

# HELLENIC SOCIETY NEWS

Newsletter of the Hellenic Society of Maine

Vol. IV, Fall 2010

## HSoM Lectures Series – Fall 2010

Don't miss the three outstanding scholars scheduled to speak this fall as part of the 2010-2011 HSoM Lecture Series. Topics include Christian mysticism, the geology of Athens, and the ancient gods of Olympia. The lectures, which are free and open to the public, will take place at 7 p.m. Fridays on September 24, October 15 and November 5. in Talbot Auditorium of Luther Bonney Hall on the University of Southern Maine Portland campus. Call 892-9831 for more information.

### Kicking off the series September 24 is Prof. Kyriacos Markides, Ph.D, speaking on “Gifts of the Desert: The Forgotten Path of Christian Spirituality.”

In his latest book of the same title, Prof. Markides continues a 25-year exploration of Christian mysticism through his participant observation work with charismatic monks, hermits and celebrated living saints of Eastern Christianity. In this lecture he will discuss a clearly identifiable experiential mystical tradition within Christianity that has been practiced for hundreds of years in ancient monasteries and convents, yet is little known to Western seekers. In his last two books, *The Mountain of Silence: A Search for Orthodox Spirituality* (Doubleday paperback) and *Gifts of the Desert* (Doubleday), he explored mystical Christianity through his association with the charismatic elder Father Maximos, a monk from Mount Athos.

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Dr. Markides is a Professor of Sociology at the University of Maine and author of eight books published by leading publishers in the United States and the UK such as Random House/Doubleday, Penguin, Viking and Yale University Press. Six of his books are on Christian mystics and Eastern Orthodox spiritual guides and elders. They are widely read and have been published in thirteen other countries and languages. Prof. Markides has also given regular lectures and workshops around the United States, Canada and overseas. He lives in Stillwater, Maine, with his wife Emily from Famagusta, Cyprus.

**Paul Marinos, Ph.D., Professor of Engineering Geology at the National Technical University of Athens, Greece,** gives this lecture on October 15 as part of the annual meeting of the Maine Geological Society. His lecture will be primarily for that audience, and thus more scientific in nature, but will be interesting to all. **He will discuss “The Geology of Athens, Greece.”** Unlike most capital cities, Athens does not have a history of continuous expansion. It is one characterized by the glory of the golden age of the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC, followed by decline and near annihilation, and then resurgence in the 19<sup>th</sup> century when it became the capital of independent Greece. In addition to modern considerations, Prof. Marinos will review the way that the ancient Athenians practiced geology in founding their city, including the quarrying of marbles for ancient monuments such as those on the Acropolis (the Parthenon); and how water shortages due to climatic and hydro-geologic conditions

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## Greek Sky: Myth, Science and Ideas

Sunday, September 19 and Sunday, October 24, at 4:00 p.m.

This year the University of Southern Maine Hellenic Initiatives program and the HSoM will once again collaborate with the USM Planetarium presenting what were previously wildly successful benefit planetarium shows “Greek Sky: Myth, Science and Ideas” narrated live by Ed Gleason. During these one-hour shows, viewers will learn about the stories, legends and lore of the stars, planets and constellations as they relate to ancient Greek myths.

\$6.00 - adults; \$4.00 - children.

Limited seating — Reservations required

Call 780-5025 and leave a message and phone number.

## Last Spring's Lectures -



On March 11, **Professor Jerry LaSala** of USM Department of Physics explained the intricacies of the “**The Antikythera Mechanism: The 2,000 Year Old Greek Computer**” - an ancient Greek computing device recovered from a Roman shipwreck dating back to the first century BCE.

Ever since sponge divers recovered this artifact in 1901, scientists have attempted to replicate its mechanism so as to understand both how it worked and the types of celestial phenomena it was designed to predict.

On Thursday, April 8, Professor Gary Johnson of the USM History Department discussed Constantine the Great in a lecture entitled: “**Constantine and the Christianization of the Roman Empire**”

*Cont. at right.*



## Red Door Pottery Studio gives benefit for HSoM!

A serendipitous turn of events this summer resulted in an invitation to HSoM president and poet, Mary Snell, to read her Greek-themed poetry at The Red Door Pottery Studio Salon Night on July 31. (Sorry! We only had time to send members a quick email notice before it happened.) HSoM member Elaine Xenelis Fuller and husband Joe hosted the Hellenic-inspired event which also featured live music and an exhibit of vintage, hand-colored photos – and offered that all donations that night be directed to the Society! Pictured after the event are, left to right, photographer Audrey Gottlieb; poet Mary Snell; musician Carol Coronis; and host and potter and musician and supreme baklava maker, Elaine Fuller.

He explained that the Roman Emperor Constantine (306-337) is the source of considerable disagreement among modern historians, and much of this disagreement focuses upon Constantine's relationship to the Christian Church.

## Fifth Annual Greek Film Series

Contemporary, Documentary & Classic Films about Greece

presented by

**USM Hellenic Initiatives and Hellenic Society of Maine \* Free**

The sixth annual Greek Film Series is attracting a modest, loyal, audience. Held once a month on Sunday afternoons at USM in Portland, films have included the psyche of the jealous husband in "Pente Lepta Akoma," the heart rending documentary of the Cretan resistance during World War II, "The 11th Day"; and the bitter-sweet, well-told tale in "Politiki Kousina."

**“Υπάρχει και φιλότιμο” (“Honor Still Exists”) Dir.: Alekos Sakkelarios Greece, 1965**

**3 PM, Sunday, September 12, 2010, Portland Campus, Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall**

The issues in this biting political satire of the mid-60s are still relevant today. A classic of the era, the film stars Lambros Konstantaras and Dionysis Papayianopoulos. A self-absorbed government Minister in Athens so has no idea what is really going on amongst his constituents in the provinces. Surrounded by his spoiled, rich family and conniving party workers, he doesn't learn the truth until a fortunate accident brings him close to the simple people of a village – a meeting that changes him profoundly. This film is a primer on how, unfortunately, Greek government still works. Not Rated. 91 minutes. In B&W. In Greek with English subtitles.



**“Η Κληρονομιά” (“The Heiress”) Director: Panayiotis Fafoutis Greece,**

2009

**3 PM, Sunday, October 3, 2011, Portland Campus, Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall**

In this contemporary Greek comedy, a recently widowed woman – who knows little about soccer and cares less – inherits the chairmanship of a struggling soccer team, as well as the vast fortune that it generates. The problem is, that to keep the money she needs to manage the team well enough to keep it in the top league. The film stars: Smaragda Karidi, Gerasimos Skiadaresis, Petros Lagoutis, Kostis Koroneos, Vaggelis Alexandris, Hristos Sapoudzis, Titika Stasinopoulou. Smaragda Karydi is a Greek TV and stage actress who came into prominence playing the role of Dahlia in the TV series “Sto Para Pente” and later the TV series “Fila ton vatraho sou” (“Kiss your Frog”) She graduated from the Drama School of the Greek National Theatre and has worked as an actress in the Greek television in primary and secondary roles in the series. Not rated. 95 minutes. In Greek with English subtitles.



**“Phaedra” Director: Jules Dassin USA, 1962**

**3 PM, Sunday, November 14, 2011, Portland Campus, Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall**

The searing tragedy of classical times is re-written into a story of grand, doomed passion among the jet-setters, as a shipping tycoon, Thanos (Raf Vallone) sends second wife, Phaedra (Melina Mercouri --"luminous with fervor and honesty" - *NY Times*) to drag her alienated son, Alexis (Anthony Perkins) back from Parisian exile, with dire results for all concerned. Dassin teamed with avant-garde writer Margarita Liberaki to update Euripides' tragic tale of [Hippolytus](#), in this version contrasting the accoutrements of cosmopolitan 60s life styles with age-old passions and old-world customs. It features original music by Mikis Theodorakis. Golden Globe in 1963 nomination to Mercouri for Best Actress – Drama. In B&W. Not Rated. 115 minutes. In English with some Greek.



forced Solon to impose, as early as the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC, rules for ground water management.

Dr. Marinos is the Richard H. Jahns Distinguished Lecturer for 2010, sponsored by the Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists (AEG) and the Engineering Geology Division of the Geological Society of America. He is traveling throughout the United States for one year, giving lectures at many colleges and universities. Dr. Marinos received a Mining Engineering degree from the School of Mines of the National Technical University of Athens, Greece in 1966, a postgraduate degree in Applied Geology from the University of Grenoble, France, and his Doctorate in Engineering Geology from the same University in 1969

**Evelyn S. Newlyn, Ph.D., Professor Emerita of English, will present her fascinating talk on November 5 – “The Greek Creation Myth and the Olympian Gods.”** As do virtually all cultures, the ancient Greeks had a creation myth and a theogony intending to explain the unexplainable – to answer such questions as how the world came to be (Gaia emerged from Chasm), who was in control of such things such as storms (Zeus sent thunderbolts), and why a child sickened and died (the parents had neglected Apollo). Dr. Newlyn’s presentation, illustrated by Classical art, will explore the essential matters in the Greek cosmogony and will discuss the major deities, their genealogies, their spheres of influence, and some of their typical interactions with each other and with mortals, thereby touching upon some of the most interesting of the Greek myths.

Evelyn Newlyn received her Ph.D. in English from Syracuse University, after which she taught courses in medieval literature and Classical literature throughout her career at universities in Virginia and New York. Since retiring from the State University of New York she has, with great enjoyment, been teaching such courses for the OLLI program, the senior college at USM.

*We welcome all persons interested in Hellenic culture to join us in attaining our goals. By joining as an **ASSOCIATE MEMBER** you will receive all mailings and email announcements of HSoM and other Hellenic related events and may attend meetings. As a **FULL MEMBER**, you also will be able to vote on policy issues at business meetings which you will be encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Mary Snell, president, at [msnell@maine.edu](mailto:msnell@maine.edu) or call 892-9831.*

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<b>Address:</b> _____	<b>City</b> _____ <b>State</b> _____ <b>Zip</b> _____
<b>Telephone</b> _____	<b>Email</b> _____
<b><u>For 2010-2011:</u></b>	
_____ (\$15) Annual Full Member (grants the right to vote on policy issues at meetings)	
_____ (\$10) Annual Associate Member	<b>Make check or money order payable to:</b> Hellenic Society of Maine <i>Taxia Paras, Treasurer</i> P.O. Box 598 <b>Scarborough, ME 04070-0598</b>
_____ Please put me on your mailing list. I can't join now, but enclosed is my check for _____ in support	

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