

2017 – 2024

**GREEK
LIBRARY
OF LONDON**



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ΒΟΙ ΓΙΑ



ΜΑΝΩΛ ΚΟΥΦΟΥΔΗΣ
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Ντέβιντ Φόστερ Γουόλς
ΑΜΕΡΙΚΑΝΙΚΗ ΔΙΩΣΗ
ΑΥΤΟΚΤΟΝΙΑΣ
ΑΥΤΟΚΤΟΝΙΑΣ ΔΟΥΛΟΤΩΝ

AGATHA CHRISTIE
Προσκληση σε γαστρο

Μ. ΚΑΡΑΓΑΓΓΙΔΗΣ
ΓΙΟΥΓΚΕΡΜΑΝ
Α. ΤΟΜΑΣ

Παύλος Μανώλης
1933-2012

Ανδρέα Μανώλη
Τι είναι κι αυτή
Μεταφρασμένη από τον συγγραφέα

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ΤΟ ΒΗΜΑ ΤΗΣ ΠΡΟΦΗΤΕΙΑΣ
Ι.Μ. ΠΑΝΑΓΙΩΤΟΠΟΥΛΟΣ

ΧΑΤΖΗΧΩΡΑΤΚΟΥ
ΤΑ ΝΕΑ ΜΕΛΟΡΡΑΓΙΑ
ΣΤΟΥ ΧΩΡΑΤΚΟΥ
Ο ΒΕΛΛΗΝΙ

ΕΚΤΙ Λ.
ΕΛΜΠΕΚ ΚΑΤΑΝΤΩΤΗ

ΝΕΑ ΣΥΝΟΡΑ

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ABOUT US

The Greek Library of London (GLL) is a non-profit, independent organisation established in 2017. With over 500 members, it offers a collection of 4,000 titles for adults, alongside 1,000 titles of children's and young adult literature.

The library relies on twenty dedicated volunteers who manage its various departments. Its primary aim is to lend Greek books throughout the United Kingdom, thereby promoting the Greek language and connecting readers with the works of authors from Greece and Cyprus.

With a diverse selection of titles, the library provides readers with the opportunity to explore poetry, prose, short stories, academic studies, and essays on historical

and philosophical topics, available in both Greek and translated formats. It serves as a cultural hub, acting as a meeting point for the Greek community. The library hosts meetings twice a month in central London, along with various activities designed to strengthen community ties.

As part of its outreach and cultural exchange initiatives between Greece and the United Kingdom, GLL is planning a programme to promote Greek culture in collaboration with British universities. British and Greek academics are expected to participate in events conducted in English, aimed at introducing the English-speaking public to Greek literature and history.

OUR MISSION

The GLL exists to promote Greek literature and culture with people across the United Kingdom. We are here to make Greek books accessible to anyone who wants to read them, whether they are exploring the works of renowned authors from Greece and Cyprus or diving into poetry, essays, and historical studies.

Our mission is to continue offering a space where the Greek language is celebrated and kept

alive, while connecting people through a shared love for reading and cultural exchange.

Our dedicated volunteers are at the heart of our efforts, organizing events, live discussions, and museum visits, all tailored to the needs and interests of our members. We not only encourage reading but also bring people together to explore, learn, and celebrate our rich cultural heritage.





OUR VISION

We envision a future where the Greek Library of London is an inclusive space to Greek literature and culture. We see the GLL as a place for creating opportunities for both Greeks and non-Greeks to engage with greek language and culture.

Through our activities and events, we strive to create lasting connections between Greece and the UK, offering a bridge that brings together the intellectual

and artistic communities of both countries. Our vision is to inspire new generations to appreciate Greek heritage, to deepen their understanding of the past, and to foster a love for learning that will continue for years to come. By introducing Greek culture to diverse audiences, we hope to create a more informed, connected, and culturally rich community that will thrive well into the future.



OUR ACTIONS AND PROGRAMS

At the GLL, our commitment to promoting Greek language and culture is reflected in a wide range of projects tailored to both adults and children.

For adults, we offer *Tributes*, celebrating notable Greek figures, and *Live Conversations* with authors and artists that foster cultural dialogue. Our Adult Book Club brings members together monthly to discuss contemporary Greek literature. We also organize *Strolling London museum visits*, providing educational and cultural experience.

For Children, we organise *Children's events*, designed to introduce young readers to Greek books and Greek Authors.

Our *Greek Children's Library* supports by giving access to our collection to schools, promoting reading and literacy. Additionally, our *Educational Programs* offer hands-on experiences in arts, literature, and history, encouraging creative exploration.

Across all our initiatives, we collaborate with other organizations, universities, and scholars to promote meaningful cultural exchange, ensuring that Greek culture thrives within our community.

In the following pages, you will discover more about each of these ongoing efforts, all designed to connect our members to the rich legacy of Greek literature, history, and culture.

TRIBUTES

The Greek Library of London takes great pride in hosting *Tributes* to some of the most influential figures of Greek culture.

These annual events, held in collaboration with international and local organizations, aim to celebrate our cultural heritage while introducing younger generations to key contributors of Greek literature, philosophy, and arts.

In 2019, we honored the poet **Titos Patrikios**, reflecting on his life's work and the powerful themes of his poetry, which have

left a lasting mark on Greek and international literature. The tribute gathered poets, academics, and literary enthusiasts, offering an intimate look at his career and contribution to contemporary thought.

In 2023, we celebrated the legacy of **Nikos Kazantzakis**, one of Greece's most important writers, known for his masterpieces such as *Zorba the Greek* and *The Last Temptation of Christ*. This event not only delved into his literature but also his philosophical outlook, which continues to inspire readers around the world.





In 2024, the Greek Library of London hosted its annual tribute focused on **Cyprus**, offering an in-depth exploration of the island's rich cultural significance and literary heritage. The event highlighted the contributions of prominent Cypriot figures who have shaped modern Greek identity and culture.

Through these annual tributes, the Greek Library of London remains committed to preserving and sharing the richness of Greek cultural contributions with the wider community and inspire future generations.



LIVE CONVERSATIONS

The Greek Library of London's Live Conversations series offers a unique opportunity for the Greek-speaking community in London to connect with esteemed Greek writers and artists. These discussions highlight the creative works and insights of our distinguished guests, bridging cultural gaps and bringing the literary spirit of Greece to the UK.

Over the years, we have had the honor of hosting celebrated figures such as **Soti Triantafyllou** (Oct 2024), writer and columnist, and **Evanthia Reboutsika** (May 2024), the much-loved composer whose music has touched the hearts of many. In February 2024, we welcomed **Maria Efthymiou**, a historian who has inspired audiences with her in-depth knowledge of Greek history. In June 2023, acclaimed author **Christos Chomenidis** shared his reflections on modern Greek literature, while in January 2023, we had the pleasure of hearing from **Lena Divani**, whose works explore the intersections of history and literature.

Earlier years have seen equally prominent guests, including **Elena Akrita** in November 2019, a journalist, playwright, and author, and **Xenia Kalogeropoulou** in May 2019, a beloved actress and children's book writer, whose storytelling resonates across generations.

These conversations offer our audience a rare chance to dive deep into the worlds of these influential figures, exploring their creative journeys and the rich cultural landscapes that shape their work.

Collaborating closely with publishers and the artists themselves, the Greek Library of London continues to provide unparalleled access to the literary and artistic currents of Greece, fostering a space where meaningful dialogues take place and connections are made.



STROLLING AROUND LONDON MUSEUMS

Through our *Strolling Around London Museums* initiative, the Greek Library of London brings members on enriching visits to various museums across the city, encouraging education and cultural dialogue. Our excursions have included fascinating sites such as the **Freud Museum**, **the Museum of the Home**, **the Cartoon Museum**, **the Postal Museum**, and the **London Canal Museum**.

At the Museum of the Home, attendees participated in a special workshop designed by us, where they created collages reflecting what “home” means to them and what elements make them feel at home. This creative activity allowed participants to express their personal experiences and engage with the museum in a meaningful way.





GREEK CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

Based on the belief that “reading promotes reading,” our reading program aims to build excitement about reading and foster a professional learning community among students, teachers, and parents. Our mission is to provide access to Greek children’s and young adult books to the **105 community schools** in the United Kingdom, the *Greek Pre-school and Primary School of London* and the *Greek Secondary School-Lyceum of London*.

The *Children’s Library* aims to support the learning program of Greek community schools

by introducing the literary work of contemporary Greek and Cypriot authors and illustrators and encouraging teachers to integrate resources and information literacy skills into every classroom. Moreover, it aims to organise storytelling activities and creative writing workshops at schools with the participation of Greek and Cypriot authors and illustrators and to offer courses on how educators can utilise children’s books in teaching Greek as a second/foreign language.

To achieve these goals, the *Children’s Library* has formed



partnerships with educational institutions in Greece and Cyprus: universities (*National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, University of Nicosia, University of Thessaly*), museums (*School Life & Education Museum*

in Athens, Children's & Young Adult Literature Museum in Volos), language and culture labs, and libraries. Additionally, we collaborate with the *Hellenic Education Office in London* and the *Cyprus Educational Mission*.



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Our **educational programs** are well-designed for children ages 4-8 and 9-13. Authors, illustrators, artists, museologists and historians will support these engaging programs helping the participants to explore the powerful interplay between literature and history creating a holistic learning experience.

Programs we offer:

- ***Let the artefacts talk: Second World War History as a story.***
- ***"In the footsteps of the lost Caryatid"*** co-organised with the *School Life and Education Museum, Athens*

CHILDREN'S EVENTS

Children meet authors and illustrators from Greece and Cyprus and participate in engaging post-reading activities (creative writing, role play, etc.) that foster a love for reading and help them delve deeper into what they've read. Each meeting allows children to explore Greek literature, inspire their imagination and enhance social and communication skills.

In April 2018, **Marilena Pappa** was our first guest, and the book *Moon Spoonfuls* was introduced to young readers. Later that year,

in October, **Philippos Mandilaras** presented his whimsical book *Strange Stories* at Clapham Library.

In May 2019, **Xenia Kalogeropoulou** introduced the children to "*Angelina*", a powerful enchanting story. In December 2019, **Marina Gioti** took children on a festive adventure to the North Pole.

In September 2023, the award-winning author **Argyro Pipini** presented her book *When the Sun Goes to Sleep*.





For Christmas in 2023, children explored the world of Mozart with **Minas Vintiadis** book *A Day with Mozart*.

In 2024, the children visited the British Museum for an engaging workshop by authors **Eleni Geroulanou and Argyro Pipini**.

In November 2024, children celebrated Christmas with **Antonis Papatheodoulou** and his book *Exams for Santa's Academy*.

UPCOMING PROJECTS

Children's Book Club. Children will read Greek books, participate in book discussions once per month and communicate with other children from our Greek and Cypriot communities.

BOOK LAUNCHES

The Greek Library of London invites writers and poets to present their recent works. These discussions focus on the authors' lives and their creative journeys, allowing them to share personal

experiences and stories with the audience. Attendees express enthusiastic support and a keen desire to learn more about the authors and their contributions to literature.



BOOK CLUB

The Greek Library of London is currently running its Adult Book Club, which focuses on reading and discussing books from the Greek State Literary Awards Shortlist. The project aims to promote creative dialogue and

engagement with contemporary Greek literature.

The group, consisting of 20 members, meets monthly to share their thoughts and reflections on the selected books.

THEATRE

As part of its cultural initiatives, the Greek Library of London bridges the gap between Greece and the UK by bringing compelling theatrical productions to the Greek community in London. In February 2023, we hosted the children's interactive theatre performance-workshop "Walk in My Shoes" by the acclaimed group **Oneirodrama** at New Unity, providing an engaging experience for children aged 4 to 11. The performance was held under the auspices of UNESCO Greece and supported by the Greek Ministry of Culture and Sports.



Earlier, in November 2018, we presented the theatrical production "Angelika Nikli Solomou – The Transparent One" in collaboration with **Playground Theatre**. This gripping performance, directed by Periklis Moscholiodakis, delved into the life of Angelika Nikli Solomou, mother of Dionysios Solomos, Greece's national poet.

Both of these performances were tailored specifically for the Greek-speaking community in London, bringing Greek cultural productions to life and fostering a deeper connection to our shared heritage.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Since its founding, the Greek Library of London has become a key hub for cultural and literary engagement in the UK's Greek-speaking community. More than **2,500 attendees** have joined our diverse events, ranging from live discussions to honorary tributes and interactive workshops. We've proudly hosted **over 30 notable authors, artists, and cultural figures from Greece**, offering rich insights into their work and experiences.

Our focus on community engagement includes hosting **over 90 library meetups**, during which **more than 10,000 books** have been borrowed, fostering a sense of connection through literature.

With **over 800 children** involved in various activities, we strive to introduce younger generations to Greek culture and literature. Our educational programs have particularly inspired children, cultivating their curiosity about Greek history and arts through these interactive learning





experiences.

Our mission is supported by the dedication of over **20 volunteers**, who help ensure the smooth running of events and operations. Their commitment allows us to extend our reach further every year.

In addition to in-person activities, the Greek Library of London has cultivated a vibrant online community. Our social media presence boasts over **2,000 followers on Instagram** and over **13,000 likes on Facebook**, helping us connect with a wider audience and promote upcoming events, book launches, and cultural exchanges.

The Greek Library of London remains deeply committed to building bridges between the UK and Greece, celebrating our rich heritage, and encouraging a lifelong love for Greek literature and culture. Whether through events, lending services, or online engagement, we continue to enrich the cultural landscape of London's Greek community.







HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT US

The Greek Library of London depends on the generosity of individuals and businesses to continue serving our community. Your support helps us provide access to thousands of Greek books, host cultural events, and offer educational programs for all ages.

Every contribution makes an impact. Contact us to learn more about how you can support our mission.

There are several ways you can contribute:

- **Become a Sponsor:** Help fund our events and activities, gaining visibility in our community.
- **Donate:** Your financial contribution, no matter the size, helps sustain our library's operations.
- **Volunteer:** Join our dedicated team and make a difference.

PARTNERSHIPS & SPONSORSHIPS

We invite individuals and businesses to become part of the Greek Library of London's mission by sponsoring our organization. Your support enables us to continue promoting Greek literature, culture, and education to a growing audience in the UK. With your sponsorship, we can expand our programs, host more impactful events, and invite distinguished authors and artists from Greece.

As a sponsor, you'll help preserve Greek heritage and make a lasting impact on the Greek-speaking community in London.

In return, we offer visibility and recognition in our events and digital platforms.

Join us in ensuring that Greek culture thrives for future generations. By partnering with the Greek Library of London, you become a vital part of our success story. Together, we can continue building cultural bridges and enriching lives through literature and the arts.

To explore sponsorship opportunities, contact us at info@greeklibrary.org



MEET THE TEAM

Honorary President:

Antonis D. Skiathas

Executive Director:

Panagiota Nakou

Board of Trustees:

Panagiota Nakou

Ioannis Koliks

Souzana Poursanidou

General Manager:

John Kolikis

Children's Library Director:

Georgia Karantona

PR and Fundraising Manager:

Diana Kantaroglou

Programme Manager:

Evdokia Michalopoulou

Head of Community:

Eleni Chasioti

IT Advisor:

Dimitris Patras

Finance Advisor:

Evangelos Kritikos

Legal Advisor:

Alexandros Theocharous

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Office Manager (Athens):

Ira Koliki

Volunteers:

Makis Papapostolou

Yiannis Papastamatis

Eirini Bogdanou

Anna Mailli

Evi Christofidou

Andreas Gkolfis

Eleni Troullinou

Athina Drakou

Danfi Gkazezoglou

Maria Dellaporta

Elena Mihailidi



London

Office / Storage
250 Burnt Oak Broadway,
Edgware, HA8 0GA,
London
(By appointment only)

Athens

Office / Deliveries
28is Oktovriou 32A,
Peuki, 151 21, Athens
(By appointment only)

Contact US

Library
info@greeklibrary.org

Children's Library
youngreaders@greeklibrary.org

www.greeklibrary.org

Facebook: [@greeklibrarylondon](https://www.facebook.com/greeklibrarylondon)
Instagram: [@greek.library](https://www.instagram.com/greek.library)