

Historical Preservation

Well, at this point, we can see an end to our three stage historical restoration, preservation and beautification. We have, over the past five years, received about \$50,000 from our people as matching funds for this project and to cover costs for all of those things (Anything with an Icon or Cross on it) that the state would not cover. We have designated all of those contributors as “Founders” of our Temple who will be commemorated along with our original founders down through the decades and centuries.

We are now suspending our campaign for the Historical Preservation Fund because of our need to apply more resources to our regular operating budget which is almost always in minor crisis. Still, we will receive and accept any contribution to this fund which comes in before our 110th Anniversary Celebration on 12 October. After that, we will cover any remaining costs from our Parish Maintenance Endowment Fund. We still ask you to remember the “Land Acquisition Fund” from which we purchase and maintain property and the “Memorial Building Fund” from which we make capital improvements and fund major repairs and upkeep.

Observance of Our 110th Year

We will culminate the celebration of our 110th year with a festal weekend the 11th and 12th of October. We will mark the weekend with a visit from our Bishop. There will be a Vigil on Saturday night and a Hierarchical Liturgy followed by a catered banquet on Sunday.

Our banquet will feature Greek Cuisine catered by a fine local caterer. The Anniversary Committee is trying to keep the event affordable and has launched a series of small fund raising projects to underwrite the Banquet and to assure that ALL of our people can afford to attend. Please plan now to attend and see

the attached flyer for details. The cost is \$20.00 per adult, \$10.00 per child between 6 and 12 years with our many infants and toddlers under 12 being Free. There is no fund raising element to this event. We are simply trying to cover our costs for the day.

There is also a 110th Anniversary souvenir being offered by the Anniversary Committee. It is a wine glass engraved with the 110th Anniversary Parish Logo. These are available for \$15.00 each and make fine Christmas Presents. All orders must be in to Matushka Maria by Sunday, 21 September, to allow for the time required for production of the items.

Other Upcoming Events

All Saints Parish Festival

SATURDAY, 13 September, the All Saints of Russia Church at 32nd & Iliff, will hold a Russian “Firebird” Festival from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Another Game Night- Come out and play!

FRIDAY, 19 September- Parish & Family Game Night and Non-meat Pot Luck- About 6:00 p.m. We had such a good time with our Summer event that we had requests for more. Thanks to Berry Myhr, we have a great new ping pong table in the lower hall and John Frederics obtained the donation of a poker table. If the weather is nice, Fr. Joe will play outside with the preschoolers and younger kids who don’t want to play table games. If it is cool or rainy, we will have movies for the young children in the hall. Bring something we can eat on a Friday, pick up the whole family after work and come play for a couple of hours. See the attached poster.

Church School Resumes

SUNDAY, 21 September- CHURCH SCHOOL RESUMES- We will begin with the blessing of all students and all teachers in our Parish at the conclusion of Divine Liturgy.

Softball Tournament

SATURDAY, 27 September is the scheduled date for our Annual inter-parochial Softball Tournament. We need more young men and women to replace our "Aging Dudes and Dudettes". We have played for over ten years and have won the tournament all but one year. Come play and carry on the tradition. We will play on our own Argo Park Field from about 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. See Joe Hirsch or Berry Myhr if you are willing and able to play.

Annual Sisterhood Meeting

SUNDAY, 28 September, will be the Annual Meeting of our Parish Sisterhood during the Coffee Hour. We hold this meeting each year, either on the Sunday before or after our Sisterhood's Patronal Feast, "The Protection of the Theotokos" on 1 October.

All ladies of the Parish over 16 years of age are members. We will meet while we eat to expedite matters. The Sisterhood also requests that all who are able to do so, submit their 2009 "Voluntary dues" of \$20, which helps to provide a financial base for the Altar Society during the year. The Sisterhood manages the Parish Hall and Weekly Luncheons, holds receptions on special occasions, manages the Church cleaning, purchases vestments for clergy and altar servers, supports the Church

School and has numerous charitable projects, including providing monthly support for the Holy Protection Women's Monastery at Lake George. They arrange Church and hall cleanup and decorating days, purchase greenery, palms, willows and flowers for holidays and special celebrations, sponsor wedding and "First Baby" showers for active Parish members and send flowers and cards to hospitalized parishioners. This is just a partial list of the valuable services and projects for which the Sisterhood takes responsibility. They are, in fact, the HEART of parish service and fellowship.

Fall Costume Party

SUNDAY, 26 October is our Children's Autumn Costume Party. There will be some games, candy (Donations of candy are welcome) and a costume contest for the youngsters. Witches, devils, etc., are discouraged and There is a special prize for the best boy's and girl's Biblical or Saint's costume. We have held this party for decades and began, at the suggestion of police officers in the Parish, to reduce the risk to our children on "Halloween".

111th Annual Parish Meeting

SUNDAY, 9 November, will be the 111th Annual Parish Meeting following Liturgy. We will meet at 12:00 noon following Liturgy for a one hour meeting to receive reports, elect Council members and officers and transact all other business which might come before us. To vote, or be elected to an office, one should be in good standing and should have fulfilled the minimum "Fair Share"

donation to the Church. Those who contribute regularly in any amount are automatically eligible. See the enclosed annual report of the Dean in this newsletter.

The All American Council of the OCA will be held in Pittsburg PA on 10-13 November. Father Joseph will be gone during those days.

St. Nicholas Holiday Bake Sale

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, 6 and 7 December is the Sisterhood's Annual pre-holiday bake sale. Please bake if you are able to do so and participate in this important Fall Sisterhood fund raiser.

St. Nicholas Celebration

SUNDAY, 7 December is the date of our Children's St. Nicholas Celebration. As usual, we will distribute candy, and small gifts to our kids. Donations are welcome (You can be a Saint Nicholas helper.) Father Joe will recount the life and miracles of the Great Saint for our Church school children.

Romanian Memorial Service

SUNDAY, 21 December we will observe our 20th Annual Parastas for the Martyrs of the Romanian Revolution of 1989 and of all of the New Romanian Martyrs of the Communist Yolk. We began this custom during the Revolution when Romanian people and even children were dying in the streets of Romanian cities and have continued it each year at this time.

Play Rehearsal & Children's Outing

SATURDAY, 27 December, We will have our annual rehearsal and

Christmas outing following the 10:00 a.m. St. Stephen's Day Liturgy. Details will be forthcoming in the December Newsletter.

Children's Christmas Play and Holiday Benefit Pot Luck

SUNDAY, 28 December, will be our Children's Christmas Program and our 19th Annual Pot Luck Benefit Banquet for the Romanian Children's Memorial Fund. Bring holiday treats and finger foods or your favorite dish and come participate. We will give gifts to all of our children, following the annual Christmas play and join Holiday in fellowship.

7 January, Slavonic Liturgy

WEDNESDAY, 7 January, we will celebrate our 10th Annual Slavonic Nativity Liturgy and Holiday Pot Luck at 10:00 a.m.

Annual Theophany Snow Pack Blessing

THURSDAY, 8 January, we will again ascend the Continental Divide at Monarch Pass for our 10th Annual Blessing of the Snow Pack. Those who wish to join us are welcome.

"Old Rus" Holiday Party

SUNDAY, 11 January, we will hold our 15th Annual "Old Rus Holiday Party" for Russian Charities" following Liturgy. Our money last year was, once more, taken to the Children's Hospice in St. Petersburg.

Saint Sava's Celebration

SUNDAY, 25 January, we will observe our 111th Annual Saint Sava Celebration and Balkan Winter Festival. Dusica and Emelia Muntean are kum and kuma this year.

Annual Dean's Report
9 November, 2008

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

As we gather for our Annual Meeting, we have just celebrated our 110th Anniversary and the past year has seen the consummation of a number of projects which have been on the planning board for years.

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION PROJECT

We have completed all three phases of our engineering evaluation, historical renovation, preservation and beautification of our Temple. In all, our Parishioners have contributed a bit over \$50,000 of the required matching funds and for the grants and for non-grant projects. Thanks to the prudence of our Parish Council over the years, we will be able to take whatever more is required from our Property Preservation Endowment Fund. We have just about completed the iconography of our temple and have been able to restore and gold leaf our Iconostasis. The Church has never looked more beautiful and, with continued regular maintenance, the external and interior splendor of our Temple should be sustainable for a century or more into the future. Again, I owe special thanks and appreciation to Tom Bede Cope who has administered the phase on and two grants for over two years.

LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT

After having passed a continuing resolution from year to year to authorize the purchase of adjacent property, we took concrete steps in the last year to expand our presence in this venerable neighborhood. We now own two rental properties on the perimeter of our Church grounds as well as a vacant lot which can be used for overflow parking. We have a couple of other properties over which we are in informal negotiation but have reached the end of our line of credit and will probably have to fund other acquisitions as conventional Real estate loans. We are able to make our payments from income being generated by the properties, so, for the past several months, they have been no burden to the Parish. We are profoundly indebted to Doug Busken, Eric Slater, Gary Seurer and Marco Lukich, among others, who donated thousands of dollars worth of skilled labor to demolish and rebuild the interior of the Grant Street house. We are, also, committed to future purchase of the Kulick/Birch property which has had a 110 year connection to our parish, but the property is not presently available.

SPECIAL EVENTS

St Sava's Celebration a.k.a. The Balkan Winter Festival was a terrific success this year. Marco and Gari Lukich and Marco's lovely mother, were terrific hosts and everyone had a wonderful time. The day was marked by great food, good music and mood that made guests and parishioners want to stay and enjoy the day. Slava 2009 is scheduled for Sunday, January 25th and Dusica and Emelia Muntean are the designated "Kumovi" of the Feast.

The Fifth Annual Pan Orthodox Dinner Dance (PODD) on Bright Friday was very well attended and thoroughly enjoyed. His Grace, Bishop Benjamin joined us at this Charity event for the second year. The change of venue to Maggiano's Restaurant received universal praise. This event can be said, truly, to have come of age. Colleen Ramos and Erin Buskin were ramrods on the project with Colleen collecting the dozens of door prizes, raffle items and silent auction pieces which provide the bulk of our proceeds from the evening. PODD 2009 will be held on Bright Friday, 24 April.

The Orthodox Food Festival and Old Globeville Days experienced at least a 20% growth in participation. In addition to our authentic and delicious Romanian, Serbian, Russian and Greek food, we had, for the first time, participation from our Eritrean Community who promise even more next year. The entertainment this year won high praise from everyone and our partnership with the Globeville Civic Association and with the St. John's and St Dimitru's Romanian Churches enriched

the event substantially. Erin and Doug were key to the event as was Lydia Stcherbak, our talent agent, Erin Shwartz who managed the vendors. Thanks, in part, to the poster designed by Zander Renault, we have passed the invisible line from a neighborhood Festival to a City Wide event. Both Channel 9 and radio 850 KOA provided great publicity offered to continue to do so in the future.

We also held a successful Adult Retreat, a Weekend "Sleepover Retreat" for our Church school and a parish wide "Game night" in the Parish Hall. We plan, in addition to our Bright Friday PODD, to hold Friday night social events on all or most of the other four "Fast free" Fridays throughout the year.

CHARITIES

We held three successful Charity Fund raising events in the last twelve months. Our Pan Orthodox Dinner Dance, our Romanian Children's Memorial Fund Pot Luck Benefit on the Sunday after Christmas and our Russian Children's Charity Party on the Sunday after the "Old Calendar Christmas". We also send over forty Christmas gift boxes to children in Romanian orphanages.

PROPERTY PROJECTS

As in the past, we owe a great debt to Mike Rogozik, Gary Seurer, Marco Lukich and Doug Busken, who saved us a great deal of money by making much needed repairs in a timely manner. Kat and hris Jobanputra also provided professional repair and maintenance people for some of our more complicated tasks.

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

in the 2008 ecclesiastical year, between September 1st of 2007 and August 31st, our Parish had 23 Holy Baptisms. We received three baptized adult converts by Holy Chrismation, married 1 couples and conducted 4 funerals.

We bade farewell to Zora Ninich and Alex Mystkowski. both of these persons has played an active part I our parish life over many years and I could easily write a paragraph about each. May their Memory be Eternal!

Our records indicate that as of September 1st of 2008, we had 158 Adult Communicants, 80 Children under 18 years of age, and 8 regularly participating non-Orthodox Adults. Unfortunately, we still have a total of only 84 adults who contribute regularly enough to the support of the Church for us to have a record.

We continue to have about 25 other Eritrean families, a dozen Romanian and a dozen Russian families, plus a few Serbs, Bulgarians, Macedonians and Ukrainians who consider themselves to be members of our Congregation but who have not registered. If we add all of these together, I am directly responsible for a little over 350 souls.

PRIEST'S JOURNAL

In the past Church year, my journal indicates that I have:

Placed or received 1672 phone calls. (This number does not reflect my use of Email.)

Made 223 Home or Hospital Visits.

Served 137 Divine Liturgies and Offered 402 Divine Services.

Had 253 Appointments in my office.

And attended or conducted 66 Meetings or Classes

These figures reflect almost no change from the previous year.

FINANCES

For another year, we are "White knuckling" it through each monthly financial report. Although it is a perpetual truism that there are problems with the economy, still, many of us have received substantial raises, bonuses or other improvements in our financial status since the last time we thought about our monthly pledges. I can only suggest that each of us, from time to time, revisit the reality of our own family financial circumstances vis a vis our regular Church support.

PARISH LEADERSHIP

The following Parish Council Members will conclude their elected terms this year:

James Hartenbower, Carol Elizabeth Montealegre and Lidia Stcherbak.

Each of these is eligible and has agreed to run for reelection. In all, we will need to fill four 3 year terms and one 2 year term left vacant by the resignation of Reader, Benjamin Hirsch. Thus, we will be electing 5 Council members this year.

The Parish Council and especially the executive committee have acquitted themselves excellently this past year and most of the progress we have noted above, can be attributed to their leadership and direction. I am especially grateful to James Hartenbower who has conscientiously and effectively assumed the duties of Treasurer upon the retirement from that position of our long serving Chris Jobanputra. I also wish to thank the Parish Council for providing the small stipend for Reader Michael Tarris who serves as my very capable and helpful Administrative Assistant.

Archpriest Eugene Tarris, who retired in February, has continued to work for the Church as he is able and Archpriest James Worth is of great help when his secular work schedule allows him to be present. I am also grateful to Proto Deacon Averky and Deacon Alexander Vallens who are like Joshua and Aaron in holding up my arms to do the Work of God.

The Church finances should receive some significant relief this year as Matushka and I both go onto Medicare. Our health insurance has made up about 20% of the annual budget. But, this brings back into focus the truth that I will have to retire some day and the issue of whether that should be sooner or later. Of course, this is largely the Bishop's business. He can ask that I retire, transfer me to another assignment or refuse to accept my request for retirement, which also requires approval of the Holy Synod. Fortunately, we have a terrific bishop who has only the best interests of his people and parishes at heart and who will act only for our good.

I have already discussed with His Grace, the timing of our transition, whether it should, perhaps be gradual and involve bringing in a full time assistant as well as some possible candidates to serve here. The Parish Council has taken all of this reality into consideration and is aware that it is, finally, the Bishop's decision. They have expressed the hope that I will continue to serve here for some time in the future, either as Dean or in semiretirement, in some other capacity.

This should not become an urgent issue, as I do not plan to retire for a few years, but, when the time comes, the good of the parish: its needs, plans and financial situation, will certainly be issue which His Grace, our Council, whoever will be the regional Dean and I will have to take into consideration. God willing, we will be prepared for whatever happens when the time comes.

Anyway, 2009 will mark two occasions. In June, Father James Worth will celebrate the 30th Anniversary of his Priestly Ordination and, in July of next year, Matushka and I will celebrate our 25th Anniversary at Transfiguration. I have already served two years longer than my nearest predecessor. For my part, it has been an interesting, fulfilling and largely pleasant quarter of a century.

Yours in Christ,

Archpriest Joseph Hirsch
Dean of Holy Transfiguration Cathedral
Dean of the Rocky Mountain Deanery of the Diocese of San Francisco, Los Angeles and the West of
The Orthodox Church in America

Parish Council Update

There are a lot of projects in the works, for Fall. Everyone is sure to find something they are interested in:

Bell Ringing & More for the Girls – The first round of bell ringing training occurred in the beginning of the summer. And boy is there a lot of excitement. If you are interested in bell ringing, taking the collection or pouring the wine, I will do training on Sunday Sept. 14th.

Festival - Wow – what a great event! Please be sure to read the Festival article.

Game Night – Our first family game night and potluck which occurred in June was such a hit that we are doing it again. Won't you come out & play Friday night Sept. 19th? We'll share a simple potluck fast dinner & then play poker and other board games. See the special flyer for all the details. Don't miss this fun night!

"Lightening Father's Load"- Father Joe has come up with a list of tasks that someone else could be doing. A number of these were immediately re-assigned. Thanks to all who are helping with this. Some of the remaining tasks are administrative / computer work. If you are skilled in this area & willing to help, please talk to me and we can discuss the tasks. A big job for Father is changing the lamps, etc. throughout the year. There are about 6 times a year this needs to be done. This would be a great "special project" for someone or a family to commit to. If you are interested in this please talk to Father Joe or I about what is involved and when this occurs.

Photo Board – There have been a number of requests, particularly from newer members, to have available photos of everyone; a way to help everyone put names & faces together. We are going to start with a photo board in the hall that will have a photo of each parish family with their names. Erin Schwartz has volunteered to work on this. We will begin taking photos sometime in September so stay tuned.

Sermons On-Line – Ever wonder what you missed in the sermon when you weren't at church or was there ever one you would like to hear again? Now you may be able to. Erin Schwartz is recording & transcribing Father Joe's sermons. They are available to read on-line at <http://transfigcathedral.blogspot.com/> We hope to eventually get them on CD as well. Thank you Erin!

Softball Tournament – Mark your calendars - our annual Pan-Orthodox softball tournament is scheduled for 9/27/08. Whether you plan to play or cheer, it's sure to be a great day of fun. Talk to Barry Myhr or Ben Hirsch for more information.

Transfiguration / Orthodoxy Cookbook – Last call for recipes!! As you know, Erik Slater is putting together a cookbook of the best recipes from our Parish community and we need your help. We are hoping to "release" this at the 110th Anniversary Celebration in October. If you have a recipe you would like to contribute please get it to Erik (otherwise he will be coming to you to ask for a recipe), along with the ethnicity/background of the recipe.

In Christ,
Erin Busken, Senior Warden

Orthodox Food Festival & Old Globeville Days Summary

We did it again!! Our 5th Annual Old Globeville Days & Orthodox Food Festival was a tremendous success in so many ways. It was definitely the biggest & best one yet.

For the inaugural event, we came up with three goals for the event and we met them all again this year:

1. Raise money - Here is the breakdown of our fundraising efforts:
 - we collected just over \$12,500 in ticket sales!!! (A 20% increase over last year)
 - we received just over \$8,000 in grants, donations & cash sponsorships to off set expenses
 - our net profit was just over \$8,800!!
2. Parish fellowship and broad based involvement - there were at least 80 different people that contributed to the success of the event. This was truly a parish event.
3. Introduce Orthodoxy and our Parish to people - people were lined up and anxiously awaiting the church tours and were thrilled to have the opportunity to go into the church

We continue to build on the success of the previous years. We are hopeful this event will only get bigger and better. I can't tell you the number of people that complimented the food and hospitality. I know you are all committed to the success of this event.

There are so many people to thank that it is impossible to name them all. A special thank you to:

- Everyone on the Planning Committee who spent many hours in meetings planning the details of the festival.
- Rupert Applegate, our bookstore and gift bazaar coordinator. He handled all of the details to make sure we had a fully functioning bookstore and gift bazaar booth.
- Doug Busken, my right hand man in the festival. He obtained all of the permits and coordinated the majority of the logistics and basically helped with whatever was needed.
- Gabriel Hayman who provided an iconography booth which introduced icons to many of our guests.
- Mira Hill, our food co-coordinator. What is a food festival without food. She worked with all of the food booths, coordinated food purchasing and prepared food & manned her own booth the whole weekend.
- Tom Hill, sponsorship coordinator and beverage co-coordinator. We developed a sponsorship program to help off-set some of the costs of the Festival. Tom successfully obtained over \$1,500 in cash donations as well as a number of in-kind donations. He also did a lot of the food shopping & helped to expand our beverage selection.
- Angela Myhr, our bake sale coordinator. She used her bake sale expertise to sell a lot of baked goods.
- Colleen Ramos who provided input & support throughout the year & who trained Angela.
- Zander Renault, who designed our awesome new logo, fliers & the banners.
- Mike Rogozik, our beverage co-coordinator. He made sure we had what we needed to keep everyone hydrated and handled the paper products.
- Becky Schilling our children's activities and kids games coordinator. She used her contacts to provide the face painters, and to bring us the ever popular air castle. She also did dozens of other needed tasks.
- Erin Schwartz, our vendors coordinator. A huge thank you to Erin for taking keeping this important piece going
- Diana Seurer, our food co-coordinator. She assisted Mira & manned her own "grill" booth the whole weekend.
- Erik Slater who coordinated the set-up & tear-down work.
- Lidia Stcherbak our entertainment coordinator. She made sure we had non-stop fabulous entertainment.
- To everyone who was at the festival from start to finish both days (you know who you are) ready to work wherever help was needed, especially setting up and cleaning up. We couldn't have done it without you.
- To all of the kids that helped with the kids games & activities. You are the future of this event.
- To everyone who baked for the bake sale. You satisfied everyone's sweet tooth.
- To everyone who cooked and served the food. There were so many people that helped with the food booths it was incredible. The food was amazing. There were nothing but good comments about the food. The food is really what keeps the people coming. You are the heart & soul of the event.
- To Sandie Kennedy, who shopped for and donated more than 400 prizes for the kids' games.
- To everyone who contributed financially, in particular to those who made generous donations because they were unable to attend and help by volunteering.

Lastly, thank you to Father Joe & Matushka Paulette for their continued leadership and enthusiasm to successfully implement the event. In addition to everything else he does, Father managed to send out dozens of press releases to make sure that we had great publicity. Matushka worked closely with the neighborhood group and made sure we got two big grants for the event. She also worked with the Globeville Civic Association booth.

Thank you again to each and everyone of you. Before you know it, we will be planning the bigger and better 2009 Old Globeville Days & Orthodox Food Festival. May God grant you many years!

In Christ, Erin Busken, Senior Warden