



# The Light To Φως



Holy Apostles Greek  
Orthodox Church  
Loudoun County, VA

2020, Issue 3  
May-Jun

*The bi-monthly newsletter of the Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church*

## A Message from Father George Alexson

*Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand...For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.' (Mt. 13:13, 15)*

Beloved Parishioners and Friends,

Christ is Risen! Truly, He is Risen!

I pray my message finds you all in good health. While my heart grieves for the havoc caused in our world by Covid-19, I am confident that, with God's mercy, a cure will be found eventually, to stem the tide of its cruel consequences. We mourn the loss of thousands of lives around the world. We grieve for those who continue to suffer from the virus, while we honor all those heroes caring for them. Most folks are struggling to follow the guidelines established by our government agencies, to prevent the spread of the virus. Many are becoming restless, clamoring to be released from the restrictions of an "imprisoned" life. Most of all, we, devoted Christians and parishioners of Holy Apostles, like faithful believers everywhere, are anxious to get beyond the dangers of the virus, in order to return to our churches. Perhaps as never before, we have come to appreciate the words of the psalmist, "LORD, I have loved the habitation of Your house, And the place where Your glory dwells" (Ps. 26:8). Let us add our own prayer: Most merciful Father, we beseech You with heart and soul, make it possible for us to return quickly to Your house, for outside it we have neither hope, nor life, nor strength, nor divine nourishment.

I chose the passage above from St. Matthew for a purpose. It will take some time for all the investigations to be completed as to where and how this virus started. But, we know for certain that it originated in China. I stress this fact for two reasons: first, China is a communist country that severely limits the rights and privileges of its citizens. Second, China is a militantly atheistic country that fervently represses all expressions of religious faith, more often than not, brutally. This leads to the inevitable question: Why are we doing business with this country? The United States and its allies have spilled much blood and spent trillions of dollars

trying to impose democracy on countries around the globe. Why not China? The notion that investing in China would eventually lead its communist bosses to embrace democracy, once their citizens began to enjoy the fruits of economic development and success, was, is and always will be a fools errand. As we learned with the former Soviet Union, it is only when the communist system disintegrates from the weight of its own corruption, dishonesty, lack of industry and hopelessness, that it will finally collapse.

Why, then, are we doing business with China? Two reasons shout out immediately: greed and hypocrisy! Greed, because we all want cheap stuff and, corporations make a lot more for less in China than they would in the U.S. The hypocrisy factor is no less clear, when we remember how many lives have been lost and money wasted trying to impose democracy on countries where democratic principles have no roots in either their history or culture. But, here, too, someone was making money. A heavy price is paid when we refuse to heed the Apostle's words, "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows" (1 Tim. 6:10).

Our world has been pierced with many sorrows because of the virus, and, if the predictions are correct, more are to follow. Is it not time, then, for us, leaders and citizens alike, to open our eyes and ears, quicken our hearts to God's word and, proclaim loudly and unequivocally to Communist China: repent or, be isolated from the rest of the world (!)? American

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During these difficult times, we thank our Parish Council and Father George who continue to offer services via live streaming and conduct our church's day-to-day operations. Thank you also to our parishioners who continue to support our church through online giving:

[www.holyapostlesgreekorthodox.org/givingnow](http://www.holyapostlesgreekorthodox.org/givingnow)





Metropolis of New Jersey

# Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church



## A Message from Father George Alexson cont..

businesses must be compelled to disinvest in China and, return to the safe harbor of their own home. The *bottom line* must no longer be the favored principle by which all else is governed and guided. Or, do American CEO's really want to admit that people are dispensable, unlike stocks and profit margins?

Quo vadis, America, is a question that should haunt the hearts and minds of every American citizen in the wake of this pandemic. When the threat of this virus has passed, will we still be "the land of the brave and the free?" Should we not be concerned with how quickly our freedoms were suppressed for "fear of the virus?" Or, how easy it was for government, local and national, to pass laws forbidding church goers to attend church, even when following mandated precautions? Were we not offended that, by definition, churches are deemed "non-essential" businesses (*Essential businesses are ones that the public rely on in their day-to-day life. This includes banks, hospitals, supermarkets, pharmacies, gas stations, post offices, and the like. They carry supplies necessary for survival, both in the long and short-term. In contrast, non-essential businesses are those that people frequent for pleasure, like gyms, bars, restaurants, movie theaters, museums, and concert halls, among others*)? True, as one article reported, Are Church Services Considered 'Essential'? Depends Where You Live, means that laws against church attendance varied, but with the limit of ten persons to a building, what difference does it make?

The inability to attend church has been especially difficult for us Orthodox, for whom the Liturgy and Holy Eucharist are supreme elements in our life. Even here, our faith is being tested by doubts and inquiries as to how we worship, the veneration of icons, participation in the Eucharist, to name a few. Should we not be troubled by the fact that our method of distributing the Holy Eucharist is now being called into question? Dare we suggest that Holy Communion, the very Body and Blood of our Lord, can be a source of danger and illness? I find the very suggestion repulsive, and its source demonic. Yet, articles have already appeared considering the possibility of alternate methods of communion, several of them pandering to the panic-stricken fears initiated by the virus. How can we answer the onslaught of questions, uncertainties and difficulties created by such troubling discussions? For a start, I suggest a close and careful reading of the Prayers in preparation for Holy Communion and the Prayers after Communion. Much will be learned by having a clear account, through the medium of prayer, of how the Church views the benefits of this sacred Mystery given to us by the Lord Himself. Here, as in all things

### Weekday Liturgical Schedule for June, 2020

(The July schedule will be posted on our website later in June.)

June 6	Orthros and Divine Liturgy 9:00 A.M.
Saturday of Souls	
June 24	Orthros and Divine Liturgy 9:00 A.M.
Birth of St John Baptist	
June 29	Orthros and Divine Liturgy 9:00 A.M.
Sts Peter and Paul	
June 30	Orthros and Divine Liturgy 9:00 A.M.
Synaxis of the Twelve Apostles	

**While the church is currently closed to parishioners due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19), all services will continue and can be viewed via live streaming via:**

**YouTube at** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxAOirhXmBQMTvczrujQY4g/live>

spiritual, *the one thing needed* are eyes to see and ears to hear.

My beloved, these are but a few of the issues I could share with you in the face of this enormous challenge to faith and life. In time, much more will need to be said and discussed. For the time being, let me assure you that you are all in my prayers and that we, clergy and Parish Council, are doing all we can to keep our community alive and well. We are grateful to all of you for your continued support and, we appreciate dearly your messages of encouragement and love. God willing, soon we will be together again in our church, celebrating the Holy Eucharist and, "with one mind and heart" confessing our faith in the Risen Lord. I miss you all terribly! May His blessings be upon you all, and may He protect us all from harm and misfortune.

Fr. George A. Alexson



Metropolis of New Jersey

# Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church



## Message from the Parish Council President, Constantine Sofologis



Χριστός Ανέστη! Fellow parishioners, I pray you and your families are safe and healthy during these trying times. As I mentioned previously, the recent COVID-19 epidemic had us thinking outside the box to provide our parish with the full experience of Holy Week and the Resurrection celebration. Finding a way to provide services through live streaming was new and occasionally challenging. Statistics pulled off our YouTube channel show we had over 1300 viewers throughout Holy Week. With this success, we will continue to provide live streaming beyond the “no large social gatherings” mandate for those that may be unable to attend regular services.

First, I would like to thank Fr. George, Fr. Michael and Deacon Harry for guiding us through Holy Week. Second, thank you Bret and Denise Lansdell for your undying dedication and service to provide chanting for all to enjoy. Anamaria and Christina Kendrat added to the angelic sounds as we progressed through Holy Week, as well as Luke Kendrat and Angelo Dacey serving as Acolytes. Our church looked as beautiful as ever, thanks to Presvytera Joanna and Mariana Korulaki. Last, but not least, thank you to the Parish Council for all the behind the scenes work.

I would also like to extend a special “thank you” to Ben Conrey. Many of you know Ben from his work in the kitchen at the Taste Greece. Every year he gives so much of his time to support our parish. On Monday of Holy Week, we found we needed a base for our crucifix. I thought, who could I call to help on such short notice. If anyone can do it, Ben could.... In under two days, Ben delivered this beautiful piece of craftsmanship to hold our crucifix for all to see.



Finally, progress on our future home continues. We are pending the closing on the sale of a small portion of our land to Rooney Properties. The Future Planning Committee continues to work with our consultants to put together the initial site plan for submittal to Loudoun County. This plan is to only identify building placement, parking and easements, as required by the county. These plans do not go into specific building design or floorplan, but only where the approximate building size can be efficiently placed on the property based on the studies. As new developments unfold, additional updates will be provided accordingly.

I pray for your continued health and well-being.

In His service,  
Con Sofologis  
Parish Council President  
Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church  
[con.sofologis@verizon.net](mailto:con.sofologis@verizon.net)



**Have a Happy Summer**





Metropolis of New Jersey

# Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church



## Holy Week and Pascha 2020





## Stewardship

My Fellow Parishioners

Greetings from the Stewardship Committee! We hope you had a blessed Pascha and enjoyed our online services. Though we couldn't be together in person we were at least together spiritually. We would like to thank you for your continued support from afar. We appreciate those of you who have lit a virtual candle, made a donation to the church, sent in your Stewardship pledge card, made a Stewardship payment, and watched our services online. If you look at our website we have many ways to contribute and it is as easy as clicking a button!

During this time I have noticed a lot of grace and kindness and stories of people helping out one another. I would ask that you remember to be good stewards of the world around you - reach out to someone you normally wouldn't talk to, check in on your neighbors, maybe offer to help someone out with errands, or go on a grocery run for somebody. Little things have a way of making a huge difference. Just smiling at someone can change someone's day.

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

Just remember we appreciate your support and miss you! Let's hope we will open our doors soon and be able to celebrate our faith in the House of the Lord.

In God's service,  
Ron Baldinger, Stewardship Chair  
Mina Baldinger Co-Chair  
[ron.baldinger@gmail.com](mailto:ron.baldinger@gmail.com)



Circle areas of expertise or interest:

Youth Groups and Classes

Hope & Joy  
GOYA  
Greek Dance Instruction  
Greek School  
Sunday School

Groups and Ministries

AHEPA  
Altar Service  
Choir  
Ladies Philoptochos  
Orthodox Book Club  
PAREA lunch group  
Parish Newsletter  
Social Events  
Stewardship Committee  
Visiting Elderly

### STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE (PLEDGE FOR JAN-DEC) HOLY APOSTLES GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

In faith, prayer and sacrifice, my family and I wish to share in the support and work of the Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church. We would like to pledge the amount of

\$\_\_\_\_\_ for the year \_\_\_\_\_ (through December)

You may pay via cash, check or online at [www.holyapostlesgreekorthodox.org](http://www.holyapostlesgreekorthodox.org).

This amount will be paid as follows:

☐ Annually ☐ Semi-annually ☐ Quarterly ☐ Monthly ☐ Weekly

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Your pledge is strictly confidential.

F



# STEWARDSHIP 2020 CHALLENGE!!

**GIVE AN EXTRA \$20 per MONTH**

**GIVE 20 HOURS OF TIME AND TALENT**



**PUT YOUR NAME ON THE  
STEWARDSHIP 2020 CHALLENGE LIST!!**

**Email: [stewardship@hagoc.org](mailto:stewardship@hagoc.org)  
TO SAY YOU ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE!!**

**Once you accept**

- 1. Your stewardship pledge will be increased by \$20 per month**
- 2. You will be put on the Stewardship 2020 Challenge list to be published in Church Newsletters and Mailings**
- 3. You can embark on your 20 hours for 2020**
- 4. YOU will immediately make an even BIGGER positive impact on the future of our church!**



## Capital Campaign and Property Update!

We are currently pending the closing date for the sale of up to 2 acres of our property to Rooney Properties. In the meantime, our Architectural and Land Planning consultants are working to prepare our initial site plan to submit to Loudoun County. This is the first step needed to prepare the land for building. Additional meetings with our parish will be held to review proposed architectural plans.

We are also happy to report that after expenses, we have almost \$1.4 million in our Building Fund. Thank you to all the generous parishioners who made contributions and donated stock to our Capital Campaign.

*How can you help?*

*Make a donation so we can begin building!*

*Consider donating appreciated stock and giving yourself and your future home a tax-deductible gift!*

*Together, we can do this!*



**Donate**

<https://www.holyapostlesgreekorthodox.org/capitalcampaign>



# The Graduate News



**Name of graduate:** Paris Economou  
**Name of parents:** Dean and Lia Economou  
**Graduating school:** Dominion High School  
**Post-graduation plans:** James Madison University Honors College; pursuing a major in Business Finance

**Name of graduate:** Nicholas Arvanitis  
**Name of parents:** John & Yana Arvanitis  
**Graduating school:** Woodgrove High School  
**Post-graduation plans:** George Mason University

**Name of graduate:** Brandon Lisciandro  
**Name of parents:** Christy and John Lisciandro  
**Graduating School:** Christopher Newport University with Bachelors in Political Science and Minor in National Security Studies

**Name of graduate :** Millie Morris  
**Name of parents:** Olivia and Jim Morris  
**Graduating school:** John Champe High School  
**Post-graduation plans:** James Madison University, School of Music, Music Education



**Name of graduate :** Christina Kendrat  
**Name of parents:** Bill and Kathy Kendrat  
**Graduating school:** Loudoun County High School  
**Post-graduation plans:** Hellenic College Holy Cross, pursuing a major in Education

**Name of graduate:** Georgia Orfanides  
**Name of Parents:** Marios and Sophia Orfanides  
**Graduating school:** Woodgrove High School  
**Post-graduation plans:** JMU honors college, major in music education with a concentration in voice

**Name of graduate:** Costa Pippas  
**Name of parents:** Andreas and Vickie Pippas  
**Graduating school:** Potomac Falls High School  
**Post-graduation plans:** Pursuing a Cybersecurity degree

**Name of graduate:** Ava Dorn  
**Name of Parents:** David and Susan Dorn  
**Graduating school:** Briar Woods High School, Ashburn, Virginia  
**Post-graduation plans:** Virginia Tech to study Multimedia Journalism

**Name of graduate:** Justin Rebok  
**Name of Parents:** Christine and Travis Rebok  
**Graduating school:** Broad Run High School  
**Post-graduation plans:** Towson University as a pitcher on their baseball team. Majoring in Business - Finance





## Sunday School

Christos Anesti Holy Apostles Sunday School Families!  
Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

Well, we are all adhering to the Stay-at-Home order due to the Coronavirus-19 Pandemic. However, as with Easter, it doesn't mean we all cannot 'attend' Divine Liturgy at church on Sundays! -thanks to our high-tech Parish Council and the Livestream link on our website.

And in lieu of meeting in person for Sunday School class, we have sent our parents weekly emails of resources such as lessons, crafts, articles, and videos as well as links to our Archdiocese ministries' resources from the Religious Education Department, Y2AM, and the Family Care Center just to name a few.

We have also started a Virtual Sunday School Zoom meeting that will bring all the teenagers together for a Sunday School lesson and fellowship. Thank you, Lia Economou and Angelo Dacey for arranging this encouraging platform for our Upper School.

In fact, our children as well as parents, grandparents and all parishoners can learn about each of the general Sunday Gospel lessons by going on our 'Catechetical School' webpage under 'Ministires and Organizations' from the Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church Website homepage. To get there, simply click: 'About Us.' <https://www.holyapostlesgreekorthodox.org/>

In addition, the Religious Education Department of our Archdiocese has an ongoing webpage called "Religious Education at Home" which gives resources, activities, lessons and/or crafts and runs every Saturday.

<https://www.goarch.org/-/religious-education-at-home>

Another link called: 'Comfort Food for Families' runs every Thursday - these are short videos for families to watch together as we all go through this stay-at-home process, not being able to go to church or Sunday School.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLWopa4I5g3xDaoHaowcLhDiiufbcXrfHf>

And then this last link is the entire 'Be The Bee' series by Y2AM which are videos for our Youth and Young Adults. There are 140 videos about all kinds of topics relating to our youth - and how to be like the bee and search for the good in life by *living* Orthodoxy.

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLbyQMR-r8bJTrcWpWxSUPdJHdZJsq\\_zG](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLbyQMR-r8bJTrcWpWxSUPdJHdZJsq_zG)

*From V.Rev. Anton Vrame Director of Religious Education Department from the Archdiocese:*

"These days of staying at home and practicing our faith at home have in some respects given us an experience of the New Testament church. In the Acts of the Apostles and the letters of St. Paul, you will notice that "households" were baptized. See Acts of the Apostles 16:15, Acts of the Apostles 18:8, 1 Corinthians 1:16, and 1 Corinthians 16:15.

For the first few centuries of Christianity, there were no parishes as we understand them. Christians would gather in homes to celebrate the Eucharist, to be baptized, to learn about their faith. When St. Paul describes the Eucharist in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, this celebration would have been conducted in a home..."

So, if you think about these things, you can see how we are able to make the New Testament Church present in our own homes today.

Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers each week and we can't wait to see each of you when we are all allowed back in Church!

And...I know I speak for everyone on the Holy Apostles Sunday School Staff when I say how so very proud I am of all of our Sunday School students. This is not an easy path that we are all taking...and especially to those graduating seniors who will embark on another new path in the fall, we say CONGRATULATIONS to you: **Paris Economou, Christina Kendrat, Millie Morris, Georgia Orfanides, and Costa Pippas!**

May our Patron Saints, the 12 Holy Apostles, be with each of you as you graduate and may God bless you with joy, health, and success in your future endeavors!

With love in Christ,

Denise Lansdell

[deniseinvirginia@gmail.com](mailto:deniseinvirginia@gmail.com)



This is an example of the craft one of our parishoners' family made from the 4th Sunday of Lent: St. John the Ladder...Great job!



## GOYA

Christos Anesti! GOYA had many activities planned throughout the Spring which were unfortunately cancelled due to the Coronavirus. However this did not stop our teenagers from staying in touch! The GOYAns connected over Zoom meetings and also had Sunday School classes with their teacher, Angelo Dacey, and Father George. It was wonderful to hear their shared stories of maintaining their faith during these difficult times, and continuing to worship with us virtually and pray with their families.

These continued connections also allowed us to recognize our seniors, Millie Morris, Georgia Orfanides, and GOYA President, Paris Economou. Coincidentally all will be attending James Madison University in the Fall. We wish them well and pray for their continued happiness and success! If conditions allow, we hope to have an in-person get together late summer to celebrate our year and give a final send-off to our seniors.

Until then, I pray you all have a safe Summer. If you have a teenager or rising teenager, please consider having them join our GOYA (Greek Orthodox Youth of America). Reach out to me so I can introduce them to our fantastic group. All teenagers are welcome!

In God's service,  
Lia Economou  
GOYA Advisor  
[liaecon@comcast.net](mailto:liaecon@comcast.net)



## Opa! Mezze Grill wins Best of Loudoun 2020

Opa! Mezze Grill, an annual supporter of our Taste of Greece, won "Best Mediterranean Restaurant" in the Loudoun Times Mirror 2020 Best of Loudoun contest. Chef Konstantinos was born in Greece and his culinary career began in 1971. His expertise in Greek cuisine has evolved over the past 40 years and he strives to make classic Mediterranean dishes that taste delicious and leave customers wanting more. Opa! Mezze Grill is located at 44110 Ashburn Shopping Center; [opamezzegrill.com](http://opamezzegrill.com).



Loudoun Times-Mirror

**2020**  
**BEST OF**  
**LOUDOUN**

**WINNER**



## Philoptochos

Christos Anesti!

We experienced a Lenten season and Holy Week like no other this year. We sang Christos Anesti in our homes and offered our praise to our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ. We reflected on the things that are truly important in our lives: love, faith, community and family.

We give our heartfelt thanks and love to Father George, Deacon Harry and Father Michael for guiding us spiritually through these challenging times. We thank our chanters, altar boys, Parish Council, and others that I may have missed for being an integral part in making this community all come together and providing us with a thoughtful and comforting online experience.

I wish you all peace, safety and blessings in our Lord. Trust in Him!

Alexis Cleveland

[apcphiloptochos@gmail.com](mailto:apcphiloptochos@gmail.com)



### Authentic Greek Food in the Heart of Great Falls!

Chef Eugenia & her family bring Greek home cooking to Northern Virginia. Open Tuesday to Sunday for lunch & dinner. Catering & take-out available.

1025 Seneca Road (off Georgetown Pike) in Great Falls, VA 22066  
(703) 870 7807 - Visit us on the web: [www.ourmomeugenia.com](http://www.ourmomeugenia.com)





## Epitaphio Committee

The **Easter Flowers/Altar Fund Committee** would like to thank wholeheartedly all of our Parishioners for their generous donations! Your support made it possible for our Church to be adorned with lovely fresh flowers during this difficult Lenten season, as well our Epitaphio. We would like to thank the Ministries that participated in the Salutations with their prayers and beautiful floral arrangements.  
Xristos Anesti!

Thank you very much.

Mariana Korulaki



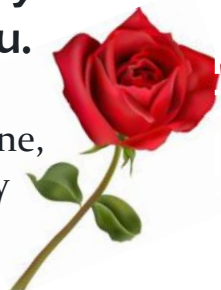
A Poem To All:

Roses are red  
Pickles are green  
Don't let this virus  
make you feel mean.

Roses are red  
The dark night is black  
Can't wait to see you all  
and bring your smiles back.

Roses are red  
And a pair makes two  
Just want to say  
I miss all of you.

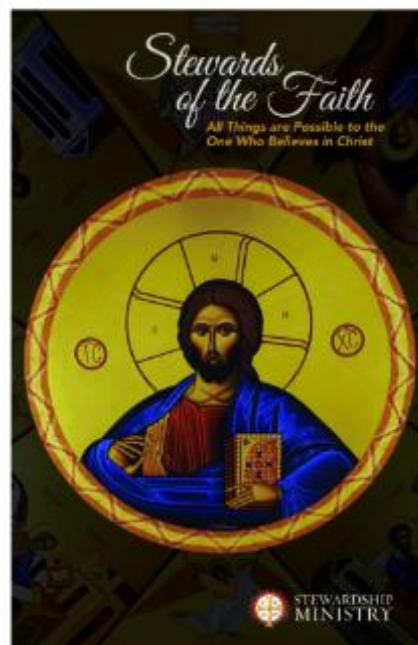
Stay safe and healthy everyone,  
Nick Spyros, steward of Holy  
Apostles



## Ways to Continue to Support Our Church



[https://  
www.holyapostlesgreekorthodox.org/  
virtual-candle](https://www.holyapostlesgreekorthodox.org/virtual-candle)



[Make a Stewardship Payment](#)



[Donate with PayPal Giving Fund](#)

[https://  
www.holyapostlesgreekorthodox.org  
/givingnow](https://www.holyapostlesgreekorthodox.org/givingnow)



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## Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church

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Dulles, VA 20166

[www.holyapostlesgreekorthodox.org](http://www.holyapostlesgreekorthodox.org)



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Epitaphio/Flowers Committee	Mariana Korulaki		k.mariana@hotmail.com
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HOPE and JOY	Ashley Joiner		ashleydjoiner@gmail.com
Philoptochos	Alexis Cleveland		apcphiloptochos@gmail.com
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