



The Ladies Philoptochos Society



Church of the Holy Cross

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PHILOPTOCHOS BOARD

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Angela Kasidiaris
Hana Keilo
Tula Kourtoglou
Christine Longinidis
Othonia Makris
Helene Nemchik
Irene Pappas
Mary Peros
June Sila
Maria Vozaites
Cathy Zamenes

Philoptochos News Phlash!

November 10, 2020

Highlights from our **Zoom** Board Meeting on November 10, 2020. We want you to know what we are working on and where your donations and contributions to Philoptochos go.

- ❖ **The San Francisco Metropolis Philoptochos 2020 Virtual Light the Path** – This event which benefits our seminarians will be held on **Saturday, December 5 from 2-3:30**. There will be student and graduate speakers, a tour of Holy Cross, holiday entertainment, and a live donor board, honoring donors and showing our progress toward our goal in real time. These students from our Metropolis have tuition, board, and book fees which total upwards of \$40,000 per year. Many of these wonderful students are married and have small children. Imagine graduating to become clergy assistants and at the same time having to repay very high educational loans. They need our support! Your chapter here in Belmont will be giving \$1,500 to the effort in a year when we have less to give. We know the importance of guiding and supporting our Church's young leaders of tomorrow. Please consider making a personal donation by going to www.sfphiloptochos.org. You can also register for the event right there. Join us on December 5 as we share some Christmas cheer with our future priests, our senior priests and with each other. **Remember, we are the only Metropolis in the United States that offers this kind of support!**
- ❖ **Stewardship Partnering with Parish Council** – Philoptochos Associate member, Robert Nemchik, gave us a wonderful stewardship report, highlighting some main takeaways from his attendance at the Stewardship Meetings which included:
 - Thank members and donors often.
 - Engage your members by asking them to help.
 - Welcome newcomers.
 - Be transparent so donors know where their donations are going.
 - Advertise upcoming fundraising events.
 - Celebrate the generosity of donors.
 - Offer online giving.
 - Don't be afraid to ask for help.
 - Inspire the upcoming generation to join you.
 - Consider involvement as just as important as monetary support.
 - Think of all our assets as belonging to God.
- ❖ **Personal Care Closet** – We are continuing to partner with Gina Johnstone and her school to supply much needed *personal care items* for students from low-income families. If you are inclined to contribute to the closet and send directly to the school, please consider ordering something through www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/WS5GGCPZ6YBR?ref=wl_sl
We have received letters from parents who shared that their children have had access to the personal items that they needed without affecting the other critical needs of the family.

- ❖ **Kicks For Kids** - This year we are expanding our support to Park School with a *Kicks For Kids Shoe Drive*, giving new shoes, in correct sizes, to children who may not have them. Go to the Holy Cross website and follow the donation links for info about the shoe drive or check the Philoptochos Listserv. You can purchase shoes to give or you can send a monetary donation with *Philoptochos Shoe Drive* in the memo and we will do the shopping. Thank you, Nina Azar, Laura Jadelrab, and Gina Johnstone. Also, thank you, Kristen Azar, for designing the beautiful website!
- ❖ **Virtual/Women's Wellness and Awareness Presentations** – Christine Hopkins and Mary Peros are planning a wonderful set of presentations to address some health issues that are so important to us. The first one will be in mid-January on *Women and Stroke* by Stanford's Dr. Christina Mijalski. Information and details will be out soon to help you register and join us.
- ❖ **Patriarchate Collection** – In honor of our patron Saints, Cosmas and Damianos, we collected, with your generosity, \$750 and still counting to send to our Patriarchate to benefit its very existence and its many ministries.
- ❖ **Christmas Tea 2020** – We are partnering with Julie Bazigos of Cartoules Press (www.cartoulespress.com) to offer some very special items for Christmas giving, such as special holiday mugs and tea towels. In addition, Glyka Sweets will provide some baked goods to take home. Order forms and information for both are coming soon. We are not holding our normal raffle and so we urgently need to provide for the families in our community who are hungry or homeless. In normal years we have been able to give \$2,000 to support them through the Family Sharing Program. Please help us raise the money to help those who are also dealing with the pandemic this year. Again all proceeds to benefit our Family Sharing Program.
- ❖ **Membership** – Our current number is **118**. It is never too late to join. Go to www.goholycross.org and click on *Donate* or talk to Helene Nemchik or Cathy Zamenes to see how painless it is.
- ❖ **Philoptochos ListServ** – Our database with which we can contact all of you and keep you informed of upcoming events continues to be so helpful. There are over 120 members currently receiving messages. Please make sure that when you fill out your membership form for 2020 or 2021 that you include your email. This will be a secure email system where only your name will appear on any email we send. If you know someone who may want to be included, please have them contact Nina Azar at ninaazar13@gmail.com. Also, if you know of someone who does not use email, please let us know as well so we can remember to contact them by mail. We need everyone's help as we continue to help those in greater need. Thank you!

As you can imagine, our needs for this community and the community at large are great at this time of pandemic and economic distress. Please help us by joining our organization or offering a donation of any amount to benefit our ministries.

Continue to keep safe! With love in Christ

The Philoptochos of Holy Cross