

A publication of the New Mexico Junior Classical League

Welcome to this issue of

**CRESCIT**

*Erika Lines, Editor*

*In this issue:*

Articles

**THIS IS SPARTA!**

**KYDOS**

**WITH IT OR ON IT!**

Columns

**CLIO**

**POLYHYMNIA**

Features

**MUSE-ings**

**CHALLENGE MINERVA**

Coming Attractions

**JCL NATIONAL  
CONVENTION**

*Please send announcements  
about your chapter  
happenings, original writings,  
or suggestions for articles to:*

*Erika Lines*

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## THIS IS SPARTA!!

The Sixth Annual NMJCL Convention is upon us and it promises to be the most exciting convention to date! All middle school and high school students are invited to attend this year's event on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at the Bosque School 400 Learning Road, Albuquerque, NM. The day is designed to celebrate the classics—starting with a costume contest followed by a day of presentations,

games, ludi, and the ever-popular Certamen. NMJCL will also hold an election of officers and there are several awards to be presented. Members and non-members of NMJCL are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please contact John Fraser, State Chair (his email address is in the sidebar) for registration information. Lunch and snacks will be provided. Attendees are asked to bring a dessert to share.

We will begin the festivities at 10:00 a.m. and conclude around 3:30 p.m. We hope you will join us for this great day of fun and games with your fellow *amici latinae*! See you there!



## KYDOS

This Greek word, popularly translated "KUDOS" means *praise or renown*. So, KYDOS to the NMJCL chapter at Desert Springs Christian Academy who was recently awarded a \$500.00 Bridge Initiative grant by the Classical Association of the Middle West and South (CAMWS). The money is to be

used to help send students to the National Junior Classical League convention this summer in San Antonio, Texas. The Classical Association of the Middle West and South is a professional organization for classicists and non-classicists at all levels of instruction. The

goal is to promote the Classics and classical languages through awards, scholarships, and outreach initiatives. The CAMWS publishes the *Classical Journal*--a mix of academic articles and notes on Graeco-Roman antiquity, generally with a literary, historical or cultural focus.

**Provinciae Senatus**  
**(State Officers)**

StateChairs:

John Fraser  
[jfraser@nmicl.org](mailto:jfraser@nmicl.org)

Karen Caroe;  
[kcaroe@nmicl.org](mailto:kcaroe@nmicl.org)

Kelle Webb  
[kwebb@nmicl.org](mailto:kwebb@nmicl.org)



**Officers:**

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[president@nmicl.org](mailto:president@nmicl.org)

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2nd VP: Marco Salazar  
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Secretary: Trent Llewellyn  
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## WITH IT OR WITHOUT IT!

Our dear friend, Plutarch once noted that Spartan women had a special way of bidding their sons goodbye as they marched off to war. "Come back with your shield – or on it" Basically Mother Spartan was saying that she expected her son to come back victorious or dead.

The Spartan shields were so large they covered the warrior from knee to shoulder. They were not only made for protection, but were also too large for them to run away with, so if

they fled from combat, they had to drop their shields.

You see, losing your shield was seen as the ultimate act of failure in Spartan society, because your shield protected both you and the man next to you. Spartans who lost their shield in battle were expected to recover it, or die trying. Those who didn't were labelled deserters, and even their own mothers would disown them. We're really not kidding,

there are actual Spartan women's tombstones with epitaphs specifically written to call their own sons losers. Remember that the next time you feel like saying your parents are too strict.



## CLIO'S COLUMN

*Welcome, reader. I am very pleased to tell you, today, about the importance of women in the founding and culture of Spartan Society.*

In Greek mythology the founder of the city was Lacedaemon, a son of Zeus, who gave his name to the region and his wife's name to the city. Sparta was the daughter of Eurotas by Clete. She was said to be a fair and beautiful maiden worth defending and protecting at all costs. Villages and armies would often shout her name before entering

battle representing what they were fighting for. The city of Sparta became an important member of the Greek force which participated in the Trojan War. Indeed, the Spartan king, Menelaus, instigated the war after the Trojan prince, Paris, abducted his wife, Helen. Helen was said to have been the most beautiful woman in Greece, and Spartan women, in general, enjoyed a reputation for beauty and a spirited independence.

Spartan women were raised in an athletic environment very similar to men. Spartans believed if they were trained to be strong, they would produce strong children. Women were honored for their ability to give and women who died in childbirth were given the same rights as the warriors who died in battle. There is more to tell about Sparta but I shall leave that to the other muses.

*Fortes Fortuna Juvat!*

## MUSE-ings

### **ON THE SPARTANS FALLEN AT PLATAEA**

*These men left an altar of glory on their land,  
Shining in all weather,*

*When they were enveloped by the black mists of death.*

*But though they died*

*They are not dead, for their courage raises them in glory*

*From the rooms of Hell.*

*-Simonides of Creos*

### **"These are Sparta's walls!"**

Spoken by King Agesilaus while pointing to his own men.



## Ponderings from Polyhymnia

3

*Salve, amicus. I have a tale to recount of a brave prince who shows many personalities of a true Spartan, despite not being a Spartan.*

There was a time when the Minoans, who lived on the island of Crete, had a very strong navy. The Minoan king, Minos, used to send his navy to terrorize Greek cities. One of these cities was Athens. King Aegeus of Athens had an agreement with King Minos that if Minos would leave Athens alone, Aegeus would send seven Athenian boys and seven Athenian girls to Crete every nine years, to be eaten by the Minotaur— a monster that lived on They had been doing this for years when Theseus, son of Aegeus, came along.

One day it was once again time to send the children to Crete. Prince Theseus said that he was going to go with them and kill the Minotaur to save these children and all the ones who might be sent in the future. His dad, King Aegeus, begged him not to go. Aegeus was afraid that the Minotaur would get Theseus as well, but Theseus refused, so his father gave him his blessing.

When they got to Crete, King Minos and his daughter Princess Ariadne came to see Theseus

expecting him to throw the Athenian children to the Minotaur. In a twist of fate, Ariadne fell in love with Theseus (love at first sight is not just a Disney thing) and wanted to help him.

Late that night Ariadne gave Theseus a sword and a ball of string. She told him to tie the string to the door of the Labyrinth where the Minotaur lived and unroll it behind him as he went so he could find his way out. Thankful Theseus promised to marry Ariadne if he escaped without being eaten.



The next morning the Athenians went into the Labyrinth. Theseus tied the string to the door and went to find the Minotaur. Theseus killed the Minotaur and followed the string back—just as Ariadne had instructed. Everyone was very happy to know that he had killed the Minotaur and they ran back to their ship and sailed home.

## CHALLENGE MINERVA

T O T A L I T A R I A N I S M  
F T E M L E H X Q D U W E D E  
Y N I L E V A J C U Q U A A G  
U S P I H K Z O X Z D A L A S  
A A M J O E X G S J W Z Y J U  
J D J M S B L S M Z U E P P W  
Q I X M Z K A L C X Z W O W I  
B N T N P R R L E N E A M B X  
F O L X I C F N V N T C R C P  
W E J U A E L I Y J I B E Z J  
S L C I D Z C C F J L S H E K  
P H A L A N X J U K P D T J T  
H D O U V U R C K C O L A I J  
M U L E N W F T G J H B N X C  
L A U A T R A P S H I E L D O

CUIRASS  
HELLENISTIC  
HELMET  
HOPLITE  
JAVELIN  
LEONIDAS  
PHALANX  
SHIELD  
SPARTA  
THERMOPYLAE  
TOTALITARIANISM

# 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Junior Classical League Convention

Trinity University  
San Antonio, Texas  
July 27 – August 1, 2015

## Convention Theme

*tū nē cēde malīs, sed contrā audentior ītō*

Yield not to misfortunes, but advance all the more  
boldly against them. Vergil, *Aeneid* VI.95

## Convention Activities

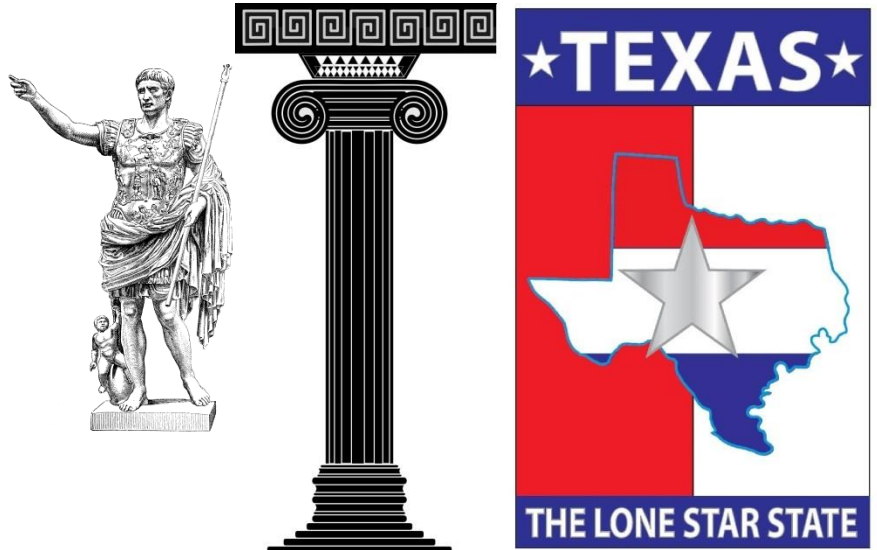
Academic Tests	Certamen
Creative Arts Contests	Graphic Arts Contests
Olympika	Ludi
That's Entertainment	Day in Old Rome
Dance	Bazaar/Agora Sales
Elections	Fellowship

## Costume Contest Characters

Aphrodite and Hephaestus  
Phaethon  
Circe

## Spirit Day Themes

Tuesday: Old Western Classics  
Wednesday: Lone Star-struck by Latin  
Thursday: Throwback Thursday: #purpleandgold  
Friday: Tiber Riverwalk



**Packets** Available March 1, 2015  
Requests will be processed on a *first-come, first served* basis as space is available.

**Cost** If paid *and* space is available:  
Before April 30, 2015 \$495  
May 1 – May 15, 2015 \$545\*  
May 16 – June 1, 2015 \$595\*  
\*Non-refundable

