



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



*Ta Nea*

Issue 23  
April 2021

## April...Don't You Fool Us!

Καλό μήνα!

Come April 1st, moods get lighter and more cheerful. How many of you have been pranked on this day? April Fools' pranks date all the way back to the 1700s. The origins of April Fools' Day are actually really interesting, with many attributing its start to the people of Great Britain. There's also speculation that April Fools' Day was tied to the vernal equinox, or first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere, when Mother Nature fooled people with changing, unpredictable weather.

We all hope Mother Nature won't fool us this year and will rather be mercifully good to us, making April a month of healing not fooling.

In this issue, the National Day is taking over the news front and a panoply of celebrations occurred simultaneously worldwide. It is as if the entire world turned Greek for March 25.

We will uncover some of these celebrations to you amongst other interesting topics. Enjoy your reading !





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## The World Turns Greek on March 25

200 Years since the Hellenic Revolution. A milestone event worthy to be praised, celebrated and echoed throughout the entire world. Several countries heartedly participated in celebrating the victory of Greece in their quest for freedom and the creation of a Modern Greek State liberated from the Ottoman rule.





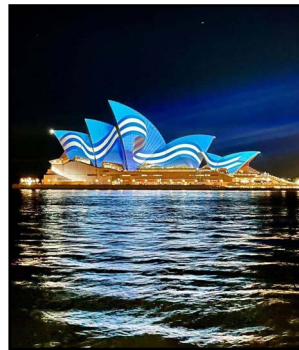
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*Qatar celebrating the 200 years anniversary*



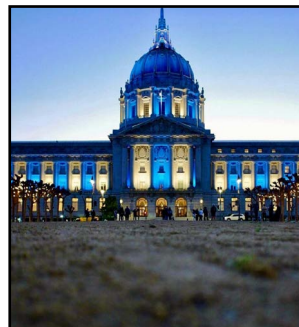
*The Sydney Opera House turned blue and white*



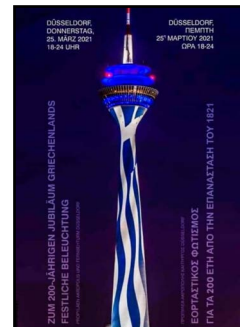
*Spain's Ministry of Foreign Affairs illuminated in Greek colours*



*Rome lights up in blue with an encouraging message*



*San Francisco City Hall was lit up in blue and white*



*Germany lit up the Düsseldorf Tower with the Greek flag*



*The Redeemer Christ statue in Rio de Janeiro dressed in the Greek flag*



*The Niagara Falls lit in blue and white*



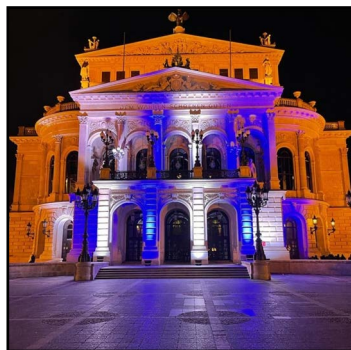
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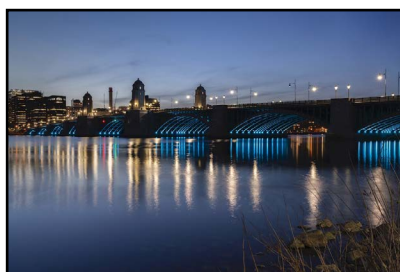
*Canada lit up in blue and white with the CN Tower*



*Frankfurt lits up Alter Oper*



*Lithuania lits up Zveryno Bridge in Vilnius*



*Boston lit up in Greek colours being one of the centers of the Greek Diaspora in the US*



*The façade of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston*



*Los Angeles illuminating landmarks*



*Beirut's Sursock Museum lit up in Greek colours*



*South Africa dances in Greek colours- Freedom Dance: 1821-2021 - a new original song full of Greek pride, written and performed by the Greek youth of South Africa on the occasion of the 200 years anniversary from Greece's War of Independence.*

<https://www.facebook.com/GreekReporter/videos/295303051943565>



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## In the news: Why Greeks Celebrate Name Days An Orthodox Tradition

Our name is part of our identity. Hence we do not choose our name, it is chosen for us. Is it fate? A whim of luck or pure coincidence? Some are named after saints, celebrities, idols, flowers, exotic destinations and so the list goes on.

In Greece, your name is chosen for you the day of your baptism. It is usually dedicated to the memory of a saint or martyr. It has been a strong Greek tradition since antiquity for newborn children to be named after one of their grandparents. This results in a continuation of names in the family line. It also results in cousins often sharing names, so some name days become major celebrations for certain families.

The celebration of name days has been a tradition in Catholic and Eastern Orthodox countries since the Middle Ages.

Name days are celebrated festively equally to birthdays. In the Orthodox world they are as important as birthdays.

On your name day, you expect a lot of phone calls, visits, friends or family wishing to take you out on a coffee or even a drink "Na se kerasoume" you'll have a lot of "Xronia Polla" to answer to and will be probably spoiled with many symbolic gifts be it flowers, sweets, drinks and more personalized items.

Some Greek name days are of utmost importance: Yannis which is the most common name for men celebrated on January 7, and Maria for women, celebrated on August 15 or even on November 21st.

When is your Greek Name Day?

### IMPORTANT NOTICE TO GREEK CITIZENS

Kindly contact our Center by phone or email informing us about any change of address, phone number or social status helping us to keep our data list updated.





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## Oldies But Goldies

*Photographs can trigger memories and allow us to briefly relive the bitter sweet moments captured and marked forever as part of us. Going through old photographs can be such a healing process.*

*We'd love you to share with us your stories along with the most heartwarming historic photos you might have stored in those old albums.*



*1956 Independence Day St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral*



*1956 Independence Day  
St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral*



*1973 Independence Day  
Church service & parade*



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## 2021, the bicentennial of the Greek revolution



As part of the commemoration of the bicentenary of the Greek revolution of 1821, we dedicate a new section. Each month we will present a story and a famous person who actively contributed to creating the actual Greece.

Manto Mavrogenous was a rich aristocratic woman who spent all her fortune to support the Hellenic cause and managed to influence her European friends to contribute money and guns. Known as the beautiful commander, “La Bella Greca” was born in 1776 in Trieste, Italy which was part of the Austrian Empire at that time. She moved to Paros in 1809 and joined the Filiki Etaireia in 1820 when she learned from her father Nikolas, who was already a member of the organization, that they were preparing a revolution. After her father passed away, Manto went to Tinos then to Mykonos to invite leaders to join in the revolution.

In October 1822, Mykonians were able to repulse the Ottoman Turks under her leadership. The success of this battle led to more successful campaigns in taking over the Peloponnese, Samos, Tripolitsa and Chios however she was unable to prevent its massacre. She took part in the Battle of Karytos in 1822 with the help of a fleet of six and an infantry consisting of sixteen companies with fifty men each.

Manto also offered humanitarian help to her soldiers and their families.

In 1823, she met Demetrios Ypsilantis, brother of Alexander Ypsilantis a leader of the Filiki Etaireia, during the battle in Nafplio and got engaged to him. Alas later in May, Manto lost her home and fortune and moved in with her fiancé in Tripoli. Many opposed their union due to the threat the unification of their two strong families offered and managed to break them up. Defeated and depressed, she moved back to Nafplio until Ypsilantis' death where she was exiled from Nafplio and hence returned to Mykonos to write her memoirs. Manto was granted the rank of Lieutenant General after the war by one of the most prominent politicians and diplomats in Europe, Ioannis Kapodistrias. He also offered her a house in Nafplio where she resided until after his assassination. She then moved to Paros in 1840 and sadly died on her own in July 1848.



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## Meet the Defense Attaché Colonel Konstantinos Antonatos



Colonel Konstantinos Antonatos was assigned as Defense Attaché in Lebanon end of July 2020 undertaking a position which was launched for the first time as part of the Greek Embassy in Lebanon.

He was raised in Athens. He graduated from the Hellenic Army Academy as 2nd Lieutenant Infantry Officer. He also pursued studies in Communication, Media and Culture at Panteion University and acquired later on a master's degree in International Relations and Strategic Studies at the same university.

In his personal life, Colonel Antonatos is married, father to two boys and like sports, reading and travelling.

His mission as Defense Attaché is to enhance the military cooperation between the Armed Forces of Lebanon and Greece. This cooperation existed at prior times when naval training of Lebanese military personnel took place on Greek frigates while they were docked in Beirut port, until the pandemic hit.

Colonel Antonatos works in close cooperation with the Lebanese Armed Forces/Liaison Office exploring ways to establish cooperation in various sectors which will be mutually beneficial for both Armies. He considers this particular mission as a great honour for him to represent Greece in the military field in a country which, after nine months, feels like a second home to him given the historical bond and common values the two countries share. He feels thankful for the warm welcome Lebanese have showed him. He believes this is a mission at the highest level, to be a "bridge" between two Armies, creating opportunities and establishing synergies which are beneficial for both sides.

Colonel Antonatos would like to extend his warmest wishes for Easter to the members and friends of the Greek Community of Beirut, sending out a message of hope to overcome all the difficulties which have afflicted this beautiful country.





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## Everything you need to know about the consulate:

All requests should be addressed by email in order to obtain an appointment.

Visa Applications: For visa applications please visit our website

[www.mfa.gr/missionabroad/en/lebanon-en](http://www.mfa.gr/missionabroad/en/lebanon-en).

Additionally, due to the lockdown and the restrictions, Greece is not issuing visas at the moment. Exceptions can be made to specific cases and only by appointment.

**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/>

**Legalization of documents:** The Consular Office can legalize any Lebanese official document that has been stamped by the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is advised to ask for an appointment by email.

**Power of Attorney:** The Consular Office can exceptionally provide a power of attorney to Lebanese citizens that have already made an investment in Greece and want to apply for a residence permit.

**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.

The Consular Office is currently upgrading the embassy's website in order to make it more friendly user and to provide all necessary information and downloadable documents.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE TO GREEK CITIZENS

This section has been specially created by the Greek Community of Beirut with the kind collaboration of the consulate of Greece in order to better serve Greek citizens who wish to have information on all administrative formalities before presenting their requests.

Consular Office can be reached by email at [grcon.bei@mfa.gr](mailto:grcon.bei@mfa.gr)



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We would love to hear your stories and include them in our newsletter. If you wish to publish your own article like Ms. Stephanie Baroud did below with her beautiful poem, you may share it with us, we will review it and consider it for the next issue.

Ô Grèce, pays martyr  
Où la mer égéenne se colore de ton sang  
Ou tes terres étaient souillées des combats luttant  
Pour ta liberté et ton peuple indépendant

Grèce, tes filles étaient éplorées  
Par la mort de leurs héros guerriers  
Elles sont devenues à leur tour  
Victimes de l'opresseur  
La mort les emporte avec douceur

Grèce, pays millénaire  
Ton peuple a choisi la guerre  
Pour chasser les tyrans  
Et rétablir ton antique magnificence

Je t'écris ces vers  
Parce que je suis fière  
D'appartenir à un peuple  
Qui se souvient avec honneur  
De ses ancêtres, libérateurs

Grèce, pays adoré  
Continue de fêter ta liberté  
Pour l'éternité

Stephanie Baroud