



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. XIV
Spring 2019

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

Stratos Efthymiou

**Consul General of Greece in Boston to Speak
“US-Greek Relations in a Challenging Regional Context”
5 p.m., Thursday, January 31, 7th Floor Events Room,
Glickman Library, USM Portland**



Stratos Efthymiou will talk about his work as Consul General of Greece in Boston and his country’s regional challenges, initiating a discussion about Greece and developments in the Balkans and Eastern Mediterranean.

Stratos Efthymiou is a career diplomat working for the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From early 2016 to September 2017 he was the Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Director of its Information & Public Diplomacy Department. As Spokesperson he was part of the Greek negotiating team in the UN Conferences on the Cyprus issue in Geneva and in Crans Montana.

He was also responsible for the public diplomacy and the social media of the Greek Foreign Ministry and for the communication aspects of international events such as the Ancient Civilization's Forum and the two Rhodes Conferences for Security and Stability in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Consul General Efthymiou also served for three years as Deputy Director of the Information and Public Diplomacy Department dealing with the Ministry's website and social media and was actively engaged in the communication policy of the 2014 Greek Presidency of the EU Council of Ministers.

Since joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2004, Mr. Efthymiou has served at the Embassy of Greece in Moscow (2011–2013) and at the Embassy of Greece in Ankara (2009 – 2011), where he was previously appointed Head of the Embassy’s Consular Office (2007-2009).

He holds a Masters degree (DEA) in International Relations and a Diploma in Political Sciences from the Institute of Political Studies of Paris (Sciences-Po). He also holds a BA degree in International Relations and European Studies from Athens’ Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences. He is a graduate of the Greek-French School of Athens.

Prior to joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and during his studies in Paris (1998-2001), Mr. Efthymiou worked as a freelance journalist, publishing articles in the Greek daily Kathimerini.

He speaks English, French, Spanish, Russian and German, and has obtained the highest Turkish-language qualification degree from the University of Ankara.

He is married with a daughter and a son. As of September 2017, he became Consul General of Greece in Boston.

Dorothea Klimis-Zacas

**“The life and Works of the Naif
Painter Theophilos Hatzimihail”
6:30 p.m., Thursday, March 7,
Room 103, Wishcamper Center
USM Portland**

Beloved for his whimsical scenes from village life and/or figures from mythology, Theophilos of Lesvos became Greece’s most famous primitive painter.

Another native of Lesvos, Prof. Dorothea Klimis-Zacas will give a talk on this intriguing artist titled "The Life and Work of the Naif Painter, Theophilos Hatzimihail."



Theophilos is known world-wide for his works depicting Greek traditional folklife and history. An itinerant painter, he painted murals on houses and shops until discovered by Stratis Eleftheriadis, a famous Parisian art critic. He asked the artist to redesign his works on canvas that are now displayed in the Theophilos and Teriade Museums on Lesvos.

Steghi Theofilou, a cultural group with the aim of understanding and promoting his work will also be presented.

Dorothy Klimis-Zacas, an art lover, grew up in an environment steeped with the images and the legend of this famous artist. She is a Professor of Clinical Nutrition at the University of Maine. She also is a cooperating professor of Nutrition and Dietetics at Harokopio University, Athens, Greece, and at the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition at the University of Milan, Italy. A Fulbright and Cariplo Fellow, Dr.



Klimis-Zacas is the author of numerous research articles and the editor of several scientific journals in her field.

DON'T FORGET: HSoM's Annual Social & Cutting of the Vasilopita will be held from 5-7pm Thursday, January 17 at Tiqa, 327 Commercial St., Portland. Members and friends are welcome.

Fourteenth Annual - Spring 2019
GREEK FILM SERIES
 Contemporary & Classic Films about Greece
 presented by
Hellenic Society of Maine

“A Girl in Black” Dir.: Michael Cacoyiannis, Greece (1956)



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

A talented but unsuccessful writer (Dimitri Horn) visits the sun-drenched island of Hydra for a short holiday and takes up residence in the large, neglected house of an impoverished widow. On the day of his arrival, the woman and her family are publicly disgraced when she is caught in the arms of a lover. The bitter persecution that follows arouses the sympathy and concern of the young writer who falls in love with the widow's timid daughter Marina (Ellie Lambetti). But bitter feuds and rivalries stand in the way of their happiness together, and the couple finds themselves the targets of local hostility. Shot in eight weeks on a limited budget and using only one camera, *A Girl In Black* brought international attention to the Greek film industry, to director Michael Cacoyiannis, and to its star Ellie Lambetti. *In Greek w/ English sub-titles. 100 minutes.*

“Mikro Egelma” (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.*



“Nifes” (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.**

A member writes: “Hellenic Society has been a TREASURE for me to have "discovered".... after almost 40 years of ignorance, living in Portland area. Thanks to the MPBN community events calendar listing a Sunday Greek film.....a while back.” Mary Lavendier Myers

HSoM Board Members Honored

Mary Snell and Irwin Novak were honored this past November by the Governor of the North Aegean in a ceremony in Mytilene on the island of Lesbos. This recognition was given due to the many educational, cultural, and charitable initiatives these two have undertaken over the past 30 years that have helped the island and promoted Hellenism in Maine.

“Your contribution to the Sister City initiative between Mytilene and Portland, the establishment of the Hellenic Society in Maine, and the collaboration between the University of Southern Maine and Aegean University, is invaluable. Furthermore, the material assistance and medical supplies that you [and HSoM] provided to the Hospital of Mytilene was critical to its function during the refugee and migrant crisis.” — wrote Christiana Kalogirou, Governor of the North Aegean Region

Snell and Novak credit the people and organizations who have been partners in many projects, including the Hellenic Society of Maine, USM, the City of Portland, as well as various citizens, officials, and organizations in Mytilene and on Lesbos.

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 2018-2019

Judith Allen-Efstathiou, Portland

Anastasia Antonacos, Portland

Janice Antonacos, Biddeford

Dorothy Klimis-Zacas, Orono

Irwin Novak, Gorham

secretary

Marina Schneller, Portland

treasurer

George Spatoulas, Scarborough,

vice president

Taxia Paras, Scarborough (*on leave*)

Mary Snell, Gorham,

co-president

Miltiades Zacas, Orono

Chris Ziagos, Portland

co-president

NOTE: New mailing address

For more information on HSoM go to the Hellenic Society of Maine website (see above) or "like" the HSoM Facebook page www.facebook.com/hellenicsocietyofmaine

Successful Fall Programming

The Fall of 2018 was a successful one for HSoM with two great lectures, our regular film series, and a special exhibition on migration.

David Pearce, the former ambassador to Greece from 2013 to 2016, gave an enlightening talk on "Why Diplomacy Matters" to HSoM members and the public on September 21. He was welcomed by both the Mayor of Portland, Ethan Strimling, and the president of USM, Glenn Cummings before being introduced by the then co-president, Christos Gianopoulos.



Drawn from his many years of experience in Europe, the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia -- first as a journalist and then as a diplomat with the US State Department -- Pearce stressed the importance of building relationships, listening, and maintaining that engagement while serving abroad.

In October the opening, and a later a panel discussion, was held for the **exhibition on migration, IXNOS**. The show hung in the Glickman Library at USM until late December. IXNOS was a response to the migration flow on the island of Lesbos which is a Sister City of Portland. Co-curated by HSoM board members Mary Snell and Judith Allen-Efstathiou, it featured photography by Michael Honegger and book art and other works by members of the Peregrine Press. Ambassador Pearce is a watercolorist, and in a wonderful coincidence, had a painting that he did in response to his visits to refugee centers on Lesbos and other islands. He agreed to exhibit that painting in the show.



Also in October **Prof. Cynthia Shelmerdine** of Bowdoin College returned to give a follow-up talk on the work she is doing as a ceramics expert on the archeological dig at Iklaina near Pylos in Greece. This dig is part of the larger site that includes the palace of Nestor. Shelmerdine guided the audience through the process of how archeologists sift through huge amounts of remains and slowly sort and catalogue artifacts as they determine their function and age.

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, 2018 ~June 30, 2019: 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 or, I want to give more!
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

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

Jan. 17 - Annual Social and Cutting of the Vasilopita: 5-7 p.m. at Tiqa, 327 Commercial St., Portland.

Jan. 31 - Lecture: Stratos Efthymiou, Consul General for Greece in Boston, "US-Greece Relations in a Challenging Regional Context" 5 p.m. 7th Floor Events Room, Glickman Library, USM

Feb. 3 - Films: *A Girl in Black*, 3 p.m. Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, USM

Mar. 3 - Film: *Small Crime*, 3 p.m. Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, USM

Mar 7 - Lecture: Dorothea Klimis Zacas, "*The Life and Works of the Naif Painter Theophilos Hatzimihail*," 6:30 p.m., Room 103, Wishcamper Center, USM

April 7 - Film: *Nifes*, 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 Initiatives
c/o Irwin Novak
University of Southern Maine
37 College Ave.
Gorham, ME 04038

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 at the Wishcamper Center on the USM Campus. in Portland. 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 mnsnell@maine.edu or call 892-9831.

Ellenika Biblia

If you are watching the PBS series "The Durrells of Corfu," you may have formed a low or comic opinion of Lawrence, the oldest son. But in fact the British writer Lawrence Durrell did become a famous writer best known for his *Alexandria Quartet*, a series of four short novels that explore the same event from different perspectives. His lesser known novel written in 1947, *The Dark Labyrinth* is set in Crete and traces a group of travelers who travel there to explore the famous labyrinth. Available from Amazon in a recent reprinting. (2001, Gardeners Books)

A contemporary Greek writer, Rhea Galanaki, wrote the novel *Eleni, Or Nobody* in 1998 based on the life of an actual woman, Eleni Altamura-Boukoura, a painter who passed as a man in order to study in Italy. She eventually ended up on the island of Spetses. The Greek edition won the 1999 Greek State Prize for Best Novel. The English version is in an excellent translation by David Connolly. (2003, Northwestern University Press.)

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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