



الجمعية الخيرية اليونانية في بيروت
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΣ ΒΗΡΥΤΟΥ
COMMUNAUTÉ HELLENIQUE 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 2019 in Greece and abroad as follows:

Levels	Dates	Examination Price
A1 (for children 8-12 years old)	Elementary Knowledge Tuesday 21 May 2019 (morning)	65 euro
A1 (for adolescents and adults)	Tuesday 21 May 2019 (morning)	
A2	Basic Knowledge Tuesday 21 May 2019 (noon)	73 euro
B1	Average Knowledge Tuesday 21 May 2019 (afternoon)	
B2	Good Knowledge Wednesday 22 May 2019 (morning)	
C1	Very Good Knowledge Wednesday 22 May 2019 (afternoon)	
C2	Fluency Thursday 23 May 2019 (morning)	

*Oral examinations are held immediately after the written examinations.

-Registrations will start as of 1st of February till 24th of March 2019.

-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 Block 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

Tel. : +961 1 493467/8

Fax : +961 1 493469

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

Volume 2, Issue 2
Spring 2019

Happy Easter, Καλό Πάσχα, Καλή Ανάσταση

Dear Member,

With day length increasing as the season progresses, our pages increased too, stretching out to reach 20 pages for our spring issue: Many events took place and many other dates were celebrated. To share all these exciting news with our dear readers, we added a *Special Supplement*.

Celebrating both the Annunciation and the National Day were also part of the festivities. As part of Greece collaboration with Lebanon and the UNIFIL, the Hellenic Ships of the Hellenic Navy have anchored in Beirut port, offering theoretical and practical trainings.

Last but not least, in this issue, we combined news from our community and news from Greece in our dedicated columns as well as news from Lebanon in our new column titled *Real Time News*.

Enjoy your reading and Happy Easter!

Newsletter Spotlight

- ◆ The Greek Frigates
- ◆ March 25th celebrations
- ◆ New Board Committee
- ◆ Special Edition

Happy 25th March

For the Greeks, March 25th also called "25η Μαρτίου" is a double celebration, a historical and religious one.

Greeks celebrate the "Greek Revolution", the war of independence against the Ottomans waged by the Greek revolutionaries between 1821 and 1830.

Exactly 9 months before Christmas, Greek Orthodox Church celebrates the Annunciation by archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary that she will become the mother of Jesus Christ the Son of God.



The Greek Frigates

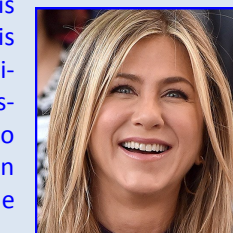
As part of Greece's collaboration with the mission of UNIFIL and the Lebanese army, 3 Greek Navy warships docked in Beirut Port in the past 3 months. The first frigate was the Hellenic Ship HS NAVARINON (F461) followed by the second HS SPETSAI (F453) and the third HS NIKIFOROS FOKAS (F466).

A fourth frigate HS PSARA (F454) already known in Lebanon for its rapid intervention during the 2006 war, will soon arrive to Beirut Port.



Did You know?

Jennifer Aniston, the star actress of "Friends" is from Crete. Jennifer was born in California, and spent a year of her childhood in Greece. Her father was a famous actor known as Giannis Anitios Anastasakis born to a very prominent family in the island of Crete. He had to change his name when they migrated to the States.



Mikael Kiriakos Delaoglou alias **Mikkey Dee** was born in Sweden in 1963 to a Greek father and a Swedish mother. He is best known worldwide as the drummer for the British rock band "Motorhead" until the band disbanded in December 2015, due to the death of founder "Lemmy". Dee is currently the drummer for the rock band "Scorpions" with whom he became a permanent band member on September 2016.



The Greek Community of Beirut Activities

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.

Activities at our Center for 2019 include many cultural, educational and social events in collaboration with organizations. These activities aim at building connections and engendering trust between both countries Lebanon and Greece, through members' community.

The tailor made program of events we have proposed, including days out, Greek language courses and our first photo contest was an essential pillar in raising awareness about the Hellenic culture in the region.

Those who are interested in Greek movies can join us at our "Cinephiles" movie theater for ciné-club projections. This year, on the program we propose new entries with 2 projections per month.

Readers can also find latest news regarding Greece or Greeks from abroad in our section "Greek News" together with a new column dedicated to the Cyprus Community in Lebanon Association.

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



Cinephiles, our ciné-club is broadcasting movies twice a month.



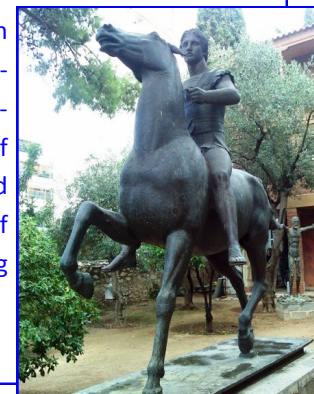
Our dancers wearing the folk traditional clothes performing on the frigate HS Nikiforos Fokas to celebrate the Greek National Day

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

Greek News

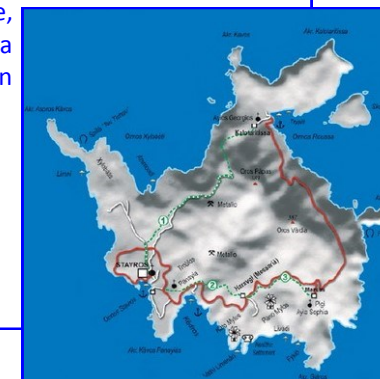
The statue of Alexander the Great, carved by Yannis Pappas more than 40 years ago, finally found its place in the center of Athens, at the intersection of the avenues Amalias and Vassilissis Olgas, just a few meters away of the Temple of Olympian Zeus. The 3.5-meter high and 3.8-meter long statue is a work of sculptor Yannis Pappas (1913-2005). It was first exhibited at the National Gallery in 1992 then was purchased by the Greek Ministry of Culture the following year. It was then donated to the City of Athens with the intention of it being placed in the historic center of the city.

Alexander III, commonly known as Alexander the Great (356 - 323 BC) was one the most successful military commander of the Antique who had created one of the biggest empires of the ancient world, stretching Greece to India.



Greek island to ban plastics!

The Sea Change Greek Islands, an initiative organized by the foundation A.C Laskaridis in collaboration with **Donoussa** island, have agreed to ban all use of plastics on the island, such as plastic bags, cups, plates, straws, bottles and cutlery. The program was launched on April 5. The team will stay on the island for 3 days presenting activities and educational programs, cleaning the beaches, offering reusable drinking cups and biodegradable bags and straws. The Sea Change Greek Islands and Donoussa hope to send a strong message by raising awareness about the negative effects of plastic use, telling the world that a change of a bad habit can easily be made.



The Hellenic Navy Ships

The Hellenic Navy Ships who have anchored in Beirut Port

◆ **Frigate HS NAVARINON (F461) Commanding Officer (CO): Commander Emmanouil Zoumpoulis HN.**

Dimensions:130,5/14,6/6,2m

Tonnage:3.630t.

Main Machine: 2 RR Olympus 56.800 HR, 2 RR Tyne 10
Speed: 30 Knots. Crew: 198



◆ **Frigate HS SPETSAI (F453) Commanding Officer (CO): Captain Dimitrios Lampiris HN.**

Dimensions: 117 m

Tonnage: 3,350 full load

Main machinery: CODOG; 2 GE LM 2500 gas turbines; 60,000 hp (44.76 MW) sustained; 2 MTU 20V 956 TB82 diesels; 10,420 hp(m) (7.66 MW) sustained; 2

Shafts; cp props

Speed: 31 Knots.

Helicopters: 1 Sikorsky S-70B-6 Aegean Hawk.



The Greek Community Annual Lunch

On February 21st, the Board of the Greek Community of Beirut hosted the Annual Lunch at the cultural centre in presence of the Greek Ambassador to Lebanon H.E Mr. Verros and the Ambassador of Cyprus H.E Mrs. Rafti. The function was attended by high priests, ministers, parliamentary members, ambassadors and senior diplomats as well as distinguished guests who are helping in our daily tasks.

In his speech, Ambassador Franciscos Verros emphasized on the similarity of cultures and mentality, with a highlight on bilateral relations between both countries. President Andriotis welcome speech focused on the fundamental concept of the community and its complete integration in the Lebanese society.

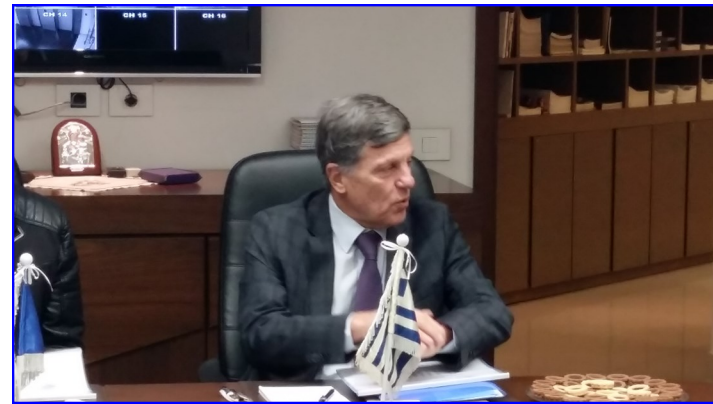


The Hellenophony celebration

February 9 has become since 2017 the **Hellenophony Day** celebrating the Greek language worldwide.

This year, a round table was organized at our cultural center in the presence of H.E Mr. Franciscos Verros, Greek Ambassador to Lebanon and representatives of the Greek language teachers throughout Lebanon. The focus was set on the tremendous interest of both Greeks and Lebanese for learning the Greek language, as well as other issues faced by most of the teachers.

Many of the representatives who are in regions other than Beirut talked about their efforts to approach more students to keep the Greek language alive. Furthermore, they informed the Ambassador about their lack of educational material and how these challenges affect their courses. The President of the Greek Community of Beirut Mr. Andriotis, as well as H.E Mr. Verros, promised to adjust this issue and offer help and support.



At our center, Greek language courses operate under the auspices of the Greek Community of Beirut, offering courses starting from the age of seven years old.

Registrations are accepted from beginning of July until end of September and priority is given to those who complete their registration.

Lessons start the 1st of October and end middle of June for each academic year. Level 1 is separated in 2 years. At the end of the 2nd year, students are able to participate in the Official exams from the Greek Ministry of Education obtaining their official certificate.

Approximately 108 hours are taught per level per year. Our program offers 2 lessons per week for each class, with a duration of 1:30h per session. Students are able to choose between Monday-Wednesday or Tuesday-Thursday courses. All lessons are given in the afternoon, starting at 4:30 pm and finishing at 9:00 pm.

Currently, we have 4 levels: A1, A2, B1 and B2.

Furthermore, our kids' classes are held every Friday.



"25η Μαρτίου"

March 25th, The Annunciation ceremony

On March 25, the Annunciation was celebrated by the Most Reverend Metropolitan of Beirut H.E Elias Aude at the Annunciation Church, in the presence of H.E Mr. Franciscos Verros, Greek Ambassador to Lebanon, H.E Mrs. Christina Rafti, Cyprus Ambassador to Lebanon, the diplomatic teams, the Commanding Officer of HS Nikiforos Fokas Commander Andreas Tsumanis, the Executive Officers, and 60 crew members together with the Greek Community members.

The Mass was followed by a Te Deum, an hymn sung to the Theotokos, from the Divine Liturgies of St. John, as well as a reception under the auspices of H.E Elias Aude.

Our deepest thanks to the Most Reverend Metropolitan Of Beirut H.E Elias Aude and all the present priests for the Mass, their prayers and blessings, to all the Greek members on the National Day.





ON BOARD...

The Greek frigate HS NIKIFOROS FOKAS (F466)

On March 25th the Greek National Day was celebrated on board of the Hellenic Ship Niki-foros Fokas, the warship named after the famous Byzantine Emperor. The frigate which was visiting Lebanon in the framework of military cooperation between both countries Lebanon and Greece and under the umbrella of UNIFIL, received dozens of Greek community members in the presence of H.E Mr. Franciscos Verros Greek Ambassador to Lebanon and his diplomatic team.



Our Ambassador Mr. Verros highlighted the importance of the Greek-Lebanese relations, pointing out the priority of the presence of the frigate in Lebanon on the occasion of the Greek National Day. The Commanding Officer Commander Andreas Tsumanis explained that *“the cooperation achieved requires the training of the Lebanese navy in stages, including the field and the theory.”* Speeches were followed by the exchanges of presents.

Celebrating both the Feast of the Annunciation and the National Day, the audience was blessed by the present members of the Orthodox clergy, notably Reverend Father Justinos Dib following a prayer. It was than in a festive atmosphere that the guests were also able to participate in the traditional dance in folk dress presented by the Greek Community of Beirut followed by a cocktail offered on the occasion.

Our deepest thanks to H.E Mr. Franciscos Verros, to the Com-manding Officer Commander Andreas Tsumanis, Lt. Command-er Spyropoulos Nikolaos, as well as all the officers and crew members who have helped us organize this event on board of the HS Nikiforos Fokas to celebrate the Greek National Day .



Characteristics of the HS Nikiforos Fokas (F466)

Length Overall: 130,5 m
 Width: 14,58 m
 Gas turbines: two Main gas turbines Rolls Royce Olympus (2 x 28000 bhp); two Cruise gas turbine Rolls Royce Tyne (2 x 5340)
 Maximum speed: 32 knts
 G/M: HARPOON, NSS
 Guns: OTO MELARA 76/62
 Subsurface: Torpedoes
 Helicopters: AB-212
 Ship's crew: 182



The Greek National Day Celebrated at the Four Seasons Hotel

On March 26, on the occasion of the Greek National Day, a reception organized by the Greek Embassy in Lebanon at the Four Seasons Hotel, brought together the officials, the Diplomatic Corps and well-known personalities who have come to wish H.E Ambassador Franciscos Verros their best wishes.

In his welcome speech Mr. Verros first recalled that *"Greece strongly supports the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Lebanon"*. Regarding the trilateral cooperation between Lebanon, Greece and Cyprus, Mr. Verros affirmed that *"as part of this cooperation, we work to develop tourism, education and economic agreements as the three priorities of trilateral cooperation"*.

Regarding the official visit of the President of the Greek Republic, H.E. Pavlopoulos, Mr. Verros said: *"We hope that this event will be the source of new impetus in the already close relations with our dear Lebanon, which is already, as we all know, a very dear friend country, an important trading partner, a hospitable country where live, thousands of our Greek compatriots, a democratic country, an important partner of the European Union, are working and prospering"*. H.E Mr. Verros ended up saying that Lebanon is the pearl of the region, a precious example of a democracy, and a nation of talented, creative, hospitable people. *"We wish our beloved Lebanon the best possible future, but we congratulate him for what he has already accomplished"* concluded Mr. Verros.



Everything you need to know about the Greek consulate

The Greek consul at the consulate in Lebanon is Mr. Iason Kasselakis

Visa Applications: For visa applications please visit our website www.mfa.gr/missionsabroad/en/lebanon-en

Passport renewal or issuance: You will get an appointment by receiving an email. Required documents are: 2 photo passport size (4x6), a Greek identity card or a birth certificate (that can be provided by us if you send us in advance any old Greek birth or family certificate). For additional info kindly visit <http://www.passport.gov.gr/en/npc-content/npc-perioxomeno/supporting-documents.html>

Legalization of documents: The Consular Office can legalize any Lebanese official document that has been stamped by the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. No appointment is needed.

Power of Attorney: The Consular Office can provide a power of attorney only to Greek citizens, following an appointment given by email.

Marriage, birth, death registration: Required documents: The Lebanese certificates of marriage, birth or death stamped by the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and translated in Greek (translations in English or French are accepted as well).

Any old Greek birth or family certificate to be sent in advance by email.

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 1948, at the occasion of the Greek National Day.

"Xronia Pola!"



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

Let's Dance!

On April 10, the Greek Community Of Beirut organized a dance workshop at the cultural center offered by Mrs. Marilena Caponis. The purpose was to teach the basic steps of **SIRTAKI**, the Greek National dance, to the audience.

More than 50 participants have joined the event in a friendly and joyous atmosphere.

Due to the success and a high demand, a 2nd dance workshop will be proposed in May 2019.



The Cyprus Community in Lebanon Association News and Events



The Cyprus Community in Lebanon Association (CCLA) held on the 9th of March 2019 the elections of the new Board Committee Members for three consecutive years. Results are as following:

Mrs. Stalo Habibi, President; Mrs. Tammy Hadidian, Vice president; Ms. Gassia Akoghlianian, General Secretary ; Mrs. Diana Aghnatos Elia, Treasurer; Dr. Constantine Teokari, Representative to the Government.

The members are Mrs. Caroline Moughalian, Ms. Andrie Efsthioiu, Mr. Mazen Kadi and Mr. Richard Azouri.

The Newly elected Committee of Cyprus Community in Lebanon (CCLA) had the honor to pay a visit to the Cyprus Embassy and had a warm discussion about different topics with H.E Ambassador of Cyprus to Lebanon Mrs. Christina Rafti and Cyprus Consul Mrs. Eleni Papanicolaou. Special focus was on major events that the CCLA will organize during 2019 and 2020 and the cooperation between the embassy and the CCLA. Finally, the CCLA committee express their deepest thanks to H.E Ambassador Rafti and the consul Mrs. Papanicolaou for their friendly welcome.



H.E Cyprus Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Nikos Christodoulides

On April 10, 2019 the CCLA Committee members had the honor to meet with H.E Cyprus Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Nikos Christodoulides on the occasion of his visit to Lebanon for trilateral meetings between Foreign Ministers of Lebanon, Greece and Cyprus.



Meeting of H.E Mr. Prokopios Pavlopoulos at the Greek Embassy

On the occasion of the official visit to Lebanon of H.E the President of the Hellenic Republic Mr. Prokopios Pavlopoulos, the Cyprus Community in Lebanon Association Committee members had the honor to meet with the President on Thursday 11 of April 2019 at the Greek Embassy following an invitation by H.E the Ambassador of Greece Mr. Franciscos Verros.

Visit to Autism Awareness Association Center

The president and committee members of the CCLA paid a visit to the AAA center in Antelias, within the framework of the CCLA Social Activities.



General Assembly

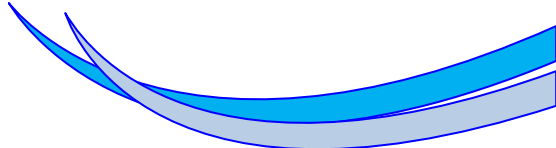
On March 30 the new board committee was elected during the General Assembly at the Greek Community center in the presence of **Mr. Iason Kasselakis** the Greek consul, and members of the Greek Community.

The minutes of meeting of the previous General Assembly was read to the audience followed by the reading of the balance sheet and the presentation of the activity report summarizing all the events and activities undertaken during the years 2017 up to 2019.

The elections within the new Board took place with the following results:

- President: Mr. Andriotis Panayotis**
- Vice-president, 1st: Me Pierre Arathimos**
- Vice-president, 2nd: Mr. Alain Hakim**
- General Secretary: Mrs. Sofia Valassidou**
- Treasurer: Mr. Vassili Lampsos**
- Alternate Secretary: Mrs. Alecca Fellas Khater**
- Member: Me Nadim Abboud**
- Member: Mrs. Marilena Caponis**
- Member: Mr. Petros Hadgigeorgiou**
- Member: Mr. Maurice Hanemoglou**
- Member: Mr. Constantin Caliondji**
- Member: Mr. Christos Kouyoumdji**

The New Board Committee



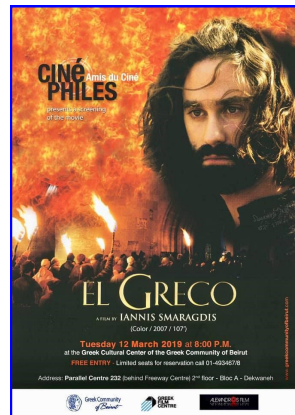
Kalimera Min Beirut by Georges Eid

In the presence of H. E. Mr. Franciscos Verros, Ambassador of Greece to Lebanon,
The Greek Community of Beirut
Has the pleasure to invite you to the viewing of the documentary
"Kalimera min Beirut", directed by Georges Eid
On Monday February 25, 2019
At our Center, Dekwaneh, Parallel Towers, Bloc A, 2nd floor.
The projection starts at 8:00 pm



On February 25, the cultural center broadcasted the documentary **"Kalimera min Beirut"** directed by Georges Eid, in the presence of H.E Ambassador Franciscos Verros and the diplomatic team of the Greek Embassy together with members and cinephiles.

The documentary was released in 2006, in both Greek and Arabic languages with English subtitles. The documentary relates the story in the early twenties of thousands of Greek refugees who found their way to the shores of Beirut, establishing a new community. It is a journey back in time to discover the story of this community. Georges Eid, who is also a descendant of a Greek emigrant, relates the difficulties and adaptation period followed by almost 4 generations. The documentary has received several recognitions.



often adding the word Κρής, Cretan.

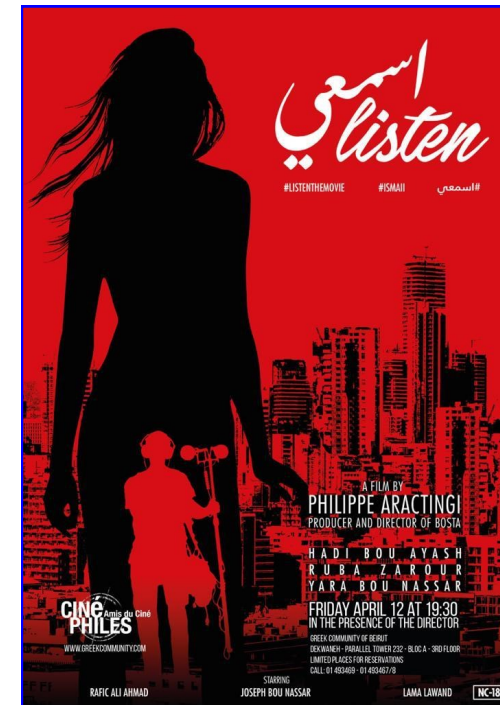
The artist with an uncompromising character, sets off from his homeland Crete and goes to Venice and finally Toledo in search of freedom and love. There he is confronted by his greatest adversary, the Holy Inquisition, but his creative consciousness and power make him stand out and overcome barbarity and ignorance.

An inspiration that lives on till today.

El Greco, is a biographical movie released in 2007, directed by **Yannis Smaragdis**, written by **Jackie Pavlenko** and produced by **Eleni Smaragdi**. **Domenicos Θεοτοκόπουλος Δομήνικος Θεοτοκόπουλος** known to the world as "El Greco" was a painter of the Spanish renaissance, with a nickname in reference to his Greek origin. He used to sign his paintings with his full birth name in Greek letters,



Listen by Philippe Aractingi



On April 12, the cultural center broadcasted "Listen" a film by Philippe Aractingi -well known for his previous movies notably "Bosta" in his presence together with members of "Cinephiles".

The movie was released on February 2017 in Lebanon and received positive feedback. Listen revolves around love as one of the strongest forms of resistance. Through a journey into the world of sound and listening, Philippe Aractingi paints the portrait of three different characters, Joud, a sound engineer, Rana, a rebellious actress and Marwa, Rana's sister an Arabic literature teacher. Joud falls in love with Rana; coming from a different background, a drastic turn of events gets between them and Rana disappears. Joud, determined in his feelings, finds new ways of communicating with Rana by sending her "sounds notes" with the help of Rana's sister, Marwa.

"Sound is one of the most advanced senses we possess as humans, also it is an essential medium to convey emotions in films. For me a film is often a sound journey, especially this one" explained Philippe Aractingi while answering audience questions.



Special Supplement

H.E. Mr. George Katrougalos conference

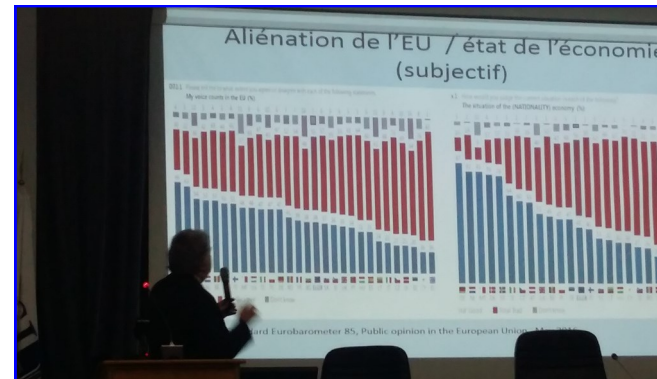
During his official visit to Lebanon, H.E. Mr. George Katrougalos, Greek Minister For Foreign Affairs, gave a conference at the University Saint Joseph of Beirut, Institute of Political Sciences, titled *"The Future of Europe"*.

H.E. Mr. Katrougalos has been presented as a Professor of Public and Constitutional Law at the Democritus University of Thrace. He has served as Alternate Minister for Foreign Affairs, until February 2019, and as Minister of Labor, Social Security, and Social Solidarity, until November 2016. Previously he has also served as Alternate Minister of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction and he was also Member of the European Parliament from May 2014 to January 2015.

Based on the results of studies done in Europe, Professor Katrougalos comment the statistics showing new leanings of theories such as Liberalism and Democracy leading to a backlash of populism. He considers that the understanding of the reality will lead to reconsider some political actions in building up Europe specifically in the Europeanization process.

Briefly, he explained the main reasons due to the results as a global dissatisfaction of the populations worldwide and the general economic crisis being as a *"symptom"*. Being aware of the problems faced by Europe, he suggested new approaches that should help in building up a better future.

Answering the questions of the audience in the context of the Trilateral Ministerial Meeting regarding Lebanon, Greece and Cyprus, H.E. Mr. Katrougalos said that a trilateral cooperation between the three countries in three different sectors such as tourism, education and trade relations has been set. Next step before the Summit Meeting of the three parties in Cyprus should be the establishment of an International Organization for Sports and Tourism, based in Athens and the setting of a specific program.



Special supplement

Greece President, H.E Mr. Prokopis Pavlopoulos in a prompt visit to Lebanon

Greek president Prokopios Pavlopoulos and his wife Mrs. Vlasia Pavlopoulou arrived at Beirut on Friday April 11 for a two-day official visit to Lebanon, at the invitation of his counterpart, president Michel Aoun.

President Michel Aoun and his wife welcome president Prokopios Pavlopoulos and his wife, with a formal reception, which began by playing the Greek and Lebanese national anthems. At the "Ambassadors' Saloon", they held a bilateral talks session, followed by extensive talks in the presence of the Lebanese and Greek official delegations. They expressed their confidence that the relations and scope of cooperation between the two countries will further deepen and expand at bilateral as well as multilateral levels.

In their joint press conference held in Baabda, President Pavlopoulos said that the Greeks had been the first to launch dialogue among civilizations, explaining in those words: *"It has become more pressing than ever to open the channels of communication due to the massively existing conflicts among civilizations."*

President Aoun affirmation was that in recent history, *"relations have been strengthened with the residence of an active Greek Community in Lebanon."*

Regarding the summit to be held in Cyprus, President Aoun said: *"We are looking forward to the summit to be held between Lebanon, Greece and Cyprus, hosted by the Cypriot capital and aiming to consolidate the various aspects of cooperation"* thanking his guest for Greece's unyielding support to Lebanon, its attendance at the Cedar conference, its participation in the UNIFIL naval force, and its upholding Lebanon at regional and international forums.

As part of his journey to Lebanon, Mr. Pavlopoulos visited the Archdiocese in Beirut where he met H.E. the Most Reverend Metropolitan Elias Aude.

On Friday, H.E. Mr. Pavlopoulos and the Greek delegation visited the Patriarchal Monastery of Our Lady of Balamand, where they have been received by H.E. John X Yazigi, Patriarch of Antioch and all the East.

"We are convinced that the Greek state and the blessed Greek Church can play a leading role in the reunion and joining of ranks among the Orthodox family across the world," H.E. Yazigi said. The reply of H.E. Mr. Pavlopoulos was: *"I have a full understanding of the high honor you've given me by bestowing upon me the Order of Apostles Peter and Paul. Be confident that I will do all I can to prove that I deserve this great honor."*



At the Greek Embassy...

H.E Prokopios Pavlopoulos and his wife Mrs. Vlasia Pavlopoulou together with H.E Mr. Franciscos Verros received members of the official Greek, Lebanese and Cypriot delegations during a reception at the Greek Embassy in Rabieh, on Thursday April 11th. The cocktail was followed by the exchange of presents between H.E Mr. Pavlopoulos and President Panayotis Andriotis.



Real Time News

Who is the first Lebanese Woman to climb North America's highest peak?

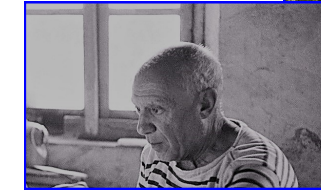
Joyce Azzam, a determined mountaineer climber who also holds a masters degree in Conservation of Historic Cities and Buildings and currently a Ph.D. Candidate in Landscape & Environment at La Sapienza University of Rome, was able last year to reach South America's highest peak (6,962 meters), being the first Lebanese woman to raise the Lebanese flag on Denali (6,190 meters), the highest peak of North America. Joyce has climbed five peaks out of seven. To complete her challenge, she still needs to climb Mount Everest and the Vinson Massif. Nowadays, she is set at Everest Base Camp (5,365m) for the next six weeks preparing herself to reach the Mount Everest and raise the Lebanese flag on the top. We wish her good luck.



KAWKABA, the land of Christ.

Kawkaba is a village in the Hasbaya District, in southern Lebanon, part of the nabatiye Governate. Located 7km from Rashaya, Kawkaba means the planet (semitic origin) and refers to Venus planet. Around 500m above sea level, facing the Mount Hermon, the marvelous village with thousand years olive trees has a history of grandeur: It is known as the land of Christ and the Apostles. The legend says that Christ rested in the shade of a big rock, hitting the ground with his stick to get some water as he was thirsty. And water sprang up! It is known as "**Ain El Massih**" meaning the "**spring of Christ**".

For nature lovers, they can satisfy their need with a long hike in the protective forest. If you are looking for a relaxing get away, Kawkaba is a destination worth the trip to indulge in relaxation, sport or spiritual activities.



Picasso works to be exhibited at the Sursock Museum

Between September 2019 and January 2020, the Lebanese public will be able to discover about twenty works from the collection of the Picasso Museum in Paris around the theme of the family. A major artistic project for the Lebanese capital carried with accuracy and enthusiasm by both institutions, the Sursock Museum and the Picasso Museum. The announcement was done in Paris by H.E Mr. Rami Adwan, Lebanese Ambassador to Paris at the embassy.

Mrs. Zeina Arida, the director of Sursock Museum, explained that this initiative will make the Picasso exhibition accessible to All and for free as she said: "*We want to develop our teaching tools and allow children to discover the painter's original paintings and sculptures. This is a big responsibility for us, because organizing an exhibition on Picasso is very complex, both in terms of security and logistic*".



Greek ruins discovered in Tyre's water

The ruins of eleven ships belonging to the Greek era (circa 300 B.C) have been found lying 300 meters underwater southern the city of Tyre, stated the Head of the Lebanese Union of Professional Divers, Mr. Mohammad Al-Siraj. Apparently, the discovered ships belonged to the Macedonian Army. Probably, they sank during the Siege of Tyre orchestrated by Alexander the Great in 322 BC.

After 3 months of diving and research, the divers say that the wrecks of the ships that were ran aground close to each other, were found at a depth of just 35 m.