

DECEMBER 2018

GCU

MAGAZINE

**GCU Fraternalist
of the Year**
Page 3

**Third Quarter
Financial Results**
Page 4

GoGive
Page 8



Inside This Issue

Volume 126 | Issue 6 | December 2018

- 1** President/CEO Report
- 3** 2018 Fraternalist of the Year
- 4** CFO Report
- 5** Financials
- 6** Lessons in Law
- 7** Fall Helping Hands Day
- 8** GoGive
- 9** Our Members
- 13** Community
- 14** Fraternal
- 40** Tradition
- 41** Announcements
- 42** Deceased Members
- 44** Remembrances
- 45** Sports

Board of Directors

Very Rev. Richard I. Lambert,
Spiritual Advisor

Gregory N. Vladika,
Chairman of the Board

George A. Kofel
Vice Chairman of the Board

Melanie Basl

Dorothy Ann Foran

Lisa Gulibon

Michael W. Karaffa

Barbara J. Kushner

David A. Oleksa

John W. Oslick

John J. Urban

George N. Juba,
Editor

Basil M. Wahal,
Managing Editor

On Our Cover: The joy and excitement of the Christmas season are most enjoyed when viewed through the eyes of a child. Our wish for you this year is that you may take the time to enjoy the magic of the season with the eyes of your inner child.

We wish all our members a Blessed & Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy New Year.

The GCU Magazine
(USPS 227-900) (ISSN0895-5395)
Subscription Per Year: \$12
To Canada-Per Year: \$18

Periodical Postage Paid at
Beaver, PA 15009 and at additional offices

Postmaster

Send address changes to:
GCU Magazine
5400 Tuscarawas Road,
Beaver, PA 15009

**Monday, January 28, 2019 is the copy
deadline for the February GCU Magazine.**

Email copy to: bwahal@GCUusa.com or

Mail to: GCU Communications Dept.

Attn: GCU Magazine

5400 Tuscarawas Road
Beaver, PA 15009

Official publication of GCU,
Issued the 15th of February, April, June,
August, October, December.

Phone:

1-724-495-3400

1-800-722-4428

FAX: 1-724-495-3421

info@GCUusa.com

www.GCUusa.com





George N. Juba
President
CEO

A Special Time

The Christmas Season is such a “special time” of the year as it has its own unique feeling! For me, especially the week before Christmas Day, I like to reminisce about the holidays and all the cherished memories that I was blessed with as a child. I am so grateful to my parents for creating for me and my brother such a wonderful Christmas Holiday each year, not only when we were children, but over the course of our adulthood as well! Some of my fondest memories as a child include:

- Attending our high school football game on Thanksgiving Day.
- Driving with my parents and brother to downtown Scranton and throughout the neighborhoods to see the decorated store fronts and Christmas lights lit up for the first time. (Our version of light up night.)
- Christmas Eve church services.
- The wonderful gifts that Santa brought each Christmas morning.
- My brother waking me up in the wee hours of Christmas morning to check out our gifts together with a flashlight.
- Peeking outside under the street light to look for Santa’s sled marks in the snow. (I still do this.)
- Decorating our home that my Dad was so proud of when it was completed.
- Our traditional Christmas Eve Supper at my Grandma Juba’s home along with an hour long of prayers said in Slovak. (It felt like an hour!)
- The beautiful decorated tree at Christmas that Santa would set up and dec-

orate on Christmas Eve. (Insanity on my parents’ part.)

- The Lionel trains that Santa also set up under the tree that we all enjoyed as well!
- The wonderful dinners prepared by my Mom.
- Visiting family and friends throughout Christmas week.
- A visit from the “Kubys”—a Carpatho-Rusyn Christmas custom as a group of carolers from our Church parish dressed in white garments with high cylindrical hats, with ribbons of flashy colors across their chests. They visited each parishioners’ home singing Christmas Carols as everyone would welcome them with open arms complete with refreshments that always included a few adult beverages. I was deathly scared of them and would run upstairs to my bedroom and hide until they left. (I think I eventually recovered and did look forward to their visit as I got older.)

Although I may be up in age, it does seem like yesterday to me as I so vividly remember Christmas time in the “Good Old Days!” Yes, I was truly blessed, and I do hope that you were as fortunate as I was to have such fond memories of what Christmas is all about – God, Family & Friends!

The Christmas Season is also a time to remember the less fortunate. There are so many organizations that assist the less fortunate in providing some Christmas cheer during the holidays. I serve on the Beaver County Advisory Board of The Salvation Army. I applaud the efforts of The Salvation Army for the many programs sponsored, not only at Christmas time but throughout the year, fulfilling the needs of so many families and individuals. So, during this time of giving, I encourage you to support the Salvation Army’s “Red Kettle Campaign.” The funds allow the Salvation Army to provide services for fighting hunger,

Although I may be up in age, it does seem like yesterday to me as I so vividly remember Christmas time in the “Good Old Days!” Yes, I was truly blessed, and I do hope that you were as fortunate as I was to have such fond memories of what Christmas is all about – God, Family & Friends!

giving warmth, clothing the needy, providing housing, fighting natural disasters and providing programming for youth encouragement!

Many parts of our country experience natural disasters every year. In 2017 the GCU's Board of Directors established a Natural Disaster Matching Funds Program that matches up to \$ 10,000.⁰⁰ per event for donations made to the GCU Foundation that provides financial and other relief to victims that have suffered losses from such disasters. Donations thus far have allowed for checks of over \$3,425.⁰⁰ each to be sent from the GCU Foundation to the Salvation Army, the American Red Cross and Catholic Charities to aid the victims of Hurricanes Florence and Michael. Funding was recently instituted for the wild fires of California through this special Matching Funds program. Through November 30 over \$1,700.⁰⁰ has been donated which equates to over \$1,000.⁰⁰ each for the same recipients above. Our sincere thank you to the members that have donated to this cause! Please note that all donations made to the GCU Foundation are 100% tax deductible and your donation is matched by the GCU!

The GCU has been very blessed as we continue to experience sound financial performance. Our financial success as well as our tax-exempt status allows for the GCU to fund many fraternal programs in support of our members' churches, communities and various organizations in need of financial support. We extend our sincere thank you to our members and agents for your continued support of the GCU's financial and fraternal mission—it is the "heartbeat" of our Society.

Detailed financial reports and commentary of the GCU's 2018 third quarter results, as prepared by our Chief Financial Officer, Tim Demetres, are published on page 4 & 5 for your review.

We extend our congratulations to Mary Elizabeth Olack, a member of Lodge 10 – Aliquippa, PA, for being selected as the GCU's 2018 Fraternalist of the Year. As she resides in close proximity to the GCU's Home Office, my personal thank you to Mrs. Olack and to her late husband Joe Olack for all of



National Director & Chairman of the Board Gregory N. Vladika presents Mary Elizabeth Olack with a plaque honoring her for being the GCU 2018 Fraternalist of the Year.

their assistance provided to the GCU's National Bowling and Golf Tournaments and other events hosted at Seven Oaks. An article appears on page 3 detailing Mrs. Olack's involvement in her church and other community related activities.

We are also pleased to announce that plans are being finalized in transferring all the lodges located in the Greater Pittsburgh area within the former District 1 into regional lodges effective January 1, 2019. The regional lodges formed under this concept are as follows:

- Central Pittsburgh Regional Lodge—Lodge 28 (Southside-Pittsburgh), Lodge 255 (Greenfield-Pittsburgh, PA) and Lodge 386 (Carrick-Pittsburgh, PA)
- Southeast Pittsburgh Regional Lodge – Lodge 2 (Munhall, PA) and Lodge 288 (Clairton, PA)
- Pittsburgh South Regional Lodge – Lodge 52 (Upper St. Clair, PA)
- Northwest Pittsburgh Regional Lodge – Lodge 390 (McKees Rocks, PA)

I recently attended the reorganization meeting of the Southeast Pittsburgh Regional Lodge. My congratulations to each of the officers elected and best wishes in continuing your financial and volunteer support of your churches and your communities. The GCU Board and our Fraternal/Communications Department pledge our support to the newly formed Greater Pittsburgh Regional Lodges in assuring the continued success under the regional lodge structure.

The GCU recently launched its new whole life insurance rates in compliance

with the 2017 CSO Mortality Tables that will position the GCU to be more competitive in the whole life insurance markets with lower premiums and higher cash values in the majority of cases. Check out our newly branded whole life products: Legacy Protector – former Single Premium Whole Life Plan; Legacy Advantage (Paid Up at Age 100) – former Traditional Whole Life Plan and Legacy Advantage 20 – former 20 Pay Life Plan. Please refer to the back cover, contact your agent or our Call Center at 855-306-0607 for more information. Protect your loved ones to assure them of a stable life style and a secure financial future!

In closing, on behalf of the Board of Directors, Executive Officers, Department Directors, Supervisors and our entire support staff, our sincere thank you to our members and agents for entrusting the GCU for your and your clients' life insurance and financial retirement business. Without you and your support, GCU would not be in existence—we value our relationship with you!

Our sincere wishes to you and your family for a "Most Joyous, Blessed and Merry Christmas Season!" May God grant to you peace, health and prosperity in the coming New Year!

CHRISTOS RAZDAJETSJA!
CHRIST IS BORN!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "George".

MARY ELIZABETH OLACK

GCU 2018 Fraternalist of the Year

The Fraternalist of the Year award recognizes an individual within GCU who is the embodiment of fraternalism. Someone who lives a life of service through their local lodge, church, and community.

After consideration of the numerous candidates submitted to the committee, Mary Elizabeth Olack of Lodge 10 was chosen the 2018 GCU Fraternalist of the Year. She has devoted a lifetime to service within the GCU, her parish and community.

GCU Lodge 10 in Aliquippa, PA and District 15 have long enjoyed the dedication of Mary Elizabeth to serving as an officer, convention delegate and as a dependable member to work at lodge & district sponsored events. She is a past secretary of Lodge 10 and regular volunteer at many of their sponsored events. Within District 15 Mrs. Olack has served as: fraternal activities director, fashion show chairperson, a member and officer of the district bowling league, National Bowling Tournament attendee, assisted with activities at National Golf Tournaments as well as volunteering at the district's Bunco event and annual Sisters of St. Joseph Christmas party.

Mary Elizabeth is just as active within her parish and community. Volunteering at: Helping Hands Day at Mt. St. Macrina in Uniontown; as a pirohi project volun-

teer for St. Mary's Byzantine Church in Ambridge for over 20 years—continuing through 2018; Slavjane Folk Ensemble volunteer—sewing costumes and baking for concert receptions & fundraisers; BF Jones Library, Aliquippa; regularly volunteers at Manna—House of Prayer Lutheran Church in Aliquippa—an outreach for underserved populations in Aliquippa and has participated in Lodge 10 Highway Clean-up along Route 376 in Aliquippa.

Mary Elizabeth along with her late husband, former GCU National Auditor Joseph Olack, raised four children instilling in them Christian values, love of their Carpatho-Rusyn heritage and their Byzantine Church, responsibility for community and the importance of serving others. Their children Timothy, Kathryn, David and Michael, continue the service example set by their mother and father, volunteering with various organizations such as Animal Friends, underserved populations, churches and veterans associations in the communities in which they live throughout the USA.

In her nominating note, GCU District 15 President Elizabeth Harbist wrote, "I



Mary Elizabeth Olack making a donation to Ann Andrews at the B.F. Jones Memorial Library in Aliquippa, PA.

admire Mary Elizabeth Olack for her commitment to her faith, family and her community. She is generous with her time, talents and treasure. Giving of herself to benefit the Byzantine Catholic churches, her community and members of the GCU. At 87 years old, Mary Elizabeth is still going strong with regular exercise classes at the Sewickley Valley YMCA, she bowls weekly with the GCU league, continues volunteer work at the churches and GCU events. With a quiet determination, and always "a proper lady," Mary Elizabeth serves as an excellent representative of the GCU, and very much deserves recognition as GCU Fraternalist of the Year.

Mary Elizabeth received a plaque from GCU Chairman of the Board Gregory Vladika and a check of \$500.⁰⁰ made payable to the charity she chose, the B.F. Jones Library in Aliquippa. Congratulations Mary Elizabeth on a lifetime of serving and caring for others.

Nomination forms for the 2019 GCU Fraternalist of the Year will be available for completion on the GCU website in January.

"I admire Mary Elizabeth Olack for her commitment to her faith, family and her community. She is generous with her time, talents and treasure. Giving of herself to benefit the Byzantine Catholic churches, her community and members of the GCU."

Elizabeth Harbist | District 15 President

Third Quarter 2018 Financials



Tim Demetres
Chief Financial Officer
CFO

GCU is fully committed to serving its members and certificate holders. It is my pleasure to report our financial highlights and achievements for the nine months ended September 30, 2018.

With continued member support and understanding what GCU's life insurance protection affords our loved ones during times of need as well as looking to the future for wealth and retirement planning, our financial strength continues to grow at a measured pace with surplus reaching a new high. Although life insurance and fixed annuity sales have trended lower this year, our earnings before realized gains (losses) remain on par with last year and met expectations. Net Income after realized gains (losses) for the nine months ended September 30th was \$17.2 million in 2018 compared to \$17.0 million in 2017. We had realized capital losses of \$1.9 million in 2018 and \$2.6 million in 2017. These actions were taken to mitigate exposure in certain energy related investments. Surplus grew \$16.1 million to \$149.1 million compared to \$133.0 million at year-end 2017.

Assets grew to \$1.852 billion, an increase of \$139.9 million or 8.2% from \$1.712 billion at year end 2017. The increase is attributed to positive operating cash flows from life and annuity sales, investment earnings and controlled spending.

Liabilities grew by \$123.8 million to \$1.703 billion at September 30, 2018 compared to \$1.579 billion as of December 31, 2017. This increase is due primarily to increased annuity reserves of \$111.5 million from net new deposits

and an increase of \$8.3 million for securities purchased not yet settled. The interest maintenance reserve, representing deferred investment gains and future investment income, increased \$1.5 million to \$24.3 million. The asset valuation reserve, representing a cushion for future investment credit losses, also grew by \$2.4 million to \$21.0 million.

Total Income decreased \$18.1 million or 6.9% to \$244.7 million from \$262.7 million in 2017. Revenue from life and annuity premiums decreased by \$23.4 million from the prior year. This decrease is partially offset by a \$4.7 million increase in net investment income from growth in invested assets.

Operating expenses, before the change in reserves, decreased \$23.1 million or 16.9% for the nine months of 2018 and totaled \$113.4 million compared to \$136.5 million in 2017. The decrease is primarily due to lower annuity benefits paid and exchanges of \$23.8 million and a reduction of \$1.3 million in commissions paid on lower sales offset by \$0.6 million increase in general operating expenses and \$0.9 million in pension distributions due to retirements earlier in the year.

The Change in Reserves increased \$5.5 million for the nine months and totaled \$112.0 million compared to \$106.5 million in 2017. Reserve changes are a function of premium deposits, mortality, payment of death and annuity benefits, and interest accumulation.

Financial strength and stability is the foundational pillar that enables GCU to fulfill its member promises well into the future. Surplus now stands at \$149.1 million compared

Summary of Financial Statistics

(000's omitted)	9/30/2018	9/30/2017	Change
Assets	\$1,852,168	\$1,712,285	\$139,883
Total Income	244,676	262,742	(18,065)
Total Expenses	225,359	242,986	(17,628)
Net Income (Loss)	17,191	17,003	188
Surplus (Net Worth)	149,092	133,042	16,050
Asset Valuation Reserve	21,037	18,662	2,375
Interest Maint. Reserve	24,345	22,870	1,476
Total Adjusted Capital (TAC) \$	170,129	\$ 151,705	\$ 18,424
Normal Solvency Ratio	108.8	108.4	0.3
Solv. Ratio by Total Adj. Capital	110.1	109.7	0.4

Reconciliation of Change in Surplus

(000's omitted)	9/30/18
Surplus Previous Year (12/31)	\$133,042
Net Income	17,191
Change in Unrealized Gain/(Loss)	1,826
GCU Holding Company & Other	(832)
Changes in Non-Admitted Assets	240
Changes in Asset Valuation Reserve	(2,375)
Net Change in Surplus	16,050
Ending Surplus	\$149,092

to 2017 year-end surplus of \$133.0 million. The increase of \$16.1 in surplus is primarily attributable to net income of \$17.2 million and a \$1.8 million increase in unrealized investment gains reduced by a \$2.4 million increase in the Asset Valuation Reserve and \$0.8 million loss in the investment in GCU Holding and Subsidiaries.

Total surplus is the amount we set aside for unexpected losses from operations and financial protection against business volatility. Total Adjusted Capital begins with Surplus of

\$149.1 million and adds back the Asset Valuation Reserve of \$21.0 million and one-half the dividend liability of \$150,000 and totaled \$170.1 million as of September 30, 2018. This is an increase of \$18.4 million over year-end 2017. The solvency ratios based on total adjusted capital at September 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017 are 110.1% and 109.7%, respectively. These ratios reflect a strong and stable balance sheet.

The most joyous time of the year is back, Merry Christmas!
Tim

GCU INCOME STATEMENT Nine Months 2018 vs. 2017

INCOME (000's omitted)	9/30/2018	9/30/2017	Change
Life Premium	\$ 1,413	\$ 4,452	\$(3,0389)
Annuity Premium	157,807	167,601	(9,794)
Annuity Exchanges	12,938	23,515	(10,578)
Accident & Health	510	407	103
Subtotal	172,668	195,976	(23,308)
Net investment income	\$ 67,116	\$ 62,431	\$ 4,685
Amort. of Int. Maint. Resrv.	2,396	2,030	366
Commissions-Reinsurance	2,076	1,879	197
Other	420	425	(5)
Total income	\$244,676	\$262,742	\$(18,065)
EXPENSES (000's omitted)			
Death Benefits-Life Ins.	\$ 1,963	\$ 1,761	\$ 202
Annuity Benefits Paid	82,820	96,026	(13,206)
Annuity Exchanges	12,938	23,515	(10,578)
Life Insurance Surr. Benefits	731	621	110
Accident & Health Benefits Pd.	450	321	129
Commissions	7,451	8,702	(1,251)
General Operating Expenses	5,409	4,839	570
Ins., Taxes, Licences & Fees	243	280	(37)
Pension plan payouts	1,339	404	935
Int. on Contract & Dep. Accts.	57	52	5
Subtotal	\$ 113,400	\$ 136,521	\$ (23,121)
Changes to Reserves	111,958	106,465	5,493
Total Expenses	\$225,359	\$242,986	\$(17,628)
Net Gain/Loss Before Refunds	19,318	19,755	(438)
Refunds to Members	203	197	6
Net Gain/Loss After Refunds	19,115	19,558	(443)
Net Realized Gains/(Losses)	(1,924)	(2,555)	631
Net Income	\$ 17,191	\$ 17,003	\$ 188

GCU BALANCE SHEET September 2018 vs. 2017

ASSETS (000's omitted)	9/30/2018	12/31/2017	Diff.
Bonds	\$1,720,114	\$1,595,058	\$125,055
Preferred Stocks	49,803	50,146	(342)
Common Stocks	14,355	12,375	1,981
Alternative Investments	19,615	15,985	3,629
Cash and Short Term	19,134	11,318	7,816
Mortgages	2,427	2,489	(62)
Certificate Loans	618	642	(24)
Real Estate-Home Office	493	527	(34)
Invest. Income Due & Accrued	24,755	22,787	1,968
Other	854	959	(104)
Total Assets	\$1,852,168	\$1,712,285	\$139,883
LIABILITIES			
Life Reserve Fund	\$ 69,121	\$ 69,360	\$ (239)
Annuity Reserve Fund	1,569,371	1,457,906	111,465
Accident Health Resrv. Fund	162	141	20
Employee Pension Fund	6,204	6,956	(752)
Convention Reserve	279	279	0
Adv. Prem. & Fut. Ref. Resrv.	363	372	(10)
Pending Investment Trade	8,282	0	8,282
Accounts Payable	611	761	(150)
Refund Accumulations	3,302	1,935	1,367
Asset Valuation Resrv.-AVR	21,037	18,662	2,375
Int. Maint. Reserve-IMR	24,345	22,870	1,476
Total Liabilities	\$1,703,076	\$1,579,243	\$123,833
Surplus Fund	\$ 149,092	\$ 133,042	\$ 16,050
Total Liabilities & Surplus	\$ 1,852,168	\$ 1,712,285	\$ 139,883
Normal Solvency	108.8%	108.4%	
Solv. Ratio Total Adj. Capital	110.1%	109.7%	

Financial information is unaudited and presented on the statutory basis of accounting. Totals may vary slightly due to rounding.



Atty. John J. Urban

Lessons in the Law

How Much Did You Save?

The internet has become an extension of our lives. Online we can look for recipes, shop, find design inspiration, stay connected and so much more. The cornucopia of information to be found is virtually limitless, and it's safe to say that all of us have uttered the phrase, "I saw it on the internet" more than a few times.

While we may not pick up a newspaper the way we once did, there are certain things that should never go the way of digitization—wills are one of those things.

Even if we don't talk about the obvious fact that you are putting some very personal information online, filling in a blank form on a website is not the way to handle estate planning.

To underscore the point, I recall a woman who had tried to save money by filling in her will online. There were two problems. The first was that the will she filled in wasn't valid in her home state of Ohio, and the other was that she inadvertently disinherited her children.

There is no such thing as a one-size-fits-all will. Make sure your will meets your needs.

Thankfully she brought her online will in for me to review. In the end she didn't save any money because I had to re-do the whole thing.

That is another important point to drive home here. Are you willing to jeopardize your entire estate just to save a couple hundred bucks? You're also only completing one part of the estate planning puzzle. You need a living will and powers of attorney to have a solid estate plan in place.

There is no such thing as a one-size-fits-all will. Make sure your will meets your needs.

GCU Home Office Hours of Operation & Holiday Schedule

The GCU Home Office (800.722.4428) is open Monday through Friday 8:30 AM to 5 PM EST.

The Call Center (855.306.0607) accepts calls Monday through Thursday from 8:30 AM to 7 PM EST and Fridays 8:30 AM to 5 PM EST.

5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009

The GCU Home Office will be closed on Monday, December 24 & Tuesday, December 25, 2018 in observance of the Christmas Holiday and Monday, December 31 & Tuesday, January 1, 2019 in observance of New Year's Day.



Fall Helping Hands Day Holy Annunciation Monastery

Sugarloaf, PA

Saturday, October 27 was scheduled as a “Helping Hands Day” event at Holy Annunciation Monastery, but too much rain on the days leading up to the event, prevented any outside work from being done. However, a lot of work was accomplished inside with the making of boxes, box inserts and cleaning of raisins for the Sisters’ baking projects. A light luncheon was served and monetary donations were presented to Mother Marija.

Agnes Rohrbach | GHRL Secretary



Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge presented a check to Mother Marija at the event. Cathie Cramond, National Director Dorothy Ann Foran, Agnes Rohrbach, Mother Marija, Marge Hoppey, Rick Hoppey and Judy Kringer.



District 5 members presenting a check to Mother Marije: Gina Keil, Topy Zayac, Ilona Dolinish, Mother Marije, Sharon Kofel and National Director George Kofel.



Lodge 945 and Lodge 17 members folding boxes for the Carmelite Nuns.

Calling All Readers

West Homestead Borough, PA was fortunate to receive not one, but two Little Free Libraries this summer. The idea behind these little libraries is to promote reading. The concept came to fruition with the committee of Lynn Settellaier-Nikolas, Andrea Harhai (president of GCU Lodge 2) and Jimmy Siniawski. The libraries can be purchased on the Little Free Library website, but Jim, a retired carpenter, volunteered to build one. Thanks to the GCU GoGive! program, the money was used to purchase a portion of the supplies. Mrs. Virginia Mader graciously allowed the library to be placed on the edge of her property at the corner of Pinewood & Edgewood Drives. As the residents gathered, they were in awe of Jim Siniawski's professional work. It is appropriately named the Calhoun Library, since it was Jim Calhoun who developed the neighborhood. Neighbors brought books and filled the library immediately.

Due to the excitement of the project, Jim began work on a second library. It is located at the entrance to Calhoun Field and is named The Left Field Library. As you can see in the picture, the ballfield is replicated in his design.

Jim is currently working on a third Little Free Library to be placed near the local volunteer firehall.

Thanks to Lynn, Andrea and Jim, take a book/give a book is promoting reading in their neighborhood.

Andrea Harhai



Andrea Harhai, Lynn Settellaier-Nikolas and Jim Siniawski at the unveiling of the Calhoun Little Free Library.



Halloween Harvest Party

The Miss Greater Hazleton Scholarship Organization held a Halloween Harvest Party. Cinderella assisted children at the pumpkin patch and Bat Girl assisted with pumpkin decorating. Belle and Wonder Woman hosted a pick a pop game for prizes. Elsa, Anna, Snow White and Ariel had children trick or treat to them for candy. Paw Patrol's Chase & Skye gave hugs and posed for pictures since candy treats are not safe for dogs. There was plenty of food, snacks and drinks that families enjoyed along with a Costume Contest and costume parade! Everyone won a prize and received a certificate. This event raised \$1,063.⁶⁰. Proceeds from the event benefited the Miss Greater Hazleton Scholarship Organization, CMN Hospitals and a local food bank. Thank you to the GCU for all you do to support your members and their philanthropy!

Sherri A. Homanko

Quinn Margaret Lusk Receives Sacraments

Fifth Generation GCU Member. Quinn Margaret Lusk arrived on Tuesday, June 12, 2018 to proud parents Dr. Stephen and Dr. Lauren Lusk. Quinn received the sacraments of Baptism, Chrismation and Holy Eucharist during the Divine Liturgy at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Toms River, NJ on October 14, 2018, where Fr. Francis Rella is pastor.

Dr. Patrick O'Halloran, her great-uncle and Margot Gumerlock her great-aunt served as Quinn's godparents. Quinn wore her mother's baptismal

gown, which was tailored from her maternal grandmother's wedding gown.

Celebrating with Quinn on this very special day were, her brother Nikolai Daniel Lusk, her grandparents, Mark & Mary K. Bannworth, who is currently serving as District 7 president, great-grandmother Margaret Gumerlock and her aunt Leigh Mary Bannworth. All of the family members belong to Lodge 340. She is also the great-great granddaughter of the late Mary Zavacky, who was the family's first



Dr. Patrick O'Halloran, Margot Gumerlock, Quinn, Dr. Lauren and Dr. Stephen Lusk.

American GCU member, dating back to the early 1900's.

A brunch in Quinn's honor was held in the parish hall.

God grant her many, many years!

Mary K. Bannworth

Adrianna Vladika - Paralegal Spotlight of the Month



Adrianna Vladika

Adrianna was recently recognized by the Charleston Association of Legal Assistants (CALA) as she begins a new phase of her career in Charleston, SC.

Adrianna was born and raised in Scranton, PA, where she earned her bachelor's degree in psychology, with a minor in criminal justice from the University of Scranton. Adrianna started her career in the legal field during her time in college. In 2013, she interned for Judge Robert Mazzoni at the Lackawanna County Courthouse, in Scranton. After completion of that internship, she started as an undergraduate intern with the clerk's office at the William J. Nealon Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse. In 2014, after graduation from college, Adrianna moved to Virginia, where she worked as a paralegal assistant for Rutter Mills, LLP, in Norfolk. In 2015, she was promoted to the position of litigation paralegal for

Robert C. Slaughter, III, handling personal injury cases for the states of Virginia and North Carolina.

In April 2018, Adrianna moved to Charleston, SC, following her love for the city. She is currently a paralegal for tobacco litigation and she also handles cases concerning securities and consumer fraud at Motley Rice, LLC.

The CALA recognition stated, "Welcome to Charleston! We are excited to have someone with such a complex legal background be a part of our association."

Adrianna Vladika is a member of GCU Lodge 211 and the daughter of National Director Gregory & Crystal Vladika.

Emily Torres Visits Jerusalem

The towering walls of Jerusalem cut the cloudless blue sky, their stones shimmering in the bright desert sunlight. Jumu'ah, the Muslim Friday prayer, had just finished and a sea of women in hijab and men in thobe and ghutra wound its way up El-Wad Street toward Damascus Gate. Some stopped to buy ka'ak and other baked goods from young boys with carts, temporarily disrupting the flow of the crowd. Others continued the ascent to leave the shaded narrow street and entered the intense light outside the walls of the Old City.

As I approached the entrance to the Jewish Quarter the crowds dissipated and the calls of vendors became a distant murmur. Nearing the Western Wall, I was met by a barrage of prayers being sung, shouted, and whispered. As the sun began to set the Orthodox Jews bowed their heads repeatedly to the rhythm of their prayers while a group of young Jews on a Birthright trip danced in a circle and sang to welcome Shabbat. A group of older Christian women sat by the stone wall, holding their rosaries with both hands uttering "Dios te salve Maria, llena eres de gracia...", a Bible resting quietly in each of their laps. I sat in silence for a few minutes then made my way back to Via Dolorosa to the Ecce Homo Convent, where I had a bed for the night. From the roof of the convent I watched the sun finish its descent behind the city walls with the sound of hymns still coming from the occasional passerby on the street below.

I had gone to Israel for a field school in microarchaeology at the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot. For a week I helped excavate and analyze plaster samples from a Byzantine Period site in a nearby town called Gedera. While sitting on a mosaic floor made in the 3rd century AD, I watched a tractor dig a large hole for the foundation of a new apartment building to the left of



View of Jerusalem from the roof of the Ecce Homo Convent.

me. I wondered if the building's residents will ever know what lies below them. Then again, every inch of Israel has some religious or archaeological significance. This juxtaposition of modern life against an ancient background followed me from Rehovot to Jerusalem. Every stone and every pathway can be tied to the beginnings of Judaism, Islam, or Christianity, sometimes all three. The histories of the three major world religions converge in Jerusalem, giving it a unique kind of diversity. Pilgrims may come from different countries, speak different languages, and hold different faiths, yet they are all united in a belief in something greater and a shared call to prayer. Standing before the Western Wall on my last night in Jerusalem, the unadulterated welcoming and tolerance I had experienced during my stay was all I could think about as I read the inscription, "There is no beauty like the beauty of Jerusalem."

Emily is the daughter of Juan Torres and Dr. Mary Jacko, and is a parishioner of Assumption of the Virgin Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Trenton, NJ where Fr. Yuriy Oros is administrator. She is a GCU Scholarship awardee and the Torres family are 100% GCU members of Lodge 15 in Trenton, NJ.



Ed Keil

Ed Keil Honored as Coach of the Year

Ed Keil was recently named United States Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA) Golf Coach of the Year for 2018.

The USCAA is a national organization that ensures quality athletic completion on a regional and national level. It focuses specifically on student athletes at smaller institutions of higher learning. The association believes all athletes and programs deserve the same opportunities as larger institutions.

There are currently 87 institutions from 28 states that are members of the association. The USCAA holds National Championships in 13 different sports as well as honoring players as: All Americans, National All Academic and Player of the Week.

Ed has coached golf at Penn State Wilkes-Barre for 31 years. He is a member of Penn State Wilkes-Barre's Wall of Fame. He serves as the District 5 athletic director and secretary-treasurer of Lodge 17 in Old Forge, PA.

GCU Employees Participate in Project Bundle Up Programs



GCU employees Nicole Gailey and Lisa Anderson volunteered to help Captain Spooner and her assistant Jodi find coats, boots, hats and gloves for the Rochester Salvation Army's Project Bundle-Up on Wednesday, October 17. Kudos to store manager, Alan, Josiah and the brother sister team, Salvatore and Gina along with all the other folks from the Beaver Valley Mall's JCPenney store who helped find everything the families needed with smiles on their faces through a very busy night's work. It was a fun evening of friendship and giving.



On Saturday, November 3, 2018 volunteers from the GCU Home Office and Beaver County area, joined the Salvation Army for the Project Bundle-Up shopping day at Boscov's Department Store in Monaca, PA. Twenty-one GCU employees and members were on hand to assist the 21 children with choosing hats, gloves, coats and boots for the upcoming winter season. The morning began with a light breakfast for the children followed by shopping. The GCU provides a donation to the Salvation Army which assists with the purchase of the items that the children choose. The experience is very rewarding for the volunteers, many of whom return annually to assist with this community fraternal outreach.

GCU Crew Participates in Alzheimer's Walk



The GCU Crew at the Walk.

On Saturday, October 6, 2018 eight GCU employees along with their guests participated in the two mile walk to end Alzheimer's in downtown Beaver, PA.

As a team, the GCU Crew came in 3rd place in team donations, giving the Alzheimer's representatives a check in the amount of \$2,100.⁰⁰. Alzheimer's was the GCU's second quarter cause, raising funds through ticket sales, employee dress down and cookbook sales all matched by the GCU!!

The participants had a beautiful morning to walk and share the same goal: to end Alzheimer's. Each walker chose a promise garden flower to take home. Each color represents your connection to the disease.

Blue represents someone with Alzheimer's or dementia.

Purple is for someone who has lost a loved one to the disease.

Yellow represents someone who is currently supporting or caring for an Alzheimer's patient.

Orange is for everyone who supports the cause and vision of a world without Alzheimer's.

Beaver County Christmas Extravaganza

The 29th Beaver County Christmas Extravaganza was held at Brady's Run Park, Beaver Falls, PA from November 22 through December 9, 2018. The GCU Home Office once again participated by entering a tree entitled "Peace on Earth" which sold within the first two hours. All proceeds benefit the Children & Youth Services Advisory Board and U.S. SARR Corps.



Dave Casterline and Ashley Guthridge busy putting lights on the tree.



Janet Nagy and Nicole Gailey get ornaments ready to place on the tree.

Giving

Holy Ghost Northside Parish Expansion



Following the October 28, 2018 Sunday Divine Liturgy a drawing took place to award the winner from the parish fundraiser. The parish raised \$512.00 from ticket sales giving both the winner and the parish \$256.00 each. There was also an additional direct donation of \$30.00 to the parish. The winner was Northside parishioner Alice Slagle. The parish received GCU Parish Expansion Matching Funds with the assistance of Lodge 390. The GCU matched the profit from the event. This is the second event of 2018 that doubled the parish fundraising efforts with GCU Matching Funds.

Steve Puluka



St. Anne Parish Expansion



Clymer, PA. Saint Anne parishioners were busy preparing their famous meatballs and halushki. The meatballs are made with 80% beef and 20% pork shoulder and the halushki with fried cabbage/onions and dumplings. With lots of volunteers and

enthusiasm the preparation is more *Fun Raiser* than *Fund Raiser*. The workers have dubbed themselves *Byzantine Beauties* and *Bucks*. Special thank you to all who donated the ingredients to making the events such a success as well as the GCU Parish Expansion Matching Funds program.

Father William A. Lascelles



St. Andrew Parish Expansion

Gibsonia, PA. Christmas Pirohi Project. The pirohi sales provide a great source of both fellowship and fund raising. The fall pre-Christmas series ran through September and early October this year. Thanks to all the volunteers. The community really appreciates and lines up for these treats. A special thanks to GCU Lodge 390 for assisting with the project.

Steve Puluka

District 5

Helping Hands Day in Sugarloaf | On Saturday, October 27, 2018, six members assisted the Carmelite Sisters at Holy Annunciation Monastery in Sugarloaf, PA with their fall cleanup. Due to the heavy rains predicted, the outdoor activities were postponed. The volunteers folded cardboard boxes, pie inserts and separated raisins from their stems which the Sisters use for their Christmas baking sales. A meal of chicken soup, hot dogs and the Sisters' special cookies with Klondike bars on the side, was the volunteers reward for their efforts.



Bob Suflita, Ilona Dolinish, Laure Marcin, Krissy Williams, Colleen Evans, Ed Keil, Gina Keil and National Director Greg Vladika.

Annual Meeting & Election of Officers | The District 5 annual meeting was held on Sunday, October 28. The day began with Divine Liturgy at Holy Ghost Byzantine Church, Jessup, PA, followed by a Panachida for the deceased members. Forty-three people attended the breakfast meeting at the Regal Room, Olyphant, PA. The following were re-elected or appointed as District 5 officers: President Gina Keil, Vice President Daria Shierly, Secretary Krissy Williams, Treasurer Colleen Evans, Athletic Director Ed Keil, Assistant Athletic Director Bob Suflita, Publicity & Fraternal Activities Director Ilona Dolinish, Sergeant-at-Arms & Standard Bearer Bernie Shinko, Auditor Laure Marcin and Chaplain Rev. John Cigan.



Scholarship recipients Sarah Slusark and Ali Sluko with Scholarship Chairperson, Dr. John Evans.



Ed Keil presenting Fraternalist of the Year award to Laure Marcin.

51st Annual St. Nicholas Brunch & Scholarship Awards

The 51st Annual St. Nicholas Brunch & Scholarship Awards Program for District 5 was held on Sunday, November 25, 2018 at Fiorelli's in Peckville, PA. Two scholarships were awarded. These scholarships are possible because of the generous benefactors in the program booklet. Thanks to all that contributed. This was also a Matching Funds project.

Scholarship Chairperson Dr. John G. Evans, presented a certificate and a check to Alexandra Sluko of Jessup, PA. She is attending La Salle University, Philadelphia, PA majoring

in Psychology & Criminal Justice. Her goal is to become a criminal profiler for the FBI. She is a member of Lodge 945, Dunmore, PA. Dr. Evans also presented a certificate and check to Sarah Slusark of Duryea, PA. She is attending Temple University, Philadelphia, PA majoring in Therapeutic Recreation. Her goal is to become an occupational therapist. She is a member of Lodge 17, Old Forge, PA.

The 2018 Fraternalist of the Year award was presented to Laure Marcin. Laure is a member of St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church in Kingston, PA. She currently serves as Lodge 182 secretary and District 5

auditor. Laure has been a Registered Respiratory Therapist for over 30 years. Ed Keil, last year's recipient, presented her with a clock.

Brunch Chairperson Michael Mokay, introduced Bob Suflita, cantor at Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church, Binghamton, NY, who led the Hymn to Saint Nicholas, followed by God Bless America. Congratulations to all the awardees.

May you have a very Blessed Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

Ilona Dolinish | Publicity & Fraternal Director

District 7

Annual Meeting | GCU District 7 held their Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 21, 2018 in the St. Mary Church Fellowship Hall following Divine Liturgy. The gathering began with a prayer lead by Fr. Jim Badeaux. Attendees were then treated to a Slavic luncheon before the meeting.

The first Charity Golf Outing benefitting the St. Baldrick's Foundation, to help fund children's cancer research, was discussed. The outing was a success and the hope is to continue this outing as a charity event in the future.

The district members hope to have either a dinner theater trip or a wine tasting event in the Spring, which will be decided at the first quarterly meeting.

A celebration for the district's 100th anniversary in 2019 is being planned for the annual meeting at the end of the year.

Election of officers was held with the following slate: President Mary K. Bannworth, Vice President Stephen Bachovin, Secretary Linda Cwiekalo, Treasurer Kathleen Meddaugh, Athletic Director Michael Geles, Publicity Alberta Folsome, Standard Bearer Patricia Dietz, Auditors Thomas John Petty & John Morenko and Chaplain Fr. Jim Badeaux.

Condolences | District 7 was sorry to learn of the passing of Athletic Director Michael Geles' father Michael Geles Sr. Mr. Geles was secretary-treasurer of Lodge 665.

Mary K. Bannworth | President



Stephen Bachovin, Linda Cwiekalo, Mary K. Bannworth, Kathleen Meddaugh, Michael Geles, Alberta Folsome, John Morenko, Patricia Dietz and Thomas J. Petty. Missing from photo is Fr. Jim Badeaux.

UPCOMING DISTRICT 7 EVENT

1st Quarter Meeting

Sunday, March 31, 2019

1 PM

St. Mary Church Fellowship Hall
Hillsborough, NJ



District 15 re-elected officers taking the oath of office.

District 15

Annual Meeting | District 15 members met on Sunday, November 4 for the Annual Meeting at Seven Oaks Country Club. Officers in attendance included: President Elizabeth Harbist, Vice-President Janet Uram, Treasurer Laura Seech, Secretary Kathy Kapaldo, Athletic Director Bill Uram, Assistant Athletic Director Paul Lebanik and Auditors Mike Spanik & Irene Miller. All were re-elected for two year terms.

District 15 Senior Awards Now Available |

Applications for the District 15 Senior Awards for 2019 are now available. District 15 high school seniors planning to continue their education at college, university or trade school are encouraged to apply for a senior award. Contact

CONTINUED

UPCOMING DISTRICT 15 EVENTS

Sisters of St. Joseph Christmas Party

Saturday, January 19, 2019

12 NOON

Volunteers are needed

1020 W. State Street, Baden, PA 15005

Contact Elizabeth Harbist at 412-913-1446 for details.

Senior Award Applications

Are available for high school seniors planning to attend college or technical school after graduation in 2019. Contact Kathy Kapaldo at kkapaldo@comcast.net for information.

Completed application materials must be post-marked by Thursday, January 31, 2019.

Jr. Bowling Tournament

Sunday, March 10, 2019

Baden Bowl, 346 Ohio River Blvd., Baden, PA 15005

Contact Bill Uram at 724-287-0689 for details.

Adult No-Tap Bowling Tournament

Saturday, March 23, 2019

Center Lanes, Aliquippa, PA

Dinner to follow at Seven Oaks Country Club

Contact Bill Uram at 724-287-0689 for details.

Like and share us on Facebook where you can find additional details for all District 15 events.

DISTRICT 15 CONTINUED

Scholarship Committee Chair Kathy Kapaldo via email: kkapaldo@comcast.net for application information. Completed applications and all materials, including transcript and recommendations, are due January 31, 2019.

After Christmas Holiday Parties | An After-Christmas Children's Holiday Party will be held in January at the Main Event in North Fayette, PA. Watch for an email with details later this month. Laura Seech chairs this annual event. You can reserve space for your child(ren) by contacting Laura at 412-580-8159.

Plans are in the works for the annual holiday party for the retired Sisters of St. Joseph at their residence in Baden, PA, on Saturday, January, 19. Volunteers are welcome! The Sisters enjoy playing bingo and sharing cake and ice-cream with the volunteers. Please consider spending an afternoon with District 15 and the Sisters of St. Joseph. For information, contact Elizabeth Harbist 412-913-1446.

If You Are Interested In Helping |

An outing at Top Golf in Bridgeville, PA is being planned for the Spring. If you're interested in helping to plan this event, please contact Elizabeth Harbist 412-913-1446.

Invested in
Education

2018-2019 GCU Scholarship Programs



**FRIENDLY
REMINDER...**

Applications for scholarships must be completed and submitted online in one session by 11:59 PM EST on December 31, 2018 to be eligible.

GCUusa.com

Lodge News

Lodge 2

MUNHALL, PA

Annual Clothing Drive

Lodge 2 and St. John's Cathedral had their annual clothing drive the weekends of September 15-16 and 22-23. Boxes were placed at the entrances to the Cathedral. The collection was announced in the church bulletin and by Fr. Andrew. We asked for warm clothes for the winter months for men, women and children in the local community.

This year a generous donor dropped off two huge bags of clothes that still had the tags on them. We also had two bags of beautiful women's suits and coats.

Special angel and Lodge 2 member Mrs. Bernadette McTaggart in Florida, along with her knitting friends, once again donated beautiful hats, gloves, ear warmers and even a vest. THANK YOU!

On Monday, September 24 lodge members gathered in the Cathedral Center to sort, inventory and pack the clothing. The clothes were loaded into two cars and delivered to the St. Vincent dePaul Society in Munhall, PA.

A special thank you to all who donated and or helped make this year's clothing drive a huge success.



A few of the items that Mrs. Bernadette McTaggart and friends made.

Annual Craft Show

On Saturday, October 20, St. John's Cathedral held its 10th annual craft show.

This year along with our new pastor, Fr. Andrew Deskevich, we were able to provide many delicious food and dessert items along with Fr. Andrew's famous nut, apricot, poppyseed and lekvar rolls for sale. There were 61 tables with over 40 vendors who

provided the hundreds of people who attended with a large variety of items to choose from. It was truly a beautiful day, especially since so many of our Byzantine churches were represented either by vendors or buyers. Thanks to one and all for making the event such a huge success.

Patty Bovee | Treasurer

Lodges 10 & 994

ALIQUIPPA, PA & BEAVER, PA

Manna Dinner

On Tuesday, November 20 members of GCU Lodge 10 from Aliquippa served dinner to over 50 people at the Manna Dinner at the House of Prayer Lutheran Church in Aliquippa. Manna is a free weekly meal provided by many different community organizations served to any member of the community who wishes to attend. Manna feeds not just the body but the mind and spirit—no one is turned away.

After serving the meal, members of Lodge 10 also enjoyed sharing a meal together with their members. GCU Lodge 994 from Beaver financially supported the Manna dinner, but their members were unable to attend. The two lodges have enjoyed joining together for the past several years both financially and physically to participate in this community event.

Kathy Kapaldo | President



Front row (from left): Beth Harbist, George Seech, Dorothy Peterson, Martha Seech, Mary Ann Popovich, Kathy Kapaldo, Diane Ketterer and Mary Elizabeth Olack. Back row (from left): John Harbist, Timmy & Tim Seech, Veronica & Jack Mendenhall and Laura Seech.



Treasurer Thomas Petty presenting Fr. Yurey Oras the Lodge 15 Matching Funds donation of \$500.00.

Catholic Relief Services

The Lodge 15 Matching Funds project allowed a donation of \$900.00 to be sent to the Catholic Relief Services in Baltimore, MD for distribution in the Ukraine by the Greek Catholic Eparchy of Mukachevo in Uzhgorod, Ukraine. Catholic Relief Services is the official humanitarian agency of the Catholic Church in the United States. CRS works with local, national and international Catholic institutions to assist people on basis of need, not creed, race, or nationality. It carries out the commitment of the Bishops of the United States to assist the poor and vulnerable overseas.

Lodge 15

TRENTON, NJ

Annual Meeting and Election of Officers

The Lodge 15 following officers were reelected at the annual meeting: President Gregory Embley, Secretary Stephanie Hennessey, Treasurer Thomas Petty, Athletic Director John Kashner, Fraternal & Publicity Marcy Embley and Auditors Joseph Bodner & Mary Ann Biko. The Oath of Office was conducted by past National Director Roger Embley.

The schedule of 2019 meetings is: 1st Quarter Meeting—Sunday, January 27; 2nd Quarter Meeting—Sunday, May 5; 3rd Quarter Meeting—Sunday, September 8 and the Annual Meeting—Sunday, November 10. All of the meetings follow the 10 AM Divine Liturgy at Assumption of the Virgin Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Trenton, NJ in the social hall at the corner of Adeline & Beatty Streets. All members are encouraged to attend, your input for the future of Lodge 15 is important.

“Christos Razdajetsja!” “Christ is Born!”
“Slavite Jeho!” “Glorify Him!”

Marcy Embley | Fraternal Director

Lodge 17

OLD FORGE, PA

Helping Hands at Sugarloaf Monastery

Saturday, October 27 was the fall cleanup at Holy Annunciation Monastery, Sugarloaf, PA. However, the weather forecast included heavy rains. Mother Marije hoped that some indoor work would still get done which included folding desert boxes & pie inserts and removing stems from raisins. Two members of Lodge 17 participated at the event. The Carmelite Sisters prepared a luncheon of chicken soup, hot dogs and a variety of their special cookies. The following Saturday was chosen to do the outdoor work, but again the weather did not cooperate and the cleanup was cancelled.

Annual Turkey Bingo

St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church, Taylor, PA held their Turkey Bingo with the assistance of Lodge 17 on Sunday, November 11, 2018. There were 162 participants, their largest crowd ever, along with 19 workers. GCU pens and memo pads were distributed to the attendees. Fall activity books and crayons were given to the children.

Twenty BINGO games were held, including specials, with turkey gift certificates given away to the winners. There were fundraising drawings and door prizes. Food items for sale included haluski, wimpies, hot dogs/kraut/chili, homemade pizza, pierogies, coffee, soda and water. A bake sale was also held with delicious homemade baked goods. This was a Matching Funds project to help with repairs to the skylights at St. Mary's. Thanks to all who contributed.



Some of the kitchen help with Fr. Eduard Shestak.

Food Collection & Used Eye Glass Collection

The month of November included food collections for the poor and used eye glasses for the Lions Club. Lodge 17 also assisted at the parish Christmas Party on Sunday, December 9 and held an appreciation luncheon and 4th quarter meeting on Thursday, December 13. Details of these events will appear in the next issue.

May you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy & Happy New Year!

Ed Keil | Secretary-Treasurer

Lodge 62

PUNXSUTAWNEY, PA

Helping Hands Day

Lodge 62 would like to thank the GCU Home Office for the Helping Hands Grant that was used to purchase flowers for in and around the church. Then came the never-ending task of keeping them watered throughout the summer. Thanks also to the volunteers who cleaned the interior of the church—it proved to be a quick & efficient job.



Helping Hands Day worker.



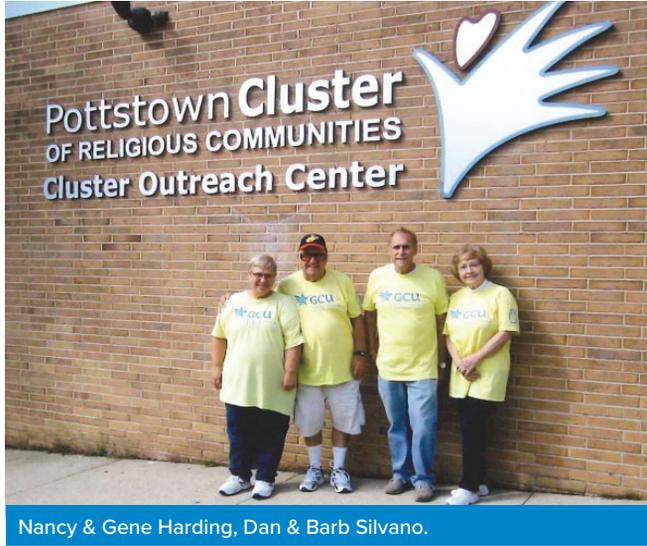
Thank You dinner.

Thank You for Your Help Dinner

Approximately 45 lodge and church members enjoyed an afternoon of fellowship at the "Thank You for Your Help Dinner." The attendees were invited in appreciation for helping out throughout the year in projects and at the church festival.

Thank you to the Home Office for the grant that made the event possible.

Helen Meko | President



Nancy & Gene Harding, Dan & Barb Silvano.

Lodge 69 POTTSTOWN, PA

Community Helping Hands

Donations of canned goods and other non-perishables were collected by members of St. John the Baptist Church and Lodge 69 members. The food and cleaning supplies were taken to the Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities by members of the GCU. Volunteers helped to clean the kitchen area in the Cluster.

All were amazed by the Cluster's organization and operation. Over 450 families are served monthly through the facility.



Judy Petro & Ann Mehallick.

Church Helping Hands

On Wednesday, October 3 lodge members bought cleaning supplies and cleaned areas of the church. Windows and window sills were washed, stairwells were dusted and pews polished. The church has a fresh new look thanks to the volunteers.



Fran Petro.

Casino Trip to Hollywood

Members of Lodge 69, St. John's parish and several friends spent a day at Hollywood Casino in Grantville, PA. Many enjoyed the buffet, some gamblers did well and others not so well. All in all, everyone had a good time.

Chinese Auction

The Lodge 69 annual Chinese auction was held on November 9, 2018. Parishioners donated gifts to be raffled. Members of the GCU and guild helped to collect and set up gifts. Many parishioners and people from the community helped to support the event. Baked goods and soft pretzels were served during intermission and everyone had a great time.



Marge Foley (right) and her daughter Roxie (left) enjoying the Chinese Auction.

Nancy Harding | Secretary

Lodge 81

UNIONTOWN, PA

Parish

Lodge 81 members took an active role in the annual parish fundraiser—the 37th Annual Carpatho-Rusyn Celebration held on Sunday, October 28, at St. John Church. From start to finish lodge members and parishioners make this event a great success. Theresa Petruska, Norbert Duritsa and Ann Kormanik spent the week prior to the event preparing pirohi, holubki, kolbasi and other food items, as well as working in the kitchen on the day of the event. Marcia Harrer, ECF coordinator made plans for the ECF students along with their parents to help in the setting up as a service project for the parish. Marcia and Bonnie Balas, not only baked items for the huge bake sale, but also packaged and priced them. On the day of the event GCU members: Richard & Marcia Harrer, Stephen Petruska, Paul Rubish and his sons (Lodge 57), Janet Gaydos & her son George, Julia Pillar, Joseph Borytsky Bonnie Balas, Gerry Dorobish, Emma Mihalko (James Mihalko's niece) and Helen Ponzurick pitched in at their respective specialties to make the day a great success. The program included the Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic Archeparchial Choir directed by Darlene Fejka, a spectacular Slavjane performance directed by Dean Poloka, who also entertained as part of Rusyn folk music ensemble through the day.



Helen Ponzurick, Bonnie Balas, Natalie Hospidavis and Bryan Ponzurick at bake sale table.



Gerry Dorobish & Emma Mihalko helping a young child.

Community

Gerry Dorobish started a reading program for children of the community. She reads to children every Wednesday morning at the Uniontown Public Library. Around 20 children attend weekly with their parents.

Greater Community

On Sunday, November 11, Bonnie Balas took part in the Annual Polish Festival held at the University of Pittsburgh Commons. She demonstrated embroidery along with Mark Jesko who did an egg demonstration. Their participation was part of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society booth. Maryann Sivak was also on hand for C-RS information and display.

Candlelight Prayer Vigil

On November 2, Bonnie Balas attended a candlelight prayer vigil at the Uniontown Jewish Community Center Holocaust Memorial. The vigil was in remembrance of the October 28 shooting victims at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Squirrel Hill-Pittsburgh, PA. Dr. Richard Gottfried, one of the victims, attended high school with Bonnie at Uniontown Area High School. Nearly 75 were in attendance for the solemn prayers and remembrances.



Norbert Duritsa stirring haluski.

Quarterly Meeting

The Lodge 81 quarterly meeting was held on Sunday November 18. The same officers will be retained for 2019. Plans for the upcoming Children's Christmas program at the Uniontown Public Library to be held on Saturday, December 15 were discussed.

The group made motions to donate to the Mount Macrina St. Nicholas Breakfast to be held for children of the parish, Sisters of St. Basil, Salvation Army (Sparkle Program for the local needy), St. Nicholas Charity Dinner which benefits the Byzantine Seminary and St. John Church. A Lodge 81 donation was made from the 13th Egg EggStravaganza toward new outside lighting in the St. John Church parking lot.

Next quarterly meeting is planned for Sunday, February 17 after ECF classes.

Bonnie Balas | Vice President & Publicity Director

Lodge 93

NORTHERN CAMBRIA, PA

Bus Driver Survival Kits

Lodge members John Katana and Walter Rogal presented Bus Driver Survival Kits to the Tri-Country Bus Company. This was made possible by a fraternal grant from the Home Office. Some of the comments were “how thoughtful,” “what a kind gesture” and “this is the first time I can remember that anything like this was done for the bus drivers.” Thank you to the GCU Home Office.



Presenting the bus drivers with their survival kits.

Youth Dinner

Lodge 93 helped sponsor the Elderton Presbyterian Youth Dinner. This was to benefit the Samaritans Purse. The menu included chicken, biscuits, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, coleslaw, apple sauce, dessert and refreshments. Door prizes were provided by Lodge 93. Many words of thanks and appreciation were received for the support of Lodge 93.



Youth members serving the dinner.

Cultural and Education Series

John Katana presented a short program on the origins of All Saints Day and Halloween. Refreshments of coffee and cake were served. After the presentation, Fr. Vasil was presented a donation for the roof projects of the parish and chapel. The donation was presented from money earned at the Cambria County Arts and Heritage Festival. John also presented the “History of Thanksgiving” and the “Ten Most Interesting Facts About Thanksgiving.” Everyone enjoyed both presentations.

John J. Katana | Secretary

Basket Auction

Lodge 93 sponsored a basket auction at St. John’s Byzantine Church to benefit the roof projects for the parish, chapel, Good Samaritan Food Pantry and local library. There were a variety of gift baskets from Pittsburgh sports packages, appliances, house hold goods, children’s toys, as seen on TV, Christmas decorations, Christmas trees, TV’s and gift cards. Complimentary desserts and refreshments were available. Fr. Vasil and Helen Kost selected the tickets and John Katana announced the winning numbers. A special thank you to the Home Office for this Matching Funds activity. It was most appreciated.



The official basket auction crew.



Walter Rogal presenting a donation to Fr. Vasil to help defray costs of the roof projects for the parish and chapel.

Lodge 109

LYNDORA, PA

Children's Halloween Party

On Sunday, October 28, 2018, Lodge 109 held a Halloween party for the St. John parish children and a coffee social for the adults after the morning Liturgy.

The children competed in a costume contest for the scariest, prettiest and most creative costumes. Many thanks to President Janet Stetzer and Secretary-Treasurer Janet Uram for putting together treat bags for the children and Monica Sertik for decorating the hall, planning the activities and judging the costumes. A great time was had by all.



Helen Meaders enjoying the company of several of the children at the party.



Children at the Halloween party gather in their costumes for a picture including Deacon Paul Simko who donned his cowboy hat, jeans and boots and entertained all with his rope tricks.

Annual Meeting & Election of Officers

Lodge 109 recently held its annual meeting and election of officers. Continuing in office at the beginning of 2019 will be: President Janet Stetzer, Vice President Bill Uram, Jr. and Secretary-Treasurer Janet Uram.

Janet Uram | Secretary-Treasurer



Sister Katerina with Fr. Nicholas Daddona and Marge Russell.

Lodge 151

NEW YORK, NY

Matching Funds Luncheon

On September 30, Lodge 151 held its annual Matching Funds luncheon for St. Andrew Church in Westbury, NY. Over 30 parishioners and GCU members had a delicious luncheon prepared by Chef Ed Matusiewicz. Sr. Katerina gave a speech on the miracles of the Eucharist showing Jesus' living presence in the consecrated bread and wine. One of the most recent miracles took place when Pope Francis was serving as a Bishop in Argentina. He had the consecrated bread and wine medically tested and the results showed real human flesh and blood in the consecrated bread. Sr. Katarina is from the order of St. Benedict in Northport and is a very inspiring speaker.

CONTINUED

Lodge 151 CONTINUED

Seminarians Visit

Father Daddona, administrator at St. Andrew, invited 35 seminarians for Liturgy on October 21, 2018. The seminarians ages 18 and older reside at the Cathedral Seminary House of Formation in Douglaston, NY. They were very impressed by the Byzantine Catholic Liturgy.

Parishioner Mary Beth has been writing icons for fifteen years. She presented the seminary rector, Fr George Sears, with one of her icons “Jacob Wrestling with The Angel of the Lord.” The icon will be placed in the seminary’s chapel. She has an icon of “John the Evangelist” hanging in St. Andrew’s Church library.



Seminarians visit St. Andrew.



Mary Beth presenting one of her icons “Jacob Wrestling with The Angel of the Lord”.



Breast Cancer Awareness Luncheon.

Community Matching Funds Luncheon

The Lodge 151 Breast Cancer Awareness Luncheon was a huge success. With Matching Funds the lodge raised over \$5,000.00 for the Adelphi Breast Cancer Support and Hotline program.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Ryan Pajer and the Plainview, NY JFK Volleyball team. They worked hard all year and won the Nassau County High School Volleyball Championship—great going!

Sympathy

Lodge 151 was saddened to hear of the passing of Julia Hulak. She was a lifetime member of GCU. Eternal Memory! Her obituary appears on page 44.

Lodge 151 would like to wish everyone a very Blessed Christmas and a Happy & Healthy New Year!

Marge Russell | President



Halloween.

Halloween Activity

The Lodge 151 Halloween activity turned out to be very good with about 100 children receiving GCU coloring books, candy, and pumpkins. The children received markers to decorate their pumpkins. There were many happy faces with a lot of goodies!

Lodge 164

YOUNGSTOWN, OH

Veterans Day and 4th Quarter/Annual Meeting

On Sunday, November 11, 2018, Veterans Day, Lodge 164 held its fourth quarter/annual meeting at St. Mary Church.

With the help of the Fraternal-Communications Department's promotional flyers, 26 attendees enjoyed GCU agent Randy Baden's talk on GCU Products and drawings for FREE prizes of a 50" TV and four \$25 store gift cards. Members of Lodges 442 & 360 were also in attendance along with 7 non-members. After Randy's presentation, a business meeting and election of officers were held. The current officers were re-elected unanimously.



Treasurer Sharon MacDonald & Diana Danko presented Fr. Richard Lambert with a Christmas donation of \$500.00 to St. Mary's Church.

St. Nicholas Party

Lodge 164 held their St. Nicholas Party on Sunday, December 2. A hot buffet meal of baked chicken, scalloped potatoes, green bean casserole, salads, beverages and dessert was enjoyed by 14 members and 4 guests. Christmas carols were led by Cantor Dan Kovachik and Fr. Richard Lambert. Festivities ended with edible door prizes chosen by everyone.

Dr. Tom Sopkovich | President

UPCOMING LODGE 164 EVENT

1st Quarter Meeting

Sunday, January 13, 2019

Following Liturgy

St. Mary's Assumption Social Center



TV winner Emery MacDonald IV with GCU agent Randy Baden.



Honored Veterans: Emery MacDonald III, John Trella, George Lutza and Don Danko.

Lodge 182

KINGSTON, PA

Helping Hands Day

Helping Hands Day was held on Sunday, October 14 at St. Mary Byzantine Catholic School hall. Members of Lodge 182, ECF teachers, students and their parents joined forces to clean the student classrooms and hallways from top to bottom, from windows & doors to desks & floors. Many left over items were donated to The Goodwill and others in need. Years of clutter were cleaned and now St. Mary's is ready for a brand new year of teaching our children, not only catechism, but the true meaning of fraternalism. Helping Hands Day was a great way to kick-off our 2018-2019 ECF school year.

Special thanks to Theresa Pochatko and her family who spent their day Saturday, preparing a delicious taco bar and



Seated is Mary Ann Evans. Standing are John G. Evans, Colleen Evans, Laure Marcin, Kristina Williams, Theresa Pochatko, Lora Seasock, Paul Terza and Jenn Terza. Missing from the photo were Ken Pochatko and Rich Terza.

desserts for all the hungry volunteers! Lodge 182 thanks the GCU Home Office and all the volunteers who donated their Sunday to make this project successful.

Laure Marcin | Secretary



Michael Vladika, National Director Greg Vladika, Lodge President Alice Mizerak, Eynon Sturges Hose Co. President Mark Kline, Barbara Krupovich and Paul Suche.

Lodge 211

EYNON, PA

Annual Chicken BBQ

Members of Lodge 211 partnered with the Eynon Sturges Hose Company during their annual Chicken BBQ. Lodge members helped in preparing 1,200 dinners along with baking desserts for the event. The event was a huge success with over \$12,000.00 raised along with \$1,500.00 Matching Funds from the GCU.

Greg Vladika

Lodge 254

HILLSBOROUGH, NJ

For Thanksgiving

The clergy of St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church each received a basket of fruit for Thanksgiving from Lodge 254 as a “Thank You” for their service on behalf of the congregation.

Charlie Bazaral | Vice President



Lodge President Elias Zareva, Father James Badeaux, Deacon Nicholas Sotack, Deacon Alexander Kubik and Lodge Vice President Charlie Bazaral.



Members who attended the Annual Hayride.

Lodge 255

GREENFIELD-PITTSBURGH, PA

Annual Hayride

Last year Lodge 255 took over what had been the District 1 annual Hayride at Duda’s Farm. Once again this year Kim Kolesar organized the event for Lodge 255, her full report can be found on the next page.

CONTINUED

Lodge 255 CONTINUED

Annual Meeting & Awards Luncheon

The Lodge 255 Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, November 18. The lodge also held a luncheon to honor the bowling and golf winners from this year's lodge tournaments as well as the 50 year members of GCU. Pictured are the sports winners for 2018 and a group photo of the last meeting as Lodge 255—the lodge will be joining Lodges 28 & 386 to form the new Central Pittsburgh Regional Lodge in January of 2019. Thanks to Pat Niskach for a delicious Thanksgiving inspired meal.



Annual Meeting with 50 year members.

Melanie Basl | Publicity



Bowling & Golf winners from 2018.

Hayride at Duda's Farm

On Saturday, October 6, twenty-one participants spent a day on Duda's Farm in Brownsville, PA. The Duda's are always very friendly and welcoming. The weather that day was hot and sunny (even though the neighboring boroughs received downpours of rain); there was no rain on this outing!

The reserved picnic tent was located in a new area this year-adjacent to the two corn mazes. Once everyone arrived, a pizza lunch from a local pizza shop was enjoyed. After everyone was finished eating and creating their own s'mores on the fire, the games began.

Two rounds of the Left-Right game were played - once for the children and once for adults. Following this, the children each received a Halloween treat bag which included a gift, an Isee

freeze drink, a McDonald's coupon and candy. Then, the children got to rummage through the hay for a variety of chocolate candy. Yes, the chocolate melted in the heat, but a short time in the refrigerator and all was well! The last game was for the adults; they got to pick from the 32 pounds of potatoes that were thrown in the hay. This is done in honor of the many years that it was a game during the races at Byzantine Day at Kennywood.

The last part of the afternoon was the hayride. The group got to move to the head of the line and board the next tractor. After a long ride meandering through the farm countryside, a stop was made in the pumpkin patch. Each person got to pick a pumpkin.

Upon arriving back at the farm, the remainder of the day was free to shop at the store, ride the double-barrel



Kids enjoying looking for candy.

slide, play in the corn box (similar to a sandbox), walk through the barn, or try to find the way through the confusing corn mazes (which were on the muddy side this year).

This event is always so much fun; hopefully next year there will be an even larger GCU group attending.

Kim Kolesar

Lodge 271

ORLAND PARK, IL

Prairie Fest 2018 Celebration

Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Church in Homer Glen, IL held its 11th annual Prairie Fest on Friday, August 10, through Sunday, August 12. The festival was filled with everything from music, art, food, education and evangelization. There was music for everyone from M&R Rush, The Hat Guys and culminating with "Polka Sunday." Children had plenty of activities from kid games to arts and crafts, thanks again to the Homer Glen Junior Women's Club volunteers. There was plenty of musical entertainment, prairie tours, church tours, art & wine event, fund raising events and a great bakery. It was exciting to welcome back Tata's Pierogi with the traditional ethnic food and a local vendor Joey's RED HOTS from Orland Park, IL.

The fest has grown from a church event to a community



event. Summed up best by Rev. Father Thomas Loya, pastor at Annunciation, "It's a way for us to open our heart and our home to the community."

Lodge 271 has been a main sponsor of the fest over the years as well as having its members volunteer throughout the weekend event. Always looking forward to next year's event. SEE YOU ALL THERE!!!

Vicki Blidy | Vice President

Announcing the GCU

This year's theme:

"My Favorite Holiday"

2019 Art & Photo Contest!



Need some inspiration?

Brainstorm:

How do you celebrate?

Where do you spend your holiday?

What's the best part of your holiday?

Who do you like to spend your holiday with?

If you're 12 or younger, enter your artwork!

Submission must be original on paper or art board – maximum size 12" x 18"

Include short description of your art, name, age, address, phone number and email on the back of your submission.

Deadline: April 5, 2019

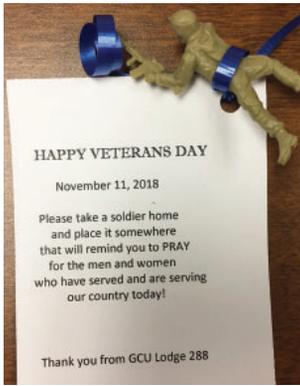
Winners in each category will receive a gift card of their choice!

One entry per member. All contestants must be a GCU member for one year.

Membership and age is determined as of March 31, 2019.

See the GCU Website for complete rules and details.





Lodge 288 CLAIRTON, PA

Southeast Pittsburgh Regional Lodge

On Veterans Day, Sunday, November 11, Lodge 288 created a card and prayer to hand out in remembrance of our veterans and military. Later that day a meeting of Lodge 2 and 288 was held at Ascension Church in Clairton to start the process of forming the new Southeast Pittsburgh Regional Lodge. Fr. Andrew Deskevich from St. John's Cathedral opened the meeting with a prayer and blessing. GCU President/CEO George Juba presented information on the purpose of combining the two lodges. The lodge's new officers were elected: President Andrea Harhai, Vice President Trish Roberts, Secretary Mary Lou Salago, Treasurer Patty Bovee, Chaplain Fr. Deskevich and Auditors Carolyn Nista & Barb Gomolak.



Members at St. Anne's Church in Clymer, PA.

Lodge 288 & Ascension Parish Field Trip

The lodge sponsored a parish field trip on Sunday, November 18 to Indiana, PA. Kim Kolesar of Lodge 28, contacted Joe Ruglovsky, a friend and cantor at St. Anne's Byzantine Catholic Church in Clymer, PA, who invited the group for Liturgy and a social. The parish was very welcoming, and Father William Lascelles made the visit very special. The church building had been a furniture store that was skillfully restored into a lovely Eastern Catholic church. The pine interior was like the old European village churches and everyone commented on the beauty. Their Sunday tradition is donuts and coffee, but they prepared a special breakfast of pancakes, sausage, donuts and coffee for the Lodge 288 group. The pancakes were delicious! Darlene McNeil, organized a group picture outside the church.

Next stop was Indiana, PA to the Jimmy Stewart Museum and monument. A short informative film on Mr. Stewart's biography was featured in the museum theater. There were multiple rooms of artifacts and information on his life. After an afternoon of visiting shops in the area the group moved on to dinner at Giannelli's Restaurant.

Final stop of the day was Overly's Festival of Lights at Westmoreland Fairgrounds. The festival features a unique, walk-around Christmas Village filled with an array of old-fashioned traditions and treats. Sitting around the bonfire drinking hot chocolate, watching the huge indoor model train display, pictures with Santa, a horse drawn wagon/sleigh ride and gift shop at the General Store gave the feeling of a traditional Christmas.

The beautiful display of Christmas lights and animations added to the evening along with a talking Hemlock tree that had the kids in awe. A life size Nativity with live animals were also part of the attraction. Thanks to Dean Maksin and Joan Belleavance for snacks and drinks on the bus ride and Tammy Maksin and Kim Kolesar for the Christmas movies that provided entertainment on the ride.

Trish Roberts | President



Members at Jimmy Stewart Museum.



Members at Overly's Festival of Lights.

Lodge 302 BRECKSVILLE, OH

Matching Funds Clambake

Lodge 302 sponsored a “Special Spaces Cleveland” fundraiser clambake on Saturday, September 29 in the Orleans Party Center at St. Joseph Byzantine Church. The Special Spaces nonprofit organization changes the lives of ill children by designing a child’s bedroom per their wishes. Several additional fundraising activities were held in conjunction with the event to increase income. Approximately 140 people attended the clambake with \$3,346.00, including GCU Matching Funds, being presented to the non-profit organization by Jean Karaffa. Thank you to all lodge volunteers and attendees that provided enough funding to completely makeover a child’s bedroom, which will be completed in January 2019.



Jean Karaffa presenting check to Special Spaces Cleveland.



Trunk-or-Treat.

Trunk-or-Treat

It was a ghoulish afternoon on Sunday, October 28, 2018 for the Trunk-or-Treat and Halloween Party Events held for more than 35 children and adults. Treats were distributed in the activity center parking lot where children paraded in their Halloween costumes receiving their GCU treat bags and candy from members and parishioners. Refreshments including apple cider, cupcakes and donuts were served. A big thank you to Jean Karaffa, Barbara Zaborowski and all the volunteers that helped to make this a spooktacular event!



Judy Weitzel at the Bohemian National Hall.

Carpatho-Rusyn Celebration

Lodge 302 President Judy Weitzel had a wonderful opportunity to set-up a GCU table at the Czech, Slovak and Carpatho-Rusyn celebration on October 28, 2018 held in recognition with the Czechoslovakia Centennial. The event took place at the Bohemian National Hall in Cleveland, OH. This historic building was built in 1896 and has been fully restored. It is also home of the Sokol Greater Cleveland.



2019 Lodge 302 Officers with National Director Michael W. Karaffa.

UPCOMING LODGE 302 EVENTS

1st Quarter Meeting/Founders’ Day Luncheon

Sunday, February 3, 2019—Following 10:30 AM Liturgy

St. Joseph’s Church, Brecksville, OH

Annual Adult Game Night

Saturday, March 9 at 5:30 PM

St. Joseph’s Activity Center, Brecksville, OH

Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 14 at 12 NOON

St. Joseph’s Church Hall, Brecksville, OH

Fourth Quarter/Annual Meeting

The Lodge 302 fourth quarter/annual meeting and luncheon was held on November 4, 2018. Officers elected for the 2019 year are President Judy Weitzel, Vice President/Recording Secretary Bonnie Ciresi, Treasurer Michael Andrako, Athletic Director Jean Karaffa, Publicity Director Diane Richey, Sgt. of Arms/Standard Bearer Jerry Holderbaum, Auditors John Kresnisky & Don LeFleur and Chaplain Fr. Bruce Riebe. National GCU Director Michael W. Karaffa administered the oath of office. Congratulations to this hard-working team of officers!

CONTINUED



Lodge Food Drive.

Lodge 302 CONTINUED



Judy Weitzel presenting check to Dorothy Papke.

Lodge Food Drive and Banner Sunday

In the spirit of Thanksgiving the annual Lodge 302 Food Drive and Banner Sunday was held at St. Joseph Church in Brecksville on Saturday, November 17 and Sunday, November 18. Non-perishable food items were donated to St. Mary's Hospitality House along with a monetary donation of \$200.00 from the lodge. A check was presented to Dorothy Papke of St. Mary's Hospitality by Judy Weitzel.

Diane Richey | Publicity Director

Lodge 336

EUCLID, OH

Annual Picnic

Lodge 336 & St. Stephen Byzantine Church, held their annual picnic on Sunday, July 29. The event was blessed with a beautiful day. There was a variety of foods and fresh bakery items for sale. Fun and games for the children, plus several fund raising activities for the adults. Thanks to all who helped out and those that attended! The inclusion of Matching Funds from the GCU Home Office, raised a total of \$2,400.00 for the support of St. Stephen parish.

Patti Comai | President



Fr. Bruce Riebe & lodge member John Mazur.



Linda Cwiekalo and Julie Simko ready to sell tickets.

Lodge 340

RAHWAY, NJ

Charity Table Fundraiser

GCU Lodge 340 held its annual Charity Table Fundraiser on October 3, 2018. Each year the event is held in conjunction with the St. Thomas Altar Rosary

Society Tricky Tray Auction parish fundraiser.

This year's fundraising efforts benefitted the Franciscan Charities of Newark, NJ. The organization's mission is to tend to the critical needs of the poor, provide tools to rise above poverty and support physical, emotional and spiritual healing. The lodge's prizes included a \$250.00 bank gift card and a beautiful Coach handbag.

The evening was filled with excitement and the anticipation of hoping to win one of the many beautiful prizes displayed. As always the event was well supported by parishioners and the community.

Lodge 340 Bingo Outreach Event

Members of GCU Lodge 340 visited Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Toms River, NJ in an effort to help raise funds for the church through the GCU Parish Expansion Matching Funds Program.

Lodge members joined in with church members during their weekly Bingo on Monday, November 5 and Wednesday, November 7, 2018.

CONTINUED

Lodge 340 CONTINUED

Everyone worked together selling boards and working in the kitchen.

Lodge 340 members also set up a giveaway table. The giveaways and GCU info brochures were supplied by the Home Office. It was nice to meet new people and work together. Fr. Frank Rella is pastor at Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Dorothy Koenig | Treasurer &
Mary K. Bannworth



Kitchen crew at the Bingo Outreach.



Rummage Sale.



Church cleaning.



Renew, Revitalize & Rejuvenate meeting.

Lodge 386

CARRICK-PITTSBURGH, PA

End of Year Events

St. Pius X Church in Carrick held its annual Rummage sale in September. Lodge 386 participated in the event by helping organize items and volunteering the day of the sale. Over \$1,000.⁰⁰ was raised for the church to help with upcoming property update expenses.

A major project was undertaken to prevent water damage to the church. Trees & bushes were cut down and a new French drain had to be dug around the front of the church. Lodge



French drain project.

386 made a donation to help defer some of the cost of the project.

The Archeparchy of Pittsburgh initiated a Renew, Revitalize and Rejuvenate project. Parish representatives, John & Helenanne

Hochendoner, held a breakfast meeting to explain the initiatives of the project. We were asked as a parish to consider ways to help attendance and support the local community. Lodge 386 supported the meeting by buying the breakfast and offering to help financially when projects are put into place.

The parish offered a gracious thank you for the personal and financial help given by GCU Lodge 386.

Beth Gulyasy | Secretary Treasurer



Young helpers at the Holy Ghost clean up.

Lodge 390

MCKEES ROCKS, PA

Helping Hands Day

Every fall Lodge 390 members and Holy Ghost parishioners gather to spruce up the public areas and grounds around Holy Ghost Byzantine Church in McKees Rocks. Outdoors

the crew pulled all the dirt, weeds and plants from the sidewalks and curbs on the block surrounding the church and school buildings. A professional tree trimmer was also brought in. Many bags full of scattered litter were gathered and properly disposed of as well.

Steve Puluka | Secretary Treasurer



Lori Bender

Lodge 401

NANTY GLO, PA

Ham & Holupki Dinner

The Lodge 401 Ham & Holupki dinner was held Sunday, November 4 in St. Nicholas Church hall. There were three days of 6-8 hours each spent in preparation for the dinner not counting the days to shop for the needed groceries and prepare the hall. On the day of the dinner there were plenty of volunteers to even out the work load. A total of 209 dinners were served. This was a Matching Funds event so thank you to the GCU Home Office for their contribution. The funds will be used to replace the flooring in the church vestibule. A thank you is also extended to our patrons and our volunteers for their many hours of hard work.



Shirley Oblinsky.

Dinner & A Movie

To increase awareness of the GCU, Lodge 401 held their first ever, "Dinner & Movie" night, on the evening of Saturday, October 13 in the St. Nicholas Church hall. Approximately 20 people attended and were treated to a complimentary spaghetti & meatball dinner, salad, dinner roll, beverage and dessert. Following the event there were numerous requests that we do it again sometime. Thanks to all those who helped with preparations and thanks to the lodge's guests. A special thanks to Bev Chekan who made the cake.

Annual Food Drive

In the spirit of the Thanksgiving holiday, Lodge 401 held its annual food drive for the Conemaugh Valley Ministerium Food Pantry. Paper grocery bags with an attached specified grocery list were made available to those who wished to participate in the drive. Seventeen bags were collected and distributed to the food bank along with several monetary donations. Lodge 401 also donated \$200.00 towards the purchase of the turkeys.

Gene Ostinowsky | Vice President



Jerry Nedrich who delivered the bags of groceries to the food pantry.



Memorial Day Ceremony.

Lodge 442

BOARDMAN, OH

Memorial Day Flag Ceremony

A Flag Raising Ceremony was sponsored by Lodge 442 on Sunday, May 27, 2018 at our host church, Infant Jesus of Prague Byzantine Catholic Church. Flags were blessed by Rev. Mykhaylo Farynets, pastor. Lodge members and parishioners gathered on the south lawn for a flag raising and short ceremony to commemorate Memorial Day, following Liturgy.

Lodge 252 of St. Nicholas Church, Youngstown, OH was invited as Lodge 442 guests. Lodge 252 President Theresa Swindler participated in the ceremony which included a history of Memorial Day from the American Civil War to the present day. A light lunch was served following the ceremony.

Byzantine Family Day at Kennywood Park

At 8:30 AM on Thursday, July 26, 2018, a large group of eager lodge members, parishioners and friends from the Youngstown area gathered in the parking lot of Infant Jesus of Prague Church for a tailgate party, before leaving for the Annual Byzantine Family Day at Kennywood Park. The tailgate featured beverages and snacks for the journey, as well as GCU brochures and giveaways. A full bus plus several cars made the annual trip which is always a highlight of the summer. Special thanks to the donor who sponsored the bus.



Family Day at Kennywood Park.

UPCOMING LODGE 442 EVENT

Children's Christmas Party

Sunday, December 16, 2018

Following 9 AM Liturgy

Infant Jesus of Prague Church, Boardman , OH

Parish Picnic

The annual Parish Family Picnic was held on Wednesday evening, August 22, 2018 in the picnic pavilion on the church grounds of Infant Jesus of Prague Byzantine Catholic Church. The event was co-sponsored by the Lodge 442, the Byzantine Social Club and the Altar & Rosary Society. Traditional picnic and ethnic foods were brought to share. Games, music, socializing and a fund raiser, along with great picnic weather made for a evening enjoyed by all.

Elaine Chachko | Activities Director



Parish Picnic.

Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge

HAZLETON PA

Brrr!!! it sure is cold outside. Winter has come on very quickly this fall, we had 10 inches of snow and now the temperatures are below freezing! What happened to autumn?

GHRL Hayride

Sunday, October 7, 2018, the GHRL sponsored a Hayride and Pumpkin pick at Thomas Farms. There were 67 participants ranging in age from 2 to 95 years old, who took advantage of the beautiful day. They had the opportunity to go on a hayride, go through the corn maze and then get to pick a pumpkin.

Thanks to the GCU Home Office for the Halloween bags and treats. All children received a bag of goodies and the adults all received a memo board.



Hayride participants.

Helping Hands Day

Saturday, October 27 was scheduled as a "Helping Hands Day" event at Holy Annunciation Monastery, but too much rain on the days leading up to the event

prevented any outside work from being done. However, a lot of work was accomplished inside with the making of boxes, box inserts and cleaning of raisins for the Sisters' baking projects. A light luncheon was served and monetary donations were presented to Mother Marija.



Volunteers making boxes.



Seated: National Director Dorothy Ann Foran, Fr. Gregory Hosler and Fr. Peter Donish. Standing: Agnes Rohrbach, Deacon Larry Foran, Judy Betterly, Al Kringer, Ann Marie Betterly, Judy Kringer and John (Rick) Hoppey.

Fourth Quarter Meeting

The GHRL fourth quarter meeting was held on Sunday, October 14 at SS. Peter & Paul Church hall in Beaver Meadows, PA. The following people will be at the helm when GHRL begins its fifth year in January 2019: President Deacon Larry Foran, Vice-President John (Rick) Hoppey, Secretary-Athletic & Activities Director Agnes Rohrbach, Treasurer Ann Marie Betterly, Publicity & Assistant Athletic Director Judy Kringer, Auditors Al Kringer & Judith Betterly and Chaplains Fr. Peter Donish & Fr. Gregory Hosler. In addition to elections, tickets were distributed for the St. Nicholas dinner where our scholarship winners will be honored; a list of proposed 2019 activities was presented and all quarterly meetings were assigned.

This past year GHRL held several fund raisers. The lodge donated over \$4,200.00 to Holy Annunciation Monastery with a bake-less bake sale and GCU Special Matching Funds. A calendar fund raiser for "Avenues" and Holy Dormition Friary along with GCU Matching Funds provided each with \$1500.00. A bingo fundraiser for "Brandon's Forever Home" - provided \$750.00 to this wonderful charity and an eye care seminar for Catholic Social Services provided \$600.00 from GHRL. An Avon book party/Tricky Tray Sale benefitted St. John Church.

The lodge also enjoyed eight bus excursions, held bowling tournaments, a golf tournament, three "Helping Hands Day" events, a hay ride with a pumpkin pick, and a hats, gloves & scarf drive that was given to Catholic Social Services.

It is evident that being a regional lodge has its benefits. Members working together allows for many events and helps to raise money for local charitable organizations. GHRL has come a long way and is grateful to the GCU Home Office and its staff for their assistance with advertising, printing and the numerous grants provided to make the events affordable for the members.



Bingo fundraiser for "Brandon's Forever Home."

CONTINUED

Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge CONTINUED

Christmas Show

On Saturday, November 17 The GHRL members went to see the Christmas show at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse. The audience got into the spirit of Christmas with the great Christmas Carols and short skits. Thanks to the GCU Home Office for the

Fraternal Grant and the dry erase boards. The group has already booked next year's Christmas performance event. It will be Saturday, November 2, 2019 at Sight and Sound Theatre to see the "Miracle of Christmas."



Making presentation to Catholic Social Services: Agnes Rohrbach, Mary Schell (representing CSS), Deacon Larry Foran, Fr. James Wolbert, OFM and National Director Dorothy Ann Foran.



Janice Moyer, Rick Hoppey, John Moyer, Carol & Tom Shemansky, Eileen Bunk, Ann Marie Barna and Anne Timcho in front of the beautiful adorned Christmas Tree at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse.

St. Nicholas Dinner

On Sunday, December 2, GHRL held its annual St. Nicholas Dinner at Capriotti's. A visit from St. Nicholas and his elf, good food, tricky trays and a fundraiser were all part of the fun. Thanks to the Home Office for the gifts. Christmas donations were made to all GHRL parishes and scholarship winners, Jonathan & Rebecca Kaschak were honored.

Message of Sympathy

GHRL would like to extended sympathy to the family of Agnes O'Donnell who went home to the Eternal Lord in November. Agnes was a very active member of the GCU and the secretary for many years of the former Lodge 40 in Freeland, PA. Agnes served on the national scholarship committee and attended many GCU Conventions. Blessed repose and eternal memory.

Thank You!

I would like to thank the Home Office for their help at all times for fulfilling all of GHRL's requests, the fraternal grants, the gifts and their dedicated time. Thanks also to all of the volunteers from the lodge that make all of our projects a success. Here is wishing the entire GCU world a very **Blessed and Merry Christmas and a very Healthy & Happy New Year. Remember to keep "Christ" in Christmas!**

As always, remember that sometimes dates are subject to change. If you are unsure about a meeting or an event, please feel free to call (570) 454-4869, or if you are computer savvy, check out the GCU website for updates or new postings.

Until, next time, take care and May God Bless!

Agnes Rohrbach | GHRL Secretary-Activities Director

UPCOMING GHRL EVENTS

1st Quarter Meeting

Sunday, January 27, 2019

2 PM

St. Michael's Byzantine Catholic Church, McAdoo, PA

Pre-Lenten Casino Trip (Sands Casino)

Sunday, February 24

Jr. Bowling Tournament

Sunday, March 10

1 PM

Bowl-Arena, West Hazleton, PA

Lodge 625

CONEMAUGH, PA

Fourth Quarter Meeting

Lodge 625 had a quiet fall season but is gearing up for a busy final month of the year. The lodge held its fourth quarter meeting on Sunday, November 25, 2018. The charities were chosen that will receive the lodge's community donations. The organizations will receive a portion of the \$3,000.00 from this year's fundraiser and Matching Funds. Lodge 625 hosted a pizza and salad social on Thursday, December 6 for St. Nicholas Day following Liturgy. The lodge will also host a Christmas Eve social following Divine Liturgy on Monday, December 24.

Upcoming Events

The 2019 schedule is currently under review and the lodge looks forward to continue to work on assisting the parish and community with fund raising events. There will be some fun events for the lodge members and information will be provided when events are scheduled. Members of Lodge 625 who would like to be added to the email list are asked to send an email to: gculodge625@yahoo.com.

Georgia Lehman | Secretary-Treasurer

Lodge 644

BARBERTON/AKRON, OH

New Tables Purchased

New tables for St. Nicholas Hall were purchased with GCU Matching Funds earned with the Lodge 644 card party profit.



Mary Ann & Mike Meador.
Thanks to Mike who organized the Fr. Keblesh golf event.

Fr. Keblesh Memorial Golf Outing

The 12th Annual Father Keblesh Memorial Golf Outing on Saturday, August 25, 2018 was a fun event. All in attendance had a great time.

Community Donations

Special recognition needs to be given to Lodge 644 members and the parishioners at St. Nicholas who donated \$1,445.00 to the Salvation Army and Good Samaritan Hunger Center of Akron. This is an annual community project and GCU Matching Funds event.



Chef Tom Blike, Sue Irving, Rick Schen, Marsha Ambrose and Doris Borotkanics.

Breakfast for the Parishioners

On Sunday, September 23 Lodge 644 hosted a breakfast for the parishioners of St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church in Barberton. Tom Blike, Sue Irving, Rich Schen, Marsha Ambrose and Doris Borotkanics helped with kitchen duties and serving.

Rick Schen | Publicity Director

UPCOMING LODGE 644 EVENT

1st Quarter Meeting

Sunday, January 20, 2019
11 AM

St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church,
Barberton, OH

Lodge 860
DETROIT, MI

Annual Reunion Dinner Resumes

Lodge members and guests shared a catered buffet in fellowship at the Annual Reunion Dinner held on Sunday, October 14, 2018. The event, held in the parish social hall at St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church in Clinton Township, MI, was suspended for one year in order to schedule District 11's celebration of GCU's 125th anniversary last October.

The catered buffet dinner followed the 11 AM Divine Liturgy with a Panachida for the deceased members of Lodge 860.



Members enjoying the Reunion Dinner.

Vice President George Nagrant welcomed attendees during dinner. He reported on activities of the lodge over the past year and announced several upcoming events.

In addition to awarding of several Target gift cards from the GCU Home Office, a 50/50 fundraiser was held. Several small promotional items were also provided and given out as favors.

Happy Halloween

Children in the ECF (Eastern Christian Formation) program at St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church in Clinton Township enjoyed a festive Halloween celebration on Sunday, October 28, with a donation from Lodge 860.

Immediately following the 11 AM Liturgy, the children, along with their family members and parishioners, gathered in the parish social hall for a pizza luncheon.

Then the children were each presented in their costume. Afterwards, they played various themed games, decorated individual pumpkins and of

course, the children received bags of Halloween treats and small toys.

Finally, prizes were awarded in several categories and then all the costumed children assembled for a group photo.

The event was organized and led by lodge member and parish ECF Director, Suzanne Swanney and her husband, Jim Swanney.

Val Marszalec | Fraternal Activities & Publicity Director



Children of the ECF program.



GCU National Director George Kofel presents \$1,500.00 Matching Funds check to Father Leonard Martin of St. Mary of the Assumption Byzantine Catholic Church.

Lodge 945
DUNMORE, PA

Matching Funds Programs

Lodge 945 presented Parish Expansion Matching Funds to St. Mary of the Assumption Byzantine Catholic Church, Scranton, PA from money raise at their Slavic Festival in August.

Lodge 945 members and parishioners of St. Michael the Archangel Byzantine Catholic Church in Dunmore are partnering together for the following matching funds: GCU Special Matching Funds for Holy Annunciation Monastery-Carmelite Nuns Sugarloaf, PA and their Holiday Bake Sale. The Community Matching Funds for Scranton Rescue Mission in Scranton, PA-through the lodge's Thanksgiving Feed-A-Friend.

Helping Hands Day

Lodge 945 volunteers were present on Saturday, October 27, 2018 at Holy Annunciation Monastery in Sugarloaf, PA for the fall clean-up project. Mary "Tippy" Zayac, Sharon Kofel and GCU National Director George Kofel of Lodge 945 joined Gina Keil and Ilona Dolinich of Lodge 17 and other fellow GCU members from GHRL to participate in the Helping Hands Day at Holy Annunciation Monastery. Mother Marija challenged our engineering skills as we assembled over 1,000 boxes and inserts in preparation for the Carmelite's delicious baked goods sale.

CONTINUED

Lodge 945 CONTINUED

Christmas Angel Tree Program

Lodge 945 members and parishioners of St. Michael the Archangel Byzantine Catholic Church will brighten the hearts of many veterans at the Gino Merli Veteran Center by participating in the lodge's Christmas Angel Tree Program. This program is in its fourth year and has been well received as veterans are presented gifts for Christmas from the lodge and parish family.

On behalf of the officers and members of GCU Lodge 945, may the blessings of the birth of our Savior be upon you and your family this Christmas Season, along with wishes for a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

Christos Razdajestsja! Slavite Jeho!
Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

George Kofel



Georgia Zeedick, Sue Juba, Mary T. Batyko and Paul Lebanik.

Lodge 994

BEAVER, PA

St. Nicholas Chapel Decorating

On Tuesday, December 4 GCU Lodge 994 volunteers came together to decorate the St. Nicholas of Myra Chapel adjacent to the GCU Home Office. The Chapel is the lodge's home parish.

Lodge 999

PHOENIX, AZ

Piroghi Workshop

Lodge 999 members enjoyed participating in the Piroghi Workshop. Older parishioners of St. Stephen Cathedral pass on the tradition to the younger members. The parish and lodge are preparing for the Christmas bake and piroghi sales. The parish also sells nut, date nut, apricot and poppy seed rolls and are planning on making and selling Halupki. The holy rollers will be baking rolls over the next couple of weeks.

Oktoberfest & Silent Auction

The Oktoberfest and Silent Auction held on October 20 at St. Thomas Church has been ongoing for at over 15 years. The purpose is for parishioners and friends to socialize, have fun eating delicious food, dance and bid on wonderful donated items either from parishioners or businesses in the community. By doing this, others are educated about the beautiful Byzantine Catholic community in Gilbert, AZ. It also assists in raising needed funds for St. Thomas and benefits outreach in the community.

The attendees enjoyed delicious German food. An unusual number of great items were auctioned off including gift certificates donated by regional restaurants and stores. One of the parishioners is an artist and she provided dinnerware she had decorated with floral painting for the auction. German and American country music played in the background.

Harvest Fest

Saturday, October 27 was the annual Harvest Fest. What a Great Time! There were so many things to do during the day, kids games with prizes, cornhole for the adults, hayrides, making s'mores by the firepit, brats & kraut were served along with fried potatoes, apple cider and apple crisp for dessert. Trunk-or-Treat and line dancing concluded the great day.

Joanie Mahar | President



Trunk-or-Treat.

Openness to God's Will at Come and See 2018



Seminarians and "Come and See" retreat attendees gather in the Byzantine Catholic Seminary chapel.

The first moment I entered the door of SS. Cyril & Methodius Byzantine Catholic Seminary for the "Come and See" weekend of discernment, an overwhelming feeling of peace washed over me and fulfilled my heart's desire of many years. The weekend of November 2-4, 2018 was a blend of both prayerful retreat and social interaction with time to set aside all earthly cares – for me, those cares common to a junior in college – to reflect on God's will in my life as well as to experience the daily rhythm of seminary life.

Fr. Robert Pipta, seminary rector, warmly welcomed the twelve "Come and Seers" representing the Ruthenian eparchies of Phoenix, Parma and Passaic as well as the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh. The seminarians, who were also our mentors (Miron was mine) for the weekend, answered all of

our questions openly and humorously. They made each of us feel a part of their seminary family. Almost as if by divine design, the entire atmosphere of the weekend changed after lunch on Saturday from a retreat of internal reflection to an experience of how each seminarian personally lives out his daily life of prayer, academic work, community and how he travels along his faith journey sharing his personality and humanity. I glimpsed the reality of daily seminary life.

By Saturday afternoon I did not want to leave, for I had found both a place of peace and an open learning environment. On Sunday I had the great pleasure of attending Divine Liturgy at St. Gregory Byzantine Catholic Church in Upper St. Clair, PA. I was able to appreciate more fully all that comes with choosing to follow God's will as an eparchial priest by observing the pastor, Fr. Valerian Michlik. By the end of the "Come and See" experience, I realized I must be patient. Each of us has things we must work to complete first. I pray my journey brings me back to "Come and See" once again.

Thomas Donlin | Our Lady of Perpetual Help Byzantine Catholic Church, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Founded in 1950, the Byzantine Catholic Seminary is a free-standing, English speaking theological seminary, forming men for priestly ordination and welcoming all men and women seeking the knowledge possessed by the Eastern ecclesial traditions. The Seminary is authorized to grant graduate degrees by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and accredited by the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools.



Seminarian Robert Jones delivers a witness talk on discernment and internal struggle.

For Your Information

Events

Mount St. Macrina House of Prayer Schedule

Open House

Sunday, January 13

1:30 PM-3:30 PM

Come and spend time with the staff in the warmth of the House of Prayer!

“Winter Respite”

Saturday, February 2

10 AM-1 PM - Includes Lunch

By Sr. Carol Petrasovich, OSBM

\$35 Offering | Register by Jan. 30

Bread Baking Retreat

Sat., February 16 or Sat., March 16

10 AM-1:30 PM - Includes Lunch

By Sr. Carol Petrasovich, OSBM

\$20 Offering | Register by February 11

Mt. St. Macrina House of Prayer

10 West Main Street PO Box 878

Uniontown, PA 15401-0878

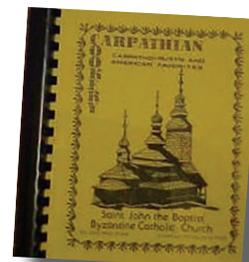
Email: hpmsm@verizon.net

Website: sistersofstbasil.org

Available

Carpathian Cookery Cookbook

Having sold over 17,000 copies, the cookbook has entered its 18th printing and was requested by the Library of Congress to be in their ethnic cooking collection. The 330-page cookbook has a new look and features a protective plastic cover. The book includes sections on Christmas and Easter customs and recipes, traditional Rusyn and Slavic foods, other ethnic dishes, and many other tried-and-true recipes of St. John's parishioners. There is a variety of paska bread and kolachi (filled roll) recipes, as well as meatless dishes and Lenten recipes, suitable for the Great Fast, as well as the Pre-Christmas Fast. The cost of the cookbook is \$14.⁰⁰ plus \$4.⁰⁰ postage and handling (\$18.⁰⁰). If ordering from Canada, please send a \$27.⁰⁰ U.S. Postal money order payable in U.S. dollars to reflect the difference in the exchange rate and postage cost. To order please send a check or money order to: Ethnic Craft Club, St. John Byzantine Catholic Church, 201 E. Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401, call 724-438-6027 (M-F 9 AM-3 PM please leave a message) or email carpathiancookery@gmail.com.



Deceased Members

(Lodge-Member-City-State)

- 321 John Adams, Greensburg, PA
8315 Charles J. Alberts, Hammond, IN
8344 Susan E. Ames, Lewistown, PA
8344 Martin J. Anderson, Butler, PA
600 William Anthony, McAdoo, PA
250 Polly Back, Lansing, MI
66 Joe Bandura, Highland, IN
2 Mary P. Barchie, Oakley, MI
8344 Ernest L. Biagianti, Freedom, PA
8344 Jo Ann Bishop, Monaca, PA
8344 John Boariu, Ellwood City, PA
81 Michael Bobbish, Mars, PA
8309 Isabell Bolam, Palm Coast, FL
600 Ann M. Bondura, Baltimore, MD
697 Eugene Botizan, Wheeling, WV
860 Phyllis Bower, Plainwell, MI
8344 Dorothea J. Brigode, Manor, PA
8304 Phyllis A. Bruce, Yorba Linda, CA
8344 Phillip Bruno, Pittsburgh, PA
93 John Bugay, Dayton, PA
8335 Stella Carroll, Lincroft, NJ
211 Martin Chehotsky, Lake Charles, LA
8344 Joanne I. Chester, Warren, PA
8344 Jean Clark, Pittsburgh, PA
8344 John Connelly, Perkasio, PA
8344 Beuna O. Conrad, Manchester, MD
8344 Beverly W. Cook, Jeannette, PA
8344 Maria E. Coppola, Warren, PA
151 Virginia L. S. Coursey, Rutland, VT
8344 Lee C. Crawford, Laughlinton, PA
8344 Garnett M. Crescini, Grindstone, PA
8344 Sarah Cross, Altoona, PA
8358 Nellie Crull, Marshfield, WI
81 John Culyba, Monongahela, PA
8335 Dora Dando, Galloway, NJ
8344 James R. Dell, Duncansville, PA
8344 Julia Dill, North Huntingdon, PA
8344 Ronald W. Dodson, Altoona, PA
665 Franklin Dolan,
Little Egg Harbor Twp., NJ
8344 Joyce M. Dromsky, Mainland, PA
93 Francis Drotar, Dauphin, PA
288 Anita Dugan, Pittsburgh, PA
8344 James L. Eakman, Verona, PA
8344 Leota Edwards, Home, PA
8344 Virginia Eiler, Coraopolis, PA
182 Sharon Evans, Germantown, MD
235 Jean Fadus, Newtown, CT
8337 Edna Fetchko, Glenville, NY
8344 Nancy Fichter, North Huntingdon, PA
8341 Delaine Filip, Seven Hills, OH
8344 Aldine Flaherty, Washington, PA
625 Joan I. Foust, Bolivar, PA
8344 Gerald K. Frederick, Martinsburg, PA
8344 Regina Gallo, Minersville, PA
8344 Eleanor L. Gay, Millville, PA
8344 Mary Ann Gearhart, Ellwood City, PA
255 Thomas Glod, Lawrence, PA
8344 Lauren Gray, Leechburg, PA
8344 Lynn L. Grinnen, Wampum, PA
235 Gary A. Guertin, Thompson, CT
8344 David A. Guidon, Freemansburg, PA
20 Bertha Hakun, Media, PA
268 Richard C. Halusker, Cleveland, OH
8358 Hattie Handzlik, Brookfield, WI
8344 Mary Ellen Hemke, Apollo, PA
8344 Diane M. Hering, Doylestown, PA
8344 Frank Herrelko, Ambler, PA
8304 Mitsuo Heyada, Carpinteria, CA
600 Joseph J. Hines, Hazleton, PA
8309 Frances Hoffman, St. Petersburg, FL
8344 Anita Hoffmann, Pittsburgh, PA
8358 Phyllis E. Hoppe, Mukwonago, WI
8344 Norman Hornburg, Warren, PA
268 William F. Huff, Sandusky, OH
8344 Manuel M. Johns, Canonsburg, PA
8327 Marlys R. Johnson, Fertile, MN
999 Sally Johnson, Sun City, AZ
10 Marie I. Johnston, Aliquippa, PA
8309 Elizabeth Jumper, Titusville, FL
860 Joseph G. Kalanik, Redford, MI
860 Joseph Kalanik, Redford, MI
336 Lawrence Kalapos, Solon, OH
8344 Kenneth L. Keller, Bridgeville, PA
8344 Dorothy M. Kensinger,
Williamsburg, PA
625 Mary Kissell, Portage, PA
8344 Karen L. Kitch, Erie, PA
109 Betty J. Kitting, Altoona, PA
8304 Guenter Kittlaus, Capo Beach, CA
8358 Carl M. Krantz, Fort Atkinson, WI
8344 Margaret E. Krause, New Castle, PA
255 Gloria S. Krehel, Pittsburgh, PA
8344 Mary Kromer, Rural Valley, PA
8344 Judith A. Kunkle, Lehighton, PA
8344 Mabeldine Kuntz, Jeannette, PA
235 John Kurilec, Trumbull, CT
8344 Ella Ruth Kwiecinski, Monaca, PA
8344 John Legath, Johnstown, PA
8341 Mary Lejeune, N Bloomfield, OH
665 Ronald Lozak, Metuchen, NJ
8306 Michael Lucas, Sandy Hook, CT
47 Helen Martyak, Binghamton, NY
8344 Dominick Mastrogiacomo,
Verona, PA
8358 Marilyn May, Chico, CA
8344 Grace E McClory, Pittsburgh, PA
8344 Pauline McCloskey, Trafford, PA
8344 Vance McCombs, McKeesport, PA
8344 Alice McCready, Altoona, PA
8344 Margaret Meanor, Imperial, PA
2 Sylvia A. Meta, Avalon, PA
8344 Mercedes A. Meyer, McMurray, PA
271 Arlene H. Milas, Henderson, NV
8344 Elsie Moore, Portersville, PA
8309 Janice A. Morris, Fort Pierce, FL
8344 Nicholas Moss,
North Huntingdon, PA
8344 Mercedes A. Neeson, Pittsburgh, PA
8344 Anthony Nicolette, West Newton, PA
8309 Joseph P. O'Hern, San Mateo, FL
625 John Ostheim, Johnstown, PA
8309 Lorraine F. Pacini, North Port, FL
10 Ronald Pantaleo, Beaver Falls, PA
600 Catherine E. Pavuk, Harrisburg, PA
92 John Pegula, Jessup, PA
8344 Ann Pergola, Monongahela, PA
20 Eugene Pertchack, Newtown Sq, PA
8344 Mary E. Pihou, Canonsburg, PA
8344 Patricia Pilgrim, Clairton, PA
10 Pat Pompeani, Aliquippa, PA
8344 Anne Popovich,
Northern Cambria, PA

8344 Keith E. Price, Ellwood City, PA
 66 Robert A. Pruvencok, Rossville, GA
 8320 Virginia Puschock, Lexington, KY
 8315 Janan Rafidi, Glenview, IL
 10 Kevin Ramik, Gainesville, FL
 8344 John W. Rapchak, Rices Landing, PA
 8358 Linda M. Rasmussen, Madison, WI
 390 Stella Rauch, Pittsburgh, PA
 8344 Sally N. Rauscher, Murrysville, PA
 8344 Horace F. Reichard, Transfer, PA
 8344 James Edward Reiter, Palm Beach, FL
 8344 Joan V. Rinehold, Doylestown, PA
 8344 Regina Robinson, Bloomsburg, PA
 53 Elizabeth Rodack, Wilkes Barre, PA
 8344 Rudy Rossi, Murrysville, PA
 8344 Mary E. Rouse, Aliquippa, PA
 8344 Auerlie M. Russo, Warren, PA
 8344 Carol A. Russo, Pittsburgh, PA
 999 Roy Saari, Oro Valley, AZ
 92 Margaret Salak, Mount Pocono, PA
 8358 Phyllis Schwei, Milwaukee, WI
 8344 Marie Sciulli, Pittsburgh, PA
 8344 Velma Sefcik, Adah, PA
 8344 Elizabeth Senneway, Allison Park, PA
 8344 Rebecca Shawver, Howard, PA
 8344 Mary C. Shilling, Greenville, PA
 8358 Garry H. Shinkle, Hartford, WI
 8344 Margaret Shirley, Indiana, PA
 665 Michael Simko, Manasquan, NJ
 8344 Darlene Simms, Indiana, PA
 271 Roy Skaer, Smithton, IL
 8344 Deborah Smith, Bryn Maur, PA
 53 David Somoga, Wilkes Barre, PA
 401 Evelyn Soyka, Naples, FL
 12 Andrew Spontak, Manchester, NJ
 600 Raymond M. Starrick, Hazle Township, PA
 8358 Shirley A. Steinke, Janesville, WI
 8358 Gordon L. Stephens, Union Grove, WI
 8344 Judy Strausser, Bloomsburg, PA
 8344 Alice Stutzman, Levittown, PA
 8359 Gerald Sudimack, Fort Mill, SC
 697 Joyce E. Swartzmiller, Weirton, WV
 12 Eugenie Swetz, Boynton Beach, FL
 288 Helen M. Tankosic, West Mifflin, PA
 8344 Felix Tatar, Finleyville, PA
 625 Margaret Terchanik, Clifton, NJ
 8359 Sylvia A. Thompson, Wake Forest, NC
 600 Martha Tobin, Gilberton, PA
 302 Thomas Trohanovsky, Brookpark, OH
 8341 Theresa Troski, Toronto, OH
 8358 Doris M. Verbeten, Appleton, WI
 8344 Stella J. Victor, Hiller, PA
 8333 Francis Vivona, Las Vegas, NV
 999 Fred Ray Voge, Phoenix, AZ
 8344 Joseph E. Wagner, Elysburg, PA
 8344 Marie Walton, Midland, PA
 15 Joseph Wasiakowski, Yardley, PA
 8344 Paul Weimer, Warren, PA
 8344 Rose M. West, Fountainville, PA
 8344 Henrietta M. Whittington, Warren, PA
 8309 Frank J. Wiczenski, Pinellas Park, FL
 8344 Elizabeth C. Wittman, Flourtown, PA
 8344 David Woodcock, Coraopolis, PA
 386 Robert E. Woodside, Pittsburgh, PA
 625 Dolores Yackulich, Johnstown, PA
 600 Loretta Yanochko, Beaver Meadows, PA
 8344 Joseph J. Yanushefsky, Nesquehoning, PA
 8326 Margaret A. Yasenchak, Livonia, MI
 8344 Elizabeth Yauneridge, Portage, PA
 20 James E. Yiaski, West Chester, PA
 8344 Christopher Young, Altoona, PA
 8344 Helen Yuricek, Port Orange, FL
 10 Mary Zapsic, Beaver, PA
 271 Jules Zinni, Roselle, IL

Remembrances

Agnes M. (Pavlick) O'Donnell

Agnes M. (Pavlick) O'Donnell, formerly of Freeland, PA, passed away Thursday, November 1, 2018 at Providence Place, Drums, PA. Born in Freeland, she was the daughter of the late John & Mary Pavlick.

Agnes was a graduate of Foster Township High School and McCann School of Business and attended the Washington Musical Institute. She was employed by the War Department in the Army Ordnance Division as a supervisor of production reports and traveled to arsenals in New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Illinois. Later she worked 24 years and became the owner and operator of Pavlick Sports Ware, of Freeland.

She was a faithful member of St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church in Freeland, an active member of their choir, and was also a member of the

Hazleton Art League. Agnes had been elected to the MMI Preparatory School Board of Directors and served on the Hazleton Tuberculosis Board of Directors. She was a former officer of Lodge 40 and a GCU recommender for many years.

Preceding her in death, in addition to her parents were her husband, Martin J. O'Donnell; brothers, John Michael and Stephen and sisters Mary Pavlick and Helen Pavlick. Surviving are three nieces and a nephew.

The Rev. Scott Boghossian celebrated the Office of Christian Burial at St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church in Freeland, followed by burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Blessed repose and eternal memory.

Julia Hulak

It is with deepest sorrow that we announce the passing of GCU member Julia Hulak on November 17, 2018 at the age of 91.

Julia was married to Alexander Hulak for 55 years and is survived by their 5 loving children: Christine, Paul, Marilyn Cotnuk, Mark and James. Julia has five grandchildren, Austin, Jennifer, Gordon Maxwell, Abigail and Megan.

Julia was a lifetime GCU member. Her brothers and sisters were also very active. Charles Sikoryak was president of Lodge 151 for many years. Ann Mikula, Helen Mihnya and John Sikoryak also held offices in Lodge 151 and attended many GCU conventions. Julia's very devoted and caring daughter, Christine, currently serves as treasurer of the lodge.

Julia lived on East 7th Street on the lower East side and later moved to Greenpoint Brooklyn in New York City. She attended Manhattan Community College and received an associate degree in secretarial studies. She was a secretary at PS 19. Julia was a wonderful mother, woman, friend, guardian, provider, wife and advisor. She was truly a remarkable person and will be missed.

The funeral Liturgy for Julia was celebrated at Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Fresh Meadows, NY with burial at Calvary Cemetery.

May she rest in peace. Eternal memory! Vichnaya Pamjat!

Marge Russell



Join us for a Hockey Night in Pittsburgh! 2019 Penguin Outing



Thursday
February 21, 2019
7PM

PPG Paints Arena
Pittsburgh, PA

Section 223/233/234

Members: \$55
Non-members: \$65



GCUusa.com

800-722-4428

2019
NATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT

MAY 17 & 18
2019

AMF NOBLE MANOR LANES
2440 NOBLESTOWN RD.
PITTSBURGH, PA 15205

B
O
W
L

OPEN
24
HOURS
LANES
AVAILABLE

ANNOUNCING...

The **NEW LEGACY SERIES** of Whole Life Insurance.

These new life insurance products offer significant advantages.

Designed to provide life long protection for you and your family.



-  The **LEGACY PROTECTOR**: a single premium Whole Life policy. One time payment is all that's necessary for a lifetime of protection.
-  The **LEGACY ADVANTAGE**: a Whole Life policy, with premiums payable up until age 100.
-  The **LEGACY ADVANTAGE 20**: a Whole Life policy, with premiums only paid for 20 years.

Please call your GCU representative or the GCU Home Office today 1-855-306-0607.
Leave a LEGACY for the ones you love.



5400 Tuscarawas Road
Beaver PA, 15009

GCUusa.com