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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Democracy & Knowledge: Lessons from Classical Athens

Stanford's Josiah Ober to speak on April 10 at the National Hellenic Museum

CHICAGO, IL - The rise and fall of Ancient Greece offers powerful lessons for modern society.

Please join us April 10 at 2:30 p.m. for a compelling conversation with Josiah Ober, Professor of Political Science and Classics at Stanford, about the contemporary political and economic relevance of Ancient Greece as it relates to modern democracy.

Combining a history of Athens with contemporary theories of collective action and rational choice developed by economists and political scientists, Ober, will examine Athenian democracy's unique contribution to the ancient Greek city-state's remarkable success.

Ober, author of *The Rise and Fall of Classical Greece*, argues that Greece's rise was not a miracle but rather the result of political breakthroughs and economic development driven by the extraordinary emergence of citizen-centered city-states that transformed Greece into a society that defeated the mighty Persian Empire. He will discuss how ancient Greek politics can help us transcend the democratic dilemmas that confront the world today.

Introductory remarks will be given by Dr. Jonathan Elmer, the Marilyn Thoma Artistic Director of the Chicago Humanities Festival and English Professor at Indiana University, Bloomington.

Admission: \$15 for the general public, \$10 for members, and \$5 for students.

The National Hellenic Museum's "Celebrating the Greeks" program series is made possible by a generous contribution from Grecian Delight Foods and the Parthenis Families.

Photo 1:
Josiah Ober



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Located in Chicago's Greektown, the sleek 40,000-square-foot National Hellenic Museum at 333. S. Halsted St. is both contemporary and timeless, connecting all generations—past, present and future—to the rich heritage of Greek history, culture, art and the Greek American experience. The National Hellenic Museum, previously known as the Hellenic Museum and Cultural Center, has been fulfilling this mission since 1983.

For more information, visit <http://www.nationalhellenicmuseum.org> or call 312-655-1234.

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