

13th. ELPIDA-4-IRAKLIA Newsletter – Jan. 2020

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



„ELPIDA-4-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.



Even a small pebble can cause big circles...

ELPIDA began – like an unplanned child – with a one-time donation of € 300,00. Meanwhile it's seven and a half and it clicks like clockwork...

My four Iraklia weeks last summer were splendid as always! Heartwarming encounters proved again the meaningfulness of our doing and I'm happy to pass on the gratitude and best wishes to all!

A QUICK LOOK INTO THE PIGGY BANK:

In August I had € 1.450,00 with me and got some more donations there.

So I could give € 2193,00 to Maria and others.

From longtime friends she also got the very generous donation of € 1.550,00 and from our successfully sold bags she won another € 575,00 back!

After returning from my holiday I had found € 395,00 on my bank account. With this plus my continuous sales plus three markets in autumn and winter I could send away another € 2020,00 in January. A very rich year indeed!

So the total sum since the birth of our project has now grown to very proud € 32.938,00!

☺☺☺ ☺☺☺ ☺☺☺ This calls for very special thanks especially to our small international „fan group“ consisting of many loyal tourists and locals. These friends from Greece, Italy, France, Albania, Germany, Austria and in particular England have been supporting ELPIDA with money, donations in kind or voluntary free work for many years! ☺☺☺ ☺☺☺ ☺☺☺

☺☺☺ **My sincerest THANKS to all involved!** ☺☺☺
EVERY SHARE HOWEVER SMALL IS MORE THAN WELCOME!
Ευχαριστώ πολύ! (Eucharistó polí = Many thanks!)

NEW & APPROVED SINCE JULY 2019:

In general:

- In July and August **the island throbs with national and international tourists.** There's still building going on, people are creative and dedicated, and their **often hard work yields good fruit!** ☺☺☺ Very often few hands during summer have to provide for feeding many more mouths throughout the whole year! ☺☺☺
- **Nearly everyone** providing food or accommodation have their **attractive web presence** on www.iraklia.gr, google earth, facebook, twitter, instagram or on various booking machines. ☺☺☺
- Last winter **brought good rain again**, i.e. rich plant growth in gardens, for people's livestock and for the phantastic thyme honey! ☺☺☺
- With the **new government in Athens** and the **new Iraklian mayor Agrantis Gavalas** municipality **funding seems more possible** for some infrastructure projects. ☺☺☺
- During talks with a young taxi driver on Santorin in August I learned a lot about **working conditions**: student in his mid twenties * has been working as a taxi driver, delivery man for all sorts of things, waiter, chef, mechanic and so forth since middle of May in a well organized network * **12 – 16 hours per day * € 3,00 – 3,50 per hour * no free day, no insurance** * in case of illness he risks dismissal because there are enough others queuing for the job... He's **very happy** about this opportunity, so he can earn the necessary extra money for his studies. ☺☺☺ **This man is by no means an individual case**, many people throughout the whole country face similar conditions.
- **Current school situation on Iraklia**: For many years about 15 children in total attended the levels from kindergarten to college. This year the numbers are **quite reduced**: Only two siblings in primary school, one in senior class. Reasons are some years with a **low birth rate** and a **wider educational choice in Athens**. Many families face the challenges of higher costs and separation from their home for the sake of providing better chances for their offspring! ☺☺☺

- **Surfin bird** with its scenic view to the little islet *Venétiko* is known for its enhanced quality in cuisine and bar. Now the **restaurant part** got the new name **Thymari** – inspired by the wild thyme that envelopes the whole island with its unique scent in spring and provides the basis for their top class honey.



- **One more taverna** opened in *Aghios Georgos* also offering beautiful Greek food with a certain something: **Araklia** (the island's old name)



- **Maria S.** invited me for a delicious *kafedáki* like every year. We talk – due to my poor Greek – mainly with hands and feet, with looks and much laughter! She sends greetings and many thanks to all for their support! Her friend Despina and her neighbour Marta **provide her with food and help.** I gave a small thank you present. **Various islanders give** small amounts of money for her to the shop keeper, our part is about **€ 60,00** or so every two months for **food and sanitary supplies.** 😊😊😊



Maria S.

- A special highlight was **Violetta`s and Yannis` invitation** to the restaurant *Υποβρίχιο* (=submarine), together with Stella G., Lynne and John N.! A reminder: We support the family since autumn 2018 when Violetta had to **move to Athens with their three children** due to necessary educational, psychological and medical needs. At home Yannis tends a flock of about eighty goats and earns his family`s living with meat, milk and an excellent cream cheese (*Myzithra – μυζήθρα*). In addition Violetta needs to work in Athens and in summer also on Iraklia.

Later that evening a group of laughing children came by and a very lively pretty girl talked briefly. Only afterwards I learned that I had met the daughter that used to be extremely shy and introverted and had hardly ever spoken at all. What a joy to see that we were able to contribute to her delightful change!!! Many thanks for this great evening! 😊😊😊 As a farewell present I even got some Myzithra, milk and olive oil... We go on supporting them with a monthly **€ 100,00** (sometimes € 200,00)!



Violetta und Yannis – their gratitude and joy shows so well!!!

- **Health care:** In December we sponsored sterile equipment for **€ 150,00**. Since 2013 the Austrian organization www.griechenlandhilfe.at has been providing all kinds of medical supplies for the whole island in irregular intervals - for free!!! Erwin Schrumpf and his team deserve **big thanks!** 😊😊😊 The local doctors changed again in summer – **Georgos Koufopoulos is new**, the experienced Sr. Kia is in her third year on Iraklia. 😊😊😊
- **Animal care: Cats of Iraklia / Οι γάτες της Ηρακλειάς** (11th news letter) has contributed a lot to the wellbeing of wild living cats which lead to increased breeding. To stabilize the dimensions of the population they are being sterilized now by and by. We supported **€ 260,00** for the first group. 😊😊😊



- The signs reading **ΧΟΡΗΓΙΑ ΕΛΠΙΔΑ (Donation from Elpida)** were still in a box in summer but have been fixed meanwhile. 😊😊😊



- **Addendum – pic for 11th news letter:** The old harbour road to *Aghios Giórgos* got their crumbled walls and several potholes fixed nicely. Many thanks to the skilful workers! 😊😊😊



- Our ecological **bags** for the **reduction of plastic waste** were not only welcomed well again but have even become a **popular souvenir** for some tourists. (9th news letter) **This initiative will go on.** 😊😊😊



- **From the sea:** With a little luck and patience you can meet one of the loggerhead turtles *caretta caretta* that visit the island regularly. I've seen three again in summer. 😊😊😊



In late spring a dead one was found in a bay on the north side but no one could tell me why it had died. According to media reportings some animals **die of starvation with a full stomach** because they **mistake plastic waste** with jelly fish or other food... Iraklia's waters are crystal clear most of the time but sometimes you find things there that shouldn't be. 😞😞😞



Caretta caretta near the Azores, helplessly caught in a plastic bag



Plastik bag



beach toy



flipflop



very long drift net(!!!), caught on the rocks

- **New: Trees for climate!** Four new Tamarisk trees were recently planted in *Livádi beach* and **two more** in *Alimiá* on the south coast. **€ 360,00.** 😊😊😊
 1. Tamarisks are **perfectly adepted** to **coarse ground** as well as **heat and drought**. They grow quite fast and can get really big and beautiful.
 2. They **steady** the **ground**, provide rich bee food, give **shade**, moisten and cool the **air**, produce **oxygen** and **bind carbon dioxide**.
 3. This enjoyable multiple bonus is our small **contribution to climate change!** We are thinking about sponsoring more trees (tamarisk, fruit, olive...)

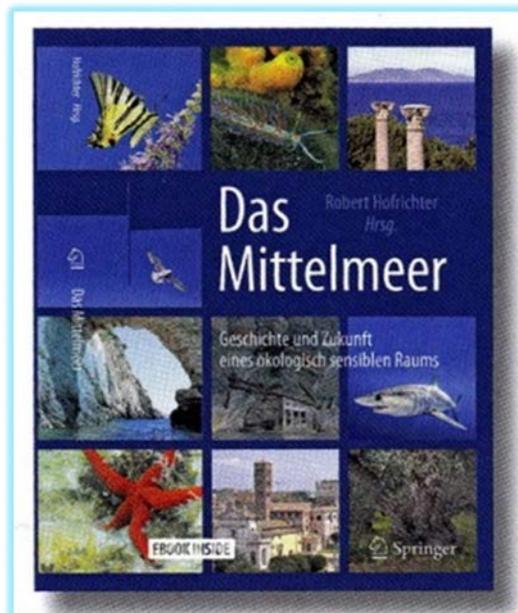


Tamarisk trees in *Livadi beach*

New site for me: Christmas market in Schloss Goldegg! After my familiar markets at the **Glocknerlammfest** in September and on the **1. Sunday in Advent** in Heiligenblut I was invited to a beautiful new location. For the first time I could attend the well known **Christmas market** in the attractive **Goldegg Castle** in the country of Salzburg! I connect most beautiful memories from my first working years with this scenic village and so it was a special joy to not only raise money for ELPIDA but also to meet many old friends again! 😊😊😊 www.goldeggamsee.at



- **New big book: Das Mittelmeer – Geschichte und Zukunft eines ökologisch sensiblen Raumes** (The Mediterranean – History and Future of an Ecologically Sensitive Area) by Dr. Robert Hofrichter, Salzburg. Extended new edition of this scientific „**Work of a Lifetime**“. ISBN 978-3-662-58929-8, 1300(!!!) pages. In German only so far, there are plans for a translation into English. www.mare-mundi.eu. (Website in **German and English!**)



A big THANK YOU – DANKE SCHÖN – MILLE GRAZIE – MERCI BIEN – EVCHARISTO to all who supported us in **2019** with **donations, buying or selling stationery or organizing a market:** John+Lynne N., Siglinde K., Irene H., Karin M., Helga F., Kerstin S., Personal LKH Laas, Praxis Dr. Müller, Julia R., Andrea O., Martha M., Cornelia M., Maria K., Chri K., Vroni S., Renate H., Resi T., Stefan & Maria N., Andrea O. & Peter K., Inge D., Ulli+Peter Z., Karin M., Claudia K., Evelyne Sch., Emmi K., Stefanie E., Liesi B., Martin I., Adonis V., Yannis G., Marta, Despina, Anne+John R., Vangelis+Vasiliki, Erika H., Christine M., Heinrich K., Harry L., Ilse M., Susi R., Bella R. + Team, Maria F., Margit Sch., Catarina L.+Gruppe, Barbara L., Gertraud N. Renate H., Nelly L., Kathi K., Helga G., Leo E., Gertrud B., Monika+Hans K., Rosina F.+Gruppe, Kulturverein & Tourismusverein Goldegg 😊😊😊

Permanent sellers: Buchhandlung Tyrolia Lienz * Skribo Obwexer Matri/Osttirol * Mölltaler Handwerksstube & Ederhof Peter Kahn in Mörtlach * Raiffeisenbank, Trafik Lackner & Glockner Massageinstitut in Heiligenblut

Seasonal sellers: Souvenir Senger, Glocknerhaus, Karl-Volkert-Haus, Knapp Kasa, Hunguest Hotel Heiligenblut, Hunguest Landhotel Post, Sattelalm, Hotel Kärntnerhof, KFZ Josef Lackner, Pension Edelweiß, Nationalpark Camping, Gemeinde – all in Heiligenblut

Markets: Easter Market, Glocknerlammfest Street Market and Advent Market in Heiligenblut, Christmas Market in Goldegg 😊😊😊

Without my reliable **printing partner Harald E. and his team** the better part of my doings were impossible! The **high quality stationery** is one of ELPIDA`S main pillars!
www.eisl.co.at 😊😊😊

For my digital work: Julia R. and Franzi K. – for your commitment and emergency assistance! Sometimes I`d truly be lost without you... 😊😊😊

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.
- Maria is our invaluable guarantee for **thoughtful handling and correct administration** and always keeps an adequate amount for emergencies. I`ll go on doing my very best and ask you to support Iraklia like before.
- My sincere thanks go to everyone, especially to Maria on Iraklia, to our friends and supporters throughout Europe and to all our Greek friends! 😊😊😊



Bank account:

Name: **Iraklia**

IBAN: **AT34 3504 7000 0151 4314 ***** SWIFT: **RVSA AT2S 047**

Owner: **Johanna Klinar**

WE THANK YOU FOR ANY FURTHER SUPPORT!



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