



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



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 2018 in Greece and abroad as follows:

Levels	Dates	Examination Price
A1 (for children 8-12 years old)	Elementary Knowledge Tuesday 15 May 2018 (morning)	65 euro
A1 (for adolescents and adults)	Tuesday 15 May 2018 (morning)	
A2	Basic Knowledge Tuesday 15 May 2018 (noon)	
B1	Average Knowledge Tuesday 15 May 2018 (afternoon)	73 euro
B2	Good Knowledge Wednesday 16 May 2018 (morning)	
C1	Very good knowledge Wednesday 16 May 2018 (afternoon)	
C2	Fluency Thursday 17 May 2018 (morning)	

Oral examinations are held immediately after the written examinations.

-Registrations will start as of 1st of February till 18th of March 2018.
-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 /3:00 PM – 8:30 PM) on the following contact details:

Address: Greek Community of Beirut Dekwaneh - Parallel Towers 232 - Bloc A - 3rd Floor
Tel.:+ 961 1 493467/8 E-mail: greekcourses@greekcommunityofbeirut.com
Website: <http://www.greekcommunityofbeirut.com/>

Questions or comments? Kindly use the following:

Email us at comhel@idm.net.lb

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

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

Website : greekcommunityofbeirut.com

Facebook : Greek Community of Beirut (Official Group)

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



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Ta Nea

Welcome 2018!

Volume 1, Issue 3,

Dear Member,

Many people see the start of a New year as a clean sheet with nothing but a sense of endless wishes and hope. "Every man should be born again on the first of January", as claimed Henry Ward Beecher in 1882. This year will soon be filled with activities, commitments, promises and disappointments; no need to predict it, it will be a busy one! There's something about the New Year that can be inspirational. It's the archetypal time to make necessary and beneficial changes. We expect 2018 to bring continued progress and further development innovation on our Center Quarter. We hope it's a good year for our Community organization and for this, we definitely need your feedback.



Newsletter Spotlight

- YASA's fight for Road Safety
- Christmas season
- The 10th Greek Film Festival
- Memories, memories...



On December 16, we celebrated Christmas as usual with a lunch followed by a kid's party at our Center located in Dekwaneh, PARALLEL TOWERS. More than 180 kids who replied to our invitation received their gifts from Santa and enjoyed the animation performed by "Zwazo", while the parents were able to rest on the second floor enjoying some calm in a Christmas spirit savoring delicious Yule logs!

Did You know?

FEBRUARY 9: in 474 AD, Zeno crowned as co-emperor of the Byzantine Empire together with his son Leo II.

In Lebanon, the Feast day of **Saint Maroon** is celebrated on February 9 since the 17th century. Initially, the Maronite Church celebrated the feast of this great saint on January 5th. Lebanon has proclaimed Maroon as its patron saint and Pope Benedict XIV granted a plenary indulgence to everyone who visited a Maronite Church on February 9th.

The "**World Hellenophony Day**" celebration: In 2017, it was decided that the celebration day of the Hellenic Language World-wide would be February 9.

December 16: The Christmas choir singing Greek songs.

The young audience enjoying the show



The Greek Community of Beirut

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.

Cultural activities at the Center for 2018 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.

As we all feel concerned with road safety, the center has run 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" held November 10. On December 16, we celebrated Christmas as usual with a lunch offered to our elderly members, followed by a kids' party at the Center. On January 20, again we celebrated Epiphany with the famous Vasilopita !

On January 26, Dr. Elie Farah, founder of the AMPM Association has given a conference focused on the different ways to prevent us from developing serious diseases.

To understand our members' needs, we run a survey during the months of November and December 2017. Thousands of mails were sent twice to the members asking for their feedback.

The New Year will bring changes, as every year does. We hope to be able to fulfil most of your wishes and take into consideration your precious comments helping us improving our communication with you and strengthen social ties. For the coming events, we hope to hear from all of you and we wish the best for you and your loved ones in 2018.

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

November 30:

Opening ceremony of the 10th Greek Film Festival in Metropolis Beirut



Enjoying Christmas spirit with all the kids



December 13: General view of the invitees to the Christmas gathering offered by H.E the Ambassador of Cyprus Mrs. Rafti and the members of the board of Cyprus Community in Lebanon Association



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

Because road traffic today is inherently dangerous, the Greek Community of Beirut in partnership with YASA organization, specialized in traffic and safety field, has organized an awareness campaign titled "Pathways to Road Safety Changes" to enhance awareness and prevent accidents in our global search for a social behavior change, knowing that in Lebanon two people are killed daily in traffic accidents. Engineer Zaher Massaad in his presentation explained that road accidents are the number one cause of death among those aged 16-29! Focusing on the notorious traffic problems, Mr. Massaad detailed several possibilities that both the government and society could address this issue, highlighting the need to start by changing drivers behavior. Nevertheless, Dr. Ziad Akl, the founder of YASA, was optimistic about the implementation of the 2015 traffic law, explaining that there is a significant decrease in the death toll on our roads.

H.E. Mr. Passas, our Greek Ambassador, highlighted the importance of educating the new generation: "We need to build on future generations"

Dr. Akl awarded the Greek Community of Beirut a trophy on this occasion for its action towards building up awareness and giving its utmost importance.



H.E. Mr. Passas, Mr. Andriotis and Me. Lahoud.

The trophy offered by YASA



Views of the audience.



H.E. Mr. Passas explaining the importance of educating new generations.



The 10th Greek Film Festival

The 10th edition of the BGFF took place from November 30 to December 3, 2017 at Metropolis Empire Sofil.

This cultural event was placed under the auspices of the Lebanese Ministry of Culture, the Embassy of Greece in Beirut and the General Secretariat for Greeks Abroad; organized by the League of Lebanese Graduates from Greek Universities, in collaboration with the Greek Film Center and the Greek Community of Beirut. The opening night featured the awarded movie "Amerika Square" (2016) by Yannis Sakaridis. The Festival showcased a total of 5 contemporary productions of the Greek Cinematographic Art, namely "Djam" (2017) by Tony Gatlif, "Dolphin Man" (2017) by Lefteris Charitos, "Roza of Smyrna" (2016) by George Kordellas and "Stringless" (2017) by Angelos Kovotsos, in his presence.

Ten years ago, the initiative which started as an effort to bring the Lebanese public closer to Greek contemporary cinema has developed to become a cultural platform enabling this year a step forward for the 10th anniversary of the BGFF with the launch of the short film competition.

According to Mr. Aivaliotis, the "Director of Hellas Film, Greek Film Center", this Festival has succeeded in linking closely the values of two countries with a common cultural tradition. Competition's theme revolved around women's role in both Greek and Lebanese society.

The members jury composed of Mrs. Vouvoula Skoura, Mr. Josef Chemaly, Mrs. Natacha Antonellou Achkar, Mrs. Julia Kassar, and Mr. Wisam Chahine selected amongst a bunch of movies, "Birthday" (by Dimitri Katsimiris) and "Fishing out the sea" (by Hala El Kouch) who both won the first prize. The 2nd prize was attributed to Eli Salameh for the movie "Fly my love" and others jury's mention.

The ceremony was followed by a gathering in the presence of HE. Am-

bassador Theodore Passas, and numerous distinguished invitees.

Dr. George Scheib, the President and Founder of the Greek Film Festival, congratulated the winners and members' jury, awarding them a trophy made for this special occasion. Congratulations to All!



10 YEARS ANNIVERSARY
BEIRUT GREEK FILM FESTIVAL

Thursday, November 30, 2017
(Opening by invitation) at 20:00
AMERIKA SQUARE by Yannis Sakaridis (2016, 86') Drama

Friday, December 1, 2017
20:30 **DOLPHIN MAN**
by Lefteris Charitos (2017, 87') Documentary

22:00 **ROZA OF SMYRNA**
by George Kordellas (2016, 97') Romance, Drama

Saturday, December 2, 2017
20:30 **DJAM** by Tony Gatlif (2017, 98') Drama

21:00 **AMERIKA SQUARE**
by Yannis Sakaridis (2016, 86') Drama/rescreening

Sunday, December 3, 2017
17:00 **STRINGLESS**
by Angelos Kovotsos (2017, 86') Documentary
in presence of the director

19:00 **SHORT FILM COMPETITION**
followed by Closing Ceremony

30 November - 1.2.3 December, 2017
at Metropolis Empire Sofil, Achrafieh
FREE ENTRY to book your seat call: 01/20 40 80



Vasilopita, Βασιλόπιτα!

Βασιλόπιτα, is a New Year's Day bread in Greece and many other areas in eastern Europe which contains a hidden coin for good luck. It is associated with Saint Basil's Feast Day observed on January 1, the beginning of the New Year and the Epiphany season known as the **Vasilopita Observance**. Nowadays the tradition is attached to Epiphany.

The **Vasilopita** is made of a variety of dough. On New Year's Eve, it is cut to bless the house and bring good luck. A coin is hidden in the bread by slipping it into the dough before baking. At midnight the sign of the Cross is etched with a knife across the **Vasilopita** bread. Each piece of cake is sliced for each present member by order of age from eldest to youngest. In older times, the coin was a valuable one, such as a gold sovereign.

Many private or public institutions cut their **Vasilopita** at a convenient time between New Year's Day and the beginning of the Great Lent, in celebrations that range from gatherings to formal receptions or balls.



On January 20, we celebrate the Vasilopita, in a nice gathering with the Greek Community members. Four of them had the chance to collect a gold coin inserted in each of the four cakes, making three new queens and a king!



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.



AMPM Moving Towards Preventive Medicine Conference

On January 26, Dr. Elie Farah Founder of the Association "AMPM Moving Towards Preventive Medicine" together with Dr. Krikor Sahakian, Professor at the School of Pharmacy at St Joseph University USJ, and Dr. Ziad Akl Specialized in Public Health, founder of the YASA Association and the HDF Hazmiye Development Foundation, invited the members of the Greek Community of Beirut to their Medical-Awareness Conference, an interactive presentation focusing on all the steps and tips to prevent us from developing diseases and the danger of antibiotics.

According to Dr. Elie Farah, although some diseases are preventable, treatable or beatable, studies have shown that 85% are caused by factors such as environmental toxins, bad eating habits or even stress.

Dr. Farah presented a wide broad of carcinogenic molecules and chemical agents explaining the danger of Aflatoxin B1, Nitrosoamines, Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, other chemical compounds and the most widespread organic pollutants.

Dr. krikor Sahakian explained all the dangers related to antibiotics especially when they are not appropriated.

A very interesting conference where the audience was involved and reacted well to this interactivity, asking a lot of questions about day to day lifestyle.



The Greek Column



Good News, Bad News...

The good news is the assignment of His Excellency Mr. Theodore M. Passas who was nominated few days ago as "Director of The Diplomatic Office of The Minister of Foreign Affairs" thus leading to the bad one that Mr. Passas is leaving Lebanon. Reflecting on the time he spent during his mandate in Lebanon, he was appreciated by All; the Greek diaspora members as well as the Lebanese who met him and cherished him.



His valuable work, achievements and support contributed to the intensification of the relations between both countries Lebanon and Greece. We had the opportunity to benefit from remarkable events of substance and exposure, in the organization of which his persistence and personal vision were clearly felt. Although he will be missed by each one of us, we express our appreciation and gratitude, congratulate H.E. Mr. Passas and sincerely wish him all the best in his new pursuits.



H.E. Mr. Passas, a passionate and cautious motorcycle driver, arriving at the Restaurant.



Christmas Lunch

On December 16, we celebrated as usual Christmas with a lunch offered to our elderly members at Diwan Beirut Restaurant.

