



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



Ta Nea

Issue 40
FEBRUARY 2023

But What is Love?

February's at our doors...And so is LOVE!

Will Cupid strike for you?

But love comes in various shapes and deeds, and not necessarily or exclusively on the 14th.

You may find love in a child's giggle or an old couple walking hand in hand; you may find love when helping out someone in need; you may find love when buying something you've had your eye on for a while; you may find love reaching the highest peak on your hike; you may find love laying on a beautiful beach catching a glorious sunset; you may find love taking that night dip in the ocean, or picking someone at the airport.

For love starts with small acts of compassion, small pleasures, and small deeds; it is by giving from your heart that you will have your heart filled out.

...Pay it forward....

Good deeds always come back to us ten times fold.



***What will you do to find LOVE?
Till then, stay safe and enjoy reading!***



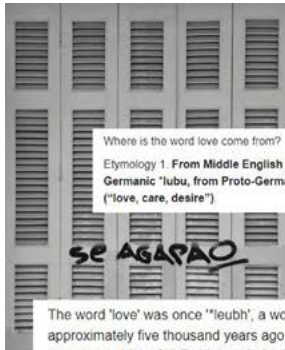
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Where is the word love come from?

Etymology 1. From Middle English *love, lufe*, from Old English *lufu*, from Proto-West Germanic **lubb*, from Proto-Germanic **lubbō*, from Proto-Indo-European **lewbh-* ("love, care, desire")

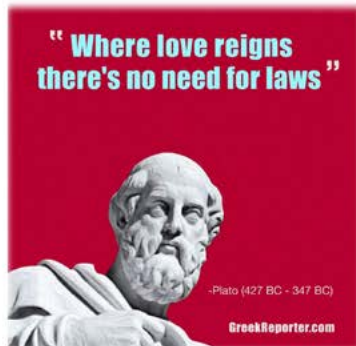
The word 'love' was once "leubh", a word used by the Proto-Indo-Europeans approximately five thousand years ago to describe care and desire. When 'love' was incorporated into Old English as 'lufu', it had turned into both a noun to describe, 'deep affection' and its offspring verb, 'to be very fond of'.

When was the first use of word love?

The first records of love come from before the 900s. The noun comes from the Old English word *lufu*, and the verb comes from the Old English *lufian*. Both of these words are related to older words for love, such as the Old Frisian *lufe* and *lufia*.



Greek hero Hercules who died for love, Iole



-Plato (427 BC - 347 BC)

GreekReporter.com

Saint Valentine is believed to be a third-century Roman Catholic priest, who died on February 14 in 270 AD. It is said that he defied emperor's orders and secretly married couples. Soldiers were not allowed to get married because the emperor thought single men were more devoted fighters. 3 days ago



"Hi, I'm St. Valentine. I was brutally beaten and beheaded in the year 269 A.D. I just wanted to thank you for remembering me on this day of romantic love. Enjoy your dinner!"

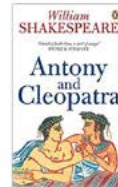


Greek Reporter

1st c. BC clay statue of Eros (Cupid) and Psyche (soul). The winged Eros is embracing and kissing Psyche which symbolizes pure love and union. The statue can be found at the archaeological museum of Pella, Greece. Full story: <https://bit.ly/3lqy3EU>



FAMOUS COUPLES



Napoleon & Josephine

Te quiero Ti amo Je t'aime Ich liebe Dich
 Я люблю тебя Tôi yêu em I love You Seni seviyorum
 Jeg elsker dig Ngigabashanda Es tevi milu
 Es tevi milu Te lubesc Nakupeneva Quierote Ti amo
 R nođino teđa 我爱你 Je t'aime Ich liebe Dich 我爱你
 Te lubesc Ti amo Je t'aime Quierote Te quiero 我爱你
 Ich liebe Dich I love You Es tevi milu Je t'aime
 Te quiero R nođino teđa 我爱你 Tôi yêu em Ti amo
 I love You 我爱你 من شغرا اوتست نار 我爱你
 Ich liebe Dich 我爱你 Es tevi milu Es tevi milu
 Te lubesc Seni seviyorum Te lubesc Quierote
 Jeg elsker dig Ti amo 我爱你 Je t'aime
 Milupi ta 我爱你 Ich liebe Dich 我爱你
 Ich liebe Dich Je t'aime I love You
 Ti amo Te quiero Quierote Te quiero 我爱你
 I love You Nakupeneva I love You Te quiero 我爱你
 Je t'aime Ngigabashanda Ti amo Ich liebe Dich
 Tôi yêu em 我爱你 من شغرا اوتست نار Seni seviyorum



Portrait of Casanova by Alessandro Longhi





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Did You Know: Apokries... The Greek Mardi Gras!

Greece's carnival season is not to be missed. This year it might take place in March, however the three weeks of Apokries falls on February 5-26.

Masquerades, parties, parades, drinking, eating, is all part of "Apokries". It is the festive season preceding Lent. The Greek name "Apokries" means abstention from meat, right before the period of Easter Lent begins. Many areas celebrate Apokries however Patras is the one known to have the best, biggest and oldest festival (it is said they started in 1870).

Tsiknopemti falls on February 16th this year and Kathari Deftera on February 27th.

On Tsiknopemti, as the last Thursday before Lent, it is tradition to consume the largest amounts of meats frilled, roasted or as you like amongst festive gatherings.

On Kathari Deftera, Clean Monday the 1st day of Great Lent, tradition has it consume shellfish (most famous dish is "Bakaliaro") and other fasting food, or the "Lagana", the special bread baked only on that day.

Families will go on excursions and fly kites which symbolizes "trying to reach the Divine".



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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In the News: RKIF on the World Heritage Site list

Amidst cold temperatures and harsh events, Lebanon finally gets some worldwide praise and recognition.

On January 25th, 2023, Rachid Karami International Fairgrounds (RKIF) officially made it on the World Heritage Site in Danger List.

Efforts that go back to 2018 since the forgotten Niemeyer's masterpiece in Tripoli got to be included in UNESCO's World Heritage Tentative List. It was in 1995 that the International Fair of Lebanon was officially renamed RKIF.

RKIF's concept was designed by renowned Brazilian modernist architect, Oscar Niemeyer, in 1962 (it was on July 28, 1962 that Niemeyer came to Beirut for a first site inspection) and echoed the back then ruling Presidency of Fouad Chehab with main goal to usher in a new modernization, social liberalization and curbing the inequality between the wealthy merchant cosmopolis of Beirut and the poor underdeveloped rural areas. President Chehab intended to make Tripoli a cultural and economic locus outside of Beirut.

Construction began in early 1964 and was executed by the local companies Abouhamad, ACE and Dar Al-Handasa. It remained unfinished however 10 years later due to several interruptions mainly lack of funds and civil war.

Then in 2018, thanks to rousing local efforts to protect and revitalize the complex, RKIF made it on UNESCO's World Heritage tentative list.

But what is World Heritage? As explained on **UNESCO's World Heritage website**:

*"World Heritage is the designation for places on Earth that are of **outstanding universal value to humanity** and as such, have been inscribed on the World Heritage List to be protected for future generations to appreciate and enjoy. Places as diverse and unique as the Pyramids of Egypt, the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, etc. are examples of the 1150 natural and cultural places inscribed on the World Heritage List to date." And "to be included on the World Heritage List, sites must be of outstanding universal value and meet at least 1 to 10 selection criteria."*

Rachid Karami
International Fair
Tripoli-Lebanon
Oscar Niemeyer

- 1958** Towards the end of President Caillat's Chairman's term in office, the Exhibition Committee at the Ministry of Planning decides to hold an annual international fair in Beirut and launches a project for the program.
- 1960** As a result of local efforts and a 1958 governmental decision to establish greater regional balance in development across the country, President Fouad Chehab signs the formal agreement to proceed with "The International Fair", choosing Tripoli as the final location.
- 1961** The President of the Council, Saïk Salim, allocates for the Fair an appropriated plot of 400,000 m² in Tripoli. The newly established Executive Council of Grand Projects (Council Executive for Grand Projects - CGEP) engages international experts to advise on the planning of this Fair.
- 1962** Niemeyer arrives in Beirut on July 28th for the first site inspection and develops a schematic design program. On the 31st of September, President Rachid Karami presents the study model in a press conference. In view of his intervention, Niemeyer describes Tripoli's Fair as "a mixture of modernism", presenting a "new solution" that transcends conventional conceptions of international fairs.
- 1963** The laying of the foundational stone is celebrated. The inauguration of the Fair is scheduled for three local counciling firms Abouhamad, ACE, and Dar Al-Handasa.
- 1964** Early in the year, construction work for the Fair begins. The inauguration of the Fair is scheduled for three years from the observation's starting date.
- 1966** Oscar Niemeyer visits Lebanon again to follow up on the work and the construction process. However, because of delays in the work's progress and lack of building funds, the Fair's opening is rescheduled for 1968.
- 1968** With rising concerns about further re-scheduling an national and international event, Uthman and Denis, Minister of Public Works, call for investigations in the construction delay of ongoing public projects, including the Fair and the opening of Beirut's airport.
- 1969** Oscar Niemeyer visits the construction site again. The Lebanese State agrees to increase the budget allocation in order to expedite the completion of the Fair.
- 1970** In March, Niemeyer addresses a letter to the CGEP, explaining his satisfaction for the completed work, and his concern for the slow pace of the construction process. Niemeyer calls for additional efforts to expedite the work, mentioning that Tripoli's Fair is one of the most appreciated projects.
- 1971** Critics express concerns about continuing delay in the Fair's construction. Protesters question the Fair's design and the language of architectural modernism, in view of the fact that it is publicly owned complex.
- 1975** The outbreak of the Lebanese Civil War leads to the cessation of further site work. In the following years, the Arab Development Fund (ADF), and mainly the Syrian Armed Forces, take military control of the interrupted plot in numerous structures.
- 1980** In July, the Chairman of the Fair's Administrative Council requests the complete reconstruction of the Fairgrounds. In October, two international experts, Jurg Moller and Roger Wadler visit the Fair, report on the work that remains to be done, and set a tentative completion date of 1982-1983.
- 1982** All projects related to the Fair are once again halted, following the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. In the following years, the Fair's Administrative Council expresses its desire to realize the Fair in difficult conditions created by the continued Syrian military occupation of the site.
- 1988** Following the complete military withdrawal from the site, several efforts to rehabilitate and activate the RWCF commence as an international heritage park site plan.
- 1994** The Syrian Army partially evacuates the Fairgrounds. Prime Minister Rafik Al-Hariri launches a targeted rehabilitation plan, in an effort to activate the Fair's initially intended function.
- 1995** The International Fair of Lebanon in Tripoli is officially renamed Rachid Karami International Fair (RKIF). Despite limited military presence, several international and regional exhibitors are engaged at the RWCF between 1995 and 1998.
- 2005** The Fair's architectural identity, threatened by large-scale development projects, receives local and international media interest, bringing attention to the value of this modern project. Following a local campaign, the World Monument Fund, an organization dedicated to the protection of threatened cultural sites, lists the RWCF as its 2005 World Monument. World list of 100 Most Endangered Sites.
- 2018** Niemeyer's masterpiece in Tripoli is included onto UNESCO's World Heritage Tentative List as a prime and representative example of 20th century modern architecture in the Middle East. UNESCO's Regional Office in Beirut, funded by the Getty Foundation, begins in 2018 the project to develop a conservation management plan for the RWCF.



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Why RKIF is World Heritage?

RKIF is of **outstanding universal value** as one of the most representative works of modern architecture of the 20th century in the Arab States.

For a wider briefing, you may refer to their page:

<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1702/>

Why RKIF is on the list of WH in danger: “due to its alarming state of conservation, the lack of financial resources for its maintenance, and the latent risk of development proposals that could affect the integrity of the complex”.

By inscribing the site on the List of WH in Danger, it opens access to enhanced international assistance both technical and financial.

Heritage consultant, Maya Hmeidan, Technical Project Coordinator of UNESCO's Beirut Office project entitled “the development of a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the RKIF”, pointed out that the WH listing will help in pooling needed resources, yet authorities need to work and focus their efforts on safeguarding this site to move to a desired state of conservation. The conservation management plan for RKIF, a project funded by the Getty Foundation through its Keeping it Modern Initiative, will set the right policies that should guide the preservation of the RKIF's cultural, architectural, and historical value in any future development process. The CMP is currently being prepared by UNESCO and shall be ready by December 2023. For more information on the project: <https://en.unesco.org/fieldoffice/beirut/RKIF-CMP>.



The Guest House at the RKIF rehabilitated to become Minjara Platform by Maya Hmeidan-UNESCO Beirut



The RKIF complex showing the Open Air Theatre, the Arch, the Helipad, the Lebanon Pavilion, (upper left) and the Grand Cover (upper right) by Maya Hmeidan



Lebanese pavilion © Jad Tabet



Monumental Arch at the RKIF by Maya Hmeidan-UNESCO Beirut



© Wassim Naghi



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In the News: Tinos's Miraculous Icon Celebrating 200 years

The Icon of the Holy Virgin of Tinos marks 200 years since its finding on January 30, 1823. The Church of Virgin Mary, also called Panayia Evangelistria, translating into Our Lady of Good Tidings, is probably the most important religious monument in Greece.

It was built the Smyrniot architect Efstration Emmanuel Kalonaris. The well-known Church is located in the town of Tinos and was built around a miraculous icon which according to tradition, was found by the nun Pelagia to whom the Virgin appeared and told her how much she had suffered after being buried under the ground for many years.



The “Megalochare” (“Great Grace”) is widely believed to be the source of several miracles; she is considered a protectress of seafarers and healer of the infirm.

Our Lady of Tinos was declared the patron Saint of the Greek nation as the icon was found on the very first days after the modern Greek State was created. Many people crawl all the way up to the Church to pay homage and seek comfort even miracles on their sacred pilgrimage.

On the evening honoring the 200 years, the traditional lamp lighting, the “Fanarakia” an annual feast celebrated on January 30, took over Tinos' streets. Many thanks to **Mrs. Antoinette Milan** who was kind enough to share with us her photos.



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In the News: Celebrating Kazantzakis, our Winter Muse

* Kazantzakis is our winter muse. On February 18, 1883, one of the greatest Greek authors, Nikos Kazantzakis, was born in Kandiye then under the rule of the Ottoman Empire and now known as Heraklion, Crete.

*He studied law at the University of Athens from 1902 to 1906 and in 1907 he went to Sorbonne to study philosophy.



© NK Museum

*In 1911 he married Galatea Alexiou and divorced in 1926. In 1924, Kazantzakis met Eleni Samiou and it was in 1945 that they married. She was of great help to him, typing drafts, accompanying him on his travels, managing his work, etc.

*Kazantzakis was also a journalist and was able to get interviews from Benito Mussolini and Miguel Primo de Rivera in 1926.

*In 1946 he became the head of the UNESCO Bureau of translations (the organization which promoted translations of literacy work).

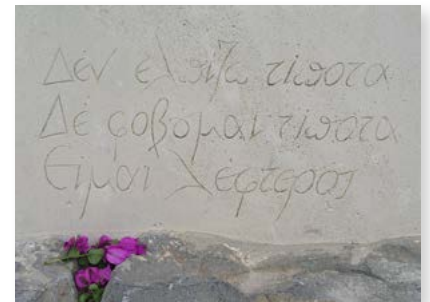
*Kazantzakis was, in total, nominated in nine different years for the Nobel Prize in Literature. Back in 1957 when he lost to Albert Camus by only a single vote, the latter declared Kazantzakis deserved the honour "a 100 times more".

*Kazantzakis was quite spiritual and yet, being influenced by various philosophers, cultures and religions, made him question his religious faith. This is impregnated in some of his novels such as "The Last Temptation of Christ" and "Christ Recrucified".

*In 1952 he lost sight in his right eye after contracting an eye infection. Kazantzakis died in late 1957, he suffered from Leukemia.

*It was in 1906 that Kazantzakis published his first work, the narrative "Serpent & Lily" (Όφις και Κρίνο).

*Kazantzakis was quite spiritual and yet, being influenced by various philosophers, cultures and religions, made him question his religious faith. This is impregnated in some of his novels such as "The Last Temptation of Christ" and "Christ Recrucified"





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* Nikos Kazantzakis Museum in Myrtia village -in the Heraklion regional unit of Crete - was created in 1983 to pay tribute to the intellectual, author, thinker, philosopher, politician and traveller Nikos Kazantzakis. Visitors can find manuscripts, letters, documents, Greek and foreign publications even his unpublished novel Aniforos, photos and personal items, theatre material, rare audio-visual content and so on.



Photo by Athanasopoulos Andreas



"Happy is the man, I thought, who, before dying, has the good fortune to sail the Aegean sea." ~ Nikos Kazantzakis

* His **major works**:

- Zorba the Greek (published in 1946 as Life & Times of Alexis Zorbas). It was inspired by the acquaintance he made with Georgios Zorbas, a worker he had hired in 1917 to exploit a lignite mine in the Peloponnese. In 1964, a film adaptation directed by Mihalis Kakogiannis and starring Anthony Quinn, won 3 Academy Awards along with 4 nominations.
- Christ Recrucified (1948)
- Captain Michalis (1950, translated Freedom or Death)
- The Last Temptation of Christ (1955)
- The Odyssey: A Modern Sequel, an epic poem in the style of Homer's Odyssey (published in 1938. He spent almost 14 years working on its completion after having done eight drafts).

*From his **Famous Quotes**:

"The right way is the uphill way."

"You must love people because it is you."

"Our life is but a lightning ... but we still have time."

"The greatest journey we make is within our soul."

"What is above words? Actions. What is above actions? Silence."

"If you can, stare at fear in the eye and fear will get scared and go away."

"As long as a man does not reach the edge of a cliff, he does not grow wings on his back to fly."





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Let's explore: Meteora... O Holy Rocks!

Situated in the prefecture of Thessaly which has Larissa as the capital, Meteora is one of the most important religious complexes in Greece. Back in the 16th century, there were 24 monasteries, today there are 6 still functioning while the remainder is largely in ruin.

This complex of giant sandstone rock pillars that climb all the way up into the sky, exudes serenity, spirituality and the sense of surrendering to nature's grandeur.

Meteora is the largest archaeological site of Greece and has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1989, with 455 as ID and a holy place since 1995 officially.

Out of the 6 active monasteries, 2 of them are convents with nuns Agios Stefanos & Roussanou while the other 4 have monks. In total, approximately 50 nuns and 17 monks live in these monasteries.

It is said that sometime between the 9th and the 10th century, hermit monks made their way up to the cliffs of Meteora and survived in isolation, exposed to many dangers. And around the 12th century, a monk named Nikos organized a monastic community built around the chapel of Doupiani, still found today beneath the cliff on the northwest side of Kastraki village and where the hermit monks will gather every Sunday to attend service. Then, two centuries later, in the 14th, another monk called Athanasios climbed up to the second-highest rock where he established the first of Meteora monasteries, the Great Meteoron Monastery.

Here's a list of the 6 Holy Monasteries of Meteora:

The Monastery of Great Meteoron: it is the oldest, largest and tallest (615m above sea level) of the six remaining monasteries. Called "Megalo Meteoron", meaning suspended in the air, as it was built on a cliff formed by this gigantic rock.



The Monastery of Varlaam: it is the second biggest monastery at a close location to the Great Meteoron and was founded in the mid of the 14th century by the monk Varlaam, who it is said was the only one to live on the rock. He scaled the rocks in 1350 and began construction; he built three churches but after his death, the monastery was abandoned for 200 years until the 16th century when two monk brothers took over rebuilding the churches. The monastery that counts only 7 monks since 2015, has a museum with ecclesiastical objects and beautiful frescoes.



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The Monastery of Holy Trinity: Agia Triada is one of the most photographed monuments in the area. It is widely known from the James Bond movie "For Your Eyes Only" and is the most difficult to reach.

The Monastery of Roussanou: settled on a low rock and its easily accessible by a bridge. It is also inhabited by nuns.

The Monastery of St. Stephen: founded in 1400 AD, it is the only monastery visible from Kalampaka. It is also inhabited by nuns and easily accessible.



The Monastery of St. Nikolaos: it was founded at the end of the 14th century and is the first monastery you will encounter on your way to Meteora. It is famous for the frescoes of the Cretan painter Theophanes Strelitzias and today, only one monk occupies it.

If you are limited in time, you should definitely visit the Grand Meteoron Monastery of all monasteries. Keep in mind, you will have to climb some steep steps in order to access most of the monasteries. And what is crucial is that you should be properly dressed, men shouldn't wear shorts and women should only wear long skirts. That is why in all monasteries women are given a long skirt to wear before entering.



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Besides visiting the monasteries, there are many things to do around Meteora and several outdoor activities available in the monasteries like rock climbing, hiking, mountain biking, rafting, truffle hunting or even experiencing an awe-inspiring sunset on the divine cliffs of Meteora.

The prehistoric Cave of Theopatra, 4km away from Meteora, is worth visiting; it's a very unique archaeological site as findings indicate that the cave was inhabited as early as 130,000 years ago. And so is the Byzantine Church of Virgin Mary from the 6th or 7th century. Situated in the old districts of Kalambaka, it has beautiful frescoes dating from the 11th century and its walls are constructed with precious material.



How to get to Meteora? Either by driving yourself there, it takes about 4 hours but the countryside is so scenic it will be worth it; or as an alternative by booking a guided tour.



*Monastery of Holy Trinity
from the James Bond movie "For Your Eyes Only"*

We hope your journey to Meteora will bring you serenity and leave you with beautiful memories.



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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

All permanent residents in Lebanon can apply for their touristic visa at VFS offices <https://visa.vfsglobal.com/lbn/en/grc/>.

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 the Embassy if you send 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. You can visit the Consulate any week day between 09:30 and 13:30.

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.

For information on the current entry requirements to Greece due to the measures taken against the spread of the corona virus, please visit the portal: travel.gov.gr

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



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In In the News: Announcement by the Embassy for at the National Elections for Greek residents abroad



EMBASSY OF GREECE
IN BEIRUT

ANNOUNCEMENT

Information and conditions for voting at the National Elections in Greece for Greek residents abroad

- 1) We would like to inform you that Greek nationals residing in Lebanon may take part in the upcoming 2023 Greek National Elections, while in Lebanon.
- 2) According to Article 2 of Law No 4648/16-12-2019, Greek citizens are eligible to register to vote abroad under the following conditions:
 - a. to be already registered in an electoral list at a Greek Municipality
 - b. to have resided for at least 2 years in Greece during the past 35 years, following their registration (this can be proven by school or university certification of attendance, proof of insurance contributions or proof of completion of the military service in Greece, as stated in a. 4 par. 4 of Law 4648/2019)
 - c. to have a tax registration number in Greece (ΑΦΜ) and to have submitted their tax declaration during the current or the previous year. Dependent family members are exempted from this if:
 - they are under 30 years old and
 - one of their first-degree family members has already submitted his/her tax declaration during the current or the previous year (during the registration process, applicants will have to upload a copy of their last tax declaration).
- 3) Once the above conditions are met, Greek voters residing abroad should register in a special platform through the following links:
<https://apodimoi.gov.gr> and <https://www.ypes.gr/ekloges/aitiseis-eksoterikou/ypovoli-aitisis>
- 4) The voting will take place in Lebanon only if a minimum of 40 voters are registered.
- 5) Deadline to register will be up to 12 days before the election day set by the Greek Government.
- 6) Greek nationals who require assistance to register through the above-mentioned platforms can book an appointment at the Greek Consulate in Beirut, via email (grcon.bei@mfa.gr), and present themselves on the agreed date with the required documents, their Greek passport & ΑΦΜ certificate.



Let's Cook by Giorgos Tsoulis

Traditional Greek Flatbread (lagana) & White fish roe dip (taramasalata)

6-8Portions 5 min Preparation 1h30 min Rest 10min Cooking



#tsoulotip: You can also add a little finely chopped rosemary in the flour to add some nice aroma to your flatbread – Lagana.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=793iGETyfis>

INGREDIENTS

For the Greek flat bread - Lagana:

350 ml water, lukewarm
5 g active dry yeast
1 pinch of sugar
500 g hard flour
1 pinch of salt
Sesame seeds, for sprinkling

For the white fish roe dip:

40 g white fish roe (tarama)
½ onion, very finely chopped
Juice from ½ lemon
300 ml Sunflower oil

METHOD

- 1 In a small bowl, add the water, yeast and a pinch of sugar. Whisk and allow it to rest for 5 minutes so the yeast can activate.
- 2 In a large bowl, add the flour, salt and the yeast mixture. Mix with your hands until a dough starts to form.
- 3 Then turn dough out onto a clean working surface and knead for about 7-8 minutes with your hands, until you create a nice, soft dough.
- 4 Transfer to a greased bowl, cover with cellophane wrap and set it aside for 1 ½ hours, to rest and rise.
- 5 Preheat oven to 200° C (390° F) Fan. Brush a 35x30 cm baking pan with olive oil.
- 6 When ready, remove the dough from the bowl with your hands (you may have to scrape down the sides of the bowl to get all of the dough out) and place it in the baking pan.
- 7 Press down on the dough with your fingertips to spread it evenly in the pan.
Drizzle with some olive oil and spread it over the dough with your fingers.
- 8 Using your fingertips again, press down on the whole surface of the dough to create indentations.
This gives the Lagana its traditional appearance.
- 9 Sprinkle with sesame seeds and bake for 25-30 minutes, until golden.
- 10 **For the white fish roe dip:** In a food processor, add the white fish roe, onion and lemon juice. Beat until the onion has completely broken down.
- 11 Add the sunflower oil in small batches, waiting for each addition to become completely incorporated before adding the next.
If your mixture becomes too thick, simply add a little water, until you get the perfect consistency.
- 12 When ready, transfer to a bowl and serve with your delicious, crunchy, and freshly baked, traditional Greek flat bread – Lagana.
Enjoy!



Dessert as well...

Greek 'Politiko' Style Halva
Χαλβάς πολιτικός

6-8 Portions 10 min Preparation 1h30 min Rest time 20min Cooking



A traditional "Politiko" recipe from the Greek cuisine in Constantinople. 'Politiko', meaning "the one that comes from the 'poli"- the city" referring to Constantinople. A delicious, sweet semolina halva, with the aromas of mastic, cardamom and cinnamon that you will completely fall in love with!

#tsoulotip: You can add any nuts you like best in the halva.

INGREDIENTS

For halva:

250 g butter, melted
250 g fine semolina
900 ml full fat milk
300 g granulated sugar
100 g mastic liqueur
2 medium eggs
½ teaspoon ground cardamom

To serve:

Toasted almond slivers
Ground cinnamon

METHOD

- 1 In a bowl, add the butter and semolina. Mix thoroughly with a spoon.
- 2 In a separate, large bowl, add the eggs and whisk until the mixture becomes completely homogenous.
- 3 Place a pot over medium heat. Add the milk, mastic, cardamom and sugar. Whisk until all the ingredients are completely incorporated. Bring mixture to a boil and turn off heat.
- 4 Using a ladle, gradually add the hot milk mixture to the bowl with the eggs, while continuously whisking.
- 5 As soon as the egg mixture heats up significantly, transfer contents of bowl to the pot. Turn heat on low and whisk continuously, until the mixture thickens.
- 6 Then, add the semolina and mix, until the semolina fluffs up and the mixture thickens.
- 7 When ready, transfer mixture to a 25x25 cm rectangular baking pan. Cover with cellophane wrap, making sure the wrap touches the surface of the halva directly, so that a film doesn't form on the surface.
- 8 Set it aside to cool for about 1 ½ - 2 hours.
- 9 Remove cellophane wrap, sprinkle with toasted almond slivers and cinnamon. Cut into pieces and serve.



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GREEK COMMUNITY OF BEIRUT



Ta Nea

Let's meet Giorgos Tsoulis



Chef George Tsoulis

George Tsoulis has taken over many successful cuisines of Greek restaurants and has shared his culinary skills through popular TV shows in Greece and Cyprus. With his unique temperament and directness in communication, Chef George Tsoulis has won the love of the public that follows him faithfully and trusts his recipes that are updated daily at giorgostsoulis.com and social media [@giorgos_tsoulis](https://www.instagram.com/giorgos_tsoulis), while every Friday at four at noon shares with us a new cooking video #MiMassa through the YouTube channel of [@GiorgosTsoulis](https://www.youtube.com/@GiorgosTsoulis).

Recently, two new cooking hotspots were inaugurated in the city bearing the signature of the Chef, the COOK by GiorgosTsoulis located in Melissia and is an ode to Greek Mediterranean cuisine, while its second gastronomic hangout is located by the Naval Seaside Gastrobar for fine dining and top brunch right next to the water!

The European Committee for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries has chosen George Tsoulis to represent Greece in the "Taste the Ocean" campaign where great European Chefs urge us to consume sustainable fish and seafood.

Following the Taste the Ocean campaign, the European Union again partnered with him to invite the Chef to speak at the Opening of the EU Green Week 2021, the largest annual European environmental policy event to focus on the EU's ambition for zero pollution.

Last year, the organization Ambassadors of Taste for the Global Gastronomy® and Greek Taste Beyond Borders honored George Tsoulis with the Chef of the Year and World Ambassador of Greek Gastronomy awards, as well as with a gold medal Quality & Taste from estiatoria.gr

Currently, the Chef produces daily, together with his team, new delicious recipes for his site and digital media at the cooking studio #tsoulomageiremata in Melissia, while also preparing his first cookbook.

[@Giorgos Tsoulis](https://www.instagram.com/giorgos_tsoulis)

www.giorgostsoulis.com



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And play!

Le mot secret

UN MOT DE 6 LETTRES : **CHAMBRE**

- | | | | |
|-------------|------------|---------------|----------|
| ACCES | DORMIR | MALADIE | RECEVOIR |
| AMENER | DOTER | MEMBRE | REPOSER |
| AGRICULTURE | | MEUBLEE | RESTE |
| AMIES | ECLAIREE | MIRER | RETOURNE |
| ASSEMBLEE | EDIFICE | MONTER | REUNIE |
| ASSEZ | ENFANT | MOTEL | |
| | ENTREE | | |
| BLEUE | ETAGE | NAVIGATION | SITUEE |
| | | NOIRE | SOLEIL |
| CARTES | FERMEE | NUMERO | SOURDE |
| CAVITE | FROIDE | | |
| CHAUDE | | OBSCURE | TABLE |
| COMBUSTION | HAUSSE | OEUVRE | TORPILLE |
| COMMANDE | HABITATION | | TRAVAIL |
| COMMERCE | HOTEL | PARLEMENT | |
| COMMUNES | | PETITE | VASTE |
| COMPOSEE | IDEAL | PIECE | VOTER |
| CORPS | INDUSTRIE | PLUIE | |
| COUCHE | ISOLEE | PORTE | |
| | | POSTE | |
| DEPOSE | JEUNE | PROFESSIONNEL | |
| DEPUTES | | PROPRE | |
| DESTINEE | LOCAL | PUBLIC | |
| DINER | LOUER | PUNIR | |

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Greek Language Day Event

Greek Language Day is celebrated annually every February 9, since 2014 which was when the first initiative to establish an International Greek Language Day was proposed.

The day also honors the memory of Greece's national poet, Dionysios Solomos, author of the National Anthem. For this year's celebration within our community, we got out students to watch a classic Greek movie from the Golden age of the Greek cinema and had a small debate about it.

What better way is there to get involved in something from a different culture than by watching a foreign movie?



To celebrate the International Greek Language Day of 9 February 2023, a video was created by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, General Secretariat for Greeks Abroad & Public Diplomacy: Under the title "The Greek Language in its Timelessness... The Re-enchantment of the World"



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HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

International Greek Language Day – A journey through Greek poetry (9.2.2023)

Thursday, 09 February 2023
[Current Affairs - Meetings - Events](#)

The International Greek Language Day, observed on 9 February, aims to highlight the role that Greek has played in world culture, and to encourage Diaspora Greeks as well as anyone interested in Hellenic culture to learn more about the Greek language. Established in 2017, it coincides with Commemoration Day of Greece's national poet, Dionysios Solomos (8 April 1798 – 9 February 1857), author of the iconic Hymn to Liberty, a long poem inspired by the Greek struggle for independence, which became the national anthem of Greece and Cyprus.

To celebrate the International Greek Language Day of 9 February 2023, a video was created by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, General Secretariat for Greeks Abroad & Public Diplomacy: Under the title "The Greek Language in its Timelessness... The Re-enchantment of the World", 23 young people from around the world, who attend Greek schools and Greek language programs, recite verses by some of the most prominent Greek poets and authors. The video pays tribute to the long history of Greek literature, and especially Greek poetic works, from Homer's epic poems –the earliest surviving works of ancient Greek literature– and the famous tragedians (who always wrote in verse) to Greece's national poet, Dionysios Solomos, and the internationally renowned C. P. Cavafy, and finally to the country's Literature Nobel laureates and other great authors of the 20th century.

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Andreas Katsaniotis, quoted the famous Greek poet, Giorgos Seferis, who had emphasized that, "from the time of Homer until today, [the Greek people] speak, breathe and sing in the same language..." Katsaniotis highlighted the important place that the Greek language holds in world history, pointing out that it was there "when the Evangelists proclaimed to the world, in Greek, the coming of Christ, and when distant Oceania was given this name after a Titan" and that "medicine as well as theology, technology as well as philosophy, all the fruits of the human intellect fit in it".

Speaking about the Greek language as "the foundation of modern Civilization", but also about the long history of Greek poetry, Secretary General for Greeks Abroad and Public Diplomacy, Prof. Ioannis Chrysoulakis, also quoted a Nobel laureate, Odysseas Elytis, who –in his speech before the Swedish Academy– had underlined the fact that "over the course of twenty-five centuries, there has not been a single century –I repeat, not a single one– without poetry being written in Greek".

If you are interested in Greek poetry and literature, check out Greek News Agenda's column Reading Greece, where you will find a rich archive featuring not only interviews with up-and-coming as well as established authors and poets (and also translators, publishers and scholars) but also monthly tributes to important literary works (i.e. the "Book of the month" and the "Poem of the month"). Also, if you are interested in taking up Greek, find out about www.staellinika.com, a unique digital platform for learning the Greek language, launched by Secretariat General for Public Diplomacy and Greeks Abroad of the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the "STAVROS NIARCHOS" Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies at Simon Fraser University (SFU), Vancouver, Canada.

Source: GREEK NEWS AGENDA

<https://www.greeknewsagenda.gr/topics/culture-society/7832-greek-language-day-2023>

https://youtu.be/KyVtOGp_CIQ



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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 2023 in Greece and abroad as follows:

Levels		Dates	Examination Price
A1 (for children 8-12 years old)	Elementary Knowledge	Tuesday 23 May 2023 (morning)	90 euro
A1 (for adolescents and adults)		Tuesday 23 May 2023 (morning)	
A2	Basic Knowledge	Tuesday 23 May 2023 (noon)	100 euro
B1	Average Knowledge	Thursday 25 May 2023 (morning)	
B2	Good Knowledge	Wednesday 24 May 2023 (morning)	
C1	Very Good Knowledge	Wednesday 24 May 2023 (afternoon)	
C2	Fluency	Thursday 25 May 2023 (afternoon)	

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

Registrations will start as of 1st of February till 20th of March 2023.

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, Mrs. Stephanie Kowalski during the office hours from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Friday, on the following contact details:

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E-mail: stephanie@greekcommunity.org.lb

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



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