



# HELLENIC SOCIETY NEWS

Newsletter of the Hellenic Society of Maine

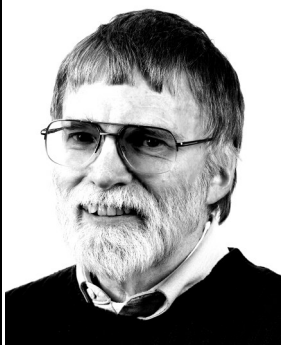
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Website: [www.hellenicsocietyofmaine.org](http://www.hellenicsocietyofmaine.org)

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## Spring 2016 Lecture

“Mount Athos and The Pilgrim’s Return” by Dr. Robert Allison. This lecture will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 21, in Room 133 in Wishcamper Center at the University of Southern Maine, Portland campus. Free and open to the public.



Pilgrimage is an ancient phenomenon in the history of religion -- known in ancient Israel since the time of the Biblical kings, in Greek religion since the "Golden Age" of Athens, and in Christianity since Christians began traveling to the Holy Land to the sites of events described in the Gospels. In this illustrated lecture Prof. Allison traces the ways that Christian pilgrims from the 4th century to the present have experienced the spiritual metamorphosis of pilgrimage, and how they continued to bring the blessing (evlogia) of that transformative experience back home with them. He focuses especially on the role that icons and tokens play in this tradition. Then he takes us on a pilgrimage to Philotheou Monastery on Mount Athos, following

the age-old story illustrated in an icon from the Monastery itself. Following his presentation will be a time for discussion when he will be happy to answer questions and share some of his personal experience of the Holy Mountain, which has been a life-long pilgrimage for him.

Robert Allison is Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies at Bates College in Lewiston, Maine. He earned his B.A. from Brown University in Religious Studies and his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in New Testament and Early Christian Literature. While there, he served as an assistant curator of manuscripts and archives and lecturer in Greek paleography. As a research fellow in the Patriarchal Institute for Patristic Studies in Thessaloniki, Greece, supported by a series of National Endowment for the Humanities grants, he undertook a long-term project describing the manuscripts and studying the history of Philotheou Monastery on Mount Athos, Greece. He is a founding member of the Byzantine Studies Association of North America, and widely known as the Membership Secretary for the Americas and “Webmaster” of the international society of the Friends of Mount Athos.

## Refugee Crisis on Lesbos

This summer and fall the refugee crisis got much worse on Lesbos – which has become the epicenter of the wave of migrants and refugees that are flooding into Europe through Greece.



*Thousands of refugees board a Piraeus-bound ferry from the port in Mytilene on Lesbos. In summer, at least two ferries per day left the port. Photo by: I. Novak.*

The City of Portland has a Sister City relationship with Mytilene, Lesbos island, Greece, which is supported by the Hellenic Society of Maine. As of last count, more than half of the 850,000 people who have come through Europe first landed on Lesbos!

Con't. on p.2

## Rembetica event - A fundraising success!



*George Spatoulas, Doreen Morrow, Debra Walton, and Chris Ziagos on the dance floor. Photo by Audrey Gottlieb.*

“Opa! Opa! ta bouzoukia...” The Evening of Rembetica event, held this past September 20, was the second successful visit to Portland by the Boston band, Rebetoparea. Presented by the Hellenic Society of Maine, the evening included live rembetica music, buffet dinner and cash bar, and a very popular Silent Auction that included a wide array of items.

The fundraiser, coordinated by co-president Chris Ziagos, was held at the Italian Heritage Center off Congress St., in Portland. Mary Snell was in charge of the Silent Auction.

The HSoM is grateful to the many persons and businesses that donated items for auction. They include: Businesses - **Emilitsa, Institute of Fung Shui & Geopathology, Gorham House of Pizza, Hannaford Supermarkets of Scarborough, Lakonia Greek Products of Saco, Red Door Pottery Studio in Kittery, Romeo’s Pizza, and RSVP of Portland.** Individuals - **Judith Allen-Efstathiou, Elaine Xenelis Fuller, Christos Gianopoulos, Audrey Gottlieb, Dorothea Klimis-Zacas and Miltos Zacas, Kyriakos Markidas, Irwin Novak and Mary Snell, and Tess and Jim Paras.**



*The Rebetoparea Band. Photo by: George Spatoulas*

## Tenth Annual – Spring 2016

# Contemporary & Classic Films about Greece

**“Boy on a Dolphin”** Director: Jean Negulesco, USA, 1957

*Sunday, February 7, 3 PM, Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland campus*



Silly script? Dumb dialogue? Maybe. But the beautiful scenery of the much of the Cinemascope film was shot on location on the Saronic Islands, notably Hydra. Locale shots of Athens, Rhodes and Delos in the 1950s are also included and make it all worthwhile. One scene utilizes the Eastern Orthodox monastery complex at Metéora. All-time Hollywood and international movie stars Alan Ladd, Clifton Webb, and Sophia Loren are the leads in this movie. Loren sings and dances quite very well – the latter with members of Athens’ Dora Stratou dance ensemble – still going today. Loren plays Phaedra; a poor sponge diver lives on the lovely Greek isle of Hydra. While diving, she discovers an ancient brass and gold statue of a boy riding a dolphin, which is said to have the magical power to grant wishes. Her shiftless boyfriend wants to sell it to an unscrupulous art collector. Jim Calder (Ladd) wants to return it to the Greek government. What will Phaedra do? Not Rated. 111 minutes. In English.

**“Little England” (“Μικρα Αγγλια”)** Director: Pantelis Voulgaris, Greece, 2014

*Sunday, March 6, 3 PM, Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland campus*

*Little England* is Greek period drama/romance that takes place on the island of Andros, where 20-year-old Orsa, and her younger sister, Moscha, live. Orsa is deeply in love with Spyros Matabes, a lieutenant, but she has never revealed her secret to anybody. On the other hand, Moscha dreams of leaving Andros and escaping women's fate of marrying sailors, who are usually away from their families. Their mother, Mina, is married to a captain who has been away for years, considers marrying for love to be trouble. Over-riding her daughters’ emotions, she wants them to make wealthy marriages. Once both are married the two sisters share a double home built for them — and the house becomes even more divided as a forbidden love festers. *Little England* dominated at the 2014 Hellenic Film Academy Awards, where it received 13 nominations and won six awards, including that for Best Film. It was the official submission by Greece to the Best Foreign Language film category of the 87th Academy Awards 2015, but it was not nominated. 132 minutes. In Greek with English Subtitles.



**“4 Black Suits” (“4 Μαυρα Κουστουμια”)** Director: Renos Haralambidis, Greece, 2010

*Sunday, April 10, 3 PM, Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland Campus*



In this contemporary Greek comedy, a desperate funeral director (Haralambidis) agrees to a strange bequest in hopes of earning a large sum of cash. He assembles an unlikely group of pall bearers - (one newly-released armed robber, one “professional” but alcoholic pall bearer, and one out-of-work “theater artist”). This odd-ball team sets out on a funeral procession, walking a casket from Piraeus to a village to the north complying with the will of the deceased. The four of them intend that this unusual funeral will give them the opportunity, through cash, to change their lives. But as in life, each gain more than money in the process. Haralambidis reprises a similar role in the later film, *Magic Hour*, directed by Kostas Kapaka. 101 minutes. In Greek with English subtitles.

### **Crisis on Lesbos - Cont. from p.1**

When the refugees first started coming this summer, residents, and even tourists, stepped up to provide food, clothing and medical aid, but the task was too big. Large and small international NGO’s finally came to help, including the UNHCR and Doctors Without Borders. Coordinating all the volunteers is now an issue. Two official camps are near Mytilene, as well as a new one just built in the north of the island where most of the boats come ashore.

This summer as many as 5,000 people a day came ashore from nearby Turkey. Half of the people landing on Lesbos are refugees fleeing the war in Syria, but there are significant numbers of Afghanis and Iraqis. Joining them are economic migrants from other regions like the Far East and Africa.

The situation seems to improve, then worsens as the flow of people slows with bad weather, then picks up again. All of Europe is coping with this historic dislocation since most of the refugees and migrants move on toward the North. Countries are closing their borders to all but legitimate war refugees, which has created a backlog all along the migration route, including now in Greece — a country faced with so many problems of its own.



*A raft of refugees unloads on a beach in Molyvos, Lesbos—piles of life vests in the foreground. Photo by: Mary Snell.*

## Quick Calendar Summary

**Jan. 14** – **New Year’s Social** to cut the Vasilopita, at *Ebb and Flow* restaurant, Commercial St., Portland. 5-7 p.m. RSVP. Call 892-9831.

**Feb. 7** – **Film: “Boy on a Dolphin”** 3 p.m. Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland.

**Mar. 6** – **Film: “Little England”** 3 p.m. Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland.

**Mar. 22** - **Greek Heritage Panel, “What Makes You Greek?”** 7 p.m. 1 Payson-Smith Hall, USM Portland.

**Apr. 10** – **Film: “4 Black Suits”** 3 p.m. Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland.

**April 21** – **Lecture & Annual Meeting: “Mount Athos and the Pilgrim’s Return”** by Dr. Robert Allison. 6 p.m., brief meeting; 7 p.m. lecture, both in Room 133, Wishcamper Hall, USM Portland.

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### 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!* ✂

## The Next Greek Heritage Panel

Continuing our interest in preserving the oral history and life stories of the Greeks of Maine, HSoM will host a second panel discussion involving more members of the community on Tuesday March 22 at 7 p.m. in Room 1 Payson-Smith Hall, USM Portland Campus.

The topic for this panel is, “What Makes You Greek?” and will be moderated by Mary Snell.

Four panelists will offer their views and opinions on which factors make them feel or “be” Greek – birthplace? ethnicity? cultural traditions? religious beliefs?

Panelists, as of press time, include Angela Varipatis of South Portland, Christos Gianopoulos of Greene, and Anastasia Antonacos of Portland.



Fall 2015 Greek Heritage Panel moderated by Harold Pachios (standing); L-R: Angelo Sotiropoulos, Venetia Kouzounas, Stavros Nashi, and Sylvia Kostopoulos. Photo by: Mary Snell.

## Did you miss the Greek dance workshop?

The free November 8 dance workshop taught by Eustathios Zapheirios Stratis was a HUGE success! More than 50 eager dancers came to the afternoon event held in the large, light-filled space in Wishcamper Center on the USM campus. There was barely enough room!

HSoM board member, Stelios Cotsis worked with USM student Bethany Louisos who had approached us about her uncle coming to Portland to give the workshop. Stelios and Cheryl Harvey arranged a lovely table of refreshments, and Bethany ran the music.

But the real star was Eustathios, who lead a series of dances, from the easiest to some fairly difficult ones, from the Dodecanese Islands, Pan Hellenic dances – and even one from Portland’s Sister City, Mytilene. On the whiteboard he listed the names of the dances and their time signatures too, as well as introducing each with a bits of information about its place of origin and/or some cultural facts.

It’s clear that Eustathios is a professionally educated and trained dance teacher with years of experience both in the US and in Greece. HSoM was very pleased to host him.



Photo by: Mary Snell.

**DUES** - 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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**For July 2015-June 2016:** 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  
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[www.hellenicsocietyofmaine.org](http://www.hellenicsocietyofmaine.org)

### Board of Directors

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*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](mailto:novak@maine.edu)*

## We are now a tax exempt public charity!

After a few delays, the Hellenic Society of Maine has finally been granted tax-exempt status as a private charity by the IRS! Thanks to Irwin Novak and Tess Paris, who began the process, and to Christos Gianopoulos and Chris Ziagos who got it done with the help of others, this status means that patrons can now deduct any donations to the organization.

### Board Member Activities

- **The World Affairs Council** hosted a lecture by HSoM co-secretaries Prof. Irwin Novak and Mary Snell who recounted their experience witnessing the incredible refugee migration during a trip to Lesbos in October. The talk was held on Tuesday January 19 in 133 Wishcamper Center at USM, and included a Powerpoint presentation.
- **Study Art on the Greek island of Kea**  
How to capture the blue of the Aegean? Or draw ancient sites and stone monasteries? For the second year HSoM board member and artist Judith Allen-Efstathiou will lead a two-week drawing, painting and cultural studies class on the Aegean island of Kea, south of the Attic peninsula. Offered through Maine College of Art, the course will take place June 18 – July 2 (first three days in Athens). Using the journal as a way to document a sense of place, participants will explore a rich variety of subject matter including beaches and rocky coves, oak forests and fields of wildflowers, yachts in port and village centers – and those pesky ancient sites and monasteries. For more information go to [MECA.EDU/CS](http://MECA.EDU/CS) or call MECA at 207-699-5061.



*Photo by: Judith Allen-Efstathiou*

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