



HELLENIC SOCIETY NEWS

Newsletter of the Hellenic Society of Maine

Vol. V
Spring 2012

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



Portes exhibit at Space Gallery before traveling to Mytilene

Before the art show, *Portes*, (Doors) travels to Portland's Greek Sister City of Mytilene on Lesbos this summer, it will be exhibited at the Space Gallery on Congress Street for three weeks. The public can see this special show of works on paper by Greater Portland artists from March 20 to April 7 during the Gallery's open hours.

A special artists' reception will be held on Tuesday, April 3, from 4 - 7 p.m. when you can meet some of the approximately 50 artists who will contribute their vision of Maine to the show. A larger public reception will be held Friday April 6 during the First Friday Art Walk.

Curator Jeff Badger, chair of the Art department at Southern Maine Community College, came up with the idea to share Portland's vibrant art scene with its four international Sister Cities. Mytilene on Lesbos is one of them.

The Hellenic Society is working with Badger's Tetra Projects to arrange for the exhibit to travel to Greece, this June as part of the celebrations for the 100th anniversary of the annexation of Lesbos to Greece. The opening reception is set for Friday, June 8, in the gallery area of the Mytilene Public Theater (center of Mytilene Harbor photo above). The exhibit will hang for one week. As an official Sister City event, this is our gift to that city on this very important anniversary.

HSoM board member and artist Judith Allen Efstathiou and Badger will hang the show, and other HSoM members will attend the festivities. Any folks traveling to Greece should try to make the journey to the island to attend. Let us know if you do!

Greek Sister City display case dedication at Portland City Hall

Three of Portland's four Sister Cities have display cases outside the second floor offices of the Portland City Manager's office. On April 3 a fourth case – representing and promoting the Portland, Maine/Mytilene, Lesbos Sister City relationship – will be dedicated in a ceremony at 3:30 p.m. at which officials will speak. After, we invite guests to the reception for the *Portes* exhibit at Space Gallery. (At left)

Funds for the construction of this matching oak case by Joseph Pollak Woodworks were contributed by 16 donors. The Hellenic Society is grateful for their support and will inscribe their names on small plaques. The case will be used to display information about Mytilene and Greece, and will be maintained by the Society.

Visit our Website!

Our newly redesigned and renamed website is live! It's been a while in the making, but at last we have a classy looking website/blog and Facebook page with handy pages to our movies, to our calendar, Sister City programs, etcetera. Thanks to board members George Spatoulas, Judith Allen Efstathiou, and Irwin Novak, we hope to keep the world better informed about of what we do, and of topics of interest to Greeks and Helenophiles. Please give us feedback. **Go to:** www.hellenicsocietyofmaine.org or "like" us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/hellenicsocietyofmaine

HSoM Spring Lecture

Stavros Nashi: "The Patriarchate and the Greek Minority"

February 16, 7:30 pm, Rm. 207, Payson Smith Hall, USM Portland Campus



On the night of September 6, 1955, Turkish Nationalists, organized and directed by the government of prime Minister Adnan Menderes, attacked the homes, churches, and business establishments of the city of Istanbul's Greek minority. That event marked the beginning of the ethnic cleansing of the city's Greek population which stood at over 100,000. Stavros lived through those events of 1955. The Greeks of Constantinople, now numbering a few thousand, are the last vestiges of a Greek presence that has spanned thousands of years in what is now Turkey. The Ecumenical Patriarch, the spiritual leader of millions of Eastern Orthodox Christians and head of the Greek community in Turkey continues to come under increasing restrictions. Barring the opening of the Halki Seminary, closed by government decree, the Patriarchate will soon find itself without priests and unable to fulfill its functions. Stavros will discuss the Patriarchate, the Halki Seminary and the Greek minority from a historical perspective while examining the significance of these issues to all Americans in light of current events. Stavros Nashi, a resident of Saco, writes regularly for the Hellenic Voice newspaper and for his blog, *My Greek Odyssey*. Born in Istanbul he considers himself an American, and is very proud of his Greek heritage and Orthodox faith. Visit his blog, *My Greek Odyssey*, at: http://greekodyssey.typepad.com/my_greek_odyssey/

The Seventh Annual – Spring 2012

GREEK FILM SERIES

Contemporary & Classic Films about Greece

presented by

USM Hellenic Initiatives and Hellenic Society of Maine

●●Free and Open to the Public●●

“Tzeni Tzeni”(Jenny Jenny) Director: Dinos Dimopoulos Greece, 1966

Sunday, February 5, 3 PM, Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland Campus



Tzeni Karezi stars in the title role of this romantic comedy. Nikos Mantas (Andreas Barkoulis) returns to his island from the US having finished his studies. His rich uncle Miltos Kassandris (Lambros Konstandaras) who supported him financially all these years, thinks it's payback time. He is set to have his nephew elected as an MP. The only person that stands in the way is Jenny's father, Kosmas Skoutaris (Dionysis Papagiannopoulos), who influences the majority of the people of the island, where Nikos wants to be



elected, and supports Nikos' greatest opponent. When all seems doomed Miltos' wife comes up with an inspired plan. Nikos should marry the educated and free-thinking Jenny. The only problem is that Nikos is already secretly married! Tzeni Karezi, a Greek film and theatre actress, was considered one of the most popular and successful actresses of the cinema of Greece. Also starring two of Greece's most beloved actors: Dionysis Papagiannopoulos and Lambros Konstandaras. 103 min. In Greek with English subtitles.

“Trojan Women” Director: Michael Cacoyiannis USA, 1971

Sunday, March 4, 3 PM, Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland Campus



Euripides wrote The Trojan Women in 415 B.C., but his tragic play about the aftermath of the fall of Troy continues to resonate many centuries later particularly in this stunning film, strongly anti-war in its telling. All of the Trojan warriors and princes have been killed and the conquerors must divide the remains of the war – including the Trojan women and their children. The film stars Katharine Hepburn as Hecuba, wife of King Priam; Vanessa Redgrave as Andromache, the wife of Hector – the son of Priam; Geneviève Bujold as Cassandra, prophetess daughter of Priam; and Irene Papas as Helen of Troy. Cacoyiannis may be best known for his film "Zorba the Greek." 105 minutes. In English.

“Mediterraneo” Director: Gabriele Salvatores Italy, 1991

Sunday, April 1, 3 PM, Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland Campus

With a sun-burnished Aegean isle as a backdrop, this breezy, escapist comedy follows eight misfit Italian soldiers dispatched to defend the remote island during World War II. The garrison is stranded on the seemingly deserted paradise and, when the men discover the island's many charms -- including its preponderantly female population -- their fighting spirit melts away. 1992 Academy Award®: Best Foreign Language Film. Rated “R.” 96 minutes. In Greek and Italian with English subtitles.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, SPECIAL SERVICES, ASSISTANCE, OR ACCOMMODATIONS TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THIS PROGRAM, CALL 780-5025 OR TTY (TELETEX/TDD) 780-5646. REQUESTS FOR REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED 48 HOURS BEFORE THIS EVENT. SEE US AT: www.hellenicsocietyofmaine.org

Study Ancient Greek this spring at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

In a special arrangement with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at USM, HSoM board member Sarah Harrell, Ph.D. will offer an eight-week class in beginning Ancient Greek Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. starting on March 22. You do not have to be a member of OLLI to take the class, but you do have to register and pay the class fee of \$50. Contact OLLI at 780-4406 at least a week before the class begins.

The class, "**Introduction to Ancient Greek**," will examine basic concepts of the language, key vocabulary, and grammatical structures with the goal of reading excerpts from a range of texts in the original Greek - from the New Testament and Sophocles to Sappho. Sarah urges anyone who wants to take the class but is afraid it will be too hard (!) to contact her at seh.artemis@gmail.com. The class will be in the Wishcamper Center on the USM Portland campus.

Quick Calendar Summary

All events are free

Feb. 5 – Film: *Tzeni Tzeni* ("Jenny Jenny") 3 p.m., Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland campus.

Feb. 16 – Lecture: "The Patriarchate and the Greek Minority" by Stavros Nashi. 7:30 p.m. Room 207 Payson Smith Hall, USM Portland.

Feb 29 - Leap Day Social at Pepper Club, 6 p.m.

March 4 – Film: *Trojan Women*, 3 p.m. Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland.

March 22 – OLLI class in Ancient Greek begins.

March 20-April 7 - *Portes* exhibit at Space Gallery

April 1 – Film: *Mediterraneo*, 3 p.m. Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland.

April 1 – Annual Meeting, following the film at 5 p.m. in Room 403 Luther Bonney Hall. Social hour followed by a brief meeting.

April 3 – Dedication of Sister City display case at Portland City Hall, 3:30 p.m.

April 3 - Artists' and HSoM Reception, *Portes* exhibit, Space Gallery, Congress Street. 4 - 7 p.m.

June 8 -- *Portes* reception, Public Theater Gallery, Mytilene, Lesvos, Greece.

✂ *Clip and Save!*



The HSoM Board

A meeting this fall of the HSoM board presented an opportunity to get a photo of all board members. Left to right, front row: Chris Ziagos, *vice president*; Judith Allen; Mary Snell, *president*. Back row: Christos Gianopoulos; Taxia Paras, *treasurer*; George Spatoulas; Sarah Harrell; Despina Deveres; Dorothy Klimis Zacas; Miltos Zacas; Jim Yalouris; and Irwin Novak, *secretary*.

In Memoriam - we note with sadness the untimely passing of HSoM member Helen Koulouris of Brunswick, Maine. She was a generous donor and supporter of our organization, and a member of the USM Writing Workshop in Greece in 2011.

HSoM MEMBERS! -- Mark your calendars and plan to attend our **Leap Day Social, Wednesday, Feb. 29, 6 p.m. at the Pepper Club. Join our lively group! Also, plan to attend the Annual Meeting and Social at 5 p.m. Sunday, April 1 (following the movie) in Rm. 403 Luther Bonney Hall at USM.**



The **HELLENIC SOCIETY OF MAINE** strives to present and/or support events in Maine (and Greece) that appeal to a wide range of people – both Greeks and philhellenes. It is affiliated with the University of Southern Maine through its Hellenic Initiatives program. We regularly present lectures and an annual film series, plus classes in Greek language (Modern and Ancient) and dance, have held wine tastings and silent auctions, a children's theater production, concerts, planetarium shows on Greek myths – and much more.

We also support the official Sister City relationship between Portland, Maine, and Mytilene, Lesvos, Greece.

JOIN US! We welcome all persons interested in Hellenic culture to join us. As an **ASSOCIATE MEMBER** you will receive all mailings and email announcements of HSoM and other Hellenic related events and may attend meetings. As a **FULL MEMBER**, you also will be able to vote on policy issues at business meetings which you will be encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Mary Snell, president, at msnell@usm.maine.edu or 207-892-9831.

www.hellenicsocietyofmaine.org

Greek Flag Installed in USM Student Center



Hellenic Initiatives at USM was instrumental in assuring that the Greek flag was included in the new Hall of Flags display in the Woodbury Student Center at USM in Portland. (See photo) The university created the display of flags, which represent the many countries from

which students have come, to honor the former USM president, UMaine chancellor, and supporter of multi-culturalism, Robert Woodbury.

www.hellenicsocietyofmaine.org

**Hellenic Initiatives
University of Southern Maine
c/o Irwin Novak
37 College Ave.
Gorham, ME 04038**

Summer '12 class: Cultural Landscape of Greece

Do you know of someone - student or community member - who wants to travel to Greece? Here's a chance to explore this rich, complex and vibrant country through its ancient and modern cultures -- and earn six credits! Once again, International Programs at USM is offering the three-week course, "The Cultural Landscape of Greece" in Athens and on Lesbos from May 16 to June 9, 2012.

The class is taught by Mary Snell and Prof. Irwin Novak - and is a USM Russell Scholars Global Campus course. It is open to all students, including those from other schools, as well as members of the general public.

After three days in Athens, the group will fly to Lesbos where they will stay in the bustling city of Mytilene. Coursework includes lectures, reading, field trips, cultural events, talks, museums, and other relevant pursuits. There will be time for fun too, including swimming at several of the island's beaches, dining out, and maybe even the popular donkey ride! Cost of \$4,700 includes airfare, housing, tuition, transfers and museum admissions -- everything except food. For more information contact Summer Session at 780-5072 or go to www.usm.maine.edu/Summer Session; or email Mary at msnell@usm.maine.edu



Class of 2011 at the Parthenon

**Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Portland, ME 04101
Permit No. 370**

Return Service Requested