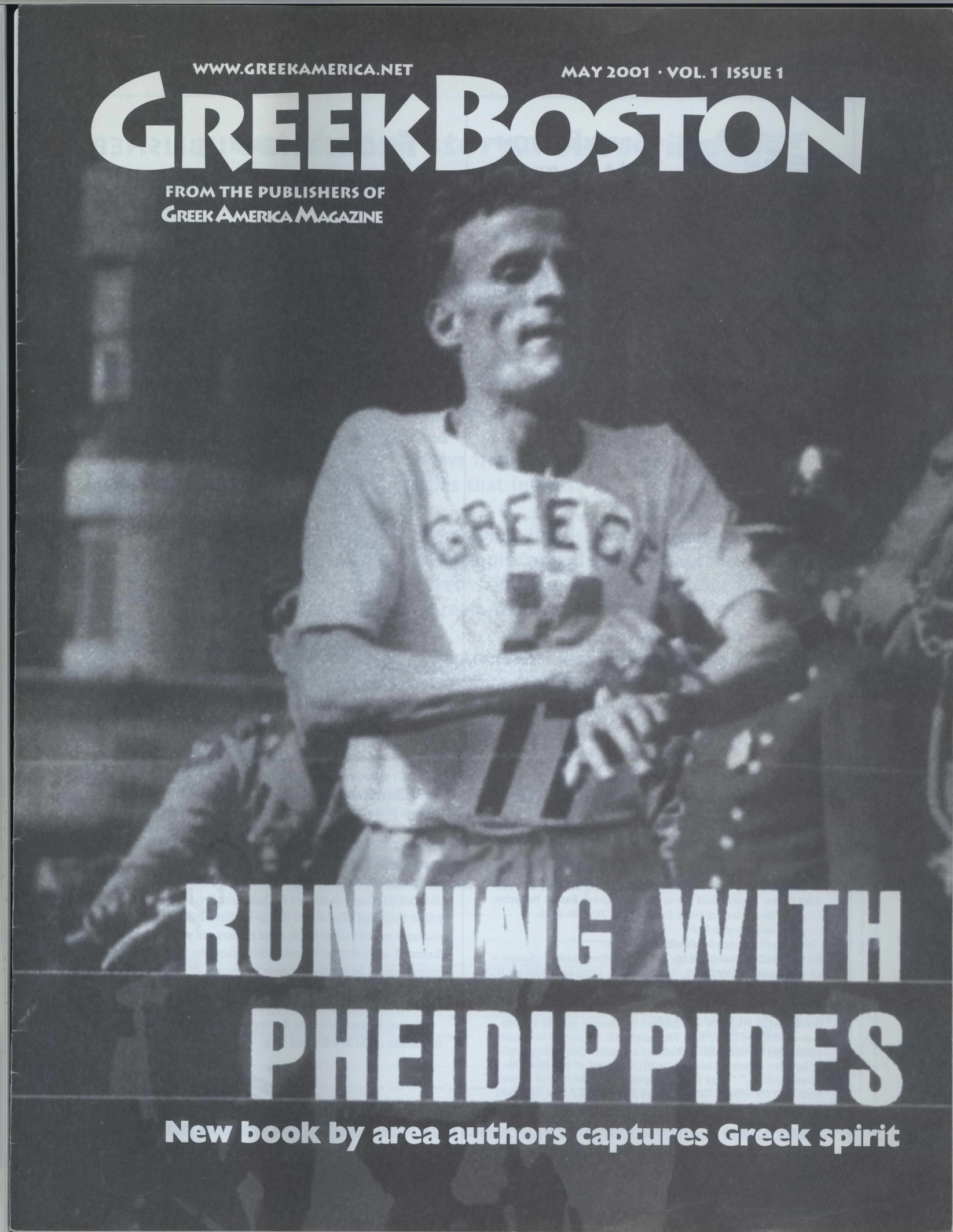


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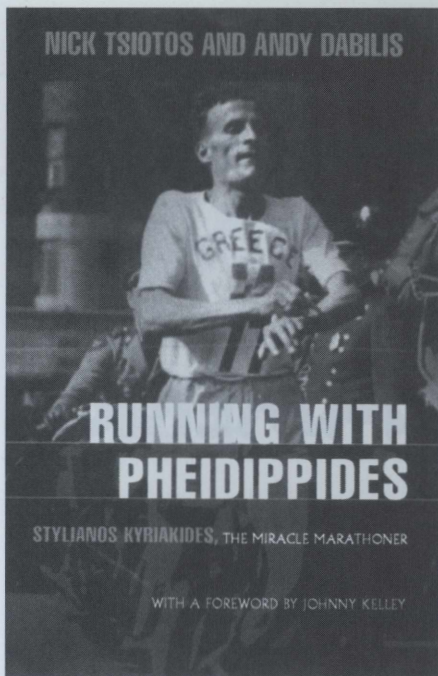
FROM THE PUBLISHERS OF
GREEK AMERICA MAGAZINE



RUNNING WITH PHEIDIPPIDES

New book by area authors captures Greek spirit

NICK TSIOTOS AND ANDY DABILIS



RUNNING WITH PHEIDIPPIDES

STYLIANOS KYRIAKIDES, THE MIRACLE MARATHONER

WITH A FOREWORD BY JOHNNY KELLEY

RUNNING WITH PHEIDIPPIDES Stylianos Kyriakides, The Miracle Marathoner By Nick Tsiotos and Andy Dabilis With a Foreword by Johnny Kelley

Stylianos Kyriakides, a championship Greek marathoner, promised to win the 1946 Boston Marathon—not for glory, gold medals but to bring the world’s attention to the plight of his war-torn country, which suffered terribly.

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. Hundreds of thousands are dead or dying of starvation. In the face of such epic disaster, one Greek athlete takes a 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 was running 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-- much the same way Pheidippides did when he made his run from Marathon to announce victory over the Persians over two thousand years ago.

But winning the world-famous Boston Marathon was only the first step. With characteristic grit, Kyriakides remained in America long enough to raise money, equipment, and medical supplies for his country-- as well as awareness of the problem. A grateful Greece proclaimed him a hero. Nearly one million people welcomed him home. A few short years later, the United States government’s Marshall Plan moved in to assist where Kyriakides left off.

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.

“For those of us who were young and Greek-American,” recalls former Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis, “his victory in the 1946 Boston Marathon and the response of so many Americans to his pleas for help for his people was one of the most searing experiences of our young lives.”

Co-Author Andy Dabilis sums up the book’s importance: “For us, the legacy of his story is that Greeks and Greek-Americans need to remember what he did, much the same we way we remember what our ancestors did at Marathon and Thermopylae in really preserving the western world and giving us the ideals by which we live today. He was willing to die for his country by enduring a test of his body and will. He ran not for glory or running shoe endorsements or money, but for the human race and his Hellenic family, much the same way Pheidippides did when he made his run from Marathon to announce victory over the Persians. Kyriakides’ win announced victory over tyranny and the horrors of a war that almost destroyed Greece and came close to enveloping the world and he should stand as much as a hero as the soldiers of Greece did in giving their lives.”

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.

Order your copy of *Running with Pheidippides: Stylianos Kyriakides, The Miracle Marathoner* today!

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Greek Boston Magazine's *Exclusive Interview with "Pheidippidis" Author Andy Dabilis*

Why did you and Nick decide to write this book and tell the story of Stylianos Kyriakides?

We came across his story while researching the book on Harry Agganis and thought it seemed like an important and almost lost part of Greek and American history once we read of the incredible background. Nick and I have devoted much of this part of our life to researching and writing these essential stories of Hellenism and his story seemed a perfect blend of our heritage and the chance to tell the story of a genuine Greek hero who ran for his country and for the ideals which it espoused, and for the human race.

We were tired of seeing stories of so many ethnic groups being portrayed -properly of course - but we felt there was a gap that needed to be filled in telling the history and stories of Greeks and Greek-Americans for a mainstream audience. His was irresistible because it was a universal story of humanity from such a unique perspective, combining ancient and modern Greek history, love, triumph, tragedy, the horror of Nazi occupation and the bravery of the Greek people and of him. We also felt the story was in danger of being lost or overwhelmed by the events of current society and we had been disappointed that our own people had not supported such critical parts of their heritage and history.

Why is his life story pertinent now, over 50 years later?

Well, as Santayana said, "Those who cannot remember history are condemned to repeat it," and with the current conflicts raging around the world it seemed the world had already forgotten how world wars began from ethnic troubles and the quest for power and territory. You could ask why are the Greek tragedies of ancient times pertinent now - for the same reasons - because those and his story mirrored all of human emotions and the common denominators that drive people.

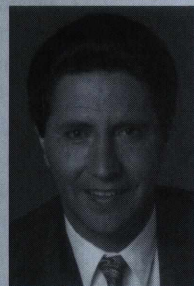
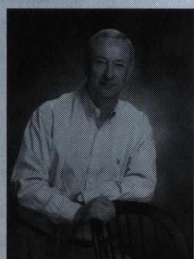
You see in this book the greed and atrocities and the worst parts of the soul in what the Nazis did in their occupation of Greece, such as at Kalavrytra, the indescribable anguish of famine and what it wrought on a country and much of Europe, and how the will of this man, and of his people, showed a way out of the darkness. The indomitability of the human spirit is a universal story for any time, but we also felt this was in danger of being lost in the technology-driven world of today.

Today ... the events of life move so swiftly that it is easy to forget what has come before, but there is also such avarice today that his story of selflessness is a reminder of a time when people needed - and got -

such heroes and we wanted young people especially, and especially young Greeks, to know they had such a man and what he did. Many of their parents and others would not be alive or have survived the famine if not for what he did.

Why do you think this story pertinent to Greek Americans today?

For many of the same reasons, but especially because he was a bond to their homeland and a reminder of the kind of sacrifices their parents and ancestors made to bring them to the United States. Our relatively comfortable and affluent life today is possible because so many of them came to the U.S. and toiled without their families and struggled in the cities, building railroads, and trying to keep together their heritage in the neighborhoods where they lived, taking



*Boston Globe editor Andy Dabilis (top) and schoolteacher Nick Tsiotos (bottom) teamed up for a second time to write **RUNNING WITH PHEIDIPIDES** Stylianos Kyriakides, *The Miracle Marathoner* about a man who-- against all odds, won the Boston Marathon and returned to post-World War II-ravaged Greece with food and medical supplies that saved thousands from death. The pair's first book together chronicled the life of Harry Agganis, the well-known baseball-football player of the 1940s.*

it with them across America to the west.

Kyriakides' story is also a reminder of from where they came and what The Greek Way has always represented to the world, the search for truth and the good in the human ideal. It's the antithesis of the way much of life is today.

Nick and I found much of ourselves and our families in this research because it took us almost five years from idea to completion and we thought it was critical for Greek Americans, especially the young, to retain their roots and their identity and sense of belonging to a very special heritage that brought the world so much in democracy, art and the ideals of arete, of striving for excellence.

We have, for example, so many Greeks in the arts and entertainment and they always seem to be playing characters from other ethnic backgrounds. We hoped that the story would go beyond the written word and capture the attention of Greek-Americans in Hollywood and the arts. We want Greek-Americans to go to a

movie theater or turn on their television and see the images of this book in a film, with Greek-American actors as the central part of the cast and the story so Hellenism can reach into the mainstream of film as well as literature.

How did you research for the book?

It started with reading hundreds of newspaper articles, especially from the archives in the Boston Globe and other Boston newspapers and those in the United States, from 1946 of course, but going back to the war years. It wasn't just about the race or him, but of the times, as we try to incorporate social history into our works to show the relevance of the times and the backdrop against which the story is being told. Kyriakides was running to relieve the famine in Greece, but also for the rest of the world left in ruins after World War II.

Nick came to Greece to meet with the Kyriakides family and read scores of articles in Greek newspapers of the times, researched archives, did interviews and was really responsible for digging out much of the treasures we found in this story, especially Kyriakides' early days in Cyprus where he grew up. We lost track of the number of articles we read in newspapers, magazines, books and from the many interviews we conducted. It took about two years just of hard research before we could even begin putting words on paper and there was so much material we had to literally tape huge newspaper-sized pages on the walls of a room in Nick's home to keep track of the thousands of facts that had to be verified and checked.

Nick did most of the real hard work in this area, as well as writing, and he is a dogged researcher and interviewer who provided the spiritual sense to the characters. His knowledge of Greek family life and history was especially essential to capturing the nuances that you couldn't always get in newspapers.

How has Kyriakides' family responded?

Graciously, appreciatively, and with the same kind of humility he had. His wife, Iphigenia, shared many of the most intimate and private moments of their life that gave us critical insight into his personality and character and just how great a man he was to undertake the impossible - to run and win the world's most important marathon to show what was happening in Greece at a time when he hadn't run for six years, was 36 years old, emaciated and had barely survived execution during the war himself.

They provided much of the newspaper material and photographs and letters that gave this book its heart. His son, Dimitri, was a driving and guiding force for us, and the rest of his family responded with whole hearted support. We are very grateful to them for opening their lives.