



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
Spring 2018

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

Spring Lecture: Mary Papoutsy

"Genealogical Sleuthing in Greece: Sailing on the 'Wine-Dark' Sea of Greek History"

7 p.m., Thursday, March 22

Room 133, Wishcamper Hall, USM Portland

Mary Papoutsy will discuss the American sources of information needed to launch genealogical research in Greece, and then give concrete examples of the types of information that Greek repositories hold. Successful genealogical research work there depends upon patience and preparatory work here. Researchers encounter genealogical challenges at the very outset with transcriptions of Greek, but these can be resolved. Armed with a Greek spelling of the family surname and the name of the ancestral village, one can initiate investigations and request records in Greece. Family research there is a true odyssey, punctuated with serendipitous finds and unexpected detours.



According to Mrs. Papoutsy, patience and personal investigation can lead to success and many enriching experiences. This lecture, with a hand-out that lists helpful websites and resources, will be followed by question-and-answer period. If time permits, a live on-line demonstration of some research techniques will be offered using volunteers from the audience.

Mary Papoutsy is currently a doctoral researcher at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, investigating Orthodox ecclesiastical records from the Late Ottoman Empire. Through her doctoral research she became involved in preserving and studying Greek village records. She has teaching experience at the secondary- and collegiate-level, having served as a lecturer at the University of Maine at Orono and at Rutgers University where she completed advanced-degree work. Her academic background is in sciences and in Classical studies and languages. One of her interests is genealogy, which has led her to create and deliver instructional lectures and workshops in New England and in the Southeast. She has attended a number of regional and national conferences, and several years ago, participated in the Family History Lecture Series of the Boston Public Library.

WE HAVE CHANGED OUR ADDRESS

Send Correspondence to:
Hellenic Society of Maine
P. O. Box 8007
Portland Maine 04104-8007

Film and Discussion

"Attila '74: The Rape of Cyprus"

A Documentary by Michael Cacoyiannis

5:30 p.m. Thursday, February 22,

Room 211, Wishcamper Hall, USM Portland

The famous filmmaker, Michael Cacoyiannis (*Zorba the Greek, The Trojan Women, Electra*) is a proud Cypriot. When Turkey invaded the island during the political upheaval in July of 1974, he rushed to the island to document those historic events. The resulting film was "Attila 74: The Rape of Cyprus."

The Hellenic Society of Maine will show the film at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 22 on the USM Portland campus. Following the 1½ hour film HSoM board member, George Spatoulas, will lead a discussion after a quick break for refreshments.

The surprise invasion occurred after years of wrangling and political maneuvering that involved not only Cyprus but Greece, Turkey, the USA and other countries. The triggering event was the Greek junta's attempt to depose the Cypriot president, Archbishop Makarios, as part of a plan to reunite the island with Greece.

Once Turkish troops landed on the island, thousands of Greek Cypriots were killed or fled south to displaced persons camps. Supported by only a cameraman and a sound engineer, Cacoyiannis traveled across the island in those early traumatic weeks interviewing political leaders as well as countless victims and refugees. Thus this documentary is clearly from the Cypriot point of view.

Both Greeks and Turks -- who had been living co-mingled for centuries -- lost homes, land, and businesses when the population was separated. Today, more than four decades later, the island remains divided with a Turkish section in the north and the Greek section in the south, with the line cutting right through the capital of Nicosia. Talks aimed at finding a solution continue to fail right up to this year, stalling on the key issues of governance and reparations.

Annual Social and Cutting of the Vasilopita

HSoM will hold its annual holiday social and vasilopita cutting gathering from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, January 18 at Tiqa restaurant, 327 Commercial St., Portland. This year the festivities will be enhanced with live music provided by *Okbari* - Duncan Hardy, kanoun and Amos Libby, oud. *Pictured at right: Chris Ziagos and Christos Gianopoulos, HSoM Co-presidents.*



Thirteenth Annual - Spring 2018
GREEK FILM SERIES
 Contemporary & Classic Films about Greece
 presented by
USM Hellenic Initiatives and Hellenic Society of Maine

“A Dream of Passion” Dir.: Jules Dassin, USA, 1978.

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



This film, as powerful and emotional as any movie you are likely to see, is about an actress (Melina Mercouri as Maya), who has lost her confidence and whose career is in decline. She decides to do a film adaption of the ancient play *Medea*, and begins rehearsal under the demanding direction of Kostas, meanwhile carrying on an affair. Wanting more publicity, she decides to meet Brenda Collins (Ellen Burstyn), an American woman in jail for killing her three children to avenge her unfaithful husband - and nicknamed "Medea of Glyfada" by the press. The vulnerable and disturbed Brenda, who has not met with anyone while in jail, agrees. This visit, and others, change Maya completely. It's fascinating to watch Mercouri act in a classical drama embedded within her role. It's one of several films in which Dassin directs his wife, Mercouri. Nominated for a Golden Globe. *Not Rated. In English and German, 110 minutes.*

“Ψυχή Βαθιά” (A Soul So Deep) Dir.: Pantelis Voulgaris, Greece, 2009.

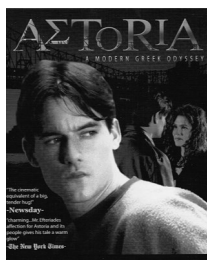
Sunday, March 4, 3 PM, Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland

Pantelis Voulgaris's latest film tackles the still-divisive topic of Greece's 1946-49 Civil War, when the "National" army of Greece's Western-backed government fought an insurgent "Democratic" army of Greek leftists and communists. The struggle was one of the first armed conflicts of the new Cold War. Voulgaris dramatizes these internecine events through the tale of two young brothers — 14-year-old Vlassis and 17-year-old Anestis — who find themselves enlisted in opposing camps after their father is killed and they are separated from their mother. Voulgaris has stated that his intention was "to finally reconcile the bloodiest pages of our modern history." His beautifully-shot film is set in the Grammos Mountains of western Macedonia, site of some of the war's worst violence in 1949 — what Voulgaris calls "the last act of our nation's drama." The humanism for which the director is renowned is much in evidence. Because Voulgaris is an artist of leftist sympathies, some attention has been paid to the question of whether he reveals any bias — or if, perhaps, he has attempted to be too even-handed — in his treatment of this very contentious subject. *Not Rated, but probably PG-13. In Greek with English subtitles. 136 minutes*



“Astoria” Dir.: Nick Efteriades, USA, (2000 limited release), 2006.

Sunday, April 15, 3 PM, Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland



Okay, so it's not a Academy Award contender, but this independent film by a Greek-American filmmaker is a solid little drama set in the Queens neighborhood of Astoria known as "Little Athens." The film centers around a blue-collar Greek-American family and its struggle to hold on to the American Dream— it's like a Greek *Saturday Night Fever* with much less dancing! The desire of 28-year-old Alex is to escape his stagnant neighborhood, and his father's plan that he take over the family sandwich shop, and pursue an off-beat dream that will take him to the lost tomb of Alexander the Great. Meanwhile he has to deal with a local *mangas*; and with the fact that he has become enchanted by a beautiful iconographer, visiting from Greece. The original score by Nikos Papazoglou is a plus. The New York Times called the film "charming." *Rated "R" for language. In English. 103 minutes.*

Migrant Crisis Continues on Lesbos and Other Islands

From less than 3,000 this summer, the number of migrants on Lesbos has peaked to over 6,000 as a new wave of refugees and migrants began this fall. (The city of Mytilene, Lesbos, is Portland's Sister City, supported by HSoM). After demands for months by Mayor of Lesbos, Spyros Galinos to the national government to move more people to the mainland (where there are better facilities) the numbers still remain high with new arrivals. Only 3,000 have been moved off *all* the islands of the 5,000 promised. For example, 265 people were transferred from Lesbos to Athens on Dec. 18, but 254 arrived in four rafts on Dec. 21. Tensions remain very high among those warehoused in the Moria camp near Mytilene. Fifteen were injured earlier in the month in the latest demonstration within the camp protesting the fact that, as winter descends, thousands are living in tents and container-like buildings. And the local residents' patience and compassion is slowly eroding. All the islands are demanding that they are not left alone to handle what is a European problem by inaction on asylum claims and a return of denied applicants to Turkey.

Hellenic Society of Maine

P. O. Box 8007

Portland Maine 04104-8007

a tax exempt non-profit public
charitable organization

www.hellenicsocietyofmaine.org

Board of Directors for 2017-2018

Judith Allen-Efstathiou, Portland

Anastasia Antonacos, Portland

Janice Antonacos, Biddeford

Christos Gianopoulos, Greene

co-president

Dorothy Klimis-Zacas, Orono

Irwin Novak, Gorham

co-secretary

Marina Schneller, Portland

treasurer

Mary Snell, Gorham *co-secretary*

George Spatoulas, Scarborough,

vice president

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.

Looking for some easy reading to while away the hours on vacation? *The Island* by Victoria Hislop combines historical fact with fiction in her novel about the island of Spinalonga off of Crete. What is surprising is that her story of a family torn by deception, war, passion and redemption is set around Greece's famous (or infamous?) leper colony of the 20th century (abandoned in 1957). Beginning in modern time, the story flashes back to the late 1930's. Londoner Alexis has come to Crete to learn more about her mother's mysterious past. From an old friend still in the village she learns about her great-grandmother Eleni and her daughters – and their lasting legacy of secrecy and courage. (2005, Review/Headline Publishing).

Yannis Varoufakis, the former finance minister of Greece (after teaching in the United States, Britain, and Australia) is currently a professor of economics at the University of Athens. His latest book is *Adults in the Room: My battle with European and American Establishment*. In it, he provides a rare glimpse behind the closed doors of the negotiations he and the rest of the Greek negotiation team experienced with powerful people like the German finance minister Wolfgang Schäuble, the managing director of IMF Christine Lagard, and the US treasury secretary Jack Lew. This world renowned economist felt comfortable enough to engage in battles with the powerful European and American elites in trying to negotiate Greece's relationship with EU and tried to bring better terms for the Greek people. Unfortunately, he managed to anger the European political and economic powers, and this resulted in his removal from the government. No matter what your political persuasion is you might like Varoufakis' book for his style of story telling and his ability to explain in simple terms the economics behind the Greek Crisis.

DO WE HAVE YOUR LATEST CONTACT INFORMATION?

We want to keep our mailing list up-to-date. If you've changed your address or email please send a note to: Irwin Novak at novak@maine.edu. We occasionally send out email reminders and notices of events of interest. We have very few email addresses in relationship to our postal mailing address list, thus 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 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

Jan. 18 – Annual Social and Cutting of the Vasilopita: 5-7 p.m., Tiqa Restaurant, 327 Commercial St., Portland. Live music!

Feb. 4 - Film: Melina Mercouri, “*A Dream of Passion*” 3 p.m. Talbot Aud., Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland.

Feb. 22 - Documentary and Discussion: “*Attila ‘74: The Rape of Cyprus*” 5:30 p.m. Rm. 211, Wishcamper Hall, USM Portland.

Mar. 4: Annual Meeting: 1 p.m. Talbot Aud. preceding the film.

Mar. 4 - Film: Greek Civil War drama, “*Ψυχή Βαθιά*” (*A Soul So Deep*) 3 p.m. Talbot Aud., Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland.

Mar. 22 - Lecture: “*On Tracing Greek Genealogy*” Mary Papoutsy, 7 p.m. Rm. 133, Wishcamper Hall, USM Portland.

Apr. 15 - Film: “*Astoria*” 3 p.m. Talbot Aud., Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland.

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

Recap of Fall 2017 Lectures

Two speakers drew appreciative audiences this fall when they spoke to members and friends of the Hellenic Society of Maine at USM in Portland.

Musician and scholar **Panagiotis League** gave a fascinating lecture on Greek music -- and performed many examples on his violin -- during his presentation on Sept. 28. League recently received his Ph.D. from Harvard University with his dissertation, “Echoes of the Great Catastrophe: Re-sounding Ottoman Greekness in Diaspora.” The work formed the basis of his talk.

League examined a rare manuscript and music collection compiled at the turn of the century by K. N. Kereakoglou, a man born in Kapi on Lesbos in 1888. He and his brothers studied in Smyrna then immigrated to Lynn, Mass, to where they brought the manuscript. The collection provides a snapshot of the varied music of the period just at the end of Ottoman rule, a blend of traditional Greek music, Syrmnaika, and traditional scores for orchestras of mixed brass and strings.

On Oct. 19 archeologist and ceramic expert **Cynthia Shelmerdine**, visiting at Bowdoin College, captivated her audience with a glimpse into the real Kingdom of Nestor, referred to by Homer in *The Odyssey*. Supported by a terrific PowerPoint presentation she discussed the palace just outside the town of Pylos, and the new finds at the nearby site of Iklaina.

These sites were populated in 1200 BCE, the time of the Trojan War. Much interesting information has been gleaned from tablets written in Linear B, an early form of Greek. Usually these clay tablets remained soft and were reused at the end of the year, thus eliminating the information they carried. But blazes in the palace and elsewhere effectively “fired” the clay into hard pottery allowing it to survive thousands of years -- and to yield its data to grateful archeologists. Much of the data are somewhat mundane lists of goods and supplies, but they reveal much about the economic and political activity of the day.



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

Return Service Requested