

# THE HELLENIC

The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey



Spring 2001

## Dear Friends of Hellenic Studies at Stockton College



### Welcome to the first publication of our newsletter.

The memory of our annual event held in October 2000 at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey lingers on. The haunting lyrics of "Toutos o Topos" and "Mia Glossa, Mia Patrida" presented by Grigoris Maninakis and his Mikrokosmos Ensemble stirred the audience into a hand clapping, foot tapping frenzy.

It was an excellent combination of ancient Greek poetry set to the music of our modern day Greek composers, well known for their popular music.

Many thanks to Mrs. Georgia Alexakis for her knowledgeable presentation of the poetry and Mrs. Tula Christopoulos for the biographies of the poets.

Dr. Vera King Farris, President of the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey in her remarks greatly esteemed all Hellenes and lauded our efforts.

The Liturgical Chorus of Kasiani together with Presbytera Voula Liakopoulos' rendition of both the American and the Greek National Anthems were well received.

Father George Liakopoulos, of Holy Trinity Church, Bargaintown, New Jersey, and Father Nectarios, of Saint Nicholas Church, Atlantic City, New Jersey delivered the Invocation and the Closing Prayers respectively.

Father Demetrios Constantelos, Professor Emeritus of the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, and Distinguished Research Scholar in Residence elaborated on the history of the organization and thanked all our contributors.

Everyone enjoyed the evening, evidenced by their enthusiasm after the performance. We look forward to many future enjoyable events.

On behalf of the committee we wish to thank everyone who supported our program in any way.

Sincerely,

THE COMMITTEE

## The Future of Greek Studies at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey



Richard Stockton is one of the youngest public colleges in the Nation. However, its reputation as one of the top ten publicly funded Liberal Arts Colleges is well established. Much of

this reputation is based on the College's Program in Arts and Humanities. In most of the program's divisions the representation of subjects related to Greek studies is excellent. For this, one has to give credit to the supportive role of the President of the College, Dr. Vera King Farris and to the Dean of the Program, Dr. Kenneth Dollarhide. The presence on the campus of excellent scholars and teachers, such as Prof. D. Constantelos and Prof. F. Mench attribute greatly to its success.

The efforts of all these individuals and the support of the Administration have created an Arts and Humanities program, which offers a wide variety of topics on classical Greek and Latin Civilization and on its afterlife. In more specific terms, the Program now offers courses on the

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following subjects: a) Greek Language (Classical, Medieval and Modern) and Literature, Latin Language and Literature b) Courses in ancient Greek Philosophy and its impact on modern thought c) Courses in Classical Greek Latin and Medieval (Byzantine) history and d) Courses on the History of Christianity. Also, at times, other related courses of more specific nature are offered (such as this Spring semester's General Studies course on Women Saints of Byzantium).

The plans for the immediate future include first of all the introduction of a major in Classics. Up to now students could minor in Classics (Greek and Latin). However, within the first months of 2001, further steps will be taken in order to establish a major in Classics. All the courses needed for such a major are offered by the College and Prof. Mench has already drafted the proposal for the introduction of the Major in Classics.

Finally, the President of the College and the Dean of Arts and Humanities have also approved the opening of a tenure-track position in the History of Southeastern Europe, the Middle East and Modern Hellenism. With this new appointment the configuration of a program in Hellenic Studies will be completed and we can happily anticipate the creation within the foreseeable future of a new Minor if not Major in Hellenic Studies with emphasis on Post Byzantine and Modern Hellenism.

On the other hand, my experience with students at Stockton during the last semester gave me all the good hopes that we may soon start producing graduates well equipped to pursue graduate studies in the Classics or in Hellenic Studies. Certainly, the quality of students that enroll in the Stockton programs is comparable to that of the students in major universities in the nation. Moreover, the brightest

among our students have all the intellectual qualifications that can possibly allow them entry into any graduate program in Classics in the most prestigious universities in the States.

Thanks to the efforts of the Administration and the Senior Faculty members we can only be looking forward to the future. Classics and Greek/Hellenic Studies are two subjects that equip all students well for a broad range of careers from academic/scholarship-oriented ones to those that require analytical and/or critical thinking such as law or business administration. We should never forget that places, which cultivate scholarship and academic excellence, guarantee a great future for their students.

-Alexander Alexakis, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of  
Greek Language and Literature



## *Mark your Calendar...*

**The Classical Humanities Society of South Jersey at Stockton, 2000-2001 Lecture Series, offers the following stimulating lectures:**

- **Saturday, March 24, 12:00 noon:** "The Trial of Jesus: What Do We Know" by Gerald O'Sullivan.
- **Saturday, April 21, 12:00 noon:** "Mussolini and Ancient Rome" by Peter King of Temple University.

**All lectures are free and held in building G-208 of Stockton College. Refreshments provided.**

**For more information, contact the Classical Humanities Society of South Jersey at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, P.O. Box 195, Pomona, NJ 08240-0195**

## The Greek-American Journey

by  
Kiki Glikerdas

Welcome to the first issue of our newsletter. We aspire to keep you informed about upcoming events of the committee. We also plan to provide, through this column, an outlet for reflecting on what I call 'the Greek-American Journey'. This is the journey of immigration, traveled by our great-grandfathers, our parents, ourselves.

This is a topic very close to me, since I immigrated to the United States in 1972, at the age of 17, with my father. My mother and brother were soon to follow. We were among the roughly 10,000 Greeks that were admitted in the U.S. that year. A modern day pioneer? Hardly, since the hardships my family encountered pale when compared to the lives of the first Greek immigrants. By the time we arrived, others before us had "cleared the way," those early Greek immigrants who had to prove that, contrary to common stereotyping, they were not "a quarrelsome, treacherous, filthy, low-living lot."

Who were these first Greek immigrants? Records show that a Greek, Michael Ury (Youris) became a naturalized citizen by act of the General Assembly of Maryland in 1725. Thus, Ury is the first Greek positively known to reside permanently in America. The first marriage between two Greek Americans we know of occurred in 1799 in New Orleans, when Andrea Dimitri, a native of the Greek island of Hydra, marries Marianne Celeste Dracos, the daughter of Michael Dracos, a well-to-do merchant who had come to New Orleans from Athens around 1766.

The historian E.P. Panagopoulos has written the story of the first migration of Greeks to America in the ill-fated colony of New Smyrna in the early 1760s. It was shortly after Florida had passed from the Spanish to the British that many influential Britons became fascinated with the idea of establishing plantations in the new Florida territories. One of them was Andrew Turnbull, a Scottish doctor, married to Maria Rubini, the daughter of a Greek merchant in London. Maria was born in Smyrna, Asia Minor, and the new twenty-thousand acre plantation about 75 miles south of St. Augustine, Florida was named New Smyrna to honor her birthplace. According to contemporary reports, Turnbull brought about 1,403 people, about four to five hundred of whom were Greek. This was considered to be the largest importation of white inhabitants that was ever brought into America at a time. These people were brought as indentured servants, they were to serve their boss for a certain amount of time, usually five to eight years without pay and after the completion of their service they would acquire a certain amount of land themselves. The majority of these indentured servants were Italians and Minorcans. The Greeks were principally from Mani, located in the southernmost tip of the Greek mainland. It was a great surprise for me to find out that these first Greeks came from Mani, my own birthplace, hundreds of years before me. The conditions were horrible according to historical accounts: over

half of the colonists died the first two years due to food scarcity and brutally heavy labor clearing the Florida wilderness. The riot that exploded on August 19, 1768 was a call for freedom but was suppressed. When their contract ended, the colonists asked to be freed of their indenture but their requests were ignored until 1777. By that time, the remaining one hundred or so Greeks fled to St. Augustine and some prospered as merchants. John Giannopoulos established a school in his house that, now restored, stands as the oldest wooden schoolhouse in the United States. Although these first Greeks eventually disappeared by the middle of the nineteenth century, a small Greek chapel was established in St. Augustine in November, 1777 where Greeks could pray. Almost two hundred years later this building was designated a shrine by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America to commemorate the trials of the first Greeks who came to this country.

This, dear friends, is the beginning of our immigration odyssey. Through this newsletter we will regularly reflect on this journey from Greece to America that began hundreds of years ago. We have the work of many notable scholars to guide us and provide us with the historical facts, statistics, and other valuable information. But beyond that, this will hopefully become a place for friends to talk about their own experience, their story, their journey. So we invite you to send us your story, or perhaps that of your parents or grandparents as they passed it on to you when you were a child. Thus, by listening to personal narratives, we will be able to weave the collective narrative of the Greek-American Journey. ■

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### SOURCES

Henry Pratt Fairchild, *Greek Immigration to the United States (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1911), p. 144.*

*E.P. Panagopoulos, New Smyrna: An Eighteenth Century Greek Odyssey (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1966).*

We encourage you to send us your story, by mail to:

### Hellenic Heritage Committee

Attn: K. Glikerdas  
719 Opatut Court  
Toms River, NJ 08753

Or you can email it to:

[HYPERLINK mailto:anastasako@aol.com](mailto:anastasako@aol.com) [anastasako@aol.com](mailto:anastasako@aol.com).

## We recommend the following books:

*Inventing Paradise: The Greek Journey, 1937-1947,*  
by Edmund Keeley

The respected scholar, novelist and Hellenist Edmund Keeley's latest book is a powerful synthesis of personal memoir, interpretative narrative, and literary criticism. A skillful translator of Cavafy, Seferis, and other famous Greek poets, Keeley utilizes excerpts from their poetry in his accounts of the breathtaking Greek landscape. He retraces the journeys of Henry Miller (*The Colossus of Maroussi*) and Lawrence Durrell (*Propsero's Cell; Reflections on a Marine Venus*) in pre-World War II Greece. They and their Greek poet friends (George Seferis, George Katsimbalis, and others) seemed to have invented paradise, swimming in sun-drenched beaches and considering the meaning of Greek poetry and philosophy. This experience resulted in the transformation of Miller's and Durrell's work while the vitality, courage and dedication of the Greek poets during the German occupation and the civil war that followed kept Greek poetry alive during this dark period.

According to *The New York Times*, Edmund Keeley's book is "...a wonderfully personal hybrid: part history, part literary evocation, part memoir and most of all a travel journal...a complex and illuminating connection."

*Not Even My Name,*  
by Thea Halo

This book is the painful story of Sano Halo, a Pontic Greek from a small village near the Black Sea, who at the age of 10 lost her family and home in the Pontic Mountains in 1920. Treated like a slave by the woman who was supposed to take care of her, Sano was eventually sold into marriage to a man three times her age and brought to America. The story is told by her daughter, Thea, who accompanies her beloved mother seventy years later to a pilgrimage to Turkey in search of Sano's home.

With eloquent prose, Thea Halo paints a haunting picture of personal drama which is also a piece of the larger horror of the 3 million Greek, Armenian, and Assyrian Christian minorities who died in Turkey after World War I. The author says about her book that "...it's not just my mother's story, with its rich history and detail of her ancient way of life high in the Pontic Mountains of Turkey near the Black Sea, the death march that stripped her and everyone and everything she had ever held dear, and then her life in America. It's also the story of the human will and ability to survive."

*Understanding The Greek Orthodox Church Its Faith, History and Life,*  
by Demetrios J. Constantelos

"The book...is a superb presentation of the faith, history, and practice of the Greek Orthodox Church that is comprehensive and readable. It is a book that should be in the religious section of every library." -*Choice*

"Addressed to the nonspecialist, as for example undergraduate college students, the book would be ideal reading for a Roman Catholic preparing for marriage with a Greek Orthodox. One would hope too that this title would be assigned as required reading in Catholic seminaries...Constantelos holds our attention as an experienced pedagogue." -*Emmanuel*

"The most readable and instructive monograph on the Greek Orthodox Church and faith to appear in many years...an honest appraisal by one who knows whereof he speaks. Recommended for anyone wanting sound information on Greek Orthodoxy and the Greek Church."  
-*Religious Studies Review*

"This book should be read by every seminarian of whatever jurisdiction, by as many laypeople as possible, and all the clergy, no matter what their training and experience. The more the reader knows, the more he will enjoy this presentation; if he knows little, he will end up knowing a lot, and he will enjoy himself while learning." -*Fr. Stephen H. R. Upson Ph.D.*

"Most thought-provoking is his analysis of the formative influence of Greek thought on early Christianity...readers interested in the meaning and influence of this...church will find the book fascinating." -*Library Journal*

*The Greeks: Their Heritage and Its Value Today,*  
by Demetrios J. Constantelos

What does it mean to be a Greek or a Greek-American today? An answer to this simple but surprisingly difficult question is given in this booklet by a noted scholar. In two engaging essays, Fr. Constantelos identifies the ideals and values of Hellenism that have remained constant from its ancient roots to its medieval and modern manifestations. In his first essay, he explores the continuous identity of the Greek people and nation through its language and culture from antiquity down to the present. The second essay focuses on twelve constant values and ideals of the Greek heritage, including religion and spirituality, the idea of the person, equality under the law, and education. ■



## Museum Exhibition



A remarkable exhibition is traveling through major American cities this year. "Antioch: The Lost Ancient City" was most recently in the Worcester Art Museum in Massachusetts until February 4, 2001. After leaving Worcester, the exhibit will be in the Cleveland Museum of Art in March, 2001, and then in the Baltimore Museum of Art. Although this exhibit will not reach Baltimore until September, 2001, The Hellenic Heritage Committee at Stockton is planning a trip to the Baltimore Museum of Art. Visitors will get a rare glimpse of

one of the most glorious cities of the Roman Empire with treasures created nearly two-thousand years ago.

Antioch, today known as Antakya, in Greek and Roman times was the capital of Ancient Syria and one of the famous cities of the Roman East along with Rome, Constantinople and Alexandria from 100-520 A.D. Antioch was a vital trading post and a metropolis. Although it served as home to Jews, pagans, Syriacs, it also played a central role in the formation of the Christian faith. It was also the place where some of the early Christian fathers were educated such as Saint Basil the Great and Saint John Chrysostom. Saint Peter also preached in Antioch. The city was destroyed by a devastating earthquake in 526 A.D. and Antioch remained obscure for centuries. In 1932-1939, a team of archeologists from Princeton University, the Louvre, the Baltimore Museum of Art, and

the Worcester Art Museum excavated the site. They found the largest collection of Roman mosaics, jewelry, and sculpture. Visitors of the exhibit will get an opportunity to view rare objects from internationally renowned collections, mosaics from the Louvre, and artifacts from other major museums.

*(Excerpt from Elizabeth M. Economou, "The Lost Ancient City: Antioch Reawakened," Orthodox Observer, October 2000, p. 25)*

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## Please support The Hellenic Heritage at Stockton College

**Our mission is to support the efforts at Stockton College and to strengthen its Hellenic Studies Program and to enable its students in acquiring the knowledge developed by the Ancient, Classical, Byzantine and Contemporary Greeks.**

**We do this through annual fundraising events, lecture series, cultural activities and various informal gatherings.**

**Our members share a passion for the Greek heritage and are committed to its promotions. Your contribution is crucial to the success of the Committee's efforts. We ask you to join our membership and support our future events. Please give generously...**

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The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey

# THE HELLENIC *Voice*



Phone: 609-652-4528  
Fax: 609-748-6054

Friends of Greek Studies  
PO Box 195  
The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey  
Pomona NJ 08240

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