



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



Ta Nea

Issue 25
June 2021

Dreaming of Summer



...And so we reached the middle of the year where some things end and others begin.

School is over, summer is here and we all hope it's a promising one. Those warm rays imbue a hopeful mood into our days.

As cases seem to be dropping and vaccinations carried on, the entire world appears hopeful and positively progressing. People seem to have adapted to this "new" normal of never leaving home without your mask and making sure the right distance is respected, gatherings are avoided if not meticulously monitored, activities are carried out within all required precautions...

People have and are adapting!

We all hope there might be light at the end of the tunnel and its finally shining down on us. The highlight of June, besides those beautiful summer nights, is the celebration of Father's Day on June 21st. This month is about honouring fatherhood which was first celebrated in 1910, thanks to Sonora Smart Dodd from Washington who wanted to praise and honour her dad for raising her on his own. Sonora thought there should be a special day to recognize dads as well as moms and was successful in submitting her idea to churches and government officials who supported her idea.

If you would also like to know, June is named after the Roman goddess, Juno, the goddess of marriage and wife of Jupiter. The names of the months are very old and they come from ancient Rome. In the very beginning of the Roman calendar (more than 2000 years ago), there were only 10 months in the year. The Romans based this version on the ancient Greek calendar.

In this issue, we will explore villages and museums both in Lebanon and Greece. We will also take you on a tour of our teaching center for you to have a better idea and other subjects to share with you.

Till then, stay safe and enjoy reading!



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The Diaspora Village

The Diaspora Village (DV) aims to connect the Lebanese Diaspora with the Lebanese Nationals in a cultural and touristic context; to be a point of reference.

This project is initiated by the Lebanese Diaspora Energy in order to create a hub for the Lebanese Diaspora in their homeland to build and support a cohesive and dynamic community.



This beautiful venue is located in Batroun adjacent to the Lady of the Square Church (“Saydet Al Saha”) and is characterized by rustic yellow stones and garnished with vivid flowers and greenery. The DV combines activities of a museum and its library, a guest house, an indoor multipurpose hall, an outdoor square for special events, a café, a gift shop, a bakery, a studio and several houses for Diaspora of Lebanese origin around the world. Each diaspora can gather in their respective Houses such as the American-Lebanese house, the Mex-

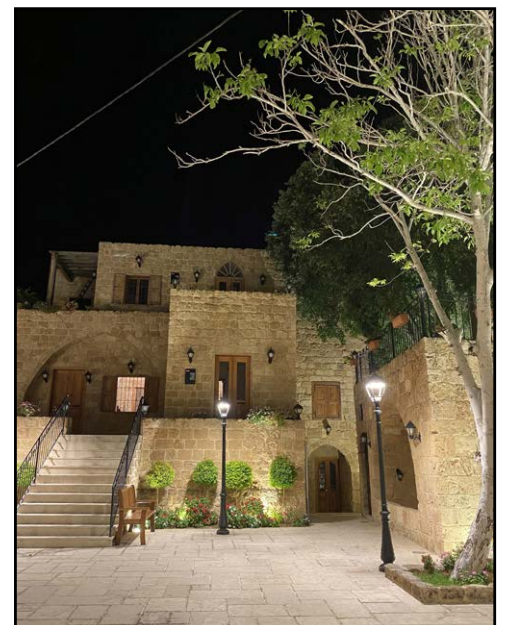
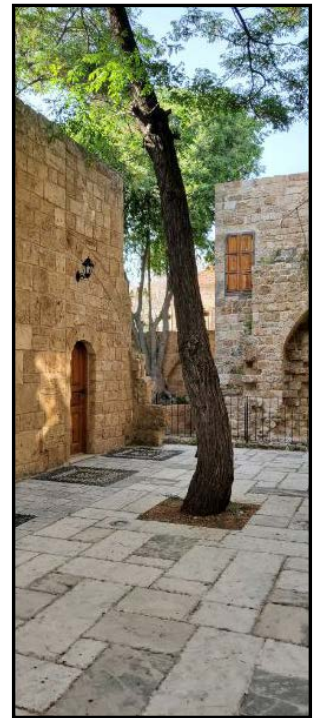
ican-Lebanese house or the Russian-Lebanese house and so on to hold cultural or artistic activities, events, lectures, seminars or share experiences but mostly to keep the link between each other, their homeland and their country of residency. In the core of all the diaspora houses lies a charming café which displays on the walls documents and videos related to the diaspora activities in their respective countries. This is the ideal place to meet and greet over a warm coffee or delicious meal.



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Where Does Masticha come from - *The Chios Mastic Museum by Stefanos Addimando*

Who doesn't know what masticha is? But do you know what it takes to extract it?

Chios is the world's only commercial producer of mastic. There is even an entire museum dedicated to mastic, the Chios Mastic Museum, located in Southern Chios, in the region of the Mastichochochia, a group of medieval villages in Southern Chios. This is the only site in the Mediterranean where the mastic tree, or *Pistacia lentiscus* var. *Chia*, is cultivated; called by its generic name of *skínos* in Greek, this is an endemic variety of pistacia plant from which *mastiha* (gum mastic) is produced. The museum is all about the mastic, its history in production, the Union of Mastic Gum producers and its many uses in everyday life. It aims to showcase the production history of the mastic tree's cultivation and the processing of its resin, which it integrates into the cultural landscape of Chios. In 2015, resin was recognised as a natural medicine.

The climate in Chios is temperate and temperature rarely falls below zero in winter whereas it almost never climbs above 40° C during summer. Evidently the absence of extreme weather conditions in combination with the appropriate soil constitution make up the conditions conducive to the cultivation of mastic trees. The uniqueness of the mastic trees growing in Chios is hard to explain. There are other parts both in mainland Greece that share the same climatic features required for the development of the mastic trees. Nevertheless, all attempts to cultivate them have failed dramatically. There have been efforts to plant them in Attica and in several Aegean islands. Some promising results were initially delivered but at the end the attempt proved abortive. However, the uniqueness of the mastic tree is narrowed down to an even more subtle detail. Its cultivation is successful exclusively at the southern part of Chios. There is an invisible line which literally cuts the island in two and connects from east to west the villages of Lithi, Ayios Georgios Sikousis, Vaviloi, Neochori and Thimiana; any attempt to expand the cultivation of mastic trees beyond this invisible line has fallen through. Mother Nature bequeathed the twenty four so called Mastic Villages with this unrivalled gift.

Mastiha has been harvested since the time of ancient Greece. For millennia, *mastiha* has been the fame, economic force, and source of identity for Chios and its inhabitants. Herodotus mentioned it back in the fifth century B.C., the Romans chewed it to clean their teeth and freshen their breath, and the Ottomans exalted it as a spice. Today, it has a worldwide presence as it holds various benefits. It is mainly used to relieve abdominal discomfort, pain, and inflammation. Mastic gum's positive effect on digestion may be due to the antioxidants and anti-inflammatory compounds it contains.

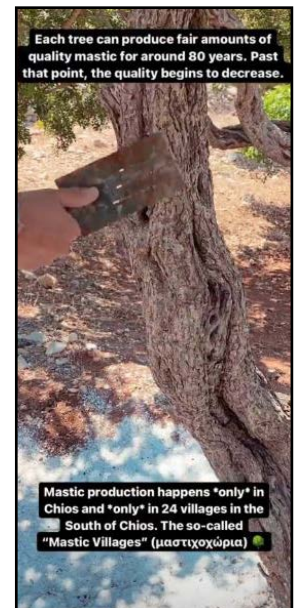
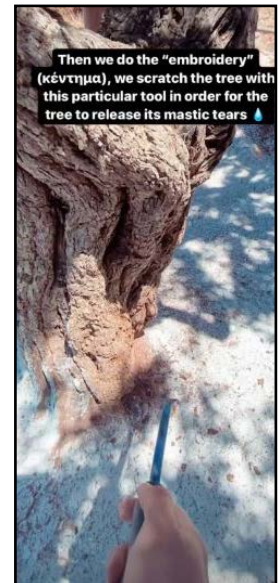
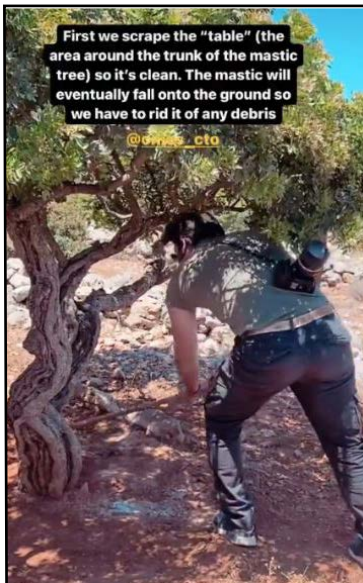
How is it though extracted from the tree? Let's find out with the help of Stefanos straight from Chios! Few tips if you travel to Chios: visit from August to September to witness the tree carving process, or between October and March to see mastic being cleaned. Snack on a package of mastic tears to continue the island's millennia-old tradition of chewing *mastiha au naturel*.



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Learning Greek

We've all heard the expression "it's all Greek to me!" Learning Greek is no easy task due to the complexity and richness of the language, nevertheless it is feasible to those who commit and show up in class!

We have been offering Greek classes for a panoply of ongoing years here at the premises of the Greek Community of Beirut, after the destruction of the Greek School due to the devastating war of 1976. Originally, the Greek School was founded in 1922 with the first consular in Bab Idriss.

The Greek Language Department (TEG) of Beirut operates under the auspices of the Greek Community of Beirut, offering courses to adults and children starting from the age of eight.

Registrations are accepted from the beginning of July each year until the end of September.

The academic year starts yearly in the first week of October and ends on May 31st. Our program offers 2 lessons per week for each class. We are currently offering 3 levels: A1, A2 and B1. Two additional levels are offered for kids A1a Kids and A1b Kids.

An additional online class for the beginners of Level 1 (A1) has been added this year due to the high demand of students wishing to enroll and the limited capacity to have students in the classroom amid the conditions imposed by the pandemic.

Level 1 (A1) is split in 2 years. At the end of the 2nd year, the students who have completed the curriculum of the A1 can present the official exams for the Certification of Attainment in Greek. The exams are sent sealed from the Greek Ministry of Education and if the student succeeds he/she can obtain the Certification of Attainment in Greek, Level A1.

Official exams are held only by the certified examination centers in Greece and abroad, which is the case of our Greek Language Department since 2017, becoming fully entitled to conduct the official exams for the Certification of Attainment in Greek. The students who pass the exams receive their official certificates from Greece in October.



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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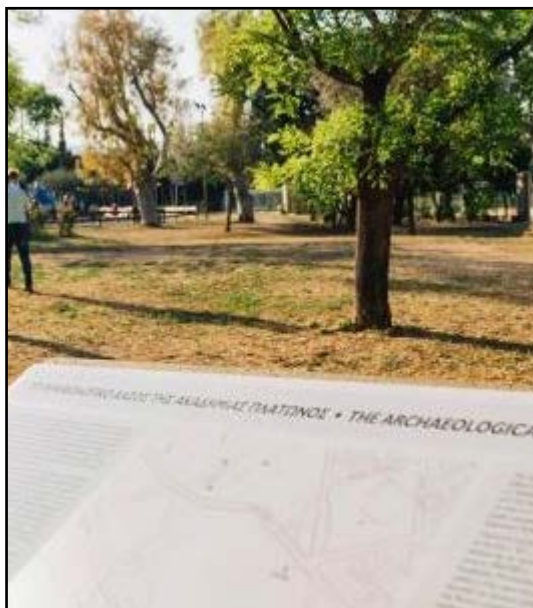
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The World's First University

Plato's Academy is the first 'university' of the Western world where the foundations of Western science and philosophy were laid two-and-a-half millennia ago. Thanks to Plato, we associate the word 'academy' with education. The word actually originates from the owner of the land on which his school was located—the mythical hero Academus.

The Academy, founded by the philosopher Plato in the early 4th century BCE, in 428/427 BC, was perhaps one of the earliest higher learning institutions and was located a couple of miles outside the ancient city named Akademeia, after the legendary hero, Akademos to whom the garden where the gatherings took place was dedicated to. Its main function was to teach Plato's philosophical understanding, but it also challenged its scholars to develop a new understanding of our universe. This makes it one of the first known institutions that dedicated itself to fundamental discovery about our universe. The Platonic Academy was not an educational institution as we know it in modern times, but because it had the characteristics of a school and covered a wide variety of topics such as philosophy, astronomy, mathematics, politics, physics and more, it is considered to be the first university in the entire world.

Plato founded the Academy sometime between 390-380 BCE in Athens. Fundamentally, the school served as a place where Plato's philosophies would be taught. The Academy was initially located in an area that was a grove or garden of olive trees that included statues and nearby buildings. The garden which Plato decided to use for his discussions had also been used previously by many Athenian groups, both civil and religious.



The Academy's idea was to have an institution where dedicated scholars would meet, discuss, and lecture about the nature of the universe. Plato believed that knowledge was not attained by only contemplation but through discussion, teaching, and research.

Plato initially gave many of the lectures and seminars, where he would also field questions from his select audience of scholars. The subjects focused upon were mathematics, natural science, astronomy, dialectics, philosophy, and politics. Plato was joined by other well-known philosophers at the academy, including Aristotle before he founded his own Academy after he had a falling out with Plato's philosophies. While initially the academy functioned as a school that taught Plato's philosophies about the natural world, this changed by the mid-3rd century BCE.



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The teaching methods used by Plato, including both lectures and seminars, focused on his instructions, in addition to dialogue between teachers and students. According to an unverifiable story that has become a legend throughout the centuries and into modern times, the Academy had the phrase «Μηδείς ἀγεωμέτρητος εἰσὶτω μοι τὴ θύρα» inscribed above its entrance, a phrase which means “Let none but geometers enter through this door.”

The Academy was free. During Plato’s leadership of the Academy, its members did not pay any fees, and following his death, the Academy continued its operation for nearly 200 years.

In around 266 BCE, Arcesilaus became the Scholarch or head of the Academy. He was the founder of Academic Skepticism or what is called New Academy- the phase of the Platonic Academy in which it embraced philosophical scepticism. Arcesilaus taught that skepticism should be measured with degrees of probability.

The Skepticism philosophy continued to have a strong influence on the Platonic school until 90 BCE, when Antiochus of Ascalon began to lead the school. By this point, the Stoic influences began to influence the school more.

Antiochus’ main belief was that the mind can distinguish truth from falsehood. He believed the grounds for knowledge, morals, and understanding need to be examined and seeking truth was critical, and the essence of our being. In many respects, Antiochus believed he was reviving the Old Academy established by Plato’s initial ideas. Antiochus’ thoughts become influential and he became one of Cicero’s chief teachers and influences.

In 86 BCE however, the school was destroyed in a fire that likely occurred during Athens’ siege. The Academy proved impossible to reconstruct. By 400-410 CE a new movement to re-establish the Academy was put forward by the Neoplatonists by reviving Plato’s original ideas nevertheless they were influenced by a wide variety of ideas.

Although the Academy itself went through different philosophical leanings, the concept of gathering scholars to debate, teach, and learn became a profound influence on Western ideas of creating institutions of higher learning and knowledge.



Mosaic from Pompeii- 1st c. BC- depicting Plato's Academy



Archaeological site of Plato's Academy



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In the News

On June 17, Dior hosted its spectacular cruise 2022 show at the home of the modern Olympics, the Panathenaic Stadium in Athens.

Inspired by the setting and by ancient Greek mythology more generally, the collection was filled with beautiful draped goddess gowns (traditionally named 'peplos'), which were given a modern sporty spin, paired with chunky Nike trainers, which also channelled the athletic nature of the Olympics. A-list film stars and other prominent personalities were among the 500 or so guests attending the event.

“The idea to show inside the stadium was my obsession, because I think it speaks about the relationship that the clothes have with the body – a body that is a performing body,” Dior creative director Maria Grazia Chiuri was quoted by Women’s Wear Daily of saying in reference to the venue, which hosted the first modern Olympic Games in 1896.





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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.



1935



1953

Greek School of Beirut



1953 Kindergarten



Memorial picture



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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

For over 2000 years, Chios merchants and ship-owners had been prominent in trade and diplomacy throughout the Black Sea, the Aegan and the Mediterranean. The Ottoman Empire allowed Chios almost complete control over its own affairs as Chian trade and the very expensive and sought-after mastic plant, harvested only on Chios, were of great value to it.

The cosmopolitan Chians were also very prominent in Constantinople, causing the island's ruling classes to be reluctant to join the Greek revolt, fearing the loss of their security and prosperity. Furthermore, they were aware that they were situated far too close to the Turkish heartland in Anatolia to be safe. Chios is only 6.7 kilometres (4.2 mi) from the Anatolian mainland.

During the War for Independence in 1822 Chios had little incentive to rebel. Things were pretty good on the island. But a group of rebels from Samos led by Lykourgos Logothetis landed on Chios and with the help of a small number of locals led by Antonis Bournias, besieged the Turkish garrison at the castle. In March rebels executed the plan to occupy Chios and attacked the Turks who retreated to the citadel. The Turks sent reinforcements to Chios on March 22. On March 31, orders were given to burn down the town, and over the next four months, another estimated 40,000 Turkish troops arrived on the island. Tens of thousands of survivors dispersed throughout Europe and became part of what became known as the Chian Diaspora.

As an act of revenge, 3 months later, on June 6th, 1822, Konstantinos Kanaris, a native of Chios who had survived the massacre, finally retaliated. He set ablaze a Turkish fleet which had landed in the port of Chios, killing 2000 Turks and destroying all the ships in the port

The events on Chios provoked a sense of outrage throughout Europe and a feeling of solidarity with the Greeks striving for freedom This was particularly achieved through the famous Delacroix' painting which was presented in Parisian art galleries in 1824.

Victor Hugo wrote a poem about the massacre as well, while voluntary organizations collected money to support the Greek Revolution with arms and weapons, and many Westerners came to Greece to fight against the Ottomans.

The intellectual Philhellenism movement, which originated in the late 18th century and whose aim was to advocate for Greek independence from the Ottoman Empire, took on tremendous political relevance in the wake of the reporting of the massacre.



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Le Massacre de Chios par Eugène Delacroix

L'Enfant
Victor Hugo

Les turcs ont passé là. Tout est ruine et deuil.
Chio, l'île des vins, n'est plus qu'un sombre écueil,
Chio, qu'ombrageaient les charmilles,
Chio, qui dans les flots reflétait ses grands bois,
Ses coteaux, ses palais, et le soir quelquefois
Un chœur dansant de jeunes filles.
Tout est désert. Mais non ; seul près des murs noircis,
Un enfant aux yeux bleus, un enfant grec, assis,
Courbait sa tête humiliée ;
Il avait pour asile, il avait pour appui
Une blanche aubépine, une fleur, comme lui
Dans le grand ravage oubliée.
Ah ! pauvre enfant, pieds nus sur les rocs anguleux !
Hélas ! pour essuyer les pleurs de tes yeux bleus
Comme le ciel et comme l'onde,
Pour que dans leur azur, de larmes orangees,
Passe le vif éclair de la joie et des jeux,
Pour relever ta tête blonde,
Que veux-tu ? Bel enfant, que te faut-il donner
Pour rattacher gaîment et gaîment ramener
En boucles sur ta blanche épaule
Ces cheveux, qui du fer n'ont pas subi l'affront,
Et qui pleurent épars autour de ton beau front,
Comme les feuilles sur le saule ?
Qui pourrait dissiper tes chagrins nébuleux ?
Est-ce d'avoir ce lys, bleu comme tes yeux bleus,
Qui d'Iran borde le puits sombre ?
Ou le fruit du tuba, de cet arbre si grand,
Qu'un cheval au galop met, toujours en courant,
Cent ans à sortir de son ombre ?
Veux-tu, pour me sourire, un bel oiseau des bois,
Qui chante avec un chant plus doux que le hautbois,
Plus éclatant que les cymbales ?
Que veux-tu ? fleur, beau fruit, ou l'oiseau merveilleux ?
- Ami, dit l'enfant grec, dit l'enfant aux yeux bleus,
Je veux de la poudre et des balles.

8-10 juillet 1828

Victor Hugo, Les Orientales

Victor Hugo's Poem on the Chios Massacre



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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.

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



Let's Cook....

pieces 6	PREPARATION 10 ^	IMPLEMENTATION 50 ^	Degree of difficulty 2/5
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©Giorgos Tsoulis

KASSEROPITA

MATERIALS

3 sheets of puff pastry
500 ml milk, whole
200 gr. cheese, grated
50 gr. butter, at room temperature
50 gr. flour, g.o.x.
12 slices of cheese
Salt
Pepper
1 yolk, diluted with water
Sesame for sprinkling

NUTRITIONAL VALUE

per serving

kcal	Fat	Saturated	Proteins
Calories 588	44.5g	27.7g	26.8g
-----	-----	-----	-----
29%	64%	139%	54%

Vitamins	Sugars	Salt	Fibers
21.5g	4.9g	0.8g	0.7g
-----	-----	-----	-----
8%	5%	13.33%	3%

PREPARATION & EXECUTION

- 1 Preheat your oven to 190 ° C in air. Place a saucepan over medium heat. Add the butter and let it melt well. Once this is done, add the flour and mix with a hand whisk until a paste-like mixture is formed.
- 2 Add the milk little by little in small portions, initially stirring at the same time so that it is incorporated into the mixture. We move on to the next dose only if the previous one has been incorporated.
- 3 After pouring the entire amount of milk, increase the heat slightly and continue stirring until the béchamel thickens. Remove from the heat, add the grated cheese, season with salt and pepper, stir and set aside to cool the filling.
- 4 Spread a sheet of puff pastry on our floured workbench and open it slightly in a square shape measuring 37x37cm.
- 5 Cut the sheet into 4 equal squares, grease each square with water and pierce it slightly with a fork. Follow the same procedure for the other 2 puff pastry sheets.
- 6 Add 1-1.5 tbsp. from the filling in one of the squares we created, put 2 slices of cheese on top and cover with another square of dough. Immediately after, fold the edges well, spread the whole surface of the casserole with egg and pierce it again slightly with a fork.
- 7 Follow the same procedure with the rest of the ingredients, place the casserole pies in a baking tray, in which we have coated with oil glue, sprinkle with sesame seeds and bake at 190 ° C in the air for 25-30 minutes.
- 8 Once they are ready, remove the casserole pies from the oven, leave them to cool slightly and serve.



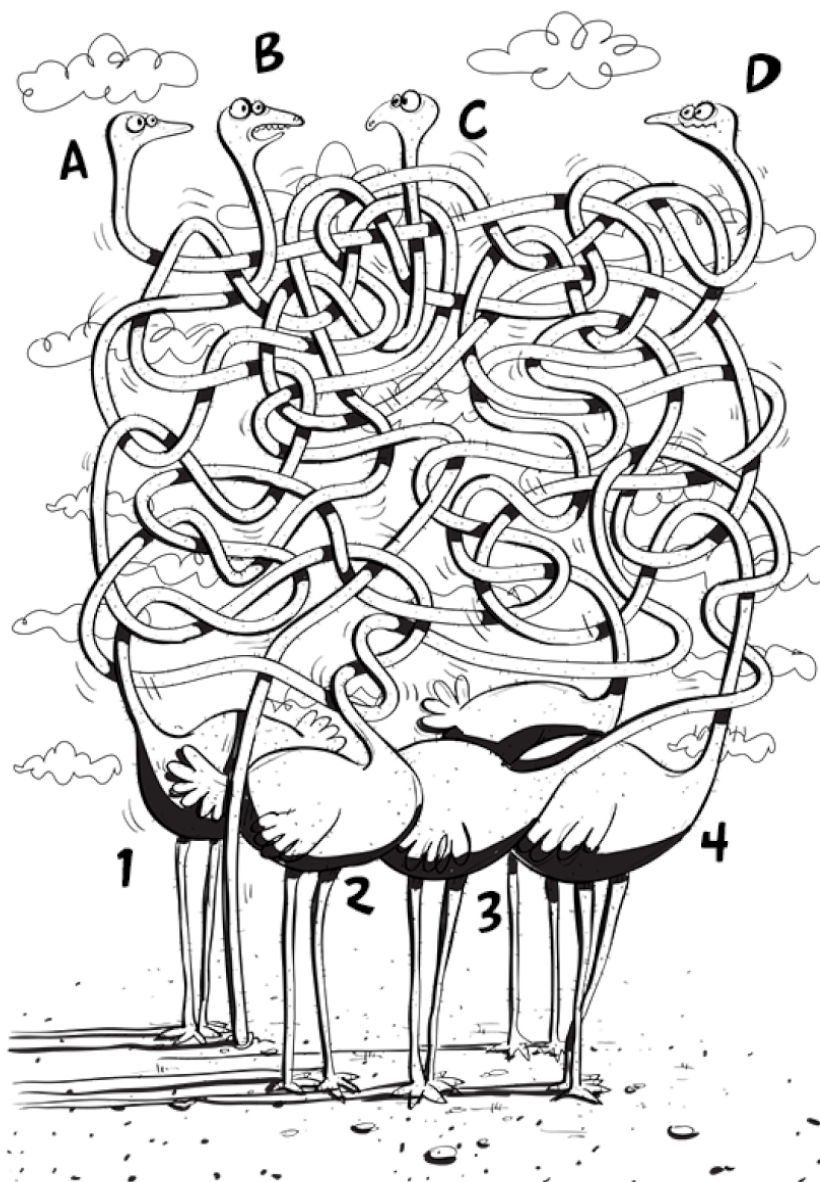
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And play!

LES LABYRINTHES À COLORIER



Rassemble les têtes et les corps des autruches.



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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 2021 in Greece and abroad as follows:

Levels		Dates	Examination Price
A1 (for children 8-12 years old)	Elementary Knowledge	Monday 04 October 2021 (morning)	65 euro
A1 (for adolescents and adults)		Monday 04 October 2021 (morning)	
A2	Basic Knowledge	Tuesday 05 October 2021 (morning)	73 euro
B1	Average Knowledge	Wednesday 06 October 2021 (morning)	
B2	Good Knowledge	Thursday 07 October 2021 (morning)	
C1	Very Good Knowledge	Tuesday 05 October 2021 (afternoon)	
C2	Fluency	Monday 04 October 2021 (afternoon)	

**Oral examinations are held immediately after the written examinations.*

-Registrations will start as of 1st of February till 21st of March 2021.

-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 **outside the lockdown**, you may contact the Greek Language Courses Administrator during the office hours

(M-F /12:00 PM – 6:00 PM) on the following contact details:

Address: Greek Community of Beirut Dekwaneh - Parallel Towers 232 Block A - 3rd Floor

Tel: +961 1 493467/8 and on Mob: +961 81 410 848 **During the lockdown**

E-mail: stephanie@greekcommunity.org.lb

Website: <http://www.greekcommunityofbeirut.com/>