

الجمعية الخيرية اليونانية في بيروت  
**ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΣ ΒΗΡΥΤΟΥ**  
 COMMUNAUTÉ HELLÉNIQUE DE BIENFAISANCE DE BEYROUTH

**Ta Nea**

Volume 1, Issue 2,  
 Fall 2017

**Autumn, the right season**

Dear Member,

As time is running and Fall season underlines the end of the year, we are very proud at The Greek Community of Beirut to be back on track and back to school, presenting in our second issue some events ranging from celebrations to activities undertaken during this period of the year and present you some others to come.

**Back to School!**

**C**ongratulations to all our students who have passed with success their exams and obtained their official certificates from The Greek Language Center of Greece.



**T**he center offers Modern Greek language courses and is highly qualified to prepare the students for the official exams of the Certificate of Attainment in Greek, recognized by the Greek Ministry of Education. On October 2nd classes have restarted with 105 students enrolled in the four levels of Greek classes.



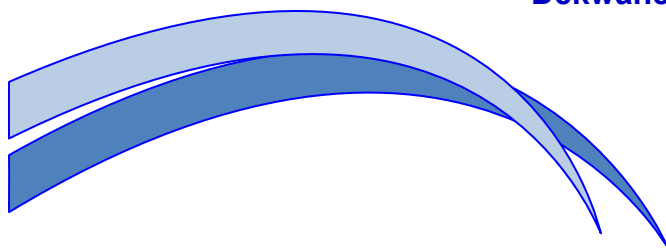
**Newsletter Spotlight**

- Back to School season
- Honoring Kazantzakis' memory
- YASA' fight for road safety
- Memories, memories...

**Did You know?**

**"IMERA TOU OXI"**. The public holiday celebrated on October 28, is also known as World War II National Holiday. It celebrates Greece's refusal to yield to the power of the Axis in 1940. General Ioanis Metaxas famously responded "Oxi" ("no" in Greek) leading Greece into the war on the side of the Allies. Greece seized the offensive driving the Italians back. Nowadays, it is characterized by military parades, folk dances and a special service held in churches.

Questions or comments? Kindly use the following:  
 Email us at [comhel@idm.net.lb](mailto:comhel@idm.net.lb)  
 Dekwaneh - Parallel Towers 232 - Bloc A - 2nd & 3rd 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)  
 Follow us on Instagram account [greekcomm](https://www.instagram.com/greekcomm).



## The Greek Community of Beirut

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

Cultural activities at the Center for Fall 2017 include events in collaboration with other organizations, building connections and engendering trust between both countries, Lebanon and Greece, through members' community and diversified activities.

This season we propose a rich program of events including lectures, workshops, social events and Greek language courses to promote awareness of the Hellenic culture.

Our cine-club "Cinéphiles" is also active: To remember and commemorate the writer and philosopher Nikos Kazantzakis, since the Greek Ministry of Culture has declared 2017 the "Year of Nikos Kazantzakis" 60 years after his death in 1957, the Center has broadcasted 3 of his famous novels: "Zorba the Greek", "The last temptation of Christ" and "He who must die".

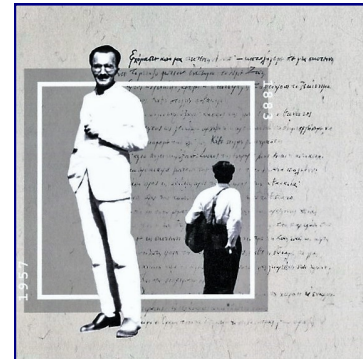
On October second, the Greek courses have restarted offering several classes of multiple levels for adults and children participants.

As we all feel concerned with road safety, the center is running an awareness campaign focused on the general rules of road security in collaboration with the YASA Organization, in a conference titled "Pathways to road Safety Changes" on November 10.

Finally, on December 16, we will celebrate Christmas as usual with a lunch offered to our elderly members, followed by a kids party at the Center. On January 20, again we will celebrate Epiphany with the famous Vasilopita !



Mrs Sophie Nicolaidis Salloum presenting "Zorba The Greek"



Nikos Kazantzakis

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

*We have many cultural events a year to please all tastes and ages, so we expect you to join us the soonest!*

## Pathways to road safety changes conference by



Because road traffic today is inherently dangerous, the Greek Community of Beirut in partnership with YASA organization, specialized in traffic and safety field, is launching an awareness campaign titled "Pathways to Road safety Changes" to enhance awareness and prevent accidents in our global search for a social behavior change.

The SPEAKERS:

- Dr. Ziad Akl, Founder of the YASA organization, will present the actual situation, YASA activities and facts related to the importance of national cooperation to prevent accidents and insure road safety.

- Lawyer Mr. Lahoud Lahoud, legal chancellor of YASA, will explain in details the new traffic law and its implementation on Lebanese territory.

- Engineer Mr. Zaher Massaad, professor at the faculty of Engineering at the Lebanese University, specialized in *traffic engineering and traffic safety* will present the requested solutions.

### Questions to Dr. Ziad Akl, Founder of the YASA organization

**In terms of communication, road safety informative or persuasive campaigns are used as a means of influencing drivers to behave more safely in traffic. As the founder of YASA, with all the experience you have in this field, how true is this statement? Do we have the possibility to evaluate a campaign? Have you got positive attitudes such as refrain in accidents or dangerous behaviors?**

Dr. Ziad Akl: *There is a very important point I would like to highlight: Education, information and communication are not enough if not backed up; laws regulations should be applied integrally and not partially as it is nowadays. The traffic law started to be implemented from April 2015. Statistically, we noticed 20% less death in those 2 years that came after the implementation of the law compared to the years before. Besides, YASA campaigns are continuous and sustainable, whether on Social Media or in educational institutions. In terms of statistics, we will explain scientifically during the conference the details of the impact of our communication.*

**At your level, as an NGO, what could be done to improve our situation in Lebanon?**

Dr. Ziad Akl: *Although NGOs are very active in Lebanon in different fields, they are not meant to replace a government. YASA was very active in setting up the rules and law's regulations. We try to help as much as possible municipalities, answer all the complaints we receive, work in close collaboration with other organizations. In terms of education, we have several workshops and conferences all year long in schools and universities and lead different advertising campaigns.*



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΣ ΒΗΡΥΤΟΥ  
COMMUNAUTÉ HELLENIQUE DE BIENFAISANCE DE BEYROUTH



You are cordially invited to attend our Fall Conference  
**"Pathways to Road Safety Changes"**  
Facts, policies and practices  
By YASA Organization



On Friday November 10, 2017 at 7:00 pm  
At The Greek Community of Beirut Cultural Center,  
Dekwaneh - Parallel Towers 232 - Bloc A - 3rd Floor  
Tel. : +961 1 493467/8



# Honoring Nikos Kazantzakis

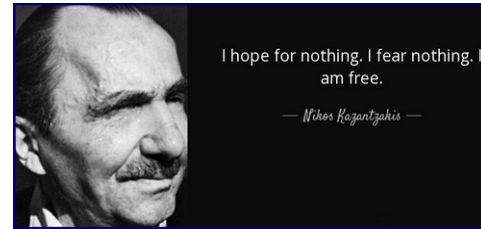
## Nikos Kazantzakis biography

The Greek author, journalist, and statesman **Nikos Kazantzakis** (1883-1957) is considered a pioneer figure in Modern Greek literature. Born on Feb. 18, 1883, in Crete, he graduated with honors in law in Athens then left for Paris to study philosophy. While working as a journalist in Paris, he had completed a trilogy: *Broken Souls*, *The Empress Zoe*, and *God-Man* in 1910. In 1911, he got married to a writer, Galatea Alexiou and together they continued their writing in Athens. By 1916 he had written *Hercules* and *Theofano*, and mapped out three more. Kazantzakis interest in Nietzsche leads him to a pilgrimage to Switzerland, visiting and studying the places associated with the philosopher. He felt he was an Odysseus who would never reach his Ithaca. The critical years of 1922 to 1924 witness the author carrying his inner struggles to Vienna and Berlin where he wrote *Saviours of God*, a philosophic work into which he poured his longing for immortality and his belief that man's dedication to creative activity alone can save God. That summer he met Helen Samiou, a young Greek journalist, who later became his second wife. Kazantzakis claimed that he owed his happiness to Helen and that without her he would have died many years sooner. In November 1925 he went to the Soviet Union as a foreign correspondent for the Athenian newspaper *Free Speech*. He then undertook new journeys to Palestine, Cyprus, Spain and Italy where he met with Mussolini. In 1927 he settled for a short while on the island of Aegina to arrange selections from his travel logs into volumes that were later to appear as *Travels*. In 1930 he worked on his *History of Russian Literature*. By 1932 he completed the manuscripts of *Buddha*, *Don Quichote*, *Muhammed*, *The Ten Days*, and a Greek translation of Dante's *Divine Comedy*. He spent all of 1938 working on the final draft of the *Odyssey*, and in

December of that year it was finally published in Athens. Between 1941 and 1943, he worked on his famous novel *Zorba the Greek* and three plays, the *Prometheus Trilogy*. He spent with and Helen the German occupation years on the island of Aegina, where he wrote feverishly. He completed a modern translation of Homer's *Iliad* and began his modern Greek translation of Homer's *Odyssey*. In 1944 he wrote plays: *Kapodistria* and *Constantine Paleologos*. After W.W.2 ended, he returned to Athens and became active in various socialist groups: he was made president of the Socialist Workers Union, then was appointed minister in the Sofouli government of Greece. He served until his resignation in 1946. Soon afterward, the couple took up residence in Paris. This was the beginning of their self-exile from Greece as Kazantzakis believed that his country had denied him too many times so he would continue his work on foreign shores.

In 1948 Kazantzakis wrote *Christ Recruited*, titled *The Greek Passion* in the English translation. In 1949 he wrote *The Fratricides*, *Theseus*, *Christopher Columbus*, *Constantine Paleologos*, *Freedom or Death*. In 1953, although in poor health, he completed *St. Francis of Assisi*. The Vatican issued an edict against *The Last Temptation of Christ* in April 1954. Kazantzakis replied with a telegram, quoting Tertullian: "**In Your Courtroom, Lord, I Appeal.**" Among his last works was his spiritual semi-autobiography, *Report to Greco* (1955). Kazantzakis died on Oct. 26, 1957. He was buried in the town of his birth. A plain wooden cross marks his grave with the epitaph he had requested: "**I have nothing ... I fear nothing ... I am free.**"

Όταν πιστεύουμε σε κάτι ανύπαρκτο με πάθος, τελικά το δημιουργούμε. Ότι δεν συνέβη ποτέ, είναι ότι δεν ποθήσαμε αρκετά...  
N. Καζαντζάκης

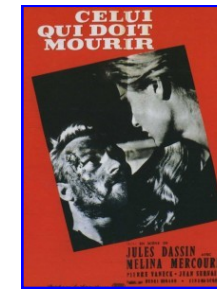


Only after I've seen the visible can I imagine what the invisible is.  
Nikos Kazantzakis

Αν ήταν να με ρωτούσαν ποιος δρομος παιει στον ουρανο ,θα τους απαντούσα : ο πιο δυσκολος!  
Νίκος Καζαντζάκης

## Nikos Kazantzakis at Cinéphiles

On October 11, Cinéphiles broadcasted the movie "ZORBA THE GREEK" produced by Cacoyannis in 1964. The projection was followed by a nice gathering.



Οι αδύναμοι πάντα φωνάζουν και καυχιούνται. Οι δυνατοί σωπαίνουν και προχωρούν ...  
~Νίκος Καζαντζάκης~



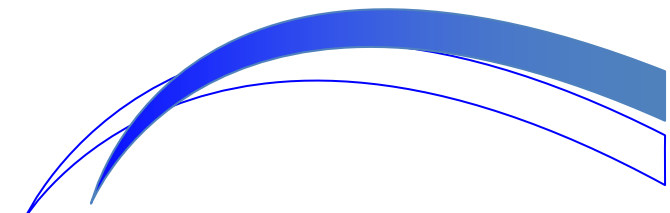
On October 18, Cinéphiles broadcasted the movie "CELUI QUI DOIT MOURIR" produced by Dassin in 1956.



On October 25, Cinéphiles broadcasted the movie "THE LAST TEMPTATION OF CHRIST" by Scorsese, 1988.

To meet all demands, we will broadcast other "old movies" retracing Greek culture, traditions and history.

"Happy is the man, I thought, who, before dying, has the good fortune to sail the Aegean sea."  
Nikos Kazantzakis, Zorba the Greek





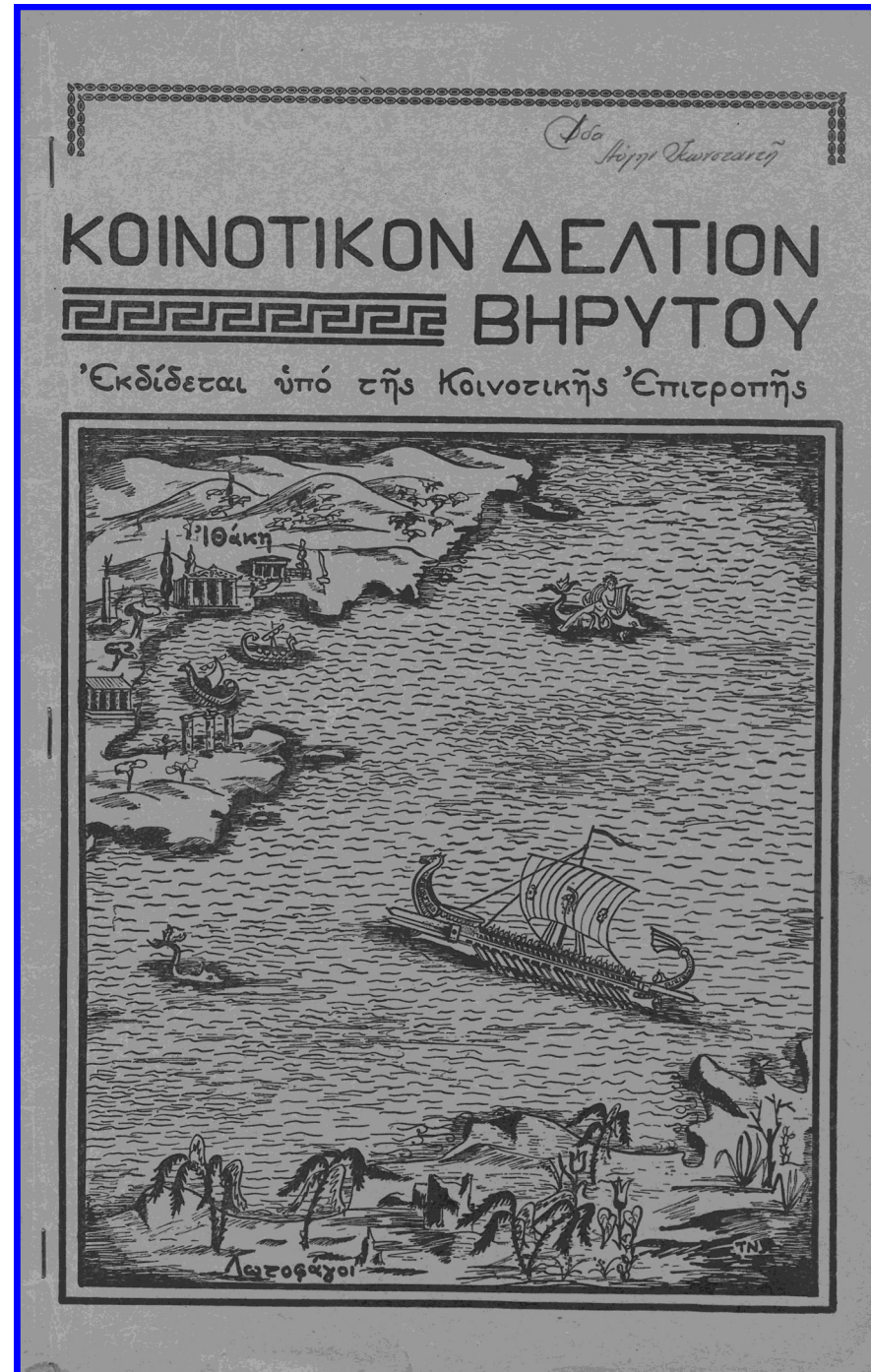
## Memories, memories...

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 the front cover of the newsletter dated October 1964

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



## The Greek Column

This section is reserved to members' announcements.

To fulfill all members' community demands, kindly send us your announcements and pictures the soonest.



«Οσον ζῆς φαίνου μηδέν ὄλωσ σύ λυπού  
πρός ὀλίγον ἐστί τὸ ζῆν τὸ τέλος ὁ χρόνος ἀπαιτεῖ»

*A name known to all Greeks and everyone related to the Greeks. There was not an event where he was not present and never as a guest but always as a host. He served his community as a Greek citizen and as former president of the Greek Club of Beirut and member of the board of Greek Community of Beirut until the last days of his life. He knew each and every Greek family in Lebanon. He had answers to all questions and solutions to all difficulties. No one ever remembers seeing Christian in bad temper. He kept his sadness to himself when he was alone, and always smiled when he had company.*

*Christian was born on February 15, 1952. He studied at the Hellenic High School of Beirut, Lebanon and graduated from the Lebanese University in Business Administration. He was also a member in the Hellenic Scouts of Lebanon. He then worked as freelance. He was an active volunteer member of the Lebanese Red Cross. He was always an active member of the Greek organizations in Lebanon. The entire Greek community of Lebanon will miss out a remarkably special person who never got tired of serving its members in all ways.*

*The Greek Community of Beirut has the regret to announce the loss of Christian Sememnoglou, the 23rd October 2017.*



*May his soul rest in peace and his memory be eternal.  
He will be painfully missed.*

*Marilena Caponi*