

Remembering yesterday...



Daughters of Penelope



Creating tomorrows



◀ Alexandra Apostolides Sonenfeld ▶

History

The Daughters of Penelope was the realization of Alexandra Apostolides Sonenfeld's dream. Her desire was to create a woman's organization and because of her perseverance and the encouragement of her husband Dr. Emanuel Apostolides, a devoted Ahepan, she formed Eos Chapter #1 with 25 charter members on November 16, 1929 in San Francisco, California. She was elected the first Grand President in 1931.

Mrs. Apostolides envisioned a new beginning for the Greek American women. She drafted the basic principles of the organization which were an inspiration to all women.

The Daughters of Penelope is the women's organization of the AHEPA Family (American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association) with headquarters in Washington, D.C., and today is the leader in philanthropic, educational and cultural activities with over 350 chapters in the United States, Canada, Greece and Cyprus with sister chapters in Australia.

The establishment of the first Canadian Chapter in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan by Sister Cleo Girgulis in 1938 paved the way for the Daughters of Penelope to become an international organization. A few years later, the dream of forming the first Daughters' chapter in Greece became a reality making our bonds to the mother country stronger.

The Daughters of Penelope not only help others through monetary contributions, they lend a helping hand to those in need by devoting countless hours of volunteer work to hospitals, old people's homes, women's and daycare centers and other charitable causes; organizing educational seminars and scholarships; establishing old age homes and women's shelters; support their local church and make a huge difference in their community.

Objectives

The objectives of the Daughters of Penelope are to promote Hellenism, Education, Philanthropy, Civic Responsibility, Family and Individual Excellence. The Daughters of Penelope encourage and promote loyalty to the country in which they live; cultivate the ideals and traditions of Hellenism; promote opportunities of education; and promote the spirit of cooperation and work closely and in harmony with the whole AHEPA Family. The Daughters of Penelope is non-partisan and non-denominational.

◀ Daughters of Penelope - Eos Chapter #1 ▶





The **Head of Penelope** - garbed in ancient headdress - symbolizes friendship and womanhood, and is significant of (signifies) the very foundation of life, home and country.

The **Olive Wreath**, encircling the head of Penelope, is symbolic of the only prize given to the Olympic victors participating in the famous Olympic Games.

The **Cross** is a symbol of our Christian Faith, and the Crossed Sabers are taken from the Shield of the Greek Nation.

The **Eagle** symbolizes the United States, where the Order was founded.

The letters ΘΠ (Theta-Pi) stand for Θυγατρες της Πηνελοπης thus we are known as the Daughters of Penelope.

Structure

The Order of the Daughters of Penelope is comprised of the following units:

Chapters: All Daughters of Penelope are members of local Chapters which conduct meetings and sponsor civic, educational, charitable and social activities. Chapter Officers are elected annually by their members.

District Lodges: Daughters of Penelope Chapters are grouped into Districts which organize regional seminars, conferences, and the annual District Convention. District Lodge Officers are elected by the delegates sent by the Chapters to the District Convention.

Grand Lodge: All Districts come under the aegis of the Grand Lodge. Delegates from each Chapter attend the National Convention, held annually, where committees are formed by the delegates to study projects, rules and regulations, and make decisions on new policies.

The Grand Lodge Officers are elected by the Chapter delegates attending the National Convention.

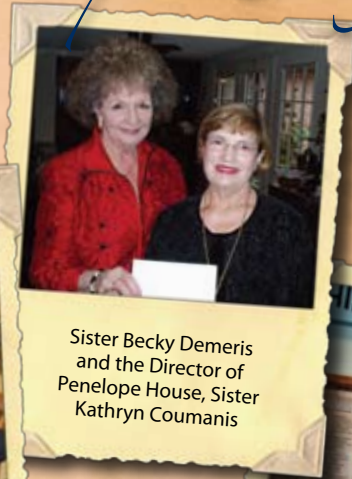
All members are encouraged to participate in worthwhile projects both nationally and in their respective communities.

Maids of Athena: the young women's auxiliary of the Order of the Daughters of Penelope. The Maids of Athena Chapter meetings are attended by an advisor of the local Daughters of Penelope chapter.

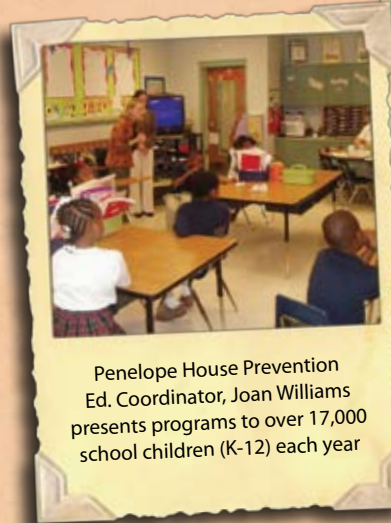
It is an exciting experience for a young woman to participate in the undertakings of the Maids of Athena, who practice their Hellenic culture, traditions and ideals.

It is where they get leadership and governing skills and where they make friendships which last a lifetime.

Philanthropic Projects



Sister Becky Demeris and the Director of Penelope House, Sister Kathryn Coumanis



Penelope House Prevention Ed. Coordinator, Joan Williams presents programs to over 17,000 school children (K-12) each year



An Ailiki book from the "Penelope's Books" collection - a project of the Daughters of Penelope Foundation, Inc. - is presented to a local children's hospital

Penelope House - Mobile, Alabama

Penelope House is the first shelter for battered women and their children in the State of Alabama. Under the direction of the local Daughters of Penelope Chapter, Penelope House opened its doors on March 19, 1979. Penelope House is recognized as a model shelter for other such homes.

Daughters of Penelope Foundation, Inc.

The Daughters of Penelope Foundation, Inc. was established in 1983 as a tax exempt 501 c3 Foundation to further enhance and support the goals and ideals of the Daughters of Penelope. As a tax exempt Foundation (in the USA), it provides funding for scholarships, seminars, and other educational activities.

The Greek Immigrant Oral History Study

An oral history tape collection of first generation Greek American Women has been placed in the library of Congress in Washington, DC at the University of Minnesota and the Library of the Greek Parliament in Athens, Greece. The Daughters of Penelope are the first ethnic organization to submit oral history tapes to the Library of Congress.

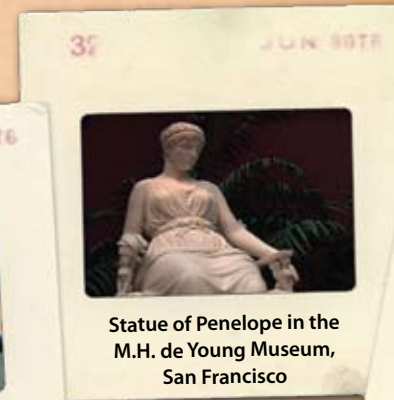
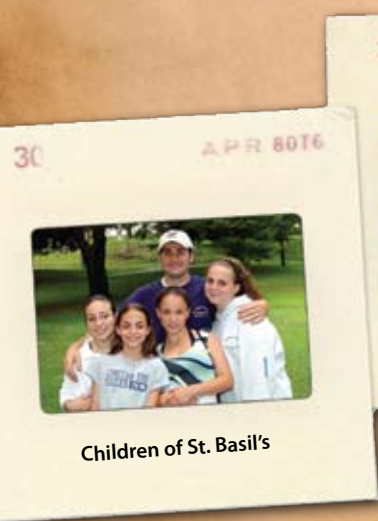
Penelope's Books

If education is one of our goals, what better place to begin than with the children? As part of our educational commitment, the Daughters of Penelope Foundation, Inc. initiated the Children's Literacy Project in 2002. This project promotes education through reading; reading to children and reading by children. As a public relations vehicle for Chapters, Penelope's Books can be donated to libraries, schools, hospitals, shelters and churches by chapters or individual members. This effort not only promotes literacy, education and the love of reading but also acts as a tool for all Daughters of Penelope to promote our organization in a positive light. Raising a reader through books is an attainable goal. Let us help you put books in the hands of those who need them the most – children.

Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center

(Papanicolaou Comprehensive Cancer Center – Miami, Florida)

The Daughters of Penelope adopted the Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Centre (formerly the Papanicolaou Comprehensive Cancer Center) as an international project since 1969 and have since raised thousands of dollars for Cancer Research.



St. Basil's Academy – Garrison, New York

A school and home for young children whose parents are unable to care for them, or who are deceased, has been a Daughters of Penelope project since 1950.

The Daughters of Penelope have funded a dormitory and a fully enclosed Olympic-sized swimming pool at the academy and the "adoption" of a child for a year.

Statue of Penelope

A white Carrere marble statue of Penelope by neoclassical sculptor Franklin Simmons was purchased by the Daughters of Penelope and donated to the M.H. de Young Museum at San Francisco's Golden Gate Park in commemoration of the Daughters of Penelope 60th Anniversary. It is considered to be the masterpiece of Simmon's work and is a welcome addition to the Fine Arts Museum.

Cooley's Anemia (Thalassemia)

For over two decades, the Daughters of Penelope have supported the work of the AHEPA Cooley's Anemia Foundation by raising funds to finance research grants in attempt to conquer this deadly, genetic disorder. The Daughters of Penelope's goal is not only to raise funds, but to raise public awareness of this disease, its symptoms and its treatments. To this end, Chapters across North America and Greece have organized conferences, forums, and blood screenings.

Breast Cancer

In addition to fundraising, awareness campaigns and participation in local runs and races, the Daughters prepared awareness pamphlets written in English, Greek, French, Chinese, Italian and Finnish and distributed them to different ethnic groups across the land, bearing the Daughters of Penelope name.

LAM

Lymphangiomyomatosis (LAM) is a rare lung disease that affects women of childbearing years. It was first described in the medical literature by von Stossel in 1937. The disease is characterized by an unusual type of muscle cell that invades the tissues of the lungs, including the airways, and blood and lymph vessels, causing them to become obstructed.

Lymphangiomyomatosis is pronounced lim-fan-je-o-lio-mi-o-ma-to-sis. 'Lymph' and 'angio' refer to the lymph and blood vessels. 'Leiomyomatosis' refers to the formation of the bundles of the usual muscle cells. The cause of LAM is not known.



☛ Dora Bakoyannis ☛

Awards

Salute to Women

The Daughters of Penelope Salute to Women is held biennially. This program was instituted in 1970 and honors outstanding women in various fields. Past Honorees include Senator Margaret Chase Smith, Dr. Sarah E. Stewart, Brigadier General Anna Mae Hayes, Elizabeth Hoisington, Betty Ford, Congresswoman Lindy Boggs, Shirley Temple Black, Congresswoman Olympia Snow, Betty White, Matina Horner, Helen Boosalis, Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, UPI White House Bureau Chief Helen Thomas, Eunice Kennedy Shiver, Assistant Secretary of the Navy Barbara Spyridon Pope, Kathryn Coumanis, Thalia Assuras, Dr. Christine Warnke, Maria Pappas and Foreign Minister of Greece and Former Mayor of Athens Dora Bakoyannis.

Penelope of the Year

This award was instituted in 1958 to acknowledge that the efforts and activities of the Daughters of Penelope are not limited to the Greek community. Recipients of this award are prominent members who have an exemplary record of community service. This prestigious award is presented to an outstanding member of the Daughters of Penelope, who has been nominated by her fellow members, at the annual National Convention.

Zoe Cavalaris National Athletic Hellenic Women's Award

This coveted annual award, presented at the Supreme Convention, was established in memory of Past Grand President Zoe Cavalaris and is presented to an outstanding female who excels in the field of athletics.

Scholarships



Daughters of Penelope, Inc. Scholarships

Education is the primary path toward advancement of women in today's society. Under the direction of The Daughters of Penelope Foundation, Inc., the Daughters of Penelope have granted in excess of \$250,000 dollars over the years to AHEPA family-related women toward a variety of scholarships. Undergraduate and postgraduate awards are available.

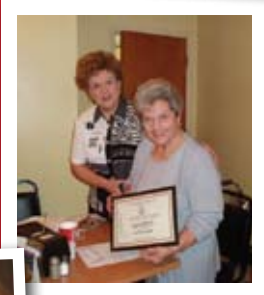
Individuals, Chapters and Districts can underwrite a scholarship in honor or memory of a name of their choice. For further information, please contact headquarters. It is the dedication and commitment of the membership that makes this program flourish.

Involvement in our Community!

As the leading Greek American organization for women, the Daughters of Penelope encourages its members to participate in local community projects. Many achievements are a matter of record and are recognized nationwide. The diversity and uniqueness of its membership continues to enhance the growth of the Daughters of Penelope.

Some of the projects that have benefited through the generosity of the Daughters of Penelope in the United States of America, Canada, Greece and Cyprus include:

- ✓ Alzheimer's Foundation
- ✓ Autism
- ✓ Barbata Bush Foundation for Literacy
- ✓ Blood Donation Drives
- ✓ Bone Marrow Foundation
- ✓ Breast Cancer
- ✓ Children's Hospitals
- ✓ Children's Wish Foundation
- ✓ Disaster Relief
- ✓ Foundation for Blindness
- ✓ Heart and Stroke Foundation
- ✓ Hellenic Homes for the Aged
- ✓ Juvenile Diabetes
- ✓ Kidney Foundation
- ✓ Lupus
- ✓ Multiple Sclerosis
- ✓ Muscular Dystrophy
- ✓ Ovarian Cancer
- ✓ Palliative Care
- ✓ Penelopean Day Care Center
- ✓ Special Olympics
- ✓ Supporting our Troops
- ✓ Tournament of Roses Float
- ✓ UNICEF
- ✓ Many others!



Θυγατέρες της Πηνελόπης



Οι “**Θυγατέρες της Πηνελόπης**” είναι το γυναικείο τμήμα της οικογένειας ΑΧΕΠΑ (Αμερικανικοελληνική Μορφωτική και Προοδευτική Ένωση) με κεντρικά γραφεία στις ΗΠΑ. Σήμερα οι “**Θυγατέρες της Πηνελόπης**” ηγούνται στη φιλανθρωπεία και σε εκπαιδευτικές και πολιτιστικές δραστηριότητες.

Το 1938 με την εγκαθίδρυση του πρώτου τμήματος στον Καναδά, ο οργανισμός των Θυγατέρων της Πηνελόπης έγινε διεθνής. Μερικά χρόνια αργότερα με την πραγματοποίηση τμήματος στην Ελλάδα, ο δέσμος με την Μητέρα Πατρίδα έγινε πιο δυνατός.

Ιστορία

Η οργάνωση “**Θυγατέρες της Πηνελόπης**” ήταν η πραγματοποίηση του ονείρου της Αλεξάνδρας Αποστολίδη που με την επιμονή της και την προώθηση του συζύγου της (και μέλος της ΑΧΕΠΑ), ίδρυσε το πρώτο τμήμα των “**Θυγατέρων της Πηνελόπης**” στις 16 Νοεμβρίου 1929 στο Σαν Φρανσίσκο της Καλιφόρνιας, ΗΠΑ με 25 ιδρυτικά μέλη. Εξελέγη πρώτη Ύπατη Πρόεδρος το 1931.



Σκοποί

Οι σκοποί της οργάνωσης είναι να προωθεί τα κοινωνικά, ηθικά και πνευματικά ενδιαφέροντα των μελών της, να καλλιεργεί τον πατριωτισμό στις χώρες όπου ανήκουν τα τμήματα, να προωθεί την διατήρηση των ιδεωδών και παραδόσεων του Ελληνισμού και της συμβολής του στον παγκόσμιο πολιτισμό, καθώς και την ενίσχυση των Ελληνικών σπουδών. Οι “Θυγατέρες της Πηνελόπης” είναι μη κομματικοποιημένος και μη αιρετικός θρησκευτικός οργανισμός.

Οργανωτική Δομή

Οι “Θυγατέρες της Πηνελόπης” έχουν την παρακάτω οργανωτική δομή:
ΤΜΗΜΑΤΑ: Όλες οι Θυγατέρες της Πηνελόπης είναι μέλη τοπικών τμημάτων που οργανώνουν συκετρώσεις και ενισχύουν πολιτιστικές, μορφωτικές, φιλανθρωπικές και κοινωνικές δραστηριότητες. Οι αξιωματούχοι των τμημάτων εκλέγονται ετησίως από τα μέλη τους.

ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΙΑ: Τα τοπικά τμήματα των “Θυγατέρων της Πηνελόπης” ανήκουν σε περιφέρειες οργανώνου τοπικά συμινάρια, εκδηλώσεις και θέτουν στόχους στα τμήματα. Οι αξιωματούχοι της κάθε περιφέρειας εκλέγονται ετησίως στο Περιφερειακό Συνέδριο.

ΥΠΑΤΟ ΣΥΝΕΔΡΙΟ: Όλες οι περιφέρειες είναι κάτω από την αιγίδα του Υπατου Συμβουλίου. Στην Γενική Συνελευση, που πραγματοποιείται μία φορά το χρόνο, συμμετέχουν αντιπρόσωποι από όλα τα τμήματα. Στη Συνέλευση γίνονται εκλογές για το Υπατο Συμβούλιο και καθορίζονται γενικοί στόχοι στους οποίους όλα τα μέλη ενθαρρύνονται να συμβάλλουν μέσω των τμημάτων τους.



Για την Καλλιέργεια της Ανθρωπότητας

Οι Θυγατέρες της Πηνελόπης σε συνεργασία με τους άλλους 3 οργανισμούς της οικογένειας ΑΧΕΠΑ έχουν συμβάλλει χρηματικά σε πολλά κοινωφελή έργα, καθ' όλη την διάρκεια της υπάρξεώς της, τόσο επί εθνικού όσο και επί διεθνούς επιπέδου.

Η κατάσταση από εθνικά και διεθνή έργα της περιλαμβάνει μεταξύ άλλων :

- Παιδικός Σταθμός “Πηνελόπη” (Αθήνα)
- Αντικαρκινικό Κέντρο Παπανικολάου (Florida, USA)
- Αναμία του Cooley (Θαλασσαιμία)
- Αυτισμός
- Ειδικοί Ολυμπιακοί Αγώνες για παιδιά και ενήλικες με ειδικές ανάγκες
- Οικία Προστασίας κακοποιημένων γυναικών (Penelope House) και άλλα έργα.



• Παιδικός Σταθμός “Πηνελόπη” •





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