

PHILO STRONG

St. George Ladies Philoptochos | Palm Desert, CA | Chapter 4035

Sock-tober Recap

Our Chapter Board wishes to thank everyone who donated and participated in the "Sock-tober" campaign, to benefit the homeless in our valley. 410 pairs of socks were donated to our project! Our own Sunday School children, under the direction of teacher Athena Snarskis, prepared the socks for distribution to "The Narrow Door" & Coachella Valley Rescue Mission" and associate member Nick Latkovic delivered the socks to the agencies for distribution. Thank you everyone!

SafeHouse of the Desert Donation

Philoptochos has made a generous donation to the SafeHouse in Palm Desert that helps at risk children being abused through human trafficking. We provided twenty \$50.00 gift cards to the organization. Some of these will be used as Christmas presents for those currently housed at the facility with the rest used for individuals when they leave the facility.



A Joyous Holiday Luncheon

On Saturday, December 10th, 65 of our chapter members, friends, and St. George clergy and parishioners gathered together for a wonderful Philoptochos sponsored holiday luncheon at the beautiful Sun City country club resort! The event kicked off at 11:30 am with cocktails & appetizers, followed by remarks from His Grace, Bishop Spyridon and President Rhonda Latkovic. A fabulous buffet luncheon was then served, ending with a scrumptious coffee ice cream dessert! Linda Petalas emceed a lively raffle. The event featured live music and a spontaneous vocal performance by Angela Miranda. His Grace, Bishop Spyridon was in attendance and in honor of his Patron Saint Spyridon, personally presented a relic to each attendee! (cont. page 2)





Welcome Back to the Desert Cocktail Party

Our Philoptochos chapter held the first "Welcome Back to the Desert" cocktail party on Friday, November 4th.

Our parish consists of both local and out of town parishioners or "snowbirds" who return to our valley every fall/winter, so our group planned this event as a kickoff to our winter season.

Our theme was "Greek Christmas" and the church hall was decorated with in Greek blue tones with table decor and a gorgeous Greek theme Christmas tree!

Loads of Greek appetizers were prepared and served to the 55-60 guests along with refreshments.

Instead of selling tickets to the party, we opted for a "free will donation" event and our attendees were very generous!

Our thanks to Margarita Pagoulatos and Irene Stambolos for helping out with the food for this party! (More photos page 3)

The Philoptochos Board would like to thank His Grace, Bishop Spyridon, Father Ted Pantels & Presvytera Petula for their wonderful support of our chapter! Special thanks to our "Stealth Steward", Michael Carroll! Thank you to board Vice President Margarita Pagoulatos, a resident of Sun City, who recommended the venue and was an intregal part of the planning committee! Thank you to our wonderful committee members who helped with the luncheon planning & coordination. Tina Veroulis, Margarita Pagoulatos, Linda Petalas, Irene Stambolos, & Linda Bozigian. (See page 4 for more photos of the luncheon.)

Christmas Basket Project

Once again this holiday, our chapter prepared homemade "goodie" baskets for seniors in our community. This project was originally started by member Alice Pulos many years ago. We wish to thank our volunteers who assembled & delivered the baskets. (L to R) Tina Veroulis; Linda Petalas; Maria Rellos; Rhonda Latkovic; Michael Colikas; Kalitsa Xitco; Tasia Richards. Not pictured Debbie Pousen.





