



UOL BULLETIN

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dedicated to our Church -- Devoted to its Youth

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JANUARY 2016

The United States and Ukraine Dedicate a Memorial in Washington, DC to the Victims of the Holodomor-Genocide 1932-33 Submitted by Daria Pishko Komichak

On Saturday, November 7, 2015 dignitaries from the United States and Ukraine joined together to commemorate the Holodomor-Genocide of 1932-33 by dedicating a monument constructed in Washington, DC with the support of both countries and their constituents.

The National Holodomor Memorial is an imposing bronze bas-relief sculpture aptly named "Field of Wheat." Spanning thirty feet, the monument contains pronounced wheat fading into obscurity. The eerie blank space of the sculpture, with the eventual appearance of the Ukrainian word *holodomor*, which means "murder by starvation," is designed to represent the systematic procedure of the Soviet government's use of famine through grain confiscation. The sculpture is intimately placed within arm's reach to promote touching and burnishing of the bronze surface to facilitate a more personal connection.



The Memorial was designed by a Ukrainian-American architect, Larysa Kurylas, who is based in Washington, DC.

Over five thousand Ukrainians and Ukrainian-Americans from across the US and Canada traveled to Washington to witness the dedication and participate in demonstrating their unity and commitment to never forget the millions of lives lost by the starvation in Ukraine engineered and implemented by Stalin's totalitarian regime. The dedication ceremonies were held in Columbus Circle, directly in front of Washington, DC's Union Station because the space around the memorial itself was too small to contain the large crowd of attendees.

Michael Sawkiw, Jr, chair of the U.S. Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor Genocide Awareness 1932-33 served as master of ceremony for the dedication. In his opening remarks he stated "In a city of monuments, a city of hope where dreams motivate a nation, a city the captive world reveres as an inspiration for democracy, this city—the capital of the free world, now bears a new memorial—a memorial of a twentieth century tragedy that so reviles one's innermost instinct as to that event in Ukraine in 1932-33 which brutally, maliciously and indiscriminately annihilated millions of men, women and children!"

The keynote speaker was U.S. representative Sander Levin, (D-MI), who introduced the congressional legislation authorizing the Memorial's construction on federal land in Washington, DC. After the bill was passed in the House, Representative Levin said, "The memorial authorized by this

legislation will not only honor the memory of the millions that lost their lives, but serve as a tangible reminder to all of us that we must work together to prevent such tragedies in the future." This bill was passed by the House in 2005 and was approved by the Senate in 2006, subsequently being signed into law by President George W. Bush on October 13, 2006.

Paula Dobriansky, who served as Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs for George W. Bush, delivered a greeting on the former President's behalf. Other dignitaries taking part in the dedication ceremony included Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (D-OH), co-chair of the Congressional Ukraine Caucus, and Special Assistant to the U.S. President, Charles Kapchyn, who read an official greeting from President Obama. Holodomor survivors Alexander Savaryn and Olha Matula addressed the assembly, relating their experiences and memories of their childhoods.

The Ukrainian Orthodox and Ukrainian Catholic Churches in the United States were represented by His Eminence Metropolitan Antony and Metropolitan Stephen Soroka, respectively, along with His Grace Bishop Daniel and the following bishops from the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the USA: Bishop Basil Lostin (retired), Bishop John Bura, Bishop Bohdan Daylo, and Bishop Paul Chomnycky, and many clergy and seminarians from both jurisdictions. The churches of Ukraine were represented by Patriarch Filaret, Head of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church Kyiv Patriarchate, and Major Archbishop Sviatoslav, Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church.

First lady of Ukraine Maryna Poroshenko presented a touching tribute to the victims of the Holodomor stating that "We are not merely opening the memorial to victims of the Holodomor in Ukraine in 1932-1933; we are commemorating every soul, every victim and every martyr. This monument is a resurrection of our national memory." She thanked "the Ukrainian community worldwide, which has made an incredible effort to

restore justice and get the Ukrainian people's tragedy recognized as Genocide." "We cannot turn back the hands of time, but we can keep the memories in our hearts." She also thanked the designer of the monument, Larysa Kurylas, the US Congress, the representatives who supported the establishment of this memorial on American soil and "the American people for their support and commitment to the Truth!"

Following her moving remarks, she introduced a video address by her husband, President Petro O. Poroshenko. In the video address, which also included English subtitles, President Poroshenko stated:

"Today we are witnessing a truly historic event in the capital of the United States: the dedication of a Memorial to the victims of the 1932-1933 Holodomor



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The 69th Annual U.O.L. Convention
Hosted By:
Holy Ghost Ukrainian Orthodox Church
Coatesville, PA
July 27—31, 2016
"Be quick to hear, slow to speak & slow to anger"
 James 1:19
Convention Information: holyghostuoc.org/2016



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

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

MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR UOL PRESIDENT



Michael J. Komichak

Let us not grow weary...for in due season we will reap.

Glory to Jesus Christ! Slava Isusu Khrystu!

This past November over 5000 people gathered in Washington, DC to dedicate a memorial to the victims of the Holodomor. This was the culmination of over a decade of persistent efforts to establish a permanent testament in bronze and granite to the genocide of 1932-33. When a task seems nearly impossible, we sometimes say that it would “take an act of Congress” to achieve it. In this case, getting a memorial in our nation’s capitol to remember the millions who were killed in Ukraine literally took an act of Congress.

Several articles in this issue of the UOL Bulletin provide details of the dedication as well as personal perspectives on the significance of the day. The stories illustrate that people who attended understood the historic nature of the event and that they wanted to be a part of it. They wanted to connect with others in the Ukrainian community and share in paying tribute to those who perished and to those who survived. They wanted to teach their children about this tragic history, especially if their family had directly suffered.

The physical memorial raises awareness of the Holodomor among the general public as well. Many participants at the dedication tell how they fielded questions from passersby—fellow Americans who had never heard about the Holodomor but whose curiosity about the memorial and the march led to an exchange of information about the underlying history.

Beyond connecting with the past, the dedication ceremony provided a connection to current events. Everyone was reminded of the ongoing turmoil today in Ukraine as underscored by the presence at the dedication of many severely wounded Ukrainian soldiers who are undergoing treatment at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

The gathering in Washington also demonstrated the importance to our community of the various Ukrainian organizations such as the Ukrainian Orthodox League. Every Ukrainian-American organization played a role in making this memorial a reality. Every one of those organizations was represented somewhere in that crowd of 5000. In the 1940’s, when the horrors of the Holodomor were all too fresh in their minds, Metropolitan John and Fr. Bukata could not know that future members of the League they were founding would play pivotal roles on the Executive Committee commemorating that genocide. When Mrs. Eugenia Arson was working at the Betsy Ross flag company in Patterson, NJ, where she made our UOL banner, she could not have known that over three decades later that UOL banner would prominently lead the march through the streets of Washington, DC from the Holodomor Memorial to the White House.

Every Ukrainian organization today feels small individually. Sometimes we wonder if we are still relevant. Being in the crowd at the dedication with representatives from every other Ukrainian organization and seeing that we can overcome obstacles to accomplish great things for our community reminded me of the rallying cry from the 2004 Ukrainian Orange Revolution: “Razom nas bahato, nas ne podolaty... Together we are many, we cannot be defeated.”

Without our churches and organizations there would be no Holodomor memorial and the memory of this genocide would be forgotten and lost. Actions great and small brought about this achievement. Every prayer, coffee hour, committee assignment, and donation matters.

By virtue of being a UOL member, we are connected with others in other cities. When we attend the Annual UOL Convention, when we support the UOL with our time, talents, and treasure, we keep that connection alive. We are connected to those who came before us—the founders of the League who built for us a legacy worth inheriting. It is up to us to keep the flame alive and pass a strong League on to future generations.

Let us not underestimate our potential as an organization, as a community, and as a Church. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, let us continue to set our sights high.

Yours in Christ,
Michael J. Komichak

(Holodomor - continued from page 1)

in Ukraine. This occasion is a tangible demonstration of the victory of truth over lies, of good over evil. There is a certain irony in the dedication of this magnificent monument on the anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917, which brought about such tragic consequences for many, including Ukraine. On the other hand, the dedication is taking place during the first year that the laws on de-Communization and on state recognition of the heroes of the national liberation fight are in effect in an independent Ukraine. It is taking place just two weeks after the first local elections in almost a hundred years in which the Communist Party did not take part. It is also only two weeks before the second anniversary of the Revolution of Dignity, which firmly put our country on a solid European path. . . It is impossible to forget about the millions of people murdered in peacetime in the land known to the world as “the breadbasket of Europe.” The death of millions of Ukrainians in the early 1930’s was not a result of natural disasters or epidemics. That terrible “harvest of sorrow” was the result of the inhuman cruelty of a totalitarian regime. The famine was an attempt to force the Ukrainian people to their knees, to deprive us of



our dignity, to destroy our national identity and to kill our hope for the right to create our own destiny in our own land. The empire tried to destroy the foundations of a freedom-loving Ukrainian nation, to undermine our spiritual, cultural and ethnic identity. . .

Right here and right now—through the joint efforts of the Ukrainian-American community and the Ukrainian nation—this memorial is being dedicated in Washington, DC. This Memorial is proof that neither hard times nor the criminal intent of our enemies will conquer our nation as it seeks truth, freedom, democracy and peace on its own soil and in its own country.”

Video presentations by Senators Charles Schumer (D-NY) and Robert Portman (R-OH) were also shared with the audience.

The highlight of the program was the blessing of the monument by the hierarchs and clergy in attendance. The blessing was broadcast on a Jumbotron to the participants at Columbus



(continued on page 4)

69th Annual UOL Convention Service Projects Submitted by Carol Z. Bentley

The Biblical theme for the 69th Annual UOL Convention – “Be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger” — asks us to make ourselves aware of what is going on around us and act and react in a calm and meaningful manner. As the holiday seasons approach, we all prepare to celebrate with feasting and gift giving taking positions of importance. We, collectively, are greatly blessed. We enjoy a prosperity and freedom that many, if not most, in the world do not.

To fulfill our theme’s first mandate “Be quick to hear,” Holy Ghost’s Convention Committee has decided to initiate two service projects which will culminate at the 69th Annual Convention in July. The first project will be to create for each of the 120 children in our Ukrainian orphanage a polar fleece “cuddle blanket”—something soft and warm that can give them comfort. Let it represent the warm hug that each and every one of us would give them if we were near.

The second service project involves the collection of personal grooming items to be given to women veterans receiving residential medical treatment and career education at the Mary E. Walker House located at the Veterans Administration Center in Coatesville, PA.

The Holy Ghost UOL Convention Committee will be sending directions for participation in these two service projects to every UOL Chapter president so that interested individuals can assist in the creation of these cuddle blankets



and the collection of defined personal grooming items and bring them to the 69th Annual Convention in July.

Please join us in “hearing” the needs of these deserving children who should be wrapped in loving warmth and suffering women veterans who served this country so that we can enjoy our freedom.

By participating in these projects you will not only be “quick to hear” but you will be like one of the righteous identified by Jesus when he said regarding good works, “When ye have done it unto the least of MY brethren, ye have done it unto ME.”

69th Annual UOL Convention Submitted by Carol Z. Bentley

Carol Bentley, Holy Ghost Senior UOL President and 2016 Convention Chairperson, affixes a \$100.00 bill atop a money/lottery ticket tree that will be auctioned off at the 2016 National Convention. Lillian Maskula, a senior



UOL member for more than 60 years, displays scarves, blouses, nesting dolls and pysanky ostrich eggs that will be raffled or auctioned off at the Convention. These items,

which were imported from Ukraine, were donated by Lillian and her husband, Walter, both of whom are charter members of the Holy Ghost UOL. Holy Ghost parishioners had an opportunity to admire these examples of Ukrainian culture and talent during a convention meeting held at the church following coffee hour.

NEWS FROM THE JUNIOR UOL PRESIDENT



Kateryna Kocelko

Christ is Born!

I hope and pray that everyone had a blessed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year. The holiday season is a time for us to step back and be thankful for everything we have. We must always remember how fortunate we are and to share the blessings that God has bestowed upon us and our families. It is with this mindset that the Junior UOL members embark upon all of the upcoming events of this New Year.

On February 14th, 2016 everyone should participate in the annual “Bring a Friend to Church Day.” It gives you the chance to expose your religion and traditions to your friends. You never know how much one event could impact their lives. You might want to consider scheduling an outing event such as a movie day or bowling event so everyone can get to know each other. Just as Christ told the Apostles, we should “Go forth and make disciples of all nations” and help expose your friends to the traditions of our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

On February 7th, 2016, we ask that all of the chapters around the country participate in the annual “Souper” Bowl Sunday fundraiser. All of the proceeds that the chapters make go to Saint Andrew’s Ukrainian Orthodox Society which supports soup kitchens for needy elderly and orphans in Ukraine.

Last, but not least, is the annual Jr. UOL Raffle, which is the Jr. UOL’s largest fundraiser throughout the year. We ask that everyone participate by buying and selling tickets. The tickets will be sent out a little earlier than usual, so that gives everyone a little extra time to sell all your tickets.

Our next Junior UOL National Executive board meeting will be held in Parma, Ohio on January 16th 2016. The entire National Executive Board could not be more excited to get together to plan the remainder of the year for everyone.

Please don’t forget to turn in your chapter dues and membership forms. They were due back in September so please make sure you get them to our Financial Secretary, Orest Mahlay, as soon as possible. Also I expect that all of the Election Report forms are in and if they aren’t please also get those in as soon as possible to our Secretary, Sophia Dobronos. Having updated information from all of the chapters is very crucial so we can keep all of the chapters involved and up to date on all of the information and upcoming events.

The National Executive Board sends their best wishes on the coming year and we pray that this year will be fruitful for your chapter and your family. We also ask that you continue to pray for us that God continues to give us the strength to lead the UOL.

Yours in Christ,
Kateryna Kocelko

Holodomor Monument Dedication Submitted by Orest Mahlay

On Saturday, November 7 of this year, a monument commemorating the millions of Ukrainians who died during a Soviet-era famine of 1933 was unveiled in the US capital, in a ceremony that brought back horrific memories for survivors and has highlighted the need for us to stand up for the truth today. Ukrainians refer to the 1932-33 famine as Holodomor — or “death by hunger” — and blame the regime of dictator Joseph Stalin for the deliberate starvation of men, women and children.

The memorial — a bronze sculpture on a stone wall depicting stalks of wheat symbolizing the seizure of grain by the Soviets — is located just steps from the grounds of the US Capitol and Washington’s Union Station. Ukraine’s first lady, Maryna Poroshenko, was among the thousands of people of all ages who packed nearby Columbus Circle for the ceremony, many wrapped in or waving Ukrainian flags and wearing traditional attire. Many faithful of our Church, and members of the UOL participated in this historic unveiling. His Eminence, Metropolitan Antony, and His Grace Bishop Daniel, along with other religious leaders, blessed this fitting monument.

I believe that this event was very significant and very important for our participation, since it comes amid a conflict between Kiev and Moscow that erupted in the aftermath of 2014’s pro-democracy revolt and has killed thousands, displacing innocent Ukrainians and challenging the very existence of the Ukrainian nation. The Kremlin, once again, as in times of the Holodomor, is trying to erase Ukraine from the map. Our participation in this ceremony and dedication was even more relevant. We stand in solidarity with our Ukrainian brothers and sisters who have suffered in the 20th century and are still suffering today. May we not forget and may their memory be eternal.

(Holodomor - continued from page 2)

Circle. Responses to the blessing and panakhyda were sung by the seminarians of St. Sophia Theological Seminary in South Bound Brook, New Jersey.

Following the blessing, greetings were also delivered by Tamara Olexy, President of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Eugene Czolij, President of the Ukrainian World Congress, and Robert Vogel of the National Park Service, which is the federal entity that will provide perpetual care for the memorial. To conclude the program, the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus led the assembly in the singing of "Bozhe Velykyi Yedynyi," the "Prayer for Ukraine".

Immediately following the program, the First Lady and Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States, Valeriy Chaly, greeted the Ukrainian soldiers who were in the US for treatment at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. They then accompanied the other dignitaries as they processed to the



memorial where they laid wreaths of remembrance and paid tribute. First Lady Maryna Poroshenko offered a floral arrangement and prayed at the memorial for the fallen victims of the Holodomor 1932-33.

Following the dedication ceremonies, the organizations and participants gathered on Massachusetts Avenue to begin a symbolic "March of Remembrance" which traveled from Columbus Circle, past the Holodomor Memorial and ended at the White House. Khrystyna Chorniy and Elizabeth Hucul of Holy Ascension UOL Chapter carried the UOL Banner to lead the march followed by flags, banners and participants from across the country.

In front of the White House, the marchers assembled to sing the Ukrainian National Anthem. After the majority of the marchers reached the White House, a moleben was served, led by the Ukrainian Greek Catholic hierarchs and clergy, praying for the protection of Ukraine.

The construction and dedication of the Holodomor Memorial was the result of the combined efforts of the US Committee for Holodomor Genocide Awareness 1932-1933 and the Embassy of Ukraine. The Committee is comprised of representatives from more than 20 Ukrainian-American organizations across the United States. The Ukrainian Orthodox League and the UOC of USA have been active participants on the Committee since its founding in 2006. Daria Pishko Komichak serves on its board as Executive Secretary.

Photos utilized with permission from the US Committee for Holodomor Genocide Awareness 1932-1933.



HOLODOMOR FACTS

Prepared by US Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor-Genocide Awareness 1932-33



What is the Holodomor?

The Holodomor—or "murder by starvation"—was the genocidal famine that took the lives of millions of Ukrainians in 1932-1933. The communist regime deliberately used mass starvation to break the resistance of Ukrainian farmers to Soviet authority in general and to the confiscation of their land, grain, and animals in particular. Communist activists went door to door searching for grain and other food, leaving people with nothing. At the height of the famine in June 1933, an estimated 28,000 Ukrainians were dying each day. Within 18 months, about one in eight Ukrainians in rural areas had died. In 1988, the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine reported to Congress that "Joseph Stalin and those around him committed genocide against Ukrainians in 1932-1933."

How many people were deliberately starved during the Holodomor?

While estimates vary depending on sources and methodology, a number of Holodomor scholars currently propose that the number of victims was in the 3-to-5 million range. Higher estimates are found in the reporting of reputable journalists who traveled to Ukraine in the 1930s. The Soviet Union barred access to government records from the era, and many official records were falsified, lost or destroyed. Since the fall of the USSR, demographers and historians continue to study the Holodomor and piece together the full picture.

Why didn't other countries intervene to stop the Holodomor?

The USSR denied that there was a famine and exported grain and other food to Europe during those years. Foreigners were either forbidden from traveling in the Ukrainian countryside or shown a false image of prosperity. However, some Western journalists, including Malcolm Muggeridge, Arthur Koestler, Whiting Williams, Harry Lang, Adam Tawdul, and William Henry Chamberlin, witnessed the mass starvation and wrote about it. Although most Western governments knew of the famine, their attention was diverted by Hitler's rise to power in Germany and the ongoing Depression.

What is the Holodomor Memorial?

In 2006, the U.S. Congress, working with Ukrainian President Victor Yushchenko, approved the building of a monument on U.S. federal land dedicated to the memory of those who died in the Holodomor. The dedication ceremony on November 7, 2015 is expected to draw thousands of people from across the United States. The monument is located in Washington, D.C., on Massachusetts Avenue, near Capitol Hill. The Memorial was designed by Ukrainian American architect Larysa Kurylas.

Why is the Holodomor relevant today?

As a genocide, the Holodomor is critically important for a full understanding of how and why criminal regimes destroy innocent populations. Understanding the Holodomor is thus vital to preventing future genocides and crimes against humanity. For more information, visit www.UkraineGenocide.com

Reflections on the Holodomor

Submitted by Cathy Bucharew, Katya Carman, John Coffee, Mark Meschisen, Jordan & Joshua Oryhon

With no desire to sight-see in the rain and leaving a few hours to kill, we took shelter from the storm across the street from the Memorial at The Dubliner. It was extremely difficult to get a seat as at least 200 of our Ukrainian brothers and sisters had a made a similar decision to further relations with Ireland.

After being tipped off by a television crew member in from the rain, we were able to find spots along the security railing at the perimeter of the Memorial instead of walking to the area near Union Station. Unfortunately we didn't hear a word of the dedication service because of an inadequate PA system, but it was very thrilling to be so close.

At the conclusion of the dedication we were able to visit with His Eminence Metropolitan Antony and His Grace Bishop Daniel for a few moments before leaving to meander through the streets on the march to the White House.



**UOL Charitable Project
Soup-er Bowl Collection for the Soup
Kitchens in Ukraine
Submitted by Orest Mahlay**



Saint Andrew's Society, an organization of our faithful, has maintained soup kitchens and food parcel delivery service for the needy elderly and handicapped in Ukraine for many years. The National UOL, through the efforts of members and chapters, has participated by hosting fundraising events and donating to this ongoing project. One of the many ways chapters have raised funds, is to plan a soup luncheon after Divine Liturgy during the Super Bowl Season, with proceeds benefiting the soup kitchens.

Saint Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Society was founded in 1990 by faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA as a religious and charitable organization.

As an integral ministry of the Church, the Society's philanthropic mission focuses on providing humanitarian assistance to the needy and supporting church-related projects in Ukraine. Since its founding, the Society has raised over 1.3 million dollars towards the support of humanitarian, educational, and religious projects.

Saint Andrew's Society fulfills its mission and vision by:

- providing humanitarian aid to the needy, the orphans, the elderly and the refugees in Ukraine;
- providing financial and logistical assistance to Seminaries in Ukraine and scholarships for theological students to study abroad;
- supporting publications of religious literature, medical projects and church restorations.

After the 2014 *Maidan* revolution and subsequent fighting in Eastern Ukraine, the Society began raising funds towards the immediate support of the refugees and those injured. Through generous donations, the Society has provided food and shelter for the displaced citizens. Saint Andrew's Society also provides support for orphans and handicapped children by financing physical improvements at orphanages, providing educational and rehabilitation opportunities, and funding the visit of St. Nicholas to the children.



Your donations may be forwarded to the Financial Secretary of the National UOL: Alex Shevchuk, 1 Glenbrook Ct. Whippany, NJ 07891.

**Wilmington SR Chapter Hosts Educational Retreat
Submitted by Sonya Patronik**

The Senior UOL chapter of Ss. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Wilmington, Delaware, held its annual educational retreat on Saturday, November 14, 2015. With the theme "Enter to Worship-Exit to Serve," this year's event was highlighted by guest speaker His Eminence Metropolitan Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA.



A total of 35 participants came from Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey and included Very Rev. Protopresbyter Emmanuel Pratsinakis, retired from St. Thomas Greek Orthodox Church, Cherry Hill, NJ; Very Rev. Joel Gillam of St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church, Upper Darby, PA; Rev. James Dougherty of St. Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church, Gradyville, PA; and host clergyman Very Rev. Stephen Hutnick of Wilmington. Three seminarians-Taras Kaluzhnyy, Hryhoriy Matviiv, and Tadei Surak-also attended.

The day began with a continental breakfast as visitors arrived, followed by an Akathist for our youth. His Eminence Metropolitan Antony gave a talk on the first half of the day's topic, "Enter to Worship," discussing preparation for and participation in liturgical services as well as studying the Orthodox faith. Following lunch, all the clergy answered questions in a rousing "Stump the Priest" open forum session. Then Fr. Stephen Hutnick (substituting for His Grace Bishop Daniel, who was unable to attend) spoke on the topic "Exit to Serve" and the importance and ways of practicing our faith outside of the church building. Prior to everyone leaving the retreat, attendees returned to church for a traveler's blessing.

Metropolitan Antony, Fr. Deacon James Cairns of St. Demetrius Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Carteret, NJ, and the seminarians celebrated Divine Liturgy in Wilmington the next day. At the lunch following the Liturgy and in honor of his visit to Wilmington, the Sr. UOL chapter presented His Eminence with a \$1000 check for the Seminarian Health Fund.

**Orthodox Christian Witness Corner
Submitted by Nina James**

One of the most recent events I witnessed of God's love in action was the dedication and blessing of the Holodomor Monument in Washington, DC. Not only was there unity in numbers of the Ukrainian people around the world, but also of neighboring countries proclaiming their support (I was standing next to people from Belarus). "Holodomor" (death by starvation), also known as the Artificial Famine of 1932-33, affected ten million people. This act was created by the Communist Party to raise capital by taking all the grain from Ukrainian landowners by military force and establishing collective farms.

"Slava Ukraini," Glory to Ukraine! It made me ponder why this nation still exists. Basically, we are not a nation focused on aggression, and yet with all the persecutions, acts of starvation (attempted genocide), war, inflicted addictions and suppression here we still stand!

My daughter, Tamara, drove with me. She posed a simple and yet profound statement, "Mom, I don't understand why do the Ukrainians have to have a Church service with everything they do! No one else does it." That was it... This was my answer. We incorporate Christ in all the things that we do, because The Lord is in it. He is our shield, our protector, despite the evil that exists. He is the light of truth, the guiding force, the unity, the hope, and the Bread of Life itself. Yes, no one else incorporates prayer on one of the busiest streets in Washington, DC. No one else chants the Ukrainian National Anthem in droves while parading to the White House, being cheered by perplexed onlookers. No one is more determined to expose the truth of such a horrific act against humanity. May God continue to bless Ukraine and all the nations under God with liberty and justice for all.

Submit your Orthodox Christian Witness stories to: Nina James PO Box 6158 Wauconda, IL 60084 coker.nina@gmail.com

Grace Shining Forth...

2016 Lenten Retreat



Speakers:
His Grace, Bishop Daniel
President of the Consistory
UOC of the USA
Christal Chaney, Ph.D.
Orthodox Educator
Professor of Education, Point Park College
Co-Founder of T.H.E.O.S.
Three Hierarchs Eastern Orthodox School



*Getting Ready to Shine (Boot Camp for the Soul)
Planting the Seed - Ministering to the Young
Polishing the Apple - Ministering to the Young at Heart*

Grace Shining Forth...

Growing in Orthodoxy... Growing in Ministry

To register visit: <https://2016lentenretreatblog.wordpress.com> or

Email: OhioWestPARetreat@outlook.com

If you have questions or need more information email

Stephanie Rimeido at OhioWestPARetreat@outlook.com

Registration Fee \$25.00

Overnight accommodations available at Villa Maria (Single Room w/Bath \$48.00;
Double Room w/Communal Bathroom \$20.00 per/person Double Occupancy) for long-distance travelers and others.

Sponsored by the Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA

Saturday, March 19, 2016

9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center

2007 Evergreen Road - P.O. Box 404 - Villa Maria, PA 15155 - Phone: 724-964-0000



Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA
Dedicated to our Church... Dedicated to its Youth

Journey to the Past, To Save the Future Submitted by Elizabeth Symonenko

It was more than a road trip, or a weekend getaway, it was an experience. On the one hand the weekend was a pilgrimage to pay homage to their roots, to those who fought against the enemy and managed to survive against all odds, in the end allowing them to live and breathe freely. On the other hand it was a journey to honor and remember the millions who did not survive the cruel, malicious and intentional genocide of Ukrainians in 1932-33.

November 7, 2015 was a dark, rainy, overcast and utterly dismal day. The weather was reflective of the event that the members of the Southfield Chapter of the Jr.U.O.L. had traveled over 13 hours to witness. This day they would join over 5,000 Ukrainians dressed in embroidered shirts, wearing wreaths and waving flags, gathered in the capital of the United States to commemorate the newly erected monument to the victims of the Holodomor.

On more than one occasion the mass of blue and yellow flags gathered outside of Union Station drew the attention of passersby. The chapter members took every opportunity to answer inquiries and educate onlookers about the genocide committed by the Soviet regime against Ukrainians in 1932. They explained in horrific detail how, while the countryside yielded a bumper crop of wheat, the peasants were suffering long, painful deaths due to starvation. The young adults told of how their own families had suffered. How their grandmother as a child saw the streets littered with corpses and people with swollen bellies wandering the streets aimlessly like specters, lifeless even as blood still coursed through their veins. How mothers were shot for taking a handful of grain to feed their children. How good Samaritans who tried to help the weak were summarily killed. How starvation, fear, suspicion, death and evil took over the once joyous and prosperous land.



Lexi, Mikey and Lily Powers explained that trainloads of harvested wheat were shipped to Moscow, and there was such a huge harvest that the Soviets weren't able to ship it out fast enough. This was not a natural famine due to drought or pestilence, but an engineered genocide. The remaining grain could easily have saved the starving people, however, that would have gone against the plan of extermination. Instead, the grain was destroyed, dumped in local rivers, wasted...each kernel representing a lost life, one after another, after another...destroyed.

The evil plan was to kill off the local population of Ukrainians, dispose of their bodies, and repopulate the area with Russians, shipped to Ukraine on the same trains that had shipped out the grain. The plan worked. The beautiful homes, with lace curtains, which had been lovingly built by fathers and grandfathers, were now populated by strangers. The school halls now echoed with children speaking Russian. History books were rewritten. The Ukrainian language was erased from existence, and with it most of the culture, pride and heritage of the native people.

The chapter members had their listeners awestruck. Brows furrowed as the



Americans tried to grasp the horror of what they were hearing. Their jaws dropped and they asked why they hadn't learned this in school, or read about it in books.

Why, indeed. The kids told them that is why the monument was built. That is why they traveled all this way. They were in Washington D.C. not only to pay homage to the dead, but, to spread the word, and save the living. To educate the public of the horrors that mankind can inflict on his fellow man, out of greed, pride, and jealousy. They were there to ensure that people knew the history, so that in the future nobody would suffer the same fate as the Ukrainians did in 1932-33.

Youngstown Family attends Holodomor Memorial Dedication Submitted by Anna Anderson

Mykola Prychodzenko traveled to Washington DC on a bus from Saints Peter and Paul Parish in Youngstown, Ohio to witness the dedication of the Holodomor memorial because he thought it was "time for a Holodomor memorial" and he wanted to be there. At the age of 90 years, this was no small trip but he was happy he made the effort. He liked the wheat theme of the memorial. "There was wheat growing in the fields during that time, but we weren't allowed to have any of it. If you tried to steal any of it, they (the government special guards) would shoot you. As children, we tried to sneak into the fields and eat the young wheat. They would chase us away. We even tried to eat the chaff after the harvest, and they wouldn't even let us eat that."

He was asked to share other memories of that time growing up in the village of Karpylivka. "There were no leaves on the trees because the people had stripped them bare. In the collectives, the horses were dying of starvation. To help the horses save energy, they were hoisted up by ropes to help keep them upright, but they died anyway. The government took away our goats and sold them so that we wouldn't have them for food. The guards would walk through the village with long poles. They would pound them on the ground looking for buried food."



It was a life-changing experience for a young boy 83 years ago. He spoke of one memory that stood out the most — "There was a woman and her young son walking up and down the road. The woman had her hand out, hoping someone would give her food.

No one had anything to give her. She didn't walk very far down the street before she dropped to the ground and died."

Mr. Prychodzenko was accompanied by his family, daughter Anna and son-in-law David Anderson, and grandchildren Nicholas, Peter and Katherine. They attended the dedication as a family in support of their father and grandfather. Sharing this historic event was part and parcel of ensuring that - at least for this family - "we will never forget."

A Storyteller's Reflection Submitted by Svitlana Lymar, Photographer

I documented one of the most involved and inspiring events of our diaspora to my memory. There were so many different people from so many different places gathered together to commemorate the many victims of the Holodomor genocide.

I saw the wounded soldiers in the front row. It was difficult seeing their scars and realizing what they represented. These young soldiers fought for Ukraine's freedom and independence. Their presence was a reminder of why we were all there - to not forget.



But how could we forget when one of the survivors of the Holodomor was amongst us. This was no longer a history lesson. This was real. An actual person who witnessed the harshness of this event and the consequences that followed.



The most surprising thing I saw was the amount of attendees under 30 that day. There were kids everywhere. Why were they there? Their parents and grandparents knew that if we forget this man-made famine it would happen again.

Seeing this collective group of survivors, soldiers and youth made me proud of my homeland and the country I live in today. We can remind and educate the world about the past. We can freely support our beliefs and culture in the present. We can prevent this from happening again in the future.

Philadelphia UOL
Submitted by Natalie Bilynsky

Fall is typically a busy season for the Philadelphia chapter and that was certainly the case this year.

We sponsored our second annual Country Zabava at the end of October. Despite lower attendance at the event, everyone who came had a wonderful time. We were thrilled that Linda and Howard Winters from Northampton joined us for the evening.



Once again, Debbie Shinn was a fabulous teacher. We learned a 38 step dance to the Coatesville “Happy, Happy” song. Now when I hear the song on the radio I think of Fr. Ugolnik and the varenyky makers of Coatesville, but I also start clicking my heels to see if I can remember all 38 steps. Perhaps Debbie can teach everyone at the Convention, because I honestly don’t remember all the steps. We had twenty five people join for the fun, relaxed country evening. We had lots of cowboys and cowgirls – but sadly no one dressed as a horse. There is always next year.

For the third year the chapter sponsored a Thanksgiving Dinner with all of the profits from the dinner being donated. This year all of the profits were donated to Pani Yevhennia Dokhvat and her family. Father Anatoliy of Blessed Memory served in Philadelphia over 10 years ago, serving with Father Frank of Blessed Memory prior to moving to the Milleville parish. Father Anatoliy and his family hold a very special place in the heart of the Philadelphia parish and UOL chapter. We are thrilled that we were able to raise two thousand dollars from our project.



Pani Laura Naumenko has been the chairperson for the event for the last three years. Each year she has prepared a wonderful traditional thanksgiving dinner, with turkey and stuffing. As our Junior UOL Chapter is growing we were excited that our Juniors served the dinner.

As this issue comes to print there will still be time for you to attend our Malanka. This year it is scheduled for January 30th. It is always fun. Al Shin is fantastic and there is no better way to spend a Saturday evening in January.

Sharon UOL Members Attend Holodomor Memorial Dedication
Submitted by Adriane Hassler



Adriane Hassler, President of St. John the Baptist Senior UOL Chapter in Sharon, PA pictured with her children, Caden and Marlenna, at the Holodomor Memorial

They traveled by car and they traveled by bus but they wouldn’t miss this historic event. Adriane Hassler, President of St. John the Baptist Senior UOL Chapter in Sharon, PA reported that both Seniors and Juniors from Sharon were anxious to attend — twelve members of the St. John parish in all.

2016 UOL Essay Contest
Focusing on the 2016 UOL Convention Theme
“Be quick to hear, slow to speak & slow to anger”
James 1:19

Here are the topics for the essay contest. Entries must be postmarked no later than April 30, 2016. No names are to be on the front and a cover page with the entrant’s name, age and grade level, church and city and state are to be attached to all entries.

They should be mailed to: Teresa Linck, 8 Carina Dr., Milltown, NJ 08850; or emailed to tiz0430@optimum.net.

Paperwork explaining the rules should be received by the parish no later than January 21, 2016.

Please have parents sign the form stating: I give my permission to have my child’s work (and name) published in the *UOL Bulletin*.

Preschool/ Kindergarten (picture)

Draw a picture of how we should act while hearing the Gospel.

Grades 1 & 2 (two sentences and a picture)

Write two sentences and draw a picture of a time when it’s better to listen before acting.

Grades 3 & 4 (three or four sentences and picture may be included)

We are taught in school that bullying is not good. How would listening before acting help you to know what to do when someone bullies you or when you see someone being bullied?

Grades 5 & 6 (35-50 words)

Explain the verse, Psalm 34:13, “keep your tongue from evil and your lips from telling lies,” as it relates to 5th and 6th graders and the Convention theme “slow to speak.” Who are your neighbors and how can words be used to harm them? How could choosing to listen first, and then act do the opposite?

Grades 7 & 8 (75 words)

In Matthew 5:39, Christ says “...But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also...” Explain how you apply this gospel passage to your daily life.

Grades 9 & 10 (150-200 words)

In Proverbs 12:18, it is said that “There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.” Relate this gospel verse to the theme: “Be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger.”

Grades 11 & 12 (200-500 words)

As one continues to read the Letter of James, in 1:22 he says to “...Be doers of the world and not just hearers only...” What does James mean by this and why does he tell us that?

Adult 18 and over (500 words)

With all the turmoil in the world, many value swift, strong action over listening and empathy. How might the word of James be used to bring peace to our world?

“To everything there is a season”

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Lenten Retreat

Bethlehem, PA

April 2, 2016

This year the retreat will focus on the challenges we all face throughout life, looking at the psychological stages of life.



Fr. Anthony Perkins will speak about how to face these challenges from an Orthodox perspective.



Praying Our Way Together Through Great Lent

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



Looking for something to heighten your spiritual journey through Great Lent this year? Come join your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ of the UOC of USA as we pray and read the Psalter each day for 20 days!

What: Reading an assigned reading from the Psalter
Where: The Comfort of Your Own Home
When: March 21, 2016 - April 15, 2016 at any convenient time 5 days per week - Monday through Friday
How: By Prayer and the Grace of the Holy Spirit!

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

Please Sign up by March 16, 2016!
 Sponsored by the Ukrainian Orthodox League

MAKE ASC SPARKLE!
 Save the date!
 Help ASC shine for the summer & have fun!
 May 27, 2016 to June 5, 2016
 Come for part of the time or all of the time!
 Work by teams during the day and enjoy evening activities!
 Meals, lodging, activities and fellowship are FREE!
 Interested?
 Email/call >> Chris Mills at Cmills63@comcast.net (412-716-0562)
 *Ages 21 and older may attend.
 www.allsaintscamp.org

Lenten Retreats Villa Maria, Pa - March 19, 2016

Grace Shining Forth
 Speakers include His Grace Bishop Daniel and Christal Chaney.

Bethlehem, PA -April 2, 2016

This year the retreat will focus on the challenges we all face throughout life, looking at the psychological stages of life. Fr. Anthony Perkins will speak about how to face these challenges from an Orthodox perspective.

UOL Tribute

U O L T R I B U T E S

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
Rose Key Boykas	In memory of Pani Matka Carole Hotrovich. Vichnaya Pamyat! Memory Eternal!
Lt. Col. and Mrs. Stephen Hallick, Jr	Our family's prayer for continued health and congratulations to Protopresbyter Nestor Kowal and his family as they celebrate his 50 th Anniversary of ordination.
Lt. Col. and Mrs. Stephen Hallick, Jr	Beseeching God's blessing and love upon our newly born granddaughter Mila Isabella Hallick.
Lt. Col. and Mrs. Stephen Hallick, Jr	May God grant many, many years of health and guidance to Metropolitan Makariy (UAOC, Ukraine) as he assumes his new responsibilities.

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.



The US Committee for Holodomor Genocide Awareness 1932-1933 is selling lapel pins for \$5 each to commemorate the memorial dedication. If you are interested in purchasing any pins, please contact Daria Pishko Komichak at dapia@uolnj.org.

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

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Now Available! ASC Booster Club 2016 Calendars

For a \$25 donation.....

- Receive a "2016 ASC Lucky Calendar"!
- A three digit number that provides you a chance to win \$25 a day or more on special days as listed!
- During the year, if your number matches the "Evening" Pennsylvania Daily Lottery (3 digit number drawing) you win the prize listed on the calendar for that day!
- Anyone can join!
- Special drawing for 2016 winners at a chance to receive a FREE Calendar for 2017!
- See your ASC Booster Club Representative or contact Chris Mills to join today!
- You can send your donation check of \$25 made payable to "All Saints Camp Boosters" to the address below. Your 2016 Booster Club information will be sent to you!
- Thank you for supporting All Saints Camp!

Christine Mills
 641 N. Allerton Ct.
 Moon Township, PA 15108
 cmills63@comcast.net

Please note that we are updating our membership and mailing lists. If you received a letter about membership be sure to respond as mailing lists will be updated for the next issue. Be sure to get your next Bulletin and submit dues.