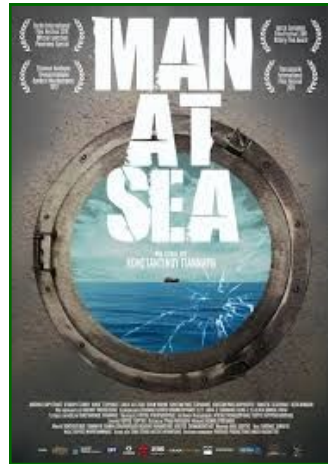


## Upcoming activities

### Movies & Workshops

Our Cultural Center will organize screenings of Greek movies. Those who are interested in kindly contact us to reserve a seat as places are limited.

The Greek Community offers you the possibility to attend a **"FIRST AID WORKSHOP"** presented by the Lebanese Civil Defense at our center. Those who are interested in kindly contact us for reservation.



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 10:00am to 9:00pm

Facebook : Greek Community of Beirut (Official Group)

Instagram account: greekcomm.



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



Ta Nea

Volume 3, Issue 1  
Winter 2020

Welcome 2020, *KHRONIA POLA!*

Dear Member,

It is a time for looking back and for looking forward. The New Year means different things to each one of us. For many it is a time of change, while for others it is a re-commitment to an existing path. A popular tradition is to make a New Year's Resolution. Some people make resolutions to break bad habits and create new ones. It is a great chance to reflect on the accomplishments and highs and lows of the past year, and it also signals a fresh start. It's an exciting time to think about a new year starting, but it can also seem overwhelming and pressuring although something about 2020, a leap year, feels particularly refreshing. Maybe it's the balanced number, or its allusion to perfect vision: we're looking forward, not back! or simply the sense of freedom that comes with letting go of an entire decade. The past few years have been rough, whether you're looking at the big issues or even smaller ones.

What does the New Year mean to you? Is it the year you change your life? Is January the month you will drop bad habits and start new, healthier ones? Or, is 2020 just another bissextile year to continue on your already successful path? From a personal perspective, we tend to believe life is what we make of it. It is up to each of us, as individuals, to take on the responsibility of making it a great year. The challenges in life and the curveballs often tossed our way are inevitable, but we can work to overcome them instead of dodging them out of the way. Sometimes we need to break down our big goals into a series of smaller ones. Seeing dates and deliverables can lead to achieving our larger objectives. Serving our community, keep our readers informed about stories related to both Lebanon, Greece and Greek communities abroad, create new activities and deliver a perfect Greek language teaching remain our motto.



It is with regret and sadness that the Greek Ambassador to Lebanon Mr. Franciscos Verros bid farewell to all the members and friends of the Greek Community at a reception organized by the board in his honor wishing him good luck in his future endeavors'.

**Congratulations to the first woman  
President of the Hellenic Republic  
Aikaterini Sakellariopoulou**

Presidential elections were held in Greece on Wednesday January 22, 2020 for the President of the Hellenic Republic. According to Article 32 the Greek Constitution, the President is elected for a five-year term by the Hellenic Parliament in a special session at least a month before the incumbent's term expires. The first and second rounds require a super majority of 200 out of the 300-strong body, dropping to 180 on the third. According to the recently-amended Greek Constitution, the first vote requires a 2/3 majority for a candidate to be elected to the country's highest position. President **Aikaterini Sakellariopoulou** who got the Electoral Votes needed to be elected is the **13th** and first ever woman President of Greece.

## Farewell Reception

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of December, a farewell reception took place at the Cultural Center in honor of HE. Mr. Francesco Verros, the outgoing Greek Ambassador to Lebanon, before his departure to Greece. The function was attended by heads of diplomatic missions and offices accredited to Lebanon, eminent members of the clergy (including the Most Reverend Archbishop HE. Metropolitan Elias Aude, HE. Metropolitan Moussi Silouan, HE. Metropolitan Basilio Mansour, the Apostolic Nuncio to Lebanon HE. Joseph Spiteri, the Syriac Orthodox Beirut Bishop HE. Daniel Kouriyé, His Grace Bishop Constantin Kayyal) ministers, ambassadors and senior diplomats as well as distinguished guests and members from the Greek Community who made presence to the reception.





EMBASSY OF GREECE  
BEIRUT

Beyrouth, le 30 décembre 2019

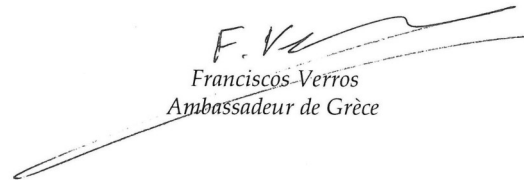
Monsieur le Président,

À l'occasion de mon départ de Beyrouth au terme de ma mission en tant qu'Ambassadeur de Grèce au Liban, je tiens à vous remercier très chaleureusement, et à travers vous les membres du Comité de la Communauté Hellénique de Beyrouth, pour l'excellente et efficace coopération que nous avons eue depuis mon arrivée dans ce beau pays, et qui a certes contribué au bon fonctionnement de notre Ambassade.

Au cours de mon séjour au Liban, j'ai suivi avec une grande satisfaction la façon exemplaire dont la Communauté Hellénique de Beyrouth tient le rôle qui lui a été confié, apportant support et encouragement concrets à toute initiative visant à promouvoir la culture grecque dans cette partie du monde devenue votre deuxième patrie. Le Département de Langue Grecque qu'abrite le Centre Culturel de la Communauté Hellénique mène une œuvre exceptionnelle d'enseignement, non seulement de la langue grecque, mais aussi de nos coutumes et de nos traditions.

Il est ma conviction que la Communauté Hellénique peut servir d'exemple de patriotisme, d'efficacité et d'esprit d'initiative, pour la grandeur sacrée de notre cause commune, l'idée de l'Hellénisme Mondial.

Je vous souhaite bonne continuation et beaucoup de succès pour la nouvelle année et toutes celles qui vont suivre, et à bientôt j'espère !

  
Francisco Verros  
Ambassadeur de Grèce

Monsieur Panayotis Andriotis  
Président de la Communauté Hellénique de Beyrouth  
EN VILLE

Before his departure from Lebanon, outgoing Ambassador Mr. Verros sent to the Greek Community the letter published above.

## Hellenic Ship F 451 LIMNOS Λήμνος



Three ships of the Hellenic Navy have borne the name **Limnos** (Λήμνος), named after the island of Limnos and the First Balkan War Battle. The Greek battleship **Limnos** (1914–1932), a **Mississippi-class** pre-dreadnought battleship, the **Greek landing ship Limnos (L158)** (1943–1977), an **LST1-class** landing ship and the third one the Greek **frigate Limnos** (1982–present), a **Kortenaer/Elli-class** frigate.

Originally built by the United States Navy in early 1905, the **battleship Limnos** was purchased by the Greek Navy in 1914 and renamed **Limnos**. Armed with a main battery of four 12 in guns, **Limnos** was the most powerful vessels in the Greek fleet. She saw service during the Allied intervention in the Russian Civil War and the Greco-Turkish War of 1919–1922. During the war with Turkey, **Limnos** supported Greek landings in Turkey and participated in the final Greek sea-borne withdrawal in 1922. She remained in service until 1932, when she was used as a barracks ship and subsequently disarmed. During the German invasion of Greece in 1941, she was sunk in Salamis by German bombers.

The second ship was a Landing Ship built in Pennsylvania and transferred to the Royal Hellenic Navy in 1943, renamed **Limnos L 158**. She was sold to the government of Greece in January 1947, and struck from the Navy list on 23 June 1947. She was decommissioned from the Greek navy on 10 May 1977.

The third warship is an Elli-class Standard Type frigate built in a Dutch shipyard sold directly to Greece. After her commissioning in September 1982, **Limnos (F 451)**, joined the Hellenic Fleet on 5 November 1982 and since then she has actively participated in several operations including Operation Ifitos, Operation Ocean Shield, Operation Unified Protector, Operation Active Endeavour, an anti-terrorism mission in the Mediterranean.



Commander Ioannis Saliaris HN  
Commanding Officer HS Limnos

Commander Ioannis SALIARIS HN was born in 1973 in Athens. He joined the Hellenic Naval Academy in 1992 and graduated in 1996, with the rank of Ensign, Hellenic Navy. He has served onboard STANDARD type Frigates in the CIC and as Operations Department Officer, Electronic Systems Department Officer and as Executive Officer. He also served as Commanding Officer of a Fast Patrol Boat (HS GRIGOROPOULOS) and was assigned as Commanding Officer of HS LIMNOS since September 2019. As a Staff Officer, he has served in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron of the Hellenic Frigate Command, and as Department Head of the Communications Department in the Hellenic Fleet Headquarters. Also, he is specialized in Communications and Operations. He has attended all specialty/educational courses according to his rank and has graduated from the Hellenic Navy Staff Officers School, the Supreme Joint War College and the German Joint Forces Staff College (FueAkBW). Furthermore, he holds a MSC in Electrical Engineering, a MSC in Systems Engineering and a MA in International Relations and Security. He speaks English, German and French.

He has also been awarded with the following medals and decorations:

1. Medal of Military Merit, 2nd Class.
2. Meritorious Command Commendation Medal, 2nd Class.
3. Participation in Peacekeeping Missions Commendation Medal.
4. Participation in NATO Article 5 Missions Commendation Medal.

He is married and has two children.

## Christmas Lunch

On December 28, a Christmas Lunch was offered by the board members of the Greek Community at the restaurant Diwan Beirut in Antelias. More than 130 people attended the lunch to celebrate the event hoping that 2020 will be a year of change and good luck to Lebanon.



**More than 25 million passengers travelled through Athens International Airport in 2019.**

According to official data published by the Athens International Airport's authorities, passenger traffic through Eleftherios Venizelos has increased of more than 5 per cent. Another record breaking year for Athens over the previous year, 2018.

The entire year of 2019 saw the airport's passenger traffic reaching a new record, totaling 25,57 million passengers compared to 24 in 2018, with an increase of almost 9 per cent in international passengers.

In 2019, Athens Airport registered a total of 225,628 flights.



**Who is Aikaterini Sakellaropoulou ?**

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis announced in a televised address on Wednesday January 15, that Mrs. Eka-  
 terini Sakellaropoulou, the first female president of the Council of State, will be the candidate for the post of the President of the Hellenic Republic, the nation's highest position. **"The time has come for Greece to open up to the future,"** Mitsotakis said, emphasizing that the selection breaks with tradition not only because Sakellaropoulou is female, but also because she is not a member of a political party. She is a woman who is distinguished for her modesty, her honesty and her interest in protecting individual rights. He said the choice **"embodies unity and progress"**. The choice, for the country's highest office, **"honors both justice and the modern Greek woman,"** Sakellaropoulou said after the announcement, thanking the Prime Minister for the candidacy. The jurist accepted the proposal and said that she will devote all her efforts to serving this high duty, as set out by the constitution. Sakellaropoulou, a French-educated legal expert in constitutional and environmental law, was then on track to secure more than 260 votes.

judges' union. The longtime judge has served as President of the Hellenic Society for Environmental Law since 2015, and has actively worked on large cases involving the environment, including the diversion of the Acheloos River in Thessaly and the preservation of the historic refugee buildings on Alexandras Avenue in Athens. The legal expert and human rights defender is not connected to a political party. Regarding her personal life, President **Sakellaropoulou** is divorced and a mother of one, and she lives in central Athens.



**World War II survivor veteran Yani Karageorgiou celebrated his 100th birthday!**

Also known as Barba Yanis on the Greek island of Lesbos, his unbelievable strength made him survive the cruelest detentions of the Gestapo in Mytilene, the Pavlos Melas concentration camp of Thessaloniki, and other concentration camps in Nazi occupied Austria. In 1942, Karageorgiou with 19 men wanted to fight the occupiers by joining the fight that was taking place in the Middle East. They ended up arrested by the Germans and sent to SS prisons. Following years of torture, many of them did not survive. Barba Yani was one of the few who survive and witnessed the liberation of Greece.



Few days ago a special event was held by his friends of Lesbos where he was able to celebrate his 100th birthday and where people expressed their gratitude for this WWII veteran who made his country proud with his



**ODONTOTOS rack railway, a new attraction for the tourists.**

The local train service in the Peloponese to run between the towns of Diakopto and Kalavryta in Achaea reserves unique history and beauty. The Odontotos, (which means the "one with the teeth") served as the main means of transportation for those who lived in the northwestern Peloponese. Nowadays it became a popular tourist attraction since thousands of people go there to enjoy the landscape and the ride on this historic train. Twenty two kilometers to discover the beauty from Diakopto through the famous gorge of Vouraikos, the old monastery of Mega Spilaeon all the way to the historic town of Kalavryta. An impressive journey that you can meanwhile discover on YouTube!

**Mirto Dimitriou's Origami signature**

Greek artist Mirto Dimitriou's signature origami includes clothes, jewelry and paper accessories. An original initiative but also ecological since the young artist from Thessaloniki wants to send a message to support recycling and the need to search for and use environmentally-friendly materials. The artist explained how the idea of a paper collection was born. "You cannot imagine what one can do by folding newspapers and magazines. I have made earrings and jewelry and now I have just finished a paper dress," she said, though noting that her creations can only be worn in specific weather conditions. Dimitriou loves origami and does it passionately. The art of folding to create something three-dimensional, like a dress, from a piece of paper is magical. In fact, she has already designed ten dresses, of which almost three are ready. Without sewing machines and yarns, the young artist is preparing to showcase her work in Athens and Thessaloniki. Dimitriou is the first Greek to get a diploma in teaching origami and to hold two Guinness records: one with a white paper tower and one for a huge paper owl.

