



HELLENIC LINK–MIDWEST
A SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL LINK WITH GREECE
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΣ ΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΟΝΙΚΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΤΙΚΟΣ ΣΥΝΔΕΣΜΟΣ
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The Plight of the Poor in India and the Mission of the Greek Orthodox Church in Kolkata.

Unfortunately our original May lecturer had to cancel his lecture. We were fortunate to have again a substitution at a very short notice:

On Sunday, May 21, 2017, Hellenic Link–Midwest presents Nicole Capsopoulos in a lecture titled: “The Plight of the Poor in India and the Mission of the Greek Orthodox Church in Kolkata”. The event will take place at 2:30 pm at the Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, Illinois. Admission will be free.

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Kolkata’s slums and the surrounding poverty in West Bengal, were perhaps made most famous to the “Western” world by the work of Mother Teresa. Her Nobel-Peace-Prize-winning service helped millions of the destitute that live in some of the worst poverty conditions in the world. Kolkata has 70,000 homeless and hundreds of thousands more living in slums. "The girl problem" in India refers to the various social aspects that women, especially poor women, face in India. In Kolkata, there are only 899 females for every 1000 males. Many families within the culture, consider raising a daughter to be too much of a burden. Sex-selective abortion, while illegal, continues to be common practice and a large contributor to the female population deficit. Female infanticide is also commonly practiced, along with abandonment or selling of female children. India’s most recent reports claim up to 20 million orphans, with an unbalanced percentage female.

Today, the Greek Orthodox Church is continuing to serve the communities that Mother Teresa had once served all those years ago, and is specifically working to address "the girl problem." Since 1991, the Philanthropic Society of the Orthodox Church (PSOC) has enacted dozens of humanitarian and education projects including: administering daily food programs for the residents of the slums, operating orphanages for both girls and boys, establishing an English Secondary School, and investing in rural development projects. The Theotokos Girl's Orphanage is committed to the empowerment of young girls through education.

Nicole Capsopoulos holds a BA in Political Science from DePaul University. This year, she spent 3 months living amongst the girls of the Theotokos Girls’ Orphanage in Kolkata, India, as a volunteer. She taught English at the school the girls attend, and did various fundraising work to support Fili, a US non-profit that aids the orphanage, and the overall mission of the Greek Orthodox Church in India. She has worked at the Chicago Tribune in sales, advertising and management roles, and has lived in Greece, and in China where she taught English and studied Mandarin. She is currently working as an Independent China Consultant, helping US based companies with their business ventures in China.