

# KEYNOTES



November, 2009

## Looking forward to 2010 Conference in New Orleans!!

### On the Schedule for Keynotes

Normally, Keynotes would be out on the first of November. However, unfortunately, there was not much response to the request for submissions from the various choirs, so despite being late, it is slim.



### *President's Message*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christ is among us! The Executive Board spent a wonderful weekend in New Orleans meeting with the local committee for the 2010 Choir Conference. Local chairmen are Alex and Connie Tiliakos. We were treated to the very gracious New Orleans style of "southern hospitality". In addition, we sang at the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, at which our beloved Patriarch Bartholomew was present but not presiding. Also in attendance were Archbishop Demitrios and Metropolitan Alexios who, although surprised to see us, was delighted that we had come on a mission of outreach to the very isolated but thriving and active New Orleans community.

Keynotes editor Leon Karahalos broke the ice in his usual bombastic way by climbing up to the choir loft, seeing the quizzical looks of the New Orleans choir members and saying "As we say in South Carolina, 'ti kanete, y'all?'" Any possible ice was broken immediately and we were warmly accepted as family.

The 2010 Choir Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, June 24-27, is going to be wonderful. We will be singing the music of Stephen Cardiasmenos. There will be more exciting details to follow. Those of you who have friends and relatives in the Western Conference, and west of the Blue Ridge Mountains, please encourage them to plan to attend.

Suzu Balasis, the Vice President, is now sending out 2010 dues statements. In order to attend a choir conference, your dues must be current

The Executive Board wishes all of you a Happy Thanksgiving.

Your faithful servant in Christ,

Margaret Sarafoglu  
SFGOCM President



### *St. John's Tampa Choir Grows*

The St. John's Choir in Tampa has grown by 4 with the addition of 2 Altos 1 Bass and a Tenor.

- Andria Mellon returns after a 3-4 year hiatus.

- Alexandra Evans is the daughter of Ana Mourer who is a current choir member.
- John Demas who also assists our chanter. He is a musician who teaches musical instruments at the local college and has his own musical group which plays for most community events, weddings, parties etc.
- John Irwin

Our St. John's Choir was proud to have had the most members (17) attending the last Choir Conference in Winston Salem, NC which further reinforces the fact that we are truly a part of Kypros' Groupies.

A few of St. John's choir members will be joining The Holy Trinity Choir in Clearwater for their annual Christmas Concert.



### *Notes From Charlotte, North Carolina*

By Olga Yamalis and Katherine Bartis

Holy Trinity Cathedral, Charlotte

Hello from Charlotte!

In late July, Olga Yamalis, HTC's Youth Choir Director attended a conference on the campus of Hellenic College-Holy Cross in Brookline, MA. It was sponsored by the National Forum and consisted of youth choir directors and various church musicians from across the nation. The focus of the conference was about furthering Hymnology into our next generation of youth. Hymnology can be incorporated in various formats in all classroom grades - Pre K to 12. Another way is more participation of the youth choir at more events and services.

Olga presented two presentations on the progress of the HTC Youth Choir program. We are excited about our youth choral program to strengthen within the next year. Youth choir is worship participation and it will only benefit a growing child throughout their life. It also benefits and supports the Church's future and religious education. The St. John's Koukouzelis Youth Choir continues to chant each month in the Children's Liturgy. This year in Sunday School, plans are underway to incorporate more Hymnology in the younger grades. Hymnology will be taught in Pre-K to 3rd grade classrooms as well.

On a beautiful Saturday in September, amidst the dancing and loukoumades, our choir performed at the Yiasou Greek Festival on Saturday evening in the Cathedral. With narration and chanting by Father Michael and Father Stathi, we performed a selection of hymns from our liturgical repertoire. Thanks to all of the choir

members who take time from their regular duties at the Festival to participate each year!

On Sunday, October 4th, nine adult choir and two youth choir members joined Holy Trinity Raleigh in celebrating the Divine Liturgy for Choir Music Sunday. Raleigh's choir loft was at maximum capacity with a choir of more than 50 voices, consisting of adults and youth from Charlotte, Durham and Raleigh. The sounds were incredible as the Kypros Liturgy of Peace was celebrated under the direction of Elia Nicholas. After the Liturgy, Father Paul Kaplanis had the choir members come to the solea and offered a short prayer service recognizing and blessing the work of all church musicians. It was a fantastic experience.

Nine adult choir members and two youth choir members attended from Charlotte. Thank you to Elia and the Raleigh Choir for including us on that special day! We hope this celebration will continue to be a choir tradition with our local area churches for years to come.

Choir member Katherine Kleto married Frank Bartis on June 13 of this year. He's originally from Newport, Rhode Island. They were married at Holy Trinity and live in Charlotte.



### **News from Annunciation Cathedral in Atlanta**

In other news of the Annunciation Cathedral Choir in Atlanta, we presented our traditional concert of Orthodox hymns at the Atlanta Greek Festival on October 2nd and October 3rd. This is an annual event which showcases our beautiful Orthodox hymns to hundreds of visitors to our Cathedral. The concerts begin at 6:30 PM on both nights and each of the hymns are introduced and explained to the audience by someone from the solea. This year the speaker was Daniel Hoerst, a seminarian who is assisting at the Cathedral for a year. Directing the concerts this year was Leon Melissas, assistant director, and at the organ was our organist, Peter Zervakos. The hymns which were sung included I Parthenos Simeron, Enite, Soma Christou, O Angelos Evoa, Ti Ipermacho, Se Imnoumen, and Christos Anesti. This way the audience hears hymns sung for the major feast days of the year and also hymns sung at each Liturgy.

Our newly formed Men's Choir, under the direction of Leon Melissas, sang the Divine Liturgy one Sunday in September and will be singing again on November 22nd. They sing once every other month.

The choir will begin working on Christmas music for the annual Cathedral Choir and Orchestra Concert. The Concert and dinner take place in the Cathedral Ballroom. It is scheduled for December 20, 2009.



We were blessed by another visitation from His All Holiness, Patriarch Bartholomew after he left New Orleans.

Christina Polizos, Annunciation Cathedral Choir Director



### **From The Choir Loft in Raleigh**

This summer's choir conference was one in which Raleigh sent 16 (yes!) adult choir members and for the first time in memory 8 (yes! yes!) youth choir members to participate. Since so many of our choir were there, including many first timers, we additionally had a "Kypros Act II" at Holy Trinity the following week after the conference, and had a few members from St. Barbara church join us for an extra weekend of spiritual enrichment, musically speaking of course.

After the conference excitement died down, Elia and Philip Thevaos (director of Holy Trinity Cathedral in Charlotte) commiserated in forming a couple of joint choir opportunities for fun. The first one was hosted in Raleigh for National Choir Music Sunday.



Holy Trinity in Raleigh celebrated National Choir Music Sunday by singing the Kypros Liturgy of Peace with a combined 40+ member choir which consisted of members from Holy Trinity in Raleigh, Saint Barbara Church in Durham, Holy Trinity Cathedral in Charlotte, and Dormition in Greensboro. Elia Nicholas played the organ and directed this most memorable day. In addition, we had a youth choir consisting of about ten members, most of whom attended the conference in Winston this summer. They sang the Antiphons as well as the Trisagion Hymn. Immediately following the Divine Liturgy, Father Paul invited the choir down and invoked a beautiful prayer for all participants. The choir sponsored coffee hour offered tasty treats from salads to sandwiches, pastas, and desserts of all kinds. It was a truly spiritual day for our choir in Raleigh, and we thank our North Carolina friends for visiting and singing with us on October 4.

Our next event will be our annual Christmas Program, and this year Holy Trinity Cathedral has graciously invited us to join them for their Christmas Concert. We look forward to sharing the sounds of the season with our friends once again.

In His Service,

Elia Nichols



### **From Saint Sophia Cathedral in Miami, Florida**

We have started rehearsing for the 2010 Conference in New Orleans. Although many of us have done it in conference before, there are several new folks and it has been



13 years since we did most parts of it. It is such a wonderful change of pace!

We unfortunately are losing Kathryn Sapnas, our contralto, who is moving to Philadelphia to be with her mother. We had an after-church brunch in her honor and ate *far* too much, washing it down with mimosas and peach cider from South Carolina's Low Country.

Members Margaret Sarafoglu and Leon Karahalos travelled to New Orleans for the preliminary planning meetings with Alex and Connie Tiliakos, the choir director and his wife, as well as several other folks who will be active in the preparation and planning of the conference in June 2010. Also very involved in the meeting was New Orleans' former organist and present youth choir coordinator, Viki Moustoukas. Viki could use some help, so *if you have experience with children's choirs, please get in touch with Viki by clicking on [Vmoustouka@aol.com](mailto:Vmoustouka@aol.com).*

While there, we and several Board members (*including Lucy Zapsas who is temporarily on loan to Charlotte from Miami*) prayed the Divine Liturgy with His All-Holiness, Patriarch Bartholomew.

The weather has finally turned cool in Miami, rather late this year. For the next six months it will be absolute paradise on earth. Please remember - if you are in the area, stop by St. Sophia and "crash" our choir. We warm up at 9:30 in a classroom in the community center.



### *From the Choir loft in the Holy City, Charleston, South Carolina*

Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Trinity Celebrates Centennial with Concert in the Park, which will feature performances by Holy Trinity Centennial Choir, and Ann Caldwell and the Magnolia Singers



August 25, 2009 (Charleston, S.C.) — As part of its year-long centennial celebration, the Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Trinity is hosting a Reunion Choir Choral Concert in the Park on Saturday, September 26 at 6 p.m. at Mayflower Court, the park next door to the Church located at 30 Race Street.

The program will feature Holy Trinity's Centennial Choir performing Liturgical music as well as secular selections in both Greek and English. Ann Caldwell and the Magnolia Singers will perform Spirituals. The Magnolia Singers preserve the rich tradition of Gullah music and spirituals with performances throughout the Charleston area.

Tickets for the event, which is open to the public, may be purchased at the Hellenic Center at 30 Race Street or by calling 843.577.2063 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, before September 25. Tickets are \$3 for children and students age 17 and under, and are \$15 for adults.

Photo/broadcast opportunity: Arrangements must be made prior to the event to record or photograph. Please contact Centennial PR Chairperson, Melanie Mathos at 843.469.1954 or at [melmathos@gmail.com](mailto:melmathos@gmail.com) to arrange pre-interviews or photography/videography.

Celebration of the Centennial Anniversary of Holy Trinity will continue throughout the year with the following events:

**October 9 and 10** Spiritual Renewal Seminar—a religious retreat featuring leader Rev. Dr. Frank Marangos, Dean of the Archdiocesan Cathedral in NYC

**Sunday, November 01, 2009** US Armed Services Recognition aboard the USS Yorktown honoring parish veterans

**Sunday, November 15, 2009** Daughters of Penelope Founders Day Reception honoring the founders and past presidents

**Saturday, January 10, 2009** St. Basil's Vasilopeta Luncheon

**January 29-31, 2010** Centennial Celebration Weekend

**Saturday, January 30, 2010** Centennial Banquet

For more information on the Centennial events, visit [www.holytrinitycentennial.org](http://www.holytrinitycentennial.org).

Media Contact:  
Melanie Mathos  
PR Chairperson  
843.469.1954  
[melmathos@gmail.com](mailto:melmathos@gmail.com)



### *District Supervisors*

There are seven conferences, each with a District Supervisor. ***At present, we still need a Supervisor for the Western Conference.***

Northeast	Elia Nicholas
Coastal	Mary Koutroulis
Central	Kay Nastopoulos
Western	Suzy Balasis (until a supervisor is appointed)
North Florida	Jim Kouchalakos
Tampa Bay	Marilyn Neyland
South Florida	Leon Karahalos

In the next month the District Supervisors will be contacted to encourage those communities who are not active in the Federation. There is a brochure which was prepared several years ago explaining the purposes of the Federation. This should be updated and distributed to those inactive communities. This also will be in the Keynotes and on the website as soon as it is updated. These inactive choirs should know that the yearly conference is not the only purpose we have.



### *Photo and Video Feature*

It seems as if only one person other than myself is using the photo site which is for all of you to use. If you have any pictures or videos, please send them on to [leonk@bellsouth.net](mailto:leonk@bellsouth.net) and I'll upload them onto your choir's own albums on the site. **To view them and many other photos, especially from the 2009 Conference in Winston-Salem, please visit it by clicking on [this link to our photo site](#).** Again, your choir can have its own album as can any special events simply by letting Leon Karahalos know. *Please full advantage of this site!*



### *2010 Conference*

As most of you know, New Orleans has been chosen for the site of our next Federation Conference. Tentatively, the dates are set for June 24 through 27. Many of us, I'm sure, will be arriving early to visit the town.

As the furthest outpost of our Holy Metropolis, the conference regulars should all try very hard to make plans and set the time aside now in order to really help the parish of Holy Trinity Cathedral, which is still recovering from Hurricane Katrina. It has lost many parishioners due to the aftermath of said hurricane.

At the end of this month, the Board of the Federation is going to meet with the parish priest, +Father Anthony Stratis, and the cathedral's committee to plan things out. At the same time, +His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew will be visiting. For a link to his itinerary, [please click here!](#)



### **Spotlight on Pete Nassos**



Pete Nassos, a gentleman, a family man, is a fine example of an Orthodox Christian, devoted to our faith, and serving Orthodoxy since childhood. Pete sits behind me on Sundays and his deep voice is great to hear always. I only wish he'd arrive on 'real time' and not on Greek time, so I could hear more of it. He is a good friend of mine, so I know he will take my humor lightly. Pete Nassos' history of involvement in the Orthodox Church began with his baptism in the summer of 1955. He has been a choir member since 1973, serving for 36 years. Pete stays that fortunately for him, his choir directors have been patient and willing to have an enthusiastic, yet tone deaf member. I know his enthusiasm for his faith and his great attitude are an asset to any choir.

From 1962 to 1973 - Pete was the Lead Alter Boy at St. George Antiochian Church, Akron, OH. From 1973 - 1980 He was a Choir Member, at the Annunciation Greek Church, Akron, OH and from 1980 - 1987 - Choir Member at various Greek Churches in Wilmington, DE and the Washington, DC area. We now have Pete as a Choir Member / Men's choir member at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Atlanta, GA since 1987. Yiassou, Pete!

**Rosemary Hendrix**  
**Atlanta**



### **Got some spare time?**

How often do you sit at the TV channel surfing? How about dry-eyed at the computer, possibly playing games or otherwise frittering away time?

Perhaps you think that a couple of hours a month cannot make a positive change or initiate any new programs which would leave a mark on the musical ministry of our Holy Orthodox Church.

I've got news for you. It doesn't take much.

Here we have a forum where we can edify and educate each other and the kids and grandkids who will follow us.

"Oh", you think, "It must take a lot of time and effort to get other Orthodox folks together. Besides, we don't know them - *they're not Greek, after all!*"

Are all of your kids and grandchildren Greek? Not likely. Further, we are all American. So many of us let our precious 2000-year-old heritage slip away in just one generation.

We *could* be teaching our future generations to appreciate the richness of our deep-rooted Orthodox Christian tradition. We *could* make many new friends who come from other Orthodox Christian backgrounds as divergent as Eskimos and peoples from southern Asia. We *could* enrich ourselves profoundly by exposure to our Orthodox brethren.

"Oh", you think, "It is so strange to see them prostrate themselves." Or, "They say the Lord's Prayer differently." These are some of the very differences which enrich our Church and our lives.

About 10 years ago, then-Bishop of Atlanta Alexios thought that there should be a mirror Epiphany celebration in southeast Florida. Like any captain, he said "Make it so." The Greek choirs assembled dutifully and prayed the Divine Liturgy with a congregation of about 1,000 attendees.

We realized that there were more than just Greeks and their families there. Antiochians, Slavs and converts assembled, as did Catholics and other Christians of all walks. +Metropolitan Alexios realized that we could make this a truly ecumenical celebration of the Baptism of our God and His appearance on earth.

As a result, the South Florida Pan-Orthodox choir was formed. It is directed by a convert or a Ukrainian and peopled by Orthodox Christians of every kind.

How much time did this take? Initially, perhaps several hours in a two-month period to gather names and meet people. Visitations to the churches of other jurisdictions ensued and enriched organizers tremendously.

Get your kids and grandkids involved in choir, too. It is, in my humble opinion, the best way to keep the faith for generations to come and serve God as individuals.

It is up to you. And you. And you. And you. And you.

**Leon Karahalis**

**Editor, Notable Notes and Keynotes**

***Not too early for a worthy student to apply for the Scholarship 100 for 2010!***

[Click here for the Scholarship 100 Application form!](#)



***To see a 360 degree of Holy Land sites, please click here!***



***Attributed to Arthur Rubinstein:***

"When people have a cough they go to a Doctor, except in Jerusalem where they come to my concerts".



***Notable Links to Scholarship 100 and Athenagoras Awards Forms***

[Click here to link to the Patriarch Athenagoras Awards Forms and Guidelines PDF](#) There is also a form attached as well as a letter from Stan Evdemon regarding same.

[Click here for the Scholarship 100 Application form!](#)



**Metropolis of Atlanta  
Southeastern Federation of Greek Orthodox  
Choirs and Musicians  
Patriarch Athenagoras I Award**

Fall, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The time has come once again to consider who among your choir members should be recognized for their dedication to the Music Ministry of our Church. The Patriarch Athenagoras I Award was initiated by the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians and established in 1996 as a means of giving national recognition to meritorious individuals whose contributions to the Music Ministry of the Church are worthy of distinction. The award is given as a national recognition to meritorious individuals in each metropolis whose contributions on a local, as well as a metropolis level, to the Music Ministry of the Church, are worthy of distinction. Normally this would involve being an active participant in the choir federation as an officer, committee member, conduct area music workshops, etc.

Each year at the conclusion of our choir conferences three individuals are recognized for their meritorious service. Each recipient shall have significantly contributed talents and/ or service to the development and perpetuation of the Greek Orthodox Church Choirs and Musicians of the Atlanta Metropolis.

The **deadline** for 2008 nominations is **April 29, 2010**. The nomination form and biographical data cover sheet are available in this issue of *Keynotes* and on the Federation web site: [www.sfgocm.org](http://www.sfgocm.org). Guidelines are available on the Federation website or by request. A letter with the nomination form and biographical data cover sheet should be mailed to:

Stanley Evdemon  
Athenagoras Award  
9216 Estate Cove Circle  
Riverview, Florida 33578  
[stan.evde@verizon.net](mailto:stan.evde@verizon.net)

Nominations for this prestigious award should be received by our Athenagoras Award Committee no later than the deadline date in order to be considered as an eligible candidate. Late nominations will be placed on file and reviewed by the committee in 2011.

We look forward to receiving your nomination and seeing you in New Orleans!

Yours in His Service,

*Stanley Evdemon*

Stanley Evdemon  
Chairman, Athenagoras Award

**Metropolis of Atlanta**  
**Southeastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Choirs and Musicians**  
**Patriarch Athenagoras I Award**  
**NOMINATION FORM**

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In order to send committee members copies of the nominations to review, all nominations must  
be post-marked  
*NO LATER THAN April 29, 2010*

The nomination form must be signed by the director of the local OR the parish priest.

<hr/> <b>Nominee</b>	<hr/> <b>Category</b>
<hr/> <b>Parish of Nominating Choir</b>	<hr/> <b>Phone</b>
<hr/> <b>City/State</b>	<hr/> <b>Zip Code</b>
<hr/> <b>Name of Contact Person submitting Nomination</b>	<hr/> <b>Phone</b>
<hr/> <b>Address</b>	<hr/> <b>FAX number</b>
<hr/> <b>City/State</b>	<hr/> <b>Zip Code</b>
<hr/> <b>Choir <u>Director</u> or Parish Priest Signature</b>	

Send completed material including Biographical Data Cover Sheet

1. Regional Contributions
2. Local Contributions
3. Federation Activities
4. Special Achievements/ Awards /Contributions

**To: Stanley Evdemon**  
**Athenagoras Award**  
**9216 Estate Cove Circle**  
**Riverview, Florida 33578**

**Metropolis of Atlanta  
Southeastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Choirs and Musicians  
Patriarch Athenagoras I Award  
Stanley Evdemon, Chairman**

Southeastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Choirs and Musicians  
and the  
National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians

**PATRIARCH ATHENAGORAS MEDAL  
FOR METROPOLITAN SERVICE**

**Metropolis of Atlanta  
Southeastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Choirs and Musicians  
Patriarch Athenagoras I Award**

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**NOMINEE'S BIOGRAPHICAL DATA COVER SHEET**

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**Nominee**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Category**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Address**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**City/State**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Zip Code**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parish**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**City/State**



St. Romanos the Melodist

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Membership renewal time for the Southeast Federation of Greek Orthodox Choirs and Musicians (SFGOCM) is here again. Your membership helps support our annual Federation choir conference and other events that enhance the spiritual journey of your choir members.

Annual dues for 2010 are **\$100 for choirs** and a **minimum of \$10 for individuals**. If your choir is an active member of the SFGOCM, you do not need an individual membership. Individual memberships are for those who do not belong to a member choir, but wish to be involved and updated on Federation happenings.

This year our annual conference will be held in **New Orleans, LA** on **June 25-27, 2010**. Your executive board will be meeting soon to finalize plans. Guest conductors will be announced in Keynotes. Be sure to mark your calendar and make plans to attend this exciting conference. In order to participate in the annual conference, you or your choir must have paid the current dues.

In order to better serve you, the federation board has compiled the enclosed survey. Please submit your completed survey and dues with a **check payable to SFGOCM** by December 31, 2009, and mail to me at:

Suzy Balasis  
SFGOCM Vice President  
PO Box 47755  
St. Petersburg, FL 33743

Thank you in advance for your prompt response.

In His Service,

Suzy Balasis

cc: Executive Board