



# UOL BULLETIN

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*Dedicated to our Church -- Devoted to its Youth*

VOL. 63 NO. 3

NOVEMBER 2016

Family Fest 2016 Submitted by Fr. John Haluszczak



Family Fest at All Saints Camp Labor Day weekend this year was fantastic! Families and friends attended from near and far for a weekend full of fellowship, fun and relaxation! It was great to see old friends and meet many new friends during the weekend!

the Annual "Family Fest Kickball Game." Young and old had a great time, whether playing, watching or cheerleading! The afternoon was set aside for free time, swimming or sports.



The weather was as good as it gets, allowing for all events to occur in a dry and comfortable climate. Families began arriving Friday evening and catching up and sharing memories at the dining hall. Saturday morning, after Morning Prayers and breakfast, everyone headed down to the field for

After Great Vespers, conducted by Fr. John Haluszczak, the themed dinner, "Super Hero's," was served at the pavilion. Fr. Deacon Jim Cairns, our pig roast executive chef, did an amazing job delighting many, especially with delicious crispy pig skin. Tables were decorated with favorite super hero



themes. We even had a watermelon pig carved by Michael Kapeluck for those who were vegetarians. Face painting was performed by Mike Bodnar. After

(continued on page 7)



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"



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

### MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR UOL PRESIDENT

John Holowko



Glory to Jesus Christ! Slava Isusu Khrystu!  
 November is here. Many of us will start thinking about Thanksgiving and Christmas soon. Within this Month's Bulletin, there is an article with respect to this year's guidance regarding a Thanksgiving project at a local level and our goals this year. Please read it and engage. Personally, I like the end of the article. "If each one of us faithful servants of the Lord did even the smallest act of kindness, this world would be a better place!" Christmas will provide additional opportunities to make another's life better. What better way of promoting our Faith than living and demonstrating it? The UOL is not here simply to exist and speak of the past, but to make a difference in people's lives today, and many times it is as simple as being humble and kind. This time of year is especially challenging to many of us for a variety of reasons, and your kindness can touch someone without even knowing it.

One of the challenges in writing Bulletin articles is timing. You are always submitting your article one month before the actual month of being published. This leads to omissions or simply things you did not know about which you wish you had included. How many of us knew what October 2<sup>nd</sup> was? The Assembly of Bishops has designated the first Sunday of October, in conjunction with **Orthodox Christian Fellowship's (OCF's)** Orthodox Awareness Month, as the date for College Student Sunday. For 2016, this fell on Sunday, October 2nd. For those that do not know, **OCF** is the official collegiate campus ministry program under the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America. OCF is charged with connecting Orthodox college students—and those interested in the Orthodox Christian faith—to Christ and His Church. There are over 200 chapters in Universities across North America. This day of recognition made me ask if we are doing enough for our college students. Do all our college students even know about OCF? Our up and coming high school students? It is a challenging topic, but I know we can do more than keeping our college students on the membership list or sending them the UOL Bulletin, a challenge for us all locally that needs more attention as we focus on our Young Adults. They need to know as a parish family that we care; to demonstrate genuine interest; that we are there to help them where we can. It really can make a difference. I know personally, and others within my home parish have known, the impact of having people like "Uncle Danny" in our lives.

As you read this, our Church Sobor will have concluded. As you should be aware, a strategic plan for our Church was presented with 25 strategic goals. If you did not attend, please ask questions of your delegates. I hope this is all actively discussed at the local level in a constructive, compassionate and loving manner. We need to engage if we want to truly change things. The UOL can help with this in so many ways. As we all know, things have to change and we can help. As a matter of information, there are nine "task forces" that have been developed to help facilitate focus and change, with the strategic goals in mind. Whether it be Education, Outreach, Family and Youth, Technology or the five others, please learn about them; their goals; the Vision that has been developed; and to see how you can play a role. The UOL and many of its long standing core members have played key roles in our Church historically. In the workplace, we talk much about having passion for what we do. We need it here at home, in our Church. It is too easy to watch others do the work, to find excuses not to be engaged or to get frustrated or simply be indifferent. Again, if you truly want to change the direction of things for the better, you will get engaged.

Question and reminder for all of you. Does everyone know what December 4th is? UOL Sunday occurs on the first Sunday of December, and is designated as the day when all UOL Chapters encourage their members to participate in the Divine Liturgy and receive the Mystery of the Holy Eucharist. I hope you read this, act on it together as a UOL family, and do something together for your parish family. Do something, reach out and make your parish family feel your presence.

In conclusion, early in October, we were deeply saddened by Olga Sawchuk falling asleep in the Lord. Olga was a lifelong parishioner of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral of Philadelphia and mother of Lynn Sawchuk. Earlier this year we laid to rest Madeline Kuzbyt, mother of Sharon Kuzbyt. We have so many members and families that have benefited from the LSSK Scholarship, including my family. The LSSK Scholarship was established in 1975 in memory of Lynn and Sharon, whose untimely deaths left an indelible mark in the life of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, the Ukrainian Orthodox League, and in the personal lives of their families and many friends. Lynn was president of St. Vladimir's Junior UOL in Philadelphia, PA. Many of you know her brothers. Sharon was president of the Holy Ascension Junior UOL in Clifton, New Jersey. Though the LSSK originated as a result of such great losses, much good has been perpetuated as a result of Lynn's and Sharon's families and all those involved over the years. May the Blessings of our Lord be with Olga's family and may her Memory Be Eternal – Veechnaya Pamyat!  
 Yours in Christ,  
 John Holowko



### ASK FR. HARVEY Questions answered by Fr. John W. Harvey

*Being present at a funeral, I have questions about the meaning of some things that went on at the graveside. I was a bit too far away to hear just what the priest said. I remember him pouring dirt or sand onto the casket and then he klunked the four sides of the casket with the shovel.*

When the priest pours the dirt or sand on the casket he says "the earth is Thine and the fullness thereof." Here we have had the funeral and with the funeral director's efforts, the person in the casket perhaps looks even better than in life. The reality of the situation is that with time the body will now disintegrate into the earth from which it was first made. No matter what, whether the individual has had face lifts, botox, hair dyes, teeth implants, youth is gone and the body will fast return to its elements. God created me from the dust of the earth. All of creation is His and being baptized into Christ, I certainly am His. The reality check is that with cessation of life our earthly temple fades and is destroyed, awaiting the second coming of Christ and its reintegration into a glorious resurrection body.

Here we are as the old popular song says "we are but dust in the wind." All the fleeting triumphs, power and wealth in life, by death disappear in a moment. As the service directs us to view, now the richest and the poorest lie down together, equalized by death. Money, property and influence and all they seemingly can accomplish become meaningless in an instant. When the touch of death comes...poof!..all this disappears.

The casket or grave is sealed by the priest with the fourfold tapping on its sides to signify that the one herein interred is to remain undisturbed until the second coming of Christ. These actions of the priest should be the ultimate reality check that death and separation from life, family and friends has occurred. The one interred is buried with due honor. The mortal body in life was baptized into Christ and was fed the Body and Blood of Christ and duly anointed and so has been touched by the immortal life. Buried with honor it awaits the Lord's voice calling and the reward or punishment due in the new resurrection body.



*Our neighbor's daughter has just completed a year of study and will be confirmed in the local Lutheran Church this Sunday. This seems to be a very big thing and is considered as a rite of passage into a mature adult Christian life. How is it that we have chrismation tied with baptism for babies and lack something like this for our teens?*

When the church was still one, the East and the West had a different practice on how Chrismation was administered. The West left this for the bishop to do on visiting a congregation, while in our practice a priest administers baptism, chrismation and Communion all at the same time. Rome had chrismation occur during one's youth which was followed then by Communion. The same progression we see in East and West, yet way after the Reformation, the Catholic church reversed it and so now one has Baptism, Communion and then Confirmation (chrismation). In point of fact, a great many Roman Catholics NEVER ever present themselves for chrismation and miss that solemn infilling of the Holy Spirit. A good many Catholics do not even see the pressing need for them to be confirmed by the bishop. This practical dismal state of affairs is but one of the heretical deficiencies which the Roman church perpetuates.

(continued on page 6 )

**UOL Convention 2017 - Woonsocket, RI  
July 26 -30, 2017  
Submitted by Patricia Bougery**

Stay in Warwick, See Rhode Island! The Crowne Plaza in Warwick (pronounced "Wah'wik" by locals), conveniently located in the center of Rhode Island, will be your home base for Convention 2017. Located only 10 minutes from downtown Providence and two miles from T. F. Green Airport, the Crowne Plaza is also directly adjacent to two interstate 95 exits. Beyond the perfect location, there are two on-site restaurants, an indoor heated pool, state-of-the-art fitness center, and complimentary shuttle service to and from the airport. Our choice of location will satisfy your every need!

For a small place, Rhode Island is packed with culinary traditions. Like our state, our foods are quirky, fun and sure to please. Our convention team is planning the quintessential New England summertime meal- the clambake! One of the easiest ways to pinpoint a Rhode Islander is to have them say this word: "quahog." The unofficial mascot of Rhode Island, it is a type of hard-shelled clam pronounced "kwa-hog" by Rhode Islanders. But, no matter how you say it, a clambake is an event like no other. Traditionally, it involves building a fire pit, coating the hot rocks and coals with seaweed, and piling on a variety of treats- lobster, clams, fish, mussels, corn, and potatoes. Add a bowl of "chowdah" (chowder) and you're ready for a "pah-ty" (party)! We know this is an event you won't want to miss!

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](http://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" #2:

You may put your dishes and glassware in the kitchen cupboard or cabinet, but in Rhode Island we drink cabinets. A "cabinet" is a drink made from milk, flavored syrup, and ice cream. In other parts of the country it's called a milkshake or a frappe. A liberal interpretation of the entry for cabinet in the Oxford English Dictionary might suggest that the term originated from the English Newcastle or cabinet pudding, "a pudding made of bread or cake, dried fruit, eggs and milk, usually served hot with a sauce."

A grinder in most homes may be used for coffee, herbs, or meat, but in Rhode Island a "grinda" is a sandwich otherwise known as a hoagie, submarine, or po'boy in other parts of the country.

More to come...

**NEWS FROM THE  
JUNIOR UOL  
PRESIDENT  
Orest Mahlay**



Glory to Jesus Christ!

It is now November and the national executive board of the Junior UOL is working on various projects for the upcoming year. The Junior UOL will be producing T-Shirts this year and requests your input in this process. We call upon all willing participants to submit a design for the Junior UOL by December 31<sup>st</sup> to Cyril Sheptak ([cyrilsheptak@gmail.com](mailto:cyrilsheptak@gmail.com) / 724-284-1265).

Another major effort the Junior UOL will be making (in collaboration with the Senior UOL) is a greater social media presence. Ginny Ulbricht from the senior board will be leading this effort in making the UOL more visible online.

A major topic of discussion during the last Convention was the issue of keeping chapters connected during the year so that the various projects the UOL initiates would be clear so that local leadership and the membership is aware of projects and expectations. This year the Junior UOL is implementing Remind101, which is an easy texting application that will update all chapters about upcoming events and projects. To accomplish this, we need to receive all appropriate contact information to connect with everyone.

I am taking this opportunity to remind everyone that **election forms** are to be submitted to our Secretary, Alexis Naumenko ([alexistarfish@gmail.com](mailto:alexistarfish@gmail.com) / 215-290-7878), and **membership forms / dues** are due to our Financial Secretary, Sophia Dobronos ([smdobronos@aol.com](mailto:smdobronos@aol.com) / 216-789-4129). Contact me if you need to acquire one of these forms.

Please feel free to contact me at [orest.mahlay@gmail.com](mailto:orest.mahlay@gmail.com) or at my number (440) 829-5873. I request that people directly contact me to give their thoughts on what the Junior UOL could do to support the youth in their parishes during this upcoming year. Remember to stay active and motivate your parishes to help the youth come together, serve others, and become future leaders of the church.

Yours in Christ,  
Orest Mahlay

On behalf of

**Lynn Sawchuk/Sharon Kuzbyt Scholarship**

recipients and donors,

we extend our deepest sympathies to the family of

**Olga Sawchuk**

**May her Memory Be Eternal! Vichnaya Pamyat!**



(picture from 2011 Convention)

**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:**

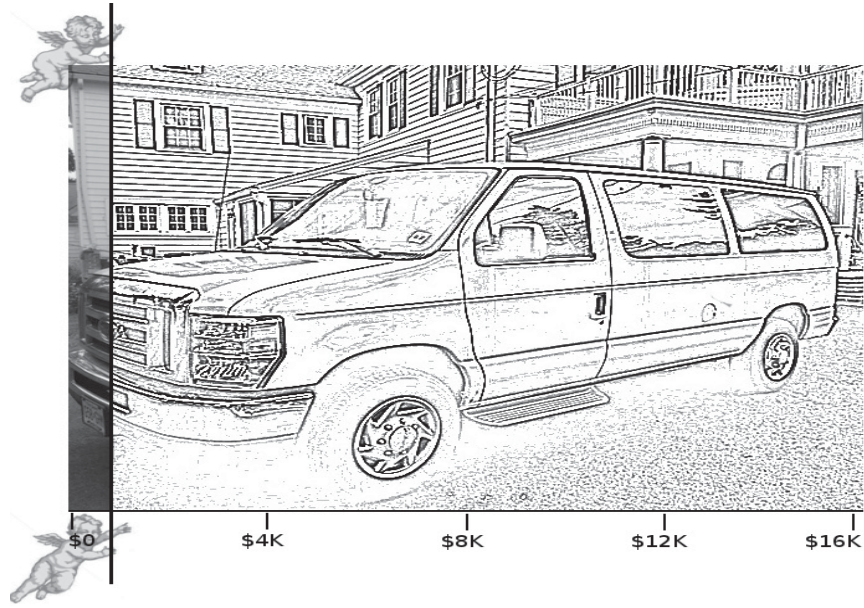
- \*Provide tuition assistance to seminarians at our St. Sophia's Seminary
- \*Encourage candidates to the Holy Priesthood
- \*Provide tuition assistance to our clergy and seminarians for higher education

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

**Thank you for your continued support!!**

### Seminary Van Fund Drive Gets Underway Submitted by Michael J. Komichak

The UOL's campaign to raise \$16,000 to pay for the new St. Sophia Seminary Van is off to a good start. So far we have received over \$800 in donations! As the accompanying graphic shows, the little angels at the front bumper still have "a ways to go" to reach the Van's rear bumper. Please be an angel and help them push the vertical line to the right by sending your donations to: Ukrainian Orthodox League #SSSVan, c/o Monica O'Donnell, UOL Financial Secretary, 720 Koonce Rd, Hermitage, PA 16148. You can also make your donation online via the UOL Paypal account at [uol.orthodoxws.com/donate.html](http://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. Thank you!



### The GO Challenge Submitted by Natalie Bilynsky

Our last issue introduced the "GO Challenge!" Remember that in our last issue, you were encouraged to identify five people in your parish or other parishes who are not currently active members. They might have been

members of the UOL before but are not currently members. They might be young adults who are attending college. For this next year, reach out to them. Not once, but every time there is a chapter or parish event, reach out. When you think of them, say a prayer.

Minimally, reach out to these 5 individuals once a month. Encourage them to come to your local chapter activities and UOL retreats. Encourage them to come to All Saints Camp. Encourage them to come to the Convention. If one of your individuals is a young adult in college, offer to bring them to church. If you would like to make

a formal commitment to this challenge, please email me. I promise to send email reminders or notes as reminders. If you wish to remain anonymous but complete the challenge, please do so. Each month in the Bulletin I will add a "GO" tip to encourage individuals who take the challenge.

If you accepted this challenge, remember your first assignment: was to identify 5 people to whom you will reach out.

As we approach Thanksgiving and the Feast Day of Nativity, here is your next assignment.

\* Reach out to the five people you have identified. You can email them and or send them a card for the Nativity Feast Day. If they are in college, consider sending a care package or small note saying that you are thinking about them.

\*Invite these five individuals to attend something within the parish. Encourage them to come to the St. Nicholas program at your parish, or to come to another event at the parish.

We are called at this very moment to be disciples. The light is green! Let's GO!

ready. set.  
**go!** ★

### Give Thanks by Sharing!

### The UOL Thanksgiving Project Submitted by Pani Matka Olena Sendeha – UOL Commission of Christian Caregiving Proto Deacon Ihor Mahlay – Office of Christian Charity

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on our lives and to count our numerous blessings that God has bestowed upon us. It is a perfect opportunity to express



our thanks to the Lord through sharing those blessings with those in need around us.

The UOL has always encouraged the faithful of our Church to help out in charitable ministry. During this upcoming season of Thanksgiving leading into the Christmas festivities, we have an opportunity to respond to the call of our Lord Jesus Christ to action in loving our neighbor, whoever he or she may be.

We hope and encourage you to plan and implement a project by your parish membership, in these upcoming months.

1 – Search out in your city or town a local, charitable outreach. If you do not have an Orthodox ministry locally, then join other Christians in their established project. This may be a soup kitchen, food /clothes pantry, or some type of shelter or service center.

2 – Contact the local ministry to discuss their needs and how you may help. Evaluate your potential in gathering several faithful into the project. This may be 2 or 3 parishioners/ UOL members only and that is perfectly fine!

3 – With the Blessing of your pastor upon this project, promote it within your parish. Organize the effort. Implement!

4 – Pray that the Lord will Bless your efforts!

To ensure that your chapter is included in the recap of Thanksgiving activities, please submit a short article by January 1 with information about your donation and the beneficiary to [nsufler@aol.com](mailto:nsufler@aol.com) for publication in the UOL Bulletin.

Please direct questions to PM Olenka Sendeha, Senior NEB Chair of the Christian Caregiving Commission at [Olenkas5@yahoo.com](mailto:Olenkas5@yahoo.com).

If each one of us faithful servants of the Lord did even the smallest act of kindness, this world would be a better place!



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

As we prepare to commemorate UOL Sunday, 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](mailto:nsufler@aol.com). You can also send a hard copy to Natalie Bilynsky 703 Pine Ridge Road Media, PA 19063.

**UOL Sunday is December 4, 2016!**  
**Make your plans today!**

This year UOL Sunday falls on the Feast of the Presentation of the Theotokos in the Temple, December 4<sup>th</sup>. Decades ago our UOL family decided to designate a Sunday to honor our members. It is symbolic that this Sunday falls in the Thanksgiving Season and within the Nativity Fast as we prepare for the coming of our Lord. In the past many chapters planned events for UOL Sunday, a time for members to break bread together and enjoy each other's company. Somehow this tradition of celebrating the UOL has fallen to the wayside. This Sunday is a wonderful time to honor and say thanks to all UOL members.



With UOL Sunday approaching soon, consider what you and your chapter can do. Here are some ideas:

- Consider having a panakhyda/memorial service for all UOL members of blessed memory.
- Consider having a moleben for the continued strength of UOL members.
- Consider having a lunch or dinner for all UOL members.
- Send a thank you note or email to all UOL members for their dedication to the Church and her youth.
- Give your fellow UOL members a hug and wish them a blessed day.
- As it is the feast of the Presentation of the Theotokos, present UOL members with an icon pin of the Theotokos.
- Encourage all UOL members to participate in the sacraments of Confession and Communion on UOL Sunday.
- Place information about the UOL in your weekly parish bulletin.

UOL Sunday is fast approaching – make your plans to commemorate this day!

May you have a blessed UOL Sunday! Thank you for all that you do for the UOL! Be sure to include your UOL Sunday celebration in the UOL Bulletin.

**Fall Junior UOL Executive Board Meeting**  
**Submitted by Orest Mahlay**

The Junior National Executive Board held their first meeting of the year in Parma, Ohio on September 17, 2016. While in previous years the Junior and Senior Board members met on the same day, this year because of scheduling conflicts the Juniors met several weeks later.

On Saturday morning the entire board, along with advisor Taylor Gladys, Spiritual Advisor Fr. John Haluszczak, and Senior Board Member Monica O'Donnell met for morning prayers and breakfast. It was important for us to all pray together to prepare ourselves for the deliberations and challenges that lay ahead of us. The Junior Executive Board members reviewed the reports and discussed ideas that were presented at the recent UOL Convention. There was discussion about ways to improve old projects, as well as initiating new plans. One idea that was discussed was that of a Junior UOL t-shirt. It was decided that the design for the t-shirt would be decided via a contest, where Junior UOL members can submit ideas for the design. We encourage all Junior UOL members to consider entering the contest by submitting entries to Cyril Sheptak ([CyrilSheptak@gmail.com](mailto:CyrilSheptak@gmail.com) / 300 East Pearl St. Butler, PA 16001).

As part of our discussion, we reviewed the success of our previous projects and identified strategies that we as a Board can use to improve our ongoing efforts. We evaluated the ongoing Annual UOL Raffle, the Pysh Travel Grant, and Great Lent Giveaway. In our meeting we proposed ways of improving the Raffle, which struggles with lack of communication and response from some chapters. We discussed some possible solutions to encourage participation and ways to work with the chapters more directly. The Pysh Travel Grant, which is financial aid for people who travel to the annual Convention, was evaluated in order to improve its effectiveness. One possible improvement to this project is to communicate the information to chapter presidents so they can offer it to all members. This grant is especially important as we try to involve more chapters and members in national activities. Great Lent Giveaway was also briefly discussed as the Junior Board has appointed a coordinator for this year. Sophia Dobronos will be leading this service project for the 2016-2017 year. More information on the above mentioned issues will be coming in the next few months.

There was also discussion about membership and the status of the Junior chapters across the United States. As we have acknowledged in previous articles, the goal of the Junior Executive Board is to work to help energize our local chapters. A big goal this year is not leaving any chapter behind when promoting projects and events in the UOL. One specific tool that will be implemented this year will be the Remind101 App, which will directly contact chapter presidents for updates on national activities as well as deadlines. One requirement for this tool is having the necessary information from chapters so that we can contact them and start dialogue on projects. We have already reestablished Allentown as a Junior Chapter and we look forward to seeing other parishes join our efforts this year. The final major focus of our meeting was improving our social media outreach. We had the opportunity to call Ginny Ulbricht from the Senior Board to discuss what her plans are to enhance networking during the year. She will be increasing the usage of the UOL Facebook page as well as improving the official site. The Juniors will be collaborating with the Seniors during the year to increase content on these platforms.

The Junior Board would like to thank the Parma UOL Chapter for hosting the meeting and for their hospitality. The meeting was a good start in our efforts on several specifics and helped us create a plan of action for the upcoming 2016-2017 year.

St. Vladimir's Philadelphia, PA

**Malanka 2017**



**January 21, 2017**

**Enjoy dinner, dancing and lots of  
good family fun!**

For more information contact  
[nsufler@aol.com](mailto:nsufler@aol.com)





(Ask Fr. Harvey - continued from page 2)

In the Western church, as this was given usually during the teen years, it came to be seen as an individual learning and then making a commitment to an adult appreciation of the Christian faith and its practice. For Lutherans, such an in depth study ending in Confirmation is necessary before an individual is permitted to Communion. The Romans, as First Communion is given at about 7 or 8 years of age, mandate that such study take place prior to its reception.

In our own diocese, children have received communion frequently from their baptism onwards, but instruction is then given before their first Confession. Both in the East and West, such instruction is seen as a rite of passage, a rite of spiritual maturation.. This it may be, BUT there needs always to be a follow up. How often do we find that after a First Confession there are no follow up confessions during the subsequent years. Both sponsors and priests must stress that subsequent confessions are a measure of spiritual commitment. Our adults too need such a spiritual revival to their normal practice.



Recently there have been many modern movies about the book of Revelation. The Orthodox Church does not seem to focus on this book, is that correct? Why?

The Book of Revelation was penned by St. John the apostle, who is also known as the Theologian. As a book, it is duly recognized as being inspired by God and is the truth, and it has been accepted as one of the books of the New Testament. Having said this, it is interesting to note that of all the books of the New Testament, this one has no place in our Lectionary, which means that it is never read in church during the services.

The thrust of this book is the life of the church through the end times ending in the triumph and judgment at the end. One thing that this book is NOT is a linear depiction of history. The danger always has been that people want to tie this chapter into a current situation and tend to identify the evil described with certain nations and personalities. Over the years countless different churches and sects have been formed over different aspects of interpretation and the controversy does not end.

One can see easily that the poisoning of parts of the earth could not happen until the dawn of the nuclear age and the discovery of toxic chemicals and weapons of mass destruction. It is obvious that we have advanced down the continuum to the latter ages, but as the various chapters are not necessarily a depiction of a linear recounting of history one can be easily deluded.

In fact, most people do not seem to get what the underlying message of the book of Revelation is. What is described are all sorts of persecution which are designed by Satan to cause people to apostasize and abandon God. Persecution will become intense, but the eternal reward will come to those who hold out from any compromise of their faith. In the end God will triumph utterly over the powers of darkness and all those who have been true to Him will be part of His kingdom and share in the triumph.

Being unswayed by persecution, no matter how intense, is the key to Revelation. Being on guard and realizing that in all generations there will be horrific attacks on Christians until the end comes is the key to a proper understanding of this book. People, especially evangelical Christians, get so wrapped up in controversies about what persons, nations or eras each chapter refers to that they miss the true intent of this book, which is to inculcate the necessity of constant vigilance about the subtle attacks of Satan and the inevitability of persecution in all ages. Seeing ahead that this book would be open to all manner of speculation and misinterpretation, it was decided not to add this to the Lectionary. The book is very important nonetheless in that it shows the course of history, the relentless battle of Satan against the Church and the triumph in the end by Christ. By all means read it, but know the underlying message and do not engage in the trap of making fruitless speculations about what individuals, nations or eras that each chapter has in reference.



**Do you have questions that you would like to have answered in the UOL Bulletin?**

**You can submit your questions via e-mail. All questions are published anonymously.**

submit questions to nsuflier@aol.com



**St. Vladimir Senior UOL Chapter Submitted by Natalie Bilynsky**

The St. Vladimir Senior UOL Chapter has started planning events for the coming year. During the summer our chapter focuses on our Wednesday evenings. We gather at the church hall on Wednesday evenings and invite all parishioners to join. This year our Wednesday evenings were a huge success. One highlight of the summer was our hosting of the High School Pilgrims during our Wednesday



evening. On this Wednesday we had dinner and then planned a game night. We had over forty people join in the fun. We had an intense "chapter challenge" event with four teams competing.

Our summer concluded with our bowling outing. For our bowling night we had several members join our chapter for the first time.



We had our first planning meeting in September and set our schedule for the next few months. For our first meeting of the year we typically have a pot-luck dinner and set events for our first quarter. We were thrilled that we had over 25 people at the meeting and lively discussion and participation.

The first event on our agenda is a bake sale with all proceeds going to the Seminary van. We have a busy winter season planned and are excited about the coming year. As every year, our focus is on membership and encouraging all of our parishioners to become more active in the UOL and the church. At our meeting we had several new members join the UOL. We are also thrilled that many of our members are increasingly interested in participating in national events. In the last few years we have had increased attendance at the UOL retreats and the UOL Convention.

In January we will be hosting the National Executive Board Meeting. We have also scheduled our "always a good-time Malanka" for that weekend. Come and join the fun in Philadelphia on January 21, 2017. Our Malanka includes dinner and dancing. We hope to see you in Philly in January!

As many of you know our long-time UOL member, Olga Sawchuk, fell asleep in the Lord. Mrs. Sawchuk was always kind and an inspiration to all members. She will be deeply missed. May her memory be eternal!

**Lynn Sawchuk - Sharon Kuzbyt "LSSK" Scholarship  
Submitted by Katya Carman, LSSK Chairperson**

(Family Fest - Continued from page 1)

Ten years ago this past June, I graduated from high school! Certainly someone in the UOL has a picture of all of the 2006 LSSK recipients on an old camera because this was before Facebook!! #feelingold  
When I look back at the impact the Junior UOL had on me, I am so proud of our organization for training me in professionalism, the importance of service and philanthropy, and how to balance a leadership role among the many other obligations and demands in our lives. All while living our Orthodox faith alongside other like-minded juniors, and seniors whom I have respected as mentors.

If, like me, you are a past LSSK recipient, I ask you to consider the impact the UOL has had on your life, and open your heart to supporting the next generation of leaders through a gift of love. Below are details on how to contribute to the LSSK scholarship fund.

The Scholarship was established in 1975 to perpetuate the memory of two lovely, dynamic young women whose untimely deaths left an indelible mark in the life of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. In the last forty years, the UOL has awarded over \$175,000 to 148 deserving leaders and future leaders of our holy Church.

**Please consider contributing to our mission to honor Lynn and Sharon's memory by making a donation.**

**In Loving and Blessed Memory  
of**



Lynn Sawchuk  
1957-1974



Sharon Kuzbyt  
1959-1975

**MJSF Needs Your Help  
Submitted by Michael J. Komichak**

The spiritual, pastoral, and theological training of clergy is an on-going, never-ending task. This training is necessary to ensure the health and vitality of our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church now and in the future. For the past 50 years, the UOL's Metropolitan John Scholarship Fund (MJSF) has provided scholarships and loans to seminarians preparing to enter the priesthood in the UOC of USA, and grants to Clergy of the UOC of USA for continuing education. Full-time and part-time students pursuing theological studies sanctioned by our Hierarchs can apply for financial assistance through the MJSF.

Those who have been called to a life of service to our Church rely on your generosity to help defray the cost of their education. Especially now during the UOL's Annual Fund Drive, please consider making a donation to the MJSF. If you prefer, you can donate online via the UOL Paypal account at [uol.orthodoxws.com/donate.html](http://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 MJSF.

In addition to your individual donation, why not organize a special collection at your parish to benefit the MJSF? You might also designate the proceeds from a coffee hour or a church dinner to support this very worthy cause. In any event, your generous contribution to the MJSF today is a direct investment in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of tomorrow. Thank you!

dinner Michele Kapeluck & Becky Mills led a Super Hero Academy Game (blind fold musical chairs) which was met with great laughter by all watching.

Fr. John Nakonachny, Fr. John Haluszczak, and Fr. Deacon Jim Cairns celebrated Divine Liturgy on Sunday. Participants beautifully sang responses, providing a very uplifting spiritual experience. Rob Prokopchak shared information on his recent volunteering with OCMC for Habitat for Humanity during an impromptu presentation after brunch! The balance of



the day provided time for various other Family Fest activities like the Name Game (won by the ladies after a string of men's victories), Bingo, sharing photos from past encampments, and a campfire with s'mores and hot dogs!

Christine Mills would like to thank everyone for coming to Family Fest and also to those who helped out in ANY way over the weekend. She expressed how wonderful it is to have so many friends helping to provide a great weekend. From decorating, kitchen help, and taking out the trash or to running an event, your assistance meant the world to her. After several years of coordinating Family Fest Christine Mills has decided to step down as chair. Thank you Christine, for your service and let's welcome Cathy Bucharew and Eric Senedak, who have stepped forward to co-chair Family Fest 2017.

Thank you again for a "SUPER" weekend and may God Bless you all!

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

When you participate in Divine Liturgy do you have questions about specific prayers or the meaning of different aspects of the Liturgy? The UOL Retreat is the place to get these questions answered.



The UOL Retreat Committee is thrilled to announce that the 2017 UOL Retreat in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania will focus on the Divine Liturgy. Over a decade ago the retreat had a similar focus and we hope that this current retreat will answer your

questions about the Divine Liturgy.

The retreat will include a video of a 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. Registration materials will be mailed out in early January. If you want to be part of the mailing list or to receive registration material via email, please let us know at [nsufler@aol.com](mailto:nsufler@aol.com).

Don't miss out on the opportunity to learn more about your faith. We hope to see you in Bethlehem on April 1st.

Do you enjoy reading the  
UOL Bulletin?

Consider making a donation to support  
publication of the  
UOL Bulletin.



Make all checks payable to UOL  
Send to: Natalie Bilynsky  
703 Pine Ridge Road  
Media, PA 19063

*Різдво в Семінарії*  
**Christmas at the Seminary**

**САТУРДАЙ DECEMBER 17 1-5 PM**  
**СУБОТА 17 ГРУДНЯ**

1950 Easton Avenue  
 Somerset, New Jersey 08873

Please join us for Christmas Crafts, caroling and light refreshments throughout the day!  
 Запрошуємо Вас до коляди, взяти участь у виготовленні Різдвяних прикрас та просто провести приємно час.

NEED A GIFT IDEA? THE SEMINARY COULD USE: (ЗРОБИТЬ ПОДАРУНОК СЕМІНАРІЇ!)  
 • Cleaning Supplies: Windex, Pledge, Pine-Sol Multipurpose Cleaner, Toilet Bowl Cleaner, Bathroom Disinfectant, Swiffer Duster Refills, Hand Soap, Dishwashing Soap, Clorox  
 • HE Laundry Detergent, Dryer Sheets  
 • Paper towels, toilet paper, tissue boxes, napkins  
 • White printer paper, dry erase markers  
 • Disposable Plates (small & large), disposable bowls, disposable utensils, Ziploc bags  
 • Baking pans/Jelly Roll Pans  
 • Gift Cards: Costco, Sam's Club, Shop Rite, Walmart, Amazon, Home Depot

For additional information:  
 call 732-356-0090  
 or e-mail  
 fr.v.pasakas@uocusa.net

**SAVE THE DATES!  
 UOL LENTEN RETREATS**



**SATURDAY,  
 MARCH 18, 2017  
 VILLA MARIA, PA**

**SATURDAY  
 APRIL 1, 2017  
 BETHLEHEM, PA**

**MORE DETAILED INFORMATION IN THE  
 NEXT ISSUE!**

**Junior UOL T-Shirt  
 Design Contest**



Previous Item of Apparel

**. Help create the  
 new Junior UOL  
 shirt**

**. Submissions  
 due by 12/31/16**

**. Open to all**

**The Junior UOL is holding a contest to determine the new Junior UOL T-shirt design. All you have to do is submit your proposal and your design could be on the next Junior UOL shirt. Please submit to: cyrilshseptak@gmail.com or mail to 300 East Pearl St. Butler PA 16001 by 12/31/16. The creator of the winning entry will be awarded a T-shirt.**

**If you have any questions please contact:**

**Cyril Sheptak at [Cyrilshseptak@gmail.com](mailto:Cyrilshseptak@gmail.com) or  
 Orest Mahlay at [orest.mahlay@gmail.com](mailto:orest.mahlay@gmail.com)**



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**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
St. Vladimir Senior UOL Chapter Philadelphia, PA	In memory of long--time and well-loved UOLMember - Olga Sawchuk, of blessed memory. May her memory be eternal! Vichnaya Pamyat!

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.

**Just a reminder that dues are due!  
 If you are a member at large - dues are \$20.  
 Please make check payable to "UOL"  
 and submit dues to  
 Monica O'Donnell,  
 UOL Financial Secretary,  
 720 Koonce Rd,  
 Hermitage, PA 16148**

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

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