



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



Ta Nea

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Dear Member,

Whether or not we are happy with containment, each of us experiences it in our own way. What is certain is that the whole world has gone through extremely difficult times, which we had previously read about in history books recounting the pandemics of past centuries. It seems that each century brings its own catastrophes and innovations; but it's not all that bad!

Ecologists have often shouted and warned of global warming, environmental pollution and the appearance of microclimates predicting drastic changes in the near future. It looks like general lockdown is starting to pay off. For instance Professor Efthymios Sokos, from the **Seismology Laboratory** of the Department of Geology of the **University of Patras**, said that according to a study on seismic noise, the noise on the surface of the earth during the lockdown since the imposition of the curfew is less than fifty per cent what has been observed during the month of April. It would be a utopia to have earth completely cleansed of pollution, but one would hope to conclude that a general break has been healthy both geographically, and mentally to all those who have experienced the lockdown. For instance, adaptability was expressed in teaching via online platforms, working from home and much more! New behaviors have emerged such as becoming healthier, sharing quality time with the family, meditating, praying, playing sports, playing games, cooking, reading and taking care of one's "home." This situation also teaches us to respect nature more, to take a break and to become more supportive, by acting accordingly and realize things we use to take for granted, such as relationships with family and friends and solidarity that are valuable issues.

In this issue our readers can find some news related to past events, news from both countries Lebanon and Greece, healthy tips and ideas as well as other subjects to spend some time in our company until we meet again soon!

Enjoy your reading and stay safe.

**Seismic noise is a generic name for relatively persistent vibrations in the ground, which are due to a multitude of causes, including human activity*

Keep this visual in mind!

Mrs. Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki, chairman of the "Greece 2021" committee on the bicentennial of the declaration of the Greek War of Independence (1821), revealed the blue logo of the campaign and explained the objectives of the committee. Besides the planning of the celebration for the landmark anniversary of 2021, the committee is organizing a comprehensive layout of projects and events which will aim at reintroducing Greece, from the beginning of its contemporary history to today, in this course of 200 years. *"Focus is on the achievements accomplished, and emphasize on the struggles and sufferings that defined our modern era while, at the same time, admit to our faults and shortcomings"* stated Mrs. Angelopoulos-Daskalaki. The first goal of the committee is the creation of a calendar of all the projects and events planned by institutions such as universities, organizations or even individuals. The second goal will be the management by the Assembly of all the projects presented in accordance with the requested criteria. The third goal of the Assembly will be to devise projects and propose them to the appropriate organizations for implementation. The objective is to draw as many organizations as possible into the Program Greece 2021 to "show respect to our history, honor our people, explore and highlight our country, and plan our future". To achieve this objective, the Assembly guarantee the quality of the proposal development with a strong intention to involve every community, without deviating from the outline of the four pillars. The Committee is authorized to act on behalf of the Greek state and create a positive momentum within the Greek society for the celebration of the bicentennial.



Tribute for the Greek language

Three years ago, Greece decided to establish February 9 as the celebration day of the "World Hellenophony Day", the date of the death of the National poet Dionysios Solomos, who wrote the words of Greece's national anthem.

On the 11th of February our Center honored the Greek language with an audiovisual presentation in homage to those who have marked their time. This year's focus was on the great Melina Mercouri, who worked so hard during her lifetime in favor of Greek culture and its expansion through artistic expression.



Mr. Hadjithomas, Chargé d'Affaires at the Greek Embassy in Lebanon highlighting in his speech the real meaning of this celebration.

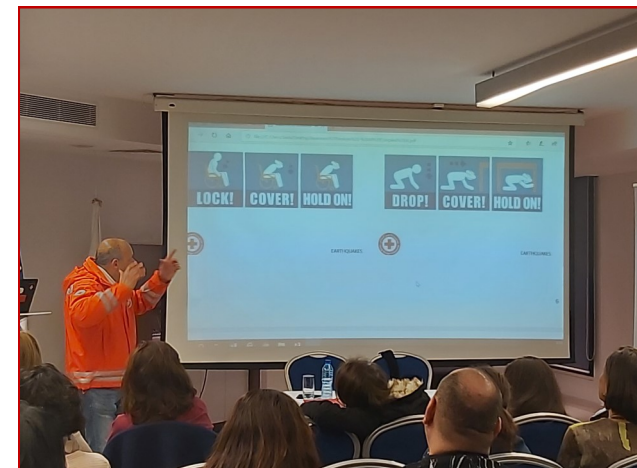


Lebanese red Cross

Educational conference

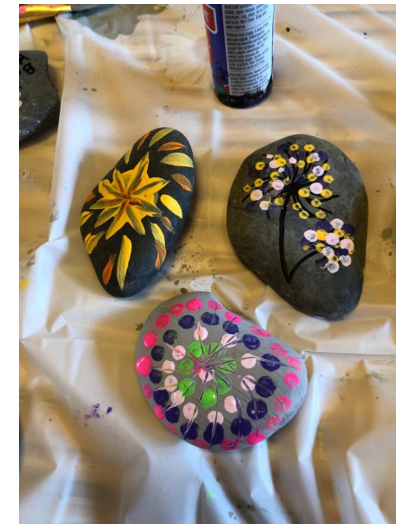
On February 21st, our Center organized a conference on “first aid and emergency cases” given by Mr. Chawki Antar, from the Lebanese Red Cross, specialized in emergency and fire management. Mr. Antar explained during two hours the household dangers related to fires, how and which fire extinguisher to use when a fire starts, what are the different steps to follow in order to avoid a disaster, how to treat and assess burns, and finally how to act while waiting for the rescuers to arrive when serious cases occur. After answering all the questions, he gave the necessary instructions and explanations concerning the earthquakes and distributed to all attendees useful safety brochures.

The audience was very attentive and participated actively by asking many questions related to animal bites, car fires, and the Covid 19 virus pandemic..



Our Greek Members in confinement

In this page some members have shared with us their ideas, creations and photos of their time spent during the lockdown hoping it will brighten your day. Beautiful paintings, Greek cookies, readings, handicrafts and more.



Athena Panourgia is the first female Apache pilot in Greece!



When she was a child, she listened to her father tell her stories from the army, her mind flying. She wanted to put on a uniform, enter the cockpit, feel the adrenaline in her blood. At the age of 25, Athena Panourgia made history. She became the first female Apache pilot in Greece.

How do Greeks deal with the Covid 19 pandemic?

In just six weeks, hundreds of donations have significantly increased the capacity of the National Health System and the country's reserves of critical health care. Small and big companies made a difference in the battle against the pandemic highlighting the good side of Greece and its people. Volunteers of "Covid-19 Response Greece" designed and manufactured more than twenty five thousand face shields, while thirty seven prefectures in standby were able to produce more than fifty thousand reusable masks. Besides, meals are still being prepared by ladies at home every day and freely distributed to doctors and nurses working at the hospitals. Many local organizations have offered substantial help such as the Onassis Foundation securing more than thirteen millions medical masks. Aegean Airlines, together with Hellenic Petroleum, offered ten flights to transport medical supplies. Eminent epidemiologist Sotiris Tsiodras guides and inspires an entire country responsibly, with modesty and sensitivity. Thousands of doctors, nurses, rescuers, ambulance drivers, cleaners, researchers, technicians, pharmacists, police officers, coast guards, firefighters, military personnel, cashiers, supermarket workers, transporters, delivery drivers and many other invisible heroes are working tirelessly radiating the good side of Greece on all European countries to see.

The ancient site of Doxipara in Evros

Recently, the Greek minister of culture, Mrs. Lina Mendoni vowed to restore the ancient burial site of Doxipara located in Evros in northeast Greece, near the borders with Bulgaria, which she described as having an "indisputable archaeological and historical value."

The excavations of the burial tumulus of Doxipara began in 2002 and brought to light four cremation pits, which contained residues of incineration of two middle-aged men. In these pits of the burial tumulus of Doxipara were also discovered a number of objects that accompanied the dead to the other world, according to the traditions of this time; clay and bronze pottery, lamps and lanterns, weapons and jewelry are among the findings.

What makes the Burial Tumulus of Doxipara important is the discovery of five carriages, fifteen horses and four cremations of the 2nd century AD creating a particularly "live" excavation image. Such findings have been found in Asia and Europe, but it is the only example in the Greek area. These were four-wheel carriages that were used for the transport of the dead to the spot of incineration and burial, while each one is a little bit different from the other. They have preserved the metallic functional and decorative elements, while on two of them we can see the carving of their wood.



Questions or comments? Kindly use the following:

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