



35th Levantine Heritage Foundation gathering in London with guest speaker George Galdies



Smyrna On My Mind

In this book we discover similarities and contrasts between the author's childhood and that of his father Peter, who was brought up in sheer poverty due to the ravages of war and strife of WW1 whilst the author had the privilege of growing up in the ease of a middle-class family home which his father had managed to create against all odds.

As we read on, there also emerges the parallel tale of the destiny of their birthplace: the Aegean city of Smyrna. A true survivor of invasion, occupation, and destruction, this province rebuilds herself as modern Izmir in record time, as observed and narrated by the author and his father. The transformation is illustrated with personal photographs from early childhood into their late teens.

The chronicle is presented to the reader in the form of alphabetical entries. Each letter reminding the author of words that influenced him the most. These are names of people, places, objects and abstractions that went towards moulding his adulthood.



Sunday lunch in the Aicolina-Galdies family in their 1940s Smyrna home.



233 pages in A4, 57 pages printed in full colour. 167 pictures.

Copies of book available on the night at £15 – please e-mail to reserve a copy.

28 September 2022, 7 – 9 pm

The Hellenic Centre, 16-18 Paddington Street, Marylebone, London W1U 5AS

Booking is essential: <https://35th-lhf-gathering.eventbrite.co.uk>

Members LHF / HC £5, Non-members £10, plus Eventbrite booking fee.

George Galdies is a native of Izmir, George moved to the UK in 1974 having resigned as British Vice Consul to start a new career in international trade. In his retirement he has been actively seeking to keep alive the memory of 'Levantine Smyrna' through writings and gatherings. He is life-member of our Foundation.

Please support these events by becoming a Friend or Patron of the LHF <http://www.levantineheritage.com/join-us.html>. We provide these talks for free to Friends and Patrons as part of our mission to preserve and promote the research and public understanding of Levantine heritage. Friend/Patron subscriptions help cover the LHF's costs in arranging these events in city-centre venues and online. For commercial sponsorship packages for a conference, annual talk series or research programme, please contact chairman@levantineheritage.com.