



# NATIONAL HELLENIC FREE PRESS



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## FIELD MUSEUM AND NATIONAL HELLENIC MUSEUM MARK HIS- TORIC PARTNERSHIP

The Field Museum of Natural History and the National Hellenic Museum will co-present an extraordinary exhibition of Greek antiquities—*The Greeks: From Agamemnon to Alexander the Great*, coming to Chicago in November of 2015. This is the first time the two museums have co-presented a project of this magnitude. The museums decided to partner around the exhibition to take advantage of the unique attributes of each institution. Together, the museums will offer Chicagoans an unprecedented chance to experience both the exhibition and its links to the Greek-American experience.



*The Greeks* is the most comprehensive exhibition about Ancient Greece to tour North America in a generation. It will feature more than 500 outstanding artifacts from 22 Greek museums. The exhibition invites visitors on a journey through 5,000 years of Greek culture, from the Neolithic Era to the age of Alexander the Great. The artifacts — many of which have never been exhibited outside Greece — include the iconic bust of Alexander the Great from Pella, the impressive statues of Archaic-period Kouros, and golden jewelry from famous tombs. The exhibition is organized under the leadership of the

Canadian Museum of Civilization and the Hellenic Ministry of Culture. The first stop on the tour will be at Gatineau, Ontario, followed by the co-presentation in Chicago, and finally the National Geographic Museum in Washington, DC.

Both Museums are embarking on extensive preparation for the exhibition. The Field Museum will host *The Greeks*, while new permanent and temporary exhibits at NHM will complement the traveling exhibition, as will a variety of lectures, demonstrations, and other education programs linking the development of Greek civilization to its deep impact on the American way of life. NHM has an excellent reputation for making ancient history accessible to its audience including outstanding children's education program. Additionally, NHM and The Field plan to explore opportunities to display Greek artifacts from The Field Museum that have rarely – if ever – been on public display.

Both organizations are seeking funds to pay for the enterprise, with NHM Chair John Calamos leading local and national fundraising efforts in conjunction with The Field Museum. "This is a momentous opportunity for Greeks in America, for the city of Chicago, and for both museums. We are honored The Field Museum is joining with the National Hellenic Museum to make this possible. It is our hope and my belief, this amazing exhibition will remind people of the importance of Greek culture to this country and the world at a magnitude similar to the Tutankhamun exhibits of past decades."

The Field Museum was founded to house the anthropological and biological collections assembled for the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 while the National Hellenic Museum (NHM) was founded in 1983 as the only national museum in the United States dedicated to the display and celebration of the cultural contributions of Greeks and Greek-Americans. The Field Museum is an icon for the Chicago area, while the new NHM building (opened in 2011) is rapidly becoming a source of pride to the city and its prominent Greek American community.

### About the Museum

The National Hellenic Museum is America's only national institution to document and present the legacy of Greek Americans and their contributions to the American mosaic, while celebrating their rich Greek history and culture and the profound impact of their Hellenic heritage upon the world.

The Museum is located in a 40,000-square-foot, three-story, eco-friendly building which is home to interactive exhibits, children's education center, research library, oral history center, museum store, special events hall, and rooftop terrace.

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

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## "KORAES" CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS"



On Wednesday, December 20, 2013, Koraes Elementary School



came together to celebrate Christmas with a wonderful Nativity of Christ program. The students from third

ditional Orthodox hymns and Greek Christmas carols, the students sang as other students from prekindergarten, kindergarten, first, second, seventh and eighth grades



grade through sixth grade sang to the assembly full of parents, staff and students. Filling the auditorium with tra-

reenacted the Nativity of Jesus. It was a beautiful program full of merriment and good cheer. Parents and relatives packed the auditorium snapping photographs away as their children performed in the program. A group photograph of the entire student body, along with Fr. Byron Papanikolaou, Fr. Tom DeMedeiros and Principal Mary Zaharis was taken. Everyone was wished a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year at the program's end and everyone departed to enjoy the two-week Christmas break with their families.

## Coalition squeezes through votes on property tax, foreclosures

The coalition survived two crucial votes in Parliament on Sunday, with MPs passing a unified property tax and approving a partial lifting of restrictions on home foreclosures, but this came at a price as a New Democracy lawmaker was ousted from his parliamentary group for failing to back the legislation, thereby further eroding the government's majority. The property tax bill only received the support of 152 lawmakers as New Democracy deputy Vyron Polydoros voted against it and another MP, PASOK's Apostolos Kaklamanis, did not take part in the ballot. The latter reportedly missed the vote because of illness.

There was relief within the government that the property tax, crucial to the coalition's fiscal plans as it seeks to raise more than 2.5 billion euros next year, passed through Parliament. This was tempered by the fact that the coalition's ma-

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## NATIONAL HELLENIC FREE PRESS

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### THE PLATFORM OF THE GREEK PRESS

- 1.To applaud the achievements of our ethnic group
- 2.To support the ideas of the Hellenic-Christian tradition
- 3.To promote the preservation of the Greek language
- 4.To encourage all worthy Community causes
- 5 To assist all the Greek-American fraternal, cultural patriotic and religious organizations
- 6.To install Americanism in the Greek-American community
- 7.To advance the just causes of Hellenism.
8. To promote the ideals Greece has given to humanity.

## LAW OFFICE OF MARIYANNA SPYROPOULOS



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### *The 2013 “Capital Link Leadership Award” Presented to Mr. John Calamos, Chairman, CEO & Global Co-Chief Investment Officer of Calamos Investments At the 15th Annual Capital Link Greek Investor Forum Inaugural Dinner*

On Monday December 16, 2013, 15th Annual Capital Link Investor Forum opened its doors with an official dinner at The New York Yacht Club. During the dinner the 2013 “Capital Link Leadership Award” was presented to Mr. John Calamos, Chairman, CEO and Global Co-Chief Investment Officer of Calamos Investments.

HE Ambassador Christos Panagopoulos presented the Award to Mr. Calamos. , The Capital Link Leadership Award is annually presented to a person or an organization for outstanding contribution in fostering closer business ties between Greece and the global business and investment community. The 2012 Capital Link Leadership Award was presented to Mr. Andrew N. Liveris, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of The Dow Chemical Company or his leadership role as a Founder of the Hellenic Initiative.

Mr. John Calamos has contributed in many ways to improve Greece’s image and perception among the business and investment communities through private conversations and strategic meetings in the private and public sector coupled with repeated appearances, presentations and public statements in international conferences. Moreover, at the head of a \$28 billion investment group which commands recognition globally, he developed an active presence/role in Greece.

Mr. Panos Papazoglou, Country Managing Partner / CSE South Cluster Leader of Ernst & Young which was also the sponsor of the official dinner, made the welcome remarks. Mr. Papazoglou, noted and highlighted the significant progress and changes that have been achieved in the Greek economy after strenuous efforts of several years. He mentioned the significant challenges that need to be met not only in Greece but also in the Eurozone to accelerate the economic growth of the countries of Europe.

Mr. Nicolas Bornozis, President of Capital Link stated that U.S. investors exhibit greater interest in Greece, and that despite the significant challenges that remain, the belief is that the worst is behind us. He also stated the importance and contribution of personalities such as Mr. John Calamos, to improving Greece’s image as an investment destination.

Mr. John Calamos, during his speech noted: “I am humbled and honored to be recognized by an organization as respected as Capital Link, which has been instrumental in raising the profile of Greece within the global financial, business and investment communities. My own dedication to Greece is personal and heartfelt. I am the son of a Greek immigrant, and I attribute much of my success to the values instilled upon me by my parents, as well as to the teachings of the Greek philosophers. The Greek people have a long and proud history of innovation, creativity and determination; and together with the Greek government and Prime Minister Samaras, they are on a good path. Truly, the prospects are encouraging”

Business Executives, Government Leaders of Greece and the United States, as well as a group of distinguished Greek American businessmen were among the participants such as: Mr. Nicholas Lazares, Chairman & CEO - Admirals Bank, C. Dean Metropoulos, Chairman & CEO - Metropoulos & Company, Mr. George D. Behrakis, Chairman - Gainesborough Investments, Dr. Sotirios J. Vahaviolos, President & CEO - Mistras Group Inc., Mr. Aristotle P. Halikias, President- Inter Continental Real Estate & Development, Mr. John Koudounis, President & CEO Mizuho Securities USA and many more.

Ernst & Young was the sponsor of the official dinner.

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The CAPITAL LINK website: [www.capitallink.com](http://www.capitallink.com)

The CAPITAL LINK FORUM website: [www.capitallinkforum.com](http://www.capitallinkforum.com)

ABOUT CAPITAL LINK

With its headquarters in New York and presence in London, Athens and Oslo, Capital Link has been active since 1995 in the field of Investor Relations and Financial Communication. It also organizes annually in New York, London and Athens a series of Investment Forums focusing on its main activity fields ([www.capitallinkforum.com](http://www.capitallinkforum.com)).

### **Coalition squeezes through votes on property tax, foreclosure**

majority has been reduced to just three seats.

Polydoras’s ousting brings the coalition down to 153 lawmakers in the 300-seat Parliament. New Democracy has 126 deputies and PASOK 27.

The former public order minister had made it clear on Friday that he would not support the bill but his negative vote on Friday drew sharp criticism from New Democracy. “At a time when the government is successfully trying to get Greece out of the economic crisis, Mr Polydoras has consciously chosen to oppose these efforts and his party and to identify with the anti-Europeans, the populists, the supporters of the drachma and those who deny the national effort to save the country,” the conservative party said in a statement.

It was with this reduced majority (152 out of 293 lawmakers that voted in total) that the government also saw the new framework on home foreclosures pass through Parliament on Saturday evening.

Rather than providing a blanket ban on the repossession of homes with a taxable value of up to 200,000 euros if owners fail to keep up with mortgage payments, the new law introduces certain criteria based on household income. It also sets the maximum amount homeowners should pay to banks each month if they are in financial difficulties.

Finance Minister Yannis Stournaras and Development Minister Costis Hatzidakis had to make some last-minute adjustments to the legislation to ensure the support of government MPs after earlier complaints.



# Origins of Greek Vasilopita

Vasilopita3Vasilopita, as Greek tradition dictates, is cut by families on New Year’s Day to bless the house and bring good luck for the new year. This is usually done at midnight of New Year’s Eve

ransom was raised, the enemy was so embarrassed by the act of collective giving that he called off the siege without collecting payment. St. Basil was then tasked with returning the unpaid ransom,



in Greece. A coin is hidden in the bread by slipping it into the dough before baking. At midnight, the sign of the cross is etched with a knife across the cake.

A piece of cake is sliced for each member of the family and any visitors present at the time, by order of age from eldest to youngest. Slices are also cut for various symbolic people or groups, depending on local and family tradition. They may include the Lord, St. Basil and other saints or the poor, the household, etc. The variations of the recipes are countless.

### But where did this custom come from?

In popular tradition, vasilopita is associated with a legend of Saint Basil. According to one story, St. Basil called on the citizens of Caesarea to raise a ransom payment to stop the siege of the city. Each member of the city gave whatever they had in gold and jewelry. When the

but had no way to know which items belonged to which family.

So he baked all of the jewelry into loaves of bread and distributed the loaves to the city, and by a miracle (some believe that the miracle took place after the Divine intervention of Saint Mercurius, along with some angels), each citizen received their exact share, as the legend goes. In some variations of the story, the sieging chieftain is replaced with an evil emperor levying a tax, or simply with St. Basil attempting to give charity to the poor without embarrassing them.

There is also an alternative explanation about the origins of the vasilopita. This story connects both the western and the eastern celebrations to the ancient Greek Kronia, the festival of King Cronus, which involved selecting a “king” by lot and then the Roman Saturnalia.

## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT BEFORE YOU MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS:

- The American Red Cross President and CEO Marsha J. Evans’s salary for the year was \$651,957 plus expenses.
- MARCH OF DIMES It is called the March of Dimes because only a dime for every 1 dollar is given to the needy.
- The United Way President Brian Gallagher receives a \$375,000 base salary along with numerous expense benefits.
- UNICEF CEO Caryl M. Stern receives \$1,200,000 per year (100k per month) plus all expenses including a ROLLS ROYCE. Less than 5 cents of your donated dollar goes to the cause.
- GOODWILL CEO and owner Mark Curran profits \$2.3 million a year. Goodwill is a very catchy name for his business. You donate to his business and then he sells the items for PROFIT. He pays nothing for his products and pays his workers minimum wage! Nice Guy. \$0.00 goes to help anyone! Stop giving to this man.
- Instead, give it to ANY OF THE FOLLOWING
- GO “GREEN” AND PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE IT WILL DO SOME GOOD:
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  - The Disabled American Veterans National Commander receives a \$0.00 zero salary. Your donations go to help Veterans and their families and youth!
  - The Military Order of Purple Hearts National Commander receives a \$0.00 zero salary. Your donations go to help Veterans and their families and youth!
  - The Vietnam Veterans Association National Commander receives a \$0.00 zero salary. Your donations go to help Veterans and their families and youth!
  - Make a Wish: For children’s last wishes.100% goes to funding trips or special wishes for a dying child.
  - St. Jude Research Hospital 100% goes towards funding and helping Children with Cancer who have no insurance and cannot afford to pay.
  - Ronald McDonald Houses All monies go to running the houses for parents who have critical Children in the hospital.100% goes to housing, and feeding the families.
  - Lions Club International 100% OF DONATIONS GO TO HELP THE BLIND,BUY HEARING AIDES, SUPPORT MEDICAL MISSIONS AROUND THE WORLD. THEIR LATEST UNDERTAKING IS MEASLES VACCINATIONS (ONLY \$1.00 PER SHOT).





\_\_\_\_\_ *Winter* \_\_\_\_\_

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Την Παρασκευή 14 Φεβρουαρίου, ημέρα του Αγίου Βαλεντίνου στο Chateau Ritz θα απολαύσουμε τον Μάκη Χριστοδουλόπουλο και την Ελεάνα Παπαϊωάννου μαζί με τον Παναγιώτη Πλακιά στο Κλαρίνο τον Θεοδόση Καμπουρίδη στο Μποτζούκι και εξαμελή ορχήστρα από την Ελλάδα.

Η Βούλα Θεοδώρου, γνωστή για την αφογή οργάνωση καλλιτεχνικών εκδηλώσεων στην Περιχή μας, θα προσφέρει επιπρόσθετα μεζέδες που θα συμπεριληφθούν μέσα στην τιμή του εισιτηρίου (τιμές \$85.00 και \$125.00), Cash Bar με εξαιρετικά κρασιά Μπουτάρι, Νάουσα, Μοσχοφίλερο).

Οι πόρτες ανοίγουν στις 8:30 μ.μ. Το σερβίρισμα των μεζέδων από τις 9:00-11:00 μ.μ.

Για πληροφορίες και κρατήσεις θέσεων τηλεφωνήστε στην Βούλα Θεοδώρου στο 312) 888 6950.



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# “It’s a Greek Christmas.”at the Museum

On December 15, 2013 the National Hellenic Museum held its annual holiday party: “It’s a Greek Christmas.” The event was a huge success, and



over 450 children and adults attended. Families participated in activities, which included: craft stations, a Santa photo station, Christmas carols and



dance performances by the Museum’s language students, and the Dionysos Dance Troupe. Children learned all about and crafted Kalikantzaroi, Greek Christmas goblins; they also crafted Karavakia, small boats that Greek people tradition-

ally decorate with lights for Christmas. Children also had a fun time decorating pine cone Christmas trees and Christopsomo bread (or “Christ bread”).



During the festivities, the fifty children that attend the Museum’s new Modern Greek Language and Culture Classes also performed for the audience. The youngest children, ages three to four, sang a very spirited “Jingle Bells” in Greek. Students who are primarily five to six years old sang “Little Drummer Boy.” Students that range in age from seven to ten sang the traditional Greek Christmas Kalanta (carols) followed by a Hasapozerviko Greek dance. Students ages thirteen to seventeen were awarded for their efforts in the Greek Consulate’s “Agrafon” Essay contest by the Museum President, Connie Mourtoupalas. Also awarded, were the winners of the Museum’s Christmas Card Contest, which challenged students to creatively decorate a Christmas card. The first-prize winner had their card sent out as the Museum’s Christmas card, and it reached thousands of Greek people throughout the United States.

“It’s a Greek Christmas” at the National Hellenic Museum was a wonderful party filled with laughter and excitement, and the Museum is proud to celebrate vibrant Christmas traditions with its community.

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NEWS FROM GREECE

Billions lost due to slow pace on financial scandals

The failure to finalize and legislate proposals that would allow Greeks suspected of financial misconduct to return money to the state and receive lighter sentences is preventing the government from collecting as much as 2.5 billion euros, judicial sources told Kathimerini.

The government has been sitting for a number of months on plans to allow those facing charges for a series of offenses, including tax evasion and money laundering, to return the money concerned and face a maximum jail sentence of two years.

Justice Minister Haralambos Athanasiou is hoping to put these proposals into action but the failure to do so until now means that the state is missing out on substantial revenues.

The government also wants to pass legislation that would allow authorities to immediately liquidate the assets of people arrested in connection with financial offenses.

At the moment, the law only allows the assets to be seized, pending trial. It is only once the legal process, which can take several years, has been completed and the suspect convicted that the assets can be liquidated.

For instance, the state has currently frozen 240 million euros' worth of assets be-

longing to private energy companies Energa and Hellas Power but cannot use this money until their executives are convicted, even after appeal, of having defrauded the government by failing to pass over property taxes they collected via electricity bills.

President's office refutes media report of row with PM

President Karolos Papoulias's press office took the unusual step on Saturday of issuing a statement denying a story that appeared in the Parapolitika weekly.

The article alleged that Papoulias and Prime Minister Antonis Samaras had a big row over a range of issues, including the use of presidential decrees to pass laws and the candidacy of the next president of the republic.

Papoulias's press office said that the report was entirely false.

Cypriot economy is still subject to risks, says Lagarde

IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde said Cyprus has done

a good job of sticking with the program of reforms, stabilizing its financial sector and meeting budget-cutting targets.

She was speaking just after the International Monetary Fund approved the release of the next installment of bailout aid, amounting to \$114 million (83.3 million euros) to the island's troubled economy on Friday.

But Lagarde called on the Cypriot government to speed up the privatization process. "While macroeconomic outcomes have been somewhat better than expected, the economic situation and outlook remain difficult and subject to significant risks," she said in a statement. "Full and timely implementation of the adjustment program, as well as broad public support, is therefore crucial to restore confidence and growth."

The IMF's board said it had also approved Cyprus's request to modify some performance criteria for the end of December, without specifying further, according to the IMF statement on Friday.

New suspect called over defense contracts

Anti-corruption magistrates on Friday summoned an 83-year-old man who worked as a representative of arms firms to give evidence in connection to claims of bribery made by former Defense Min-

istry official Antonis Kantas.

The pensioner faces charges of bribing public officials and laundering money. He was named during several days of testimony given by Kantas before Christmas. The suspect is expected to face questioning after New Year's Day. According to judicial sources, the 83-year-old's lawyer said his client is willing to cooperate with magistrates Gavriil Mallis and Yiannis



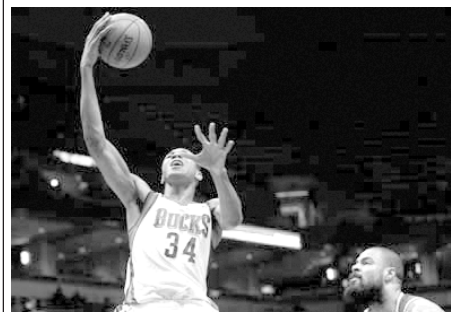
Stavropoulos.

Kantas, deputy head of procurements at the ministry between 1996 and 2002, told the judges how he managed to stash away some 16 million euros in bribes. He identified the deals for which he received under-the-table payments and named the local representative of German companies Rheinmetall and Atlas Elektronik as one of the men that bribed him.

Responding to a question from Kathimerini and German newspaper Sueddeutsche Zeitung, Rheinmetall acknowledged bribes had been paid to Greek officials but said this took place "many years ago."

Kathimerini understands that the firm's representative in Greece closed his office at the end of August and left for Germany, where he informed a prosecutor in the city of Bremen that the company had given kickbacks to Greek officials to secure defense contracts.

Antetokounmpo scores first double-double in the NBA



They came to Brooklyn to win a championship, but right now the trio of guards Paul Pierce and Jason Terry and forward Kevin Garnett, who came from Boston in a blockbuster, are just happy to end a losing streak in the NBA.

The veterans did just that Friday night, each scoring in double figures for the first time this season to help lead the Nets to a 104-93 win over the Milwaukee Bucks at the Barclays Center on Friday night.

However a bright spot for Milwaukee, which is on a 6-23 record so far this year, was the play of rookie swingman Giannis Antetokounmpo.

The 19-year-old from Greece scored a team-high 16 points and grabbed 10 rebounds for his first career double-double in his fifth start.

Head of children's hospital testifies as evidence mounts

The head of a children's hospital in Athens arrested on Christmas Eve on suspicion of demanding a 25,000-euro bribe from a supplier will face a magistrate on Saturday evening after he was given extra time to prepare his defense. He is facing charges of blackmail and bribe taking. A 40-year-old alleged accomplice will also testify Saturday. Meanwhile, after being ousted from the ruling New Democracy party, Haris Tomboulglou was on Friday booted from the chair of the Aglaia Kyriakou hospital's board of directors. Earlier, the 55-year-old was also fired from National Bank, where he had worked since 1978.



GREEK ISLANDS

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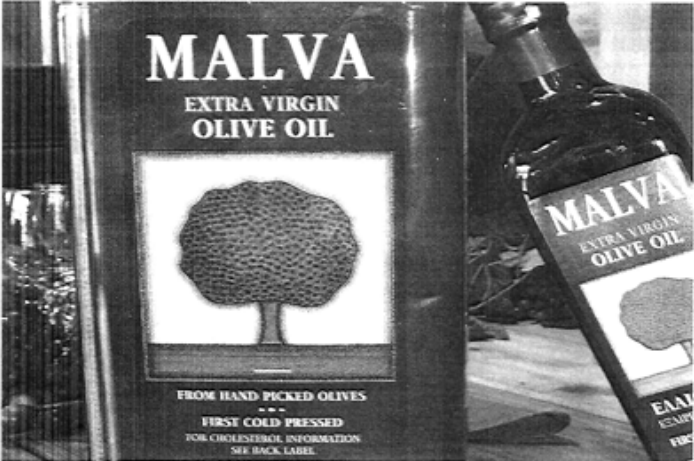
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## The National Hellenic Museum returns with another classic re-trial – The Charge: Matricide

CHICAGO, IL – To follow the tremendous success of the National Hellenic Museum's Trial of Socrates in early 2013, the same all-star judicial team takes on another definitive case, the Trial of Orestes, son of Agamemnon, of the cursed House of Atreus. The Trial of Orestes will take place at the UIC Forum – 725 West Roosevelt Road, Chicago, IL 60607 on Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014 from 6 to 9pm. Reception immediately follows the trial. Tickets available through [TicketMaster](#): \$100 for one invitation to the Trial of Orestes, \$50 for one student invitation to the Trial of Orestes (must present valid Student ID). Share on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @HellenicMuseum #TrialOfOrestes.

Judge Honorable Richard A. Posner, Presiding Judge, Honorable Charles P. Kocoras, and Honorable William J. Bauer, and a jury of twelve distinguished citizens of Chicago, will decide the validity of these charges. Orestes will be defended by Dan K. Webb (Winston & Strawn) and Robert A. Clifford (Clifford Law Offices). Counsel for the prosecution will be Patrick J. Fitzgerald (Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP) and Patrick M. Collins (Perkins Coie).

The Oresteia, by Greek playwright Aeschylus (525-456 BC), is a foundational literary work that examines the crucial place of law in society. Consisting of Agamemnon, The Libation Bearers, and The Eumenides, the trilogy constitutes a deeply affecting study of crime and punishment, probing such irresolvable and vexatious issues as the nature of justice, the frequent conflicts between love and duty, the torments of moral decision making, our obligations to the gods, society, and ourselves, and the spiritual consequences of irremediable actions. Above all, the Oresteia shows us the burdens of a culture based on the lex talionis—an eye for an eye—and the blessings of a jury trial in a court of law.

### Sponsorship Opportunities

Sponsorship packages include: \$25,000 Athenian Circle: six invitations to the Trial of Orestes, two page acknowledgement in the program book, prominent logo on all promotional materials, PR, social media and the Museum's website, private tour of the American Moments Exhibition, four individual museum memberships. \$10,000 Agora Circle: four invitations to the Trial of Orestes, full page acknowledgement in the program book, prominent logo placement on the Museum website and on social media, four individual annual Museum memberships. \$5,000 Citizen's Circle: two invitations to the Trial of Orestes, half page acknowledgement in the program book, logo placement on the Museum website and on social media. \$1,500 Friends Circle: two invitations to the Trial of Orestes, one quarter page acknowledgement in the program book and on the Museum's website. To find out more sponsorship information, contact Renee Pappas at [rpappas@hellenicmuseum.org](mailto:rpappas@hellenicmuseum.org).

### About the 2013 Trial of Socrates

On Thursday, January 31, 2013, the National Hellenic Museum hosted the widely successful (re)Trial of Socrates at the Palmer House Hilton Hotel with over 900 people who attended the sold out public program. The trial found Socrates "guilty" of religious and non-conformity and corrupting the youth. Due to maximum capacity at the Palmer House, the Museum had to turn away people at the door. The Museum anticipates the same success at the Trial of Orestes which will be hosted in a larger venue, the UIC Forum. Watch the [highlights of the 2013 Trial of Socrates](#). The Trial of Socrates DVD will be available for purchase at the Trial of Orestes event.

"Once in a life time opportunity..." – Global News Wire

"Chicago's top attorneys plan to spend their time arguing a 2,400-year-old free speech case" – Business Insider, Australia

"...one of the biggest freedom of speech cases of all times." – Reuters

### About the Museum

The National Hellenic Museum is America's only national institution to document and present the legacy of Greek Americans and their contributions to the American mosaic, while celebrating their rich Greek history and culture and the profound impact of their Hellenic heritage upon the world.

The Museum is located in a 40,000-square-foot, three-story, eco-friendly building which is home to interactive exhibits, children's education center, research library, oral history center, museum store, special events hall, and rooftop terrace.

For more information, visit <http://www.nationalhellenicmuseum.org> or call 312-655-1234. Follow NHM on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!



Of all the places of our beautiful planet few can rival the beauty and richness of colors in the Bahamas. In this photo, our ship is seen against the backdrop of the Bahamas.

## ...AND THEN IT IS WINTER



You know ... time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years. It seems just yesterday that I was young, just having kids, and embarking on my new life with my degree and my mate. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went. I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dream.

But, here it is... the back nine of my life and it catches me by surprise ... How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go?

I remember well seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me and that I was only on the first hole and the back nine was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like.

But, here it is ... my friends are retired and getting gray ... they move slower and I see an older person now. Some are in better and some worse shape than me ... but, I see the great change ... Not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant ... but, like me, their age is beginning to show and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd become.

Each day now, I find that just taking a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore ... it's mandatory! Because if I don't on my own free will ... I may just fall asleep where I sit!

And so ... now I enter into this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done ... and never did !!! But, at least I know, that though I'm on the back nine, and I'm not sure how long it will last ... 2 or 3, or 15 or 20 years ? ... this I do know, that when it's over on this earth...it's over. Does a new adventure begin? I really don't know. Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done, things I should have done ... but there are many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime.

If you're not on the back nine yet ... let me remind you, that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life, please do it quickly! Don't put things off too long!! Life goes by quickly. Do what you can today, as you can never be sure whether you're on the back nine or not!

You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life ... so, live for today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember ... and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the years past !!!

"Life" is a gift. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. Make it a fantastic one. LIVE IT WELL! ENJOY TODAY! DO SOMETHING FUN! BE HAPPY ! HAVE A GREAT DAY Remember "It is health that is real wealth and not those pieces of gold and silver. LIVE HAPPY IN 2014!

### FINALLY, CONSIDER THIS:

~Your kids are becoming you ... but your grandchildren are perfect ... so far !

~Going out is good ... coming home is better!

~You forget names ... but it's OK because some people forgot they even knew you !!!

~You realize you're never going to be really good at anything like golf.

~The things you used to care to do, you are not as interesting anymore, but you really do care that you aren't as interested.

~You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV 'ON' than in bed. It's called "pre-sleep".

~You miss the days when everything worked with just an "ON" and "OFF" switch.

~You tend to use more 4 letter words ... "what?"..."when?"... ???

~You notice everything they sell in stores is "sleeveless" !!!

~What used to be freckles are now liver spots.

~Everybody whispers !!! ... you have come to expect that people will repeat what they just said to you.

~You have 3 sizes of clothes in your closet ... 2 of which you will never wear again.

... But Old is good in some things: Old Songs, Old movies, and best of all, OLD FRIENDS!!

TODAY IS THE OLDEST YOU'VE EVER BEEN, YET THE YOUNGEST YOU'LL EVER BE, SO ENJOY THIS DAY WHILE IT LASTS.



The Greek labor market expanded by almost 20,000 salaried jobs in December, Labor Ministry data showed on Monday, with minister Yiannis Vrontsis expressing optimism that unemployment will start contracting within 2014.