

# KEYNOTES



November, 2010

## On the Schedule for Keynotes

The editor tries to let everyone know several weeks or more when *Keynotes* is coming out. Keynotes needs *your* input of articles and photos about and of *your* choir.

Very few respond. That is why our publications are getting slimmer and slimmer (unlike the editor). Please remember that this publication is for you and that you can add to it regularly, as well as to *Notable Notes*.

## A sad note

"It is finished." (Sung [here](#).)

We are sad to report that George Paris--friend and acquaintance of so many--ended his brave battle against cancer yesterday, Nov. 11th, peacefully. George kissed his loving wife of 55 years moments before his expected passing. What a beautiful ending to a life worth celebrating!

[Here](#) is a memory collage of George and his bride, Christina: <https://docs.google.com/fileview?id=0B-ENWRGT4Z9VNTM4NGRhMzctYWY0Yy00NDU3LThjNWMTNzU5OTg2ZTNkN2Nj&hl=en>

To those of you receiving this who did not know him so well, George's passion for his bride of 55 years, work, Church, Greek Orthodox chanting (example [here](#)) and iconography, Greek heritage and annual Nafpaktos, Greece homeland visits (including to monasteries), singing Greek folk songs and dancing, service in the U.S. Army (retiring as a Lt. Col.), making people laugh, camping, 5 loving children and 9 precious grandchildren, gardening, travelling with his wife and soul mate Tina, and so much more...left an indelible impression on so many. Truly a soldier for Christ, friend, mentor, uncle, husband, father, grandfather and Godfather, George exemplified unconditional love.

George's wake will be Thursday, Nov. 4th, 5-8 p.m. at St. George Greek Orthodox Church, 4070 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919 (Trisagion Service at ~7 p.m.).

George's funeral service will be Friday, Nov. 5th, 11 a.m. at St. George followed by procession to, and Military Honors ceremonial burial at, Lynhurst Cemetery, 4717 N. Broadway, Knoxville, TN 37918.

In lieu of flowers, donations honoring George may be designated to any of George's life- and career-long loves, including:

**St. George's Building Fund**  
**St. George's Choir Fund**  
**AHEPA Chapter 346**  
**ISA Oak Ridge Section (serving east TN)**  
**Metamorphosis Monastery, Nafpaktos, Greece**  
**Saint Demetrios Church, Nafpaktos, Greece**

All donations may be mailed to the address below with a specific designation clearly noted, please. Thank you.

We appreciate your understanding of this unsolicited e-mail.

With Everlasting Love for my Father,

Harry Paris  
George C. Paris Co., Inc.  
P.O. Box 22100  
Knoxville, TN 37933-0100 USA  
Toll Free: (800) 699-0601 / (800) 831-0127 FAX  
Local: (865) 966-2141 / (865) 966-3172 FAX  
Cell Ph: (865) 622-7922



## *Anna Gallos biography*

Anna Gerotheou Gallos, the daughter of a priest, was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the eldest of four girls. It is safe to say that the first music she ever heard was Byzantine Chant, for her father was also an excellent psalti, and when she was seven years old, he insisted she sing the ison for him and the other psalti. At the age of eleven she was singing in one of the first church mixed choirs in Rochester, New York. She was fifteen years old when she started to direct choirs, the first being in Somerville, Massachusetts.

Her musical studies started with piano at the age of eight. After high school she entered the Boston University School of Music where she received her Bachelor's degree in Theory and Voice. She received her Master's degree in Church Music in Composition and Conducting from the Eastman School of Music. Her composition teachers have been Wayne Barlow and Donald F. White of the Eastman School, and the renowned American composer, Daniel Pinkham of the New England Conservatory of Music.

In 1942 she married George P. Gallos of Minneapolis, Minnesota, who was ordained into the priesthood later that year. They have two sons, Stephen and John. Until his death in November, 1995,

Fr. George and Anna had completed 53 years together of service to the church. During these many years they planned, organized and spearheaded choir federations, retreats, choir schools and workshops, to help improve the spiritual and musical standards of our church music. Both played a very important part in the formation of the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians, as well as our own Southeastern Federation.

The Galloses spent three years (1986-1989) at the American Farm School in Thessaloniki, Greece, where Father George was chaplain and Presvytera was director of musical activities. The experience in Greece was invaluable for Anna because she was able to further her studies in Byzantine Chant with the renowned psalti and teacher, Archon Lambadarios Eleftherios Georgiades. She has transcribed melodic material for liturgies in all eight modes.

Mrs. Gallos publishes her own music under the name of Evangeline Music Press. Some of her major works include: five liturgies, the Canon for the Salutations to the Virgin Mary, the Lamentations for Good Friday, the propers for Christmas Day, Psalm 135, music for the wedding service, two versions of the Troparion of Kassiani, Byzantine Mosaics for Organ, and the Memorial Suite for Organ, Carillons and Optional Choir, In Remembrance of Evelyn.

Anna has served as choirmaster in several churches and has been an active teacher of theory, voice and choral conducting. In retirement she continues to work on more musical settings for the church.



### **President's Report**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Christ is among us! "LOOKING TO THE FUTURE FROM THE PAST." We are so excited about the 2011 Choir Conference in Spartanburg, South Carolina, where it all started. It is going to be a family reunion with all the past presidents, Presbyteria Anna, and of course, all of you. Please mark the last weekend in July, 2011, on your calendar and plan to attend. Toulia Chininis has given you all the details as we have them so far. We will keep you posted as plans progress. Stay tuned.

Your faithful servant in Christ,  
Margaret M. Sarafoglu, President



### **Update on the 2011 Conference in Spartanburg**

*"Sing to God with thanksgiving in your hearts." Colossians 3:16-17.*

We will be celebrating Presvytera Anna Gallos and her rich musical contributions to the church at the the Annual Choir Conference at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Spartanburg, SC on July 28-31, 2011. Presvytera Anna, together with +Rev Fr. George Gallos formed the SFGOCM in 1976 during their tenure here in Spartanburg. The St. Nicholas parish welcomes the opportunity to host the conference and have invited Presvytera Anna as our honored guest. Guest choir director will be Joanna Trakas Cavalaris, a Spartanburg native, who served as organist at the time.

More information will be coming as soon as plans finalize. Check the next Notable Notes for updates!

We are planning (of course!) a memorable weekend while we "Look to the Future from the Past".

SAVE THE DATE, July 28-31, 2011.....you won't regret it!

Toulia Chininis



### **Eastern Conference in Newport News, Virginia**

*As reported by Elia Nicholas*

The annual conference of our sister federation, the EFGOCM, was held Oct 14-17 in Newport News, Virginia. This was a combined conference with the Denver Metropolis. Attendees from our own federation were Elia and Maria Nicholas in the adult choir and Eleni Nicholas in the Youth Choir. 125 voices from places such as New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia all the way to Dallas and Houston, Oklahoma City, Salt Lake City, Denver, and Portland convened to sing the Cardiasmenos Liturgy.

Directed by Dr. Jim Maniatis of Assumption Cathedral in Denver, and accompanied by his wife, Connie, the choir was (in my opinion) one of the most polished ever at a conference. Singing with this fine group of musicians was a joyful experience that will never be forgotten. One of the highlights of the weekend came on Friday evening. We were treated to a concert by EIKONA, the three sisters and daughters of Dr. Jim the conductor. Getting to know these outstanding musicians from the west was just a big bonus to an already exciting weekend.



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

On Sunday October 31, 2010 we sang The Liturgy of Peace accompanied by our backup organist and youngest tenor Adam Balasis. This was our way of begrudgingly bidding farewell to Adam whom we lost to free agency. Shortly he will be moving to West Virginia with the option of returning whenever we are planning to sing The Liturgy of Peace.

On Saturday November 6, 2010 several of our choir members joined The St. George Choir in New Port Richey as they celebrate the Consecration of their church. In the procession around the church it was apparent that we were competing with the group of protopsalti who seemed to refuse to acknowledge our presence as they continuously chanted our parts. The metropolitan asked them to stop and let the choir sing. The entire St. George Community is to be commended for a job well done in hosting the extraordinary historic event.

Our next project is to assemble a group from our choir to join Clearwater in their annual Christmas pageant.

### **Keynotes From St. Nicholas, Spartanburg**

The St. Nicholas Church Choir of Spartanburg, SC was formed in 1942 with Pedro Trakas, of blessed memory, as the choir director. Today, part of the Trakas family is still singing with the choir. Our choir is directed by Maria Trakas Barry, the daughter of Perry and Sophia Trakas. We are 15 members strong but only half attend regularly. Like most choirs, ours is also graying, even though Lady Clairol does a good job!. We sing primarily the Gallos II music in Greek and English with an occasional hymn by Lawrence and Anastassiou.

This year the Sunday School started a new program to form a youth choir. The last 15 minutes of the class for the first through fifth grades is devoted to learning to sing the music after Holy Communion. We hope to start there and then work towards increasing how much is sung until the entire liturgy is learned. We'll start singing in church right after Thanksgiving. We'll be

singing alone (to start) without the adult choir or the organ. This is a novel approach to encourage the youth and we hope it works!

Our parish is relatively small, with 120 families, but we have been able to accomplish the building of a beautiful community center just two years ago.

This facility enables us to extend the invitation to host the Southeastern Federation's 35th Annual Choir Conference on July 28-31, 2011. We will be honoring Presvytera Anna Gallos who together with Fr. George Gallos, of blessed memory, helped form the Southeastern Federation in Spartanburg in 1976 during their tenure here. Guest director for the conference will be Joanna Cavalaris, Charlotte, NC, a native of Spartanburg who served as the organist for Presvytera Anna. We are delighted to have the opportunity to recognize Presvytera Anna for her many musical contributions to the church and thank her for all her work during her time in Spartanburg.

So please save the date! We promise we'll treat you well and we're planning a good time for all. There will be singing, reminiscing, meeting new friends, learning something (voice, new music, perhaps a joke?) at the CMI, dancing.....did I say singing? We're looking forward to having you here and hope you are too!

Toula Chininis



### *Notes From Charlotte, North Carolina*

Greetings!! The change in seasons has brought about big changes in our choir! We are so pleased to have Lucy Zapsas as our new Choir Director. Lucy, on temporary loan from St. Sophia in Miami, brings a wealth of knowledge, experience and PATIENCE and we are touched by her commitment to lead our choir. We are blessed! Thank you Lucy!

We began our choral season with singing at our annual Yiasou Greek Festival in September. We performed a 30 minute program in the cathedral to showcase our hymns from various services throughout the year, including Lent and Easter. The selection is just enough to offer a sampling of our musical heritage to our neighbors. Our Festival is one of the most successful and widely attended festivals in Charlotte, and this year was no exception! In fact we performed our program of hymns and responses for a packed cathedral.

By Olga Yamalis and Katherine Bartis



### *News from Annunciation Cathedral in Atlanta*

#### Clergy-Laity Choir, Atlanta, GA

The 40th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress was held in Atlanta, GA from July 4-8, 2010. This was the 2nd time Atlanta has hosted the Clergy-Laity, the first time being in 1980.

In conjunction with the Clergy-Laity Congress, a Hierarchical Liturgy was held on Sunday, July 4, 2010 at Annunciation Cathedral. The Choir was conducted by Christina Polizos and the organist was Peter Zervakos. Fifty-five singers gathered on Saturday, July 3rd for a rehearsal from 1:00-5:00 pm. They came from every direction of the country, some coming directly from the airport by taxi so as not to miss the rehearsal. The choir consisted of the Cathedral Choir and members of the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Choirs and Musicians. The Liturgy arrangement of Kevin Lawrence was the primary music sung for the

Divine Liturgy on Sunday. Also the Enite of Nicholas Maragos was sung.

The Liturgy was followed by a Doxology service in honor of the 4th of July. Desby's Doxology was sung at that time. With so many wonderful musicians in the choir, Sunday's Liturgy and the Doxology that followed was beautiful beyond words and went off "without a hitch." A surprise to the entire congregation came at the end when Archbishop Demetrios asked the choir to sing a "special song" for the day. At that moment, the choir sang God Bless America a cappella in beautiful improvised harmony to the delight of everyone there, who all joined it. Many in the congregation and in the choir were moved to tears by the emotion of the moment. The entire service, especially that particular moment was an unforgettable experience filled with memories that will remain with all who participated for a long time. All the Hierarchs and clergy were very impressed with the choir and with how smoothly the Liturgy went.

That afternoon the National Forum held a reception at the Marriott Marquis Hotel with Archbishop Demetrios in attendance as well. At the reception the National Forum members gave a mini concert of hymns directed by Joanne Kambouris. Anna Gallos was also present at the reception. She was surprised by a birthday cake and the singing of Happy Birthday celebrating her 90th birthday. The National Forum meetings were successfully conducted during the rest of the week.

Christina Polizos, Annunciation Cathedral Choir Director



### *From the Choir Loft at Holy Trinity in Raleigh, NC:*

The choirs of Holy Trinity sent a small delegation to this summer's conference in New Orleans. We had two adult choir members and one youth choir member attend the inspiring weekend under the direction of Steve Cardiasmenos. After the conference we went to work learning the Raptis arrangement of the Divine Liturgy and presented it to our community on Choir Music Sunday. October 3 was also a celebration of sorts for our community as we had our Capital Campaign Kickoff for our new church. In addition to His Eminence and several other clergy we were blessed to have choir members from Holy Trinity Cathedral in Charlotte and St. Barbara Church in Durham join us to sing. The highlight of the day was listening to our fantastic youth choir chant some of the hymns of the day.

Next up for our choir is the annual Christmas Program, which we will be learning music for the remainder of the fall.

A sad note for our group is the loss of a dear choir member on October 18. Zigrida Smith (soprano) who was a faithful and devoted choir member for over 20 years, passed away suddenly. She will be missed by each of us. May her memory be eternal.

In His Service,

Elia Nicholas  
Director of Choirs  
Holy Trinity Church  
Raleigh, NC



### From Saint Sophia Cathedral in Miami, Florida

Coming back from summer recess early left us somewhat sparse sometimes, but even with 4 voices at times, St. Sophia's choir held our own against the vast open space of the cathedral, even receiving praise for the purity of our sound.



Soon our Sophie Michaels, who has been out since getting back from New Orleans because of shoulder surgery, will rejoin us and fill the gap in our soprano section.

St. Sophia has managed to triple Orthros attendance simply by alternating Greek and English verses. Led by our exceptional Cypriot psalti, George, the English chanter approximates the melody on the fly while fitting the tone to the meaning of the words.

Our parish suffered the loss of our priest's mother, Mary Mamaies, in the summer. Her funeral was celebrated by all of the local priests of all jurisdictions and we celebrated her 40-day memorial on her name day with the leadership of Metropolitan Alexios, who was a bit miffed that the English psalti had to leave Orthros halfway through in order to get the choir books together for the Divine Liturgy. *May her memory be eternal.*

Leon Karahalos



### 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 Koutroulias
Central	Kay Nastopoulos
Western	Suzy Balasis (until a supervisor is appointed)
North Florida	Jim Kouchalakos
Tampa Bay	Marilyn Neyland
South Florida	Leon Karahalos

PLEASE try to have district and area rehearsals before the conference.



### 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, 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!*

St. Sophia has placed two of its Holy Week hymns as video links at <http://video.fotki.com/SFGOCM/> - *Simeron Kremate* and the *Troparion of Kassiani*. This was simply made by putting a regular digital camera in front of us and letting it record. Almost any relatively new digital camera can do this. **You can do this** with any of your relevant videos, whether musical or not. Just send them or a link to them to <mailto:leonk@bellsouth.net>.



### What do your children or grandchildren do with their spare time?

How often do they sit at the TV channel surfing? How about dry-eyed at the computer, possibly playing games or otherwise frittering away time? How much joy has choir brought to you?

To me, one of the best bequeathals we can give to our future generations is the gift of our church and its music. It's not just for yiayia, you know!

Leon Karahalos

*Editor, Notable Notes and Keynotes*

### Not too early for a worthy student to apply for the Scholarship 100 for 2011!

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





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 2011 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 **Spartanburg, SC** on **July \_\_, 2011**. 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

