

News, Events, and Exhibitions at the National Hellenic Museum

Museum Newsletter

December 2024



Thank You for Making Gala 2024 a Great Success

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at the National Hellenic Museum

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A Letter from the Museum Chairman

As we come to the close of another exciting year at the National Hellenic Museum, we are reminded once again of the continued importance of the Museum's mission: sharing Greek history, art, culture, and the Greek American story in relevant, engaging, and meaningful ways across generations and cultures.

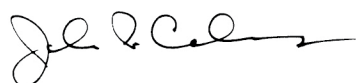


In an ever-changing world, the ancient universal Hellenic principles of the pursuit of wisdom and excellence, the love of humanity, and the duty toward community are more necessary than ever before. We infuse these principles into everything we do, including our educational programming, exhibitions, and events. In doing so, we demonstrate a way of living that can unite us all and contribute to a better world. That is why the National Hellenic Museum must be the first choice for every student, teacher, and lifelong learner seeking to understand how the Hellenic past can be a roadmap for the future.

We thank you for your support of the National Hellenic Museum. As we begin the new year, may we remember the important work of making relevant connections so the next generation can move boldly into the future equipped with these ancient and enduring principles.

We look forward to seeing you at your National Hellenic Museum.

Sincerely,



John P. Calamos, Sr.
Chairman, Board of Trustees



The mission of the National Hellenic Museum is to share Greek history, art, and culture and preserve the Greek American story in meaningful and relevant ways.

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Current Exhibitions

Remembering the Invasion of Cyprus in the Syllogi Gallery

The Museum's second floor *Syllogi* gallery features a rotating selection of items from the National Hellenic Museum's extensive collection of more than 10,000 artifacts. The current exhibition in the gallery commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus on July 20, 1974. In July of that year, a Greek-supported coup attempted to unify Cyprus with Greece. This provoked Turkey's military response, leading to an invasion that divided the island into Turkish-Cypriot and Greek-Cypriot territories.

The exhibition explores the global Greek community's reaction to these events and features striking black-and-white photographs by Chicago-based Greek American photographer Diane Alexander White. As a young student, White documented Greek American protests against the invasion, capturing an August 1974 protest in Chicago coinciding with President Gerald Ford's visit. These images depict demonstrators rallying along Michigan Avenue and at the Conrad Hilton Hotel, raising their voices in solidarity with Cyprus.

Complementing these powerful images are editions of the *Greek Star*, a Greek American newspaper, from the weeks surrounding the invasion, and historical maps of Cyprus created between 1500 and 1660, illustrating the island's significance as a strategic Mediterranean outpost. Together, these artifacts reveal the island's turbulent history and highlight the enduring struggle for justice and unity on Cyprus.



Women Walk Home



The exhibition also includes photographs of the Women Walk Home movement in Cyprus, a protest initiative led by Greek-Cypriot women in the late 1970s. This movement saw women symbolically attempt to walk back to their now inaccessible homes, inviting Turkish-Cypriot women to join them in calling for the reunification of the island and the return of lost property.

Bus Transportation Reimbursement for Greek Orthodox Parishes

The Hellenic Foundation is generously sponsoring bus reimbursements to Greek Orthodox churches in Chicagoland interested in booking group visits to the Museum.

For more information, please contact us at **312.544.1221** or Education@HellenicMuseum.org.





Thank you for a Memorable Gala

The National Hellenic Museum Gala at the Hilton Chicago on September 28 was a night to remember, thanks to the incredible support of our community.

We are grateful to our Gala Co-Chairs Andrea Darlas and Judge Anna Demacopolos (Ret.), and the Gala Committee for their tireless work and dedication to make the evening possible. The night was filled with celebration, featuring a spectacular dinner, exciting live auction, and Greek dancing to the music of Mylos Entertainment, which kept attendees on the dance floor late into the night. To all who attended, supported, and celebrated with us—thank you for making the 2024 Gala an unforgettable evening.



Gala Co-Chairs

Judge Anna Demacopoulos (Ret.)
Andrea Darlas



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Hellenic History Comes Alive

Over the past year, the National Hellenic Museum expanded its educational programming, offering on-site and off-site field trips that provide students of all ages and backgrounds with an exciting opportunity to make connections between the past and present. We have hosted hundreds of students and teachers, from kindergarten through college, and from public, private, and parochial schools. The National Hellenic Museum's educational program fosters a deep and lasting appreciation for the Hellenic legacy among the public, visitors, and the next generation. This interactive and dynamic approach to history ensures that the legacy of our ancestors will never be forgotten.



Get in on the fun!

Book a tour for your school, church, or community organization today! Email Education@HellenicMuseum.org or call 312.544.1221!



Current Exhibitions

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

This exhibition is generously created and 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

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

This exhibition made 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.

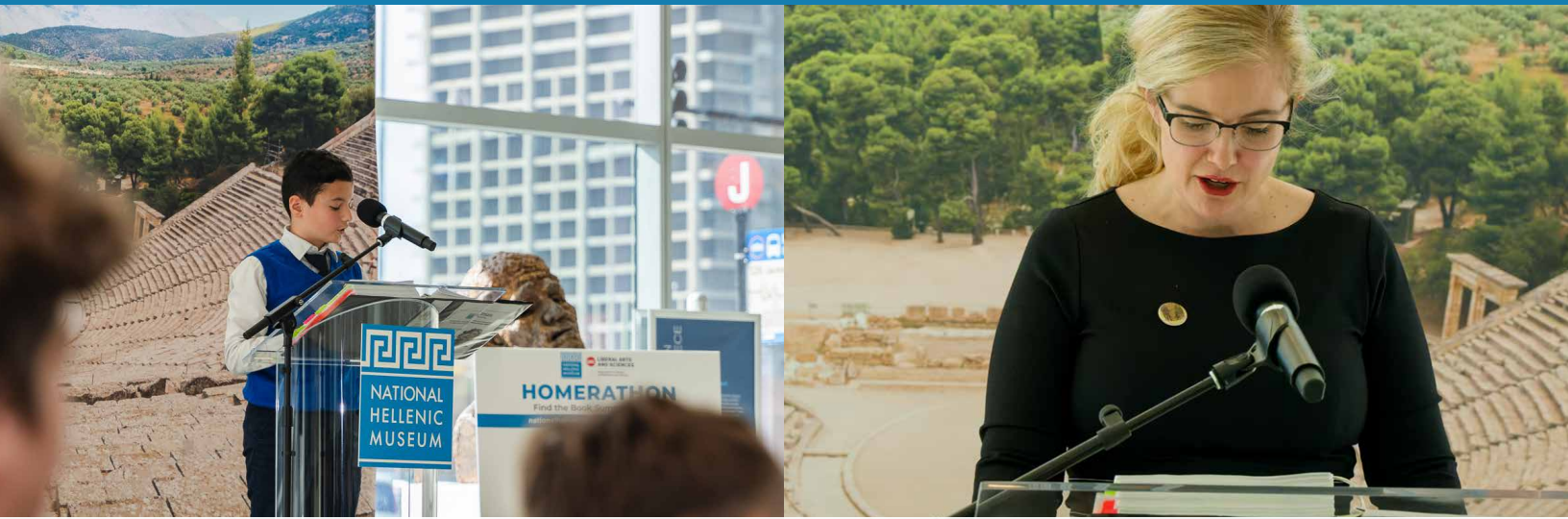


Gather Together: Chicago Street Photography by Diane Alexander White

This exhibition is generously sponsored by the Christ N. Dalmares 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.





Events that Brought Us Together

Each year, the Museum brings people of all ages together to celebrate Greek history, art, and culture.

Homerathon: An Ancient Story's Enduring Relevance

The ancient Greek poet Homer's *Odyssey* is arguably the greatest adventure story ever told. The enduring relevance of this work is why we once again partnered with our neighbors at University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) Department of Classics and Mediterranean Studies to co-present our popular Homerathon, a reading of the *Odyssey* aloud in its entirety with public participation. During this event, community members of all ages gather to read passages from Homer's timeless epic in English, Ancient and Modern Greek, and Spanish. Audience members listened along, played ancient games, and enjoyed experiencing Homer the way he was meant to be heard: recited aloud in a community.



NHM Returns to Open House Chicago

We were honored to be 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 across the city's diverse neighborhoods. Hundreds of people experienced our stunning building for the first time. They explored our galleries and learned about the Museum, both inside and out. Our building is, after all, a piece of 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 one of Chicago's architectural treasures.



NHM Discussions

Bring NHM To You

NHM Discussions are free online classes that bring together scholars and enthusiasts of all ages for engaging conversations on Greek history, culture, art, and more.

Our discussions draw more than 1,000 participants annually from Chicagoland, across the nation, and internationally, with a quarter residing in countries outside the United States—including the United Kingdom, Greece, Australia, and Norway. Join us for our upcoming conversations to learn about Greek history and culture.



NHM Discussions are generously sponsored by the Hellenic Foundation. We gratefully acknowledge their longstanding support.

Upcoming Events

The Discovery of New Euripides Plays: A Special NHM Discussions

December 10 | 7 PM CDT

Join us for a special NHM Discussions with Professor Yvona Trnka-Amrhein (University of Colorado, Boulder) as she introduces a remarkable new discovery: a Euripides papyrus containing previously unknown excerpts from his lost plays *Ino* and *Polyidos*.

Dogs in Greek Mythology

Tuesday, January 14 | 7 PM

Explore the symbolic and cultural roles of dogs in Greek mythology, from fierce guardians to loyal companions and divine guides.

KAOS: An Conversation with Charlie Covell

Saturday, January 25 | 12 PM

Join us for a very special NHM Discussions as we sit down for an engaging conversation with acclaimed artist and writer Charlie Covell as they discuss their latest work, Netflix's acclaimed series *KAOS*.

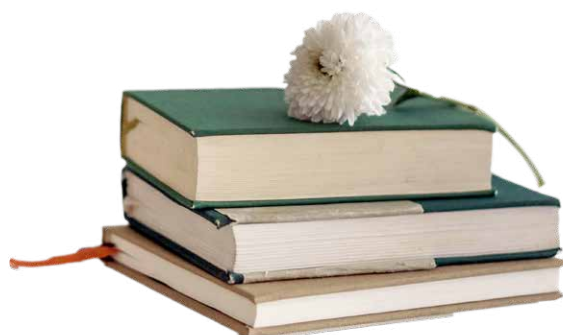
Join Us!

To register for NHM Discussions, search for 'National Hellenic Museum' on [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) or scan the QR Code.



Bring the Museum To You

Our online book club meets the fourth Thursday of every month September through May. This is an opportunity to discuss books about Greek history and culture—or by Greek or Greek American authors—and maybe make a few friends along the way! To learn more search for 'National Hellenic Museum' on [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) or scan the QR Code in the blue box above.



Creating a Legacy

Mr. George Hiotis Honored with 2024 Calamos Service Award



The National Hellenic Museum celebrates Mr. George Hiotis, who was honored with this year's John P. Calamos Service Award in a ceremony on October 30 in Washington, DC.

The Washington Oxi Day Foundation is dedicated to sharing the legacy of Oxi Day and honoring courageous service. This effort includes the Calamos Service Award. Established in 2019 through a partnership between NHM Board Chairman John P. Calamos, Sr. and The Washington Oxi Day Foundation, the Calamos Service Award celebrates Greek Americans who served honorably in the Vietnam War.

Mr. Calamos is a decorated fighter pilot, who served in Vietnam and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. Troubled by the poor reception Vietnam-era veterans received upon their return home, he hopes the Calamos Service Award contributes to recognizing their service.

This year's honoree, Mr. George Hiotis, is an immigrant from Greece who arrived in the U.S. in 1958 and subsequently served with distinction as a U.S. Army Sergeant in the 25th Infantry Division, including a year in Vietnam. Known as "The Greek" by his fellow soldiers, he earned the Purple Heart and Bronze Star. After his time in the service, he went on to build a successful restaurant business in Chicago.

Gifts That Can Benefit the Museum and You

Making a gift to the National Hellenic Museum demonstrates your support of the Museum's important work. But did you know there are also many gifts that can offer tax benefits to you or your heirs, such as estate gifts, gifts of appreciated securities, or IRA distributions? One type of gift that can provide a tax benefit is a qualified charitable distribution (QCD)—a gift made directly from your IRA account to a qualified charity when you reach age 70½. To learn more about making a QCD, or other types of gifts that offer tax benefits, consult with your financial advisor. We appreciate your decision to keep the spirit of philanthropy alive in any way you choose to give.



Questions: Development@HellenicMuseum.org



Donate to Support the Museum
NationalHellenicMuseum.org/Donate

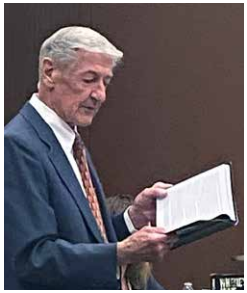
Creating a Legacy

From the Collections

To better serve our guests and visiting researchers, the National Hellenic Museum Collections & Archives Department has expanded its efforts to include collecting personal memoirs. These works bring detailed first-hand accounts of Greek American history by those who lived it. Two new books are now in the collection:

In the Name of My Father

by Judge Charles P. Kocoras



Judge Kocoras' memoir begins with his Greek American childhood in Chicago. Readers are then brought along on the Judge's fascinating journey. From his service in the National Guard as a young man to his days as a student at the DePaul

University College of Law, he would go on to become an Assistant United States Attorney before being appointed to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois by President Jimmy Carter in 1980. *In the Name of My Father* tells the story of a life of service and success.

The Garden God Gave Me

by Angela C. DiVito and Pamela Coumas.



Ms. Coumas' memoir begins in Kalamata, Greece, recounting the harrowing experiences of her family and community during the Nazi occupation in World War II. She then takes readers on her journey to America, sharing her struggles and triumphs

as an immigrant. Her story comes full circle with her return to Greece to marry before settling permanently in Chicago, Illinois, where she built her life. The memoir offers a deeply personal narrative, blending historical events with the resilience and determination of a woman who navigated immense challenges while holding onto her heritage and forging a future in a new land.

Leaving a Legacy

A planned gift to the National Hellenic Museum ensures your legacy and supports the Museum's mission for years to come. We recently received gifts from the estates of Mr. Nicholas Senopoulos and Mr. Louis G. Malevitis who chose to remember the National Hellenic Museum in their trusts. We are grateful to them and their families and cherish these donations.

Nicholas Senopoulos



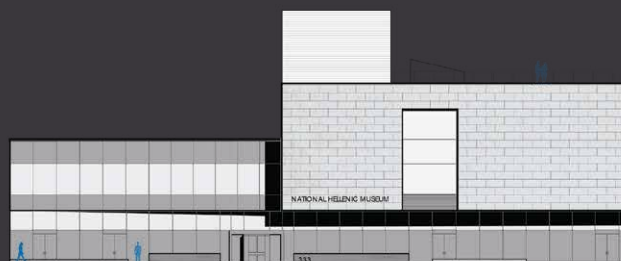
Born in Filiatra, Greece, Mr. Senopoulos came to America and dedicated much of his life to the Greek Orthodox Church, serving as a chanter for many years. He earned a degree in Theology and made a career as a librarian for the Chicago Public Schools. Mr. Senopoulos spent portions of his life in New Jersey, Chicago, and Florida. He was proud of his Greek heritage and a devoted member of the National Hellenic Museum, consistently bringing friends and family to the Museum during their visits to Chicago.

Louis G. Malevitis



Born in Chicago, Illinois, Louis G. Malevitis was a proud Greek American. After graduating from the Plato Greek School, Austin High School, and DePaul University, Louis served as an intelligence officer in the U.S. Army. His professional career began at Marshall Field & Company, where he rose to the position of vice president, followed by a second career as a realtor. Deeply committed to his Orthodox faith, Mr. Malevitis was an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, a member of Leadership 100, and a lifelong servant of the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Chicago.

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NationalHellenicMuseum.org



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Public Hours: Thursday - Sunday 10 AM - 4 PM **Tours are available seven days a week.**
To schedule a tour email Education@HellenicMuseum.org or call **312.544.1221**

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