



# THE TRIAL of ANTIGONE



MARCH 10, 2016, 6:30 PM  
AT THE FIELD MUSEUM

TICKETS AND SPONSORSHIPS  
AVAILABLE AT  
[nationalhellenicmuseum.org](http://nationalhellenicmuseum.org)

Museum Newsletter

February 2016



## Dive into The Aegean Sea

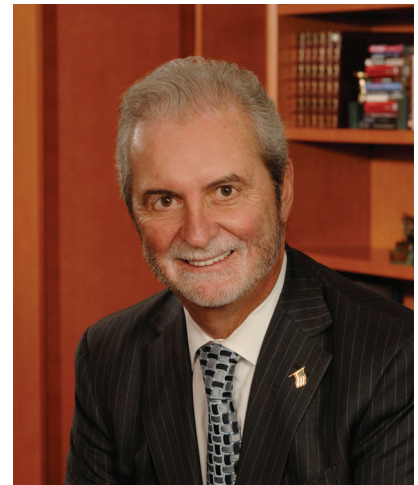
In the 1950s, British author Lawrence Durrell wrote about the shimmering light of the Aegean, “. . . *the white dancing candescence of the sun on a sea with blue sky pouring into it. . . It is the naked eyeball of God, so to speak, and it blinds one.*”

Travelers who visit the Aegean every year by the millions are dazzled by it, while some locals take it for granted. Few know or even wonder about the science behind this brilliance.

NHM’s current exhibition, *Aegean: Creation of an Archipelago*, lays out the 23-million-year story of the evolution of the Aegean Sea. One of nature’s most active “laboratories,” the region owes its unique beauty, and development - social, economic, and historical - to a series of complex and ongoing geological events.

In spectacular manner, NHM’s exhibition presents the results of the African plate’s movement underneath the Eurasian plate, which in combination with climate changes have created mountains and thousands of islands. Petrified trunks of 20,000 million year old sequoias, acorn and cypress trees, animal and plant fossils, and beautiful natural stones used to make some of the western world’s greatest masterpieces, give insights to how myth and history came about, and how nature and the environment define, limit, or allow human creativity. Visitors will gain a new understanding and appreciation of the world’s resources and beauty.

A rare view into an array of nature’s creations that have been touched, molded, re-morphed and even vanquished by the elements. Open through August 2016.



### A LETTER FROM MUSEUM CHAIRMAN JOHN P. CALAMOS, SR.

The New Year brings new reasons to enjoy your National Hellenic Museum, where we are currently celebrating an unprecedented partnership with The Field Museum, as both institutions co-present a once-in-a-generation exhibition, *The Greeks—Agamemnon to Alexander the Great...*

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# A Letter from the Museum Chairman

*Continued from page 1...* Precious artifacts from nearly two dozen of the finest museums in Greece are currently on display at The Field, with companion programs and events at the NHM illustrating the value of the Greek legacy in the modern day. We welcome your visit to our beautiful building in Greektown and remind you that all NHM members get free admission to *The Greeks* exhibition at The Field until April 10. This exhibition is remarkable in being the largest and most comprehensive collection of precious ancient artifacts to have ever been out of Greece – don't miss your chance to marvel at this view of our history and the 'cradle of Western civilization.' *The Greeks* exhibition will next move to the National Geographic Museum in Washington, D.C. before the items are returned to Greece.

This historic exhibition is just one of the thought provoking events hosted by the NHM. Due to popular response, *Transcending Boundaries: The Art of Anthony Quinn* is extended through May, and the gorgeous Aegean exhibit will provide you with a fascinating tour of the Greek islands. In March, some of the best legal minds in the country will enact the historic Trial of Antigone at The James Simpson Theatre at The Field Museum, where the audience will cast their ballots to determine if Antigone's actions were treason or an act of duty.

And of course, please also plan to join the celebration at our annual National Hellenic Museum Gala, to be held Saturday, May 14, at the Hilton Chicago, 720 South Michigan Avenue. The Gala is an elegant and entertaining coming together for our community and supporters, and is our largest fundraiser of the year. Mark your calendar and join us in the spring to dine, dance and toast the NHM.

There is much to be proud of at the NHM. We look forward to seeing you at your Museum.

Best regards,



John P. Calamos, Sr.  
Museum Chairman

## SAVE THE DATE

Gala  
2016

SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2016  
AT THE HILTON CHICAGO  
720 SOUTH MICHIGAN AVENUE





## Q&A with Field Museum Curator Bill Parkinson

*The Greeks—Agamemnon to Alexander the Great* opened at The Field Museum on November 25, 2015, after months of prepping and installing nearly 600 artifacts. Associate Curator of Anthropology, Bill Parkinson shares his favorite parts of this once-in-a-lifetime exhibit that is open through April 10, 2016.

### What is your favorite item in the exhibition?

My favorite object is the original “Mask of Agamemnon” that the German archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann discovered in Grave V of Grave Circle A at the Bronze Age site of Mycenae. There are so many good stories around its discovery and its history. I still cannot believe we have it in the show.

### What challenges did you face while installing the exhibition?

Installing an exhibition like this takes a team. A group comes from Greece and they work with our exhibitions crew here at The Field Museum to make sure everything is installed securely and in cases that have the correct environmental conditions for the artifacts. With almost 600 pieces in the show - some that are massive - this is a huge undertaking.

### What do you like the most about ancient Greek culture?

I am fascinated with how small farming villages turned into big, complicated, cities like the ones many of us live in today. Greece is a natural laboratory for studying how this happened over thousands of years.

### What new connections can you make to your own research?

My own research focuses on how early farming villages got big and complicated during the Neolithic (ca. 6,000-3,000 BC) and Bronze Age (ca. 3,000 BC - 1,100 BC). There is a ton of material in the exhibition from these periods, so there are many connections to my own research.

### What would children enjoy the most in the exhibition?

I think they enjoy the replicas that they can touch - there are replicas of: a Cycladic figurine, a Bronze Age sword, an Archaic bronze helmet with a plume, and voting ballots that were used in the Classical period.

### Was there anything you were especially hoping to see in this exhibition?

I cannot believe that we have the privilege to put all of these objects on display in this exhibition. The Greek people have trusted us with many of their national treasures and we are really lucky to have them here in Chicago. The exhibition is like a highlight reel of Greek archaeology. Many of the artifacts are - literally - textbook examples. They are the actual objects you see in textbooks.

### The Greeks influenced so many of our own institutions and processes. What can we learn or continue to learn from them today?

In an election year, it is good to remember the wonderful Classical tradition of ostracism! If a leader got too powerful, he could be ostracized (sent away) for years. We have ostraka (votes for ostracism written on broken pottery pieces) in the show that have the name of Themistocles on them. He was the general who convinced the Athenians to build their navy, which was critical in defeating the Persian invasion. A few years later they kicked him out!

## *The Greeks—Agamemnon to Alexander the Great*

Made possible by the generous contribution of The John P. Calamos Foundation and John P. Calamos, Sr., Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

The National Hellenic Museum is honored to acknowledge our generous donors on the occasion of *The Greeks*.

### NATIONAL HELLENIC MUSEUM SPONSOR

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# Ways to Give



## BECOME A SPONSOR

Our exhibits, programs and events are attended by thousands of individuals each year. Your sponsorship not only supports the Museum, but it can honor your family as well as offer your business significant promotional opportunities.



## BECOME A MEMBER

Besides enjoying free admission, exclusive benefits and access to NHM, your membership ensures we can continue to provide enriching, exciting, and thought-provoking exhibitions, programs, and events for generations to come.

Join now and you will also receive additional benefits at The Field Museum during *The Greeks—Agamemnon to Alexander the Great*.



## DONATE A LEGACY BRICK

Honor a loved one, a special occasion, or celebrate your heritage with your donation of a Legacy Brick. Your name will be etched on one of the bricks and proudly displayed at the front entrance to the Museum, commemorating your commitment to your heritage and NHM.



## GIVE THE GIFT OF LEGACY

One of the simplest and most significant ways you can play a role in the Museum's success is through a legacy gift. Please consider including us in your will or estate plans. Such bequests as the one made by Angela & George Paterakis (pictured left) keeps their spirit alive by securing the Museum's future.

Contact Director of Development, Marianne Vallas Kountoures, at (312) 655-1234, ext. 30 or email [mkountoures@hellenicmuseum.org](mailto:mkountoures@hellenicmuseum.org) to further discuss ways you can give.



## Dr. Arthur G. Nikelly's Legacy Lives On At NHM

The National Hellenic Museum was recently honored to accept a gift of \$75,000, funded from the assets of Dr. Arthur G. Nikelly, to establish the "Dr. Arthur G. Nikelly Annual Lecture for the Preservation of Hellenic Heritage and Culture."

Dr. Nikelly was a Clinical Psychologist and Associate Professor Emeritus of Health Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he began his career in 1959. His life was testimony to the importance of human rights, social justice, freedom of expression, and educational achievement. During his lifetime, his work and philanthropy furthered these values not only in the U.S., but also in the village of Vrissa, Mytilene, on the Island of Lesbos, Greece, birthplace of his parents, George J. and Mary G. (Koletti) Nikelly.

As a philanthropist, and in memory of his parents, he initiated the design, construction, and furnishing of the Nikelly outpatient health clinic (Nikeleio Iatreio) together with his sister Eva, and brother John, in their hometown of Vrissa on the island of Lesbos, Greece. Dr. Nikelly also bought a century-old building, most recently used as a kafeneion, and oversaw its adaptive reuse into the Vrissas Library (Bibliothiki Vrissas), opened in 2013.

Dr. Nikelly had a fascination with the Greek language and a strong connection to his ancestral homeland. His last book, *The Romantic Poetry of Greece 1880-1960*, available at the National Hellenic Museum store, translates the work of some of Greece's most prolific poets into English for the first time.

We are deeply grateful for this generous donation. In honor of Dr. Nikelly's memory, and to reflect his multiple interests in his Greek heritage and humanist values, we are thrilled to launch the "Dr. Arthur G. Nikelly Annual Lecture for the Preservation of Hellenic Heritage and Culture" later this year.

## In The Museum Store

### THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT OF THE GREEK IMMIGRANT IN CHICAGO, ILLINOIS: 1900-1930

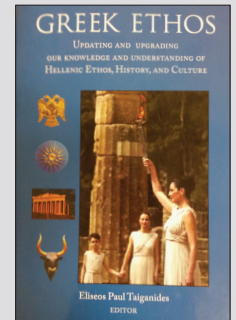
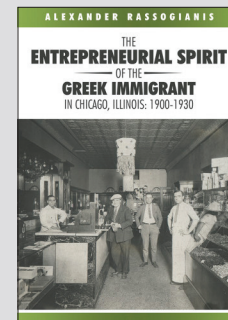
BY ALEX RASSOGIANIS

(Bottom, left) Author Alex Rassogianis explores the path to success, as identified by early Greek immigrants, in business, tracing among other businesses, the evolution of some of Chicago's most iconic sweetshops and ice cream parlors. Armed only by a strong work ethic and determination, by 1909, just a few years after arriving, Greek immigrants owned more than 500 confectioneries in Chicago. Visit NHM and take a nostalgic journey back to the era of ice cream parlors and countertops with a unique collection of original equipment, beautiful chocolate molds, candy boxes, menus, vintage ice cream bowls, and old fashioned flavors, from such greats as Dove Candy, Alex's Sweetshop, and Gayety's.

### GREEK ETHOS: UPDATING & UPGRADING OUR KNOWLEDGE & UNDERSTANDING OF HELLENIC ETHOS, HISTORY, AND CULTURE

EDITED BY ELISEOS PAUL TAIGANIDES

(Bottom, right) Generously donated to NHM by William and Afrodite Vranas, this anthology consists of insightful essays and stories on a diverse range of topics related to Greek history, culture, and traditions, authored by academically qualified writers. Originally published in the periodical Greek Ethos in Columbus, Ohio, this publication was edited by Professor Eliseos Paul Taiganides.



## Theano Papazoglou-Margaris

### CHRONICLER OF HALSTED STREET & “GRAND DAME OF GREEK LETTERS”

It was 25 years ago this year that the *Chicago Tribune* reported the passing of Theano Papazoglou Margaris, the “grand dame of Greek letters,” who chronicled the Greek immigrant experience.

Born in Constantinople, modern day Istanbul in 1906 and immigrating to the U.S. in 1924, Mrs. Margaris published six books of short stories about the Greek immigrant experience, as well as the persecution of the Greek diaspora in Turkey. A woman ahead of her time, she also wrote on a great variety of topics for Greek-American newspapers throughout the country, including Chicago’s *Greek Star*. She played an important part in America’s Labor Movement, especially in organizing the Greek furriers of New York.

Eventually making her home in Chicago, her book *A Chronicle of Halsted Street* earned her Greece’s National Literature Award, an honor never before bestowed to a writer outside of Greece. Her works are time capsules that reflect the challenges, raw emotions and hardship of early Greek immigrants, while shedding light on important chapters of American history.

We are grateful to Ms. Vivian Kallen of Arlington, Virginia, daughter of Mrs. Margaris, for entrusting NHM with the last copies of her mother’s valuable books and papers. These creative and historic treasures will be well-cared for, and handed down to future generations.

We also thank Dr. Elaine Thomopoulos, longstanding NHM supporter, for bringing these treasures to our attention, and thinking of NHM as the proper home for the books and archives of “the grand dame of Greek letters.”



## The Trial Of Antigone

On March 10, 2016, the legal “dream team” of Patrick Fitzgerald, Dan Webb, Patrick Collins and Bob Clifford will tackle another major historic case, that of Antigone. And, once again, you the audience, will cast your vote for guilt or innocence.

While the analogy between theatre viewers and judges or juries is not always made explicit, in classical Athens, the stage was often used as a forum for civic education, especially regarding the exercise of democratic citizenship.

Sophocles’ *Antigone* is one of those tragedies that puts the audience in the role of judge and jury. The questions are crucial, and after thousands of years, humans still seek definitive answers. On March 10, you will hear Antigone’s claims that her defiance of the law is rooted in its injustice; you will hear the King’s defense that disrespect for the law leads to anarchy and destruction.

You will be confronted with such questions as: What are the limits of the law? Are there universal principles that no human law is capable of overriding? And what is one to do with unjust laws often made by unwise leaders?

Thomas Jefferson is reported to have said, “If a law is unjust, a man is not only right to disobey it, he is obligated to do so.” In his “Letter from Birmingham Jail” Martin Luther King agrees. “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

As judge and jury, you will be asked to weigh the odds and find the golden mean; a balance between a world without Antigone and Martin Luther King, and a world without law.

Do not miss this third installment in a thought-provoking and dramatic trial series that tries not individuals, but tests some of humanity’s most profound ideas.

*Partner with us and consider a sponsorship. Your sponsorship makes it possible for NHM to present programs such as this Trial, that highlight the relevance of Greek classics, and provides you or your company with significant promotional opportunities, reaching 8,000 email subscribers, 70,000 website visitors, and more than 600 attendees. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [nationalhellenicmuseum.org](http://nationalhellenicmuseum.org).*

# Celebrating The Greeks Cultural Programs

Made possible by a generous donation from Grecian Delight Foods and the Parthenis Families.

Admission \$15, Members and Students \$10.

Tickets available at [nationalhellenicmuseum.org](http://nationalhellenicmuseum.org), by calling (312) 655-1234, or in our Museum store.

## ANTIQUITIES IN PERIL – HERITAGE AT RISK

February 18, 2016 at 6:30pm

The recent destruction of antiquities and archeological sites in the Middle East horrified the world; yet, such destruction is not without precedent. A panel of experts will discuss how we can protect our shared heritage by holding our own selves accountable and empowering others.

## DEMOCRACY & KNOWLEDGE: LESSONS FROM CLASSICAL ATHENS

April 10, 2016 at 2:30pm

When does democracy work well, and why? Is it the best form of government? Stanford University classicist and political scientist, Josiah Ober, will discuss how a reexamination of democracy's origins sheds light on its values and limitations in contemporary politics.

## THE WORLD'S OLDEST COMPUTER: THE ANTIKYTHERA MECHANISM

April 14, 2016 at 6:30pm

Dr. John Seiradakis, Radio Astronomer and Physics Professor at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, will discuss the analog computer from 205 BC that was designed to predict astronomical positions.

## ETHICS IN MEDICINE & SCIENCE: THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HIPPOCRATIC OATH

Date TBD

A discussion on the ethics of Hippocrates' "First, do no harm," and debate on whether this age-old oath has the breadth of principle to provide a framework for contemporary ethical dilemmas. Made possible by a generous donation from the Pantone Eye Center.



## An Award-Winning Exhibition

*The Street Is My Gallery* was recently named by the *Chicago Tribune* as one of Chicagoland's Top Ten Exhibitions Of 2015, sharing the honor with some of the nation's best museums, including The Field Museum, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Shedd Aquarium, and the Chicago History Museum.

In the article, museum critic Steve Johnson, called the exhibition a "vibrant, slice-of-life show," a "bold choice," and a "bright idea," which "demonstrated quick thinking and acting that are rare in the museum world and a willingness to tackle tough issues not typically seen in the staid world of ethnic heritage museums." Johnson further stated that all his "top exhibit picks were developed by the institutions themselves, testament to both talent and ambition in-house."

Developed and curated by Connie Mourtopoulas, NHM's President – Cultural Affairs, with graphic design by Anthony Munoz, the exhibition showcased the amazing art that has sprung up in Athens in response to the financial crisis in Greece, depicting and documenting the impact of the crisis on the lives and emotions of the Greek people.

*The Street Is My Gallery* ended in October, but staff are currently seeking additional locations for display around the country.



333 SOUTH HALSTED STREET  
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.



## HOST YOUR EVENT AT NHM

Whether it's a cocktail reception, a wedding, or a business meeting, the National Hellenic Museum provides elegant spaces with unparalleled views, quality, and comfort.

The Museum's signature Rooftop Terrace features a spectacular panoramic view of Chicago's iconic skyline. Inside the Museum, 5,300 square-feet of multi-purpose space can host intimate parties or large events, presentations, performances, lectures, and film screenings.

For more information, email [events@hellenicmuseum.org](mailto:events@hellenicmuseum.org) or call (312) 655-1234, ext. 22.