



Questions or comments? Kindly use the following:

Email : [info@greekcommunity.org.lb](mailto:info@greekcommunity.org.lb)

Dekwaneh - Parallel Towers 232 - Bloc A - 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

Tel. : +961 1 493467/8

Fax : +961 1 493469

Monday to Friday from 10:00 am to 9:00pm

Website : [greekcommunityofbeirut.com](http://greekcommunityofbeirut.com)

Facebook : Greek Community of Beirut (Official Group)

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الجمعية الخيرية اليونانية في بيروت

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΣ ΒΗΡΥΤΟΥ  
GREEK COMMUNITY OF BEIRUT

Ta Nea

Volume 2, Issue 3  
Summer 2019

*In the summer time...*

Dear Member,

There are so many things to write about and so many events to share! Some of them happened last month, while many others are scheduled. Usually they say during summer season things get slower, that is definitely not our case! Starting from the Greek Festival in Byblos, which was officially announced during a press conference at the Greek Community Cultural Center on May 20, followed by three full days during the Greek Festival in Byblos; a special visit to the frigate PSARA for the students of the "Institut Moderne du Liban" school; "Days Out" and excursions, official Greek courses exams and recently the "End of Year School Party"...

Regarding future events, the new trendy color is Green. The Green color is the symbol of ecological, environmental, and healthy surroundings. It is seen as a movement to steer citizens' consciences into taking more care about the environment. Internationally, business have signed up for the Green Key program in 17 countries, one of which is Greece.

Our mindset to follow these steps is not only highlighted in outdoor activities, thus it will be chosen as the theme of our 2<sup>nd</sup> Open Photography Contest that will be launched this fall with a special focus on the way the subject is treated.

So start thinking Green and enjoy a Green Greek summer!

### Newsletter Spotlight

- ◆ Artisanal Workshops at the "Ateliers de Tyr"
- ◆ The Greek Festival of Byblos
- ◆ Exclusive interview with Commander Efstratios Voudourakis H.N.
- ◆ Official Greek language exams .

### Did You know?

The Hellenic Frigate **PSARA**, designed by the German company HDV and built by the Hellenic Shipyards is the 5<sup>th</sup> ship in the history of the Hellenic Navy bearing this name. Back to 1830, the 1<sup>st</sup> one was a sailing corvette. The 2<sup>nd</sup> ship was a steam tender ship built in England in 1878. The 3<sup>rd</sup> one was a battleship built by the French company "Forges et Chantiers de la Méditerranée" which participated in the Balkan wars in 1912-1913. The 4<sup>th</sup> one, a "Dardo" Class destroyer, was built in La Spezia and participated actively in World War II.



### SPECIAL VISIT TO THE ARCHBISHOP- RIC OF BEIRUT

The new board committee of the Greek Community, accompanied by H.E Mr. Franciscos Verros Ambassador of Greece to Lebanon, was received by His Eminence Most Reverend Father Elias Audeh, Metropolitan of Beirut, on May 20 during a courtesy visit to introduce the new members and obtain his blessings.

### GREEK FESTIVAL

From the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> of June, Lebanon was at the rendez-vous with the first edition of the **Greek Festival** under the theme «Zeus meets Ahiram» held in Byblos. (Details in page 5).



## The Greek Community of Beirut Activities

*SINCE ITS FOUNDATION IN THE NINETEEN TWENTIES, THE GREEK COMMUNITY OF BEIRUT AIMS TO DEVELOP, STRENGTHEN AND REINFORCE THE CULTURAL RELATIONS BETWEEN LEBANON AND GREECE.*

Activities at our Center for 2019 include many cultural, educational and social events in collaboration with organizations. These activities aim at building connections and engendering trust between both our countries Lebanon and Greece, through members' community.

The tailor made program of events we have proposed, including days out, Greek language courses and our photo contest was an essential pillar in raising awareness about the Hellenic culture in the region. In September, we are launching our 2<sup>nd</sup> Open Photography Competition: get ready!

Those who are interested in Greek movies can join us at our "Cinephiles" movie theater for ciné-club projections. This year, on the program we propose new entries with two projections per month.

Readers can also find latest news regarding Greece or Greeks from abroad in our section "Greek News" together with a new column dedicated to the **Cyprus Community in Lebanon Association** and of course, news from Lebanon titled Real Time News.



*At the workshop organized on May 18 at the Ateliers de Tyr.*



*On May 17, the second dance workshop was offered by Mrs. Marilena Caponis. With the purpose to teach the basic steps of SIRTAKI, the Greek National dance, to the audience.*

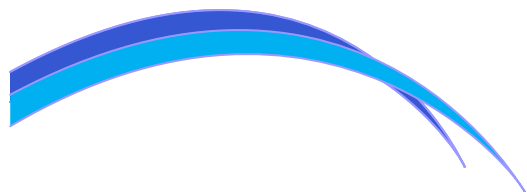
**"OUR CENTER REMAINS THE MEETING POINT FOR MULTIDIMENSIONAL DISCIPLINES, LANGUAGES AND LIVING CULTURES, ACTING IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE GREEK EMBASSY AND OTHER LOCAL PARTNERS."**



## A Day Out to "Les Ateliers de Tyr"

On May 18, the Cultural Centre organized a Day Out at the "Ateliers de Tyr" where members and students of the Greek Language Centre were able to learn about the techniques used to create all kind of artisanal works, precisely pottery, glass painting, serigraphy, traditional blow glass and Pyrex blow glass. The visit was followed by 2 workshops: pottery and glass painting. Attendees were able to taste delicious local specialties on site following the workshops.

The art of pottery, which flourished between the 19<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries BC was exported throughout Mesopotamia and Aegean Islands with whom it had frequent contact through trade. Best known for their work on small decorative objects, the artists skillfully blended influences from neighboring cultures to produce unique artistic heritage. The influence may be best seen in specific materials, for example, Aegean influence is most often seen in Phoenician pottery .



## On Board, HS PSARA

On May 30, the Greek Community of Beirut organized a special visit to the Hellenic frigate Psara, reserved to the school "Institut Moderne du Liban" under the auspices of H.E Mr. Franciscos Verros Greek Ambassador to Lebanon. The frigate which was visiting Lebanon in the framework of military cooperation between both Lebanon and Greece and under the umbrella of UNIFIL, received dozens of teen agers who were able to learn about the Greek ships and missions, followed by a guided tour of the frigate.

More than 60 teen agers from the school "Institut Moderne du Liban" accompanied by their teachers and supervisors were able to discover the operational capabilities of the Frigate PSARA, meet the crew on board and get a guided tour for the visit of the frigate.

The history of the Hellenic Navy (Πολεμικό Ναυτικό) begins with the birth of modern Greece (17<sup>th</sup> century). Due to the maritime nature of the country, this force has been the premier service of the Greek Armed Forces. For almost two centuries, the Greeks have maintained their strength at sea and mastered most of the danger. Strength at sea is one of the defining military factors of any world power.

Following the welcome speech of H.E Mr. Franciscos Verros, Greek ambassador to Lebanon, two class delegates presented a thank you note before the exchange of gifts between Ambassador Verros, the Commanding officer Mr. Efstratios Voudourakis, and the delegates of the "Institut Moderne du Liban".

The frigate visit had an educational purpose. In fact, the young's received all the explanations concerning the functions of a frigate before visiting it. A presentation divided in three sections, had special scopes on the technical tasks and capabilities, on crew 's information, missions and deployments. Moreover, in order to fully understand part of the Greek Navy's missions such as the humanitarian part, a presentation of the operation "Kedros" that took place in Lebanon in 2006 was presented to them. As a reminder, it was the first boat to enter Lebanon in July 2006, where on board of the frigate **Psara**, many Greeks and Europeans were transported to Greece.



## On Board



On board, all the teens were able to enjoy the visit, sharing their enthusiasm, taking photos and discovering the nice view from the deck.

### Interview with Commander Efstratios Voudourakis

**According to the records, the Hellenic navy is the 22<sup>nd</sup> largest navy in the world. Could you please comment this figure?**

*Considering Greece nature and its total territory, being the 22<sup>nd</sup> largest navy in the world is meaningful and outstanding! Naval strength is used primary to maintain security and stability in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea according to the provisions of the International Law at Sea that Greece fully respects and promotes and if needed to respond to territorial conflicts as well as enforce maritime borders and protect national interests.*

**Nowadays the mandatory military service is set to 9 months for the Army and 12 months for the Navy and Air Force. Can someone choose to service in the navy instead of other departments?**

*It's not impossible. Each department of the Army, Navy, and Air Force is independent but work under the coordination of Hellenic Armed Forces General Staff. So it depends on the needs and quotas of each of them. It is possible to make a request and if there is an opportunity, the change can take place.*

**What are the required competencies or conditions to join the Hellenic Navy?**

*Information is given at the local military service offices in details and in the offices of National Defense and through internet (Hellenic Navy Official site). The number of the Greek students to be admitted to the Hellenic Navy's Petty Officers' Academy (Σχολή Μονίμων Υπαξιωματικών Ναυτικού/ ΣΜΥΝ) and to the Hellenic Naval Academy (Σχολή Δοκίμων) is determined by the Ministry of Defense on an annual basis and is proportional to the needs of the Hellenic Navy. Male and female candidates have to have graduated from Secondary Education Institutions. Their age and prereq-*

*uisite physical and mental qualities, as well as the required supporting documents are determined in the encyclical "Call for Competition for the Selection of students in Higher Educational Military Institutions and in Higher Military Academies for Petty Officers", which is issued every year. The candidates' admission process to the Academies is in accordance with the candidates' admission processes after they have participated in the Admission Exams to the Greek State Tertiary Education Institutions and after the minimum admission grade has been determined. Those who have passed the admission step will receive a full training for one full month. After the successful completion of the Basic Training, they take an oath as Cadet Petty Officers or Naval Cadets. For the Petty Officers The Council proceeds to the attribution of specialties to the recently enlisted students. Both students' preferences, as submitted in the application and their order of admission to the Academy, are taken into consideration in order for the Council to assign specialties to them. The available specialties and the number of Cadet Petty Officers per specialty are determined by the Hellenic Navy General Staff in accordance with the existing needs of the Hellenic Navy.*

**To achieve your ranked position, it took you many degrees in different fields and many years of experience. How do you feel about it and would you recommend the young generation to follow your steps?**

*First of all, it is an honor to have been able to do so; it is a vocation and love of the homeland, our duty. Regarding the different fields of specifications and degrees acquired, it follows the natural scheme to move forward. Also, it is the sense of responsibility which is highly involved. Am I happy today about my choice? Yes, of course! If I had the opportunity to do it again, I would follow the same steps I did several years ago.*

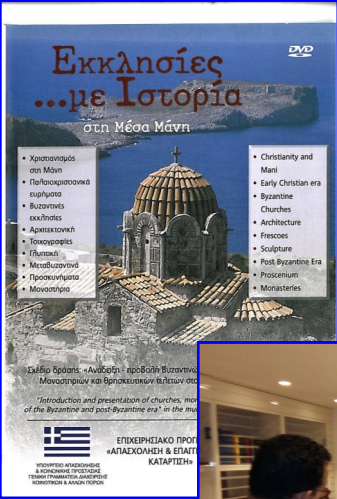
## The Greek Festival in Byblos

On June 7, the first Greek Festival organized by the association **Stin Viryto** and founded by Mr. Georges Eid was launched in a festive and cultural atmosphere in the coastal town of Byblos. The Greek Ambassador to Lebanon H.E Mr. Francisco Verros embraced the idea and offered his auspices and full support to this event. The festival was under the patronage of the Lebanese Ministry of Tourism and the Greek Tourism Association, in collaboration with the Greek Ministry of Tourism, the Greek Embassy in Lebanon, the Greek Community of Beirut and many partners sponsoring the event. Various activities were undertaken such as the special venue of the Greek singer and actor Mr. Stergio Liberis. In addition, folk dance performances were offered by a Greek troupe from the city of Cassandra and concerts were animated by various Greek artists, such as **Stergios** who inaugurated the festival. He expressed his gratitude and happiness to have been invited to take part in this festival, especially that he has been to Lebanon before and fell in love with the city of **Byblos**.

Among the artists were Giorgio Pachis, a bouzouki player, Yorgo, Marina Abou Rjeily, a Lebanese singer, Sako Bedrossian, and kassiani Kaplanis with her dancers. Those who were interested in learning Greek dance could register at the Greek Community of Beirut stand and had a workshop offered by Mrs. Caponis. The **Open Film Festival** created by Dr. Georges Scheib was also part of the program cultural activities, screening a multitude of Greek films shown outdoor. Last but not least, the **Greek Festival** showcased distinguished ancient Greek Archeological pieces specially imported from the **Acropolis Museum**, a premiere in Lebanon and the Middle East.

More than 6,500 persons attend the opening and enjoyed various festivities stretched all over the week end enabling them to experience a taste of Greece.





♦ **Churches...with stories Ekkliissies me istoria sti Mésa Màni.** Introduction and presentation of churches, monasteries and religious ceremonies of the Byzantine and post-Byzantine era in the municipality of Oitylos of South Laconia. It is a journey into the past. The Byzantium beacons from the church walls of Mani, strange and seductive. Many times the lifeless works give valuable information about the people that created them.

On May 24, **Cinéphiles** broadcasted "Churches with stories" at our Center. The audience was pleasantly surprised by the discovery of the region of Mani and all its treasures of which it abounds. Discussions took place right after the screening while having a glass of wine.



**The Open Film Festival in Byblos**

On Friday June 7, the Open Film Festival broadcasted the legendary film of the Greek Silent Cinema *Astero*, by Dimitris Gaziadis (1929) discovered at the Cinémathèque Française in 2003 thanks to the EU program "Lumière" which has been rediscovering lost films in the archives of countries across the globe.

More than 10 movies were shown: 2 feature films, 2 documentaries and 6 short movies were screened during the three days of the festival. An "open to the public" cultural event aiming at promoting the Greek culture in Lebanon as well as the Lebanese culture in Greece.

The event was under the auspices of the Greek Embassy and supported by the Greek Community of Beirut,

the Greek Film Center,  
the Greek Film Archive,  
the Association of Greek Directors, the Phoenician Heritage Institute  
Charles Corm Foundation,  
Anemon Productions,  
BOO Productions  
and Columbus Group.



May 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> were the official exam dates from the Greek Ministry of Education for all the Greek students all over Lebanon at the Greek Language Center. Official exams are held only by the certified examination centers in Greece and abroad, which is the case of our Greek Language Center since 2017, becoming fully entitled to lead the official exams. Tests are sent completely sealed from Greece to our center in Beirut, where they remain locked until the examination date. Following the exams, the sealed copies are sent back to Greece for correction. By end of July, the results, are announced to the students while Official certifications from Greece are sent to the center in October.



**It is all Greek to us!**

The Greek Language Center operates under the auspices of the Greek Community of Beirut, offering courses starting from the age of seven years old.

Registrations are accepted from beginning of July until end of September and priority is given to those who complete their registration.

Lessons start the 1<sup>st</sup> of October until May 31<sup>st</sup> for each academic year. Level 1 is separated in 2 years. At the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, students are able to participate in the Official exams from the Greek Ministry of Education to obtain their official certificate. Approximately 110 hours are taught per level each year. Our program offers 2 lessons per week for each class. Currently, are offering 5 levels: A1, A2, B1, B2 and C1

*Last day of school, the kids were able to complete a 3D puzzle with the map of Greece, the Parthenon and board games of the Odyssey.*



On June 11, the "End of School Year Party" was held at the Greek Language Center in the presence of H.E Mr. Francesco Verros, Greek Ambassador to Lebanon and the diplomatic team together with the board members of the Greek Community. More than 140 students were congratulated for their efforts and received their certificate of attendance. The best 5 students of each level received a special trophy as a reward for their hard work, while all the kids received educational gifts. It is in a joyful atmosphere that students were able to exchange their thoughts and share their happiness with all the invitees. "*Sinkharitiria*" to all the students, and "*Kalo kalokairi!*".





On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, the president and committee members of Cyprus Community in Lebanon Association (CCLA) had a warm discussion about various aspects of common interests with the President and committee members of the Greek Community of Beirut, at the cultural center.

The main idea was focused on the possibility of future cooperation and collaboration between the two communities.



**APRIL IS A BLUE MONTH!**

On the occasion of "World Autism Day," (April 2<sup>nd</sup>) the CCLA community was proud to have her president Mrs. Stalo Habibi among AAA social ambassadors to support their annual awareness campaign. The theme for the year 2019 is "I Love Someone With Autism." Their mission is to support the families of children who struggle with autism, to raise awareness and build a network between families and therapists.



On May 27, an agreement of cooperation between Cyprus Community in Lebanon Association and Beirut Marathon Association BMA was signed. The purpose of this agreement is to help align the objectives of NGOs and BMA in empowering our community, building awareness on the benefit of sports and running, participation, volunteering, healthy lifestyle and unity.



**Art of Change Studio has launch new mural streets in Beirut**

A new mural paint in Hamra was unveiled in May, on the wall of the Masabki-Serhal building, as part of Ahla Fawda's new "Art for Change" project, which aims to enrich communities by installing art in public spaces. Ahla Fawda has also partnered with international organization *Where Theres Walls* and *RISE gallery*, based in London, for this project. The Lebanese NGO *Ahla fawda*, founded in 2012, is run by volunteers who work towards community development, improving the neighborhood in a cultural and artistic manner, enriching people's lives through art influence.

The Art of Change studio which was also launched the same day, is a multi-purpose space, offering multiple possibilities such as an exhibition place, an internal professional print-house and a working studio for workshops. A collective exhibition featuring Elie Zaarour, Karim Tamerji, Jad El Khoury, Ghaleb Hawila, Diana Halabi and many other artists is now exposed at the gallery.



**Travel Lebanon at the Garden Show & Spring Festival 2019 edition**

Held concurrently with the Garden Show fair, Travel Lebanon was the first event to support eco tourism in Lebanon. Local tour operators together with a multitude of NGOs and municipalities were promoting packages across the country while artisans and handcraft producers were showcasing their handmade goods. Eco-tourism which is based on the exploration of natural areas aims at improving the financial conditions of local inhabitants, helps in promoting culture and heritage, and increase the income through producing and selling local products.

Among the exhibitors: Environment & Sustainable Development Unit ESDU, USAID-BALADI Program, Les Ateliers de Tyr, Union of Jezzine Municipalities, Tourleb, Karya and many others.

This interesting initiative is offering new opportunities combining tourism with social and environmental acts.

