



MARIA'S HOME
EDUCATION AND CULTURE CAMPUS

Educational
Institute
Kardamyla
Chios





Maria P. Tsakos
(1966-2010)

A vision fulfilled...

...a door open to all!

“MARIA TSAKOS” FOUNDATION

INTERNATIONAL CENTER OF MARITIME RESEARCH AND TRADITION

In 1978, Captain Panagiotis Tsakos, offspring of a genuinely nautical family from Kardamyla Chios, established the “Maria Tsakos” Foundation in Montevideo Uruguay, aiming for the dissemination of the Greek language and culture to Latin America. Ever since, the Foundation has remained highly active and successful in teaching the Greek language and contributing to the appreciation of ancient, but also modern, Greek culture.

The Foundation was certified by the Greek Language Center of the Ministry of Education as an official Greek language Examination Center for students in Uruguay and other Latin American countries in 1999, while in December 2003 the Academy of Athens honoured it for its literary and philanthropic contribution.

Born and raised in the cradle of mariners, Kardamyla, Captain Panagiotis Tsakos grew with the belief that the historic source of life and culture in our country is the sea. Concerned that younger generations are generally becoming disinterested in seafaring and mostly unaware of its potential opportunities, he established the “Maria Tsakos” Foundation – International Center of Maritime Research and Tradition in 2008, with the scope of promoting research, the study of Greek and international shipping, maritime culture and tradition, as well as the protection of the marine environment, in addition to the establishment of special institutions for child protection and other services of general interest.

The International Center of Maritime Research and Tradition commenced its operations in 2010, in the port of Chios island, basing

its headquarters in a historical neoclassical building on M. Livanos Street. The mansion has been completely renovated and vested in the Foundation by the family of Captain Panagiotis Tsakos.

The Foundation is managed by a Board of Directors with Secretary-General Emeritus of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Mr. Efthimios E. Mitropoulos as Chairman; its work is supported by a Scientific Council chaired by Professor and Academic Dr. Stamatias Krimizis. Both administrative bodies are composed of Greek and international figures of high caliber. Director General of the Foundation is Coast Guard Rear (Rtd.) Admiral Stavros Michaelidis.



KARDAMYLA, CHIOS

Kardamyla, a known settlement on the island of Chios since antiquity, is situated 30km NE of the island's capital. It is one of the most populated towns on Chios, consisting of two main settlements, Upper Kardamyla and the seaport Marmaro.

There have been numerous references to Kardamyla over the centuries-old maritime history of Chios. Greatly descriptive of such recognition is the embossed inscription on the City Hall building referring to an excerpt on Kardamyla by Thucydides as regards the landing of the Athenian fleet on Chios in 411 B.C. '...and having landed in Kardamylia...' ("καί εν τε Καρδαμύλη αποβάντες") (Book VIII 24).

The sea became one of the earliest occupations for the inhabitants of Kardamyla. Noticeable maritime enterprises have been attributed to the Kardamylians as early as the mid-19th century. By the beginning of the 20th century their accomplished ventures into steam shipping (a recent evolution of sail ships at the time) resulted in the prestigious standing of Kardamyla as a significant maritime center and of Kardamylian ship-owners as top rank figures worldwide, which they still enjoy.

The institution of the Kardamyla Grammar School in 1926 was a landmark in the Kardamylian domination in the seas. One of the most renowned Kardamylian ship-owners, George M. Livanos, forbear of the prominent ship-owners family, assumed the expenditure on the construction of the building. The Livanos' Grammar School provided the rapidly growing Kardamylian shipping with educated youth who advanced in becoming captains and ship-owners themselves.

At present, the town of Kardamyla hosts a Middle School, a High School and a Vocational Secondary School that offer the youngsters of Kardamyla professional opportunities in shipping and economic disciplines.



KARDAMYLA EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE

“Maria’s Home - Education and Culture Campus”

In 2010, Captain Panagiotis Tsakos resolved to create an educational nucleus in Kardamyla, carrying his fondly remembered daughter’s wish and vision into effect. Thus, “Maria’s Home – Education and Culture Campus” was founded so as to promote the growth and development of youngsters.

Embodying the Vision and Mission of the “Maria Tsakos Foundation” – International Center of Maritime Research and Tradition, Maria’s Home aspires to become an esteemed modern social, educational, and cultural center in the Kardamylian community.

“Our vision”, declares Captain Panagiotis Tsakos, “is that Maria’s Home will be the stepping stone of progress and excellence for its students, providing them with the necessary values and principles to distinguish themselves, and helping them develop and cultivate their abilities and skills to the fullest”.

Maria’s Home, a large property including a two-storey building with spacious and fully-furnished rooms, all with en-suite facilities, is located not far from the clear blue Aegean Sea and is complemented by open spaces for recreational activities.

Common spaces, such as in- and outdoor recreational areas, dining and study rooms, as well as a computer room with full internet access, constitute a pleasant and creative environment for the borders.



Administration

“Maria’s Home – Education and Culture Campus” is administered by a multidisciplinary team with rich experience in education. The staff comprises of the Headmaster, the Deputy Headmaster, the cleaning and dining personnel, while the faculty includes a number of educational consultants, teachers for all subjects of formal education, counselors, a psychologist, et al.



Health and Nutrition

Students are cared for with complete nutritional programmes prepared by a specialized nutritionist.

Health care for all students is of utmost importance. The Kardamyla Medical Center and the General Hospital in the town of Chios are fully-equipped for the students’ immediate treatment if necessary.

Education

The students of “Maria’s Home” attend the education units of Kardamyla. All schools are located within a distance of 300 metres from “Maria’s Home”.

Ship Mechanics Merchant Marine Academy in the city of Chios and the Skippers Merchant Marine Academy on the island of Oinousses are there to receive those who will choose a shipping career. In tertiary education, the Department of Shipping, Trade and Transport and the Department of Financial and Management Engineering of the University of the Aegean School of Business are also based in the port of Chios.

For its students, the Center provides tutorials for reinforcement learning in the subjects of Greek, Mathematics, Physics etc. and offers foreign language courses at the students’ disposal. The Foundation’s scholarship programmes are open to those who will excel in their studies.

Finally, the s/y “Mania” of the “Maria Tsakos” Foundation and, later on, the ships of the Tsakos managed fleet are available for the students’ professional practice.



Students’ progress

The Institute Headmaster, in cooperation with the Educational Consultant, supervises the progress of every student and informs the Foundation and the students’ parents or guardians of their accomplishments and overall performance.

The “Maria Tsakos” Foundation and the Headmaster of “Maria’s Home” offer full support and encourage each and every one of the students to expand their intellectual horizons and develop their social skills - fundamental qualities in their later adult life.

Sport activities - Entertainment

Aiming at excellent performance and progress, as well as intellectual and social development, students have the opportunity to engage in artistic and sports activities, in addition to the use of sports spaces and recreational amenities in the campus.



Social, Cultural and Educational programmes

A fundamental element in the students' lives is their participation and integration in the local community and their engagement in cultural and sports clubs, volunteering, theatrical and musical groups, trekking and ecological clubs.

The infrastructure of the "Maria Tsakos" Foundation, along with its educational and cultural activities at national and international level, is geared to support the conversance of the students with the sea and shipping.

Students' Allowance

All students in "Maria's Home" receive allowance on a monthly basis in order to cover their personal expenses and fulfill the needs of their social interaction.

Financial Support on undergraduate and postgraduate level

Those students of "Maria's Home" who will be admitted in tertiary education institutions or in Merchant Marine Academies will have the opportunity to benefit from the "Maria Tsakos" Foundation - International Center of Maritime Research and Tradition Scholarships and Awards programmes. Likewise, the programmes are open to those who will continue their studies on a postgraduate level in Greece or abroad.

Rules and Regulations

The students' conduct within "Maria's Home" is governed by rules and regulations, ensuring proper function, which is essential for the harmonious coexistence of the students, the development of their personality, their progress, and their cultural and intellectual refinement.

During the school year, parents and guardians may visit "Maria's Home", where the faculty will update them on their children's progress and accomplishments.



Expression of interest

“Maria’s Home” has started its operations for the school year 2013-14 accepting a total of 20 male students, attending the 3rd class of Middle School or the 1st/2nd classes of High School. For each consecutive year thereafter, new students will be admitted according to the number of undergraduates and the Home’s expansion programme.

Applications are reviewed by a Committee appointed by the “Maria Tsakos” Foundation – International Center of Maritime Research and Tradition and have a prerequisite of an overall grade above 15. Selection is based on specific criteria, which include applicants’ school grade, financial status, and references received from the Headmaster of their previous school.

The students selected in the preliminary assessment phase are called for an interview. The final decision of the Committee is announced to the students’ parents or guardians in writing.



*“Oh Lord, give me the strength
the tremors of the earth
the raged storms of the world
always to withstand.”*

Sep. 14th, 2013
Inauguration Ceremony
of the Boarding School in Kardamyla

**“MARIA’S HOME”
CENTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE**

On Saturday 14th September 2013, on the Holy Cross Day celebration, the Metropolitan Bishop of Chios, Psara and Oinousses, **His Holiness Markos** performed in a greatly emotional atmosphere, the blessing at the Inauguration Ceremony of the Boarding School, with the presence of the Founders of the “Maria Tsakos Foundation - International Center of Maritime Research and Tradition”, **Capt. Panagiotis N. Tsakos** and **Mr. Nikos P. Tsakos**, the Chairman of the Foundation and Secretary-General Emeritus of the International Maritime Organization **Mr. Eftymios E. Mitropoulos**, the Minister of Mercantile Marine and the Aegean **Mr. Miltiadis Varvitsiotis**, the Parliamentarians of Chios **Messrs. K. Mousouroulis** and **K. Triantafyllos**, the political, military and jurist authorities of Chios, the Commandant of the Hellenic Coast Guard, European conveners of the 5th Forum of the Heads of the European Coast Guards, the students’ parents and a large number of people.

The inauguration ribbon was cut off by the Metropolitan Bishop of Chios, who was surrounded by the Minister of Mercantile Marine, the Founders and the Chairman of the Foundation.

The Boarding School of Kardamyla named as “**Maria’s Home - Center of Education and Culture**” which was established by the “Maria Tsakos” Foundation at the premises of the memorable Maria Tsakos’ house in Kardamyla of Chios, is located at a superb area of six acres in the area of “Lousiani” in the traditional maritime village of Chios. The creation of the Boarding School reflects the vision of Capt. Tsakos’ family dedicating Maria’s estate in the village towards children’s happiness and further development.



On an initial stage, **Maria’s Home** will host sixteen children, both from Chios and other parts of Greece, which, although have great abilities and an eagerness to knowledge, their families faced difficulties in further supporting their study extension. In the forthcoming school year, it is planned for the number of students to be increased to 22-25.

The Boarding School’s function secures the future of the Secondary Education in Kardamyla, which was endangered with a potential cease of operation and unification with other schools due to shortage of students. In their speeches, the Foundation’s

General Director, Admiral HCG (rtd.) **Stavros Michailidis** stressed out that the Founders’ vision is to offer the students a chance to “strive for excellence”, which will fortify them in becoming valuable and contributing members of society.

After the Blessing and the cut of the inauguration ribbon, the attendants had the chance to make a tour at the premises of the Boarding School, including the impressive dining-room, the study rooms and the recreational facilities. Everyone welcomed the Boarding School with warm words of enthusiasm.

The establishment and the function of the Boarding School were saluted, among others, by a letter of the Minister of Education, **Mr. Konstantinos Arvanitopoulos**.

The parents and the students were especially enthusiastic. Although the children have been living for only a short period of time in their new house, their hearts are filled with the loving care of the School’s personnel and emotions of security regarding their future, since they now have all the necessary tools to preserve it. The Foundation requires that they try hard and study in order to accomplish their objectives.





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