



# THE HELLENIC SOCIETY PROMETHEAS

*celebrates*

## GREEK LETTERS DAY AND GREEK LANGUAGE & CULTURE AWARDS

On January 25th, 2020, The Hellenic Society Prometheas celebrated Greek Letters Day (Τῶν Τριῶν Ἰεραρχῶν) with a well-attended event to honor Greek language students from the Washington, DC Metropolitan area Greek Schools. The celebration was held at the St. George Greek Orthodox Church Founders Hall, in Bethesda, Maryland.

The event's keynote speaker, Ms. Mary Norris, former Copy Editor of The New Yorker, and author of Greek to Me: Adventures of the Comma Queen, as well as the best-selling Between You & Me: Confessions of a Comma Queen, engaged the audience with her wit and knowledge, inspiring it with her passion for the Greek language and culture. Ms. Norris



also described her adventures through Greece and Cyprus, as well as her experiences and adventures in learning Greek, highlighting its importance in understanding the English language and the world.

In her welcoming remarks, Prometheas President Magdalene Kantartzi congratulated the recipients of the Greek Language and Culture Awards for excellence in the Greek Language. She also praised the students' parents and teachers for their tireless efforts and encouragement. Ms. Kantartzi also stressed that Prometheas' mission is to promote the Greek Culture and that the Greek language is one of the most important elements "our culture." She added that

Prometheas celebrates and promotes our language and culture through a variety of cultural, academic, and social programs, including lectures and panel discussions, film screenings, and concerts. Prometheas is also proud to support the Modern Greek Language Program, a vital part of the Department of Classics, along with Ancient Greek at the University of Maryland. This year, the Society expressed its commitment to this program with a \$5,000 donation.



Prometheas Vice President Lefteris Karmiris presented the Greek Language and Culture Awards to 14 students, who excelled in learning the Greek language and obtained the Certificate of Attainment in Modern Greek (Πιστοποιητικό Ελληνομάθειας). In addition, to a commemorative plaque, the Award included a monetary gift as well as a book. The Principals of the Greek Schools were also offered a copy of Mary Norris's book, *Greek to Me: Adventures of the Comma Queen*, for their dedication to their students and the Greek language.



Father Stephanos Alexopoulos, Associate Professor of Liturgical Studies at Catholic University, along with several Prometheas members, chanted the hymn (Apolytikion) of the Three Hierarchs, and offered the traditional Vasilopita blessing.

The event was also attended by Mr. Spyridon-Heracles Aktypis, Head of the Consular Section and Cultural Attache at the Greek Embassy, who congratulated the organizers for the impressive event; Mrs. Maria Savvidou-Panayiotou, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus; and Colonel Dimitris Mpitsis, Air Attache at the Greek Embassy. At the end, guests enjoyed the reception.

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