الجمعية الخيرية اليونانية في بيروت EAAHNIKH KOINOTHΣ BHPYTOY GREEK COMMUNITY OF BEIRUT



Ta Nea

Issue 43 May 2023



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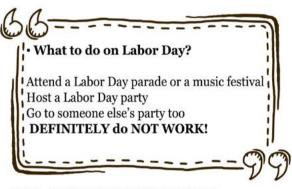
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ORIGINS

May 1st, 1890 was the first May Day celebration that was devoted to workers after the first international socialist congress in Europe declared on July 14th, 1889 in Paris, France, that May 1 should be celebrated as "Workers Day of International Unity and Solidarity" every year.

The date was chosen due to events on the other side of the Atlantic. It was in 1884 that the American Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions demanded an eight-hour workday, which would take effect from May 1st, 1886. This led to the general strike and the Haymarket (in Chicago) Riot of 1886, as well as the official sanction of the eight-hour workday.

Three years later, a French socialist party created an international day to honor the labor movement and marked May 1 in commemoration of the Haymarket Massacre.







Greeks celebrate Protomagia, May 1st, by spending time outdoors with their families, doing picnics, flying kites, picking wild flowers to make their wreaths. Custom has it to decorate the doors of houses with flower wreaths in order to celebrate Spring and welcome the power of nature into our homes. Maia from the ancient word was the nurse and the mother, the goddess that gave her name to the month of Maios. Both Ancient Romans and Greeks believed that flowers represented power, glory, happiness and joy. The wreaths are kept adorned on the doors until June 24, the day of St. John the Harvester, where they are gathered and burnt in a big fire, symbolizing the fire of the Saint.



HAPPY 1ST OF MAY



Ta Nea

Did You Know: Behold A New King is Born!

And he has Greek roots! Philip, Charles' father, was born in Corfu at Mon Repos Palace in 1921 with the title of Duke of Edinburgh. And his grandfather, Prince Andrew of Greece and Denmark, was also born in Greece at Tatoi Palace, on the outskirts of Athens in 1882.

Prince Andrew's dad was King George I of Greece, the longest-ruling King in Greece. He graduated from the Evelpidon Military School and pursued an officer's career in the Greek army. Unfortunately, when Greece was defeated in 1922 in the Asia Minor Campaign, Andrew was charged with treason and had it been for the British government's intervention he would have been executed as he was sentenced to death, but he managed to flee with his family and live in exile, in Paris, in lessen circumstances.





In March 1947, Philip, known as "Phil the Greek" by his British subjects, abandoned his Greek and Danish royal titles and adopted the British nationality when he got engaged to the royal princess Elizabeth. However, since his father, King Andrew was exiled, Philip never formed any positive attachment to Greece; a feeling that was mutually shared by Queen Elizabeth. During her long reign, she visited a whopping 120 countries, but Greece was not amongst them.

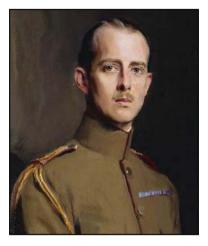
King Charles, on the hand, managed to bond with his Greek forgotten roots. Not only did he speak fluently Greek during his visits, but he openly proclaimed his support for Greece on several occasions. For instance, when he was visiting Greece in 2018, he praised Greece: "We are all Greeks. Our laws, our literature, our religion, our arts are all rooted in Greece." Then, while attending a formal reception at St. James' Palace in London, in 2019, Charles stated in fluent Greek: "Together we can help the young people of Greece build a brighter future for themselves and their country."

Then in 2021, he represented Great Britain at the bicentennial of the Greek War of Independence celebrations, and was accompanied by his royal wife Camilla, he declared "Apart from anything else, Greece is in my blood and for a long time I have been fascinated by its ancient civilization and history."



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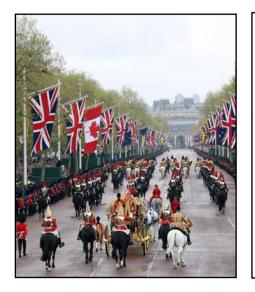


Charles had visited Greece unofficially several times, particularly and secretly, Mount Athos, where quoting him "I have gained a special appreciation for the traditions of the Orthodox Church."

Then, on May 6, 2023, Charles and his wife Camilla were crowned as king and queen of the United Kingdom and the other Commonwealth realms, at Westminster Abbey. Greek Chants were sung at the Coronation of King Charles. The Byzantine Chant Ensemble came forward to sing Psalm 71 in Greek, in recognition of His Majesty's father Prince Philip, the late Duke of Edinburgh, who was born in Corfu and was a member of the former Greek royal family.

https://www.instagram.com/reel/Cr8FIBsOGbL/?igshid=NjZiM2M3MzIxNA%3D%3D

God save the King!







Ta Nea

Did You Know: Honoring the Greek Divas as our May Muse!

"The Great Lady of Song", Marinella, was born on May 20, 1938, in Thessaloniki as Kyriaki Papadopoulou. Her parents were Greek refugees from Constantinople, and, given that her father taught children waltz and tango, Marinella was exposed to art from an early age. She started singing from the age of four, on the radio broadcast in "Pediki Ora" (Children's Hour).

She released her first song at the age of 19, in 1957, entitled "Nitsa Elenitsa" ("Little Helen") and her career kicked off by her collaboration with the singer Stelios Kazantzidis, making them the greatest and unsurpassed duet ever!

Marinella is one of Greece's most popular singers and has a successful career spanning over decades with a variety of musical styles including Laika, pop, folk, blues, and even jazz. She was the first Greek singer to participate in the Eurovision Song Context in 1974. "Krasi, Thalassa kai T'Agori Mou" ("A little wine, a little sea and my man") ranked eleventh.

She performed with great artists such as George Dalaras, Antonis Remos, Glykeria, composer and lyricist Giorgos Theofanous, etc. in one of the most prestigious venues like the Megaron Music Hall of Athens, in various tours in Greece and abroad, at the closing ceremony of the 2004 Summer Olympics.

The Great Lady of song is by nature a very discreet person, making rare public appearances. She was married to Steilios Kazantzidis on May 7, 1964 but they divorced in 1966. She then remarried in 1974 singer Tolis Voskopoulos and got divorced in 1981. She also has a daughter, with the athlete Freddy Serpieris, Georgina.

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.









One of the goals of this MOU is to grant the children, youth, and sports enthusiasts of the Greek Community, the opportunity to participate in the club's activities and initiatives, to be trained by certified coaches in various sports, and consequently be able to partake in national and international sports competitions.

Given that the Greek Community of Beirut organizes various activities (cultural, philanthropic, educational, and so on) and participates in many events to promote and strengthen the ties between the Greeks living in Lebanon and the Lebanese people, this MOU is the perfect recourse.

As a first feat, the Greek Community of Beirut is joining hands with an affiliated organization of the Blue Stars, through the Run to Rise initiative, under Qarari NGO, a duly registered Lebanese non-governmental non-profit organization, independent of all political and religious affiliations.

To join the 10K Jounieh Race organized by Run to Rise this upcoming May 7th, you need to be 16+ and make sure to register by April 25th https://ihjoz.com/events/6970



© Marise Nassour





In the News: From Broadway to Beirut

Comes to you the Arabised version of the striking satirical musical play "Chicago". The 1996 Broadway production holds the record as the longest show to ever run on Broadway, ranking second after The Phantom of the Opera and yet surpassing Cats. It has been translated into 45 languages and the 2002 film adaptation won 6 Oscars. The main plot evolves around Chicago's press covering homicides committed by women killing their lovers or husbands but somehow, beautiful women could not be convicted and hence, got away with murder, highlighting the corruption of the criminal justice system!

Something that was rather easy to pinpoint when it comes to the Lebanese corrupted system! The Arabised version was written by the writer/choreographer/director/actor Roy El Khoury, actor Fouad Yammine and the writer/frontman Anthony Khoury. As Roy El Khoury divulged in an interview with Arab News "the production house in the US reviewed the Arabised text before we got the final approval. They were very excited to sign with us."

Amidst a flash of 10 actors, 14 musicians, dancers, producers, writers, choreographers, glamorous costumes and upbeat spins, two striking characters, the sob sister reporter Mary Sunshine/Nour Al Shams and playful lover Fred Casey/Farid Alaswad, are beautifully played by two charming Greco-Lebanese artists.

Audaciously daring, defying, bold enough to take on the role of a countertenor and a drag queen for the first time ever, Matteo, aka Mary Sunshine or Nour Al Shams will leave you mesmerized by his captivating voice and his warm presence filling up the stage.

Born on September 18, 1984, Matteo was attracted from a young age to arts, music, and hence encouraged by his family to pursue this calling. He got his first big break at the age of 18 when he signed a major contract with Universal Music France and consequently moved to France to learn music at the Paris music school. He enrolled at the Académie Charpentier at the School of fine arts and Architecture in parallel. He released albums and did various tours in Europe and at Beit El Dine's concert in 2007. He also represented Lebanon at The Voice in Paris in 2020 where he mesmerised all 4 coaches and got them to turn. He took part in series and movies like "Khabsa" currently on Netflix. Matteo loves painting as well, he's a true versatile artist!





matteoelkhodr Finally I present to you my fabulous long-awaited role: the most iconic and important journalist in Chicago: Mary Sunshine, aka in Chicago الحريي التاريخي and my first role as a drag queen! And I love it! SEE YOU THIS WEEKEND! #chicago_ بالعربي thchicago theint #metheolkhodi



Then on the other hand, the insatiable lover marks his entrance on stage with his playful and charismatic allure. Despite his brief appearance, Fred/Farid's role in the play will trigger a set of events crucial for the course of the play. He's definitely got the moves and will make you sway! Ilias Christophoridis was born on October 20, 1990 and studied Opera music conservatory then started taking theatre acting. At the age of 30, Ilias took roles in mainly Lebanese series. He also played at a younger age, King Penthus in the Greek tragedy of Euripides. Besides acting, Ilias loves a good book be It novels or more specifically Greek mythology which he's found of. Ilias also enrolled for Greek language classes but had to stop when the pandemic hit. He is very fond of animals as he actually rescued a cute, abandoned dog, that followed him back home! Not only is he good-looking, but he is also kind-hearted.







Cheers to our Greek artists making striking debuts in this spectacular 90-minute show that will definitely blow your mind!



Stay tuned for their upcoming shows it'll get your feet tapping from joy!





Let's explore: The biggest artificial enchanting lake

Can be found in the central area of Greece and is called Kremasta Lake! The lake is located on the borders of Aetolia-Acarnania and Evrytania. Its waters come from four rivers: Acheloos, Agrafiotis, Tavropos and Trikeriotis.

The largest hydroelectric power station in Greece operates here as it covers about a third of the country's electricity demand. The construction of Kremasta Hydro-electric dam in the 1960s, was a turning point in the electrification of Greece. It is the highest earthen dam in Europe with its 160 metres high and one of the largest in Europe with a volume of 8.13 million cubic metres. The round of the lake is a beautiful route of 76 km.

There are two bridges over the lake designed by the civil engineer Aristarchos Economou who won international recognition and awards: Episkopi Bridge, named after one of the submerged villages, and Tatarna Bridge, a modern road bridge. In the same place there was a 17th century arched stone bridge that was submerged under the water when the dam was built in the 1960s. Near the old bridge, a historical battle took place between the Greeks and the Turks during the struggle for independence in 1821. The bridge today, is in the middle of the Lake Kremasta and during summertime, the water flows from mount Pindus.

There are no villages near Lake Kremasta. Karpenisi, is the closest town (around 1h30 mins) offering various entertainment options and accommodation. There are also hotels in Evritania.

The lake is a wetland with the cleanest waters and its shores are home to endangered and rare species such as wolves, foxes, golden eagles, otters, eels, etc. Additionally, it was built with earthy and not concrete materials, making it a better ecosystem and this is why, it is included in the Natura 2000 program.



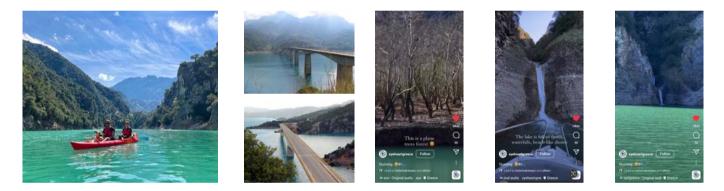
Natura 2000 is a network of core breeding and resting sites for rare and threatened species, and some rare natural habitat types which are protected in their own right. It stretches across all 27 EU countries, both on land and at sea. The aim of the network is to ensure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats, listed under both the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive.

The Natura 2000 Viewer is an online tool that presents all Natura 2000 sites. It provides key information on designated species and habitats, data on population sizes and information on conservation status. The viewer can be used for general purposes of for more specific searches.



Lake Kremasta is a beautiful blend of shades of clear blue forming fjords and small islands nestled within a lush greenery of pine trees, characteristic of Evritania. The lake transforms with each season, it's more alive in spring when nature is in full bloom, it's ideal for a perfect swim in summer when the lake's shade of blue looks like an endless open sea, and in autumn, the landscape seems on a beautiful halt.

Organized excursions are held to explore the gems within and around the lake. You may also try kayaking or canoeing the lake.



You need 3 hours and 40 minutes from Athens to Karpenisi, 4 hours from Thessaloniki and from there, another 1 hour and 30 minutes to Kremaston.

Karpenisi is the largest town in the region called Evritania, known by its picturescque architecture and lush mountainous landscapes.

If you make a stop in Evritania, checking the Historical and Cultural Museum is definitely worth it, it's futuristic with interactive digital exhibits and very interesting. Evritania is also known of having lots of traditional villages, such as Fidakia which is the starting point of a beautiful easy hiking trail to Tsagaralona, from where the view of the lake and the bridge of Kremasta will be definitely the highlight of your visit!



© kremasta-lake-@alexandroskappos







Ta Nea

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 <u>https://visa.vfsglobal.com/lbn/en/grc/</u>

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.

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

الجمعية الخيرية اليونانية في بيروت EAAHNIKH KOINOTHΣ BHPYTOY GREEK COMMUNITY OF BEIRUT



Ta Nea

Embassy Section

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE FOR ECONOMIC & COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE EMBASSY OF **GREECE IN BEIRUT** ✓ Some interesting links Δράση εξωστρέφειας Γραφείου Οικονομικών και Εμπορικών Υποθέσεων στη Διεθνή Έκθεση HORECA, 25-28.04.2023: www.agora.mfa.gr/ta-grafeia-oikonomikon-emporikon-upotheseon/grafeia-ana-xora/infofile/83797 Newsletter, March April 2023 - Ενημερωτικό δελτίο οικονομικών και επιχειρηματικών εξελίξεων στον Λίβανο, Μάρτιος-Απρίλιος 2023: www.agora.mfa.gr/ta-grafeia-oikonomikon-emporikon-upotheseon/grafeia-ana-xora/infofile/83775 Market research on the agricultural sector of Lebanon: www.agora.mfa.gr/ta-grafeia-oikonomikon-emporikon-upotheseon/grafeia-ana-xora/infofile/83750 BEYOND, η κυριότερη Διεθνής Κλαδική Έκθεση στον τομέα της Τεχνολογίας στην Ελλάδα, Διεθνές Εκθεσιακό & Συνεδριακό Κέντρο Θεσσαλονίκης, 24-26 Μαΐου 2023 https://www.beyond-expo.gr ✓ Digital platform IG@Work by ΣΕΒ (SEV-Hellenic Federation of Enterprises) The Office for Economic and Commercial Affairs of the Embassy of Greece informs us about the most interesting initiative of SEV and Innovative Greeks, under the distinctive title IG@Work (www.igwork.gr). According to SEV, Innovative Greeks gather the invaluable talent, experience and achievement among the Greeks across the world, in order to support the country's efforts to scale up the national innovation ecosystem for growth, jobs and prosperity. With the IG@Work digital platform, an effective solution is offered to connect highly skilled Greeks with industry and technology companies based in the country. You can explore more about the said platform in the respective press release: https://www.innovativegreeks.gr/blog-post/ig-work-connecting-talent-industry-and-technology-companies What is more, the Office's goal is to contribute to the effort to promote Greece and to highlight the guality employment opportunities offered in it and, therefore, to support this initiative, by communicating it to your organization. For further information, interested parties can also contact directly Mr. Zisis Manouzas: Associate Advisor, SEV Mr. Zisis Manouzas: Associate Director of Industry, Development, Technology & Innovation Email: zmanouzas@sev.org.gr Tel: +30 211 5006 154 Office for Economic and Commercial Affairs **Embassy of Greece in Lebanon** New Naccache, Rue 64 Immeuble Ant. Boukather, No 85 B.P. 309. Beirut - LEBANON E-Mail: ecocom-beirut@mfa.gr Tel: (+961) 4-521700-1 Web: www.agora,mfa.gr Dekwaneh - Parallel Towers 232 - Bloc A - 2nd & 3rd Floor - Tel.: +961 1 493467/8. Fax: +961 1 493469 - Email: info@greekcommunity.org.lb



General Assembly

On May 6, 2023, members gathered at the premises of the Greek Community for the elections for the replacement of the outgoing members of the Committee. Six new candidates were appointed.

Additionally, the financial statements for 2021-2022 were shared with all present members as well as a brief presentation on the various activities that were executed over the past three years.





Oldies But Goldies

Photographs can trigger memories and allow us to briefly relive the bittersweet 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.

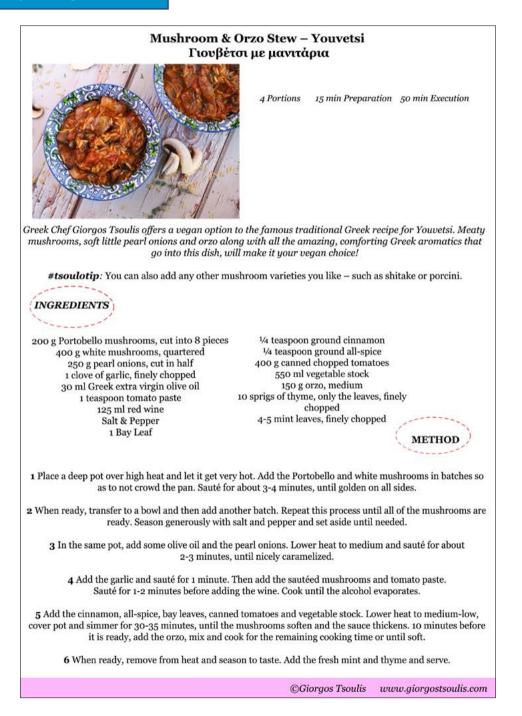
1972 Greek Scool Football Team







Let's Cook by Giorgos Tsoulis





Ta Nea

Dessert as well...

Quick Banana Ice Cream Sandwich-Γρήγορο παγωτό banana sandwich

4-6 Portions 15 min Execution 2 hrs Waiting Time

Summer is here and we all like to have a little ice cream waiting for us in the freezer! What could be better than a delicious, quick, homemade banana ice cream, between two crispy cookies! The tastiest vegetarian and gluten free ice cream sandwich from Greek Chef Giorgos Tsoulis.

INGREDIENTS For cookies 200 g peanut butter 170 g brown sugar 80 g chocolate drops 1 egg

For banana ice cream 3 bananas, cut into pieces and frozen 70-80 g heavy cream 1 teaspoon vanilla extract



METHOD

1 Preheat the oven to 180° C (356° F) Fan.

2 For the cookies: In a bowl, add all of the ingredients for the cookies and mix thoroughly with a spatula. Use two teaspoons to create 20 g round balls out of the mixture.

3 Place the round balls on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper, making sure to leave some space between them. Use a fork to press down on the balls and shape them into cookies.

4 Bake for 12 minutes, remove from the oven and set the cookies aside to cool completely.

5 For the banana ice cream: Peel the bananas, cut them into pieces and place them in a pan lined with parchment paper. Transfer to the freezer for 2-3 hours, until completely frozen.

> **6** In a blender, add the bananas, heavy cream and vanilla extract. Beat until the mixture is smooth, thick and creamy.

7 Spread some of the banana ice cream on half of the cookies. Cover with the remaining cookies, creating ice cream sandwiches and serve.

©Giorgos Tsoulis www.giorgostsoulis.com



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, while every Friday at four at noon shares with us a new cooking video #MiMassa through the YouTube channel of @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.

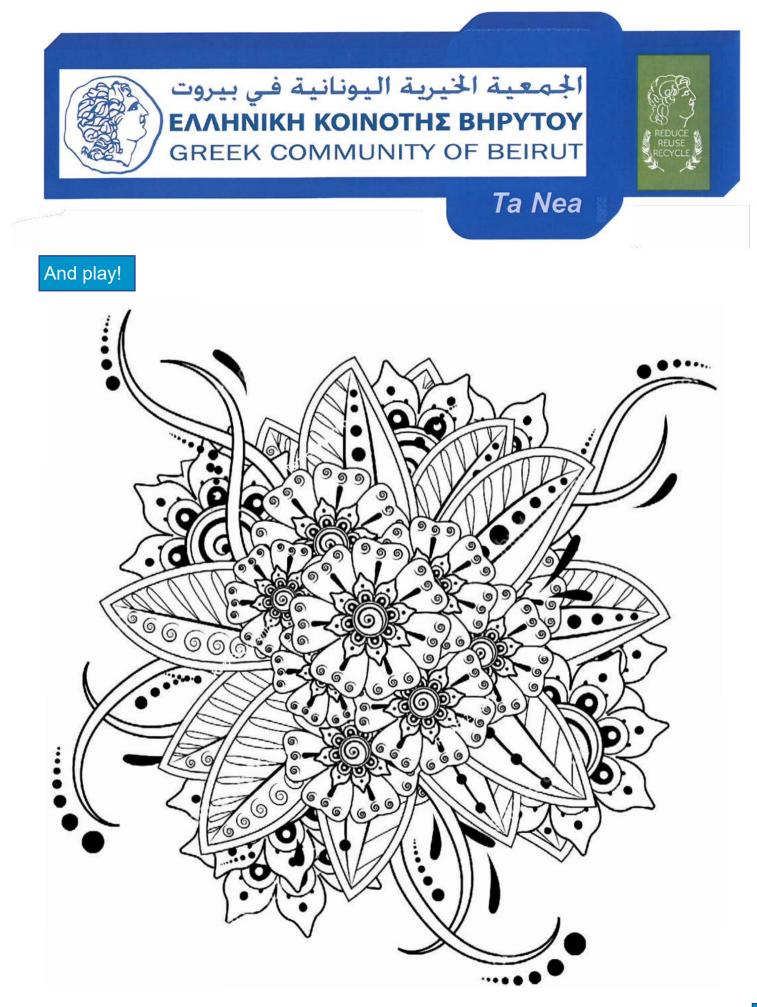
Following the Taste the Ocean campaign, the European Union again partnered with him to invite the Chef to speak at the Opening of the EU Green Week 2021, the largest annual European environmental policy event to focus on the EU's ambition for zero pollution.

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

www.giorgostsoulis.com





Ta Nea

That's a Wrap!

The last days of May have been rather, positively, hectic between conducting the Official Exams, our own final school exams, distributing grades and certificates and mostly sharing the joy of having yet completed a beautiful and fruitful academic year with excellent students be it adults or our younger Ones.

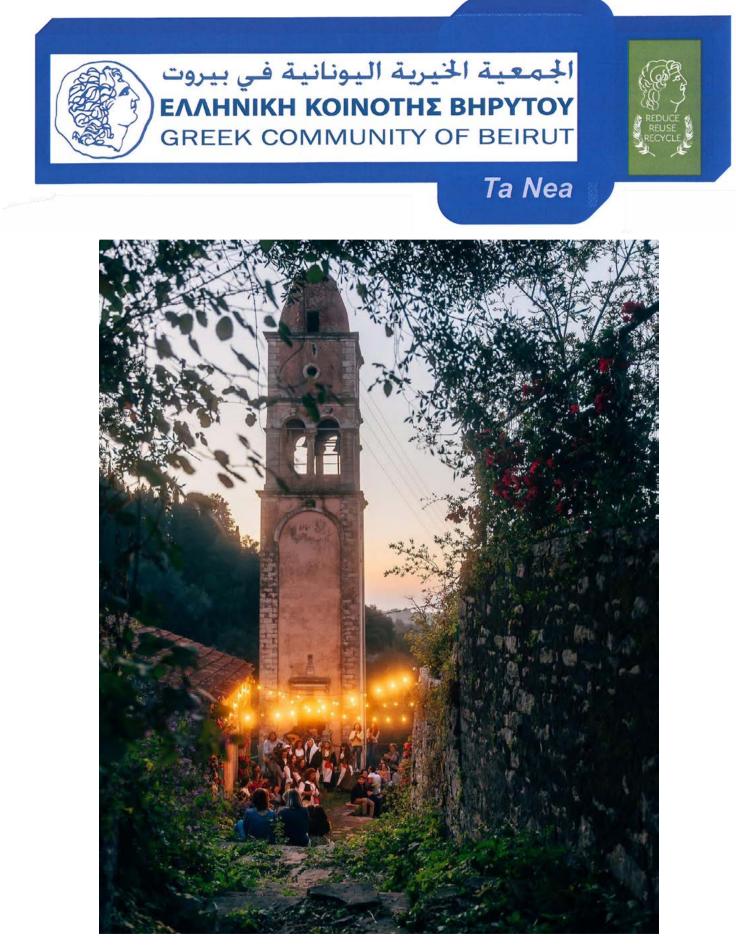








... Until next year!



© christopherpapakaliatis- Paxous-Maestro Shooting