

Greek anarchists pay for senior's torched kiosk

THESSALONIKI, Greece - Two months after her kiosk was torched in local riots an elderly woman from Thessaloniki has received an unlikely cash gift from anarchists to rebuild her life, a press report said on Tuesday.

"As anarchists, we felt we should support a fellow human victimized by blind violence," an organization calling itself Anarchist Initiative said in a statement sent to Eleftherotypia daily.

The anarchists set up a special bank account to

support 74-year-old Harikleia Ananiadou and collected 13,000 euros (\$18,000 US) for the cause.

"We gave what we could, even beyond our means, because we know that it would be difficult for her to make a new start at her age," initiative member Panagiotis Papadopoulos told Angelioforos daily.

"It was an act of solidarity to a woman who could be our mother," he added. Ananiadou's kiosk burned down in November during clashes between youths and police on the sidelines of a street

demonstration.

The government recently announced compensation packages for business owners who suffered damage in the wave of violence that swept the country in December following the fatal shooting of a teenage boy. But Ananiadou says she missed out because her kiosk was gutted a month earlier.

"I received only empty promises (from the state) ... I feel very fortunate that these boys came along to help," she said.

Greek cooler maker to close Polish plant

Economy crisis affects yet another factory in Poland

Frigoglass, a Greek company, and one of the world's largest producers of refrigeration systems, will close a factory in Poland, it announced. The firm is a subsidiary of Coca-Cola Hellenic, a Greek soda bottler, which also downsized their operations in Poland. Frigoglass gave the rapidly deteriorating global economy as a reason for closing the Polish plant.

Greece: Farmer protests close airport, highways

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greek farmers have closed an airport on the island of Crete and blocked highways on the mainland with demonstrations demanding higher agricultural subsidies and pensions, and lower fuel taxes.

Civil aviation officials say Iraklio Airport — Greece's third-largest — closed to traffic after farmers with tractors and heavy machinery entered the perimeter and placed their vehicles in the airplane parking area. The runway remains clear, but at least two flights have been canceled because of the protest, which started around 3 p.m. (1300 GMT) Tuesday.

Elsewhere, farmers also used tractors to block two major highways and secondary roads in central and northern Greece. On the northern border with Bulgaria, protesters closed two border crossings.

Greek culture shines in Milan

Second installment of Milano Incontra la Grecia showcased theater, music and more

MILAN — A soul-searching solo by choreographer Zoi Dimitriou and a moving performance by the muse of world music Savina Yannatou closed the second Milano Incontra la Grecia festival last Thursday. Organized by Alexandra Papadopoulos, Myrto Rogan and Mariella Kessissoglou, the event took place at the Piccolo Teatro Studio under the aegis of the Greek Consulate in Milan.



Locals of all ages, but mostly young people, welcomed the four-day festival which brought contemporary Greek productivity to the northern Italian city. From an unusual approach to Sophocles' "Ajax" to musical works commissioned by the festival, there was something for everybody.

Theodoros Terzopoulos's take on the ancient Greek tragedy "Ajax" opened the event. The three Attis Theater actors — Tassos Dimas, Thanassis Alevras and Savvas Stroumbos — provided an intense portrayal of the Trojan hero's legendary madness, using the director's well-known techniques for breathing and movement. The voice of Marco Massimini, who provided welcome explanatory interventions in Italian, was a clever addition. An arrangement

with local schools resulted in a theater full of schoolchildren curiously following this different take on ancient Greek tragedy on the festival's second night. Terzopoulos's master class was attended by 32 Piccolo Teatro drama school students, who responded well, according to the director and actor Stroumbos.

Wednesday evening marked the focal point of the festival. A joint concert by Italian and Greek ensembles Sentieri Selvaggi and dissonArt featured two commissioned works, by composers Lorenzo Ferrero and Giorgos Koumendakis, and further included pieces by Iannis Xenakis, Filippo del Corno and others, accompanied by Chryssa Tsovili's video art. Koumendakis's fresh yet soothing "Five More Steps Before you Sleep" closed the evening. The composer told Kathimerini English Edition that it is

part of a project that he has been working on for four years, and is based on the use of Greek traditional and folk sounds. "I feel more like an anonymous composer when I take this material and rework it," he said. He expressed his enthusiasm for the musicians with whom he worked. "The two ensembles had never played together before, but gave the impression of suiting each other perfectly. And I thought the maestro [Carlo Boccadoro] was great."

"Two things moved me about this project," he added. "Firstly the collaboration with dissonArt, a quality ensemble in terms of the musicians and the repertoire, which is a great addition to contemporary music. The second is that three young women in Milan have managed to do what the Ministry of Culture hasn't succeeded at for so many years, namely promoting Greek art on a low budget."

Koumendakis's works have been performed in concert halls worldwide as well as at international festivals. He was the artistic director of the Nikos Skalkottas Music Ensemble between 1999 and 2001 as well as musical director of the Athens 2004 Olympic opening and closing ceremonies. Despite the unfortunate absence of popular historian Marianna Koromila, who had been scheduled to lead a discussion titled "Meetings of Roman and Greek Universality" but had to cancel for health reasons, the lecture took place with another three academics and was well attended.

The petite yet powerful frame of the young London-based choreographer Zoi Dimitriou, who received the 2008 Robin Howard Foundation Award, dominated the stage in her short solo "Streets" late on Thursday afternoon. Body movement alternated with narration as Dimitriou portrayed humanity's desperate search for goals that can never be achieved and our basic need to belong somewhere.

For the evening's powerful close, a tightly packed theater welcomed Savina Yannatou and her Primavera en Salonico band, who wooed the audience with traditional Mediterranean melodies. From Greek and Palestinian wedding songs to tunes from Albania, southern Italy, Spain and Bulgaria, Yannatou's distinctive approach led to warm applause and two encores. At the very end, the singer appeared alone for an a cappella take on a well-known Greek lullaby with her musicians tiptoeing in halfway through and building it up to a frenzy.

Greek Ambassador to Serbia awarded the St. Sava medal



Greek Ambassador to Serbia Christos Panagopoulos received last Thursday in the Serbian Orthodox Church (SPC) Patriarchate in Belgrade the medal of St Sava of the first order which was awarded to him by the SCP Synod.

Metropolitan Amfilohije, who proposed that this highest SPC award is given to the Greek ambassador, thanked him for establishing profound contacts with the Serbian government and church during his ambassadorship.

According to Amfilohije, the St Sava medal was awarded to Panagopoulos for nurturing rich contacts between SCP and the Greek orthodox church.

Panagopoulos, who has completed his term in Serbia, said that it was a great honor to receive the award bearing the name of the first SCP head who was responsible for the rise and spread of Serbian literacy and spirituality. Underscoring that the St Sava medal is in fact a recognition for his country, the Greek ambassador especially expressed gratitude to Patriarch Pavle, who had given him his blessed during a recent farewell visit.

The ceremony was also attended by Patriarch Pavle's vicar, Bishop Atanasije, Backa Bishop Irinej and Prince Alexander Karadjordjevic.