



HELLENIC SOCIETY NEWS

Newsletter of the Hellenic Society of Maine

Vol. XII
Fall 2016

Website: www.hellenicsocietyofmaine.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/hellenicsocietyofmaine

Lesvos Hospital Aid — A Fundraising Campaign to Send Humanitarian Aid to our Sister City - Mytilene, Lesvos

WE DID IT!! The Hellenic Society of Maine undertook the largest project in its history – the sending of a container of medical supplies and equipment as humanitarian aid for the hospital of Mytilene, Lesvos, Greece – Portland’s Sister City. At press time we had just met our goal of \$20,000.



Thank you to all who contributed!
The container will be packed mid-October. Then it will be trucked to New York City where it will be loaded on a ship for Piraeus in late October. It will take approximately one month for shipping and handling to Mytilene.

HSoM is working with Partners for World Health, a non-profit organization based in South Portland, founded by Elizabeth McLellan, that obtains the medical supplies and equipment. We are also working with the Carpos Foundation, an organization affiliated with the Greek Orthodox Church, to assist with shipping logistics.

HSoM is responsible for all expenses. Any money received above the goal will be used to purchase additional supplies for the hospital, so there is still an opportunity to contribute to this humanitarian effort.

The situation is difficult in all of Greece. Six years of the worst economic depression since World War II have created economic and social stresses for the people and the government the likes of which the country has not seen in 70 years. Resources have been cut for all sectors, including hospital staff and supplies. Add to that burden, last year an unprecedented flow of refugees and migrants came to the island of Lesvos – 600,000 people, three times more than any other location.

(Con't. on p. 2)

Greek Consul General Coming to Maine!

Mrs. Ifigenia Kanara, Consul General of Greece in Boston, will be coming to the University of Southern Maine in Portland, 133 Wishcamper Hall at 5 p.m., Tuesday, October 18, 2016. A reception will follow.



Mrs. Kanara will speak about the more than 1 million people, migrants and refugees, that crossed the Mediterranean Sea in 2015, fleeing war and persecution in Syria and elsewhere. An unprecedented humanitarian crisis was sparked in Europe as transit countries were struggling to cope with the influx.

Greece found itself in the epicentre of this crisis. More than 60,000 people remain stranded across the Greece which in the midst of a severe economic crisis is trying hard to provide for those in need. The crisis has put to the test not only the European Union’s capacity to respond in a united and coordinated way, but also the western world’s readiness to address the problem collectively and in a way compatible to our common values.

capacity to respond in a united and coordinated way, but also the western world’s readiness to address the problem collectively and in a way compatible to our common values.

Kickoff Benefit Concert Solid Success for Hospital Aid

The music of Mytilene and Asia Minor was featured during a special benefit concert performed by Boston musicians *Skordalia*, led by Dean Lampros.

The concert was held Sunday, Aug. 21, in Corthell Concert Hall on the USM Gorham campus and raised \$2,700. All proceeds are going towards the cost to ship a container of medical supplies to the Mytilene hospital. (See related story.) Performers included Lampros on sandouri; Joe Teja, guitar/oud; Paddy League, violin/bouzouki/vocals; and Michael Davis, percussion.



A year ago Lampros, a Greek American from Boston with roots in Mytilene, contacted Mary Snell about a proposal for a benefit concert. (They had worked together years ago on a concert at USM). Dean was concerned about the refugee crisis that inundated Lesvos and wanted to help his island and the refugees. He offered to organize the band and play this benefit concert.

HSoM is grateful for the generosity of the musicians who donated their talent; by the USM School of Music which offered the space; and for all those who bought tickets.

We are still taking contributions to fundraising campaign. Those who wish to help can:

- 1) **send a check to Hellenic Society of Maine noting it is for “Lesvos Hospital Aid”;** or
- 2) **go to the HSoM website: www.hellenicsocietyofmaine.org & click the “Donate” button.**

Twelfth Annual - Fall 2016
GREEK FILM SERIES
 Contemporary & Classic Films about Greece
 presented by

USM Hellenic Initiatives & Hellenic Society of Maine

“My Grandfather’s People” (Dedemin insanlari) Dir: Çagan Irmak, Turkey, 2011

Sunday, October 9, 2016, 3 PM, Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland Campus



This Turkish film is a popular drama about the ethnic Turks, who had lived for generations in Greece, who were forced to migrate to Turkey during the population exchange at the end of the WW I. It is somewhat the reverse story that is told in the Greek movie, “Politiki Kousina” (“A Touch of Spice”). When Grandfather was just seven years old his family was displaced from Crete to mainland Turkey. Here the family is not fully accepted because they are considered to be Greeks. Yet in Greece they were considered Turks. The Grandpa’s greatest desire is to see the land of his birth before he dies. It is this longing that makes him frequently drop bottles containing letters into the Aegean. The lack of acceptance in the village is particularly hard on the young grandson who acts out. In the light of the current refugee situation in Greece, it is helpful to once again hear this story of when both Greek people and Turkish people were forced to leave the land of their origins - millions of them. Through these population exchanges, people experience what it means to be “the other”. *In*

Turkish, Greek, and some English with English subtitles. 126 minutes.

“One Time and Then ... A Baby” (Μια Φορά και ένα... Μωρό) Dir: Nikos Zapatinas, Greece, 2011

Sunday, November 13, 3 PM, Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland campus

In this cute comedy, Nondas (Sakis Boulas), a pistol-packing tough guy in his 50’s, stops his car to relieve himself, but hears a shout from below. It’s a man tied to the railroad tracks who wants to be left alone to die in peace. Alcibiades (Petros Philinides), an out-of-work lingerie designer, owes money everywhere, has a wife who cheats on him, has never had children—for all these reasons he wants to put an end to his life. But when the train actually approaches, Alcibiades has second thoughts and begs to be released. Nondas agrees to help only if Alcibiades swears he will become his loyal servant. You see, Nondas has a baby in the car and is traveling around to find her mother. It seems Nondas had slept with many women and one of them dropped off “their” baby so that Nondas could take care of her. He needs Alcibiades to help him on this quest. Meanwhile Alcibiades’s wife is riddled with guilt and tries to rescue her despondent husband with her lover in tow. So amongst sexy lingerie, multiple mistresses, the unfaithful wife, and a hard-nosed father, love blooms for a little baby—truly the star of the movie. *In Greek with English sub-titles. 86 min.*



“The Christmas Tango” (Το Τανγκό των Χριστουγέννων) Dir: Nikos Koutelidakis, Greece, 2011

Sunday, December 11, 2016, 3 PM, Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland campus



An unexpected meeting between the sixty-five-year-old Lazaros Lazarou and a young man, on Christmas Day, brings back hidden memories from 1970 at the time of the Greek junta. Then, in an isolated army camp in Evros, the lieutenant (Yannis Stankoglou) commands the soldier (Antinoos Albanis) to teach him the tango in secret. At a Christmas celebration that winter, the sensual dance becomes the focus for the intersection of four lives: the introverted soldier; his harsh lieutenant; a strict and very conservative colonel (Giannis Bezos); and Zoi Loggou (Vicky Papadopoulou), the colonel's wife, who is suffocating in her restricted life. Through the dance the lieutenant hopes to get close to Zoi and reveal his love for her. *In Greek with English subtitles. 102 minutes.*

(Con’t. from p. 1) Although the flow of boats has been greatly reduced, more than 5,500 refugees remain in camps on the island. Their main resource for medical care has become the Mytilene General Hospital – which is also the main medical center for

the entire island. This past July Irwin Novak and Mary Snell met with hospital administrators in Mytilene to discuss the project and to go over the list of possible donated materials. The administrators all agreed that the proposed shipment was “remarkable, and very much needed.”



Pictured are, left & 3rd from left, co-secretaries of HSoM, M. Snell and I. Novak with Dr. Theodorou, Dr. Provetzas, Mrs. Zervou and Mr. Mouzalas.

From the very beginning invaluable help and guidance was offered by the former hospital director, Vassilis Mouzalas. Details of the project were discussed and worked on by the current hospital director and chairman of the board, Mrs. Anna Zervou; the medical chief of staff, Dr. Christos Theodorou; and the president of the Medical Association of Lesvos, Dr. Panagiotis Provetzas who was instrumental in finding logistics support.

Quick Calendar Summary

Aug. 21 - Lesvos Hospital Aid Benefit Concert with "Skordalia": 7:30 p.m. Corthell Concert Hall, USM Gorham.

Oct. 9 - Film: Drama, "My Grandfather's People" 3 p.m. Talbot Aud., Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland.

Oct. 18 - Lecture- Ifigenia Kanara Consul General of Greece in Boston, "The Crises in Greece," 5 p.m., 133 Wishcamper Hall, USM Portland. A reception will follow.

Nov. 13 - Film: Comedy, "One Time & Then...A Baby" 3 p.m. Talbot Aud., Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland.

Dec. 11 - Film: Drama, "Christmas Tango" 3 p.m. Talbot Aud., Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland.

Jan. 19 - HSoM Annual Social & Cutting of the Vasilopita, 5-7 p.m., Tiqa Restaurant, 327 Commercial St., Portland.

How to check on event storm cancellations

In the case of bad weather, call 892-9831 or the USM Storm Line 780-4800. If the USM campus is closed, HSoM events there are cancelled too.

✂ *Clip and Save!* ✂

Ellenika Biblia

This issue begins a new column featuring two books from or about Greece written in, or translated into, English. One book will be fiction, the other non-fiction, poetry or memoir. We will try to only list books that are available in the US or via the internet. We welcome your suggestions of good books you have read.

"**The Quest**" is a novel by Nikos Themelis published by Kendros in 2008. Although a contemporary book, it is a turn-of-the-century drama - very compelling and full of historical details. The main character begins in Zagoria in Epirus, moves to Mytilene, then lands in a small village outside Smyrna. The trajectory of his life is unwavering, yet it is filled with complex and interesting supporting characters in a world and a period undergoing great change.

"**Austerity Measures**" is a collection of contemporary modern Greek poetry edited by Karen Van Dyck published by Penguin Books. As per the title, much of the focus of this collection is the response to the economic crisis in Greece which, for many of the poets, has sparked an equally dramatic psychological shift in the psyche of the people. Don't look for pretty rhymes and pastoral themes here. The poems are direct, honest, sometimes harsh. But they reveal the new reality.

These books are available from Amazon.

Smile.Amazon.com

Join AmazonSmile and your purchases at Amazon can help the HSoM!

At no additional cost to you, you can support a charitable organization - like HSoM. Amazon will donate .5% of a sale to an organization chosen by the shopper. AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers have the same wide selection of products, low prices, and shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when customers shop on Smile.Amazon.com the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers.

It's Time to Renew or Become a Member!

YOU CAN NOW RENEW THROUGH OUR WEBSITE

Our dues cover the period of July 1 to June 30, each year, NOT a calendar year. If you want to become a member, or renew your membership, please fill out the form and send it, and a check, (made out to: Hellenic Society of Maine) to HSoM, c/o Taxia Paras, P.O. Box 598, Scarborough, ME 04070-0598 or go to: www.hellenicsocietyofmaine.org and use the "Donate" button pay to through PayPal or Credit Card and indicate "For Membership"

We rely on email to send quick updates. PLEASE send us your EMAIL. With rising costs, we are not sure how long we can afford to print and mail this newsletter twice a year. Email: novak@maine.edu

Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

For July 2016-June 2017: Renewal / New member (<— circle one)

___ \$19.75 (date of constitution) **Annual Full Member** (grants the right to vote on policy issues)

___ \$12.50 (BC date of Trojan War) **Annual Associate Member**

___ **Number of Memberships 1 or 2** (<— circle one)

___ I can't join now, but enclosed is my donation of ___ in support of your efforts.

**Make check or money order payable to:
Hellenic Society of Maine
Send to: Taxia Paras, Treasurer
P.O. Box 598
Scarborough, ME 04070-0598**

Hellenic Society of Maine

P.O. Box 598
Scarborough, ME 04070

www.hellenicsocietyofmaine.org

Board of Directors

Judith Allen-Efstathiou, Portland
Anastasia Antonacos, Portland
Janice Antonacos, Biddeford
Stelios Cotsis, Hollis Center
Christos Gianopoulos, Greene
co-president
Dorothy Klimis-Zacas, Orono
Irwin Novak, Gorham *co-secretary*
Taxia Paras, Scarborough *treasurer*
Mary Snell, Gorham *co-secretary*
George Spatoulas, Scarborough,
vice president
Miltiades Zacas, Orono
Chris Ziagos, Portland *co-president*

Despina Deveres

We thank you for your years of service on the HSoM board and will miss your intelligent and diligent efforts on our behalf.

Spring 2016 Events

Two events this past spring drew interested and engaged audiences. The second Greek Heritage panel discussion, “What Makes Me Greek?” was held on March 22 and featured the Honorable Peter Goranites of Cumberland, *left*, and Carol Xanthopoulos of Saco, *right*, moderated by Mary



Snell of Gorham.



On April 21 Dr. Robert Allison discussed the nature of pilgrimages and his decades of research at the Philotheou Monastery on Mount Athos. In addition to facts about The Holy Mountain, he also gave tips on how to make a pilgrimage there. Dr. Allison, *left*, with HSoM co-president Chris Ziagos, listen to questions from audience members after the talk.

Exploring Greece—OLLI Class

This January Prof. Irwin Novak and Mary Snell will offer a class, “Exploring Modern Greece,” through the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute in Wishcamper Center at the University of Southern Maine. The six-week class is a survey of Greek culture, particularly suited to those who are thinking of traveling there. The class begins the week of Jan. 9 and ends the week of Feb. 13. Fee is \$50.

You must be a member of OLLI to take the class — and you must be over 50 to become a member (and pay annual dues of \$25.) Classes fill fast so be sure to go on line to register the very first day it is allowed. For more information call 780-4406 or email olliatusm@maine.edu or go to www.usm.maine.edu/olli. This class is not yet scheduled, but will run for two hours once per week. (Hint: There may be two HSoM-related travel opportunities in summer of 2017!)

Hellenic Initiatives
University of Southern Maine
c/o Irwin Novak
37 College Ave.
Gorham, ME 04038

**Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Portland, ME 04101
Permit No. 370**

Return Service Requested