Eugène Ferdinand Victor Delacroix

Greece on the Ruins of Missolonghi (1826), Musée des Beaux-Arts, Bordeaux

Delacroix produced a second painting in support of the Greeks in their struggle for independence. It was painted in 1826 and is now housed in the Musée des Beaux-Arts in Bordeaux. The painting depicts the Greek hero and statesman Ioannis Kapodistrias, who became the first president of the newly independent Greek state in 1828.
Happy and Joyous Independence Day

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GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY
MARCH 25, 2018

On March 25, Greeks all over the world remember the heroism of those who fought for Greek independence from tyranny. Like the early American settlers who struggled for liberty and self-rule, Greek freedom fighters envisioned a better future for themselves and their descendants.

As Greek Americans, we have as an inheritance the legacy of two great nations, both pioneers in democracy. Inspired by that ideal, Greeks have built a thriving community in the United States without ever losing sight of our roots, our beautiful homeland, or our faith.

As Orthodox Christians in the United States, we have pursued the greater good. One vital example is the humanitarian and development agency International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), which aims to help all those in need: in Greece, in the United States, and around the world.

IOCC was among the first aid groups to respond to the 2007 wildfires in the Peloponnese. When the economic downturn took hold of the Greek economy, IOCC offered emergency food assistance, and it continues to support economic development by building up agricultural co-ops in the north and mentoring small-business leaders. IOCC stands by families who face difficulty.

As we celebrate Greek Independence Day in 2018, I encourage you to also remember those who still seek a better tomorrow and to support the humanitarian efforts of this worthy Orthodox organization.

— John G. Rangos Sr., Co-Founder
International Orthodox Christian Charities

iocc.org/donate | 877.803.4622
The poem recited by children during the dark days of Turkish domination came to America to be recited in Greek schools.

CosmoYannis Creates They Were Super Greeks

BY P DESPOLE KARAGORGE

In just time for Greek Independence Day, They Were Super Greeks by artist CosmoYannis arrives like a glorious rendition of the Greek National Anthem. This brilliant coloring book makes education in history for adults as well, offers a dynamic story of the heroes of the Greek Revolution.

So that’s where I started. I had to boil down thousands of pages filled with cartoons. My Uncle Mike would go out and buy the newspapers and give me the cartoons. ‘This is the most worthwhile thing I can do to make money.’ I thought I couldn’t write a book about history. I decided to write a book about the kids’ stories and how they would recite as kids in Greek school.

CosmoYannis began to pursue his greatest fascination with comics. There were so many newspapers filled with cartoons. His Uncle Mike would buy one and give the papers and give me the cartoons. ‘This is the most worthwhile thing I can do to make money.’ I thought I couldn’t write a book about history. I decided to write a book about the kids’ stories and how they would recite as kids in Greek school.

When I discovered the poem the kids would recite every night during the dark years of Turkish domination, I was thrilled. It’s the same poem that we would recite as kids in Greek school. My little boy, my great grandson, he’s going to go to school, to learn my lessons, know more important, God’s things. I dedicated the book to the kids who were taken by the Turks and lost to their families.

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Greek Independence Day Celebrated in the Bronx

By Domenic Talaski

BRONX – The Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. and elected officials held the 47th annual Greek Independence Day Celebration for the 197th anniversary of Greek Independence at the Community Hall of Zoodohos Pigi Greek Orthodox Church on March 28.

The event drew 1000 people, including the Greek Consul, Mayor Bill de Blasio, City Council Members Andrew Cohen, Melissa Mark-Viverito, and New York City Council Member Costa Constantinides representing the 14th district, the Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., and the elected officials from the City, State, and the Greek-American Institute (GAI) of the Bronx, founded in 1912, the oldest continuously run Greek Orthodox School in the United States.

The event also honored Dr. Demetre Daskalakis, State Senator Michael Gianaris, Assembly Member Aravella Simotas, and Marricka Scott McFadden, Deputy Bronx Borough President.

The Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. and elected officials held a celebration for the New York Mets.

The event also honored Dr. Demetre Daskalakis, State Senator Michael Gianaris, Assembly Member Aravella Simotas, and Marricka Scott McFadden, Deputy Bronx Borough President.

The Greek War of Independence also inspired the Propylaea (German: Propyläen), a city gate located in Munich. The monument to Manto Mavrogenous on the ruins of Missolonghi (1823) which was inspired by the capture of the city by the Turkish forces in 1823. For the hero, efforts of the people and the subsequent massacres of the population, Missolonghi was given the honorary title of Hiera Polis (Sacred City). Delacroix sympathized with the heroic spirit of the Greeks and was also a great admirer of Lord Byron who had died at Missolonghi.

The 7th and 8th grade students of GAI performed traditional dances in costume, delighting the audience. Panagiotis Papastefanou sang the Greek National Anthem.

The 1971 film Megali Papada, directed by Dimitris Doundoulakis, starred Manos Katrakis, Tzavalas Karousos, and Anna Iasonidou.

Another heroine of the Greek War of Independence, Manto Mavrogenous, inspired Eugene Delacroix, who immortalized her in his painting of the Massacre at Missolonghi, and as a subject for his painting The Massacre at Chios.

The Greek War of Independence day is celebrated in the West as a patriotic day.

Art and Films Inspired by the Greek War of Independence

By Eleftheri Rokou

Art and artists are often inspired by the world around them. When dramatic events are taking place, even from a distance, it can be difficult to ignore them and not be moved to some action, especially when the cause is freedom. The Greek War of Independence inspired many artists, and not only Greek artists who owned the most famous works of art, but artists of all nationalities, among them the most famous was French painter and teacher of the Romantic school Eugene Delacroix. The 1959 Greek drama written and directed by Konstantinos Androutsos starred Irene Papas as the famous heroine of the Greek War of Independence Laskarina Bouboulina. The film also starred Kostas Malonoukos, Andonis Baroulis, and Dionysos Papa-georgopoulos.

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Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams commemorated the rich contributions and history of Greek-Americans in the borough at his annual Greek heritage celebration in the Courtroom at Brooklyn Borough Hall on March 19. The event was held in partnership with the Greek-American Heritage Committee, an organization whose mission is to educate the public on Greek culture, literacy, and history across New York City. The festive occasion featured Greek cuisine and libations as well as traditional dancing from the A. Fantis Parochial School in Downtown Brooklyn, D.G. Kaloidis Parochial School in Bay Ridge, and Hellenic Classical Charter School in South Slope. Among those present were Consul General of Greece in New York Konstantinos Koutras, Consul Lana Zochiou, and Andrew Gounardes, Counsel to the Brooklyn Borough President, as well as many members of the community. Borough President Adams thanked and honored members of Brooklyn’s Greek-American community for their service to improving the lives of people across the borough.

The Minister of Shipping and Island Policy Panagiotis Kouroumplis was among those at the event. He congratulated the honorees and noted that “they are an example for their fellow citizens.” “Today, we celebrate together the Revolution of 1821 that shook the world, the revolution that was the child of the Enlightenment. The Revolution, which had many similarities to the American Revolution,” Kouroumplis said.

President Adams said, “47 percent of the people of the borough of Brooklyn speak a language other than English at home; this is the United Nations of America.” He then referred to the ideals of the Greek Revolution and the role of Greek civilization in the formation of Western civilization. At the same time, he spoke about the role of the Greek community in the progress of Brooklyn and its achievements in the economy, education, and other sectors.

Three Hierarchs Church Presiding Priest Fr. Eugene Pappas gave the opening prayer and led the singing of Ti Ypermacho. He congratulated the honorees and praised their contributions to the community, their social and charitable efforts, and made special mention of the sponsors of the event and the restaurants that donated the Greek food, as well as the organizing committee of the event. Zoe Koutsoupakis, Basil Kapetanakis, Jimmy Tampakis, Sandy Vallas, Consul General of Greece in New York Konstantinos Koutras, Consul Lana Zochiou, Deputy Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the UN, Ambassador Menelaos Menelaou, and Rhode Island State Senator Leonidas Raptakis also attended.

The keynote speaker of the event was the Leadership 100 Executive Director Paulette Poulos, and greetings were delivered by the Consul General Konstantinos Koutras and Andrew Gounardes, Brooklyn Borough President Counsel. Adams presented the citations to the honorees Ula Dikeakos, Teddy Dikeakos, James Ladis, John S. Makrinos, Valerie Markou, Helen Pavlides, Maria Tsoukaris, and Sylvia Velilios.

Immediately after the presentation, the dance group from D.G. Kaloides School of Holy Cross in Bay Ridge, A. Fantis Parochial School of Saints Constantine and Helen Brooklyn, and the Hellenic Classical Charter School, performed in traditional costumes in the Brooklyn Borough Hall Rotunda. The dancing was presented by Sophia Stasinou—Ensemble Dance Groups Coordinator.

Hellenic Independence Day means freedom from oppression, heroism of Hellenic freedom fighters through the ages, democracy, and the contemporary message of the Filiki Etaireia.

The demographics of Greece are being threatened as its youth leaves for opportunities abroad, birth rates decline, the economy falters, foreigners are being resettled en masse in its territory that could be occupied by its neighbors.

The Hellenic Community of the United States is demanding a unified front against all aggressors and rejuvenation of its organized societies!

In unison we stand!

ΖΗΤΩ το ΕΘΝΟΣ!

Dr. Spyros Mezitis
New York City
AHEPA Salutes the Heroes of 1821!
ZHOTO H ELLAS

Since 1922 the Order of AHEPA has initiated over 500,000 members into its 400 chapters worldwide. With chapters in the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Greece, Cyprus, England, France, Germany, Bulgaria and Constantinople. Our mission and our reach are ever growing.

AHEPA is the world’s leading membership organization of Hellenes. We salute you, our members, who promote our active works of charity and promote the great deeds our chapters do in our communities. We are a brotherhood and we should be happy and feel proud of all the work we have done.

Listed below is a sample of the work we have accomplished together the last 5 years.

1. Launched a fundraising initiative to raise $1 Million in support of the rebuilding of the St. Nicholas shrine at the World Trade Center collecting over $816,780 to date.
2. Raised over $502,800 for Greek Relief securing shipments of medical supplies totaling $12 Million.
3. Awarded $1,250,000 in AHEPA Educational Scholarships in 2017 cumulatively.
4. Awarded $54,750 in Athletic Department Scholarships.
5. Fed thousands of needy children and families in Greece since 2011
6. Received a $1,249,000 donation from the Estate of Nancy Horton, wherein the interest will support the charitable work carried out in our hospitals in Greece
7. Maintained the AHEPA Journey to Greece Program which sends 25 students to participate in the summer credited program, tuition free, on an annual basis
8. A donation of $25,000 from L.M.Kohn and Company for the Educational Seminar and sponsorship of the annual Hellenic History Tournament where $10,000 in scholarships are awarded.
9. $10,000 to the Ionian Village towards their rebuilding after the recent tornadoes.
10. $3,000 sponsorship of the three regional Hellenic History tournaments
11. Donated $60,000 to the Ecumenical Patriarchate
12. Raised over $35,000 for Hurricane Sandy relief in 2012. $100,000 for Hurricane Harvey Relief in 2017
13. Raised $23,000 since the 2012 AHEPA Athens Marathon for AHEPA charities.
14. $5,000 in children's toys to Children's Hospital at Christmas time.
15. AHEPA Veterans Committee launched the web site for registration of veteran members of the AHEPA and for the collection of donations to Veteran's Programs.
16. Publish The AHEPAN AHEPA's quarterly magazine.
17. Coordinated and donated over 7700 gallons of milk to the families affected by the lead poisoning in Flint, MI.
18. Raised awareness and funds for the K-9 for Warriors project where AHEPA has purchased 5 dogs valued at $20,000 for PTSD veterans.
19. Hosted events across the United States and Canada in support of the Sons and Maids and many other projects.
20. $50,000 sponsor of Religious Freedom Conference, Washington, DC.
21. Establishment of Hellenic Department Chairs in Universities in the U.S. & Canada

The AHEPA is the only group of its kind in the world, and the work we do is unmatched.
Congratulations to our chapters and members for making AHEPA great.

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Wishing you a happy and healthy Greek Independence Day in 2018

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Greek Independence Day

Drs. Spiro & Amalia Spireas and Sigmapharm Laboratories

HYMN TO LIBERTY - DIONISIOS SOLOMOS
(A translation in English by Rudyard Kipling in 1918)

I KNOW YOU of old
Oh divinely restored,
By the light of your eyes
And the edge of your sword.

Long did you dwell
Amid the peoples that mourn
Awaiting some voice
That should tell you to return.

From the graves of our people
Shall your spirit prevail
As we greet you again-
Hail, Liberty, Hail!

Ah, slow broke that day
and no man dared call,
For the shadow of tyranny
Lay over all.

Long you have awaited
for a freedom-loving call
and in despair one hand
hits the other one.

Oh, unfortunate one!
The only consolation you had
were the past glories,
and remembering them you cried.

Lyrics: Dionysios Solomos, 1824
Music: Nikolaos Mantzaros, 1828
Adapted: 1864

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