



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

Ta Nea

Volume 3
June 2020

Summer time in COVID - 19 era

Dear Member,

In these difficult moments, the Greek Community board members' have decided to publish our newsletter **Ta Nea** each month with the latest news related to Lebanon and Greece.

In this issue, you will find the latest information related to the Greek Consulate for those who need to renew their passports, for travel bans, restrictions and regulations, news about the Greek Language Center (examinations, courses and registrations for the new year) together with the usual columns.

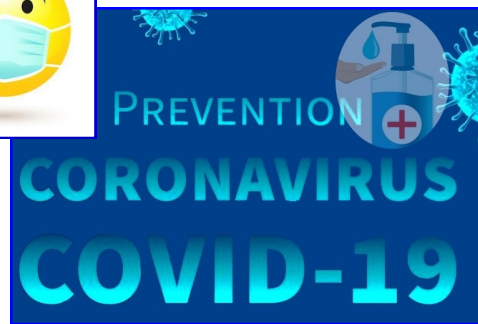
The Greek government has announced that international tourism will begin on June 15, when seasonal hotels will be allowed to open their doors again. However, direct international flights to tourist destinations in Greece will gradually resume beginning on July 1st. No prior coronavirus test will be required for travelers, but random tests will be made to international passengers, according to the European Union Aviation Safety Agency regulations.

Tourism in Greece is restarting gradually, based on rules and standards of transport and travel throughout the European Union, following all appropriate health protocols. Visitors can enjoy the great natural beauties and archaeological sites of the country, but all health precautions must be taken and all instructions by authorities should be followed.

In Lebanon, Beirut International Airport is expected to be operational at the beginning of July. Nevertheless, life is slowly getting back to normal with all the necessary precautions and measures we have become accustomed to. Our center is functional and we hope will meet again very soon.

EXTRA MILERS, a web platform and application for the people with reduced mobility and disabilities.

Extra Milers is a complete information network that ensures people with permanent or temporary disabilities, or other access difficulties, the equal right to tourism and the enjoyment of the unique beauties of the Greek islands. created by the non-profit organization **Agoni Grammi Gonimi, Microsoft Hellas** and **ATCOM**. Its launch is scheduled this month and is free of charge. Internet users will be able to create a profile on 'Extra Milers' based on their personal needs and discover the services that are available according to their interests. 'Extra Milers' will first 'travel' to the islands of Syros, Chios and Rhodes, while other destinations will be added in a later stage. The platform will also be enhanced with new applications based on artificial intelligence (speech-to-text conversion apps, face recognition and text analysis), in order to improve the experience of its users. The platform should attract travellers that take actions to make tourism more sustainable. According to the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), responsible tourism has grown by 40 percent during the last years. Scientific collaborators are the organizations LARA Hellenic School of Dogs - Blind Guides and PERPATO Association of People with Motor Problems and Friends.



Due to the special circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, necessary measures have been taken at the Cultural Center for the personal safety and health of our members, students and employees. The precautionary measures as requested by the Ministry of Health are scrupulously followed by our employees and the same applies to visitors, respecting social distancing, the wearing of mask and the disinfection of hands and shoes.

News from our Greek Language Center

Greek language courses are starting on the 1st of October and finish by the end of May, being equivalent to one teaching school year. Registrations start on July 1st until the end of September 2020.

For registrations please contact us by Email: vasiliky@greekcommunity.org.lb or by phone on 961 1 493467/8 , Monday to Friday, from 10am to 4pm.

Adults' classes:

- Level **A1**(2 years)
- Level **A2** (1 year)
- Level **B1** (2 years)
- Level **B2** (1 year)

Kids' classes (7-12 years old): 1,5hour/ week

Level **A1**(4 years): Basic user

Speaking classes:

Levels **A1** and **A2**
3 hours/ week

Greek Language Official exams

The official exams of May have been postponed to the following dates:

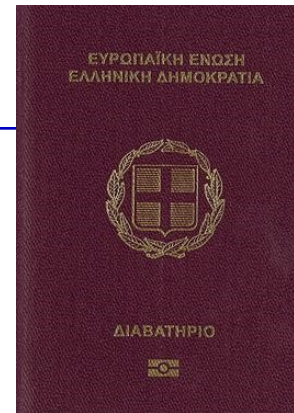
- Level **A1**: 13th of October 2020 (morning)
- Level **A2**: 14th of October 2020 (morning)
- Level **B1**: 15th of October 2020 (morning)

Please note that the exact time will be announced a month before the exams.



Please note that the schedule might be subject to change due to the COVID—19 developments and possible measurements

Official formalities at the Greek Consular Office



FOR PASSPORT RENEWAL:

Passports are issued by the Central Passport Service of the Hellenic Police. The Hellenic Missions abroad are able to:

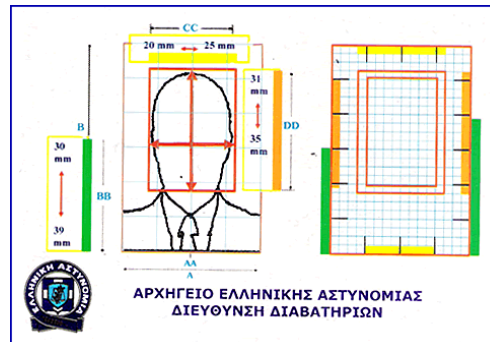
- Collect applications and supporting documents
- Safely forward such documents to the Hellenic Police
- Deliver the passports upon reception.

◆ **Applications must be submitted by appointment to the Consular Office of the Greek Embassy in Beirut only by email (grcon.bei@mfa.gr).**

- ◆ In order to apply for a passport, the applicant's physical presence is required.
- ◆ Passport can be collected in person or by a person duly authorized by the interested party.
- ◆ Greek passports have a validity of five years for adults and minors aged 14 years and above, and three years for minors under 14 years old.
- ◆ RATES (to be paid at the time of application in cash in LBP): €84.40 and €73.60 for minors under 14 years old.

PAPERS NEEDED FOR RENEWAL:

- ◆ A recent certificate municipal roll from a Greek Municipality (Πιστοποιητικό Γεννήσεως) maximum 6 months old. The said certificate can also be issued at the Consulate, provided an old certificate is presented.
- ◆ Two recent photos that should meet the standards of special passport photos for Greek passports: size 4 x 6 cm, in color, frontal, without shadows, without facial expression (i.e. without smiling), printed on analogue paper by a photographer. The face should cover about 65% of the total surface of the photo. For detailed information please visit the web page of the Central Passport Service of the Hellenic Police (passport.gov.gr). Passport photos that do not meet these characteristics will be rejected, resulting in the refusal of the passport application.
- ◆ The old passport (in case of renewal)
- ◆ For men aged between 18 and 45: People under military deferment must provide an updated Certificate Type B of Military Service Status. Those declared as deserters must provide certification of their military office in Greece, certifying their permanent resident abroad status
- ◆ For Minors: In the case that the applicant is a minor, he/she must be accompanied by his/her parents or a legal guardian, in order to submit all necessary supporting documentation. When both parents are guardians the physical presence of one parent and the written consent of the other, validated by the appropriate governmental authorities will suffice.
- ◆ Where only one of the two parents exercises parental authority, it is necessary that the respective legal procedure is finalized. In case of adults under guardianship or judicial assistance, the presence of such guardian and/or judicial assistant is required at the time of the submission of application certified copy of relevant decision must be presented.



◆ PASSPORT COLLECTION:

Passport can be collected without prior appointment, weekdays from 9.30-13.30 in person or by a legal guardian or a person duly authorized. The application receipt (barcode) must be provided at the time of the collection. It is required that the old passport is submitted so that it will be invalidated.

Issuing period: Allow 6 to 8 weeks from the date of submission of the application to the Consular Office of the Greek Embassy.

All Greek nationals can apply for a passport when travelling in Greece. The issuance time in Greece is estimated between 5 and 6 days.

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 a picture taken in 1967, in the region of Tabarja which served as a base for the Hellenic scouts.

Bellow is a picture taken in 1972, during an excursion to North Lebanon.



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

You may also follow us on Instagram [greek_community_beirut](https://www.instagram.com/greek_community_beirut)



Greek News

"Great Walk" : The ban of vehicles in Athens Center in favor of the pedestrians

With a joint ministerial decision, a ban on the movement of vehicles on the main streets of Athens will take effect in mid-June for three months, with the possibility of extending them for another three, following a proposal by the Athens Municipal Council and a decision by the Transport Minister. The ban on the movement of vehicles in the center of Athens concerns Plaka and the area bounded by Mitropoleos - Ermou - Athinas streets and the section of Ermou Street from Athinas Street to Ag. Asomata. Stadiou Street, however, remains in circulation as a whole. Also, for "urgent reasons for dealing with a serious public health risk consisting of reducing the risk of spreading COVID-19", as clearly stated by the council, are imposed as preventive measures and for the absolutely necessary time temporary traffic measures and regulations to increase space for the service of pedestrians in time of social distancing.

Good Bye, Amalia Megapanou...

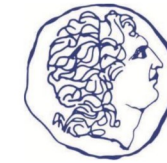
Greek author Amalia Megapanou, best known as the former wife of the late Greek statesman Konstantinos Karamanlis, has died at the age of 91, on Tuesday June 2nd. Born in Athens in 1929, she was the daughter of Anastasios Kanellopoulos and niece of politician and philosopher Panagiotis Kanellopoulos. She married Mr Karamanlis (1907-1998) in 1951, who later became four-time prime minister and twice president of Greece. Considered one of the most glamorous first ladies of Greek politics, she was a style icon. Attractive, fashionable and from one of the finest families of Patra, she stood by the side of the great Greek leader with dignity. The couple moved to Paris in the 1960s after Mr Karmanlis was exiled. Their marriage lasted until 1972, and they divorced due to irreconcilable differences. They had very different characters and living together was difficult. They never had children, and Amalia Megapanou never shared private details about her marriage or the divorce. She married obstetrician Epaminondas Megapanos on 17 May 1973 and used his name throughout her writing career. In later years, she donated the collection of her father Anastasios Kanellopoulos to the Konstandinos Karamanlis Foundation.

Commemorating her contribution to the letters in a statement on June 2nd, Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said that Megapanou's books had taught him "the balance between the public and private, how a personality can be a star while also staying in the background. I bid her a heartfelt farewell as, I am sure, all Greeks do," Mitsotakis said, calling the writer a "worthy Greek."

Hundreds of outdoor cultural events scheduled across Greece this Summer

Greece's Ministry of Culture Mrs. Lina Mendoni announced a series of 251 events and performances at 111 archaeological sites and museums across the country to celebrate ancient and modern Greek culture, under the program titled "All of Greece, One Culture". Events will be held in open spaces in order to allow for social distancing during these coronavirus times. Those participating are the National Theatre, the National Opera, the Athens Concert Hall, the Northern Greece National Theatre, the MoMus, and the Athens State Orchestra. The program will run from **July 18 to September 30**. The opening events on July 18, will take place at the Roman Market with a performance by the National Opera and the internationally-renowned Georgian mezzo-soprano Anita Rachvelishvili.

All the cultural activities are free and spectators will pay only for the entrance ticket to the particular archaeological site or museum where they will take place. The series of events is aimed at offering an uplifting respite from coronavirus concerns and at the same time providing employment to those working in the arts, said the minister Mrs. Mendoni, taking into consideration all the appropriate Covid-19 health protocols as well as the stringent operational and safety rules for archaeological sites in Greece.



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COMMUNAUTE HELLENIQUE DE BIENFAISANCE DE BEYROUTH



γλώσσαν νωμάων

The Greek **Community of Beirut** in cooperation with the **Ministry of Education of Greece** and its official entity with the Greek Language Centre, will be operating as an examination center pertaining to the **Greek Language Certification Exams** at the Greek Community premises.

Examinations dates for the Certificate of Attainment for the year 2020 in Greece and abroad as follows:

Levels	Dates	Examination Price
A1 (for children 8-12 years old)	Tuesday 13 October 2020 (morning)	65 euro
A1 (for adolescents and adults)	Tuesday 13 October 2020 (morning)	
A2	Basic Knowledge Wednesday 14 October 2020 (morning)	73 euro
B1	Average Knowledge Thursday 15 October 2020 (morning)	
B2	Good Knowledge Friday 16 October 2020 (morning)	
C1	Very Good Knowledge Wednesday 14 October 2020 (noon)	
C2	Fluency Tuesday 13 October 2020 (noon)	

**Oral examinations are held immediately after the written examinations.*

-Registrations will start as of 1st of June till 28th of June 2020.

-Applications can be either submitted electronically to

<http://www.greek-language.gr/certification/application/index.html>

or on the spot at the **Greek Community** premises

For further clarifications, you may contact the Greek Language Courses Administrator during the office hours

(M - F /10:00 AM – 4:00 PM) on the following contact details:

Address: Greek Community of Beirut Dekwaneh - Parallel Towers 232 Block A - 3rd Floor

Tel.: + 961 1 493467/8 E-mail: vasiliky@greekcommunity.org.lb

Website: <http://www.greekcommunityofbeirut.com/>

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