On January 16, 2009, the members of the Junior National Executive Board traveled to South Bound Brook, New Jersey for their winter meeting. When they arrived, they were welcomed by Mr. and Mrs. Emil and Shirley Skocypec at the Fisher House. The Juniors took relief from their weary travel by relaxing with friends from the Seminary and the Senior National Executive Board. They were amazed at the wonderfully decorated house and the seemingly endless supply of food. Thank you!

On the morning of January 17, the group gathered for morning prayers in the Seminary’s chapel, followed by an appetizing breakfast in the dining room. Afterwards, the Juniors embarked for their meeting in the consistory. The winter meeting of the Junior National Executive Board was extremely productive. First, each member presented his/her officer’s report, followed by committee reports.

Financial Secretary, Ethan Rock, reported on the Great Lent Giveaway project developments, as we will be working to build 1,000 “Health Kits” for victims of disasters. Fliers for the project have been made and further information on that event will be sent out soon. Eric Perankovich, who is spearheading the annual Junior Raffle, reported that tickets would be going out in February and that the league had 5,000 tickets to sell. Then, Recording Secretary, Elizabeth Hucul, informed the board that she had begun compiling pictures for a Jr. UOL slide show that will be sent to parishes who lack a chapter. Hopefully, the slide show will help encourage the development of new chapters and an increase in members at large. The board also discussed the annual Cultural Contest and different ways in which we could work to increase the number of entries. The group decided that one way to accomplish this would be to improve the awards given to the winners of the contest. This year at convention, winners in both the Junior and Senior categories will receive an icon to take home and a victory banner to be hung in their respective parishes. Hopefully, such improvements will encourage more members to enter into this spectacular contest. After this, the board reviewed the convention year books sent out by John Walerzki, who also talked about the Jr. UOL webpage that will be going up soon. Next on the agenda was Education, where Eric Perankovich discussed “Bring a Friend to Church Day,” which occurred on the Sunday of the Prodigal Son. Lastly, Arianna Rock discussed her Christian Care Giving and Missions committee, which completed both a Tithing project and Souper Bowl Sunday in recent months. In further discussion of redesigning Jr. UOL t-shirts, the board made some final decisions with the help of His Eminence Archbishop Antony. These should be ready soon and hopefully on sale by convention in Youngstown. Overall, the meeting helped the board to make many important choices about upcoming events.

After the conclusion of the meeting, everyone enjoyed dinner at the Cultural Center. Later that evening, they gathered to play wonderful board games at the Seminary. They also celebrated the birthday of Seminarian, Ivan Kostyshyn. The next morning, they attended Divine Liturgy at St. Andrew’s Memorial Church and left for the airport, having completed their duties at the Winter Meeting of the Junior National Executive Board. Thanks to all who made their stay hospitable, and thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Emil and Shirley Skocypec for all of their hard work and dedication!

62nd ANNUAL UOL CONVENTION
Sts. Peter and Paul, Youngstown, OH
July 22-26, 2009
We look forward to seeing you in Y-town!!
We held a “Souper” Bowl Sunday on the 25th of January at the Jr. Chapter Elizabeth Ann Seton food pantry in Carnegie. The event was held to raise items for our local food bank. The Jr. Chapter also helped collect and donate items to the Advent Project: Help Local Food Bank.

We charged $5.00 per person for soup, sandwiches, and desserts. So, come to the church.

As the winter meeting, some of the results include: finalizing plans for the UOL website, which is now “up and running” and in the very capable hands of our “Webmaster” Joshua Orhon. We would like to sincerely thank everyone who participated in the Thanksgiving tithing program and the “Souper” Bowl Sunday project, and it is still not too late to participate. Over the last few years these projects have truly made a difference in the lives of those less fortunate. Along those same lines, the Annual Fund Drive and the LSKK and MSIF fund drives are now in full swing, so please contribute generously to these worthy causes.

Also, information concerning the 2009 U.O.L. Essay Contest has been mailed to chapters and parishes. Please encourage all parishioners (the contest is not limited to UOL members) to participate in this annual event. If you need more information please contact UOL Essay Contest Chairwoman Shirley Skocynec.

Lastly, as we prepare to begin our journey through Great Lent I invite everyone to include, in their journeys, plans for attending the Lenten Retreats sponsored by the UOL. The first retreat will be held at All Saints Camp on March 27-29, and the second will be held at the St. Francis Retreat Center (in Bethlehem, PA) on April 3-5. Besides being an opportunity for you to spend more time with your fellow UOL members, the retreats will help you “step away” from the everyday “hustle and bustle” of life and reflect on and prepare for Pascha, the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,
Oleh V. Bilinsky
magical evening!
event and to all who attended this
helped to organize and work this

Many thanks to everyone who
health, happiness and prosperity
each other with well wishes of
stroke of midnight as we toasted
champagne was served at the
highlight of the evening! Then,
Del Sinchak Band- polkas are their specialty but, the kolomeyka was the
the raffle table. After dinner, we danced to the sounds of the award winning
our raffle fundraiser, in addition to other items donated by our members for
delicious ethnic food buffet and a wonderful array of desserts. Mr. Ben
venue, which welcomed almost 300 party go-ers. The evening started with a
assisting. Party balloons and streamers adorned the hall for a most festive
Joseph Ewanish led the event with many of our hard working UOL members

You’ll have a GREAT time in 2009! See YOU there!

Youngstown Chapter News -Submitted by Diane Senediak
Cookies Galore! at the Y-town Annual “Cookie Walk” The first weekend
in December was bounding with excitement as the Sr. and Jr. UOL of Sts.
Peter & Paul parish of Youngstown, Ohio held its second annual “Cookie Walk” fundraiser. Howard Ulbricht chaired the event, and many of our
members, and non-members as well, gave relentlessly of their time and talents
for numerous weeks up to and through the event day. As the guests arrived to
purchase their selected goodies by the pound, our “elves” helped escort them around our professionally arranged tables of delectable delights. A gracious thank you from all of us
to all of you who not only purchased the baked goods but, helped coordinate, baked and
clean up, too…yeah, you know who you are!

“New Year’s Eve in Ukraine”
Y-town style! January 31, 2009 was the date of the Y-town Sr.
UOL’s Malanka Dinner Dance which was held at the Orthodox
Center of Sts. Peter & Paul parish of Youngstown, Ohio. Mr.
Taylor Gladys
Parma Chapter Celebrates U.O.L. Sunday
Submitted by Pani Matka Mary Anne Nakonachny

The members of St. Vladimir’s Senior U.O.L. Chapter in Parma celebrated U.O.L. Sunday with a luncheon at Dimitri’s Restaurant. Due to the chapter’s busy schedule in December, it was decided to celebrate the day on Sunday, January 11th.

Twenty three members attended the luncheon, during which a brief meeting was held to discuss past and upcoming events. The members found themselves very busy in December, preparing for their annual Christmas Craft Fair and second annual Cookie Walk. Thanks to the hard work of chapter members and the assistance and support of parishioners, both functions were very successful. Chapter members were also very involved in the Sunday School St. Nicholas program and the Family Night that was held on December 30th.

January found everyone busy preparing for the Nativity of Christ, with caroling, decorating the church and preparing the Holy Supper, which the chapter sponsors on Christmas Eve. Members also made sandwiches for the parish’s annual meeting and hosted the meeting of the All Saints Camp Committee on February 7th.

After a quiet February, chapter members will be busy attending the Great Lent services in church and preparing for their Spring Craft Fair and other fundraisers. We wish everyone a very spiritually uplifting Great Lent, as we all prepare for the joyous celebration of Christ’s Resurrection.

“Few Are Called… Are You Next?”
Submitted by Pani Matka Linda Oryhon

During the recent pre-inauguration festivities there was a call for service to the United States of America. The President declared service to our communities and country to be the highest form of honor, respect and patriotism.

We, as Orthodox Christians, are also called to service to our Church and her people. In his book, These Are The Sacraments, Fr. Anthony Coniaris explains this calling. He refers to Fr. Stanley Harakas’ definition as noted in his pamphlet “The Making of a Greek Orthodox Priest.” Fr. Harakas uses two Greek words, klesis meaning inclination and klesis meaning a call. He further explains “Every priest must have the inclination… and somehow in a very deep and personal way, he must also sense the call of God which he cannot disobey. He has sensed that becoming a priest was in the last analysis, not his own doing. Like St. Paul, he was called to be a priest of Jesus Christ by the will of God.”

Fr Coniaris also writes, “Scripture speaks of this call in Hebrews 5:4 And one does not take the honor (priesthood) upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was.”

National Executive Board Meeting

In mid January the Senior and Junior National Executive Boards met in South Bound Brook, New Jersey. On Friday evening NEB members Emil and Shirley Skocypec hosted both the Junior and Senior boards. The Fisher Houses, still decorated for Christmas, was beautiful with mechanical musical figures greeting everyone at the front door and multiple trees throughout the house. The table was set for a festive and elaborate dinner with place settings for all members of the Skocypec family. The decorations were topped only by the hospitality of the hosts. Board members got a chance to catch up and enjoy the beautiful décor.

Saturday morning board members joined our Hierarchs His Eminence Archbishop Antony and His Grace Bishop Daniel for morning prayers in the seminary chapel. Following a delicious breakfast at the seminary both boards started deliberations in the Consistory Building. Details about the Junior meeting are featured in the article written by Junior President Taylor Gladys. The Seniors had a very productive meeting. One major accomplishment was the review of the UOL Handbook and plans for revisions of sections that needed some updating. The UOL Handbook should be finished and distributed at the UOL Convention.

Aleksandra Hucal reported that the web page is up and running. The web page can be viewed at http://uol.orthodoxws.com. To submit items to be posted please e-mail Aleksandra at ahucal@yahoo.com. Josh Oryhon has agreed to serve as webmaster, and Aleksandra will continue to be the board liaison.

At the meeting His Eminence Archbishop Antony encouraged the Board to transfer some funds from the general fund to support the Metropolitan John Scholarship Fund. The Board decided to transfer twenty thousand dollars to MSF. This will permit additional funds to be available this year for seminarians who are eligible. Additionally, after His Eminence Archbishop Antony spoke about the impact of the financial crisis on the Consistory, the Board donated ten thousand dollars to the Consistory. With recent record-breaking profits from Conventions and ongoing frugality of board members in terms of travel and expenses, these donations are fiscally possible without major budget concerns.

Pani Matka Linda Oryhon discussed plans for Vocations and Clergy Support. She reported that she is working with Consistory and Seminary Officers to plan a “come and see” weekend at the seminary. Additionally she has been submitting articles to the UOL Bulletin.

Plans for upcoming retreats were reviewed. It was noted that these retreats have been growing in success with approximately 60 to 70 people attending each retreat each year. There is still time to make your plans to attend the retreats in Bethlehem or at All Saints Camp. All UOL members are encouraged to attend at least one retreat. Shirley Skocypec reports that the Essay Contest topics have been mailed out and once again are listed in this issue of the Bulletin. There is plenty of time to submit your entry. In addition to these on-going educational projects, Eric Senedak discussed plans for the start of the book club. At the UOL Convention last year there was much discussion about starting a book club. The book was selected –Board members discussed having multiple sessions to encourage participation, including the St. Thomas Pilgrimage and the Convention.

On a very positive note our ongoing membership drives have been successful with a current list of 28 members at large. Membership chairperson, Natalie

(Continued page 5)
ACTIVITIES AT STS. PETER AND PAUL UOL IN PALOS PARK
Submitted by Fr. Taras Naumenko

After a busy summer, life at Sts. Peter and Paul parish in Palos Park, IL. continues to boom with various activities involving every church related organization. The UOL chapter joined the Sisterhood of St. Ann’s at their yearly appreciation luncheon for varenyky workers in October. But it is not only the women who make varenyky, but also the devoted men who have become the honorary members of the Sisterhood.

Also in October the Sr. UOL chapter sponsored a Family Fall Fest. Close to 40 children participated in this event that included: a Faith Scavenger Hunt in Church for the younger kids, Chapter Challenge between Jr. UOL and Church Choir, the moderator of which was none other than Dr. Gayle Woloschak, pumpkin painting, games and a delectable lunch.

For two years, on a monthly basis, the parish has been holding a Family Faith Gathering on a Saturday evening following Vesper service. This time provides an opportunity for families to spend more time with each other, as is much needed in today’s chaotic society. This year our tool for the discussion is a book by Peter M. Kallellis “After the Honeymoon, How to Maintain a Happy Marriage”. The goal of these gatherings is to provide much needed support to make our families stronger. We share ideas and experiences as we learn the views and teachings of the Orthodox Church on various issues.

Our Jr. UOL chapter continues to work hard raising funds by sponsoring car washes and monthly coffee hours. They participate in all parish activities.

At the annual Thanksgiving Turkey Shoot on November 16th, the faithful gathered as one family in Christ. The Sisterhood prepared a one of a kind delicious Turkey dinner as Jr. UOL members helped serve the food to the congregation and guests. Special platters were prepared and distributed to all shut-ins following this event. A portion of the food was also donated to P.A.D.S (Public Action to Deliver Shelter) and St. Stanislaus Soup Kitchen in Chicago.

As part of our meeting we also discussed possible chapter locations and strategies to encourage chapter development. Remember as a UOL member you are always an ambassador for forming new chapters.

Convention packet prices were approved and I am pleased to announce that the packet price has remained the same. The Convention Committee in Youngstown has been working diligently to make this a wonderful Convention. Be sure to start making your plans to attend the Convention July 22 to 26, 2009.

After a long meeting Board members enjoyed a delicious meal prepared in the Cultural Center. That evening Juniors and Seniors gathered at the seminary and played “Apples to Apples.” The game took a surprising turn as the seminarians and Junior Board members started to act out the cards, in an impromptu charades game. Kudos to them for acting out difficult words, like “Canada.”

Sunday morning Board members attended Divine Liturgy and because of flight times were quickly whisked off to the airport. With all of the plans made at the meeting and lots of work to do, it was important to get home and start work immediately. Thank you to Shirley and Emily Skocypec for their hospitality.

Bilynsky, has sent out letters to previous board members as well as members listed on the rosters who have not been active for several years. We continue to reach out to everyone to join the UOL and need your help to encourage everyone to join. Emil Skocypec, Chapter Development Chair, is working with potential chapters. He reported that both South Side Pittsburgh and South Bound Brook are re-established and plan to submit dues in the next few weeks.

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Name the Junior UOL’ers Contest - Dust out the cobwebs and strap on your thinking caps!!! Name as many Jr. UOL members in the picture taken at the Sts. Peter & Paul 1992 UOL Convention in Youngstown, Ohio. Then, send your results to Anna Mark at AnnaVisa1@aol.com by April 25, 2009. The winner with the most correct names submitted will win a fabulous, magnificent, rad “Trust in the Lord with all your HEART” 2009 UOL Convention t-shirt (endorsed by His Grace Bishop Daniel!) and 10 free raffle tickets for our excellent raffles which will be held daily at the 2009 Sr/Jr. UOL Convention in Y-town, Ohio. So, join in on the fun and get crackin’! Good Luck!!!

Martha and Michael Misko

Halyna Slinko-Shevchuk
~ Mr and Mrs Slinko

Anonymous
~ In Honor of Protopresbyter William Diakiw’s service to the UOL

Victor Melnychenko

Patricia Rychly
~ In Memory of Mother, Helen Rychly

Tom and Alla Grzymski
~ Julia and John Grzymski & Nichola and Ewpfrostyna Mech

Catherine Kochenash

Jane Yavarow

Barbara Novicky
~ In Memory of Shirley A Briach

Oleh and Natalie Bilynsky

Irene Pashesnik

Rev. Fr. Alexis Limonczenko
~ In Memory of Olha, Eudokia

Stephen and Karen Sheptak

Petro Matula

Boris and Olga Pishko
~ In Honor of Daria, Larissa, Ted and their families

Anonymous
~ In Memory of Priest Vasyl Czekaluk

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

you can still make your donation to Support the UOL Annual Fund Drive:
PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO “UOL Annual Fund Drive”

SEND TO: Alexis Oryhon 623 Jennings St. Endicott, NY 13760
Our Sr. Chapter members were very busy in the month of January, 2009, hosting two annual events. On Sunday, January 18th, we sponsored the blessing of the Theophany Ice Cross. Father Frank named Senior Chapter members Michael Fesnak and David Sembrot “Godfathers of the Cross” because they made all the arrangements for the Ice Cross, which included their generous donations for the entire cost of the Cross. Following the outdoor blessing by Father Estocin, our chapter hosted a delicious, warm breakfast buffet in the Cathedral Hall. Senior Chapter member Dori Nemeth served as chairperson for the meal which included: juice, french toast casserole, scrambled eggs, breakfast rolls, kutia and fresh fruit cup.

The following Saturday, January 24th, we sponsored our Annual Malanka. Senior Chapter members Debbie and Al Shinn served as chairpeople for this event. Held in our Cathedral Hall, the evening’s festivities opened with a buffet dinner. The menu included appetizers, roasted pig, roast beef, rigatoni pasta along with an assortment of salads and a dessert table. Once again, for our listening and dancing pleasure, Senior Chapter member and DJ Al Shinn provided the music. Over 150 people attended this year’s Malanka celebration from our Philadelphia and New Jersey regions, which made it a tremendous success. In addition to our Malanka regulars, we had a great group of young adults in attendance from Johnson City, Boston, State College, Harrisburg, Baltimore, and Scranton.

As always, our Malanka is a family friendly event with dancers of all ages. Our youngest dancers stole the show dancing until we rang in the new year at 10 p.m. We can’t recall the exact time of our countdown but our host and favorite DJ Al Shinn chose a random time to count down. We celebrated the New Year and countdown at 10:14. Who needs the exact time, there is excitement regardless of the exact time. Our kolomeyka was particularly exciting this year with our group of young girls between 1 and 7 watching and practicing their kolomeyka dance steps. We see a future for them at Conventions to come. Everyone truly had a wonderful time and are looking forward to Malanka - 2010.

St. Vladimir’s Senior and Junior Chapters are also pleased to announce the return of the UOL Basketball Tournament. We will be hosting this year’s Basketball Classic in Philadelphia: May 1 - 3, 2009. It promises to be a weekend full of fellowship and fun for players of any age and skill level. This is an open tournament, so you can register as a team or as an individual. This year’s Basketball Tournament will serve as a fundraiser for our upcoming 64th Annual UOL Convention in Philadelphia in 2011. For further information about the tournament, please contact our co-chairpeople Jordan Gladys and Josh Oryhon via e-mail: UOLhoops@hotmail.com

The Philadelphia Senior Chapter is typically busy in the winter with many of our annual events scheduled around the Nativity season. This year was no exception and started with a fun social night at Dave and Buster’s. President Andrea Karbiwnyk Swan planned a wonderful evening at a local Dave and Buster’s. For those who have never been, Dave and Buster’s is a huge arcade with lots of games for both children and adults. Andrea did a great job encouraging both Junior and Senior UOL members as well as prospective members to attend. We had a large group with over 35 people there that evening. First we enjoyed a delicious dinner and conversation. After dinner we let loose at Dave and Buster’s playing a variety of games including shooting aliens, trivia contests, air hockey, and “Deal or no Deal.” One of the highlights was related to our preparation for the upcoming basketball tournament. Jordan Gladys, chapter secretary, beat a group of UOL members in most free shots scored. It is clear that Jordan is ready for the basketball tournament and I suggest that no teams foul her because Jordan is the queen of the free throw.

The next week we went caroling and visited parishioners who are currently in nursing homes. For over a decade we have been caroling and visiting our elderly who are in nursing homes or unable to come to church because of physical ailments. We also visited long-time UOL member Mary Wolos. She looked wonderful and was excited to see our group. She also joined in our caroling.
2009 UOL BASKETBALL CLASSIC
Tipping off to the City of Brotherly Love
Philadelphia, PA

May 1-3, 2009

Move over, Rocky – the UOL basketball tournament is BACK! Register individually or with a team, the 2009 UOL Basketball Classic is absolutely and positively an open tournament. Not interested in basketballing? That’s cool, join us in Philly for a weekend’s worth of activities on and off the court.

Please contact us if you or members of your chapter are interested and would like to get on the tournament mailing list. Also, check out our Event page on Facebook – search for “UOL Basketball Classic.”

Jordan Gladys: (412) 527-7703       Josh Oryhon: (518) 424-5701
email: UOLhoops@hotmail.com

The UOL Basketball Classic: “It’s Not March Madness, It’s May Mayhem!”

7th Annual
UOL LENTEN RETREATS
All Saints Camp
Millenium Building
March 27-29, 2009

For more information contact:
Diane Senedak  DKSSenny@aol.com  330-792-6699
Melanie Nakonachny  MelanieNak@aol.com  440-842-3820

God is Wonderful in His Saints
St. Francis Retreat Center
Bethlehem, PA

April 3-5, 2009
Retreat will focus on Saints
For more information contact:
Natalie Bilinsky  nsufler@aol.com  610-892-7315

Thank you to all those who contributed to the National Jr. and Sr. UOL Thanksgiving Tithing project!

Your generosity allows us to donate $705.00 to the Holy Cross Mission Parish in Las Cruces, NM.

May you continue to serve the League in Christ’s Love!

Encourage UOL Membership - Share your UOL Bulletin with a Friend!

JUNIOR UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX LEAGUE
PYSH TRAVEL GRANT 2009

The Pysh Travel Grant was established to help chapters and members attend the UOL Convention in an effort to:
- Recruit new members
- Develop new chapters
- Reorganize old chapters

If you are in need of financial assistance to attend the Annual Jr. UOL Convention in Youngstown, OH, the Pysh Travel Grant is here to help!

Simply complete the application sent to your chapter, or contact Taylor Gladys (TEGladys@aol.com) for an additional application. The deadline for applications is May 1, 2009.

A maximum of $300 may be awarded in 3 grants per year to either a group or individual applicants.

A donation to the Tribute Fund is an acknowledgment of a Milestone, Memorial, 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.

please send your tribute today!!

Interested in honoring a special person or remembering a special event?
Use the UOL Tribute Fund to commemorate special events.

UOL Tributes should be submitted to:
Natalie Bilinsky  703 Pine Ridge Road  Wallingford, PA 19086

please make check payable to Ukrainian Orthodox League