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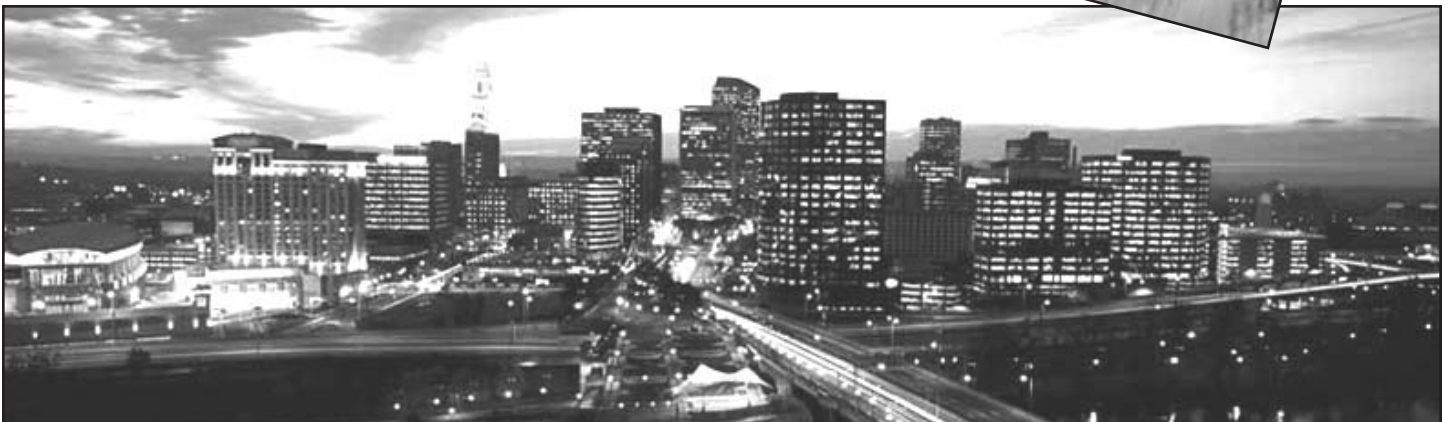
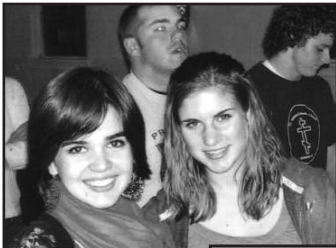
SPRING 2009 volume 82 number 1



The official publication of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America

“Celebration of Faith” Winners Announced

District Bowling Tournaments in the FOCA



HARTFORD: 83rd National Convention • *Where the past meets the future*

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Orthodox Christian JOURNAL®

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Visit Our Website: www.orthodoxfellowship.org

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Send all material to our Editor:

Nicholas Ressetar

1510 Green Street Harrisburg, PA 17102-2511

Phone: 717-761-2121

WORD attachment articles work best within an E-mail:

tsarnick3@aol.com

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NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

V. Rev. William Evansky

158 Pilgrim Drive, Sewickley, PA 15143
HM: (412) 741-5008, frbill158@verizon.net

PRESIDENT

Polly Walker

8926 Pine Bluff Court, Eden Prairie, MN 55347
(612) 384-6440, email: paw1776@aol.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Robert Steffaro

2212 Creekside Circle S, Irving, TX 75063
Res - (972) 869-0149, Cell - (832) 483-1035
email: pacergolf@aol.com

RECORDING SECRETARY

Becky Tesar

8205 Ivandale Drive, Parma, OH 44129
Res - (440) 884-6662, Cell - (216) 978-8593
email: rjtesar@sherwin.com

TREASURER

Michael Bowan

2100 Lincoln Park West, #9ES, Chicago, IL 60614-4713
(773) 975-0160, e-mail: mickeybowan@mindspring.com

IMM. PAST PRESIDENT

Michael Steffaro

38 Beryl Street, South River, NJ 08882
(732) 698-1952, email: michael.steffaro@sci-us.com

NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

Sandy Kapelan

Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America
10 Downs Drive (Plains), Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705
Phone: (570) 825-3158 Fax: (570) 825-0136
Office E-Mail: orthodoxfellowship@yahoo.com
website: www.orthodoxfellowship.org

To receive membership information contact
the administrative office of the
Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America.
CALL: (570) 825-3158

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Send all articles, photos and information to:

Nicholas D. Ressetar, Editor

1510 Green Street Harrisburg, PA 17102-2511

E-Mail: tsarnick3@aol.com

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| EDITOR | Nicholas D. Ressetar |
| MANAGING EDITOR | Michael Schultz |
| LAYOUT EDITOR | Michael Schultz |
| SPORTS EDITOR | Kenneth Baron |
| COMMUNITY LIFE | Betty Slanta |
| PHOTOGRAPHER | Leon Sheean |

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

Business/Advertising Manager

Maurice Garman

**528 Sycamore Drive
Campbell, Ohio 44405**

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The mission of the
Orthodox Christian JOURNAL is to
educate the membership of the Fellowship of
Orthodox Christians in America,
to showcase the talents of its membership
and, in so doing, to propagate the
Holy Orthodox Christian Faith.

Mission Statement of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America

The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America is a national organization of Orthodox Christians. **Our mission is to proclaim, share and reveal our Orthodox Christian Faith through service, fellowship and example.** We accomplish this by:

- studying the tenets of our Faith
- supporting, encouraging and promoting Orthodox Youth ministries
- supporting, encouraging and promoting the missionary growth of our church
- encouraging and promoting unity among all Orthodox jurisdictions
- establishing practical means for Orthodox Christians to form enduring friendships on local and national levels through networking
- providing educational, cultural, social and athletic activities for the people of our Orthodox Faith.

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PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY

Polly Walker
40th National FOCA President



Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

With the Lenten season behind us, I hope that you and your families had a most blessed Pascha!

It has been a very busy spring within the Fellowship. At our Spring Board of Trustees meeting I was able to share with the Board information I received from Fr. Dahulich regarding the land at St. Tikhon's on which we intend to build the married student housing. During an investigation of the property it was discovered that that particular parcel actually belongs to the Monastery and not the Seminary. The Monastery however, has agreed to sell it to the Seminary for a very nominal price. We are awaiting confirmation that the sale has taken place so that we can continue to go forward with our campaign.

Immediately before the Board of Trustees meeting, the Executive Board had the opportunity to sit down with His Beatitude, Metropolitan JONAH and Chancellor, Fr. Alexander Garklavs at the Chancery in Syosset where we were very warmly received. Metropolitan JONAH thanked us for the work that we do on behalf of the Church and gave us his blessing to continue to do so. Fr. Bill and I were asked to prepare a presentation for the upcoming meeting of the Holy Synod with regards to having the Fellowship assume the leadership for the youth program for the Orthodox Church in America. The proposal was read and discussed and when I spoke with His Beatitude shortly afterwards he gave us his blessing to go ahead. Several conference calls are slated for the summer months in order to prepare a complete proposal to the organization at the upcoming convention.

We have a party who continues to show serious interest in our property in Wilkes-Barre. They have submitted one purchase agreement which was well below the market value of the property. A second agreement from the same party with a significant increase in price was received as well. The Executive Board gave the party the go ahead to investigate their proposal with the zoning commission. The prospective purchasers fully understand that the decision to sell the building must come to a vote at the convention in Hartford should they wish to pursue this matter once they receive a decision from the zoning commission.

Plans for the Junior Summer Sports Tournament to be held July 12-18 are well underway. Sub deacon Daniel and Katrina Kovalak are proving to be most capable and organized leaders. Another event, primarily attended by Juniors, the National Basketball Tournament, had to be cancelled this year. It seems we also are a victim of the economy as only a couple of teams had committed to attending the tournament which was to be held in Minneapolis this year. We thank St. Mary's 'O' Club and St. Mary's Saints for the efforts they put into the arrangements for the tournament. It was not an easy decision but rather a necessary one. As I write this, the Bowling Tournament is taking place. Word is that the attendance is down there as well but everyone is enjoying themselves in spite of the smaller crowd! The Celebrations of Faith, once again spearheaded by Cheryl Morse, is complete and the winners are posted on the website. Please check the website and see what talented youth we have! Thanks Cheryl for your many years of dedication to this program.

Our Spring Board of Trustees Meeting was held in Hartford, CT, the site of our upcoming convention. The hotel was lovely and the committee most gracious. Being back to a downtown setting meant we all had time to explore on foot the location with its charming shops and restaurants. The committee has worked hard to ensure a fun-filled convention. We look forward to seeing all of you there this Labor Day weekend!

EDITOR'S NOTES

Nicholas D. Ressetar

Editor, *Orthodox Christian JOURNAL*

Welcome to the spring issue of your *Journal*. As I write in mid-May, we're approaching the end of the Paschal season so I'll extend the greeting of "Christ is Risen!" which our online readers will receive in season and for those who receive the hard copy, I greet you with the Great Feast of Pentecost and ask that the Holy Spirit "come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One." Many thanks to our *Journal* patrons who extend their personal greetings in this issue and who help keep us publishing into our 82nd year! And thanks to Past National Secretary Kathy Lazor for obtaining these listings and to National Treasurer Mickey Bowan for assisting!

Our feature story is the "Celebration of Faith" contest with the theme "Our Journey to Christ." Coordinator Cheryl Morse and her committee have announced the winners, and we bring you their literature and visual arts/photography (in color). Congratulations to them and to all youth who entered!

Bowling seems to be the underlying sports theme as many districts held their annual tournaments/outings: Ohio District (thanks Leon!), Central PA, Colonial (thanks Betty!) and Upper NY State Juniors (who also held their yearly convention). Next issue we'll report on the just-concluded 70th national tournament held in Phillipsburg/Alpha, NJ. Also in sports, Joe Junda and committee invite us to the national summer sports tournament to be held in New Tripoli (that's triPOLLee believe it or not), near Allentown, PA in July – entry form is enclosed.

The active New Jersey District reports on its amusing mock wedding, the St. Tikhon's married seminarian housing project fundraiser, and its ice skating outing. Thank you Laura Johnson! Don't forget to make your own contribution to the housing project and use the form on page 5.

Michael Stenko provides an excellent overview of what to expect at our 83rd national convention in Hartford, CT. As he notes, this will be our first "downtown" convention in some time and is within easy driving distance of many members. If you haven't attended recently because of distance, here's your chance!

Journal managing/layout editor Michael & Airry Schultz ask us to support their son Joshua's walk for juvenile diabetes – all the details are on page 21. Does Joshua look handsome in his Webelos (?) uniform or what?! Please help this worthy cause.

Our Kidz corner is a Fourth of July project courtesy of Matushka Theodora, Junior Sophia Ressetar on the artwork and Christine Yerke who put it together. Thanks to all!

And rounding out this spring edition are the St. Vladimir's summer camp flyer (plan now to attend the national junior summer sports tourney), the 2009 photo contest entry form, Transitions, the calendar and, last but not least, President Polly's message. Have a good summer, keep active in the Fellowship, and we'll return just before the Hartford national convention. Till then, enjoy the Fellowship you find on these pages!

F.O.C.A. HIGHLIGHTS AND NEWS-IN-BRIEF

70th National Bowling Tournament

As this issue goes to press, the 70th National Bowling Tournament in Phillipsburg, NJ has just been completed. Sponsored by the St. John's Senior "O" Club of Alpha, NJ, #212, bowling and fellowship were held over the weekend of May 15-17. Tourney chairman was Gary Lelo, also chapter president and Central PA District governor. National Sports Director Anthony Schultz coordinated the event. Full coverage, including the winning scores and many more photos, will appear in the summer *Journal*.



St. Tikhon's Seminarian Housing Project

I/We Pledge to give to the St. Tikhon's Seminarian Housing Project. (Please circle one)

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Benefactor- | \$5,000 a year for three years | (\$500/month for 10 months a year) |
| Founder- | \$2,500 a year for three years | (\$250/month for 10 months a year) |
| Supporter- | \$1,000 a year for three years | (\$100/month for 10 months a year) |
| Donor - | \$500 a year for three years | (\$50/month for 10 months a year) |



Signature of Donor

Date

_____ Please bill me monthly for three years

_____ Please bill me yearly for three years

_____ Please bill me for the full amount pledged

_____ My employer will match my gift, enclosed is my company's matching gift form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

**Please send pledge form to: Michael Steffaro
38 Beryl Street
South River, NJ 08882
732-698-1952 • michaelsteffaro@comcast.net**

**Checks made payable to the F.O.C.A.
or St. Tikhon's Theological Seminary**

2009 PHOTO CONTEST

This year's theme is: **"Four Seasons"**
(Spring, Summer, Fall and/or Winter scenes)



FOCA members can send in up to five (5) photos, preferably 3x5 or 4x6. Participants do not have to be present at the National Convention to win. Awards are based on number of entries in each age category. The photos can consist of mountains, waterfalls, trees, lakes, canyons, flowers, or whatever interesting scenery photos you would like to enter. (Note: Return of photos is not guaranteed.)

Entry Form

Important! Photos must be received by 8/31/09

Entry fee is \$2.00/photo. Make check payable to F.O.C.A.

Please print

Name: _____ District: _____ Chapter: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Phone: () _____

Age category: 18 - 45 or 46+ Number of photos _____ x \$2.00 each = \$ _____ entry fee.

Mail photo(s) with entry fee check to:

Mary Anne Soltis • 596 Saratoga Street • Cohoes, NY 12047

HARTFORD: *Where the past meets the future*

We're Ready for YOU at the 83rd National Convention

The Hartford "R" Club #80 and All Saints Orthodox Church of Hartford invite all FOCA members to come together over Labor Day weekend in Connecticut's capital city for the FOCA's 83rd National Convention. The Convention will be held from September 3-7, 2009.

Hartford is the center of a metropolitan area of nearly one million people. Bradley International Airport, New England's second largest, is only twenty minutes from our hotel, which is also located at the intersection of Interstates 84 and 91. The city is within an easy one-day drive for 85% of the FOCA's membership, and this will be the Fellowship's first "downtown convention" since the 75th Anniversary convention in Pittsburgh in 2001!

The Convention Committee is hard at work planning a fun and exciting week of affordable fun for all ages and interests. From our youngest "Fellowship Kidz" to our most mature members, Fellowship members will be pleasantly surprised with all that Hartford has to offer.

Host Hotel: Hilton Hartford Downtown

The Hilton Hartford hotel is a shining star in Hartford's skyline, a 4-Diamond Quality and Service property that completely satisfies all levels of Hilton guests. The Hilton Hartford celebrated its Grand Opening on March 1, 2005 after completing a \$34 million renovation. Accommodations include 393 guestrooms and 11 beautifully appointed suites, many of which overlook the renowned Connecticut State Capital building. Every guestroom offers personal amenities such as a coffee maker, iron/board, and all are equipped with dual-line telephones with private voice mail and high-speed internet access. The Hilton Hartford hotel features an indoor pool, fully equipped state-of-the-art fitness center with the latest in cardiovascular and weight training equipment, a whirlpool and a sauna. Guests may dine at M&M's Coffee



Shop, a full-service restaurant located within the hotel, and relax in Element 315, the Hilton's coffee/lobby bar. The Convention rate is \$109, plus tax, with parking available in the Hilton's garage at a rate of only \$15 per day. (Other parking options are located within walking distance of the hotel.) Make your reservations by calling the Hartford Hilton directly at 1.860.240.7272, Hilton reservations at 1.800.445.8667 or on line at Hartford.hilton.com. You must make your reservation prior to August 9 to receive the convention rate.

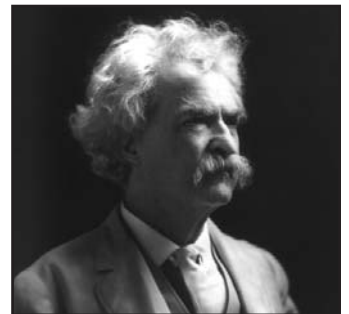


Daytime Fun in Every Direction

"Katherine Hepburn's Hartford", a guided bus tour that includes her childhood home and climbing tree, her neighborhood, the home where she married "Luddy" in 1924, and finally, her gravesite.



The Mark Twain Home and Museum, where he wrote his greatest works while living in Hartford's historic West End.



The new Connecticut Science Center. The FOCA will be one of the very first groups to spend an afternoon in this brand new Hartford landmark, overlooking the Connecticut River and opening in June of 2009. Navigate your very own space pods to explore the surface of Mars while seated inside a virtual reality simulated flight chair with a 6-foot

parabolic screen, or investigate a crime using DNA samples extracted from evidence collected on the scene. Listen as the sound of your heart is played on drums that pound and flash to the beat of your heart. An amazing future awaits all of us at the Science Center, and it will be an afternoon the FOCA will remember for a long, long time!

Holcomb Farm, a real working farm where art meets nature. We'll be outside in the fresh country air, learning about River Ecosystems, Water Studies, Reptiles and Amphibians, and more. We'll also visit a nearby Corn Maze, where knowledge of FOCA Trivia will be your key to getting out and back to the hotel in time for Vespers!



Hartford Night's: Songs, Slam Dunks and Lobster!

Nina's Cabaret! On Thursday night, relax and catch up with old friends in our very own piano bar.

Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. On Friday night, we'll visit the new Basketball Hall of Fame in nearby Springfield, Massachusetts. The Hall is only three years old, and has historical displays as well as exciting exhibits like "Virtual Hoops", "Rebound", "Vertical Jump", and the chance to be a play by play announcer or a sports anchor. Don't worry if you can't jump or rebound . . . we plan to have a special "Scavenger Hunt" so everyone can enjoy what the Hall has to offer.



Old-Fashioned New England Clambake. No visit to New England would be complete without an official clam-bake. Enjoy lobster, steamers, steak and all the trimmings, all on the grounds of All Saints Church. We'll have carnival games and loads of fun, including the annual young adult volleyball game.

Late Night "Networking." Gather with young adults at a popular downtown tavern.

A Unique Experience for Our Juniors

During the morning plenary sessions, Juniors will be at the hotel having their own version of the "Rite of Passage Experience", an interactive program that builds team, teaches support for one another, and the power of working together to meet challenges and solve problems. Some of Hartford's own Juniors have participated in the full ROPE program at their schools, and they all say that it's an awesome program that can't be missed!

Sunday Splendor

Following a recommendation from the 82nd National Convention, Hartford's Grand Banquet will be held on Sunday afternoon, following Divine Liturgy. Spend the rest of the afternoon on your own, but don't forget to come back for the Grand Ball, featuring the sounds of "Mass Confusion".

Start planning now for what promises to be a most enjoyable, entertaining and affordable convention. Ad forms for the commemorative program book were mailed in February, and the ticket order forms were mailed in May. For more information, contact convention chair Michael Stenko at 860.286.9234 or at mjs1960@comcast.net.

The 30 members of the Hartford "R" Club, and our parish family from All Saints Church, will be ready to welcome the Fellowship to the place we call home. With history, sports, great food, and technology, Hartford truly is the city **"WHERE THE PAST MEETS THE FUTURE!"**



**Announcing Winners for the 2009
“Celebration of Faith”
Contest**

Sponsored by
Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America

Minneapolis, Minnesota. The winning entries were announced on May 7th in Minneapolis. The theme for the 2009 contest was “Our Journey to Christ”. All youth who are communicants in a parish or mission of a canonical Orthodox Church in North America were encouraged to participate in this event.

2009 Contest Winners:

Visual Arts

Under 10

Sydney Harvischak - St John the Baptist, Campbell, Ohio

4th-6th grade

Dimas Swehla - St Basil G.O.Church, San Jose, CA

Literature

Under 10

Andrea Phelps - St Mark's, Bethesda, MD

4th-6th grade

Alexis Steffaro - SS Peter & Paul, South River, NJ

Photography

4th-6th grade

John Nieuwsma - St Basil G.O.Church, San Jose, CA

Honorable Mention

Julie Gemmel - St John the Baptist, Campbell, Ohio

Music

Honorable Mention

Daniel Ames - Holy Transfiguration, Livonia, MI

**You may view the entries online at www.stmarysoca.org .
Details and information for the 2010 Celebration Contest
will be posted online later this fall.**



1st place
Alexis Steffaro
Literature 4th-6th Grade
JOURNEY TO CHRIST

My journey to Christ starts as a child. You must learn many things to start your journey. As a child you must take baby steps. Your parents should take you to Church every Sunday for Liturgy. In Sunday school you learn basic prayers and about Jesus. Those are your “baby steps”.

As a teen you are “walking” on your journey to Christ. Your role models are your parents, priest and God. One thing you must now do is take confession before communion. You now model your life after Jesus by doing good things. What I do is that I give to the hungry by giving food to the local food bank. My family buys clothes and other supplies to give to the orphanages in Russia and Guatemala. Our Sunday school makes Easter baskets for the sick children in hospitals. At this time you find out what is your God given talent. My talent is singing. I enjoy singing in my church choir.

As an adult you are “running” right through your journey. You are now a role model to most people but still honor God. You will live your wonderful life as a Christian. You must accept it because you only have one life to live.

Through all the steps of your life you are just getting closer to God. It is like climbing a ladder. By taking the steps one by one you complete your life’s journey to Christ.



1st place
Andrea Phelps
Literature under 10
SARAH’S GOAL

Sarah is nine years old. She is an Orthodox Christian and goes to church. Her main goal is to draw closer to God. Here are some ways she draws closer to God.

*Sarah goes to Church to pray. She sings many hymns and prays many prayers.
She pays attention during the whole service.*

*Sarah goes to communion. She receives communion from the chalice.
After that she walks to the table, drinks a cup of wine and eats a piece of bread.*

*Sarah goes to confession. Like everyone else she asks God to forgive her sins.
She uses the lesson she gets out of her sin for future reference.*

*Sarah goes to Sunday School. She learns about Jesus Christ and tells people about him.
She is very excited to learn more.*

*Sarah celebrates the feast days such as Pascha, Christmas, The Dormition of the Theotokos and the Theophany.
She celebrates each feast day with a service. She wears her very best each time.
She hopes to find more ways to draw closer to God.*

The end.

St. Vladimir's Orthodox Camp

SAVE THE DATES



Camp Clean up: June 13th, 2009

Camp Open House: June 20th, 2009

Week 1 (ages 7 - 11) June 28th - July 5th, 2009

Week 2 (ages 12 - 16) July 6th - July 11th, 2009

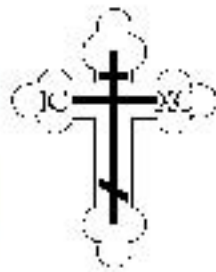
Week 3 (going into 5th grade - going into 12th grade) July 12th - July 18th, 2009

*Week 3 is the National Junior Summer Sports Tournament sponsored by the F.O.C.A.

Any questions please contact: Sub-Deacon Daniel or Catrina Kovalak at

1-216-524-3414 or ohiodistrictcamp@cox.net

When it comes to summer the first thing parents think about is what summer camp to send their children to. Everyone thinks about sports camp, but what about an Orthodox Church camp. Where else could your child work on building their faith, with other Orthodox children. What a perfect way for your child to initiate a friendship that will last a lifetime. Every day starts and ends with prayer, along with "Fun with Father" time throughout the day. Campers arrive on Sunday early evening and are picked up Saturday morning. The cost of camp is only \$250.00 per week. So when you are looking at camps to send your child to remember that your child could be building friendships that will last a lifetime along with building their faith!



Chapter news

OHIO DISTRICT BOWLING TOURNAMENT

On February 7 and 8, 2009, the Cathedral Chapter of the FOCA (#7 in Cleveland) sponsored the 2009 Ohio District bowling tournament. Assistant Sports Director Phil Tesar coordinated the weekend event flawlessly. Sixty-three bowlers participated in a “Rock, Roll and Bowl” weekend to the sounds of the “oldies.” As is our tradition, Gov. Melissa Tesar threw out the first ceremonial ball. Nineteen Juniors joined the Seniors on Sunday afternoon.

Over seventy attended the awards banquet including our National Secretary, Becky Tesar.

The tournament’s social theme was codirected by Darrel Felon and Barbara Sheean.



“Celebration of Faith”



Visual Arts
Winner

**Dimas
Swehla**

4th-6th Grade



Photography
Winner

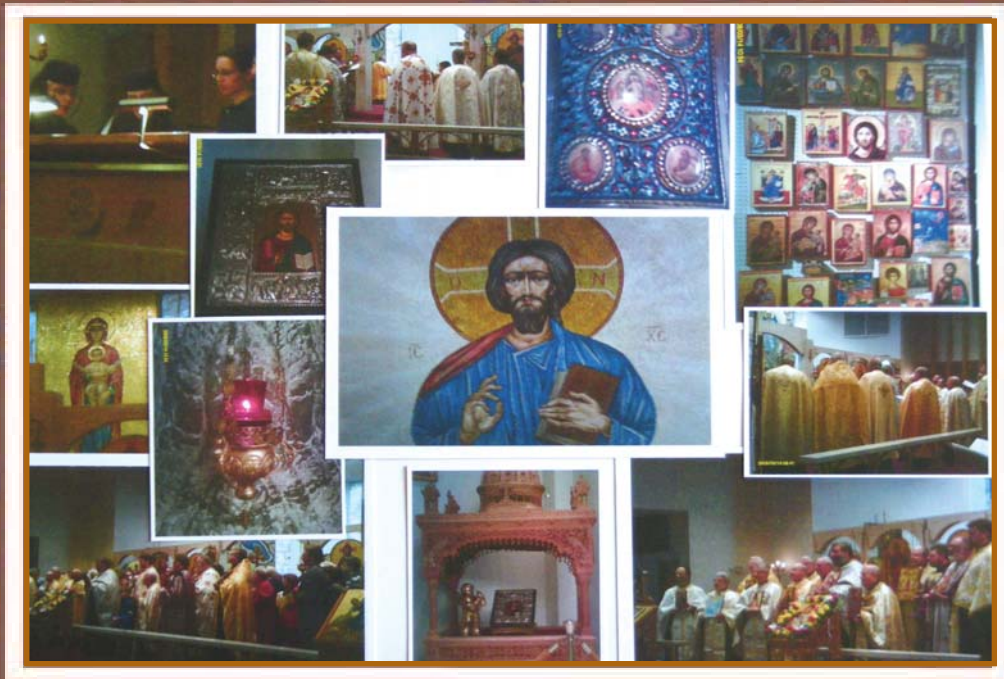
**John
Nieuwsma**

4th-6th Grade

Photography
Winner

**Julie
Gemmel**

*Honorable
Mention*



Visual Arts
Winner

**Sydney
Harvischak**

Under 10

“Celebration of Faith”

2009 NATIONAL SUMMER SPORTS TOURNAMENT

HOST

Holy Trinity Randolph NJ

LOCATION

Olde Homestead Golf Club/New Tripoli, PA - one of the top 10 public courses in Pennsylvania!

The Jim Blaukovitch designed course which opened in 1995 has received 4 stars from Golf Digest. Each hole features 5 tee boxes, making the course fair and enjoyable for scratch golfers and high handicappers alike. The rye-grass fairways are fairly wide and trees are typically not a factor in play. Greens are medium speed with a fair (but not excessive) number of green-side bunkers.

<http://www.oldehomesteadgolfclub.com>

TOURNAMENT DATE/FORMAT/COST

- July 24th- 25th 2009
- FRIDAY afternoon shotgun starting at 1pm (\$60)
- SATURDAY morning tee times starting at 7am-8:30am (\$85)
- BBQ Banquet (outdoor) at course immediately thereafter (\$30)
- Entry form - <http://www.orthodoxfellowship.orgiGolf.html>- deadline is 6/23/09

HOTEL

Holiday Inn Conference Center Lehigh Valley
7736 Adrienne Drive, Breinigsville PA 18066
610-391-1000

\$129 Double/\$119 Single includes breakfast (mention FOCA to reserve special rate/deadline is 6/23/09)

Holiday Inn Conference Center Lehigh Valley is a full service hotel located at the intersection of I-78 and Route 100 South, just three miles west of the North-East extension PA Turnpike exit 56 (Route 476). Lehigh Valley International Airport is located 12 miles from the hotel. Lehigh Valley Industrial Park is 10 miles away and downtown Allentown is a quick 5-mile drive. For those interested, there is a pool, fitness facility and upscale bar/lounge. <http://www.hilehighvalley.com>



TOURNAMENT +AD CHAIRMAN

Joe Junda
22 Baybury Court
East Hanover, NJ 07936
973-781-0395 Home/973-615-8406 Cell
joejunda@verizon.net
Ad deadline 7/1/09

SEND ALL ENTRIES TO:
Anthony Schultz
 4877 Founders Drive
 Groveport, OH 43125
 (614) 830-0492

FELLOWSHIP OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS IN AMERICA
2009 NATIONAL SUMMER SPORTS TOURNAMENT

DEADLINES
Hotel Reservations
June 23, 2009
All Entries Must Be
Postmarked by
June 23, 2009

July 24-25, 2009
 Sponsored by: Holy Trinity Randolph NJ
 Chairman: Joe Junda 973-597-2086(work) 973-615-8406 (cell)
 Open to all FOCA/Orthodox Christians
 All entrants must buy Banquet Ticket

Name _____ Chapter No. _____ District/Orthodox Parish _____
 Address _____ Apt. _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 E-Mail _____ Phone (____) _____

| Name | Age | Handicap Average | 2-Day \$145 | 1-Day \$60(Fri) \$85(Sat) | Scramble 2-Day \$145 | Scramble 1-Day \$60(Fri) \$85(Sat) | Banquet Sr. \$30 Jr. Free | TOTAL |
|------|-----|------------------|-------------|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------|
| 1. | | | | | | | | |
| 2. | | | | | | | | |
| 3. | | | | | | | | |
| 4. | | | | | | | | |

Please Read TOURNAMENT RULES- General Golf Rules
 1) Rules on score card will be followed
 2) Special rules will be given before tee-off
 3) All FOCA and District rules will be followed
 4) Golfers will be flighted by Handicap or Age depending on the number of entries.
 Prizes will be based on number of entries.

GRAND TOTAL ENCLOSED

Make all checks payable to: **2009 National FOCA Summer Sports Tournament**
 Include Banquet Tickets for each name listed on this form.
 Mail all entries to Anthony Schultz at the address above.

HOUSING
 Holiday Inn Conference Center
 7736 Adrienne Drive, Breingsville, PA 18031
 610-391-1000
 \$129 Double/\$119 Single (includes breakfast)

GOLFING
 Olde Homestead Golf Club 6598 RT 309 New Tripoli PA 18066 610-298-3097
 www.oldehomesteadgolfclub.com
 Shotgun Friday (with 40 golfers): 1:00 pm
 Saturday Tee Times will begin at 7:00 am
 Banquet at course

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I will abide by all the sports rules of the FOCA
 Applicant Signature _____

The 2009 Colonial District Bowling Tournament

Chapters #82 and 229 Sweep the 2009 Colonial District Bowling Tournament

The 2009 Colonial District Bowling Tournament, hosted by the Nation's Capital R Club, Chapter #79, was held at the Falls Church (VA) Bowling Lanes. The bowling tournament was arranged and coordinated by Andrea Lutov.

The Colonial District Bowling Banquet, held at St. Nicholas Cathedral in Washington, DC, was coordinated by Betty Slanta and Lisa Morris, assisted by Sasha Kay and John Slanta.

Walter Alesevich, Colonial District Governor and Nation's Capital R Club President, awarded the Colonial District Bowling Tournament prizes:

- High Men Team, St. Stephen's OCF (Chapter #82)
- High Women Team, St. Mark FOCA (Chapter #229)
- High Series - Men Frank Krapchko (Chapter #229) with 625 pins
- Second High Series - Men Gene Jacobson (Chapter #229) with 568 pins
- High Series - Women Barbara Freimann (Chapter #229) with 548 pins
- Second High Series - Women Patricia Ihnat (Chapter #229) with 536 pins
- Men High single -First Game Mark Skuby (Chapter #82) with 203 pins
- Men High single - Second Game Frank Krapchko (Chapter #229) with 236 pins
- Men High single - Third Game Gene Jacobson (Chapter #229) with 230 pins
- Women High single - First Game Connie Skvir (Chapter #82) with 157 pins
- Women High single - Second Game Barbara Freimann (Chapter #229) with 237 pins
- Women High single - Third Game Patricia Ihnat (Chapter #229) with 250 pins



Chapter news

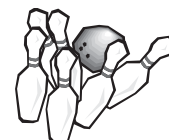
Christ the Saviour Church, Harrisburg, PA Hosts Central PA District Bowling Day



On March 1, 2009, the Central PA District held a bowling day at the ABC East Lanes in Harrisburg, PA, hosted by the Harrisburg "O" Club and Christ the Saviour Church. About 50 Juniors, Seniors and friends participated. Father Daniel Mathewson of St. Mary's Church in Coaldale brought some 8 youth, including several of his own children. Gov. Gary Lelo and several others came from Alpha, NJ. After bowling, a pizza and salad dinner was served at the parish hall followed by Vespers. Father Stephen Vernak and "O" Club president John Dotsey coordinated the fellowship event.



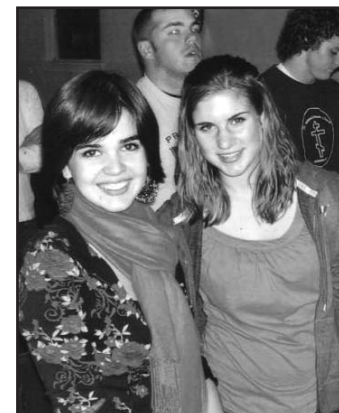
Upper New York State Jr. District Convention & Bowling Tournament



On November 8 and 9, 2008, the UNYS Jr. District held its annual district convention and bowling tournament sponsored by the Cohoes Jr. "R" Club. There were 22 Juniors and 16 adults from Auburn, Cohoes and Endicott. The meeting, including the election of officers, was held Saturday morning and bowling followed.

Prior to vespers, Father Terenti Wasielewski held an installation service for the new officers: Governor Nicole Watson, Endicott; Lt. Gov. Alison Inceu, Cohoes; Executive Secretary Nicole Breault, Auburn; Recording Secretary Masha Kargut, Endicott; and Treasurer Katie Shanahan, Cohoes. After vespers, the Juniors spent the evening at the All-Star Academy where there were indoor athletic fields, batting cages and ice cream sundaes. On Sunday following Divine Liturgy, there was a brunch with the visiting clubs and St. Nicholas parishioners.

Thanks to the outgoing officers: Gov. Kevin Melnick; Lt. Gov. Matthew Wild; Exec. Secy. Adam Szymaniak; Rec. Secy. Nicole Watson; and Treasurer Christopher Homyk. Best wishes to the newly elected officers and thanks to Cohoes for their hospitality and for providing the Juniors with a fun event!



– From Nicole Watson's report in *The Upstate Update*, Winter/Spring 2009

Vlad & Vera's Wedding

On February 7, 2009 the New Jersey District held a fun-filled fundraiser at the Ria Mar Restaurant in South River, New Jersey.

Inspired by the popular Broadway production *Tony and Tina's Wedding*, *Vlad and Vera's Wedding* outperformed its model. Based on an old-fashioned Russian wedding, the bride, Vera Evanovich Stolichnaya, and groom, Vladimir Wolfschmidt Smirnov, were played by actual newlyweds Kristy {Kaminsky} and Brian Domboski. (Mnogaya Lyeta!) Our newly elected New Jersey Governor, Ted Gregory and his charming wife, Lorissa, portrayed the parents of the bride with a twist. Ted was the mother and Lorissa the father; both were appropriately cross-dressed—hilarious!

Wedding party members had clever names, such as: Basil Graygoosky, Boris Stroganoff, Sasha Blinchiki, Nikoli Kielbasovich, etc. The happy occasion was almost marred by the disruptive scorned girlfriend, Gina Muchioli, performed by Fiona

Garretson. Adding to the humor of the evening was the presence of a confused rabbi, National FOCA Immediate Past President Michael Steffaro, who obviously was at the wrong Orthodox reception.

After the traditional ceremony with bread and salt, the couple chose as their first dance "In Heaven There Ain't No Beer." Following a delicious buffet dinner, there were the usual Father-Daughter and Mother-Son dances, cake cutting, throwing of the bridal bouquet and, for those of us who remember the good old days, —the "dollar dance with the bride!"

Each chapter provided a gift for the happy couple. However, since it was felt the marriage might not last and the gifts would have to be returned, it was decided to raffle them off to the delight of the lucky guests.

It was a wonderful, successful affair thanks to the hard-working South River Chapter #167. Perhaps we can look forward to having a "Baptismal Reception" in the future?



New Jersey District's Annual Ice Skating Affair

Once again winter doldrums were overcome by families participating in the New Jersey District's Annual Ice Skating affair on February 15, 2009 hosted by Bayonne Alpha 'R' Club, Chapter 97. Ninety skaters from OCA, Patriarchal, and Carpathian parishes throughout New Jersey and New York glided on the ice at the indoor rink in Bayonne High School. Twenty additional non-skaters joined them for the wonderful social which followed at Ss. Peter and Paul's church hall in Bayonne. The event, which started in 2003 with forty attendees, has increased in popularity each year by young and old alike.



New Jersey District FOCA St. Tikhon's Fundraiser

The New Jersey District FOCA launched its first financially successful fundraiser for the St. Tikhon's Married Students Housing Project on Bright Friday, April 24, 2009, at Holy Assumption Church in Clifton, New Jersey.

Thanks to the diligence of an energetic committee, comprised of Marge Kovach, Laura Johnson, Allison Steffaro, Carol Deerson, and Terese Wisniewski, an elegant and delightful cocktail reception attended by over one hundred FOCA members, clergy and supportive guests, was immensely enjoyed by all.

Profits of the catered affair, which included dancing, were increased by a raffle and silent auction, the gifts for which were donated by local chapters, diocesan parishes and generous individuals. Over \$3,000 was raised.

Hopefully, other FOCA districts and/or individual chapters will be encouraged to hold fundraisers for this desperately needed project which has been spearheaded by our national organization.



TRANSITIONS

DEPARTED: Al Wetmore, a member of FOCA Chapter 222 and a parishioner of Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Randolph, NJ, died on January 9, 2009. Born and reared in



Lynn, MA, he entered the U.S. Army as an infantryman at age 17 to serve in WWII. As a member of the 21st Infantry Regiment, he was among the first combat troops to enter Korea in July 1950. In 1965 he retired from the Army as a Command Sergeant Major, having earned the Combat Infantry Badge with Star and the Purple Heart. Al became a civilian employee of the Army and retired in 1989. He was interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

Al was baptized Orthodox in 1991 and was fond of pointing out that this baptism made him a "cradle Orthodox." He was a parish council member, a member of the choir that his wife, Carol, directs and, with her, a member of the organizational task force that helped restructure the OCA

chancery in 2006-8. In his eulogy, Father George Hasenecz said: "When he became a member of our church, Al showed those of us who were born in the church what a treasure we had. No job was too big or too small for him. He sang in the choir, rang the bells, served on the council, blew out the candles, and helped in every possible capacity. I know what he did – I miss him! One of my fondest memories is Al reading the prophecy of Ezekiel on Holy Friday. Holy Week in the Orthodox Church is filled with long and somber services and as the service of Holy Friday comes to a close, Ezekiel is read – it is the first hint of what is to come. It tells of God raising to life seemingly lifeless bones. This was Al's reading. He read it with such feeling and emotion that we could not help but be moved. Tired from days of services, we were rejuvenated by his delivery. The words were Ezekiel's but it was Al's reading. He read it with such conviction because he believed it."

In addition to his wife, Al is survived by 4 children, 2 sisters, 14 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. Memory eternal!

DEPARTED: (Helen) Nina Grivna, the wife of the late Past National President Walter Grivna, fell asleep in the Lord on May 11, 2009 in Minneapolis. She was a member of St. Mary's "O" Club and Cathedral. Condolences may be sent to: Mr. and Mrs. Walter Grivna Jr., 5960 Ridge Creek Road, Shoreview, MN. Memory eternal.

DEPARTED: Marion Stenko, a longtime member of the Berwick "R" Club, Berwick, PA, fell asleep in the Lord on May 13, 2009. She was the mother of Michael Stenko, chairman of this year's national convention in Hartford, CT. Funeral services were held at Holy Annunciation Church in Berwick. Condolences may be sent to Michael and family at 149 Tunxis Ave., Bloomfield, CT 06002. Memory eternal.

DEPARTED: Olga Ressetar Warhol fell asleep in the Lord on Bright Monday, April 20, 2009 at the age of 102. She and her late husband John attended many FROC national conventions and other events. Funeral services were held in Medford and Paramus, NJ. Survivors include her daughters, Eugenia Skuby, Alexandra Cook and Myrna Serio. Memory eternal.

TRANSITIONS

RETIREMENT: About a year ago, Archpriest George Hasenecz, rector of Holy Trinity Church, Randolph, NJ for the past 43 years, announced his plans for retirement.

Shortly thereafter, we were introduced to Fr. David Fox, who will become the next rector. At the Paschal services, Fr. George gently reminded us that this would be his last Paschal service as rector. He promised that retirement would not take him far away and, in fact, said that he would assist at the altar and “keep an eye on all of us to make sure we behave ourselves.”



The history of Holy Trinity spans almost 50 years, and Fr. George was an integral part of that history almost from inception. In the spring 1964, a group of Orthodox Christians met with Fr. John Nehrebecki, dean of the New Jersey Deanery, to discuss organizing an English-speaking parish in rapidly growing Morris County. Metropolitan Leonty gave his blessing and Fr. Michael Karas was assigned as first rector. The first Divine Liturgy was served that October and the community grew and developed.

The next fall, a home and 5 acres of land were purchased in Randolph

Township and Fr. George was assigned as rector. In October 1969, Metropolitan Ireney and others consecrated the new church. In 1975 a new rectory was built and the parish continued to expand its ministry, including an outreach program whereby assistance would be offered to those in need; collecting non-perishable foods is a year-round project. Our sister parish is the Church of All Saints in Novosibirsk, Russia and we exchange photos, videos and letters, thus giving us a special and rewarding experience with our fellow Orthodox Christians.

More than 20 years ago, Senior and Junior FOCA (FROC then) chapters were formed. In more recent years, the entire parish participates in the St. Nicholas Christmas project, a FOCA initiative benefiting married students attending seminary. In his continued support of local chapter projects and events, Fr. George also served as New Jersey District spiritual advisor for many years. Three of our local chapter presidents went on to become New Jersey District governors: Dr. Robert Weger, Sandra Fedorko, who fell asleep in the Lord on May 3, 2009, and Anna Romanofsky. And Dr. Weger and Sandra Fedorko rose to the national FOCA/FROC presidency, becoming the 29th and 36th presidents, respectively.

As parishioners of Holy Trinity and members of the “O” Club, we are twice blessed. On the one hand we are grateful to Fr. George and for all that he has done for us and our church. He’s touched our lives in a deep and profound way and will

always remain a part of us. At the same time, we happily extend a warm and hearty welcome to our new rector, Fr. David and Matushka Kerri and their 4 children. We look forward to a bright and spiritually rewarding future worshiping in community as Holy Trinity continues to grow and spread the gospel of Jesus Christ.

– by Sonia Kraftician

DEPARTED: Sandra Dvorsky Fedorko, the Fellowship’s 36th national president, fell asleep in the Lord on Sunday, May 3, 2009



in Zanesville, OH after a brief but courageous battle with cancer. Sandi, as she liked to be called, was born in Bridgeport, CT and had lived in Zanesville for the past 2-1/2 years; previously she had lived in El Paso, TX, Long Valley, NJ and Newton, CT.

After obtaining a bachelor’s degree in elementary education, Sandi taught in schools in Wilton, CT and in Hackettstown and Washington Township, NJ. She also worked for a number of eye doctors in Morris County, NJ. More recently she had enjoyed being a Mary Kay consultant.

Sandi had been a member of the “O” Club at Holy Trinity Church in Randolph, NJ for many years and then served as New Jersey District governor. She was elected as FOCA national recording secretary, vice president and president from 2000-2002. Sandi served as national president during the Fellowship’s 75th anniversary year and at the national convention in Pittsburgh in 2001.

She is survived by her loving husband of 40 years, John; 2 sons, Jeffrey and Brian; a daughter, Tambrey; 4 grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, Lewis and Stella Dvorsky, and brother, Lawrence. Sandi was a member of St. George Orthodox Church in Columbus, OH and Christ the Savior Orthodox Church in Byesville, OH. An excellent cook, she was a loving mother and grandmother who loved spending time with family, especially her grandkids.

Funeral services were held at Holy Trinity Church in Randolph with interment at St. Tikhon’s Monastery cemetery. May Sandi’s memory be eternal!

FOCA CALENDAR 2009



- June 7: Pentecost
- July 24-25: National Summer Sports Tournament, New Tripoli/Allentown, PA
- September 3-7: 83rd National FOCA Convention, Hartford, CT

**For updates and detailed info, visit
www.orthodoxfellowship.org**

TEAM
**JOSHUA'S
JOURNEY**



Dear Friends and Family,

Airry and I are writing to you on behalf of our son, Joshua.

On November 7th of 2006, he was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at Pittsburgh Children's Hospital. This means that he will be insulin dependent for the rest of his life. He is required to constantly check his blood sugar by pricking his tiny fingers five to six times per day and has to have 4 shots of insulin each day. In addition, a tightly controlled diet and scheduled food intake is now part of Joshua's everyday life. **But insulin is not a cure; it is merely Joshua's life support.**

Joshua is always a trooper and rarely complains. For those of you who know him, he is full of smiles, laughs, and seven-year-old mischief, amidst his daily diabetes routine. Joshua continually amazes us and is a blessing to have in our lives as a daily reminder of spirit, humility, and a positive attitude.

We truly believe that out of every difficulty comes something good. As parents, it's our instinct from the moment our kids are born to protect them from any harm. We must do everything in our power to help find a cure for him. It's our mission to avoid the heart and kidney disease, blindness, amputation, and early death that is a reality for many people with juvenile diabetes. So, two and a half years ago the three of us started a new journey in life. The journey to help find a cure for this devastating disease. Joshua often asks us, "When is my diabetes going to go away?" It's a painful question to answer looking at his beaming and hopeful eyes. We feel confident a positive answer will be available before he grows up.

The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) is the #1 non-profit funder of diabetes research worldwide. One of JDRF's largest fundraising events is the "Walk to Cure Diabetes." This year like the last 2 years, we have formed a team named "Joshua's Journey" and will be raising money towards this cause. This year's walk will be held on *Saturday, September 12th at Schenley Park, Flagstaff Hill*. This year's goal is to raise \$105 million. **We have put our hope for a cure in JDRF's hands. Will you please do the same?** Personally, Airry and I would not have been able to make it this far without the ongoing help and support that JDRF has provided. Now, more than ever, you can make a crucial difference. With the generous help of friends, family, and local community groups we were able to reach our goal in the two years that we have been involved in this walk. Won't you please give to JDRF as generously as possible and help Joshua reach his team goal this year of \$4000.00. Together, we can make the cure a reality!

Video Link of Joshua's Journey: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HvHUswCsznY>

If you are interested, there are three ways you can help us make a difference for Joshua and for everyone living with diabetes:

1. Join our Family Team, Joshua's Journey, which consists of family and friends who collect donations and walk with us. To join the team, please visit this link for quick registration:
<http://walk.jdrf.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=extranet.personalpage&confirmid=87326138>
2. Send a tax-deductible contribution to the address below: **Please make checks payable to JDRF.** Credit Card donations to support our team can also be made online via this link:
<http://walk.jdrf.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=extranet.personalpage&confirmid=87326138>
3. Send your donation and contact others in your circle of family and friends to donate as well. If you choose to raise donations yourself, you may forward this letter or write your own.

Thank you for your support and we would be honored to see you at the Walk on September 12th!

With Sincere Thanks,
Michael Schultz, Managing Editor and Layout Editor for this Orthodox Christian *Journal*. We are members of the Pittsburgh District FOCA and St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Weirton, WV.

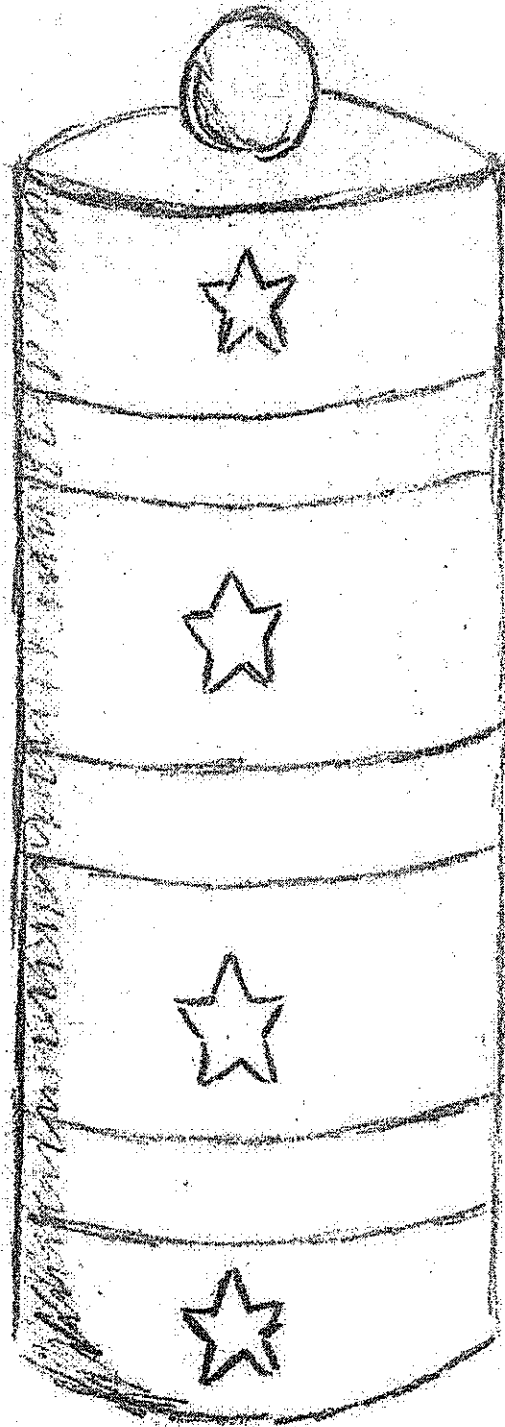
Michael & Airry Schultz
3101 Orchard Street
Weirton, WV 26062
airrymike@verizon.net
304-748-7270



On July 4th, America celebrates its Independence. Many of us have picnics or family gatherings on that day. It's fun to play games in celebration of this day.

This is a flag pole toss.

Fill a potato chip can with sand or stones to keep from topping over. Cover the can with a layer of white pasted paper. Glue a circle of blue paper and a foam ball on the lid. Glue on red and blue strips from construction paper and a few stars. Staple strips of cardboard into rings. Have guests take turns trying to ring the flag pole. Keep score. The player with the highest score wins.



**GREETINGS ON HOLY PASCHA AND HOLY PENTECOST
FROM THE SUPPORTERS OF THE
*ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN JOURNAL!***

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!

“BLESSED ART THOU O CHRIST OUR GOD, WHO HAS REVEALED THE FISHERMAN AS MOST WISE! BY SENDING DOWN UPON THEM THE HOLY SPIRIT, THROUGH THEM THOU DIDST DRAW THE WORLD INTO THY NET! O LOVER OF MAN, GLORY TO THEE!”

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**GREETINGS ON HOLY PASCHA AND HOLY PENTECOST FROM THE SUPPORTERS OF THE
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| | Jersey City "R" Club Chapter #129 Jersey City, NJ | | |

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