

# News, Events, and Exhibitions at the National Hellenic Museum



Exploring the Enduring Relevance of an Ancient Controversy: The Trial of Themistocles

[Page 4]



Making History Come Alive for Students of All Ages



[Page 6]

# A Letter from the Museum Chairman

Dear National Hellenic Museum Family,

It is a pleasure to share with you all that is happening at the National Hellenic Museum.

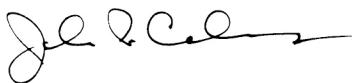
This year, the Museum is alive with energy as thousands of students, from preschool through college, have taken part in our growing field trip program. These visits offer hands-on experiences that bring Greek history and culture to life. We have also traveled to schools bringing our programs directly to students. Our NHM Discussions series, generously supported by the Hellenic Foundation, continues to connect people across the country each week through thought-provoking conversations that explore the richness and relevance of the Greek experience.

In April, we hosted *The Trial of Themistocles* at the Harris Theater. More than 500 people attended an extraordinary evening of drama and debate as leading legal minds explored the legacy of one of Athens' most controversial leaders. The case was presented before a panel of distinguished judges and an on-stage jury made up of civic and community leaders. Events like this remind us that the questions of the ancient world continue to resonate in our own time.

The Museum's mission is to share Greek history, art, and culture and to preserve the Greek American story in relevant and meaningful ways. This mission is more than words. It is a commitment to ensuring that people of all backgrounds and generations can encounter the richness of Greek heritage in ways that speak to their lives today. It is also a commitment I hold personally. We have the power to create lasting and transformative experiences.

That is why I believe our future is full of promise. As you read this newsletter, I hope you will feel the same pride and excitement. Thank you for your continued support. Together, we honor the past and build the future.

With gratitude,



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



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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.

*You Are  
Cordially  
Invited*



# *Gala* 2025

— *Join us* —

**Saturday**  
**September 27, 2025**

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**Hilton Chicago**

720 South Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60605

6:00 PM Reception

7:00 PM Dinner, Auction, Music, Dancing

Gala Co-Chairs

Jim and Marianthe Logothetis

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RSVP for Tickets and Sponsorships at:

**[NationalHellenicMuseum.org/Gala2025](https://NationalHellenicMuseum.org/Gala2025)**



# Enduring Relevance of an Ancient Controversy Trial of Themistocles



## Themistocles Found Not Guilty

More than 500 people gathered at Chicago's Harris Theater on April 1 to decide the fate of ancient Athenian hero Themistocles in the latest installment of the National Hellenic Museum's popular Trial Series. After spirited arguments from both sides, the audience overwhelmingly found Themistocles "not guilty" of treason.

Defense attorneys **Patrick M. Collins**, **Tinos Diamantatos**, and **Katerina Alexopoulos** led the winning case, while prosecutors **Sarah F. King** and **Patrick A. Salvi II** argued for conviction. The judges were **Justice Joy V. Cunningham** (Illinois Supreme Court), **Hon. Georgia N. Alexakis** (U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois), **Hon. Anthony C. Kyriakopoulos** (Circuit Court of Cook County) and **Hon. Jeffery G. Chrones** (Circuit

## Thank You To Our Generous Trial of Themistocles Sponsors

### Diamond

- Calamos Investments
- Clifford Law Offices
- The Jaharis Family Foundation
- Salvi, Schostock & Pritchard, PC

### Gold

- Tinos Diamantatos and Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
- The John S. Koudounis Family

### Silver

- King & Spalding
- Sotos Law Firm, James G. Sotos

### Bronze

- John and Martha Cannis
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- The Gianaras Family
- Greek American Restaurant Association (GARA)
- Hellenic Bar Association of Illinois

- Panton Eye Center
- The Vranas Family Foundation  
*In Memory of Paul and Lola Vranas*
- Winston & Strawn



Court of Cook County). The onstage jury made up of civic and community leaders voted 11-1 to acquit Themistocles.

The members of the esteemed on stage jury composed of civic leaders, academics, and media personalities were **Christ Dalmores** (Dalmores Produce), **Nicholas Dumanis** (Illinois Chair in Hellenic Studies, University of Illinois, Chicago), **Athena Farmakis** (Hellenic Bar Association), **Themistocles Frangos** (Hellenic Bar Association; AHEPA Supreme Treasurer), **Zoe Gavriilidou** (Visiting Professor, University of Chicago), **Justin Kaufmann** (Axios Chicago), **Alex Maragos** (NBC 5 Chicago), **Chris Papaioannou** (Deputy Chief, Bureau of Counterterrorism, Chicago Police Department), **Christine Simms** (Greek American

Restaurant Cooperative - GARC), **Georgia Tasiopoulou** (Consul of Greece in Chicago, Greek Consulate General), **Rufus Williams** (The Rufus Williams Show, WVON 1690 AM), and **Weeya Young** (Assistant General Counsel, IDHS; President, Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago, Inc.) The event featured performances by local Chicago actor **Jonathan Shaboo** and **Judge Megan Goldish** and was emceed by NHM Trustee and Chicago media personality **Andrea Darlas**.



## Save the Date for Trial 2026

Thursday, March 12, 7:00 P.M.  
Harris Theater, Chicago

### Friend

- Albank®
- Katerina Alexopoulos
- Kathy Apostol and Family  
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- Hon. Louis G. and Mrs.  
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- Injury Lawyers

- George and Karen Karas
- Jim and Marianne  
Logothetis and Family
- Loukas Development
- Louis and Helen Nicozisis
- Bill J. and Peggy M. Vranas



# Connecting Generations to the Hellenic Legacy

## History Comes Alive at the National Hellenic Museum for Learners of all Ages

The National Hellenic Museum's educational programs are at the heart of its mission to share Greek history, art, culture, and the Greek American story. With an exciting opportunity to make connections between the past and present, we have hosted thousands of students and teachers, from kindergarten through college, and from public, private, and parochial schools. Our educational programs foster a deep and lasting appreciation for the Hellenic legacy for those of all ages and backgrounds. This interactive and dynamic approach to history ensures 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!







## Let the National Hellenic Museum Come to You

[Did you know we can bring the Museum to your school?](#) From Junior Archaeology digs to Reader's Theatre and more, your students will explore the past in lively, interactive, and engaging ways.

We've already visited Rotolo Middle School, where over 300 students experienced our Junior Archaeology program. At Indian Knoll Elementary,

about 120 students joined us for a journey into the ancient world. And at Hellenic American Academy Summer Camp, we brought the dig to life for 65 students in a whole new way—combining hands-on exploration with the immersive energy of summer camp. We'd love to come to visit you next!



Hellenic American Academy Summer Camp



Hellenic American Academy



Rotolo Middle School

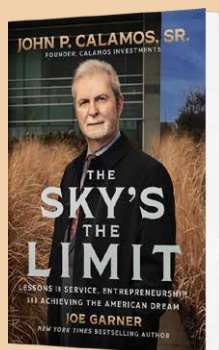


# Making an Impact

## Summer Membership Drive: \$50 for Families

Become a member of the National Hellenic Museum or renew your membership today! Members form an essential community of dedicated individuals who advocate in support of the Museum's mission to share Greek history, art, culture, and the Greek American story. We offer several membership levels which include free admission to the Museum, a 20% discount in the Museum Store, and priority invitations to special events and programs.

As a special summer promotion, we are [offering Family/Group memberships](#) for \$50—more than a 50% discount!



**Join before September 30**  
and also receive a copy of  
NHM Board Chairman  
John P. Calamos, Sr.'s  
book *The Sky's the Limit*,  
available for pickup on  
your next visit.

About *The Sky's the Limit*:  
[Calamos.com/about/biography](http://Calamos.com/about/biography)



## Planned Gift Highlight: IRA Designations

By naming the National Hellenic Museum as a beneficiary of your IRA, you help ensure our mission continues for generations while creating a meaningful legacy for yourself. This type of gift may also reduce estate taxes and simplify the probate process.

To learn more about IRA beneficiary designations or other ways to give, contact Janet Kashuba at [JKashuba@hellenicmuseum.org](mailto:JKashuba@hellenicmuseum.org) or (312) 448-2850.





# Making an Impact

## Ways to Participate

There are many ways to participate in the National Hellenic Museum. We appreciate any way you show your support, whether by visiting the Museum, attending our programs and events, or by making a gift through one of the vehicles below.

### Sponsor Exhibitions, Events, Programs

Become a sponsor to help us present engaging and relevant exhibitions, events, and programs - all of which build connections across generations and cultures to the rich Hellenic legacy. Sponsorships can be made individually or through your business, providing branding and marketing opportunities.

### Make a Planned Gift

A planned gift is a meaningful way to support the Museum—an enduring contribution arranged for the future as part of your estate planning. Whether through a provision in your will, retirement plan, life insurance policy, or appreciated securities, your future gift will ensure the contributions of Greeks continue to inspire generations well into the future.

### Purchase a Legacy Brick

Honor your loved ones or commemorate a special occasion by adding a name to the NHM Legacy Brick Wall proudly displayed at the entrance of the Museum. This lasting tribute is a visible recognition of your legacy for years to come.

To learn more about ways to sustain the Museum through financial support, contact us at: [Development@HellenicMuseum.org](mailto:Development@HellenicMuseum.org)



**Become a Member Today**  
[NationalHellenicMuseum.org/  
become-a-member](https://NationalHellenicMuseum.org/become-a-member)



**Donate to Support the Museum**  
[NationalHellenicMuseum.org/Donate](https://NationalHellenicMuseum.org/Donate)



## Read With Us NHM's Online Book Clubs

Calling all readers—young and young at heart! We are thrilled to host two dynamic Online Book Clubs, offering you opportunities to explore Greek culture and storytelling from anywhere in the world.



### NHM Online Book Club (Adults)

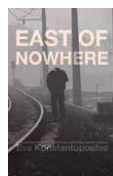


Join us this fall for lively discussions of contemporary Greek and Greek American literature. To register, search for 'National Hellenic Museum' on [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) or scan the QR Code.



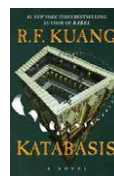
Thursday,  
September 18, 7 PM CST

**The Book of Katerina**  
by Auguste Corteau,  
translated by Claire  
Papamichail



Thursday,  
October 16, 7 PM CST

**East of Nowhere**  
by Eva Konstantopoulos



Thursday,  
November 13, 7 PM CST

**Katabasis**  
by R.F. Kuang



Thursday,  
December 11, 7 PM CST

**Aegean Tales**  
by Pan Bouyoucas,  
translated by Sheila  
Fischman

### NHM Young Readers Online Book Club: Percy Jackson Fall Series



Perfect for young readers, our Kids Book Club dives into the thrilling world of Greek mythology with Rick Riordan's Percy Jackson and the Olympians series. To register, search for 'National Hellenic Museum' on [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) or scan the QR Code.



Thursday,  
September 4, 7 PM CST  
**The Lightning Thief**



Thursday,  
September 25, 7 PM CST  
**The Battle of the Labyrinth**



Thursday,  
September 11, 7 PM CST  
**The Sea of Monsters**



Thursday,  
October 2, 7 PM CST  
**The Last Olympian**



Thursday,  
September 18, 7 PM CST  
**The Titan's Curse**



## NHM Online Discussions

# Connecting Through Conversation

NHM Discussions is our enriching, lively online series designed to foster thoughtful conversations surrounding Greek history, culture, and heritage.

These 1-hour conversations bring together community members, enthusiasts, and scholars to delve into a diverse range of topics related to Hellenic civilization. By nurturing an inclusive and collaborative environment, we actively encourage intellectual exploration and facilitate meaningful connections among participants.

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



## Upcoming Discussions

### Greek History in the Lives of Five Women

Wednesday, August 6, 2025, 7 PM CST



Greek history is often told through the deeds of men, but women played essential roles in shaping the nation's story. This session looks at five remarkable women from different periods in Greek history and considers how their lives reflect broader political, cultural, and social transformation.

### Let's Learn about Hellenistic Poetry

Thursday, August 12, 2025, 7 PM CST



Hellenistic poets like Callimachus and Theocritus gave us some of the most refined and playful poetry in the ancient world. Join us to explore how these poets reimagined love, learning, and literary form—and why their work deserves a place on your summer reading list.

### King Otto: The First King of Greece

Wednesday August 27, 2025, 7 PM CST



After Greece won independence from the Ottoman Empire, it chose a Bavarian prince as its first king. This talk examines the reign of King Otto, his vision for a modern Greek state, and the challenges he faced in leading a newly born nation finding its identity.



## Join the Conversation!

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



## Connecting to Our Community

### An Unforgettable Evening with Pulitzer Prize Winner Jeffrey Eugenides



The National Hellenic Museum was thrilled to partner with our friends at the Consul General of Greece in Chicago to welcome Pulitzer Prize-winning Greek American writer Jeffrey Eugenides. The event brought together literary enthusiasts and community members for an unforgettable evening. Known for his riveting best-selling books such as *The Virgin Suicides* and *Middlesex*, Mr. Eugenides shared thoughtful insights into his Greek heritage, iconic works, and the journey that has shaped his remarkable career. Moderated by Christopher Borelli of the *Chicago Tribune*, the enlightening and inspiring conversation left the audience deeply engaged and moved.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended, our generous sponsors, and to Jeffrey Eugenides and Christopher Borelli for creating such a memorable experience. Of course, we are always grateful for an opportunity to work with the Consul General of Greece in Chicago.

### Celebrating International Women's Day: An Inspiring Evening with Dr. Lia Merminga



This March, the National Hellenic Museum once again partnered with our friends at the Consul General of Greece in Chicago for an inspiring celebration of International Women's Day. This year, Dr. Lia Merminga captivated the audience with her remarkable journey in particle physics, shedding light on groundbreaking discoveries that shape our world and emphasizing the vital role women play in science and innovation. The evening was enriched by an engaging discussion and the enthusiasm of all attendees, making it a truly memorable event. We are especially grateful to our generous sponsor, Plateia, whose support helped bring this celebration to life.

#### Save the Date for **HOMERATHON**

#### A READING OF HOMER'S ODYSSEY IN ITS ENTIRETY

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH \_\_\_\_\_  
THE DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND  
MEDITERRANEAN STUDIES AT THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

AT THE NATIONAL HELLENIC MUSEUM

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23  
12:30 PM - 8:00 PM

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24  
10:00 AM-4:00 PM



LIBERAL ARTS  
AND SCIENCES  
Department of Classics  
and Mediterranean Studies



## NHM Welcomed FAITH Scholars



The National Hellenic Museum was honored to host the FAITH Scholars for an inspiring reception generously sponsored by our Chairman, John P. Calamos, Sr. It was a pleasure to welcome these thoughtful and accomplished young leaders of the Greek American community and to share with them how the Museum preserves and celebrates the history they continue to shape.

The Scholars toured the Museum's exhibits, enjoyed refreshments, and engaged in meaningful conversation with Mr. Calamos. He shared how his deep study of ancient Greek philosophy influenced his outlook and encouraged the Scholars to cultivate their critical thinking skills as they navigate an ever-evolving world. Each guest received a signed copy of his new book, *The Sky's the Limit*. We look forward to welcoming back the FAITH Scholars soon.

## Golf Outing Tees Off To Support the Museum's Mission

The National Hellenic Museum Golf Outing on May 12 was once again a great success!

We are extremely thankful to everyone who participated in this year's Outing. Our golfers enjoyed the sparkling lakes, picture-perfect fairways, and fresh greens of Stonebridge Country Club amidst a backdrop of perfect weather and course conditions – all in support of the National Hellenic Museum's mission to share Greek history, art, and culture and the Greek American story. We are especially grateful to NHM Board member Paul Athens for leading the Golf Outing event and to these sponsors and donors for generously supporting it:



### **Tee-Off Sponsor (Lead Sponsor):**

- Calamos Investments

### **Special Sponsor:**

- Peter Parthenis, Sr. & Family

### **Hole Sponsors:**

- Alpha Building Corporation
- Michael Bapis & Vios Advisors

- Nick A. Collias and George A. Collias
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- Pete and Betsy Nassos
- James A. Pappas, PJ Mechanical
- Service Steel Warehouse
- United Scrap Metal, Inc.

- Verros Berkshire, PC
- In Memory of Paul and Lola Vranas, Vranas Family Foundation
- George C. Xamplas, Xamplas Law

### **Donor:**

- Tom Dussias, DWK

We can't wait to see you again next year!

## Connecting to Our Community

### NHM Thanks Avli for Their Support

The National Hellenic Museum extends its deepest thanks to Avli for sharing the proceeds from its inaugural Chicago Hellenic Chef's Experience on May 1. It was a wonderful evening in support of the Museum.

Held at Avli's stunning "On the Park" location, the event brought together the flavors, sounds, and spirit of Greece. More than 250 guests enjoyed an extraordinary culinary journey featuring dishes from celebrated chefs who traveled from Greece as well as top Greek chefs from right here in Chicago. The evening's vibrant atmosphere was matched only by the generosity and hospitality of our hosts.

Avli's commitment to philoxenia (hospitality), kefi (joy), and meraki (passion) was on full display. We are honored to have the support of our friends at Avli and are profoundly grateful to Louie Alexakis, Ian Vlahakis, the talented chefs, the entire Avli team, the dedicated vendors, the spirited musicians, and the enthusiastic guests. Thank you for supporting the Museum's mission and for making this night so special.



### An Evening with Some of Chicago's Top Historians: A Captivating Conversation on Post-Antique Greece



On Thursday, April 10, the National Hellenic Museum had the privilege of hosting two of Chicago's leading historians, Professors Anthony Kaldellis (University of Chicago) and Nick Doumanis (UIC), for an engaging conversation about post-antique Greece, from Byzantium to the modern age. Moderated by Professor Young Kim (UIC), the discussion brought to life their latest groundbreaking books and offered deep insights into this rich and complex historical period. We were thrilled to welcome an enthusiastic audience who joined us for this rare and enlightening event. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make the evening a memorable success!





## Greektown Turned Blue and White!

On April 6, Chicago's Greektown came alive in a sea of blue and white as we celebrated the annual Greek Heritage Parade. We were honored to welcome our community to the National Hellenic Museum for a special reception prior to the parade. It was a beautiful afternoon filled

with pride, friendship, and a shared love of Hellenic heritage. A heartfelt thank you to our friends at Enosis for organizing this meaningful event. It is always a privilege to stand together in celebration of Greek Independence Day and the rich legacy of Hellenism.

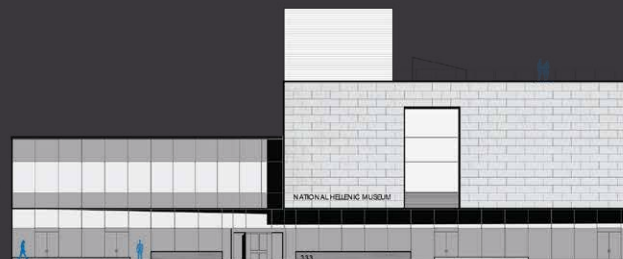
## Broadway Comes to the National Hellenic Museum!

We were thrilled to welcome a sold-out crowd for an intimate afternoon featuring cast members from the Tony Award-winning musical *Hadestown*.

Guests were treated to a captivating conversation that brought Greek mythology to life, exploring the timeless tales of Orpheus and Eurydice, Hades and Persephone, and Hermes. The event was moderated by Chicago-based Greek American writer, Elizabeth Neukirch. With thoughtful insights from the talented cast and Professor Krishni Burns (Department of Classics and Mediterranean Studies, UIC), the day offered a fresh and powerful perspective on these enduring stories. A profound thank you to our partners at Broadway In Chicago for making this extraordinary event possible.



# *News, Events, and Exhibitions at the* **National Hellenic Museum**



National Hellenic Museum  
333 South Halsted Street  
Chicago, IL 60661



*Learn more, donate, or stop by*

**[NationalHellenicMuseum.org](https://NationalHellenicMuseum.org)**



## *News, Events, and Exhibitions at the* **National Hellenic Museum**

*Museum Newsletter*

*Summer 2025*



**Page 4**

**The Trial  
of Themistocles**



**Page 6**

**Connecting  
Generations**



**Page 8**

**Making an  
Impact**



**Page 12**

**Connecting to  
Our Community**

**Museum Public Hours:** Thursday - Sunday 10 AM - 4 PM

**Tours are available seven days a week.**

To schedule a tour, email [education@hellenicmuseum.org](mailto:education@hellenicmuseum.org) or call **312.655.1234**

National Hellenic Museum is a non-profit organization under Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3), EIN #36-3568402