

EVENT



Bazaars

Shop till you drop and munch away, all for a good cause

Embrace the festive spirit with handmade, secondhand and unique gifts, as proceeds will go to charities and other institutions

BY JULIA PANAYOTOU

As the ubiquitous Christmas-light stores start to dot Athens streets there comes another sign that the holiday season is upon us: bazaars.

Combining charity and gift-giving, holiday festivals offer an early-bird way to find handmade, unique or ecologically friendly secondhand gifts for friends and family, with the proceeds going to a good cause.

Many bazaars include events to occupy the kids, leaving parents, fueled by sugar-laden treats, to stock up on Christmas cards and ornaments.

Family-oriented fun & international flavor at schools

Christmas bazaars are a good place to get your hands on foreign goods and food not normally available in Greece, mingle with fellow expats and find English-language books.

The **American Community Schools** are having their holiday bazaar on December 5 from 3 to 8 p.m. at the ACS Arts Center and Gym (129 Aghias Paraskevis, Halandri). Organized by the school's Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), ACS PTO Secretary Lilly Dimas says "the bazaar features lots of fabulous vendors, photos with Santa, American food, hand-decorated cookie houses, delicious home-baked goods, drinks and candy, BBQ burgers and hot dogs, a bargain used-book sale and a Kidz Korner with many fun activities, crafts and holiday cartoons to keep children entertained while parents shop." Music tops off the night at 6.30 p.m. with a "Festive Music Night Performance" featuring ACS musicians. Call 6948.111.992 for more information.

On December 7, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Parents-in-Action of the **International School of Athens** is organizing the ISA "Merry Christmas Bazaar" (at Xenias & Artemidos, Kefalari). Expect food, refreshments, gifts, crafts, toys, games and a raffle. Santa Claus will be there, as will live entertainment provided by school choir Nota Bene, the school band Two Aces and a Joker, DJ Panayiotis, and the ReCover band featuring prominent African American Athens City councilor Yvette Jarvis. Part of the proceeds will go to a local charity. For more details, call 210.623.3888.



Campion School (Aghias Ioulianis St, Pallini) is also holding its Christmas Festival on Sunday, December 7, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be children's games, food, drink, a Santa's grotto and, of course, lots of Christmas shopping. Call 210.607.1700 to learn more.

The **German School of Athens** (Dimokritou & Sirdi, Maroussi) is holding its bazaar on campus from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on November 29 and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on November 30. Call 210.619.9261 for more information.

St Catherine's (77 Venizelou, Lykovrisi) is having its bazaar on December 6 from 3 to 7 p.m. Offerings include games and crafts, Santa's grotto, face painting, gift vendors, a raffle draw, instant wins with tombolas, carols, music, food and refreshments. Admission is 3 euros and free for children under 2 years old. E-mail pts.a.email@gmail.com for details.

On December 7 from 10.30 a.m. to 6 p.m., **TESOL**, the non-profit professional association for Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, is having its bazaar, "Make a Wish for Christmas, Make a Wish for TESOL" at "O Horos" (63 Sevastoupolos, Ambelokipi). Professional workshops will be presented by Anne Leventeris from noon to 1 p.m. and by Suzanne Antonaros from 2 to 3 p.m. Visit www.tesolgreece.com or call 210.749.8411 for more information.

Raffle, carols & traditional goodies from church groups

Church bazaars can be a place to hear quality caroling in addition to the usual bazaar offerings.

The **Anglican/Episcopal Church** Christmas Bazaar will be held on December 7 from 11 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. at Zappeion Hall (off Amalias Avenue in central Athens). Christmas decorations, puddings, gifts, toys, books, jewelry, English cakes, jams, Cornish pasties, Christmas cards, a raffle and tombola will be available at the stalls. There will also be a children's corner. Santa Claus will be present with a photographer for that special Christmas photo. Carols from the Solomon Singers will provide festive cheer. To learn more, send an e-mail jmertzianakis@yahoo.co.uk.

On December 13 from 4 to 8 p.m. and on December 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Voila Catholic Church (77 Karama Voula) is having its Christmas bazaar complete with homemade international food such as cakes, marmalades and jams, as well as ornaments, handicrafts, gifts, toys, books and more. There will also be a white elephant exchange. For more details, call 210.896.2655 or e-mail alex21@hotmail.com.

The **Glyfada Christian Center** (117 Kl Karagiorga, Ano Glyfada) is having a Christmas bazaar on December 5 from 2 to 7 p.m. Call 210.965.1346 or 210.964.0587 for more details.

Environmental causes

This year the **Hellenic Scouts' Association** (SEO) is having a bazaar titled "Act Now for the Environment, Home and Me" at Zappeion Hall on November 29 and 30 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. devoted to environmental causes. Visitors will find stationary, cosmetic jewelry, plants, clothing, toys and more for friends and family. To learn more, call 210.323.5794.

On December 5 to 7 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., the **Hellenic Society for the Protection of the Environment and Cultural Heritage** is holding its holiday bazaar at its headquarters (28 Tripodon, Iliouka, near the Acropolis metro station). Gifts, ornaments, decorations, candles, carpets, jewelry, books, handmade treats and much more will be on offer. For more information, visit www.hellenic.org or call 210.322.5245.

Animal welfare

Charities working for animal care are well known for their Christmas bazaars in Athens, so expect a wide variety of gifts and food. **Volunteers for Care of Stray Animals** (EPAZ) is organizing a bazaar from 10.30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 7 Saronidas Avenue. "There v