



HELLENIC SOCIETY NEWS

Newsletter of the Hellenic Society of Maine

Vol. VI - Fall 2012

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PORTES Art Exhibit in Mytilene

by Jeff Badger, Exhibit Curator



Mytilene Mayor Demetrios Vounatsos visits the exhibition.

It was an amazing trip to Greece! Throughout this project we were astounded by the generosity and support people expressed for *Portes* -- and to see the exhibition come together in two weeks in Halim Bey, the Municipal Art Gallery of Mytilene, was an inspiring and humbling experience. Despite the historic events unfolding in Europe and the challenges the citizens of Greece are facing, their support and enthusiasm for this project was undaunted. (Nicos Provatas and Barbara Gigilini were of great help, as were others.)

The show was intended to be a cross-section of contemporary art in Portland. Attendees at the lovely opening night reception, hosted by Mayor Demetrios Vounatsos, were impressed with the wide range of themes and the professional quality of the works. In our estimation, *Portes* also was a major success in our goals of citizen diplomacy and cultural exchange.

At the conclusion of our visit, we had the pleasure of meeting with a group of local artists and set the wheels in motion for the reciprocal exhibition in Portland in the future. The Sister City relationship initiated in 2003 by the Hellenic Society of Maine is alive and well, and we hope the success of *Portes* indicates a continuing program of exchange between our two great cities. For more information go the Hellenic Society of Maine website and "like" the Hellenic Society of Maine Facebook page.



Judith Allen Efstathiou's (back row left) gift of a print is held by Mytilene's Deputy Mayor, center.

Sister City Display Case installed in Portland City Hall

Portland's Greek Sister City, Mytilene, is represented, at last, by a beautiful oak display case located, with the other Sister City cases, in the second floor rotunda of Portland City Hall. The case was commissioned and donated by the Hellenic Society of Maine to the city.

The dedication was held on April 3 and attended by the Mayor of Portland, the Honorable Michael Brennan; former Mayor Nick Mavodones; and Cheryl Lee-man, representing Sen. Olympia Snowe's office, who brought videotaped remarks by the Senator who could not attend.

A number of donors contributed funds to make this happen. The Society is grateful for their support and has engraved their, or honorees', names on brass plates affixed to the case. They are: Cynthia Gounaris Allen; Judith Allen-Efstathiou; Dolly Anagnostis *IMO John E. Anagnostis*; Christos J. Gianopoulos; Dorothy Klimis-Zacas; *IMO Helen Koulouris*; Marian Morgan; Rena Minadakis *IMO Nicholas Minadakis*; Irwin D. Novak; Taxia Efthimiou Paras; James Paras (Paraskevas); Stephen Poulos; Mary E. Snell; George Spatoulas; Miltiades Zacas; and Chris Ziagos *IMO Venus Ziagos Matczak*.

Study Ancient Greek at USM's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

In a special arrangement with the HSoM and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at USM, HSoM board member Sarah Harrell, Ph.D. will once again offer an eight-week class in Beginning Ancient Greek Thursday evenings at 6:45 p.m. starting on September 20.

You do not have to be a member of OLLI to take the class, but you do have to register and pay the class fee of \$50. Contact OLLI at 780-4406 at least a week before the class begins. The two-hour class,

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Fall Lecture Series: Fr. Constantine Sarantidis on Icons Oct. 24 and Prof. Peter Aicher on Troy Nov. 14

Two great lectures are scheduled for Fall 2012 -- First, Fr. Constantine Sarantidis will give his talk, "Icons in the Orthodox Church: Images of the Divine Life" at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 24 in the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Parish House and Church, 133 Pleasant St., Portland. Icons are much more than religious paintings of Christ and the saints. They are visual expressions of Orthodox theology and windows into eternal realities. Because of their serious role in Orthodox spirituality and theology, there are ancient rules that govern the forms, colors and content of icons, and some of these will be discussed in the talk. But beyond images of the divine, they also draw the contemplator into the reality of the divine life that all people are invited to share. Some of the ways icons do this will be discussed.

Fr. Constantine has been the priest of Holy Trinity Church for almost 24 years. He was born in Greece and grew up in Montreal Canada. He holds degrees in Chemistry from McGill University and the Univer- Con't. on p.3

Eighth Annual
GREEK FILM SERIES

Fall 2012

Contemporary & Classic Films about Greece

presented by

USM Hellenic Initiatives and Hellenic Society of Maine * Free

“Shirley Valentine” Director: Lewis Gilbert USA, 1989

Sunday, Oct. 14, 3 PM, Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland Campus



The hilariously endearing Shirley Valentine is a wisecracking, completely unpredictable English housewife who proves it's never too late to recapture your dreams. In the role that won her Broadway's acclaimed Tony Award, and a nomination for an Oscar - Best Actress, (1990) Pauline Collins plays this middle-aged Liverpool housewife, who finds herself talking to the wall while she prepares her husband's chips'n'eggs, wondering what happened to her life. Bored with suburbia, Shirley takes a chance on adventure when a friend invites her on a vacation to Greece. Within no time she's back to her rebellious teenage roots, saying yes to a wild fling with a handsome rogue (Tom Conti) and the life she's always wanted. In Greece Shirley begins to see the world, and herself, in a different light. *Filmed in the UK and on Mykonos. 108 minutes. Rated: R. In English.*

“The Weeping Meadow” Director: Theo Angelopoulos Greece, 2004

Sunday, Nov. 11, 3 PM, Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland Campus

Greek director Theo Angelopoulos' portrayal of war-ravaged Greece is framed by a tragic love story. This first saga in his "Trilogy," spanning 1919-1949, opens with a visually stunning scene of refugees from Odessa crossing estuaries that show their haggard reflections in water, as if to double apparent hardship. While establishing Odessa's history in relation to the rise of Mussolini's Facist takeover, the film unravels a complicated love triangle between Eleni, an Odessa girl; her lover, an unnamed young man; and his lonely father, Spyros, who also happens to be Eleni's fiancé. But when Eleni's lover abandons her for America, she's captured by soldiers, imprisoned, and separated from her children. The human drama unfolding mimics its political settings, so that love quarrels heighten the sense of repression, and vice versa. When civil war breaks out, Eleni's life seems in shambles as well. Emotionally wrought, The Weeping Meadow is depressing, but still appreciated for its depth of character and portrayal of Greek culture. As with any love story, the film reminds the viewer how human relationships are fragile yet enduring. *Not Rated. 170 minutes. In Greek with English sub-titles.*



Two Documentaries: “99 Laskareos St., Athens” and “Syntagma Square, Athens”

Director: Katerina Patroni & Producer: Marco Gastine (Minimal Films) Greece, 2011

Sunday, Dec. 9, 3 PM, Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland campus

“99 Laskareos St., Athens” is the first of the thirteen episodes of DOCVILLE, a cinéma-vérité documentary series about urban life in Greece today, during the times of financial crisis. Zoe and Athena, two women in their fifties, own two small shops in the same block in the centre of Athens. Due to the crisis, most small businesses in their neighborhood are closing down. Zoe and Athena are fighting hard to keep their businesses afloat a little bit more. *In Greek with English subtitles. 47 minutes.*



“Syntagma Square, Athens” is the 11th episode of Docville. Every day, in the summer of 2011, the central square of Athens is full of people who peacefully besiege the Greek Parliament, searching for ways to be listened to, ways to play a role in social and political things. Everyone is there for their own reasons. Yet they all demand a change. On the margin of those demonstrations, the camera follows a monk, a foreign vegetarian pacifist, as well as other lonely persons who make up this incongruous

crowd that succeeds, even for a little while, in coexisting, searching and hoping. *In Greek with English subtitles. 47 minutes.*

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

Lectures Con't. from p.1
 city of Toronto, and received his theological training at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary in Crestwood, NY, where he received the M.Div. in 1983. He is currently interested in the interaction of Orthodox (patristic) theology with post-modernism and social justice issues.

Prof. Peter Aicher will present an illustrated talk entitled: **"Was There a Troy and Why Does It Matter?"** at 7 p.m. Wednesday November 14 in Room 102 Wishcamper Center, USM Portland Campus. Homer's *The Iliad* is one of the great works of world literature, having been written just after the development of written language. Based on an oral epic that was sung by roving poets, this story of the warrior Achilles during the Trojan War was written down and expanded by the blind Greek poet, Homer, in 800 BCE.



Prof. Aicher is a graduate of Colgate University and received his Ph.D. in Classics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is professor of classics at the University of Southern Maine. The tradition of epic literature from Homer to Joyce is a special interest, as is the city of Rome, about which he has published numerous articles and two books: *Guide to the Aqueducts of Ancient Rome* and *Rome Alive: A Source-Guide to*

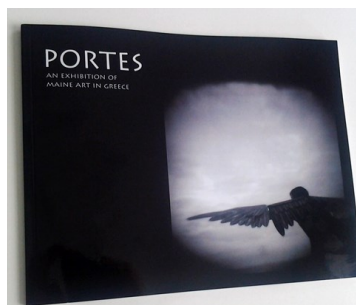
the Ancient City, a two-volume guide based on ancient Greek and Roman writings about the capital.

Sending support to Greece

Most of us want to help the citizens in Greece as they struggle under the weight of enormous economic hardship. But how? Will aid sent reach the intended? Two HSoM board members have chosen to do something, even though small, and have adopted a small village grammar school on Lesbos which they know well. They have purchased school supplies for the children that they will mail directly to the village president in time for their school year. If any members or friends would like to help with this project, or would like to participate in developing a project of their own, please contact Mary Snell at msnell@usm.maine.edu for encouragement and information.

PORTES - The Catalogue!

The catalog for **Portes: An Exhibition of Maine Art in Greece** is available. Visit the Lulu.com website to preview and



consider purchasing the 59-page book with images of artwork and receptions from the exhibition in Portland, Maine, USA and Mytilene, Lesbos, Greece.

Go to: <http://www.lulu.com/shop/tetra-projects/portes-an-exhibition-of-maine-art-in-greece/paperback/product-20305877.htm>

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 auctions, 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, Lesbos, 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

✂ *Cut Out and Return!*

Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

For 2012-2013: Renewal / New (circle one)

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

_____ (\$10) One Annual Associate Membership

_____ I can't join now, but enclosed is my donation for _____ in support of **Hellenic Society of Maine.**



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

Taxia Paras, Treasurer

P.O. Box 598

Scarborough, ME 04070-0598

✂ *Clip and Save!*

Quick Calendar Summary

Most events are free.

See articles for more details.

Sept. 20 – Greek Language Class: Beginning Ancient Greek class with Dr. Sarah Harrell begins. 8 weeks. Wishcamper Center, \$50.

Oct. 14 – Film: *Shirley Valentine*, 3 p.m., Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland campus.

Oct. 24 – Lecture: “Icons in Orthodox Church: Images of the Divine Life” by Fr. Constantine Sarantidis. 7 p.m. Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Parish House and Church, 133 Pleasant St., Portland.

Nov. 11 – Film: *Weeping Meadow*, 3 p.m. Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland.

Nov. 14 – Lecture: “Was There a Trojan War and Why Does it Matter?” by Prof. Peter Aicher. 7 p.m. Room 102 Wishcamper Center.

Dec. 6 – HSoM Holiday Social, 5-7 p.m. location TBA

Dec. 9 – Film: Two documentaries: *99 Laskareos St., Athens* and *Syntagma Square, Athens*. 3 p.m. Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland campus.

Summer Classes on Lesbos

USM has offered summer classes on Lesbos for nearly two decades. Students in this year’s class, “The Cultural Landscape of Greece,” spent three days in Athens, (see right) and studied three weeks on Lesbos where they were special guests at the opening reception for the *Portes* art exhibit in Mytilene.

NEXT SUMMER -- Do you know of someone - student or community member - who wants to travel and write in Greece? Once again, International Programs will offer the “**Writing and Myth: A Creative Writing Workshop**” in Athens and on Lesbos from **May 17 to June 1, 2013**. Led by Betsy Sholl and Mary



2012 Class at the Parthenon.



2011 class on hotel roof-garden with faculty member Betsy Sholl at right.

Snell, the class focuses on creating new work that is work-shopped daily, and on learning more about Greek writers and myths. There are field trips and special events too. The workshop is open to writers from the general public; and earns students three undergraduate credits. Cost includes airfare, housing, tuition, transfers and museum admissions -- everything except food. For more information contact Summer Session at 780-5072 or go to www.usm.maine.edu/SummerSession.



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“**Introduction to Ancient Greek,**” will examine basic concepts of the language, key vocabulary, and grammatical structures with the goal of reading excerpts from a range of texts in the original Greek - from the New Testament and Sophocles to Sappho. Sarah (at left) urges anyone who wants to take the class but is afraid it will be too hard (!) to contact her at seh.artemis@gmail.com. The class will be in the Wishcamper Center on the USM Portland campus. Discuss parking with OLLI when you register.

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