

NATIONAL HELLENIC MUSEUM

# Gala 2016



The Diskobolos or Discus Thrower, 2nd century CE. Roman copy of a 450-440 BCE Greek bronze by Myron recovered from Emperor Hadrian's Villa in Tivoli, Italy. (British Museum, London)

Museum Newsletter

May 2016

## New Exhibitions

**April 25 – September, 2016 OLYMPIC REVIVAL:  
THE 1896 OLYMPIC GAMES**

In April 1896, the long-lost Greek tradition of the Olympic Games was revived in Athens, Greece, more than 1,500 years after it was banned by Roman Emperor Theodosius I. The National Hellenic Museum honors this 120th anniversary of the first modern Olympics and pays tribute to the first modern Olympians, with a small commemorative exhibition of rare photographs by Albert Meyer, official photographer of the 1896 Games.

*Olympic Revival* features photos of the first modern Olympic Committee and first Olympians, including Greek athlete Spyridon Louis, winner of the first ever marathon, and national hero to the Greek people. There are also photos of German Jewish gymnast, Alfred Flatow, winner of several medals in Athens, who died in a concentration camp in 1942, at the age of 73.

We are grateful to the Benaki Museum of Athens, Greece, for giving us the opportunity to share these unique photographs that highlight the achievements of athletes from 14 countries.



**June 20 – September, 2016 SWEET HOME CHICAGO:  
THE HISTORY OF AMERICA'S CANDY CAPITAL**

In 1906, *The Greek Star*, one of America's oldest Greek language newspapers, reported there were 925 Greek-owned candy and ice-cream businesses in Chicago. This summer, an exhibit created by the Elmhurst Historical Museum, traces Chicago's candy-making history back to the 19th century and the first waves of immigration. It will be enhanced with items from our own extensive collection of rare candy, ice cream, and restaurant artifacts that tell the story of some of Chicago's most famous Greek-owned establishments.

Visitors will enjoy a short documentary narrated by Bill Kurtiss, former CBS anchor, interactive displays with nostalgic photos and artifacts, a Candy IQ Quiz, the Twisted Candy Challenge that will test their candy-wrapping skills, summer ice cream socials, candy-making workshops, book presentations, and plenty more fun and tasty activities.

The exhibition showcases the entrepreneurial genius of early Greek immigrants and their contributions to the history of Chicago, and offers a forum for celebrating Greek traditions where sweets, and food in general, play a definitive role in bringing people together and strengthening community bonds. Come see us and bring your sweet tooth.

Donors sustain the future of the Museum. Please consider supporting one of these exhibitions or donating to the Museum's programs and events. Contact Director of Development Marianne Kountoures at (312) 655-1234, ext. 30 or [mkountoures@hellenicmuseum.org](mailto:mkountoures@hellenicmuseum.org).

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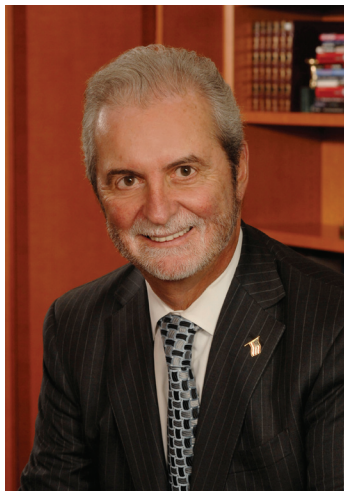
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# A Letter from the Museum Chairman



As we finally see the first signs of spring, I look back over the great recent activities at the Museum - all of which continue to happen with the support of our generous members, donors, sponsors, visitors, and all of you who attend our programs. Your participation and support is central to the continued success of the Museum. Thank you.

*The Trial of Antigone* held at The Field Museum in March was a night of great oratory from some of the sharpest legal minds in the nation as Antigone was put on Trial for her crime of treason against King Creon. Prosecutors Robert Clifford and Dan Webb offered strong arguments in favor of convicting Antigone, but the defense, Patrick Collins and former U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald, was able to deflect the attack using humor and Plato's philosophy as a shield.

Antigone was found not guilty by over 600 audience members, a panel of esteemed jurors, and the Honorable Judges William Bauer, Charles Kocoras, and Richard Posner. The audience was thoughtfully engaged and entertained in equal measure.

*The Greeks—Agamemnon to Alexander the Great* exhibit at the Field Museum was an extraordinary journey through more than 5,000 years of Greek culture, co-presented by NHM and The Field Museum. I hope you had a chance to view the 7,500 square-foot exhibit with over 500 superb archeological works of art, many of which were never before seen outside of Greece. A great treat for Chicagoans, the show is now on its way to Washington D.C. and the National Geographic Museum then the treasures return back to Greece.

*The National Hellenic Museum Gala* is on Saturday May 14. Please save the date for a spectacular evening at the Hilton Chicago --- our largest and most important fundraising event of the year. The Gala brings together more than 700 supporters from across the country to celebrate our shared culture and enjoy fine food, wine, dancing, and a spectacular live auction. Proceeds support the NHM's important programs and exhibitions that enrich minds, enliven the spirit, and preserve our Greek heritage. We are very much looking forward to spending time with you - please get your tickets and book a table soon. We will see you there!

And as we look to the summer, plan to visit the Museum to see two exciting new exhibitions. Opening on May 1, *Olympic Revival: The 1896 Olympic Games* traces the journey of the world's most inspiring athletic competition from its ancient roots in Greece through its modern revival in Athens in 1896. *Sweet Home Chicago: The History of America's Candy Capital* opens in June and is a fun and nostalgic look back at our most loved candy brands, illustrating how Greeks and Greek Americans contributed their entrepreneurial spirit to the legacy of candy making and ice cream in Chicago and across the nation.

We look forward to seeing you soon at our Gala, at upcoming programs and at the new exhibits coming to the Museum.

From our families to yours, wishing you good health a beautiful Easter, καλό Πάσχα  
John.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John P. Calamos, Sr.' The signature is fluid and cursive.

# The Trial of Antigone

## View from the Audience

BY AYSHA NASIR

Recently, I was fortunate enough to attend *The Trial of Antigone*, the latest in the National Hellenic Museum's trial series. As a student of ancient philosophy, I was intrigued by the format. Brilliant lawyers and judges debating historical events and the fate of mythical figures, coupled with a modern audience able to affect the outcome, and building the illusion of an alternate ending. I never turn down the chance to change history.

At this fascinating event held at the neoclassical Field Museum, some of Chicago's top attorneys—Patrick Fitzgerald, Dan Webb, Patrick Collins and Bob Clifford—distilled Sophocles' *Antigone* into a debate of the fundamental and still relevant questions it contains.

Reading the play in high school didn't leave much of an impression, but when I reread it as an adult, *Antigone's* predicament moved and frustrated me. A young woman – her life marked by loss and suffering—brave enough to face the consequences of following the dictates of her conscience.

Skillful and creative arguments made by well-prepared attorneys added depth and showcased the great value of this age-old story. Modern day acts of civil disobedience, by such individuals as Rosa Parks, were presented by prosecuting and defending attorneys, indicating the complexity of seemingly simple questions. Inevitably, we, the audience, were forced to question our own ideas and motives.

Amusing allusions to modern politics, and calls to order by Judge Richard Posner who threatened to remove a vocal audience from



the courtroom, lightened the mood. I was honestly not prepared to be so drawn into the proceedings. When *Antigone* was exonerated by an overwhelming margin, I felt a genuinely moving sense of camaraderie and success. As if together we had righted a wrong of history two thousand years old.

Beyond setting to rest the ghosts of ancient, fictional women, this flavor of event—both spectacle and teaching tool—I found this experience incredibly valuable. Witnessing *The Trial of Antigone* called to mind truths that often get lost in the minutia and noise of modern politics: beneath all of the posturing and campaigning, the function of the law is to promote justice, and when it doesn't, it is the job of the citizens to hold it accountable. *Antigone's* trial reminded me of that, and I'm sure the next trial will remind me of something different, yet equally valuable.



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CHICAGO, IL 60661

## Museum Hours

*Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday* 11am - 5pm

*Thursday* 11am - 8pm

*Saturday & Sunday* 11am - 5pm

*Monday* Closed

WE OFFER GUIDED TOURS  
EVERY SUNDAY AT 1PM.

THE NATIONAL HELLENIC MUSEUM seeks to inspire visitors of all ages with the rich history, challenges, and successes of Greek American immigrants who have embodied the American experience and the American dream. The Museum also serves as America's center for preserving, nurturing, and sharing Greek culture and a gathering place for celebrations and events.

Located in Chicago's Greektown, the sleek 40,000 square-foot Museum 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.

## Summer Programs

### GROUP FIELD TRIPS

*Weekdays in June, July, August*

*Times available from 8:30am-3pm*

Guided tours and themed activities for groups of six or more. Call for prices.

### LITTLE HOMER STORY HOUR

*Saturdays, June 4 - August 20*

*11am-12pm*

Bilingual Greek myths and activities for children 2-12 years old. \$5 per adult, children 2-12 years are free.

### SUMMER CAMP

*June 27-July 1 OR July 11-15*

*10am-2pm*

Dig through Ancient Greece, analyze artifacts, learn Greek phrases and numbers, and design your own Greek pottery for children 4-14 years old. Members \$150, non-members \$175.

### SUMMER FAMILY DAYS

*June 14 & 21 and July 5 & 19*

*1-5pm*

Tours of our Aegean exhibit, family crafts, Greek dancing, cookie making, and refreshments for children 4-14 years old and their parents. Free with museum admission, registration is required.

Call (312) 655-1234 or visit [nationalhellenicmuseum.org](http://nationalhellenicmuseum.org) for more information or to register.