



# 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. XIII  
Fall 2017

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

## Fall Lecture I: Music Lecture and Demonstration

**Panagiotis League - "Lesvos at the Crossroads: the Soundscape of a Late Ottoman Island"**

**6:30 p.m. Thursday, September 28**

**Room 1 Payson Smith Hall, USM Portland**

*(Rescheduled from Spring 2017)*



This lecture/demonstration by Panayotis (Paddy) League, a recent Harvard University Ph.D. graduate, will explore a rare manuscript collection that was compiled in 1906 by an Ottoman Greek musician on the island of Lesvos and brought to Lynn, Massachusetts during the First Balkan War.

A fascinating musical snapshot of the soundscape of turn-of-the century Ottoman Lesvos, the collection contains island dances, Ottoman art songs, European polkas and tangos, Romanian horas, and other pieces popular among the Greek, Turkish, Jewish, Armenian, and Levantine population of the island and the Asia Minor coast.

This music is a timely reminder of the pluralistic character of the late Ottoman world, and a sonic memorial to the refugees who, whether in 1923 or 2016, and whether headed West or East, crossed the Strait of Mytilene in search of a safer home and a more inclusive world.

Panayotis is an ethnomusicologist, performer, and composer specializing in the music, dance, and oral poetry traditions of insular Greece, northeastern Brazil, and Ireland. His dissertation at Harvard University, "Echoes of the Great Catastrophe," examined the music traditions of Anatolian Greek migrants to the greater Boston area.

Maine audiences may remember him from his performance on Aug. 21 at USM when he played violin, bouzouki, and sang with the Greek band, *Skordalia*, in the benefit concert for Lesvos Hospital Aid.

**\*\*\*WE HAVE CHANGED OUR ADDRESS\*\*\***

Send Correspondence to:

**Hellenic Society of Maine,**

**P. O. Box 8007**

**Portland Maine 04104-8007**

## Fall Lecture II: Ancient Greece

**Cynthia Shelmerdine: "Mycenaean Pylos and the Kingdom of Nestor" 6:30 p.m. Thursday, October 19  
Room 205 Wishcamper Hall, USM Portland**

In Book 3 of *The Odyssey*, Homer describes the royal palace and court of King Nestor at Pylos in southwestern Greece. This talk will explore the reality behind that epic vision. Archaeologists have uncovered the palace of Nestor, and two of the towns in his kingdom. In addition, tablets from Pylos, inscribed in an early form of Greek, tell us a good deal about Mycenaean politics, religion and economy.

The lecture will explore what this evidence tells us about the people of Pylos and the kingdom of Nestor. Special attention will be on the site of Iklaina, where ongoing excavations are providing exciting new information about this town and its interactions with the palatial center at Pylos.

Cynthia W. Shelmerdine is Robert M. Armstrong Centennial Professor of Classics, *emerita* at the University of Texas at Austin, and Research Associate in Classics at Bowdoin College. Her main research interests are in Aegean Bronze Age archaeology, and the language, history and society of Mycenaean Greece. She was educated at Bryn Mawr College, Cambridge University and Harvard University (Ph.D. in Classical Philology, 1977).



She has worked in the field as a ceramic expert with the University of Minnesota Messenia Expedition (1970s), the Pylos Regional Archaeological Project (1990s), and currently the Iklaina Archaeological Project (from 1999). She has published extensively on Mycenaean culture and history, and is editor of the *Cambridge Companion to the Aegean Bronze Age*.

## 6.1 Earthquake Strikes Lesvos, Portland's Sister City Island

On June 12 a magnitude 6.1 earthquake struck Lesvos island, home to Portland's Sister City. Severe damage occurred in the village of Vrissa with 70% of the homes destroyed, one death, and 80 injured. Over 150 aftershocks occurred following the quake. Lesvos is the ancestral home of many Hellenic Society of Maine members and board members. This naturally occurring misfortune comes after seven years of nation-wide austerity measures that have reduced personal incomes and raised taxes; an 80% reduction of tourism on Lesvos due to the refugee influx; and now earthquakes! What's next? Locusts?!

Thirteenth Annual - Fall 2017  
**GREEK FILM SERIES**  
 Contemporary & Classic Films about Greece

presented by

**USM Hellenic Initiatives and Hellenic Society of Maine**

**“Politiki Kouzina” (“A Touch of Spice”)** Dir.: Tassos Boulmetis, Greece, 2003

**Sunday, October 8, 3 PM, Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland Campus**

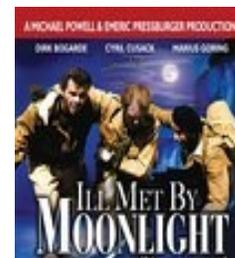


Surprisingly, many people have yet to see this beautifully told film, one of the best Greek films of the past decades. It’s a bitter-sweet love story - love of food, of a grandfather, of Constantinople, of a girl - and traces the history of the embattled Greek minority in Istanbul. It has, as one critic stated, an "emotional punch that leaves you weak at the knees." Filmed in Greece and partly in Turkey, and starring two of its best-known actors, the film is a part of the slow and uneasy rapprochement between these two enemies. The film confronts prejudice in both countries. Those ethnic Greeks who were forced to leave Asia Minor were greeted as Turks in Greece. In Turkey they were considered Greeks – in both places they were caught in the middle, confused and ill at ease, in a homeland that wasn't really theirs. Not Rated, but probably PG-13. *In Greek and Turkish with English sub-titles. 108 minutes*

**“Ill Met By Moonlight” (aka “Night Ambush”)** Dir.: Michael Powell & Emeric Pressburger, UK, 1957

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

During WWII Cretan resistance forces deftly try to undermine the occupation of the Nazi army with a cunning plan prepared by two British Army officers. They hope to weaken the Germans by pulling off a daring coup right under their noses. With only a handful of resistance fighters, Major Patrick Leigh-Fermor (Dirk Bogarde) and Captain W. Stanley Moss (David Oxley) attempt to kidnap the head of the German army on Crete - Major General Kreipe - and deliver him to the British in Egypt. If they pull off the kidnapping, they will still need to get off the island with their polite, but dangerous, quarry. Based on the book by W. Stanley Moss. Patrick Leigh-Fermor went on to be a noted author of such books as “A Time of Gifts”, “Three Letters from the Andes” and “Mani: Travels in the Southern Peloponnese.” (See *Ellenika Biblia* on page 3) Not Rated. B/W. *In English. 104 min.*



**“If” (“Av”)** Dir.: Christopher Papakaliatis, Greece, 2012

**Sunday, December 10, 3 PM, Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland Campus**



In Athens during the current economic crisis, Demetris (Papakaliatis) is a highly independent man, living a fairly normal life. He’s a confirmed bachelor at the age of 33 - his roommate is a female German shepherd called Lonesome. One night, Lonesome wants to be taken out. Demetris tries to change her mind but Lonesome insists. It’s at this moment that he must make a decision. And his choice will change everything. **If** Demetris goes out, he will meet Christina, the love of his life. **If** he stays in, he will not meet her and his life will take a different track. The film flips back and forth between both choices and, on the way, asks, ‘Does true love exist?’ ‘What is the impact of a severe economic crisis on people?’ ‘Can the crisis destroy a couple?’ A love story shown from two different angles in a changing world. *Not Rated; includes one intense sexual scene. In Greek with English sub-titles. 111 minutes.*

**TRAVEL! — AAA-Sponsored Trip To Greece**

**May 12-28, 2018** - Stunning sites and cultural experiences – including the Acropolis, museums, and other locations in Athens; the sanctuary of Delphi; the fortress town of Monemvasia; and ancient Mycenae, and Olympia (of the Olympic Games) - are only a few of the stops on a 10-day tour to the Peloponnese in Greece. HSoM board members Mary Snell and Prof. Irwin Novak will be among the cultural guides on this AAA-organized trip in mid-May 2018. Other locations to be visited include Corinth, charming Nauplion (3 nights), Nemea (including a wine tasting!), Epidavros, Mistra and Kalamata. Cost, including hotels, most meals, and AIRFARE is only \$3,220! FMI call Mary at 207-892-9831; or to reserve your space, call Randall Scott at AAA at 207-775-6211, or AAA at 866-883-4985. **Deadline is Nov. 28, 2017. Don’t delay!**



*Agamemnon's Tomb - Mycenae.*

# Hellenic Society of Maine

P. O. Box 8007

Portland Maine 04104-8007

a tax exempt non-profit public charitable organization

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

## Board of Directors for 2017-2018

Judith Allen-Efstathiou, Portland

Anastasia Antonacos, Portland

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Taxia Paras, Scarborough

Miltiades Zacas, Orono

Chris Ziagos, Portland

*co-president*

**For more information about us, go to the Hellenic Society of Maine website, and/or "like" the HSoM Facebook page (See top of page 1).**

# 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.*

This installment includes two books from the 1950's which relate to the film "Ill Met By Moonlight" which will be shown November 5 as part of the HSoM Greek Film Series. (See page 2).

The historical memoir by W. Stanley Moss -- "*Ill Met By Moonlight*" -- is the true story of an heroic action during World War II in Greece. The book is a nearly direct transcription of a diary that the then 22-year-old British commando kept while operating in German-occupied Crete. Moss and the well-known writer Patrick Leigh Fermor, hatched a plan to kidnap a Nazi general with the help of Greek patriots and bring him to British-occupied Egypt. The story was made into a movie in 1957. (1950, Burford Books).

The rustic, undeveloped Peloponnese of Patrick Leigh Fermor's travel memoir, "*Mani: Travels in the Southern Peloponnese*," is long gone in this year of 2017. Written in 1958, it recounts Fermor's journeys on and around the Mani peninsula, the middle of the three fingers on the southern end of the Peloponnese. But oh, the telling is so worth the reading! An adventurer by nature (see book above) Fermor uses a rich and evocative language to describe the wild, harsh yet extraordinary Mani and its people as he found them in the mid-1900's. Packed with asides, references, and other fascinating facts, the book is as educational as it is entertaining. (2004, John Murray, Publishers).

## **DO WE HAVE YOUR LATEST CONTACT INFORMATION?**

We are trying to keep our email and postal address list up-to-date. If you've changed your address or email please send a note to: Irwin Novak at [novak@maine.edu](mailto:novak@maine.edu). We occasionally send out email reminders and notices of events of interest.

We must continue to balance the value of printing and mailing a newsletter with the increasing cost. But, since we have very few email addresses in relationship to our postal mailing address list, we continue to support a paper version. Unfortunately, as prices rise, we may need to make further changes ... reduce the size, or go to an email only version. PLEASE help us by giving us your email address so that, if we must go that route, we will not lose you.

## **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](http://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, 2017 ~June 30, 2018:** 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 can't join now, but enclosed is my donation of \_\_\_\_\_ in support of your efforts.

Make check or money order payable to:  
Hellenic Society of Maine  
Send to: Marina Schneller, Treasurer  
P.O. Box 8007  
Portland, ME 04104-8007

## ✂ Quick Calendar Summary

**Sept. 28 - Lecture-Demonstration:** “*Lesvos at the Crossroads: The Soundscape of a Late Ottoman Island*,” Panayotis League, musicologist, 6:30 p.m., Rm. 1 Payson-Smith Hall, USM Portland.

**Oct. 8 - Film:** Food/Love Story Drama, “*Politiki Kouzina*,” 3 p.m. Talbot Aud., Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland.

**Oct. 19 - Lecture:** “*Mycenaean Pylos and the Kingdom of Nestor*,” Cynthia Shelmerdine, archaeologist & historian, 6:30 p.m. Rm. 205 Wishcamper Hall, USM Portland.

**Nov. 5 - Film:** Historical drama, “*Ill Met by Moonlight*,” 3 p.m. Talbot Aud., Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland.

**Dec. 10 - Film:** Philosophical/romantic drama, “*If*,” 3 p.m. Talbot Aud., Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland.

**Jan. 18 – HSoM Annual Social & Cutting of the Vasilopita:** 5-7 p.m., Tiqa Restaurant, 327 Commercial St., Portland.

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### 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, or check the HSoM website.

✂Clip and Save!✂

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

## Retiring Board Members Honored



Retiring board members **Stelios Cotsis** (2nd from left) and **Despina Deveres** (3rd from left) were honored at the April 2 Annual meeting for their contributions and service to the Hellenic Society of Maine.

Co-presidents Chris Ziagos (left) and Christos Giannopoulos (right) presented each with a retirement gift.

Also at the meeting, the founding treasurer of the board, **Taxia Paras**, (at right) turned over the pencils to Marina Schneller, our new treasurer. Taxia, who had been treasurer for nearly two decades, will remain on the board.



## “Take Flight” - Art Show in York

Hellenic Society of Maine board member, Judith Allen-Efstathiou, is included in the group show, “Take Flight.” She interpreted the theme through the lens of refugees. Her works in the show depict the sea border of Greece between Lesvos and Turkey, and the razor-wire fence of northern Greece. At the George Marshall Store Gallery, 140 Lindsay Road, York, ME. Now through Oct 1. Hours Tues – Sat 10 -5, Sunday 1-5, closed Mon.

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