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UOL BULLETIN

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dedicated to our Church -- Devoted to its Youth

VOL. 72 NO. 2 WINTER 2025

78th Annual UOL and 64th Annual Junior UOL Convention - Tampa, Florida

Submitted by Tatiana Korotinsky

This summer, our Junior UOL gathered for the annual Convention in Tampa, Florida. Delegates joined in prayer, discussed new ideas for strengthening youth ministry, and enjoyed fellowship rooted in our Orthodox faith and Ukrainian heritage. Throughout the weekend, the Junior Board held productive and focused meetings, working together to plan for the year ahead and strengthen our mission of engaging youth in the life of the Church. In addition to our business sessions, we shared time together through activities such as visiting the Florida Aquarium, taking a dolphin cruise, enjoying a group meal at Whiskey Joe's, and spending time swimming and relaxing at the beach. We express our sincere gratitude to Holy Protection Orthodox Church in Dover, Florida for hosting and supporting us so generously, and to the Senior UOL Board for their hard work in preparing the convention and helping make the experience uplifting and enjoyable for all. Gatherings like this remind us how important it is to walk together in faith, friendship, and service to Christ and His Church.

79th UOL Convention

Palos Park, IL

July 29, 2026 –August 2, 2026

"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer." (Romans 12:12)

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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: nsufler@aol.com). If submitting photos please be sure to obtain consents for photos to be included in the UOL Bulletin.

MJSF Scholarships Awarded at UOL Convention

Submitted by Joe Goodge

This year the UOL gathered in Tampa, Florida for our 78th annual convention. This was a first for the convention to be held in Tampa, but not the first for awarding MJSF scholarships. In fact, it has been 59 years since the tradition began! That is when the National Executive Board deemed it appropriate to form the Vocations and Clergy Support Commission in honor of Metropolitan John, our first Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA.

Since that time seminarians have been awarded scholarships and clergy have been given grants to assist them with their education and priestly endeavors. The following seminarians were awarded scholarship money totaling $4,000.

Subdeacon Andrii Akulenko; Subdeacon Mykola Stefanyk; Subdeacon Yurii Izhyk; Seminarian Bohdan Bodnar; Seminarian Marian Koval and Subdeacon Yuri Stefankiv.

Through the years the Vocations and Clergy Support Commission has expanded from its original purpose of granting MJSF scholarships to implementing a clergy appreciation day to purchasing garments for newly ordained priests. This of course takes money. So now, in addition to the annual fund drive, we are implementing a new annual fundraising event for the MJSF scholarship fund. In honor of Metropolitan John, we are asking that all parishes have a Panakhyda on Clergy Appreciation Sunday and host a coffee hour or take up a collection for the Metropolitan John Scholarship Fund. All money will be put in the restricted fund for MJSF projects. Our seminarians and priests are a vital part of our Church community and deserve our support. We hope that you will make an effort to support them by participating in our new fundraising event.

Praying our Way Together
Sponsored by
UOL Education Commission

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

Each member of the prayer group reads assigned Psalm readings (Monday– Friday) and is assigned a prayer partner.

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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR UOL PRESIDENT

Natalie Bilynsky

Christ is Born!

I write this article as we are preparing for Thanksgiving and the Nativity season is fast approaching. This is a wonderful time of the year when we pause to give thanks. Although you might be reading this article after the Thanksgiving holiday, we should always pause to be thankful for all that we have.

I am so incredibly grateful for the UOL and the amazing things that the UOL and our Church has provided to me. As many of you know, I have been part of the UOL actively since I was a child. I joined the UOL when I was twelve and have been a member consistently since then.

This fall I had the opportunity to speak to the delegates at the Sobor and to tell them about the joys of being a UOL member. I encourage each of you to do the same with members within your parish. The true blessing of the UOL is the fellowship and friendship we develop. This was my first Sobor, however, I knew so many individuals at the Sobor because of the UOL. I am grateful for the bonds and friends I have from the UOL, and feel an obligation to work for the Church so that those younger than me have that wonderful connection to others in the Church.

There have been many times in my UOL career that outsiders have commented about the organization. I remember years ago our Philadelphia junior and senior chapters went out for dinner on UOL Sunday and the server asked about the organization. Even decades ago, it was unusual for a large group to gather with all ages as a family. In our society it is even less common now to gather as a group with various generations together – that is our UOL family. At the Convention this year, there was a question about our group – who is this group with pre-juniors, juniors, young adults and seniors who come together as a family.

We are the UOL family, as family, I greet you on UOL Sunday, I thank you for your friendship, and for your prayers. Together as a family we are strong. This Nativity season be sure to reach out to all of our UOC family. As UOL family we have an obligation to care for each other. Our community grows stronger through this love and caring for each other. You might not know who needs an extra hug, a card, a prayer, a kind word. I ask you this Nativity season – to reach out to a UOL friend with whom you have not had recent contact. Encourage a junior UOL member who is active in your parish. Visit an elderly parish member. Pray for each other. Send a note. Give a call. There are so many ways to show your love to each other. Be a living example of the UOL model – dedicated to our Church, devoted to its youth.

In this UOL Bulletin, you will see upcoming regional events, consider joining one of the events. When you receive this Bulletin be sure to sign up for Praying our Way for the Nativity season and soon we will have sign up for Great Lent. We also have information about planning your Souper Bowl Sunday event. It is quite amazing that last year our parishes raised over fourteen thousand dollars as part of Souper Bowl Sunday. I hope that this year we can surpass that amount.

It is also time to start thinking about attending our UOL Retreats. We have ads for each of our retreats in this Bulletin. If you parish is planning a religious educational event – please let us know so that we can encourage attendance. It is our goal to plan more regional events and also to support our neighboring communities. Again, as a family in Christ it is important for us to continue to develop our wonderful UOL community.

In your parish Bulletins you will be seeing inserts about the UOL. I am hoping to send these inserts monthly so that our parishes can continue to learn more about the UOL.

Be sure to follow the UOL on Facebook and also check out our webpage to get more information about all of the upcoming UOL events.

I wish you and your family a blessed Nativity.

Thank you for everything you do!

With Love in Christ,
Natalie

Our 2025 LSSK Scholarship Winner Mia Zetick
Submitted by Teresa Linck

Congratulations to Mia Zetick, our 2025 LSSK scholarship winner. Mia is the daughter of Amanda and Alexander Zetick. Besides having been Secretary of her local Junior UOL Chapter, she was also Vice President and then President of the National Junior UOL for two years.

She is an outstanding member of the St. Vladimir's Cathedral Parish in Philadelphia, Pa. Fr. Naumenko described her as being dedicated to her faith and her community service commitments. Her regular attendance at church makes her an excellent role model for younger parishioners. She is a church reader. Mia belongs to the Church choir, and she loves going Christmas caroling. She helps out in both UOL and parish fund raisers. Mia spent time visiting those who can no longer make it to church.

She loved going to All Sts. Camp. Her parish priest commended her on her involvement with the younger children of both her parish and when she is at camp.
Mia is a graduate of Abington Senior High School. She earned distinguished honors all four year of school. She was a member of the National Honor Society. She was on the Executive Committee of the Student Council and earned the Student Council Civic Award and Exceptional Service Award. Her teacher says "she is a leader and brings energy and vitality to her tasks." He also commended her on her ability to motivate her classmates. It was not all school work for her, she was on the Varsity Volleyball team for four years and was in the theater program all four years of school.

Please join me in wishing her much success at the University of Pittsburgh. God bless her in all her future endeavors.

79th Annual UOL Convention

July 30, 2026 to August 2, 2026

Palos Park, Illinois

The Palos Park UOL Chapter and the NEB have been meeting regularly to plan the 79th Convention. We are excited to share the plans for the Convention.

The Convention Theme is "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer." (Romans, 12:12). For sessions, we will be looking at ways that technology can assist our chapters and parishes.

Sessions for the Convention will start on Thursday, however, we hope that UOLers come early to see the sites in the Chicago area. Wednesday evening we will have a wonderful hospitality night and time to gather and enjoy each others company.

Thursday following Divine Liturgy we will enjoy a brunch and sessions will begin.

Thursday evening will be fun for everyone – with Juniors enjoying a trip to a virtual reality center and Seniors having dinner at Tradycja Polish Fusion restaurant and enjoying a stand-up comedy show.

Friday – pack your best Ukrainian Wear – for Ukie Style Night- at the parish hall. There will be prizes for best dressed! The night will include a fashion show, dancing and a wonderful Ukrainian menu.

Saturday- Banquet and Ball at the Hotel Event Center.

Sunday- Brunch at the parish hall.

Mark your calendar and save the dates!

July 30, 2026 to August 2, 2026

Registration and yearbook materials will be sent and will be online in early spring.

MESSAGE FROM THE JUNIOR UOL PRESIDENT

Tatiana Korotinsky

Слава Ісусу Христу! Glory to Jesus Christ!

I hope that everyone has been settling well into the new church and school year. This season brings new routines and responsibilities, but it also invites us to renew our commitment to Christ and to our parish communities. Remaining rooted in faith, active in parish life, and connected to one another strengthens us as we prepare for the Nativity season.

Our Junior UOL year is off to a wonderful start. The National Board has already held two productive meetings as we begin planning our initiatives for the year, and we are currently preparing for an in-person meeting in the near future. I am grateful for the enthusiasm and dedication each board member brings to their role. Together, we are focusing on encouraging youth involvement across our parishes through service, fellowship, and opportunities to grow in faith and leadership.

As part of our ongoing mission to support those dedicating their lives to the Church, the Junior UOL is pleased to recognize our seminarians as this year's recipients of the Metropolitan John Scholarship Fund. Their dedication to theological study, parish ministry, and the spiritual life of our faithful is a true example of living out the calling to serve Christ and His Church. We are also proud to congratulate Mia Zetick, our former Junior UOL President, on being awarded the LSSK Scholarship for her outstanding commitment and contributions to the Church. We pray that God blesses all of our scholarship recipients, strengthens their efforts, and guides them as they continue to serve as leaders in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

As we journey through the Nativity Fast, I encourage all chapters to remain active, hold meetings and service projects, and welcome new youth to participate. Whether a chapter is large or small, each gathering, each effort, and each act of service helps strengthen our Church and builds lifelong faith-filled friendships. Every young person has a role in the life of the Church, and your presence and participation truly make a difference.

Thank you to our clergy, advisors, parents, and supporters for your continued prayers and encouragement. Your love and guidance help our youth grow in faith and leadership.

With love in Christ,
Tatiana Korotinsky

UOL Member Zoom Coffee Klatch
Submitted by Shirley Duffy

Join us for a Zoom coffee klatch for UOL members, family, and friends they would like to invite on Saturday, December 13, 2025, at 10:00 AM EST. It's a great way to connect with family and friends from other parts of the country or even near you that you haven't seen in a while. Our discussion topic is: three non-monetary gifts you can give to your church, your family, and friends this Christmas.

After introductions and this ice-breaker discussion, we will open the floor to the questions of the participants.

Please RSVP by email or text to shirleykduffyesq@gmail.com, 412-518-0912, or by regular mail, Shirley Duffy, P.O. Box 7959, Pittsburgh, PA 15216, by Monday, November 24, 2025. I will send you the Zoom link a day or so before the Coffee Klatch.

If you do not have a smartphone, tablet, or computer, you can attend this event using a phone. We will send instructions. The Zoom call will open at 9:30 AM EST for those who want to have some time to catch up with family and friends, then we'll start with introductions and discussion at 10:00 AM EST.

UOL Essay Contest Submitted by Teresa Linck

Congratulations to all of our winners!

Pre-K and Kindergarten

First Place- Yana Dobosh, Sts. Peter & Paul, Palos Park, IL
Second Place- Mykhailo Burakov, Sts. Peter & Paul, Palos Park, IL
Third Place – Martyn Holeyko, Sts. Peter & Paul, Palos Park, IL

Honorable Mention

Emilia Yakubets-Palos Park
Yeva Motyka - Palos Park
Kateryna Romanska - Palos Park
Diane Chebotar-Palos Park
Ilona Mandevych - Palos Park
Avery McCormick - Youngstown
Isabelle Lepkowski - Johnson City
Declan Scannel - Johnson City
Kennedy Schumacher - Johnson City
Tymofii Burdylaik - Johnson City
Elizabeth Kravchenko - Northampton

Grades 1 and 2

First Place- Anna Gorodyska, Sts. Peter & Paul, Palos Park, IL
Second Place – Raphael Bhandari, St. John the Baptist, Johnson City, NY
Third Place – Samantha Liberis . Peter & Paul, Palos Park,

Honorable Mention

Amelia Sendeha-Palos Park
Iryna Znak - Palos Park
Andrii Oliferuk - Palos Park
Maksym Dukhnit - Palos Park
Inna Hrechyn - Palos Park
Anna Dobash - Palos Park
Daniel Mazan Jr. - Carteret
Karina Stranshinsky - Carteret
Simion Sacalos - New Britain
Anthony Sambat - New Britain

Grades 3 and 4

First Place- Pavlo Klym, Sts. Peter & Paul, Palos Park, IL
Second Place Kristina Youngblood, St. Barbara, Sarasota, FL
Third Place – Dominik Romaniv, Sts. Peter & Paul, Palos Park, IL

Honorable Mention

Maksym Zharyi - Palo Park
Josie Oksana Rousen - Palos Park

Grades 5 and 6

First Place- Matthew Bureiko, Sts. Peter & Paul, Palos Park, IL
Second Place – Mariia Rybiy, Sts. Peter & Paul, Palos Park, IL
Third Place - Mia Debias, St. Demetrius, Carteret, NJ

Honorable Mention

Sofia Pylypchuk - Palos Park
Michael Youngblood - Sarasota
Milana Burdyliak - Johnson City

Grades 7 and 8

First Place- Melania Holeyko, Sts. Peter & Paul, Palos Park, IL
Second Place- Danylo Oliferuk, Sts. Peter & Paul, Palos Park, IL
Third Place- Anna Piskoun Sts. Peter & Paul, Palos Park, IL

Honorable Mention

Oleksandra Bachynska - Palos Park
Nazariy Bryndzia - Palos Park

Grades 9 and 10

First Place- David Sendeha, Sts. Peter & Paul, Youngstown, OH
Second Place – Gabriella Youngblood, St. Barbara Sarasota, FL
Third Place - Quinn Hatala, St. John the Baptist, Johnson City, NY

Grades 11 and 12

First Place- Mykola Brundzia, Sts. Peter & Paul, Palos Park, IL
Second Place - Qorey Carter, St Demetrius, Carteret, NJ
Third Place – Daria Moroz, St. John the Baptist, NY

Adult

First Place- Olesya Korotinsky, St. Vladimir, Philadelphia, PA
Second Place- Karen Larsen, Sts. Peter & Paul, Palos Park, IL
Third Place- Michael Jogan, St. Vladimir, Parma, OH

There were 155 entries. This is the age break-down of each entry.

Pre-K and Kindergarten	37
Grades 1 and 2	29
Grades 3 and 4	36
Grades 5 and 6	20
Grades 7 and 8	15
Grades 9 and 10	10
Grades 11 and 12	5
Over 18	3

Parishes represented:

St. Demetrius; Carteret, NJ
St. John the Baptist; Johnson City, NY
St. Mary; New Britain, CT
Assumption of the Virgin Mary; Northampton, PA
Sts. Peter & Paul; Palos Park, IL
St. Vladimir; Parma, OH
St. Vladimir; Philadelphia, PA
St Barbara; Sarasota, FL
St. Nicholas; Troy NY
Sts. Peter & Paul; Youngstown, OH

Our Junior UOL and Young Adult Members at the UOL Convention

A Legacy of Love: Ann Klein's Gift to All Saints Camp
Submitted by Sts. Peter & Paul Sr. UOL Chapter

In the Orthodox Christian tradition, stewardship is not simply about managing resources—it is about offering back to God the gifts He has entrusted to us, for the life of the Church and the salvation of His people. True stewardship flows from love, gratitude, and the desire to serve others, extending even beyond one's earthly life. A legacy gift, therefore, becomes not just a donation, but a testimony of faith: a final act of love that continues to bear fruit in the Church's mission.

Ann Klein, 87, a lifelong member of Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Youngstown, Ohio, fell asleep in the Lord on December 7, 2024. She left behind not only cherished memories and a life of faith, but also a lasting act of generosity: a legacy gift of $5,000 to the All Saints Camp *Loving Waters Project.*

Ann was born in Ploska, Ukraine, and emigrated to the United States as a child, settling in the Youngstown area. Throughout her life, Ann's greatest joy was found in nurturing others. She dedicated herself to raising her beloved family and poured her energy into the spiritual life of her parish, embodying the quiet, steadfast devotion that strengthens a church community.

By leaving her legacy gift to the All Saints Camp Loving Waters Project, Ann Klein has ensured that her love of faith, family, and community will flow into future generations. Just as she once nurtured her children and parish with her hands and heart, her gift will now nurture countless young lives who gather at camp to grow in faith, fellowship, and the Loving Waters of Christ.

Ann Klein's life and gift remind us that Orthodox stewardship is not only about what we do during our lifetime but also about how we choose to bless the Church and its ministries when our earthly journey is complete. Truly, her final offering is a legacy of love.

The second workshop of the Convention focused on enhancing our UOL Calendar of Events across all parishes.

Ways to improve/encourage participation in these events?
- Advertise in the UOL Bulletin, Social Media, Instagram
- Events should have ways for both adults and children to participate
- Have signs in parishes about these events
- Create a calendar of events and publicize the calendar of events
- Distribute the calendar of events to all parishes
- Encourage participation within the UOL and also in all parishes
- Offer service hours for school students who participate in the Thanksgiving project
- Advertise using personal testimonials (particularly for the Praying our Way)
- Have clergy who have received the MJSF scholarship to encourage participating
- Encourage clergy to put announcement in local parish bulletin

Other possible events that could be coordinated across parishes – how can we develop?
- St. Nicholas – consider sponsoring an event to support orphanages in Ukraine or to collect coats to send to Ukraine
- Take photos with St. Nicholas
- Back to School - sponsor a backpack blessing
  - Make college gift pack – icon and prayer book
  - Send care packages to college students
  - Sponsor a game night before back to school to celebrate

Mother's Day/Father's Day – sponsor a brunch and have a Panakhyda for deceased parents by name

UOL Calendar of Events 2025-2026

December 1, 2025 to January 2, 2026
Praying our Way Together for the Nativity Fast
Join UOC faithful reading the Old Testament Monday – Friday during the Nativity Fast.

December 6, 2025 - UOL Sunday
Commemorate UOL faithful who have fallen asleep in the Lord. Encourage all UOL members to partake in Confession and Communion.

January 2026
UOL Essay Contest Topics - Distributed.

February 8, 2026
Souper Bowl Sunday - Sell Soup in your parish to support St. Andrew Society and Soup Kitchens in Ukraine.

March 2, 2026 to March 27, 2026
Praying our Way Together for Great Lent.
Join UOC faithful reading the Psalms Monday-Friday during Great Lent.

March 21, 2026- Western Pa Retreat

March 28, 2026 - UOL Retreat focusing on Communion Prayers. Retreat center in Philadelphia suburb.

April 30, 2026 UOL Essay Contest Entries Due

May 24, 2026 Clergy Appreciation Day
Panakhyda for Metropolitan John and collection for Metropolitan John Scholarship.

July 29 – August 2, 2026 UOL Convention - Palos Park, IL

All Saints Camp UOL Member-at-Large Zoom Coffee Klatch Fundraiser
Submitted by Shirley Duffy

On Saturday, June 28, 2025 at 10:00 AM EST we had a Zoom Coffee Klatch for members-at-large and their friends to raise funds for All Saints Camp. Free will donations were suggested, but not required. The discussion prompt for the meeting was: What the All Saints Camp and Camp Ministry mean to me? The participants shared that the camp was holy land and that Jesus walks there, that campers of all ages, preschoolers to senior citizens, can learn about and experience their faith in the inspirational setting of God's creation, that many long-lasting relationships were formed there, and that our youth become disciples of Christ at All Saints Camp.

The discussion then turned to what parishioners of the UOC of USA can do to help the camp. Comments included that parishes should promote our youth going to camp by paying all or part of the camp fee and help campers with getting there, volunteer either on work crew weekends or as counselors, and staff, donate to the camp and the camping ministry, and most importantly there was a call to all parents to send their kids to camp. The participants really care about and cherish the camp and its programs, donating over $2000 to the camp by free will donations.

Why All Saints Camp: A Sacred Mission for the Whole Church
Submitted by Marianne S. Carmack

All Saints Camp is not just a program or a property—it is a shared ministry of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA. Whether you've visited or not—whether your parish is near or far—this camp is yours. It belongs to the whole body of Ukrainian Orthodox Christians. It is a sacred space that serves our entire Archdiocese, and every one of us has a role in preserving this sacred gift that God has placed within our care.

Here, the Gospel of Christ is made real—not in theory, but in the rhythm of campfires, morning prayers, shared meals, and the hands-on work of service. Children and young adults grow in faith through prayer, song, fellowship, and work. Families and friends reconnect. Clergy find rest. Visitors from other traditions encounter the beauty and hospitality of Orthodox Christianity and its Ukrainian cultural roots. Every log split, cabin repaired, and camper or guest welcomed is part of the Church's work of formation and evangelism.

Supporting All Saints Camp—through time, gifts, or resources—is more than maintenance. It is mission. It is stewardship. It is an act of communion across parishes, generations, and faith traditions. When we invest in the camp, we proclaim that the Orthodox Church is not static or shrinking. It is alive, rooted, and growing.

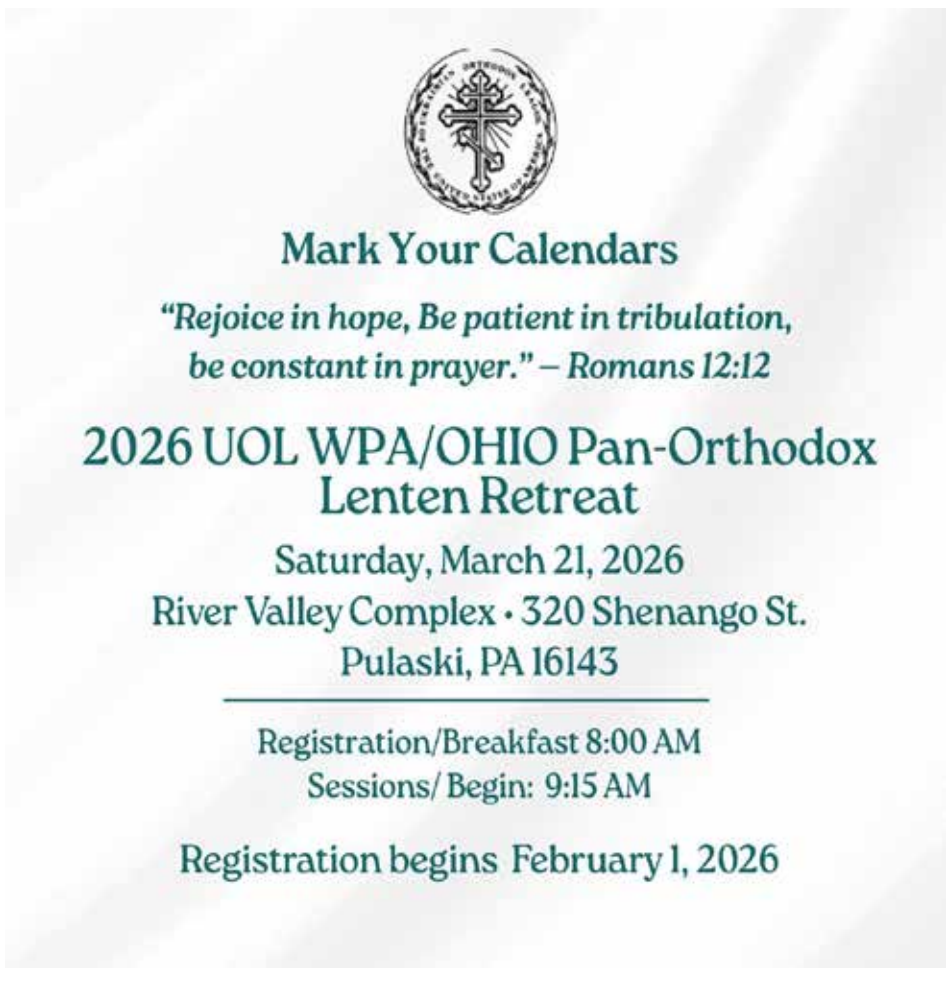
We are called by Christ to become part of something lasting—and to know it in our bones. To fulfill our responsibility to God and to one another. To support a place where faith, formation, and fellowship come together—and where Christ is encountered in the beauty of creation and the life of the Church.

This property also serves as a quiet ambassador. Throughout the year, All Saints Camp welcomes other Christian groups and community organizations—people who may have never stepped inside an Orthodox church. Yet here, they encounter Orthodoxy's presence through experience, not dogma. Our faith is woven into the landscape itself: glimpses of icons tucked among the trees and trails, the "windows to heaven" of St. Thomas Chapel radiating the presence of Christ, the chapel bells echoing across the hills, and paths blessed by generations of campers walking in prayer. Even the silence here is formed by worship.

In this way, the camp becomes more than a rental space—it becomes a living expression of Orthodox Christianity. Visitors experience echoes of Orthodoxy that are beautiful, ordered, and deeply rooted in communion with God and His creation. What they encounter is not just hospitality—but holiness. And for many, it may be their first encounter with a powerful living icon of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church—not merely an institution, but a way of being, embodied in sacred space.

Caring for All Saints Camp is to take our place in the great line of stewards who have come before us—to honor them, and to prepare the way for those who will come after. It is an act of love. An act of faith. ***And an act of sacred responsibility.***

This is your camp. This is your Church. And this is the time to tend what God has given us—with joy and with purpose.



ASC FAMILY FEST

Submitted by Shirley Duffy

Family Fest at All Saints Camp was held from Friday, August 29, to Monday, September 1, 2025. As usual the event was one of rest and relaxation, using camp infrastructure for recreational activities, good food, socializing with family and friends as well as prayer, Vespers, and Divine Liturgy.

The weather was cool so no one was up for swimming, but attendees hiked, biked, and used the courts and fields for recreation. Those of us who were not up to physical exercise drove the beautiful roads around the camp taking in lookouts and the lush greenery of the trees, shrubs, and plants before the Fall turn of the leaves to color or chatted with friends and family.

The main event was one of Father James Cairns' legendary pig roasts. I had never gone to one before and it did not disappoint. The roasted pig with the variety of sauces was exquisite, the sides prepared by camp cook Julie Powell, Josh Oryhon and Eric Senedak were delicious, and the friendly atmosphere created by all of the pig roast attendees was great.

Divine Liturgy celebrated by Father James was inspiring in this beautiful setting. Brunch after Divine Liturgy was a smorgasbord of delectables. I had to go home after brunch to prepare the college courses I teach for Tuesday. As usual I had a great time and so can you if you come in 2026. Hope to see you then.

Saint Andrew's Society and the UOL Working together in Charitable Outreach

Submitted by Father Deacon Ihor Mahlay

Saint Andrew's Society is the philanthropic organization of the faithful of our Church, supporting various humanitarian and religious projects in Ukraine. For decades, the central outreach effort has been providing support (primarily food) to the needy and disenfranchised elderly in what we have called the "Soup Kitchens." During the recent full scale invasion by Russia in 2022, the Society has been feeding and caring for not only the elderly but many internally displaced refugees and families of deceased or handicapped military personnel. During this war, the Society has ministered to the needy in 14 regions (oblasts) of Ukraine. The members of the Ukrainian Orthodox League have joined these efforts in supporting and promoting fundraising through "Soup-er Bowl Sunday" events.

Parish Soup Reception / Soup-er Bowl Sunday / Fundraiser for Needy Elderly in Ukraine

Here are some suggestions on how to sponsor such an event.

1 Select a Sunday to host a coffee hour with soups. Most appropriate would be the Sunday of the Super Bowl. Confirm that your facilities are available and do not conflict with any parish event.

2 Engage the UOL chapter, Sisterhood or just a group of families (3-7) to coordinate and implement the "Soup Sunday."

3 Discuss with your pastor and receive his blessing to host such an event.

4 Ask Father to begin announcing at least 3 Sundays ahead of the date. Place appropriate information in the Bulletin, make flyers if needed. Prepare envelopes which make it easier for the faithful to contribute, and distribute them on the Sunday before the event. Select to whom the checks are to be made out (UOL chapter, Sisterhood, or the parish). Once the checks and donations are collected and deposited, one check from your parish should be made out to the National UOL and sent to the treasurer of the National UOL. Many parishes do not set a price on the soups or meal, just request a free-will donation. More often the faithful are inclined to be more generous than when a minimal fee is posted.

5 You may wish to use supplies provided at your parish, or purchase items from a supply company or Amazon. We suggest smaller bowls (12 or 16 oz styrofoam) providing smaller portions of soups, so people may sample many. Likewise some parishes provide take home hot soup containers (like the 32 oz Chinese soup takeout).

6 Set out coffee, drinks, juices as you would for a coffee hour. Homemade desserts, a large salad bowl and of course breads would compliment this meal.

7 Select one person to solicit families and keep track of the soups to be provided. We suggest labeling the soups at the table. Also, ask the faithful to serve and ladle the soups.

8 Do not forget to find volunteers that will help with clean-up and accounting with the collection.

Any questions, please feel free to contact Father Deacon Ihor Mahlay at 440-829-5834 or imahlay@yahoo.com for guidance. Many parishes have been hosting such events for many years and have been very successful in raising funds and hosting enjoyable fellowship at the parish.

UOL Regional Events East Coast
Great Adventure Trip
Submitted by Natalie Bilynsky

On Saturday October 4th, the UOL planned a regional event to Six Flags Great Adventure in New Jersey. Twenty three UOL members gathered from Philadelphia and Scranton. We were very excited that many juniors and young adults joined in the fun. Our group spent the day together, some enjoying the intense rides while others spent most of our day on the more mild rides. Several regional events are planned for December and January, including ice skating in Philadelphia and snow tubing in January.

REGIONAL UOL FELLOWSHIP
SNOW TUBING
SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 2026

Come snow tubing or enjoy a fun day relaxing at the ski resort!

Blue Mountain Ski Resort

RSVP to Natalie Bilynsky nsufler@aol.com by

Ohio/W PA UOL Regional Event Self-Guided Tour of Fellowship Riverside Gardens and Potluck Picnic
Submitted by Shirley Duffy

On Saturday, July 12, 2025 we had a a self-guided tour of Fellows Riverside Gardens followed by a potluck picnic at The Old Log Cabin in Mill Creek Park in Youngstown, OH. The flowers were in bloom and were spectacular. Those who took the tour were awed by the beauty of the Gardens, landscape architecture, and the beautiful flowers.

After the tour everyone came to The Old Log Cabin by the Lake in Mill Creek Park, Youngstown, OH and enjoyed a potluck picnic of hot dogs, pulled pork sandwiches, deviled eggs, vegetable casserole, various salads, snacks and dessert.

There were outdoor activities for the youth in attendance and a fun time was had by all. Door prizes were donated by Marianne Carmack which provided festivities for the occasion.

Many thanks to the Senior UOL chapter of Carnegie, PA for their generous donation which covered the expense of much of the food and to Youngstown, OH Chapter Treasurer Joe Novicky for donating the cabin rental fee and for doing much of the heavy lifting that made the event a success, and to everyone who brought dishes, snacks, and baked goods to the event. Thanks to all who attended from Saints Peter and Paul, Carnegie and Youngstown, OH and St. Vladimir, Pittsburgh, PA.

Regional Fellowship

The UOL is planning to build regional ties between parishes. There are two ways that we can develop regional ties:

1) Planning regional UOL events and inviting UOL members and all members of area chapters to these events. The plan is to have quarterly regional activities for juniors and seniors to encourage socialization. Currently established regions are east coast chapters and Western Pennsylvania/Ohio. We are looking to encourage additional regions including: New England and Chicago.

2) Encourage individuals to attend parish events for local events. One way to encourage participation is for parishes to share the dates of their parish events (for example, picnic, anniversaries).

Be sure to send us information about your parish events so that we can encourage individuals to attend. It would be wonderful for us to support our local parishes with events.

Just send information about your events to

nsufler@aol.com and we can share with everyone.

St. Vladimir Junior UOL
Philadelphia, PA

Last year our Junior UOL worked to collect funds so that all Juniors would be able to attend the UOL Convention. As one of the rewards for the hard work, our Juniors planned a trip to Busch Garden theme park in Tampa.

Everyone had such a wonderful time at the Convention, that immediately following the Convention our Juniors started planning events for the coming year.

Our newly elected Junior UOL Officers:

President- Tatiana Korotinsky
Vice President – Zachary Ankosi
Secretary- Ivan Mann
Treasurer- Ivanna Tashiluk

Our Junior UOL sponsored all Juniors and Young Adults to attend the regional UOL trip to Great Adventure Amusement Park.

Juniors also sponsored a pancake breakfast and have been working with our pre -juniors on art projects every Sunday after Divine Liturgy. Our Junior UOL also assisted with preparation of our Thanksgiving dinner.

Sts. Peter and Paul Senior UOL Carnegie, PA
Submitted by Chris Mills

Carnegie Sr. UOL Chapter members just finished a wonderful Ukrainian Food Festival in September! The two-day event provided the community opportunities to purchase Ukrainian foods, bake sale items, participate in our basket raffle, visit our church and enjoy fellowship. Our new event of Ukrainian Vendors was a big hit! We welcomed visitors all day Friday and Saturday.

Over the summer, we pulled out our pysanky writing tools and had a few sessions to help provide extra pysanky, teach parishioners and socialize. We have our monthly meetings to plan activities and consider donations. We are fortunate that our two big events are successful and then allows us to "pay it forward" and help others. At our election meeting we welcomed Scott Brittell as our new president. The chapter has donated funds to help with the church roof repairs and towards air-conditioning in the church.

While we haven't planned any social events at present, we are starting to plan for our 70th Anniversary as a chapter in 2026! What a fabulous event that will be and lots to celebrate! Stay tuned for more information on this event! Our UOL Chapter is actively collecting canned food items for the Holodomor Remembrance Project as well as planning our Advent Prayer Pal program, Souper Bowl Sunday, and of course our Annual Pysanky Sale.

Our members are busy using their talents not only with UOL items and church services, but with other parish organizations or events. The UOL Chapter will be awarding scholarships to continuing education students at our Parish Anniversary Banquet in November. Our members are helping with the Kyiv Ukrainian Dance Group Annual Show, Thanksgiving Day Dinners & Open House, St. Matrona's Annual Cookie Walk, and Christmas Day Community Dinners.

Lenten Retreat

March 28, 2026

Retreat will focus Communion

and the Communion prayers

Basilian Spirituality Center

710 Fox Chase Rd,

Jenkintown, PA 19046

Retreat registration:

$45 for adults (early bird rate) - $55 after 3/15/26

$35 for adolescents (aged 13 to 18) -$45 after 3/15/26

Free for children 7 to 12- $25 after 3/15/26

Registration includes breakfast, lunch and snacks.

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

call – 610-892-7315

Regional Christmas Fellowship
Sponsored by St. Vladimir UOL
A wonderful family experience!
Friday, December 26, 2025

During the Day-

Come see the beautiful decorations in Philadelphia and go ice skating at Love Park.

In the Evening –

Have dinner and join the family friendly game night at St. Vladimir Parish Hall.

Let Natalie Bilynsky know if you are interested in attending nsufler@aol.com

Meet our Junior UOL National Executive Board 2025-2026

Tatiana Korotinsky

Hello! My name is Tatiana Korotinsky, and I have the honor of serving as President of this year's Junior UOL National Executive Board. I feel truly blessed to be entering my second year on the board and am so grateful for the experiences and lessons I've gained along the way. This year's board is made up of an amazing and tight-knitted group of individuals, and I'm really excited to see what we can accomplish together!

I live in Philadelphia, PA, and attend St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Church, where I stay active as President of our local chapter, a regular participant in services, and a student in church school.

Outside of church, I'm a sophomore at Julia R. Masterman High School, where I am captain of the volleyball team. I also participate in lacrosse during the spring, serve in Student Government, organize events for the Ukrainians during international day, and help lead a club called Students for Change. This past summer, I went to All Saints Camp for 2 weeks, attended the UOL Convention, and spent time with friends.

As I begin this year as President, I'm looking forward to working with my fellow board members to grow the Junior UOL and welcome new members. I hope we can meet our goals and enjoy meaningful, in-person gatherings throughout the year. I could not be more grateful to be able to experience this opportunity and I am committed to doing my best to serve and lead the Junior UOL throughout the 2025–2026 term.

Danylo Kondryshyn

I am Danylo Kondryshyn, the Recording & Corresponding Secretary of the 2025-2026 Jr. UOL National Executive Board. While this is my last year in the Junior UOL, I hope I can make this a great one; I hope that I am able to bring together juniors locally and across the nation to join this organization.

My parish is the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Holy Ascension, in Maplewood. I have been an altar server at Maplewood for 10 years, and a reader for 3. I am currently in my Senior year at Montville Township Public High School. I love participating in school activities as well as clubs that our school hosts. I participate in the fall play, spring musical, chess club and Science Olympiad. I am also the Vice President of our History Club, and am the secretary of the Chinese Honor Society. Outside of school and church I love to hang out with friends, play chess, play tennis, go to the gym, and spend time with my family. After high school, I plan to go to a college in New Jersey, hopefully Rutgers, and major in Microbiology.

During the summer I studied and prepared for senior year, caught up on sleep, volunteered to help with our local parish's Ukrainian Day festival, and joined a trip to China hosted by the NJCTA for 20 outstanding New Jersey Student leaders. I enjoyed this year's convention in Florida, and I loved riding in boats on the bay. Meeting with board members and making new friends at the convention was one of my fondest memories this summer.

All the members of our board, including myself, have dedicated ourselves to the UOL, and we hope to further these efforts. This year I, as the Secretary, will be working on reestablishing the Maplewood Junior UOL parish before I graduate. I am excited to leave a lasting impact on the Junior UOL before I graduate, and am thrilled to lead our local chapter. Our board hopes to keep the active parishes alive and running, as well as reinvigorate those that need our help. We also want to grow across the country, by reaching out to, and by helping juniors join the UOL.

Once again, while I am saddened that this will be my last year with the Junior UOL, I am happy with what I have done and the memories I have made, and I look forward to what awaits this year.

Hunter Harendza

Hello, my name is Hunter Harendza. I am the Vice-President of the Ukrainian Orthodox League's Junior National Executive Board. I am 14 years old and attend Saint Michaels Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Scranton, PA as well as Saint John the Baptist Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Johnson City, New York where I serve as a member and Treasurer of their Junior board. I am a freshman at Johnson City High School where I do many extracurriculars such as being treasurer on the student board and playing for the Johnson City football team and participating in the swim team. I go to All Saints Camp and Camp Nazareth. I also serve in the altar at my church.

I am thankful for my friends and family who have pushed me to make it this far, especially Metropolitan Antony and Archbishop Daniel. I also extend a heartfelt thank you to, of course, my two sisters Agitha and Rachel, for being the best siblings I could ever ask for. I want to say I would not have made it this far without the whole Orthodox community whether family, friends, or people. Every time I meet someone from our church, they help others for no reason and it touches my heart to know I am part of such an amazing community. I hope in my future I can truly live up to be as great as the other people in my life, and go to seminary just like my dad, who I am grateful for, since he has taught and helped me achieve my goals. I would also like to thank Fr. John, without whom, I would not have become Vice President, for pushing me to try.

In my role as Vice President I hope to support the Church and our community. My goals include doing fundraisers to help the Church and the community. I also want to encourage children and teenagers to participate in Church activities and the Junior UOL. Through these works I hope to accomplish, I believe that we truly can be caretakers of our Church and show what it means to be Orthodox Christians.

Zakhary Ankosi

My name is Zakhary Ankosi, and I am honored to be serving for the second year as Treasurer for the Junior UOL National Executive Board. I am excited to continue my work as Treasurer and hope that this year will be as great as last year. I live in Philadelphia, PA, and attend St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Church. I am an active member of my church, where I attend church school and serve regularly as an altar server. I am also active in our chapter as the Vice President and hope to help get more young people involved and excited about the Junior UOL.

This year, I am entering my junior year of high school at Julia R. Masterman High School. In addition, I attend Ukrainian School on Saturdays, where I am currently in 12th grade. I also play tennis as one of my extracurricular activities.

This past summer, I had the opportunity to attend All Saints Camp again, a great camp, and I also went to the UOL Convention in Tampa, my first convention as a member of the National Executive Board, which was an amazing experience. I loved spending time at our events as well.

As I continue my role as Treasurer, I look forward to working alongside the rest of the board and helping to strengthen the Junior UOL. I am excited for all we can accomplish together this year.

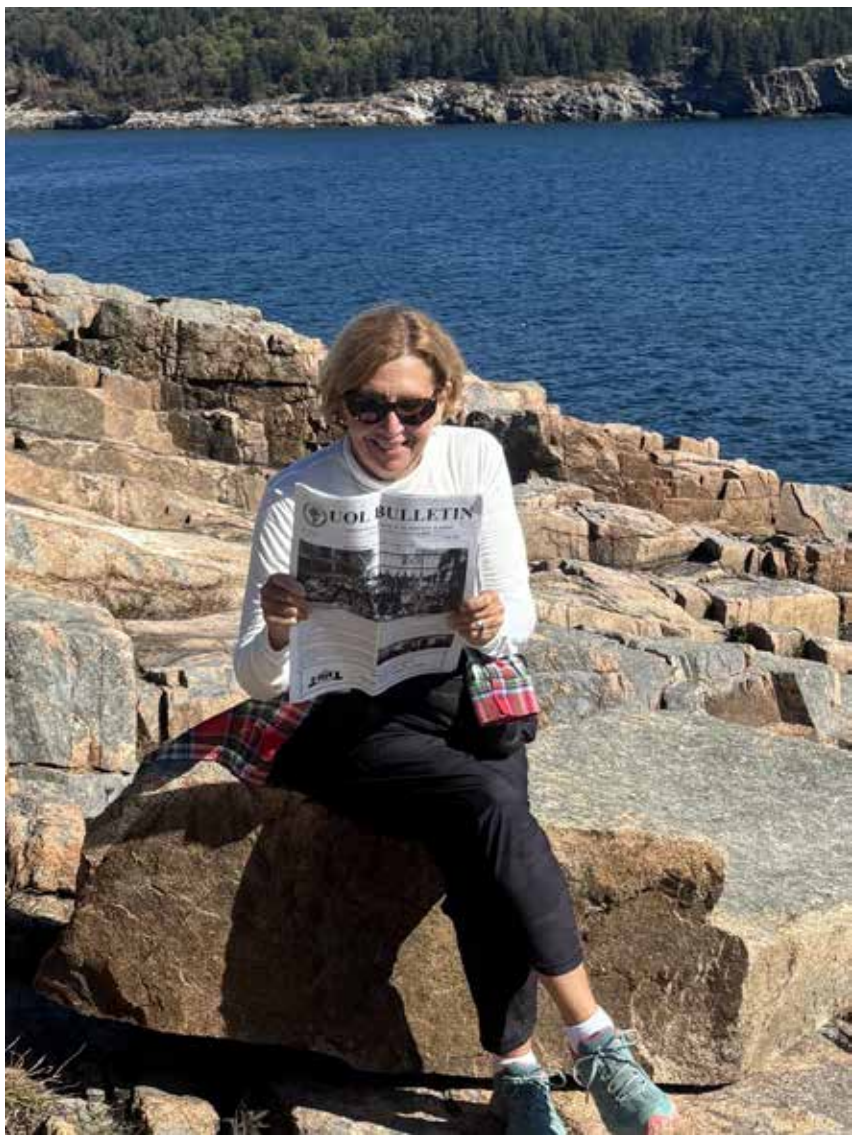
Marcia Goodge

My name is Marcia Goodge and I am honored to be the Financial Secretary for the 2025-2026 year. This is my third year on the board and I hope to accomplish a lot.

I live in Pulaski, PA with my twin brother Sam, my mom, and my dad. I am currently a junior at Lincoln Park Performing Arts Charter School where I am a dance major. At school I participate in the National Honor Society, dance team, and I perform in many shows. Every week I go to church at Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Youngstown, OH. At church I am the Vice President of their Jr. UOL, I attend church school, and I volunteer at church functions. Every year I go to All Saints Camp, this summer I attended TC for two weeks. Outside of school and church I dance at Ludovici Dance Academy and I spend lots of time with my friends and family.

UOL Bulletin Pictures

Our UOL Bulletin has travelled around the world! Enjoy these wonderful adventures! National Parks, Aruba, and so much more!



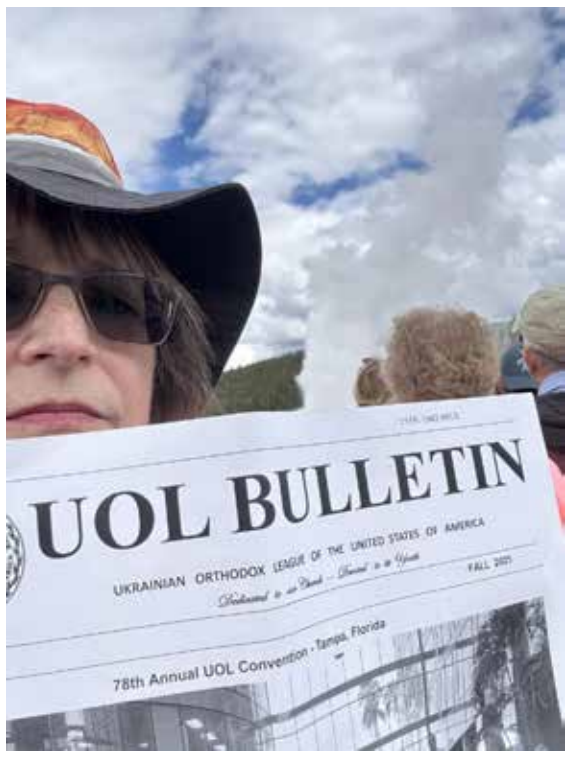
Daria Danyo enjoys the UOL Bulletin in Acadia National Park in Maine.

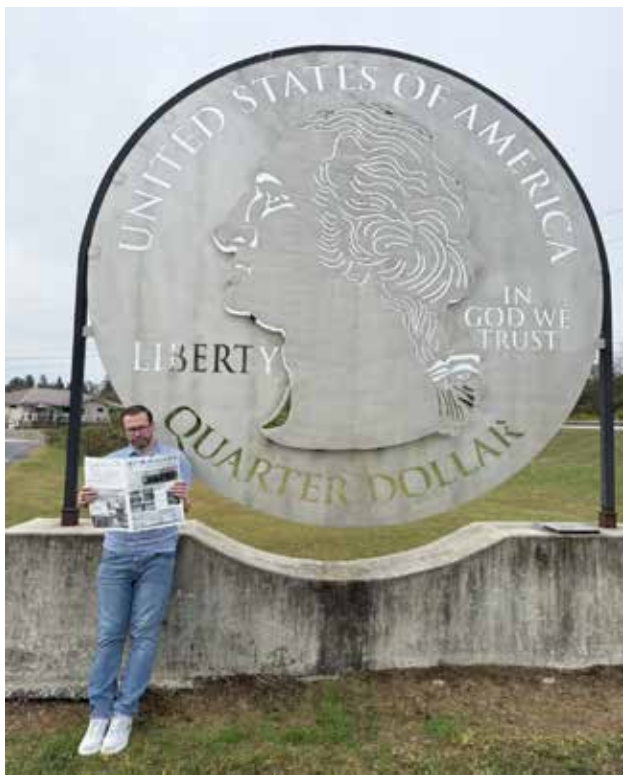
Oleh Bilynsky reads the UOL Bulletin at the Giant's Causeway in Northern Ireland. To the right he reads at Blarney Castle (who needs to kiss the Blarney Stone if you have a Bulletin to read). Next he reads the Bulletin while in the stockade at Blarney Castle, Ireland.

Fr. Taras Naumenko and Fr. Phillip Harendza read the UOL Bulletin with Bugs Bunny at Six Flags Great Adventure. Below see how excited Bugs gets reading the Bulletin.

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

UOL Bulletin Pictures





Karen Ferraro in front of Mount Rushmore and next in front of Old Faithful in Yellowstone. Michael Nakonachny in front of a giant quarter.

UOL members enjoy reading the UOL Bulletin in Aruba. Susan Perankovich in Aruba.

Matushka Laryssa Charest with son Sebastian reading the UOL Bulletin.

Our St. Nicholas camping program reads the UOL Bulletin at the Holy Transfiguration Monastery.

UOL TRIBUTES

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.

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

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Donor	In Honor of
Patricia and John Holowko	In thanksgiving for our pastor Fr. Vasyl Dovgan and his loving care of our parishioners.
St. Nicholas Parish, Troy New York	In memory of the Tychonia Family Thomas, Alice, Olga and Catherine. Memory Eternal!
John Holowko	In honor of Fr. John Nakonachny, with thankfulness for his fifty plus years of guidance, friendship and pastoral care.
Teresa Linck	In memory of George and Anna Tizio. Memory Eternal!
Michael and Olga Hryshchyshyn	In honor of Dori and Stephen Nemeth on the occasion of their 41st wedding anniversary. Mnohaya Lita!

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:
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