



ST. VASILIOS PHILOPTOCHOS ATHENA

January 2020

Dear Philoptochos Sisters,

Happy New Year! We had a busy Fall. Philoptochos Athena participated in the Peabody International Festival, Ministry Sunday, the St. Vasilios Annual Festival, conducted pastry workshops, had three business meetings – two of which included presentations, had a fabulous Christmas Luncheon and raffle, hosted coffee hours, conducted a blanket drive, conducted Tiropitas workshops and fundraiser, participated in Deacon Fadel's retirement party and more. 2020 started out with Vasilopita activities.

Thank you to Ruth Morfis and Stacey Yavorski and their fabulous committee for the pastry and spanakopita preparation and for manning the booth at the Peabody International Festival in September. It was a beautiful day and lots of fun. Proceeds from the Festival were donated to our beloved St. Vasilios.

Almost 50 members and friends joined us for the first business meeting of 2019-20 where plans for the year were discussed. There was a makeover presentation after the meeting. Thank you Areti Damianakos, a fellow parishioner and fantastic makeup artist, who gave us some great tips while making over Sisters Paula MacDonald and Fran Damiantopoulos. Thank you to Paula and Fran for volunteering to be models. Members signed up for the committees of their choice. The Executive Board and members provided refreshments. Thank you to all for coming, bringing goodies and making the first meeting a success. We shared ideas, learned about makeup application and enjoyed fellowship.

We participated in Ministry Sunday on September 22nd to spread the word of Philoptochos. New members were added to our membership and we look forward to working together as a team to accomplish our mission.

At the October business meeting, an essential oils presentation was given by Zenovia Limberakis. Approximately 45 members and guests learned about the difference between pure oils and synthetic oils and how they can affect us and the environment. The history and use of frankincense, otherwise known in our culture as Livani, and other commonly used oils was featured. Members were given the opportunity to sign up for committees of their choice. Delicious treats were provided by Tina Manolakos's Hospitality Committee and other members. It was a fun and informative evening.

A lot was accomplished at the November Business Meeting and again, Tina Manolakos, her Hospitality Committee and other members provided delicious refreshments. Thank you all for coming and participating.

The Philoptochos Athena Pastry and Loukoumades booths at the St. Vasilios Festival were a success and all proceeds are going to our beloved Church. Ruth Morfis, Stacey Yavorski and their committees prepared all the delicious pastries. Ruth and her committee had fun selling the pastries! Meni Frangias organized the Loukoumathes booth which also was a success thanks to her committee and the hard work of Arianna and Hannah Lowe, who painstakingly fried all the loukoumades. Thank you to all!

The Philoptochos Athena Christmas Party Committee planned and executed a fun Christmas Party Luncheon at Spinelli's in Lynnfield. I want to thank the Christmas Party Committee for their hard work. Thank you Tina for Co-Chairing the event. Thanks to Bessie Silva and Sandy Ruggeri for taking care of reservations and seating. Thanks, too, Sandy for the fun game and the beautiful seating chart. Peggy Triantafillou donated the lovely favors. She and her wonderful committee helped create them. Thank you Deb Pantazelos for researching and donating the monogrammed Philoptochos pens. Elaine Zetes helped Tina with the raffles and the presentation was lovely. Tesse Scangas was also a great help! Thank you to all our Sisters that donated the generous gift cards. The room was lovely and the hors d'oeuvres and lunch were very tasty. We all danced to music provided by Tony Vatousios. Raffle proceeds were donated to the Altar Fund.

Philoptochos Athena provided pastries, tiropita pies, spanakopita and \$250 towards Deacon Fadel's retirement gift. Members also assisted Presbytera Claire by preparing a lovely reception and send off to our beloved Deacon Michael. May God Bless Deacon Michael and Kristi for years to come.

Throughout the Fall, Bonnie Antoniou organized a blanket drive. The blankets will be donated to the Citizens Inn. Thank you, Bonnie, for organizing this event and to all that donated blankets for this worthy cause.

Pastry workshops were conducted by Stacey Yavorski throughout the Fall. Everyone had fun and learned a lot! The products were sold at various fundraising events. Thank you, Stacey!

Tiropitas workshops and fundraiser were organized by Stacey Yavorski. Everyone learned how to make tiropitas and had fun in the process. The fundraising was successful and the proceeds are going to the building fund to help with repairs to the Church roof and/or other repairs needed to the Church/Gym facilities. Thank you, Stacey!

The first annual Vasilopita Fundraiser was kicked off this Fall and will culminate with the raffle being drawn on January 12th in Church after first Liturgy. One lucky participant will win a solid gold coin. All proceeds are going to the Citizens Inn which is now affiliated with the Haven From Hunger.

Please save the following Event and Meeting Dates for 2019-20:

January 12, 2019 – Vasilopita Fundraiser Drawing, In Church at the end of First Liturgy.

January 12, 2019 – Vasilopita Cutting to benefit St. Basil's Academy, in the Educational Center after First Liturgy – Ministry members, please watch for my email.

January 19, 2020 (Sunday), Business Meeting, Coffee Hour (10:30), Parlor Room.

February 9, 2020 – Heart Sunday – Join us in Church to receive a gift from Philoptochos to celebrate Cardiac Health Awareness Month for Women. Wear Red to support Cardiac Awareness Month!

February 26, 2020, Business Meeting and Women's Cardiac Health presentation, 6:30 p.m., Parlor Room (please note that this meeting is on the 4th Wednesday of the month, not the 3d).

March 18, 2020, Business Meeting and Financial Planning presentation including Retirement, Social Security, Long-term Care & Estate Planning, 6:30 p.m., Parlor Room.

March - March 25th Annunciation and Greek Independence Day Celebration– Date to be announced.

April 22, 2020, Business Meeting and Film – “On the Precipice of Extinction” – the story of the plight of our beloved Patriarchate in Turkey, 6:30 p.m., Parlor Room.

May 20, 2020, Business Meeting, Pot Luck Dinner and Arbonne presentation by Tracey Franggos, 6:30 p.m., venue to be announced.

May 2020, Haven From Hunger, food preparation and serving. Dates to be announced.

June, End of Year Celebration – Event/date to be announced (Bring your ideas to the Jan. meeting!).

Announcements:

The March 25th Annunciation and Greek Independence Day Celebration (luncheon or dinner) is an annual event. We are looking for additional committee members and a Chair Lady or Co-Chair Ladies. It is a team effort and a lot of fun. Please let me know if you are interested.

National Philoptochos has an ongoing Veterans Drive to benefit our Veterans. Our Chapter Athena has also been participating under the leadership of Maria Collins. Stay tuned for more information and an updated list of needed items.

It is that time of year again. Membership dues are collected from January 15th to April 15th each year. At the end of May 2020, National receives our list of members for 2020. This is a different time table than our working year which is from September 2019-June 2020. The Membership Dues flyer is enclosed. Please be sure to fill out the additional information so we can keep our records up to date. Thank you for your cooperation.

I want to thank Irene Stephanides for helping with printing our mailings and labels and Chrissa Pisios for helping us with advertising in the weekly and monthly bulletins. Ricky is also a big help setting up our events.

We are thinking about ideas for fund raisers. Please bring your thoughts to the next meeting on January 19th, during Sunday coffee hour, in the Parlor Room. If you can't make it, please contact Evelyn Rockas at evelyn.rockas@gmail.com or 617-256-8500 or share with the Executive and/or Board of Directors who will share your ideas with us at the next meeting.

I always close with the following because it is so important for all of us to strive for many positive accomplishments and working together as a team for the 2019-

*21 term. I truly believe that by working together with **joyful, loving and pure hearts**, we will be successful in carrying out the Philoptochos Mission.*

*And as Father Chris says: “**Many Hands Make Light Work**”*

Please contact me with any ideas and/or questions. See you soon!

With sisterly love and best wishes,

Evelyn

Evelyn Limberakis Rockas

Philoptochos Athena President

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Enclosure/Attachment (1)