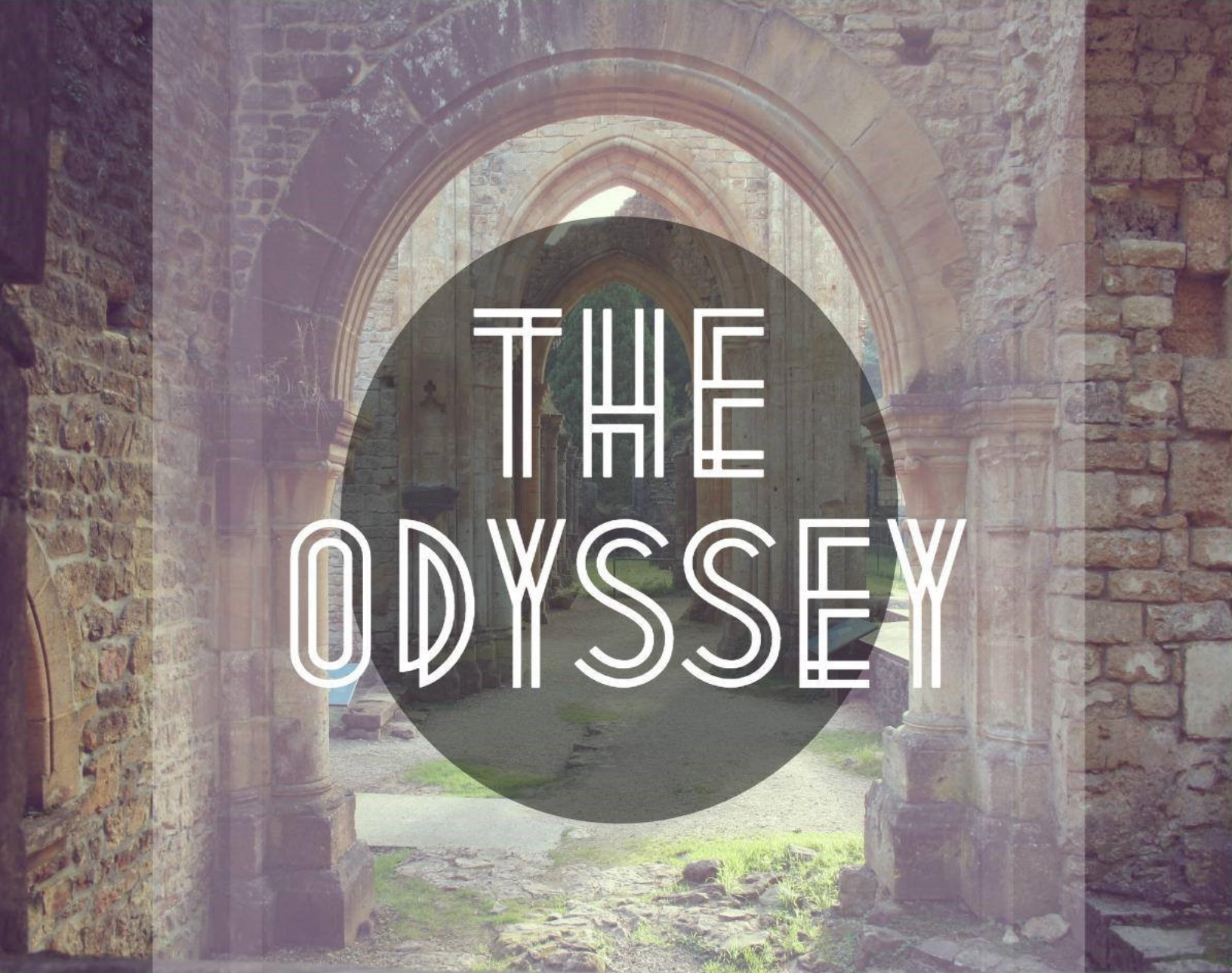


NATIONAL JUNIOR
CLASSICAL LEAGUE

A photograph of a stone archway in a ruined building, with a circular overlay containing the text 'THE ODYSSEY'. The archway is made of large, weathered stone blocks and leads to a courtyard with a path and some greenery. The text is in a white, stylized, outlined font.

THE
ODYSSEY

NATIONAL
CLASSICS WEEK
2016



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NCW 2016: OPENING LETTER



Dear NJCL State Chairs, Sponsors, State and Local Officers, and JCLers:

Salvēte omnes! It's that time of year again—the beginning of spring (hopefully) and the arrival of National Classics Week! For those unfamiliar, National Classics Week is a yearly event—sponsored by the National Classical League—designed to promote Greco-Roman culture and spread appreciation and awareness of the Classics. The celebratory event centers on the traditional birthdate of Rome, April 21, and offers the opportunity to connect with the civilizations of Greece and Rome through a number of service and publicity related activities.

This year, we have designed National Classics Week with a mythological theme in mind. Each day represents a step of Odysseus' famous journey—from the invocation to his homecoming in Ithaca. In this packet, you will find descriptions of the daily themes and several suggestions of ways to incorporate the themes into the celebrations you plan with your students or classmates. Additionally, a poster has been created for each individual day to hang up in your classroom or around campus.

The choice of *The Odyssey*, seemingly a tale of one man's journey against all odds, appears a bit ironic given this year's convention theme—“*ubi concordia, ibi victoria*”—but there is always more to the story. From Nausicaa to Eumaeus, the voyage grows to encompass more than merely “the man of many wiles” and by the end we learn that, despite adversities, there will always be someone to guide the way. In a sense, it mirrors the founding of Rome—originally only a small city (composed primarily of vagabonds), it grew to the seven hills and, soon enough, much of the known world. We hope that you will use this handbook to make this year's National Classics Week particularly memorable.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please feel free to contact us. We wish you a delightful National Classical Week and the best of luck with your festivities! We hope that you will continue carrying on the torch of classical civilization in the modern world.

Bonam fortunam,

Brier Clough
NJCL President
president@njcl.org

Michael Kearney
NJCL 1st Vice President
vp1@njcl.org

Hanna Seariac
NJCL 2nd Vice President
vp2@njcl.org



SOCIAL MEDIA



When posting, use the hashtags: #NationalClassicsWeek
#NCW #JCL #TheOdyssey #LatinLives #GetWithGreek

Find and follow us:

Twitter: @NationalJCL

Facebook: National Junior Classical League

Instagram: @nationaljcl

**“MUSE,
TELL ME
OF THE MAN
OF MANY
WILES...”**

**THE INVOCATION,
HOMER’S ODYSSEY**

National Classics Week 2016

PREPARATION FOR NATIONAL CLASSICS WEEK

The Invocation began the story and journey of the *The Odyssey*—prefacing all the events that were to come. Take the opportunity to prepare for National Classics Week by planning your activities and outreach.

In early March, send out proclamation requests to your local and state governments—make sure to check out the Proclamation Acquisition Assistance Packet, found on the NJCL Website as well as NJCL Social Media. In addition, set up volunteer events and finalize publicity outreach now.

- Create posters and other promotional materials to attract new members and share your passion for the classics.
- Write a letter to the editor explaining National Classics Week and the benefits of Classical studies.
- Publicize any proclamations you have already received—invite a local official to attend the festivities.

In the week preceding the event, add the finishing touches to press releases and send them out (remember not to do so too early or risk falling through the cracks). Also, hang up the graphics from this packet to extend the festivities of this week to those outside the JCL. Then, kick back and relax—the fun is about to begin!

APRIL 18, 2016

— national —
CLASSICS
— week —




The Lotus-Eaters

After a brief interlude with the Cicones (the first stop on the voyage from Troy), Odysseus' crew sails through a fully nine day storm and arrives to the Land of the Lotus Eaters. Upon disembarking, Odysseus' men are offered fruit and fall victim to its intoxicating effects—forgetting entirely about home and hearth. They refuse to leave and Odysseus is forced to drag them back to the ship by force—headed, as we soon enough learn, for the land of the Cyclopes.

Although we may not recognize it, modern-day “Lotus Flowers” exist all around us. Ironically often forgotten, certain diseases, such as Alzheimer’s, dementia, and amnesia can lead to the loss of memory over time and are heart-breaking for all involved.

PUBLICITY

First, educate yourself about these three conditions and their implications. Then, strive to make a difference in the community around you—raise awareness through flyers and social media. Get your entire Latin club involved and try to get the topic trending.

One of the most important things to overcome in the fight with mental health diseases is the *stigma*. Challenge yourself to see the person, not the illness—striving to listen, understand, and hear the real story.

SERVICE

Look not only to raise awareness, but also how you can help those who are suffering around you. Learn to take charge—host an event for all the people who are too often forgotten.

In addition, art and music have been proven as effective methods of therapy for memory loss. Make use of your Graphic Arts skills and create projects to brighten the lives of someone in need. You can also go visit a nursing home and perhaps play music.

POLYPHEMUS

In a well-known episode of the epic, Odysseus and his men reach Sicily, unaware of monstrous dangers. Discovering Polyphemus's cave containing food and drink, they tarry and are trapped by his homecoming. As Polyphemus devours his men, clever Odysseus hardens wood in the fire and gets Polyphemus drunk. Drunken Polyphemus asks Odysseus' name, to which he replies "Outis"—Nobody.



Polyphemus soon passes out and Odysseus blinds him by piercing his eye with hardened wood. The men escape by clinging to sheep's undercarriages. While departing, Odysseus cries his name to Polyphemus—causing his father Poseidon to curse Odysseus's journey.

APRIL 19, 2016
— *national* —
CLASSICS
— *week* —


“NOBODY” KNOWS ABOUT THE CLASSICS

When Polyphemus asked Odysseus what his name was, he replied “Οὐτις,” or “nobody.” Today, make aware those who are unfamiliar with the Classics.

- Call (or email) the office of a prominent figure, such as the mayor or your local representative and explain the importance of Classics in the modern world.
- Invite a Classics Professor to give a mini lecture on a specific aspect of Roman or Greek culture and publicize it to the entire community.
- Ask an icon who studied Classics to write an article about the importance of Classical study —then post it on either a website or in a newsletter.
- Show how supportive and powerful the Classics and the JCL are—organize an outing to a local business or event and talk to the organizers/owners about the importance of Classics!
- Visit a nursing home and sing Latin and Greek songs— or just talk to residents about their experiences with the Classics (who knows, they might teach you a thing or two).

CIRCE & AEAEA

With only a single ship remaining following the encounter with the Laestrygonians, Odysseus and the remnants of his crew are driven to Aeaëa, the home of the sorceress-goddess Circe. Half of the crew, led by Odysseus' lieutenant Eurylochus, sets out to find food but fails to return—except Eurylochus, who reports how the rest of the men were turned into pigs. Bolstered by the protection of Hermes, Odysseus defeats Circe and forces her to return his men to human. Following a year's sojourn, they once more set out—this time for Tiresias and the Underworld.



APRIL 20, 2016

— *national* —
CLASSICS
— *week* —


SERVICE: ENVIRONMENT

Circe, despite all her other flaws (and indeed, there were a lot of them), was a famous protector of the environment. In Book 10 of the *Odyssey*, her house is described as situated “within the forest glades...built of polished stone in a place of wide outlook.”

Today, there are three routes you can take. As it is April, hopefully the weather is nice and sunny (it can't be worse than Wisconsin). The first is simple — go outside and pick up trash, tend to your school or community garden (with permission), and generally make the earth more beautiful.

The other route you can focus on is to visit your local animal shelter—they might not have the lions and tigers of Circe's domain, but we're sure you'll find them just as docile. Play with the animals and help them out in any way they need.

If you cannot do either of those things, consider having a fundraiser of sorts—e.g. a Bake Sale—and donating the proceeds to an animal shelter or an organization dedicated to the protection of the environment. Make sure also to raise awareness about the relevant causes through social media, flyers, and the like.

FELICEM
DIEM NATALEM
ROMAE
2,769!
(AGE IS BUT A NUMBER)

Today we celebrate the founding of Rome and bear testament to its enduring legacy—politically, legally, culturally, and socially. 2769 years may have passed since that small city was founded on the Palatine—a small city that would go on to dominate most of the known world for a thousand years. Knowing no boundaries, the Romans established their nation as the pinnacle of civil and cultural refinement. Take the opportunity to celebrate and share your passion—there are no planned activities!



THE UNDERWORLD

Odysseus travels to the edge of the world in order to perform the tasks outlined by Circe to reach the land of the dead. He pours libations and offers sacrifices to attract dead souls—the first of which is his late crewman, Elpenor, deceased after falling off Circe’s roof. Elpenor begs Odysseus for a proper funeral, which the hero then promises. Next he speaks to the seer Tiresias, who relates the reason for Odysseus’ poor luck—Poseidon is angered by the blinding of Polyphemus and impedes Odysseus from returning home.

APRIL 22, 2016

— national —
CLASSICS
— week —


“DOCENDO DISCIMUS”

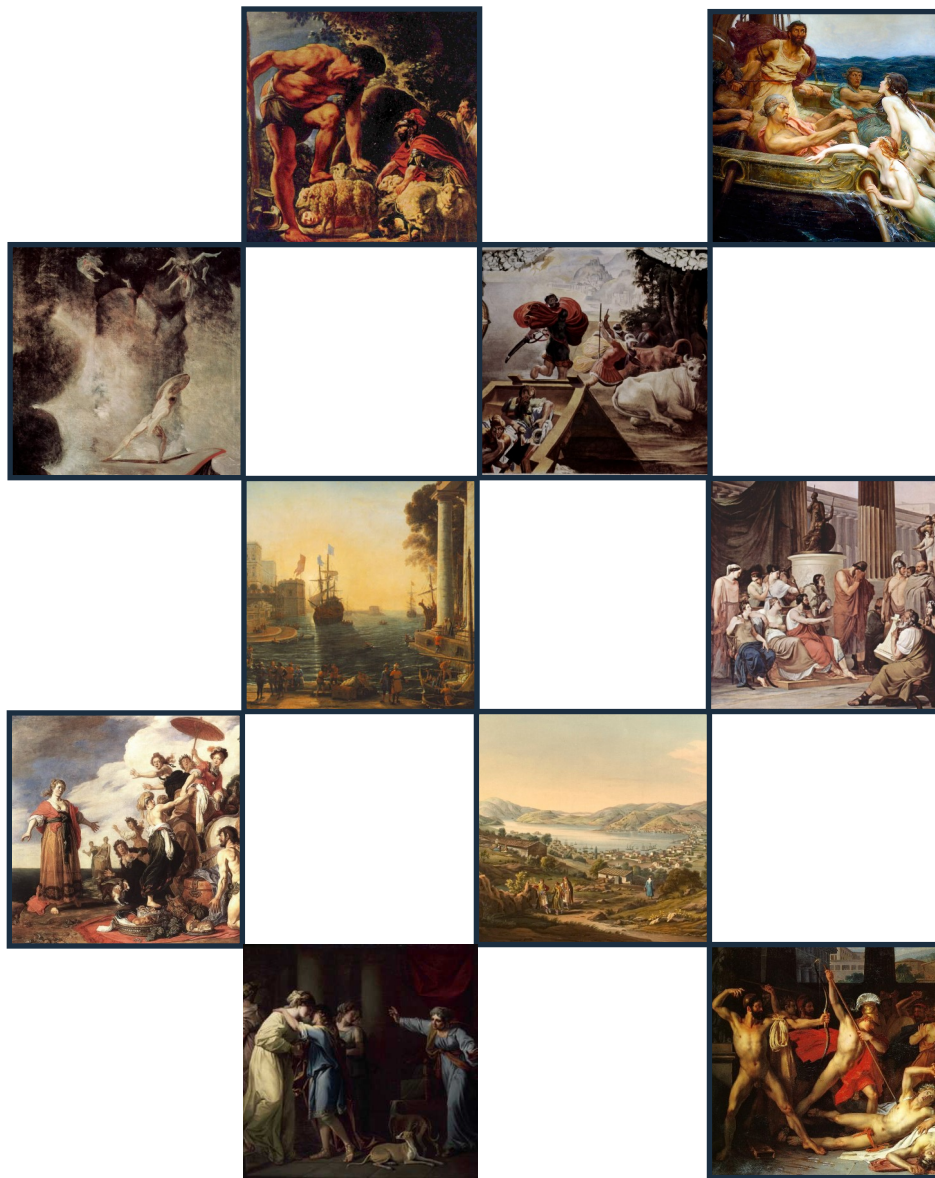
When Odysseus reached the Underworld, he not only consulted with Tiresias but also spoke to a multitude of other mythological characters—including Agamemnon, Achilles, and his mother Anticleia, whom Odysseus tries to embrace three times unsuccessfully.

Today, take a trip to your local middle/elementary school and teach mythology to younger students—acting as Odysseus did when telling stories to Achilles. Get creative! You can make stories into skits—complete with costumes and props—or even stick to the Homeric tradition of oral story-telling. Start with the myth of the Odyssey or perhaps the basic stories of the gods.

Additionally, make sure to incorporate themes from previous or future days in your activities—e.g., have the students draw pictures of their favorite Olympian god/hero or write a catchy song about National Classics Week.

One more thing —listen to what the students have to say, as they might just teach you a thing or two.

ITHACA



Odysseus returns to Ithaca (borne on the ship of the Phaeacians) and finds it exactly as he left it—just kidding. The insolent suitors have taken over the palace and are literally eating him out of house and home. Moreover, it seems that it is a merely a matter of time before Penelope is forced to give in to the suitors' demands and remarry. She has only avoided such a fate through her conniving, including refusing to marry until she finished a shroud for Laertes—but then clandestinely unwinding it every night. Eventually, it all comes to a head in the final battle—the suitors are killed and Odysseus is once more king of Ithaca.

THE END OF THE JOURNEY

To mimic Penelope's shroud, make a difference by participating in Project Linus.

Project Linus is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing homemade blankets to children in need. Getting involved is easy—any new, handmade blankets are accepted and donated to children in need. Simply pick out a pattern and start creating.

If you are unsure of where to start, there are a number of useful resources to get you on your way. Most cities have Project Linus chapters and by visiting <https://www.projectlinus.org/volunteer/>, you can find your local organization. Each chapter has a volunteer coordinator who would be happy to assist with any questions you may have.

Making blankets isn't for everyone—and we completely understand that. Monetary donations are typically used for combating the many expenses involved in the blanket-making process, including supplies, shipping, and auditing, are accepted online at <https://www.projectlinus.org/donations/>. In addition, most chapter coordinators accept any fabric/blanket-making materials you wish to donate.

Bonam fortunam!



National Classics Week Contest

Each year, chapters and individuals come up with incredible ideas and hold amazing events to celebrate the birthday of Rome and the enduring legacy of the Classics. This year, we are pleased to announce the National Classics Week Contest to recognize such spectacular contributions to the JCL community!

If you or your chapter hold events throughout the week, show us your progress by submitting to the National Classics Week Contest via our Google Form: <http://goo.gl/forms/4Y6g56tjDz>. Additionally, please feel free to send any pictures of events you hold to vp1@njcl.org. The best submissions will receive recognition on NJCL Social Media.



PRESS RELEASE

—FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—

Contact:

[Your Name]	[Name of Sponsor]
[title/position]	[Name of School]
[Street Address]	[Street Address]
[City, State, Zip]	[City, State, Zip]
[Home Phone]	[Home phone]
[Email]	[Email]

April [xx], 2016

Classical influences are all over the world around us—in our laws, our literature, our language and arts. However, our perception of the classics is often skewed; antique copies of Ciceronian orations on aristocratic estates spring to mind. To be sure, that is not such a crime—who can remember 2,769 days ago, let alone 2,769 years.

However, there is a society that aims to change that.

The National Junior Classical League (NJCL), the second largest youth organization in the world, dedicates itself to the promotion of classical studies. The 45,000 member community works tirelessly to impart an understanding of the debt of our culture to ancient civilization by supplementing the classroom experience with numerous athletic, creative, and academic events. “blah blah blah blah,” says NJCL President Brier Clough.

For over a decade, the organization has sponsored a celebration known as National Classics Week, centered on the birthday of Rome (April 21st). The week encourages classicists around the world to share the legacy of Rome by holding a number of unique activities and service projects for club members. The theme for this year is *The Odyssey*, inviting us to recall Homer’s famous epic and the impact it and such stories have had on our society. Some of the highlights include protecting the environment and teaching mythology to elementary school students.

Among the participants is [insert school name], a [middle/high school] in [school city, state]. [First, Last Name], [position] of the [school name] [Junior Classical League/Latin/Classics Club] is in charge of the festivities. [Summary of your plans/what you have done for NCW]. For [last name], this week has been [quote about your feelings on NCW]. Having celebrated the event for the past [insert number of years] years, [last name] feels that this one of the most successful yet.

The classics may not have the same reach today as they once had, but in the eyes of the [high school] [Junior Classical League/Latin/Classics Club], there is a need for awareness. According to [last name], [closing quote on the relevance of the classics].

PROCLAMATION ASSISTANCE

A proclamation is an official public declaration by a government office for a particular cause or event and serves as an effective method to generate publicity for your state/local chapter. However, due to nuances, proclamations require more explanation than is able to be fit within this document. As such, we have prepared an *additional* guide on how to seek and secure proclamations, available here: **[insert link of guide here]**.

If you have submitted a proclamation request before or are familiar with the process, all you need to do is submit the proclamation itself. A sample can be found below.

Sample Proclamation of the **[name of municipality]** Classics Week
Submitted by the **[name of local chapter]**

Whereas: The Classics and classical antiquity continue to play an important role in modern society—from government and laws to literature, language and arts; and,

Whereas: The **[name of local chapter]** is committed to furthering education in the Classics while bettering the future of American communities—through educational ventures, publicity activities, and community service endeavors; and,

Whereas: throughout the **[name of municipality]**, there are **[number of local chapters]** chapters comprised of **[number of estimated students]** middle and high school Latin, Greek, and Classics students; and,

Whereas: the members of the **[name of local chapter]** recognize the positive influence of classical culture upon our society by giving back in their communities in affirmation of the classical principle that good citizenship is inseparable from education; and,

Whereas: **[name of municipality]** Classics Week is held in commemoration of the traditional “birthday” of Rome—April 21st—offering the opportunity to promote and connect with the legacies of Greece and Rome.

Now therefore I, **[name of official]**, **[title]** of the municipality of **[name of municipality]** do hereby proclaim April 17-23rd, 2016 as **[name of municipality]** Classics Week throughout **[name of municipality]**. I call upon all citizens to recognize the cultural bond between American society and those of classical antiquity and to join the **[name of local chapter]** in activities to celebrate the Classics.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank NJCL 2nd Vice President Hanna Seariac for all of her contributions to the making of this packet (from dealing with my somewhat witless ideas to the construction of the packet itself) . I would also like to thank Public Relations/ Membership Chair Catherine Sturgill and Programs/Scholastic Services Chair Sherry Jankowski. None of this would be possible without all of you.

Cover by: Hannah Barrett, NJCL Historian

IMAGES

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/72/Ulysses_and_the_Sirens_by_H.J._Draper.jpg
http://40.media.tumblr.com/ded28a3fc7d50ae3b67a685f240d24b6/tumblr_mlfscuONw1qbhp9xo1_1280.jpg
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