

## MAY 19, 2019

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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# THE LADDER

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 4755 Palm Desert, CA.92261 Tel: (760) 568-9901 or: (760) 880-5869

– Fr. Theodore Pantels, Proistamenos (Pastor) – Deacon Euthym Kontaxis, M.D.

### Holy Communion Order

- 1. Please remain standing while following the directions of our ushers.
- 2. Ladies, kindly remove lipstick before receiv-ing.
- 3. When receiving Holy Communion, make the Sign of the Cross, state your name (baptismal name), and naturally receive as if being fed.
- 4. Non-Orthodox Christians may not receive Holy Communion, but they may receive the Holy Bread at the end of the service.

5. All Orthodox Christians must be spiritually prepared to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Please see the priest if you have any questions.

#### THE ULTIMATE WELLNESS

The pool known to the Israelites as Bethesda represents the Baptismal Font, where we completely reject evil and firmly commit to being united with Christ. As we learn from today's Gospel passage, Christ is the Physician of our souls and bodies.

But a physician cannot help if a sick person denies the reality that he or she is sick - and death, indeed, is the ultimate sickness. It is significant that our Lord wanted to learn from the paralytic if he truly wanted to be cured. The paralytic could have said, *"I am not sick;* 

I don't need help!" In truth, very often we all find ourselves denying that we are suffering from forms of spiritual weakness or illness. For example, we often do not accept the notion that we suffer from bad habits or from lack of faith, etc. Yet, these are symptoms of spiritual sickness. As a result, after great periods of time, there is the temptation to consider our sickness as part of a normal way of life. We might come to feel that the cure to our sickness could involve various kinds of difficulties. For us to be *Continued on page 2* 

<u>GOSPEL THEMES THROUGHOUT THE POST-PASCHAL SEASON</u> The 1st Sunday: Great & Holy Pascha: The Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ

The 2nd Sunday: St. Thomas: "My Lord and My God!" Christ is God our Savior Risen from the dead, giving humanity Eternal Life.

The 3rd Sunday: The Myrrh-bearing Women: Faith and love for Christ; the first witnesses of the Resurrection of Christ.

The 4th Sunday: The Paralytic: Washing away of sins. Sins cause (and are) illnesses that "paralyze" us from growing spiritually in the Life of Christ. Baptism is the theme.

The 5th Sunday: The Samaritan Woman: Preparation for receiving the Holy Spirit. Christ God is worshiped in "Spirit and in Truth."

The 6th Sunday: The Blind Man: Enlightenment and conversion to Christ our God. The Ascension is celebrated on Thursday.

Sunday of the Holy Fathers: Christ's divinity & humanity are pro-

Pentecost: the Outpouring of the Holy Spirit; The Church is the new world.

Η κολυμβήθρα <ή ἐπιλεγομένη Έβραϊστί Βηθεσδά> αντιπροσω– πεύει την κολυμβήθρα του Αγίου Βαπτίσματος, όπου απορρίπτουμε απολύτως το κάθε κακό και με σαφή δέσμευση αναζητούμεν την ένωσήν μας με τον Χριστόν. Οπως μαθαίνουμεν από το σημερινό Ευ– αγγέλιο, ο Χριστός είναι ο Ιατρός του σώματος και της ψυχής.

Αλλά ο ιατρός δεν μπορεί να βοηθήσει εάν ο άρρωστος αρνείται την πραγματικότηταν ότι είναι άρρωστος - και ο θάνατος είναι η τελική ασθένεια. Είναι σημαντικό ότι ο Κύριος ήθελε να μάθει από τον παράλυτον εάν ήθελε να θεραπευθεί.Ο παράλυτικος θα μπορούσε να πει, <Δεν είμαι άρρωστος. Δεν χρειάζομαι βοήθεια!> Μάλιστα, πολύ συχνά όλοι μας αρνούμεθα ότι οι ψυχές μας είναι άρρωστες. Π.χ., δεν παραδεχόμεθα ότι οι κακές μας συνήθειες και η έλλειψις πίστεως, κτλ., είναι συμπτώματα πνευματικής ασθενείας. Επιπλέον, μετά από μακρές περιόδους ασθενείας,υπάρχει ο πειρασμός να θεωρούμεν την ασθένειαν ως ένας κανονικός τρόπος ζωής. Η θεραπεία μπορεί να περιέχει γιά εμάς διάφορες δυσκολείες. Γιά να θεραπευθούμεν μπορεί να σημαίνει ότι πρέπει να ανιμετωπίσουμεν νέες και ίσως δυσάρεστες προκλήσεις. Αλλά, παίρνοντας τον <σταυρόν> αυτών των προκλήσεων ευρίσκουμεν την σωτηρίαν.

Στην συζήτησην μεταξύ του Χριστού και του παραλύτου ευ– ρίσκομεν και το θέμα της Θείας Εξομολογήσεως, η οποία θεωρεί– ται ως το <δεύτερο βάπτισμα.> Ομολογώντας τις αμαρτίες μας με ειλικρίνειαν, καταβάλλουμεν κά– θε δυνατή προσπάθειαν να μην αμαρτάνουμεν πιά. +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

healed would mean that we must deal with new and perhaps uncomfortable challenges. However, in taking up the "cross" of those challenges, we find our salvation. Understanding this, the paralytic's consent to be healed provides a good example for all of us to follow. His will to be healed meant that he would have to carry his bed on the Sabbath and be confronted by Pharisees.

The ultimate wellness is to be in union with Christ our Risen Savior and our True God. The Incarnation of Christ, from which we are granted Eternal Life by way of His Resurrection from the dead, has created for us the sanctification of our souls and bodies. Human beings are not simply creatures with a soul, having the Image of God and not being able ever to attain their innate likeness with God. The power to be like God -- to love like God; to commune with God through prayer and to manipulate creation for the salvation of others -- is fully given because Christ sanctified our flesh by wearing human flesh, taken from the Ever-Virgin Mary. Our bodies are vehicles for doing God's work and our bodies and our souls are given the divine gifts of the Holy Spirit in order to be like God in the world.

The passage from the Book of Acts that is read today is a perfect illustration of this. The work of Christ in raising Lazarus from the dead (forecasting His own Resurrection from the dead for all of humanity), compares to Christ's work through St. Peter, who was given the divine power of the Holy Spirit to raise Tabitha from the dead. We also note that, as our Lord healed the paralytic at the Pool of Bethesda, St. Peter healed Aeneas, the paralytic at Lydda.

At every Sacrament of our Church, the Holy Spirit descends upon us by virtue of our collective prayers as a community of individuals who always pray. We must remember, however, that participating in God's work is never to be an occasion to boast pridefully in our own accomplishments. Pride undoes our prayer and it undoes our "good works," making them less *good* as being of God, Who is Good, and more manipulative as being done for personal advantage in order to fuel our pride even more.

The conversation between Christ our God and the paralytic when He finds him in the temple is important. Pride from finding favor with God, as well as pride in our accomplishments, often undermines the true goodness of blessings or good deeds, tainting them with a sense of sin. Here we find the theme of Holy Confession (known as our "second baptism") added to that of today's central theme of Holy Baptism. As we confess our sins with sincerity, we make every effort in our lives to "go and sin no more." +FR. THEODORE

#### HYMNS FOR THIS SUNDAY'S CELEBRATION OF THE DIVINE LITURGY:

ANTIPHON I : "Tes presvies tis Theotokou..." (By the prayers of the Theotokos...)

<u>Verse 1 –</u> Shout to God, all the earth. Sing now to His name; give glory to His praise. *Refrain: "Tes presvies tis Theotokou, Soter, soson imas."* 

<u>Verse 2</u>—Say to God, "How fearful are Your works." *Refrain: "By the prayers of the Theotokos, Savior, save us."* 

<u>Verse 3 – Let all the earth worship You and sing to You.</u> *Refrain: "Tes presvies tis Theotokou, Soter, soson imas."* 

<u>Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages</u> Refrain: "By the prayers of the Theotokos, Savior, save us."

ANTIPHON II: "Soson imas Ie Theou..." (Save us, O Son of God...)

<u>Verse -1 – May God be gracious to us, and bless us. May He cause His face to shine upon us, and have mer-</u>cy on us.

Refrain: "Soson imas Yie Theou, O Anastas ek nekron, psallontas Si, alleluia."

<u>Verse 2 –</u> That we may know His way on the earth, Your salvation among all the Gentiles. *Refrain: "Save us, O Son of God, Who arose from the dead, we sing to You, Alleluia."* 

<u>Verse 3</u>—Let the peoples give thanks to You, O God; let all the peoples praise You. *Refrain: "Soson imas Yie Theou, O Anastas ek nekron, psallontas Si, alleluia."* 

<u>Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.</u> People: "O Monogenis Ios ke Logos tou Theou..." (O Only-Begotten Son and Word of God...)

**ANTIPHON III**: Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered, and let those who hate Him flee from before His face. As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish, as wax melts before the fire. So shall the sinners perish from the face of God. And let the righteous be glad. This is the day the Lord made; let us greatly rejoice and be glad therein.

<u>Sunday Resurrection Hymn</u>: Christos Anesti... (Christ is Risen from the dead; O Christ is Risen from the dead, trampling down death by death and to those in the tombs bestowing life.)

<u>Second Resurrection Hymn</u>: Efrenestho ta ourania... (Let all things above in heaven rejoice and let all things below on earth be glad. With all the might and strength of His arm an eternal deed the Lord did perform. Beneath His feet He has trampled down death by death and First Born of the dead has He become. From the womb of Hades has He delivered us and to all the world has granted His great redeeming mercy.)

<u>Hymn for St. George</u>: Os ton ehmaloton eleftherotis... (Since you are a deliverer of captives and a defender of the poor; a physician for the sick and a noble attendant to kings, O Great among the Martyrs and glorious George, intercede with Christ God that He will save our souls.)

<u>Kontakion Hymn</u>: Ei ke en tafo katilthes... (Though You did descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet did You destroy the power of Hades and did arise, as Victor, O Christ God, calling to the Myrrh-bearing Women: 'Rejoice!' and giving peace to Your Apostles, O You Who does grant Resurrection to the fallen.)

READINGS – EPISTLE- Acts 9: 32-42 / GOSPEL- St. John 5: 1-15

Instead of "Axion Estin," O Angelos evoh-a ti Keharitomeni...(The Angel cried aloud to the Lady full of grace: Rejoice, O pure Virgin; and again I say Rejoice. Your Son has truly risen from the grave on the third day. With one voice, O Virgin, we the believers call you blest. O rejoice, You the Lord's gate; city animate, rejoice. Lady, rejoice, for today the light of the resurrection from the dead of the Son whom You have borne, has shone on us.)

Communion Hymn: Soma Christou...(Receive the Body of Christ; taste from the immortal fount.)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**AHEPA SUNDAY** – We honor the college students from our community. Congratulations to the recipients of the **Fr. T. P. Theophilos Memorial Scholarship**! This year's recipients are: **Katrina Storton** and **Jack Shannazarian**. Please see the insert enclosed.

**MEMORIAL –** Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servants of God, the **brothers of AHEPA Chapter 528.** Our AHEPA Chapter graciously asks that we include in today's Memorial Service, prayers for **Tom Barsakis (40days)**, the beloved husband of **Kondylo Barsakis**; the father of **Evonne Duque** and **Bobby Barsakis**, and father-in-law of **Victor DuQue**. He was also the brother of **Anastasia Boudouvas** (for whose Eternal Rest we also pray today). Today's Memorial Service is for the beloved brothers of AHEPA Chaptere 528:

Fr. Theophilos P. Theophilos	George Tcharos
Steve Geotas	Robert Maverick
Stan Georgalakis	Thomas Evans
Steve N. Pisanos	James J. Richards, Sr.

May our Risen Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Rest to the **brothers of AHEPA Chapter 528** and may He grant comfort and peace to the entire family of **Tom Barkakis**. MAY THEIR MEMBORIES BE ETERNAL!

**PHILOPTOCHOS** – Our Outreach Program continues. We were able to feed <u>80 homeless at Miles</u> <u>Park in Indio this past week</u>. Philoptochos plans to feed the homeless 2 times a month in the future. A calendar will be made available with the dates for each month so you will be able to sign up to help. We are looking for sponsors for our Coffee Hour for June and July. See **Pat Dalkas**.

**ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUETS** – Both Altar Flower Bouquets were graciously donated for God's glory today by:

--Nick Krespis and Family: "In loving memory of Nick Krespis' mother, Argyro Krespis. May her memory be Eternal!"

**NEW ICONS** – Our Beautiful Orthodox Christian Icons are being installed as can be seen. The new icons are: the Annunciation to the Virgin Mary; the Presentation of Christ in the Temple; the Transfiguration of the Lord, and Holy Pentecost. According to schedule, their installation will continue throughout this week.

## WEEKDAY SCHEDULE

Tuesday, May 21st......STS. CONSTANTINE & HELEN Orthros-8:30 a.m. / Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m. Bible Study – 11:00 a.m.

We encourage all of our parents to sit in the church with their entire family as they participate in the beauty and mysteries of the Divine Liturgy. For those with young children, feel free to sit near an aisle so that you may easily take your children for a break, as needed. If necessary, we have a "crying room" in the narthex for your use. God Bless.

## AMERICAN HELLENIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION

## AHEPA Chapter 528 Scholarship Contribution Request:

We, the members of AHEPA 528 are so proud and amazed at the quality of our annual Scholarship Applicants. In the last 5 years, two of the local High School Valedictorians came from our little church. Several students were Top Ten scholars of the valley. Some had an incredible 4.6 to 5.2 GPA's. Our kids are attending prestigious Universities across the nation, from Dartmouth to Stanford to USC to USD. Others are representing the home state, California and attending top-notch state schools such as UCLA, UC Berkeley, and UC Santa Barbara. Several graduated High School with a year or two, of college, completed. Three are in graduate studies. That's the caliber of applicants we're so very proud of at St. George.

AHEPA 528 is proudly in its 14th year of offering scholarships to students from the St. George and Ahepa 528 community of Palm Desert. Our educational program started with the guidance and inspiration of Fr. T.P. Theophilos Theophilos. To date it has provided over \$39,500 to over three dozen recipients, including STEM majors, and Grad students.

Currently, we need your support. Our biggest annual fundraiser, the Palm Desert Greek Festival did not meet our 2019 fundraising goals. We ask that you consider making a donation, to this worthy cause for our own community's children and the future. Your donation will help fund the Fr. T. P. Theophilos Memorial Scholarship program and our newest award, the George Tcharos Memorial Scholarship. We truly appreciate those who donate by monthly subscription and encourage others to participate, for as little as a \$ 25-month commitment. Please, contact me for details.

AHEPA Sunday is on May 19th. I invite everyone to be present when we award, at least two scholarships as we are using reserves this year. With your generous donations, we may be able to provide three or four students, with funding as we usually do. Please, show these incredible students how proud and supportive their community is of their hard work and dedication to academic excellence. After all, they are the future.

In Christ,

Wynn Storton Scholarship Committee Chair Chapter 528 President Supreme Governor Region #8

All checks payable to: AHEPA CHAPTER 528 PO Box 1735 Palm Desert, CA 92261-1735

Or online: https://ahepa528.org/scholarship.htm

MEETINGS 1st Wednesday of every month at Saint George Church, Palm Desert Unless otherwise notified

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AHEPA Chapter 528

Website: Ahepa528.org contact@ahepa528.org

# GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

8-10 East 79th St. New York, NY 10075-0106 \* Tel: (212) 570-3530 Fax: (212) 774-0237

www.goarch.org - Email: communications@goarch.org

Date: May 15, 2019

Protocol 67/19

#### May 19, 2019 AHEPA Sunday

To the Most Reverend Hierarchs, the Reverend Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, the Presidents and Members of the Parish Councils of the Greek Orthodox Communities, the Distinguished Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Day, Afternoon, and Church Schools, the Philoptochos Sisterhoods, the Youth, the Hellenic Organizations, and the entire Greek Orthodox Family in America

#### **Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ**,

#### Christ is Risen! Χριστός Άνέστη!

In the glorious light and joy of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and as we commemorate the Sunday of the Paralytic, I am happy to convey to you the greetings and blessings our new Archbishop, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America.

In the healing of the paralytic, not only did Jesus reveal His power to renew life, but He also anticipated His Resurrection and the victory over death for all who believe. *Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears my word and believes in Him who sent me, has eternal life; he does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life* (John 5:24).

Throughout these days following the Feast of Great and Holy Pascha, we exult in our salvation. We give thanks to God for His infinite wisdom and marvelous grace, for through Christ we are redeemed and are heirs of the promise of eternal life. With joy in our hearts and the Gospel on our lips, we are sharing this light and life with all so they may hear His word and believe. We are commissioned by our Lord to engage with each and every person so that they may find abundant life.

This engagement with the world and with those in need is also the focus of the members of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, also known as AHEPA. The AHEPA family, which also includes the Sons of Pericles, the Daughters of Penelope, and the Maids of Athena, has been dedicated to civic engagement for almost a century. Through their good works in education and philanthropy, they have let their light of service and compassion shine before others. In addition, their focus on the qualities of ancient Greek culture have supported an emphasis on civic responsibility. The members of AHEPA are committed to the quality and value of life, knowing that people of all ages are more engaged with their societies when basic needs are met, that our youth as our future need guidance and opportunities, and that our strength in engaging with the critical issues of today is found in our unity, our volunteerism, and our faith.

In this season of Pascha and on this commemoration of the Sunday of the Paralytic when we rejoice in the power and life that comes from Christ, I ask the parishes of our Holy Archdiocese to observe AHEPA Sunday. Please recognized and honor the members of the AHEPA family, highlighting the work that AHEPA continues to do throughout this nation and around the world. Through their work and our service through our parishes, we continue to offer a witness of the power of our faith and heritage, seeking to engage and enlighten others to secure and protect life here and now and for all eternity.

With Archpastoral love in the Risen Lord,

dutigolitic So Malioo

Metropolitan Methodios of Boston Archiepiscopal Vicar

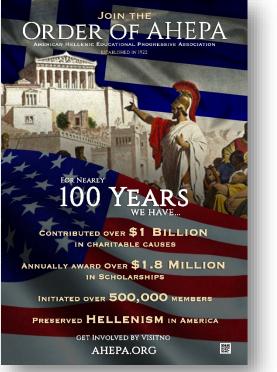
## An invitation to join ahepa, Or to visit and see what we do.

## Chapter 528 meets every first Wednesday of each month 6:30pm at St George Church

Next meeting June 5<sup>th</sup>, Dark July and August

- November, Veterans Day celebration
- February, Super Bowl Sunday
- February, Greek Festival Support
- Greek Independence Day
- Mother's Day Flowers
- Scholarships, AHEPA Sunday every year
- District/National AHEPA Philanthropy support
  - o Metropolis St Nicholas Ranch
  - o NYC St Nicholas Shrine
  - $\circ \quad \text{AHEPA Service Dogs for Warriors}$

## Join us today and become a part of our growing community - Your Membership Matters!



# CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

**Peter Agriostathes - 2 years George Argyros - 5 years** Dimitri P. Biehl - 14 years Panagiotis Bousiotis - 15 years Ernie J. Cox - 7 years Jeffery Curreri - 1 year Lou G. Karagianis - 13 years **Bill Karalis - 9 years** George V. Karkaletsis - 13 years Nicholas Kyriacou - 43 years Nicholas M. Latkovic - 6 years Pete Peterson - 1 year **Kyriacos Seraphim - 6 years** Haig Shannazarian - 1 year Jack Shannazarian - 3 years **Stephen Steele - 7 years Alexander W. Storton - 8 years** Frank P. Tracadas - 45 years Michael H. Vawter - 39 years **Derrick Villanueva - 7 years** 



AHEPA was founded on July 26, 1922 in response to the evils of bigotry and racism that emerged in early 20th century American society. It also helped Greek immigrants assimilate into society.

Today, AHEPA brings the ideals of ancient Greece, which includes philanthropy, education, civic responsibility, and family and individual excellence to the community. Although a majority of the membership is composed of Americans of Greek descent, application for membership is open to anyone who believes in the mission of the organization.



President - Wynn Storton - 17 years 760.832.2825 Wynn@ahepa528.org Vice President - Nick Krespis - 20 years Secretary - Gus Kurupas - 18 years Treasurer - Harry Loukatos - 30 years Chaplin - Fr. Ted Pantels - 24 years <u>Contact@ahepa528.org</u>

## AHEPA528.org

## MEMORY ETERNAL

2011 - Fr. Theophilos 2016 - Steve Geotas 2016 - Stan Georgalakis 2016 - Steve N. Pisanos 2017 - George Tcharos 2017 - Robert Maverick 2018 - Thomas Evans 2018 - James J. Richards, Sr. Thank you to Eva Kanakis for the flowers and preparation of the 5 loaves.

Fr. Theophilos Theophilos Memorial Scholarship Fund Donations accepted at www.ahepa528.org or mailed to: AHEPA 528 Scholarship fund PO Box 1735 Palm Desert, CA 92261-1735

# **Announcing the 2019 Fr. Theophilos Memorial Scholarship finalists:**

Thank you to all who applied for the Fr. Theophilos Scholarship We are very proud of each of the young students and the example they set for others. AHEPA 528 is pleased to play a part in their education and their future. THANK YOU

Jack Shannazarian (22) an incoming Senior, attending Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Ca.



Seeking: a Bachelor's Degree in History.

**Future Plans:** for graduate studies, to obtain a Master's in Education and a California Teaching Credential.

**Goals:** to become a High School History teacher or History Professor.

Academic Awards:	Graduate Palm Desert High School	
	Redlands University Scholarship Award 2016	
	Recipient AHEPA National 2018 Journey to Greece attending Webster	
	University, Athens	
	Recipient: AHEPA National Scholarship Award 2018	
	Recipient: AHEPA 528 Periclean Award 2018	

- AHEPA: Member of AHEPA Chapter 528. 2017 present
- Church:Volunteer Palm Desert Greek Festival 10 years.Cub Scout at St George's Pack 848 charter, under Cubmaster, Wynn Storton.

Extra-Curricular: Eagle Scout – Boy Scouts of America Member – Coachella Valley Lion Club Member – Junior Rotary League Employment – TKB

## Katrina Storton (20)

A graduating Senior from UCSB (University of California, Santa Barbara) earning a BA in Film & Media Studies, in June 2019.



Plans: to obtain a Master of Science (MSc) in Film Curation/MuseumStudies from the University of GlasgowGoals: Film Curator/ Archivist and Exhibitor at the Academy of ArtsMotion Picture Museum, in LA.

#### Academic Awards:

Graduated with Honors from River Springs Charter HS with a 4.23 GPA, in 3 yrs. Graduate - Santa Barbara City College, with Honors and earned 3 Associates Degrees, (*Film & Media Studies* (4.0) and *Art and Humanities* (4.0) and *Behavior Science*) with a 3. 97 GPA. SBCC President's Honor List, all four semesters. Recipient: Osher Foundation/Bernard Kruse Scholarship for Academic Excellence Recipient: AHEPA National 2017 Journey to Greece, Recipient: Scholarship to Study Abroad at Webster University, in Athens. 2017 Recipient: AHEPA National Scholarship award 2017 Recipient: AHEPA National Scholarship award 2016 & 17 Recipient: 2016 Daughter of Penelope National Scholarship Recipient: AHEPA 528 Fr Theophilos Memorial Scholarship – 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 Finalist – Top 10 Scholars Santa Barbara City College, President's Award Recipient – GOA Katina John Malta Foundation National Scholarship 2018

- Church:Life-long member of St George Greek Orthodox church, Palm Desert, CASt Sophia Camper 4 years, Sunday School craft Aide 2 years
- Extra-Curricular:Volunteer manager UCSB Film Archive<br/>UCSB Employee: Lead Mender @UCSB Music Library<br/>Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society<br/>Video Game Curator STEAM.com 2015-Present<br/>SBCC Film Reviewer 2014-2017