



# HELLENIC SOCIETY NEWS

Newsletter of the Hellenic Society of Maine

the Hellenic Society of Maine is a tax exempt non-profit public charitable organization

Vol. XIX  
Spring 2023

**Website:** [www.hellenicsocietyofmaine.org](http://www.hellenicsocietyofmaine.org) **Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/hellenicsocietyofmaine](http://www.facebook.com/hellenicsocietyofmaine)

## "The Greeks of Ukraine: From Antiquity to the Present"

March 30 at 7 p.m. via ZOOM

Dr. Alexandros Kyrou is Professor of History and Director of the Program in East European and Russian Studies at Salem (MA) State University where he teaches on the Balkans, Byzantium, and the Ottoman Empire. He will give a lecture, "The Greeks of Ukraine: from Antiquity to the Present," via Zoom on Thursday, March 30.

In Prof. Kyrou's timely talk, he will trace the long and continuous history of the Greek presence on the north shore of the Black Sea, a history which predates by more than a millennium the arrival of the early Slavs and the eventual emergence of the Russian and Ukrainian peoples in this geographic space.



Beginning in the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC Greeks established more than 70 settlements along the Black Sea coasts of what today are Ukraine and southern

Russia. Centuries later they were incorporated into the ancient Roman Empire and continued to flourish during the period of the Medieval Roman Empire (Byzantium), when they took on enormous influence as centers for Greek cultural diffusion and Byzantine power.

From these Greek cities, especially in Crimea, Byzantine civilization and Orthodox Christianity spread to deeply influence the Slavs to the north, who by the ninth century had established their first state—Kievan/Kyivan Rus—a highly sophisticated polity and society from which both Ukraine and Russia derive their cultural and state origins.

In the late 18<sup>th</sup> century the Greek populations had shrunk, but underwent a major revival by the arrival of a large wave of Greek refugees from Pontus. They spearheaded a wave of new settlements including new urban centers such as the prominent port cities of Mariupol and Odessa.

A former Associate Editor of the *Journal of Modern Hellenism*, Dr. Kyrou has also written more than eighty essays, commentaries, journal articles, book chapters and reviews on Greek and Ottoman history, Turkish politics, the Armenian and Greek Genocides, Orthodox Christianity and the origins of international humanitarianism, war and peace in Byzantium, and US foreign policy in Southeastern Europe.

He has guest lectured at Harvard, Princeton, Yale, and Oxford Universities, and has been interviewed and quoted in several major media publications, including *The New York Times* and *Vanity Fair*.

He has held research fellowships in the Program in Hellenic Studies at Princeton University, the Kokkalis Program on Southeastern and East-Central Europe at Harvard University, and the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies in Philadelphia. Dr. Kyrou completed his Ph.D. in East European History at Indiana University and is an alumnus of Indiana University's Russian and East European Institute.

## ????? GREEK TRIVIA NIGHT! Q'S&A'S 7 p.m. Thursday February 23, 2023

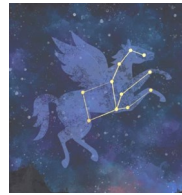
Who was the leader of the Greek warships that sailed to Troy? What is the population of Athens? On which side of the church do women sit?

To answer these questions, and to test your knowledge of more Greek history, culture, and mythology, plan to Zoom in for HSoM's first ever **Greek Trivia Night**. The Zoom link will begin at 7 p.m. We'll ask the questions, you'll join one of several breakout groups to come up with the answer, and then we will all join back together to see who's right. The rule is: if you don't know the real answer, come up with the funniest. No scores. No pressure. All fun!

Contact Irwin Novak at [novak@maine.edu](mailto:novak@maine.edu) to be sent the Zoom link the day before.

## Greek Mythology in the Night Sky Saturday, March 25, 2023 at 1 p.m.

First presented in 2008 at the University of Southern Maine Southworth Planetarium, this extremely popular program will once again be presented in the Planetarium in the USM Science Building, Falmouth Street, on the USM Portland Campus.



Explore the rich realm of night sky mythology under the stars with Edward Herrick-Gleason, Director of the USM Southworth Planetarium. Within one hour you will discover the stories, legends and lore of the stars and planets. Perseus slays the Gorgon

Medusa. Pegasus arises from her blood. Bellerophon tames Pegasus and slays the Chimera. Cassiopeia's brag becomes Andromeda's despair. Hera's wrath becomes Hercules' labors. Gods and monsters; forlorn lovers and ancient warriors: see them all amongst the stars.

**For Reservations call the Planetarium at: 780-4249**

**Leave your name & phone, Number of seats requested**

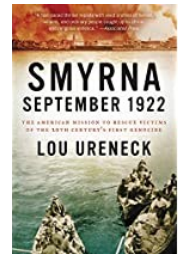
**Admission: Adults \$6.50; Children under 12: \$5.**

**Limited Seating (62 Seats). Free parking in the garage.**

## Biblia Mazi – Books Together

Current members of the Hellenic Society are invited to sign up for our winter and spring book club discussions on Zoom.

On Tuesday, January 10 at 7 p.m. we'll discuss *Smyrna, September 1922* (Ecco, 2016) by Lou Ureneck who spoke in November. The book is a harrowing account of the destruction of the city of Smyrna (now Izmir) in 1922, and the heroic rescue orchestrated by an American minister, Isa Jennings and Naval Officer Halsey Powell. The discussion is the final event of the HSoM's fall and winter focus on the events surrounding the military and humanitarian disasters which befell the Greek



*continued on p.4*

# Eighteenth Annual - Spring 2023

## GREEK FILM SERIES

### Contemporary & Classic Films about Greece

**We will watch films via an Internet link one week before planned ZOOM discussions of the films. (Those ZOOM links will be sent separately.) To participate send an email to [novak@maine.edu](mailto:novak@maine.edu) prior to the date shown and the links will be sent to you.**

### A Tribute to Irene Papas

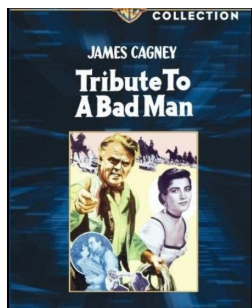
Our Spring Film Series will be dedicated to Irene Papas, the renowned Greek actress. She died on Sept. 14, 2022 at age of 93. Papas was an actress and recording artist, known for her dramatic performances, singing, and austere beauty. She earned prominent roles in Hollywood, French, and Italian cinema for over six decades. Greece's Culture Minister, Lina Mendoni, said of her: "Magnificent, majestic, dynamic, Irene Papas was the personification of Greek beauty on the cinema screen and on the theater stage, an international leading lady who radiated Greekness." Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis described her as a source of "admiration and inspiration" to generations of Greeks. Join us for three of her films.



### “Tribute to a Bad Man” Director: Robert Wise, USA, 1956

**ZOOM Discussion: Thursday, February 9 at 7 p.m.**

**During the week of February 2-9: watch on the link to be distributed by February 2.**



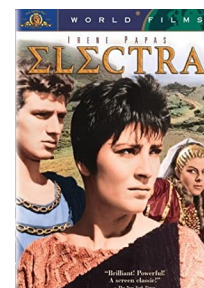
Unbelievable? James Cagney and Irene Papas in a Western?!?! Yes!!! This film “introduces” Irene Papas—her first co-starring role in an American film. One reviewer wrote in part: “This is a very good and very unusual film because of its unpredictability—despite first appearances.” A young Easterner comes upon Jeremy Rodock (James Cagney) as he's being "bushwhacked." He's been trapped by horse thieves and they are trying to shoot him. Once Rodock has been extricated from this ordeal, he and the young man become friends and the man decides to stay and work for him at his horse ranch. Living on the ranch is Rodock's girlfriend, a foreign woman he met in a honky tonk — Jocosta Constantine (Irene Papas). As a result of Rodock's brutality towards rustlers, both the girl and young man both must make an important decision. Of the films of the later part of Cagney's career, this is one of his best, said another reviewer. Worthwhile even if you are not a fan of cowboy films or Cagney. Papas slips seamlessly into this most unusual role for her. Director Robert Wise went on to direct “West Side Story,” “The Sound of Music,” “Star Trek - The Motion Picture” and many others. *In English. 95 minutes.*

### “Electra” Director: Michael Cacoyannis, Greek, 1962

**ZOOM Discussion: Thursday, March 9 at 7 p.m.**

**During the week of March 2-9: watch on the link to be distributed by March 2.**

A powerful rendering of the tragedy of Electra by Euripides which centers around the legendary story of the house of Atreus. King Agamemnon, leader of the Greeks at Troy, returns a hero, only to be murdered by his wife Clytemnestra and her lover Aegisthus. Of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra's children, Orestes goes into exile and safety, while Electra (Irene Papas) is confined to the palace for some years and then forced to marry a peasant to disgrace her and any children. Electra never forgets. Some years later, she seeks revenge with the help of Orestes and their cousin Pylades. Papas shows her range in this ancient Greek drama put to film. The film was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film. *In Greek w/English subtitles. 110 minutes.*



### “Zorba the Greek” Director: Michael Cacoyiannis, USA, 1964

**ZOOM Discussion: Thursday, April 13 at 7 p.m.**

**During the week of April 6-13: watch on the link to be distributed by April 6**



Whose film performance has been cited as one of the most iconic in film history? Anthony Quinn as Zorba. But Irene Papas, in a smaller but superb role as the widow, shows that as an actress she transcended any language barrier, someone who didn't need dialogue at all — her face and body said everything she needed to say. The film is based on the 1946 novel “The Life and Times of Alexis Zorba” by Nikos Kazantzakis. *Zorba* was a considerable critical and commercial success, grossing over nine times its production budget at the U.S. box office alone. At the 37th Academy Awards, the film won awards for Best Supporting Actress (Kedrova, Madame Hortense - the dying prostitute), Best Cinematography, and Best Art Direction. Other nominations that year included Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Actor for Anthony Quinn. It also features co-star Alan Bates. *In English and some Greek. 142 minutes.*

# Hellenic Society of Maine

P. O. Box 8007  
Portland Maine 04104-8007

*The Hellenic Society of Maine is a non-profit, tax exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

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

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**Gift Membership?** Do you know someone who would enjoy learning about the Hellenic Society of Maine? Consider sending them an HSoM membership. Use the form below, fill in their name and information and send it to us indicating it is a gift membership.

**FMI** on HSoM go to the HSoM website (see above) or "like" the HSoM Facebook page [www.facebook.com/hellenicsocietyofmaine](http://www.facebook.com/hellenicsocietyofmaine)

## In Honor or In Remembrance

This column lists donations made IN MEMORY OF (IMO) and IN HONOR OF (IHO) special persons by family members and friends. Listings include the name of the honoree followed by the name of the donor, and will run in two consecutive issues. To donate you can send the membership form found in this newsletter and send it, together with a check to HSoM, to HSoM, P.O. Box 8007, Portland, ME 04104-8007 – OR – use the donate button on our website (indicating IMO or IHO) at [hellenicsocietyofmaine.org](http://hellenicsocietyofmaine.org)

Crown of Olive Level - \$500 or more

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**IMO – Haroula Kotsini**

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**IMO – Dimitrios Millios**

*Barbara S. Millios*

## **Visit Classical Greece with OLLI!**

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Southern Maine has planned a trip to Greece from **May 21 to 31, 2023**. They have worked with AAA and Collette Tours to create an active, educational and meaningful adventure for OLLI members. (To become an OLLI member you must be over 50 and pay the \$25 membership fee.) HSoM members Irwin Novak and Mary Snell will coordinate a pre-trip class from March 17 to May 5.

Highlights include the first days in Athens with its iconic Acropolis; then north to the ancient battle site of Thermopylae and Kalambaka, where travelers will visit the studio of an icon painter; on to Meteora and Arachova, where Byzantine monks built remote monasteries 600 years ago on limestone "towers;" a visit to Delphi, one of Greece's most important ancient religious sites; on to Olympia, where the ancient Olympics were held; through the mountains to the beautiful coastal town of Nafplio which is near Mycenae, the site of spectacular tombs and the kingdom of mythological King Agamemnon; and back to Athens for a free day to visit the museums, etc.

The cost of the 10-day trip is \$4,550 (double) and \$5,150 (single accommodation) and includes cancellation waiver and insurance; round-trip transport from South Portland to Logan Airport, Boston; round-trip airfare from Logan Airport; hotels; most meals; guides; air taxes/fees/surcharge; and hotel transfers. For more information contact Mary at [msnell@maine.edu](mailto:msnell@maine.edu) or OLLI – 207-780-4406

**✂ Cut Out and Return!**

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

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

**For the membership year July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023: Renewal / New** (circle one)

\_\_\_\_\_ (\$25.00) Annual Full Member (grants the right to vote on policy)

\_\_\_\_\_ (\$15.00) Annual Associate Member

**Make check or money order payable to: Hellenic Society of Maine**

I want to contribute more. Enclosed is: \_\_\_\_\_  
a donation in support of your efforts; or  
(circle one) **IHO** or **IMO** (In Honor Of; In Memory Of)  
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**Send to: Chris Ziagos, Treasurer**  
**Hellenic Society of Maine**  
**P. O. Box 8007**  
**Portland Maine 04104-8007**

## Quick Calendar Summary

Online via Internet and ZOOM, unless noted

**Tues., Jan. 10, 7 p.m. - Biblia Mazi Discussion of *Smyrna: September 1922*.**

**LIVE: Thurs., Jan. 19, 5-7 p.m. - Annual Social and Cutting of the Vasilopita at Tiqa.**

**Thurs., Feb. 9, 7 p.m. - Discussion of the film "Tribute to a Bad Man"**

View the film from Feb. 2-9.

**Thurs., Feb. 23, 7 p.m. - Greek Trivia Night** via Zoom.

**Thurs., Mar. 9, 7 p.m. - Discussion of the film "Electra"**

View the film from Mar. 2-9.

**LIVE: Sat., Mar. 25, 1 p.m. - USM Planetarium: "Greek Mythology in the Night Sky."** Adults \$6.50 / Children \$5.

**Thurs., Mar. 30, 7 p.m. - Talk by Prof. Alexandros Kyrou: "The Greeks of Ukraine: From Antiquity to the Present."**

**Tues., Apr. 4, 7 p.m. - Biblia Mazi Discussion of the book, *Greek to Me*.**

**Thurs., Apr. 13, 7 p.m. - Discussion of the film "Zorba the Greek"**

View the film from Apr. 6-13.

FMI: [novak@maine.edu](mailto:novak@maine.edu)  
for film & discussion links

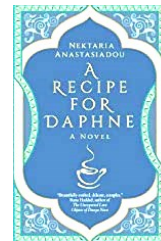
Clip and Save! ✂

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## Ellenika Biblia

A column with suggestions for Greek-related books to read.

For a chance to escape, read *A Recipe for Daphne* by Nektaria Anastasiadou, a romantic novel set in Constantinople. American-born Daphne comes to the city, the Polis, to find her Greek roots there. She meets two different men who instantly fall in love with her and want to marry: Fanis, at the center of the dwindling Rum community – Greeks who have lived in the city for 20 centuries; and Kosmas, a master pastry chef. The author, who lives in Constantinople, says it was a special pastry – the Balkanik, featured in the book – that inspired her to write this, her first novel. (Amazon)



*Biblia Mazi from p.1* - communities in Turkey after the end of WWI and which contributed to the great Greek diaspora.



In the spring, on Tuesday, April 4, we'll talk about the best-selling travel memoir, *Greek to Me: Adventures of The Comma Queen* (W.W. Norton; 2019) by Mary Norris. This acclaimed book is a delightful love letter to Greece, and all things Greek, by the former copy editor of the New Yorker. A passionate Hellenophile, she writes an entertaining memoir about her lifelong fascination with Greek culture and the Greek language (ancient and modern), and recounts her solo travels in Greece.

Sign up for either of these sessions by sending an email to Angela Bournakel at [about@me.com](mailto:about@me.com). You will be sent a link to the Zoom session a few days before the meeting.

### Don't Forget to Attend!!!

HSoM's Annual Social and Cutting of the Vasilopita at  
Tiqa Restaurant, 327 Commercial Street, Portland.  
Tuesday, January 19 from 5-7 p.m.



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