Greece elects first female president

By Eli Goodhew
Staff Writer

Katerina Sakellaropoulou, age 63, has been a part of Greece's administrative court for many months and has now decided to take steps to become the first female president in their history.

If you dig into past, Greece has a significantly lower rate of females holding political positions than other places, which makes this a win for a lot of women.

Sakellaropoulou's election This gives a lot of young ladies in the area somebody to look up to and know that they can do it too. Also, her strong progressive views will open up copious windows for changes to be made. Changes that Greece needs.

The Greek government in the past has had an exceptionally difficult time accepting women into the "boys only" club of politics, but this is one step forward in the right direction of progress in the most beneficial way. BC student Sidney Robinson stated, "I'm excited to see a respected women take charge and set a good example for women in the world of politics."

When submitting Sakellaropoulou's name for the parliamentary vote for president earlier this month, Greek prime minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said, Katerina Sakellaropoulou, states, "The time has come for Greece to open up to the future." Although there are many people who do not support her opinions and believes she has people in her corner, lifting her up with high praise.

She is also known for her environmental consciousness about what is going on in the world around us and the changes that need to be made better detrimental to society's growth in the future.

She discusses deep in several interviews about what she calls the "retreat of justice." Meaning, in short, all types of discrimination and financial uproar that Greece is facing along with climate change as the cherry on top.

In her first meeting with a parliamentary delegation who informed her of her winning the presidency, according to an article in Greek Reporter, she acknowledged some of the most crucial global challenges Greece faces, including inequalities and social exclusions, financial crises, climate change, and the humanitarian crises that result from mass movements of people, which she terms the "retreat of justice."

Priorities now should be security, growing the Greek economy, and tackling social inequalities, she told lawmakers.

With high hopes from many onlookers, including a consistent political spectator and commenter, Pavlos Tzimas, Sakellaropoulou will hopefully take the political world by storm and make the changes that their society needs.

With her extensive background in politics and getting things done, she will face challenges, especially being the first female president, but it does not look like it is anything she can not handle.

The Skeleton Flower

By Solomon Turner
Contributor

According to Our Breathing Planet, this nondescript flower only reveals its hidden nature when the sky releases the rain. Diphylleia grayi is one of only three species, two of which are found in Asia and the other one, Diphylleia cymosa, being found in remote locations in the Appalachian mountain range. A situation that science has yet to explain, for this specific organism.

This small, white flower can easily be overlooked in the undergrowth of mountain forests. They have large, umbrella like leaves with a cyme inflorescence, or arrangement of flowers, that extend up to 16 inches above the plant. In the fall months this plant drops its flowers in favor of its velvety blue berries.

The petals, five arranged around a center disk, are chalky white in color but only when they're dry. When these flowers get wet, either by dew or rain, the color completely changes.

Seemingly by magic the white petals disappear to be replaced by spindly clear petals. These wet petals look like glass or an icy sculpture showing only the inner veins of the flower.

The reason for this coloration is not due to its pigmentation as one might think but is instead, according to Chemistry World, due to the loose arrangement of cells in its petals. Water enters the petals causing the refractive index of light to be identical inside and outside the cell as opposed to when the flower is dry.

Diphylleia grayi is a perennial and blooms every year from May to the end of summer. They prefer growing in humus (organic matter) rich soils, such as under large deciduous trees where there is ample amounts of shade, and each year new leaf litter is added to the soil.

Since this species of flower is Asian in origin, being found in China and Japan, they will not be found on your regular hikes through the Southern Appalachians. Sadly the one species, Diphylleia cymosa, that is found in the Appalachians does not have this unique color changing ability.

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