



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. XVIII
Fall 2021

Website: www.hellenicsocietyofmaine.org **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/hellenicsocietyofmaine

Preserving the history of Greeks of Maine:

New archive at Maine Historical Society

As each generation passes, more and more of the history of the Greeks of Maine is lost. Thus the Hellenic Society of Maine has approached the Maine Historical Society to establish a Greek archive at MHS.

The archive would become a repository for the history of the community and items would be preserved and documented by the Historical Society in such a way that scholars would be able to use the information for research, etc. Otherwise such documents remain at risk stored in cardboard boxes subject to water damage, mold, insects, etc. Also the historical value of many documents might not be recognized by later generations who inherit the estates of the elders, and possibly dispose of them.

Items in the archive can include all kinds of paper documents (letters, receipts, work logs, posters, program booklets, etc.), photos (annual picnics, March 25 events, festivals, businesses, dances, etc.), relevant clothing and fabrics, some audio/visual materials, some books, etc. All material must be related to Maine in some way and would be a permanent transfer to MHS. A staff member would select all donations that are and provide necessary forms.

A committee has formed comprised of volunteers from the four Greek parishes in the state, as well as HSoM members, to help spread the word of this initiative to appropriate groups and individuals. The committee includes John "Jack" Rozos, Georgia Chomas, John Kesaris, Stavros Nashi, Pam Pappavasiliou, Annie Antonacos, Marina Schneller, and Mary Snell. If you are interested in more information, please contact any member of the committee or msnell@maine.edu

A talk: history of Holy Trinity, Lewiston

Georgia Goranites Chomas of Lewiston will present the first of a series of talks about the history of the Greek parishes in Maine at 7 p.m. October 28 via ZOOM.

Her talk will recount the founding of the Holy Trinity Church in Lewiston including the early Greek families that settled the area and the kinds of work that they did.



A retired realtor, Georgia worked in that field for 40 years and was named Realtor of the Year. She was the first woman to be elected to the Auburn City Council, and was one of the first women to serve on the Parish Council of Holy Trinity. She is a former president of Philoptochos, and of the Daughters of Penelope, and was chosen as

Penelope of the Year in District 9.

She was the recipient of the annual Metropolitan Ministry Award in 2008. A native of Lewiston, Georgia now lives in Poland.

A new members' group -- *Biblia Mazi*

We are pleased to announce the formation of a new book group for Hellenic Society members, an offshoot of our *Ellenika Biblia* column in this newsletter. *Biblia Mazi* (*Books Together*) will be coordinated by Angela Bournakel, and will meet three or four times a year, on Zoom or in person, to discuss books about Greece. The first discussion will be held at 7 p.m., Tuesday, November 9, 2021 on Zoom. Future book selections and meetings are planned for February and May of 2022. An email will be sent to all members in September, asking for those wishing to participate to sign up. They will then be sent the Zoom link for November. Participation will be limited to 25 persons. Contact Angela at: about@me.com

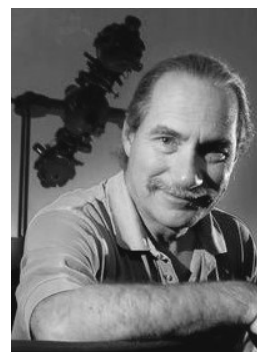
The inaugural book selected for the November meeting is *Circe*, a novel by Madeline Miller, published in paperback in 2020 by Little, Brown & Co., New York (ISBN 9780316556327). (We encourage all readers to support local bookstores when you purchase the books.)

Here's a review by member Susan Swain which appeared earlier in our newsletter: *For readers who love Greek mythology, it's hard to find a book that will draw you into the world of the Titans and Olympians and the ancient, quasi-mythical Mazi Con't. on p.3.*

The Antikythera Mechanism: 2,000 Year Old Greek Computer Revisited

More research has been done in the past decade on the fascinating artifact, the Antikythera Mechanism. At 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 2, Jerry LaSala, USM Planetarium Director and Professor of Physics, will follow up on his 2010 lecture to present the latest discoveries. His lecture will be conducted via ZOOM.

The Antikythera Mechanism is 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 attempted to replicate its mechanism to understand both how it worked and the types of celestial phenomena it was designed to predict. Astronomers believe they have unraveled the mechanism's mysteries and are astonished at its complexity. Inside a box - 13x7x3.5 inches - were a set of bronze gears, dials, pointers, and spirals used to compute the movement of celestial bodies. It is so sophisticated, in fact, that historians and archaeologists are re-evaluating their notions of Ancient Greek Astronomy.



Prof. LaSala is a former chairman of the University of Southern Maine Department of Physics and of the Faculty Senate.

Eighteenth Annual - Fall 2021 - Via Zoom
GREEK FILM SERIES
 Contemporary & Classic Films about Greece
 presented by
Hellenic Society of Maine

WATCH on the INTERNET and DISCUSS via ZOOM

Once again we will offer films via an Internet link posted one week before a planned ZOOM discussion of the film (the ZOOM link will also be sent separately.) If you are interested in viewing the films below, send an email to novak@maine.edu prior to the date shown, and the links will be sent to you.

Shirley Valentine Director: Lewis Gilbert, USA, 1989

ZOOM Discussion: Thursday, October 7 at 7 p.m.

Film link to be distributed on September 30.



The hilariously endearing Shirley Valentine is a wisecracking, completely unpredictable English housewife who proves it's never too late to recapture your dreams. In the role that won her Broadway's acclaimed Tony Award, and a nomination for an Oscar - Best Actress (1990), Pauline Collins plays this middle-aged Liverpool housewife, who finds herself talking to the wall while she prepares her husband's chips'n'eggs, wondering what happened to her life. Bored with suburbia, Shirley takes a chance on adventure when a friend invites her on a vacation to Greece. Within no time she's back to her rebellious teenage roots, saying yes to a wild fling with a handsome rogue (Tom Conti) and the life she's always wanted. In Greece, Shirley begins to see the world, and herself, in a different light. Filmed in the UK and on Mykonos. 108 minutes. Rated: R. In English.

Iphigenia - Director: Michael Cacoyannis, Greece, 1977

ZOOM Discussion: Thursday, November 18 at 7 p.m.

Film link to be distributed on November 11.

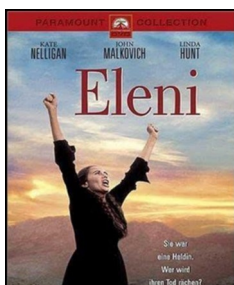
Iphigenia is based on Euripides' play, *Iphigenia at Aulis*. Iphigenia is the daughter of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra of Mycenae. Agamemnon has assembled an army and 1,000 ships to attack Troy to avenge the "theft" of Helen, the beautiful wife of his brother Menelaus of Sparta, by the Trojan prince, Paris. The Greek army is about to set sail from Aulis, but the winds refuse to blow because, Agamemnon, in seeking to provide food for his becalmed army, had accidentally slain a sacred deer. His punishment, ordered by the goddess Artemis through her priests, is to sacrifice his eldest daughter Iphigenia. Cacoyannis adapted the film, the third in his "Greek tragedy trilogy" (after the release of *Electra* in 1962 and *The Trojan Women* in 1971), from his stage production of Euripides' play. The film stars Tatiana Papamoschou in the title role, Kostas Kazakos as Agamemnon, and the legendary actress Irene Papas as Clytemnestra. The score was composed by Mikis Theodorakis. *Iphigenia* was nominated for one Oscar -- Best Foreign Language Film, and for the Palme d'Or at the 1977 Cannes Film Festival. It received the 1978 Belgian Femina Award, and the Best Film Award at the 1977 Thessaloniki Film Festival. 127 minutes. In Greek with English subtitles.



Eleni Director: Peter Yates, USA, 1985

ZOOM Discussion: Thursday, December 16 at 7 p.m.

Film link to be distributed by December 9.



Eleni is based on the true story of a New York Times reporter, Nicholas Gage, who went searching for his past in Greece. As a very young boy, he was sent to America to join relatives at the end of World War II. He has a sharp memory of his mother promising to join him as soon as possible. But his mother never arrived and word finally came that she had been killed - shot by a firing squad in the confused days of the Greek Civil War. As the movie opens, years have passed, but the agony of that loss has not faded for Nick Gage. He feels he cannot rest until he finds the answers to the questions that haunt him: Why was his mother killed? Who killed her? *Eleni* tells Gage's story in the present day, and then uses flashbacks to tell his mother's story and that of the civil war. The adult Nick is played by John Malkovich as an introspective, wryly intelligent man who harbors deep hurts and angers. Rated: "PG." 114 minutes. In English.

Hellenic Society of Maine

P. O. Box 8007
Portland Maine 04104-8007

a tax exempt non-profit public
charitable organization

www.hellenicsocietyofmaine.org

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If you've changed your address or
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For more information
on HSoM go to the Hellenic
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above) or "like" the HSoM
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In Honor or In Remembrance

Inspired by recent donations in memory of our dear friend and treasurer, the late Taxia Paras, the Hellenic Society has decided to create an ongoing listing for any donations that are made IN MEMORY OF (IMO) a special person by family and friends. Donations can also be made IN HONOR OF (IHO) a living person. Each individual listing – which includes the names of the person honored and the donor – will run for two consecutive issues of this newsletter based on the time at which it is received.

Crown of Olive Level - \$500 or more

Gold Level - \$250 or more

IMO – Taxia Efthimion Paras
Maria & Demetra Anagnostopoulos
of The Greek Institute, Cambridge MA

Silver Level - \$100 or more

IMO – Taxia Efthimion Paras
Carl and Margot Lenhart
Evangelos Liaras
Mari Anne Paraskevas and Peter Paras
Mary Snell and Irwin Novak

Bronze Level – under \$100

IMO – Constantine Karvonides
Christos Gianopoulos

***Mazi Con't. fr. p.1:** Mediterranean world as well as Circe, by Madeline Miller. Circe, the sorceress encountered by Odysseus and his men on their way home from Troy, tells her own story in this novel called "bold and subversive" and "epic and intimate" by the New York Times. Beginning in her childhood, sitting at the feet of her Titan father Helios, Circe's story draws the reader headlong through her failures and betrayals, her passions, fears, cruelties and achievements. Brilliantly imagined and beautifully written, the novel weaves threads from many Greek myths, as well as from The Odyssey.*

Our regular Ellenika Biblia suggestion:

***The Messenger of Athens** by Anne Zouroudi was a surprisingly good read. It's the first in a series of mystery/crime novels set in Greece -- the Seven Deadly Sins Mystery series. Giving the reader the usual pleasure of trying to figure out 'who dunnit', this book also paints a compelling picture of a small Greek village. The good, and bad, characteristics of people who live too close to one another come out in full force. Feeling a bit old-fashioned, it eschews the often overwhelming violence of contemporary crime fiction. The story is set on the fictional island of Thiminos where a young woman's body has been found at the foot of a cliff. A stranger, Hermes Diaktoros, arrives from Athens and announces that he is there to investigate the death – but no one claims to have hired him. Who is he and why did he come? (2010 Back Bay Books of Little Brown & Co.)*

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, through our website, 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 mail it in.

✂ Cut Out and Return!

Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

For July 1, 2021—June 30, 2022: Renewal / New member (<— circle one)

____ \$19.75 (date of Greek 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 _____

I would like to make a contribution: _____

OR enclosed is my donation of _____ in support of HSoM.

In Honor or Memory of: _____.

Make check or money order payable to:

Hellenic Society of Maine

Send to: Chris Ziagos, Treasurer

P.O. Box 8007

Portland, ME 04104-8007

Quick Calendar Summary

Online via the Internet and ZOOM

Thurs. Oct. 7, 7 p.m.: Discussion of the film *Shirley Valentine* via ZOOM.
View the film from Sept. 30 - Oct. 7.

Thurs. Oct. 28, 7 p.m.: A talk by Georgia Chomas talks about the history of Holy Trinity Church of Lewiston, via ZOOM.

Tues. Nov. 9, 7 p.m.: *Biblia Mazi*: Book group discussion of this month's book.

Thurs. Nov. 18, 7 p.m.: Discussion of the film *Iphegenia* via ZOOM.
View the film from Nov. 4 -11.

Thurs. Dec. 2, 7 p.m. - Lecture by Jerry LaSala: on the Antikythera Mechanism, via ZOOM.

Thurs. Dec. 16, 7 p.m.: Discussion of the film *Eleni* via ZOOM.
View the film from Dec. 9-16.

E-mail novak@maine.edu for film & discussion links

✂ Clip and Save! ✂

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Greek Table κουλούρια Salute

HSoM members (and spouses) of the ongoing Greek Table groups finally met in person at Lucky Hollander's home for an outdoor gathering. One member, Mary from Florida, couldn't attend, but sent a box of her homemade koulouria as a special treat. Members hoisted their koulouria in a thank you salute to her.

The Greek Bicentennial and beyond

Although our big plans for an original drama were dashed on the rocks of the pandemic, we managed to salvage our celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Greek War of Independence. **Many thanks to S. Victor Papacosma** who not only gave an interesting talk on Rhigas Pheraios in February, but also led the discussion of the *Greek National Geographic Special: "The Uprising of the Greek People - 1821."* We also tried to send links to events live-streamed from Greece to our members - another reason to join! We had hoped to return to live films and events in the Spring of 2022, but with the current situation not great, we are watching and hoping this world-wide crisis will abate.



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