



# NATIONAL GREEK AMERICAN HEROES AND ISSUES

**A**s children, our parents are our heroes; as pupils, we are indoctrinated into the adulation of military, political, and religious heroes. As adults, we can focus on the mystical appeal of our heroes, but also on their human frailties, which make them relevant to today's tumultuous times, which, by the way are not much different than what went on during the Golden Age of Athens when as now imperial democracy created the ethos of greed, impatience with allies and enemies, and wars of adventure, all of which ended in.....!

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How could a man born on a Greek island in 1850 be a household name in Japan today? The answer lies in the story of Lafcadio Hearn whose life was global, bi-racial, and multicultural, a century before these concepts became fashionable. He was born on the Ionian island of Lefkada (hence the name Lafcadio, Λευκάδιος) to a Greek mother and an .....

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Another 23-year old engineering student who witnessed the student attack on 17 November 1973 at the Polytechnic University was Linda Katehi (Κατέχη), who came to America to pursue graduate degrees and, like some of us, stayed on to teach at the university level. Dr. Katehi excelled not only as a brilliant electronic engineering ....

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I am one of the millions or perhaps billion of people around the globe who became enamored with the melodic voice and singing artistry of Nana Mouskouri (Νάνα Μούσχουρη). I used to listen to her as a child during family trips, (both my father and mother were huge fans), but it was not until recently that I fell completely in love with....

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From western movies and documentaries we have an idea of the hard work and suffering of immigrant men working as laborers in the railroads and mines in the West in the early 1900s. But we have only scant information about Greek women who were brought to America as brides to lonely men living in poverty in shacks perched on the sides of precipitous mountains in the West. Illiterate, the women left no diaries. It is thanks to oral histories, family ....

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Do immigrants and their offspring have any ethical and political responsibility toward America? This question recurs with urgency in the writings of several American-Greek authors, including Harry Mark Petrakis. A well-known storyteller, Petrakis is particularly invested in this issue of interracial relations, drawing inspiration from his parents' deep appreciation for their acceptance in the United States. As the beneficiaries of America's magnanimity, the "sons and daughters of immigrants, grandsons and granddaughters of immigrants," he implores, "must renew and fulfill" the vision of America as a sanctuary of .....

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Zack (Ζαχαρίας) Space has been a two-term US Congressman having served in the House of Representatives representing Ohio District 18 from 2007 to 2011. His father Socrates was born in the USA, but his grandparents came from the magical Aegean island of Icaria. Space has been a tireless advocate of research by the National Institute of Health and other research centers for ways to prevent and...

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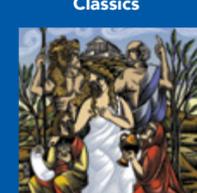
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