The Stamford AHEPA and the Church of the Archangels present

“The Journey: The Greek American Dream”
A Video Performance in English

Not long ago, poverty and the hope for a better future sent thousands of Greeks from their homeland. The United States became a land of promise and from 1890-1920, more than 400,000 Greeks disembarked on Ellis Island after weeks-long difficult voyages on large ocean liners. From this first wave of emigrants to the years of the Great Depression to the promising 1950s, when the second big influx of Greek migrants came, the story of Greek emigration is a moving saga that involved hardship and nostalgia. It was an often confusing road for immigrants, who had to forge a new identity and struggle to find success and recognition in their new land.

“The Journey: The Greek American Dream” is a rich story wonderfully told and revealed by film director Maria Iliou in a documentary that recently made its debut at the Athens Benaki Museum and has been shown at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the American Film Institute in Washington, DC and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. Based on material gathered from archives throughout the U.S., the documentary is the result of three years of work by Ms. Iliou and her colleagues. It documents the history of Greek immigrants in the U.S. from the start of the 19th Century until 1980.

“The Journey” is divided into three main periods. The first, “Immigrants,” details the mass exodus of Greek immigrants and their arrival in the United States from the end of the 19th Century through the 1920’s. Next “Becoming Americans” spans the period from 1920 to 1960, when the U.S. Government began to curb immigration and undertook a large-scale effort to assimilate immigrant groups. Finally, “The Revival of Ethnicity,” covers the period from 1960 to 1980, during which a wide propagation and recognition of cultural roots and traditions of every ethnic community – including the Greek American community – took place.

The Stamford AHEPA cordially invites you and your whole family to a screening of this moving film which was selected by the American Film Institute as one of the best European films of 2007 as well as receiving the Special Jury Award for “Best Documentary” at the International Film Festival in Houston in April 2008.

It is a “must-see” for those Hellenes who emigrated from Greece, Cyprus or Asia Minor and for their Greek-American families. Come see what many of your relatives (and maybe you) experienced in coming to the United States. Once “The Journey” begins, you won’t want it to end. We plan to offer your own copy of this DVD for a donation to the AHEPA scholarship fund.

Date: Saturday, November 15, 2008
Time: Doors open at 7:00 p.m. for pizza; Showing begins promptly at 7:30 p.m.
Place: Church of the Archangels, 1527 Bedford Street, Stamford, CT 06905
Tickets: Free; Donation of $10 suggested covering the cost of refreshments
Refreshments: Pizza and soft drinks will be served before the performance
More Information: Contact Bill Mihaltse (203-210-5314, wmihaltse@yahoo.com) or Arthur Kiratsous (203-966-8307)
Please call or e-mail your attendance so we can have adequate refreshments on hand. Thank you.

Sponsored jointly by the Stamford chapter of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association and the Greek Orthodox Church of the Archangels. The mission of AHEPA is to promote Hellenism, education, philanthropy, civic responsibility, and family and individual excellence.