

THE HELLENIC LINK, Inc.

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΣ ΣΥΝΔΕΣΜΟΣ Member Update - BULLETIN



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SUNY at Stony Brook Launches Drive for Hellenic Studies Center

With sweet melodies of Modern Greek tunes sung by the renowned Gregory Maninakis, accompanied by the Microcosmos Ensemble, the **State University of New York at Stony Brook** set itself on a developmental path to establish an **Interdisciplinary Center of Hellenic Studies (ICHS)** on its sprawling Long Island campus. The special celebration took place in the evening of Sunday October 11, 2009 as the culmination of a concerted endeavor of several actors: **the American Foundation for Greek Language and Culture (AFGLC)**, a primary sponsor; **the University Administration** represented by Professor of Pharmacology **Stella Tsirka**; and a number of dedicated members of the **New York Greek American community**.

ICHS aims at promoting Hellenic values and culture by strengthening Hellenic *paideia* on both the undergraduate and graduate levels. An **Endowed Chair** is the immediate goal of a funds-raising drive under way, projected to amass one and a half million dollars. The Chair will galvanize all courses related to the Greek language and culture offered in diverse fields by respective departments of the College of Arts and Science: Art, Philosophy, History, Language, Classics and Literature, Theater, Medieval Studies, Women's Studies, Society and Culture.

Once this Chair is established and filled, additional support to be sought would enable the ICHS to enhance the University's course offerings in Greek language and literature.

It is the visionary ambition of the pioneers of this Program that in time the endowed chair would lead graduate students to research, and to fields and careers of teaching the Greek language and culture at academic institutions. It is envisaged that the Center will be a hub of activity for faculty, students, and the community at large.

In the inaugural event, **Dr. John Balis**, President of AFGLC, set specific goals, and the organizational path for the local Chapter of AFGLC to accomplish the lofty feats.

Prof. Stella Tsirka, President of the Chapter, reported on the progress being made in the collection of funds for the establishment of the Chair, and called all present to redouble their efforts to achieve the required monetary level.

The President of the **Hellenic Link, Inc.** (Prof. Constantine Efthymiou) who had been invited to the inaugural event, in addressing the assembled celebrants briefly pointed that the Hellenic community of Long Island, blessed in many respects, is realizing in the University Program being established a long-unfulfilled dream to be able to educate its children in the ideals and ethos of the Hellenic Culture. He warmly congratulated those who with their dedication, hard work and sacrifices brought the dream so close to reality. He further urged them to see their dream through by continuing their concerted effort in a spirit of partnership. He pledged that the Hellenic Link will be standing by to support the noble mission.

Current Activities of the Hellenic Link, Inc.

Our Association and its Advisory Council on Hellenic Education have been energetically engaged in several sectors of educational and cultural activity in the summer period just ended. While specific details will become manifest soon in a series of Bulletin issues, we wish to briefly review herein matters on which our attention was focused and considerable time and effort were invested.

Participation in a Significant Conference

- Members of the Advisory Council have been preparing papers for presentation at the forthcoming Annual Forum and Conference of the American Foundation for Greek Language and Culture (AFGLC) on “*Hellenic Values and Global Civilization: Engaging Universities and Citizens.*” All papers will deal with themes related to the advancement of Hellenic Studies in America.

Hellenic Medical & Biosciences Network Congress

- The President of our Association represented the HL Members, who are medical doctors and/or bio-scientists, in the Global Hellenic Medical & Biosciences Network Congress at Lagonissi, Greece, 3-5 September 2009. In addition to the presentation of high-quality research in various fields of Medicine, participants of the Conference had the opportunity to become acquainted and establish friendships with colleagues who came from over 20 different countries. In this context, many participants became aware of the Hellenic Link, and expressed strong interest in continuing contact and cooperation for the good of their respective communities.

New Technologies to Facilitate the Teaching/Learning of Greek

- Over the summer, the Hellenic Link made inquiries about and actually contacted the “**Research and Innovation Center in Information, Communication and Knowledge Technologies - *Athena*,**” (Prof. George Caragiannis, President and General Director) and its affiliate “**Institute of Language and Speech Processing**” (ILSP) of Athens, Greece. The latter is a R&D organization active in the field of Language Technology and supports the Greek language in the human-machine interaction area. ILSP carries out applied research in Natural Language Processing, Speech Processing, Speech Recognition, Speech Synthesis, as well as e-learning. With regard to e-language-learning issues, ILSP is active in the following areas:
 - Teaching Greek as a mother tongue (Program, *Nea Logomatheia*)
 - Teaching Greek as a foreign language to adults (*Filoglossia*)
 - Teaching Ancient Greek (*Thymesis* series)

- Teaching Greek as a second language (**Logonostesi**)
- Teaching Greek Sign language (*Noema* series)

For all the above cases, ILSP has designed and developed special educational software platforms. Language topics are taught in combination with themes of Hellenic culture.

In our judgment, the scope, professional quality, methodology and outreach capacity for teaching abroad the Greek language and culture of new technologies can serve well the documented needs of Hellenic education in America. The Hellenic Link looks forward to the development of collaborative arrangements or projects for this purpose.

Distance Teaching of Greek

- Efforts are continuing to secure the support of Hellenic institutions to host programs of distance teaching of the Greek language and culture in collaboration with interested educational institutions of the USA.

Redesign of the Hellenic Link Web Site

- Slow progress is being made in the redesigning and technical improvement of the Hellenic Link, Inc. **Web Site**. Progress is contingent on availability of funds. **We are again appealing** to the members and friends of our Association to support this means of communication upon which we rely for the advancement of our educational and cultural endeavors for the benefit of Hellenism. Those who appreciate the work of Hellenic Link can send their small or larger tax-deductible donation (check written to Hellenic Link, Inc), which they can afford to our address: **The Hellenic Link, Inc., Suite No. 278, 38-11 Ditmars Blvd, Astoria, New York 11105.**

The October 28, 1940 Anniversary

- Hellenes everywhere recall every year the fateful day of October 28, 1940 on which the Nation was catapulted to the center of world stage to meet the challenge of foreign aggression with superb bravery and immense sacrifices, and in the process determine the outcome of WWII in favor of humanity. The Hellenic Link has taken the initiative this year to recommend a joint commemoration of the Day by Hellenic Organizations active in and around New York City. The suggestion was warmly accepted and thus in a few days we will celebrate the Day of Glory of Modern Hellas in the company of many compatriots, members of the Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater New York and of the Hellenic Medical Society of New York. Details of the outstanding celebration are in the Announcement-Invitation page (# 4) of this Bulletin. Let us all observe this Day of Remembrance with inner pride for being Greek, for Greece's enormous contribution to the rescue of world civilization, but also in a spirit of unity and historical responsibility, determined to follow worthily in the steps of the generation of the Hellenes of 1940.

Με την ευκαιρία της Εθνικής Επετείου της 28ης Οκτωβρίου 1940,

Η Ομοσπονδία των Ελληνικών Σωματείων της Μείζονος Νέας Υόρκης, σε κοινή εορταστική εκδήλωση με την Ελληνική Ιατρική Εταιρεία Νέας Υόρκης και τον Ελληνικό Σύνδεσμο

Προσκαλεί

ΤΑ ΜΕΛΗ ΤΩΝ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΩΝ ΣΩΜΑΤΕΙΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΤΗΝ ΟΜΟΓΕΝΕΙΑ
σε Οφειλόμενη Έκφραση Τιμής προς τους Ηρώες του 1940:

Εις το ΣΤΑΘΑΚΕΙΟ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΤΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ (22-51 29St., Astoria, N.Y.)

Την ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ 1 ΝΟΕΜΒΡΙΟΥ 2009 και ώρα 4:30 μ.μ.

Κύρια Εκδήλωση του Εορτασμού το Αφιερωματικό DVD:

ΤΟ ΕΠΟΣ ΤΩΝ ΕΛΛΗΝΩΝ 1940-1944

Βάσει αυθεντικών στοιχείων που τεκμηριώνουν σε βάθος το ιστορικό υπόβαθρο των γεγονότων, ζωντανή οπτικοακουστική παρουσίαση του Ηρωϊσμού και των Θυσιών της Γενιάς του 1940 στον αγώνα της κατά των εισβολέων-κατακτητών, που συνέβαλε καθοριστικά στη τελική συμμαχική νίκη. Παραγωγή-Προσφορά: Χριστιανική Ένωσις Επιστημόνων Ελλάδος. Επιλογή εποπτικού υλικού, σύνθεση και αφήγηση: Δρ. Γιάννης Τσέντος και Χρυσή Μανωλοπούλου-Τσέντου

Θα προσφερθούν καφές και αναψυκτικά. Ελεύθερη Είσοδος.

Από την λαμπρή και ιερή αυτή αναμνηστική συνάθροιση των Πανελλήνων ας μη λείψη κανείς!

Performance of Byron's Letters and the Hellenic Dancers of NJ at Stockton College

We received and gladly present the following news item from the Interdisciplinary Center of Hellenic Studies at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.

Galloway Township, NJ- On Sunday, November 1, 2009, at 3 PM, the Richard Stockton College Friends of Hellenic Studies will present “Byron’s Letters from Greece,” a reading of some of Lord Byron’s works which will be performed by Stockton theater student Patrick Judd. In addition, the Hellenic Dancers of New Jersey will perform the regional dances of Greece. The event will take place in the Stockton Performing Arts Center (PAC) and the ticket price includes a Mediterranean buffet lunch at 2 PM, prior to the performance. This event will have its premiere in September at the National Historical Museum of Greece as part of the International Byron Conference. Stockton’s November event will present it in celebration of the 200th anniversary of Lord Byron’s first trip to Greece which inspired him to write poetry about the country. Lord Byron was a Philhellene, meaning one who sympathized with the Greeks in their effort to free themselves from the Ottoman occupation in 1821 and who helped them restore the Greek nation. The word literally means one who loves all things Greek.

George Gordon Noel Byron was an English poet of the Romantic era. He was born in London in 1788 and traveled the circle of other well-known British poets such as Mary Shelley, who wrote the story of *Frankenstein*. One of Byron’s children, Ada Lovelace, distinguished in her own right, collaborated with Charles Babbage on the analytical engine, a predecessor to modern computers. Byron’s strong convictions regarding political justice eventually led him to fight with the Greeks in their quest for independence. In 1824, he and the Greek statesman, Alexandros Mavrokordatos planned an attack on a Turkish-held fortress, but Byron died of a fever at Mesolonghi, Greece before it could happen. His body was brought back to London where he is buried. The name Byron quickly became popular among Greeks and it is said that, had he lived, he might have even been crowned king of Greece.

Stockton professor Mark Mallett who also directs, created the script from Byron’s writings along with Judd, Professor Robert Gregg (Dean, Division of Arts and Humanities) and Professor David Roessel. Jaaron Boger is the Stage Manager. *The Hellenic Dancers of New Jersey* is a group of first, second and third generation Greek-Americans dedicated to perpetuating their heritage through **enthusiastic performances of the regional folk dances of Greece**. Master Instructor Eleni Chakalos leads the group in more than 300 dances, songs, and related traditions. They have performed for presidential inaugurations, won first prize at the Garden State Arts Center intra-State Competition, and danced at the Closing Ceremonies of the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens. Tickets are \$35 for adults; \$30 for FHS members and \$15 for students. There is no charge for children under 12. For more information, please contact Dawn Kanaan, (609) 652-4830 or via email at dawn.kanaan@stockton.edu.

ACADEMIC EVENTS OF HELLENIC CULTURAL INTEREST

[Seminar at CUNY on the Modern Greek State](#)

The Queens College Center for Byzantine Modern Greek Studies will hold a Seminar of interest to HL members and readers of the Bulletin. It will be presented under the auspices of the University Seminars Program, USA of the A.S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation, and it is co-sponsored by the City University of New York Academy for the Humanities and Sciences:

**Guest Speaker: Dr. Constantine Tsoukalas, Professor Emeritus of Sociology,
University of Athens**

Topic: *“Greece and the European Union:
40 Years Later & Challenges Ahead”*

Where: Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Ave. at the 34th Street, New York, NY10016
Room 9207, Tel. (212) 817-7940

When: Thursday, October 22, 2009 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Lecture on Antique Heritage in Byzantium at Concordia U. of Montreal

The Hellenic Studies Unit of Concordia University and the Hellenic Studies Program of McGill University invite you to a lecture:

**Guest Speaker: Professor Christine Angelidis, Research Director
Institute for Byzantine Research,
National Hellenic Research Foundation**

Topic: *Late Antique Heritage and the Remaking of Antiquity
in the Middle Byzantine Period*

Where: Concordia University, 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd.,
Hall Building, Room 767
Free Admission

When: Tuesday, October 27, 2009 at 7:00 P.M.

Professionals and students in every discipline or field of endeavor, whether of Greek Descent or Philhellenes, are cordially invited to join the Hellenic Link, Inc. as members. It is quite easy and useful! Just contact us at any of the following addresses.

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