

• MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT • OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Thank you to **Jannie Gallanis** and **Julie Karagianides** for preparing the lunch that was served at the Stewardship Luncheon that was held on Sunday, October 25th. Thank you to **Tasos & Julie Karagianides** for underwriting the luncheon. Also, thank you to all the Parish Council members who helped set up and clean up.

ST. SPYRIDON NAME DAY CELEBRATION:

We have been informed by the Metropolis that His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos will be in San Diego to celebrate St. Spyridon's Name Day with our parish. Vespers service will be held on the evening of **Friday, December 11th**. On **Saturday, December 12th** we will celebrate with the Divine Liturgy followed by the St. Spyridon luncheon. I hope everyone will join us to celebrate.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS:

Elections to replace the outgoing members of the Parish Council will be held on **December 13th**. The deadline to submit your application is **December 1st**. This gives the office time to publish the list of parishioners that are running. In addition, all current and potential Parish Council members must attend the Parish Council Seminar as required by the UPR. The time and date has not yet been determined. If you are interested in serving your church, this is your opportunity. Contact the church office.

OUTGOING PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS:

I would like to thank **Art Balourdas**, **Mike Platis**, **John Kalas**, **Julie Karagianides** and **Fred Georggin** for serving their church. Their 2-year term on the Parish Council will end at the end of this month. It was a pleasure working with all of you.

FEASIBILITY STUDY COMMITTEE UPDATE:

The Parish Council is in the planning stages of setting up two informative "town hall" type meetings for the community. The first one will be on a Sunday after church. The second one will be on a weeknight. After the two informative meetings, a Special General Assembly will be called so that the Parish Council can present the proposal to the community for their approval.

According to the UPR, all parishioners will be notified at least 10 days prior to the Special General Assembly meeting. Once the dates are set, they will be published in the weekly bulletin.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:

The next parish council meeting will be held on **Tuesday, December 8th at 6:30 PM**.

A big thank you to **Tina Kallas** and **Vicky Ragousis** for all their hard work in managing the church office.

My term as President of the Parish Council ends at the end of this month. It has been my pleasure working with Fr. Andrew and the Parish Council to serve our community.

With the holiday season upon us, my family would like to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a healthy, safe and prosperous New Year. ❀

Sincerely, Spero Tzathas

• PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS •

SEASON'S GREETINGS!

The past two months have been very busy for our chapter, with two major fundraising events. On October 17th, the 3rd annual **En Vogue** took place at the Manchester Grand Hyatt. Congratulations to the dedicated chairwomen, **Alexandra Mouzas** and **Connie Ralph**, and their fabulous committee for once again putting together a beautiful day that combined fashion, fine food, fun, and the recognition of 5 well-deserving citizens (the Anthousa Award honorees) for their contributions to the San Diego community.

On November 8th, the Cypress Room was filled with almost 200 people for the annual **Thanksgiving Luncheon**. For over 40 years, we have been bringing our St. Spyridon family together for this annual tradition. I would like to acknowledge the chairwomen, **Christina Marantos** and **Eleni Merziotis**, along with their team of women and men who put in many hours preparing the delicious meal, and to the many people who made such generous donations. An additional thank-you goes out to the **St. Spyridon Youth Choir** for their beautiful voices.

The month of December begins with our **Christmas Luncheon** at the Kona Kai on Sunday December 6th. I hope you have made arrangements to attend this festive luncheon. Please see the invitation flyer in this bulletin for details. I encourage everyone to bring a new pair of pajamas and/or a children's book to the luncheon. They will be distributed on behalf of the local Pajama Program to children in shelters and foster homes. Even if you cannot attend the luncheon, you may donate these items in the designated boxes in the church hall.

The **feast day of St. Spyridon** will be celebrated with Vesper Services on the evening of **Friday December 11th**, and His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos will be joining us. Philoptochos will be hosting a lenten reception in the Cypress Room immediately following Vespers. If you would like to contribute to the reception meal, please contact the chairwoman, **Francesca Captain**, at fecaptain@yahoo.com.

Gina Balourdas has once again taken on the project of putting together Christmas Baskets for our homebound parishioners, and she could use your help in distributing them. If you would like to deliver a Christmas basket, they will be available for pickup in the hall lounge on Saturday, December 12th during the St. Spyridon feast day luncheon.

2009 has been a notable year for Philoptochos, especially given the difficult economic climate. We have worked very hard in our fundraising efforts and in providing all types of assistance to many individuals and to many well-deserving causes. It takes a combination of money and dedicated people to do what we do. On behalf of the Philoptochos board and all our members, I would like to thank you, our St. Spyridon community, for continually supporting Philoptochos this year. May you have a blessed and joyous Christmas! ❀

In His Service, Christine Trompas Tradas, President