Quotes from Interviews

Generational Proximity to Greece:

“Artemis Brod, first-generation American-born citizen”
“Christina Adams, second-generation American-born citizen”
“Georgia Papakirk, second-generation American-born citizen”
“Kristina Strafford, third-generation American-born citizen”
“Olga Kalentzidou, came as an exchange student for PhD, doesn’t identify as an immigrant, just stuck around (is from Greece)”
“Tatiana Kolovou, self-identified academic immigrant”
“Victoria Martine, third-generation on papou’s line, second-generation on yaya’s line”

Greek Influences:

“My mom and my extended family” Brod

“My mom on a day to day basis, food” Brod

“When I was in Greece I really spent a lot of time with my cousins and my aunts. Maybe they even […] taught me more directly about Greek culture because I was immersed in it, right, in their homes.” Brod

“My parents and my grandparents on my mom’s side [taught me the most about my Greek heritage]” Adams

“My grandparents. My grandma raised me, we only spoke Greek in the household, I stayed at her house while my parents worked. My parents were a big part of it too, taking us to church and stuff like that. But other than that, it’s pretty much my grandma and my grandpa” Papakirk
“My yai yai, my grandma”

“It was part of how I grew up. It is a combination of immediate family and distant family and extended family; I grew up with my relatives” Kalentzidou

“Grew up in Greece”

“I would say, probably my mother largely, but then I think my yei yai would be a close second. And I think my mom is just because I see her more often than I see my yei yai. And then probably the people at church third” Martine

Connection to Greece:

“I grew up going to Greece in the summers, and spent time with my cousins.” Brod

“Growing up at home, we mostly did not speak Greek; my dad did not speak Greek. This is a matter of contention; I’m angry with my mom for not speaking Greek. But during the summers, you know, I was there, and picked up a fair amount.” Brod

“That’s a difficult question for me. In the U.S., I don’t think that I go around identifying as ethnically Greek, but I feel very close to my Greek heritage. I love going to Greece, I go back as much as I can. The cooking is actually a really big part of my life; I feel happier when I’m eating Greek food, and I love cooking Greek food. I think it’s my favorite cuisine. That gets to me on an emotional level. And the language too, I love the language. So I don’t personally think of it so much as an ethnic identity but a cultural identity.” Brod

“It was the place where I had the most extended family and felt wrapped in that family in a way that I don’t have here, so I really loved that.” Brod
“It also made me feel sort of separate. I always felt separate from my Greek family in a way because we grew up in such different cultures. Greece is a very homogenous society, so there were certain kinds of experiences, and conversations that didn’t really translate in Greece.” Brod

“I felt very protected there, having that sort of extended family that was very loving and welcoming and I spent three months or two months in their homes” Brod

“A lot of the time when my extended family gets together, like when we’re all eating Greek food, it’s a huge topic of conversation. And I’ve spent my summers in Greece, so a big part of my childhood has been Greek. And also some of those things when I talk to my friends, they don’t have a strong ethnicity with their heritage, so it’s definitely something I – my family – takes as something we are proud of” Adams

“My parents and my uncle, they built a house there [Greece] when we were younger, so I’ve been probably almost ten times now that I’m older. It’s been easily my favorite place in the world and it’s kind of a cool experience for us; we have that home base there, so it’s not as much of a vacation but just more of us spending our summers, and honestly just like a second home. It was a cool experience when I was a little kid to see a different culture, different country, and seeing the difference between that and the United States since it is super different. And it definitely impacted my life in a lot of ways, since now I really want to go work abroad and I really love languages so it’s definitely been a really positive experience” Adams

“I’m 100%. Both my parents, both of their parents are from Greece, that’s why I think I’m ethnically 100% Greek. I also speak it, which I think is a big part of it. And then I also follow orthodoxy and I think that is a big part of it. And then I’m involved with a lot of the culture, like dances” Papakirk

“I think through all ways. There’s not a moment that I don’t think about my heritage. I think I’m so proud of it just because I was fortunate enough to have my grandparents live across the street from me and literally being immersed into that. And then also the country of Greece is the most beautiful country in the world, so there’s also that. No offense to people from any other country,
but if you’re from Germany, you don’t have these beautiful beaches, you don’t have these beautiful mountain ranges, you don’t have the utmost beauty that just exists in Greece” Papakirk

“My yaya has lived with us my whole life and she would speak to us fragmented but it was never fully spoken in complete. But words and sentences and songs, and with my mom a little bit, but it was never fully my language spoken to me” Strafford

“The foods we cook, lots of Greek food, almost I would say four meals out of the seven of the week for dinner are Greek themed. Also in the stuff we bake, and the music we listen to; I was also involved in Greek dance, Sunday school. I’d say a huge part was church, and going to a Greek Orthodox Church. That’s a huge community of Greek people, so then we hang out with them outside of that. You’re in the youth groups, and going to a Greek camp; I would say church is a huge one” Strafford

“I feel if I go to a Serbian orthodox church or another one that’s the same, it just feels different. It feels much more homey when it’s Greek” Strafford

“I still feel very connected to Greece. I would say, I feel like since I’ve grown up, especially since my yaya lives with us, with the cooking, the singing, the songs, the dancing; I’m not kidding I was working on my nursing homework and I was listening to Greek music so I’m always listening to Greek music. And I feel like, (I don’t live there, go there every summer like some people from my church, I don’t have a huge connection) but I still feel very proud to be Greek” Strafford

“I do my research there, all my relatives are there; I am the only one of this part of the world from my immediate family. Of course I have extended family, cousins, that are immigrants and they live in New York, so I do have connections here as well. I speak Greek, I cook in mostly my heritage, I speak Greek to my kids, I follow the holidays. My culture I think is pretty strong; it is a hybrid culture because I have been here for a long time. But I listen to the news, I keep up with everything that’s going on, cultural, because of my research also scientific articles, stuff like that.
So I think I am very well connected with Greece as it is right now, being part of the European Union and all. So that’s how I preserve my heritage as well” Kalentzidou

“My middle name is my father’s first name, which every Greek’s middle name is their father’s first name. That is standard, you don’t give a middle name and a first name, you are given your middle name” Kolovou

“I’ve lived outside of Greece more than I’ve lived in it, but I am very Greek in many ways. I speak the language fluently, I went to school, primary, and all of my schooling was there before coming to university in the U.S.. I married an American in the Greek church in Greece on an island where we have a house, my kids are baptized in the same island in the same church by the same priest, so I made sure that there was lineage there. My family, my brother, my sister, and my mom – my dad also died when I was young – they all live in Athens; I am from Athens and I have created my life so that I spend a lot of time there, and I stay very connected to Greece” Kolovou

“I take students to Greece every year, I teach in the Kelley school, and I created a class about in 2008, when the crisis was pretty hot and heavy. The dean at the time said, ‘your country is taking down the rest of the world financially,’ and I, like a proud Greek, put my hands on my hips and I said, ‘and your student should learn from my country,’ because it’s not just my country, it’s the whole of Europe. And he said, ‘why don’t you do something about that?’ So I created a class, that’s eight weeks, second eight, we’re about to start in a couple of weeks. It’s called The Business Culture of Greece, and so we study politics, economy, culture, infrastructure, legal system, and then we go there for ten days. So I’ve been doing it for eight years now, and I always take students to a shop where they can get Greek god tee-shirts and then they print your name on the back in Greek, for some of them, that’s different enough” Kolovou

“So my mom will tell us to do stuff in Greek, I try to respond in Greek – when I remember to respond in Greek, I will respond in Greek. But most of the time I’m not speaking Greek at home, I’m more listening to Greek. I think what happens in my family is that we speak more Greek outside of the home than in the home. Because we talk about people and whatever it is, and we
use Greek to do that because – unless we’re at church – nobody knows what we’re talking about. But I think it’s more outside the home but with my family than inside the home. Also, my dad doesn’t know Greek. Even outside, I’ll go to talk to him in Greek and then I’ll realize, I can’t say that to you because you don’t understand. I think it’s largely because he’s there that we don’t do it as much at home” Martine

“I think it kind of ties into where I find most of my connections to my Greek heritage. At church, I think religion plays a huge role in my feeling that I am Greek. Especially my religious community because then we have festivals, and we have a bunch of Greek people so they’re talking to us in Greek, we’re doing Greek dances, we’re eating Greek food, and I think that community makes me feel ethnically Greek. But then also being able to understand the language, knowing food types, knowing how those foods are made, what goes into making them. That’s why I’m studying what I’m studying, because for me language, religion, and the food are the three biggest qualifiers for my ethnic feelings” Martine

Jewelry in possession:

“I have things that were given to me as a child and from my grandmother before she passed away. So I have certain heritage pieces, you know, they’re gold – I don’t know if you’ve seen, they’re these gold bracelets with charms on them. Many children get them, or kind of young adults get them, so I was given a bracelet like that when I was young, ear rings that I wore a lot. And my grandmother gave me a gold watch before she died, but I don’t wear those, they are kind of symbolic.” Brod

“I like to wear jewelry that’s louder and more colorful than maybe is the standard U.S. fashion.” Brod

“My mom gave me a necklace actually over Christmas that is from Greece. It’s a sort of white and blue beaded necklace which you know is obviously both the flag but also the sea and the sand kind of jewelry. And I wear that every once in a while.” Brod
“Otherwise I might not have pieces that are specifically from Greece – I mean, I’m sure I do; over the years I’ve accumulated lots. Right now I’m not wearing so many pieces that are from Greece, but I think in general my penchant for more colorful and exotic jewelry might have a relationship to a more dramatic Greek style” Brod

“My mom has this Greek cross that she got in Athens, and so she wears that every single day. And then she also wears – I don’t know what it’s called – but there are these bracelets that are black and they have a little blue stone but it’s like a church bracelet. It’s not a very fancy bracelet but she wears that almost every day. And then my grandma, she wears her cross every single day. And then I’m not sure about my grandpa, and I don’t think my dad, he doesn’t really wear that jewelry too much, but my mom does every single day. And then my brother also has a tattoo […] it’s a big cross on his shoulder, and then in Greek writing – I’m not sure what it is in Greek – but it’s like ‘Liberty or death’ or something like that in English” Adams

“And then I have my lita, which I don’t have with me, I didn’t bring with me to college because I don’t want to lose it, but it’s a gold medallion. And then I wear other things like filaktols that you put on with relics. Having relics, I have a bunch of those; I have one from Jerusalem from Jesus’s cross or something, and then I have two from saints; one’s from St. Leonisios and one’s from Aios Janis Jakovos. And I think that’s really cool, I think that’s something I wear for a test or something. I always put it on under my clothes to have it with me and always have that presence of my heritage and also my faith, because that’s a huge part of Greek jewelry in general. And then I wear my comboschinis, which are my prayer ropes. The popular ones are the thinner ones, I have a bunch, I have wooden ones, I have larger ones, and I think that’s really cool because pretty much any Greek person you know is always wearing one” Papakirk

“So it’s just a very long gold chain, and then it has a coin – it’s basically a necklace with a coin inside, and the coin is just a gold coin, and it has King George on it, it’s so strange. But also since my name’s Georgia, that’s significant to me in some way, and then St. George is on the back of the coin” Papakirk
“We all have our crosses, and that’s more Greek Orthodox, that we wear. And then we have prayer ropes that we wear as well. My papou would wear the evil eye bracelets, and my yaya has some Greek key bracelets. I have some mati, I don’t wear it on the regular, I normally just wear my prayer rope and my cross” Strafford

“Most of my jewelry actually came from Greece, because I like that particular type, and my area and a lot of where I come from has a strong jewelry tradition, both for silver and for gold. Jewelry in Greek society marks every important occasion in our lives, so when we are born we get a cross through our baptism from our godparents. The parents also bestow gifts to their children, so my children got gifts of gold jewelry, especially crosses, from my mother, my father, my parents. I got a lot of jewelry because again it’s part of our tradition when we get married to receive jewelry from both sides of the family, so I got all jewelry from my mother and my mother’s side, jewelry from my husband’s side, who came to Greece to be at our wedding, but they bought their jewelry there because I like a particular type, so I wear those all the time just not today. There are also my wedding rings are from there, and a lot of kind of Byzantine style jewelry which my area is very famous for. I have my own jeweler back home so I go back and forth with repairs or anything like that, so I do don specific jewelry at specific periods of time” Kalentzidou

“it is a combination of precious stones such as lapis lazuli, or garnet, or amethyst with intricate designs in silver especially but also in gold, I tend to go for silver or white gold that resemble techniques of the byzantine times. And Byzantium was an empire that was going on between 300AD roughly to about 1400AD. But the jewelry also has a lot of influences from Ottoman times so it’s a combination of style, it’s quite ornate but not garish; it’s very clean, it’s a very clean style. And of course there’s a lot of jewelry making in Greece to this day, we have a lot of famous jewelers, it is a tradition that has been going on for a long time, and the gold is very different, the karats are very different than the ones we use here” Kalentzidou

“I always wear a bracelet with my watch that’s a mati, I always never leave the house without it. My car has one hanging, my house has one in it, my business has one in it. I can’t describe to you how important that is and in fact my kids kind of do it a little bit too. I just opened a business
that I named Ethos, I own a cycling studio in town. It’s Ethos cycling because I believe that – I don’t know if you’re familiar with Aristotle’s ethos, pathos, logos; that’s the only way you influence through credibility, logic, and emotion in a message. But for me, Ethos is integrity, authenticity, and in the world of fitness and health, there’s a lot of bogus stuff. And even the name of our logo, you can look us up online, it’s the colors of the Greek flag, that’s really important to me to live that. And it’s maybe a little underlying message, but I’m a pretty proud Greek; anyone who knows me would tell you that about me” Kolovou

“My grandmother, we all wear our cross, so I don’t know if that necessarily ties us to Greece, but the Greek Orthodox church. My mom, she has this shirt that she made, there’s a block of feta cheese on it and it says feta in Greek underneath. My dad, not so much; I mean he wears his cross, but I don’t think he feels that it’s tied at all to Greece, more to the church. When we were younger, we had to do Greek dancing and stuff for the church, for the festival, so we have a bunch of Greek traditional costumes for dancing, we have those at home. We have kombolois, so if you go to Greece, you’ll see them everywhere, but mostly guys have them I think, but they’re just a necklace-type thing. And you just spin it; it’s like a fidget spinner but worse because it makes more noise. And you spin it, you play with it, so in Greece a lot of the guys just play with it, distracting themselves. And we have a bunch of those at home because we got them in Greece. My mama wears komboscinis, which are tied to the church, but even I think with the name it ties us back to that Greek culture. And my mom has a Greek flag shirt, I think she has more than my yeya” Martine

“I have my komboscinis, I have my cross, I have actually upstairs I’ve got a Greek soccer jersey – it’s very touristy – and it has Kalagounes on the back who is number 10 on the team. I’ve got my kombolois. I enjoy wearing Greek colors, I think more so than I enjoy wearing things that say ‘Greece!’ on them. But my sister, she has the flag hanging in her room at home. I’ve got a Greek fisherman’s cap – I love them, they’re great; it’s too big for my head though, so I have to find a replacement. That’s just like switching things out at the festival, no one will know” Martine

“We have Greek dolls dressed in outfits, and they sit on one of our windowsills” Martine
“I have little ear rings that have the Greek flag on them” Martine

Mati – evil eye:

“That’s also on the bracelets. I don’t remember my grandmothers or aunts wearing medallions or anything like that, but definitely the mati, maybe again on the wrist.” Brod

“I have a lot of different evil eye jewelry. That’s definitely my favorite Greek symbol. In my car, I have an evil eye – one of those little things you put on the rear-view mirror. So yeah, I wear a lot of evil eye stuff” Adams

“It’s definitely something that kind of reminds me of my family and my heritage. And also with the evil eye, I really like what it stands for, how it’s warding off bad spirits, and adds an element of protection, just something to keep me and my family safe. And I also like whenever I wear it because whenever I look at it, it makes me think of my family” Adams

“And I have my mati, my evil eye jewelry, which is necklaces, bracelets, rings” Papakirk

“My papou would wear the evil eye bracelets, and my yaya has some Greek key bracelets. I have some [mati], I don’t wear it on the regular, I normally just wear my prayer rope and my cross” Strafford

“Other than that, we also had the evil eye, that’s very important for Greeks, and other people around the world, especially around the Mediterranean. And the one thing that we all had as children on our crib was a little pin with the evil eye and it was gold and I have this for my children as well, so they were passed down to me from my mother” Kalentzidou

“It’s not just one, I wear many different ones, but I always have a mati on me, either on a necklace or a bracelet. And I always wear it with my watch, that's kind of my standard. If you look at a mati bracelet, I have maybe fifty of them” Kolovou
“And I have little ear rings that have the Greek mati. And my sister has a bracelet with the mati on it” Martine

Materials/Patterns:

“My relatives wore gold jewelry. It depends on the generation. My aunts and grandmother wore this kind of gold jewelry; crosses, necklaces that had crosses, and then again those bracelets that have these charms; I guess they have to do with a medley of things, maybe a horoscope thing. I think I had a lion for being a Leo, and I don’t remember what else. I think younger generations are less, there isn’t as much of the kind of gold, the specific pieces that I remember very vividly.” Brod

“The two biggest are a cross or an evil eye, but the majority of the jewelry we have has one of those two elements. Also, I don’t know about the material, but the bracelets […] evil eye bracelets are not as fancy; American bracelets are more like cloth, but these are thicker […] not yarn, but a coarser material. Also, a lot of blue, lots of blue but those are definitely the biggest things” Adams

“Pretty much all gold. I don’t really have fake Greek jewelry, I think that’s a big part of having Greek jewelry is that it’s not normally fake, and it’s always gold or silver, and it’s really beautiful” Papakirk

“And then there’s also the Greek key, which is also really pretty. I’m pretty sure my grandma told me it symbolizes a river, the ever-flowing river, because if you look at a Greek key it never ends, so it’s something with the river which is really cool, and it’s to show longevity in your life” Papakirk

“I feel like my yaya has a lot of gold stuff [jewelry] that kind of rusts easily, it could just be old. And then the blue eye that is that stone, I don’t know what material that is” Strafford
“it is a combination of precious stones such as lapis lazuli, or garnet, or amethyst with intricate designs in silver especially but also in gold, I tend to go for silver or white gold that resemble techniques of the byzantine times” Kalentzidou

“Back to Ethos cycling, our water bottles are blue and white, the colors of the flag, our tee-shirts are blue and white. If you look us up on Instagram or Facebook, you can see the logo. So to me it’s not just when I wear that. My kids have a lot of Greek soccer tee-shirts, Greek soccer team. There’s one specific one that they are fans of. When they were younger, Greek god tee-shirts, all of that” Kolovou

“I have a pair of Alexander the Great gold ear rings that I love, I have several mati necklaces. I mean, Greek jewelry, if you go to Greece, there is incredible jewelry, and not all Greek keys and all that. It’s just that it’s very modern and very cool, unlike anything you’ve seen here” Kolovou

“The Greek key, I’m sure we have stuff with that on it, I’m sure; I don’t know what, but I’m sure we have it, and the flag” Martine

“My yeyatas will give us jewelry from Greece, I have a good amount. Largely it is gold or silver, jewelry wise, it’s not really anything else, unless it’s like super cheap but our yeyatas won’t send us anything cheap” Martine

Baptismal Jewelry:

“You probably get a cross for the baptism as a baby” Brod

“I baptized my cousin last summer, so we had to buy him a cross, but I think there were other things that we could have gotten him as well, but we just did a cross” Adams
“I have quite a few, I have many crosses; I have about five gold crosses, I have so many”
Papakirk

“My baptismal cross is the cross I usually wear” Strafford

“Jewelry in Greek society marks every important occasion in our lives, so when we are born we get a cross through our baptism from our godparents. The parents also bestow gifts to their children, so my children got gifts of gold jewelry, especially crosses, from my mother, my father, my parents” Kalentzidou

“When you’re baptized – because you know in Greece you can only be baptized in the Greek church – so you get your identity in a way, you either get a necklace with your name or you get a bracelet that has your name on it. And it’s called detautotita, like your ID, but that’s always what your godparent gives you. And a lot of people do that, a lot of people wear their name, so it’s interesting that that’s what he gave you. Because that’s very symbolic and pretty authentic to the Greek tradition” Kolovou

“also when you get baptized you get your cross from your godparent – your godfather or your godmother – and you are always supposed to wear that cross when you go to church. So my kids have their crosses from their godparents and we always wear them and we go to church for Easter” Kolovou

“Crosses. I’m sure we still have the gowns we wore for baptism. I mean I have a baptismal cross” Martine

Marriage Practices:

“In terms of marriage jewelry, older generations I don’t know; my cousins got watches or something. I don’t know anything that’s sort of interesting besides the engagement ring and the wedding band” Brod
“My mom didn’t get anything when she was married. Wedding rings are normal standard American tradition, you buy a ring and give it to your significant other. I know there are other religious things that go with it, but not necessarily jewelry, wreaths and stuff like that” Papakirk

“And my grandma has all these gold coins, and she said for your wedding, I’m going to give them all to you in a bracelet form. And I said ‘wow, thank you.’ It’s so nice” Papakirk

“I know that they wear their ring the other way [on the right hand]” Strafford

“We usually get a set from our in-laws, and the parents will give very different kinds of jewelry as well, but it’s always a necklace and a bracelet and maybe a ring. So I chose a necklace and a bracelet, kind of heavy-looking bracelet, so that’s what I chose for mine. Men also wear jewelry, we give watches or rings, or crosses, stuff like that to them as well” Kalentzidou

“I got a lot of jewelry because again it’s part of our tradition when we get married to receive jewelry from both sides of the family, so I got all jewelry from my mother and my mother’s side, jewelry from my husband’s side, who came to Greece to be at our wedding, but they bought their jewelry there because I like a particular type, so I wear those all the time just not today. There are also my wedding rings are from there, and a lot of kind of Byzantine style jewelry which my area is very famous for” Kalentzidou

“Greeks wear their wedding band on the right hand. That’s kind of something that people ask me sometimes. Germans and Greeks do, I don’t know who else, and I guess it’s kind of staple in the gay community, so my husband always gets confused for not being heterosexual. In the Greek tradition, there’s no diamond rings. So when we got engaged – we’ve been married for 25 years – but everyone asked, ‘let me see your ring, let me see your diamond,’ and I said, ‘what are you talking about? We just decided we are going to get married, so I guess that means we’re engaged,” and so he had a diamond that he bought off of his grandma who was a jewelry dealer, and he had it made into a ring. And he gave it to me, it was like his present to me on our wedding day. So I never had an engagement ring, because that’s not a Greek thing. But in Greece, you wear your wedding rings, it’s a simple band, and you wear it. When the couple is engaged, there
is a big ceremony where the priest comes to the house to bless the couple, and you always get together at the bride’s house, and the groom’s family comes, and there is a huge jewelry exchange. The wedding bands get blessed by the priest and you wear them on your left hand, and then when you go to the church to get married, you take them off, the priest blesses them again, and then you officially wear them on your right hand, and that means you’re married. So I wear my wedding band on my right hand and so does my husband” Kolovou

“There’s none of this – blah, blah, anniversary band. I mean, the fact that men wear engagement rings I think is pretty symbolic of the difference. The diamond ring given to the female always kind of drives me nuts. But it doesn’t exist there” Kolovou

“In the Greek Orthodox church, I think in the orthodox church, we don’t put our rings on our left fingers, we put them on the right. My mom doesn’t like wearing it on her right, she wears it on the left, my dad wears his all the time. My mom, I mean she just wears rings, my dad, that’s like the only piece of jewelry besides his cross that he wears, and I think he wears it on the right, I think my yeya wears hers on the right” Martine

Memories:

“I always went during the summers. So that really defines my ideas about Greek culture, which gives me a sort of skewed understanding of the Greek way of life. I spent a lot of time by the water, I spent a lot of time in the water. For me it’s a place that I strongly identify with being near the sea, spending lots of time swimming, and playing when I was younger and running around.” Brod

“I guess those gold pieces, those early pieces, remind me of a time period, and they were all gifts from my aunts, so that kind of closeness that we developed at that period. It was kind of when I was a speaking person, so I was able to be more connected to them, and that was a symbol of intimacy I think, for them as well. They didn’t have a lot of money, so it was a very meaningful thing to give this gold jewelry. So nothing specific, but it’s kind of an early connection to my Greek family” Brod
“I think that one or two of the bracelets I have gotten in Greece, whenever I wear it I think of my time, my summers spent in Greece, but nothing super specific” Adams

“I danced all through high school, and then I think I’m going to dance for the college group” Papakirk

“I went two times, one time when I was younger; I kind of remember but I kind of don’t remember. I stayed with my family for about a month. And then last summer I went for three weeks to Ionian village which was super fun because you’re with 200 Greeks, you get to experience your faith, your culture, and getting to meet these people that seem to share the same background as you, so that was great” Papakirk

“On my sixteenth birthday, I got my liva, and that was a really big deal because my grandma told me – my mom has one too, not from my grandma but she has one from her grandma – and so it’s kind of been a family thing. I know a lot of Greek people who don’t have it, it’s not bad or anything, it’s kind of different and unique to my family, which I think is really cool. And my grandma has all these gold coins, and she said, ‘for your wedding, I’m going to give them all to you in a bracelet form.’ And I said ‘wow, thank you.’ It’s so nice. And then I know I get pieces of jewelry pretty much every significant date, my other grandma got me – it’s not necessarily a gold chain, but it’s a gold bracelet and it has the Greek keys on it, and that was from my graduation. And then my other grandma gave me another one that’s a gold chain for my graduation. And then obviously my baptismal cross from my baptism. I got this for my birthday one year, and then I get ear rings and stuff for my birthday. It’s mostly special occasions but that is what the memory was from” Papakirk

“I went the summer before I came to IU, so three years ago. We went to Athens and then Santorini, so that was really cool with my parents. I liked that I could try all the food and see everything and see the real culture. It was my favorite place on the trip, because we went all around Europe” Strafford
“The evil eye – my papou has passed away so that just always reminds me of him, he had it up in his car too, little keychains kind of with it on them. And then my yai yai’s Greek key [jewelry], it just looks very old and they both just remind me of my grandparents” Strafford

“It was fun; it still is, because I visit very often, almost yearly. I grew up in a village, my parents were teachers and my dad was from that village. So my upbringing might be very different from an urban Greek. I grew up with all my relatives around and I have a very extended family. I keep in touch with them to this day. I know all their names and they know everything about my family in the U.S. Then I moved to a small urban center and when I was thirteen we moved to the bigger urban center in my particular area of Greece so a mixed upbringing, lots of freedom to play. I came here in the 1990s so before that Greece was semi-urban, and even though it is still a safe country, it was even safer back then, and I had a lot of freedom. Go through the village and the city, I just going by myself, and walking about, riding my bike in the city. It was a nice existence, I had a lovely childhood” Kalentzidou

“As kids we were given little medallions that had the virgin Mary on them or we had medallions for our patron saint, and we would wear them on special occasions like Easter or Christmas, especially Easter, because it’s a big celebration in Greece, or one our birthday, so I wouldn’t say we would wear the cross on a daily basis because it’s very expensive and you would lose it. And to this day also, my children who are born and raised here but they have a mixed heritage, and they still go with a cross when we go to either the Catholic church or the Greek orthodox church, either way because the traditions are similar. And then we also have little bracelets again with pendants around, so I remember wearing these things and I still have them and I hope that one day I can give them, I can pass them on to other people in my family” Kalentzidou

“Not specifically, it’s part of my identity, it’s sort of like you don’t leave the house without protection. So it may be superstition, but it’s become a habit. I’m 51 years old, I’ve been doing it for over 30 years, so I wouldn’t say memories, but more it’s kind of part of who I am. There’s one artifact – my dad died when I was 7 so anything of his that I have is very precious to me – and I have a keychain with Poseidon on it that was his keychain. And I have had a fusion in my lower back when I was young because of a slipped vertebrae, and I was told I could never run a
marathon, but I’m pretty active, so I trained and I ran one marathon, and that was the Athens marathon, and I recommend to every Greek or every person who is affiliated with Greece to run that race because it’s the original, and I had it with me the whole time. So that was very sentimental for me, you know, I carried it in my belt that I wore with my food and then I carried it through the finish line, and it was very symbolic” Kolovou

“I’ve been three times. The first time I went, I was 18 months, so I remember about 0 of it. I think we went there for a wedding, clearly I don’t remember. But we went then. The second time I went was 2008 and when we were in Greece, my yeya has three sisters, two of which never married, and so they live near Athens. So we went and we stayed with them and then my theoyani came and we went to go visit the Parthenon – wait, hang on, that was the third time we went. The second time we went, we went to their house and we went to visit the Parthenon because my theoyani had a cousin, a niece, who was one of the workers there. So she took us around the Parthenon, showed us stuff, which was cool. And then we went to Hacia. It’s a little convoluted, in my mind, probably not in other people’s. There is a little townhouse that my yeyata’s have in Hacia that – they didn’t grow up in it, but it’s their property. My yeya’s family in Greece is, was, is (probably) relatively affluent, and so they had this huge house in Hacia. But then Nazi Germany happened, and they came into Greece and removed them from the house and they kind of took over the house, and people were persecuted, and it was not fun. And we did that, we went to go see that, and we went to Crete. And then the third time we went, we went to Hacia again, we went to Athens, we went to the Parthenon because you kind of have to go to the Parthenon every time you go, and that was actually with my theoyani and his two sons and then also with my theastefi who is his sister, they are actually from my other yeya, the fourth one who actually did marry, and her three children. All of us, so my nine family people from America, theoyani, theastefi, their kids, and theostefi’s spouse, and then my two yeyata’s, we all went to Korfu, Kercida” Martine

“Whenever I see my cross, my baptismal cross, eventually I remember my brother swallowing his cross one day. And it was, the thing to remember about it, is that he swallowed his, and it was after we had had dinner, and his throat hurt because he had swallowed a cross. And my mom said, ‘here, eat some bread, to soothe your’ whatever, I don’t think there was any meaning
behind it, or to get it through your digestive system, make sure it’s not stuck, probably that. So my sister and I said, ‘well we want to eat bread too!’ and she said, ‘you didn’t swallow a cross,’ and we said, ‘yeah, but if he gets to eat bread we want to eat bread.’ And so we ate two piece of bread” Martine

“I know when I wear my shirt, I remember our trip, our trip that we took to Greece” Martine

“Whenever I wear [the Greek outfit], I remember Greek dancing because I love Greek dancing, it’s great” Martine

“Whenever I see what I wore when I was really little, there are two things: I remember one time I gave a presentation in third grade probably about growing up Greek, and I wore my little outfit and talked to people about it. And I thought I was so accomplished. And I also remember, there is this one dance, it is the cutest dance ever, it’s not even hard. [all the little kids] do this thing, because I remember it when I see the costume, because you go *rhythmic clapping* then you skip around in a circle *more rhythmic clapping* so I remember that dance” Martine

“I recall wearing jewelry, like if I see a piece of jewelry, I recall instances in which I wore it or in which I noticed I was wearing it” Martine

**Birth Dates**

Artemis Brod, August 11, 1983
Christina Adams, November 13, 1997
Georgia Papakirk, May 27, 1999
Kristina Strafford, January 18, 1997
Olga Kalentzidou, May 9
Tatiana Kolovou, January 22, 1967
Victoria Martine, February 21, 1999