



HELLENIC LINK–MIDWEST Newsletter

A CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC LINK WITH GREECE

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Upcoming Events

Einstein's Waves: New Cosmic Sounds from Black Holes

On Sunday, April 30, 2017, Hellenic Link–Midwest presents Prof. Vicky Kalogera in a lecture titled: “*Einstein's Waves: New Cosmic Sounds from Black Holes.*” The event will take place at 3:00 pm at the Elmhurst Hospital, Birch Willow Room, 155 East Brush Hill Road, Elmhurst Illinois (Northwest corner of Roosevelt Road and York Road). Admission will be free.

About one century ago Einstein transformed our understanding of gravity and predicted that all objects with mass emit gravitational waves when they move across spacetime. Although Einstein was convinced that these waves are too weak to ever be detected, in 2016 scientists announced the first ever detection of gravitational waves originating from a pair of colliding black holes more than one billion light years away. This unique discovery stunned the whole science and engineering community, made the news across the world and inspired the public. It signifies the launch of a brand new field of astronomy and exploration of the cosmos that promises to advance our knowledge and surprise.

Prof. Kalogera, as a member of the international Scientific Collaboration that made the discovery with the LIGO detectors (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory), will summarize what we learn about black holes and gravity from this first and subsequent LIGO discoveries and what this brand new field of gravitational-wave astronomy means for our studies of the cosmos.

Prof. Kalogera holds a B.S. in Physics from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, and a Ph.D. in Astronomy from the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign). She is the Erastus Otis Haven Professor at Northwestern University. She is Associate Chair of the Physics & Astronomy department and co-founder and current director of CIERA, the Center for Interdisciplinary Exploration and Research in Astrophysics. Her research is focused in the formation and evolution of compact objects, which includes gravitational-wave data analysis and modeling using high-performance computing. Within the international LIGO Scientific Collaboration, Kalogera led the work on astrophysical implications of the history-making detection of gravitational-waves. She serves on the National Research Council's Committee on Astronomy

and Astrophysics and on the Executive Board of the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope Corporation. She has received numerous awards for her work including the 2016 Gruber Prize in Cosmology and the 2016 Special Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics.

Some Observations on Contemporary Greek-American Political Involvement and Activism

On Sunday, May 21, 2017, Hellenic Link–Midwest presents Peter Marudas in a lecture titled: “*Some Observations on Contemporary Greek-American Political Involvement and Activism.*” The event will take place at 2:30 pm at the Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, Illinois. Admission will be free.

Peter Marudas' work has given him a unique opportunity to witness first hand many of our nation's important political and social developments, including the swirl of the civil rights and related urban issues, the attempted impeachments of two presidents, the escalating tensions between the executive and legislative branches of the U.S. Government, and the emergence of modern Greek-American political activism.

As chief of staff and close advisor to Paul Sarbanes, Marudas was a firsthand observer of events and movements which sparked the creation of Greek-American public consciousness during the period of the Greek military junta, the Cyprus crisis and changing relationship between America, Greece, and Turkey.

He will discuss these events, the personalities who participated in them, and how they may have contributed to shape them. He will provide insights into the efforts to bring justice for Cyprus, encourage stability in the Eastern Mediterranean, and into the formation of the so-called “*Greek Lobby.*” He will address the emergence of spontaneous grass roots Greek-American groups in reaction to the Cyprus crisis, as well as the involvement of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North America and other established community organizations. He will also attempt to trace Greek-American involvement in U.S. politics and how it has influenced the community's present public status and provide a prognosis for its future.

Peter Marudas holds BA and MA degrees in journalism from the University of Michigan. From 1963 to 1967 he worked at the Baltimore Evening Sun where he covered local government and politics, and also wrote

commentary op-ed pieces for the Baltimore Sun editorial page on Cyprus, Greece Turkey and the status of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. He also reported on the 1965 White House Cyprus meetings between President Lyndon Johnson, Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou and Turkish Prime Minister Ismet Inonou.

He worked as Chief of Staff of the Baltimore Mayors Theodore R. McKeldin and Thomas J. D'Alesandro III, brother of Nancy Pelosi, the former Speaker and presently Democratic Leader in the U.S. House of Representatives. From 1971 to 1987 Marudas worked as Chief of Staff of the newly elected Congressman and later Senator Paul S. Sarbanes, and from 1995 to 2001 as Chief of Staff of Senator Sarbanes.

In Brief

The State of the Greek Economy

Although Greece's economy had shown two straight quarters of growth in 2016, it again contracted the last quarter of 2016, from October to December. The data showed a 1.2 percent decline in economic output in the fourth quarter, a performance worse than a 0.4 percent slump that had been projected in February. Earlier, Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras had told a cabinet meeting that the economy was turning a page, and was poised to show "*exceptionally high*" rates of growth this year.

The data showed that the 175 billion euro (GDP) economy shrank at an annual rate of 1.1 percent pace in the fourth quarter versus earlier projections of 0.3 percent growth.

The EU and the IMF expect the economy to rebound by 2.7 percent this year, while the Bank of Greece projects it will expand by 2.5 percent, provided the second bailout review, which has dragged on for months, is concluded soon.

Eurobank economist Platon Monokroussos said: "*The data revision points to a full-year 2016 real GDP growth of -0.1 percent versus a 0.3 percent expansion suggested by the previous estimates.*" The main drivers behind the decline in economic output were weaker public consumption and a negative contribution from net exports.

In the fourth quarter of 2016, consumption fell by 1.1 percent compared to the third quarter, imports rose by 4.5 percent while exports declined by 1.4 percent. "*Private consumption remained on a positive trajectory for the third consecutive quarter, despite the tax burden,*" Monokroussos said.

As austerity measures pile-up, Greece's shadow economy appears to be growing again. Greece's black market is estimated at 20 to 25 percent of the gross domestic product. More people have stopped reporting their income to avoid paying taxes that, by some estimates, have risen to 70 percent of an individual's gross income. According to the New York Times, as of

last month, unpaid taxes in Greece had soared to 95 billion euros, up from €76 billion two years ago. Most of that is considered to be uncollectable.

"*The heart of the matter for an ever-rising number of citizens and businesses is that they simply do not have the financial resources anymore to meet their rising tax obligations*" said Jens Bastian, an economist and a member of a team of European Union specialists that helped supervise the country's earlier bailouts.

Businesses and individuals, meanwhile, are struggling to cope in an economy that suffered a devastating shock in 2015, when Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras imposed capital controls and brought Greece to the brink of exiting the euro. Despite a mild recovery, the economy shrank again in the fourth quarter, leaving many Greeks scornful of promises of growth by Mr. Tsipras, whose popularity has slumped.

To improve tax collection, an independent tax authority was created and auditors were hired. This helped to collect about €5 billion more in revenue than was expected last year, but businesses and individuals say they have less to give for taxes that keep rising, and this creates a growing incentive to avoid payment.

Electricians, plumbers, hairdressers, journalists, computer consultants and a variety of other self-employed workers have de-registered. A young television production designer who took the step of de-registration as a consultant, said that his take-home pay this year would amount to just 30 percent of earnings. "*It's like they force you to become illegal,*" he said, "*of course I'm going to work on the black market. I need to make ends meet.*"

He also said that he registered a company in Bulgaria, where the business tax rate is 10 percent, so that he could keep issuing receipts for freelance work. Tens of thousands of Greeks have been registering companies in Bulgaria, Cyprus, Luxembourg and other low-tax countries to avoid paying the higher tax bills at home. Of course this means less tax revenues for Greece, an unfair competition for tax-paying entrepreneurs, and a reduced ability to invest in business growth, which is badly needed for the recovery of the Greek economy.

A young entrepreneur said "*Those who play by the rules are the ones getting punished.*" Emmanouil Kafkalas, the general secretary of the electricians' union, said that at least half of electricians work in the shadow economy, and "*we are losing work because they can charge less.*"

From Our History

Some of the Critical Developments that Led to the Division of Cyprus.

(Main Sources: M. S. Michael, Resolving the Cyprus Conflict; P. G. Polyviou, Cyprus, Conflict and Negotiation, 1960-1980)

When one now turns to an examination of the political

system and its distribution of governmental powers, the following features are particularly noticeable. To begin with, almost all state organs are designed to ensure the participation of the two communities as such in both their composition and functioning. Thus, in the area of the executive, there are both a Greek President and a Turkish Vice-President who jointly 'ensure' executive power and who have, for this purpose, a Council of Ministers composed of seven Greek Ministers and three Turkish ministers. These ministers should be designated respectively by the President and the vice-president, who shall then appoint them by instrument, signed by them both, and may be dismissed at will by the relevant appointing authority. It is further provided that the decisions of the Council shall be taken by absolute majority and must, unless the right of veto or return is exercised by the President or the Vice-President, be promulgated immediately by them both. As regards legislative power, it is provided that this shall be exercised by the House of Representatives - consisting of 50 representatives of whom 35 should be Greeks and 15 Turks - in all matters except those expressly reserved to the communal chambers; further, the President of the House is to be a Greek, to be elected by the Greek Cypriot representatives, and the Vice-President must be a Turk, to be elected by the Turkish representatives. In the area of the judiciary, authority is vested on the Supreme Constitutional Court and the High Court. The former is to be composed of three judges, a Greek, a Turkish and a neutral judge, the neutral judge to be the President, and the latter is to consist of two Greek judges one Turkish judge and a neutral judge, the neutral judge again to be the President and to have two votes.

The public service under the 1960 constitution was to be composed of Greek and Turkish Cypriots according to a ratio of 7:3. This same ratio is also prescribed for the security forces of the republic - the police force and the gendarmerie. In the armed forces, the relevant ratio was 6:4. In charge of appointments to the public service was to be a public service commission consisting of ten members. In general, its decisions were to be taken by simple majority but this was qualified by other provisions making it necessary that in matters of appointment, promotions, and transfers, and in questions of discipline this majority had to include a minimum number of Greek and Turkish votes, depending on whether the decision related to a Greek or a Turk. In short a power of veto was given to a section of Greek or Turkish members to frustrate majority decisions on the basis of collateral political considerations. In the case of the 'independent' officers of the republic, namely the Attorney-General, the Auditor-General, and the Governor of the Issuing Bank, as in the case of the head of the army, the police, and the gendarmerie, the relevant appointment may be made from either community, but each of the above-mentioned officials must have a deputy appointed from the other community. It can thus be seen that communal participation in the government

organs takes a number of forms. In some there is numerical equality, as in the Supreme Constitutional Court; elsewhere it was based on a fixed ratio that varies with the different organs and departments; and in areas such as the executive or some of the other independent offices of the republic two positions are recognized and set up and the relevant power is shared between them more or less on a basis of equality, although the Turkish Cypriots constitute only 18% of the population.

A second characteristic feature of the 1960 constitution is that through multiplication of checks and balances most of the major affairs of state are effectively subject to the agreement or concurrence of the representatives of the two communities. Thus, in the executive area, **both** the President and the Vice-President have the right to delay decisions in many matters **and to veto them** in others, and these powers **can be exercised either separately** or jointly. In greater detail, **either the President or the Vice President may veto** a decision of the Council of Ministers concerning foreign affairs, defense or security, or return any other decision for reconsideration. This executive right of final veto is also extended to a law or decision of the House of Representatives concerning foreign affairs, defense or security. Further, the President and the Vice-President also have the right, **either separately or conjointly**, to return any law or decision or any part thereof of the House Representatives to the House for reconsideration. In Such a case, the House of Representatives must pronounce on the matter so returned within fifteen days, and if the House persists in its decision the President and the Vice-President shall then promulgate the law or decision as the case may be, unless in the meantime they exercise, separately or conjointly, **the right of veto** or their right of reference to the Supreme Court so that the question of constitutionality may be adjudicated upon. In addition, a number of decisions or acts within the authority of the President and the Vice-President, such as the choice of flag, the promulgation of legislation and of decisions of the Council of Ministers, the appointment of ministers and of many high public officials, and many others, also **require the agreement or joint action of both**. Similarly, in the legislative area, three important classes of legislation, namely any attempted modification of the electoral arrangements, the adoption of any law relating to the municipalities, and the enactment of any law imposing duties or taxes, require separate simple majority of the representatives elected by the Greek and Turkish communities, respectively, taking part in the vote: separate two thirds majorities are required for the amendment of those relatively less important articles of the constitution which are in fact capable amendable; but a great number of the 1960 constitutional provisions are designated as basic and are declared to be unamendable.

The 1960 constitution was by design unworkable and very soon led to the crisis that followed.

(to be continued)

From the Riches of Our Cultural Heritage

Ποίηση του Κώστα Καρυωτάκη

ZΩΕΣ

Κ' έτσι πάνε και σβήνουνε όπως πάνε.

Λέω τις ζωές που δόθηκαν στο φως
αγάπης γαληνής, κ' ενώ κυλούν
σαν ποταμάκια, εντός τους το σφαλούν
αιώνια κι α ξεχώριστα, καθώς
μες στα ποτάμια φέγγει ο ουρανός,
καθώς στους ουρανούς ήλιοι κυλούν.
Λέω τις ζωές που δόθηκαν στο φως...

Λέω τις ζωούλες που 'ναι κρεμαστές
απ' τα ρουμπίνια χείλη γυναικός
ως κρέμονται στα εικονοστάσια εμπρός
τα τάματα, οι καρδιές ασημωτές,
κ' είναι όμοια ταπεινές, όμοια πιστές
στ' αγαπημένα χείλη γυναικός.
Λέω τις ζωούλες που 'ναι κρεμαστές...

Που δεν τις υπονιάζεται κανείς,
έτσι όπως ακλουθάνε σιωπηλές
και σκότεινες και ξένες και θλιβές
το βήμα, την ιδέα μιάς λυγερής
(κι αυτή δεν υπονιάστη), που στη γης
θα γείρουνε, θα σβήσουν σιωπηλές.
Που δεν τις υπονιάζεται κανείς...

Που διάβηκαν αμφίβολα, θαμπά
σαν άστρα κάποιας ώρας αυγινής,
από τη σκέψη μιάς περαστικής
που, για να τρέχει τόσο χαρωπά,
δεν είδε τις ζωές που σβηθούν σιγά
σαν την ψυχή καντήλας αυγινής
Που διάβηκαν αμφίβολα, θαμπά...

ΝΟΣΤΑΛΓΙΑ

Μεσ' από το βάθος των καλών καιρών
οι αγάπες μας πικρά μας χαιρετάνε.

Δεν αγαπάς και δε θυμάσαι, λες.
Κι αν φούσκωσαν τα στήθη κι αν δακρύζεις
που δε μπορείς να κλάψεις όπως πρώτα,
δεν αγαπάς και δε θυμάσαι, ας κλαίς.

Ξάφνου θα ιδείς δυό μάτια γαλανά
—πόσος καιρός!—τα χάιδεψες μιά νύχτα,
και σα ν' ακούς εντός σου να σαλεύει
μιά συφορά παλιά και να ξυπνά.

Θα στήσουνε μακάβριο το χορό
οι θύμησες στα περασμένα γύρω,
και θ' ανθίσει στο βλέφαρο σαν τότε
και θα πέσει το δάκρυ σου πικρό.

Τα μάτια που κρεμούν—ήλιοι χλωμοί—
το φώς στο χιόνι της καρδιάς και λιώνει,
οι αγάπες που σαλεύουν πεθαμένες,
οι πρώτοι ξανά που άναψαν καημοί...

LIVES

And so they go and die the same way they live.

I speak of lives given to the light
of serene love, and while they flow
like streams, they keep that light inside
eternally inseparable, just as
the sky glints in rivers,
just as suns flow through the skies.
I speak of lives given to the light. . .

I speak of brief lives draping
a woman's rubied lips, just as
votive offerings, silver hearts, are draped
on the icon-screen up front.
These lives on a woman's beloved lips
are likewise humble and true.
I speak of brief lives draping. . .

No one mistrusts them.
Just as - quiet and dark
and foreign and sad - they follow
the footstep, the idea of a lithe woman
(and she isn't mistrusted), so they
will droop toward the earth, will fade quietly.
No one mistrusts them. . .

They moved uncertainly - faint
as stars at the hour of dawn -
through the thought of a passing woman
who, so she could keep going happily,
didn't notice the lives which fade slowly
like the soul of a morning lamp.
They moved uncertainly—faint...

NOSTALGIA

From the depth of good times
our loves greet us bitterly

You're not in love, you say, and you don't remember.
And if your heart has filled and you shed the tears
that you couldn't shed like you did at first,
you're not in love and you don't remember, even though
you cry.

Suddenly you'll see two blue eyes
—how long it's been! —that you caressed one night;
as though inside yourself you hear
an old unhappiness stirring and waking up.

These memories of time past
will begin their danse macabre;
and like then, your bitter tear will
well up on your eyelid and fall.

The eyes suspended—pale suns—
the light that thaws the frozen heart,
the dead loves that begin to stir,
the old sorrows that again ignite. . . .