

On February 27th, our youth group had the opportunity to meet a special guest, Ms Kelly Loufakis who is a Paralympian Fencer from Greece.



Mrs Loufakis shared her tragic story with us and expressed the importance of believing in ourselves and never giving up on your dreams, and fundamentally, to not let anyone tell you that you cannot achieve your goals, despite a disability.

Mrs Loufakis was paralyzed due to a car accident where she lost control of her vehicle and was not wearing a seatbelt about 10 years ago. While in physiotherapy, she was encouraged to use her upper body strength and with that, discovered the world of Paralympians and to put it in her words “Fencing chose me, I did not choose fencing”. She is incredibly brave and motivating to have taken this sport to greater lengths. She is blessed to have traveled the world competing with others in similar special needs activities and has won several medals along the way. She will be competing in Paris at the 2024 Paralympics.

Mrs Loufakis is also an ambassador for the #bebrave cooperation that focuses on bettering communities to be more special needs friendly.

Our youth was intrigued by Ms Loufakis’ courageousness and strength and had so many questions about what her life is like now daily being confined to a wheelchair.

We hope that with the help of our special guest, we not only inspire our youth but also raise awareness of the welfare of being in a vehicle, whether being the designated driver or a passenger. It is also essential to mention that we can improve our awareness and think about ways to make most facilities handicap accessible. That begins with us and our community here to broaden our horizons.



We would like to thank the Chios Society of Philadelphia for introducing us to Ms Kelly Loufakis and as your Youth Director, it is my leadership role to provide guidance and support to our youth members.

Yours in service,  
Debbie Sourias, Youth Director