



# The Light To Φως



Greek Orthodox Parish  
of Loudoun County

Volume 6, Issue 5  
September-October 2013

*The bi-monthly newsletter of the Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County*

## A Message from Father George Alexson



*"Do You Know Where...?"*

Back in the 1960s, 70s, and 80s, a popular public service announcement would appear on television, usually around ten or eleven o'clock at night, asking parents: "Do you know where your children are?" The purpose of the announcement was to encourage parents to maintain a keen interest in the whereabouts of their children, especially in regards to the company they were keeping.

Alas, the need for vigilance over our children never ends. Of course, technology has made it a lot easier to keep track of their physical location. But do parents really know where their children "are" ideologically? Are parents keeping a close enough watch on the intellectual, moral and social maturity of their children, as well they ought to be. I put this question to our parents: "Do you know what your children are learning?" Do you discuss with them the content of their lessons and, what their teachers are teaching? If not, then the following incident from a school in Tennessee is the eye-opener you need, to encourage you to do just that.

High school students from an Honors World Studies class in Tennessee were taken on a field trip to a mosque and a Hindu temple. According to one newspaper report, while at the mosque they were treated to punch, cookies, and readings from the Koran. Upon leaving, they were given copies of the Koran to take with them.

One student refused to go on the trip, much to the chagrin of her teachers. Thus, in place of the trip, she was made to write a paper comparing and contrasting the Christian, Hindu and Islamic faiths. To assist her, her teachers gave her materials: one page on the sayings of Jesus, two-thirds of a page on the sayings of Ghandi, and five pages on Muhammed. I note, with no remorse for sarcasm, that the section on Islam was titled, "Religious tolerance in Islam."

To the student's credit, she wrote on her paper, in spite of her parent's warning that she risked being failed, "Because of a surplus in information on Muhammed, and a lack of complete and thorough information on Mahatma Ghandi and Jesus Christ, there is not enough true facts to properly complete a comparison and contrasting paper." Needless to say, she was given a zero by these "educators."

Fortunately, her vigilant and courageous parents confronted the school board and her teachers regarding their intolerable provocation. When they asked why the trip did not include visits to a Christian church and a synagogue, they were told that the school could not afford excursions to so many places. To add insult to injury, they were accused by the teachers of being hostile to Islam. The final and most egregious insult came when a teacher told the parents: "I can't believe you would question our motives with your children."

My advice to all parents: Question! Question! Question!

I have no problem with students learning about other faiths and cultures. I was born and reared in a city where the diversity of races, nationalities, colors and creeds made life truly fascinating, while encouraging us to be open and tolerant towards the "other." Tolerance and openness, however, are meaningless sentiments if they inherently demand contradicting and denying the integrity and veracity of one's own religious, moral and historical identity. Nor should tolerance and openness require or consent to an expectation of historical revisionism in order to make the "other" more appealing than the reality, past and present, would allow.

What happened in Tennessee was a deliberate and unacceptable attempt to force a student to draw comparisons between religious faiths based on inadequate and, in this case, biased materials. Her parents were right:

*Continued on Page 7...*

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## Highlights:

- Join the Loudoun County AHEPA Chapter!
- GOYA starting boys basketball!
- Sign up for the GOPLC Christmas Card.
- Order Spanakopita and Baklava for Thanksgiving.



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## President's Message



It's hard to believe that the summer is already over. As we all fill our schedules with school, sports, and yes, the upcoming holidays, please include time for spiritual growth and fulfillment. No reservations required.

Please remember to enroll in our Catechetical School. Guiding our children's spiritual development and creating a foundation for a strong Orthodox community, should be every parent's objective. Sunday School classes begin on Sunday, September 22nd so if you have not done so, please visit our webpage to download the enrollment form.

Greek Language School is also accepting registration forms for the 2013-2014 school year. Vasilia Ravaris does an amazing job coordinating the ministry and the Parish Council applauds the dedication of all our teachers.

The Men's Bible Study Group has kicked off its second year. Please contact Father George or Nick Spyros at [nlspyros@yahoo.com](mailto:nlspyros@yahoo.com) for more information.

I would like to thank Bill Aubin and his tireless volunteers for a successful weekend at the Ashburn Village Fest. This event gets us out into the community and creates awareness of the church, as well as publicizing our upcoming events.

We will be holding our Second Annual Bake Sale to "Put a Taste of Greece on your holiday table". To have another successful event, we need your help

in preparation of the Baklava and Spanakopita, as well as the delivery days. Orders will be taken through Nov 1, and pick up days are Nov 22 & 23. Volunteers to assist in the assembly of these delicious treats, as well as folks to staff the drive-thru are needed. Please contact Cynthia Smith at [silvercps@hotmail.com](mailto:silvercps@hotmail.com) for more information.

And last but not least, SAVE THE DATE for our annual Taste of Greece event on February 14-16, 2014. Chairman Bill Aubin will be assembling his team and coordinating volunteers for what will be another successful event at the Ashburn Volunteer Fire Department Founders Hall.

In His service,

**Con Sofologis**  
Parish Council President



*Volunteers hard at work at this year's Ashburn Village Festival and our Taste of Greece.*

## Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County

# Put a Taste of Greece On Your Thanksgiving Table

**Baklava and Spanakopita Delivered To Your Car November 22nd and 23rd**



### Baklava

Almonds, walnuts and cinnamon in between layers of buttery thin flaky dough. Fully cooked and ready to serve (Serves 12)



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Spinach, egg and feta cheese in between buttery layers of filo dough. Just bake and serve (Serves 12)

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order online at: [www.greekorthodoxloudoun.org](http://www.greekorthodoxloudoun.org)

Make checks payable to the Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun.

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Total Items \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**The Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County, 21580 Atlantic Blvd, Bldg. D, Unit 160, Dulles, VA 20166**  
[www.greekorthodoxloudoun.org](http://www.greekorthodoxloudoun.org)



## Stewardship

I hope you all had a wonderful summer! As we begin the Fall we welcome back all our parishioners from summer vacation and our new families who have joined us.

No matter what season, the simple fact remains: every day at our Church is because of you! Every sermon by Father George, every PAREA gathering, every Sunday School class, every GOYA outreach program – these all happen because of you. Our Church and its Ministries are built on the shoulders of our Stewards. Your contributions and Stewardship are, in a profound and tangible way, the foundation of our Parish.

When you give your Stewardship you are saying loud and clear that our Church matters to you, that you value it, and that it should exist for others to follow.

One more thing is true: you make a difference to our Church. You are the reason others want to join, you are the reason our Parish can do so many good works, you are the reason we are thriving.

The Stewardship Committee invites you to help us continue the good works of the “O-W-E” (Outreach-Welcome-Embrace) initiative by participating in one of these upcoming events:

- ◆ “Mr. and Mrs. Night” for the couples in our Parish. This will be a wonderful opportunity to meet other couples in our church and put the face to the name! Look for more details to come.
- ◆ “Coffee and Cupcakes,” a get-together for new families to meet one another and other parishioners, and to learn more about our Ministries. Our wonderful Steward and committee member, Marina Blair, will host this event. Invitations will follow.

We thank you for your contributions and ask that you continue to support our Parish and stay involved. How can you do this? By fulfilling your 2013 Stewardship pledge and by getting involved in our Ministries. There are many opportunities to participate and give back to those organizations you value most.

If you have any suggestions for future Stewardship events or any questions about your Stewardship pledge or the Stewardship Committee, please contact me at [liaecon@comcast.net](mailto:liaecon@comcast.net).

In God's Service,

**Lia Economou**  
Stewardship Chair

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### 2013 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE GOPLC

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

Total Amt: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(for Jan 2013 – Dec 2013)

#### Payment frequency:

\_\_\_ Annual \_\_\_ Semi-annual  
\_\_\_ Quarterly \_\_\_ Monthly  
\_\_\_ Weekly

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### 2013 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE – GREEK ORTHODOX PARISH OF LOUDOUN COUNTY

In faith, prayer and sacrifice, my family and I wish to share in the support and work of the Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County, Virginia.

Out of our love and gratitude for all His blessings, we would like to pledge AN HOUR'S PAY PER WEEK (i.e. 2.5% of annual household income) or the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the year 2013.

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**.





## Mother-Son Bowling Event

Thank you to our wonderful Steward, Christy Lisciandro, for organizing Mother-Son Bowling at Bowl America in Sterling on September 8. Over 20 people attended. Not only did the boys have fun, but so did the moms! This was a great opportunity for our children and parents to get to know one another and bond in a fun activity. Many new friendships were made!



*Everyone had a great time at the Mother-Son Bowling Event at Bowl America in Sterling on September 8!*





## GOYA

Dear GOYA members and parents,

New GOYA Officers have planned activities and are all geared up for an exciting year! The success of these activities depends on the involvement of GOYA members and the continued support of their parents.

Our mission states that "belonging to GOYA ministry depends solely on being an Orthodox Christian. We are expected to integrate the following elements into all aspects of our programming: worship, fellowship, service and witness. We hope to make our group an exceptional program which will keep these four elements not as four separate entities, but as four interlocking circles that overlap and build on each other".

GOYA provides our youth with opportunities to volunteer, engage in enterprising activities, make lifelong friendships and express their faith. With the guidance from the GOYA advisers, Sofia Kouiroukidis and Lillian Funk, as well as the support of our faithful parents, GOYA officers learn to express their faith through a variety of "hands on" activities, including activity planning, group leadership, and financial planning.

Members, age 13 to 17, are welcome to attend the first GOYA kickoff meeting of this year on September 22nd after liturgy and blessing of new officers. We will review the calendar of events and vote on other fun activities such as a Christmas party, talent show, bowling, dinner and a movie and possibly ice skating/tubing events.

GOYA members will meet every third Sunday of each month after liturgy. Please check our bulletin board at church for upcoming events. Membership and health forms are posted on the board as well, to complete and return to one of the GOYA advisors or you may download from the church website: <http://www.greekorthodoxloudoun.org/goya.html>.

We look forward to your participation and wish you all a wonderful and successful year!

**Sofia Kouiroukidis** (kkouirouk@gmail.com)

**Lillian Funk** (lilyfunk@hotmail.com)

*Hope/Joy Co-Directors*



### GOYA Basketball

New GOYA Boys Basketball Team! Our GOYA is ready to launch a new boys basketball team. We have a coach and several players. All boys that are GOYA age (7th grade-12th grade) who are interested in joining should contact Kathy Kendrat at [kmkendrat@aol.com](mailto:kmkendrat@aol.com).

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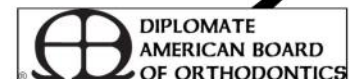
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## HOPE / JOY

Hi Everyone!

Welcome back to all our Hope and Joy children (K through 6th grade!) Maria Drapas and I are looking forward to another fun year. We are in the process of preparing our meeting and activity schedule, and will keep you apprised of everything shortly.

Upcoming events include our monthly meetings at the church, with our own Father George in attendance. Some of our other activities include a Walk for the Homeless sponsored by the Good Shepherd Alliance. Our Hope and Joy children have traditionally walked in this event together, and enjoy a barbeque afterwards. We also go ice-skating and visit the children's homeless shelter, where we visit with the children and bring them treats and sing Christmas carols. On Lazarus Saturday we help with the making of the palm crosses for Palm Sunday. During Lent, we form a procession during one of the Salutation Services, and bring flowers into the church.

Hope and Joy is a wonderful way for our Orthodox children to connect with each other through the Church. To register your children, you must complete a registration form. Only one form is necessary for all of your children. Forms will be available at the church, on the Hope and Joy bulletin board, and also on the church website, at [greekorthodox-loudoun.org](http://greekorthodox-loudoun.org). The registration fee is \$20 for the first child, and \$15 for each additional child. The registration fees go to help defray the cost of

arts and crafts, and snacks. If you have any questions, please contact me at [eleniadamis@gmail.com](mailto:eleniadamis@gmail.com), or Maria Drapas at [markamaria@yahoo.com](mailto:markamaria@yahoo.com).

We look forward to seeing you at Hope and Joy!

Best regards,

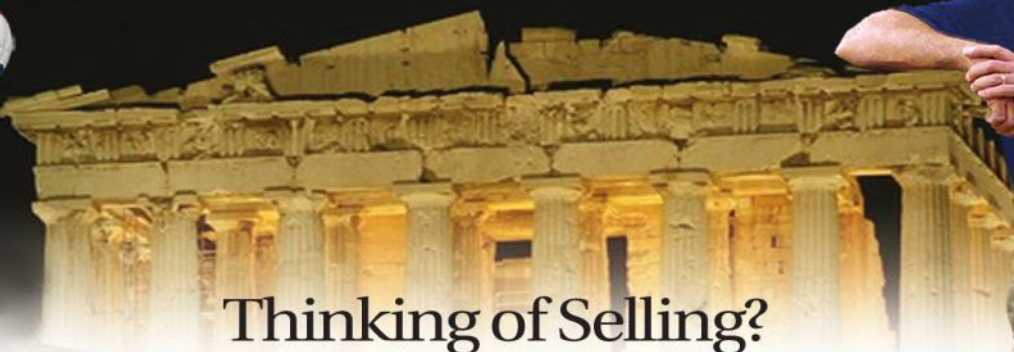
**Eleni Adamis Hadjimichael & Maria Drapas**

*Hope/Joy Co-Directors*

## Fr. George's message continued

either study all religions represented in our society or none at all. Or better, leave the spiritual, religious and moral formation of our children where it belongs: with their parents and religious associations. In any case, parents should never relinquish their right and responsibility to monitor, question, and, if need be, challenge the content of their children's instruction, especially when public schools deviate into the realm of faith and morals. Remember these two important facts: school boards and educators are not without their own peculiar agendas. Nor, are they more infallible in their selection of materials and projects than the parents who entrust their children's education to them. Public schools exist for the purpose of educating our children in those subjects necessary to their future employment as useful and successful citizens. Journeys into moral and religious instruction are better left to those adequate to the task.

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## Greek School

Dear Parents,

I hope you all had an enjoyable summer with your families and I wish your children a very successful school year in all their studies. As you are aware, the church operates a Greek Language Afternoon School Program, starting at age 4. Adult classes are also offered. Classes are held one of two days, Wednesday or Thursday from 5:00 – 6:45 p.m., starting October 9th for Wednesday classes and October 10th for Thursday classes.

Our school provides a safe and stimulating learning environment where each participant is valued, nurtured and encouraged to grow individually. As part of a growing community, our school continues to offer a unique experience to all students who attend and promote their intellectual and social abilities.

We offer a structured and fun learning approach, by providing a teaching environment in the Greek Language, culture and faith where each student develops their own talents. The teachers are chosen for their love of teaching the Greek Language, for their strong background and experience, for their moral standards and their desire to work and instruct the students and helping them succeed.

It is important to maintain a secure foundation for future growth. It is a priority that your child's success no matter how small it may seem will be acknowledged. The more your child is exposed to the Greek Language, the easier it will be for him/her to incorporate new skills.

One of our main goals is to help families of Greek and Non-Greek heritage backgrounds raise bilingual children; which in this day and age is a challenge. We all share the passion for our Greek Language and are committed to teach and help each of our students reach their growth potential. Emphasis is on teaching our children the Hellenic Language, reading, writing and Hellenic culture, history and values with a Greek Orthodox background.

All of our students will be offered a challenging, high quality and beneficial Greek/English developmental curriculum which is appropriate for their age group and level such as the Papaloizos textbooks and workbooks. These books are developed for the teaching of Greek as a Second Language. In addition to the Papaloizos books, our students will receive supplemental books and or handouts.

During class, our students will be encouraged to express themselves in Greek, and are always encouraged to participate in conversations to communicate both teacher to child as well as child to child. This will enhance their comprehension, self esteem, and will develop positive self concept and skills by communication to one another. The activities are selected carefully to appeal to different learning styles and level appropriate. The students will be given the opportunity to "learn" and to recognize the Greek alphabet and their sounds, then creating syllables which conclude to words, phrases and even sentences. They will be involved in listening and learning songs and stories, learning the colors, counting, identifying flashcards, playing educational games, conversations, grammar, reading/writing skills and a lot more. Upon conclusion of each semester, each student will be evaluated through testing as recommended by the Archdiocese. First, one hears, then one understands, then one speaks!

I believe that a good parent-teacher relationship is necessary for maximum school success. By all of us working together, we can make this a very successful school year. This will enable each of us to establish procedures that enhance learning and contribute to a safe, orderly and positive environment. We will help every student achieve their full potential and ensure success throughout the school year. I will gladly answer any questions, and welcome your suggestions and valuable feedback.

I am looking forward to welcoming back our old students and meeting new ones and their families. Please take the time to read and/or complete the following. All of this information can be found on our website: Registration Form, Policy/Procedures and Calendar.

Thank you in advance. I am truly looking forward to this year. It will indeed be very beneficial and successful for everyone.

Respectfully,

**Vasilia Ravaris** (vasilia@live.com)  
Greek School Director

**Eleni Malliaros**  
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## The Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County Greek Afternoon School Registration Form 2013 – 2014 School Year

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

**Registration Information:** Please complete entire form. Payment in full must be attached, unless otherwise discussed with the Director. If you are registering more than one child, kindly complete a separate registration form for each. If you have any questions in regards to this form, kindly contact Vasilia Ravaris ([vasilia@live.com](mailto:vasilia@live.com))

Student's First and Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's First and Last Name in Greek: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Name Day: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's grade in school for 2013-2014 school year: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Greek Language Information:

Is Greek the child's first language? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Is Greek spoken at home? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Has the child attended Greek school in the past? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

If yes, how many years? \_\_\_\_\_ Years

Greek school classes will be offered one of the two days.

Wednesday 5:00-6:45 p.m.

Thursday 5:00-6:45 p.m.

Adult Class is also offered, please inquire

### Payment Information:

Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County Stewards:

\*\$350 plus \$ 50 for Books for the first child

\*\$300 plus \$ 50 for Books for each additional child

Non-Stewards:

\*\$550 plus \$ 50 for each child

*Make checks payable to the Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County, please write "Greek School" in Memo section.* Please Address all registrations to:

The Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County  
Attention: Vasilia Ravaris, Greek School Director  
21580 Atlantic Boulevard, Bldg D, Unit 160, Dulles, VA 20166



## Philoptochos

I greet you with a happy heart and hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable summer.

We began the ecclesiastical new year with our first meeting and general elections on September 29. The current officers' term will end at the end of December 2013, and a new term will begin on January 1, 2014, to be concluded in spring 2015. We had this atypical for Philoptochos chapters election schedule to get our chapter in sync with all other chapters across the country, which hold elections biannually on odd-numbered years. Though the new Executive Committee will not be operating until January 1, this fall will be an opportunity for transition and information sharing so that the transfer can be seamless in January. Specific roles and responsibilities will be determined this fall among the newly elected members.

We are so thankful for the commitment to the charitable work that we do of these hard-working ladies. Please congratulate your new elected Philoptochos Executive Committee members when you see them at church. They are:

- ◆ Ergini Batistatos Martinshn
- ◆ Lisa Branner Orfanides
- ◆ Alexis Cleveland
- ◆ Cynthia Glakas
- ◆ Maria Mollo
- ◆ Cynthia Smith
- ◆ Carol Zangos

Those who are not tired of me yet will be glad to know that I will stay on our Philoptochos Board for the next term in an advisory capacity, as is customary in Philoptochos chapters.

The past year was marked by tremendous success in fundraising and activities that were social and spiritual in nature. This year we will continue with the events and programs that have been bringing our members together in friendship and fellowship.

Some of the activities and events planned this year are:

- ◆ October is Breast Cancer Awareness month; look for pink cupcakes at Coffee Hour on Sunday, October 13
- ◆ Fall trip to Aghia Skepi monastery in Pennsylvania (October/November 2013, date TBA)
- ◆ Annual Breakfast with Santa --December 8, 2013 (tentative)
- ◆ Annual holiday bake sale of tsoureki and vasilopita

- ◆ Baking and Yiayia's Bake Shop at the Taste of Greece (2014)
- ◆ Annual gift card drive to benefit LAWS, the Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter
- ◆ Annual Easter Card and bake sale of tsoureki for Easter
- ◆ Annual Fashion Show (date TBA)

This fall we are kicking off the year again with a Membership Drive, starting on Sunday, October 6 and ending on April 30, 2014. Again this year we will have a drawing among new and renewed memberships, paid during the membership drive period, and the prize will be a Philoptochos cross pendant. Our goal is 100% participation from our parish families. To put it simply, if there is a lady in your household, she should be a Philoptochos member.

Your dollars directly benefit an increasing number of our Orthodox brothers and sisters in need primarily at our church and secondly those most in need in our community at large in Loudoun County. Our Philoptochos chapter is taking the necessary steps to also be in a position to make a meaningful contribution when --God willing-- we will officially begin on the path for a permanent home for our parish.

All contributions to Philoptochos are confidential, tax deductible, and greatly appreciated. A membership form is enclosed in this issue. I sincerely hope that you will choose to support your Philoptochos chapter and join us.

With deepest gratitude and best wishes for the year ahead,

**Loula Lagadinis**

GOPLC Philoptochos Preseident

*Loula@angelic.com*

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# GOPLC

## PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,  
I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me,  
I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.

Matthew 25:35

### MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

OCTOBER 6, 2013 - APRIL 30, 2014

Submit one form per family

Please sign me up for the following:

\$\_\_\_\_\_ **\$30.00 Philoptochos membership** (valid for one year)  
— includes National Philoptochos Society membership card

\$\_\_\_\_\_ **Additional gift membership** at \$30.00 for \_\_\_\_\_ (name)  
— includes National Philoptochos Society membership card

\$\_\_\_\_\_ **Additional donation to the GOPLC Philoptochos Society**  
A suggested amount is **\$150** per family but any amount is welcome and appreciated. All funds raised directly benefit our church's philanthropic activities for fellow Orthodox Christians and are 100% tax deductible.

\$\_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL** Please make your checks payable to **GOPLC Philoptochos Society**

--- OR ---

*Charge the total to my credit card: (circle one) VISA / MC / DISCOVER (no AmEx)*

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ CCV#: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Please contact me regarding meetings and ways that I may volunteer with Philoptochos.

Please give membership form to Loula Lagadinos or send form and check to:  
Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County Philoptochos Society  
Attention: Membership, 21580 Atlantic Blvd. Building D, Unit 160, Dulles, VA 20166

For questions regarding Philoptochos membership contact Loula Lagadinos at [Loula@angelic.com](mailto:Loula@angelic.com)

All memberships submitted during the Membership Drive will be entered in a drawing for a Philoptochos cross pendant. Drawing will take place after April 30, 2014. Please use this form to be included in the drawing.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF GOPLC PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY!**



## Join us to establish a new ...

### **AHEPA (American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association) Chapter**

for the Ashburn, VA area, to serve the needs of our Loudoun Greek Orthodox Parish and our greater community. The mission of the AHEPA is to promote Hellenism, Education, Philanthropy, Civic Responsibility, and Family and Individual Excellence. According to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Order of AHEPA a new Chapter is created when: **a.** 10 or more male citizens of a community who have never previously joined an AHEPA Chapter apply to join and form a new chapter, **b.** any transferring members of other AHEPA chapters who apply to transfer, **c.** petition to the National AHEPA Lodge and the geographical District for establishment of a new Chapter, and **d.** follow the rules and obligations of AHEPA.

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO JOIN?** Any male at least 18 years old, in good standing in the community, fills and submits an application and membership fee, and takes an oath to abide by the rules and ideals of the Order of AHEPA.

**WHEN WILL THE NEW CHAPTER BE ESTABLISHED?** The plan is for the new Chapter to be established and fully functional with elected officers and approved bylaws by the end of 2013.

**WHY JOIN AHEPA?** About 40 parishioners of the Loudoun Greek Orthodox Parish already are members of AHEPA Chapters. Many of these members have already expressed the wish to join our new Chapter to focus our work and resources to the parish missions and for the good of our community. AHEPA has contributed more than \$15,000 to the Loudoun Parish's building fund and general operating fund. They also have provided financial support and awards to the Greek School. Two parish students have attended the AHEPA Academy. Several parish students have won AHEPA scholarships. The nearest other Chapter is about 30 miles away.

**DO YOU HAVE TO BE GREEK AMERICAN TO JOIN?** No. Anyone can join. Two local congressmen are members of the Falls Church Chapter. Presidents Truman and Ford were members of AHEPA.

**WHAT WILL IT COST ME?** There is an annual membership fee. The exact amount for the new chapter will be determined by the organizing committee, but will not be higher than \$100 per year.

**READY TO JOIN?** Fill and submit the Application for Membership. Sign the petition for new Chapter.

**HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?** Contact Vasilis Fotopoulos at: [fuhuaxi@gmail.com](mailto:fuhuaxi@gmail.com) or Nick Spyros at [nlspyros@yahoo.com](mailto:nlspyros@yahoo.com).





# American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association

## Membership Application



**I hereby wish to:** *(Check one only)*

☐ Join as a new member into: ☐ Reinstate into: ☐ Transfer into:

Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_, District # \_\_\_\_\_ located in: (City) \_\_\_\_\_ (State/Prov.) \_\_\_\_\_

Prefix (Mr./Dr.) \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Suffix (DDS, Esq.) \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname \_\_\_\_\_ M.I. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Are you a citizen of the United States or Canada? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Were you a member of the Sons of Pericles? ☐ No ☐ Yes; Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_ City & State/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_

### ☐ FOR REINSTATEMENT ONLY:

Serial # \_\_\_\_\_ Date Initiated \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby apply for reinstatement of my AHEPA membership into Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_

I was previously a member of Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_ located in \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

I hereby certify that I have paid my dues up to \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_ to Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_.

### ☐ FOR MEMBERSHIP TRANSFER ONLY:

Serial # \_\_\_\_\_ Date Initiated \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby wish to transfer my AHEPA membership from Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_ located in \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

To Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_ located in \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

I hereby certify that I have paid my dues up to \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_ to Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_.

I believe myself worthy of the rights and privileges enjoyed by the members of AHEPA. I know no reason why I should not become a member, and I promise, if accepted, to observe the laws and traditions of AHEPA, and will not take advantage of or abuse my privileges as a member thereof. I believe in the divinity of Jesus Christ.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Please remit this form to:

Your local AHEPA chapter representative or send to AHEPA, 1909 Q Street, Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20009-1007

Phone: (202) 232-6300 Fax: (202) 232-2140 Email: ahepa@ahpa.org

### Chapter Use Only

#### Member Endorsement

*(New Members Only)*

Mindful of our sacred duties and obligations to the Order of AHEPA, and as members in good standing, we hereby endorse this applicant and recommend that he be admitted into the AHEPA, and vouch for his good character, sincerity of purpose, and worthiness of the privilege to become a member.

First Endorser \_\_\_\_\_

Second Endorser \_\_\_\_\_

#### Certification to the Supreme Lodge

*(to be completed by Chapter Secretary)*

I certify that the applicant/brother \_\_\_\_\_

was duly initiated/accepted by \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_

on (Month) \_\_\_\_\_ (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Year) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

#### Report of Investigating Committee

*(New Members Only)*

We have examined the foregoing application, investigated the applicant and recommend that he be:

☐ Accepted ☐ Rejected

Investigating Committee \_\_\_\_\_

#### Headquarters' Use Only:

Application Received \_\_\_\_\_

Data Processing \_\_\_\_\_

National Serial # \_\_\_\_\_



## Catechetical School

I would like to welcome all of the returning and new students back to our Catechetical school! I would also like to welcome all of the returning and new teachers back, who devote their time and talent to sharing their love of God with our children. With God's grace, this promises to be an extraordinary Catechetical school year.

This summer as many of you know, my beloved mother Chrysoula Zangos, fell asleep in the Lord. Although we all were anticipating this, it was still quite trying as many of you know who have lost love ones. During the last few months she was on home Hospice care, which we found to be quite supporting. As an Orthodox Christian we know that life does not end when our physical bodies die, but our spirit moves on to be with the Lord in His eternal glory! However, there is still that loss which we all try to reconcile. Through the support of Hospice we came across a short analogy, which we all found very comforting, that I would love to share with all our friends. Henry Van Dyke's poem goes like this:

-We are standing upon the seashore. A ship by our side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength. We stand and watch her until at length she hangs like a speck of white cloud just where the sea and sky come to mingle with each other.

Then someone says: "There, she is gone!"

"Gone where?"

Gone from our sight. That is all. She is just as large in mast and hull and spar as she was when she left our side and she is just as able to bear the load of living freight to her destination. Her diminished size is in us, not in her.

And just at the moment when someone at our side says: "There, she is gone!" There are other eyes watching her coming, and other voices ready to take up the glad shout: "Here she comes!".... And that is dying.

I am sure there are some who have read this prose before, but for my family and I it was a first. It made letting go of our mother much easier, that there were many who had gone before her waiting for her, and knowing that some day we too will make that journey to join those who wait for us.

Again, as believing Orthodox Christians, this world is not the end of our existence, but a prelude to the one that awaits us in heavenly glory. It is what we do and how we act in this life that determines our position in God's Kingdom. As Christ taught us, we ought to store up our treasures in heavenly places. These and other Godly principles are what we try to teach and relay each Sunday in our Catechetical classes. I pray that the Grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ helps us all through this life's journey.

In God's service,

**Nick Zangos & Maria Mollo**

*Catechetical School Director*



**Weichert,  
Realtors®**

**George & Peter Retsinas**  
703-541-9168 / 703-338-2167  
[gretsinas@weichert.com](mailto:gretsinas@weichert.com)  
[pretsinas@weichert.com](mailto:pretsinas@weichert.com)







And the Angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold,  
I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We invite you to participate in our annual Parish Christmas Card as we approach the joyous Christmas season, wherein we celebrate the Incarnation of the Son of God, our Lord and Savior. This year our Parish Christmas Card will feature a drawing from one of our Sunday School children with the theme “Behold the Joy” and will include the names of all parishioners who participate. With a \$25.00 donation your name will be included in this card and it will be mailed by the church to all parishioners.

Please complete the form below and give it to a church usher or mail it to the church in the enclosed envelope by Sunday, November 24, 2013.

*List your name(s) as you want it printed on the Christmas card.*

-----  
NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE/EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to GOPLC (abbreviation for The Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County) and **note “Christmas Card” in the memo section**. If you have any questions, please contact Paul Orphanides at [porphanides@remax.net](mailto:porphanides@remax.net). We look forward to sharing your message of love, peace and joy with all of our community during this holy season.

In Christ our True God,

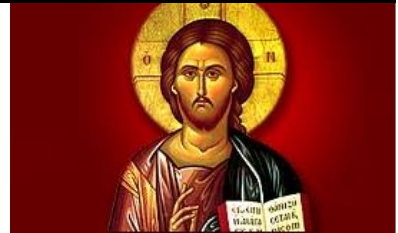
Father George Alexson  
Presiding Priest

Con Sofologis  
Parish Council President

**The Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County**

21580 Atlantic Blvd., Building D, Unit 160  
Dulles, VA 20166

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



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## PAREA

Hello dear Parishioners!

With God's grace we gathered again around PAREA's table after the summer break. We were all very excited and thankful to share our summer stories, our travels and of course celebrate birthdays and special occasions! As I have said many times before, PAREA is YOU! Breaking bread with fellow parishioners creates strong fellowship. Strong Fellowship creates wonderful relationships and friendships. Great friendships create strong ties for our church and deep roots. And this is what we pray for!

Please note that our October PAREA will take place at OPA restaurant and our November PAREA at Delia's. You will find more information in the Sunday bulletin and on our website. Please come and join us! Enjoy the fall!

In His everlasting mercy,

**Marina Blair**

*PAREA Chair*

*"PAREA, delivers exactly the meaning of the word. It affords an opportunity for an informal get together, with no strings attached, no agenda or commitments. It is a gathering of a group of people with common interest, to interact, promote and reinforce our Greek religion, culture and heritage. A gathering of friends to share and celebrate our inheritance!" — Spiro Anthony*



*Parishioners enjoying a meal at the September PAREA.*





## Member in the Spotlight—Eleni Hadjimichael

### Where are you from (in the U.S. and your roots elsewhere)?

I am Eleni Hadjimichael and my husband, Michael, and I, along with our three sons, have been members of the Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County since 2008.

I was born in Boston. My father was born and raised in Athens, Greece. My mother is Italian American, from Quincy, MA. They met each other at the hospital in which they were both working. Shortly thereafter they became engaged, and my mother converted to the Greek Orthodoxy. After they were married, they lived in Watertown, MA, where I was born. In addition to his work at the hospital and his research, my father was a teacher at Holy Cross. We moved back to Greece and lived in Athens for a couple of years. Then we moved back to the States and eventually moved out west and lived in Reno, NV.

Mike's family lives in Woodbridge, CT. They are originally from Greece, from Thessaloniki. He was born in California, grew up in Connecticut, and eventually ended up working in Monterey, where we met 14 years ago.

We have three sons, Vangelis, age 10, and twins Dionysios and Iordanis, age 7 ½. All three attend Fox Mill Elementary, in Herndon, and are in a Japanese partial immersion language program.

### Any interesting facts about you, your family or your ethnicity?

In addition to being a mom and wife, I am also an attorney. My area of specialty is Family Law. I am not practicing now; perhaps again when the children are older.

Mike is a computer scientist, working in data analysis and risk assessment for aviation safety.

### What are your interests/hobbies?

We love to travel, when we can. Mike and I also both enjoy reading. I just finished Anna Karenina (don't ask me how long it took!). Mike enjoys swimming and cycling in the summer.

### How did you come to our Parish?

We use to live in Monterey, CA. We moved here for Mike's job in 2008. He works for MITRE Corp, in McLean.

### What aspects or ministries of our Parish are you involved with?

I am one of the co-directors of Hope and Joy, along with fellow parish-ioner Maria Drapas. I really enjoy working with children, and Hope and Joy provides a wonderful opportunity to do so. Maria and I work very hard to create interesting activities for our children. It is encouraging to see how quickly Hope and Joy is growing! It may just be my own opinion, but I think we are growing in leaps and bounds!

I am also a member of Philoptochos. I recently learned that Philoptochos is one of the oldest and largest philanthropic organizations in the United States!

### What are your hopes for the future of our Parish?

For the immediate future, I hope our ministries continue to grow and flourish. I think for a parish of our size, we have a healthy number of ministries, of good membership.

And, for a long-term goal, like everyone, I am sure, I would like to see our parish build a Byzantine-style Greek Orthodox church.

### What have you enjoyed most about our Parish?

Everyone is so friendly! When we first moved here from California, we had a dinner invitation and lots of opportunities to meet the parish, and we felt like we belonged right away!

In summary, we are happy to have found the Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County. It feels like home!



*This month's Member in the Spotlight—Eleni Hadjimichael, her husband Mike, and sons, Vangelis, Dionysios, and Iordanis.*