Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church AUGUST - 2015

MEFGOX MUSICIANS GATHER AT ST. CONS

From July 16 – 19th, the Sts. Constantine and Helen Church was proud to host the 68th Annual Convention of MEFGOX – the Mid Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians. The highlight of the weekend was Sunday's Divine Liturgy service, the Divine Liturgy, which was celebrated with an 85-voice choir with delegates from Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania. This beautiful service also marked the 40-day Memorial of George Raptis, who acted as Choir Director at our parish for nearly 50 years.

Over the weekend, there were many skill-building workshops, rehearsals, and special events - including a a Talent Show, Grand Banquet, and a special "Conversations with our Clergy" luncheon. Much gratitude goes to His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas, Fr. Nicolaos Kotsis and Deacon Alex Radulescu for their participation in events and services.

A great effort was put forward to make the convention such a big success. Many thanks to Fr. Teodor Petrutiu, Convention Chair Maritsa Madias-Kalasz, Alex Skylakos, George Cholack, to all the hard working Convention Committee members, to all the people who brought in the delicious cookies and baked goods, to the fantastic staff at the Hellenic Cultural Center who kept everybody well fed and happy throughout the weekend, and to the many Choir members and parishioners who came together to put on an outstanding MEFGOX Convention at Saints Constantine and Helen!

THE FEAST OF THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS - August 15

The Feast of the Dormition of Our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary is celebrated on August 15 each year. The Feast commemorates the repose (dormition and in the Greek kimisis) or "falling-asleep" of the Mother of Jesus Christ, our Lord. The Feast also commemorates the translation or assumption into heaven of the body of the Theotokos.

The Holy Scriptures tell us that when our Lord was dying on the Cross, He saw His mother and His disciple John and said to the Virgin Mary, "Woman, behold your son!" and to John, "Behold your mother!" (John 19:25-27). From that hour, the Apostle took care of the Theotokos in his own home. Along with the biblical reference in Acts 1:14 that confirms that the Virgin Mary was with the Holy Apostles on the day of Pentecost, the tradition of the Church holds that she remained in the home of the Apostle John in Jerusalem, continuing a ministry in word and deed.

At the time of her death, the disciples of our Lord who were preaching throughout the world returned to Jerusalem to see the Theotokos. Except for the Apostle Thomas, all of them including the Apostle Paul were gathered together at her bedside. At the moment of her death, Jesus Christ himself descended and carried her soul into heaven.

Following her repose, the body of the Theotokos was taken in procession and laid in a tomb near the Garden of Gethsemane. When the Apostle Thomas arrived three days after her repose and desired to see her body, the tomb was found to be empty. The bodily assumption of the Theotokos was confirmed by the message of an angel and by her appearance to the Apostles.

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS - September 14

The Feast of the Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross is celebrated each year on September 14. The Feast commemorates the finding of the True Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by Saint Helen, the mother of the Emperor Constantine.

In the twentieth year of his reign (326), the Emperor Constantine sent his mother Saint Helen to Jerusalem to venerate the holy places and to find the site of the Holy Sepulchre and of the Cross. Relying upon the oral tradition of the faithful, Saint Helen found the precious Cross together with the crosses of the two thieves crucified with our Lord. However, Helen had no way of determining which was the Cross of Christ.

With the healing of a dying woman who touched one of the crosses, Patriarch Macarius of Jerusalem identified the True Cross of Christ. Saint Helen and her court venerated the Precious and Life-Giving Cross along with many others who came to see this great instrument of Redemption. The Patriarch mounted the ambo (pulpit) and lifted the Cross with both hands so that all of the people gathered could see it. The crowd responded with "Lord have mercy".

This became the occasion of the institution in all of the Churches of the Exaltation of the Precious Cross, not only in memory of the event of the finding of the Cross, but also to celebrate how an instrument of shame was used to overcome death and bring salvation and eternal life.

The Feast is an opportunity outside of the observances of Holy Week to celebrate the full significance of the victory of the Cross over the powers of the world, and the triumph of the wisdom of God through the Cross over the wisdom of this world. This Feast also gives the Church an opportunity to relish the full glory of the Cross as a source of light, hope and victory for Christ's people. It is also a time to celebrate the universality of the work of redemption accomplished through the Cross: the entire universe is seen through the light of the Cross, the new Tree of Life which provides nourishment for those who have been redeemed in Christ.

A Message from Father Teodor

When I was a child, I remember my grandparents saying every year, after the feast day of the Dormition of the Theotokos: *"Well, now summer is over."* Certainly, such a declaration, when there is another month of summer seems a little severe but, as we know, one day that prediction is achieved.

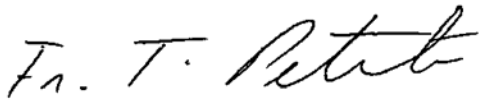
For our school children, such a prediction, at such an early date, can indeed be scary. However, the day that summer vacation ends and school begins is now upon us.

Every year, however, is filled with such seasons. The summer begins with so much anticipation of vacations, traveling and days at the beach. Then the weeks pass by and the cool winds of autumn are soon upon us. There is always joy at the beginning of a season, and then the inevitable passing into the next season is upon us. But inescapably we have to accept it and, even more, most of the time we become excited about the new season that awaits us. For the school children there is the visit to the office supply store for new backpacks, the excitement of seeing old friends and meeting new ones, and the anticipation of that new classroom and new teachers.

Life is no different. Our youth seems to be over so quickly. One day our children are in diapers and the next day they are going to college. One season of life goes to the next way too quickly. The danger, however, is that we grumble that "summer is over" and in doing so miss the joy that lies before us and the new joy that will follow. It is easy to become depressed about the end of a season but we must never allow that to prevent us from enjoying that which God has given us. We can enjoy it with the understanding that there is always a new joy just around the corner. Sure enough, our children will be out of diapers but there is always the joy of grandchildren. Sure enough, summer will fade away but there are fall colors and apple cider, Halloween candy and Thanksgiving turkey, and Christmas presents that await us.

Christ our God came in the flesh to give us the Good News that, although we have great blessings in this life, and that one day the summer of our life in this world will pass away, there is a greater light and new joy just around the corner. Our task is to enjoy the summer days of our lives that God has given us and anticipate the joy of eternal days yet to come.

This September we step into a new season once again. We will enjoy it for as long as it lasts with the understanding that there is another season of joy just around the corner.



Fr. Teodor Petrutiu

CHURCH PICNIC AND SUNDAY SCHOOL GRADUATION

It's always a joy to see our young people stand up on the solea at the end of the Sunday School year! We are proud of their accomplishments, and we applaud all the parents who make the extra effort to come each Sunday and raise their children in the Orthodox Church.

After graduation it's time for celebration, and St. Cons does that in big style with our Annual Parish Picnic! The rain that threatened held off, and we welcomed the summer with delicious food, lots of fun and games.
Many thanks to Stella Boyer for organizing our Parish Picnic, and to everyone who came together to make it such a big success: The Men's Club for helping to organize such a nice event, the Hellenic Cultural Center, Senate Coney Island (George Dimopoulos), Leo's Coney Island (Ken Vlahadamis), Olympic Coney Island (Bill Skotanis), Charles Step Funeral Home (Monty Wulff), Sunday School families for desserts and drinks, Peter Kour for the pasta, Georgene Ochadleus for macaroni and cheese, everyone who made spinach pies, and all the volunteers who helped to cook, supervise activities, set up and clean up. It was a fantastic group effort, and a very fun event!

NEW PHILOPTOCHOS BOARD TAKES OATH OF OFFICE

In addition to our Sunday School graduation and Parish Picnic, on June 7th the new Board of Directors for the St. Helen Philoptochos was sworn in by Fr. Teodor.

CONGRATULATIONS: Karen Alexander, Kathy Alexander, Connie Bogdanos, Elaine Charalambopoulos, Olga Drummond, Connie Givas, Louise Holt, Steffi Lemons, Sophia Liberis, Anastasia Lile, Georgene Ochadleus, Chrys Schwartz, Arlene Sudia, Maria Tasi, Diana Voutsinas.
Thank you for your service to our Church.

VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL Bigger, Better than Ever!

With the theme "G-FORCE: GOD'S LOVE IN ACTION, this summer's Vacation Church School started out with a bang, with more young people registered than ever before! Each day started with a short prayer session, and then variety of themed activities, games, and craft projects. All the young people come together at the end of the day's activities to share in song, a short puppet show, and conversation with Fr. Teodor about the lessons learned.

On Wednesday, June 24th, our group took a special field trip to the Dormition of the Theotokos Monastery in Rives Junction, Michigan. The children were given a tour of the Monastery and the beautiful grounds by Mother Gabriella, and shared a delicious lunch with the Sisters of the Monastery.

The week ended with a lively presentation of musical selections for the parents in the Church sanctuary. Our children got a big surprise when His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas watched the performance through "face time", and then told them what a fantastic job they had done! The day ended with a pizza party for students and parents.

Many thanks to Vacation Church School Coordinators, Angie Colovas and Tracy Monolidis, to our teachers Frances Marinos, Maritsa Kalasz, Candee Kilavos, Theodora Grias, Cindy Frango, to our assistants Nicholas Chuey and Daniel Colovas, and to all the parents who helped make this year's VCS such a big success!

STRAT CALAGIAS, OUR 2015 MAN OF THE YEAR!

Congratulations to our 2015 "Man of the Year", Strat Calagias!

Each year, on Father's Day, our church honors a man who has made a significant contribution to the Parish. There could be no better person to honor than Strat, honored on June 21st. Strat was raised in Saints Constantine and Helen, and has spent a lifetime in service to our church. Strat is currently serving on our Parish Council, in the Church Choir, Men's Club, and sings as a Chanter each Sunday. Strat was also a big help with the recent MEFGOX convention.

Strat's wife, Leah is a former Parish Council member, and volunteers in the Narthex and Parish Bookstore. He has two daughters, Demetra and Artemis, and a son, Victor.

Thank you, Strat!

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

- **9/12/15—PHILOPTOCHOS LUNCHEON AND FASHION SHOW**
- **9/13/15 – SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION AND FIRST DAY OF CLASS**
- **9/20/15—4th ANNUAL GOLF OUTING, at Fellows Creek Golf Course**
- **10/4—10/13/15—PILGRIMAGE TO CONSTANTINOPLE AND ROME**
- **10/23 – FALL FESTIVAL! Sponsored by our Moms Group**
- **11/8/15—REVERSE RAFFLE**
- **11/21/15 - MEN'S CLUB FEED THE NEEDY**

DOING OUR CHURCH'S WORK

While most of us are worshipping in church during Sunday services, many volunteers come together behind the scenes - in the Altar and Narthex to make the service run smoothly. It's usually tough to catch a photo of these dedicated parishioners, because they are so busy working! Here are a few recent photos where we asked them to stop for a moment and smile for the camera! Thanks for all you do!

OUR 2015 HIGH SCHOOL and COLLEGE GRADUATES

ADAM ANGELOPOULOS
GRADUATE: Hartland HS
PARENTS: Bil and Kim Angelopoulos
GRANDPARENTS: John/Aspasia Angelopoulos

NICKO ARAPAJ
GRADUATE: Chippewa Valley HS
ENTERING: Michigan State University
PARENTS:Rrok and Vivian Pascaris Arapaj
GRANDPARENTS: Tom and Sophia Paskaris

STEVEN PETER BILL
GRADUATE: Northville HS
ENTERING: Michigan State University
PARENTS: Judge Gregory & Cheryl Bill

MARIA CHOLACK
GRADUATE: Northville HS
ENTERING: University of Michigan
PARENTS: Eric and Anastasia Cholack

HARRISON COZAD
GRADUATE: Northville HS
ENTERING: Schoolcraft College
PARENTS: Ken and Mary Ann Cozad
GRANDPARENTS: Bob and Elaine McDaniel

MARIA DEMOS
GRADUATE: Northville HS
ENTERING: Eastern Michigan University
PARENTS: Ann and Peter Demos
GRANDPARENTS: Maria Demos/Dorothy Pulford

DEVAN FERRALL
GRADUATE: Wayne Memorial HS
PARENTS: Robert and Pamala Ferrall
GRANDPARENTS: Spero and Brenda Stathopoulos

MELINA FRANTZESKAKIS
GRADUATE: Salem HS
ENTERING: Grand Valley State University (Honors College)
PARENTS: Petros and Francine Frantzeskakis

CHRISTOPHER FURKIOTI
GRADUATE: Farmington HS
ENTERING: University of Michigan
PARENTS: John and Christine Furkioti
GRANDPARENTS: Nick and Fran Furkioti

ADRIANA KIAFOULIS
GRADUATE: Mercy HS
ENTERING: Loyola University
PARENTS: Vasilios & Michele Kiafoulis
GRANDPARENTS: Zanna Kiafoulis, Frank & Anna Sikina

MICHAEL PASCARIS
GRADUATE: Churchill HS
ENTERING: Schoolcraft College
PARENTS: Tom and Christine Pascaris
GRANDPARENTS: Thomas and Sophia Pascaris

STEFANO PASCARIS
GRADUATE: Northville HS
ENTERING: University of Michigan
PARENTS: George and Daniela Pascaris
GRANDPARENTS: Thomas and Sophia Pascaris

ZOE PSIAKIS
GRADUATE: Novi HS
ENTERING: Vanderbilt University,
PARENTS: John And Karen Psiakis
GRANDPARENTS: Theodore & Vasiliki Psiakis

KONSTANDINA STAVROPOULOS
GRADUATE: Bloomfield Hills HS
ENTERING: University of Michigan
PARENTS: Mark & Helen Stavropoulos
GRANDPARENTS: Gus and Maria Stavropoulos
Nick and Athena Pascaris

VANESSA WOLSTENCROFT
GRADUATE: Novi HS
ENTERING: Western Michigan University
PARENTS:David & Pauline Wolstencroft
GRANDPARENTS: Ioannis & Vasiliki Alexandris

AMANDA DRAKOS
GRADUATE: Michigan State University Bachelor of Science
PARENTS: Robert and Ann Drakos
GRANDPARENT: Mary Drakos

CATHERINE KIRCOS
GRADUATE: York University Toronto, International BA Specialized Honors Psychology
ENTERING: San Francisco State
PARENTS: Louis & Paula Kircos
GRANDPARENTS: Angelo and Sophia Kircos

DAVID KIRCOS
GRADUATE: Michigan State University, Bachelor of Science
WORKING: Techstars Mobility
PARENTS: Louis & Paula Kircos
GRANDPARENTS: Angelo and Sophia Kircos

SOPHIA ANGELA KIRCOS
GRADUATE: University of Montana, Bachelor of Arts
ENTERING: University of York, England
PARENTS: John & Violet Kircos
GRANDPARENTS: Angelo and Sophia Kircos
Nick and Athena Pascaris

LOUKAS KIRKOPOULOS
GRADUATE: Michigan State University Bachelor of Music (Education)
PARENTS: Nick and Alexis Kirkopoulos

ANGELIQUE MARIA STAMENKOVICH
GRADUATE: Drexel University College of Medicine/ Masters
ENTERING: U of M Medical School
PARENTS: Maria and Steve Stamenkovich
GRANDPARENTS: Thomas and Helene Petcou

SYLVIA MARISSA ZANNIS
GRADUATE: University of Michigan – DDS
Boston University – Advanced Education in General Dentistry
PARENTS:John & Irene Zannis
GRANDPARENTS: Angello and Sylvia Zannis
George and Connie Vlahakis

Sunday, September 20, 2015

Fellows Creek Golf Course

2936 S. Lotz Rd.

Canton, Michigan 48188

The Men's Club 4th Annual Golf Outing will support the ***John Koinis Feed The Needy Program*** *that feeds over 100 families during the Thanksgiving holiday.*

- 18 holes of golf with cart, hot dog, chips and beverage at the turn
- Chicken and ribs dinner at the Hellenic Center following golf
- Non-golfer dinner $20

Schedule of Events: 11:30am Registration, 1:00 pm Shot Gun Start-Scramble, 6:00pm Dinner, Golf Awards and TV Raffle

GOLF REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MONDAY September 14th

Foursome $100 x 4 - $400

Early bird $95 x 4 - $380 (if paid by September 1, 2015)

Questions call Alex Sudia 734.455.2337 or Danny Stergiadis 734.624.1699

Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, Westland, MI
THE ST HELEN PHILOPTOCHOS PRESENTS

A LUNCHEON TO BENEFIT THE NEW ST. NICHOLAS NATIONAL SHRINE at the WORLD TRADE CENTER

Saturday, September 12, 2015

11:30 AM

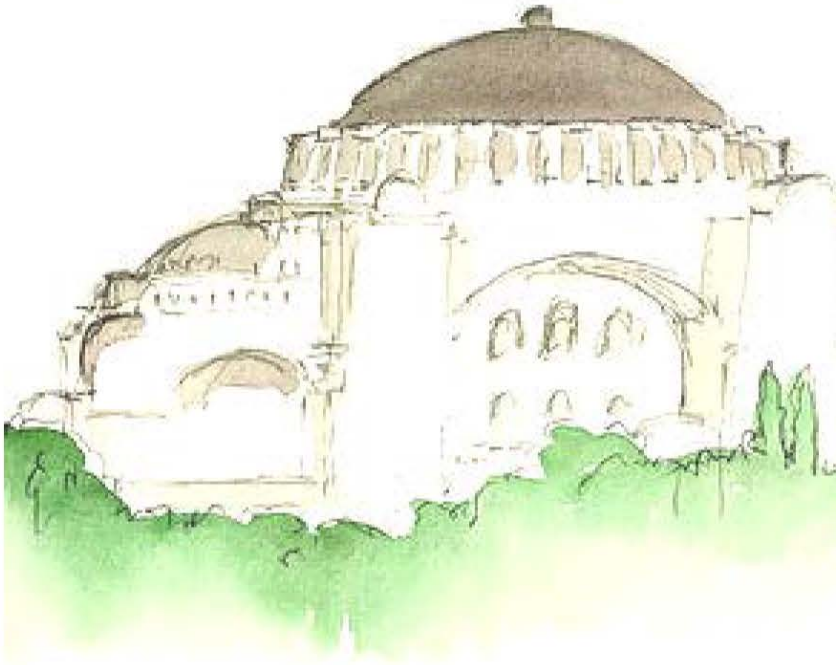
Hellenic Cultural Center
36375 Joy Road, Westland

Fashion Show will be presented by
Clothing Cove of Milford

Tickets: $30

ADVANCE RESERVATIONS ONLY

For tickets or more information:
GEORGENE OCHADLEUS - 248.685.8375
SS CONSTANTINE AND HELEN Church Office - 734.525.6789



The Saint Nicholas Church at Ground Zero is being resurrected as The Saint Nicholas National Shrine at the World Trade Center, rising from the ashes of 9/11 to be a monument to those who died and to the heroic first responders. The visionary edifice will mark not only the events of 9/11, but through this House of Prayer, the Orthodox Christian Church will offer a place of solace, inspiration, and healing for all who visit Ground Zero. Inspired by Hagia Sophia, the Great Church of Christ itself, Saint Nicholas will be the most visible presence of our Faith and Community in America.

BISBIKIS LAW
Enforce Your Rights

Marco Bisbikis, Esq
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW

150 N. MAIN ST.
PLYMOUTH, MI 48170

248-760-2122
MARCOBISBIKIS@GMAIL.COM
BISBIKISLAW.COM

BISBIKIS LAW PLLC

RE/MAX Classic

Mike & Jane Bisbikis
REALTOR/Consultant
Since 1983
26870 Beck Road
Novi, MI 48374
Direct: 248-464-1100
mikebisbikis@aol.com
4 Offices Serving Oakland & Wayne Counties

WE SPEAK GREEK!

Century 21 Row

Cheryl "Top Dollar" Bill
Residential & New Construction Specialist
Multi-Million Dollar Producer

37172 Six Mile Road
Livonia, Michigan 48152
Business 734.464.7111 Ext. 218
Cell 734.812.8856
Fax 734.464.8713
cbillc21@topdollarbill.com
www.topdollarbillcom

Each office is independently owned and operated.

PLACE YOUR AD HERE!

If you would like to advertise in the Visions, please contact Annette Madias at the church office at 734.525.6789, or send an email to stcons2@gmail.com.

- *Business Card $25.00 per issue/$125 year*
- *Quarter Page $35.00 per issue/$175 year*
- *Half Page $55.00 per issue/$275 year*
- *Full Page $100.00 per issue/$500 year*

Adults $17.99

kids $9.99 12 and under

Children Free UNDER 6 YR OLD

BEAVER CREEK SALOON & GRILL

SUNDAY BRUNCH

ALL YOU CAN EAT **PRIME RIB**

9:30am - 2pm

The Best place around for all you can eat breakfast!

A Raptoplous family owned establishment.
BEAVER CREEK 1609 N WAYNE RD WESTLAND MI

Sts. Constantine & Helen Sunday School
Registration Form 2015-2016

Tuition is $25 per student.

Parents' Names: _____

Address: _____

_____
City State Zip Code

Email address: _____ Email address: _____

Home Phone: (_____) _____ Mobile Phone: (___) _____

Total Tuition Cost: Number of Students_____ x $25 each = _____

Make check payable to: Sts. Constantine & Helen Sunday School.

Cash _____ Check # _____ Pay later _____

_____ Yes, I would be willing to help with our Sunday School Program!

<u>Students' Information:</u>

Name: _____
Last First Middle Init

Birth Date: _____ Grade to be placed: _____
Month Date Year

Name: _____
Last First Middle Init

Birth Date: _____ Grade to be placed: _____
Month Date Year

Name: _____
Last First Middle Init

Birth Date: _____ Grade to be placed: _____
Month Date Year

Name: _____
Last First Middle Init

Birth Date: _____ Grade to be placed: _____
Month Date Year

Note: Please submit completed form via email to: StConsSundaySchool@yahoo.com or to the Sunday School Director at the registration table just outside of the church office.

Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church
36375 Joy Rd.
Westland, MI 48185

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S.POSTAGE
PAID
Westland, MI

Rev. Fr. Teodor Petrutiu,
Parish Priest

Phone: 734-525-6789
E-mail: stcons2@gmail.com
Website: www.stcons.org

"Where there is no vision, the people perish"
Proverbs 29:18

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Our Church Organizations

ALTAR BOYS
Pete Simakas, 313-350-1111
CHOIR
Maritsa Kalasz, 734-522-9334
DANCE GROUP
Stella Boyer, 734-981-2446
G.O.Y.A.
Jean Chuey, 248-596-9572
MEN'S GROUP
Antonios Stergiadis, 734-624-1699
MOMS GROUP
Kali Michalopoulos, 734-331-9515
PARISH COUNCIL
John Avdoulos, 248-568-4945
PHILOPTOCHOS
Georgene Ochadleus, 248-685-8375
SUNDAY SCHOOL
Andrea Uhlian, 313-720-9465

OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

40 Day Blessings:

- 6/21/15 **MASON DEMETRI KAFANTARIS**, Parents: Jim & Kristin Kafantaris
- 6/21/15 **CHRISTINA WEBB,** Parents: Dimitra & Elliot Webb

Baptisms:

- 7/19/15 **JOSHUA EDWARD NORWOOD,** Parents: John Edward Norwood & Elena Talida Mmwiry
  Godparent: Lavinia Nimov
- 8/16/15 **NICHOLAS JAMES McCLAIN,** Parents: Christopher & Maggie McClain
  Godparent Jessica Bissa, Michael McClain

Chrismation:

- 7/14/15 **TODD CHRISTOPHER SCHEBOR**, Sponsor Maria Gotsis

Weddings:

- 6/19/15 **- NICK KARPATHIOS** to **MICHELLE NAVARRE**
- 5/30/15 - **TIM KOKALIS** to **STACI RAE BOOS**
- 8/8/15 - **GEORGE HLOROS** to **ASHLEY MOSS**
- 8/15/15 - **TODD SCHEBOR** to **MARIA GOTSIS**

Funerals:

- 6/5/15 - **MILTON GEORGE**
- 6/6/15 - **NICK KALERGIS**
- 6/15/15 - **GEORGE RAPTIS**
- 7/8/15 - **KRISTALIA MERICAS**
- 7/18/15 - **CONSTANTINOS TRAITSES**
- 7/27/15 - **HELEN PASTRAS**

May their memory be eternal!