

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

Museum Newsletter

Winter 2025



Your Support Made Gala a Night to Remember

[Page 4]



Reading the Odyssey Together

[Page 7]



Preserving Community Traditions Through Artifacts [Page 8]

A Letter from the Museum Chairman

Dear Friends,

As we approach the end of another year, I want to thank you for your continued support of the National Hellenic Museum and its mission to share Greek history, art, culture, and the Greek American story. Your support allows us to continue the work begun by visionary Greek Americans 40 years ago, connecting generations and cultures.



This past September, the Museum celebrated its gala with over 500 guests. It was a night filled with energy, joy, and generosity. Seeing so many come together to support the important work of the Museum reinforces how deeply invested you are in carrying this legacy forward.

The Museum is a beacon of learning and a bridge connecting generations and cultures to the enduring relevance of the Hellenic legacy. In this newsletter, you get a glimpse into that work and see how your support helps the Museum educate, preserve, and connect every day.

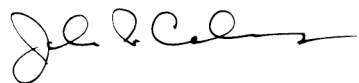
Through in-person and online programs, the Museum educates people of all ages, from preschoolers to seniors, about Greek history and culture. It preserves the Greek American story in our collections, archives, and premier oral history program, a treasure trove of experience and wisdom for generations. And it connects people across communities and generations through initiatives like Museums in Conversation and the NHM Associates.

I hope you enjoy reading about these programs and feel the same pride in our shared legacy. Please consider making a donation, no matter the size, to ensure the Museum can continue this important work.

Thank you for your continued support. I wish you and your loved ones a joyful and blessed holiday season.

Καλά Χριστούγεννα!

Sincerely,



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

Board of Trustees

Executive Committee

John P. Calamos, Sr., *Chairman*
Aristotle P. Halikias, *Vice-Chairman*
Demetrios Logothetis, *Vice-Chairman*
Peter Parthenis, *Vice-Chairman*
Konstantinos Armiros
Vice-Chairman and Secretary
Bill J. Vranas, *Treasurer*
John S. Koudounis
Yanni H. Sianis
Constance Palas, *Board Counsel*

Trustees

Paul Athens
Dr. George Bovis
Bill Conopectis
Andrea Darlas
Hon. Anna H. Demacopoulos (Ret.)
Alex Gianaras
John V. Kalantzis
Kenneth Kondraris
C. Dean Metropoulos
George Tsetsekos

Distinguished Advisors

Hon. Louis G. Apostol	Elaine Paterakis
Martha Cannis	Pauline Sleder
Dr. Michael Galaty	Marilyn Tzakis
Maria Lampros	Paul G. Vallas
Georgia Mitchell	Nick Vern

Life Trustees

Andrew A. Athens †
Dr. Mary Dochios Kamberos †
Frank S. Kamberos †
Dr. George Korkos †
James M. Mezilson †
Angela Paterakis †
Themi Vasils

Museum Staff

Marianne Kountoures,
Executive Director
Janet Kashuba
Chief Development Officer
Katherine Kelaidis, Ph.D.
Director of Research & Content
Chris Panagopoulos
Director of Finance & Operations
Perla Sánchez Aparicio
Special Projects Manager
Christopher Norton, M.M.
Events Manager
Elena Kountoures Nowak, M.Ed.
Education Manager
Harriet Pontikes
Development Coordinator
John McIntyre
Guest Relations & Retail Coordinator
Larissa Fardelos
Tour & Guest Services Coordinator
Morgan Witek
Tour & Guest Services Coordinator



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.

Leading the Way: Announcing Two Bold Initiatives

NHM Associates: Cultivating the Next Generation of Museum Leaders

NHM proudly launched NHM Associates, a vibrant group bringing together the next generation of leaders to champion the Museum's mission and community. After months of planning and collaboration, the group made its debut at a lively rooftop launch party, complete with stunning skyline views, great company, and a shared passion for Greek heritage.

NHM Associates have jumped right in, volunteering, engaging, and celebrating alongside us at this year's Gala. Up next, they're leading a holiday Giving Drive to sponsor student field trips to the Museum, cover busing costs, and provide classroom studio supplies for hands-on learning. Follow them on Instagram @NHMAssociates to support their next endeavors.



Museums in Conversation – Connecting Cultural Heritage Across Chicago

Building on our mission to engage people across generations and cultures, NHM launched Museums in Conversation, a bold new initiative. We are partnering with some of Chicago's leading cultural institutions to create joint programs, panels, and events for people of all ages. Each partnering organization contributes their passion and expertise, helping us reach new communities and foster meaningful connections.

This January, we kick off with the University of Chicago's Institute for the Study of Ancient Culture Museum (ISAC). Together, we will explore and discuss the theme of Egypt, Greece, and the Spreading of Greek Language with a panel, joint children's programming, and an exclusive access into ISAC's archives. Keep an eye out for events as this launches after the New Year.

Our distinguished partners include:



**Gichigamiin
Indigenous Nations
Museum**

**Swedish American
Museum**

**American Writers
Museum**



Your Support Made Gala a Night to Remember

Together, we celebrated a shared commitment to the Museum's mission and future.

Thank you to our generous sponsors, donors, and guests for making this year's National Hellenic Museum Gala an unforgettable success! With more than 550 guests gathered in celebration, the evening was filled with joy, pride, and the vibrant spirit of Hellenism.

We are grateful to NHM Chairman **John P. Calamos, Sr.**, our Gala Co-Chairs **Jim and Marianne Logothetis**, the Gala Committee, and many volunteers. With more than 550 guests present, the evening was a joyful celebration where the Museum's mission and work resonated.

The evening began with a lively cocktail hour and delicious dinner, followed by a spirited live auction and a paddle raise where guests gave generously to support the Museum's mission.

When the program concluded, **Mylos Entertainment** filled the room with music and kicked off the dancing. The energy only grew as **Giorgos Tsalikis** took the stage, delivering a performance that reminded everyone why he is one of Greece's most celebrated live performers. His appearance was generously sponsored by **Mr. & Mrs. Ernest C. Karras** and **John & Martha Cannis**. The dance floor was packed all night as we celebrated Greek culture and the Museum's mission.





The 2025 Gala was made possible by the incredible support of donors at every level.
Our heartfelt thanks to our Lead Sponsors:

Diamond Sponsors

Calamos Investments:
John P. Calamos, Sr.; John S. Koudounis
The Halikias Family and Republic Bank
The Parthenis Family and
Grecian Delight | Kronos Foods

Gold Sponsors

John and Mae Calamos
via The John P. Calamos Foundation
The John S. Koudounis Family
Metropoulos Family Foundation

Silver Sponsors

Michael and Robin Psaros
and Family
Cathy and George Sakellaris
Family Foundation

Education: NHM's Mission in Action

Guided tours, field trips, and hands-on programs that inspire students and lifelong learners.

Guided Tours for Lifelong Learners

At the heart of the National Hellenic Museum is a passion for learning and connection. Our guided tours bring Greek history, art, and culture to life for thousands of learners each year, from students to adult visitors. Through storytelling, hands-on exploration, and discovery, we bring the Hellenic legacy to life for people of all ages and backgrounds. Book a tour for your school, church, or community organization at Education@HellenicMuseum.org.



Student Field Trips Expand Learning

NHM welcomes students from public, private, and parochial schools, offering enrichment that expands classroom learning through hands-on activities aligned with Common Core and Illinois Learning Standards. This year, we're tailoring programs to support schools using the Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) curriculum. Through archaeological digs, myth reenactments, and Greek-inspired art projects, students experience CKLA content in action. These programs integrate literacy, history, and art, helping learners deepen comprehension and make meaningful, lasting connections beyond the classroom.



Bringing the Museum to You

Our educational staff can bring the excitement of the Museum directly to your school. From Junior Archaeology digs to Readers' Theatre and more, students explore the ancient world through lively, hands-on programs. This year, we've inspired 300 students at Rotolo Middle School, 120 at Indian Knoll Elementary, and campers at the Hellenic American Academy Summer Camp, where our dig came to life in creative new ways. Let's make your school our next stop.





Reading The Odyssey Together



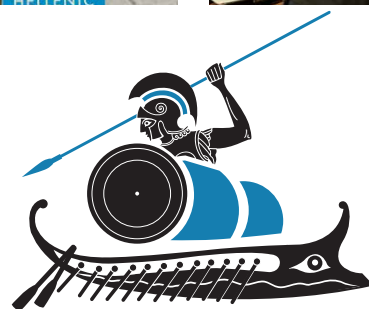
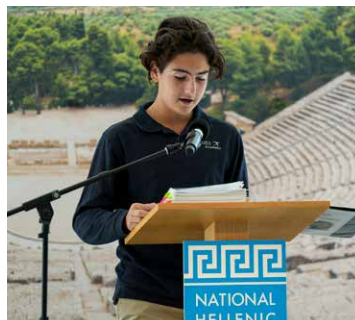
Now in its fourth year, the Museum's Homerathon—a marathon reading of *The Odyssey* presented with UIC's Department of Classics and Mediterranean Studies—celebrated Odysseus's journey in more languages than ever. Nearly 200 readers brought this 3,000-year-old story to life in Greek, English, Polish, Japanese, German, Spanish, Arabic, Czech, and more in front of an audience of all ages.

As the great hero's adventure unfolded, participants shared the joy of community and the enduring relevance of *The Odyssey*—a story of courage, resilience, and the journey home.

We were honored to welcome readers from the Consulate General of Greece in Chicago, UIC, local media, and students from Plato Academy, the Hellenic American Academy and Koraes School, who read passages in Greek.

This year, Homerathon was a featured event of the Chicago Cultural Alliance's Journey Chicago initiative. Our Journey Chicago collaborators were the Dank Haus German American Cultural Center, T. G. Masaryk Czech School, Instituto Cervantes, and the Polish Museum of America.

Thank you to every reader, listener, and supporter who helped bring this ancient story to life and celebrate how the past connects us today.



HOMERATHON



Preservation: NHM's Mission in Action

Recording Stories That Shape Our Community



Through the Frank S. Kamberos Oral History Center, the National Hellenic Museum is building a living archive of voices, firsthand accounts that bring history to

life through the people who lived it. Each interview adds a vital thread to the tapestry of our shared heritage, offering future generations a way to hear, understand, and feel the journeys that shaped the Greek American story.

This year, we welcomed the story of George D. Hiotis into the archive. Born in Achladokampos, Greece, and arriving in Chicago at age 14, Mr. Hiotis served in the U.S. Army's 25th Infantry Division, earning the Purple Heart and Bronze Star in Vietnam. After returning home, he and his brothers opened the

iconic Huck Finn Restaurant and Donuts in 1971, a Chicagoland favorite. In 2024, he received the Calamos Service Award, honoring Greek Americans who served honorably in the Vietnam War.

Mr. Hiotis recorded his story at the National Hellenic Museum, interviewed by Professor Nicholas Dumanis, Illinois Chair in Hellenic Studies at UIC. Stories like his ensure the resilience and creativity of Greek Americans continue to inspire generations to come.

Help Our Oral History Library Grow

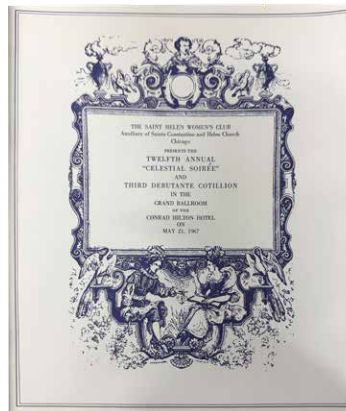
Keep Greek American stories alive. Your gift preserves the voices that shape our community.

Donate at: Development@HellenicMuseum.org

Preserving Community Traditions Through Artifacts

Preserving artifacts in our Collections and Archives is at the core of our mission. Each object we safeguard adds another voice to the Greek American story. Among the remarkable materials in our care is the St. Helen Women's Philoptochos Cotillion Book Collection, spanning from 1967 to 2011 and generously donated to the Museum in 2023 by the St. Helen Women's Philoptochos of Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Palos Hills, Illinois. These annual program books recorded each year's event, featuring photographs of debutantes, escorts, honorees, parish committees, church leaders, and advertisements from Greek-owned businesses—a vivid window into community life at the height of the twentieth century.

Through the preservation of these program books, the National Hellenic Museum honors the legacy of the people and moments that shaped Greek American life. This collection reminds us that heritage can be found in everyday acts of service and celebration that keep communities strong.



Explore the St. Helen Women's Philoptochos Cotillion Book Collection and more of the Museum's collection at NationalHellenicMuseum.org/Collections.

NHM Online: Learning Without Borders

NHM Discussions

Join thought-provoking online conversations exploring mythology, art, philosophy, and the Greek diaspora. A welcoming space for curious minds to exchange ideas, spark insight, and build meaningful connections.

NHM Online Book Club for Adults

Read, reflect, and discuss books on Greek history, mythology, and works by Greek and Greek American authors. Share insights, discover new perspectives, and enjoy thoughtful conversation in a lively and welcoming community.

NHM Online Film Club

Watch and discuss films inspired by Greek mythology. Explore how timeless stories come to life on screen in a relaxed online space for lively discussion and fresh perspectives.

NHM Young Readers Online Book Club

For readers ages 10–14, this club explores Greek mythology through fun, engaging discussions. Meet new friends, dive into classic myths, and discover the joy of reading together.

Join Us Online!

Register on the National Hellenic Museum's Eventbrite page or scan the QR code below to join the adventure.



Host Your Event in the Heart of Greektown

Make your next event unforgettable in a setting that blends modern design with timeless Greek inspiration.

Events@HellenicMuseum.org

312.655.1234

NationalHellenicMuseum.org

Flexible venues for every occasion



Calamos Great Hall
soaring windows, city views; ideal for weddings, galas, lectures



Kamberos Events Hall
sleek, light-filled space for corporate or academic gatherings



Skyline Rooftop
open-air celebrations with stunning Chicago skyline views

Join Us for Two Inspiring 2026 Events

Honoring Tradition and Togetherness

History's Verdict Awaits – Save the Date: March 12, 2026

Join us for the next installment of NHM's acclaimed Trial Series—an evening where an ancient Greek controversy meets a modern courtroom stage. Featuring national-level litigators and a jury of civic leaders, this event brings history into the present and invites you to decide justice for a figure from the Hellenic past.

Your participation supports NHM's mission to share Greek history, art, culture, and the Greek American story.

Watch for updates online and reserve your place when the subject is announced.



NationalHellenicMuseum.org/NHM-Trial-Series



Tee Off for Culture – Spring 2026

Step out for a great day of golf, gourmet food, fine drinks—and community—while supporting NHM's mission to share Greek history, art, culture, and the Greek American story. Whether you're a seasoned golfer or looking for a fun outing, join us for an afternoon on the green that gives back.

Proceeds help preserve artifacts, fuel dynamic programs, and connect generations through the Hellenic legacy.

Watch for updates and registration details coming soon online.



NationalHellenicMuseum.org/Golf



Your Year-End Gift Helps Preserve Greek Heritage

Ways to Participate

Your generosity helps the Museum bring Greek history, art, culture and the Greek American story to life for generations to come. Whether you visit the Museum, attend programs and events, or give in one of the ways below, every contribution makes a difference.

Sponsor Exhibitions, Events, Programs

Partner with us to present dynamic exhibitions, events, and programs that connect generations and cultures to the Hellenic legacy. Sponsorships can be made individually or through your business, offering opportunities for recognition and branding.

Make a Planned Gift

Create a lasting impact by arranging a future gift as part of your estate planning. Through your will, retirement plan, life insurance policy, or appreciated securities, you can help ensure the stories and contributions of Greeks continue to inspire generations well into the future.

Purchase a Legacy Brick

Honor your loved ones or commemorate a special occasion with a personalized brick on the the NHM Legacy Brick Wall at the Museum entrance. This lasting tribute is a visible recognition of your legacy for years to come.

To explore ways to sustain the Museum through your support, contact us at:

Development@HellenicMuseum.org



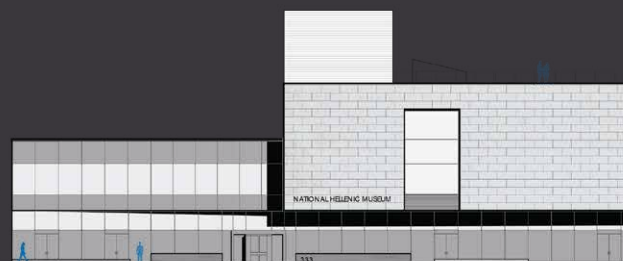
Become a Member Today
[NationalHellenicMuseum.org/
 Become-A-Member](https://NationalHellenicMuseum.org/Become-A-Member)



Donate to Support the Museum
NationalHellenicMuseum.org/Donate



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



Learn more, donate, or stop by
NationalHellenicMuseum.org



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

Museum Newsletter

Winter 2025



Page 3

**Next Generation
Leaders**



Page 4

**Memorable
Gala**



Page 6

**Education
in Action**



Page 8

**Preserving
Our Stories**

Museum 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 **312.655.1234**

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