



UOL BULLETIN

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dedicated to our Church -- Devoted to its Youth

VOL. 63 NO. 5

MARCH 2017

Thanksgiving at Sts. Peter & St. Paul, Carnegie, PA

Submitted by Christine Mills

A Thanksgiving Prayer Service, Dinner and Fellowship were provided by the parish and parishioners of Sts. Peter and St. Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Carnegie, PA for the 27th year to the community of Carnegie and surrounding areas.

"All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God. Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day." 2 Corinthians 4:15-16



Beginning 27 years ago, the Sr. UOL Chapter started the Thanksgiving Dinner project and it has now evolved into an entire parish participation project event geared towards the community. Members of the parish begin during the week to prepare the turkey and hams and all the special items to serve with them. Everyone has their favorite part that they like to come down and help prepare; whether it's from cooking the turkey, making the potatoes, heating the vegetables or serving those who come in for a hot meal and a hello! The



entire day is centered on providing for the Carnegie community. Meals are delivered to those who otherwise would not be able to attend the church for the meal. Any food that is not distributed by the end of the day is donated to the Pittsburgh FOCUS center. The parishioners also enjoy spending time together as a parish family in creating the special event for those who come.

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Maplewood's Thanksgiving Project

Submitted by Michael J. Komichak

Each week, Dan Gulak (past-President of Holy Ascension UOL in Maplewood, NJ and recipient of the 2016 Senior UOL Recognition Award) volunteers to work at Eva's Community Kitchen in Paterson, NJ. Eva's Kitchen is part of Eva's Village, which is a faith based, nondenominational, anti-poverty non-profit organization whose mission is to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, treat the addicted and provide medical and dental care to the poor. Founded in 1982, Eva's Community Kitchen today serves over 1,300 meals daily. Responding to the call to "Give Thanks by Sharing," this past November Dan



organized a group from the Holy Ascension UOL Chapter, including Lynne Gulak (wearing her St. Sophia Seminary apron), Patricia Walton, and current Chapter President Alex Shevchuk, to pitch in and help at Eva's Kitchen during the busy Thanksgiving season. Danny even arranged to have kovbasa and kapusta on the menu that day! Those who participated in this local charitable outreach agreed that it was a spiritually rewarding experience for all.



Rhode Island.....the biggest little state in the Union
Cordially invites you to:
The 70th Annual U.O.L. Convention
July 26-30, 2017
Hosted by St. Michael the Archangel UOC
Woonsocket, RI
Declare Among the Nations, His Works! (Psalm 104:1)
Find us on Facebook "2017 UOL Convention"



UOL BULLETIN - The official publication of the Ukrainian Orthodox League of the United States of America. Circulated to all UOL Members. Non-members subscription rate \$30.00 Canada \$40.00

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The absolute deadline for each monthly issue is the 1st of the prior month. Photos will not be returned.

Note to Contributors: All articles submitted to the UOL Bulletin must be in 12 point Times New Roman (font), or typed and double spaced in 12 point type. Articles may be submitted via e-mail attachments. (Submit to: nsufler@aol.com). If submitting photos please be sure to obtain consents for photos to be included in the UOL Bulletin.

The editor reserves the right to condense any material submitted. Material cannot be returned.

**UOL History Project
Why is the UOL Important to Me?
Essay Collection
Submitted by Natalie Bilynsky**

I hope that every UOL Chapter member considers writing an essay answering the question "why is the UOL important to me?" We will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of our Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA in 2018. We plan to have a collection of essays from members across the entire UOL.

I encourage every UOL member to write an essay, so that we have a book of essays in 2018. I encourage everyone to write an essay. This collection of essays would have everyone's thoughts as to what the UOL means to them.

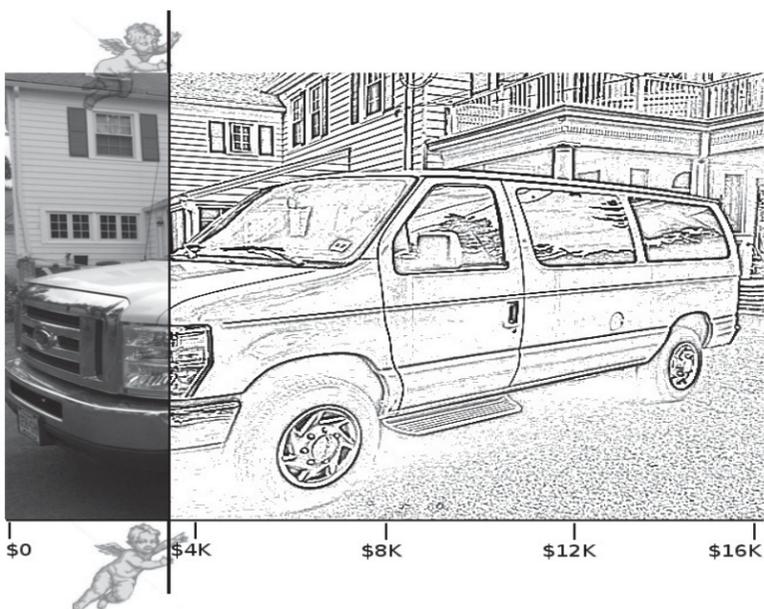
I encourage everyone to take up this challenge and submit an essay. Also, please encourage other UOL members to write an essay. It will be wonderful to have a collection of essays outlining the importance of the UOL. I thank you in advance for your consideration.

While we have time to collect these essays, and there is no upcoming deadline, I encourage individuals to write these essays now. To submit your essay, please email it to Natalie Bilynsky at nsufler@aol.com. You can also send a hard copy to Natalie Bilynsky 703 Pine Ridge Road Media, PA 19063.

**Seminary Van Campaign Needs Your Help
Submitted by Michael J. Komichak**

In January, UOL NEB President John Holowko emailed UOC of USA parish priests asking for their support for the UOL's campaign to raise \$16,000 to pay for the new St. Sophia Seminary Van. In his letter, President Holowko noted that "we are one Church Family" and that the raising of funds to benefit our Seminary "including the current Van Fund drive" deserves the support of us all "whether you have a UOL Chapter or not."

If each of our parishes throughout the US contributed to this effort, we would quickly reach our goal. Whether as an individual contribution or as a parish donation, your support is greatly appreciated. Please send your contributions to: Ukrainian Orthodox League #SSSVan, c/o Alex Shevchuk, UOL Financial Secretary, 1 Glenbrook Court, Whippany, NJ 07981-2313. You can also make your donation online via the UOL Paypal account at uol.orthodoxws.com/



donate.html. Just be sure to click on "Project / In Memory of / To Honor" and specify that your donation is for the Van Fund Drive. Many thanks to all of you who have donated to this important project!

**MESSAGE FROM
THE
SENIOR
UOL PRESIDENT**



John Holowko

Glory to Jesus Christ! Slava Isusu Khrystu!

I was recently engaging in a dialogue with one of our clergy regarding all the apathy that exists today with respect to religion, including our Faith and our Church. Then sadly a few days later, I attended a Parastas for someone that I had known since the days when I was an Altar Server. None of the family's children had been in our Church for many years. Further, even though I remembered them all, they did not remember me; in short it hurt. Not because of ego, rather, I realized our Parish Community and Faith was not relevant to them anymore. It made me think we had failed. If I had not known about their long family history as part of our Church, or if this was an isolated case, I think I could have handled it better. Sadly, in our Parish it is not an isolated case. I am certainly aware of and am certainly encouraged by how many of us are engaged with the Strategic Plan. Working on developing healthier parishes is one of the many goals of such a Plan. I do believe, however, we require a change in personal mindset if we are going to change things for the better.

Though it may not be my place, I believe many of our individual Parishes need to become more pastoral. It takes a parish, not only clergy. Warmth, compassion, understanding, being there to lean on or to say a Prayer with; such simple concepts, that if not present, no matter the level of engagement in our Strategic Plan, it will simply be superficial. For those that did not attend last year's convention, we discussed the challenges we face at different stages of life-the goal was to understand them so we in turn can provide the compassion and understanding needed at our home parishes. Not all clergy have the skillsets nor in some cases the time, a simple reality. Part time clergy, with full time jobs, are becoming too prevalent and this is challenging us all. I also think some Parish Boards that exist today need to think more about the Spiritual well-being of their Church family and surrounding community, rather than the primary focus being financial or maintenance. Finances have their role, that is a reality, but without the Spiritual or Pastoral well-being of the Church being the priority, the finances won't matter and there will be no need to maintain the Church. Based on the many people I listen to, many of our Church Boards have much to learn about where the priorities should be. I think a healthy parish is where we truly care about one another with compassion, and where we do things because they are right, not because we want to be recognized. I think you know the difference when you walk into a healthy parish, at least I think I do. I feel it inside. The family I described earlier on above, may not have left if they were truly receiving what we really should have been providing long ago.

It's also a matter of where we prioritize things. On a somewhat related point, I watched a movie recently, *The Accountant*. As you would expect, it had little to do with accounting. While I enjoyed the movie, my favorite part of the movie was the closing song, "Something to Leave Behind" by Sean Rowe, a folk singer, who it turns out is from Troy, New York (a great baritone voice with a beard that is on par with some of my favorites, no names mentioned). Anyway, the song is about chasing all the wrong things and fighting all the wrong fights, and a father wanting to leave something behind that truly mattered, I think a great song and something that I personally can relate to. My point is that while we move through life we all must ask ourselves what we want to leave behind and where our Faith comes in; the greatest gift you can provide a child, said by a friend.

There are several Lenten Retreats for you to be able to partake in this Great Lent. This Bulletin covers the larger ones; some are just starting at a much more local level. For me, I look forward to the Bethlehem retreat as its focus will be the Divine Liturgy. For those that daydream all too much during the Divine Liturgy (which is all too common), ideally this will help you and your family in that through education one can become a more active participant and Live the Liturgy. Although faced with challenges, I am one who does believe that we should be doing more "Teaching Liturgies" at our parishes.

Early in January, we were deeply saddened by Bohdan "Bo" Hryshchyshyn falling asleep in the Lord. Bo was one of the Pillars on whom All Saints Camp was built upon. It was because of his many years of work and others like Bo, that my family and many others, have come to love ASC and what it has to offer. May the Blessings of our Lord be with Bo's family and may his Memory Be Eternal - Veechnaya Pamyat!

I know it's only March, but I also know that many are beginning their planning for the summer. I hope you and your Parishes consider sending your children to ASC, even if just for a week. I know all about the sports camps etc. and

(Continued on page 3)

UOL Convention 2017 - Woonsocket, RI

July 26-30, 2017

Submitted by Patricia Bougery

Visit Rhode Island! Although most people joke that we are neither a road nor an island, we have lots to be proud of. Why should you drop everything and visit us for UOL Convention 2017? Here are three epic reasons for you to join us this summer.

1. **Our History!** Rhode Island was settled in the 1600s by Europeans escaping religious persecution. We are also home to the first Baptist church in America, located in Providence, as well as the first synagogue, located in Newport. Providence is home to a wealth of well-preserved American architecture and landmarks. Spend time at Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), the state's leading museum of art and design or visit the seventh oldest institution of higher education, Brown University. For history buffs, visit the John Brown House museum, a landmark from the 18th century or the Governor Henry Lippitt House museum, an American National Historic Landmark. We are also within a 2 hour drive of another well-known historic city, Boston.

2. **Our Food!** The coastal location, as well as the influence of Italian and Portuguese immigrant populations, gives our state great food options. If you're a foodie, or would like to be one, our seafood is some of the finest in the country. Try a "stuffie," a stuffing filled clam made with local quahogs, or walk Federal Hill in Providence for some of the finest Italian dining around. Before you leave, be sure to check out a collection of food that can only be found in our little state:

- N.Y. system hot weiners- small hot dogs covered in mustard, meat sauce, onions, celery salt, on a steamed bun.
- Del's Frozen Lemonade- Not really frozen, but you can't use a straw. Simply refreshing on a hot summer day.
- Awful Awful- Like a milkshake, but uses frozen ice milk. It's way too thick and too delicious. It can only be found at Newport Creamery.
- Coffee Milk- Yes, it's kind of like chocolate milk, but it's coffee milk. We even have our own syrup that you can buy and enjoy at home.

3. **The Beaches!** The coast of southern Rhode Island is a hidden gem. The distance of our state north to south is 48 miles. The distance east to west is 37 miles. However, it's notable that our shoreline on Narragansett Bay in the Atlantic Ocean runs for over 400 miles. That's right. If you want sun, sea, sand, and surf you've come to the right place. Each little beach town has its own unique, quaint vibe. Some must-sees for your trip are Newport, Narragansett, and Block Island (yes, it really is an island).

For more information about next year's convention, visit and like our Facebook Page "2017 UOL Convention." You can also find more information about our church at www.stmichaeluoc.org. We're excited and can't wait to see you all in July 2017!

Brush up on your Rhode Islandese before your visit! Here's "How to talk like a Rhode Islander" #4:

Party Pizza- This isn't your ordinary crust, tomato sauce, cheese and toppings. A party pizza in Rhode Island is strips of thick crust, topped with thick tomato sauce and no cheese, and sometimes served cold.

Hot - The thing in your chest that pumps blood and keeps you alive.

Draw - a "draw", popularly known as the drawer, is an open topped box with handles on the front that slides into a desk, dresser, cupboard, etc.

More to come...

(President - continued from page 2)

wanting to get away as well-a challenge for all. I get it! Again, a case of priorities for all families. You will also shortly start hearing more and more about this year's convention in Rhode Island- no shortage of shoreline for those wanting to mix in some beach or tourism. We aim to be getting better at it for all—the Convention is not the purpose of the League- it is, however, an event where we can all unite as one family to help each other, connect, learn and grow.

May you prepare and find the spiritual fulfillment you require during this Great Lent.

Yours in Christ,
John Holowko

NEWS FROM THE JUNIOR UOL PRESIDENT

Orest Mahlay



Glory to Jesus Christ!

The Junior UOL welcomes everyone into this upcoming Lenten Season. We wish that everyone is able to grow spiritually and is able to reflect during this sacred time in our Church Calendar. Great Lent is an important time in our lives, and as faithful Orthodox Christians, we are offered a focused time of prayer, many special services and extraordinary experiences as the Church begins the journey to the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord. We hope that everyone takes advantage of this opportunity and participates in these special services and efforts all throughout Lent.

A special project, the Great Lent Giveaway begins for all of our chapters. This year the Junior UOL is having a collection for *Zoe for Life*, which is an organization that offers services to women in crisis pregnancies. Mothers are offered emotional, medical and material help (clothing, baby furniture, food, toys, etc.) and as well women are helped to find other resources and necessities through partnering institutions. Sophia Dobronos (smdobronos@aol.com / 216-789-4129) is coordinating this effort in cooperation with the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. We hope that everyone is able to contribute to this important charitable cause.

The Junior Ukrainian Orthodox League has been looking to expand youth involvement in parishes and is continuing to create a movement of new leaders within our Church. Earlier in the year, the parish of Saint Mary in Allentown, PA rejoined the Junior UOL and more recently, Saints Peter and Paul in West Islip, NY has joined the Junior UOL. We have reached out to several other parishes and non-active chapters. We welcome all of our newly participating youth and hope that they become active and engaged in the life of our Church.

We are also happy to announce that new T-Shirts will be produced and available for purchase for all Ukrainian Orthodox in the next few months. More details will be shared soon.

Please feel free to contact me at orest.mahlay@gmail.com or at my number (440) 829-5873. I would be grateful if you could let me know how I could help the youth at your parish.

Yours in Christ,

Orest Mahlay

The Go Challenge During Great Lent

Submitted by Natalie Bilynsky

As we enter into Great Lent it is time for us to think about how we can reach out and help others. Consider reaching out to someone and asking them to attend Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy. Say a prayer for someone who has not been around for a while. Ask a friend to come to a Retreat. Let them know that you miss them.

Reach out to your five people during Great Lent. This is the time when individuals are more likely to come to church. If your five people do not attend services during Great Lent, reach out and let them know that you are thinking about them. Give them a call or send them a short email or note.

Just think if every member in our parishes reached out to 5 people, and 1 person responded (only 20%), we would double our parishes.

So, if you were the person who read about the Go challenge and didn't participate, there still is time to make a difference. Great Lent is a wonderful time to think about others.

Right now, before you forget, write down five names. People who have not attended church recently or dropped out of your chapter. Send out 5 emails, or make 5 calls, reach out to them right now. Get up and Go!

**St. Vladimir's Philadelphia, PA
Submitted by Natalie Bilynsky**

The Philadelphia Senior UOL chapter started our 2016-17 year with a pot-luck dinner and meeting. We invited everyone to join our chapter and to plan events. This meeting was exciting because we were planning events for the entire year.

Our first major project of the year was our Thanksgiving Dinner. Pani Laura Naumenko is the chairperson for this event and it was a huge success. Mid-November we schedule a tradition Thanksgiving meal with turkey and all the works. For the last four years we have sponsored this event and donated all of the profits to individuals or families in need. This year our chapter decided to divide the proceeds and make two significant donations, one to the IOCC and the second to Philabundance.

Our next project was a bake sale where all of the proceeds were donated to the Seminary Van Project. As part of our bake sale we raised \$257 for the van. We are also thrilled that our chapter member Vitaliy Hrytsay has graciously made and donated the signage for the van.

We had several family friendly events during the holiday season. On the 26th of December a group of Senior and Junior UOL members went to Philadelphia to see the decorations and Christmas themed light shows. The first stop was the Dicken's animated exhibit that has over a hundred animated figures that bring to life Dicken's Christmas Carol. We took pictures in front of Christmas Present, but there are multiple scenes with Tiny Tim and his family. Our next stop was the Wannamaker Building light show in the Grand Court atrium. The light show is over 50 years old and tells the story of the nutcracker with over



100,000 lights. It was wonderful to share these Christmas classics with children and families who had never seen these exhibits. Our final stop was the more



modern Christmas Classic at the Comcast building where we saw the 3-D video showing holiday scenes as well as the Philadelphia skyline.

Our family events continued with Family Fun night later that week. We created seven tasks that each of our five teams had to complete. Some of the tasks were artistic, making a poinsettia flower or creating a decorative frame for a Nativity icon. Other activities were musical, creating a cheer or performing a



carol. Some activities were downright silly, such as shooting a ball from a monkey gun while a dancing hippo guarded the goal. The one repeat event is always the eating contest, where we had teams of eaters, an adult eating herring and a child eating a dried fig. The highlight of the event was "Fr. Taras says," similar to Simon Says, but Fr. Taras says. Everyone had great fun that evening.



Our chapter had our busiest week on record from January 18th to the 22nd. Our chapter sponsored our traditional Holodna Kutya supper on the eve of Theophany. This year we had forty people gathered around our large family table. Participants enjoyed kutya, borscht, holubtsi, fish and varenyky. It is always wonderful to celebrate as one large family. This year our group sang multiple carols and then gathered for evening services and blessing of water.

On January 21st we hosted the National Executive Board. Thanks to Karen Ferraro for preparing the meals for our meeting. We had a fantastic holubsti soup that was out of this world. The meeting lasted a full day and that evening NEB members were invited to Malanka 2017! If you have never been to a Philadelphia Malanka you are truly missing something fun. We had over a hundred people at the Malanka. One of the best parts of the Philly Malanka is that it is family friendly. So we have young children dancing and enjoying



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With the blessing of our Hierarchs, Great Lent Giveaway 2017 will benefit ZOE for Life

Submitted by Sophia Dobronos

ZOE for Life is a pan-Orthodox outreach of Orthodox Christians. It is a non-profit Christ-centered support organization with three major goals: to help women who need confidential emotional and spiritual support during crisis pregnancies, to assist Orthodox Christians seeking to adopt, and to provide an education for Pure Living and other resources. They offer a wide range of help such as referrals for professional counseling, Orthodox Christian adoption options, housing, clothing, medical assistance, prenatal care, and spiritual support. The Great Lent Giveaway was developed as a joint program of the Consistory Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry and the Jr. Ukrainian Orthodox League. Its purpose is to deepen the faith of our youth during the season of Great Lent through good works, stronger commitment to prayer, and learning about the faith. ALL youth are encouraged to participate through their Jr. UOL, parish youth group, church school or individually. Hold fundraisers at your parish to raise funds and awareness towards ZOE for Life and its objective. Our goal for GLG 2017 is to raise \$1500 for ZOE for Life. Each Wednesday during Great Lent a youth group session will be provided for use with your youth to deepen their faith at www.uocyouth.org. GLG program details will be sent to chapters and parishes prior to the start of Great Lent. Go to www.uocyouth.org for fundraising ideas for your local parish. For additional information or questions contact the OYM Office at uocyouth@aol.com or the Jr. UOL Coordinator Sophia Dobronos at smdobronos@aol.com.

May our Lord bless you in your journey through Great Lent!

(Carnegie- continued from page 1)

This year, our Parish President, Howard West, added a new idea to add parish excitement; a pie contest! Who makes the best pie! Our winner this year was our own Sr. Chapter President, Tracey Sally with good old Apple Pie! We are greatly appreciative to everyone who donates food or time to this tremendously worthwhile and longstanding community service! May God bless you for all you do!



(Philadelphia - continued from page 4)



the evening along with our whole church family. The music is always a highlight with Al Shinn as our master of music and guiding us to the great countdown and new year. The countdown happened at 10:14 and everyone joyfully wished each other "Happy New Year!"

That night we cleaned the hall and set the tables for our final event of the week, our Theophany Breakfast and Ice Cross. For over a decade Mike Fesnak and David Sembrot have sponsored our ice cross. It was a little warm this year, so despite the fact that the ice cross was incredibly beautiful it probably did not last many days

because it was over 50 degrees outside. After blessing the cross, everyone gathered in the parish hall for a delicious breakfast. This year Mark and Ann Bohlen were chairpeople for the event and prepared great breakfast casseroles.



Having survived our busiest week ever, we have our next meeting scheduled in February to start planning for the spring.

2017 Convention: How Can you Help???

Our Convention 2017 in Little Rhody is just 5 short months away and Woonsocket is very excited to have you all visit with us! We would also like to ask for your help. With what, you ask? Here are a few things.....

1) Adopt a seminarian. We are seeking parishes, chapters and individuals alike, to sponsor a seminarian to attend our convention. It's easy! We have 5 different levels, leading up to full sponsorship at \$500 which will cover a seminarian's packet (all food and activities) and lodging! Four levels starting at \$125 include: Seashells \$125, Sandcastles \$250, Sailboats \$375 and Lighthouses \$500. If you cannot fund one of the mentioned levels, our Beach Blanket Level is designed so you donate what ever amount you can. Please send your donation to Adopt-A-Seminarian, c/o Christine Charest, St. Michael UOC, 74 Harris Avenue, Woonsocket, RI 02895.

Make your check payable to St. Michael UOC. Thanks!

2) We are encouraging all parishes and chapters to take an ad in the upcoming program book. Watch for your forms in the mail! All information is included on the cover letter and form. And please copy the forms for individual parishioners and other church organizations to sponsor ads as well!

3) As part of our convention activities, we will be having a work session on Saturday afternoon. We are currently working on having some backpacks donated from some local companies that we will fill for underprivileged students in the Woonsocket school system. Here's where we need your help. We would like each parish and/or chapter to hold a small fund raising project (or to take a collection) and send the funds to our chapter. We will then purchase like items for each back pack through a retail store that has offered assistance with the costs. This way, we can be sure that each child gets the same exact filled pack. Please send your donations (check to St. Michael UOL) to Back Packs, c/o Eleanor Kogut, St. Michael UOC, 74 Harris Avenue, Woonsocket, RI 02895. Thank you for your help!

4) And lastly, we have a beautiful rhea pysanka that we will raffle at the convention. Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10. This egg was designed and decorated by parishioner Natalie Michaluk Brennan. More information and tickets will be in the mail soon!!



Thank you all in advance for your anticipated participation in our events above and the upcoming convention! Can't wait to see you all there!!

Thank you!

Seminarians of St. Sophia Seminary



Thank you to all members of the Ukrainian Orthodox League, supporters of St. Sophia Seminary, and to those who attended this past year's Christmas at the Seminary Fundraiser. The t-shirts worn in the picture were a gift from the UOL to the seminarians.

2017 UOL Essay Contest

“Declare among the nations His works” Psalm 104:1

Deadline April 29, 2017

Pre-K and Kindergarten

Each day we see examples of the works of God. Remember that God created all in nature. Draw a picture of some of these works that you see every day. No names on the pictures front or back. No larger than 12 inches x 18 inches.

Grades 1 and 2

Draw a picture and write 2 to 3 sentences describing your favorite of all of God’s work in nature.

Grades 3 and 4

Write a paragraph (5 to 8 sentences) about how you give thanks and praise to God. Print or type.

Grades 5 and 6

Write 50 to 100 words. In Psalm 100:3 it says “Know that the Lord is God! It is He that made us.” We are a work of God. What should we be doing to protect this work of God? Print or type.

Grades 7 and 8

Write 100 to 175 words. Some of the large problems happening in the God’s world today are global warming and pollution. What are you doing to help God’s work and the Earth get better? How do you get your message to the rest of God’s people? Print or type

Grades 9 and 10

Write 200 to 300 words. In Psalm 96:3 it says, “Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples!” What do you do to declare God’s glory among His people? Must be typed.

Grades 11 and 12

Write 300 to 500 words. The goal of the high school mission trips it to do God’s work and help others. In the past missionaries have cleaned up the cemetery at our Metropolia Center, helped restore shrines, helped at homeless shelters in Philadelphia, New York and St. Augustine (to name a few), and many other works to help our fellow man. What would you suggest as future projects for the high schoolers and why do you feel these are important? Must be typed.

Adults 18 and over

Write a minimum of 500 words. In these times of political correctness, it is thought to be not politically correct to sing praises to God in public in the chance that we may offend someone. How do we as Orthodox Christians “Declare among the nations His work” in this time of political correctness? Must be typed.

On a separate sheet include: Name, age, grade if appropriate, name of home parish with city and state. Adults, just say adult. Minors need a note stating we can publish work in the Bulletin if they won first place.

Email entries to: Teresa Linck: tlinck430@gmail.com (typed entries only).

Or mail entries to: Teresa Linck, 9629 Chapelcroft St., Philadelphia, PA 19115

UOL History Project - Why is the UOL Important to Me?

Essay Collection

Submitted by Natalie Bilynsky

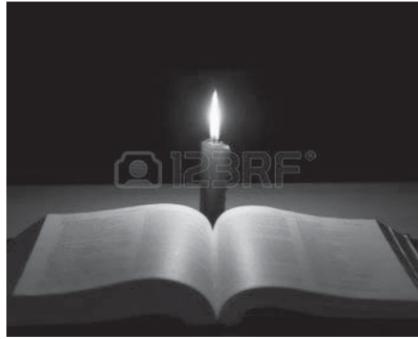
We will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of our Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA in 2018. As part of our celebration we plan to have a collection of essays from members answering the question, “Why is the UOL important to me?”

We encourage everyone to take up this challenge and submit an essay. It will be wonderful to have a collection of essays outlining the importance of the UOL. Please don’t delay. Many have answered saying that their essay is coming. We have received multiple essays and are thankful to those who wrote.

To submit your essay, please email it to Natalie Bilynsky at nsufler@aol.com. You can also send a hard copy to Natalie Bilynsky 703 Pine Ridge Road Media, PA 19063.

Praying Our Way Together Through Great Lent 2017

Eph. 6:17-18 “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to the end with all perseverance...”



Looking for something to heighten your spiritual journey through Great Lent this year?

Come join your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ of the UOC of USA as we pray and read the Psalter each day for 20 days!

What: Reading the Psalter

Where: The Comfort of Your Own Home

When: March 13, 2017 - April 7, 2017 at any convenient time 5 days per week - Monday through Friday

Why: It is the Prayer Book of the Church

Who: Any Orthodox Christian

If you would like to journey with us, please email your name, address, phone number, parish name and parish address to Janice Meschisen at Bridesong150@gmail.com and more information will be sent to you.

Please Sign up by March 1, 2017!

Sponsored by the Ukrainian Orthodox League

Winter Junior National Executive Board Meeting

Submitted by the Junior National Executive Board

On Saturday, January 21st, the Junior UOL National Executive Board met in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for the winter meeting. During this meeting, we were able to catch up on the different activities and happenings of the Junior UOL nationally and locally. Here are the highlights of our meeting.

A main focus of our efforts this year, as covered at the meeting, was the idea of strong communication between the national board and the local chapters. Since the fall meeting in September, all of the members of the board have been busy strengthening contacts with local chapters and making sure chapters have all the proper resources to succeed and be engaged during the year. The Executive Board has consolidated paperwork so that direct contact between the local and national level is more efficient. The focus on strong communication has also resulted in a new chapter being organized in West Islip, New York at our parish of Sts. Peter and Paul. We discussed how important it is to work with chapters on a one-to-one basis for the most direct and effective communication, and assisting local members in developing strong youth programs.

The Junior Board also discussed the importance of group events at a local level that are open to other Orthodox Churches in the area. During the next few months, the chapters in Youngstown, OH and Philadelphia, PA will be hosting Lock-Ins for any interested Orthodox in the area. The Board will be working to aid chapters in forming local events such as the Lock-In so that the youth in the parish are able to be involved within the Church.

We were also able to proceed with some exciting projects for the next few months. The Junior UOL will be creating T-Shirts to sell for the summer. These shirts will be sold at the local chapters, at the various camping programs, and at the annual Convention. The Board discussed the upcoming Convention in Rhode Island and started planning possible programming and activities. The Juniors are looking to include a service project, more meaningful and consolidated business sessions, and designated time for a spiritual retreat aspect of our gathering. We are excited to add some new elements into the Junior Convention program.

Looking to the future, the Junior UOL is very optimistic in energizing the youth in new chapters and reconnecting with old chapters. We hope to continue the success of the last few months and to create opportunities in order to increase interest and engagement. The Executive Board of the Junior UOL would also like to thank the parish of Saint Vladimir for hosting us during the weekend. Thank you for hosting us at your Malanka and including us at the beautiful Liturgy on Sunday morning.

**UOL Retreat - Bethlehem, PA
April 1, 2017**

Stop the presses! The UOL Retreat in Bethlehem is expanding. For the first time in over a decade we are opening the retreat to children ages 7 to 12. While the retreat was always open to adults and adolescents, this year we will have a program for children.

As you know, the 2017 UOL Retreat in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania will focus on the Divine Liturgy. Our children will also be learning about the Divine Liturgy but will have a separate program developed for them. For adults and adolescents, the retreat will include demonstration of components of the Divine Liturgy with experts explaining each component of the Liturgy. As with all retreats we will also have a Question and Answer session where your questions about the Divine Liturgy can be answered.

The UOL Retreat is scheduled for Saturday April 1st. Don't miss out on the opportunity to learn more about your faith! We hope to see you in Bethlehem! Register quickly before registration is closed!

UOL RETREAT APRIL 1, 2017 REGISTRATION

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

\$45 for adults and adolescents

\$7 for children 7 to 12

Appropriate Registration fee is enclosed: Yes _____ No _____
*amount _____

Check made to: Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA

Return registration to: Oleh Bilynsky 703 Pine Ridge Rd. Media, PA 19063
Please submit registration by March 15, 2017. After this deadline a \$10 late fee is applied.

Pictures from the UOL Retreat can be used for publicity. Please indicate if you do not want pictures of you and/or your child used.

UOL Bulletin Photo Contest

Just for a little fun!

We are planning a contest for the next few months. Take a picture with your UOL Bulletin. See the example of my BFF's in church reading the Bulletin.



Think about a fun location and take a picture with you and your UOL Bulletin. Email your pictures to me so we can print them in the Bulletin. nsufler@aol.com

We are looking for creativity, exciting locations (just think, it could be you on Mt. Everest with your Bulletin??), and just a little fun.

Take a selfie or have it taken for you - all are fine.

Countdown to Camp!

Submitted by Laryssa Charest

Thinking of All Saints Camp always brings back good memories. From homemade videos of alien landings on the Prayer Trail to hiding behind the girl's wash house in order to conceal the identity of 'Caly' the best drawn out prank on the girl's side of camp ever. (Let's just say a lot of Band-Aids, balloons, and streamers were used...so I hear). I remember planning fictitious weddings, naming the skunks that would visit us at



night, dodging bats over Cabin 2 and more. Some of this may seem a bit odd, but in my opinion it was wonderful. Every memory brings a smile to my face.

All of these memories include a large mix of people coming to one place: All Saints Camp. It's a modern day Noah's Ark, in a way. People come from all different corners to a place that ensures safety while offering the possibility of a new beginning. I may have hundreds of thousands of memories as a camper and counselor but there's much more than just good times. There's a bigger picture. The campers and counselors come together once a year to get their fill of fellowship and fun that's built on a foundation of faith. All participants come from a place where they're different for being Orthodox. At camp we all come together to be one in Christ. This bond, the Camp Bond, is strong!

I came to camp for the first time when I was 15 years old. I hadn't heard of camp until then. The odd thing is my family has always been active members of the church. I guess, for some, it may take even longer to experience their faith outside the four walls of their home parish. It was foreign and it took some getting used to but I loved it. I couldn't stop



talking about it when I got back home. I even started a countdown to camp. It had that much of an impact on me. Once I couldn't be a camper anymore, I came back as a counselor. I even dragged my neighbors, who are Ukrainian Orthodox by association, out to camp. They went a number of times. My parents even committed to venturing out for Family Fest. I think my mom even bought a new suitcase for the occasion.

Looking back, I realize how blessed I am to have had those precious moments with campers, camp staff, and my family. Fortunately, there is a small but mighty group of people that see this influence and work tirelessly to keep the camp thriving. It's through their hard work that I am able to start another countdown to Mommy-and-Me/Daddy-and-Me with my own family.

Almost twenty years ago, (yikes!), I allowed myself to be Spirit led and travel 8 hours to a place I knew little about. This goes to show you that a little faith can go a long way. 8 hours in fact! Well, I guess that depends on who's driving.

St. Thomas Weekend Pilgrimage, South Bound Brook

On Bright Saturday April 22, 2017 and St. Thomas Sunday April 23, 2017 thousands of the faithful of our Church will visit St. Andrew Cemetery and the Metropolia Center during the annual St. Thomas Sunday Weekend Pilgrimage in South Bound Brook, NJ.

The annual "Meet the Seminarians" Picnic will take place at St. Sophia Seminary on Saturday April 22 at 3PM. This is not only a fun event for the whole family, but a great way to show your support for our Seminary. If you are planning to be in South Bound Brook on Saturday, please plan to attend the Picnic. In addition, please consider bringing a side dish or dessert to the Picnic to supplement the hamburgers and hot dogs that the St. Sophia Seminary UOL Chapter will be grilling. Coleslaw, kholodets, potato salad, hrin, deviled eggs, vinehret, brownies, pliatsky, tort or "whatever you might want to bring" will be appreciated. Please also spread the word to others you may know who might be attending on Saturday. If you do plan to bring something, send an email to sts@uolnj.org so that we have an idea of what to expect.

The St. Thomas weekend is a major fundraising event for the UOC of USA and for the UOL. As in years past, the UOL needs volunteers to help manage parking and collect donations at the Metropolia Center during the Pilgrimage weekend. The Consistory uses the parking money collected to help defray the costs of hosting such a large crowd. Commemorative ribbon sales are earmarked to support a worthwhile UOL cause. This year the NEB has selected the St. Sophia Seminary Van Fund as the beneficiary of the proceeds from the sale of commemorative ribbons. These donations will satisfy part of the UOL's commitment to raise \$16,000 to support the recent purchase of a 12-passenger van for the Seminary. If you are interested in helping manage parking on either Saturday or Sunday, please let us know! Mickey Komichak sts@uolnj.org is the keeper of the master schedule. Please help if you can. Any time you can spare will be most appreciated!

Annual Fund Drive

Please support the Ukrainian Orthodox League's
Annual Drive for

**UOL Projects, Lynn Sawchuk-Sharon Kuzbyt Scholarship,
And
Metropolitan John Scholarship Funds**

Donations to UOL Projects will be used for:

- *Publication of the *UOL BULLETIN*
- *Supporting the Youth Commission's activities
- *Outreach through the Christian Care-Giving and Missions Commission
- *Continuation of the Education Commission projects and services
- *Public Relations and other administrative necessities

Donations to the Lynn Sawchuk-Sharon Kuzbyt Scholarship fund will:

- *Provide Scholarships to current or former Junior UOL members who are leaders in their parishes and communities and committed to their faith
- *Nurture the future leaders of our Church
- *Foster the UOL's motto: "Devoted to its Youth"

Donations to the MJSF Scholarship Fund will:

- *Provide tuition assistance to seminarians at our St. Sophia's Seminary
- *Encourage candidates to the Holy Priesthood
- *Provide tuition assistance to our clergy and seminarians for higher education

Please take a moment and use the enclosed envelope
to make your donation today!!

Thank you for your continued support!!

UOL LENTEN RETREATS

SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2017
VILLA MARIA, PA

SATURDAY APRIL 1, 2017
BETHLEHEM, PA

U O L T R I B U T E S

UOL Tribute

A donation to the Tribute Fund is an acknowledgment of a Milestone, Memorial, or Accomplishment, or is a Special Recognition of an individual or group. Your much-appreciated contribution is used to support and further the Mission of the Ukrainian Orthodox League.

All donations are published in the UOL Bulletin.

Donor	Occasion/Tribute
Szafranski and Danyo Families	In loving memory of Michael Woloschak. Memory Eternal!
Dori Nemeth	In memory of a wonderful man and my Uncle Bo (Bohdan Hryshchyshyn), co-founder of All Saints Camp, UOL President, President of St. Vladimir's Cathedral Philadelphia, PA, Choir member and much more. Donations are greatly appreciated to All Saints Camp.

*Have you been wanting to honor or
thank someone special?*

*The tribute fund is the ideal way to honor someone
or commemorate a special event!*

It is very easy to submit a Tribute.

Don't put it off -- send your tribute today!!

To submit your Tribute:

Submit a card that includes your Name and Address, the Name of the Person to Receive the Tribute, the occasion of the Tribute (for example In Memory or To Honor), and the Name and Address of the person to whom an acknowledgement card should be sent.

For a contribution of \$20 or more, the name and occasion is printed in the UOL Bulletin.

UOL Tributes should be submitted to:

Natalie Bilynsky 703 Pine Ridge Road
Media, PA 19063.

Please make check payable to Ukrainian Orthodox League.

UOL Bulletin
c/o Natalie Bilynsky
703 Pine Ridge Road
Media, PA 19063

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