

JUNE 2019

GCU



MAGAZINE



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George N. Juba
President
CEO

"It's So Nice To Be Nice"

You never have a second chance to make a first impression! This quote has been attributed to both Oscar Wilde and to Will Rogers, but nobody has any evidence of them saying it. The earliest use of this quote was noted in print in a 1966 Madison Avenue advertising slogan in an ad for Botany Suits. This statement certainly should resonate both within our personal and professional lives as we travel through our journey here on earth.

As to our personal life, each of us are born with our own personality, although somewhat modified by outside influences such as our parents, our teachers, our friends and that little voice that talks to us throughout the day, our subconscious. In essence, we really don't have a second chance to make a first impression but we certainly have a choice as to how we present our personality and treat our fellow human beings. For me, my greatest influence was my parents who guided me in so many ways as I learned from them that gaining the respect of others is not a given but is earned through kindness, both verbal and non-verbal.

It is no different in business or within any career path we chose. It's how we make our clients, our customers, our patients or business associates feel through our caring and kind actions, making each and every person we

come in contact with, in our business or profession, feel special.

In writing this introduction, it for some reason reminded me of my long time acquaintance, Burton Brubaker, who ironically was an agent for the Western and Southern Life Insurance Company here in Western Pennsylvania. Mr. Brubaker, who passed in 1999, was well known for placing his card on the bulletin boards and cash registers of many retail establishments and restaurants throughout Beaver County that read **"It's So Nice To Be Nice"** – courtesy of Burton Brubaker. Mr. Brubaker's notoriety continues to this day as Mr. Sam Spanos, a well know business professional and friend of mine, hands out this same card that now reads – in memory of Burton Brubaker. Thank you, Sam, as I am sure your deed in honoring Mr. Brubaker has been noticed by so many individuals who knew Burton!

As the GCU continues to be introduced to new prospective members and agents, it is imperative that we strive on improving our "first impression"! In 2017 the GCU launched a new branding initiative that provided for a more modern look to our Society that was incorporated in all our correspondence and marketing materials, along with a fresh and crisp look to our website. Our corporate campus where the GCU and St. Nicholas of Myra Chapel are located, presents itself well with an image and impression of a \$ 1.9 billion

fraternal benefit society. As I reported in my April 2019 GCU Magazine article, Seven Oaks has recently undergone many needed improvements to the Clubhouse and golf course. As a GCU Benefit Member, you are extended privileges to Seven Oaks through the GCU's Corporate Membership. We invite you to visit the GCU and Seven Oaks as I am sure you will be most impressed with how the GCU presents itself and the Club's new and improved look! Please contact the GCU's Fraternal Communications Department for additional details of having access to Seven Oaks as a GCU member benefit.

As was previously reported, we are currently embarking on a major initiative to totally replace our existing business policy administration system that will be state of the art to better serve our members and agents, while providing for greater analytics and an online experience second to none. The first phase of this project is focusing on our life insurance processes that will provide for an e-app capability and for more efficient underwriting processes. The entire transformation into addressing each area of our operations will take place over the next 36-month period. We are most excited about this transformation as we have entitled this initiative **"Project WOW!"**

CONTINUED



Supreme Tribunal members with National Directors, General Counsel and Executive Officers at appreciation dinner held in honor of their service to GCU.

No matter what image is presented by an organization in terms of its systems and physical assets, in any truly successful organization, it starts with its people! It first starts with the GCU's Board of Directors and Executive Management Team, learning from the past and plotting out the future, individuals who are ultimately responsible in the creation of a most positive "first impression!" We continually instill upon our Department Directors, Supervisors and Support Staff the importance of excellent, efficient customer and agent services. Compassion also comes into play in assisting family members that have lost a loved one. I may be a little bias, but I truly believe that the GCU employs individuals that truly care and provide an exceptional member and agent experience in all facets of our operations, that separates the GCU from our commercial and fraternal competitors!

Published in this edition of the GCU Magazine is our 2019 first quarter financial statements and commentary from our Chief Financial Officer, Tim Demetres. We continue to experience strong financial results as assets and surplus continue to increase in addition to generating excellent profitability. Our Society does present a sound financial "first impression!" Once again, our sincere thank you to our members and agents for entrusting the GCU with your own

and your clients' life and retirement investment needs.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, our Executive Officers and our General Counsel, we extend to the members of the Supreme Tribunal our sincere thank you and gratitude in serving the GCU throughout their terms of this office. The Tribunal was eliminated by the authority of the Board of Directors as an amendment to the Bylaws, with no objection by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department, in a continuing effort to strengthen the GCU's governance process and reduce risk exposure. An appreciation dinner was held with the members of the Supreme Tribunal and the GCU Board of Directors, Executive Officers and General Counsel at Seven Oaks on May 8, 2019. (A group photo from the event appears above.)

Pittsburgh, PA was the host city for the 2019 National Bowling Tournament that welcomed over 180 bowlers from three fraternal benefit societies that included participants from the FCSU, GCU and SCS organizations. As I was a participant, I can vouch for the great time and fraternalism that was enjoyed by all! We look forward to the 2020 event that is scheduled for the city of Cleveland, OH.

We will also be partnering this year once again with the Slovak Catholic Sokols (SCS) for our 2019 National Golf Tournament to be held Friday, Au-

gust 16 – Sunday, August 18 at Seven Oaks Country Club and Blackhawk Golf Course located in Beaver and Chipewa, PA. I personally can guarantee you a great time and invite you to attend this year's outing!

We congratulate all our GCU members that participated in our Art and Photo Contests and our GCU Academic and Athletic Scholarship Program. Enclosed in this publication are the contest winners and scholarship recipients. Our 2019 Fraternal Report is also included in this issue which provides financial and volunteer hours statistics in support of our fraternal mission. Our thank you to all our lodges and districts and members for your efforts!

I recently attended the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society held at the C-RS Cultural & Education Center. We congratulate President Mary Ann Sivak and the current and past officers for continuing to promote the deep history of our Carpatho-Rusyn culture. I invite you to visit the Center located at 915 Dickson Street, Munhall, PA where you will have an opportunity to view many GCU artifacts. Please visit the CR-S website at www.cr-s.org for additional information and how you may support their efforts through becoming a member.

In closing, my best wishes to you and your family for a fun, safe and memorable summer season!

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns!

Remember - **"It's So Nice To Be Nice"** – in memory of Burton Brubaker!



Atty. John J. Urban

Lessons in the Law

Protecting Your Adult Child

You've made it. Your child has graduated from high school and is on his way to college. But while you may still view your son (or daughter) as your "kid," the law doesn't see it that way.

When a child turns 18, the law recognizes him or her as an adult, no matter what. That means if your daughter is away at college and gets into a car accident, the hospital won't give you information about her condition because you don't have the legal right to it.

To illustrate, here is a story of a family whose son was skiing in Colorado and had an accident. Frantic, the parents tried to get information from the hospital about him and could learn nothing because he was 18. The father had to hop on a plane in the middle of the night to find out if he was alive, dead or injured. The good news was his injuries were mild.

To help parents avoid this scenario, each child over 18 years of age needs a durable power of attorney for both medical and financial, as well as a living will. Last will and

testaments may also be needed.

Without these documents, you as the parent have no right to make medical or end-of-life decisions for your child.

Sometimes the issues parents need to deal with are benign but still important.

My son's car insurance needed to be straightened out while he was in college, but the insurance company wouldn't talk to me without a financial power of attorney. Fortunately, I had it.

When a child turns 18, the law recognizes him or her as an adult, no matter what.

GCU Home Office Hours of Operation

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.

The Home Office will be closed Thursday, July 4th.



First Quarter 2019 Financials



Tim Demetres
Chief Financial Officer
CFO

GCU's sustained financial strength and community focus fortifies our long-term commitment to improving the lives of our members. It is my pleasure to report our first quarter financial achievements. Highlights of the first quarter ended March 31, 2019 are as follows:

Our financial strength continues to grow at a measured pace. In addition, GCU maintained a Kroll Bond Rating Agency rating of BBB+. Total income in the first quarter was \$88 million representing an increase of \$7.4 million or 9.2% compared to the first quarter of 2018 primarily from increased annuity sales and growth in investment income. We also saw an increase in life sales following the adoption of the 2017 CSO mortality tables which had the positive effect of offering better premium rates to prospective members. Net Income for the first quarter of 2019 was \$5.8 million, slightly less than the \$6.1 million reported in 2018. Surplus increased by \$5.2 million to \$159.5 million compared to \$154.3 million at year-end 2018.

Assets grew to \$1.931 billion, an increase of \$40.4 million or 2.1% from year end 2018 that totaled \$1.891 billion. The increase is attributed to continued positive net cash flow from life and annuity operations and reinvestment of investment income.

Liabilities grew by \$35 million to \$1.772 billion at March 31, 2019 compared to \$1.737 billion as of December 31, 2018. The increase is due primarily to higher annuity reserves of \$37.9 million from net new annuity deposits offset by a de-

crease of \$2.9 million for securities purchased not yet settled.

Operating expenses, before the change in reserves, increased \$2.6 million or 6.3% for the first three months of 2019 and totaled \$43.5 million compared to \$40.9 million in 2018. The increase is primarily due to higher annuity benefits paid of \$3.7 million reduced by \$1.2 million in lower pension plan payouts. We are investing in new technology that will greatly improve our policy administration systems, member and agent portals, and make it easier for all stakeholders to do business with GCU. This multi-year project will phase in through year 2022.

The Increase in Reserves for the three months totaled \$38.7 million compared to \$33.1 million in 2018. Reserve changes are a function of premium deposits, payment of death and annuity benefits, and interest accumulation.

Financial strength and stability is a foundational pillar of GCU. We continue to ensure GCU is well positioned to meet the obligations of today and those well into the future. Surplus now stands at \$159.5 million compared to 2018 year-end surplus of \$154.3 million. The \$5.2 million increase in surplus is primarily attributable to net income of \$5.8 million reduced by a \$0.6 million increase in the Asset Valuation Reserve.

Total surplus is the amount we set aside for unexpected operating losses and affords financial protection against business volatility. Total Adjusted Capital is \$179.5 million as of March 31, 2019 and includes Surplus of \$159.5 million, the Asset Valuation Reserve of \$19.9 million, and one-half the div-

Summary of Financial Statistics

<i>(000's omitted)</i>	<u>3/31/19</u>	<u>3/31/18</u>	<u>Change</u>
Assets	\$1,931,201	\$1,754,886	\$176,315
Total Income	88,017	80,590	7,427
Total Expenses	82,115	73,987	8,128
Net Income (Loss)	5,771	6,114	(343)
Surplus (Net Worth)	159,509	138,585	20,924
Asset Valuation Reserve	19,870	18,952	918
Interest Maintenance Reserve	22,036	22,899	(863)
Total Adjusted Capital (TAC)	179,529	157,687	21,842
Solv. Ratio by Total Adj. Capital	110.2%	109.9%	0.35%

Reconciliation of Change in Surplus

<i>(000's omitted)</i>	<u>3/31/19</u>
Beginning Surplus	\$154,269
Net Income/(loss)	5,771
Change in Unrealized Gain/(Loss)	249
GCU Holding Company & Other	(209)
Changes in Non-Admitted Assets	(12)
Changes in Asset Valuation Reserve	(559)
Net Change in Surplus	5,240
Ending Surplus	\$159,509

dividend liability of \$150,000. This is an increase of \$5.6 million over total adjusted capital at year-end 2018. The solvency ratio based on total adjusted capital at March 31, 2019 and

December 31, 2018 are 110.2% and 110.1%, respectively. These ratios reflect a strong and stable balance sheet.

Summer is here, enjoy!

Tim

GCU INCOME STATEMENT

Three Months 2019 vs. 2018

INCOME (000's omitted)	3/31/2019	3/31/2018	Change
Life Premium	\$ 676	\$ 403	\$ 273
Annuity Premium	57,724	52,523	5,201
Annuity Exchanges	4,302	4,075	227
Accident & Health	184	176	8
Sub Total	62,886	57,177	5,709
Net Investment Income	23,565	21,885	1,680
Amort. of Int. Maint. Resrv.	717	728	(11)
Commission-Reinsurance	670	689	(19)
Other	178	112	66
Total Income	\$88,017	\$80,590	\$7,427

EXPENSES

Death Benefits	\$ 565	\$ 1,085	\$(520)
Annuity Benefits Paid	33,364	29,619	3,745
Annuity Exchanges	4,302	4,075	227
Surrender Benefits	249	266	(17)
Accident & Health Benefits Pd.	180	152	28
Commissions	2,613	2,451	162
General Insurance Exp	2,018	1,940	78
Ins., Taxes, Licenses and Fees	147	112	35
Pension Expense	3	1,174	(1,171)
Int. on Contract & Deposit Accts.	19	19	0
Sub-Total	\$43,459	\$ 40,891	\$2,568
Increase in Reserves	38,656	33,096	5,560
Total Expenses	\$ 82,115	\$73,987	\$ 8,128
Net Gain/(Loss) Before Refunds	5,902	6,603	(701)
Refunds to Members	66	65	1
Net Gain/(Loss) after Refunds	5,836	6,538	(702)
Net Capital Gains (Losses)	(65)	(424)	359
Net Income/(Loss)	\$ 5,771	\$ 6,114	\$ (343)

BALANCE SHEETS

March 31, 2019 vs. December 31, 2018

ASSETS (000's omitted)	3/31/2019	12/31/2018	Change
Bonds	\$1,801,606	\$1,762,020	\$39,586
Preferred Stocks	49,574	49,821	\$(247)
Common Stocks	14,034	13,990	\$44
Alternative Investments	17,863	15,908	1,955
Cash/Short Term Investments	15,375	18,882	(3,507)
Mortgages	4,952	4,770	\$182
Certificate Loans	587	648	\$(61)
Real Estate-Home Office	488	490	(2)
Inv. Income Due & Accrued	25,655	23,960	1,695
Other	1,067	355	712
Total Assets	\$1,931,201	\$1,890,844	\$40,357

Percentage Total Change Year to Year—2.1%

LIABILITIES

Life Reserves	\$ 70,394	\$ 70,023	\$ 371
Annuity Reserves	1,644,003	1,606,084	37,919
Accident & Health Reserves	192	200	(8)
Employee Pension Liability	6,480	6,311	169
Convention Reserve	279	279	(0)
Adv. Prem. & Fut. Ref. Resrvs.	364	367	(3)
Pending Investment Trades	4,506	7,415	(2,909)
Accounts Payable	1,132	985	147
Refund Accumulations	2,436	3,018	(582)
Asset Valuation Reserve-AVR	19,870	19,311	559
Interest Maint. Reserve-IMR	22,036	22,583	(547)
Total Liabilities	\$1,771,692	\$1,736,575	\$ 35,117
Surplus Fund	159,509	154,269	5,240
Total Liabilities & Surplus	\$1,931,201	\$1,890,844	\$40,356
Solvency Ratio*	110.2%	110.1%	

*Adds AVR + 1/2 of dividend liability to surplus.

Financial information is unaudited and presented on the statutory basis of accounting.

Totals may vary slightly due to rounding.

2018 Annual Fraternal Report

Charity and caring for each other is the foundation of our lodges and the GCU. While our members and staff do good because it's the right thing to do and it makes them feel good, it has become imperative to put those acts into trackable quantifiable figures.

Lodges are required to submit quarterly reports to tell us about their events and volunteer hours. Thank you to lodge officers and members for not only being charitable, but holding meetings, organizing events, and reporting to us.

This year's fraternal report is broken into two categories that reflect the reporting system lodges follow.

Community Service is defined as assisting those in need or improving the community-at-large. Social activities that benefit a charity or cause are considered community service.

Fraternal Fellowship & Support is defined as social, educational, cultural, religious, recreational, or patriotic activities as well as activities necessary to maintain the local lodge, personal development of members, or those that advance our mission or build fellowship among members.

In a world with many distractions, our members should be proud to be part of an organization that puts God, family and community at the top of the list.

GCU Annual Fraternal Report

Community Service	606 events
Fraternal Fellowship and Support	904 events
Total Volunteer Hours	94,567
Matching Funds Donations—Lodges & Districts (GCU Contribution-\$126,811. ³⁹)	\$391,988. ³¹
Parish Expansion Matching Funds	\$19,500. ⁰⁰
Total 2018 GCU Charitable Donations	\$824,017.⁴⁰



We invest our time, effort and talent into creating strong, stable products that make your family's future more secure. We make sure they bring high returns and peace of mind.

We strengthen the places where neighbors come together to feel a sense of belonging. We lift up young scholars, the elderly and people in need.

Not big bankers, just people of faith. Not motivated by profit, but by protecting the assets of families. Not tied to Wall Street, only Main Street.

In every moment, we invest our highest selves in doing the right thing for your family, your neighbors and the place we call home.

At GCU we invest...

... in the goodness of community.





Very Rev.
Richard I. Lambert
GCU Spiritual Advisor

Half a Century

Fifty years for some may not seem like a long time, to others it may seem like an eternity. Although many may not like change in their life, fifty years has brought about many changes in our lives and in our Byzantine Catholic Church.

Before 1969, the Byzantine Church in America was comprised of the Archeparchy of Munhall (Pennsylvania), later changed to the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh (Pennsylvania), which consisted of part of Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia and all the states in the western part of our country. A second eparchy, the Eparchy of Passaic (New Jersey), consisted of all the states that border the Atlantic Ocean.

Our church was then commonly known as the Greek Catholic Church, as was this fraternal organization known as the Greek Catholic Union. The two have been connected from the beginning with the lodges housed within established Greek Catholic churches organizing to become the GCU.

In 1969 a major change occurred—a large part of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh was divided when the Eparchy of Parma (Ohio) was established. The new eparchy consisted of most of the state of Ohio and all states west to the Pacific Ocean as well as the states south of

those states. Although large in area, this new eparchy was smaller in number of churches and parishioners at the time. Since that time another eparchy was established with the cathedral and chancery first in Van Nuys (California) and presently in Phoenix (Arizona). This final act divided the then Eparchy of Parma into two separate and suffragan eparchies.

On Saturday, June 22, 2019 a 50 year celebration of the establishment of the Eparchy of Parma will be held at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Parma, OH. The celebration of the Canonical Erection of the Metropolitan Archeparchy will be held at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Munhall, Pennsylvania on Sunday, June 23, 2019.

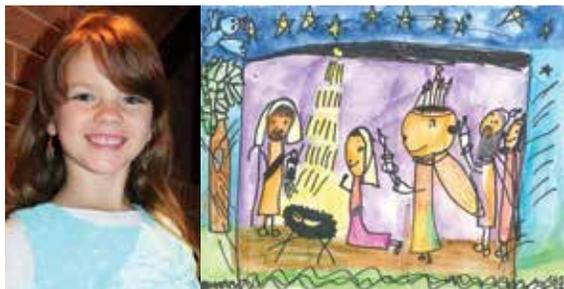
Pilgrimages of Thanksgiving have been planned for the Eparchy of Parma to Rome, Italy and for the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh to the Holy Land.

It is our prayer that God will continue to bless our Metropolitan Church. At many of the Divine Liturgies the Ambron Prayer prayed at the close of the Liturgy will continue to be our prayer for the Byzantine Catholic Church: “Lord, blessing those who bless you and sanctifying those who trust in you save your people and bless your inheritance. Preserve the fullness of your Church, sanctify those who love the beauty of your house, glorify them in return by your divine power, and do not forsake us who hope in you. Grant peace to your world, to your churches, to the priests, to our government and to all your people. For all generous giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from you, the father of lights; and we give glory, thanksgiving and worship to you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever, Amen.”

Fifty years for some may not seem like a long time, to others it may seem like an eternity. Although many may not like change in their life, fifty years has brought about many changes in our lives and in our Byzantine Catholic Church.

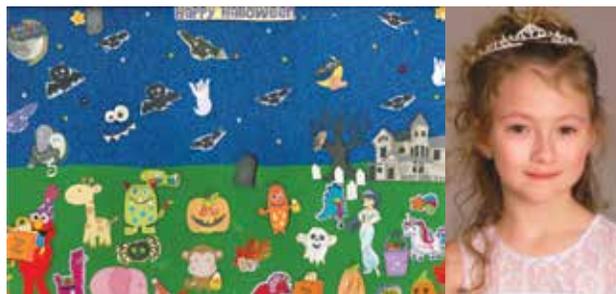
This year's theme was "My Favorite Holiday"

2019 Art Contest Winners



First Place Age 6 & Under
Michaela Revilak, West Mifflin, PA SEPRL

Christmas Baby Jesus is still cute and we are getting presents.



First Place Age 7-9
Leah McGee, Aliquippa, PA Lodge 994

Halloween Going trick or treating with my friends..



First Place Age 10-12
Emanuel Revilak, Munhall, PA SEPRL

Easter Jesus in all of His power crushing the cross and heading to heaven to prepare the place for us all.



Second Place Age 6 & Under
Ana Mares, Bridgeville, PA NWPRL



Second Place Age 7-9
Anthony Cherevka, Munhall, PA SEPRL



Second Place Age 10-12
Kate Elias, Portage, MI GHRL

This year's theme was "My Favorite Holiday"

2019 Photo Contest Winners



First Place Age 13-15
Sydney Palakovich, Freedom, PA Lodge 994

Christmas Our tradition is to walk in downtown Pittsburgh to see all the city lights. A toy store window with reflection of the busy street.



First Place Age 16-18
Caitlin Weitzel, Chagrin Falls, OH Lodge 302

Christmas The lights at the Naples Botanical Garden. Remembering my Grandpa who passed away 5 days before Christmas.



First Place Age 19-23
Jessica Palakovich, Freedom, PA Lodge 994

Earth Day It brings awareness to the effects climate change & deforestation have on the planet. An alligator eating an ibis at the Pinckney Island National wildlife Refuge in SC.



Second Place Age 13-15
Anastasia Lashutka,
Chandler, AZ Lodge 999



Second Place Age 16-18
Sarah Pavlick, Pittsburgh, PA CPRL



Second Place Age 19-23
David Bratnick, Whiting, IN
Lodge 302



Basil M. Wahal
Fraternal-Communications
Director

2019 Scholarships

The GCU National Scholarship Committee met on Wednesday, May 8 and announced the awarding of 37 National Scholarships (36—\$1,750.00 and 1—\$1,250.00) together with 45 Academic Performance Scholarships in the amount of \$1,000.00 each. Awardees appear over the next four pages.

Scholarship Committee members include: GCU National Directors Dorothy Foran-chairperson, Melanie Basl, Lisa Gulibon, Barbara Kushner and David Oleksa; Judith A. Gula of CPRL, Patricia Dietz of Lodge 151, John J. Katana of Lodge 93 and Jack Mendenhall of Lodge 10.

GCU National Scholarship recipients must maintain a minimum 2.75 GPA and submit a collage showing them volunteering within their community. Three of the awardees this year will receive an additional \$500.00 award for maintaining a 4.0 GPA: David Gulibon of Lodge 321 in Bradenville, PA; Rebecca Harhai of SEPRL in Clairton-Munhall, PA and Alexandra Plummer of Lodge 18 in Leisenring, PA. A new requirement this year was for the applicants to create a photo collage instead of written essay focusing on “Community Service and You.” The collage judged to be the best was designed by Taylor Mihalow of Lodge 93 in Northern Cambria, PA. She will receive an additional \$500.00 award for her winning collage.

Another new addition to this year's scholarship awards was the 4.0 GPA awards for APS Scholarship recipients. Each of the awardees that has maintained a 4.0 GPA in their continuing college education received an additional award of \$250.00. Five of the APS awardees qualified for the additional award they are: Cori Dowell of Lodge 252; Nathaniel Dowell of Lodge 252; Haylee Gans of PSRL; Aaron Gulibon of Lodge 321 and Amanda Kaschak of GHRL.

Congratulations to all of our scholarship recipients!

Collage Winner

4.0 GPA Winners



David Gulibon
Souderton, PA L321
University of South Carolina
Major: Public Health/Pre-Dental



Rebecca Harhai
West Homestead, PA SEPRL
Ohio University
Major: Strategic Communications



Alexandra Grace Plummer
Pittsburgh, PA L18
University of Pittsburgh
Major: Theatre & English Writing

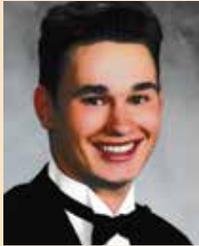


Taylor Anne Mihalow
Patton, PA L93
Saint Vincent College
Major: Biology



Melanie Kathryn Bates

Morrisville, PA L20
La Salle University
Major: Exploratory/
Science



Andrew Stephen Borsh

La Crescenta, CA
SEPRL
Arizona State University
Major: Business
Sports Media



Alexei Fleck

Freedom, PA L8344
Robert Morris University
Major: Accounting
and Finance



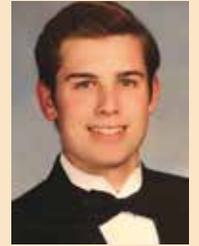
Sarah Fullard

Pittsburgh, PA NWPRL
California University of
Pennsylvania
Major: PreK-4 &
Special Education



Anais Elizabeth Haftman

Daisytown, PA L57
Duquesne University
Major: Pharmacy



John Francis Hogan

Alexandria, VA L151
Virginia Tech
Major: Building
Construction



Jarret Michael Ingram

Penfield, PA L8344
University of Pitts-
burgh
Major: Biological
Sciences



Morgan E. Kaschak

West Hazleton, PA
GHRL
DeSales University
Major: Homeland
Security/Criminal
Justice



Elyse M. Kostelnik

Aliquippa, PA L697
Seton Hill University
Major: Health Sci.-
Pre-Allied Health
Track



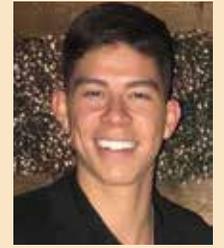
Jacob Joseph Kosuda

West Mifflin, PA CPRL
Penn State University
Beaver Campus
Major: Psychology
Criminal Justice



Emma Lalley

Buffalo, NY L151
University of Notre
Dame
Major: Business



Gregorio Tomas Montalvo

Scottsdale AZ L999
Arizona State Uni-
versity
Major: Political
Science



Mary Catherine Nagy

Beaver PA L994
Carlow University
Major: Cardiovascular
Perfusion



Jessica Palakovich

Freedom, PA L994
Community College
of Beaver County
Major: Assoc. Applied
Science-Prof. Pilot



Gina M. Palasz

Naperville, IL L271
University of
Wisconsin-Stout
Major: Hotel,
Restaurant, and
Tourism Mgt.



Sarah Marie Pavlick

Brentwood, PA CPRL
The Ohio State
University
Major: Electrical
Engineering



Indigo A. Pavlov

Brooklyn, NY L442
Cornell University
Major: Industrial &
Labor Relations



Marlena Cristen Pegula

Dunmore, PA L92
Lackawanna College
Major: Pre-Allied
Health

CONTINUED

SCHOLARSHIPS



Mark Pegula
Dunmore, PA L92
West Chester University of Pennsylvania
Major: Health & Physical Education



Joseph William Petro
Windsor, CT L235
Rochester Institute of Technology
Major: Electrical Engineering



Corey M. Pezak
Archbald, PA L92
Immaculata University
Major: Biology



Lucy Race
North Huntingdon, PA L994
Penn State University-University Park
Major: Kinesiology



Jacob Alexander Rau
Flushing, MI L644
Michigan State University
Major: Exploratory



Justin Michael Rau
Flushing, MI L644
Wayne State University
Major: Global Supply Chain Management



Stararena Rosnick
Pittsburgh, PA CPRL
Washington and Jefferson College
Major: Environmental Science



Matthew Rossi
New Prague, MN L258
South Dakota State University
Major: Mechanical Engineering



Brigid Butler Shanahan
Munhall, PA CPRL
Point Park University
Major: Funeral Service



Alexandra Julia Sluko
Jessup, PA L945
La Salle University
Major: Psychology



Sarah Slusark
Duryea, PA L17
Temple University
Major: Therapeutic Recreation



John Layton Soyka
Ebensburg, PA L401
Dickinson College
Major: Political Science



Michael Alexander Tomchak
Coraopolis, PA NWPRL
Chatham University
Major: Cybersecurity



Mackenzie N. Wissner
McKees Rocks, PA NWPRL
Robert Morris University
Major: Exploratory



Heather Witherow
Reynoldsville, PA L62
Pennsylvania State University
Major: Secondary Ed. Social Studies

Academic Performance Scholarships

4.0 GPA Awardees

Cori Dowell

Hubbard, OH L252
Colorado School of Public Health
Major: Masters of Public Health

Nathaniel Dowell

Hubbard, OH L252
Youngstown State University
Major: Accounting

Haylee Elizabeth Gans

Pittsburgh, PA PSRL
George Mason University
Major: Industrial & Org.
Psychology

Maria Frances Batyko

Scranton, PA L945
Temple University
Major: Advertising

Samuel J. Blike

North Canton, OH L644
University of Cincinnati
Major: Mechanical Engineering

Dylan P. Casey

Wilmette, IL L665
University of Illinois
Major: Kinesiology

John T. Durica

Johnstown, PA L625
Coastal Carolina University
Major: Marine Science

Mallory Renee Eperesi

Mars, PA NWPRL
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Major: Nursing

Sarah Renee Foran

Vestal, NY L47
Binghamton University
Major: Psychology

Aaron Thomas Gulibon

Souderton, PA L321
University of South Carolina
Major: Accounting & Business
Economics

Amanda Marie Kaschak

Allentown, PA GHRL
Seton Hall Law
Major: Pharm. & Med. Device Law
& Compliance

Nicole Marie Gans

Pittsburgh, PA PSRL
Carnegie Mellon University
Major: Public Policy & Manage-
ment

Stephen Christopher Haralambis

Chapin, SC L360
Charleston Southern University
Major: Business Administration

Alexander Hardoby

Rahway, NJ L340
Providence College
Major: Marketing

Gordon Maxwell Hulak

Mars, PA L151
Pennsylvania State University
Major: Mechanical Engineering

Kyle Harrison Jasuta

Manhattan Beach, CA L17
Springfield College
Major: Finance/Accounting

Jessica Rae Jones

Mechanicsburg, PA L10
Slippery Rock University
Major: Public Health

Madeline Karaffa

Grafton, OH L302
Kent State University
Major: Fashion Merchandising

Kristi Marie Karaffa

Wadsworth, OH L302
Kent State University
Major: Early Childhood Education

Rebecca Nicole Kaschak

West Hazleton, PA GHRL
Misericordia University
Major: Early/Special Education

Christopher Alexander Lewis

Virginia Beach, VA L20
Brown University
Major: International Relations

Jenna Ann McDonnell

Dobbs Ferry, NY L7
College of Mount Saint Vincent
Major: Biology, Psychology

Katie A. Nan

Moon Township, PA L994
University of Pittsburgh
Major: Spanish

Leah Narkevic

McKees Rocks, PA L8344
Penn State University
Major: Kinesiology-Applied Exercise
& Health

Emily M. Olack

Gilbert, SC L10
Clemson University
Major: Microbiology

Ashley Pajer

Plainview, NY L151
Manhattan College
Major: Marketing & Business
Analytics

Marina Pegula

Dunmore, PA L92
Wilkes University
Major: Pre-Pharmacy

Emma Ann Planitzer

Venetia, PA CPRL
Indiana University of PA
Major: Mgt, Info. Systems & Info.
Tech.

Hayley Ann Planitzer

Venetia, PA CPRL
Slippery Rock University
Major: Accounting & Professional
Spanish

Olivia Rose Presecan

Beaver Falls, PA L8344
Edinboro University
Major: Biology

Diane Rabiej

Woodland Park, NJ L12
Immaculate Conception Seminary
Major: Theology

Elizabeth Rachel Rau

Flushing, MI L644
Ohio Dominican University
Major: Physician Assistant Studies

Vince Patrick Rose

Rochester, PA L10
Washington and Jefferson
Major: Physics

Julianne Marie Shirilla

Brunswick, OH L302
Ohio State
Major: Nursing

Abbey Elizabeth Lian Sitko

Dunbar, PA L18
Seton Hill University
Major: Osteopathic Med.
(LECOM) 4+4 Biology

Michael Skvarek

Schererville, IN L66
Purdue University
Major: Masters in Wireless
Networking

Kristina Skvarek

Schererville, IN L66
Indiana University Bloomington
Major: Human Resources
Management

CONTINUED

SCHOLARSHIPS

MacKenzie Rae Smith

Oakland, MD CPRL
Frostburg State University
Major: Exercise Sport Science

Diane Elizabeth Smith

Export, PA SEPRL
Ohio University
Major: Communication Sciences
& Disorders

Jacob Spillane

Syracuse, NY L211
D'Youville College
Major: Physical Therapy

Catherine Michelle Susco

Clifton, VA L8354
James Madison University
Major: Computer Information
Systems

Daniel Edward Terek

Cresson, PA L625
The Pennsylvania State University
Major: Master's of Accounting

Jasmin J. Wadsworth

Brownsville, PA L57
Duquesne University
Major: Nursing

Erica L. Wellman

Hilliard, OH L164
The Ohio State Univ. Mortiz Col-
lege of Law
Major: Law

Andrew Taylor Witherow

Reynoldsville, PA L62
Pennsylvania State Univ.
DuBois, PA
Major: Information Sciences &
Technology

2019 Athletic Scholarships

The GCU Fraternal/Athletic Committee, consisting of five GCU National Directors, is pleased to announce the winners of the 2019 Athletic Scholarship. The awardees were selected from 4 applicants for this year's awards. LeeAnn Harris of Pittsburgh PA (CPRL) & Adam Keselicka of Tresckow, PA (GHRL) will each receive a \$1,500.00 scholarship to assist with their first-year expenses of post-secondary education.

LeeAnn excelled in basketball and volleyball throughout her high school career. She dedicated many hours of her

own time to volunteer in planning and leading fellow students from K through high school in worship through songs and games.

Adam was a member and leader of his high school baseball team. He dedicates many hours of his own time in helping to improve his community and assisting younger children as a role model.

Will you be the 2019 Athletic Scholarship awardee? Online applications from high school senior athletes will be accepting at www.gcuusa.com beginning on October 1, 2019.



LeeAnn Harris



Adam Keselicka





Dress A Girl Around the World

One GCU member continues to design and make dresses for Dress A Girl Around the World outreach. She has made to date, 110 dresses that have been shipped to girls in India, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and the Congo. She uses the GoGive! program to purchase supplies to make the dresses. For further information, visit DAG's website at dressgirlaroundtheworld.com.

Greenfield School K-8 Annual Bingo Night



A few of the basket fundraiser items.

The annual bingo night for Greenfield K-8 PTO was a success with the help of GCU GoGive! The GoGive! funds were used for the bingo game prizes and to help supplement prizes for the basket fundraiser. The baskets are always very popular and raise additional funds. The PTO is a 100% nonprofit organization that sponsors field trips, classroom needs and the end of the year fun day.

Barb Bugosh



Agnes Rohrbach, Anita Keselicka and Fr. Jerome Wolbert, OFM.

Outreach Event Helps Friend Recovering From Accident

A GCU GoGive! event was held for Anita Keselicka who was injured in an automobile accident on January 31, 2019.

A Chinese Auction (tricky trays) and parish donations were held for the month of March and the beginning of April at St. John's BC Church hall. A total of \$1,720.00 was raised and GHRL donated \$280.00.

A check in the amount of \$2,000.00 was presented to Anita by Agnes Rohrbach.

Thank you to the Home Office for assisting with this fundraising activity through GCU Go Give!

Agnes Rohrbach



Front: Dorothy Ann Foran. Back: Agnes Rohrbach, Sharon Horvath, Judy & Ann Marie Betterly with Anita's son and husband Dave and Adam.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church Volunteers Assist Many

A group of volunteers gathered on Sunday, April 7, 2019 to pack up supplies to be sent to the military members serving in Afghanistan. Supplies were collected in the church hall for four weeks prior to the packing. The supplies included: candy, gum, pain relievers, socks and much more. The goal was to have these goods reach our soldiers by Easter. Fifty Easter cards were filled out with special messages by Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church pa-



Traditional Easter baskets.

rishioners to be enclosed in the boxes.

On Friday, April 19, 2019 the group met to make up traditional Easter baskets for parish shut-ins. The recipients were very happy and grateful.

To conclude the GoGive! project, volunteers donated food items to the Barnegat Food Pantry.

We would like to thank the GCU Home Office for making this project possible. The seed money provided through GCU GoGive! enabled the volunteers to help so many people in need during the Easter season.

Mary K. Bannworth



Supplies for military members.

Bridgewater Presbyterian Church Spring Tea

Ladies from the church and their friends and families were invited to join the parishioners for tea and light sandwiches in the church hall to raise funds for the parish shut-in program. Through the year volunteers send cards, take food and visit with those who are unable to get out on their own.

A basket fundraiser was also used to raise funds throughout the afternoon. The tea was a great success as you can see from the picture. The income from the baskets helped a great deal.

Thank you so much for the generous GoGive! donation to help get the event started. The profit from the tea will help support the shut-in program throughout the year.



Sandra Householder

Giving

Holy Ghost Church Parish Expansion



Drawing the winners of the baskets.

Northside, PA. The Northwest Pittsburgh Regional Lodge sponsored Holy Ghost Northside in the GCU parish expansion program. The St. Thomas Sunday fundraising event was a strong multi-prong cash stream. The 50/50 raffle sold \$588.00 in tickets at three supporting parishes, St. Andrew Gibsonia and Holy Ghost in both McKees Rocks & Northside. In a wonderful turn of events the anonymous winner donated back their full winnings to the parish. Seven Easter Basket prizes brought in another \$453.00 from these donated items. Finally, the Bakeless Bake Sale cash donations totaled \$4,882.29. Holy Ghost Northside especially thanks the volunteers Mary Frances & Edward Spontak, Sr. organizing the sales and NWPRL Vice President Roxane Savka for coordinating the Gibsonia donation efforts.

Steve Puluka

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church Parish Expansion



Toms River, NJ. GCU members from Lodge 340 joined in to lend a hand at the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church Bingo on Monday, May 13 and Wednesday, May 15, 2019. The bingo takes place in the church hall. Bingo workers sell the admission boards, extra boards and 50/50 boards. Their largest prize the Jack Pot is included in the admission price. The kitchen workers made grilled cheese and other sandwiches plus hot dogs. Homemade baked goods and drinks were also for sale. Usually there are about one hundred bingo players in attendance. The bingos are a great fund raiser for the church. The event was chaired by Ed Bilavsky. Ed has been working the bingos for many years. Everything runs smooth under his care. Each bingo attendee received a pill case supplied by the GCU Home Office. The Very Reverend Francis Rella is church's pastor, Jim Skopkowski is the current administrator in the absence of Fr. Rella. Fr. Rella is currently serving overseas in the Armed Forces. Please remember those who serve in our Armed Forces.

Mary K. Bannworth | Lodge 340

Resurrection Church Parish Expansion



Monroeville, PA. The Lenten Fish Fry was a great success this year. With the help of GCU members from Central Pittsburgh Regional Lodge, Northwest Pittsburgh Regional Lodge, the GCU Home Office, students from Plum & Gateway High School working along with church members. Fr. Don Bolls saw the dedication from the workers who supported this project and their church.

Thomas E. Oslick, Sr. | CPRL Auditor

Giving

Nativity of the Mother of God Parish Expansion

The Nativity of the Mother of God Ladies Auxiliary in DuBois, PA has been very busy with numerous fundraisers to help renovate the church hall. A Soup n' Salad luncheon featured some of the ladies favorite soups: chicken noodle, wedding, stuffed pepper, ham & bean and chicken gnocchi paired with a delicious salad. It was a great success and planned again for the fall!

A "Family Fun Bingo," that was primarily intended as a family activity, became a legitimate fundraiser due to the great amount of donations received. Each child who attended received a book. Bingo game winners were able to choose from the many donated items. It was well received in the community as families looked for inexpensive activities to pass the winter months!

Finally the Ladies Auxiliary held a hoagie, kielbasa and Easter flower sale along with the normal fundraising activities at the parish's regular Bingo. The group does a great job raising funds and promoting the parish and Byzantine faith! Thank you to the GCU for the Parish Expansion Matching Funds which added to the financial success of these events.

St. Mary Magdalene Parish Expansion



Archpriest John Kachuba, pastor at St. Mary Magdalene Church in Fairview Park, OH, accepts a check from GCU Director John J. Urban. The check was part of the GCU Parish Expansion Matching Funds. The parish raised money selling pirohi to parishioners and the local community.



St. Mary Magdalene pirohi project volunteers (from left): Dorothy Bassala, Gene Juba and Veronica Surniak.



Maria Wahal Graduates

On Saturday, May 11, 2019 Central Pittsburgh Regional Lodge member Maria Wahal, daughter of Basil & Barbara (Martin) Wahal, graduated from Westminster College in New Wilmington, PA. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemistry. During her time at Westminster Maria was a part of Student Alumni Association, Chemistry Club, Habitat for Humanity, and a national sorority. Maria has accepted a job as a lab technician for PPG's Architectural Coatings division and hopes to obtain her MBA in the future.

Jenna McDonnell Brings a "Moment of Magic"



Jenna McDonnell, a Lodge 7 member, participates in her college's chapter of "A Moment of Magic" Foundation where princesses and other characters visit terminally ill children. The little girl pictured missed a trip to Disney World because of surgery. All she wanted was a private tea party with Cinderella, which took place at the Ronald McDonald House in Queens, New York.

Debbie McDonnell | Lodge 7 Secretary Treasurer

Anna Zrile Graduates from Washington & Jefferson College

Anna Zrile graduated from Washington & Jefferson College (W&J) in Washington, PA on Saturday, May 18. She was also recently recognized as a Magellan Scholar for her post World War II research project titled, "Learning Through the Scars of Our Past."

Anna travelled to Frankfurt, Munich and Berlin, Germany to perform her research. Professor Dr. Arndt Brendecke, Chair of the Department of Early Modern History at Ludwig-Maximilians University of Munich (LMU Munich) served as her host.

Anna was awarded a Research Fellow and is an Associate Member at Munich Research Center Foundations of Modernity at LMU Munich. The research center is a forum for historical interpretations of modernity. Anna serves as a liaison for LMU and the Research Center.

A senior majoring in psychology at W&J, Anna interned as a Health Coach at Jefferson Hospital, Jefferson Hills, PA.

As a W&J President, Anna was a member of the Cross

Country and Track & Field teams. She is actively involved in numerous clubs and organizations including Association for Psychological Science, Active Minds, The German Club, S.A.A.C., Biology Club, Presidents without Borders, Ventures Club, Student Government Association, J-Walkers and recently was inducted into Sigma Alpha Pi.

Anna sings soprano for the W&J Choir. Most notably, Anna performed Carl Orff's Carmina Burana, a scenic cantata sung in Latin and Middle High German.

As a DJ at WNJR for four years, Anna hosted a weekly show titled, "Dreamer's Disease."

Anna is the daughter of Marko & Esther Zrile from Mercer, PA. She is a member of St. Michael's Byzantine Catholic Church, Hermitage, PA where Fr. Kevin Marks is pastor, a GCU Lodge 258 member and 2015 graduate of West Middlesex Area High School.

GCU Members Complete Half Marathon

Congratulations to CPRL members GCU National Director Melanie Basl, and John & Jackie Kutzfara who ran in the 2019 Pittsburgh Marathon on Sunday, May 5, 2019. This was the first time for Melanie and John and the third for his sister Jackie. All three completed the half marathon in respectable times as family cheered them on proudly.

God bless them and grant them health as they continue to participate in future marathons.



Jackie Kutzfara, John Kutzfara and GCU Director Melanie Basl.

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YINZ

District 5

UPCOMING DISTRICT 5 EVENTS

Railriders Baseball Game & Tailgate

Saturday, July 20

Tailgate begins at 4 PM

Game time is 6:35 PM

Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Railriders vs.
Louisville Sluggers

PNC Field

235 Montage Mountain Road, Moosic, PA 18507

Contact Ed Keil at 570-824-1264

Annual Golf Tournament

Saturday, August 3

8:30 AM Shotgun

Sugarloaf Golf Club

18 Golf Course Road, Sugarloaf, PA 18249

Contact Ed Keil at 570-824-1264



District 7

First Quarter Meeting | Sunday, March 31, 2019 was the first quarter meeting of District 7 at St. Mary Church Fellowship Hall in Hillsborough, NJ. There were many agenda items discussed. At the top of the list was the

district's 100th anniversary celebration on Sunday, October 20, 2019 at St. Mary Church in Hillsborough. Members interested in helping to plan this event will meet at a future date to finalize plans. District 7 was organized in 1919 in New York City.

2019 Matching Funds | This year District 7 has chosen St. Jude Hospital as its Matching Funds recipient. St. Jude Hospital was founded in 1962 by actor Danny Thomas. The hospital helps children suffering with cancer to receive the help they need totally cost free. Families never receive a bill from St. Jude. The major part of the hospital's funding comes from individual contributions. District 7 will be accepting donations through Saturday, August 24 for this very worthy cause. If you care to make a donation, please make checks payable to: GCU District 7 and mail to: Kathleen Meddaugh, 38 Summerfield Road, Belvidere, NJ 07823. Thank you in advance.

Congratulations | A very special congratulations to Chaplain Fr. Jim Badeaux who celebrated the 20th Anniversary of his ordination on Sunday, June 2, 2019. He invited all the members at the meeting to his celebratory Liturgy and reception that followed in the church hall.

Mary Bannworth | President

UPCOMING DISTRICT 7 EVENTS

Annual Golf Outing

Saturday, August 24

11:30 AM Shotgun Scramble Format

Deadline is August 16

\$75 GCU Members (golf, cart & buffet)

\$85 Non-Members (golf, cart & buffet)

\$25 Buffet Only served at 1 PM

Green Pond Country Club

3604 Farmersville Road, Bethlehem, PA 18020

Contact Mike Geles 732-423-5754

or email him at mikegeles@gmail.com

100th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, October 20

St. Mary Church

1900 Brooks Boulevard, Hillsborough, NJ 08844

District 11

Fourth Win for the 'Lucky 4'—Must Be More Than Luck! | The championship team for the three previous years running, the "Lucky 4" bowlers, recently captured their fourth consecutive District 11 Inter-Parish Mixed Bowling League crown.

The team consisted of only three members this year: Margaret St. Onge; Austin Bigger and Fr. Joseph Repko, pastor of St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church, and chaplain for GCU Lodge 860 and District 11.

The Lucky 4 bowling team was named by former team member Peter Digon, a long-time parishioner of St. Nicholas Church and member of GCU Lodge 860, who was unable to bowl this year.

On Sunday, March 24, 2019, the team was recognized during an awards banquet at Imperial Lanes in Sterling Heights, MI.

Other awardees include: Women: High Game-Christine Pelak, High Series-Christine Pelak, High Average-Christine Pelak and Most Improved Bowler-Judith McKee. Men: High Game-Paul Shubeck, High Series-Chris Mathewson, High Average-Ronald St. Onge and Most Improved Bowler-Dave Watson.

The League officers for next season were also chosen at the banquet. All incumbents were reelected: President Paul Shubeck, Vice President John P. Minarish, Secretary Gary Mozuras and Treasurer Judy Goetz.



Inter-Parish Bowling League 2019 winning team, Fr. Joseph Repko, Austin Bigger and Margaret St. Onge. Photo courtesy of Fr. Joseph Repko.



District 11 junior bowling winners with Athletic Director John P. Minarish (far left-back), Auditor Karen Kaufman (far left-seated) and President Gary Mozuras (far right-back).

Junior Bowling 'Spares' Nothing to 'Strike' Up Fun for Youth! | The annual Junior Bowling Tournament was held on Saturday, April 27 at Five Star Lanes in Sterling Heights, MI. Youths aged 2-18 dotted the lanes, competing in age categories, with family members and friends cheering. Immediately following the games, bowlers and guests enjoyed a pizza luncheon at Five Star.

First place trophies were awarded to the highest scorers by age category and every other participant also received a small trophy. Gift cards to fast food restaurants were given away by random drawing as well.

Winners are as follows: Girls: age 2-3 Paulina Culyba, age 4-5 Mateo Soto, age 6-7 Ava Prodan, age 10-12 Sabrina Kosa and age 16-18 Margie Swanney. Boys: age 8-9 Nick Swanney, age 10-12 Alex Prodan and age 13-15 George Swanney.

Val Marszalec | Fraternal & Publicity Director

District 15



UPCOMING DISTRICT 15 EVENTS

An Afternoon at Narcisi Winery

Sunday, August 25

12 NOON-4 PM

Narcisi Winery
4578 Gibsonia Road, Gibsonia, PA 15044

\$15 GCU Members
\$20 Non-Members

The fee includes a complete lunch of salad, meat, pasta, roasted vegetables, potatoes, dessert and soft drinks. Each person receives 2 tickets for wine sampling - additional samples can be purchased - and should you purchase a bottle of wine, the server will cork it for free. In addition to wine, they serve locally brewed beers.

For reservations, send check payable to GCU D15 to: Elizabeth Harbist, 215 Thornwood Court, Moon Township, PA 15108

District 15 Golf Tournament

Sunday, September 15

Seven Oaks Country Club
132 Lisbon Road, Beaver, PA 15009

Contact Bill Uram 724-287-0689 for details.

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

Bunco | This year's District 15 Annual Bunco event was a HUGE success. There were more than 120 tickets sold! Everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch thanks to Seven Oaks' new Executive Chef, Art Mangie; refreshing libations thanks to John Lord; and excellent service thanks to Ellen Policastro and her crew. Then it was time for Bunco! In addition to winning Hawaiian leis for Bunco and gift cards for door prizes, participants tried their luck at Chinese Auction, 50-50, Lottery and Basket of Cheer auctions.

District 15 officers, especially Kathy Kapaldo, Elizabeth Harbist, and Laura Seech, put in many hours planning the fundraiser. We are very grateful to the Home Office for their help with this project: Basil Wahal and Chris Chamberlain for printing; Executive Vice-President/COO Scott Schuetz and Pam Dietrich for ticket sales; and Lisa Anderson for coordinating the Home Office Chinese Auction items. Former District 15 Senior Awards recipients, Pam Kapaldo and Katy Harbist, along with Mike Spanik, Irene Miller and Mary Elizabeth Olack were invaluable helpers in setting up the ball room—we couldn't have done it without you!

We send a sincere Thank You to everyone who participated. With the GCU Matching Funds, a donation of \$8,100.00 was presented to the Christopher Juba Rehabilitation Fund. Chris and his parents, Sue and George, send their gratitude to everyone who helped with the project.

Elizabeth Harbist | President



On Sunday, April 7, District 15 members and guests enjoyed an outing at the Topgolf facility in Bridgeville, PA.



Lodge News

Lodge 15 TRENTON, NJ

Helping Hands Day

On Saturday, April 13, 2019, members of Lodge 15 joined their fellow parishioners on the grounds of The Assumption of the Virgin Mary Byzantine Catholic Church to participate in the annual church property clean-up. Fifteen volunteers removed debris from the church, rectory, convent, social hall and school areas. While the workers were executing the clean-up, GCU members Marcy Embley and Joseph Bodnar provided refreshments to the volunteers. After three and a half hours of manual labor, the task was completed and the property was deemed ready to welcome in the paschal season.

Gregory Embley | President



A few of the volunteers who attended Helping Hands Day.

Lodge 17 OLD FORGE, PA

Lenten Piroghi Sale

St. John Byzantine Catholic Church, Scranton, PA held a Lenten piroghi sale on March 6, 2019. Parishioners and friends spent five days preparing and working around the winter weather conditions. Nearly 400 dozen potato & cheese piroghies were made to raise funds for parish expenses. Depending on the day, the crew ranged from 5 people to 24 people. The project provided an opportunity for the volunteers to enjoy friendship and camaraderie while raising necessary funds for the parish. Thanks to all those who volunteered and those who purchased the piroghies.

Joanie Roskos



Seated are: Nick Yevitz, Sylvia Rusnak, Barbara Drozdick, Joan Roskos and Sue Sniegowski. Standing are: Karen Duricko, Phil Yevics, Evelyn Yevitz, Nancy Stoker and Fran Yevitz.

9th Annual Ham Bingo

St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church, with the assistance of GCU Lodge 17, held its 9th Annual Ham Bingo on Sunday, April 4, 2019. This was a Matching Funds project, with monies raised at the event being matched by GCU. The funds raised were ear marked to repair/replace the pipes for the restrooms in St. Nicholas Social Center. GCU key chains with flash lights and pill boxes were distributed to the adults. The children were given GCU Easter coloring and activity books, crayons and jelly beans. There were 171 participants including workers. Twenty hams were given away as



Kitchen workers Morgan Fuller, Macrina Dolinish, Gina Keil, Fr. Eduard Shestak, Ed Dolinish Jr., Ed Dolinish III, Topyy Zayac, Logan Walton, Ed Keil, Mike Mokay and Russell Helbing.

CONTINUED

Lodge 17 CONTINUED

bingo prizes, along with rings of kielbasa for the 4 special games. There were 45 baskets awarded as well as door prizes. Besides homemade bake sale items, the kitchen sales included haluski, wimpies, hot dogs/kraut, homemade pizza, pirogies, soda, water and coffee. Thanks to all the workers, contributors and participants that made the project a success. Thanks to the GCU Home Office for supplying the basket fundraiser tickets, the e-mail blast, the promotional items and the Matching Funds.

Ed Keil | Secretary-Treasurer



A check is presented to Fr. Eduard Shestak from the St. Nicholas Ham Bingo, by Mike Mokay and Gina Keil.

Lodge 20

PHILADELPHIA, PA

Church Cleaning for Easter

On Saturday, April 13, a group of 18 people, young & old, girls & boys, men & women, GCU members and parishioners all got together to clean the church and grounds for Easter at Holy Trinity Church in Philadelphia. Lunch was served for all of the workers. Thank you GCU Home Office for the yellow t-shirts.

John Morenko | Secretary-Treasurer



Volunteers who cleaned the church.

Lodge 47

BINGHAMTON, NY

Holiday Baking

April was buzzing with activity in Binghamton as volunteers worked at the annual holiday baking fundraising event. Lodge members, parishioners and friends worked long hours and multiple days to make nuts rolls, pirohi and various size Easter paska.

No matter how the volunteers were able to contribute—preparation, set-up, making dough, baking, filling orders, clean-up or one of many other jobs, these fundraisers would not have been successful without all those who generously provided their help, time and talent.

A very special thank you to everyone who offered their assistance to make each event a huge success! Lodge 47 is also grateful to the GCU Home Office for the Fraternal Grant which was used to purchase baking supplies for the paska sale.

CONTINUED



Volunteers wrapping paskas.

Lodge 47 CONTINUED

Awards Dinner

The Binghamton GCU Bowling League awards dinner was held on Tuesday, April 23. Bowlers celebrated an evening away from the lanes to mark the end of the 30 week 2018-19 bowling season. Bowlers, lodge members, families and guests enjoyed a delicious meal and dessert before awards were presented. The league is already gearing up for the start of next season!

Sacred Sites Open House

“From Medieval to Modern: Celebrating New York’s Religious Art and Architecture” was the theme for the 2019 statewide “Sacred Sites” Open House held on Sunday, May 19. The parish family of Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church in Binghamton was one of 23 local sites which had the opportunity to greet

visitors, give tours, explain architecture and art, stained glass windows and share the history of the building and congregation.

It was an honor and pleasure to be a part of this journey with the surrounding community. A sincere thank you to Dianne Metzgar who led the church in participating in this unique



Sacred Sites Open House.

experience. Thank you also to Joanna Bartos, Mary Ann Smilnak and Bob Sufliuta who joined in welcoming the visitors. Everyone appreciated the chance to view and ask questions about the beautiful interior

of Holy Spirit Church. The Iconostasis, the Tiffany glass in the canopy above the altar, the vestment display and the mosaics were a few things mentioned as being spectacular by the guests.

Daria Shierly | Secretary-Treasurer



Pirohi workers.

Lodge 62

PUNXSUTAWNEY, PA

Pirohi Sale

Thanks to a lot of good help, 500 dozen pirohi were made to fill orders for customers that traveled more than 50 miles to purchase them. Time went by fast as everyone enjoyed visiting with one another, especially after being cooped up for the winter. The lunches served and the time to relax were also enjoyed. Thank you GCU for the Matching Funds to help with church projects and needs.



Bright Monday dinner.

Celebrating Christ’s Resurrection

Approximately 50 people enjoyed a dinner following Liturgy on Bright Monday. Paschal foods were included on the menu. It was great to sit back and enjoy after a busy week. Thanks for the Fraternal Grant from the GCU Home Office.

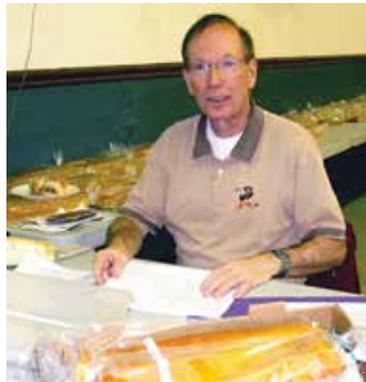
Helen Meko | President & Julie Brocius | Secretary

Lodge 69

POTTSTOWN, PA

Easter Baking

The Easter baking of nut and raspberry rolls was done on March 30 - April 2, 2019, at St. John the Baptist parish hall. This is a nice fundraiser for the parish. Orders for the delicious pastries were taken by parishioners and the baking was done by volunteers.



Deacon Edward Quinn at the sale.



Group at the Easter egg hunt.

Easter Egg Hunt

Lodge 69 held their annual Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday, April 14, 2019 for the children attending the School of Religion. About 18 children were in attendance from pre-school through high school. All students had the opportunity to find eggs to take home.



First Communicants Nicholas Smith and Olivia Nulton with Fr. Nicholas deProspero.

First Holy Communion

On Sunday, May 5, 2019, Olivia Nulton and Nicholas Smith received First Holy Communion. A breakfast was served for family, friends and parishioners afterwards.

Nancy Harding | Secretary



Rediscover Your Roots

On Friday, March 1, 2019, St. Nicholas Byzantine Church hosted an evening to "Rediscover your Roots." The event included vespers and prayers led by Bishop Milan Lach; a dinner of ethnic foods: fish, haluski, pirohi, pasta, bread and nut & poppyseed rolls all provided and prepared by GCU Lodge 77 members and a narrated documentary produced by Horizons Media. Over 200 faithful members were in attendance to enjoy this evening of togetherness, great food and a film taking them on a journey through Central Europe.

Beautiful exhibits were on display including artwork, clothing and many ethnic items. A wonderful time was had by all who came to discover and reconnect, both spiritually and culturally with their faith and traditions.

Lodge 77

LORAIN, OH



Easter Egg Hunt

Lodge 77 sponsored an Easter egg hunt on Palm Sunday, April 14 at St. Nicholas Parish following the Divine Liturgy. The children searched the church hall for eggs full of candy, toys and quarters. They also received a GCU bag full of goodies.

Kathy Knick | President

Lodge 81

UNIONTOWN, PA

Spring was a very busy time for parish and community activities at Lodge 81.

Parish Events

The highlight of Lodge 81's spring activities was the 14th Egg EggStravaganza held on Sunday, April 7 at St. John Social Hall. Members and parishioners worked long and hard planning and preparing for this annual event which attracts many people. Janet & George Gaydos, Helen Ponzurick, Marcia & Richard Harrer, Stephen Petruska, Ann Kormanik, Gerry Dorobish, Julie Pillar, James Mihalko and Bonnie Balas volunteered for their usual roles. Many parishioners also helped at the event selling crafts, baked goods, fundraising tickets, preparing food, and donating prizes & baked goods which helps to make this event such a success. As always, the artists displaying and selling their unique egg art were a big attraction. Members from other GCU lodges also pitched in to help. Lodge 81 will receive Matching Funds which will go toward parish renovations. Many thanks to the Home Office for packets of jellybeans and freebies for the children.

Palm Sunday, April 14, marked First Reconciliation for the 2nd Grade ECF students Steven Popson, Lucas Mihalko, Lauren Coldren and Riley Denny. With Marcia Harrer as ECF coordinator, and Gerry Dorobish as the 2nd grade teacher, the students were well prepared. A celebration breakfast was held in their honor by the St. John Social Ministry group. As part of the breakfast April birthday recognition took place. Bonnie & Kay Balas baked mini paskas which were given to all the children in attendance.



Christine Luschas at the Egg EggStravaganza.



Theresa & Stephen Petruska, Bonnie & Kay Balas and Bryan & Helen Ponzurick.



May birthday celebration.

ECF program's activities for the 2018-19 year.

To celebrate Mother's Day on Sunday, May 12, the men of the parish provided a breakfast for the women, in conjunction with the May birthday recognition. The breakfast was well attended and enjoyed by all. Stephen Petruska helped in the kitchen and with clean-up. Bonnie Balas and Cathy Phillips helped with set up, decorating, and passing out gifts. Helen Ponzurick was specially recognized as a birthday celebrant of 92 years.

Community

During Great and Holy Week Bonnie Balas volunteered at Mount St. Macrina manor helping the residents decorate an Easter craft, bake paskas, and color/dye Easter eggs. In addition, Gerry Dorobish continued her help at the Mt. Macrina Religious Gift Shop.

On Wednesday, May 1, a Reading Competition for Middle School students from local school districts was held in the classrooms at St. John School. This program is sponsored by the Uniontown Public Library. Stephen Petruska, who works at the library, was involved in arranging and setting

CONTINUED



Marcia Harrer & Gerry Dorobish presenting gifts to first penance children.



James Mihalko & niece Allie Mihalko at bowling party.

Sunday May 5 was the final ECF class of 2019 for the parish children. Teachers Marcia Harrer, Gerry Dorobish, James Mihalko and Bonnie Balas prepared special activities for their students. Following the ECF classes a bowling/pizza party was held at Yough Lanes in Connellsville, PA. The event was sponsored by Lodge 81 for the 25+ children and parents to enjoy bowling, pizza, snacks, drinks and more. Gerry Dorobish prepared a special display of photos of the

Lodge 81 CONTINUED

up the classrooms, while Gerry Dorobish served as a moderator for one of the reading groups.

The weekend of May 17 marked the 25th Anniversary of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society. A celebration was held at the Cultural Center in Munhall, PA. Janet Gaydos and Bonnie Balas (both GCU members) with parishioners Joan Opachko Bridges and Mark Jesko, attended the performance of Slavjane Folk Ensemble and the Harmonia Band. Bonnie and Mark also attended the lecture on Rusyn wooden churches presented by Dr. Michele Parvensky.

At the lodge's quarterly meeting held on May 19, plans were made to attend and donate to the Join Hands Day at Mount St. Macrina on June 1. A donation was made to St. John Church for use of the meeting room. Plans were discussed for the



Joan Opachko Bridges, Bonnie Balas and Janet Gaydos with members of Harmonia Band.

annual Flag Day/Veteran Recognition Program to be held on Sunday, June 9 after the 9 AM Divine Liturgy. The next quarterly meeting is planned for Sunday, August 18, after the Sunday Divine Liturgy.

Bonnie Balas | VP & Publicity Director



Fr. John Cigan helping parishioners and friends purchase their Easter goodies.

Lodge 92

JESSUP, PA

Easter Bake Sale

GCU Lodge 92 helped Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church with their Easter Bake Sale. Members donated baked goods as well as their time on Saturday, April 13, 2019.

The bake sale was a huge success. Thank you to all who supported this event. Lodge 92 will use the funds to purchase a new sign for the front of the church. The old one was destroyed by years of weather.

First Corporate Communion

On Sunday, May 5, 2019 communicant, Jillian Marie Noldy, received her First Penance and First Corporated Communion at Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church in Jessup, PA from Rev. Fr. John Cigan. Following the Liturgy, GCU Lodge 92 held a reception for Jillian's family and friends of the parish in the school hall.

Michaela Mancak | Secretary



Fr. John Cigan, pastor at Holy Ghost, Jillian Marie Noldy and coordinator of Religious Ed. Joyce Covaleski.

Lodge 93

NORTHERN CAMBRIA, PA

Basket Fundraiser

Lodge 93 sponsored a basket fundraiser to help defray the cost of repairing the collapsed wall in front of St. John Byzantine Church. There was a variety of items: gift cards, Easter baskets, small appliances, housewares, children's gifts, outdoor landscaping items, as seen on TV gifts, luggage, TV's and many other useful items for the home. A complimentary light lunch was offered. Pastor Fr. Vasil Polyak and Helen Kost pulled the tickets while John Katana announced the winners. Door prizes were also drawn. A thank you to the Home Office for supporting our activity through the Matching Funds program and with promotional items.



Basket fundraising crew.



Walter Rogal presenting a donation to Fr. Vasil for repair of the wall at St. John's that collapsed in front of the church.

Mother's Day Dinner

Lodge 93 sponsored a Mother's Day Dinner following Liturgy. Fr. Vasil Polyak gave the blessing and then distributed special Mother's Day bracelets to all ladies in attendance. The menu included chicken, parsley potatoes, French string beans, pasta, salad, vegetable dish, rolls, variety of desserts, Mother's Day cake and refreshments. John Katana then presented a short program on the origins, establishment, dates around the world and the, "7 Things You Don't Know About Mother's Day." Door prizes were then drawn.

A donation was presented to the Good Samaritan Food Pantry. Then another donation was presented to St. John's Byzantine Church to help benefit the exterior wall project. Both donations were part of the GCU Matching Funds program. A thank you to the Home Office for the promotional items that were distributed. A special thank you to the cooks and helpers that made this dinner a big success.

John J. Katana | Secretary



Parish children after the Easter egg hunt.

Lodge 109

LYNDORA, PA

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

On Palm Sunday, April 14 Lodge 109 held its annual Easter egg hunt for the parish children in the church hall.

Approximately a dozen children participated in searching out the 200 plus candy and toy filled eggs. The search was lively and was completed in less than 10 minutes. Each child also received a chocolate three bar cross courtesy of Helen Meaders.

By the time this issue goes to print, Lodge 109 will have completed a Helping Hands project at St. John Church to beautify the property for the summer months. The Fraternal Grant received from the Home Office is much appreciated for this project. The lodge's annual Flag Day ceremony and luncheon was held on Sunday, June 9. A complete recap of this event will appear in the August issue.



Lodge 109 volunteers at the VA bingo night. From left: Janet Uram, Sue Betres, Bill Uram and Janet Stetzer.

Bingo with the Veterans

On Monday, April 29 Lodge 109 sponsored a Night of Bingo for the veterans at the Butler V.A. Medical Center. Canteen booklets purchased by the lodge were awarded to the winners. The lodge volunteers enjoyed the time spent visiting with the veterans. This is an event that is anticipated by both groups each year.

Hoagie Sale Successful Matching Funds Project

On Thursday, May 9, GCU Lodge 109 held its semi-annual hoagie sale to raise money for the church. Members of Lodge 109 and St. John the Baptist Byzantine Church in Lyndora made 527 hoagies.

The pre-ordered hoagies were either picked up at the church or delivered to those persons or with orders of 10 or more. The hoagie price was once again \$6. The project was split up into two days, with Wednesday being one of preparation. Meats and cheese were sliced, counted, and bagged and tomatoes, lettuce, and onions also prepared and bagged.

Once everything was ready, the assembly line procedure the day of the sale went smoothly, making quick work of the foot-long hoagie roll filled with 3 types of meat, cheese, lettuce, sweet onions, tomatoes and Italian dressing. The accomplished hoagie crew works well together. They filled all the orders in record time. Thanks to the GCU Home Office for matching our profits through the Matching Funds program and the many volunteers who helped make this sale a huge success.

Janet Uram | Secretary-Treasurer



Janet Stetzer, Gloria Hoffman, Janet Uram, Shari Allen and Helen Musko preparing bags with lettuce for the hoagies.

Lodge 151

NEW YORK, NY

Matching Funds

Lodge 151 held a Matching Funds bake sale for St. Andrew's Church in Westbury, NY. Lunch, a boutique and fund-raising activities were also available. The event raised \$4,500.⁰⁰.

St. Francis Hospital Support

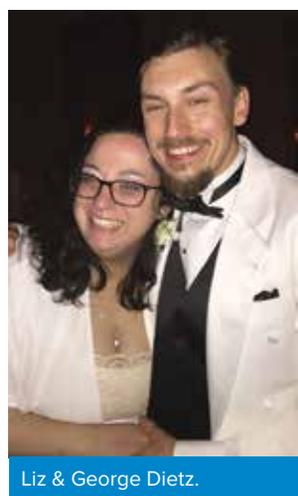
Parishioner Rosemarie Manno was able to get GCU members and parishioners of St. Andrew together to support St. Francis Hospital with a great luncheon, entertainment and fund raisers. The money that was raised goes to support the specialty heart hospital.



Bake sale and lunch workers.



Matching funds check presented to Anthony G. who represented St. Andrew's Church.



Liz & George Dietz.



Elias Family.



Ryan Pajer.

Congratulations

A special congratulations to Liz & George Dietz on their wedding celebration. It was held in Salem, MA with many family members and friends. George is the nephew of former board member Patricia Dietz. We wish them many happy and blissful years together.

Congratulations to GCU member Kate Elias who swam in a water competition at Notre Dame College in Indiana. She is an excellent swimmer with great form and grace. She competed in 9 events and finished first in eight of them in the ages 9-10 group. We expect to see many more of her accomplishments in the future. Her mom Julie and brother Matthew cheered her on to victory.

Congratulations to Ryan Pajer for making the All-Star Nassau County team. He is a very good golfer with great skill and form. His family and friends are ecstatic over his accomplishment.

Thank You

A special thank you to the GCU Home Office for the new lodge banner. It was beautifully displayed at the second quarter meeting. A special thank you to Chris Hulak for organizing the meeting place. The food was delicious and the camaraderie was great. The 3rd quarterly meeting will be held in August.

Marge Pajer Russell | President



Lodge 164

YOUNGSTOWN, OH

Jr. Bowling Tournament

On Sunday, March 31, local junior bowlers gathered at Camelot Lanes in Boardman, OH to compete and enjoy an afternoon of FUN! Elaine Chachko from Lodge 442 and Dr. Tom Sopkovich from Lodge 164 co-chaired the event. Eighteen bowlers enjoyed bowling and received give-aways from the GCU Home Office along with donated gift cards and coupons from these local vendors: Chick-fil-A, Wendy's, Taco Bell, Quaker Steak & Lube and Arby's. St. Mary, St. Michael and Infant Jesus of Prague churches along with Lodges 164, 360 and 442 donated gift cards. Thanks to all who helped make this event a success. Hope to see you next year.



Barb Fleet, Dave & Karen Muransky and Jackie Leson ready to serve at meatless luncheon.

Meatless Luncheons

Starting on Ash Wednesday after the Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts held at 11 AM at St. Mary Church, Lodge 164 served a meatless soup & sandwich lunch. About 24-28 attendees enjoyed the meal and donated funds for the benefit of Sisters Bernarda & Leocadia of St. Basil the Great, who serve the Youngstown Area Byzantine Churches.

After 7 weeks of luncheons, \$1,003.00 was generated from donations and sales of left over quarts of soup and sandwiches.

Expenses of \$177.00 for food supplies were paid by Lodge 164 as a donation. The resulting net profit of \$1,003.00 will be matched by the GCU as part of the lodge's Community Matching Funds donations for 2019.

Easter Donation

During Lodge 164's second quarter meeting on Sunday, April 7, a \$200.00 Easter donation was made to St. Mary Church and accepted by Fr. Richard Lambert (photo at right). The check was presented by Treasurer Sharon MacDonald and President Dr. Tom Sopkovich.



Mother's Day Bingo Fundraiser Event

The annual Mother's Day Bingo event was held on Sunday, May 12, 2019 at St. Mary's Social Center, Youngstown, OH. The doors opened at 4 PM with the sale of bingo sheets and rip-off games starting at 5:30 PM. With some promotion of the event, the largest Sunday bingo crowd of 275 players in many years, enjoyed the event.

GCU giveaways were passed out in the hall foyer before bingo started. A free strip of games and a free dauber were given to each player. At 6:45 PM, bingo started with Mary Beth Hritzo calling the first half of games.

Fifteen GCU members worked the event along with 5 non-members from St. Mary. Total game sales resulted in \$6,543.00 of income. After payouts of \$3,872.00 in prizes and \$154.00 in dauber expenses, the net profit was \$2,517.00.

With the balance of Community Matching Funds of \$1,997.00 added to this profit, the total of \$4,514.00 will be divided equally among three Charities in the Mahoning Valley. After rounding to the dollar, \$1,505.00 will be donated to The Rescue Mission of the Valley, The Community Kitchen and the Veterans Outreach of Trumbull & Mahoning Counties.

Lodge 164 thanks the GCU for the posters and Matching Funds which made the benefit very successful and beneficial to the three charities who assist the underprivileged in the Mahoning Valley.

Dr. Tom Sopkovich | President

Lodge 268

MINGO JUNCTION, OH

Assist with Pirohi Project

Lodge 268 and Saint John Byzantine Catholic Church made pirohi on Saturday, March 16 and March 30. With the support of 38 volunteers 570 dozen were made for sale! A delicious lunch was served each day and prizes were given out. Easter cards were sent to former pirohi workers that are no longer able to help. Both days were full of fun and fellowship while supporting the church. Lodge 268 would like to thank the GCU for the Matching Funds that added to the success of the project.

Carla Gedman | President



Smiling faces of the volunteers.



President Ken Krown with the excited kids ready for the Easter egg hunt.

Lodge 271

ORLAND PARK, IL

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Looks like SPRING! The Annual St. Thomas Egg Hunt Adventure at Annunciation Byzantine Church was held on Sunday, April 28. There were 19 children participating. Lodge 271 President Ken Krown heads the event and explains rules simply, "Once you collect your eggs line up and receive more goodies!!" It's always a good time here at Annunciation Church. The GCU offers a lot to our church parishioners and should be considered for your family's life insurance and retirement savings needs. We can spread the word one egg at a time. Until next year, see you then.

Vicki Blidy | Vice-President



The Karaffa family helping out the Easter Bunny.

Lodge 302

BRECKSVILLE, OH

Easter Egg Hunt

The annual Easter Egg Hunt was held at St. Joseph Byzantine Church on Palm Sunday, April 14. The Easter Bunny made a special appearance and helped scatter many eggs throughout the activity center for the children to find. It was a successful turnout of nearly 30 children 12 years of age and younger. The children enjoyed their treat bags and candy along with taking photos with the Easter Bunny.

Peanut butter and jelly along with monetary donations were collected from the participants for St. Joseph's Hunger Outreach program. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped and our Easter Bunny, Carolyn Liggett!

CONTINUED

Lodge 302 CONTINUED

Cleveland Cultural Gardens

Members of the Cleveland chapter of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society, Lodge 302, and family and friends took part in the Cleveland Cultural Gardens annual spring clean-up on May 11, 2019 in the Rusyn Garden. The flower beds were raked & cleaned out, bushes trimmed, mulch spread, sidewalks swept and flowers planted.

GCU members participating were John Krenisky and Marcia Benko. C-RS members were John, Marcia & Barb Popovich, Diana Essock and Patti Poole. Friends were Wayne Slota and Tom Kolokowski. Much appreciation is given to Lodge 302 for their financial support.

The Rusyn Garden is located at 930 East Blvd., Cleveland, OH, just south of St. Clair Avenue. It is between the Czech and Slovak Gardens. C-RS will be sponsoring a free summer musical picnic on Sunday, July 14, 2019 from 12 - 2 PM. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and a picnic basket. Tom Katrenich will entertain with his accordion. Parking is available on East Blvd.

On Sunday, August 25, 2019 the Rusyn Garden will join with over 30 other gardens to celebrate One World Day. This is a free, day long international festival displaying the many cultures in Cleveland. The Living Traditions Folk Ensemble of Brecksville will be performing. For details and more information, go to www.clevelandoneworldday.org.

Diane Richey | Publicity Director & Marcia Benko



Patti Poole, Marcia Benko, Wayne Slota (back), John Krenisky, Diana Essock and Barbara Popovich. Missing from photo is Tom Kolokowski.

UPCOMING LODGE 302 EVENT

Retro 60's Party

Saturday, October 5

Doors Open 5:30 PM

Buffet Dinner 7 PM

Show Time 8 PM

Tickets \$35 per person (presale tickets only)

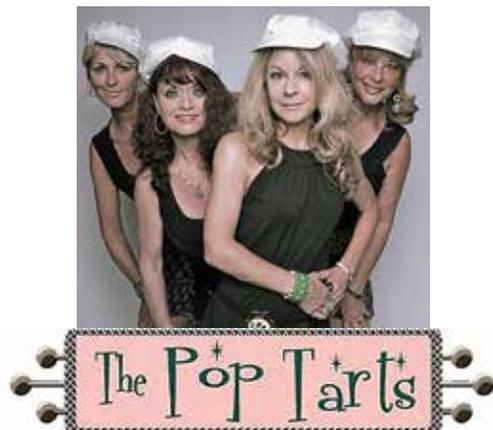
Featuring music from The Pop Tarts

Cash Bar-Sideboards-Chinese Auction-50/50-Prize for the best dressed!

New Orleans Party Centre at
St. Joseph Church
8111 Brecksville Road, Brecksville, OH

A Benefit for the Up Side of Downs

Ticket info: Jean Karaffa 216-513-3854 or jmk0724@aol.com OR
Diana Simpson 330-205-0476 or dilynnsi@yahoo.com



Lodge 319

FLUSHING, MI

Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt

This event drew over 100 people including GCU members, and parishioners from St. Michael's Church in Flushing, MI and St. George's Church in Bay City, MI. The activities included an Easter egg hunt, a visit from the Easter Bunny and egg dyeing. Lodge 319 provided sandwiches for the luncheon.

Pat Chartier | President



Everyone enjoyed the Easter Bunny.

Lodge 351

INDIANA, PA

Indiana County Decathlon

Lodge 351 and the GCU were sponsors of the Indiana County Decathlon that ran from February 9, 2019 through June 1, 2019. This year's event included a variety of many unique and informative walks.



Cemetery Walk.

Dr. Kevin Patrick, a professor from IUP led an Architecture Walk in Downtown Indiana. The Ernest Coal Walk and the Clymer Coal Walk included the history of the immigrants from Eastern Europe and the impact of the coal industry in a small town. James Klyap a retired history teacher and local Clymer historian John Busovicki relayed the hardships encountered in the towns as well as how the immigrants contributed to the local communities. In May, Artist Hand Gallery owner, Brian Jones and musician Lynne Jones led a lively walk of art and music through the streets of Indiana. Then in May, walkers were given a tour of St. Bernard's Cemetery led by Dr. Stacey Patrick, a professor from IUP. The walk included explanations of the history of the tombstones, symbolism of the grave makers, as well as learning to read and understand how cemeteries can bring to life the history of a community.

For the nature lovers, a Black Bear Walk with Game Warden, Chris Reidmiller brought the habitat of the black bears in Pennsylvania up close and personal with his lively talk. For bird watchers, The Todd Bird Club introduced participants to the migrating waterfowl at Yellow Creek Lake. There seemed to be a walk for everyone this year including nature, family fitness, yoga and walking with a nutritionist.

This is the 3rd annual Decathlon that Lodge 351 has participated in as one of the sponsors. This is a great way to get out and enjoy the outdoors during the winter and spring months. Barb Hauge is the program's director and Josh Krug of Indiana County Planning and Development is the liaison from the county. They work with a committee of community members to develop the walks. Lodge 351 was happy to support this program.

Patty Yamrick | Publicity Director

Lodge 360

CAMPBELL, OH

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

The Children of St. Michael Parish enjoyed the Annual Easter Egg Hunt despite rainy weather. The Easter Egg Hunt was held on Easter Sunday, April 21 in the parish social hall. The Egg Hunt was co-sponsored by GCU Lodge 360, St. Michael's Men's Civic Club and the parish.

Lisa Kinnick Romito | Secretary-Treasurer



Look at all those eggs!!

Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge

HAZLETON PA

Once again, it is time for a change of seasons! This one is one of the best—everything is green, the flowers are blooming and there is plenty of daylight. Now, if only the rain would quit over the weekends.

Two Easter Egg Hunts

GHRL sponsored two Easter Egg Hunts on Palm Sunday, April 14. They took place at SS. Peter & Paul in Minersville, PA and St. John the Baptist in Lansford, PA. Thanks to the Home Office for the Fraternal Grants and the give-a-ways.



Joe Galgoci shows the kids at St. John Easter egg hunt the art of pysanky egg making and awarded several eggs to the participants.



Winners or Losers?? Claire Kaschak, Agnes Rohrbach, Carolyn Kosciuk, Carol Shimansky, Rick Hoppey and Mary Ellen Fichter.

Hollywood, Here We Come

The after Easter casino trip was to Hollywood Casino on Sunday, April 28. The bus ride included door prizes and give-a-ways. Thanks to the GCU for the Fraternal Grant and the goodies. A few of the attendees were lucky enough to come back with a little bit more than they started with—that is always a good thing.



Easter egg hunt at SS. Peter & Paul Church.



Seated: Mary Ellen Fichter, Janice Moyer, Mary Ellen Lehman, Mindy Lehman, Claire Kaschak, Carol Shimansky. Standing: Judy & Al Kringer, Carolyn Kosciuk, Coleen Dubitsky, Eva Wilson & John Moyer.

No-Tap Blind Doubles

The annual No-Tap Blind Doubles bowling tournament was held on Saturday, May 4 at Bowl-Arena. Attendance was on the low side, but all that participated had a great time and enjoyed the dinner buffet at Bonanza. Prizes were distributed to the winners and again thanks to the staff at Bowl-Arena for setting up the tournament and to the Home Office for the Fraternal Grant, tote bags and bag clips.

UPCOMING GHRL EVENTS

42nd Annual Holupki Open

Saturday, July 13

10 AM Shot Gun Start-4 Man Scramble

White Birch Golf Course
660 Tuscarora Park Road, Barnesville, PA 18214

Contact Agnes Rohrbach at 570-454-4869
Applications available at GCUusa.com (Members-Events-July)

Sands Casino Bus Trip

Sunday, July 28

"I Do I Do"

Saturday, August 10

Hunterdon Hills Playhouse

3rd Quarter Meeting

Sunday, August 11

2 PM

St. John's Church Hall, 5 East 20th Street, Hazleton, PA

A guest speaker regarding senior care & rehabilitation

Contact Agnes Rohrbach at 570-454-4869

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Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge CONTINUED

Bowling League

The GCU bowling league concluded its fall season on Wednesday, May 1. Congratulations to the winning team of Claire Kaschak, Carolyn Koscuk, Mary Ellen Fichter and John Moyer. The banquet was held on Wednesday, May 15 at Top of the 80's restaurant—prize money was distributed to all the winners. The league's re-organizational meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 28 at 6:30 PM at Bowl-Arena.

Second Quarter Meeting

The second quarter meeting of GHRL was held on Sunday, May 5 in SS. Peter & Paul BC Church hall in Minersville, PA. Discussions were held to make donations to several individuals and plans were made to help at Holy Annunciation Monastery for Helping Hands Day.

Notes

By the time this article is published, GHRL will have participated in Helping Hands Day at Holy Annunciation Monastery and Byzantine Family Day at Knoebels Park. Reports of these two events will follow in the August issue.

Remember that Father's Day is Sunday, June 16—please keep them in your thoughts and prayers. They are always there to lend a helping hand when needed.

Enjoy celebrating our nation's 243rd birthday on Independence Day, Thursday, July 4. Make it a special day to honor the great country we live in.

The 42nd Annual Joseph Durkay Memorial Holupki Open is Saturday, July 13 at White Birch Golf Course. There will be a Dixon Golf challenge for those who are interested. Hope to see you there!

There are still a few seats available for the trip to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse on Saturday, August 10 to see "I Do-I Do" a comedy play and story. If interested, please call Agnes at (570) 454-4869.

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

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

Agnes Rohrbach | Secretary-Activities Director



Junior Bowling Tournament

The GHRL Junior Bowling tournament was held on Sunday, May 19 with 25 bowlers enjoying bowling, refreshments and prizes. Trophies were awarded and all participants received a wooden bowling pin with their high score written on them. Once again thanks to all at Bowl-Arena who help set up the tournament and to the volunteers who help keep score and keep the children in line on the lanes.

Central Pittsburgh Regional Lodge

GREENFIELD, CARRICK & SOUTHSIDE-PITTSBURGH, PA

"A Fond Remembrance and a New Beginning"

On January 1, 2019 the new Central Pittsburgh Regional Lodge (CPRL) was born. With its formation, St. Pius X Church Lodge 386 aka "St. Basil Lodge," as it was named by the late Msgr. Nicholas Smicklas, was bid farewell. Lodge 386 was in existence for over 50 years. The transformation was commemorated by inviting members to a catered brunch. The event was held on St. Patrick's Day after Divine Liturgy, which was celebrate for the living and deceased members of former Lodge 386.

Msgr. Russell Duker offered the invocation for the over 60 people in attendance. Attendees received St. Patrick's Day jewelry as a remembrance of the event.

Photos of former members & officers were on display to reminisce. A few of those pictures can be found on CPRL web page, they contain some familiar faces of past officers. See anyone you know? May God bless us all with His grace as the new CPRL begins its own history!



Beth Gulyasy, Helen Ference, Msgr. Russell Duker, Gerda Bosak and Bonnie Ewanick.



Ray & Patty Metz.

CPRL Outing

On Saturday, March 30, 2019, twelve lodge members and friends reserved tickets for a social outing. The evening began with a buffet dinner at one of the attendee's homes and included homemade pirohi from

St. Pius Byzantine Church. There was plenty of time for the group to socialize and enjoy the start of the evening.

The group then headed to West Mifflin High School to see the musical performance of "Legally Blonde." The student performers did a wonderful job and the reserved seats were perfect. It was hard to believe that there were so many talented student actors, singers, dancers, gymnasts and musicians. What an entertaining show!

Everyone in the group said they had a great time and enjoyed the wonderful evening together. The GCU giveaways of candy and magnetic chip clips were enjoyed.



Members making pirohi.

St. Pius X Lenten/Great Fast Pirohi Sale!

Beginning Friday, March 8, 2019, St. Pius BC Church held its annual pirohi/halushki sale. As many Lenten kitchen workers know, a lot of work goes into making large quantities of those yummy filled dumplings.

At St. Pius the volunteers have the prep down to a science. The pirohi and halushki are sold frozen

or cooked to order.

St. Pius X would like to thank the GCU CRPL for the GCU Matching Funds which helped to make this a very successful event.



Easter Egg Hunt.

Easter Egg Hunt

The kids Easter Egg Hunt which was held on Sunday, April 14 at St. John Chrysostom BC Church. Jen Gula and Ammie Ribarchak planned a great event for lodge and parish children as well as a visit from the Easter Bunny!

Melanie Basl | Publicity Director Beth Gulyasy & Kim Kolesar | CPRL Trustees

UPCOMING LODGE CPRL EVENT

Gene Tarabek Memorial Golf Open

Sunday, August 4

1 PM

Cost \$70, includes golf, cart, prizes, hot dog at the turn and buffet dinner. Open to all GCU members!

Seven Oaks Country Club
132 Lisbon Road, Beaver, PA 15009

Info and applications call John Miller 412-576-4328

Southeast Pittsburgh Regional Lodge

CLAIRTON & MUNHALL, PA

Staying Active

The new Southeast Pittsburgh Regional Lodge (SEPRL) includes Munhall (St. John's Cathedral) and Clairton (Ascension Church) and was very busy throughout the spring. A Sarris Candy Matching Funds sale was held in March to be used for the Ascension parish field trip in the fall. Destination and plans will be announced in the summer.

Easter Activities

An Easter program and luncheon event held on Palm Sunday included crafts for the children. They learned new ways to dye and decorate eggs using rice with food coloring & sparkles and while the kids worked on crafts, the adults volunteered to assemble Easter baskets for the Clairton Senior program. Baskets included colored eggs, candy and GCU coasters and hand sanitizers. They bundled and tied up each basket with colorful ribbons and volunteers delivered them on Good Friday at lunch time. The afternoon was complete when the Easter Bunny arrived to kick off the Easter egg hunt. Too chilly to be outside, volunteers hid eggs in every nook and cranny in the hall for the children. The Easter Bunny joined in to help the little ones find their eggs and treats.



Easter Bunny with the group of children.



Making baskets for seniors: Yvonne Opalenik, Martha Disman, Helen Sowko and Joan Berchok.

UPCOMING SEPRL EVENTS

Ladies Spring Bling (rescheduled)

Sunday, August 25

\$10 per person

Ascension Church Hall
318 Park Avenue, Clairton, PA 15025

All ladies & girls are welcome

Lunch, games, prizes, history of the locket presentation & opportunities to design a personal locket.

Contact Trish Roberts at 412-233-7814 or trishala2@earthlink.net



Collected food.

Food Drive

A food drive was sponsored during the month of April. Many thanks to all of those who took time to donate non-perishable foods for the drive. They were delivered to the Clairton Emergency Food Bank with a Matching Funds check in May. Mrs. Billie Price is the manager and expressed her deepest gratitude for the donations.

Munhall Clothing Drive

First 2 weeks in September

Munhall Food Drive

First 2 weeks in November

Mother's Day

On Mother's Day, corsages were given to the mothers, grandmothers and godmothers in recognition of their special day.

And last but not least, former Clairton Lodge 288 members were excited to learn of an award in the GCU Lodge Compliance Rewards program from 2018. Plans for the \$400.00 prize money will be discussed at the next meeting.

Trish Roberts | President

Northwest Pittsburgh Regional Lodge (NWPRL)

MCKEES ROCKS, PA

Youth Group Fundraiser

In April the Holy Ghost McKees Rocks, PA Youth Group engaged in another fundraiser to support attendance at next year's ByzanTEEN Rally. The ByzanTEEN Rally is a gathering of youth from throughout the United States held every two years for a large group experience

in a college campus environment. This allows our small communities to experience a larger gathering of youth for both spiritual enrichment and social activities. Next year's rally will be in California with significant travel costs.

The NWPRL consistently has supported the youth of the parish attending the

ByzanTEEN Rally. This year the youth group sold Sarris Candy as part of their non-profit sales program.

They successfully raised over \$750.⁰⁰ which the GCU Home Office doubled through the Matching Funds program. Attendance at the

rally is a highly anticipated event for the group and having the GCU support this important event is much appreciated by all involved.



Youth selling Sarris candy.



Members making pirohi.

Pirohi Making

Holy Ghost McKees Rocks pirohi have long been recognized as among the best in the Pittsburgh area. Throughout the Great Fast the team was hard at work pinching pirohi prior to Pascha. Gratitude is expressed to all who participated in this project. The Northwest Pittsburgh Regional Lodge was pleased to sponsor the fund raiser utilizing GCU Parish Matching Funds to increase the bottom line the church received.

2nd Quarter Meeting and Food Drive

The NWPRL held its second quarter meeting and a food drive on Sunday, May 5. Holy Ghost McKees Rocks hosted the meeting in the school gym with Slavjane providing the sound system for meeting support. The lodge is happy to support the Interfaith Food Bank which serves about 85 families with distributions twice a month. The "bring a friend" event was organized by GCU Agent Randy Baden & Gary Sorenson GCU Director of Life & Annuity Business Development. Randy supplied multiple give-a-ways for the promotion of recruiting new members.



NWPRL supports the Interfaith Food Bank.

Steve Puluka | Secretary-Treasurer

Lodge 625

CONEMAUGH, PA

Souper Bowl

During the first quarter of 2019 Lodge 625 was busy with activities with the lodge and parish organizations. The first event this year was Souper Bowl Sunday. Soup & crackers were donated to a local food pantry. The lodge wishes to thank its members and the Holy Trinity parish family who donated to the event.

GCU Founders' Day

On Sunday, February 10, the lodge hosted its annual GCU Founders' Day Social following the Divine Liturgy. Coffee and donuts were provided by the lodge.

First Quarter Meeting

Sunday, February 24, was the lodge's first quarter meeting. The lodge auditors were on hand to review the 2018 books and found all to be in good standing. Thank you to Mary Dubay and Vickie Svencer for their attention to details. Planning for various 2019 fund raisers and events was discussed.

Parish Support

Lodge 625 supported the St. Ann's Guild project at the annual Gobfest held at the Johnstown Galleria. Lodge members helped make and ice over 90 dozen gobs for the event, which is a very successful annual fund raiser. Lodge members also supported the Men's Club with their first ever pirohi sale. Members helped make over 200 dozen pirohi, which quickly sold out.

UPCOMING LODGE 625 EVENTS

2nd Quarter Meeting

Sunday, June 23

Following Divine Liturgy (approx. 10:15 AM)

Holy Trinity Church Hall, Conemaugh, PA

Annual Music Festival

July 2019

In the month of July, lodge members will be gearing up for this annual event which will be a Matching Funds event. We will be selling pirohi and haluski.

Junior Bowling Tournament

On March 23, 2019, Lodge 625 hosted the annual Junior Bowling Tournament for children from all lodges of the former District 4 area. While the attendance was low, the children who attended had a lot of fun.

June Events

The lodge held a social hour on June 9 for Pentecost Sunday following Divine Liturgy. On June 16, a social hour was held for Father's Day following Divine Liturgy. The lodge's second quarter meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 23, following Divine Liturgy.

Members of Lodge 625 who would like to be added to the lodge's email list are asked to send an email to: gculodge625@yahoo.com, also don't forget to like us on Facebook GCU Lodge 625.

Georgia Lehman | Secretary-Treasurer



Paul Yackulich Jr. preparing for the chicken dinner.

Matching Funds Dinner

A Matching Funds event was held on Sunday, March 17 at Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church, Conemaugh. The dinner included a stuffed chicken breast, vegetable, mashed potatoes, salad and dessert. A total of 150 dinners were sold for a net profit of \$1,000.⁰⁰.

Mother's Day Social

The Annual Mother's Day social was held on May 12 following Divine Liturgy. All the women of the parish were given a carnation and treated to coffee, donuts and bagels. The annual Helping Hands Day for Holy Trinity Church and Cemetery was held on May 25. Work in the cemetery and church grounds was supported with a Helping Hands Fraternal Grant from the Home Office.



Junior bowlers with President Paul Yackulich Jr.

Lodge 697 WEIRTON, WV

Sharing Our Cultural Traditions

On Saturday, April 6, people young and old alike joined together to learn the art of pysanky egg design. With approximately 25 people new to the tradition, it was a fun experience to share. All participants worked on the same design, but had the chance to choose different colors for dyeing. There were many different and beautiful variations of the same design. Throughout the class, you could hear those in attendance saying “I’ve always wondered how this was done” or “My grandparent/aunt/uncle always used to do these and I never knew how it was done. I’m so excited to learn how” and a personal favorite “I’ve had the supplies to do this for years but I never really knew what to do! I’m so excited to learn what to do now.”

The participants were guided through the process step by step as a group together. They were taught what each shape and symbol and color represented. Each particular pattern completed by the class included: symbols representing pine needles which represent youth and health, dots which represent stars and constellations, never ending lines which



Pysanky egg class.

represent eternal life, and lastly an 8-pointed star which represents Christ. Some of the colors used throughout all the eggs done in the class were white which represents purity and rejoicing, yellow which represents perpetuation of the family, orange which represents endurance and everlasting sun, red which represents passion and ministry of the church, blue which represents good health and green which represents spring & hope.

All the participants went home with a beautiful egg and were treated to a great day of friendship and fellowship. Not only were the hours passed by working on their eggs, but also talking and getting to know each other over a lovely lunch provided by the lodge. A special thank you to the GCU for providing the Fraternal Grant needed to fund this wonderful day for our parish and community.

Rachel Lahita | Secretary-Treasurer



Lenten Fish Fry Crew 2019. Front: Fred Marszalec, Karen Kaufman, Duane Vancil and Bob Kulasa. Back: Jim Van Kula, Gary Mozuras, George Nagrant and Gary Spisak

Annual Lenten Fish Fry Again Doubles Profits Through Matching Funds Grant

Fasting Fridays featured fried fish, fries and funds once again at St. Nicholas Church during the 2019 Lenten season.

Lodge 860 operated this annual fundraiser at the Clinton Township, Michigan, parish from 5 - 6:45 PM each Friday during the Great Fast—from March 8 through April 19.

The volunteer crew of lodge members and parishioners served up fresh fish dinners and other seasonal fare, raising funds which were matched by the GCU national office to a total of over \$3,000.00 for the church.

Lodge 860 DETROIT, MI

Many Helping Hands Clean & Organize Parish Building and Grounds

Temperate weather and a good turnout helped St. Nicholas parish recently achieve some goals for their church building and landscape.

Lodge members and parishioners of Clinton Township, MI based St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church lent their hands and hearts to care for the building and grounds on Parish Beautification Day, Saturday, May 4.

Six hours of some heavy lifting, elbow grease and coordinated teamwork yielded a cleaner garage, boiler room and landscaped areas.

The group took a break for lunch, courtesy of Lodge 860 through a Helping Hands Fraternal Grant, which also helped cover the cost of supplies for the event.

Val Marszalec | Fraternal & Publicity Director



Lodge members and parishioners at Helping Hands event. Photo by Val Marszalec.

Lodge 945

DUNMORE, PA

Pysanky Workshop

A pysanky workshop, sponsored by Lodge 945 was held on Saturday, April 13, 2019 in St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church hall in Dunmore. There were 13 aspiring students who attended the workshop anxious to learn and demonstrate their artistic talents creating their pysanky Easter eggs. A light lunch and beverages were provided for the attendees. All participants had a wonderful time and are looking forward to another workshop next year.

Dunmore Nature Trail Spring Cleanup

Mother Nature had her own plans which forced the cancellation of the lodge's annual spring cleanup at the Dunmore Nature Trail on Saturday, April 27, 2019. Lodge President Paul Dunda plans to reschedule the cleanup in the fall.



Pysanky workshop attendees listening attentively to instructors.



Presentation of \$3,000.⁰⁰ Parish Expansion Matching Funds check. Parishioner Ron Balta, Pastor Fr. John Petro, parishioner Patty Balta, GCU National Director George Kofel, and Lodge 945 Secretary-Treasurer Sharon Kofel.

Parish Expansion Matching Funds

Lodge 945 assisted St. Stephen Byzantine Catholic Church in North Huntingdon, PA using the GCU's Parish Expansion Matching Funds Program, to enhance the income the parish earned with their Lenten pirohi fundraising activities. A matching funds check in the amount of \$3,000.⁰⁰ was presented to Fr. John Petro the church's pastor.

Taking off my Lodge 945 publicity director hat and putting on my GCU National Director hat, I implore each and every lodge officer and/or member aware of a sister Byzantine Catholic Church planning a fund raising event for the benefit of that church to take advantage of the GCU Parish Expansion Matching Funds program. Byzantine Catholic churches that don't have a GCU Lodge domiciled in the church are still eligible to receive up to \$3,000.⁰⁰ annually in Matching Funds from the GCU. GCU lodge officers aware of this should contact the pastor or event chairman to assist them in requesting for and securing funds available through the GCU Parish Expansion Matching Funds Program. For more information about this program, contact Basil Wahal at the Home Office at 724-683-3924 or by email at bwahal@GCUusa.com.

UPCOMING LODGE 945 EVENT

Griffin Pond Animal Shelter Matching Funds Drive

Months of June & July 2019

St. Michael Byzantine Church
511 East Drinker Street
Dunmore, PA 18512

Contact George Kofel at 570-241-2256

Community Matching Funds - Holy Annunciation Monastery

Special thanks to the parishioners of St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church in Dunmore, and St. Mary & St. John Byzantine Catholic Churches in Scranton, PA for purchasing Lenten baked goods made by the Carmelite Nuns. Through the generosity of these parishes, Lodge 945 was able to present a check to Holy Annunciation Monastery in the amount of \$938.⁷⁴ utilizing the GCU Matching Funds Program for their fundraising event.



Lodge 945 member and GCU National Director George Kofel presenting Matching Funds check to Mother Marija.

CONTINUED

Lodge 945 CONTINUED

Griffin Pond Animal Shelter Matching Funds

During the month of June and through July 20, Lodge 945 will conduct a Matching Funds event to benefit the animals sheltered at Griffin Pond Animal Shelter. Monetary donations and/or wish list items will be solicited. Monetary donations are to be made payable to GCU Lodge 945 and either mailed to the attention of George Kofel, 411 Reeves Street, Dunmore, PA 18512 or dropped off at St. Michael Byzantine Church hall in Dunmore, PA.

Wish list items include: Dry or wet cat and dog food, cat litter, Kong brand dog toys, cat toys, paper towels, plastic garbage bags (all sizes), bleach, brooms, buckets, disposable latex gloves and scrub brushes which can be dropped off at St. Michael Church hall either on Saturday evening between 4:30 and 6 PM, or Sunday morning between 8:30 and 11 AM. Please contact George Kofel at 570-241-2256 with any questions.

George Kofel | Publicity Director



Church & hall cleaning.

Lodge 999

PHOENIX, AZ

Church & Hall Cleaning

On Saturday, March 30, lodge members gathered at St. Stephen Church to clean and prepare for the Paschal celebration. Cabinets were cleaned, pews polished and vacuuming done. During the Lenten fish fries, the church ran out of pirohi, so after cleaning, members went to the hall to help pinch a new batch.

Feeding the Poor

On Saturday, April 6, lodge members went to Andre House to prepare and serve food for the underprivileged. Over 400 meals of goulash and vegetables were served. This meant a lot of prep work for the members prior to serving the meal. Thank you to all the volunteers.

Mother's Day Tea

Attendees enjoyed the Mother's Day tea, with many of the ladies bringing their children and grandchildren. The lodge served finger sandwiches, desserts and of course tea, with entertainment from Anastasia who played the piano quite well (only 13 years old). While the ladies were eating, games were played with many chances to win. A hat contest was held for the young and not so young in the crowd. Everyone seemed to walk away with a gift.



Members prepare food for the dinner.

Laugh 4 Hope

What a great event!! Lodge 999 got there before the show started and set up a table of GCU trinkets and brochures. Fr. Diodoro put some gift shop items out also. The comedians were funny and all enjoyed the humor. The proceeds went to new equipment and future housing for woman with pro-life health care issues. This will help to support mothers who choose to keep their babies. Photos available on the Lodge 999 web page.

Joanie Mahar | President



And the hat contest winner is?

Events

Golf Classic

Friday, June 28 *New Date*

9:30 AM Shotgun Start

Seven Oaks Country Club

132 Lisbon Road, Beaver, PA 15009

Applications will be mailed to previous participants and are available in the Events Section of the GCU Website

Contact GCU Frat.-Comm. Dept at 1-800-722-4428 ext. 3810.

PNC Park Outing

Saturday, August 3

PNC Park

115 Federal Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Contact Frat.-Comm. Dept. at 1-800-722-4428.

National Golf Tournament

Friday, August 16-Practice Round

Saturday, August 17-Seven Oaks Country Club

Sunday, August 18-Black Hawk Golf Course

Seven Oaks Country Club

132 Lisbon Road, Beaver, PA 15009

Black Hawk Golf Course

644 Blackhawk Road, Beaver Falls, PA 15010

Contact Frat.-Comm. Dept. at 1-800-722-4428.

63rd Annual St. Nicholas Celebration

Sunday, December 8

St. John Cathedral Center

210 Greentree Road, Munhall, PA 15120

A Benefit of SS. Cyril & Methodius Byzantine Seminary.

Contact Frat.-Comm. Dept. at 1-800-722-4428.



2019 PIRATE OUTING



Saturday, August 3 at 7:05
Zambelli Firework Night
Members: \$14
Non-members: \$19
Sec. 322



800-722-4428

GCUusa.com

Remembrances



John Kish
GCU National Director

The GCU World lost a dedicated member and former national officer with the death of John Kish, 92 on Thursday, May 16, 2019. A very active District 5 member throughout his life time, John served nationally as a GCU Trustee from 1968 to 1972 and as a GCU National Director from 1972-1980 and then from 1984 to 2000.

Born in 1926, John was the second son and third of nine children born to the late Michael & Mary (Hresko) Kish of Wilkes-Barre Township, PA.

In World War II, he left high school early to join the U.S. Navy, serving as a Seabee in the Pacific Theater. He was on Okinawa when President Truman ordered the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Honorably discharged from the Navy, he returned home to complete his high school education, graduating with the Wilkes-Barre High School Class of 1947.

He trained to be a barber and set up shop in Ashley, PA, where he would go on to serve his customers for over 60 years.

A lifelong GCU member, John was active in numerous GCU activities. Prior to serving on the Board of Directors, John was the GCU Travel Director for many years, chronicling trips in the *GCU Messenger* under his column "GCU Travel Talk." His columns always had a personal touch, as seen here: "I have to describe these ham sandwiches. They were like the ones Mom used to pack in Pop's mine bucket. Each slice was three-fourths of an inch thick, with one inch of baked ham. The bread was nine inches long by seven inches wide. They were

delicious, but you could feed a family with them." *Source: GCU Messenger, Dec. 4, 1975, GCU Travel Talk, Our Trip "Do Staroho Kraju", p. 12.*

Proud of his Carpatho-Rusyn heritage, John was also active in the Carpatho-Rusyn Society (C-RS). He was a member of the C-RS Eastern PA Chapter for over 22 years and was noted for carving models of wooden churches. Examples of his work can be seen in the GCU St. Nicholas Chapel and the Heritage Institute Museum & Library in Passaic, NJ. He was also featured in the WVIA documentary on the heritage of the people of Northeastern PA.

In his later years he took up painting. Although he was not a trained iconographer, he painted images of St. Nicholas and other saints in the Byzantine style as well as non-religious paintings.

An active member of St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church in Wilkes-Barre Township, John was the chairman for the 50th & 75th Anniversary Committees celebrating the Golden and Diamond Jubilees of St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church.

His passing is a great loss to the GCU, the C-RS, the church and his family. He is survived by his children, Dr. John M. (Dolores) Kish, D.O., Terry (Dimitri) Kouris; his brother Joseph Kish, sisters Margaret Kish, Anna Mickulik, Mary (John) Kula, Helen Klos and Elizabeth Scavone; his grandchildren Nathan & Alexander Kish and John & Thanasis Kouris, his god-daughter Mary (Mark) Yagodich, and numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of 58 years, Theresa and his brothers Michael & Daniel Kish.

The Divine Liturgy of Christian Burial was offered on Tuesday, May 21 by Fr. Mykhaylo Prodanets at St. John the Baptist BC Church in Wilkes-Barre Town-

ship with Mr. George Daru as cantor. Interment was private. Donations can be made in memory of John Kish to St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church, 526 Church St. Wilkes-Barre Township, PA 18702. Blessed repose and may his memory be eternal! Blazhennij pokoj i vichnaya jemu pamyat!

The writer would like to offer a special thank you to Dr. John M. Kish, Terry Kouris, Helen Klos, Thomas Brenzovich of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society and the GCU Home Office staff for their assistance in preparing this written tribute.

Margaret Klos



A model of the Saint Nicholas Chapel made by John Kish. It is displayed at the GCU Home Office.

Deceased Members

(Lodge-Member-City-State)

- 999 Marian C. Abram, Tucson, AZ
8344 Elva Alexander, Gibsonia, PA
8309 Ronald H. Altland,
Winter Garden, FL
8344 Betty Lou Anderson, Aliquippa, PA
CPRL Edward R. Balchon, Coraopolis, PA
860 Suzanne Balog, Clinton Twp, MI
8344 Shirley A. Banaszak, Latrobe, PA
SEPRL James Barchie, Oakley, MI
994 Dolores Behare, Pittsburgh, PA
8344 John Beley, Johnstown, PA
8344 Ina Betts, Bolivar, PA
66 Robert Blum, Germantown, MD
302 John Bodner, Parma, OH
8304 Paul Bourdeau, Rialto, CA
8344 Edna Mae Brown, Gibsonia, PA
8309 Hazel Mae Bruckner, Zephyrhills, FL
8344 Gary Brunazzi, Elizabeth, PA
8344 Catherine S. Cameron, Warwick, PA
442 Mary V. Carmelo, Salem, OH
93 Betty Checkon, N. Cambria, PA
CPRL Margaret Colucci, Monroeville, PA
8324 Carolyn Corrigan, Callaway, MD
CPRL Margaret Cseselka, Pittsburgh, PA
8344 Beverly J. Cunningham, Chicora, PA
8344 Emily Czajkoski, West Mifflin, PA
8344 William G. Dalton, Orwigsburg, PA
12 Mary L. Danis, Las Vegas, NV
SEPRL Joanne Danko, Rankin, PA
8359 Edward Davis, High Point, NC
8344 Mary E. DeChristopher,
Pipersville, PA
8344 Edward C. Deffenbaugh, Beaver, PA
8358 Jeanette G. DeMers, Wauwatosa, WI
235 Anna Devine, Bethlehem, CT
8344 Maureen Dexter, McAdoo, PA
302 Anne Doane, Hartville, OH
10 Mary Ann Dobias, W. Aliquippa, PA
SEPRL John Richard Drobne, Munhall, PA
93 Helen Drotar, Allentown, PA
994 Dana Duff, Beaver, PA
8309 Andrew Dundala, Apollo Beach, FL
8344 Richard Eastman, Jeffersonville, PA
340 William J. Edwards, Old Bridge, NJ
109 Viola Elisco, New Castle, PA
994 Robert M. England, Sylva, NC
8344 Ethel Fassnacht, Reading, PA
8344 Charles H. Faust, Harrisburg, PA
57 Michael Fedarko, Winnabow, NC
8344 Theodore B. Figart, Johnstown, PA
8344 June Fischer, Butler, PA
8357 Paul E. Florjanczyk, Wheeling, WV
8344 Virginia M. Fluck, Pennsburg, PA
999 Karl H. Foerster, Arizona City, AZ
8344 Anna F. Fordyce, Beaver, PA
8309 Vicki E. Fowler, Ocala, FL
8358 Donald B. Fuchs, Abbotsford, WI
8344 Gloria A. Garia, Sarver, PA
665 Michael Geles, Colonia, NJ
8344 Roger L. George, Dayton, PA
8344 Beryl E. Gerhard, Orwigsburg, PA
164 Judith A. Gibson, East Palestine, OH
8344 John Glentzer, Dayton, PA
8344 Fred A. Goldbach,
Cranberry Twp., PA
401 Grace E. Gongloff, Nanty Glo, PA
8335 Melvin Greenfield, Carlsbad, CA
8327 Walter A. Gunderson,
Minnetonka, MN
8344 Lloyd Haggerty, Warren, PA
442 Mark E. Hallock, Boardman, OH
8344 Bertha Hancock, Warren, PA
8344 Gerald R. Hegan, Ligonier, PA
GHRL Yvonne Hegyes, Conshohocken, PA
109 Mary Herman, Lyndora, PA
8315 Robert J. Herod, La Porte, IN
999 Ruth Hess, Phoenix, AZ
GHRL Irene M. Hludzik, Freeland, PA
18 Pauline Holet, Troy, VA
8344 John Holshue, Trafford, PA
CPRL Elizabeth I. Hopta, N. Braddock, PA
SEPRL Mary Ann Hvozdoch,
Safety Harbor, FL
8344 Iris Johnson, Bloomsburg, PA
360 Irene Kady, Youngstown, OH
SEPRL Stella Kerecman, McMurray, PA
8344 Helen Kerekes, McKeesport, PA
15 Elizabeth Kervitsky, E. Falmouth, MA
625 Charlotte Kime, Johnstown, PA
8344 Edna M. Klanica, Natrona Hgts, PA
302 Joseph Kochis, Parma, OH
17 Paul Kopcho, Duryea, PA
93 Joseph M. Kovalcin, Phillipsburg, PA
8344 Carol Kroboth, Whitehall, PA
8344 Joseph Kumar, Verona, PA
999 William Ladick, Phoenix, AZ
8344 Helen Lapinsky, Harrisburg, PA
8344 Monique Lapres, Harleysville, PA
8344 Frances Lawrence, Russellton, PA
999 Marcella Leight, Green Valley, AZ
8344 June Lekon, Monroeville, PA
8344 Jean Leone, Harleysville, PA
8358 Dorothy A. Lloyd, Pope, MS
8344 Vearl M. Lookabaugh, Ford City, PA
8344 Richard Lucas, Johnstown, PA
8344 Margaret Lusch, Lehighton, PA
8344 Joyce MacBeth, Bethlehem, PA
401 A J. Mackanick, Johnstown, PA
8344 Irene Madej, Washington, PA
8344 Karen M. Malis, Cressona, PA
164 Agnes Marenkovic, Hermitage, PA
8344 Elaine Markley, Erie, PA
66 Hettie J. Martinson, Schererville, IN
8344 Edna May, Springdale, PA
8344 Christine B. McComsey, Elverson, PA
665 Olga McDonough, Clark, NJ
8344 Gloria McGarry, Portage, PA
8344 Kathleen F. McGuckin,
Schwenksville, PA
NWPRL Nadzieja McMillan, Pittsburgh, PA
340 George Mesko, Helmetta, NJ
271 Ann Marie Michovich, Palos Park, IL
254 Eleanor Mizejewski, Manville, NJ
8344 Carol Mihalek, Cecil, PA
8344 Beatrice J. Miller, Blairsville, PA
8344 Hazel S. Miller, Telford, PA
8344 Rickey Miller, Carnegie, PA
8344 Shirley M. Miller, Lehighton, PA
8344 Arlene Morris, Greensboro, PA

8304 Susan Morrison, Laguna Niguel, CA
 8344 Margaret Moyer, Sonderton, PA
 8344 Donna B. Murphy, Derry, PA
 8358 Coletta M. Niemann, Sun Prairie, WI
 NWPRL Margaret Oravic, Strabane, PA
 8344 Dorothy M. Ott, Harleysville, PA
 999 Leroy D. Paige, Tucson, AZ
 CPRL Daniel M. Panchura, Boyds, MD
 8344 Geno Pernazza, Freeport, PA
 10 Dolores Plakosh, Aliquippa, PA
 SEPRL Emil Pohodich, McKeesport, PA
 47 Mary Prislupsky, Kirkwood, NY
 109 Dolores Rader, Dumfries, VA
 8358 Herbert Rassel, Random Lake, WI
 8358 Mary M. Reardon, Appleton, WI
 8327 Frances M. Renne, N Mankato, MN
 8344 Gordon L. Ristau, Warren, PA
 8344 Leslie Robertson, McKeesport, PA
 340 Tyler James Rodimer, Newton, NJ
 8344 Sophie J. Roman, Armagh, PA
 8344 Elizabeth Schmidt, Monessen, PA
 8344 Joseph H. Schmidt, Bethel Park, PA
 8344 Shirley Shoaf, Koppel, PA
 697 Robert Shutack,
 Mentor on the Lake, OH
 NWPRL Catherine Sicher, Sebring, FL
 644 Rebecca Sieckowski, Brunswick, OH
 8344 Barbara J. Sires, Utica, PA
 316 Patricia Slattery, Oklahoma City, OK
 8344 Marjorie A. Smith, Bethel Park, PA
 8304 James E. Soderblom,
 Moreno Valley, CA
 8344 Stephen M. Solomich, Ambridge, PA
 235 John Sosenko, Shelton, CT
 8344 Joanne Spero, McKees Rock, PA
 8344 Mildred Staniech, Lancaster, PA
 994 Joseph Starasinich, Beaver, PA
 SEPRL Robert Stasko, Munhall, PA
 8344 Gladys Steighner, Chicora, PA
 8344 Charles H. Steinmeyer, Warren, PA
 8326 Mary Strach, Dearborn Hts., MI
 81 Anna Stunja, McClellandtown, PA
 81 Ann M. Swanson, Charleroi, PA
 8304 George Swanson, Pasadena, CA
 17 Barbara Sylvester, Moosic, PA
 401 Michael Timura, Portage, PA
 8337 Michael Tkach, Westbury, NY
 945 Joseph H. Tolan, Dunmore, PA
 GHRL Mary Tomashefski, Milnesville, PA
 66 Max L. Toney, Crown Point, IN
 8307 Filomena Ventresca, Hockessin, DE
 8354 Carol L. Vukson, Yorktown, VA
 8354 Matilda Warchola, Cross Junction, VA
 8358 William J. Weiher, Oshkosh, WI
 8344 Rita J. West, Butler, PA
 8358 Donald Wichman, Neenah, WI
 8344 Mary R. Wisz, Ruckersville, PA
 994 Carol Yanosich, Monaca, PA
 8344 Margaret Yasenachak, Mary-D, PA
 8344 Charles Yerick, Murrysville, PA
 8344 Delroy B. Young, Point Marion, PA
 8344 Anna M. Ziegler, Butler, PA
 SEPRL Albert Zolyak, Irwin, PA



PRESENT

THE 64th INTERNATIONAL

GOLF

Tournament

FRIDAY,
AUG 16, 2019
THRU
SUNDAY,
AUG 18, 2019



SEVEN OAKS
COUNTRY CLUB



BLACK HAWK
GOLF COURSE

APPLICATION &
FEE DEADLINE
JULY 20, 2019

USGA 36 Holes
MEN - 5 FLIGHTS
WOMEN - 1 FLIGHT

Full Golf Package	Double Occupancy	<u>Microtel</u>	<u>Fairfield Inn</u>
	Package Fee:	\$ 245.00	\$ 280.00
	Entry Fee/Tournament Expense:	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
	TOTAL DUE:	\$ 270.00	\$305.00
Full Golf Package	Single Occupancy	<u>Microtel</u>	<u>Fairfield Inn</u>
	Package Fee:	\$ 340.00	\$410.00
	Entry Fee/Tournament Expense:	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
	TOTAL DUE:	\$ 365.00	\$435.00
Golf Only Package	Package Fee	\$125.00	
	Entry Fee/Tournament Expense	\$ 25.00	
	TOTAL DUE:	\$ 150.00	
Banquet Only	Banquet Fee:	\$ 25.00	
	TOTAL DUE:	\$ 25.00	
Non-Golf Package	Double Occupancy	\$100.00	\$135.00
Half Golf Package (9 holes 2 days)	Double Occupancy	<u>Microtel</u>	<u>Fairfield Inn</u>
	Package Fee:	\$ 180.00	\$230.00
	Entry Fee/Tournament Expense:	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
	TOTAL DUE:	\$ 220.00	\$255.00

All hotel reservations to be made directly through the
Microtel Inn & Suites 724-581-5273 or
Fairfield Inn & Suites 724-888-2696

Entry Forms and
more information:

GCUusa.com