



HELLENIC SOCIETY NEWS

Newsletter of the Hellenic Society of Maine

Vol. VII - Fall 2013

Website: www.hellenicsocietyofmaine.org Facebook: www.facebook.com/

Sister City relationship 10 years old

The Sister City relationship between Portland, Maine and Mytilene, Lesvos, Greece has reached a landmark year – 10! To mark the occasion, HSoM and the Mayor of Portland, Michael Brennan, will send greetings and a joint letter of congratulations to the Mayor of Mytilene, Dimitrios Vounatsos. We'll also celebrate at our annual Holiday Social in December.

Ten years ago, on October 17, 2013, a reception was held in the State of Maine Room of Portland City Hall to celebrate the establishment of the friendship relationship between the two cities. At this time speeches were made, gifts were given, and many warm feelings were exchanged between a delegation from Mytilene and Portland residents.

The following Oct. 20, the delegation from Mytilene attended a Portland City Council meeting at which a formal City Council vote was taken. Among the Greeks who attended were then-Mayor Aris Hatzikomninos, and Mytilene City Council members Ilias Kounarelis, Makis Venetas and Nikos Katranis, as well as tapestry artist, Sophia Tata. Representing Portland were then-Mayor James Cloutier, City Council member Nicholas Mavodones, Rachel Talbot Ross, members of Hellenic Society, and others.



The next year in 2004, Mayor Nick Mavodones of Portland, along with Mytilene Mayor Aristidis Hatzikomninos, sign the Mytilene Town Council Reso-

This past summer Mary Snell met with officials of the City of Mytilene to further the plans for an exchange art exhibition from Mytilene, to follow the highly successful *Portes* exhibition of Maine artists in Mytilene in 2012. Since Greece is facing its greatest financial crisis in modern history, those plans remain uncertain. There is still some hope for an exhibit in the fall of 2014, but there's more to be done.

Another Portland Sister City relationship is also celebrating an anniversary. The Greater Portland / Archangel, Russia friendship is 25 years old this year. The Archangel Committee is planning an official commemoration beginning at 3:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 18 at Westbrook Middle School Cafeteria, 471 Stroudwater St., Westbrook. A delegation from Russia will attend. For more information about the Committee or the event, call Neale Duffett at 775-1515. We encourage our members and friends to attend that event to support other groups who are maintaining these important international relationships.



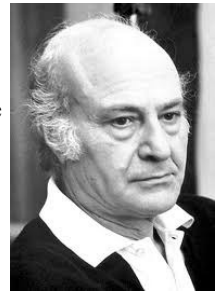
City of Mytilene

Fall Lecture Series: Modern Greek Poets, the Eleusinian Mysteries

Lectures scheduled for this fall are Mary Snell's lecture on Modern Greek poets (rescheduled from the Spring due to a storm closure); and classicist Stephen Ferrand's lecture on the Eleusinian Mysteries.

At 7 p.m. Thursday, October 17, poet Mary Snell will give a talk on "The Poetry of Cavafy, Seferis, Ritsos and Elytis" in Room 201 of Payson Smith Hall, USM Portland Campus.

Any anthology of modern Greek poetry includes these four masters – four poets who shaped the literature and psyche of Greece, two of whom were recognized internationally as Nobel Laureates. This talk will attempt to give a brief introduction to the poets and to their work, plus a few poems will be read in English translation and possibly in the original Greek.



Odysseus ist

Mary Snell is a lifelong resident of Maine, and a seasonal resident of Greece. A poet and free lance writer, she is a former journalist and theater critic for the Maine Sunday Telegram. She earned her MFA in Poetry from the Stonecoast MFA program at USM, where she also worked for many years in promotions for the School of Music. She is a part-time lecturer at USM, offering two summer classes in Greece – one on Greek culture, and the other, a creative writing workshop co-taught with Betsy Sholl. She is president of the Hellenic Society of Maine and founder of the USM / Aegean Arts & Cultural Exchange.

Stephen Ferrand will present an illustrated talk entitled: "The Eleusinian Mysteries: Important Lessons from Ancient Greek Religion" at 7 p.m. Thursday November 14 in Room 201 Payson Smith Hall, USM Portland Campus.

The archeological record documents worship at Eleusis (on the coast northwest from Athens) from the Mycenaean Age until the late 4th century CE, a span of two thousand years. The rites celebrated there, sacred to the goddesses Demeter and Persephone,



Stephen Ferrand

and even barbarous foreigners such as

were open to all who could make the pilgrimage to Eleusis and who understood Greek. Two facts concerning this mystery cult are astonishing: 1) that its initiates kept the climax of these rites secret; and 2) that these rites had great meaning for people from all walks of life for such a long span of time – for philosophers, poets

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Nineth Annual
GREEK FILM SERIES

Fall 2013

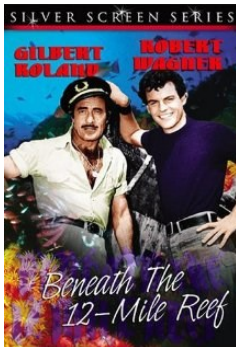
Contemporary & Classic Films about Greece

presented by

USM Hellenic Initiatives and Hellenic Society of Maine

“Beneath the 12-Mile Reef” Director: Robert D. Webb, USA, 1953

Sunday, Oct. 6, 3 PM, Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland Campus

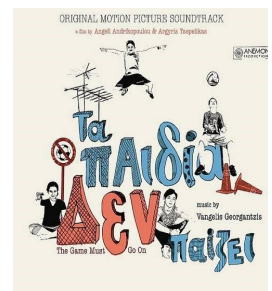


In 1905, John Cocoris introduced the technique of sponge diving to Tarpon Springs, Florida. He recruited Greek sponge divers from the Dodecanese Islands of Greece (in particular Kalymnos, Syri and Halki) leading, by the 1930s, to a very productive sponge industry generating millions of dollars a year. Filmed in Tarpon Springs, this 60 year-old film depicts the rivalry between two families. When their traditional sea beds no longer produce enough sponges for them, Greek-American divers Mike Petrakis (Gilbert Roland) and his son Tony (Robert Wagner) have to look elsewhere for sponges on the Florida Gulf coast. Others in the close-knit Greek-American sponge-diving community have started going to the 12 mile reef, but Mike will have nothing to do with the area since his other son died diving there. They encounter Thomas Rhys (Richard Boone) and Arnold Dix (Peter Graves) who rob them. With few choices left to them, they head to the deadly reef. Meanwhile a Romeo and Juliet romance develops between Rhys' daughter Gwyneth (Terry Moore) and Tony. Edward Cronjager was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Cinematography and the director was nominated for the Grand Prize at the 1954 Cannes Film Festival. *102 minutes. In English.*

“The Game Must Go On” (“Ta paidia den paizei”) Directors: Angelis Andrikopoulou and Argyris Tsepelikas, Greece, 2010

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

This recent documentary, shot in Patras, follows Greek schoolchildren Alexandra, Vlad and Chrysa and their love for football (soccer). Every day after school, they gather in front of their building to play an intense game of ball. But their neighbors don't like the noise they make and regularly drive them away. But where else can they go, if there is no play area anywhere nearby? "Every child has the right to play, and we must assert our rights," they decide. Consequently, they go to the town's mayor and demand that a children's playground be built on an overgrown patch of waste ground. Together in their own little meetings, and later at Town Hall, they quickly learn the difficulty of getting anything done in Greece these days. Will the children finally manage to get a place to play? *81 mins. In Greek with English sub-titles.*



“Reconstruction” (“Αναπαρασταση”) Director: Theo Angelopoulos, Greece, 1970

Sunday, Dec. 8, 3 PM, Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland Campus

Theo Angelopoulos' first feature, this film draws on a real-life murder of a Greek worker – just returned home from Germany after a long absence – by his wife and her lover who has relieved her stark loneliness. The criminals are caught and confess their crime. The reconstruction of the title is that of the interweaving of three storylines – the inquiries of the examining magistrate; flashback sequences of the crime itself; and the making of a social documentary about the crime by a TV unit (including the director himself) in this poor village in the north. Beautifully filmed in black & white, the murder story, and its 'reconstruction', becomes a parable for the disruption of a community and a nation – Greece was under the rule of the military dictatorship at the time. Excerpted from a synopsis by Andreas Varagoulis. *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 (TELETEX/TDD) 780-5646. REQUESTS FOR REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED 48 HOURS BEFORE THIS EVENT.

Lectures Augustus and Marcus Aurelius. Cicero called
 Con't. from p.1 the Eleusinian Mysteries the equal of any of
 Athens' contribution to civilization, allowing
 mankind to live happily and die with hope. Farrand will outline
 what we know of this ancient Greek religious festival, discuss the
 importance of its connection to the myths of the rape of Persepho-
 ne and the grief of Demeter, and argue that this religious celebra-
 tion and its deep connection to the natural world has real rele-
 vance for us today.

Stephen Farrand majored in Classics at Amherst College,
 and continued his studies at Cornell University, the American
 School of Classical Studies in Athens, and the Russian School of
 Norwich University. He has taught Latin, Russian, and Ancient
 Greek to both high school and college students over the past 30
 years and currently teaches at the Chewonki Semester School in
 Wiscasset. During breaks from the classroom he has worked and
 volunteered for a number of social activist organizations, includ-
 ing Equality Maine, which honored him with its "Out Front"
 award for volunteer leadership in 2009. He enjoys singing with
 the Bowdoin Chorus, which regularly performs Orthodox sacred
 music. He lives in Freeport with his wife Nancy and garrulous cat
 Josiah.

**For more information about us, go to the Hellenic Society of
 Maine website and "like" the Hellenic Society of Maine Face-
 book page (See top of page 1).**

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 pro-
 gram. 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, Lesvos, Greece.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE — RENEW or JOIN US NOW! 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,
 email msnell@maine.edu or call 207-892-9831, or 207-883-3527.

✂ Cut Out and Return!

Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

For 2013-2014 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

Poikilia

**PORTES - The catalog for Portes: An Exhibition of
 Maine Art in Greece** is still available. Visit the Lulu.com
 website to preview and consider purchas-
 ing the 59-page book with images of art
 work and receptions from the exhibition
 in Portland, Maine, USA and Mytilene,
 Lesvos, Greece.



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

[20305877.htm](http://www.lulu.com/shop/tetra-projects/portes-an-exhibition-of-maine-art-in-greece/paperback/product-20305877.htm)

Helping Greece

Several HSoM board members have been sending school
 supplies to a small village on the island of Lesvos. The teach-
 er requested help with any classroom supplies (pencils, etc.)
 and with athletic balls (soccer and volleyball) which have
 already been sent. She also would like a CD player (European
 voltage) and other items. If you are willing to help this
 school of 32 children, please contact novak@maine.edu.

The School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston,
 will have an exhibition of contemporary Greek Art opening
 Jan.16 through mid Feb. 16. **Eirene Efstathiou,** daughter of
 HSoM Board Member Judith Efstathiou Allen, has work in
 the show and is a co-curator of the exhibition that will in-
 clude drawings and paintings. Eirene also had work exhibited
 in the PORTES show in Mytilene.

✂ Clip and Save!
Quick Calendar Summary
Most events are free.
See articles for more details.

Sunday Oct. 6, 3 p.m.: Film – “Beneath The 12-Mile Reef,” sponge-diving drama, USA, 1953, Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, Portland

Thursday, Oct. 17, 7 p.m.: Lecture – “Modern Greek Poetry” Mary Snell, Room 201 Payson Smith, Portland

Sunday Nov. 3, 3 p.m.: Film – “The Game Must Go On,” documentary, Greece, 2010, Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, Portland

Thursday, Nov. 14, 7 p.m.: Lecture -- "The Eleusinian Mysteries: Important Lessons from Ancient Greek Religion," Stephen Farrand, Room 201 Payson Smith, Portland

Sunday Dec. 8, 3 p.m. Film: “The Reconstruction” (Angelopoulos’ first film) drama, Greece, 1970, Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, Portland

DECEMBER - Annual Holiday Social and Sister City Celebration! Watch for details.

Summer Classes on Lesvos

SUMMER 2014 — Would you like to spend two weeks on a Greek island writing? Do you know of someone - student or community member - who would? Once again, International Programs at USM will offer “**Writing and Myth: A Creative Writing Workshop**” in Athens and on Lesvos from **May 16 to 30, 2014**. Led by Betsy Sholl and Mary Snell, the class includes reading about mythology, learning about Greek writers and culture, but mainly focuses on creating new work that is work shopped daily.



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

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 — estimated at \$3,800 — includes airfare, housing, tuition, transfers and museum admissions -- everything except lunches and dinners. The class leaders are experienced, since USM has offered summer classes on Lesvos for nearly two decades. For more information

contact Summer Session at 780-5072 or go to www.usm.maine.edu/SummerSession or contact Mary at msnell@maine.edu

Changes in the Newsletter?

We must continue to balance the value of printing and mailing a newsletter with the increasing cost. But, since we have very few email addresses in relationship to our postal mailing address list, we continue to support a paper version. Unfortunately, as prices rise, we may need to make further changes ... reduce the size, or go to an email only version. PLEASE help us by giving us your email address so that, if we must go that route, we will not lose you.

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