



Maro & Ελισσαίος / Eliseos Paul Taiganides,

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HAPPINESS IS ... STAGING THE WORLD PREMIERE OF THE TRIAL OF ANTIGONE IN GREEK IN AVDOU, CRETE

with locals to the delight of the entire village plus returnees from **diaspora** for the annual August 2-week long festivities of cultural performances and dinner dances. The play is a theatrical narrative of the Theban Trilogy of **Sophocles'** 3 dramas



Oedipus the Rex, Oedipus at Colonus and Antigone. I am translating it into English for presentation in Columbus in 2020!

MEMORIES ARE MADE OF ...THE ENDLESS DAYS OF SUMMER WITH 9 GRANDILDREN, TO BECOME 10 IN 2020

swimming in crystal clear waters of our **Limanaki** beach [*by far the best in the entire world*] where 3,000 years ago Cretan King **Idomeneus** welcomed peripatetic **Odysseus** on his *nostos* from Troy to Ithaca soon after he escaped the 1-eyed cyclop



Polyphemus. **Gorgona** taverna [*left segment of the foto collage*] upgraded to clean kitchen to meet EU code standards; **Maro** is sunning in the 2nd segment; in the 3rd segment seductive **Circe** is tempting Odysseus to her deserted **Dias Island**; in the 4th, Queen **Penelope** swam from **Ithaca** to Limanaki to urge Odysseus to return home where hegemony was assumed by a **kleptocrat** who is abusing the sanctity of hospitality, deprecating women, abolishing environmental safeguards & ...!

HAPPINESS IS ... STARTING JANUARY 2019 WITH TRADITIONAL BASQUE DISHES COOKED BY OUR DUTIFUL



son-in-law **Aitor Ezcurra** in Potomac, MD, celebrating with World Bank colleagues Brazilian **Angelica**, French **Olivier** + Greek **Vasia** and their daughter **Alexia** [foto]. January 2, we celebrated **Maro's** 83rd birthday with lunch across the Potomac River in Leasburg, Virginia, dividing South from the North. January ended with Greek sensation 21-year old **Stefanos Tsitsipas** defeating 38-year old Swiss **Federer** in the Australian Tennis Grandslam with tiebreakers in 5 sets, but lost in the semifinal to **Nadal**, who was demolished by **Djokovic** in the final!

MEMORIES ARE MADE OF ... FEBRUARY 1 BREAKFAST IN THESSALONIKI JOINING THE SEKE GROUP BOOTH AT



Zootechnia Exhibition for the **last time** after 2 decades! In Beroia on Sunday, enjoyed a fantastic gourmet lunch at our niece's **Sophia** home [foto]; **Spyros** of SEKE & his wife joined us for lunch; the traditional annual gathering of my family dining and folk dancing on Monday night. We were honored by **Anna** who drove 500 km from

Athens with our first-born granddaughter **Alessandra** to the family reunion. **Maro** flew to Crete & stayed till November, after overnighing at Thessaloniki's best boutique hotel **Bahar** and dinner at Cretan gourmet food taverna **Haroupi**. I flew back to Columbus; I dined with **Mihalis** Mirinis of Patras U., **Marianna** Katsoyiannou of Cyprus U. & **Chris** Brown of OSU who helped me edit the Greek version of **The Trial of Socrates** book; I hope to publish it in Greek along with **The Trial of Antigone**.

HAPPINESS IS...THE \$1 MILLION GOAL FOR A PROFESSOR OF GREEK IN PERPETURITY REACHED IN APRIL



Celebrations began with the visit from Greece of Dr. **Niki Kalogiratos**, director of communications for Capital Shipping of **Evangelos Marinakis**, one of top 100 ship owners in the world and biggest donor; joined her at the university Honors banquet [foto] along with grandson Alexis and 3 donors also being honored; met

with OSU Vice President **Papadakis** and Classic Department chairman **Kaldellis** [foto collage]; dinner at my home with entertainment by fiddler **John Georgiton**. now that son **Paul** & **Anna** abandoned Granville for Athens and Avdou, I spent Easter holiday in the Adamantidis gathering of dozens of friends for the Elias **style** of lamb roasting [foto].

MEMORIES ARE MADE OF... IN MAY, FLYING TO MADRID, SPAIN AND STAYING WITH THE MATEOS FOR A WEEK

to watch live Tsitsipas and Djokovic at the **Caja Mágica** tennis tournament: we watched Medvedev lose; **Tsitsipas** beat Nadal in the semis but Djokovic beat Tsitsipas in the final! But also, to recall our good old days of university life in Ames, Iowa, in



the **Golden Age** of America in the late 1950s early 1960s when America was the **beacon** of the world.

Brigitte was teaching French to **Maro**; Manuel and I were PhD engineering candidates. We toured Madrid on open bus [foto], a gorgeous richly endowed city of incredibly rich monuments, magnificent Prado Museum built with riches seized from the colonized Americas; visited messianic but beautiful Avila, Manuel's hometown & lunched at a bar full of dictator

Franco memorabilia, a sign of the resurgence of nationalism, xenophobia in Spain & even in ...! In the process, we missed attending the graduation of our grandsons **Alexi** from The Ohio State University, [we will miss his weekend bike ride visits for steak, grilled corn on the cob & grilled baked potato], and grandson **Gabriel** from the University of Colorado: 3 out 6 to go!

HAPPINESS IS... JUNE DINNERS IN ATHENS BY CONGENIAL EXECUTIVE WOMEN VOVOLINI & FAY YPSILANTI



Economia CEO **Alexandra Vovolini** treated us to gourmet dinner at her walled multi-acre estate in Ecali; *Alter Ego* CEO **Fay Ypsilanti** with **Niki Kalogiratos** of the Marinakis organization treated us to a marvelous dinner of exquisite selection of sea fishes at the *Microlimano* harbor in Piraeus.

With **Chris** Bouzounis we saw Bellini's opera **Norma** at Herodeion under the shadow of the Parthenon which we watched lit while sipping ouzo with mezedes afterwards from *Dionysos Taverna* across from the Acropolis, as every time since 1975!

MEMORIES ARE MADE OF...A WEEK IN PANKRATI, ATHENS, ENJOYING THE WITHIN 20-METERS TREE-ENDOWED

park where friendly tiny bars offer refreshments under the shade of tall trees to friendly 5-story apartment buildings inhabitants from many parts of Greece and the world; fish & fruit markets, up-scale restaurants, small supermarkets and eateries such as our favorite *Alexandrino* [foto] are within walking distance of our 3rd floor apartment [actually our daughter's].



There are people walking on the streets all day long and evenings vs our suburban living where a car is occasionally seen from our windows. We celebrated the graduation from the Athens American School of the twin sons of **Anneza** and **Giannis** T, the son of our sister **Efi** [foto], who are now studying in London, the city whose future as the capital of internationalism is becoming precarious with Brexit looming. Grandson **Niko** is now also thinking of joining the twins

in UK when he too graduates from the American School in 2020 with academic and athletic honors [foto #916].

HAPPINESS IS... TAKING THE LUXURIOUS FERRY BOAT TO CRETE TO RESUME OUR USUAL SUMMER ROUTINES



of morning coffee with fruit [foto] in **Maro's** full of flowers magic court in our Avdou *koutouki*; finally after 25 years, the outhouse was replaced with a first-class bathroom with modern shower; finally, all the walls upstairs and downstairs were painted **white** [foto]. We got back to the routine of swimming in midmorning either at *Limanaki* or *Meltemi* on a high cliff on the east side of Hersonissos harbor with open sandy beach and first class facilities; lunch by the sea, a 2-hour nap, a bit of writing for the theater for the August festivities, ouzo & souvlaki @9 PM at *Ciff's* taverna where everyone who can walk or ride a Vespa [90+ neighbor *Zacharias*] gather in the evenings for chats and cards!

MEMORIES ARE MADE OF... JULY ANCIENT BAPTISMAL RITES IN THE AEGEAN SEA OF THE 2 OFFSPRINGS



of **Meridith & George** Schwindt of Pasadena California, whom I baptized at the *Limanaki* a decade earlier when I also performed the matrimonial rites for them in Avdou; **Tasos & Eleonorah**, who are expecting one of their own offspring in July, served as *Koumparoi*, in both sacred events; the rites were witnessed by martyrs from America to Norway [foto]; we adjourned to *Gorgona* taverna for dinner, drinks and singing at the delight of their international guests! **Katerina** and **Anna's** families arrived and so did our favorite guests **Angeliki & Antonis** Grivas from Cyprus, the **Nikoleta & Alexander** *Odysseas* Morariu family from Romania plus **Amato** and her daughters from Argentina, **Angie** & sister from Columbus, **Lisa** and **Ivar** from Athens OH; **Voula & Elias** from Athens.

HAPPINESS IS... GOING TO ELIAS' NAMEDAY GLENDI JULY 20 BY THE AWSOME WATER CATARACTS OF EDESSA

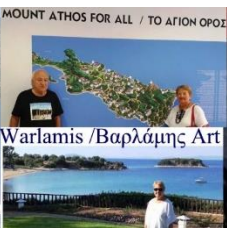
Takis and **Rafael** providing folk music as since we met in Glyfada 15 years ago. Afterwards we drove to nearby Gianitsa where many Taiganides cousins moved from our village of Polymylos 40 years ago. We were hosted by **Maria & Sophia**



daughters of **Aristides** Taiganides & their family, cousin **Lefteris** [foto] with his son & the son of **Panagiotis**; they operated a restaurant in Zoodohos Pigi/Polymylos before. The **Adamantidis & Yiorgos** Hatzifotinos joined us! On the way, we

visited *Pella* [foto], the palace of King Philip the Great and toured the museum that exhibits the achievements of Alexander the Great who within 10 years went from Vergina to India subduing the entire Persian Empire including Afghanistan!

MEMORIES ARE MADE OF.. A BOAT TOUR OF Mt. ATHOS HOLY MOUNTAIN FROM 500m DISTANCE FROM SHORE



We stayed 2 nights in the gateway to Mt. Athos Ouranoupolis /*Heavenly city* main street arranged by our congenial nephew **Pavlos**, my sister's son, who manages exhibits of the art of **Warlamis /Βαρλάμης** and dined with artist **Eli Vakaleri** and breakfasted at her nearby cottage. We visited in nearby *Ierissos* city the permanent exhibit of Warlamis art [foto].

Friendly **Pavlos** [foto] arranged for Ecumenical Patriarch **Bartholomew** from Constantinople, Turkey, to attend the inauguration of a Warlamis art exhibition. Spent a wonderful evening at the beautiful **Alexandra** and **Christos** Yessios estate [foto] on top of a cliff over a sandy beach cove in Halkidiki and dined on fish in *Neos Marmaras*.

HAPPINESS IS... AUGUST JOY WITH CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN & GUESTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD.



Son **Paul** came from Baghdad and as every year hosted along with the **Adamantidis** of Columbus, OH, a dinner @ *Stelios* taverna [foto] for our nephews from Beroia **Paulina & Theodoris** Taiganides, Herakleion **Maria** Hnaraki. We enjoyed **Karen & Dan** Graham [fotos in our Avdou home & lunch @*Limanaki*] from Greenville South Carolina, and relatives from Heraklion [foto]. As every year, we loved the daily evening dinner dances and cultural events for the first 2 weeks of August, for example: 3,000+ people for dinner [foto] followed by all night dancing 7 pm to 7 am concert by the Cretan lyra *Psaro Yiorgis* band!

MEMORIES ARE MADE OF...STAGING THE WORLD PREMIERE OF THE TRIAL OF ANTIGONE IN AVDOU IN AUGUST



HAPPINESS IS...AUGUST BIRTHDAY GLENDI FOR OUR GODSON MORARIU & MARO'S HERAKLION RELATIVES



If it is August 7, it is the annual dinner dance of **Odysseas** Morariu for our families @Limanaki with **Frangakis** playing the Cretan lyra. At Cifi's taverna we hosted relatives from Heraklion & Beroia and friends from Avdou after the theater.

MEMORIES ARE MADE OF... SEPTEMBER TENNIS NONG 4 GANG; FOOTBALL YESSIOS 4 GANG, WEDDING FOR

Hellenized **Athená** of Granville attended by **Anna** & her children by *Lake Como* in Italy; by the *Olentangy River* we watched OSU beat 13 university teams rising to #1. Tennis 2 to 3 times a week with the Nong4: **Nong, I, Dimitri, David** on Tuesday, **George** on Saturdays @OSU **Jesse Owens** courts! **Chris Yessios** flies in for the weekend from NY: home cooking Greek dinners after the 4+ hours 1-hour games at the homes of **Maria Mandas, Voula Adamantidis!**



HAPPINESS IS...2 WEEKS IN CHINA HOSTED BY THE TAN HONG KHOON FAMILY IN OCTOBER @HIS SUNISLAND

resorts with cherished friends of 40 years **Nina** and Ngiam Tong **Tau, Sally** and Tan Hong **Chiew**, who flew from Singapore; **Maro** flew from Greece, I from the USA, and we all met at the Shanghai airport **Starbucks** coffee shop! We were dined nightly [foto] by the affable Mrs. Tan, Chi Chih **Ping** and her charming daughters **Carrie & Janis** [foto] running the Shanghai



resort and the Chongming island vegetables and pig farm with the same old staff [foto] with high-tech waste treatment plant; drove to golf resort in Suzhou, the silk capital, and to the upgraded one in the industrial city of Kunshan plus we were flown to the Penlai, Shandong, resort to harvest Cabernet Sauvignon grapes [foto] for vintage wines for the 6 Sun Island golf resorts in the corridor from world famous *asparagus* cluster of Shanghai skyscrapers to historic capital city of Nanjing! Toured the ancient city of JJJ with canal boat rides & myriads of shops, guided by **Elaine**, teenager a decade ago, now with a son.

MEMORIES ARE MADE OF...NOVEMBER: RED ELANDRA, THANKSGIVING, TSISTSIPAS, VELEGRAKIS, MEXICO!

The 2020 **Elandra** has the latest safety features and still does 40 mpg. Watched **Tsitsipas** lift the championship trophy in London beating the top 8 tennis titans of the world. Mutual grandson **Eliseo** joined us for Thanksgiving at his grandparents **Bob & Carol** Trocchia family in Bremen, OH. Hosted **Rena & Manolis** Velegrakis visiting for a month from Herakleion, Crete, the 7-



year old daughter of their doctor daughter working at The Ohio State University Medical Center! We dined at a Mexican taqueria with the Mandas and the Adamantidis, the latter along with the Vranas will join us for 2 weeks in **Mexico**, February 2020 visiting the **Ferreira, Robledo, Villalobos** amigos with whom we toured Greece in 2004 the year of the Athens Olympics.

HAPPINESS IS...DECEMBER IN WASHINGTON DC SAVORING CHRISTMAS WITH KATERINA'S FAMILY & FRIENDS

like **Vasia & Olivier** Godron at their annual Christmas party in a house jammed with art and artifacts from around the world & annual Christmas time dinner followed by cards playing and jazz jamming sessions at the splendid home of Anita & Mike



Brassart, but the annual holiday event is the singing of Christmas carols at **Katerina** and **Aitor's** home to which 60 to 100 people come speaking dozens of languages from all over the world; and those who stay late in the night hear the melodic duets of **Katerina** and her teenage daughter beach ball star **Itxaso** followed by blues jamming by talented guitarist son **Inigo**.

Best wishes for double happiness in 2020 with double vision to recover the Pre.. & the Sen..!