



# THE HELLENIC STOCKTON UNIVERSITY E-Newsletter

# Voice

A publication of the Dean C. and Zoë S. Pappas Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies and the Friends of Hellenic Studies

September 2020 VOLUME 1 ISSUE NO. 1



**DEAN C. & ZOË S. PAPPAS  
INTERDISCIPLINARY CENTER FOR HELLENIC STUDIES  
STOCKTON UNIVERSITY**



Left to right: The late Dr. Demetrios J. Constantelos and Tom Papademetriou, Ph.D.

## From the Director

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the faculty and students of the Dean C. and Zoë S. Pappas Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies, I bring you warm greetings from Stockton University. With the leadership of President Harvey Kesselman, Interim Provost Michelle McDonald, and our own Dean Lisa Honaker of the School of Arts and Humanities, countless people have worked tirelessly to allow Stockton to open its doors to students for face-to-face instruction. It is no doubt strange for all of us as we meet our students in masks, and instruct them in Greek language and history and engage in discussions of such powerful texts as *The Iliad*. However, we have such wonderful cooperative students and faculty who wish to do their part to keep everyone safe while still advancing our educational mission. Our Hellenic Studies faculty continues to teach the special array of courses related to the Greek world, and we are planning public lectures, though modified for online presentations. We are also in the midst of planning for the coming bicentennial celebration of the Greek War of Independence. We hope that our US Veteran students taking part in this spring's "From Troy to Ithaca" seminar will be allowed to make their journey to Greece in March 2021 in the midst of such a momentous year.

Last spring we were fortunate to host the last public event on campus prior to the University going to remote instruction. We were extremely honored to have His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America deliver the Rev. Dr. Demetrios J. Constantelos Memorial Lecture with the title, "The Orthodox Church in the 21st Century," a critical topic that was a major concern of Professor Constantelos. It was a beautiful evening, with many thanks going to the Friends of Hellenic Studies, the Stockton University Foundation, the Stockton Oratorio, and to my colleague Tula Christopoulos who assisted in organizing this successful event.

The Constantelos Memorial Lecture was delivered to honor Rev. Dr. Demetrios J. Constantelos. It was touching to hear His Eminence deliver his lecture to honor a man who strived his whole life for ARETI-- for excellence-- in scholarship, in teaching, and as a priest in service to God and the Greek-American community. Archbishop Elpidophoros exemplifies those very same qualities, and we were very fortunate to have him on our campus.

As a final remark, I would like to remind everyone that Professor Constantelos' life had been consumed by one special focus: PHILANTHROPIA --love for all people--. This was not only a theoretical and historical study to him. He embodied it in his daily life, and in his interactions with each of us. I hope that in these challenging days, we, too, can embody this noble Hellenic principle and important virtue of PHILANTHROPIA, to help ease each other's burdens in difficult times.

Tom Papademetriou, Ph.D., Director,  
Dean C. And Zoë S. Pappas Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies  
Constantine & Georgiean Georgiou Professor of Greek History

## From the Co-Chairs of the Friends of Hellenic Studies

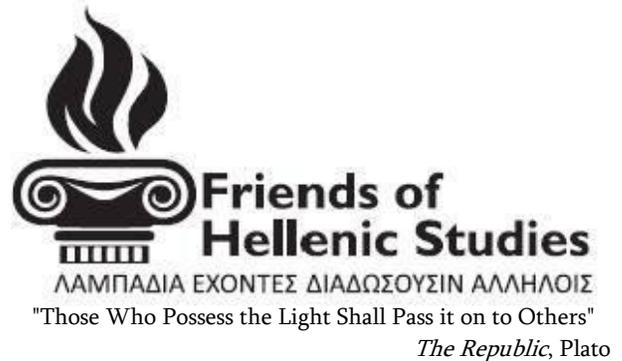
Dear Friends of Hellenic Studies,

I am the new kid on the block and the newly elected co-chair of the Friends of Hellenic Studies. My love for the Greek language, our culture, our heritage, my great respect for Fr. Constantelos's work, the warmth I felt within the dedicated group willing to continue his work drew me to offer my services voluntarily.

The infectious disease Covid-19 might have forced the Hellenic Studies group to change our ways from in-person to virtual meetings, presentations and events but I assure you it has not touched our spirit. We continue strong with new ideas such as the introduction of a new section in our *Hellenic Voice*, the Greek corner encouraging our Greek-speaking friends to participate sharing experiences, life stories, memories, etc. We are also searching for new sources to support our cause such as the Onassis and Niarchos foundations. In addition, we are seeking to reach out to them to share educational programs, lectures and entertaining events.

I look forward hearing from you about ideas you might have improving our *Hellenic Voice* and about articles you might want us to consider.

Thank you,  
 Mariea Kazantzis  
 Co-Chair, Friends of Hellenic Studies



Greetings and Welcome to the new and improved *Hellenic Voice*, our first issue prepared and distributed exclusively on-line. We hope our newsletter will inform, instruct and entertain you with newsworthy articles, essays, poetry and reviews from the Director of the Pappas Center; the faculty, staff and students of Stockton's Hellenic Studies program; co-chairs and members of the Friends of Hellenic Studies; and the greater Greek-American community.

Included in this issue you will read about some of the events we've hosted and presented since our last issue was published. These include trips, receptions, lectures, musical presentations and our annual Exploring Hellenism fund raisers.

Due to Covid and the ban on travel and large gatherings since last March, our meetings and events have been held virtually, a situation which may continue for a while yet. But we are resilient and will continue to use the technology we have to keep the Hellenic spirit alive with virtual events, lectures and presentations. We will keep you informed through *The Hellenic Voice* and e-mail announcements of any and all upcoming programs.

We are very excited to announce that in 2021 we will be commemorating 200 years of Greek independence, a year-long, multi-faceted celebration. We hope you will join us in the festivities, some of which will be held on-line and others which, we pray, will be in-person.

Thank you to our subscribers, enjoy the newsletter and please stay healthy,

Cathy Karathanasis  
 Co-Chair, Friends of Hellenic Studies

## From the Co-Chairs of the Friends of Hellenic Studies, continued

Greetings, Friends!

I am so excited and honored to be one of this year's co-chairs of the Friends of Hellenic Studies. My co-chairs, Cathy Karathanasis and Mariea Kazantzis, and I are planning many exciting virtual events for the year, and we hope that you will join us and continue to support our earnest endeavor.

I have been a member of the *FHS* since I began teaching at Stockton in 2008 and have served the group in various capacities. One of my most treasured positions has been chairing the scholarship committee and supporting undergraduate Stockton students in their pursuits abroad. These amazing students have traveled and studied in Greece, Cyprus, Turkey, and Italy; some have worked on archaeological projects, others have learned modern Greek, and still others have taken courses in drama, history, literature, and culture. Despite their various pursuits abroad, all have come back with a genuine respect and love for Hellenic culture.

I was raised to be proud of my Greek heritage (as we all have), and as the AFGLC (American Foundation for Greek Language and Culture) Professor of Greek Culture in the Dean C. and Zoë S. Pappas Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies, I am able to share this with the community and students. I strive daily to fulfill the vision and aspirations of Rev. Dr. Constantelos, who was our beloved and fearless leader. Through the Pappas Center and the Friends, he created a place at Stockton where scholars, students, and the community could come together and celebrate Hellenism. His deep love and profound knowledge of the Hellenic world and its people continue to inspire me.

I hope you enjoy our new electronic *Hellenic Voice*. We welcome you to submit your work for consideration in future editions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Katherine (είμαι Σπαρτηγάτισσα) Panagakos  
Co-Chair, Friends of Hellenic Studies

οὐ γὰρ ὡς ἀγγεῖον ὁ νοῦς ἀποπληρώσεως ἀλλ' ὑπεκκαύματος μόνον ὥσπερ ὕλη δεῖται,  
ὀρμὴν ἐμποιοῦντος εὐρετικὴν καὶ ὄρεξιν ἐπὶ τὴν ἀλήθειαν.

Plutarch, *Moralia*, "On Listening to Lectures" (48c)

'For the mind does not require filling like a bottle, but rather, like wood, it only requires kindling to create in it an impulse to think independently and an ardent desire for the truth.'

Translation by F. C. Babbitt, Plutarch, *Moralia*, Loeb Classical Library (1926)

## Student Voices: Spotlight on Robert Mazur

### The Attiko School: Giving New Life to Ancient Theatre

July 2019 saw for me, through the generous auspices of the Friends of Hellenic Studies, the opportunity to participate in an overwhelmingly instructive workshop in Ancient Greek theatre led by renowned dramatist Martha Frintzila. The ten-day extended workshop, entitled the Attiko International Ancient Greek Drama Summer School, took place in Elefsina- modern Eleusis- a city marked well for its cultural significance by virtue of both its mysterious ancient rites and its current status as a chosen European Capital of Culture for 2021.

The program, turning out to have been quite a bit more intensive than I had originally anticipated, was composed of a series of exhaustive, and rather exhausting, workshops in theatrical movement and expression. Mornings began with a three hour workshop in movement;



these classes focused on the technical performative use of the body in accordance with its natural musculoskeletal structure, as well as working safely and effectively with other people in a theatrical space. Through such prominent artists as Manuel Ronda, Konstandina Efthimiadou, and Georgia Paizi, we were introduced to various methods for developing bodily awareness, such as the Alexander Technique, a method of holding and moving with one's body in a natural and comfortable manner, and were also instructed in methods of safe dance. At the end of the program, we capitalized on these skills in learning several forms of traditional Greek dance, which, despite my other left foot, was tremendous fun.

The remainder of the day was spent, from afternoon to late-evening, with a diverse group of actors and musical artists including Marina Satti, Andreas Segditsas, Akylas Karazisis, Camilo Bentancor, and prized actor Themis Panou. These artists guided students in both theoretical and practical approaches to physical and vocalic expression, leading improvisational performances in which these approaches were applied.

Expanding, first, the scope of each student's theatrical repertoire and thereafter exploring the limits of

**Top:** Utilizing "Sharp" Angled Poses to Represent the "Huntress" Character Archetype  
**Bottom:** Group Exercises; Preparing and Working in a Theatrical Space

Local School in Elefsina; Location of Workshop



dramatic expression, these lecture-workshops, for my part, deepened my theretofore shallow understanding of the acting process.

Since, before attending this program, I had theretofore only read of dramaturgy and the misty origins of the Dionysian festivals; actually practicing the craft and working within a space with experienced thespians has been a crucial step in my developing understanding of the dramatic tradition both in ancient and contemporary culture. As I continue to study the theatre of Ancient Greece, the experience I gained in Elefsina will doubtless aid me and allow for insights which otherwise would not have occurred to me. I would highly recommend that anyone engage, if not in this particular program, in one of a similar kind; I cannot express how appreciative I am of the opportunity to have done so myself.

## The Attiko School: Giving New Life to Ancient Theatre, continued

On which note, I must extend my most sincere gratitude to the Friends of Hellenic Studies for awarding me the Foundation Scholarship, without which this profoundly formative experience would have been impossible. With no less sincerity I would also like to thank my professors, Dr. Roessel, Dr. Panagakos, and Dr. Zucconi, for their indispensable advice and guidance. Finally, to Martha Frintizila, to the aforementioned artists, to the students I met during the program, and to the dearly hospitable people of Greece, I give you the same heartfelt thanks. *Ευχαριστώ πολύ!*



Simulation of Religious Procession at the Acrocorinthos

## Friends of Hellenic Studies Get Immersed in Armenian Culture, Art

The Friends of Hellenic Studies (FHS) at Stockton sponsored a bus trip to visit the New York City Metropolitan Museum of Art and Astoria, Queens on January 12, 2019. Stockton students, faculty and staff attended the trip along with members of the Holy Trinity, St. Barbara and St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox communities. The trip's focus was to visit the *Armenia!* exhibit, as well as attend Greco-Roman, Cypriot and Jaharis Byzantine galleries. The group also enjoyed a traditional Greek lunch and visited a Greek specialty food store.

“The exhibit *Armenia!* was ‘an eye-opening appraisal’ of the arts, manuscripts, textiles and religious artifacts of a nation. It was the largest exhibition of Armenian art outside of Armenia, 140 objects in all,” said **Cathy Karathanasis**, co-chair of the Friends of Hellenic Studies. “Exhibit highlights included illuminated manuscripts presented in low lighting to protect the writing and remarkable illustrations; reliquaries said to contain remnants of the True Cross and the remains of saints; elaborate cross stones called ‘khachkars;’ and a 12-foot painted map including nearly 800 sites of Armenian Christian worship. Secular items included gold jewelry dating to the 11th century.”

The trip was supported in part by Stockton's Dean C. and Zoë S. Pappas Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies and the generosity of the Pappas Foundation.



## Friends of Hellenic Studies Visit Penn Museum, Philadelphia

Another successful trip with the Friends of Hellenic Studies—this time to the Penn Museum in Philadelphia. We boarded the bus at 10:00 a.m. on October 26, 2019 and left the Stockton campus heading to the City of Brotherly Love. On the way we heard from **Dr. Catharine Judson**, Visiting Assistant Professor, Art Department and **Dr. Katherine Panagakos**, Assistant Professor of Classics, who shared their expertise with us.

First stop: a Greek culinary establishment or “estiatorio” (restaurant) named (what else?) Zorba’s. It was like stepping into someone’s home anywhere in Greece. Warm and inviting, it featured authentic Greek dishes prepared and served with care. After a delicious meal, we boarded the bus once more and headed to Center City.

We chose a great day to visit the museum—it was bustling with people there to celebrate Mexico’s Day of the Dead. The entire second floor was filled with the colors of Mexico—altars dedicated to ancestors, people in costume, children in face paint, and lots of merchandise.

We then made our way to the Greco-Roman galleries. The Greek gallery explores the ancient history and culture of Greece from 3000 B.C.E. to 31 B.C.E. The collections there are among the finest in the U. S. and include objects in the context of various aspects of Greek life, i.e. athletics, education, trade, religion and death, and the role of women. The objects on display come from Greece as well as Greek colonies in Italy, Sicily, Libya, and Cyprus.

Highlights included Attic pottery vessels, marble and bronze sculptures, gold and silver coins, and architectural fragments. Specifically, we viewed a beautiful amphora (vase with two handles) made in Athens around 535 B.C.E. showing the death of Achilles in battle and an extensive collection of ancient Greek coins such as the very valuable silver dekadrachm. All in all, it was a wonderful day and a good time was had by all.

Although our planned trip to the Princeton Art Museum scheduled for April, 2020 had to be cancelled due to Covid, we are hoping to reschedule once it is safe to do so. More information will be forthcoming.



## Lectures and Presentations

### Friends of Hellenic Studies Award Three Scholarships through Fundraiser Event

The Stockton University Friends of Hellenic Studies (FHS) presented a Hellenic Studies scholarship fundraiser on May 5, 2019 in the Campus Center Theatre and Event Room. The event explored the true Macedonia - birthplace of Alexander the Great; origins of Cleopatra and many other traditions.

“From the unique regional flavor profiles of their gastronomy to the distinctive dances, it showcased, once more, the diversity of Hellenic culture: the impact of ancient and recent historical events on a population that, through it all, has maintained a unified identity,” said **Tula Christopoulos**, assistant to the director of the Dean C. and Zoë S. Pappas Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies. “FHS members **Mariea Kazantzis**, **Marina Koussoulis** and **Catherine Karathanasis** put together first-rate presentations on Macedonia's history, culture and traditions. The Macedonian Dancers of Philadelphia were spectacular, and the food, uniquely Macedonian and delicious.”

**Dr. Katherine Panagakos**, Assistant Professor of Classics, said there were three scholarship recipients this year: **Robert Mazur**, Languages and Culture Studies major, who will attend the Attiko School of Ancient Greek Drama, Eleusis; **Frank Porcellini**, Historical Studies major, who will attend a study tour in Thessaloniki and Haifa; and **Michael Martelli**, Historical Studies major, who will attend the Paideia Program on Rhodes to study Modern Greek.

“Thank you all who are helping to perpetuate the legacy of Hellenism and that of the late Rev. Dr. Demetrios J. Constantelos who began this program. Next year, we will highlight yet another region or island of Greece,” **Christopoulos** said.



The Macedonian Dancers of Philadelphia perform on the Campus Center Theatre stage.

### Songs From Cyprus

On Wednesday, April 10, 2019 those of us lucky enough to have attended the concert at Alton Auditorium were treated to the sounds of delightful music from the island state of Cyprus performed by a trio of talented musicians. Nicoletta Demetriou's incredible vocals were accompanied by Roger Mgrdichian on the oud and Nikitas Tampakis on the viola. The pieces they chose to perform enhanced the trio's virtuosity. The evening began with a lively instrumental number played by the two gentlemen. In the musicians' talented hands the sounds of the viola, a larger version of the violin, and the oud, an ancestor of the European lute, blended beautifully together and were later enhanced by the enchanting voice of Dr. Demetriou.

Ten eclectic songs from Cyprus were performed, most of which dealt with love in its many forms. Included in the repertoire were Amanes, songs of longing, songs of sorrow, a lullaby, a dance number, and a narrative song with a tragic ending. The Greek words in the songs were translated into English and accompanied by explanations.

We were honored by the presence of these wonderful musicians and thank them for using Stockton University as their venue.

## Exploring Hellenism Through a Virtual Lens

By Tula Christopoulos

For the last several years, the Friends of Hellenic Studies has celebrated the beauty, history and culture of Greece through a program known as *Exploring Hellenism*. Inspired by the Rev. Dr. Demetrios Constantelos, this event has become an annual Hellenic Studies scholarship fundraising event, each time spotlighting a different region or island of Greece.

Usually, the event takes place on campus or at a local restaurant, such as Sofia in Margate or the Galloway Diner in Galloway. It consists of one or more keynote speakers followed by traditional dances or songs from the featured region as well as a dinner reflecting the culinary customs of that area. Stockton University and the local community are invited to attend and support this program which has transformed many students' lives in positive ways.

Recognizing the unquestionable influence that the ancient Greek philosophers, mathematicians, architects, physicians, playwrights, musicians, artists and historians had on the development of Western Civilization, Dr. Constantelos wanted the teaching of that valuable knowledge to be perpetuated. The Friends of Hellenic Studies continues its fundraising efforts so that more Stockton students can experience for themselves the source of that knowledge by studying in Greece, Cyprus and the greater Hellenic world. We invite you to read the testimonials in this and future *Hellenic Voice* issues to see for yourselves the transformative benefits these scholarship recipients experience. The Friends of Hellenic Studies' slogan is: Λαμπάδια έχοντες διαδώσουσιν αλλήλοις, i.e., "Those who possess the light shall pass it on to others."

In years past, this annual fundraiser has spotlighted Crete, the Peloponnesos, Cyprus, Mytiline, Chios, Kos and Macedonia. In 2020, we turned our attention to three Cycladic islands: Andros, Sifnos and Paros.

What we did not anticipate was a pandemic striking as we planned the event. The presenters and I decided to dive into the virtual world and try our hand at presenting the event via ZOOM, a format none of us had previously worked with. We decided to break up the program into three 45-minute sessions that would be broadcast on three consecutive Sunday afternoons, beginning May 3, 2020. Because we could not offer a dinner or live student testimonials, we enhanced each recorded session as follows:

- We sent youtube links of traditional music, dances, recipes and other points of interest from each island.
- We invited student scholarship recipients to speak during each session about their experiences studying in Greece and Cyprus. We were fortunate to have Stockton student, **Megan Coates**, speak about her new-found love of Byzantine iconography and archaeology as a result of her studies abroad in Greece and Cyprus.
- Registered viewers could email questions to us and have the answers shared online with all who registered.

The presenters were **Mrs. Catherine Karathanasis** who spoke about the island of Andros, **Mrs. Mariea Kazantzis** who covered Sifnos and **Dr. Manya Bean** who helped us explore the island of Paros. All three speakers had a personal connection with the island they chose to present and each had visited that island in the summer of 2019.

The most exciting outcome in offering this event virtually was having viewers anywhere from California to Greece tuning in and watching. Ironically, in 2020, more people got to know who the Friends of Hellenic Studies are than in any year when it was presented live. That said, our preference would be to go back to having a live event so we can, once again, enjoy a dinner of traditional foods and wines and get up and dance together.

[Click Here to View  
Session 1 - Andros](#)

[Click Here to View  
Session 2 - Sifnos](#)

[Click Here to View  
Session 3 - Paros](#)

## Hellenic Studies Welcomes His Eminence Elpidophoros of America

By Diane D'Amico, Director of News & Media Relations, Stockton University



**His Eminence Elpidophoros of America, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America**, gave up his university teaching position when he accepted his new role in the church. But his love of learning and rapport with people was evident during a visit to Stockton University on March 5, 2020 where he met with students participating in Hellenic Studies programs and spoke to a crowd of more than 150 in an evening lecture at Seaview, a Dolce Hotel.

"I loved teaching," he told the students during a meeting in the Constantelos Hellenic Collection and Reading Room in the Bjork library. "I learned from my students, and now I have a role in the church that fills my heart. It is good to have new things in your life."

His Eminence is the third archbishop of the Greek Orthodox Diocese to visit Stockton. He was the keynote speaker for the 2020 Rev. Dr. Demetrios J. Constantelos Memorial Lecture, organized by the Dean C. & Zoë S. Pappas Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies at Stockton. The event is held in memory of one of Stockton's founding professors, whose legacy continues to inspire students, faculty, staff and supporters at Stockton.

The Pappas Center and the Friends of Hellenic Studies continue to support the university through academic events, and scholarships that support students who want to pursue Hellenic Studies in Greece.

Student **Megan Coates** of Atlantic City, an archeology major, talked about visiting Cyprus in 2017, her first time out of the country.

"I landed in Cyprus and my life changed," she said. "There was something about the light. I didn't want to leave. But the light stays with you when you return. I discovered Greece through Stockton."

**Sgt. Caitlin Gillum** was among a class of student veterans who can take a special class on Homer's *Odyssey* titled "From Troy to Ithaca, A Soldier's Journey Home."

A combat veteran, Gillum said she was struggling to return to civilian life when she took the course, which includes a spring break trip to Greece. "Coming home is hard," she said. "You have to find your way back in mind, body and spirit. This program made the difference for me. To be in a safe

environment, with fellow veterans meant everything to me."

The Archbishop said the culture of Greece is something everyone can enjoy.

"It is something every person can embrace," he said. "You don't have to be Greek; it is a global civilization."

**Dr. Tom Papademetriou**, Director of the Pappas Center, said he invited the Archbishop to speak because he "exemplifies the high ideals that Professor Constantelos represents: an excellent teacher, a highly accomplished scholar, and a dedicated priest." His Eminence spoke on "The Orthodox Church in the 21st Century: Challenges and Opportunities."

Professor of Music **Dr. Beverly Vaughn** led the Stockton Chorale and Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church choir in the American and Greek National Anthems as well as one of Dr. Constantelos' favorite hymns. Vaughn said she recalled how warmly Constantelos supported her when she was a new, nervous faculty member.

Interim Provost **Dr. Michelle McDonald** recalled the Greek cookies Constantelos used to bring in to share with colleagues. She thanked the Pappas family and Friends of Hellenic Studies supporters for continuing his legacy through their efforts to support students.

Other major sponsors of the event were **Mary and Georgette Boulegeris**, the **Constantelos family**, **James and Zoe Christakos**, **Aphrodite Kotrotsios** and *Hellenic News of America*.

[Click Here for Images and a Video of the Event!](#)

## Community Notes

### Παιδικές Αναμνήσεις

By Mariea Kazantzis

«Γράμματα που κ ξέρ, άμον στραβόν κοσσάρ έν» Αυτά μας ελεγε η Πόντια Γιαγιά Χρυσούλα οταν ξυνίζαμε τα μούτρα μας βλέποντας πως ηταν η ωρα να πάμε στο σχολείο. Δηλαδή, εννοούσε πως οποιος δεν ξέρει γράμματα είναι σαν μιά στραβή κότα. Αυτή ηταν η Ποντιακή παρότρυνση της Γιαγιάς μας για να μορφωθούμε.

Η Γιαγιά Χρυσούλα ηταν η μητέρα του Πατέρα μου. Ο Παπούς είχε πεθάνει στην Γερμανική κατοχή, σχετικά νέος, και η Γιαγιά αποφάσισε να μείνει με τον μικρότερο γυιό της, το δέκατο παιδί της οικογενείας στην Ηλιούπολη, προάστειο των Αθηνών. Οταν εγώ και οι αδελφές μου φέρναμε φίλες στο σπίτι, το πρώτο που ακούγαμε ηταν η ερώτηση «τι γλώσσα μιλάει η Γιαγιά;» Τα Ποντιακά βλέπετε τις ξένιζαν και φυσικά τότε σαν παιδιά δεν γνωρίζαμε την σπουδαιότητα αυτής της γλώσσας και τις αρχαίες Ιωνικές ρίζες της.

Οι Πόντιοι δια μέσου των αιώνων, παρά τις μεγάλες αντιξοότητες που αντιμετώπισαν, κατατρεγμούς και διώξεις που υπέστησαν, κατάφεραν να διαφυλάξουν την γλώσσα, τα ηθη και εθιμα καθώς και την θρησκεία. «Η καταγωγή της ποντιακής διαλέκτου από την ιωνική διάλεκτο της αρχαίας ελληνικής είναι γνωστή και αναμφισβήτητη, γεγονός το οποίο θεμελιώνεται όχι μόνο ιστορικά αλλά και γλωσσολογικά,» μας λέει η *Αρχοντούλα Κωνσταντινίδου*, Φιλολογος, Med. Διδακτική της γλώσσας και της λογοτεχνίας, Πιστοποιημένη εκπαιδευτρια ποντιακής διαλέκτου. Σε αλλο αρθρο της μας λέει οτι «Τα τελευταία χρόνια με χαρά διαπιστώνουμε ότι το ενδιαφέρον για την ποντιακή διάλεκτο, τη μελέτη και τη διδασκαλία της αυξάνεται, με αποκορύφωση την ένταξη της ως αυτόνομου πανεπιστημιακού μαθήματος στο Τμήμα Γλώσσας, Φιλολογίας και Πολιτισμού Παρευξείνιων Χωρών στο Δημοκρίτειο Πανεπιστήμιο Θράκης.»

Που είσαι Γιαγιά ν'ακούσεις πως αναγνωρίζεται τώρα η προσφορά των Ποντίων στην διατήρηση Αρχαίων Ελληνικών λέξεων που η Νεο Ελληνική ητε δεν τις εχει η τις εχει αντικαταστήσει με ξένες λέξεις. Ανακαλύπτουν πως η Ποντιακή εχει μοναδικές εκφράσεις που χαρακτηρίζουν την ψυχή της φυλής και το συναισθηματικό δέσιμο των μελών της «*να τρώγω τα ψήα σ' ή την προσφώνηση «ρίζα μ'» είναι εκφράσεις που δεν μπορούν νάποδοθούν σ'αλλη γλώσσα.*

Αυτές τις λέξεις τις θυμάμαι απο την Γιαγιά οπως και το «Ντο Εφτάς» που ελεγε η Γιαγιά ρωτώντας κάποιον πως είναι. Η «εδέβαν τα χρόνια μ'» μας ελεγε για να καταλάβουμε πως γέρασε και οφείλαμε σεβασμό στο πρόσωπό της. «Ενεπάεν η ψήμ'» εξεφώνιζε με χαρά οταν κάναμε κάτι καλό δηλώνοντας πως αναπαύθηκε η ψυχή της – κάπως ετσι το καταλάβαινα. Οταν ο Πατέρας μου διηγόταν για κάποιον Πόντιο που συνάντησε, η Γιαγιά ρώταγε «τεμέτερον;» Ομως υπήρχαν στιγμές που οι μεγάλοι κάτι ηθελαν να μοιραστούν χωρίς οι κεραίες των μικρών ν'αντιληφθούν το τι ακριβώς και τότε, η Γιαγιά κάπως θυμωμένα επενέβαινε λέγοντας "Σ στην γούλα σ' 'κ' έρρουξεν." Δηλαδή, νά μην σε νοιάζει.

Κοιτα ομως Γιαγιά πως τώρα με νοιάζει και ανατρέχω στίς παιδικές μνήμες μου και αναζητώ να μάθω τις ρίζες μου.

## Poetry and Prose

### The Plague of Athens (430-426 BCE) COVID 19 (2019-? CE)

By Cathy Karathanasis

Although the words epidemic (“epidimia”) and pandemic (“pandimia”) are Greek in origin, the world has experienced the panic and pandemonium (also Greek words) created by epidemics since time immemorial. In the ancient Greek world a very early depiction of plague exists in Homer’s *Iliad*. Written around 700 BCE, it tells the story of a plague which decimated the Greek army at Troy where “. . . the corpse fires burned everywhere and did not stop burning . . .” Almost 300 years after the *Iliad* Athens was visited by a pestilence so severe it killed one-third of the population of the city-state (between 75,000 and 100,000 lives lost), laying bare the weaknesses of the Athenians, leading to a breakdown in traditional values and a weakening of their defenses.

The Athenian historian Thucydides (490-406 BCE) provides the only known eye-witness account of the plague. Writing in prose, almost like a modern news reporter, the pandemic is treated with careful attention to detail without suggesting any reason for it. The following narrative comes from the *History of the Peloponnesian War*, II.vii.3-54, as translated by the scholar P.J. Rhodes:

*I shall give a statement of what it was like, which people can study in case it should ever attack again, to equip themselves with foreknowledge so that they shall not fail to recognize it. I can give this account because I both suffered the disease myself and saw other victims of it.*

*There was no previous record of so great a pestilence and destruction of human life. The doctors were unable to cope, since they were treating the disease for the first time and in ignorance: indeed, the more they came into contact with sufferers, the more liable they were to lose their own lives. The nature of the disease was beyond description, and the sufferings that it brought to each victim were greater than human nature can bear. . . Some victims were neglected and died; others died despite a great deal of care. . . The most terrifying aspect . . . was the despair which resulted when someone realized that he had the disease . . .*

*Those who had come through the disease had the greatest pity for the suffering and dying, since they had previous experience of it and were now feeling confident for themselves, as the disease did not attack the same person a second time, or at any rate not fatally.*

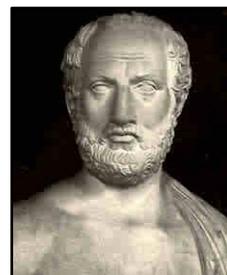
*. . . as people did not know what would become of them, they tended to neglect the sacred and the secular alike. All the funeral customs which had previously been observed were thrown into confusion and the dead were buried in any way possible . . .*

*In other respects, too, the plague marked the beginning of a decline to greater lawlessness in the city. . . so they thought it reasonable to concentrate on immediate profit and pleasure . . . No fear of the gods or law of men had any restraining power, since it was judged to make no difference whether one was pious or not as all alike could be seen dying. No one was expected to live long enough to have to pay the penalty for his misdeeds.*

As is often the case, catastrophes seek explanations. Paranoia and scapegoating accompanied the Athenian plague: it was blamed on the capriciousness of the gods; the recklessness of bad leaders; the climate or pollution. Non-Athenians were blamed for introducing the plague from Ethiopia. The fact is that Athens was unprepared to meet the challenges of the plague. It hit early during the Peloponnesian Wars (431-404 BCE) at a time when the city was under siege by Sparta. It spread rapidly among the population because the Athenians had retreated from the Spartans, seeking shelter within the walls of the city. Sick people died of neglect, in an unprepared and over-crowded city.

The great Athenian statesman Pericles was among the many victims of the plague. The loss of his leadership created political havoc, and would eventually result in Athens losing the Second Peloponnesian War to Sparta.

Although the plague described by Thucydides is different from what we face today, it is as powerful now as it was in 430 BCE. Much will be written about our current predicament but, as in the past, those accounts will not include the names of the countless multitudes who died. The lessons to be learned from today’s coronavirus crisis will come from our own experiences, but history has much to teach us, can help us make sense of these unsettled times, and provide us with the clarity and knowledge we need to overcome the difficulties.



*“The bravest are surely those who have the clearest vision of what is before them, glory and danger alike, and yet not withstanding, go out to meet it.”*

Thucydides

## Poetry and Prose

### If by Some Luck

you're out walking and you stumble  
 onto some joy,  
 a brightness, a fullness, if  
 suddenly you're given  
 a seasonal desire, a temporary love,  
 do not refuse.  
 Don't sabotage  
 But open the rotten doors, pull out  
 the corks, the rags stuffed in the cracks,  
 the self-protecting blinds.  
 Let it come in  
 and through you.  
 Be still, respectful.  
 Store it in your blood.  
 It will be like a vaccine,  
 your little antidote  
 against the blue  
 sorrows to come.

Manya Coulentianos Bean



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The Dean C. and Zoë S. Pappas Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies, originally established by the American Foundation for Greek Language and Culture (AFGLC) as the Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies, is housed in the School of Arts and Humanities, under the direction of the Dean, Dr. Lisa Honaker. With six endowed professorships, the Center's focus includes the disciplines of Greek language and literature, history and culture, classical archaeology, art history, philosophy, politics, anthropology, and Byzantine civilization and religion. Scholarly and artistic activities emphasize the diachronic range of Hellenism and promote student enrichment through travel and university exchanges in Greece and Cyprus (<http://www.stockton.edu/ichs>). The faculty in Hellenic Studies are:

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The Friends of Hellenic Studies (FHS) is a community organization established by the late Rev. Dr. Demetrios J. Constantelos and members of the community to promote and strengthen the Stockton Hellenic Studies program. The Friends of Hellenic Studies organization raises money for student scholarships for activities related to Hellenic Studies at Stockton University and for study abroad travel to Greece, Cyprus, and other relevant places to the Hellenic world. Working closely with the Stockton University Foundation to advance its fundraising goals, the Friends of Hellenic Studies organization hosts many cultural and social events as well. In addition to providing for student scholarships, the Friends of Hellenic Studies were major donors to the Rev. Dr. Demetrios J. Constantelos Hellenic Collection and Reading Room in the Björk Library. To become a member, please join the Friends of Hellenic Studies at any of their announced meetings, or email [fhf@stockton.edu](mailto:fhf@stockton.edu) for more information.

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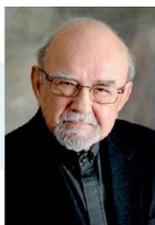
**Cathy Karathanasis, Maria Kazantzis, & Dr. Katherine Panagakos**

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