

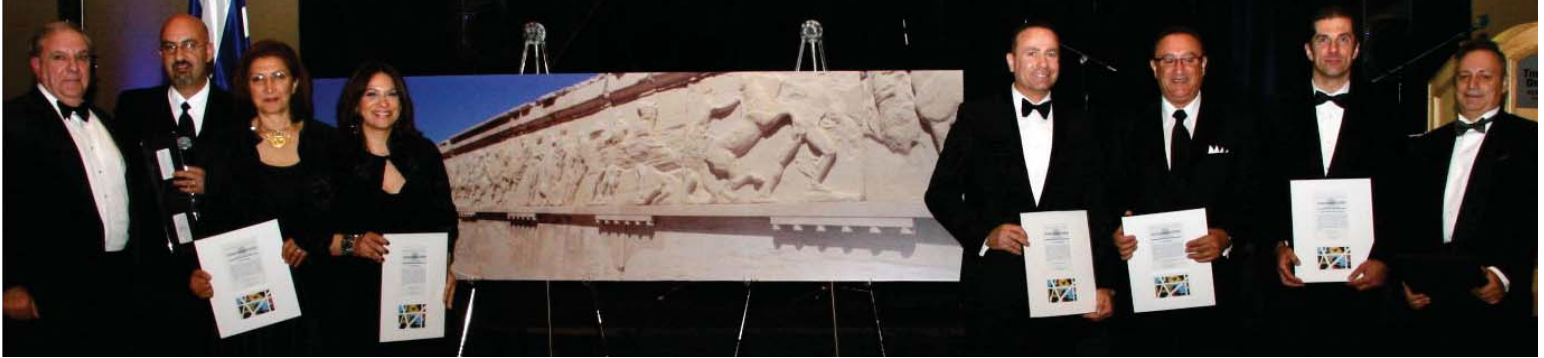
# THE PARTHENON SCULPTURES

NEWSLETTER NO. 10

THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR THE  
REUNIFICATION OF THE PARTHENON SCULPTURES

APRIL 2010

## AN EVENING TO REMEMBER



Distinguished guests and award recipients surround an 8-foot photograph of the Parthenon's Western Frieze taken by Peter Yalanis.

On February 27, 2010, the American Committee for the Reunification of the Parthenon Sculptures and the Embassy of Greece co-hosted a Black-Tie Gala Fundraiser at the Westin Diplomat Resort in Hollywood, Florida, in support of the upcoming Museum Exhibition: "All Sides of the Parthenon." More than 250 guests from across the United States and Canada attended the extraordinary evening that featured a glamorous reception, video presentations on Greece's famed monument, sensational culinary presentations, international entertainment, and a performing mural artist who completed a Parthenon triptych that was included in the evening's silent auction.

The evening's keynote speakers included Greek Consul General Antonios Sgouropoulos; Dr. Zoe Kosmidou, Minister of Cultural Affairs for the Embassy of Greece; and Michael J. Reppas II, Esq., President of the American Committee. Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening was Eleni Daniels, program host of New York's Cosmos Radio. The Gala underscored the American Committee's efforts to educate the American public on the compelling need to protect, preserve and repatriate looted cultural property to its country of origin -- most particularly, to effect the return of the Parthenon Sculptures from London to Athens.

Proceeds from the evening will go towards the production of "All Sides of the Parthenon, A Touring Exhibition," that will make its debut at the Coral Springs Museum of Art, Coral Springs, Florida on May 7, 2010. The exhibit will feature 50 never before seen panoramas and photographs (some up to 12 ft in length) by Peter Yalanis, taken from

within and above the Parthenon; four certified, life-size replicas of Parthenon frieze sections, courtesy of the New Acropolis Museum; artifacts from the Golden Age of Greece, provided by Greece's Ministry of Culture; and lectures by guest scholars and educators.

The American Committee wishes to extend a special thank you to the following corporate sponsors of the Gala: Carnival Cruise Lines; Olympus Marine, Inc.; Broward Shipyard; Miami Divers; Valsamis, Inc.; Scanship Americas; Navalimpianti; PPG, Corp.; Rolls Royce Marine; API USA, Inc.; MSC, Inc.; Jotun Paints; Kingsom, Corp.; Harbor Marine Systems; Petrecci Inc./Ellevi SRL; and the Law Offices of Michael J. Reppas, PA.

## FUTURE EVENTS

Grand opening on May 7th, 2010 of ALL SIDES OF THE PARTHENON, A TOURING EXHIBITION at the Coral Springs Museum of Art, Coral Springs, FL. Please make plans to view the exhibit during your next visit to that area.

OLOI MAZI GIA TA MARMARA (All Together for the Marbles) -- a gala evening in Chicago, co-hosted by the American Committee for the Reunification of the Parthenon Sculptures and numerous Hellenic, Church and civic organizations of the city. Date to be determined. For information, contact Penny Pitsilos at (708) 870-1963. Please visit also our upgraded webpage for the latest developments and information on this and other future events: [www.parthenonsculpturesusa.org](http://www.parthenonsculpturesusa.org)

# VIEWS FROM THE GALA



Eleni Daniels and Kostas Vaxavaneris



Michael and Anastasia Reppas



Gabriela Barbu and Peter Villiotis



T'Asteria Dancers of St. George Greek Orthodox Church



The Alex Fox Trio



View of the Silent Auction



Mr. and Mrs. Aleco Haralambides



Committee Vice-President  
Dennis Menos



Andreas Leontsinis, Auction Winner Gabriela Barbu and Mural Artist Robert Schaefer

## SCANNING THE INTERNATIONAL MEDIA

Eileen Battersby in the *Irish Times*, December 21, 2009

...”No one country, it seems, can expect to keep either its archaeology or its art in *situ*. Classical pieces are likely to be found in Berlin, London, or Boston as they are in Athens or Rome. However, it makes little sense to have about half of the Parthenon frieze in Athens and most of the rest in the British Museum, which acquired it after Lord Elgin had removed it from Athens in 1801 (and who kept the Marbles in his own house for a while)”....

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/features/2009/1221/1224261041324.html>

Daniel Korski, “Why we should give the Elgin Marbles back to Greece” in the *U.K. SPECTATOR*, March 4, 2010

...”Here is my humble suggestion: we give back the Elgin Marbles. Nothing would boost Papandreou’s popularity more than if the marbles were brought home under his premiership....There was never an open and shut case for the marbles to be returned and there was no open and shut case for them staying in London. It was always a question of political calculation. Now, the balance tilts towards handing Elgin’s loot back”....

<http://www.spectator.co.uk/coffeehouse/why-we-should-give-the-elgin-marbles-back.html>

## TWO TIMELY QUOTES

By our friend and colleague, Professor Anthony Snodgrass, Chairman of the British Committee for the Reunification of the Parthenon Sculptures:

...”The reunification of the Marbles is an issue that no longer has anything to do with money and not much with past history....The core of the issue is simply this: the Marbles are a supreme work of art that is split into two halves. The pieces actually join up. They should be seen together and today we have the first chance in a couple of thousand years to bring that about.”

By Dimitrios Pandermalis, President of the New Acropolis Museum, as quoted on January 24, 2010 in the *Los Angeles Times*.

...”We do not demand the return of every antiquity to the country of origin. For this one monument that is so important for the cultural history of the world, we have to find the solution to reunify all the original fragments. When you have the head of a statue, but the body is 4,000 miles away, it’s a problem.”

## SPOTLIGHT ON THE WORLD’S MUSEUMS

### BERLIN’S NEUES MUSEUM REFUSES TO YIELD

Egypt’s crusade to recover from the Neues Museum in Berlin the 3,300-year old bust of Queen Nefertiti has fallen on deaf ears. This, despite the fact that Egypt holds indisputable proof that the famed artifact was removed from its territory under deceptive circumstances. In a response, reminiscent of the British Museum’s stance on the Parthenon Sculptures, the Director of the Berlin Museum declared: “The acquisition of the bust by the Prussian state was legal.” Case closed, as far as Berlin Museum is concerned, but not Egypt.

### IRAN CUTS TIES WITH THE BRITISH MUSEUM

Relations between the British Museum and the Iran National Museum are strained, to say the least, over the British Museum’s failure to live up to its promise to loan Iran the Cyrus Cylinder. Under an agreement negotiated in January 2009, the 2,500-year old treasure (considered to be the world’s first declaration of human rights) was to have been provided on loan to Iran by February 7, 2010. For reasons that were politically motivated, claims Iran, its delivery was put off. The delay provoked the anger of its officials who announced an end to relations between the two museums.

### RECORD BREAKING ATTENDANCE AT THE NEW ACROPOLIS MUSEUM

Opened in June 2009, the New Acropolis Museum continues to be one of the most popular attractions of Greece. In October, it welcomed its millionth visitor and continues to pack them in at the rate of 10,000 a day.

### THE BRITISH MUSEUM AND THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD

The British Museum, in cooperation with the British Broadcasting Corporation, recently launched a program designed to tell the history of the world by means of 100 objects on display in the museum. The program, the latest effort by the British Museum’s director Neil MacGregor to reaffirm the British Museum’s view of itself as a ‘universal museum,’ has serious drawbacks. For one, it is counter to the widely prevailing view that the world’s museums should disinvest themselves of cultural objects illegitimately acquired. The program is also a reminder of British colonialism which resulted in the British Museum holding many of the 100 objects.

# UPDATE ON THE ACROPOLIS RESTORATION AND CONSERVATION PROGRAM

The program reached a major milestone in December 2009 when work was completed on the restoration of the Propylaea, the monumental gateway to the Acropolis. During the course of the nine-year effort, the roof of the ancient building was lengthened and 255 blocks of marble were taken down to remove from them rusting metal clamps that had been used by earlier restorers. Elsewhere on the Acropolis, work to restore the north colonnade of the Parthenon is due to be completed early this year, while the rebuilding of the temple Athena Nike is scheduled for completion this summer.

## FRIENDLY REMINDERS TO MEMBERS

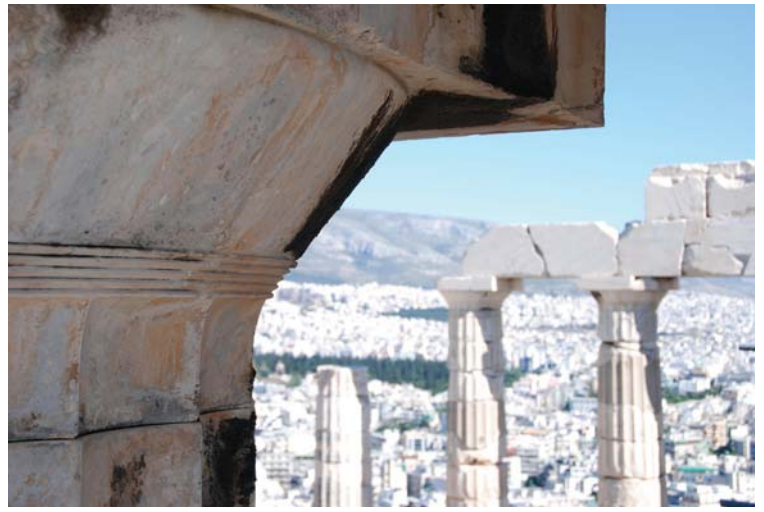
Please renew your membership for the year 2010 by forwarding payment to ACRPS, Inc. at 7850 N.W. 146th Street, Suite 501, Miami Lakes, FL 33016, Att: Andreas Leontsinis, Treasurer. New members are welcome! Forms for joining our Committee are available in our webpage, [www.parthenonsculpturesusa.org](http://www.parthenonsculpturesusa.org)

Volunteers are needed to take the lead in establishing Parthenon Committees in major U.S. metropolitan centers, to recruit supporters and organize events. Please contact Lefteris Karmiris, ACRPS, Inc. Secretary at (301) 229-9389 or by E-Mail at [Lefteris.Karmiris@verizon.net](mailto:Lefteris.Karmiris@verizon.net)

The American Committee for the Reunification of the Parthenon Sculptures, Inc. (ACRPS) is the only IRS recognized Not-For-Profit organization in the United States, formed expressly to educate the American public about Greece's most acclaimed Parthenon sculptures now in London and to demand their return to Athens. Contributions to ACRPS and its membership fees are considered by the IRS as charitable contributions and are fully deductible.

Your financial help is urgently needed to produce and mail publicity materials, provide for essential travel, and for administrative expenses promoting our cause, Contributions may be made on line at [www.parthenonsculpturesusa.org](http://www.parthenonsculpturesusa.org) or by mail to Andreas Leontsinis, ACRPS, Inc. Treasurer, at 7850 N.W. 146th Street, Suite 501, Miami Lakes, FL 33016.

**The Parthenon Sculptures** is the official Newsletter of the American Committee for the Reunification of the Parthenon Sculptures, Inc (ACRPS). Dennis Menos at [DMenos@msn.com](mailto:DMenos@msn.com) is editor; design and layout are by Cimon Psira at [ameragreek@verizon.net](mailto:ameragreek@verizon.net)



**WE ASK LONDON, "WHY NOT?"**