

PRESS RELEASE

FOR HELLENIC VOICE ISSUE OCTOBER 22, 2009

“Hellenic Women’s Club of Boston has Deep Roots in Philanthropy”

BOSTON, MA. – The veritable tour de force of 40 Greek women known since 1936 as the Hellenic Women’s Club has a long and illustrious history in the City of Boston. Started by Urania Papas one afternoon in her home in Brookline with six friends to help the needy Greeks in Boston, it has become the oldest consecutively run Greek women’s philanthropic group in the country, apart from those connected directly to the Church, and is still going strong.

Back in the early days of its inception, the original founding members who included Marianthe Frangoulis, Pacey Cocoris, Lulu Peratsakis, Florence Loumos, Mary Voss and Kathleen Sculos, delivered turkeys to several families at Thanksgiving and also helped with a scholarship to a Greek young man at Harvard. As a fundraiser they had a Costume Ball at the Hotel Minerva on Huntington Avenue in Boston. In a letter to Club President Pamela Lazares recently, Urania Papas’ daughter, Valentine Mason, recalled “It was a big success – I think the tickets were \$7.50. Well, you’ve come a long way. Congratulations for all that you do.”

In the last decade or so, the Club has gifted out, through its established charities and through Special Appeal and Major Gift projects, more than \$900,000, an amazing feat for such a small number of people.

One of the ways in which this has been accomplished is through its annual Mistletoe Ball, now in its 64th year, being held at the Copley Plaza Hotel on the Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend, November 28, 2009. “The secret of the success of the Ball, which is the longest consecutively held holiday black tie dinner dance in the City of Boston, is the winning combination of philotimi and philanthropy, or charity and friendship,” according to Mrs. Lazares, President. This is a true coming together of families and friends, including so many young twenties and thirties who study or work in the area or who are home for the holidays from universities and jobs out of state.

This year the Ball is being co-chaired by Dorothy Sophocles and Janis Semine. For information and reservations, please contact Club President Pamela Lazares at 617-529-3655 or go onto the Club Website at: www.hellenicwomensclub.org