

# Olympic Torch-Bearer: George Kallas, Metropolitan Fine Printers, Vancouver

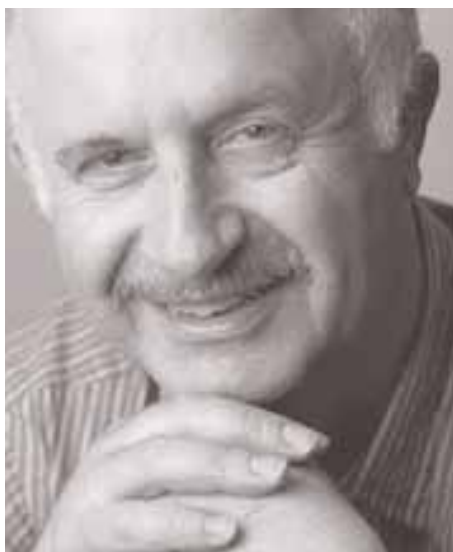
The 2010 Winter Olympic Games started off with a bang on Friday evening, February 12. From the beginning, printing and the 2010 Olympics have been closely linked!

In January 2003, George Kallas (foto), President of Metropolitan Fine Printers and printer of the Vancouver 2010 Bid Book, hand carried copies of the three-volume set to Switzerland to begin the process to bring the 2010 Olympic Games home to his adopted city.

Last Thursday, February 11, George fulfilled a dream by carrying the Olympic torch as it traveled to Vancouver.

Here's what George had to say about his experience:

Growing up in Greece, it is hard not to be enchanted with the Olympic Games, the Olympic



Flame, and all the history that goes with them. I was born in Pireaus, Greece, and spent the first 10 years of my life in the small village of Pakia, Laconia, where the feats of the athletes and the amazing culture of ancient Olympia were things that

young children dreamed about. They were also a huge source of pride for the Greek people.

When my family moved to Canada in 1962, this Olympic spirit came with me. To this day, it continues to inspire me – from how I work with others to my own commitment to excellence. I have been involved with the 2010 Games since the earliest bid phase, when my company, Metropolitan Fine Printers, produced the first business cards for the organizing committee – and later, the award-winning bid books.

More recently, I had the honour in October of accompanying the Governor General of Canada to Greece, where I saw the Olympic Flame ignited in the ancient Olympic stadium and begin its journey to Canada. Being a torchbearer in Vancouver not only brings my Olympic experience full circle, but also is a dream come true.



## GEORGE BIZOS:

### The Greek side of Mandela

Nelson Mandela was inspired by the philosophy of ancient Greek. In jail, he staged ancient Greek tragedies together with his fellow inmates". This was revealed by an expatriate Greek lawyer living in South Africa, in an interview on an SBS radio program in Australia, who spoke about the unknown aspects of the former South African president, Nelson Mandela, with whom has been closely linked for six decades. The interview with George Bizos took place on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of Mandela's liberation last Thursday, February 12. Thousands gathered for commemorations near Cape Town at what was known in 1990 as Victor Verster, the last prison where Mandela was held. The crowds milled around a three-metre high bronze statue erected at the prison in 2008 depicting Mandela's first steps as a free man. Exactly 20 years ago, Mandela emerged from Victor Verster on foot, hand-in-hand with his then-wife Winnie, fist raised, smiling but resolute.

(source: voice of greece)

## Cleaner recalls British children's gas deaths

A CLEANER recalled the moment she found two British children dead in their Greek holiday bungalow from carbon monoxide poisoning.

Androniki Lazari fainted in a Greek court as she struggled to recount the horror of the scene she witnessed, The Sun reports.

Robert Shepherd, six, and his sister Christianne, seven, were killed by the carbon monoxide leak while holidaying on the Greek island with their father Neil, 38, in October 2006.

Shepherd, 41, of Horbury, West Yorkshire, and his partner Ruth Beatson, 30, were also in the bungalow, but survived.

Two British Thomas Cook workers Nicola Gibson and Richard Carson



are on trial along with ten Greek nationals for the kids' deaths.

Lazari, the chief cleaning supervisor at the Coreyra Beach hotel, said of the nightmarish scene she stumbled upon, "The little girl was lying on her back, foam coming out of her mouth.

"I couldn't see the others

well. It was rather dark, but it was terrible. There was vomit everywhere."

The hearing was temporarily adjourned, after the supervisor had to be escorted out of the court when she fainted.

Earlier, Margarita Billa, an Albanian cleaner who first discovered the bodies, said she had fled the scene

within seconds of realising what had happened.

She told the court, "I went and called my supervisor, Mrs Lazari. I was too frightened to look any more."

Hotel reservations manager Alexander Bakas, called to the bungalow by the cleaners, said he found all the windows shut.

He added, "to me that strongly suggests that the parents did not understand the cause of the accident and made no attempt to open windows or doors to get fresh air in. They obviously collapsed before they could call for help."

Shepherd and his partner didn't find out the children had died until they came round from the effects of carbon monoxide poisoning in hospital four days later.

## Fellow Greek in Jail for Love

Holly Valance's ex-boyfriend has been refused a shorter jail term for drug trafficking. Peter Ververis, who was reportedly dumped by the Prison Break star in 2006 after six years together, told a judge that he only broke the law because Valance had left him broken-hearted. At the time, Ververis blamed his break-up with Valance on his drug problem, saying: "I was cut up. It was a messy break-up. I read it in a magazine. I saw a photo of her and her new boyfriend in a magazine." The 29-year-old claimed that he only turned to drug manufacturing and methylamphetamine possession to help him cope with his public humiliation at the hands of his former girlfriend. Despite his plea for leniency, a judge refused to cut Ververis's two and a half year jail term.



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