



THE PROPHET

The Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church
223 Church Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
831-429-6500
Www.propheteliassantacruz.org

Sunday Orthros: 8:30 a.m.
Sunday Liturgy: 9:30 a.m.
Father Tom Paris, Interim Priest

APRIL 2011

Parish News

Parish Council 2011

- President: Connie Mellis
- Vice President: Des Brose
- Secretary: Athena Wolfe
- Treasurer: Christine Thorne
- Nancy Gouskos
- John Gryspos
- Maria Keutmann
- Sophie Moore
- Tim Sculley

Committees for 2011

- Membership: Christine Thorne, John Gryspos,
- Stewardship: Tim Sculley, Nancy Gouskos, Athena Wolfe
- Coffee Hour: Maria Thomas
- Events: Des Brose, Christine Thorne
- Food Faire: Des Brose, Christine Thorne
- Festival: Christine Thorne, Des Brose
- Building Maintenance: Tim Sculley
- Weekly and Monthly Bulletin : Sophie Moore

Καλημερα! With a heavy heart we report to our parish that Father John Assimakopoulos, the beloved priest in San Jose at St. Nicholas passed away on March 17 after a short illness. Everyone knew Father John and loved him. He was a pillar of strength for all of us and led us well. He was focused on children and worked diligently to be sure they were educated both Theologically and in our Greek heritage. From a personal point, he was my priest when I was growing up in Utah and he touched many of us through his wisdom, strength, love and dedication to Christ and to mankind. He held Greek School every day after "American School" and we were all expected to be there four days a week. And so, I, and all my fellow students, learned to read

and write Greek from Father John. We also learned poems, plays, dances and mythology from him as well as theology and the love of Christ. He will remain in our hearts and in our prayers and our love and sympathy go to Presbytera and her family.

General Assembly: Thank you all for attending the General Assembly on March 6, and a special "Thank You" to Father Tom for joining and supporting us. The 2011 budget was presented, voted upon and approved for the coming year.

Lenten Studies: Bob Rible and Lara Willingham have developed a Lenten studies program which began March 10. Please see the article later in the bulletin for full details.

Rummage Sale: The rummage sale will take place April 2 and 3. If you have items that you want to donate to the sale, please bring them to the church. There is an article in this bulletin with more details.

Food Faire: Please mark your calendars for this year's Food Faire which will be held May 20-22, 2011. Presbytera Karastamatis has already started cooking so please be available to help when you get the call. Also, we will be signing up workers during the Faire, so please plan time to help. Remember, It's Your Church! Every hour that we work means one less hour that we have to pay someone, which means more money in our account. Every hour counts. Even if you can only work one hour a day, we need it and appreciate it.

Holy Week Visit from His Eminence



We have received notice that it is possible his Eminence will visit Prophet Elias and conduct services one day during Holy Week. We are grateful for his taking the time to grace us and look forward to having him here. When we confirm that this is happening, we will contact everyone by phone immediately so you may join us.

Saint Katherine's Philoptochos Society—Pascha Schedule

April 16th: Please join us to make Palm crosses upstairs in the hall at noon. Bring lunch.

April 17th: Need someone to decorate Bridegroom icon. Please contact church if you can commit to this very special effort.

April 21st: We will be stringing flowers in kitchen at noon. Decorate Stefani with flowers.
Bring lunch.

April 22nd: Decorate Epitaphio in the church at 1pm.

April 23rd: Decorate Lavarum and church with ribbons and flowers at noon. Please bring a dozen red eggs for evening services.

We are in need of someone to donate red and white roses to decorate the Lavarum

If anyone has bay leaves and lots of flower petals for Saturday morning, please bring to church on Friday the 22nd.

Please contact the church @ 429-6500, if you can help us or need more info

Thank you: Annie Gouskos, President

Thank you!

Father Tom: For being with us every week and leading us. We sincerely appreciate and feel your love and support

To our audit committee: Robin Sirakides, Stephen Franck and Shirley Manis for their review of our financial documents

Prayers and Perastika

If there is someone in your family that is ill, or needs a special prayer, please call the church office and we will light a candle for them and say a prayer.

Tasos Petroutsas

Myrtia Chelemedos

Paul Sandas

Chris Sirakides

Joe (Maria's brother)

Nicole Charpetier

Calendar of Upcoming Events

April 2-3 Rummage Sale 10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. POSTPONED We are hosting a rummage sale and will be advertising it locally on CraigsList and with flyers and signs downtown. If you want to participate, please sign up on the Rummage Sale sheet in the hallway. We will provide tables for you to bring your items to sell. We can sell them for you, or you can join us. All proceeds go to the church. Please put your name on your items if you want them returned. Otherwise, anything left over at the end of the day will take it to the Salvation Army.

April 3: 40 day **memorial service** for Mrs. Joanne Manos, who entered into rest in February in Canton Ohio. Mrs. Manos was a lifelong member of St. Haralambos Greek Church in Canton. She was the founder of the Senior Citizens Club of St. Haralambos, a former director and member of the church choir, a member of the Ladies Philoptochos Society, a Daughter of Penelope and the Pan Cretan Club (Knossos Chapter). Her memorial is being presented by her daughter, Michelle Manos.



April 7: 7:00 p.m.: Lenten Bible Class: St. John Climacus on the Spiritual Ladder of Perfection

April 9: Saturday: Stewardship Calamari Feed, in the Community Hall beginning at 6:00 p.m.

April 10: Three year **memorial service** for Spiro Mellis and 45 year memorial for Tom Poulos, father of Connie Mellis. Lunch will be served.

April 14: 7:00 p.m.: Lenten Bible Class: Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople on the Environment and Cosmic Liturgy

April 17-24: Holy Week, see separate schedule

April 21: 7:00 p.m.: Lenten Bible Class: Holy Thursday

May 20-22: Annual Food Faire

July 16: Retreat. Save the date! July 16, we will be hosting a retreat with Fr. Meletios Webber at Prophet Elias. More details will be available soon. For additional information, please contact Lara Wil-
lingham

July 20: Prophet Elias Day

September 18-20: 31st Annual Greek Food and Cultural Festival

Easter Candles and Memorial Blessings during Holy Week

The candles on the Epitafio on Good Friday are for sale; they are \$10 each and the corner ones are \$25. Please consider purchasing one during Holy Week. Additionally, please remember to bring the names of your loved ones for the memorial blessings that Father will be conducting during Holy Week.

Holy Week: April 17—24

Palm Sunday



On Sunday, five days before the Passover of the Law, the Lord came from Bethany to Jerusalem. Sending two of His disciples to bring Him a foal of an ass, He sat thereon and entered into the city. When the multitude there heard that Jesus was coming, they straightway took up the branches of palm trees in their hands, and went forth to meet Him. Others

spread their garments on the ground, and yet others cut branches from the trees and strewed them in the way that Jesus was to pass; and all of them together, especially the children, went before and after Him, crying out: "Hosanna: Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord, the King of Israel" (John 12:13). This is the radiant and glorious festival of our Lord's entry into Jerusalem that we celebrate today.

The branches of the palm trees symbolize Christ's victory over the devil and death. The word Hosanna means "Save, I pray," or "Save, now." The foal of an ass, and Jesus' sitting thereon, and the fact that this animal was untamed and considered unclean according to the Law, signified the former uncleanness and wildness of the nations, and their subjection thereafter to the holy Law of the Gospel.

Holy Monday

The holy Passion of our Saviour begins today, presenting Joseph the all-comely as a prefiguring of Christ. He was the eleventh son of Jacob, and his first son by Rachel; because he was so beloved of his father, his own brethren came to envy him and cast him into a pit. Later they sold him to foreigners for thirty pieces of silver, who later sold him again in Egypt. Because of his virtue, his master gave him much authority in governing his house; because he was fair of countenance, his master's wife sought to draw him into sin with her; because of his chastity, he refused her, and through her slanders was cast into prison. Finally, he was led forth again with great glory and was honoured as a king. He became lord over all Egypt and a provider of wheat for all the people. Through all this, he typifies in himself the betrayal, Passion, death, and glorification of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Holy Tuesday



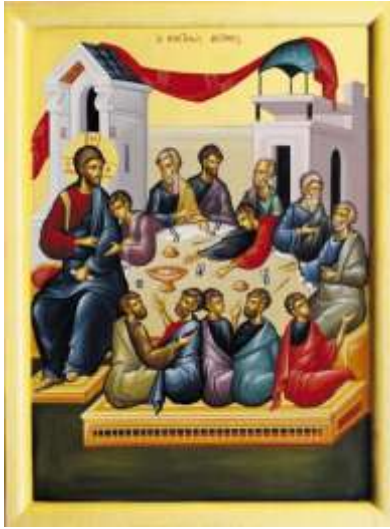
Today we bring to mind the parable of the ten virgins, which our Saviour related as He was coming to His Passion. This parable teaches us that the accomplishment of the great work of virginity should not make us careless in other matters, especially in almsgiving, wherewith the lamp of virginity is made radiant. Furthermore, it teaches us

that we should not be remiss about the end of our life, but should be prepared for it at every moment, like the wise virgins, so that we may meet the Bridegroom, lest He come suddenly and the doors of the heavenly bride chamber be shut, and we also, like the foolish virgins, hear that dread sentence: "Amen, I say unto you, I know you not" (Matt. 25:1-13).

Holy Wednesday

Two women - say the more discerning interpreters of the Gospel - anointed the Lord with myrrh; the one, a long time before His Passion; the other, a few days before. One was a harlot and sinner; the other, chaste and virtuous. The Church commemorates this reverent act today. While mentioning herein the person of the harlot, it also mentions Judas' betrayal; for, according to the account in Matthew, both of these deeds took place two days before the Passover, on Wednesday. That woman, then, anointed Jesus' head and feet with very precious myrrh, and wiped them with the tresses of her hair. The disciples, especially the avaricious Judas, were scandalized, supposedly because of the waste of the myrrh, which could be sold for a great price and given to the poor. The Lord Jesus reproved them and told them not to trouble the woman. Indignant, Judas went to the high priests, who were gathered in the court of Caiaphas and were already taking counsel against Jesus. On agreeing with them to betray his Teacher for thirty pieces of silver, Judas sought from that time opportunity to betray Him (Matt. 26:14-16). Because the betrayal took place on Wednesday, we have received the tradition from Apostolic times to fast on Wednesday throughout the year.

Holy Thursday



On the evening of this day, which was the eve of the feast of unleavened bread (that is, the Passover), our Redeemer supped with His twelve disciples in the city. He blessed the bread and the wine, and gave us the Mystery of the Divine Eucharist. He washed the feet of the disciples as an example of humility. He said openly that one of them was about to betray Him,

and He pointed out the betrayer by revealing that it was he "that dippeth his hand with Me in the dish." And after Judas had straightway gone forth, Jesus gave the disciples His final and sublime instructions, which are contained in the first Gospel Reading of the Holy Passion (John 13:31-18:1 known as the Gospel of the Testament). After this the God-man went forth to the Mount of Olives, and there He began to be sorrowful and in anguish. He went off alone, and bending the knees He prayed fervently. From His great anguish, His sweat became as it were great drops of blood falling to the ground. As soon as He had completed that anguished prayer, lo, Judas came with a multitude of soldiers and a great crowd; on greeting the Teacher guile fully with a kiss, he betrayed Him.

The Lord Jesus was then apprehended and taken prisoner to the high priests Annas and Caiaphas. The disciples were scattered, but Peter, who was more fervent than the others, followed Him even into the court of the high priest, but in the end denied thrice that he was His disciple.

Then our divine Teacher was brought before the lawless Sanhedrin and was interrogated concerning His disciples and His teaching. The high priest adjured Him before God that He tell them whether He was truly the Christ. And having spoken the truth, He was judged guilty of death, supposedly as one who had blasphemed. Then they spat in His face, beat Him, smote Him with the palms of their hands, and mocked Him in every way, throughout the whole night until the morning.

Good Friday

When Friday dawned, Christ was sent bound from Caiaphas to Pontius Pilate, who was then Governor of Judea. Pilate interrogated Him in many ways, and once and again acknowledged that He was innocent, but to please the Jews, he later passed the sentence of death against Him. After scourging the Lord of all as though He were a runaway slave, he surrendered Him to be crucified.

Thus the Lord Jesus was handed over to the soldiers, was stripped of His garments, was clothed in a purple robe, was crowned with a wreath of thorns, had a reed placed in His hand as though it were a sceptre, was bowed before in mockery, was spat upon, and was buffeted in the face and on the head. Then they again clothed Him in His own garments, and bearing the cross, He came to Golgotha, a place of condemnation, and there, about the third hour, He was crucified between two thieves. Although both blasphemed Him at the first, the thief at His right hand repented, and said: "Remember me, O Lord, when Thou comest in Thy Kingdom," to which our Saviour answered, "Today shalt thou be with Me in Paradise." As He hung upon the Cross, He was blasphemed by those who were passing by, was mocked by the high priests, and by the soldiers was given vinegar to drink mixed with gall. About the ninth hour, He cried out with a loud voice, saying, "It is finished." And the Lamb of God "Which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29) expired on the day when the moon was full, and at the hour when, according to the Law, was slain the Passover lamb, which was established as a type of Him in the time of Moses.

Even lifeless creation mourned the death of the Master, and it trembled and was altered out of fear. Yet, even though the Maker of creation was already dead, they pierced Him in His immaculate side, and forthwith came there out Blood and Water. Finally, at about the setting of the sun, Joseph of Arimathea came with Nicodemus (both of them had been secret disciples of Jesus), and they took down the all-holy Body of the Teacher from the Cross and anointed it with aromatic spices, and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth. When they had buried Him in a new tomb, they rolled a great stone over its entrance.

Such are the dread and saving sufferings of our Lord Jesus Christ commemorated today, and in remembrance of them, we have received the Apostolic commandment that a fast be observed every Friday.

Holy Saturday and Great and Holy Pascha



On Saturday, the high priests and Pharisees gathered together before Pilate and asked him to have Jesus' tomb sealed until the third day; because, as those enemies of God said, "We suspect that His disciples will come and steal His buried body by night, and then proclaim to the people that His resurrection is true, as

that deceiver Himself foretold while He was yet alive; and then the last deception shall be worse than the first." After they had said these things to Pilate and received his permission, they went and sealed the tomb, and assigned a watch for security, that is, guards from among the soldiers under the supervision of the high priests (Matt. 27:62-66). While commemorating the entombment of the holy Body of our Lord today, we also celebrate His dread descent with His soul, whereby He destroyed the gates and bars of Hades, and made His light to shine where only darkness had reigned (Job 38 : 17; Esaias 49:9; 1 Peter 3:18-20); death was put to death, Hades was stripped of all its captives, our first parents and all the righteous who died from the beginning of time ran to Him Whom they had awaited, and the holy angelic orders glorified God for the restoration of our fallen race. this, he typifies in himself the betrayal, Passion, death, and glorification of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Great and Holy Pascha

Mary Magdalene, and the other women who were present at the burial of our Saviour on Friday evening, returned from Golgotha to the city and prepared fragrant spices and myrrh, so that they might anoint the body of Jesus. On the morrow, because of the law which forbids work on the day of the Sabbath, they rested for the whole day. But at early dawn on the Sunday that followed, almost



thirty-six hours since the death of the Life-giving Redeemer, they came to the sepulchre with the spices to anoint His body. While they were considering the difficulty of rolling away the stone from the door of the sepulchre, there was a fearful earthquake; and an Angel, whose countenance shone like lightning and whose garment was

white as snow, rolled away the stone and sat upon it. The guards that were there became as dead from fear and took to flight. The women, however, went into the sepulchre, but did not find the Lord's body. Instead, they saw two other Angels in the form of youths clothed in white, who told them that the Saviour was risen, and they sent forth the women, who ran to proclaim to the disciples these gladsome tidings. Then Peter and John arrived, having learned from Mary Magdalene what had come to pass, and when they entered the tomb, they found only the winding sheets. Therefore, they returned again to the city with joy, as heralds now of the supernatural Resurrection of Christ, Who in truth was seen alive by the disciples on this day on five occasions.

Our Lord, then, was crucified, died, and was buried on Friday, before the setting of the sun, which was the first of His "three days" in the grave; observing the mystical Sabbath, that "seventh day" in which it is said that the Lord "rested from all His works" (Gen. 2:2-3), He passed all of Saturday in the grave; and He arose "while it was yet dark, very early in the morning" on Sunday, the third day, which, according to the Hebrew reckoning, began after sunset on Saturday.

Upcoming Services and Holy Week with Father Tom Paris

Sunday, March 27: The Adoration and Procession of the Cross. Again, all teens and Sunday School students are encouraged to participate to carry the candles.

Salutation Services

Friday, April 8, 6:30 p.m.: The "Akathist Hymn"

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, April 17: PALM Sunday Divine Liturgy and Blessing and Distribution of Palm Crosses. Luncheon will follow in the Social Hall. Free-will offering

Palm Sunday, April 17: 5:30 p.m. - Bridegroom Service

Holy Wednesday, April 20: 7:00 p.m - Sacrament of Holy Unction. At the conclusion of the Holy Unction the service, the Cantor will chant the Troparion of Kassiani (usually chanted on Holy Tuesday) and then the congregation will come forward to receive the Sacrament.

Holy Wednesday, April 20: Choir Practice following services

Holy Thursday, April 21: 9:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy of St. Basil in the Morning

Holy Thursday evening: 7:00 p.m. Service of the Passion of Christ

Great and Holy Friday, April 22: 11:00 a.m. - Service of the Royal Hours

3:00 p.m. Service of the Descent from the Cross

Great and Holy Friday, April 22: 7:00 p.m. - Epitaphios Service and the congregational singing of the Laudations will begin at **8:00 p.m.** followed by the procession of the Epitaphios outside the Church

Holy Saturday Morning, April 23: 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy of St. Basil and Holy Communion for all, especially children

Holy Saturday Evening, April 23: 11:00 p.m. - Midnight Resurrection Service followed by Orthros Resurrection Hymns and Divine Liturgy and Holy Communion. Resurrection Fellowship Meal

Easter Sunday, April 24: 11:00 a.m. - Agape Vesper Services

****Father Tom would like to invite and encourage all children to attend the services during Holy Week**

Confessions

Holy Wednesday, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Holy Thursday 5:30 -6:30 p.m.

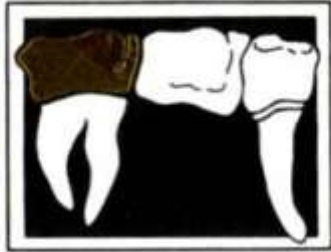
Good Friday Noon - 1 p.m.

Holy Saturday Noon - 1 p.m.

Please call Father Tom's cell phone to schedule time: 510-387-2684

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Prayer of St. Ephraim O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power and idle talk, but grant rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love to Thy servant. Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own transgressions and not to judge my brother, for blessed art Thou, unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lenten Bible Classes

There will be a Lenten study class this year, beginning on Thursday, March 10, at 7:00 p.m. It will be in a seminar style, led by Bob Rible, a student of Orthodox theology for over 40 years. The class is entitled, "**From Basil to Bartholomew: The Teachings of the Fathers.**" Topics are shown below:

- March 31: St. Augustine and St. Gregory Nyssa on Marriage and the Family
- April 7: St. John Climacus on the Spiritual Ladder of Perfection (not just for monks!)
- April 14: Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople on the Environment and Cosmic Liturgy
- April 21: Holy Thursday

All persons of 14 years of age and older are welcome. The classes will go from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., with plenty of opportunity for discussion, as Βασιλειος is not very long-winded.

Orthodox Christian Fellowship News

Congratulations to Vladimir Howry for serving in the altar, and making deeper bows!

Our Prophet Elias Fellowship group met on campus one miserably rainy night, which was lightly attended, to prepare for hosting the March meeting of the University Interfaith Council. We presented the Orthodox perspective on prayer, Lent, Holy Communion, fasting and icons in worship. Our advisor provided the refreshments. Feedback was positive about our presentations.

The University Interfaith Council was met with an interesting dilemma. We had to consider allowing an atheist group to join. The Council had a very lively discussion and there were compelling arguments on both sides. Finally, to be inclusive and by secret ballot, the vote allowed the atheists membership, however, the atheists have no voting rights on the Council.

Students are trying to maintain a Lenten diet as much as possible from the cafeteria menus. We pray for their strength!

Parish Spotlight

Santa Cruz Coast Athletic League coaches named Chronopoulos the league's Player of the Year this week.

CCS boys soccer: Chronopoulos helps SC repeats as D-III champion

And the headlines continue to pour in. Our very own, John Chronopoulos, 17, a junior at Santa Cruz high school, has just completed an unprecedented year in soccer and has led his team to the highest victories in the state. It was the Cardinals' sixth section title overall, but first as the No. 1 seed. Congratulations to all, and especially to John and to his parents, Yanni and Georgia. We are all very proud!



Do you know?

When you can walk into the sanctuary during liturgy? If the priest is out of the altar, then we wait and stand in place until he returns into the altar. If he is in the altar, or his back is to the congregation, it is ok to enter the sanctuary and take your seat.

Stewardship 2011 Gather My People and Come and See



CALAMARI FEED AND STEWARDSHIP KICKOFF MEETING: APRIL 9, 6:00 P.M.

See the world as God's gift to you: Come and see God's many blessings in your life. What is your response to His gifts? In gratitude and thanksgiving, you offer your time, talent and treasure in proportion to what you have been given. Gregory the Theologian writes, "You will never overcome God's generosity, even if you give away all that you have... And however much you bring to him, always more remains. Nor will you give anything that is your own; for all things flow from God (Or 14:22)."

Come and See at the annual kickoff meeting on Saturday, April 9 beginning at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend and bring your stewardship cards if you have not already turned them in. Stewardship cards are available at the church, and we ask that each member take one and fill it out. Or, you can cut out and return the one below. The reason we need the cards is two-fold: First, we can better plan the budget by knowing how much money everyone has pledged for the year, and secondly, it provides a record for our membership. Everyone, including the Metropolis, is interested in knowing how many members we have and how much we have pledged. Additionally, only members who have filled out a stewardship card, and are current on their pledge, are eligible to vote in the General Assembly. So please do your part by filling out a pledge card and returning it to the stewardship committee or the church office.



"Come and See"

**2011 PROPHET ELIAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
CONFIDENTIAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT CARD**

Please complete and return this form to 223 Church St. Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Family Name: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Home Telephone: _____ Email Address: _____

In gratitude for God's blessings I/we make the following commitment to the ministries of Prophet Elias Church:

- \$10 weekly (\$520) \$15 weekly (\$780) \$20 weekly (\$1040) \$30 weekly (\$1560) \$50 weekly (\$2600) Other _____

Enclosed: Cash _____, Check _____, Credit Card _____

I will make a monthly pledge of \$ _____ on the (date) _____ of each month. Please charge my credit card listed below

Visa MasterCard Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ CVC _____ Signature _____

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Coffee Hour on Sundays

Each week, a parishioner volunteers to prepare coffee hour. It can be as simple as fruit and toast to lunch. Have you taken your turn? Please contact Maria Thomas who so graciously has taken this responsibility and ensures we have social hour each week. It is not difficult, and if you are not able to make it yourself, a small donation will take care of your share and someone will make it for you. Also, please remember to put money in the donation basket commensurate to the meal; sometimes people go to great lengths to make a nice lunch, and we need to show our appreciation. That's how it will continue and we also use that money for the church's operating expenses. Thank you!!!

The Prophet Elias Parish Vision is:

A safe, joyful, dynamic, unified parish community, populated by a family of Orthodox Christians of all ages, serving God and supporting each other, through love and respect, in peaceful harmony, allowing our spiritual life to flourish.

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Prophet Elias



Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church
223 Church Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

