

Kokitsa ("Kiki") Dimitrios Hiras Polizos

She was the last of three daughters born to Dimitrios Stamatios Hiras and Magdalene Dimitrios Ravanos. She was named after her maternal grandmother, Kokitsa Konstantinos Stamouli.

Timeline:

Jul. 5	1932		<p>Kiki was born in her mother's home in the village of Kato (Lower) Klima on the island of Skopelos, Greece. Her mother Magdalene was born in the same house in 1896. The house had been in her grandmother Kokitsa Konstantinos Stamouli's family. It was located in the church square of Ayii Anaryeri (The Holy Unmercenaries, Saints Cosmas and Damianos), the church which served both villages of Upper and Lower Klima.</p> <p>Kiki's godparents were Ioannis and Magdalene Triakosa from Ano (Upper) Klima who were also next door neighbors with Kiki's future in-laws, the Polizos family. The priest at her baptism was Papa Vagelis. Later, her godparents also baptized Terpi Karveli Hirra (who would later be a cousin through marriage).</p> <p>In Greece, the custom was (and still is) that one's name-day (their patron saint's feast-day) was the day that friends and family celebrated that individual, similar to the way birthdays are celebrated in America. On this day, family and friends would visit the celebrant's house to offer good wishes and to be treated to coffee and dessert in the family's home. This custom was not usually practiced for the younger children of the family. Although Kiki does not have a patron saint, it was for this reason that she did not learn her actual birth date until the age of sixteen when she received her passport for America, in 1948.</p>
Oct. 14 Monday	1935	3 yrs old	<p>Kiki's future husband Gus leaves Skopelos for America. He would return in thirteen years to marry her (although neither knew this at the time). As Gus's family was leaving Ano Klima, they stopped at the village church of Ayii Anaryeri to light candles for a safe journey. Upon leaving the church, Gus remembered seeing two little girls, a three year old and a five year old, playing with dolls in front of their house. The blonde three year old was Kiki.</p>
Dec. 4	1936	4 yrs old	<p>Kiki's grandfather, Stamatios Dimitrios Hiras, died at sea on his cargo boat at the age of 71. Kiki remembered his body being brought back, carried off of the boat on a ladder, and buried in Kato Klima.</p>
Summer	1938	6 yrs old	<p>At the age of 17, Kiki's sister Anna, married Angelis Diamandis Berdanis in Kato Klima. Their <i>koumbari</i> were George and Alexandra Berdanis, the groom's brother and sister-in-law. The girls' father Dimitrios left for the Bahamas three days later. All her life, Anna would be the closest with Kiki of the two sisters.</p>
Oct. 28	1938		<p>Kiki attended school for six years in Ano Klima.</p>
1940			<p><u>Greece enters World War II, the church bells of the island tolled solemnly to inform the people. All contact with America ceases during the war.</u> http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greco-Italian_War</p>
Early months of the war			<p>Kiki remembered that in the early months of WWII, a British soldier, separated from his unit, found his way to Skopelos. He was hidden there by the local villagers in a small storage shed in the fields. Young girls, including Kiki, were sent to the shed with food so as not to arouse suspicion amongst the small German occupying force stationed in Loutraki. They continued to feed him until he could be moved by fishing boat to the island of Evia. His escape would eventually take him to</p>

Egypt to rejoin the British forces there.

Another memory was that of a Greek-Jewish family, a mother, son and daughter, who had a fabric shop in Volos. Forced into hiding, the son made his way to Skopelos and was hidden by the villagers. He was reunited with his mother and sister, who were both hiding outside of Volos, after the war. Kiki remembered seeing him again when she returned to Greece with her children many years later.

Summer	1942	10 yrs old	At the age of 19, Kiki's sister Maria married Angeletos Ioannis Konstantakis in Kato Klima. Their <i>koumbari</i> were a couple from the town of Skopelos.
Sept. 4	1942		Kiki's grandmother, Maria ("Mariyo") Deddi Hirra, died in Ano Klima at the age of 68. She outlived her husband by six years. A memory Kiki had of her grandmother was of running errands for her. After the chore was completed, Mariyo would always try to pay Kiki but Kiki was too embarrassed to accept any money from her grandmother and never took the payment.
	1943		Kiki's future husband, Gus, fractured his neck vertebrae in an Army gymnasium on a trampoline at Camp Wheeler in Macon, Georgia. The injury almost resulted in paralysis.
Nov. 5		11 yrs old	Kiki's future mother-in-law Ourania Konstantinos Fivya Polizou died of stroke in Ano Klima, Skopelos at the age of 60. Kiki and her mother visited Ourania in the afternoon while she was still alive at her home along with other family and friends. Kiki sat on the house's balcony and looked toward the ocean in anticipation of the arrival of Ourania's husband Varsamas in his boat, the <i>Skilitsa</i> . Ourania died later that evening and was buried the following day in the village cemetery behind the church of Ayii Anaryeri. Varsamas arrived three weeks later.
Oct. 31	1944		<u>Last German troops evacuate mainland Greece in World War II, the church bells of the island ring joyfully to inform the people. Greece immediately enters into a brutal four year civil war. The island does not escape some of the trauma of these events as it will divide villages and families.</u>
May 7	1945		<u>V-E Day, War ends on European Front</u>
Aug. 14	1945		<u>V-J Day, War ends on Pacific Front</u>
			Kiki and her mother moved to Ano Klima into grandmother Maria ("Mariyo") Deddi Hirra's former home. Kiki was not happy with the move because the new house was small and very damp, with no yard and no view.
Mar.	1948	15 yrs old	Kiki's future husband Gus travelled back to Skopelos, Greece 13 years after he first left on the <i>Nea Hellas</i> (http://members.aol.com/nehellas/MemoriesNH.htm). Others who travelled back to Skopelos that year include Theo Angelato, George Mitzelliótu ("Mitchell"), Mike Ballas, George Karberis, and Gus Christou. All of the men returning to Greece were interested in finding brides. All got married on this trip except for Theo Angelato.
			Gus arrived with the ring in his pocket which he had purchased from Montgomery jeweler, <i>Klein and Sons</i> . During this time period, marriages were traditionally arranged by village matchmakers.
Jul. 1	1948		Kiki's future husband Gus's younger sister Alexandra married Vasilios Athanasios Kotsovelos on Ayii Anaryeri Day in Ano Klima. Gus was the <i>koumbaros</i> in their wedding.
Aug. 15	1948	16 yrs old	A "secret" engagement agreement was made between the Varsamas Polizos and Dimitrios Hiras families. Very few people were told of this agreement. The wedding would be seven weeks later.
Sunday			Kiki's sister, Anna Hiras Berdanis and Gus' first cousin, Nina Fivyas Christou proposed the match between the two. Gus was told that Kiki was seventeen years old only to find out later that she was sixteen. Kiki's mother, Magdalene, was very nervous about making the final decision alone. Her husband, Dimitrios Hiras was living in America at that time. Dimitrios would later write to

Magdalene and tell her that she made the right decision. Dimitrios had heard that Gus had a reputation as being a hard worker from a good family.

Kiki knew that marrying Gus will mean a better life for her and her mother, who worked hard and lived with Kiki in their small, drab, humid home. Kiki wanted her mother to have more living space and not to have to work so hard. At the same time, Kiki wondered, "Where am I going?" and "How am I going to leave my mother?"

The next day, Gus travelled to Volos to buy Kiki a cross and take care of some other business. He was given a letter by his future mother-in-law to give to her brother, Konstantinos Ravanos (who had other aspirations for his niece), telling him the happy news. Gus handed him the sealed letter and they arranged to meet later that evening. Upon returning to Konstantinos's home that evening, Gus found the door locked and the lights off as if no one were home.

On Tuesday morning, he returned to Konstantinos Ravanos's home and met his wife, Nina Ravanos. She was pregnant at the time with her second child, Maria. Nina took Gus to a local jeweler and helped him buy a cross that he would later give to Kiki as an engagement present.

In the weeks before the wedding, Gus and Kiki would go, together with friends and family, to events, parties, and picnics. The couple was rarely alone before their wedding. One of the events, a few days after their actual engagement, was the engagement party of Gus Christou and Vasiliki Papadimitriou. Later, they would go for a picnic at St. John "of the Rock" beach.

Aug. 18 1948
Wed.

Gus left Volos that morning and arrived on the island that afternoon. That evening was the official announcement of their engagement. Gus arrived at her house with Kiki's godfather, Ioannis Triakosa and his father, Varsama Polizos, at his side to give her the cross. Ioannis Triakosa's wife was Magdalene Malamos who was Gus's mother Ourania's first cousin. They lived next door to one another. "The ring" was given later, at the wedding ceremony. Kiki served the guests coffee and local sweets.

Father Varsamas gave Kiki a gold coin, a British "Lira", as an engagement gift. About three weeks later, while on a shopping trip to Volos, Kiki had the coin made into Gus's wedding ring. While in Volos, Kiki had clothes (suits, dresses, and a coat) made for her. Kiki and her mother stayed at her uncle, Konstantinos Ravanos's house and Gus stayed at a local hotel.

Sept. 1948 16 yrs old

One week later Gus and Kiki attended Gus Christou's wedding to Vasiliki Papadimitriou in Glossa. The following week, they attended Kiki's second cousin Mike Ballas's engagement to Diomi Liolios in Glossa. The *koumbaros* in their wedding would be Theo Angelato.

Oct. 10 1948
Sunday
2 PM

Gus and Kiki were married in the upstairs of his sister Alexandra's home. That morning, Gus remembered bathing in the *apothiki* (storage shed) next door to the house in a large *skafida* (metal tub) usually reserved for washing clothes. Both sides of the family were preparing for the wedding and the reception, to be held around the neighborhood. Kiki's mother and sisters decorated the home; they set the tables with special new tablecloths which would be given to the bride and groom and they also made the "wedding bed" with new linens. The bride and groom see each other before the wedding that morning; this was not considered bad luck. In accordance with the local tradition, family and friends bringing cut flowers and platters of local sweets, such as *kourambiedes* and *hamalia* (an almond paste), to the home before the wedding. Another tradition was for guests to throw money onto the "marriage bed" both as a gift, and for

good luck. Kiki's wedding dress was a "western" style wedding dress: long and white with a veil. The women who continued to wear the everyday traditional dress of the island were the ones who also wore the traditional Skopelos-style wedding costume, called a *stofa*. Making a *stofa* was very labor intensive, which made the costume very expensive to buy. The custom of wearing the traditional island wedding dress had begun to fade about ten years prior to Gus and Kiki's wedding. Kiki's dress was sewn in Volos and her veil was borrowed from her *koumbara*, Nina Fivyas and later returned. Post-WWII Greece was a poor country and expensive additions like wedding veils were borrowed rather than bought. Kiki dressed in Alexandra's home before the wedding. She remembered the women fixing and setting her hair with water. Gus went to their *koumbara* Nina Fivyas's house to escort her to the wedding. She brought the veil with her.

Kiki's wish was not to have a big wedding; she would have preferred going to a small church. The wedding was held in the small upstairs room of Alexandra's home. It was crowded, which limited most of those present to immediate family: parents, siblings, and their spouses and children. Other guests overflowed onto the balcony and outdoor patio. Gus's father Varsamas stood next to him while Kiki's mother Magdalene stood next to her, since her father Dimitrios was still in America. During the wedding, there were tears of happiness for the couple and tears of sadness for those who were not present.

The officiating village priest was Father Evangelos ("Papa'vagelis") who lived in Glossa. His son, Dimitrios, would be the next village priest ("Papa Mitso," who years later would retire and live as a monk in a monastery on Ayio Oros / Mt. Athos). Papa'vagelis was the same priest who baptized Kiki 16 years earlier. During the wedding ceremony, another custom was for the bride and groom to eat honey and walnuts, symbolizing the bitter and the sweet aspects of a marriage. This was done shortly before the "common cup" portion of the ceremony, during which the bride and groom share a drink of wine. The "common cup" remains an integral part of Orthodox weddings today. The honey and walnut tradition was one that is not typically practiced anymore.

The dancing began outside a nearby coffee shop before dinner was served. The bride and groom were escorted there by the musicians. Four local musicians (playing the clarinet, the violin, the *bouzouki*, and the *laouto*) play and sing for those dancing. Traditionally, the musicians were not paid by the families. They performed in the middle of the dance floor and anyone who took a turn leading the bride in the traditional *kalamatiano* line dance would drop money into the musicians' hat. A *kalamatiano* is traditionally the first dance played at all Greek weddings and could continue for anywhere between 15 to 30 minutes at a time, with new leaders taking turns every few minutes. When the dancing first began, *koumbara* Nina Fivya led the bride. The next one to lead the bride was Gus. After Gus, Kiki's mother Magdalene led her. After dinner, rain sent the party indoors to Alexandra's home where festivities continued until four or five o'clock in the morning.

Gus hired Konstantinos Dimos to cook for the reception. An outdoor meal of lamb, oven-baked potatoes, salad, feta cheese, olives, and wine was served in their neighborhood with neighbors providing the tables necessary to make the banquet table long enough. The *koumbara* Nina also brought food. Watermelon and local sweets were served for dessert.

Although Gus did not ask for anything in the wedding agreement, he received everything that had been intended for Kiki's dowry: a house in Volos, property in the village of Elios, and a few other plots of land near the village of Klima. Kiki's mother Magdalene paid her sister Maria and some

other village women to embroider and knit some decorative home items typical of a wedding dowry (pillow cases, sheets, and tablecloths). Kiki would take these items with her to America. In order to leave the island during the difficult political climate of the times (post-WWII, civil war Communist guerilla fighting in Greece), a permit was required from the local police precinct (in this case, Glossa). The permit process involved screening those involved for membership in the communist party. This permit was required every time someone travelled to mainland Greece. One week later, Gus and Kiki left for Athens to arrange the paperwork for their move to America. On the way, they stopped in Halkida, the seat of the region's Greek Orthodox Metropolis, where they were delayed for a week because their wedding papers were not filed properly by their village priest. In Athens, they stayed for a week in a hotel in Omonia square. They were able to watch the "Oxi Day" parade pass through the square from their hotel balcony. While in Athens, they also went to the Greek State Department to apply for Kiki's Greek passport. During this screening process, Kiki was questioned about any possible connections with the Communist party, since most Communists were young people. They also visited Gus's sister Alexandra and her husband Vasilios who were living in Athens and therefore unable to attend the wedding. On their way back to Skopelos from Halkida, on the boat *Kiknos*, they met newlyweds Mike Ballas and Diomi Liolios. Mike was Kiki's second cousin who got married two weeks after Gus and Kiki. Local superstition discouraged newlyweds from attending other weddings during their first year of marriage.

Nov.	1948	16 yrs old	While still in Klima, time was spent each evening in different family homes having dinner and telling stories. Kiki's mother Magdalene and Gus spent many hours talking together.
Dec.	1948		About ten inches of snow fell on the island of Skopelos in early December.
Dec. 13	1948		Gus arrived in Athens to purchase tickets for Kiki and himself to fly to America from the Faros travel agency. The tickets cost \$600 each and 45% of the total price was taxes. While in Athens, he stayed with his sister Alexandra.
Dec. 14	1948		Kiki received a telegram from Gus in Athens saying, "Erhome, perilavo, fevyoume Ameriki" (in translation, "I'm coming, getting you, we're leaving for America." Kiki and her family began the process of preparing the clothes for the long trip (washing, ironing, folding, etc.).
Dec. 17	1948		Gus arrived by boat in Loutraki later that afternoon during a terrible storm. Kiki had already packed all of her things in a trunk for the trip. Half of the trunk had Gus's sister Keratso's things that she had asked Gus to bring back with him to America. The other half had Kiki's things.
Dec. 18	1948		On this rainy and cold Saturday morning, Gus and Kiki said their sad goodbyes to their Skopelos family members, parents, sisters, and friends. Kiki's mother Magdalene cried that day as she had been ever since learning the news of their quick departure. Kiki told her mother that she would send father Dimitrios back to Greece soon and also promised to return soon to visit. They left the island for Volos on Gus's brother-in-law Konstantinos Manolios' boat, the <i>Skillitsa</i> . No other boats were traveling to the mainland that day. On the boat with them were Gus's sister Anthoula, and a hired boat employee, Yeoryios Morris. In addition to the trunk, Gus's father Varsamas put rocks into the bottom of the boat to weigh down the boat. The trip took 7-8 hours. On the boat, Gus told his sister Anthoula that he and Kiki were expecting their first child. No one else on the island knew this. Gus had learned the news shortly before they left and Kiki had asked

him not to tell anyone.

The boat made its stop on the island of Skiathos after lunch and Anthoula remained there for "work" purposes. The boat arrived in Volos that evening and Gus and Kiki had dinner. They invited Konstantinos Manolios to join them, but he brusquely refused.

Later that evening, Gus put their trunk on a train bound for Pireaus. The trunk would be sent by boat to America with George Mitzelliótu ("Mitchell") who was also returning to America. The trunk would eventually be opened by customs officials in Birmingham, AL.

Dec. 19 1948 Sunday After midnight, Gus and Kiki took the boat, *Kiknos*, from Volos to Halkida where they arrived the next morning. From Halkida, they took a train to Athens. While in Athens, they stayed in a hotel in Omonia Square. During this time, they visited Gus's sister Alexandra for dinner.

Dec. 24 1948 16 yrs old Friday They left Athens' Ellinikon Airport on a TWA flight for New York City. At the time, Kiki was two months pregnant. Their flight left at 6:00 pm and made five different stops in Rome, Zurich, Paris, Shannon, and Newfoundland before finally arriving in New York City on December 25th at 8:00 pm.

They stayed two nights in New York City and visit Rockefeller Center while they there. The weather was rainy and cold especially when compared to Greece. Since it was the peak of the Christmas season, the first song Kiki remembered hearing was *Greensleaves* (What Child is This).

Dec. 27 1948 They left New York by train and arrived in Atlanta at 10:00 am the next day. They were met at the train station by Gus's brother Nick and were taken to his home for a short visit. This was the first time that Kiki met Nick and his wife Cali. Gus and Kiki left Atlanta by train that same afternoon.

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Kiki and Gus lived with Keratso in her home at 100 Vonora Ave. in Montgomery, AL for six months. Kiki and Gus were members of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation of Montgomery, AL since 1948.

Dec. 31 1948 Kiki and Gus attended their first party together, a New Year's Eve party at the church's new hall. After the dance, they went to the Sheridan Café for breakfast. Happy 1949!

Gus resumed working as a partner at the Sheridan Café on Jan. 1. He walked to work daily, which was 1.3 miles from the house.

Jul. 9 1949 17 yrs old Kiki and Gus moved into their first home, two houses down from Gus's sister Kerasia's house at 1425 Flint St. in Montgomery, 7 AL. Gus bought this property prior to leaving for Greece. The house was built after their return from Greece. Gus's brother-in-law Gus Berdanis loaned him \$4,000 to help him build the house. Gus Berdanis had Kiki co-sign the loan. They lived there for 18 years.

Jul. 23 1949 Kiki and Gus's first child, Victor Gus Polizo, was born at The Professional Center in Montgomery. He was delivered by Dr. Nace Cohen and was said to have come so fast that "he was almost born in the elevator".

Dr. Cohen's parents were both Jewish and were born on the island of Rhodes, a fact that he was very proud of. His family members who had remained in Greece were killed during the Holocaust of WWII.

Feb. 5 1950 Kiki's son Victor was baptized at the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation in Montgomery. His

godmother was his first cousin Nina Berdanis. Fr. Emmanuel Vergis performed the sacrament. The reception was held at the brand new community center next to the church.

Aug. 14 1950 18 yrs old Kiki's second child, Dimitri ("Jimmy") Gus Polizo was born at The Professional Center in Montgomery. He was also delivered by Dr. Nace Cohen. Dimitri was baptized in 1951 at the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation in Montgomery. His godparents were Chris and Ann Katiches. Fr. Emmanuel Vergis performed the sacrament. The reception was held at their home.

1951 19 yrs old Kiki's husband Gus bought his first car, a Buick at the cost of \$2,300 (photo). He paid half on the spot and the other half in payments. At the time, Gus did not know how to drive very well. He learned by taking lessons at a local driving school.

1952 20 yrs old Kiki's brother-in-law Nick came to Montgomery from Atlanta to live with Gus for three to four months while working with Vick Fivvas at the *Azalea Manor* restaurant and until he bought his own house and brought his family to Montgomery. Nick Mitchell owned one third of the *Azalea Manor* but spent most of his time away from the restaurant working as a wine distributor. Nick attended classes at Georgia State University while in Atlanta and was told by a Greek-American professor there that his last name, spelled "Polizo", could be easily confused for an Italian last name. Greek last names were spelled with an "s" on the end. Therefore, in the early 1950's, Nick, Gus, Kiki, and their immediate family members all changed the official spellings of their last names from "Polizo" to "Polizos".

Aug. 22 1955 23 yrs old Gus amended the birth certificates of their two children Victor and Dimitri to include an "s," officially making their last names "Polizos".

Sept. 1955 Gus's son Victor began 1st grade at Capital Heights Elementary School. Kiki walked him the five blocks to and from school for the first six weeks. After that, he walked alone. During Victor and Dimitri's first few years of school, all contagious illnesses that they brought home, they passed on to Kiki as well. This included the chicken pox in 1956.

Fall 1955 Father-in-law Varsamas arrives from Greece for a 1½ year visit.
Dec. 1955 *Roza Parks refuses to give up her seat on a Montgomery bus, sparking the Montgomery bus strike.*
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montgomery_Bus_Boycott

Dec. 5 1955 After years of planning and months of building, Kiki's husband Gus, brother-in-law Nick, and their cousin Vick Fivvas opened *The Riviera Restaurant and Monte Carlo Lounge* (photo). The restaurant was located on 3085 Mobile Hwy, a major highway to Florida, and was between two motels, the Continental and the St. Francis. Its phone number was 205-262-2713. After the I-85 and I-65 were built, the restaurant, and both motels saw drops in their businesses and eventually had to close their doors. Gus was 1/3 owner of *The Riviera* for 24 years.

Aug. 3 1956 24 yrs old Daughter Magdalene Gus Polizos was born at St. Margaret's Hospital in Montgomery. She was also delivered by Dr. Nace Cohen. Magdalene was baptized in 1957 at the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation in Montgomery. Her godparents were her second cousins Theo and Mary Angelato. Fr. Giannakakis (Gaines) performed the sacrament.

Jan. 14 1958 25 yrs old Kiki's husband Gus was the *koumbaros* (best man) in the wedding of Pete and Maria Caras in Montgomery, AL.

Apr. 1960 27 yrs old Kiki took all three of her children to their pediatrician, Dr. William A. Daniel Jr., for their immunizations before their summer trip to Greece. While there, Dr. Daniel immunized Kiki as well.

May	1960		<p>Kiki and her children Victor, Jimmy, and Magdalene visited Greece for four months (photo). This was Kiki's first trip back to Greece following her wedding in 1948. Her father Dimitrios met Kiki and the children at the boat dock in Pireas and they spent a few days together in Athens, seeing the city and visiting the Acropolis (photo). Their round-trip boat rides were on the Greek ocean liner, the <i>TSS Olympia</i> (http://www.ssmaritime.com/olympia0.htm).</p> <p>Throughout the course of Kiki's visits with her mother, many memories were shared about the twelve years that had passed since the last time they saw one another. Kiki's mother mentioned that Kiki never wrote about any family illnesses or misfortunes in any of her letters over those years.</p>
May 17	1962	29 yrs old	<p>Kiki's husband Gus taught her to drive so that she could drive her children to school.</p>
	1964	31 yrs old	<p>Husband Gus is Koumbaros / best man in wedding of Charles and Harriett Kambouris in Birmingham, AL.</p>
Jun. 7	1964		<p>Kiki's husband Gus was the <i>koumbaros</i> in the wedding of George and Georgia Scapin in Clarksdale, MS. Kiki later baptized their son "Johnnie" in Pensacola, FL</p>
Mar. 24	1965		<p><u><i>Selma to Montgomery civil rights march led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. passes in front of the Riviera Restnt.</i></u> http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Selma_to_Montgomery_marches</p>
Jun.	1965	32 yrs old	<p>Kiki travelled to Greece for the second time with her children Dimitri and Magdalene. Her husband Gus, along with her oldest son Victor and her second cousins, Nick and Anthoula Mitchell, surprised Kiki in Greece six weeks later. Everyone stayed an additional six weeks.</p>
Feb. 7	1967	34 yrs old	<p>Dale's Penthouse restaurant fire in Montgomery killed twenty-five people, including Kiki's second cousin Nick Mitchell and his wife Anthoula. A business-related fallout between Nick and Gus had caused the two families to drift apart. It was because of this that Gus and Kiki were not present at the restaurant that evening. Both Kiki and Nick Mitchell were <i>koumbari</i> along with the owner of Dale's John English, who survived the fire (http://www.montgomeryadvertiser.com/specialreports/175anniversary/dalesexcerpt.htm).</p>
May	1967		<p>Kiki's son Victor graduated from Robert E. Lee High School.</p>
Dec.	1967	35 yrs old	<p>Kiki and Gus bought property, built a house, and moved to 615 Marlborough St., Montgomery, AL 36109 (their new phone number was 272-8837). That year, Christmas was celebrated at the new home with the entire family.</p>
May	1968		<p>Kiki's son Dimitri graduated from Robert E. Lee High School.</p>
Jun. 1	1969	36 yrs old	<p>Kiki's sister Anna died in an Athens hospital at the age of 48 of rheumatic heart disease.</p>
Jun. 19			<p>Kiki spent two months in Greece with her children Victor and Magdalene. In August, she was surprised by her husband Gus, who also made the trip and stayed with them for two weeks. The family travelled home together.</p>
Jul. 20	1969		<p><u><i>Neil Armstrong walks on the Moon.</i></u> http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apollo_11</p>
Oct.	1969	37 yrs old	<p>Kiki's son Victor left for medical school in Athens, Greece.</p>
Sept. 13	1970	38 yrs old	<p>Kiki's father-in-law Varsamas died of "old age" in a Volos nursing home at the age of 93.</p>
Jun.	1971		<p>Kiki and her daughter Magdalene travelled to Greece for the summer. This was the last time Kiki saw her mother, Magdalene.</p>
Oct. 9	1973	41 yrs old	<p>Kiki's mother Magdalene Dimitrios Hirra died of stroke in a Volos hospital at the age of 75. Kiki went to Greece to attend the funeral.</p>
Oct. 10	1973		<p>Kiki and Gus celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary.</p>
May 29	1974		<p>Kiki's daughter Magdalene graduated from Robert E. Lee High School.</p>

Apr. 14	1975	42 yrs old	Kiki's father Dimitrios Stamatios Hiras died of old age in a Larissa nursing home at the age of 82.
Mar. 28	1976	43 yrs old	Husband's brother-in-law, Konstantinos Manolios dies in Mobile, AL at 64 yrs old. He was buried at Greenwood cemetery in Montgomery, AL.
May 29	1977	44 yrs old	Kiki's daughter Magdalene married Alex Ioannis Calambakas in Montgomery, AL. Their <i>koumbaros</i> was Fred Goodson of Slidell, LA.
Aug. 28	1977	45 yrs old	Kiki's son Dimitri ("Jimmy") married Barbara Pete Mitchell of Charlottesville, VA. Their <i>koumbaros</i> was Johnny Economy of Atlanta, GA.
Jul. 24	1979	59 yrs old	Kiki's first grandchild, Kiki Dimitri Polizos, was born in Montgomery, AL.
Oct.	1979	47 yrs old	Kiki's husband Gus left the Riviera Restaurant for Mr. G's Restaurant. He was the owner there with their daughter Magdalene and son-in-law Alex for six years.
May 14	1981		Kiki's granddaughter Constance A. Calambakis was born in Montgomery, AL. She was delivered by Dr. Nace Cohen, the same doctor who had also delivered her mother, Magdalene and uncles, Victor and Dimitri.
May 16	1983	50 yrs old	Kiki's grandson Pete Dimitri Polizos was born in Montgomery, AL.
Oct. 1	1983	51 yrs old	Kiki's son Victor married Christina Kleomenis Kliossis of Atlanta, GA. Their <i>koumbaros</i> was Anthony ("Tony") Alexander of Atlanta, GA. After the wedding, the couple moved to Brooklyn, New York.
Oct. 2	1984	52 yrs old	Kiki's granddaughter Georgea Victoria Polizos was born in Brooklyn, NY.
Apr. 30	1986	53 yrs old	Kiki's grandson Constantine Victor Polizos was born in Atlanta, GA.
Apr. 19	1988	55 yrs old	Kiki's grandson Constantine Dimitri Polizos was born in Daytona, FL.
Oct. 10	1988	56 yrs old	Kiki's children threw a surprise 40 th wedding Anniversary dinner for her and Gus in Atlanta, GA. Their children rented them a limousine for the evening.
Mar. 4	1990	57 yrs old	Their family threw Gus a surprise 70 th birthday party at their son Victor's home in Atlanta, GA.
Jul. 18	1996	64 yrs old	Gus's son Victor ran the Olympic Torch in front of the Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Atlanta, GA, the day before the Atlanta 1996 Olympic Games.
Oct. 9	1998	66 yrs old	Kiki's family threw her and Gus a surprise 50 th wedding anniversary party at the Sahara Restaurant in Montgomery, AL.
Jul.	2002	70 yrs old	Kiki turned 70. Their family got together for a special dinner at the Kyma restaurant in Atlanta, GA.
Summer	2004	72 yrs old	Kiki travelled to Greece with her husband Gus for their summer vacation.
Nov. 12	2005	73 yrs old	Kiki attended the wedding of her first grandchild Kiki to Nikolaos ("Nick") Stefanos Kipreos in Richmond, VA. Their <i>koumbaros</i> was the groom's brother, Mike Kipreos.
Oct. 27	2005		Kiki's brother-in-law Nikolaos ("Nick") died in Montgomery, AL at the age of 87.
Jun.	2006		Kiki travelled to Greece with her husband Gus for their summer vacation.
Jun. 5	2006		Kiki's sister-in-law Kerasia ("Keratso") died in Montgomery, AL at the age of 97. Gus and Kiki were not present at her funeral. They said a tearful goodbye to her before leaving for Greece days before her death.
Dec. 20	2006	74 yrs old	Kiki's <i>koumbara</i> and Gus's first cousin Ourania ("Nina") Fivgas Christou died in Montgomery, AL (86 yrs old).
Jul. 7	2007	75 yrs old	Kiki's daughter Magdalene hosted a 75 th birthday party for her.
Jul. 14	2007		Kiki attended wedding of her grandson Pete to Ashli Kay Chaffin in Birmingham, AL. Their <i>koumbaros</i> was Pete's brother, Dean Polizos.
Oct. 10	2008	76 yrs old	Kiki and Gus celebrated their 60 th wedding anniversary with a family dinner at their daughter

		Magdalene's house. Family and friends sent over 60 cards and 12 flower arrangements to the house.
Oct. 19	2008	Kiki's first great-grandchild, Eleni Maria Kipreos, was born to granddaughter Kiki Kipreos in Richmond, VA.
Nov. 3	2008	Kiki's sister Anthoula died in Athens, Greece at the age of 90.
Aug.	2008	Kiki's son Dimitri sold his half of <i>The Capitol Grill</i> to Magdalene who then became the Grill's sole owner.
Nov. 11	2008	Kiki's son Dimitri opened a new restaurant in Montgomery, AL. He named it <i>Mr. G's</i> .
May 5	2009	Kiki's second great-grandchild, James Pete Polizos, was born to grandson Pete Polizos in Birmingham, AL.

Kiki enjoys her family and friends, her flowers, a clean house, Greek music, her cats, cooking, making pastries and especially foods native to Skopelos such as *kolokithopita* (Greek pumpkin pie) and *Skopelitikes tiropites* (cheese pie), and her house in Loutraki, Skopelos. Her favorite movie is *Dr. Zhivago*. She learned to make *kolokithopita* from her sister-in-law Keratso Berdanis and *kourambiedes* (as well as other pasteries) from various older women in the Montgomery Greek community who were from the island of Patmos, specifically Mrs. Kamburis.

As of: November 26, 2008

Note: In the process of researching the genealogy of the Hiras family and their travels, we have chosen this *Hiras* spelling for use in our documentation. We have seen Hiras also spelled as 'Hiras, Hira, Chiros, Chira, Chiras, Cheros, and Tsiras'.

We have chosen to use the spelling *Magdalene*. We have also seen this spelled Magdaline, and Magdalini.

We have chosen to use the spelling *Dimitrios*. We have also seen this spelled Demetre, Demetreos, Demetri, Demitri, and Dimitrios.