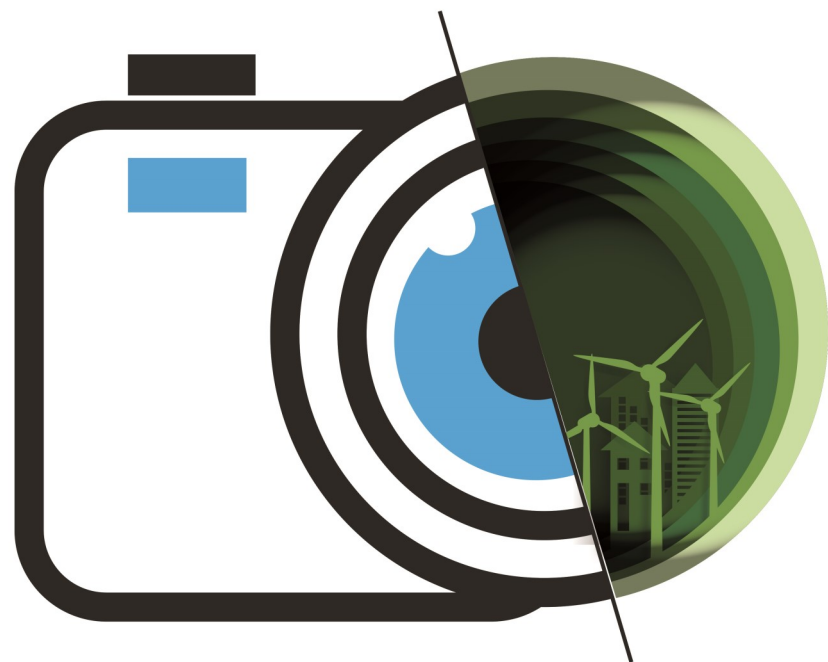


Get your cameras ready.

OPEN PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST 2nd EDITION



The Competition is organised by the **Greek Community of Beirut** as part of their green sustainability campaign. To convey their message, the theme of this year's contest is 'Green'. Registrations start on the 20th of September until the 30th of October 2019. For further details kindly send an email to info@greekcommunity.org.lb

Questions or comments? Kindly use the following:

Email : info@greekcommunity.org.lb

Dekwaneh - Parallel Towers 232 - Bloc A - 2nd & 3rd Floor

Tel. : +961 1 493467/8

Fax : +961 1 493469

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

Website : greekcommunityofbeirut.com

Facebook : **Greek Community of Beirut (Official Group)**

Instagram account: [greekcomm](https://www.instagram.com/greekcomm).



الجمعية الخيرية اليونانية في بيروت
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΣ ΒΗΡΥΤΟΥ
GREEK COMMUNITY OF BEIRUT

Ta Nea

Volume 2, Issue 4
September 2019

Go Green!

Dear Member,

Here is our "Green" issue for the fall season. Green is not only related to a color or a theme. By "Green" we mean our strength to fight environmental pollution by leading an awareness campaign to steer citizen's consciousness, highlighting the measures to limit ecological disasters.

"GREEN IS THE THEME" is the title of a major campaign we are leading, starting this fall, with the main educational objective, heading for changes in our behavior. The **Greek Community of Beirut** is proud to participate actively in this field with a special focus on ecology, environment, eco tourism, healthy lifestyle, promoting sustainability and recycling through creativity with two contests to be launched this fall: The 2nd Edition of the "Open Photo Competition" (OPC) followed by the new "Reused & Recycled Art Competition" (RARAC).

A dense program with a lot of variety is proposed to our members, students and friends. Conferences and **Days Out** to enjoy nature and natural products, workshops, exhibitions, and many other activities to come.

To succeed in our mission, we definitely count on your active participation.

Meanwhile enjoy your reading and discover our program!

Newsletter Spotlight

- ◆ "GREEN IS THE THEME", our complete Green awareness campaign
- ◆ June 24th Ceremony
- ◆ The story of "Adrias"

Did you know?

- * Lebanon has 170 km² of water and 860 km² of irrigated land. Forest covers only 13% of the total territory
- * Beirut and its suburbs alone generate more than 3,700 tons of trash per day of which only 8% are recycled according to government figures
- * We use 10 billion tons of water worldwide every year
- * The world uses 160,000 plastic bags every second. Plastic bags are now banned from supermarkets in most developing countries
- * Only 3% of our planet's water is drinkable. 97% of it is salt water
- * Over 80 billion aluminum cans are used every year around the world. If you throw them away, they can stay in that form for up to 500 years



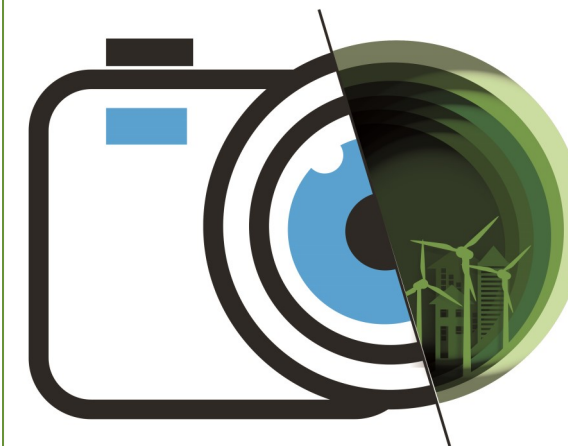
Keep this sign in mind!

We created a new logo that will embrace all the actions undertaken in our awareness green campaign.

Follow it, together with our announcements, to always be informed about all the different projects within the framework of the **GREEN IS THE THEME** campaign.

Get your cameras ready.

OPEN PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST 2nd EDITION



The competition is organized by the **Greek Community of Beirut** as part of their green sustainability campaign. To convey their message, the theme of this year's contest is "Green". Registrations start on the 20th of September until the 30th of October 2019. For further details kindly send an email to info@greekcommunity.org.lb

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 Fall 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.

This fall our mindset is focused on all the subjects related to eco environment with our awareness campaign **GREEN IS THE THEME**. We are launching our 2nd Edition **Open Photography Competition (OPC)** together with a new art competition, the **Reused & Recycled Art Competition (RARAC)** offering an opportunity for children and adults to learn more about recycling, responsible use of resources and sustainable living through creative exploration.

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 column dedicated to the **Cyprus Community in Lebanon Association** and of course, news from Lebanon titled Real Time News.

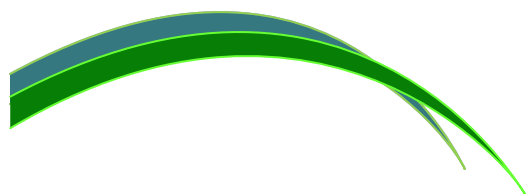
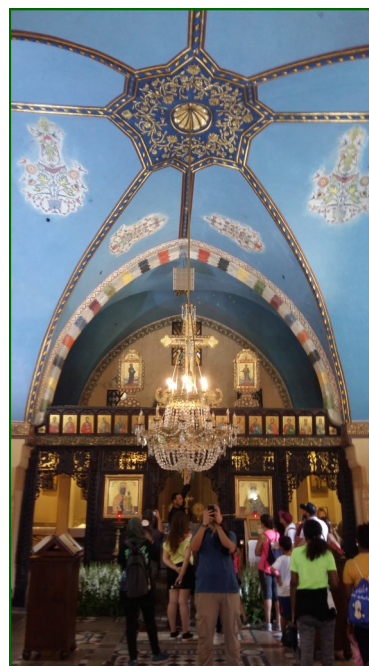


On top: Our green mascot

On the left: pictures of The Saint Elias Shwaya Monastery.

A Day Out to "Khinchara"

On June 23rd, the Greek Community of Beirut participated actively in a cultural hike to Khinchara village. As part of the "BALADI" program, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), implemented by Caritas Lebanon in cooperation with Khinchara' municipality and other local partners who established "Droubna" project to activate rural, cultural and environmental tourism. More than 160 persons joined the journey happy to discover a 6km hiking trail with more than 10 touristic historical sites: A wheat mill, a wine press, "Ain Al Smaydiyeh", "Al Lyal" spring and St. John the Baptist Convent with its first religious printing press museum (founded in 1731 by Deacon Abdallah Al Zakher) and a beautiful church.



Monastery of Saint Elias Shwayya

On June 23rd the Greek Community members were able to discover one of the most beautiful monastery of Mount Lebanon. Raising like a fortress upon a sandstone cliff, at an altitude of 1150m, overlooking Khinchara, Shwayr and Bikfaya, the history of the Patriarchal **Saint Elias Shwayya Monastery** goes back to the early Christian era. Like most Orthodox monasteries of the region, it was rehabilitated after a long period of abandonment.

The modern history of **Saint Elias Shwayya** may be said to begin in 1749 almost 2 centuries after it was built, when a Beirut notable paid 1500 coins to the Abillamaa Emirs, entrusting back the monastery to the Orthodox monks. However, it was rebuilt after a severe earthquake, by the same donor and the superior Sophronios Al-Sayqali in 1760 and became an important center of silk production. A commemorative inscription over the church's north door records this event.

In the second half of the nineteenth century, the monastery

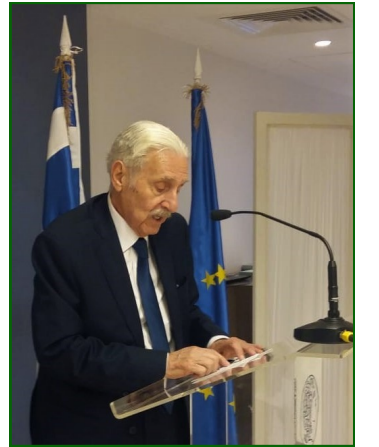
established a school, which employed teachers of renown. During the first half of the 20th Century, the monastic school continued to function. Some bishops completed their primary studies there before moving to Balamand. During the Lebanese civil war, the monastery was seriously damaged by artillery fire, but the superior undertook meticulous repairs, which were completed in 1996.

At the height of its prosperity, the monastery was the center of the region's religious and cultural life. It possesses 63 manuscripts, including 54 liturgical manuals prescribing celebrations and prayers throughout the year. The other 9 manuscripts contain such standard theological works. One of the most important manuscript is the *typicon* of St Saba, an ancient rule of monastic and liturgical life, copied at the monastery of St John the Baptist in 1595. The only secular manuscript in the collection records the voyage to Palestine of a Beirut notable, Faris Abu Halqa. The icons preserved at **Saint Elias Shwayya** are few but diverse. The oldest, representing the Prophet Elias, is dated to the 10th C. Housed in a glass frame to the left of the church, it has unfortunately suffered deterioration.



June 24th Ceremony

On June 24, a ceremony in the presence of H.E. Mr. Verros, Ambassador of Greece to Lebanon, Mr. Kasselakis, Greek Consul and members of the Orthodox Clergy, as well as many friends and members of the Lebanese Press, took place at our Cultural Centre, to honour Mr. Constantin Photiades, who has been a dedicated member of the board committee. On the same occasion, the board members expressed their gratitude and respect to five personalities who have actively contributed to many projects and to the promotion of Greek culture in Lebanon: Rev. Father Justinos Dib, Dr. Georges Scheib, Mr. Georges Eid, Mrs. Jessy Trad Kastoun and Mr. Yorgo Semenoglou.



The Hellenic Navy

Adrias Αδρίας

Adrias was a Type III Hunt class destroyer that was originally built for Royal Navy as HMS Border (L67) and took her name from an ancient Greek town in Italy near the Po river (Herodotus vi. 127, vii. 20, ix. 92; Euripides, Hippolytus, 736). Also "Adrias" was the ancient name of the Adriatic Sea. This name came from the same name city which was founded on the Padus river delta by the King Adrias, son of Messapio Pausonias and father of Illirian Ionios.

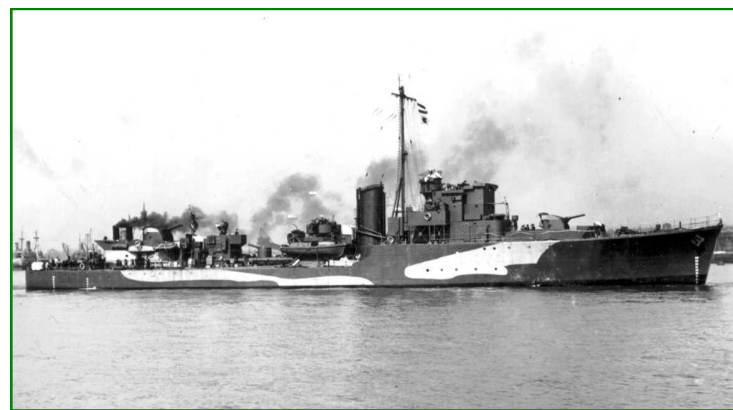
The ship was commissioned as Adrias (L67) on August 5, 1942, in order to relieve heavy losses of ships sustained by the Royal Hellenic Navy during the German invasion of 1941 and throughout the war.

On January 27, 1943, while positioned 360 miles NW Cape Finisterre, Adrias was believed to have sunk the German U/Boat U-553 that was officially confirmed at the end of World War II. Another operation occurred on February 13, 1943, when Adrias sunk or seriously damaged the U/Boat U-623.

On October 22, 1943, during operations in the Dodecanese Islands and while near the island of Kalymnos with the British destroyer HMS Hurworth (L28), Adrias struck a mine. Due to the explosion, her bow was torn off. The English Flotilla Commander onboard Hurworth ordered Cdr. Toumbas to abandon ship. Hurworth, while trying to come to Adrias's rescue, also hit a mine and sunk taking with her 143 men. In spite of the damage suffered, Adrias took survivors of Hurworth (among them her CO) and managed to reach the nearby coast of Gümüşlük in neutral Turkey with 21 men of her crew dead and 30 wounded. After some minor repairs, the ship sailed on December 1, 1943 despite her missing bow and limited maneuverability for Alexandria, and managed to reach Alexandria's port on December 6 (day of Feast of St. Nicholas, patron saint of seamen in Greece) where she was enthusiastically greeted by the British Fleet and other allied ships. This unique naval achievement which has since been unmatched by any navy, was considered a brilliant example of seamanship, and provided a morale boost to the Royal Hellenic Navy and other allied ships in the Mediterranean Sea. After the liberation of Greece from the Germans, Adrias, with her bow temporarily repaired, arrived in Faliro with the rest of the ships of the Hellenic Fleet. The Hellenic Navy gave the same name to commemorate this ship to Standard type frigate Adrias (F459) in 1994. The transfer of the Frigate ADRIAS to Hellenic Navy took place on 30 March 1994 at the Netherlands Royal Navy Base of DEN HELDER. The arrival in Salamina Naval Base took place on June 28th, 1994.



HE Ambassador Verros with CO Sideropoulos and the crew on board



HS ADRIAS (F 459)

Specifications:

Dimensions: 130,5/14,6/6,2m

Main Machine: 2 RR Olympus 56.800 HR, 2 RR Tyne 10

Speed: 30 knots

Crew: 198

It is a modern ship, with a great firepower, due to a large variety and quantity of weapons and weapon systems. It can accomplish all kind of missions and it's activity in the Hellenic Navy has been so far completely successful.



Commander Lazaros Sidiropoulos H.N.
Commanding Officer HS ADRIAS



Commander Lazaros Sidiropoulos was born in Thessaloniki. He became a Cadet of the Hellenic Navy Academy in 1988 and graduated in 1992 as an Ensign Line Officer.

Since March 2019 **Commander Sidiropoulos** is the Commanding Officer of HS ADRIAS. He has completed various courses regarding Electronic, Radio biochemical Warfare and Damage Control, has received staff training for Junior Officers and Section Head of Department, and has a degree in weapon systems and has graduated from the Supreme Joint War Academy in Thessaloniki.

Commander Sidiropoulos has served as Section and Department Head in Fast Patrol Boats and Destroyers, as Executive Officer in Fast Patrol Boat (HS SIMITZOPOULOS) and Frigate (HS THEMISTOKLIS).

He is privileged to have served as the Commanding Officer of HS TOXOTIS and HS SIMITZOPOULOS.

He also served as Head of the Armature and Administration Departments of the Patrol Boats HQ, as a commander of the naval station in Lesbos island, as an instructor for Cooperative Operations and Exercises between each Corp in the Supreme Joint War Academy and as a coordinator in the Centre of Naval Operations of Hellenic Navy General Staff.

Memories, memories...

A wink from the past, bringing back memories alive!

Some of us might have lived those moments, some others may be too young. This section dedicated to the past helps the new generation discover how their parents or grand parents used to live.

In this issue, we selected from our archive pictures taken during school excursions, the upper one in 1942, and the lower in 1956.

We would highly appreciate your contribution helping us keep those memories alive by sending us documents, photos or articles from your personal archive.



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 on the 1st of October and last May 31st for each academic year. Level 1 is split in 2 years. At the end of the 2nd 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. We are currently offering 5 levels: A1, A2, B1, B2 and C1.

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.

Greek News

Paros... The plastic free Mediterranean island



The Cycladic island of Paros is on a mission to become a plastic waste free island in the Mediterranean area. The project which is part of the "Common Seas" organization is seeking to reduce plastic pollution. These solutions oriented aim at identifying and supporting locals helping them reduce plastic use. This project is in collaboration with Paros, "World Wildlife Fund Greece" and the "Cyclades Preservation Fund". It is hoped that their contribution will lead to a reduction of plastic waste found on the island but also in the waters around. They have already developed guidelines and created a dynamic toolkit to support a plastic-waste free island hoping to attract environmentally-aware tourists and investors.

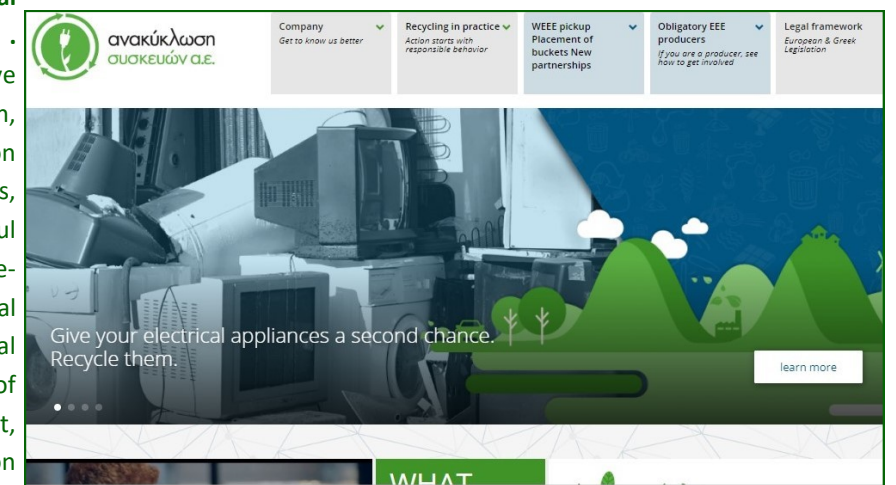


Everything you need to recycle in Greece, visit www.electrocycle.gr

It is not always easy to know what to do with our devices when they no longer work. One thing is certain, littering is not the solution. The electrocycle.gr website, also available in English, allows you to find official drop-off points near you that accept used devices and send them for recycling.

The company **RECYCLING APPLIANCES SA** is an authorized institution from EMSA, for the organization, operation and control of the **Collective System of Alternative Management of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)** in Greece.

The objective of the company is the alternative management of WEEE, namely the collection, transportation, temporary storage, separation and treatment of WEEE and their components, with the ultimate goal of removing harmful substances to the environment and reintegrating usable materials, such as raw material for the production of new products. Their goal is to strengthen the ecological consciousness of the entities that support the recycling effort, aiming to reduce waste and pollution, saving on natural resources and energy. In 2017, 54,000 tons of devices were recycled in Greece! It is now possible to recycle large and small home appliances, computer and telecommunication equipment, electrical and electronic tools, lamps, batteries and sport equipment, consumer goods, medical products...





Nations' Day Festival: CCLA participated in Nations' Day Festival organized for the 4th year by Beirut Golden Awards Association at Zaitunay Bay/Beirut 5-7 July 2019.

It was a beautiful event in the heart of Beirut promoting and preserving our cultural values and identity. It was a special occasion where Diaspora Cypriots actively engaged with other nationalities in Lebanon.

The Cyprus booth was full of Cypriot famous delicacies and spirits. The Commandaria (Special sweet red wine) and Ouzo (special arak of Cyprus) were served and immensely adorned by the tasters waiting for a second service. On the other hand, alongside of the spirits, the shoujouko as well as lokoumi left the visitors with a mouthful of the unforgettable taste of Cyprus and its unique flavors. Last but not least, the Halloumi cheese was there with its one of a kind freshness which takes us to Cyprus directly.....

It was overwhelming to meet and greet so many guests while taking photos with the Ambassadors, Consuls and VIP personnel of different countries. Thank you to all the people who came by and visited our booth.



Participation of CCLA in World Cypriot Diaspora Conference

(20th Global Cypriot Diaspora Conference in Nicosia – Cyprus (27 -30 August 2019) POMAK – PSEKA – NEPOMAK at Filoxenia Conference Center).

Cyprus Community in Lebanon Association (CCLA) was participating with its President Mrs. Stalo Habibi and Ms. Andrie Efsthathiou (member).

The Conference was opened by the President of Cyprus, Mr. Nikos Anastasiades, who thanked in his speech Cyprus Diaspora for their contributions to Cyprus. During the three days conference, all participants were briefed on latest developments on the Cyprus issue in terms of energy, economy, tourism,... by Foreign Minister Mr. Christodoulides, Energy Minister Mr. G. Lakkotrypis, The Presidential Commissioner Mr. Photiou ... The leadership of POMAK, PSEKA and NEPOMAK as well as the political Leaders in Cyprus were also among the speakers.

Very happy to mention that Romy Boulos was our first Cypriot/Lebanese participant this year in NEPOMAK (World Organisation of Young Diaspora Cypriots). There is no doubt of the importance of second – and third – generation diaspora Cypriots and contribution that NEPOMAK makes in developing their passion for Cyprus and in bringing global Cypriot Diaspora closer together. May the NEPOMAK community continue to grow and celebrate the passion for our heritage and country.



Real Time News



Senses of Greece at the Casino du Liban

Under the auspices of the Greek Embassy, the Casino du Liban presented "SENSES OF GREECE", a culinary, musical and dance celebration, at La Martingale Terrace from September 4 till 15, 2019. It is in a joyful and festive atmosphere, thanks to the talent of Mrs Marilena Caponis and her troupe of dancers, that the traditional Greek dance was celebrated.

