

The Peale, Baltimore

Out of the Blocks Storytelling Series

Recorded by Aaron Henkin; Photographs and Music by Wendel Patrick

Produced for the *Out of the Blocks* website, created by the Peale, <https://ootb.thepeale.org/>

Out of the Blocks is supported by PRX and produced with grant funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Cohen Opportunity Fund, The Hoffberger Foundation, Patricia and Mark Joseph, The Shelter Foundation, The Kenneth S Battye Charitable Trust, The Sana and Andy Brooks Family Fund, The Muse Web Foundation, and the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, creator of the Baker Artist Portfolios



Nitsa Morekas ([00:02](#)):

My name is Nitsa. The last name is Morekas. Kentrikon is the name of the business and in Greek it means center. And the address is 4704 Eastern Avenue. And we are at the center of the Greek community in Baltimore.

Speaker 2 ([00:17](#)):

These are very nice [inaudible 00:00:00:19]. I put it in a little bag for you.

Nitsa Morekas ([00:26](#)):

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People will come in for a gift, or a unique gift to give someone worthy. It's very popular. When people come in, they see the blue and they see all these colors. They think it's like a religious... No, it's just a pacifier.

Usually, men used to carry them at the coffee houses and were known to play their cards, do this and you know and that. They did different [inaudible 00:00:46] things with it, with their fingers, but it's a pacifier actually is what it is and they're very popular.

I came from Greece in 1951, actually. I was 10 years old. I think I really didn't like it because we came on the boat, like everyone in those years. In New York, it was a dreary rainy day and I didn't really like it because I was used to it. I was actually born... Our house was in a resort kind of area, Kalamata, the Southern part of Greece. In the summertime, we used to swim every day.

The house, the street and the sea. Not ocean, sea. Blue waters, people that say what's different about the Greek islands and the Hawaiian islands or the Jamaica, all of those? I said the ones that we're used to here, they're the fantasy islands. Our beauties a rugged beauty. It's a vivid blue it's the sky and this royal blue water.

It's just different. You have to go to a certain place because you have to breathe, to smell, to eat, to feel the place, to know. You can see pictures and they look the same, they look pretty much the same, but they're not. Different. You have to be there to feel the beauty.