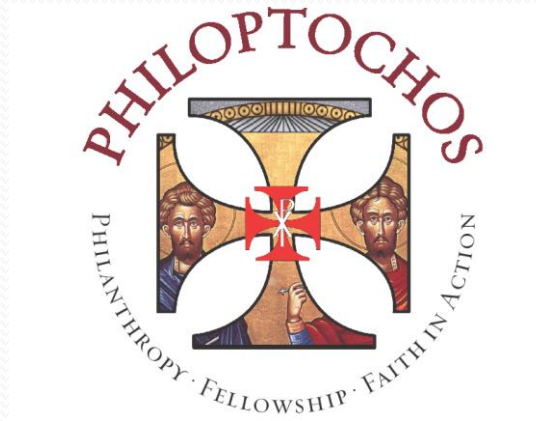


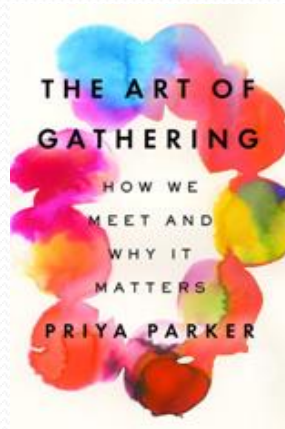
Membership in COVID



NATIONAL PHILOPTOCHOS CONVENTION
AUGUST 2020
VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM

PRESENTED BY: STELLA PICHES

The Art of Gathering



Originally, we were going to discuss the book by Priya Parker called “The Art of Gathering”.

Today we will give you some tools and information that may help create opportunities to allow Philoptochos to grow

On the next slide, I will discuss the several important ideas brought up in the book.

- **Ted Talk By Priya Parker**
- *3 Steps To Turn Everyday Get-Togethers Into Transformative Gatherings*
- https://www.ted.com/talks/priya_parker_3_steps_to_turn_everyday_get_togethers_into_transformative_gatherings?language=en



How to transform your meetings

- **Have a Clear Purpose**
 - Before you gather, you should be crystal clear about why you're meeting.
- **It's Not "The More, The Merrier"**
 - Who fits and helps fulfill the purpose?
 - Who threatens it?
 - Who do I feel obliged to invite?

Parker says we must be courageous enough to keep away our "Bobs" (the people we feel obliged to include). There's nothing wrong with "Bobs," but they don't necessarily fulfill the event's purpose.
- **Don't Forget "The Chateau Principle"**
 - Be aware of where your meeting is being held. For example, we act more professionally in a courthouse than on a comfortable couch.
- **The Non-Chill Host**
 - All Presidents (hosts) must be prepared. The agenda, the minutes, the financials, and any reports must be sent to the members ahead of time. A "laid back host" is like having a driver-less car.
 - It is ok to have rules set up and to keep the agenda on track. When you do not manage your meetings, you create a void for others to take over. When this happens, people become discontent with the on goings, they usually do not come back.
 - Time is valuable and people want a purpose.

How to transform your meetings – cont.

- **Prepping is Everything – You must be prepared.**
 - The event (meeting) begins long before the first guest arrives.
 - Take the time to prepare by meeting/talking to upcoming attendees.
 - Come up with an ice breaker/game to start the meeting, a service project, or ask everyone to answer *What is the gift of Philoptochos to them?* You'd be amazed at the responses!
 - Do not start the meeting with logistics!
- **Do Not Be Afraid of the Heat**
 - The old adage is to never talk about politics or religion – especially in this day and age.
 - And maybe, because we were told not to discuss politics and religion, we never learned about good controversy.
 - Priya Parker believes “Good Controversy” makes the gathering matter more.
 - If you do not talk about the difficult things, then you will never accomplish what you need to do.

How to transform your meetings – cont.

- **Learn How to Say Goodbye!**

- Just like your beginning should be transformed, so should the ending of your meeting.
- First, you can encourage the guests to reflect on the meeting and what transpired.
- Second, you can have guests share how they are going to share the new information they've received from the gathering.
- Finally, it's about connecting our gatherings back to our daily lives.
- Close by asking the room – “What does the gift of Philoptochos mean to you?”

Our Challenge with COVID

- Ladies, these are challenging times and we do not know how long this pandemic and its effects are going to last.
- BUT, what we know to be true, is that we, PHILOPTOCHOS, are not going away either!!!
- We need to find different ways to connect, reach out and continue to serve our community.
- The world may not look the way we would like it to, but we have to do the best we can with what we have.
- Finally, during these difficult times of COVID, we have been less concerned with growing our membership and more intent on tending to our members, our parish and our community.

* *It's Not Going Away... And Neither Are We!*

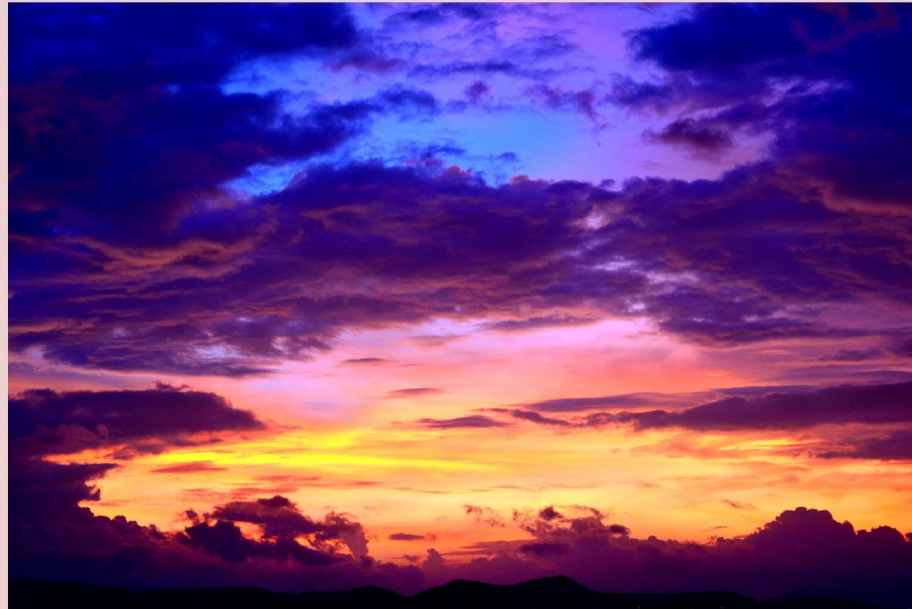
* COVID-19



- Direct Message Members via text, email;
- Call members who may not be tech savvy;
- Personalize your message to your members;
- Include what has been done while COVID has been going on – meals served, contact with members, prayers, etc;
- Tell your members to reach out to each other and make sure everyone is still ok;
- Ask for suggestions;
- Tell people you care because that is what Philoptochos does;
- Go back to your Chapters and tell the story of Philoptochos – Fun, Faith, Friendship and Fellowship.
- And finally, keep talking. Don't Stop!

It's Not Going Anywhere.*

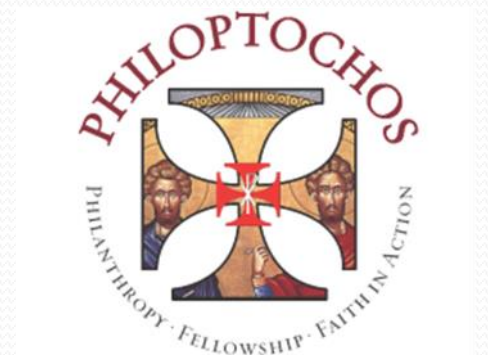
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And neither are we!

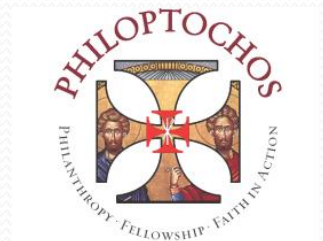
Ladies Philoptochos Society

www.philoptochos.org



Philoptochos Mission Statement

- To help the poor, the destitute, the hungry, the aged, the sick, the unemployed, the orphaned, the imprisoned, the widowed, the handicapped, the victims of disasters, to undertake the burial of impoverished persons and to offer assistance to anyone who may need the help of the Church through fund raising efforts; and
- To promote the charitable, benevolent, and philanthropic purposes of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, through instructional programs, presentations, lectures, seminars and other educational resources;
- To preserve and perpetuate Orthodox Christian concepts and the Orthodox Christian Family, and through them, to promote the Greek Orthodox Faith and traditions, in accordance with its doctrines, canons, discipline, divine worship, usages and customs;
- To promote participation in the activities of the Greek Orthodox community, with the cooperation of the Parish Priest and the Parish Council.
- The charitable work of the Society shall be performed with discretion, courtesy and kindness.



Questions - Comments



“As practitioners in this field we need to be creative and bold in how we are gathering.”

Priya Parker



Membership Committee

- *Stella Piches, Chair*
- *Jeannie Ranglas , Liaison*
- *Despina Denne*
- *Sophie Mastor*
- *Marianne Stearns*
- *Irene Stefanakos*
- *Margaret Yates*
- *Alexis Limberakis*
- *Pamela Weinroth*



Finally...



thank you!

"...what can happen when people come together, exchange information, inspire one another, test out new ways of being together"

