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# Philanthropy Witness



The Official Newsletter of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society

May/June 2016

SPECIAL EDITION

## 2016 National Philoptochos Biennial Convention



*For a personal invitation from National Philoptochos President, Maria Logus, click on above image.*



*For key resources, click on the links below:*

[GENERAL INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES](#)

[REGISTRATION APPLICATION](#)

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[2016 NATIONAL PHILOPTOCHOS BIENNIAL CONVENTION WEB PAGE](#)



### Please join us at the 2016 National Philoptochos Biennial Convention

It is a very exciting time as we prepare for our 2016 National Philoptochos Convention in Nashville, Tennessee! **We would love to see delegates from every chapter across the nation**, to represent the diversity of our membership.

Please discuss the Convention in an upcoming chapter meeting before the end of May and register before the **June 1 deadline**.

We have so many wonderful things planned, including dynamic and motivating speakers such as:

- Miss America 2016, Betty Cantrell, will speak on philanthropy
- The Philoptochos Leadership Institute will host Beth Seigenthaler Courtney, a Nashville-based strategic communications specialist and "Woman of Influence," to speak on inspiring future leaders and mentoring
- There will be a speaker to discuss Human Trafficking, to build on the dialogue begun at the 2014 Convention, with ways to aid victims
- The Environment Responsibility Committee will feature Dr. Gwen Griffith, a former veterinarian turned environmental educator and conservationist, who will speak on water consumption and ways to conserve this valuable commodity

There will be plenty of fellowship and entertainment as we cruise on a riverboat and watch fireworks on the 4th of July, visit a replica Parthenon in Nashville and much, much more.



#### MARK AND CHECK OFF YOUR LIST:

- Registration completed
- Flight booked and all transportation confirmed
- Hotel room reserved
- Bring your cowboy boots- Make sure these boots are made for walking!



### **National Philoptochos Leadership Institute to Launch at 2016 Biennial Convention**

Across the country, Philoptochos chapters work diligently to increase membership and engagement in our beloved organization, and also to expand the scope of our philanthropic work. The National Philoptochos Leadership Institute has been developed to assist with this important effort and to cultivate and encourage the next generation of leaders.

In January 2015, President Maria Logus appointed a committee of National Board members to identify the vision, mission, values and goals of the Institute; to establish protocols; and to develop a curriculum for the Institute. Under the enthusiastic chairmanship of Evelyln Tsiadis, this committee will share its vision for the Institute with convention attendees and announce the protocol for selecting the first class of new members, the Class of 2018, which will attend meetings, seminars and field trips to prepare them to lead the next generation of Philoptochos stewards.

Through the work of the Institute, we hope to insure the relevance and vibrancy of Philoptochos well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Join us from July 3 – 8, 2016 in Nashville as we announce the exciting plans for the National Philoptochos Leadership Institute.



### **You Don't Need to Go to Athens to Visit the Parthenon**

In Nashville's Centennial Park stands a full-scale replica of the original Parthenon in Athens. The "crown jewel" of Nashville's premiere park, the Parthenon was built in 1897 as part of the Tennessee Centennial Exposition and serves as a monument to the cornerstone of classical architecture.

Delegates from both the Clergy Laity Congress and the National Philoptochos Convention can look forward to a fellowship gathering at Nashville's Parthenon and surrounding park, on the evening of Wednesday, July 6.

A re-creation of the 42-foot statue Athena, unveiled in 1990, is the centerpiece of the Nashville Parthenon as it was in ancient Greece. The gilded Athena holds a six-foot statue of Nike, ancient goddess of victory, in her right hand. In addition to Athena, the Nashville Parthenon holds replicas of the Elgin Marbles, a group of classical sculptures and architectural pieces originally in the Parthenon and other buildings on the Acropolis of Athens.



### **City of Nashville Preps for Philoptochos Convention in the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center**

With an order for 17,000 koulourakia, the local Philoptochos chapter in Nashville is well underway with preparations for the National Philoptochos Convention. Partnering with chapters in Chattanooga, Memphis and Knoxville, the women of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Nashville are setting the stage for the biennial affair that is now just weeks away.

Under the leadership Maria Stavropoulos, Margaret Yates, Eleni Zafares and Catherine Kotsis of the Host Committee, chapter President Tasoula Gaddis is spearheading the work with Lisa Solon, who coordinated effort for the Philoptochos Convention in Nashville, ten years ago. Readying for the event includes collecting donations of local products and samples (pralines, perhaps?) for hospitality bags, obtaining new costumes for the dancers who will perform on the steps of the Parthenon and gathering ideas and coupons to share with delegates for their free night.

Chapter President Gaddis is excited to know that Miss America is coming. She is also looking forward to the fireworks display (considered one of the best in the nation) from the beautiful General Jackson Riverboat. An added bonus, she says, is avoiding the crowds on the streets of downtown Nashville on the 4th of July.

Gaddis was born and raised by Greek parents in Nashville. Like National Philoptochos President Maria Logus, she became a Philoptochos member at age 18. Asked about her hometown, she says, "I like the quaintness of Nashville, but we are now growing by leaps and bounds. We see music celebrities everywhere! I have met Vince Gill, who I adore. My husband saw Nicole Kidman at Costco, with no makeup on." Nashville is in the Bible Belt and, "every other block has a church on it, and every other block has a bank on it," she adds. Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church was established in Nashville in 1917, and has about 300 families in the community.



### **#250thousandmeals**

It's been 16 months since National Philoptochos President Maria Logus announced her goal of "getting back to basics" through the *Feeding the Hungry* initiative and the national challenge to provide 250,000 meals to those in need throughout the country. President Logus knew that some Philoptochos chapters across the country already had programs to feed those in need in their area, but she never imagined the path this goal would take us! The number of feeding programs in progress and starting now is amazing!

If you've been on the National Philoptochos website, you probably noticed that the goal of providing 250,000 meals was met in February, within 12 months! Yes, who would have anticipated the response? Now the question remains- how many meals did chapters across the country actually provide? The grand

**total** will be revealed at the National Philoptochos Biennial Convention in Nashville this July along with photos and experiences from our chapters participating in this initiative!

Another exciting event that will be happening in Nashville is the partnering with the delegates of the Clergy Laity Convention to package meals for *Feeding Children Everywhere*. On Thursday morning, July 7, the Opryland Hotel will be the venue where the Philoptochos delegates **together** with the Clergy Laity delegates will package **25,000 healthy meals!** In 2 hours filled with work, fun, music and *competition*, the delegates will measure, bag, seal and box 4 ingredients (lentils, dehydrated vegetables, rice and pink Himalayan salt) for a total of more than 25,000 meals to feed hungry children in the **Nashville area** and in **Greece!** What a way to give back for all that God has blessed us with!

We would love for you to join us in Nashville and participate in packaging the 25,000 healthy meals. Be sure to sign up ahead of time at Philoptochos Registration booth.

If you would like to make a donation towards the meals (25¢ per meal) you can go on the [Feeding Children Everywhere](#) website to [Hunger Projects](#), choose [Upcoming Events](#) and scroll down to [July 7 National Philoptochos Project](#) and choose [Donate to this Project Without Sponsoring a Team](#). Join us in any way you can!



### **"Shoppe Philoptochos" at the National Biennial Convention in Nashville!**

Delegates to the Philoptochos meetings in Nashville will have a wonderful opportunity to both shop and raise money for an assortment of National Philoptochos ministries.

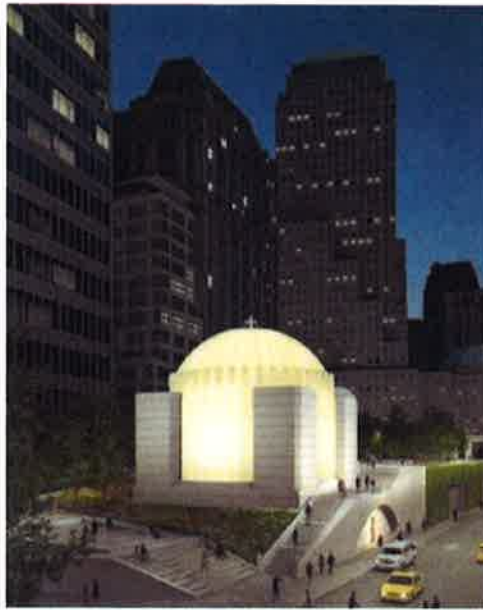
The "Shoppe Philoptochos" committee members are bringing a "pop-up" edition of this store to Nashville!

Among the items being sold will be the very popular Philoptochos charm bracelet and its assorted charms. All profits from sales of the National Philoptochos Logo Charm Bracelet support the National Philoptochos Social Services Ministry. All profits from the sales of the NEW Saint Nicholas National Shrine charm will support the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at the World Trade Center. We are pleased to announce that we have a NEW beautiful engravable, coin-shaped Philoptochos charm for your own bracelet or to honor those special Philoptochos ladies in your communities or your lives.

The committee is especially excited about the NEW Philoptochos Logo Men's Tie, a "must have" for husbands, sons, brothers, and friends! It is available in either navy blue or burgundy, 100% silk tie, with tone-on-tone Philoptochos logo and colorful pin-dot design. Beautifully packaged, it is a thoughtful and handsome gift. All profits from tie sales support the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at the World Trade Center.

Be sure to sample and purchase our very own fragrance created by Philoptochos members. "Essence of Philoptochos" Eau de Parfum comes in a lovely 2.0 fl. oz. bottle and benefits the National Philoptochos Social Service Ministry. As always, there will be National Philoptochos Logo pendants as well as commemorative chapter president and member pins sold.

Be sure to make "Shoppe Philoptochos" part of your Nashville experience. All Philoptochos and Clergy-Laity delegates will be welcomed!



### **METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY SHINES A LIGHT A Path to Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine**

Jennifer Constantin ~ Arlene Siavelis Kehl ~ Anne Michals, Co-Chairs

The Metropolis of New Jersey has placed great emphasis on responding to the call of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios Geron of America to raise funds for the building of Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine.

Moving towards the goal of His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey to "help make a difference by participating in the building process of Saint Nicholas, which includes raising and contributing funds," the work began. Through this challenge to his flock, to contribute and encourage others to do the same, the message rang clear to all those living in the Metropolis of New Jersey that in doing so, "we will express our love for God and proclaim that as He is alive in us and in the United States, that we are alive in Him through our faith and participation in all good Christian works, one of which is helping to rebuild His Home in which we receive His abundant Grace and love."

Philoptochos Chapters throughout the Metropolis of New Jersey immediately stepped in to begin the noble work. Leading the way in fundraising throughout the country, Metropolis of NJ Philoptochos Chapter Members donated \$100 each towards the appeal, and chapters worked steadily to plan small and large events to meet their individual goals, which were based on the size of each chapter membership. Thus far, the Philoptochos Chapters of the Metropolis of New Jersey have raised 88% of their goal of \$340,000, contributing over \$300,000 to date. Along with donations from the Philoptochos chapters of the Direct Archdiocesan District and the other Metropolises, National Philoptochos was able to present the first \$1,000,000 to His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios Geron of America for the project.

In keeping with Matthew 5:16 to "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven," the Parishes and Philoptochos Chapters of the Metropolis of New Jersey take great satisfaction in being able to share the good news with all members of our church throughout the country, and we urge them to donate with unrestrained religious and ethnic pride and filotimo.

For information and resources, visit [www.philoptochos.org/news/saintnicholas](http://www.philoptochos.org/news/saintnicholas). To be part of the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at the World Trade Center Philoptochos Fundraising Initiative, please donate directly to your local Philoptochos Chapter or your Metropolis Philoptochos.



### **May National Ministry Commitment: Orthodox Christian Fellowship**

by Christina Andresen

Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) is the official campus ministry organization for all Orthodox Christians under the Assembly of Bishops and its predecessor SCOBA.

Each year, OCF is led by a dedicated team of student leaders at the national level. This Student Leadership Board (SLB) consists of the top Orthodox students from across the country. These dedicated individuals dedicate their time and talent to serving their peers through regional retreats, media/outreach and various national programs.

For the past five years, OCF has hosted the Summer Leadership Institute (SLI) which is the only leadership training for program for Orthodox college students in North America. In this five day session, the Student Leadership Board members are in workshops, answering the question "What does it mean to be an Orthodox Christian leader not only on campus, but in the Church and in the world?"

In addition, they plan and prepare for the work of OCF for the coming academic year. This planning includes retreats, College Conference, the Real Break, connecting freshmen to chapters and parishes, social media presence, podcasts, blogs and website management. These students do it all!

OCF is deeply grateful for the continued support of Philoptochos for the Summer Leadership Institute and the work of the Student Leadership Board. This generous financial contribution is the water that helps our students' ideas grow and bear fruit. These young individuals are the future of our Church and parish leadership and they seek to answer the call to serve Christ and His Church through OCF.

*Christina Andresen serves as the Manager of Chapter Relations for OCF. She is blessed to serve as Recording Secretary for the St. Barbara's Philoptochos at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Dallas, Texas, where she resides with her family.*

Since 2008, National Philoptochos has been pleased to offer financial support to OCF. The month of May includes OCF as a national commitment. Philoptochos is a proud partner with OCF, striving to support fellowship on college campuses whose members experience and witness the Orthodox Christian Church. From 2008 through 2015, National Philoptochos has donated \$148,200 to OCF. All chapters are urged to support this important commitment.



**Annunciation Kansas City raises \$13,570  
For National Philoptochos  
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine  
Rebuilding Initiative**

Tamara Demetroulis and Elaine Maib, Fundraising Event Co-Chairs

On October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the Annunciation Ladies Philoptochos Society in Kansas City hosted an evening of Great Vespers, dinner, dancing, and a silent auction as a fundraiser for the rebuilding of the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at the World Trade Center.

The evening was chaired and organized by Tamara Demetroulis and Elaine Maib, who worked in conjunction with Father Constantine Sinos, as well as the Philoptochos Board. This small but resourceful committee were committed and passionate about making this fundraiser an enjoyable evening for parishioners while supporting the globally significant mission of rebuilding the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at the World Trade Center.

Mr. Jerry Dimitriou, Executive Director of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America (pictured above), was our gracious guest who gave a very informative and enlightening presentation of the rebuilding process currently underway.

It was a very successful evening that was attended by over 110 guests. The traditional Greek meal was generously underwritten through private donations, and cooked by our infamous "Souvla Kings" who kindly donated their time. The tables were exquisitely decorated and included St. Nicholas themed gifts for all attendees. The silent auction was a great success and fun for all. Best of all, the fellowship shared by our parishioners and the learning experience of the evening created lasting memories for our Church family.

Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of all those who donated their time, talents and treasures to make this evening a success, the Annunciation Ladies Philoptochos Society of Kansas City was able to make a modest but significant donation of \$13,570 to the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine Rebuilding Fund.

For information and resources, visit [www.philoptochos.org/news/saintnicholas](http://www.philoptochos.org/news/saintnicholas). To be part of the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at the World Trade Center Philoptochos Fundraising Initiative, please donate directly to your local Philoptochos Chapter or your Metropolis Philoptochos.





***Metropolis of New Jersey Philoptochos Board Visits Saint Michael's Home for the Aged***

*More than 60 women attended the annual visitation and Metropolis of New Jersey Philoptochos Chapters delivered over \$12,500 in donations to Saint Michael's Home.*

*Photo caption: His Grace Bishop Andonios of Phasiane, Director Saint Michael's Home with Archimandrite George Nikas, Chancellor of Metropolis of New Jersey with members of the Metropolis of New Jersey Philoptochos Board and chapter members.*

**May National Ministry Commitment: 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Founders Fund**

The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Founders Fund was created in 2006 to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of Philoptochos and the lasting contributions and memory of its founding members.

This discretionary ministry commitment provides financial support to older adults and their families, as well as long-term care facilities serving aging Greek Orthodox individuals throughout the United States.

Recipients of donations from this fund include St. Michael's Home in Yonkers, New York and Hellenic Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Canton, Massachusetts. In addition, donations are given to assist elderly individuals throughout the country.

From 2007 through 2015, the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Founders Fund has donated \$255,250 to its assorted ministries. This amount was made possible by the continued generosity of all Philoptochos chapters.

**Join Philoptochos on Social Media!**

Did you know that along with our Philoptochos Community page on Facebook, the Philoptochos of the Metropolis of Boston, Atlanta, Detroit, San Francisco and New Jersey each have their own Facebook page?

We would love all Metropolises and Chapters to have a page. Individuals, too, can use their page to share Philoptochos news. It would be great to have your page up before the Convention!

We update the National Philoptochos Facebook and Twitter almost every day, and we also update LinkedIn and YouTube. Add links.

For photos and posts from the **Convention** in Nashville, please use the hashtag **#NashPhil2016** on **any and all social media** so that we can find and share them!

We always love to see photos that convey emotion—laughter, applause or even tearing up over a moving speech. For more interesting photos of people, avoid a "lineup." We love "action" photos!

And remember to **always include your parish/Philoptochos name, and city and state.**

**WHENEVER YOU POST ABOUT PHILOPTOCHOS WOMEN, PLEASE PUT "PHILOPTOCHOS" IN THE CAPTION SO WE CAN FIND AND SHARE!**

We are looking forward to seeing and sharing your posts!



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