Maroulis, *Guiding Light* star Frank Dicopoulos and CBS News anchor Alexis Christoforou as the voice of Loukoumi.

The CD features a bonus story, *Loukoumi's Gift*, narrated by John Aniston, in which Jennifer voices the part of Daisy the Giraffe, who teaches Loukoumi that a gift need not cost a lot of money, but instead can come straight from the heart.

Loukoumi's Good Deeds is dedicated to Judge Nicholas Tsoucalas and Daisy, a cleaning lady from an office author Nick Katsoris worked at 15 years ago. The story is inspired by the real life experience when Daisy gave Katsoris a pair of gold cufflinks because he said "Good Morning" to her every day. The part of Daisy on the CD is voiced by Jennifer Aniston. While the award-winning *Loukoumi's Good Deeds* was released in April, the second book narrated by the Anistons, *Loukoumi's Gift*, will be released

this Fall.

Every time a child reads *Loukoumi's Good Deeds* they too will be performing a good deed. \$2.00 from the sale of each book is donated to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital®

ABOUT iPARENTING MEDIA AWARDS

iParenting Awards, a Disney Interactive Media Group property, is part of the Disney Online Mom and Family Portfolio, which includes Disney Family.com, FamilyFun.com, PregnancyToday.com and BabiesToday.com.

iParenting Awards is the leading family products evaluation program that is committed to helping parents make informed decisions as they choose products for their families. The iParenting Awards' method for testing and evaluating products requires review by leading experts, parents and childcare providers, and each product is evaluated on numerous attributes such as quality, durability, age-appropriateness and play value, among many others. The iParenting Awards product testing and evaluation practices ensure that the highest quality products offering the best value for families are recognized in the marketplace. •

Greek American Performing Arts Festival

New York: Queens Theatre in the Park (QTP), a leading cultural not-for-profit arts organization dedicated to inspiring and growing audiences for theatre and music, announced its 2009 Greek-American Performing Arts Festival featuring acclaimed Greek Composer/Pianist Mimis Plessas at her U.S. Debut Concert Performance with Greek Vocalist Evi Siamanda and Vibraphonist Christos Rafalides. The four-day festival, celebrates the rich history of Hellenic culture and the contributions of its many contemporary and traditional talented artists, writers, and performers September 24 through 27, 2009. The festival is held at Queens Theatre in the Park at Flushing Meadows Park in Queens, NY. It will feature concerts, staged readings, film, an agora-like fair with music and folklore workshops, children's shadow-pup-



Pianist Mimis Plessas with Vocalist Evi Siamanda

pet show, as well as culinary demonstrations and samples.

"As a third-generation Greek-American, it's been an honor once again to bring some amazingly talented Greek and Greek-American artists to the attention of the Queens and NYC community, and to have the opportunity to showcase this talent at QTP's wonderful facility," said Jay House Samios, Artistic Director of the Festival.

"This year, we are happy to announce that we will have full use of our facility, which has recently undergone a \$23 million dollar publicly funded expansion and renovation to better serve the cultural needs of the growing and diverse community of New York City," said Jeff Rosenstock, Executive Director of Queens Theatre in the Park.

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