

News, Events, and Exhibitions at the National Hellenic Museum



Museum Newsletter

December 2023



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A Letter from the Museum Chairman



Dear Friend,

The end of the year is a time to reflect and celebrate. This year has been a landmark one at the National Hellenic Museum. With your generous support, the museum is stronger than ever, a growing and thriving institution dedicated to sharing Greek history, art, culture, and the Greek American story.

Breathtaking exhibitions line the walls, visitors of all ages fill the galleries. Engaging conversations and heartfelt laughter reverberate throughout our stunning building in the heart of Chicago's historic Greektown and in our online classes. This is made possible because of your generosity.

Greeks have long defined themselves by their hospitality and warmth, openness to others and to the world; therefore, it should be no surprise the museum is a place where people gather to learn, grow, and celebrate.

As we bring together ideas, cultures, and, most importantly, people, we create space for fearless inquiry, debate and contemplation. We engage the present and look to the future with a deep appreciation for the value of tradition and the debt we owe to those who have come before us.

Ensuring our Hellenic Legacy is passed to the next generation grounds my personal commitment to the museum. We can accomplish this goal by showing the world why the past is indeed relevant today.

That is exactly what we do at the National Hellenic Museum and why I am so hopeful for the future. As you look through this newsletter, I trust you will share my optimism. Thank you for your continued support. Let us honor our past and look forward to our future together.

Sincerely,

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Chairman, Board of Trustees

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Current Exhibitions



Legacy, Renewal & Unity: Celebrating 100 Years of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

Through February 11, 2024

This exhibition is generously sponsored by The Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Fund.

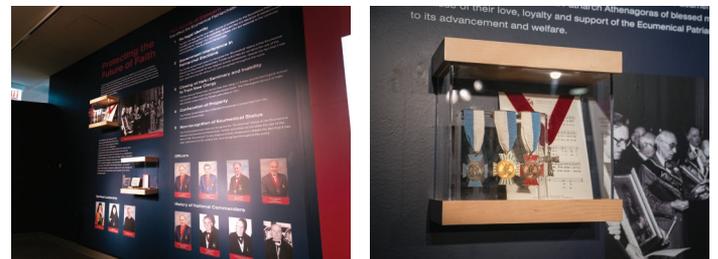
Last year, members of the Greek Orthodox church and community came together to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America (1922-2022), the legacy of the church and the breadth of the organization's impact. The exhibition was designed to help people from both within and outside of the Greek community understand and celebrate the history of the Archdiocese. It offers a multimedia experience incorporating audio, video, and physical artifacts from the Archdiocese archives. The remarkable history of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese reminds us of the pivotal role it has played in the history of Greek America, not only as a center of religious life, but of community cohesion and cultural preservation.

Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate: Protecting the Future of Faith

Through February 9, 2024

This exhibition is generously created and sponsored by the Order of St. Andrew: Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate: Protecting the Future of Faith is making its debut at the National Hellenic Museum. This multimedia experience highlights the Archons' work to defend the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople (an ancient center of Eastern Orthodox Christianity) and religious freedom around the world. The plight of religious and ethnic minorities is one of the 21st century's most important human rights issues. The Archons are instrumental in bringing attention to these important topics. Their work is a testament to the commitment of a small group's defense of liberty, their faith, and human dignity, as well as a reminder of the Greek American community's important role in the wider Hellenic world.



Current Exhibitions

Hellenic Heads: George Petrides, A Personal Exploration Of Greek History and Culture over 2,500 Years

Through January 14, 2023

Hellenic Heads is an extraordinary series of six highly personal sculptures by Greek American sculptor George Petrides, illuminating the epic history of the Greek people. This collection showcases Petrides' deep reverence for classical aesthetics and profound understanding of human form. Each sculpture is inspired by a pivotal moment in Greek history and precedent sculptures from Western art. Within each impressive bust, Petrides has carved portraits of loved ones: his wife, daughter, grandmother, and father. Their images create a mesmerizing portrait that stands as a symbol for an era. The artist captures the essence of his subjects, conveying a sense of wisdom, strength, and emotional depth. The sculptures exude an aura of timelessness, evoking the ancient spirit of Greece while retaining a contemporary relevance.



Gather Together: Chicago Street Photography by Diane Alexander White

Through February 9, 2024

This exhibition is generously sponsored by the Christ N. Dalmases Family.

For over four decades, Chicago-based Greek American photographer Diane Alexander White has photographed Chicago's community festivals and street parades. *Gather Together* is an original exhibition from the National Hellenic Museum, showing how Chicago's Greek Americans and other ethnic communities share their cultures and identities. With a particular focus on Greek Independence Day celebrations, these photographs provide a trip down memory lane for anyone familiar with Chicago or its Greek community. In these images, you will rediscover all the things that make each community unique and all the things we share in common. You may even see a familiar face or two.

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Thank You for a Successful Gala

Thank you to our generous donors, guests, and volunteers for making the 2023 Gala a night to remember. The National Hellenic Museum hosted an enchanting evening on September 16 and welcomed over 550 guests to support its mission. We are grateful for the leadership and commitment of Gala National Chairman, Mike Manatos, Gala Regional Co-Chairs, Dr. George and Raffaella Bovis, Andrea Darlas, Alex and Kathy Gianaras, Kenneth and Angela Kondraros, and the Gala Auction Committee. Guests enjoyed a spectacular evening of fine dining followed by a live auction and music and dancing with the Chris Sarlas Orchestra. **Save the date for our next Gala, Saturday, September 28, 2024 at the Hilton Chicago.**



Gala National Chairman

Mike Manatos

Gala Regional Co-Chairs

Dr. George and Raffaella Bovis
Andrea Darlas
Alex and Kathy Gianaras
Kenny and Angela Kondraros

Events That Brought Us Together



NHM's Trial Series Returns and Rewrites History with the Trial of Socrates

The Trial of Socrates was yet another opportunity for the National Hellenic Museum to help history come alive.

Judge Charles P. Kocoras ordered the retrial because Socrates had not been allowed to testify in his defense when the National Hellenic Museum first tried him in 2013. Thus this time, Socrates himself, played by Second City alum John Kapelos (*The Shape of Water*, *The Umbrella Academy*, *The Breakfast Club*), took to the stand. The successful defense was led by attorneys Robert A. Clifford (Clifford Law Offices), Dan K. Webb (Winston & Strawn), and Sarah King (Clifford Law Offices).



The People's case against Socrates was presented by attorneys Patrick Collins (King & Spalding), Tinos Diamantatos (Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP), and Julie Porter (Salvatore Prescott Porter & Porter, PLLC). The event was emceed by award-winning TV and radio personality Andrea Darlas. Illinois Supreme Court Justice Joy V. Cunningham, U.S. Federal District Court Judge Jorge Alonso of the Northern District of Illinois, and Cook County Circuit Court Judges Anthony C. Kyriakopoulos and Anna Demacopoulos presided over the case.

The trial took place in front of an audience of over 500 people, who, along with the jury, weighed in to reverse the course of history and acquit the great philosopher.

Support for The Trial of Socrates was made possible by the generosity of donors. **Save the date for the next Trial on April 17, 2024 at the Harris Theatre Chicago.**



Thank You To Our Generous Trial of Socrates Sponsors

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Events That Brought Us Together

Beyond Antiquity in the Work of John “Yanni” Fotiadis Brings Greek Antiquity to the 21st Century—and Beyond

May 12, 2023, through September 30, 2023

This exhibition was generously sponsored by The John S. Koudounis Family.

In a series of nearly 40 drawings, paintings, and digital artworks, *Beyond Antiquity* explored classical antiquity in Greece and took us into the present and future via the same subjects: architecture, myth, and landscape. Most of the works in *Beyond Antiquity* were inspired by Fotiadis' Hellenic heritage and his trips to Greece, during which he searched for meaning encoded in the architecture of antiquity and its relationship to nature. Whether depicting classical architectural forms or imagining new metaphysical environments, Fotiadis work asks viewers fundamental questions about our relationship to the past and the future, the everlasting and the ephemeral.



NHM Makes Its EXPO Chicago Debut Presenting the Work of Prince Nikolaos

The National Hellenic Museum was proud to make its EXPO Chicago debut by presenting new works from HRH Prince Nikolaos. EXPO Chicago is an annual international art exhibition showcasing a diverse range of contemporary and modern art from around the world. This renowned event serves as a platform for artists, galleries, and collectors to engage with cutting-edge artworks, fostering creative dialogue and appreciation.

Prince Nikolaos exhibited a collection of photographs printed on Greek marble, combining the beauty of antiquity with the modernity of digital printing in a new method uniquely his own. The works are in black and white, so the clarity of the natural marble comes through unadulterated. He allows us to see the perennial beauty of marble through his lens, making it both a surface as well as a theme itself.

NHM Begins Collaboration with Cookbook Author and Chef Diane Kochilas

NHM kicked off its collaboration with Greek American Chef Diane Kochilas with Spice Month, a celebration of how spices have influenced Greek culture and history. This will be the first in a series of fun, relevant online content the museum will create with Ms. Kochilas. In addition to being the author of eighteen cookbooks, Diane is the host of PBS's *My Greek Table with Diane Kochilas* and *Τι Θα Φάμε Σήμερα Μαμά;* which aired in Greece and Cyprus. She has also appeared as a guest on a number of US-based television shows, including *Throwdown!* with Bobby Flay, *Bizarre Foods* with Andrew Zimmern, and *Martha Stewart*.



Events That Brought Us Together

2nd Annual Homerathon Makes an Ancient Tale Come Alive



The National Hellenic Museum was happy to once again partner with our neighbors in the Department of Classics and Mediterranean Studies at the University of Illinois Chicago to host Homerathon, a reading of Homer's *Odyssey* in its entirety. Homerathon is always a fun and engaging way to experience an ancient Greek epic. Readers chose to recite the epic not only in its English translation, but Ancient Greek, Modern Greek, Spanish, and Arabic. The multilingual experience was a testament to the global appeal of Homer's *Odyssey*, a product of Bronze Age Greece. This captivating story is filled with twists and turns, fateful discoveries, and shocking defeats. It is the greatest adventure story ever, prompting all to ask: What is your next adventure?

Bringing Greece's Cultural Patrimony Home



This summer, we were honored to host Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Chicago and Emmanuel Koubarakis, Consul General of Greece in Chicago, for the repatriation of smuggled ancient Greek coins. The coins had been illegally taken out of Greece, but were recovered by HSI and presented to Deputy Foreign Minister Alexandra Papadopoulou (who was at the time Ambassador of Greece to the US) during a ceremony at the museum. The ceremony was an opportunity to share the museum with members of Greece's diplomatic mission to the U.S. and to educate the public about the illegal trade in cultural artifacts.

Golfers Tee Off to Support NHM



It was a fun and eventful day on the green as we gathered at the Beverly Country Club to support the preservation of Greek history, art, and culture at the National Hellenic Museum Annual Golf Outing. Our guests enjoyed the beautiful grounds on a day filled with golf, friendship, and community in the name of a great cause.

Thank You To Our Golf Outing Sponsors

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NHM Featured in Open House Chicago



We were honored to be once again selected by the Chicago Architecture Center as a site for Open House Chicago, the annual weekend festival that allows visitors to explore some of Chicago's iconic and historically significant buildings and cultural centers in Chicago's diverse neighborhoods. Hundreds of people experienced our stunning building for the first time. They explored our galleries and learned a little more about what makes the museum, both inside and out. Our building is, after all, a piece of Greek American art, the work of Greek American architect Demetrios Stavrianos of RTKL Associates. Thank you to the Chicago Architecture Center for recognizing the National Hellenic Museum as a Chicago treasure.

Connecting To Our Community

NHM Hosts First Hellenic Academic Bowl



We were proud to host our first ever Hellenic Academic Bowl as we welcomed students, parents, and teachers from Plato Academy, Hellenic Academy, and Koraes Elementary School. Middle school students were separated into teams representing their schools. They competed in an exciting trivia contest about Greek language, history, and culture. Chicago media personality and NHM Board Member Andea Darlas emceed this test of knowledge of all things Greek. Hellenic Academy emerged victorious in the end, and we were inspired by all the students and their knowledge and passion for their Hellenic heritage.

Greektown Chicago's 2023 Public Art Exhibition Celebrates Its Opening



Photos by Elios Photography

The museum was filled with artists and community leaders on June 2, celebrating Greektown Chicago's 2023 ribbon cutting for their public art exhibition, *The Dane of Psyche*, a collection of 26 vibrant butterfly sculptures that currently grace Halsted Street. We always look forward to hosting celebrations for our community and are grateful to be part of a vibrant Greektown. This public art connects people together and adds to the life and color of our special neighborhood. We thank the Greektown SSA #16, Greektown Educational Foundation, and the incredible artists, for their commitment to beautifying our shared public space.

Frank M. Kamberos Oral History Library Benefits from Scholars at UIC and University of Chicago



The Frank M. Kamberos Oral History Library is central to the National Hellenic Museum's work and one of its most important contributions to the preservation of Greek American history. That is why we are thrilled to announce a new partnership with Professor Nicholas Doumanis, Illinois Chair in Hellenic Studies Professor at University of Illinois Chicago, and Professor Zoi Gavriilidou, Visiting Professor at the University of Chicago and Professor of Linguistics at Democritus University of Thrace, Greece. These scholars will help us ensure the Frank M. Kamberos Oral History Library will be an accessible and rich resource for scholars, genealogists, and the public for generations to come.

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros Visits the National Hellenic Museum



We were excited to welcome to the museum His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America. He took in our captivating exhibitions and learned more about our mission to share Greek history, art, culture and the Greek American story. His Eminence also saw the museum's classroom space, where children of all ages and backgrounds learn about the Hellenic Legacy in fun, relevant, and engaging ways. We are grateful for the visit and look forward to welcoming him again.

Creating a Legacy

Washington OXI Day Foundation Calamos Service Award Honors Veterans



The National Hellenic Museum preserves and shares the stories of Greek American veterans as an important part of our mission.

The Washington OXI Day Foundation is dedicated to sharing the legacy of OXI Day. In October, they held their 13th annual OXI Service and Courage Awards in Washington, D.C., honoring heroism of all kinds. The ceremony included the annual John P. Calamos Service Award, established in 2019 through a partnership between NHM Board Chairman John P. Calamos, Sr. and Washington OXI Day Foundation. This award celebrates Greek Americans who served honorably in the Vietnam War. Mr. Calamos is a decorated fighter pilot in Vietnam and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. Troubled by the poor reception Vietnam-era veterans received upon their return home, he hopes this award contributes to recognizing their service.



This year's 2023 Calamos Service Award honoree, Mr. Harris Pappas, was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army following his graduation from Texas A & M. University. Mr. Pappas spent one year in Thailand and one year in Vietnam and was awarded two Bronze Stars and three Army Commendation Medals during his time in the U.S. Army in the Vietnam War era.

Give the Gift of an Enduring Legacy: Participate in Planned Giving



Help sustain the museum far into the future and secure your legacy by naming the National Hellenic Museum in your will or making it the beneficiary of an estate gift. A legacy gift of any size will support the museum and its mission to share Greek history, art, and culture and the Greek American story for generations to come. Planned giving is easy and impactful. Contact us to learn more about how you can make a lasting gift to the museum and preserve the Hellenic legacy today and always.

".... there dwells an unwritten memorial of them,
graven not on stone but in the hearts of others."
---Pericles

Ways to Give Learn More About Ways to Give [Contact us at development@hellenicmuseum.org](mailto:development@hellenicmuseum.org)

Become a Member

Your membership allows us to share Greek history, art, culture, and the Greek American story in relevant and meaningful ways. Members at every level enjoy free admission, museum store discounts, and priority access to events.

Become an Exhibition or Program Sponsor

Partner with us to bring engaging and relevant exhibitions and programs to the museum. Sponsors enable us to make the connections between the past and present, between Greece and America, and between the rich Hellenic legacy and today.

Build Your Legacy

Honor loved ones or commemorate a special occasion by adding your name to the Legacy Brick Wall proudly displayed at the entrance of the museum. This donation allows you to share your family legacy while supporting the museum and its mission.

Become a Member Today



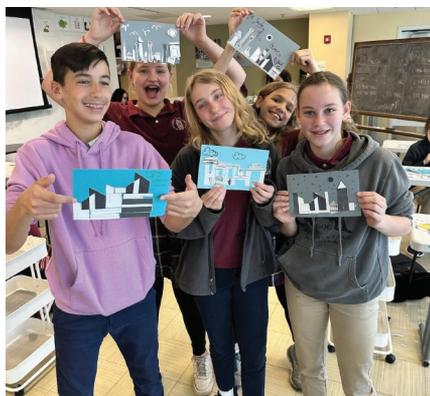
SCAN
HERE

Be Our Guest Field Trips and Tours

Visit the Museum

We love having company and sharing Greek heritage through our docent-led field trips and private tours for schools, community organizations, churches, and more. Our field trips and tours are fun, informative experiences, developed by educators and recognized experts.

Experience the rich tapestry of Greek history, art, and culture, and hear the Greek American story. With a special guided tour, you will take a journey across time as we explore the relevant connections between the past and the present, Greece and America. Schedule a docent-led tour today by writing to us at: info@hellenicmuseum.org.



Our Online Programs **Bring NHM To You**

NHM Online Discussions

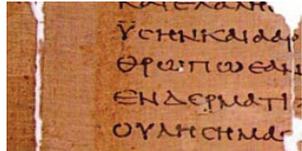
NHM Discussions are free online classes uniting scholars and enthusiasts for lively and engaging conversations on Greek history, culture, and more. Topics span mythology, art, philosophy, and the diaspora. NHM Discussions is generously sponsored by the Hellenic Foundation.

Join us by searching for “National Hellenic Museum” on [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com).



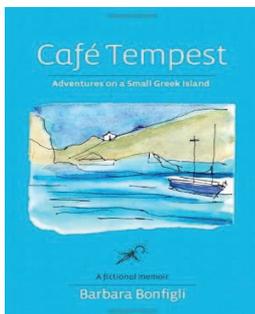
The Women Philosophers of Ancient Greece

DATE AND TIME:
Tuesday, December 5
7 - 8 pm CST



The Septuagint: The Greek Translation of the Hebrew Bible

DATE AND TIME:
Thursday, December 14
7 - 8 pm CST



NHM Online Book Club

Facilitated by NHM's Director of Research and Content, Dr. Katherine Kelaidis, each month the Online Book Club gathers together to discuss a book that is either inspired by the Hellenic legacy or by a Greek American author (and sometimes both!). Book Club is free to join and meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7 PM CST

[Sign up at the National Hellenic Museum Eventbrite page.](#)

Join us in 2024 for these exciting opportunities to gather and support the National Hellenic Museum.

Save The Date

The Next Installment of the NHM Trial Series
Wednesday, April 17, 2024
at the Harris Theater, Chicago

National Hellenic Museum Annual Golf Outing
Monday, May 20, 2024
at Stonebridge Country Club,
Aurora, Illinois

National Hellenic Museum Gala
Saturday, September 28, 2024
at the Hilton Chicago

Museum Hours: Thursday - Sunday 10AM - 4 PM
To schedule a tour, email info@hellenicmuseum.org or call 312-655-1234

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