



# 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. XV  
Fall 2019

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

## Greek Cooks Panel “The Flavors of Greece” with Bill Doukas, Dina Medouris, and Anna Nashi



Do you love Greek food? You are in luck! Three acclaimed cooks from the Maine Greek community have agreed to share some of their secrets of during a panel discussion on Greek cooking. The event begins at 7 p.m. Thursday, November 7 in Room 211 Wishcamper Center at the University of Southern Maine Portland campus, and is free and open to the public.

**Bill Doukas**, a Portland native and Region Engineer for the Maine Department of Transportation, serves as the engineering conscience of the southern region of Maine. But for years he has been a food enthusiast and winning contestant in a number of cooking competitions. Bill was a First Place winner in the 2019 Create It Maine Recipe Contest and Second Runner-up in 2017 and 2018. More recently he placed Second in the Rockland Lobster Festival Seafood Cooking Contest.

Bill, who ran the Trojan Horse restaurant for several years, hosts two major food events annually including a Labor Day Clam Fry and a commemorative New Year’s Eve gathering. He has a number of favorite dishes which include Cranberry Baklava, Lobster-Crab Etouffee, Moroccan Chicken, Spanakopita, and Greek Chicken and Rice Pilaf. Bill hopes to write a cookbook in the near future with help from cooking competitions, along with suggestions from friends and family.

**Dina Medouris** was born in Lewiston. Her parents had emigrated from the Peloponnesian area of Greece so they spoke Greek at home, had different traditions, religion, and of course a different cuisine. Her father owned a fruit and vegetable business and sold a variety of products, some not very well known in the area at the time – for example zucchini, eggplant, okra and Italian green beans. Dina learned to cook the simple dishes her mother cooked, using recipes from her village. She learned to use foods in season and to make yogurt and other ingredients. After Dina graduated with a BS in education from Gorham State College she applied for a teaching position in Athens, Greece, where she stayed for 10 years, learning even more about Greek cooking and the many regional styles – from plain to spicy -- that it includes. She enjoys making simple Greek foods like her mother made, which is her main cooking style, but will spice up a dish too for a different, stronger taste.



**Anna Nashi** is a native of Athens and now lives in Saco. She moved to the USA as a young woman after she got married. She says she grew up in the kitchen of her home guided by her mother and grandmother. They stressed the importance of her knowing how to cook and run a household, and little Anna learned well. She cooks a variety of foods including dishes from her grandmother’s island of Kea. She says her grandmother was a wonderful cook and had lots of experience — as a girl she had worked as a cook for wealthy families, even living in Alexandria for a few years.



Anna is a chiropractic assistant and works in the offices of Malon Chiropractic and Physical Therapy. “I love my job,” she says, “but I love it even more when I have company at the house and I can cook all kinds of Greek food.”

## Greek Wine Dinner Sunday, September 29

Join us for a special evening! We are collaborating with Chef Mark Provencher at the acclaimed Taverna Khione to present a Greek Wine Dinner to benefit HSoM. The dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, September 29 at the taverna on 25 Mill Road in Brunswick. A tasty four-course meal will be served with four premium Greek wines that complement the courses - two whites, a rose and a red. Wine expert Ali Cheevers of M.S. Walker Wines in Norwood, MA will guide the diners throughout the evening, explaining each wine as it is served.



Call Chris at 775-3607 for more information ONLY. There is limited space and paid reservations are required – so contact the restaurant early. This is sure to sell out! The price is \$70 per person not including tax and tip. For reservations, contact Taverna Khione at 406-2847. Have your credit card ready to hold your spot!

Fifteenth Annual - Fall 2019  
**GREEK FILM SERIES**  
 Contemporary & Classic Films about Greece  
 presented by  
**Hellenic Society of Maine**

**“ΡΟΖΑ ΤΗΣ ΣΜΥΡΝΗΣ” (Rosa Of Smyrna)** Dir.: George Kordellas, Greece, 2016  
*Sunday, September 22, 3 PM, Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland Campus*



Dimitris, an avid collector of Greek objects from Asia Minor, is preparing a cultural exhibition for a renowned museum in Athens on the mix of nationalities who lived in Izmir before the genocide there. On a trip to Izmir with his girlfriend Rita and the museum curator, he finds something special in a small antique shop — a Greek wedding dress that is stained with blood with a letter to a girl called Rosa sewn into its hem. These items, plus an old photograph, become the basis of an intriguing story from the past—and a powerful love that survives decades. *In Greek & Turkish w/ English sub-titles. 93 minutes.*

**“ΛΟΛΑ” (Lola)** Dir.: Dinos Dimopoulos, Greece, 1964  
*Sunday, November 17, 3 PM, Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland Campus*

Aris, the fastest knife in Troumba (the red light district of Piraeus) finally gets released from prison after three long and miserable years of incarceration. Betrayed by his accomplices and thirsting for revenge, Aris wants only to meet again with Lola (Jenny Karezi), his only true love. However, Stelios (Dionysis Papagiannopoulos) a cabaret owner, is not willing to let go of her, his prized possession. He hires a hardened assassin to take Aris out of the way, but Aris is determined to tie up all loose ends and get his rightful retribution. This drama features Karezi in a serious role set in the underworld of Piraeus. The excellent score was written by a legendary composer Stavros Xarhakos. *In Greek with English subtitles. 100 minutes.*



**“ΖΗΕΙΤΑΙ ΠΕΥΘΗΣ” (Liar Wanted)** Dir.: Ieroklis Michaelidis, Greece, 2010  
*Sunday, December 8, 3 PM, Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, USM Portland Campus*



Theofilos Ferekis (director Michaelidis) is the new Minister of Health and Welfare who now has to deal with all the people to whom he promised favors during the pre-election period. His friend realizes that Ferekis is not duplicitous enough, so he sends him an assistant, a professional liar. Theodoros Parlas (Odysseus Papaspiliopoulos) has a great "talent" for making false promises and wins over Ferekis to become his right hand man. But his wife (Zeta Makripoulia) has doubts. Soon one lie leads to another and they need a lot more lies to handle the many hilarious situations. 58 years later, this re-make of the classic 1961 film of the same name, remains timely. *In Greek with English subtitles. 87 minutes.*

**ANNUAL SOCIAL AND VASSILOPITA CUTTING**



The Hellenic Society of Maine’s annual social and cutting of the vasilopita took place January 17, 2019, at Tiqa on Commercial St. in Portland. Approximately 20 people attended the event a variety of Greek-style hors devours were served. Two lucky people got the coins from the vasilopitas, but who they are remains a mystery! Retiring co-president Christos Gianopoulos (*at left*) was presented with a gift by co-president Chris Ziagos for his many years of service to the Hellenic Society of Maine.



*Pictured left to right are: HSoM board member Judith Allen-Efstathiou, and co-presidents Mary Snell and Chris Ziagos.*

## 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

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### **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](mailto:novak@maine.edu).

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](http://www.facebook.com/hellenicsocietyofmaine)

## 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.*

These two books below are new this year.

HSoM member Mary Kiernan highly recommends *Greek to Me, Adventures of the Comma Queen* by Mary Norris, a former copy editor for The New Yorker. Greek language and culture became Norris' passion, and the magazine underwrote her language classes (both ancient Greek and modern) and several trips to Greece. This autobiography centers around her solo travels, which gave her the opportunity to interact with the locals and be more spontaneous. Her stories are hilarious! One aspect Mary liked most is Norris' analysis of the Greek language. A word person, Norris loves etymology and presents many almost poetic examples in her book. (2019, W.W. Norton & Co.)

The new English translation by Karen Emmerich of Christos Ikonou's collection of stories, *Good Will Come From the Sea*, has been published in a stunning edition by archipelago books. Printed in a small format on lovely paper, the book is as wonderful to hold as to read. Inside are Ikonou's sometimes bitter, sometimes funny stories -- four linked stories about a group of Athenians who have hoped to escape the depression and hopelessness wrought by the economic crisis by moving to an island, only to find other woes. This meditation on justice in an unjust world is brilliant, stark, irreverent. (2019, archipelago books).

## Greek Language Table

Do you want to improve your conversational Greek? Well, join us once a month for Greek Table. We usually meet in Portland for one hour to 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 Mary at [msnell@maine.edu](mailto:msnell@maine.edu) or Marina at [marinaschneller@yahoo.com](mailto:marinaschneller@yahoo.com)  
*If our previous schedule has kept you from participating, please let us know. We are in the process of evaluating other times, days and meeting locations.*

### 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, 2019 ~June 30, 2020: 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

All held at USM, Portland campus  
(except as noted)

**Sat. Sept. 7 - HSoM Board Retreat**

**Sun. Sept. 22 - Film: "Rosa Of Smyrna"**

3 p.m. Talbot Aud., Luther Bonney Hall

**Sun Sept. 29 - Greek Wine Dinner** at Taverna

Khione in Brunswick, 6:30 p.m. \$70. Paid reservations required. Call 406-2847.

**Thurs. Nov. 7 - Greek Cooks Panel**, 7 p.m.,

Rm. 211, Wishcamper Hall, Portland

**Nov. 17 - Film: "Lola"** 3 p.m. Talbot Aud.,  
Luther Bonney Hall

**Sun. Dec. 8 - Film: "Liar Wanted"** 3 p.m.  
Talbot Aud., Luther Bonney Hall

**NOTE:** USM is now charging the public to park in the garage. Fee is \$2 an hour.

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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.

✂ *Clip and Save!* ✂

Hellenic Society of Maine  
P.O. Box 8007  
Portland, ME 04038-8007

## Review of Spring 2019 Events

Kicking off 2019, HSoM was honored to present the current Consul General of Greece in Boston, Stratos Efthymiou (*at left*) in a talk on January 31 at Glickman Library on the USM Portland campus. The cold did not deter the hardy souls who attended to hear Mr. Efthymiou discuss relations between Greece and the United States in the con-



text of challenging regional issues. He illustrated his talk with an interesting Power-Point presentation then remained available after to meet with the audience as they munched on mezedes.

"The Life and Works of the Naif Painter, Theophilos Hatzimihail" was the subject of a talk given on March 7 by Prof. Dorothy Klimis-Zacas, also at USM. Theophilos of Lesvos is famous all over Greece for his primitive paintings that illustrate mythological figures, Greek history and village life. Prof. Klimis-Zacas gave an overview of his life and shed light on how he was discovered. Clearly different from others, he always dressed as an *evzone* and traveled around painting the walls of cafes for the price of food and drink. His work was recognized by the Parisian art critic from Lesvos, Stratis Eleftheriadis, who supported him and encouraged him to paint on canvas. Some of those paintings are now in the Theophilos Museums in Mytilene.



*L-R: Harold Pachios, General Consul Efthymiou, and Fr. Constantine Sarantidis.*

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