

Biography Honors Marathon Legends

Boston Public School teacher **Nick Tsiotos** who teaches fifth grade at the James Otis School in East Boston has recently published his second book. Tsiotos, who has taught for 22 years, is a dedicated educator. He was selected as a member of *Who's Who in American Teaching* in 1996, and has an extensive academic and athletic background.

The book he co-authored with *Boston Globe* reporter, **Andy Dabilis** is entitled, *Running with Pheidippides*, and highlights the 1946 Boston Marathon Race, which is set against the backdrop of World War II and starvation.

Johnny Kelley, who ran in 61 Boston Marathons and was recently named "Marathoner of the Century," and is recognized around the world, wrote the Foreword for the book.

Tsiotos said, "The idea for the book came when the Boston Marathon featured on its 100th anniversary the 50th Golden Anniversary Race of 1946 between Johnny Kelley and Stylianos Kyriakides of Greece. I thought to myself what an inspirational story!"

What really motivated us was a quote from former *Boston Globe* Editor **Jerry Nason** who had seen 50 marathons.

He said, "It was without a doubt, the most significant Boston Marathon of them all; his story, that of a hungry, impoverished Greek who journeyed thousands of miles to run a 26-mile errand of mercy."

Tsiotos continued, "My experience as a teacher was invaluable in identifying research topics for the book, which is the result of two trips to Greece, and more than 100 interviews, 500 articles, documents, letters, and photographs."

"I had an affinity for the story because my parents had lived through the horrors



Kyriakides (No. 77) and 1945 champion Johnny Kelley ran stride for stride and shoulder to shoulder up the famed "Heartbreak Hill" as they broke away from the pack and had to fight for position with vehicles too.

—Courtesy of the Boston Globe

of the Nazi occupation before immigrating to Boston's South End."

This is the true story of **Stylianos Kyriakides**, a champion Greek runner who befriended Johnny Kelley at the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games. At the starting line of the marathon, they shook hands as Adolf Hitler looked on. Kelley later invited Kyriakides to the Boston Marathon and affectionately called Stylianos, "Stanley."

During World War II, Kyriakides narrowly escaped execution on two separate occasions and faced a ravishing hunger that eventually killed 250,000 Greeks. He had a vision after the war to run in the Boston Marathon, and bring the world's attention to the plight of his nation. Though he hadn't run competitively for six years, he was bolstered by the love of his wife, and made his way to Boston.

He told the Boston media on his arrival that he would be running for food, milk, clothing and medicine.

The day of the race, Boston doctors urged him to quit. "You will die in the streets," they warned.

"It is ironic," Tsiotos pointed out, "the day of the race, the front page headline of the *Boston Globe* quoted President Truman's announcement that "U.S.A. Urged to Go on Rations Twice a Week." Much of the world was starving and the sacrifice of Americans and their humanity would bring bread to the rest of the world.

Running With Pheidippides can be pur-

chased by calling 1-800-365-8929 and through the Internet <http://sumwebsyr.edu/su-press/> or at Barnes & Noble: www.bn.com and at local bookstores. The 256 page book contains 17 photographs.

Tsiotos, who has taught at the middle and high school level, said the book could be used in history class to teach about an important era in World History.

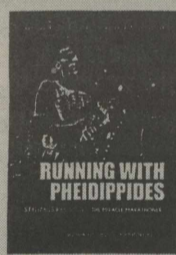
It speaks vividly of war and deprivation, athletic competition and camaraderie, of genuine valor in a world nearly bereft of heroes.

Tsiotos said, he would like to conclude the interview with a quote on the race by the late *Boston Herald's* Bill Cunningham who said, "There's never been more drama behind any single human being's athletic effort and no one felt so truly obligated to give better than his best in an attempt to do something for others."

(The authors are available for a lecture, which includes book readings and a photo presentation.)

NEW

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY PRESS



RUNNING WITH PHEIDIPPIDES

STYLIANOS KYRIAKIDES, THE MIRACLE MARATHONER

Nick Tsiotos and Andy Dabilis

With a Foreword by Johnny Kelley

It is 1946. World War II is over. As the rest of Europe struggles to rebuild itself, Greece—which had bitterly resisted Nazi occupation—is ripped apart by civil war. Thousands are dead or dying of starvation. In the face of such epic disaster, one Greek athlete takes valiant action.

This is the true story of Stylianos Kyriakides, champion Greek runner who against all odds entered the 1946 Boston Marathon, a race he had lost eight years before. Now Kyriakides ran not just to win, but to wake the world to the plight of his people.

Though ravished by hunger, Kyriakides pushed his wracked body to the limits. Boston doctors urged him to quit. "You will die in the streets," they warned. Fueled by dauntless devotion to his countrymen and bolstered by the love of his wife, the runner persevered and triumphed.

But winning the Marathon was only the first step. With characteristic grit, Kyriakides remained in the United States long enough to raise money, equipment, and medical supplies for his country. A grateful Greece proclaimed him a hero. Nearly one million welcomed him home.

Drawing on interviews and unprecedented access to family photos and papers, the authors vividly chronicle the real-life drama of Kyriakides: a runner who raced not for gold or glory, but for the betterment of his people and the survival of his homeland. From the shadowy Berlin Olympics to the dark days of Nazi Greece and its aftermath, *Running with Pheidippides* speaks vividly of war and deprivation, of athletic competition and camaraderie, of genuine valor in a world bereft of heroes.

NICK TSIOTOS is a teacher in the Boston Public School System. ANDY DABILIS is a Staff Reporter and Assistant Editor at the *Boston Globe*. They are coauthors of *Harry Agganis: The Golden Greek, An All-American Story*.

Cloth \$29.95 0-8156-0703-2

6 x 9, 256 pages, 17 photographs, bibliography

SPECIAL DISCOUNT:

40% DISCOUNT ON 5 OR MORE COPIES

Return policy: Returns will be accepted up to 90 days from the date of original invoice. All returns must be in resalable condition (no stickers / price tags). Please pack returns properly. We cannot accept books for credit that have been damaged due to poor packing.

Additional discounts are available for larger orders. Please call the order department at 315-443-5538 for more information.

ORDER FORM

Qty: _____ Cloth \$29.95 0-8156-0703-2 _____ SPECIAL DISCOUNT: Cloth \$17.97

Subtotal \$ _____

Shipping: \$4.00 first book, \$1.00 each additional \$ _____

Total \$ _____

N.Y.S. residents, please add sales tax to above \$ _____

Total Payment Enclosed \$ _____

Please bill my _____ MasterCard _____ VISA Card

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

Name & Address _____

Syracuse University Press • 621 Skytop Road, Suite 110 • Syracuse, NY 13244 • 800-365-8929 (orders only) • Fax 315-443-5545

Bob Jango

My (Second) First Day of School

On a September morning in 1972, the newly appointed teacher warily sought out his room on the second floor of the *Robert Treat Paine Annex*, where he was assigned to teach a fourth grade class.

The classroom was large and cluttered with sturdy chairs scattered about randomly. The room walls were painted an institutional tan. There was a large poster indecorously peeling off the rear wall stating that, "Reading is mental." The carpeted floor was strewn with worn BPS green pencils, paper clips, elastics, manila folders, a *Ben the Traveler* workbook and a discarded arithmetic test graded 90%. The only incorrect answer read: $11 \times 12 = 121$.

After about 20 minutes of quick housekeeping, he went to the front of the room and curiously rummaged through the teacher's desk. On the top was a wrinkled school calendar with June 27 circled in bright red. The desk drawers were improperly aligned and had to be coaxed open. There were scraps of blank paper, notices regarding lunch periods, bell schedules, attendance sheets and fire drill procedures. (He was sure the stack of papers in his mail slot would update him for the coming year.)

The name "Mr. Antonelli" was on many of the notices. Thinking out loud he mused, "Probably last year's teacher. I wonder why he didn't..." He then shrugged his shoulders and nervously ran a finger around the stiff collar of his

(continued on page 7)