



HELLENIC LINK–MIDWEST
A SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL LINK WITH GREECE
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΣ ΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΟΝΙΚΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΤΙΚΟΣ ΣΥΝΔΕΣΜΟΣ
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Bulkes: The ‘Greek Republic’ in Yugoslavia

On Sunday, December 18, 2016, Hellenic Link–Midwest presents Alexander Billinis in a lecture titled: “*Bulkes: The ‘Greek Republic’ in Yugoslavia.*” The event will take place at 3:00 pm at the Niles Public Library, 6960 W Oakton St, Niles, IL. Admission will be free.

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From 1945 to 1949, Greek Communists created an autonomous community in an empty ex-German village in northern Yugoslavia. The Bulkes community was the scene of terror and communal strife, in the midst of a tragic civil war. It was, however, remarkable in that it was a completely self-governing unit in Yugoslavia, with the Greek language, Greek laws, and their own currency. It functioned as a base camp, training and indoctrination center, as well as an effort to establish a functioning Greek Communist society.

Alexander Billinis, a former resident of Serbia, will talk about his efforts, through site visits and interviews, to understand what happened in this remarkable yet ultimately doomed community, and why the subject is viewed with hostility and silence by Official Serbia.

Alexander Billinis graduated from the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in 1991, where he majored in Western and Eastern European Studies. He earned a master’s degree from the American Graduate School of International Management in 1994 and a law degree from American University Washington College of Law in 1997. His career has spanned banking, real estate, law and journalism. He has lived in Greece, Serbia, Bulgaria, Hungary, and the UK. He is the author of "*The Eagle has Two Faces: Journeys through Byzantine Europe*" and "*Hidden Mosaics: An Aegean Tale.*" He has written extensively on the Greek Diaspora in Eastern Europe, including the Civil War era refugees. A dual citizen of the US and Greece, he was born in Salt Lake City, Utah in 1969.