

Hellenic Society of Maine

P.O. Box 598
Scarborough, ME 04070

*a tax exempt non-profit public
charitable organization*

www.hellenicsocietyofmaine.org

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Fall 2016 Events

Greek Consul General in Maine - Mrs. Ifigenia Kanara, Consul General of Greece in Boston, gave a talk at the University of Southern Maine in Portland, Tuesday, October 18, 2016, for HSoM.



Mrs. Kanara spoke 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. Greece found itself at the epicenter of an unprecedented humanitarian crisis that was sparked by a flow of migrants into Europe. Values were put to the test as transit countries struggled to cope with the influx.

Exploring Greece

AAA Tour — and an OLLI Class

This May Mary Snell, with Prof. Irwin Novak, plan to lead a AAA-organized trip to the Peloponnese from May 14 to 25. Locations to be visited include Athens, Delphi, Corinth, Nauplion, Mycenae, Nemea, Epidavros, Monemvasia, Mistra, and Olympia. Cost, *including hotels, most meals AND airfare*, is only \$3,300! For information call Mary at 207-892-9831. **Deadline is Feb. 12!**

They also are offering 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 Tuesday, Jan. 17 and ends the week of Feb. 13. Fee is \$50. You must be a member of OLLI first. Call OLLI at 780-4406. (Late-comers are welcome!)

Hellenic Initiatives
University of Southern Maine
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Music Lecture and Demonstration

“Lesvos at the Crossroads: The Soundscape of a Late Ottoman Island”



This lecture/demonstration by Panayotis (Paddy) League, will take place Thursday May 4 at 6:30 p.m. in Room 133 in Wishcamper Center on USM’s Portland Campus. The program will explore a rare manuscript collection that was compiled in 1906 by an Ottoman Greek musician on the island of Lesvos and brought to Lynn, Massachusetts during the First Balkan War.

A fascinating musical snapshot of the soundscape of turn-of-the-century Ottoman Lesvos, the collection contains island dances, Ottoman art songs, European polkas and tangos, Romani-an horas, and other pieces popular among the Greek, Turkish, Jewish, Armenian, and Levantine population of the island and the Asia Minor coast. This music is a timely reminder of the pluralistic character of the late Ottoman world, and a sonic memorial to the refugees who, whether in 1923 or 2016, and whether headed West or East, crossed the Strait of Mytilene in search of a safer home and a more inclusive world.

Panayotis is an ethnomusicologist, performer, and composer specializing in the music, dance, and oral poetry traditions of insular Greece, north-eastern Brazil, and Ireland. His dissertation at Harvard University, "Echoes of the Great Catastrophe," explores the music traditions of Anatolian Greek migrants to the greater Boston area.

Maine audiences may remember him from his performance on Aug. 21 at USM when he played violin, bouzouki, and sang with the Greek band, Skordalia, in the benefit concert for Lesvos Hospital Aid.

Lesvos Hospital Aid: Helping Our Sister City

(See the enclosed special insert for more photos, an overview of the project, and a list of the donors to date.)



It took more than a year of planning, and more than 100 people to make it happen – but the HSoM’s project to send humanitarian medical supplies to the General Hospital of Mytilene on the island of Lesvos, Greece was an unqualified success!

Lesvos Hospital Aid, the largest project in HSoM’s history, reached its goal of \$20,000 within two months of our kickoff. Donations came from more than 90 individuals and organizations from all over, most from Maine, but some from as far away as Norway and France. Individual amounts ranged from \$10 to \$6,000.

The situation is difficult in all of Greece. Seven years of a devastating economic depression have resulted in historic hardships for the people and the government. Resources have been cut in all sectors, including hospitals. To make matters worse, for Lesvos, an overwhelming flow of refugees came through last year – 600,000 people – 3 times more than other locations.

Since HSoM supports the official Sister City relationship between Mytilene, Lesvos, and Portland, Maine, Lesvos Hospital Aid was our way to help the Greek people and the refugees. To obtain the equipment and supplies, we worked with Partners for World Health, a Maine based non-profit that recovers medical supplies and packs containers that go all over the world.

Documentary on Impact of the European Union’s Austerity Measures on the Greek People & Economy

On Thursday March 16 the documentary, “Agora,” will be shown at 5:30 p.m. in Room 509 Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland Campus. A discussion will follow.

Greece is experiencing the worst conditions post-WWII that no European thought would be faced again — homeless people, soup kitchens, unemployment, poverty, vio-



lence and the rise of the extreme-right. The dream of prosperity has turned into a nightmare and the political scene of the last four decades is crumbling.

Yorgos Avgeropoulos turned his camera towards his homeland and recorded the development of the crisis from its early stage, while tracing its impact on the lives of ordinary people. He witnessed popular protests in the streets, the development of solidarity movements as well as the rise of fascism, while at the same time he sought answers from Greece’s most significant political personalities, insiders, analysts and key decision makers from the international political scene.

DO WE HAVE YOUR LATEST CONTACT INFORMATION?

We are trying to keep our email and postal address list up-to-date. If you’ve changed your address or email please send a note to:

Irwin Novak at novak@maine.edu

Twelfth Annual - Spring 2017
GREEK FILM SERIES
Contemporary & Classic Films about Greece

presented by
USM Hellenic Initiatives & Hellenic Society of Maine

*** **BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND** ***

“Politiki Kouzina” (A Touch of Spice) Dir: Tassos Boulmetis, Greece, 2003

Sunday, February 12, 3 PM, Portland Campus, Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall



Surprisingly, many people have yet to see this beautifully told film, one of the best Greek films of the past decades. It's a bitter-sweet epic about the travails of the embattled Greek minority in Istanbul. It has, as one critic stated, an "emotional punch that leaves you weak at the knees." Filmed partly in Turkey, and starring one of its best-known actors, the film is a part of the slow and uneasy rapprochement between the two enemies who have spent most of the last century on the precipice of war. The film confronts prejudice in both countries. Those who were forced to leave Asia Minor were greeted as Turks in Greece. In Greece they were considered Turks -- caught in the middle, confused and ill at ease, in a homeland that wasn't really theirs. Not Rated, but probably PG-13. *In Greek and Turkish with English sub-titles. 108 minutes.*

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

Sunday, March 12, 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.*



“Liza and the Other” (Η Λίζα και η Άλλη) Dir: Dinos Dimopoulos, Greece, 1961

Sunday, April 2, 3 PM, Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland campus



Aliki Vougioukolaki – Greece's most well-known comedienne for three decades – plays two different characters in this cute comedy. As a coarse-talking street waif she plays Lisa, who looks amazingly like Mitsi, the daughter of wealthy industrialist Mike Gavriiloglou (Lambros Konstantaras). Mitsi is spoiled and used to getting her own way. When her father rejects her poor boyfriend (George Lefteriotis) as a good match, she hatches a plot to run away from home and pretend to be taken hostage. Her father offers a large reward. Meanwhile homeless Lisa is arrested for sneaking into a store to sleep for the night. Thanos, a lawyer (George Pantzas) helps her when she is arrested and unjustly accused of theft. He takes her home to keep her safe, meanwhile falling in love with her. The plot thickens with the bumbling help of a private detective, Valdés (Thanasis Vengos), a father willing to trick his daughter, three guys eager to collect the reward, plus mistaken identities and requited love. Music by Manos Hadjidakis. *In Greek with English subtitles. 97 minutes.*

In Greek with English subtitles. 97 minutes.

Ellenika Biblia

Books from or about Greece, written in or translated into English, are the focus of this new regular column. We try to select books available in the US or via the internet. We welcome your suggestions of good books you have read.

“The War That Killed Achilles: The True Story of Homer’s Iliad and the Trojan War” by Caroline Alexander is a top-notch non-fiction exploration of the classic, *“The Illiad.”* The book’s liner notes explain it best -- written with the authority of a scholar yet still like a page turner, “Alexander has taken apart a story we think we know and put it back together in a way that lets us see why that story has had such an impact on us for centuries.” She explores the larger question: what are the real lessons of war?

Did you watch the recent PBS mini-series “The Durrells in Corfu”? It was based on *“My Family and Other Animals,”* the memoir written by the youngest Durrell son, Gerald, of his family’s five-year stay on Corfu in the late 1930’s. (The oldest son, Lawrence, is the most famous Durrell who wrote extensively, including several books about Greece.) Gerald’s memoir focuses more on the animals that he so loved, and paints a less complimentary portrait of some of the local characters.

Quick Calendar Summary

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

Feb. 12 - **Film:** Drama, “*Politiki Kousina*,” 3 p.m. Talbot Aud., Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland.

Mar 12 – **Film:** Drama, “*The Christmas Tango*,” 3 p.m. Talbot Aud., Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland.

Mar. 16 - **Documentary & Discussion** - “*Agora*,” background of the Greek economic crisis, 5:30 p.m., 509 Luther Bonney, USM Portland.

Apr. 2 - **Annual Meeting** 2 p.m. followed by:

Apr. 2 - **Film:** 3 p.m. Comedy, “*Liza and the Other*” — both in Talbot Aud., Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland.

May 4 - **Lecture & Music Demonstration** - “*Lesvos at the Crossroads: The Soundscape of a Late Ottoman Island*,” Panayotis League, musicologist, 6:30 p.m., 133 Wishcamper Center, USM Portland.

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!* ✂

MANY WAYS TO DONATE & HELP HELLENIC SOCIETY OF MAINE

Via PayPal

At the Hellenic Society of Maine Website: www.hellenicsocietyofmaine.org
Click on the yellow “Donate with PayPal” button. There you can pay with a Credit Card **OR** log into your PayPal account (If you have a PayPal account you can have money withdrawn from your account or you can use the Credit Card option).

Via Facebook

At the Facebook page of the Hellenic Society of Maine:

<https://www.facebook.com/hellenicsocietyofmaine>

Click on the “Donate Now” button just below and to the right of the Parthenon photo. There you can pay with Credit Card **OR** Log into your PayPal account, as above.

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<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/26-3986966> When asked, type in: Hellenic Society of Maine. You don’t have to do anything else.

OPA!

Panayotis League, center back, plays the violin with “*Skordalia*” while the audience dances at the Lesvos Hospital Aid Benefit Concert August 21, 2016. Hear him again in a lecture/demonstration on May 4. See front page article for details.



YOU CAN NOW JOIN 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, go to: www.hellenicsocietyofmaine.org and use the “Donate” button to pay through PayPal or Credit Card, and indicate “For Membership.” — Or fill out the form below and send it, and a check made out to: Hellenic Society of Maine, c/o Taxia Paras, P.O. Box 598, Scarborough, ME 04070-0598.

Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

For July 2016~June2017: 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:
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Send to: Taxia Paras, Treasurer

P.O. Box 598

Scarborough, ME 04070-0598