



HELLENIC SOCIETY NEWS

Newsletter of the Hellenic Society of Maine

Vol. V,
Fall 2011

Our New Logo!

Our new logo, an original design created by artist and board member, Judith Allen Efstathiou, is an image of an ancient Greek ship - a fitting symbol of the Hellenic cultural and educational voyages that we offer to the community.

HSoM Fall Lecture Series

This Fall two presenters are scheduled to speak as part of the 2011-2012 HSoM Lecture Series. Topics include Carl Jung and Greek influences, and the Oracle at Delphi. The two lectures begin Thursdays at 7:30 pm in **Room 207, Payson Smith Hall** on the University of Southern Maine Portland campus. Call 892-9831 if you want more information.



Kicking off the series **Sarah Harrell, Ph.D.**, will present her fascinating talk on **October 20** – “**Delphi and What it Meant to be Greek.**” As early as the ninth-century BCE, Hellenes began establishing colonies far from what is now modern Greece. Without a single homeland, the question of what it meant to be Greek in antiquity was a complicated one. Panhellenic sanctuaries provided one way for Greeks from all over the Mediterranean to maintain a common identity. Delphi, stunningly situated on the slopes of Mount Parnassus in central Greece, was said to be the omphalos, or navel, of the earth, the real and symbolic center of the world. Here Greeks consulted Apollo’s oracle before embarking on colonial

continued on p. 3



On **November 17** **Christos Gianopoulos, MA, MPA**, will speak on “**Carl Jung and the Greeks.**” C.G. Jung (1875-1961) is one of the towering intellectual figures of the 20th century, and his work focused on the central task of the individual to achieve self-understanding. He developed his own theories about how to read the depth of one’s own mind and to understand one’s own personality and cultural influences. He used Greek philosophical ideas from Plato and Heraclitus to distinguish his psychological brand from those of his contemporaries, Sigmund Freud and Alfred Alder, and he emphasized

continued on p. 3

Socials—and Other Events

In addition to the films and lectures covered in this newsletter, the Society will hold two socials for members and other persons interested in learning more about us. In addition, below we have included information about two other events that involve our members.

Thurs. Sept. 15 – **TALK** on the Greek economic crisis. (See page 4.)

Wed. Sept. 28 – Wed. Sept 28 - First HSoM Membership **SOCIAL** at Local 188 restaurant, 685 Congress St. Portland. For HSoM members, but spouses and potential new members are welcome. 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Park behind building. (Stay for dinner, but you should reserve those tables in advance. 761-7909)

Sunday, Oct. 30 – **Special Event** - visit by Mimica and Sabrina Tsezana-Hyman to introduce the documentary “Song of Life,” the story of the Jewish community on the Greek island of Zakynthos during the Holocaust. (See page 2.)

Thurs. Nov. 17 – Opening reception for Maine College of Art **exhibition**, “A Perpetual Present,” featuring work by new HSoM board member Judith Allen Efstathiou with daughter Eirene Efstathiou of Athens, as well as four other artists. Institute of Contemporary Art at MECA, 522 Congress St. (old Porteous Building) 6 – 8 p.m.

Thurs. Dec. 15 – HSoM Holiday Membership **SOCIAL** at the Pepper Club, 78 Middle St. Portland. For HSoM members, but spouses and potential new members welcome. 5 – 7 p.m. Consider staying for dinner.

Sister City Art Exchange

John Knight, Fall Dandelion and Rocks, oil (original in color)



Jeff Badger has a great idea – to share Portland’s vibrant art scene with its international Sister Cities. A curator, artist, and chair of the art department at Southern Maine Community College, Badger has attracted some of the best artists in the Greater Portland area who have agreed to submit works on paper for such a traveling exhibit through his Maine Art Exchange (MAE) program.

The Hellenic Society of Maine is working with MAE and the City of Portland to arrange for the exhibit to travel to Mytilene, Lesvos, Greece, next June or July 2012 as part of the celebrations for 100th anniversary of the annexation of Lesvos to Greece. Board member Judith Allen Efstathiou and her award-winning artist daughter, Eirene, will

continued on p. 4

Fall 2011- Seventh Annual
GREEK FILM SERIES
Contemporary, Documentary & Classic Films

presented by

USM Hellenic Initiatives and Hellenic Society of Maine * FREE

“Little Greek Godfather” (“ΠΡΩΤΗ ΦΟΡΑ ΝΟΝΟΣ”) Directed by Olga Malea Greece, 2007
3 PM, Sunday, September 18, 2011, Portland Campus, Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall



Brought up in California, offspring of an important political family, 11 year old Alex travels to Crete in order to baptize the baby child of a local leader and parliamentary candidate. He will be a Godfather for the first time and hopes to prove to everybody, and mainly to his father, that he is a worthy son. His foreign looks, his difficulty with the Greek language, the Cretan's particularities, and the tests he has to go through in order to be accepted, create a comedy with a political background, existential distresses and tragi-comic situations. This, his first baptism - an initiation in the art and tricks of politics - will mark him for the rest of his life. The film is based on a semi-autobiographical short story by Nikos Papandreou, an established writer and son of former Prime Minister, Andreas Papandreou, and the brother of the current Prime Minister, George Papandreou.



Not Rated. 90 minutes. In Greek, with English subtitles. (In photo at right, director Malea and screenwriter Papandreou).

“Song of Life” A Documentary by Tony Lycouressis Greece, 2002
3 PM, Sunday, October 30, 2011, Shepard Lee Community Hall, Rm. 133 Wishcamper Hall, Portland Campus
Co-presented by the USM School of Education and Human Development, Diversity Committee and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

“Song of Life” tells the story of the Jewish community on the small Ionian Sea island of Zakynthos, from the mid-15th century to the present day, focusing on the uplifting story of the survival of the Jews during the Nazi occupation there. When the Nazis demanded a list of the island's Jews, the Mayor and the Bishop of the island made a decision that stood as an inspiring point of light amid that era's darkness. Interviews with island residents, including the mayor's widow, piece together the story of this rescue, which took place even as 60,000 Jews – 86 percent of the community -- perished from the rest of Greece. Running time 65 minutes. In English with Greek subtitles, and Greek with English subtitles.



Special Guest: Mimica Tsezana-Hyman, a member of the "American friends of the Jewish Museum of Greece" that helped produce the film, will introduce it and relate family stories. Her daughter, Sabrina, will offer a song inspired by the event.

“Stella” Directed by Michael Cacoyannis, Greece, 1955
3 PM, Sunday, December 4, 2011, Portland Campus, Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall



Melina Mercouri's first film and her only one in Greek! Golden Globe for Best Foreign Film in 1956. Stella (Melina Mecouri), a fiery Rembetiko singer with an insatiable appetite for men, defies the rules of conventional morality by refusing to marry. Determined to keep her independence, she discards her timid lover (Alekos Alexandrakis) and begins a torrid affair with Miltos (George Foundas), a brash local soccer hero who satisfies her hunger for unbridled passion. But when Miltos forces a marriage proposal upon her, Stella faces losing the freedom she desperately craves. The first Greek film to achieve international recognition, *Stella* confirmed Michael Cacoyannis' talents as a director of exceptional originality and vision. It has been said that the story of Stella's forced marriage symbolizes the forces that are constantly trying to impose their will on Greece. Shot on location in and around Athens (great views of Athens and Piraeus in the early 1950s), the film featured some of the most provocative and realistically shot love scenes of the times. Excellent music by Manos

Hatsidakis. Not rated. 100 minutes. In Greek, with English sub-titles.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SPECIAL SERVICES, ASSISTANCE, OR ACCOMMODATIONS TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THIS PROGRAM, CONTACT IRWIN NOVAK, AT 780-5025 OR TTY (TELETIX/TDD) 780-5646. REQUESTS FOR REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED 48 HOURS BEFORE THIS EVENT.

Board Member George Spatoulas Reports — New Tech directions:

HSoM is getting more involved in social media and the internet in general. We want to make sure our message can reach you, and our broader audience, in the same way many receive information in today's environment. We have added a Facebook page called Hellenic Society of Maine, and are in the process of re-designing our web page that is currently hosted by USM, but soon will be hosted outside the university space. If you have a Facebook account, search for our page and hit the "like" button. This will keep you posted on everything happening with HSoM.

Make sure we have your latest email address, please, as we are moving toward sending more updates and info electronically. It is the way most people prefer to get messages these days, and also it helps us keep costs under control.

Gianopoulos Lecture con't from p.1

the enduring value of the Greek myths in giving us insights into the connection between conscious thought and the deeper layers of the mind that contain potential energy and greater wisdom. In a world that is fast changing and more complicated all the time, an understanding of some basic Jungian ideas, such as archetypes, the collective unconscious, and the individuation process can help people stay true to their values and to themselves.

Christos J. Gianopoulos is an independent consultant who leads seminars in self development, and he is adjunct faculty in philosophy at the University of Maine and at Southern Maine Community College. In his consulting business, Mr. Gianopoulos has assisted many business leaders in clarifying their thinking about the direction and management of their enterprises. For the past five years, Christos has served on the Board of Directors of the C.G. Jung Center in Brunswick. He lives in Greene with his wife Christine, and he sings in the choir at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Lewiston.

Harrell Lecture con't from p.1

expeditions; later generations traveled from these colonies to participate in festivals and set up monuments. One such monument is the "Delphic Charioteer." Dating from the fifth-century BCE, it has become an emblematic image of Delphi as well as of classical Greek art. Yet it was set up by a Greek tyrant from Sicily, a distant western outpost. In this talk, this statue will serve as a window into the role Delphi played in the creation of a Hellenic identity. It also will help us to question our modern assumptions about what it meant, and means, to be Greek.

Sarah Harrell received her BA in Greek and Latin from Wellesley College, and her Ph.D in Classics from Princeton University, with a specialty in Greek literature. She has taught courses on ancient Greek language, culture, and civilization, most recently at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn. She lives on Portland's Eastern Prom and is completing a book entitled: "Cultural Geography of East and West: Representations of Fifth-Century Sicilian Tyrants," under contract with the University of Texas Press, Austin.

The HELLENIC SOCIETY OF MAINE strives to present and/or support events in Maine (and Greece) that appeal to a wide range of people – both Greeks and philhellenes. It is affiliated with the University of Southern Maine through its Hellenic Initiatives program. Our lectures and annual film series regularly draw 20-30 people or more per event. We have presented classes in Greek dance and language, held a wine tasting and silent auction, a children's theater production, concerts, planetarium shows on Greek myths – and much more. We also support the official Sister City relationship between Portland, Maine, and Mytilene, Lesvos, Greece.

RENEW NOW or JOIN US! 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@usm.maine.edu or 207-892-9831.

CUT OUT AND RETURN

Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

For 2011-2012: Renewal / New

_____ (\$15) Annual Full Member (grants the right to vote on policy issues at meetings)

_____ (\$10) Annual Associate Member

_____ I can't join now, but enclosed is my donation

**Make check or money order payable to:
Hellenic Society of Maine
Send to:**

Taxia Paras, Treasurer

