

# Hellenic Society News

## The Hellenic Society of Maine, Inc.

### Spring 2011 Update

#### Lecture Series

**"A Brief History of the Ancient Olympics" -- Tim Robinson will present this talk Thursday, February 17 at 7 p.m. in Room 503 Luther Bonney Hall –**

Please come and enjoy this overview of the history of the ancient Olympics. The hour-long presentation will cover the beginnings of the Olympic Games from the Archaic period to its demise in the fourth century. Topics covered will include the early organization of the games, the athletes, the events, and Olympia itself - the home of the ancient games. Tim Robinson has been a human movement educator, instructor, and athletic coach for over twenty five years. His recent affiliations include the University of New England, Southern Maine Community College, Thomas College, and Vienna International School. In the 90's Tim Robinson spent three years at the American Community Schools of Athens, Greece.



**"Old Greek Computer"--** on Wednesday, March 30 at 7 p.m. in the USM Planetaetarium. **USM Planetaetarium Director and Professor of Physics, Gerry LaSala** will present a fascinating lecture on the Antikythera Mechanism: 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. Today, astronomers believe they have unraveled the mechanism's mysteries and are astonished at its complexity. It is so sophisticated, in fact, that historians and archaeologists are re-evaluating their notions of Ancient Greek Astronomy. Discover for yourself the amazing technology of this 2,000 Year Old Computer.

*Both lectures are free and open to the public.*

**"The Antikythera Mechanism: The 2,000 Year**

### GREEK FILM SERIES

Contemporary & Classic Films about Greece

*FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC*

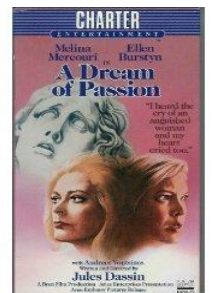
- **"The Tempest" Director: Paul Mazursky USA, 1982**
- **Sunday, February 6, 2011, 3 PM, Portland Campus, Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall**

Loosely based on the Shakespearean tale, the film tells the story of Phillip Dimitrius (John Cassavetes), a middle-aged New York City architect who is going through a mid-life crisis. After learning that his wife Antonia has been having an affair, Dimitrius leaves New York City and moves to a Greek island with his teenage daughter, Miranda (Molly Ringwald). In Athens he meets Aretha Tomalin (Susan Sarandon), a singer, and they become lovers; but mysteriously, he takes a vow of celibacy after they move to the island. Living on the island is Kalibanos, an eccentric hermit (Raúl Juliá), who previously was its only resident. Phillip finally seems happy, until a twist of fate and a shipwreck brings his wife, her new lover, Alonzo (Phillip's ex-boss), and Alonzo's son to the island. Winner of the Toronto International Film Festival's People's Choice Award, Paul Mazursky; 1982, and the Venice Film Festival's Pasinetti Award, Best Actress, Susan Sarandon. 1982. Nominations: Golden Globe Awards: Best Actor in a Supporting Role, Raul Julia; New Star of the Year in a Motion Picture, Female, Molly Ringwald; 1983. Young Artist Awards: Best Young Supporting Actor in a Motion Picture, Sam Robards; Best Young Supporting Actress in a Motion Picture, Molly Ringwald (her debut); 1983. Not rated. 140 minutes. In English



- **"A Dream of Passion" Director: Jules Dassin USA, 1978.**  
**Sunday, March 6, 2011, 3 PM, Portland Campus, Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall**

This film, as powerful and emotional as any movie you are likely to see, is about an actress (Melina Mercouri as Maya), whose career is in decline and who is doing a film adaption of the play Medea. Maya is in rehearsal under the direction of Kostas, a demanding director. Searching for greater publicity, she decides to meet Brenda Collins (Ellen Burstyn), an American who killed her three children to avenge her unfaithful husband. Brenda, who has not met anyone while in jail, agrees to the meeting, but comes face to face with the mob of paparazzi following Maya and their meeting turns into a fiasco. This event upsets Maya, who abruptly puts an end to her affair with Ronny, a BBC reporter, stops attending rehearsals and starts thoroughly studying Brenda's story, nicknamed "Medea of Glyfada" by the press. The two women meet again alone in jail and a female bond is forged between the two women. These



visits make Maya change her view about the way the play should be approached and this causes friction between her and the director. Nominated for a Golden Globe. Rated: "R" 110 minutes. In English and German.

*Greek Film Series con't.*

- **“To Xylo Vgike Apo Ton Paradeiso”** Director Alekos Sakellarios Greece (1959)  
*Sunday, April 3, 2011, 3 PM, Portland Campus, Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall*



Aliki Vougiouklaki was a national institution in Greece for four decades. In this film she stars as a love-struck high school student infatuated with her teacher, Panos Floras (played by Dimitris Papamichael – her future husband in real life). He arrives to teach a class at a girls' high school in Athens. His students, the daughters of rich Athenian families, are very spoiled, making his and the other teachers' work difficult. When he implements discipline in his class, the girls use every means to get rid of him. But the most undisciplined is Lisa Papastavrou (played by Aliki) and she falls in love with him. The film topic concerns the then (and more so now) "taboo" romantic association between senior high school students and their teachers. Good social comment on the times in Greece in the late 50s. The Vougiouklaki/Papamichael success story had its beginnings here and was an example of a film romance that led to one in real life. Excellent music by Hadjidakis, including quite a few hit songs of the time. Not rated. 98 minutes. In Greek with English sub-titles.

### Hellenic Society of Maine

Mary Snell, *president*; Chris Ziagos, *vice president*; Taxia Paras, *treasurer*; Irwin Novak, *secretary*  
Despina Deveres Christos Gianopoulos George Spatoulas Jim Yalouris Dorothy Klimis Zacas Milto Zacas

#### **HSoM Mid-year Social**

A lively group of Society members met January 6, 2011, for a social get-together at Grace Restaurant in downtown Portland. Members came from as far away as Orono and Kittery to welcome the new year and get to know each other better. From the good turnout, the great energy of the group, and other interest that was expressed, we'll be doing more of these in the future.

HSoM has traditionally combined a social gathering with the required annual meeting in the spring. As we make plans for that event this year, we welcome your input. We'll try to get business done promptly so that there is time for associate and full members to mix and mingle.

#### **Reminder:**

Our fiscal year is now Fall to Spring, *not* the calendar year. If you were waiting until January to renew/join, you're late! But that's okay! There's months more of events to enjoy. Join now and help us continue our educational and cultural programming. Contact any board member, or call Taxia Paras, treasurer, at 883-3527.

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Hellenic Initiatives

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**Hellenic Society of Maine and  
USM's Hellenic Initiatives  
are partnering to present  
Spring 2011 Events**