

Kings Park Heritage Museum

Review: Kings Park Heritage Museum celebrates Greek Night

By Markos Papadatos

Kings Park—On May 18, the Kings Park Heritage Museum in Kings Park, New York, celebrated Greek Night at the newly renovated RJO Auditorium. It was an incredible evening honoring Greek heritage.

The doors of the museum were open for touring purposes. The curator director of the Kings Park Heritage Museum is Leo P. Ostebo, with Joann Galletta Hahn as president. It was a memorable night of celebration of Greek customs and heritage, which included traditional Greek food (salads, chicken souvlaki, tzatziki, spinach and cheese pies among others), coffee and drinks, and desserts, all of which were homemade; moreover, there was live Greek dancing by the children from The Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Hicksville on Long Island. The national anthems of Greece and the United States were sung in Greek and English respectively.



"Greek Night" at the Kings Park Heritage Museum was hosted by Sophia and Matina Panagos. The dancing group of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church treated the audience to several dances from the Greek islands, and towards the end, clarinet player Costas Skrepetos (from Ozone Park, Queens) accompanied them on clarinet.

Sophia Panagos made the closing remarks, which were quite inspirational for the Greek-American community. She shared that she is a schoolteacher of the New York City Department of Education (DOE), and underscored how proud she is of her Greek roots and culture. She thanked everybody for making this event possible, including her family members (mother and sister), and all the people that brought food and prepared for this event (and subsequently cleaned up afterwards), and especially the staff of the Kings Park Heritage Museum for welcoming them with open arms. "This is our event," Sophia Panagos told the audience that gathered at the RJO Auditorium.

The Verdict

Overall, it was a pleasant night of celebrating Greek culture in Kings Park. Everything was well-organized and carefully planned out, and the eloquent Greek hospitality from all involved was displayed throughout. "Greek Night" at the Kings Park Heritage Museum ought to become an annual tradition.