

9. ELPIDA newsletter - January 2018

Review of 2017

Many little people in many little places doing many little things ...



„ELPIDA-FOR-IRAKLIA“ is a private non-profit organization since July 2012 supporting people of the small Cyclades Island of Iraklia who are in need because of the severe economic crisis in Greece.

In August 2017 I've spent another four great weeks on Iraklia and I could sense a **slight economical upward trend** after many years of shortages. At least in tourism it showed, surely the unsafe situation in Turkey contributed a lot. For many people life is still very hard though because of **constantly rising taxes and constantly cut pensions**. Therefore joy and gratitude about our support is unbroken and our help is always welcome and for some even a **vital part to back up their life**.

**I forward this gratitude to all of you with joy!!!
It's still the best energy source to support our usefull task.**

ISLAND NEWS:

- In August I was able to hand over another **€ 1250,00** of donations and provisions to Maria and to a family. 😊😊😊
- I met **Evangelia** in good physical and mental condition. She's still being cared well by Lisa and the beautiful **Taverna Υποβρίχιο** (Υpowρίχιο = Submarine) is generously **sponsoring** her warm **meals**. We supported her with sanitary items and some snacks for about **€ 350,00** according to her needs. She sends her sincerest thanks to all! 😊😊😊



- **Three families** were provided with **food parcels** and some **sanitary stuff** for about **€ 560,00**. 😊😊😊



- In March **medical supplies** were bought for **€ 150,00**.
- 2017 **Health care** has significantly **improved**: since July **Dr. Lydia Th.** and **Sr Kia H.** are stationary on Iraklia. Now several years of **emergency care** by often changing doctors from Naxos have come to an end! Lydia wants to stay for a year and then specialize in surgery, Kia has moved to Iraklia with her family and is dedicated to stay. She is profoundly experienced and could easily replace a doc if necessary. I've heard many **hymns of praise** before we met, and with gratitude I profited from their heartwarming treatment after a small accident with a chain saw – these ladies are a big and well appreciated blessing for all!!! 😊😊😊😊😊😊



Lydia und Kia



- In July the www.griechenlandhilfe.at had again delivered five big boxes of medication and equipment which were ecstatically welcomed. **Many thanks to Erwin and his team!** 😊😊😊
- One family got **€ 80,00** as Christmas present for their **electricity bill**.

- **Ecological bags instead of plastic** were our summer hit 2017!

Carole Davies from London had spent a whole year on the island and came up with this great idea! She could win Norfolk artist and longtime Iraklia friend **Alison Wagstaffe** www.aliwagstaffe.co.uk to provide the beautiful design of a goddess decorated with flowers and seeds from the island.

Our helpful angel **Maria Gardia** organized purchase and printing in Athens, transport to Iraklia and a bilingual leaflet (E,GR). **Elpida** provided **€ 778,40** for **300 bags**. The money had come from greek, english, albanian, italian, french, scandinavian, german and austrian sources which turns this into a truly international mini achievement – small is beautiful!

The bags were distributed by Maria and friends and in the shops, **greeted with enthusiasm** and were out of stock **within few days**. They even got a **special mention** at the annual party of the **Friends of Iraklia!** 😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊



Iraklian goddess by ©Alison Wagstaffe, Carole Davies & Maria Gardia

Bags leaflet: Welcome to beautiful Iraklia

We want you to enjoy our island and help to keep it clean and beautiful and therefore invite you to shun plastic bags and use this one instead. Plastic bags are an eyesore to the island's landscape and a severe danger to marine life. Iraklia is home to the endangered turtle *Caretta caretta*, the almost extinct Mediterranean seal *Monachus monachus* and many more wonderful creatures. Let's look after them.

The lovely image on the bag is from a collagraph by Norfolk based artist and printmaker Alison Wagstaffe www.aliwagstaffe.co.uk. Alison is a regular visitor to the island and has incorporated some of the wonderful nature of the island into the collagraph. You can see her necklace and her earrings are made of dried seed heads.

This bag is given to you for free but it has been paid for by funds from local and international benefactors. We would be very happy if you made a small donation to help us recover the costs. You can do this at the shop you received the bag from.

Have a lovely time here and enjoy.....

- Petros, Giannis, Mitsos and some other strong young men have pulled up their sleeves again and proceeded with the **renovation of walls**. We contributed **€ 1.700,00** for work and material and so added **a little make up** for some places. (€ 850,00 in Panaghía, € 550,00 in Livadi beach and € 300,00 in Tourkopígado.) 😊😊😊



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## **GENERAL INFORMATIONS:**

- At the beginning of 2017 again **tax and social welfare laws** were changed to refund the international money: **farmers and fishermen** needed to be registered (again!) at the tax office, and they needed to **pre-pay 100% of next year's income tax!** For those with low income this is an **absolute tragedy – some just cannot cope!!!!!!** ☹☹☹ ☹☹☹ ☹☹☹
- **Winter 2016/2017** finally brought the long awaited **rain!** The feared drought stayed out, **plants grew well** in garden and field, goats and sheep found **enough to feed on**. The wild thyme bloomed richly, and bees made lots of their delicious first class honey again! 😊😊😊
- In January I was asked permit by Swiss club **Hellasfreunde** from Bern to print some of my articles in their leaflet 2017-1. 😊😊😊 [http://www.hellasfreunde.ch/801 Bulletin 17-1 20170207.pdf](http://www.hellasfreunde.ch/801_Bulletin_17-1_20170207.pdf) (German)
- **Elpida-Helvetia:** No, we don't have a new branch in Switzerland, but there's another organisation of the same name that supports SOS Children's Villages in Greece. [www.elpida-helvetia.ch](http://www.elpida-helvetia.ch)
- With commitment and great creativity **new tavernas and rooms** were built and many older ones got a beautiful facelift. **Iraklia's excellent craftsmen** have found practical and witty solutions, very often with simplest means. Despite hard work the mood is very good, there is **so much potential** and **big hope** in **tourism**. With every year Iraklia becomes more and more attractive ;))) 😊😊😊



- **Marine biology:** A few young **turtles hatched** again in **Livadi beach** in August! **Please don't touch them, they might catch an infection!** 😞😞😞 With a bit of luck you can **meet adult ones** on your snorkeling trip – very impressive and uplifting... 😊😊😊



©Fotis Gavalas

- **Book** by Lisa-Ann Gershwin: **Jellyfish – A Natural History**. ISBN 978-0-226-28767-6 \*\*\* A luscious book about our ocean's brainless heartless creatures. Did you know some of them have eyes or even teeth..... ??? Fascinating!



## AROUND THE DONATION BOX:

- There are three new perpetual **calendars** specially suitable to remember birthdays and other special occasions:

**IRAKLIA** – [http://www.johanna-klinar.at/images/pdf/grie/gri\\_kal\\_iraklia.pdf](http://www.johanna-klinar.at/images/pdf/grie/gri_kal_iraklia.pdf)

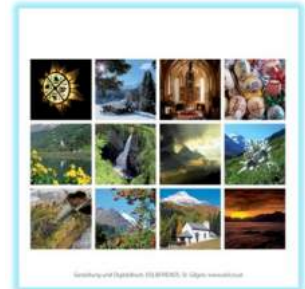
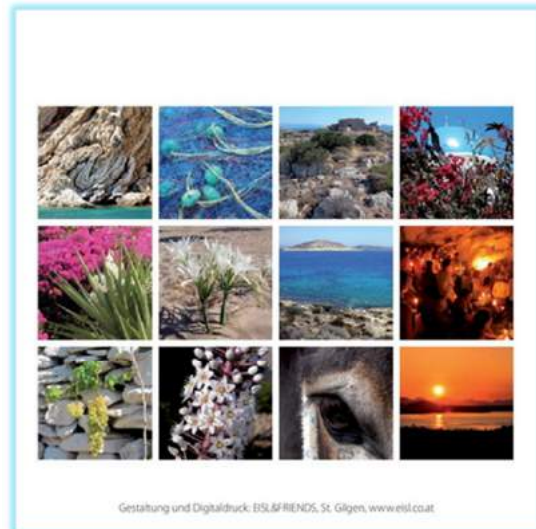
**BLUMENWELTEN / FLOWER DREAMS** –

[http://www.johanna-klinar.at/images/pdf/oe/oe\\_kal\\_blumenwelten.pdf](http://www.johanna-klinar.at/images/pdf/oe/oe_kal_blumenwelten.pdf)

**HEILIGENBLUT** – [http://www.johanna-klinar.at/images/pdf/oe/oe\\_kal\\_heiligenblut.pdf](http://www.johanna-klinar.at/images/pdf/oe/oe_kal_heiligenblut.pdf)

I presented some of our special helpers and supporters with **IRAKLIA** as a small gift to thank them for their efforts! Of course I sold some as well.

**Annoula G.** has taken over the lovely **boutique To Kyma** and also offers the calendars there.



- One of my big joys is running **a stall at a market place!** Once again I offered stationery, jams, chutneys and spice mixes at **Easter, Glocknerlammfest** and **Christmas market** and I could make nice money for ELPIDA. **Many thanks to all visitors!** 😊😊😊



Glocknerlammfest

- In July **ELPIDA-4-IRAKLIA** was **five years old!!!** I've had plans for **Greek days** with an exhibition, picture show, Greek food, stationery, jams, chutneys and spice mixes and a jumble sale... For several reasons I had to postpone these festivities, but I'll **make up for it at the appropriate time!**
- In October I had invited **Erwin Schrumpf** and his **Griechenlandhilfe team** to my place for an evening with a homemade Greek meal to thank them for their support. Besides I presented them with different calendars for their markets. **A big thank you for your long time help!**  
😊😊😊



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IDEAS, PLANS + WISHES:

- **Food parcels** for families
- Grants for **Evangelia**
- Maria had a wonderful idea: she'll buy **goat meat** for low income families from Ch. who'll then be able to **cope better with his tax debts** to the government. **Max. € 100,00.**
- **Ecological bags** will certainly be offered again in summer!
- **Primary school + Kindergarden:** Athletic equipment – balls etc. - **€ 100,00**
High school: Materials for the **chemistry lab** – **€ 650,00**
Air conditioner (A/C) for the hall – **€ 150,00** or more
There are always between 10 and 15 pupils altogether aged from 3 to 16 in both schools.
- The renovation of **village walls** should be finished - **€ 1000,00.**
- **Stabilizing rails** will be there **at the beaches** of *Aghios Giorgos* and *Livadi* to make entering and leaving the sea easier!



If you want to sponsor a special item please mark with your transfer order!

LOOKING BACK AND THANKS:

€ 1.600,00 of donations and sales provisions summed up since summer!

Alltogether 2017 brought € 2850,00.

(Total since 2012: € 18.220,00)

☺☺☺ My big THANK YOU to all involved! ☺☺☺

EVERY SHARE HOWEVER SMALL IS MORE THAN WELCOME!

Ευχαριστώ πολύ! (Evcharistó polí = Many thanks!)

- A big **THANK YOU – EVCHARISTO POLI – DANKE SCHÖN — MILLE GRAZIE – MERCI BIEN** to all our supporters and donors during **2017**: Gertraud L., Waltraud B., Sigi B., Erika & Manfred H., Otmar & Sabine W., Alessandra & Gian Andrea F., Irini & M. G., Bernd H., Carole D., Elaine, Jürgen St., Ann & John R., Emmi K., Johnny H., Barbara L., Maria L., Ilse G., Margit K., Andrea St., Gertraud N., Chri K., Barbara Tsch., Maria K., Rita M., Margot B., Karin R., Vroni & Margit., Karin M., Katharina H., Anni R., Helga F., Maria F., Alexandra, Thresl K., Margit Sch., Tilli Sch., Anneliese R., Inge D., Gertraud A., Gertraud & Karo N., Rosa Maria B., Gertraud F., Martha M. u.v.a... ☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺
- I also **give thanks** to all **shopkeepers**:
Osttirol: Buchhandlung Tyrolia Lienz * Skribo Obwexer Matri
Carinthia: Mölltaler Handwerksstube & Ederhof, Mörtschach * Kulturverein Goldegg * In Heiligenblut: Souvenir Senger * Hunguest Hotels Heiligenblut & Landhotel Post * Knapp Kasa * Karl-Volkert-Haus * Glocknerhaus * Sattelalm * Raiffeisen Bank * Glockner Massageinstitut * Nationalpark Camping * Hotel Kärntnerhof *
Salzburg: Herz & Seele Mattsee (new!)
Iraklia: *Agerinó* and *To Kyma* (new!) ☺☺☺
- Special thanks to my **printer and publisher Harald E. with his team**, whom I owe a lot! His **high quality stationery** is one of my most important columns for ELPIDA! www.eisl.co.at
☺☺☺
- **Supporters** for my **digital work**: Julia R., Franzi K., Stevie K.. **Thanks for your advice and emergency help!**

Our successful proceedings – proven and tested:

Together we agree on all investments in advance and the people of Iraklia always contribute a considerable share by volunteered work or donations!!! Every single Euro goes to Iraklia strictly net, all helpers are volunteers, I get receipts and photos and can see our achievements myself.

Since the situation is still not likely to improve soon Maria always keeps an adequate amount for emergencies. I'll do my best and ask you to support Iraklia like before.

My sincere thanks go to every single one involved, especially to Maria on Iraklia as well as to John and Lynne in England for their always friendly, thoughtful and correct handling, and to all our Greek friends! ☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺



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facebook: Johanna Klinar * ELPIDA 4 IRAKLIA

Helpful links:

- www.iraklia.gr: Official website of Iraklia (GR+E), very helpful
- **webcam Iraklia:** <http://www.naxos.gov.gr/webcam/iraklia/current.jpg>
- **webcam Naxos:** <http://www.naxosisland.eu/portara.html> * (on *Live ship data* you find positions and movements of all ships in Greece)
- www.diablog.eu: Always interesting & up to date – mainly German and Greek, some in English
- **My travel feature about Iraklia** on www.diablog.eu:
<http://diablog.eu/unterwegs/iraklia-die-urheimat-des-wassers>
<http://diablog.eu/el/taxidevontas/iraklia-i-propatoriki-koitida-tou-nerou>
 English version: http://www.johanna-klinar.at/images/pdf/texte/en_diablog.pdf
- **My Stationery:** <http://www.johanna-klinar.at/index.php/en/drucksorten-2> (Greece and Austria)
- **Facebook:** ΗΡΑΚΛΕΙΑ (Iraklia) * ΕΞΠΡΕΣ ΣΚΟΠΕΛΙΤΙΣ (Scopelitis) * ΤΟ ΚΥΜΑ (Boutique) ΣΥΝΔΕΣΜΟΣ ΗΡΑΚΛΕΙΑΤΩΝ (Friends of Iraklia)
- www.wildgreeceeditions.com.gr: Scientific brochures by G. Gavalas from Iraklia: ΟΙ ΠΕΤΑΛΟΥΔΕΣ ΤΗΣ ΗΡΑΚΛΕΙΑΣ (Iraklia's **Butterflies** – Greek) * FLYING OVER THE AEGEAN – A Guide to the **Birds of Iraklia** and the nearby Islets (English) *
- www.nissomanie.de: German Blog about islands by Katharina Roller
- www.hellasfreunde.ch: Swiss club with interesting brochures (3 per year) - German
- www.griechenlandabc.de/iraklia: Travel guide - German
- www.elpida-helvetia.ch: Organisation supporting SOS Children's Villages in Greece
- <http://www.kykladenfieber.de/Inselberichte/Iraklia-I-orea-Iraklia>: German blog
- <https://theo48.wordpress.com/Theopedia>: A real treasure trove about Greece in German