



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
<b>A1</b> (for children 8-12 years old)	Elementary Knowledge Tuesday 15 May 2018 (morning)	65 euro
<b>A1</b> (for adolescents and adults)	Tuesday 15 May 2018 (morning)	
<b>A2</b>	Basic Knowledge Tuesday 15 May 2018 (noon)	
<b>B1</b>	Average Knowledge Tuesday 15 May 2018 (afternoon)	73 euro
<b>B2</b>	Good Knowledge Wednesday 16 May 2018 (morning)	
<b>C1</b>	Very good knowledge Wednesday 16 May 2018 (afternoon)	
<b>C2</b>	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 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Tel.:+ 961 1 493467/8 E-mail: [greekcourses@greekcommunityofbeirut.com](mailto:greekcourses@greekcommunityofbeirut.com)  
Website: <http://www.greekcommunityofbeirut.com/>

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

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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).



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Ta Nea

Volume 1, Issue 4  
Spring 2018

## Spring, “άνοιξη”... Let the “Sun Shine”

Dear Member,

Springtime refers to the season with day length increasing as the season progresses, the symbol of rebirth, emphasizing on rejuvenation, regrowth, renewal and of course Easter Resurrection. Like Christmas, the festival of Easter chimes with the mood of the season. So many dates to celebrate! Mother’s day, Easter, March 25, May 1st... Spring vibes are bright with hope, another factor that keeps us going against all odds. Enjoy, and of course, “Kali Anixi” to All our members!

On April 2nd, Mr. Ioannis Amanatidis, Deputy Foreign Minister of Greece, and Mr. Eftasios Lianos Liantis, Special Secretariat for Religious and Cultural Diplomacy, together with Mr. Hadjithomas, Charge d’Affaires, and Mr. Leousis, Consul General at the Greek Embassy of Lebanon, met with the members of the Greek community at our cultural center. They were able to discuss several subjects related to internship programs in Greece besides other topics. Amongst the presents were Mr. Bassam Obeid, President of the League of Lebanese Graduates from Greek Universities L.L.G.G.U, Mrs. Voula Lagakou, President of the Greek Club, Mr. Antoun Achkar, President of the Tripoli Club and their respective members.



## Newsletter Spotlight

- Farewell Celebration
- The Hellenophony day
- The Greek Day at the Lycée Libano-Allemand

### Did You know?

#### Protomagia or May Day 1st

It is both a celebration of spring as well as the labor day. According to the ancients, it probably goes back to a spring celebration honoring Demeter and Persephone. Families celebrate the day off enjoying spring time in a nice gathering, collecting flowers and making them into wreaths which they hang outside on doorways, balconies, churches...They also wear a bracelet called **Marti**. Wreaths are kept until June 24th, the day of St John.



## 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 Spring Summer 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, social events, Greek language courses and official exams to promote awareness of the Hellenic culture. On April 20, in collaboration with **St. Georges Hospital University Medical Center, Dr. Jessica Elkehdy**, specialized in dermatology, is giving a conference titled "what you see on your skin and what it might mean" with a focus on skin problems, new therapies and techniques. Among other subjects to debate are the sunscreens, wrinkle's solutions and the latest trends in cosmetology.

On May 11, in collaboration with **A.I.S.T, Association Internationale pour la Sauvegarde de Tyr, Mrs. Maha Chalabi**, together with **Dr. Najj Karam**, are giving an interactive conference focusing on the relations between the Ancient Greeks and the Phoenicians, with a special emphasis on Tyre's ruins. Next day on May 12, we propose an excursion to Tyre, where Miss Francis, our guide, will explain Tyre's sites. We will also visit the "Village Artisanal", created by the **A.I.S.T.** where members and their kids can admire the handmade items of the crafts-

men. Those who are interested to join should call our center for further details and registration.

On May 14, in collaboration with **St. Georges Hospital University Medical Center, Dr. Skaff**, specialized in obstetrics and gynecology, will give a conference related to medical issues and requested tests for medical clearance.

Enjoy your reading, hoping you will be part of the crowd in our coming events!



H.E. Theodore Passas during a public speech summarizing his years in Lebanon.

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



Mrs. Makri and Miss. Kontolaimou, our teachers dressed for the "Greek Day" held at the "Lycée Libano-Allemand".



A view of the audience the "Hellenophony day"

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

## Official visit of the Minister of National Defence Panos Kammenos

The Minister of National Defence **Panos Kammenos**, during his official visit to Lebanon, met with the President of the Lebanese Republic General **Michel Aoun**, the Prime Minister **Saad Hariri**, the Speaker of the Parliament **Nabih Berri** and the Minister of National Defence **Yaacoub El Sarraf**.

Minister Kammenos visited the frigate "LIMNOS", stationed in the port of Beirut, participating in a UNIFIL operation and stated the following: "I would like to warmly thank the Government and the people of Lebanon for their hospitality and their friendship to my country and the Greek people. Our presence in Lebanon is not a simple diplomatic mission. We are here to pay tribute to the people of this country for their courage, their humanity and their spirit of tolerance and to express our gratitude for their contribution to the efforts aiming to ensure peace and stability in the wider region. The people of Lebanon, by its example, show to the world that the Middle East and Eastern Mediterranean can become an area of constructive dialogue among different cultures and traditions, of mutual understanding and respect, of cooperation and peaceful coexistence. This morning, I had the privilege to be received by his Excellency the President of the Republic and to convey the Greek Government's respect and admiration to the Lebanese people, as well as our determination and decision to further upgrade our bilateral cooperation. During the meeting with my colleague and friend Yaacoub El Sarraf, I had the opportunity to invite Lebanon to be an active member of our regional schemes of cooperation, to reiterate our support to Lebanon's stability and territorial integrity through an upgraded Greek contribution to UNIFIL's Maritime Task Force, as well as, through our readiness to share with the Lebanese Armed Forces our military know-how through education in Greek Military Academies, training and exercises. We have also explored ways for an upgraded defence cooperation between Greece and Lebanon, as well as the manner in which the

Greek Government could help to further mobilize Organizations in support of Lebanon. As a token of our strong political will to enhance our cooperation, today we signed an Agreement of Military Cooperation. During the next weeks and months three major international Conferences will be held in various European capitals. The Greek Government will encourage our international and European partners and Allies to approach Lebanon's economic and social development, the issue of the refugees, as well as the stability and its territorial integrity, as an integral part of the security architecture in the Middle East, Europe and beyond. With the Minister of Defence of Lebanon we start to build a very close bilateral cooperation, but also trilateral with Cyprus. We try to build together an axis of stability for the prosperity of the area of eastern Mediterranean

and the Middle East. I would like to thank you, Minister, for your hospitality and the Lebanon Armed Forces for their very warm welcome."

For more details, refer to: <http://www.mod.mil.gr/mod/en/content/show/36/A149170>



Minister **Panos Kammenos**, during his official visit met the President General **Michel Aoun**, the Prime Minister **Saad Hariri**, the Speaker of the Parliament **Nabih Berri** and the Minister of National Defence **Yaacoub El Sarraf**.



**February 9, celebrating the Greek Language Day**

The **"World Hellenophony Day"** celebration:

In 2017, the Greek government has decided to establish February 9 as the celebration day of the Hellenic Language **World Hellenophony Day**, the date of the death of National Poet **Dionysios Solomos**, who wrote the words of Greece's national anthem. The announcement was made by the House Permanent Special Committee of Hellenism of the Diaspora, presided by Deputy Foreign Minister for Diaspora, **Mr. Terens Quick**.

On February 8, we celebrate this date at our Cultural Center with a presentation of Dionysios Solomos made by our teacher Mrs. Makri, in the presence of the Consul General of the Hellenic Republic in Lebanon, Mr. Leousis, the Consul General of Cyprus in Lebanon Mr. Pogiatzis, Father Justinos Dib, Father Porphyrios Georgi and all the students.

Mr. Leousis, explained in a short speech the real meaning of this celebration: *"Today we celebrate more than the Greek language, but mainly the cultural and historical back-*

*ground. A mean of expression that belongs today to whole humanity and worldwide civilization. For more than 30 centuries, it was appreciated and used by politicians, traders, philosophers, theorists and scientists, such as the evangelists who were not Greeks. It is obvious that this period during which Greek was the universal language is completed. Nevertheless, the concepts of this language are always ever-present and it is our duty to continue the way paved by our ancestors with a total respect of their values."*

Mr. Leousis thanked warmly all the professors who teach the greek language in Lebanon and the students who are doing their best in learning this rich language.



**Greek Day at the Lycée Libano Allemand**

On March 16, we celebrated The Greek Day at the Lycée Libano Allemand with the teachers and the students. More than 55 kids were able to get familiar with some of the Greek traditions and customs. They were all interested in the Olympian Gods stories, the Olympic games, and many other subjects that have been explained during this event. The day ended up with a delicious Greek lunch menu prepared by both teams! A warm thank you to the initiators and organizers, Mrs. Sfeir and Mrs. Socci who helped our team succeed in their mission.



## 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 1961 of the Greek school in Tal El Zaatar, Lebanon.

*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



### Farewell reception

The Greek Community of Beirut hosted on March 8 a farewell reception in the honor of the outgoing ambassador H. E. Mr. Theodore M. Passas. The function was attended by heads of diplomatic missions and offices accredited to Lebanon and a number of department directors at the foreign ministry, including ministers, ambassadors and senior diplomats as well as distinguished guests and members from the local community who made presence to the reception.

Ambassador Theodore Passas extended his hearty thanks to all the friends present at the reception and recalled his happy stay in Lebanon. During the reception the invitees were able to look at a selection of pictures projected on a huge screen all taken by H. E. Mr. Passas during his stay in Lebanon. Although he will be missed by each one of us, we express our appreciation and gratitude and wish him all the best in his new pursuits.

