



HELLENIC SOCIETY NEWS

Newsletter of the Hellenic Society of Maine

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

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

Miltiades Zacas

“Engineering and Technological Achievements of Ancient Greece - Part 2”

**6:30 p.m., Thursday, March 7,
Room , Wishcamper Center
USM Portland**

Free and open to the public.

Ancient Greek civilization laid the foundations of



our own society. Many people are aware that the culture of ancient Greeks still impacts our lives today in literature, philosophy, arts, and politics. What remains relatively underestimated are their technological and engineering achievements. Research

reveals that ancient Greeks had developed impressive engineering technology for buildings and infrastructure systems and created machines with lasting impact on our culture. This lecture will discuss some of the engineering technological achievements of ancient Greeks for the construction of large structures, tunnels, irrigation, and waste water management systems.

Miltiades Zacas, Ph.D, P.E., M.ASCE has over 30 years of experience in geotechnical investigation, design and consultancy on various projects in Maine and internationally (Greece, Saudi Arabia, Somalia and Colombia). While in Athens, Greece, he served for 14 years as Managing Partner of “Pangaea Consulting Engineers, Ltd.” a geotechnical engineering company. He served as consultant for tunnel projects for the Greek Ministry of Public Works and Environment and for dam projects for the Greek Ministry of Irrigation and Agriculture. At present, he is Geotechnical Engineering Consultant with FGS/CMT, Inc. for design, management and coordination of geotechnical projects. Dr. Zacas’ diverse experience includes geotechnical services in a variety of projects such as, bridges, dams, tunnels, harbors, highways and buildings. He has authored or co-authored numerous articles published in journals and seminars/conferences/ symposia proceedings. He is a faculty associate with the Civil and Environmental Department of the University of Maine where he teaches graduate courses in geotechnical engineering and sustainability in engineering.

Annual Social and Cutting of the Vasilopita



Continuing with the Greek New Year’s tradition of individuals and organizations cutting the Vasilopita, we will hold our annual Social and Cutting of the Vasilopita from 5 to 7 p.m. on **Thursday, January 16 at Tiqa, 327 Commercial Street.** The Vasilopita is either a sweet bread or cake that has a special coin baked inside. Whoever finds the coin in their slice has good luck for the year. Join us for a drink (cash bar), some tasty mezedes, and maybe you’ll get the coin!

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“It Was Nothing...It Was Everything” Rescuers and the Rescued Jews of Greece Introduction and Discussion by Anna Wrobel 7 p.m., Thursday, March 26, Room 211 Wishcamper Hall, USM Portland

This focus of this documentary is the rescue of Jewish fugitives in Greece during the Holocaust. Highlighting the almost total destruction of Greece's Jewish community, the documentary combines archival footage and Ladino music along with interviews with rescuers, and with some who were rescued in Thessaloniki, Athens, Crete, and in other areas in the region. *The film is in English and Greek with English sub-titles.*

Following the 45 minute documentary, Anna Wrobel will lead a discussion after a quick break for pizza.

The city of Thessaloniki (also known as Salonika) housed a major Jewish community, mostly Eastern Sephardim, until the middle of the Second World War. Sephardic Jews immigrated to the city following their expulsion from Spain by Christian rulers (Ferdinand and Isabella) under the Alhambra Decree in 1492. Thessaloniki is the only known example of a city of its size in the Jewish diaspora that retained a Jewish majority for centuries.

Anna Wrobel is an American historian, poet, Holocaust Studies educator and daughter of Polish Jewish refugees, a rescue partisan mother and Soviet soldier father. Her poetry and essays appear in *Cafe Review, Lilith, Off the Coast* and *Jewish Currents*, where she is a contributing writer. Anna has two poetry collections, *Marengo Street* (2012) and *The Arrangement of Things* (2018), published by **Wrobel, con’t fr. pg. 1** - Maine’s Moon Pie Press. Her work has appeared in University of Maine’s Holocaust Human Rights Center art and poetry exhibit, *Dilemma of Memory*, and

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Sixteenth Annual - Spring 2020
GREEK FILM SERIES
 Contemporary & Classic Films about Greece
 presented by
Hellenic Society of Maine

“Αδίκος Κόσμος” (Unfair World) Dir.: Filippos Tsitos, Greece (2012)



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

Sotiris (Antonis Kafetzopoulos) is a police interrogator. One day he decides to pardon every poor person to whom life has been cruel. Intending to save an innocent soul, he goes as far as to commit a crime. Dora, a lonely cleaning lady who leads a breathless life trying to make ends meet, is the only witness to the crime. Although Sotiris and Dora like each other, love, honesty and justice are anything but easy to combine. The story combines drama and criminal activity into this quiet comedy. Antonis Kafetzopoulos was last seen as Stavros in “Plato’s Academy.”

In Greek w/English sub-titles. 107 minutes.

“Μικρό Εγκλημα” (Small Crime) Dir.: Christos Georgiou, Greece (2008)

Sunday, March 3, 3 PM, Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland Campus

In this romantic comedy Leonidas, a young, ambitious police officer, is assigned to a remote island in the Aegean Sea. (The film is shot on a small island just off Santorini.) He dreams of solving important crimes, but there are few to be found in the sleepy beach community where he is left to doing menial chores. Each day at the town café, Leonidas and the other locals watch the beautiful Angeliki, the small island’s most famous daughter, as she hosts a popular talk show on national TV. This and other daily rituals are shattered when the island experiences what appears to be an actual crime — the island drunk, Zacharias, is found dead at the base of a cliff. Eager to do some sleuthing, Leonidas soon finds clues that tie the victim to Angeliki, who returns to the island and joins the investigation. *In Greek with English subtitles. 85 minutes.*



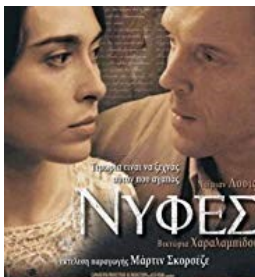
“Νίφες” (Brides) Dir.: Pantelis Voulgaris, Greece, 2004

Sunday, April 7, 3 PM, Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland Campus

One of the very first films ever shown in the Greek Film Series. It is a bittersweet love story set against the tribulations of a 1922

Atlantic crossing of 700 proxy brides on their way to America. Niki, a seamstress from Samothrace, resigns herself to saving the family honor by marrying a Chicago tailor her sister previously rejected.

On the journey, she meets Norman, an American war photographer disheartened by a career and a marriage in tatters. The film follows a journey from east to west, at the same time exploring the inner journey of the people. Made in collaboration with Martin Scorsese (Exec. Producer) The film has a wonderful and nostalgic score composed by Stamatis Spanoudakis. **NOTE: This film is in English and some Greek - but with NO English Subtitles. 128 Minutes.**



she's presented for the Puffin Foundation on Jewish resistance in WWII. Anna's poetry and teaching have been featured at the Maine Jewish Museum, Colby College, UMaine -Augusta, Jewish Community Alliance, University of Southern Maine's OLLI classes and OLLI Sage Lectures series. Poems taken from her manuscript *Sparrow Feathers: Second Generation/First Person* are used by teachers in several U.S. states, Poland, Germany and the Mideast. Anna co-hosts the long running poetry series, *Lowry's Lodge*, with musician/writer Jim Donnelly.

Greek Mythology Through Film

The wonderful and complex world of Greek myths will be explored through the medium of film in a six week course offered this January 7 – February 11 through the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at the University of Southern Maine. HSoM board members Irwin Novak and Mary Snell will briefly discuss the myths then show classic and contemporary films that bring those myths to life in *Greek Myth Through Film* held Tuesday afternoons. For more information and/or to register, go to the OLLI website: www.usm.maine.edu/OLLI (NOTE: You must become a member of OLLI to take the course. Fee \$25 per year.) Course fee is \$50.

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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For more information on HSoM
go to the Hellenic Society of
Maine website (see above) or
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Successful Fall Programming

The Fall of 2019 was a successful one for HSoM with two great lectures and our well-attended regular film series.

Wine Dinner - On September 29 a Wine Dinner was held at the Taverna Khioni, Brunswick, Maine. It was attended by 28 people and filled all tables and the bar. Owner/chef Marc Provencher and wine expert Alison Cheevers, the sales representative for M.S. Walker distributors, fed us and educated us about Greek food and wine. The four course dinner was paired with four wines (plus a bonus glass!) from small wineries from different regions of Greece. HSoM member attendees included: Miltos and Dorothea Zacas, George Spatoulas and Doreen Morrow, Chris Ziagos, Irwin Novak and Mary Snell, Cynthia Shelmerdine and Kate Bracher, Emily Breitter and husband.



Chef Marc Provencher & wine expert Alison Cheevers.

Greek Cooks Panel

"The Flavors of Greece" with Bill Doukas, Dina Medouris, and Anna Nashi. Three southern Maine Greek cooks participated in a panel discussion that was held on November 7, 2019 in Wishcamper Hall at USM Portland. HSoM president, Mary Snell, moderated the discussion.



Lt.-Rt.: Mary Snell, Bill Doukas, Dina Medouris, & Anna Nashi.

Greek Language Table Continues

From 3-6 people meet about once per month to sharpen their Greek language skills. If you want to improve your conversational Greek, join the group for Greek Table. Meetings are usually at noon in Portland. We converse IN GREEK ONLY. No pressure for perfection, just make an effort at whatever your level of fluency – it's free and it's fun! If you are interested in being on the contact list for the next meeting, email Marina at marinaschneller@yahoo.com or Mary at msnell@maine.edu or call 892-9831.

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, 2020 -June 30, 2021: 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

Make check or money order payable to:

Hellenic Society of Maine

Send to: Chris Ziagos, Treasurer

P.O. Box 8007

I can't join now or, I want to give more!

Quick Calendar Summary

*Held at USM's Portland campus
unless otherwise noted*

Jan. 16 - Annual Social and Cutting of the Vasilopita: 5-7 p.m. at Tiqa, 327 Commercial St., Portland.

Feb. 2 - Films: XXXXXXXX, 3 p.m. Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, USM

Feb. 20 - Lecture: Miltiades Zacas, " Engineering and Technological Achievements of Ancient Greece - Part 2" 7 p.m. Rm. 113, Wishcamper, USM

Mar. 8 - Film: XXXXXXXX, 3 p.m. Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, USM

Mar. 26 - Documentary: "It was Nothing...It Was Everything" with guest Moderator Anna Wrobel, 7 p.m., Rm. 211, Wishcamper Center, USM

April 5 - Film: XXXXXX, 3 p.m., Talbot Aud., Luther Bonney Hall, USM

Storm cancellation?

In the case of bad weather, on weekdays call the USM Storm Line 780-4800. (If the USM campus is closed, HSoM events there are cancelled too.) On weekends call 892-9831 or 775-3607.

✂️Clip and Save!✂️

Hellenic Society of Maine
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Ellenika Biblia

Books from or about Greece, written in or translated into English, are the focus of this 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. Below are guest reviews from two HSoM members.

In preparation for watching and discussing the Mar. 26 documentary (see cover story) you may want to read *The House by the Sea: A Portrait of the Holocaust in Greece* by Rebecca Fromer. This book is the true story of one man's quest for survival and the fate of family and friends in Salonika and Athens during the German occupation of Greece in WWII. Ninety-seven percent (about 56,000) of Thessaloniki's (also known as Salonika) Jewish population died at the hands of the Nazis during WWII – the highest percentage of any city in Europe. (1998, Mercury House Press, San Francisco). Submitted by Irwin Novak.

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 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 together threads from many Greek myths, as well as from *The Odyssey*. (2018, Little Brown & Co., New York - paperback due April, 2020). Submitted by Susan Swain.

Do We Have Your Latest Mail / E-mail Contact Information?

We want to keep our lists up-to-date. If you've changed your address or email please send a note to: Irwin Novak at novak@maine.edu.

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