



UOL BULLETIN

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dedicated to our Church -- Devoted to its Youth

VOL. 69 NO. 4

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2023

Fr. Bill and Pani Matka Sonia Diakiw of Blessed Memory

It is with great sadness that we report that Very Reverend William "Fr. Bill" Diakiw and Pani Matka Sonia Diakiw passed away in January. Fr.



Bill passed away on January 20, 2023. Very Reverend William Diakiw was preceded in death by his loving and devoted wife of over 67 years, Sonia, who died 17 days earlier on January 3, 2023. Fr. Bill and Pani Matka Sonia were shining examples within the UOL. They inspired many



to work for our Church and her League.

Father Diakiw served as spiritual advisor to the Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA and All Saints Camp of the UOC for many years. As Chairman of the Diocesan Church School Commission, Fr. Bill wrote and translated various religious pamphlets. He organized the First Orthodox Church School Teachers Conference. A major enjoyment in Fr. Bill's life was to organize the first Church School Camp in 1975 for children ages 9-13 and he continued to manage the program for several years. In 1978, Fr. Bill received the Metro Baran Award for his work with the youth.

One of Father Bill's interests was music. He taught the parish choir many new hymns, in both Ukrainian and English. He shared that love with the Ukrainian Orthodox League (UOL) of the USA by preparing music in Ukrainian and English for various special events, often directing the group of faithful singers.

Fr. Bill, with Pani Matka Sonia at his side, were a dynamic couple in their ministry through their love, counseling, and music.

Vichnaya Pamyat! Memory Eternal!

Praying our Way Together

*Looking for something to heighten
your spiritual journey to
prepare for Pascha.*

During Great Lent we will be reading the
Psalms.

If you would like to journey with us, please
email your name, phone number, parish
name, and parish address to
Oleh Bilynsky at nsufler@aol.com and
more information will be sent to you.

Please sign up by March 1, 2023



Stewardship – It's Not Just Show Me the Money

Retreat in Wilmington, DE

Submitted by Jean Roeth

Saturday, October 1st was a very thoughtful day in Delaware. Our UOL had our religious retreat after not having any for the last couple of years, due to COVID. This year's retreat was led by Father Robert Holet, retired pastor of Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church in Charlottesville, VA.

We welcomed 20 members of the Orthodox community from many parishes. Everyone was ready to start to hear about what we, as Orthodox Christians, can do to help impact how and why Christians exercise stewardship today.

We started with a Continental breakfast, made by members of our UOL membership. Then we went upstairs to celebrate an Akathist to our Children with our pastor, Father Stephen Hutnick and Father Holet. After the Akathist was over, we retired back downstairs and Father Holet started his PowerPoint presentation on the responsibilities of our community, and the thoughtful ways we should consider our stewardship of our surroundings and the future of our church. It was widely received and many questions were asked and answered. Before we knew it, it was lunch! Again, our UOL members provided a delicious lunch and dessert. Father Holet began his second presentation and the discussion continued until 3pm.

At the end of his presentation, Father Holet told us a story of an Orthodox project that he and another priest had participated in. It concerns villages in Malawi where young and old women have to travel long distances to get water. This project provides the equipment and lets the village drill a borehole (a type of deep well), so that the women do not have to leave the village to get water. The village is grateful. Anyone that wanted to hear more about it met with him after the retreat ended.



Upcoming Retreats:

March 18, 2023 - Western Pa/Ohio

April 1, 2023 - Philadelphia Area

More information about these retreats in this Bulletin.

76th Annual UOL Convention
Scranton, PA
July 27 - 30, 2023

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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 11 point Times New Roman (font), or typed and double spaced in 12 point type. Articles may be submitted via e-mail attachments. (Submit to: nsuflier@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.

Culture Corner Matushka Laryssa Charest Petrykivka

When I think of Ukrainian art, Petrykivka immediately comes to mind. That may be because I simply love it. I love the colors and the flowers and the smooth brush strokes. It's very popular but it really hasn't been around that long (according to written history).

I will give a little introduction for those that may not know much about it. Petrykivka is a painting style with origins in Ukraine, specifically the city Petrykivka in the Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, after which it was named. Traditionally, this painting style was used to decorate houses and household items. Then in 1935-1936 Petrykivka was showcased at an art exhibition. It received so much recognition that one of the artists of the exhibit, Tatiana Pata, created a school for artists to learn this beautiful style of painting. So, only in the early 20th century did Petrykivka graduate from a naïve art form (one that isn't taught formally in an educational institution). This was the first push towards popularization. The second push was in the 1960s and 1970s when Petrykivka was officially published in a series of albums. The circulation of these albums



helped Petrykivka gain fame. In 2012, the Ukrainian Ministry of Culture recognized Petrykivka as part of the cultural heritage of Ukraine. Consequently, I believe, UNESCO included Petrykivka in its list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2013.

As I mentioned before, the painting style was strictly used for painting houses in its home city. Gradually, this style was tried on new mediums like household items, then plates and chests, then prints. Originally, the style was painted on a white background but was modernized and is now drawn on other colorful backgrounds.

Petrykivka is two-dimensional, thus not appearing realistic, and usually depicts plant forms. People and animals sometimes depicted in Petrykivka are shown in profile where the flowers are head-on. Each design begins with one or two center elements and then branches off to complete the masterpiece. Every piece is added with a single brush stroke or even occasionally with the tip of the artist's finger (imagine berries). Your four main brush strokes include zerniatko (Seed), hrebinets (comb), horishok (nut), and perekhidniy mazok (transitional). The Zerniatko (seed) stroke is the opposite of the hrebinets, starting with light pressure and ending in heavier pressure giving the appearance of wheat. The Hrebinets stroke starts off with heavier pressure and tapers off. This stroke is often repeated which leads to the look of a comb, thus the name. The Horishok (nut) stroke uses two hrebinets (comb) strokes next to each other, like two hands cupping, giving the appearance of a hazelnut. And the last stroke, uses a combination of colors. The brush is dipped into one color then right into another, which when drawn shows the transition of colors.

(Continued on page 3)

MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR UOL

Matushka Laryssa Charest



Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

If you feel like you're catching your breath from the last time you opened a UOL Bulletin, it's because A LOT has happened since you did. Here's a quick recap: we completed St. Philip's Fast and our Praying our Way group successfully completed another Lenten reading challenge. A huge thank you to all that participated. We also launched our first Give \$12 Campaign which collected money for our \$25,000 Pledge to All Saints Camp. We were short of meeting our goal but we raised over \$2000. If you didn't have a chance to participate, feel free to donate and I'll send an acknowledgment to the person of your choice. All money collected goes to All Saints Camp. Please help us help them. We've also celebrated both the Nativity of our Lord and His Baptism in the River Jordan. And depending on when you receive this Bulletin you may or may not have hosted your Souper Bowl Sunday Event at your Church. The Advent and Nativity Season were definitely busy and now we're heading straight into the Pre-Lenten season. So, what does that mean for us? Another busy time in the life of the UOL.

Please consider joining the Psalter reading group. It is a wonderful habit to form in preparation for the Resurrection of our Lord. It is especially moving to know that with your fellow UOL members, the whole Book of Psalms is read on a daily basis. It may seem daunting but I know you can do it. Better yet, get your family to sign up or your church friends. Anyone can do it. If you think you're too busy then MAKE TIME FOR IT! I plan on doing it!

Once Great Lent starts I encourage you to make a point of attending the Canon of St. Andrew of Crete and Pre-Sanctified Liturgies. For me, these are some of the most intimate moments that prove to be so spiritually moving. There is so much beauty to be seen in these services. It is a wonderful lead up to the Feast of Feasts - Pascha!

The Lenten Season also brings our two Lenten Workshops. One will be in a new location in the Philadelphia area and the other in the Penn-Ohio area. Make your plans to attend one if not both. You will see old friends and make new ones and be spiritually renewed. What's even better is you'll only be a few months from seeing all of these great faces again at this year's upcoming UOL Convention in Scranton, PA.

Yes, Scranton – our 2023 UOL Convention city. The last weekend in July is already locked in and in no time, we'll be getting our registration information out to you. All details are posted on our social media and our website. Should you have any questions please feel free to reach out to me. You can email me at president@uolofusa.org. I'd be happy to answer any questions or help pick out your Banquet attire. I always say, the more the merrier. Invite your friends and your priest!

I remember a moment at the last Convention in Carnegie, when His Eminence Metropolitan Antony called all of the priests in attendance and their wives to take a photo with V. Rev. Fr. William Diakiw. He mentioned that he was so moved to see so many clergy in attendance. I would love to see this again for this year's Convention. If your priest hasn't been to a Convention recently, encourage them to attend.

So don't wait another minute. Get your calendar out and block off the dates for our wonderful educational workshops and for the UOL Convention—July 27 -30th (yes there are less business sessions this time around). Next, call your friends and make a point of meeting up at the Convention together.

I pray the start of your Lenten Journey is peaceful and prayerful. And lest I forget, since Forgiveness Sunday falls on the last Sunday of this month, I ask that you forgive me should I have offended you in word or deed. May God forgive us all!

I remain, Yours in Christ,

Matushka Laryssa

2023 Summer Vacation in the Pocono Mountains

Submitted by Karen Ferraro

76th UOL Convention Chair

Our 2023 UOL Convention is July 27-30 in the Scranton/Wilkes Barre PA area. Why not plan your summer vacation around this? The beautiful Pocono Mountains area boasts scenery filled with rolling hills (we call them MOUNTAINS in Eastern PA), woods, waterfalls, and lakes. NASCAR fan? The NASCAR Cup Series race for 2023 is the Sunday before convention – July 23 at Pocono Raceway. The Kalahari Resort in the Pocono Mountains features America's largest indoor waterpark. The kids will also enjoy Camelbeach Outdoor water park at Camelback Mountain with over 37 rides, slides, and attractions. Like to shop? The Crossings Outlets are a stone's throw from the Camelback Resort, as is other shopping and dining. While you're in the area, take a drive to the peak at Big Pocono State Park for scenic views. Bushkill Falls in Lehman Township is the Niagara of Pennsylvania. On your way there, check out the Delaware Water Gap area and take a Pocono Historic Trolley Tour. Baseball fan in your family? The Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders have home games in Moosic, PA on July 18 – 23. Train buff? Visit the historic Steamtown National Historic Site in Scranton or take a ride on the Lehigh Gorge Scenic Railway of the Reading & Northern Railroad in quaint Jim Thorpe, PA. And there's lots more to do before or after you join us for our 76th Annual UOL Convention! Our convention hotel is the Holiday Inn Wilkes Barre – East Mountain. Our host parish is St. Michael UOC in Scranton. Start planning your fun summer!



St. Mary's New Britain, CT

Submitted by Teresa Linck

The Junior and Senior Chapters of St. Mary's in New Britain, CT have had a very busy fall. They began by helping out at our parish's Fall Festival. They sold Ukrainian ceramics, Christmas themed items and held a raffle. Proceeds were split between our Aid to Ukraine fund, church and chapter.

The Senior chapter then hosted a soup luncheon for the parish's Annual meeting.

The Junior chapter teamed up with members of various other youth groups in the area to collect items for the underprivileged youth throughout the world. They worked with an international organization called Samaritan's Purse to make Operation Christmas Child a success. They collected personal care items, small toys and educational materials. They then met and packed over 800 shoe boxes to be distributed to needy children. It was a wonderful experience working with other youth groups. They did good for the poor and met new friends in the process.



On a more local level, the Juniors collected toys to be brought to the local shelter for the homeless. As a group they feel children need to be happy at Christmas.

MESSAGE FROM THE JUNIOR UOL PRESIDENT

Natalie Swan



Христос Рождається!

Christ is Born!

On behalf of the Jr. National UOL Board, I would like to extend a heartfelt and warm greeting to everyone during this Nativity Season. This is a special time filled with love, joy, and peace, and I hope you all spend it with family, friends, and those closest to you while also preparing for the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

The real meaning of Christmas is celebrating the birth of Jesus, God's gift of love to the world. When reflecting on the tradition of giving gifts at Christmas, we are reminded of the Magi, who gave gifts to baby Jesus. Because this tradition has become a part of our culture, it can be easy to consume yourself in the gift giving aspect. However, this tradition should not take away from the real meaning of Christmas.

While tangible gifts are nice, there are also spiritual gifts such as love, compassion, and kindness which we hope to receive from those close to us. Perhaps the most important gift we are given is the gift of life. The life of our Church, culture, and its youth are precious gifts which we must keep alive.

As the Jr. National UOL President, I urge you to keep your parish alive, especially during this Nativity season. Encourage the youth to attend services, open your hearts to us. We, the youth, are the "now." We are growing up in the Church and as we age, some will stay and continue to be passionate Ukrainian Orthodox Christians, while others may stray away. You, as our role models, will leave a legacy within our Church, which will directly affect how we the youth help continue our faith.

As the Nativity Season comes to an end, we look forward to Great Lent. Great Lent brings us the Great Lent Giveaway (GLG). Although this year's recipient has not yet been determined, we are working to decide on one. This project is being organized by Vice President Mia Zetick, along with the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. More information on this project will be released soon. We look forward to your support of this initiative.

May the Nativity of Christ bring you and yours love, peace and joy!

For guidance or support please reach out to me at [@nds122304@gmail.com](mailto:nds122304@gmail.com), or via cell 610-772-5355.

Yours in Christ,

Natalie Swan

(Petrikyvka - Continued from page 2)

The paints used were originally made from things found in nature like herbs, flowers and vegetables. Only in the second half of the 20th century were actual paints like gouache and watercolor used. Likewise, the brushes were made from tree shoots or cattails (the flowers) though the other cat tail (like your four-legged friend) was used too. I would never dare ask my cat, Whiskers, for a little of his fur for a paintbrush. He would never talk to me again.

I'm hoping this little tidbit of information planted a seed (like the brushstroke). If you didn't know anything about Petrykivka I hope you're intrigued to learn more. If you already knew a little bit about it, I hope it encourages you to support this art form and others. Petrykivka is only one beautiful art form that Ukraine can take credit for. Without support and preservation of such beauties, however, leaves us with very little.



St. Vladimir Philadelphia

Submitted by Natalie Bilynsky

The holiday season is typically busy for St. Vladimir's Senior UOL Chapter. Since the UOL Convention we have continued our Baba's Attic table. Our initial plan was to use funds to support Convention delegates, we were thrilled that we raised over \$1000 dollars in selling items that were donated. This year we did support multiple delegates with the Convention packet price being covered for all delegates from the chapter. This year we had 5 delegates who attended in addition to 4 members who served on the National Executive Board. We hope to send many members from our chapter to the Convention in Scranton.

We were thrilled that this year our Thanksgiving dinner was in person and not a "take-out" event. Pani Matka Laura Naumenko started that tradition within our parish and we are so incredibly thankful for her wisdom. We have a delicious Thanksgiving dinner and all of the profits from the event are donated. This year we decided to split the donation. We raised \$675 for All Saints Camp and \$675 for our Hope Fund. Our parish developed the Hope fund sev-



eral years ago. For a while the funds were used to support food donations to the community. More recently the Hope Fund has been used to pay for mailing of supplies to Ukraine and also for gift cards to support refugees from the war in Ukraine.

Our chapter also collected school supplies and book bags to support children of refugees who are settling in the Philadelphia area.

This year we went caroling both as a fundraiser and also to visit shut-ins. We visited members of our parish who are unable to attend church because of



health reasons. Additionally, we also did fundraising by caroling, and \$2105 will be donated to All Saints Camp.

We look forward to seeing all of you at the UOL Convention in Scranton. May your holidays be filled with joy.



LSSK Scholarship

Submitted by Anna Anderson

If you have a high school senior, or know of one in your parish, then it is time to encourage them to apply for the LSSK scholarship. In 1975, at the 28th Annual UOL Convention, the LSSK scholarship was established in the memory of two lovely, dynamic ladies; Lynn Sawchuk and Sharon Kuzbyt. Their untimely deaths left an indelible mark on the life of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and the Ukrainian Orthodox League.

Each year, the LSSK scholarship is awarded to eligible applicants that must be high school seniors or **within 5 years of high school graduation** and be enrolled in higher education.

Criteria includes: excellent academics, being a current or former member, in the case of a college applicant, of the Junior Orthodox League; have a record of outstanding performance in the service of their church and of the League; involvement in extra-curricular activities; and be of high moral and ethical character.

1. Applications must be submitted by **certified mail (preferred) or email**.
2. Each recommendation form must be submitted in a separate envelope that is sealed by the recommender and signed across the seal of the envelope or be emailed directly to the LSSK chair at the NEB email for Second-Vice President.
3. The recommender's sealed envelope should be returned to the applicant to be submitted with all the other recommenders.
4. Recommenders include: Jr. UOL advisor; Jr. UOL president or Vice-President; Parish priest; and Guidance Counselor, principal or teacher.
5. An official transcript must be submitted.
6. All proper signatures must appear on the application.
7. The applicant gathers all the above and submits it in one envelope that is then sent by certified mail (preferred method) and must arrive by the May 31st deadline to be considered.
8. Applications are available online at UOL of the USA. On the homepage, scroll down to resources and click on scholarships and recognition; scroll to Jr. UOL Awards and you will find where to click for the application form.
9. Applications are to be sent to:

Anna Anderson LSSSK Chair 908 Stewart Road Salem, OH 44460

Again the deadline is May 31st.

We encourage donations to this worthy scholarship.

Many Jr. UOL members have benefitted from this honor. If you are a past recipient, or the parent of one, I especially appeal to you to give a generous donation. Donations may be sent to:

Joe Goodge NEB Financial Secretary
1924 State Rte. 208 Pulaski, PA 16143

Be sure to mark your donation for the LSSK scholarship and, please, be generous.

2023 UOL Essay Contest Topics

Pre-K and Kindergarten:

Draw a picture of the ocean and some things that God made that are in the ocean.

Grades 1 and 2:

Draw a picture of you praying to God and then write 2 to 3 sentences on some things for which you pray.

Grades 3 and 4:

Write 50 – 100 words on how we should prepare for confession in order to receive forgiveness or absolution from our sins.

Grades 5 and 6:

During morning prayers we ask God, “Create in me a clean heart, Oh God, and renew in me a spirit of truth.” Write 100 to 150 words on what this means to you and why it is important to begin our day saying this prayer.

Grades 7 and 8:

Write 150 to 200 words on the following topic. Through the Bible, God tells how He wants us to live, and the choices He wants us to make. Choose a Bible story that clearly illustrates this to you and tell why you chose that particular story.

Grades 9 and 10:

Write 200 to 250 words on the following topic. Making the choices that Christ wants us to make can be hard sometimes. Tell of a time your faith in Christ showed you the correct path and lit the way to make a tough decision easier.

Grades 11 and 12:

Please write 250 to 500 words explaining the following. At the end of evening prayers we say “My hope is the Father, my refuge is the Son, and my shelter is the Holy Spirit. Holy Trinity, glory to Thee.”

Adults 18 and over:

Write 500 or more words explaining the following. Psalm 51 talks about making sacrifices to God. “For Thou hast no delight in sacrifice, were I to give a burnt offering, Thou wouldst not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart.”

This year’s contest deadline is April 29th so get started!

1. **Entries must be postmarked by April 29, 2023.**

2. **NO NAMES ON THE FRONT OF ANY ENTRY.**

3. All entries must include the following information: **(PLEASE USE THE COVER PAGE SUPPLIED)**

- Participant’s first and last name
- Age and grade in school
- The name and address of participant’s parish, including city and state

4. Drawings must be no larger than 12 x 18 and **NO** names on the front of drawing. Please attach a **COVER PAGE** or use the **BACK** of the drawing for the information listed above. **All drawings MUST be mailed.**

5. Written entries must be on 8 ½” x 11” paper. Include a cover page with the identifying information listed above. Entries for 9th grade and above must be typed or printed.

6. **Emailed entries must be scanned in and emailed, SO DO NOT TAKE PHOTOS OF ENTRIES AND EMAIL THEM, THEY ARE DIFFICULT TO READ AND WILL NOT BE JUDGED. Emailed entries must be time stamped no later than 7:00 PM of the deadline date.**

Entries may be submitted in English or Ukrainian.

ALL ENTRIES WILL BE JUDGED FOR CONTENT, CREATIVITY AND NEATNESS.

No entries will be accepted after the previously mentioned deadline - April 29, 2023.

Please send entries to:

Teresa Linck: 413 Juniper Lane, Cheshire, CT 06410

Teresa Linck at: tlinck.essays@gmail.com

UOL Fellowship — Strategic Plan 2023 Overview

Submitted by Natalie Bilynsky

At the UOL Convention there was initial discussion about alternatives to support individuals where the chapter structure is more difficult because of where they live or the size of their parish. If forming a chapter is not possible, we want to be certain that the core of the UOL, building bonds and fellowship between members, is possible.

For our Members at Large – can we develop a Fellowship Chapter – where the members can gather together virtually. It can be a meeting or a fellowship gathering to develop connections between members of the UOC of USA. As the lay organization of the UOC we can promote connections and develop bonds across the country.

We are proposing several models for developing connections. There are several models being proposed because we honestly want to think about how to build the connections between members of the UOC of USA and it will be the need that dictates which of these are successful.

The first proposal is that there are connections between areas of focus within our parish life. The UOL is unique in that we have members who are active in many areas of the church. The UOL can foster support for each of these roles within the church. Here are some examples of how this strategy could potentially work.

Choir - where individuals can share resources related to choir, including music, strategies to develop choir, recruiting members, etc.

Religious education - Connecting individuals who are preparing Sunday School lessons or leading Bible study within their parishes.

Parish administration – connect individuals who have questions about parish administration.

Support efforts in Ukraine and Refugees - develop a network of resources and a space to discuss and share lessons learned.

The second strategy that can be used to foster connections is one focused on phases of life, perhaps even challenges in life. The suggestion would be to have “discussion groups” or virtual meetings facilitated by a priest to address questions for each of the following groups:

Young parents - the goal would be to develop a support system across our parishes to provide resources for young parents.

Adults caring for elderly – a challenge that many of our faithful face is caring for aging parents.

Senior citizens - developing bonds across our UOC of USA for our seniors. This connection can include chat times as well as educational programs for our seniors.

Young adults – At the UOL Convention there was discussion about developing a Young Adult group virtually to connect and reconnect with friends from the UOL and from Teenage Conference. Organizing times to connect virtually can potentially lead to resuming our Young Adult retreats, weekends and presence at the UOL Convention.

The third possibility of fostering connections is to encourage all UOL members and UOC faithful to support existing efforts within the UOL Commission and Committee structure. For example, we hope you will consider to volunteer and support:

Education - writing articles for UOL Bulletin, judging essay contests, assist with planning or aspects of retreats – developing a program for children at retreats.

Youth - assist with the Pre-Juniors, or consider sponsoring an event for Young Adults.

Mission and Caregiving - St. Andrew Society with Souper Bowl Sunday. Each of these Mission projects can easily be sponsored across all parishes of the UOC of USA.

Vocations and Clergy Support - support MJSF.

In addition to the structure of Fellowship and Connection is the thought that through the year – we sponsor events at similar times. We suggest that across the UOC of USA we can build a community that has a similar calendar of events. Here is a sample schedule that could be used throughout parishes where an individual member or small group can make a huge impact.

Early fall – Back to School – sponsor activity related to supporting our Sunday School Programs across the USA.

Thanksgiving Food Collection and remembrance of the Holodomor. Every parish can donate food to a local food bank and place a sticker on the donation stating: “In 1932 10 million people perished in an artificial famine in Ukraine, we pray no one ever goes hungry again.”

Participate in Pray our Way for Phillips Fast – join in our reading during the month of December where faithful read from the old testament Monday through Friday in preparation for the Nativity. As part of this reading we also have a prayer partner for whom you pray during the Fast. Consider joining the Pray our Way.

Nativity – Carol for All Saints Camp or Carol to visit parish shut-ins.

(Continued on page 6)

Lost and Found**Wilmington De****Submitted by Jean Roeth**

Before the pandemic and since the pandemic, our parish always has an annual Flea Market in August. The year 2019 was no different. It's usually a fun day with many repeat customers coming in, finding and purchasing some new treasures. As in years past, we had a book table with lots of hard and softback books. This particular year, we found a hardback, first edition book called *Gateway to the Mountains by George W. Wireman*. This book, in itself, was nothing spectacular. Where it caught our attention, was the fact that it was personally signed by the author. We decided to keep the book and try to find the family of the author.

Over that winter, one of our UOL members did some research and eventually found the granddaughter, Brenda Wastler of Westminster, MD! They sent a letter by mail to let her know that we had a copy of her grandfather's book and would she like to have it returned to her? Her response was a resounding "YES!" Since the pandemic hit that following spring, we had to put off the reuniting of book and family. Brenda had requested an actual meeting because she wanted to thank us in person for finding and returning the book to her family.

Eventually in May of 2022, after many phone calls and text messages, two of our members took the 90-mile trip from Wilmington to Rehoboth Beach, Delaware (where Brenda and some friends were holding a religious retreat there). She was very excited and grateful to be receiving this very rare copy of her grandfather's book. Mr. Wireman, according to Brenda, was a wonderful historian, gathering information regarding his area of Cacocin, Maryland. Many copies of this autographed book have been "lost," but this copy is back with the family and will be a legacy for a family member to remember their grandfather.


Souper Bowl Sunday 2023
Submitted by Anna Anderson

This year's Souper Bowl will be held on Sunday, February 12, 2023. Proceeds raised on Souper Bowl Sunday go to fund the St. Andrew Society Soup Kitchens in Ukraine.

St. Andrew Society provides many meals to the hungry throughout Ukraine by providing numerous meals through its soup kitchens. In addition to the soup kitchens, St. Andrew Society stocks food pantries and delivers food staples to shut-ins all over Ukraine. St. Andrew Society has expanded their outreach. The Society has been giving aid to the families that have lost soldiers in the Russian Aggression.

Be sure to submit an article to the UOL Bulletin that explains your Souper Bowl event.

Donations may be made directly by sending your check to:
Joe Goodge, UOL Financial Secretary 1924 State Rte. 208 Pulaski, PA 16143

Chapter and Membership Reminder

Be sure that your chapter has submitted dues and a project donation.

All can be submitted to our Financial Secretary Joe Goodge (address above) Member at Large? Dues are \$20.

(Strategic Plan - Continued from page 5)

Souper Bowl Sunday – Every parish of the UOC of USA can sponsor a Souper Bowl event to support St. Andrew society. You can prepare an elaborate event with multiple soups or simply put out a pot to collect money for St. Andrew Society. Following the event consider writing an article for the UOC and UOL webpage as well as the UOL Bulletin.

Participate in Pray our Way during Great Lent, and join in our reading the Psalms Monday through Friday in preparation for the Resurrection of our Lord. As part of this reading we also have a prayer partner for whom you pray during Great Lent. Consider joining the Pray our Way.

During Great Lent participate in a UOL Retreat. We currently have two retreats, one in Eastern Pennsylvania and one in Western Pennsylvania.

UOL Essay Contest - consider writing an essay and be sure to distribute the essay topics within your parish to encourage participation.

Clergy Appreciation Day – the UOL has designated the Sunday after Ascension and prior to Pentecost as Clergy Appreciation Day. Consider sponsoring an event or writing a card to your clergy to support the Clergy within your parish.

Attend UOL Convention and All Saints Camp for Family Fest – we have events scheduled where we can connect as a family each year. Prepare to attend the UOL Convention and Family Fest.

Are you interested in helping our efforts to support members of the UOC of USA and would like you to support our efforts to build connections across our parishes? In review of all of these ways to connect, did one idea spark your interest? If you are interested in developing any of these ideas – please reach out to me – nsufler@aol.com. More information about each of these initiatives will be available on the UOL website and within the UOL Bulletin.

*Lenten Retreat**April 1, 2023**“Be still, and know that I am God” Psalm 45:11*

*Retreat will focus on the Orthodox Perspective on
Meditation and Mindfulness*

**Basilian Spirituality Center****710 Fox Chase Rd,****Jenkintown, PA 19046**

Retreat registration:

\$40 for adults (early bird rate) - \$50 after 3/22/23

\$30 for adolescents (aged 13 to 18) - \$40 after 3/22/23

\$20 for children 7 to 12- \$30 after 3/22/23

Registration includes breakfast, lunch and snacks.

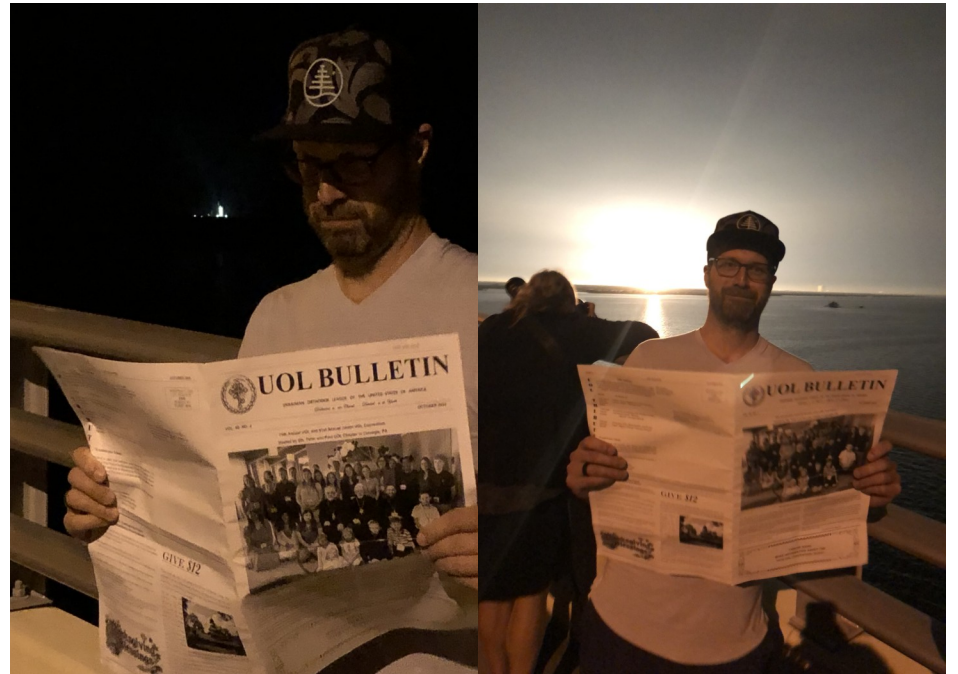
For more information contact: Oleh or Natalie at nsufler@aol.com

call – 610-892-7315

UOL Bulletin Pictures



Fr. Zomchak reads the UOL Bulletin at the Senior National Executive Board Meeting in Carnegie, PA.



Michael Nakonachny reading the UOL Bulletin at the Artemis launch.

*Join in the fun!
Take a picture reading your UOL Bulletin!
Submit pictures by sending to
nsufler@aol.com*



Above, Michael Nakonachny starts the 'reading the UOL Bulletin with the largest in the world' picture collection. Here he is with the largest chain, chair and fire hydrant. You too, can start a 'reading the UOL Bulletin collection.'

Below Michael reads the UOL Bulletin at the Sunrise Café and at the Lodge Cast Iron Museum in Tennessee.



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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.

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

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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

Send your tribute today!



76th UOL ANNUAL CONVENTION

JULY 27-30, 2023

Hosted by: UOL National Executive Board

Host Parish

St. Michael Parish
540 North Main Ave.
Scranton, PA 18504
Fr. Philip Harendza



Hotel

Holiday Inn Wilkes Barre -
East Mountain an IHG Hotel
600 Wildflower Dr.
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702



uol.orthodoxws.com/76thuolconvention
Email: 76thuol@uolofusa.org



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Mary's Tears Prayer Bracelets

The bracelet is beautifully packaged in an organza **purse with a brief description of this story and how to use a prayer bracelet.** All bracelets are made for adults (approximately 8 inches – with a slight variation based on the size of the seeds). Please specify if you request a larger or a smaller bracelet.

To order send your name, address, and phone/email. Bracelets are \$10. Please add \$2.00 for shipping. Please make check payable to “St. Vladimir’s Senior UOL.” Send order and payment to Natalie Bilynsky 703 Pine Ridge Road Media, PA 19063 nsufler@aol.com



Questions? nsufler@aol.com

Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA

2023 Annual WPa/Ohio Lenten retreat

Creating a "Clean Heart" and a "Right Spirit"

Discernment vs. Judgment

Save the date

MARCH 18, 2023

Continuing our Journey in Search of God

