

Holy Transfiguration Cathedral Newsletter

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Archpriest Joseph Hirsch - Dean Archpriest Eugene Tarris - Assistant Fr. Averky Davis - Deacon

Cathedral Signs Contract for Historical Preservation Grant

We have entered into a contract with the Colorado Historical Society to commence work on our historic structure preservation project. As was reported previously, we have been awarded a \$155,000 grant and are obligated to match that with about \$51,000 of our own funds. Thus far, we have raised between eight and ten thousand dollars of this amount and plan to make an organized appeal for donations and pledges later in Spring. Given the findings of our recent architectural engineering study, which was also funded by the C.H.S., we consider this grant to be a real blessing, inasmuch as our 108 year old Temple is in urgent need of measures to reverse the consequences of over a century of "Rising damp". Upon the completion of this project, the effects of this unusual condition, which is suspected to be the consequence of an aquifer beneath the structure, should be entirely mitigated and future problems, eliminated.

"PODD" Our Second Gala Pan Orthodox Dinner Dance

The envelopes are poring in, filled with certificates from many of Colorado's finest hotels, restaurants, stores and spas. Those who attended last year's event are already to get excited about PODD II. This event is designed, not so much as a fund raiser as it is a social occasion in which we get to enjoy good food and each other's company without having cook or to stay around and clean up afterwards. On bright Friday, a fast free day, 28 April, we will gather at the Denver Athletic Club at 6:30 p.m. for an evening of socializing, dining dancing and fun. The price is \$40.00 per person, the same as last year, but there is free parking, no tip and a high probability that you will get back more than your ticket's value at the door prize drawing. Last year we had about one prize of \$50.00 or more in value for ever sixth or seventh person and this year already promises to be even better. When we worked on our strategic plan, a few years ago, one idea that stood out was the desire to have a few events just for adults and open to the wider Orthodox community and friends. We are expecting about 100 participants this year and can only accommodate a handful more than that so, look at the inclosed informational flier and reserve your ticket or a whole table for yourself and your guests, as soon as possible.

A Change in the Date of the Festival

For many years, we have held our annual summer picnic on the last Sunday of July. Now, however, with the event having expanded to two days, being opened to the public and attracting support and interest from the entire neighborhood and from all over the Metropolitan area, it has been suggested that we move the date up a week, to 22-23 July, to avoid a conflict with the very popular "Dragon Boat Festival". We are also allowing some cultural and craft booths this year, for a small fee. There will be more news soon but mark these new dates on you calendar.

Two Anniversaries

Remember that on Sunday, 2 July, His Grace, Bishop Benjamin will be with us to celebrate two anniversaries. Matushka Paulette and Father Joseph invite you to join us following Liturgy for a luncheon in honor of their 40th Wedding Anniversary which falls on that very day and we will also honor Fr. Eugene Tarris upon the 40th Anniversary of his priestly ordination which was 4 July, 1966. This will also be the 40th anniversary of the repose of St. John of Shanghai, who reposed at the same hour in which Fr. Joseph and Matushka Paulette were celebrating their wedding. If you are going to be in town over that weekend, please plan to be a part of these four auspicious events: our Bishop's visit, and the fortieth year of the Hirsch marriage of Fr. Eugene's Priesthood and of St. John's falling asleep in Christ.

Paint Project Helps 22 Globeville Families

In her capacity as President of the Globeville Civic Association, Matushka Paulette helped arrange for a teams totaling over one hundred young college students to spend their Spring Break learning the paint contractor business through the firsthand experience of painting the homes of almost two dozen of our elderly, disabled or financially needy neighbors. The young people, who are franchisees of the "College Pro Painters", lived and worked in the neighborhood and used our Hall for a one day orientation meeting. On Wednesday, 29 March, the Mayor of Denver came out to lend his encouragement and support to the project which was partially paid for with a \$5,000 "Community Building Grant" which Matushka obtained from the Denver Foundation. We understand that the "Crews" plan to return to the neighborhood next summer.

Holy Week & Pascha Details

Palms, Willows and Flowers- Once more, we are asking for your donations toward the Sisterhood's purchase of the palms, willows and flowers which beautify our Holy Week and Pascha celebrations. Anyone with pussy-willows growing on their property is encouraged to cut these as soon as the grey buds appear and to bring them to Church for blessing and distribution on The Sunday of Palms. We also need helping hands to tie and to arrange our palms and willows following Liturgy on Lazarus Saturday, 15 April and to assist with the arrangement of flowers on Great and Holy Friday Morning, 21 April.

Tomb Watch- Our Prayer Vigil before the Lord's Tomb, begins at the end of Matins, about 9:00 p.m., on Great and Holy Friday, 21 April and ends with the start of the Liturgy at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday. There is a sign up list for one hour "Watches". Also, anyone who is able to do so, is encouraged to help Fr. Joseph with the changing over of the lamps and covers in the Church following the service on Great and Holy Friday. A little help goes a long way.

Pascha Baskets- Baskets will be blessed following the Morning Liturgy of the Resurrection on Great and Holy Saturday, following the Midnight Matins and Divine Liturgy and after the Agape Vespers at 1:00 p.m. on Holy Pascha. Baskets for the Saturday and Sunday daytime services may be brought to the Church porch and those at Midnight should be left in the Parish Hall.

Eggs- Please consider bringing a dozen colored eggs for blessing and distribution at our Paschal Services. Those that are left over are used to decorate graves on St. Thomas Sunday.

Pot Luck Agape Meals- Again this year, we will break our fast with a pot luck and family basket meal in the Parish Hall following the Midnight services. Lamb will be served and donations for its purchase and preparation are welcome. Also, we will have a small, informal pot luck buffet in the Parish Hall, following Agape Vespers on Pascha afternoon.

CHRIST IS RISEN!

Great & Holy Week – 2006

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

As the Dean of our Cathedral, it seems to be both my duty and my privilege to address you at the Paschal time with words of encouragement, admonition and congratulations upon the arrival of the Radiant “Feast of Feasts.” As we reflect upon the events, which batter our minds daily through the media, we are tempted to despair. Hearing of “Wars and rumors of wars”, of “earthquakes in diverse places” and of “the Seas rushing mightily”: of scandals and betrayals of trust, of false accusations and of overt lies by functionaries both of State and of Religious institutions: of rampant perversion, of the murder of the unborn and of the exploitation, of the very young and of the weakest and most helpless, “The Least of our brethren”: and adding to all of this the dire forecasts of environmental calamities and of the proliferation of civilization destroying weapons : it may, indeed, be the case that some “Men’s hearts will fail for fear and for looking after the things coming upon the Earth”.

At this point, it would be well for us to reflect upon the words of St. Nkolai Velemirovich who declared that the best day of his life was the Pascha he celebrated with his brother Orthodox Christians in the Dachau Death Camp. There, surrounded by the worst that Satan and wicked men could throw against them, the “Little flock” beheld in dramatic contrast, the Light, Life, Joy and Hope which flow from the Empty Tomb. When asked, later, how he could have FAITH having beheld such atrocities, he replied that he no longer required faith, having attained to personal knowledge of God and of His Live.

Every Pascha, we proclaim that we have beheld the Resurrection of Christ. At the conclusion of almost every Liturgy, we sing that, “We have seen the True Light...” It is, precisely, this participation in the VERY events of our Salvation, which causes the darkness of the fallen world to vanish in the effulgence of the Uncreated Paschal Light. Our longing and Hope are swallowed up in fulfillment and in Sight when we behold Our Risen Lord standing in our midst and declaring, “In the world you shall have tribulation but fear not, be of good cheer for I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD.

Yours in the Paschal Mystery-In the Paschal Victory,



Parish Council Update

We are getting underway with the projects we shared with you in the last newsletter just a couple of months ago. The two main events we want to address at this time are the Bright Friday Pan-Orthodox Dinner/Dance and the Festival:

Bright Friday Pan-Orthodox Dinner/Dance - Hopefully by now you have penciled in our 2nd annual Pan-Orthodox Dinner/Dance (PODD) or better yet bought your ticket. You don't want to miss this exciting event. It is Friday evening April 28th at the Denver Athletic Club in downtown Denver. The cost is \$40 for a fabulous sit down dinner with your choice of chicken or steak and a great time. There will be lots of great door prizes. Here are few door prizes that we have: a gift certificate to Il Fornai Italian restaurant, gift certificate to Mimi's Café, \$50 Visa gift card, 1/4 barrel keg from Wynkoop, Flatirons Crossing giftcard, a marble chess set and passes to the Museum of Nature & Science just to name a few. Approximately 1 in every 10 people will win a door prize valued at \$50 (more than the ticket price) just for being there! There will also be great items for raffle and silent auction including an a night's accommodation at The Burnsley All Suite Hotel and breakfast and a package at Ageless Remedies valued at \$160.

The goal of the event is to provide a fellowship opportunity for everyone in our Parish as well as local Parishes to enjoy without having to work. With any big Parish sponsored event there is always a group needed to set-up, cook, clean-up, etc. It often ends up being the same group of people volunteering for those jobs. These people never get to sit back and enjoy the festivities. This event allows everyone (adults only) to get dressed up, relax and have fun with their friends from church, outside of our normal setting i.e. our hall. All you have do for this event is show up and have fun. Remember this is a grown-ups only event. Get a babysitter and have a fun date night. See the flier in the newsletter for more specific details and how to purchase tickets.

Check out the posters in the hall from last year's event. We hope to see many of you there!

Festival - Planning for our 3rd annual Festival is underway. Please note that the date has changed - **the Festival is July 22nd & 23rd**. We have some ideas to expand the Festival and need some additional people on the Planning Committee. The following positions are needed:

- ★ Sweepstakes Coordinator - we want to explore the idea of having a sweepstakes (like a raffle). This person would be responsible for researching how other Festival's do this, getting the items donated and coordinating the actual sweepstakes during the event.
- ★ Kids' Activities Co-Coordinator - work with Becky Schilling to coordinate the kids activities. We also need volunteers to "refurbish" our picnic games to get them ready for their Festival debut. With a group of 3 - 4 people this would probably take 2 - 3 hours. Please see Becky Schilling if you are interested in helping with this project to prepare for the Festival.

If you are interested in making food for the Festival see Diana Seurer, Food Booth Coordinator.

If you have any ideas for entertainment, see Lidia Stcherbak, Entertainment Coordinator.

And if you have any ideas for vendors to sell crafts, etc. see Yana Kosic, Vendor Coordinator.

If you are interested in either of these positions, please see Erin Busken.

In Christ,
Erin Busken, Senior Warden