



# HELLENIC SOCIETY NEWS

Newsletter of the Hellenic Society of Maine

Vol. VII  
Spring 2014

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

## HSoM celebrates Sister City 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary

It was a great evening! Our annual Holiday Social on December 5 at Cinque Terre in the Old Port, was combined with a 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary party – an event to mark the milestone in the Sister City relationship between Portland, Maine and Mytilene,



*Mayor Brennan reads the letter from Mayor Vounatsos as Nick Mavodones, and Ed Suslovic listen*

Lesvos, Greece. Preceding this event, letters of congratulations were exchanged (with the help of HSoM member Nicos Provatas in Mytilene) between Mayor Michael Brennan and the Mayor of Mytilene, Dimitrios Vounatsos, who also sent gifts of books and copies of Mytilene City medallions to Mayor Brennan and HSoM president, Mary Snell.

For the anniversary social we were honored to have as our special guests Mayor Brennan, and Portland City Council members Nick Mavodones and Ed Suslovic, as well as Neale Duffett, a representative of The Archangel Committee for our Russian Sister City. Sister City relationships are an important way for ordinary citizens of a city to come in contact with the people of another country and, through continual engagement, learn about their society, their politics, economics and culture. These kinds of friendships, we believe, promote world understanding and thus peace on a most basic level.

Our growing relationship with Mytilene was formalized in 2003 when, on October 17, a reception for a delegation from Mytilene was held in the State of Maine Room of Portland City Hall. Three days later the delegation attended a Portland City Council meeting at which the Council voted to establish the Sister City relationship. Reciprocal delegations from Portland visited Mytilene in 2004 for a formal signing in that city, and again in 2006 when the Hellenic Society of Maine sent 80 books in English for one of Mytilene's libraries. Former mayor Mavodones had the pleasure of being a member of both delegations.

The Sister City relationship has included visits by Greek artists including the Mytilene Municipal Orchestra under the direction of Nikos Tsigiotis who accompanied early delegations as we explored a possible Sister City (2000, 2002); and the tapestry weaving artist, the late Sophia Tata (2003) who gave workshops and an exhibition in collaboration with the USM/Aegean Arts & Cultural Exchange.

Maine artists who have visited Mytilene in the past 10 years have included pianist Anastasia Antonacos (2004); the Maine Street Jazz Quartet (2005), in collaboration with the USM/Aegean Arts & Cultural Exchange; and Jeff and Lydia Badger, artists and curators of the exhibition *Portes* (2012), a show of works on paper by 50 Maine artists.

*Pictured L to R, top to bottom: 1) Chris & Chuck Hadjaris; 2) Miltos Zacas, George Spatoulos, Chris Ziagos, Doreen Morrow; 3) Mannie Morgan, Mary Snell, Judith Allen; 4) Christos Gianopoulos & Constantine Karvonides.*



## Ancient engineering and immigrant labor conditions the two varied topics for Spring 2014 Lecture Series

### Feb. 27 -- "Engineering and Technological Achievements of Ancient Greece" by Miltiades Zacas

This lecture will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday February 27 in Room 205 Payson Smith Hall at the University of Southern Maine, Portland campus. 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.

*Con't. p.2*

## Nineth Annual – Spring 2014

# Contemporary & Classic Films about Greece

### “My Sweet Canary” Director: Roy Sher, Greece, (2011)

Sunday, February 2, 3 PM, Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland Campus

*My Sweet Canary* is a French/Greek/Israeli documentary film about the life of Jewish-Greek *rembetiko* singer, Roza Eskenazi – The Queen of Rembetiko (the Greek blues). Rosa is, perhaps, Greece’s best known and beloved singer of *rembetiko*. The film is told through archival footage and interviews with Haris Alexiou, Mehtap Demir, Tomer Katz, Yasmin Levy, Martha D. Lewis and others. It is about the way she sang, about the way she lived - with passion, fire and love. In the documentary three young musicians from London, Turkey, and Israel embark on an exciting musical journey, to reveal Roza’s story for the first time. They travel from Istanbul to Thessaloniki and Athens, and through their performances, and reflections on her life and music by others, we see that world that once existed. 89 minutes. In English and other languages with English sub-titles.



### “The Angry Hills” Director: Robert Aldrich, USA, (1959)

Sunday, March 9, 3 PM, Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland campus



Set in Athens, in Piraeus and in village areas, this Hollywood hit is a good way to see Athens and Greece in the mid-1950's! *The Angry Hills* was adapted from a novel of the same name written in 1955 by the American novelist, Leon Uris. The leading role of Michael "Mike" Morrison is played by Robert Mitchum. Mike is an American author and recent widower who is in Greece during World War II to receive an inheritance. When the legal papers are almost finished, his Greek lawyer asks him to take a letter to a friend in London. Soon everything turns into a nightmare for Morrison as the Germans invade Greece and the letter turns out to be of extreme importance to the resistance movement. He becomes the means to get the list of useful Hellenic figures to British Intelligence. Also starring in the film with Mitchum are Stanley Baker, Conrad Heisler, Elisabeth Müller, Lisa Kyriakides, Gia Scala, Theodore Bikel and Sebastian Cabot. Rated: R. 105 mins. In English.

### “Concert for Guns” “Kontserto gia polyvola” Director: Dinos Dimopoulos (1967)

Sunday, April 6, 3 PM, Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland Campus

This war film (with a similar theme of espionage as the previous film) is one of the many dramas and comedies made during the Golden Age of Greek cinema of the 1950's and 60's, and features three famous Greek actors of the period. Tseni Karezi, often seen in comedic roles, is Niki, an employee handling confidential papers at the office of the Greek Army General Staff. On the eve of Greece entering World War II in 1940, she delivers sensitive military documents to the Italians, who are blackmailing her with the life of her brother. If she is caught, it could mean a death sentence. Meanwhile Niki is falling in love with a young captain (Kostas Kazakos), who also works in the office and is in love with her. A secretive Greek General Darius (Manos Katrakis) may be her only hope. But who can she trust? 106 minutes. In Greek with English subtitles.



(Lectures, from p.1) **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). A native of Mytilene, Lesvos, Greece, he earned his B.S. in Civil Engineering, National Technical Univ. of Athens; his M.Sc. in Rock Mechanics, Univ. of Karlsruhe, Institute for Soil and Rock Mechanics, Germany; and his Ph.D. in Geotechnical Engineering-Rock Mechanics, Paisley College of Technology (now Univ. of the West of Scotland), United Kingdom.



In Greece, Dr. Zacas served for 14 years as Managing Partner of Pangaea Consulting Engineers, Ltd., a geotechnical engineering company based in Athens. He served as consultant for the Greek Ministry of Public Works and Environment and for Ministry of Irrigation and Agriculture. At present, he is Geotechnical Engineering Consultant with FGS/CMT, Inc. in Bangor 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 seminar, conference and symposia proceedings. He is faculty associate with the Civil and Environmental Department of the University of Maine and teaches graduate courses in geotechnical engineering and sustainability in engineering.

### May 1 -- “They Came to Work: Early 20<sup>th</sup> C. American Labor Conditions” by Charles A. Scontras

Labor Day in Europe – May 1 – is an appropriate date for this lecture by Prof. Scontras. His talk will begin at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 1 in Room 301A, Payson Smith Hall, University of Southern Maine, Portland.

## Quick Calendar Summary

All events are free

**Feb. 2– Film:** *My Sweet Canary*, 3 p.m., Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland campus.

**Feb. 27 – Lecture:** “Engineering and Technological Achievements of Ancient Greece” by Miltiades Zacas. 7 p.m. Room 205, Payson Smith Hall, USM Portland.

**March 9– Film:** *The Angry Hills*, 3 p.m. Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland.

**April 6– Film:** *Concert for Guns*, 3 p.m. Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland.

**May 1 – Annual Meeting:** Brief meeting at 6 p.m. before the lecture, with a reception following. Rm 301A, Payson Smith Hall, USM Portland

**May 1 --Lecture:** “They Came to Work: Early 20<sup>th</sup> C. American Labor Conditions” by Prof. Charles Scontras. 7 p.m. Rm 301A, Payson Smith Hall.

✂ *Clip and Save!* ✂

## How to check on event storm cancellations

In the case of bad weather, call the USM Storm Line at 780-4800 at any time. If the USM campus is closed, HSOM events there are cancelled too.

(*Lectures, from p.2*) Immigrants – including thousands of Greeks – who arrived in this state and the nation at the turn of the last century, were confronted with a variety of challenges adapting to new environments as they sought to earn the means of their livelihood. They labored in workplaces not designed for their health and safety, and labored under work rules that would appear to border on serfdom. Some responded to the arbitrary nature of such rules and their working environment by participating in militant expressions of dissent including strikes. Employers were challenged to harness these desperate immigrant groups into an orderly, disciplined and predictable workforce. It is clear, however, that the armies of immigrants who paraded through the gates of our factories, mills, shops, and mines played a crucial role in creating the wealth of the state and nation. A description of working conditions and a few known events involving Greeks in Maine in this immigrant story will be treated. Primary emphases will be given to working conditions which confronted all immigrant workers.

**Charles A. Scontras**, retired Professor of Special Studies and Professor of Modern Society, is currently serving as Historian and Research Associate for the Bureau of Labor Education, University of Maine, Orono.

Born in Buffalo, N.Y., of immigrant parents, he graduated from Old Orchard Beach schools, and from the Univ. of New Hampshire with a B.S. in Business Administration. He taught in Oakland, before attending the University of Maine, where he received his Master of Education degree. After pursuing graduate work in the History Dept. at UMaine, he taught American and European history at Westbrook Junior College in Portland. He returned to UMaine as a graduate assistant in the Department of History and received his Master of Arts and Ph.D. degrees in American History.

Prof. Scontras taught courses in Modern Society, Labor History, and Political Ideologies at UMaine from 1961 until he retired from teaching in 1997. He also taught in UMaine’s Honors Program, and Summer Labor Institutes sponsored by the Bureau of Labor Education, UMO, and served as an adjunct professor at the Bangor Theological Seminary in Bangor.

Prof. Scontras’ primary interest is the research and writing of the labor history of Maine. A sampling of only a few of his many published works include: *Organized Labor and Labor Politics in Maine, 1880-1890* (1966); *The Socialist Alternative: Utopian Experiments and the Socialist Party of Maine* (1985); *Collective Efforts Among Maine Workers: Beginnings and Foundations, 1820-1880* (1994); *In the Name of Humanity: Maine’s Crusade Against Child Labor* (2000); *Organized Labor in Maine: War, Reaction, Depression, and the Rise of the CIO, 1914-1943* (2002); *Building the Arsenal of Democracy and Resisting Reaction at Home, 1939-1952* (2006). His current volume, *Maine Labor on the Eve of Deindustrialization: 1955-2000*, is scheduled for publication in 2014.

**DUES - Our dues of \$15 for a Full Member and \$10 for an Associate Members cover the period of July 1 to June 30 each year, NOT a calendar year. If you want to join for the second half of this year, please copy the form, fill it out, and send it and a check (made out to: Hellenic Society of Maine) to HSOM, c/o Taxia Paras, P.O. Box 598, Scarborough, ME 04070-0598**

For more information via E-Mail: [msnell@maine.edu](mailto:msnell@maine.edu)

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

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**For 2013-2014: Renewal / New (circle one)**

\_\_\_\_ (\$15) Annual Full Member (grants the right to vote on policy issues at meetings)

\_\_\_\_ (\$10) Annual Associate Member

\_\_\_\_ Please put me on your mailing list. I can’t join now, but enclosed is my check for \_\_\_\_\_ in support of your efforts.

**Make check or money order payable to:  
Hellenic Society of Maine  
Send to: Taxia Paras, Treasurer  
P.O. Box 598  
Scarborough, ME 04070-0598**

## Hellenic Society of Maine

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*We rely on email to send quick reminders and updates to members and friends. PLEASE send us your EMAIL address. With rising costs, we are not sure how long we can afford to print and mail this newsletter twice a year.*

## Summer '14: Writing Workshop in Greece

Do you know of someone - a college student or a community member - who would love to write in Greece? Once again, USM's International Programs is offering the two-week program, "**Writing and Myth: A Creative Writing Workshop**" in Athens, and in the charming village of Molivos on Lesbos, from **May 16 to 31, 2014.**

Led by Betsy Sholl and Mary Snell, the class focuses on creating new work that is then workshopped in group sessions. While in Athens, the class will meet with, and hear a reading by, the internationally known poet, **A.E. Stallings**. Writers will also read and discuss Greek myths and characters, as well as ancient and modern Greek writers.

There will be field trips and other special events and guests. The workshop earns students three undergraduate credits, but is open to writers from



*Class of 2011 holds a workshop session at our hotel next to the Parthenon on the Acropolis*



*Aphrodite Hotel- Molivos*

the general public who wish to write in extraordinary surroundings. Cost is \$3,997 which **includes** airfare to Athens, then Mytilene; housing in Athens and Mytilene; tuition; transfers and museum admissions -- everything except food. For more information contact Summer Session at 780-5072 or go to [www.usm.maine.edu/SummerSession](http://www.usm.maine.edu/SummerSession). **Deadline to register is March 1!**

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