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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Give the gift of membership to the National Hellenic Museum**

*There's a membership level for everyone on your list*

**CHICAGO, IL** - A membership to the National Hellenic Museum is a gift that your friends and family will enjoy long after the holidays are over.

From our insightful exhibitions to our inspiring lecture series, there's no better place for children and adults to connect with Greek culture and Hellenic ideals. The National Hellenic Museum's special programming, exhibitions, and events offer a fresh, modern approach to presenting art, culture, politics, and economics from the Greek vantage point.

Our newest exhibition, *Aegean: Creation of an Archipelago*, explores the ways in which the Aegean Sea and its dazzling islands have been shaped by volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, tectonic shifts, and violent weather phenomena over 20 million years. Viewers can explore the tumultuous history and evolution of the beautiful sea and dazzling islands that were home to Sappho, Homer, Pythagoras, and Hippocrates and inspired fantastic mythical creatures, such as the Cyclops, Circe, and the Sirens.

As a member of the National Hellenic Museum, your recipient will enjoy free admission to all of the museum's exhibitions, discounts to programs and the store, pre-sale buying privileges to select events, and other exclusive benefits based on the level of membership selected.

Your support plays a vital role in our mission and will help sustain the museum for future generations.

Memberships start at \$30 for students and seniors. Family memberships cost as little as \$150. If they are already a member, considering upgrading their membership to Bronze, Silver, or Gold.

In addition, through April 10, 2016, all members of the National Hellenic Museum receive reciprocal admission to *The Greeks—Agamemnon to Alexander the Great*, a spectacular collection of artifacts, many of which have never been seen outside of Greece, that tell the rich and immersive story of the rise of a great civilization.

*The Greeks* was made possible by the generous support of the John Calamos, Sr. Foundation. “The values, philosophy, democracy, science and artistry of ancient Greeks can be directly translated to the language of America today,” says Calamos, chairman of the National Hellenic Museum’s Board of Trustees.

### **Upcoming Events:**

**Dec. 12: It’s a Greek Christmas Party:** Interactive theatre, singing, dancing, crafts, cookie-making, and pictures with Santa for the whole family.

**Dec. 19 – Jan. 3: Winter Break with The Greeks:** Weekend activities, exhibition tours and interactive storytelling for children ages 5 to 16.

**Dec. 19 and Jan. 2: Little Homer Story Hour:** A bilingual story time (Greek and English) where children ages 2 to 12 will act out a Greek myth and participate in a craft.

**Dec. and 29: Winter Family Days:** Docent-led tours of *Aegean: Creation of an Archipelago*, crafts, Greek dance lessons and cookie making demonstrations.

**Jan. 28: Greek Philosophers, Founding Fathers and American Law:** U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Richard Allen Posner discusses the influence of Greek philosophers.

**Feb. 18: Antiquities in Peril – Heritage at Risk:** A discussion of recent destruction of antiquities in the Middle East and how to protect historical heritage.

**March 10: The Trial of Antigone: Heroine or Enemy of the State?:** Some of the country’s most accomplished lawyers take on the case of Antigone, the Greek princess who defied the law and paid the ultimate price.

**April 10: Democracy and Knowledge: Lessons from Classical Athens:** Stanford University classicist and political scientist Josiah Ober offers a re-examination of

democracy's origins and how it limits contemporary politics by

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*Located in Chicago's Greektown, the sleek 40,000-square-foot National Hellenic Museum at 333. S. Halsted St. 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.*

For more information, visit <http://www.nationalhellenicmuseum.org> or call 312-655-1234.

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