Orthodox Youth Enjoy Sports & Fellowship

Cleveland Hosts National Basketball Tournament
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Back Cover: The Fellowship’s 92nd National Convention and 19th OCA All-American Council

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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

TO WITNESS OUR FAITH
BY CHARITABLE WORKS
THROUGH FELLOWSHIP

PRESIDENT’S COMMENTARY

Marge Kovach
44th National FOCA President

As I prepare this, my final President’s Commentary, I can’t help but reflect fondly on the past three years. Though the challenges caused it to feel like 1,095 days; the successes made it seem like merely 156 weeks since I was elected at the historic combination 89th National FOCA Convention and 18th All-American Council in Atlanta, Georgia.

In a few short weeks, delegates will gather in St. Louis for the second combined National FOCA Convention and All-American Council and elect a new president. It has been a privilege and an honor to represent the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America, serving as the 44th National President. I look forward to working with the 45th President and executive board in my new capacity as Immediate Past President.

The successes of the past three years were possible because of dedicated members in our individual chapters and districts. I offer my heartfelt thanks to each and every one who devoted their time and talents toward the success of our charitable efforts as well as religious, educational, athletic, and social events. I owe a special thank you to the members of the executive board, in particular to Immediate Past President, Becky Tesar for her guidance and experience and Fr. Ted Boback for his advice, support, and wise voice of reason on so many occasions. By working together we can accomplish so much more! May God bless you and may God bless the FOCA!

See you in St. Louis!

Marge

CLEVELAND TO HOST SUMMER SPORTS TOURNEY IN AUGUST

This year’s national summer sports tournament will be held on August 17 & 18 and hosted by the Cleveland “R” Club, #4/6; John Mindala is chairperson. Golf will start on Friday the 17th at the Ironwood Golf Course in Hinckley, OH – www.ironwoodgolfcooursehinckleyohio.com. That evening a social is planned for St. Michael’s Shanty in Broadview Heights. The second round of golf will be played on Saturday (same course) followed by the awards banquet at the shanty. The entry form is on page 20. Fore!

FOCA CALENDAR 2018

July 8-14: National Junior Summer Sports Tournament, St. Vladimir Camp, Farmdale, OH
July 15: Annual Orthodox Family Day, Central PA District, Knoebels Amusement Resort, Elysburg, PA
July 20-23: 92nd National FOCA Convention, Union Station Hotel, St. Louis, MO (with the OCA All-American Council)
August 5-6: Annual Pilgrimage, Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration, Ellwood City, PA
August 17-18: National Summer Sports Tournament, Cleveland “R” Club, Ironwood Golf Course, Hinckley, OH
September 21: Ohio District Golf Outing to benefit St. Vladimir Camp, Sugar Bush Golf Club, Garrettsville, OH

For updates and detailed info, visit www.orthodoxfellowship.org
Your new issue of the Journal is being released just in time for our 92nd national convention in St. Louis from July 20-23 together with the OCA’s All-American Council (July 23-27). Full details were in the last edition – for updates visit the websites on the back cover. And we rerun Metropolitan Tikhon’s impressive letter endorsing the Fellowship – make copies and pass them out to clergy, delegates & alternates at the council!

This year’s national basketball tourney, hosted by the stalwart Cleveland “R” Club in April, is our cover story. Sports gal Michele Janiszewski brings us all the coverage with an overview, the games, all-stars and more. Photos are courtesy of Fr. John Memorich and St. Michael’s parish website. Many thanks to all who played, planned & participated! Also in sports, Larry Skvir reports on the Colonial District’s bowling tourney — unfortunately the national (set for Campbell) had to be cancelled for lack of registrants. Let’s keep bowling! And in August, the summer sports/golf tournament will be held in the Cleveland area and sponsored by #4/6 – the entry form is inside.

Transfiguration Monastery in Ellwood City celebrates its 50th anniversary this year and we have a comprehensive article about its founding and growth over the years, mostly drawn from its website, with a variety of photos, including one of then Sister (former Princess) Ileana speaking at an “R” Club convention. Mother Christophora, an active Fellowship member before entering it, is the current abbess. Join other FOCA members at this year’s patronal feast pilgrimage, August 5-6. Fittingly, Matushka Theodora has a word search on Mother Alexandra, the foundress, for the kids (and anyone who likes puzzles). In other convent news, Metropolitans Tikhon and Hilarion recently blessed a new monument dedicated to St. Seraphim of Sarov after liturgy at the Nove-Diveevo Convent (ROCOR) in New York State and we’ve adapted an article from oca.org.

Rounding out this issue are Palm Sunday Vespers in Bayonne (thanks Marge), transitions (we lost 2 prominent members in Marge Hopkosky, past national secretary, and noted choir director Bill Kraftician – memory eternal), a photo of 3 national spiritual advisors at St. Tikhon’s Memorial Day pilgrimage, our President’s commentary and more. Meet me (and lots of others I hope) in St. Louis! The Journal will return in September with all the convention/council coverage but, until then, enjoy the Fellowship you find on these pages!

Please contribute to this year’s St. Andrew’s Fund (formerly known as the United Fund) which is the sole source of support for the William Fekula national scholarships awarded each year at the annual convention (and also supports other charities). Enable the Fellowship to keep awarding these much-needed scholarships to our youth as they further their educations! Contribute through your chapter, by using the FOCA website’s secure online giving feature, or by mailing a check (payable to “FOCA”) directly to Michael Bowan, our national treasurer. “Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning.” Proverbs 9:9.

The Ohio District FOCA is sponsoring a benefit golf outing for the St. Vladimir Campground and Retreat Center in Farmdale, OH. When? Friday, September 21, 2018. Where? Sugar Bush Golf Club in Garrettsville, OH. The outing will be coordinated by Leon (MacDivot) Sheean. Details will follow: www.sugarbushgolfcourse.com.
FEATURE stories

New Jersey District Sponsors Palm Sunday Vespers in Bayonne

A wonderfully uplifting Palm Sunday Vespers service, sponsored by the Fellowship’s New Jersey District and hosted by Chapter #97 of Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church, Bayonne, New Jersey, was held on the evening of April 1st. An inspirational homily was given by His Eminence, Archbishop Michael, OCA bishop of New York and New Jersey, and the beautiful responses were sung by the male quartet of Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church, South River, NJ under the talented direction of Basil Kozak. The service was followed by a delightful lenten buffet and fellowship.

– submitted by National President Marge Kovach

CANCELLATIONS

This year’s FOCA national bowling tournament, which was to be the 79th annual and held from May 18-20, was cancelled. According to FOCA Communications: “Due to a lack of registrations – the 2018 National Bowling Tournament in Campbell, Ohio has been cancelled. We would like to THANK LINDA LIVOSKY and her committee in Campbell for the planning that went into the tournament up until this point.”

St. Tikhon’s Summer Camp has been cancelled this year by the OCA Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania. It has been held annually since the 1960’s on the grounds of St. Tikhon’s Monastery and Seminary. Martin Paluch was camp director from its inception to 2010. According to the camp’s website: “Our 2018 season is now canceled due to a volunteer shortage.” The camp was to have been held from July 1-7.

Agia Sophia Coffee House

Agia Sophia Coffee House, which opened in downtown Harrisburg, PA in July of 2011, is closing this summer. Its mission was Orthodox Christian outreach by selling coffee products, baked goods and used books in a relaxed setting where patrons could linger and socialize. We covered its opening in the Summer 2011 issue of the Journal. Reasons given for the closure range from local competition to higher coffee costs to location. The coffee house was established mostly through a generous grant from the Virginia H. Farah Foundation, an Orthodox Christian not-for profit corporation based in Wichita, KS. The group which operates the coffee house intends to remain active and support other charitable endeavors.
Over the weekend of April 20 – 22, 2018, the FOCA National Basketball Tournament returned to Ohio and the familiar confines of the Independence Field House in Independence, just outside of Cleveland. The excellent facilities provided the backdrop for an exciting, albeit smaller than usual tournament. Kudos to Becky and Melissa Tesar and their hardworking committee for their efforts in running another great weekend! Congratulations for handling the last minute “surprises” with efficiency and poise. Thanks to Donna Tesar and her “kitchen magicians” for manning the well-appointed concession area.

Even though the low turnout forced the cancellation of Friday night’s fun activities, the players arrived Saturday morning ready and raring to go! Tournament play was opened with a prayer and the singing of “Christ is Risen” led by Fr. John Memorich of St. Michael’s Russian Orthodox Church in nearby Broadview Heights, home of the Cleveland “R” Club, #4/6. Among those notables in attendance were FOCA National President Marge Kovach and Immediate Past President Rebecca Tesar and Past National Presidents Michael Herzak and Nick Vansuch. We also welcomed a first time team from the local Greek Orthodox Church of Saints Constantine and Helen. After rearranging some rosters to include every player present to be placed on teams, the tipoffs began. Many thanks to the coaches for their cooperation in adding “walk-ons” to their rosters at the last minute. They truly represented the spirit of fellowship at this tournament.

Saturday game play saw close games in both Junior and Bantam divisions. The roars from the stands were heard all day! There was even a tie breaker in the Senior men’s game to determine who would move to Sunday’s championship games. Following the games, Vespers were held at St. Michael’s in Broadview Heights. After services, the scene moved a short walk away to the Woodside Event Center for the excellent a n d
enjoyable banquet and dance. Becky Tesar delivered the welcoming remarks and National Sports Director Melanie Clark presented the All Star awards to players from each division. The music started and the dance floor filled with youth (and the young at heart)! We were treated to a traditional folk dance from the Greek church players with quite a few of us trying our best to join in and learn the new steps. The dance concluded with what has become a traditional circle of friendship sung to the tune of “Piano Man” by Billy Joel.

On Sunday morning, Divine Liturgy was held to a SRO congregation at St. Michael’s. A delicious brunch followed at Woodside and then off to the Fieldhouse for championship games. In closing, a special recognition goes out to the Cleveland Bantam team. They chose to divide their roster in order to play the weekend games as no other Bantam teams were present. They even chose to play a championship game. They were a shining example of the spirit behind this tournament – they just wanted to play and have fun, regardless of the circumstances. They were all winners!

**FREE THROWS** – Kinko’s and Kapusta, had one – missed the other … Who were our fashionistas? They would be Marina and Brittany who enchanted the referees … Who knew Sven and Ole could teach a valuable life lesson? … Definitely a “baby boom” seen at the courts, future players I hope … World record speed in Fr. John uploading tourney pics… Thoroughly enjoyed the fire pit meetings!
Tournament Results

Bantam Boys
Cleveland A d. Cleveland B - 42-37
Cleveland A. d Cleveland B – 47-34

Championship
Cleveland A d Cleveland B – 34-29

Junior Girls
Cleveland d Campbell – 26-18
Nevsky d Campbell – 25-18
Nevsky d. Cleveland – 31-27

Championship
Nevsky d Cleveland Campbell – 31-26

Junior Boys
Cleveland d. St. Constantine – 74-70
Campbell d. St. Constantine – 59-51
Campbell d. Cleveland – 48-45

Championship
Cleveland d. Campbell – 66-42

Senior Men
Cleveland A d. Campbell – 43-39
Cleveland B d. Cleveland C – 65-50
Cleveland B d Cleveland A – 45-31
Campbell d Cleveland C – 48-45
Tie Break Winner - Campbell

Championship
Cleveland d Campbell – 59-50

ALL STARS

Bantam Boys
Zachary Livosky – Campbell
Jake Pulcen – Cleveland
Joseph Deyling - Cleveland
Jacob Pazen – Cleveland
Nikolai Kovaluk – Cleveland

Junior Girls
Audrey Lane – Nevsky
Olivia Williams – Nevsky
Amaris Rodriguez – Campbell
Emily Gaborik – Cleveland
Nina Kovalak – Cleveland

Junior Boys
Dino Comber – SS. Constantine and Helen
Matt Bohurjak – Cleveland
Shannon Cotto – Cleveland
Eric VanCobb – Cleveland
Darion Jones – Campbell

Senior Men
Steve Kovalak – Cleveland
Mike Herzak – Cleveland
Nick Memorich – Cleveland
Andrew Zelinsky – Campbell
Stephan Elash – Campbell

MVP
Bantam Boys - Andrew Kovalak
Junior Boys - Aiden Gansert
Junior Girls – Audrey Lane
Senior Men – Mike Herzak
2018 FOCA National Basketball Tournament Champions

Bantam Boys
Cleveland A

Junior Girls
Nevsky

Junior Boys
Cleveland

Senior Men
Cleveland
This year, the Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its founding by Mother Alexandra (the former Princess Ileana of Romania) in 1967 on a rural property outside Ellwood City, Pennsylvania, about 35 miles north of Pittsburgh. It is under the jurisdiction of the Romanian Episcopate of the Orthodox Church in America; His Eminence, Archbishop Nathaniel of Detroit, is the presiding hierarch. Mother Christophora (Matychak) has been abbess since 1987.

Mother Alexandra founded the monastery in order to provide a place where American Orthodox women from all ethnic backgrounds could come to live the monastic life and benefit from a liturgical cycle in English. The desire of her heart was to provide a fountain of spiritual refreshment to the people of the country that gave her a home after her exile from Romania. She was born as Princess Ileana, the youngest daughter of King Ferdinand and Queen Marie (and great-granddaughter of Queen Victoria of England), in Bucharest, Romania in 1909. During her childhood, she lived through the harsh realities of World War I; with her mother and sisters, she would visit the soldiers in the hospitals and on troop trains, praying with them. She also helped the Red Cross as an interpreter for one of the American colonels distributing supplies.

In 1931 Ileana was married to Archduke Anton Hapsburg of Austria. She gave birth to 6 children over the course of 10 years living in Austria. During World War II, their castle was first used as housing for German Nazi troops; later she turned it into a Red Cross hospital. In 1944 she returned to Romania and lived in Bran Castle, which she had inherited from her mother. She established a new hospital – Hospital of the Queen’s Heart – across from the castle in memory of her mother which served soldiers, villagers and anyone in need of medical attention.

Ileana with her whole family was exiled from Romania in 1947 by the Communists after being told that they could either leave the country with whatever they could carry or be confined in a monastery until they were executed. The family lived in Switzerland for a short time before moving to Argentina. In 1951 she came to the United States on a medical visa with her 4 youngest children (the oldest 2 were already studying in America – she had separated from Anton), settling in a Boston suburb. U.S. Senator John F. Kennedy introduced a bill in Congress which gave her permanent residency. To provide for her family, she accepted many speaking engagements around the United States, talking about her life and the evils of Communism. (Editor’s note: Ileana spoke at an Orthodoxy Sunday celebration in Cleveland on March 25, 1956 and, after becoming Sister Ileana, she addressed an FROC national convention in the 1960’s – see photo).

In 1961, with the blessing of Metropolitan Anthony (Bloom), Ileana began testing her calling to the monastic life and entered the Monastery of the Protecting Veil of the Mother of God in Bussy, France. She remained in this monastery for 6 years, visiting the United States each
summer to maintain her permanent residency status. While here she would teach at the Romanian Vatra about Orthodoxy and monasticism, and it became clear to her that America needed an English-speaking monastery for women. Sister Ileana purchased a 100-acre property of lovely meadow and wooded land near Ellwood City in 1964 and then in 1967, after she was tonsured into the monastic life as Mother Alexandra, she returned to Ellwood City to remain and established the Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration. There were some modest buildings on the property and a chapel was added. Over the years the sisterhood gradually grew in size and other structures were built. Mother Alexandra was able to visit her homeland of Romania in 1990 after the fall of Communism the previous year. She continued to correspond with members of the European Royal Families, including Queen Elizabeth II, and would regularly receive packages from Buckingham Palace to the astonishment of the local post office!

In the 1980s, Mother Alexandra retired for reasons of health and Mother Benedicta became abbess. On January 21, 1991, Mother Alexandra reposed in the Lord and was buried in the monastery cemetery. At her request, the following verse was engraved on her tombstone: “None of us lives to himself and none of us dies to himself. If we live, we live to the Lord and if we die we die to the Lord, so then whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s.” (Romans 14:7).

Publications by Mother Alexandra include: *The Holy Angels, I Live Again, Hospital of the Queen’s Heart, “The Lord’s Prayer,” “The Symbol of Faith – Meditations on the Nicene Creed,” and “Introduction to the Jesus Prayer.”*

Ancient Faith has just released a reprint (with new material) of *I Live Again*, her memoir written shortly after relocating to the United States in the 1950’s. “It tells the story of a life full of suffering, tragedy and exile but all is infused with the author’s deep faith, hope, love and even joy. This reprint includes additional material collected by the nuns of her monastery that sets the memoir in the context of Mother Alexandra’s later life.” It’s $24.95 and may be ordered at store.ancientfaith.com or 800-967-7377.

Mother Christophora is the third and current abbess of the monastery. She was born in an Orthodox family in Lopez, Pennsylvania (about an hour northwest of Wilkes-Barre) and was very active in her parish as a child and young adult. She always had a great love for the Church and a great desire to serve in some way. She attended Penn State University and received a Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology and then worked in the addictions field (as a counselor and an administrator) for 7 years. (Editor’s note: she was based in Harrisburg and was very active at Christ the Saviour Church and with its Fellowship chapter, #199, even hosting a picnic meeting at her home!). She knew of the monastery since its founding, having read about it in Orthodox newspapers and received its publication, “Life Transfigured,” in the mail.

Her first visit to the monastery, while in the area on a business trip in 1981, resulted...
in a life-changing experience ... she fell in love! Not in the usual way, but in love with a way of life that spoke to her soul and to her personality. After 2 years of frequent visits, Mother Benedicta convinced her it was good to enter the monastic community while she was still young, and not when she was old and the nuns would have to take care of her! Mother Christophora became a novice in 1983 (Editor’s note: just after her sister’s wedding so she could dance at it – true story) and took her monastic vows in 1986. After Mother Benedicta retired as abbess in 1987, Mother Christophora was elected abbess and installed by Archbishop Nathaniel on August 6, 1987. She continues as the spiritual mother to the monastic community today.

As the community has grown, Mother Christophora has overseen many building projects during her time as abbess to meet the needs of the sisters and all the pilgrims who visit. The expanded main building now includes a beautiful church where visitors are welcome to join the nuns for morning and evening services or come for quiet personal prayer; a small chapel for the nuns; a large dining room where the main meal is served for nuns and guests; a hospitality room where visitors can relax and enjoy fellowship; a comfortable library housing an extensive collection of books and magazines which guests are welcome to use during their stay; a gift shop with books, icons and religious articles; Saint Innocent’s Room which functions as a multipurpose room or overflow dining room; and the private living quarters for the nuns. In addition to the main building there are guesthouses, including the newly built Tabor House, for overnight guests; a playhouse for children; a pavilion for outdoor worship; a large picnic gazebo; a cemetery for clergy and monastics; and a paved parking lot.

The monastery hosts several yearly retreats and pilgrimages, including a college/young adults retreat on New Year’s Eve and the annual Transfiguration pilgrimage on August 5-6, its patronal feast. Given its proximity to the Pittsburgh area, West Virginia and Ohio, many Fellowship members visit the monastery, especially at Transfiguration. That pilgrimage includes a lengthy vigil service followed by a meal on the eve of the feast. The next morning an early akathist (“Glory to God for All Things”) is celebrated in the monastery church followed by a procession to the outdoor pavilion for the festal Divine Liturgy and blessing of fruit. A complimentary luncheon is served to all pilgrims. In the afternoon, a lecture is often held and then a healing service. Pilgrims spend the day on the beautiful grounds, visiting the cemetery, browsing in the gift shop or just relaxing in the gazebo. Vespers concludes the day.

Last year, Antiochian Bishop Thomas presided over the Divine Liturgy accompanied by several priests. The monastery choir sang the responses. Later in the church, Father Daniel Ressetar, past national spiritual advisor, delivered a dramatic monologue as the Wise Thief (a video of which is on the monastery website). Numerous FOCA members participated, including Dr. John Schultz, past national president, and your editor.

Upon his retirement as dean and professor at St. Vladimir’s Seminary in 2002, Father Thomas Hopko and his wife, Matushka Anne, moved to a home near the monastery where he often served and preached. When Father Tom became ill in 2014, the nuns provided him with loving care and support; he reposed in the Lord on March 18, 2015. Hundreds of clergy and faithful,
including many seminary alumni and supporters, converged on the monastery for a series of services and visitations culminating in the funeral and burial services presided over by Metropolitan Tikhon; Dean Father John Behr gave the eulogy and Mother Christophora delivered remarks the evening before. He is buried in the monastery cemetery together with Mother Alexandra, Archbishop Kirill and others.

The monastery’s 50th year celebration opened with the dedication and blessing of Tabor House, a new facility with several private bedrooms and a common area for guests, on February 2nd, the feast of the Meeting of the Lord. The Founder’s Day celebration occurred on April 28th, which marked the 50th year of the community’s establishment, and remembered the founders, donors and benefactors. Especially remembered during the Paschal Divine Liturgy was Mother Alexandra, the foundress. Worshipers filled the monastery church as Mother Christophora spoke about the significant founders and contributors to the monastery’s history after which 8 priests gathered in the nave to offer memorial prayers. After liturgy a brunch was served in the refectory for pilgrims. The annual pilgrimage will be held on Sunday and Monday, August 5th and 6th, in conjunction with the feast of the Lord’s Transfiguration; Archbishop Nathaniel is expected to preside. And a celebration marking the 50th anniversary of the consecration of the monastery’s altar is set for September 28-29. Make plans now to attend and participate!

Transfiguration Monastery is a vibrant Orthodox Christian monastic community for women and extends warm hospitality to visitors. Mother Christophora and the nuns continue the publication, “Life Transfigured,” broadcast their services over the internet, give retreats and lectures on the road, and keep a busy schedule of events. Please visit their website at: www.orthodoxmonasteryellwoodcity.org.

SOURCES:
monastery website, oca.org & Ancient Faith

Sister Ileana receives a standing ovation after her banquet speech
At the invitation of Metropolitan Hilarion, first hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia (ROCOR), Metropolitan Tikhon concelebrated the Divine Liturgy at the Novo-Diveevo Stavropegial Convent of the Holy Dormition in Nanuet, NY on the Sunday of All Saints, June 3, 2018. Concelebrating with the metropolitans were Bishop Nicholas of Manhattan (ROCOR) and Bishop Irinej of the Serbian Orthodox Church (Eastern America Diocese). Bishop John of Naro-Fominsk, administrator of the Patriarchal Parishes in the USA, joined the other hierarchs for the procession and the blessing of a new monument dedicated to Saint Seraphim of Sarov following liturgy.

The monument was installed near the entrance to the convent’s main Cathedral of Saint Seraphim of Sarov. Enshrined in the cathedral are an icon of the Vladimir Mother of God – a gift to the convent’s founder, the late Archbishop Andre of Rockland, from Elder Nektarios of Russia’s Optina Pustyn Monastery, two icons of Christ that belonged to Tsar Nicholas II, and a cross from the Ipatiev House in Ekaterinburg where members of Russia’s last royal family were martyred. The convent also houses the famed full-length portrait of Saint Seraphim, the only painting done in his lifetime.

The new monument, a gift from Russia’s “Dialogue of Cultures – One World,” was presented with the aim of strengthening the spiritual ties between the Moscow Patriarchate and ROCOR as well as the cultural ties between the Russian Federation and the United States. “Once, still during his lifetime, Saint Seraphim of Sarov addressed the Orthodox and said that when we have a disturbance in our heart, we can go to him even after his death at his grave and speak with him,” Metropolitan Hilarion said in reflecting on the spiritual significance of the monument. “And now the people can come here, sit in quiet and pray, and ask for help as to the living.” “Today, as we gather to honor Saint Seraphim in this holy place, we thank God for the miracles of faith and renewal all around us,” Metropolitan Tikhon responded. “We are especially thankful for the renewal of monastic life at Diveevo, Russia; for the finding of the relics of Saint Seraphim and their presence now at Diveevo; and for the freedom to be witnesses to the Risen Christ in America.” A picnic followed on the grounds. Later that evening, an elegant reception was held in New York at the Russian Federation’s Consulate General. Sergei Ovsyannikov, consul general, delivered remarks emphasizing the importance of spreading Russian cultural and spiritual values to the New World.

Located about an hour north of New York City on over 40 acres of land, the convent was founded in October 1949 by Father Adrian Rimarenko (later Archbishop Andre). The convent’s name – Novo-Diveevo – recalls the Diveevo Women’s Monastery in Russia that was closely associated with Saint Seraphim during his lifetime. During the Soviet era, the monastery had been closed and desecrated while its nuns were driven out, exiled and martyred. It was subsequently returned to the Church and fully restored. Novo-Diveevo was established in an effort to preserve the living memory and tradition of Saint Seraphim and Diveevo. Over the years, the convent has been home to many nuns from various parts of the world.

The convent also has a second, smaller church; retreat house; old age home; book nook and welcome center; and the largest Russian Orthodox cemetery outside Russia with nearly 8,000 graves. Among the prominent persons buried there are Alexandra Tolstoy, daughter of writer Leo Tolstoy, a niece and nephew of Tsar Nicholas II, Father Seraphim Slobodsky, author of The Law of God, and the wife and family of Baron Wrangel, the commanding general of the White Russian Army in the civil war. Visit the convent’s website at www.novo-diveevo.org for more information including the schedule of services.

SOURCES: adapted from oca.org; monastery website; eadiocese.org
On Saturday, April 14, St. Stephen’s OCF, Chapter 82, hosted the annual Colonial District Bowling Tournament at Laurel Lanes in Mt. Laurel, NJ. Laurel Lanes is a great facility and has been the locale for a national F.O.C.A. Bowling Tournament as well as previous Colonial District Bowling Tournaments.

The tournament was chaired by our Mark Skuby, who lives just down the road in Mt. Laurel.

Due to prior commitments and physical ailments, the number of teams and participants from the Colonial District wasn’t up to our usual standard. Four men’s teams and two women’s teams did compete, however.

As has been the usual practice for Colonial District bowling tournaments, the first game was scratch bowling while the second and third games were both 9 tap. Because of the limited number of bowlers, teams were comprised of three bowlers instead of the usual four bowlers.

After the pins had all settled and the bowlers adjourned to Holy Cross Orthodox Church in Medford, NJ, for the awards dinner, Mark Skuby announced the prize winners. St. Stephen’s Men’s team #1 had a winning score of 1657, followed by St. Stephen’s Men’s team #2 with a score of 1,470. Trenton Women’s team #1 registered a score of 990 and Trenton Women’s team #2 had a score of 792.

Individually, the Cox family from St. Stephen’s, as usual, bowled their best. Kate Cox had the women’s high series (413) and high first game (129). Francine Brady from Trenton had the high 9 tap game (190).

Andre Cox had the men’s high series (640) and high first game (216). John Ihnat from St. Mark chapter in Bethesda, MD had the high 9 tap game (234).

After dinner was finished and the bowling prizes were awarded, the drawing was held for annual Colonial District stock awards, which continue to be the primary source of funding for the district. Lucky winners from tickets sold by the St. Mark chapter won the respective $200, $100, and $50 prizes. Mark Skuby, tournament chairman, thanked everyone for coming to participate today and invited the bowlers to stay for Saturday evening vespers.

Submitted by Larry Skvir
FELLOWSHIP OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS IN AMERICA
2018 NATIONAL SUMMER SPORTS TOURNAMENT
August 17-18, 2018
Sponsored by: Cleveland R Club
Chairperson: John Mindala 440-582-0715(H) 330-338-3917(C)
Open to all FOCA/Orthodox Christians
All Saturday entrants must purchase Banquet Ticket
Junior participants covered by the Sutyak Fund

SEND ALL ENTRIES TO:
Anthony Schultz
4877 Founders Dr.
Groveport OH 43125
(614) 30-0492(H)
(614) 477-5240(C)
anthpschultz@gmail.com

ENTRY DEADLINE
August 1, 2018

Name ______________________ Chapter No. ______ District/Orthodox Parish ________________________
Address __________________________________________ Apt. _____ City __________________________ State _____ Zip __________
E-Mail ___________________________________________ Phone (____) __________

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Handicap Average</th>
<th>1-Day Friday $41</th>
<th>1-Day Saturday $41</th>
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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.

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

Applicant Signature __________________________________________________________

GRAND TOTAL ENCLOSED

Make all checks payable to Cleveland R Club
Include Banquet Tickets for each name listed on this form.

Friday Night
Social at St. Michael’s Shanty – Pizza and beverages provided
5025 E. Mill Road Broadview Heights, OH 44147

Recommended Hotel
Hilton Double Tree
6200 Quarry Lane
Independence, Ohio 44131
216-447-1300

GOLFIN
Ironwood Golf Course – 445 State Road Hinckley OH 44233
Phone: 330-278-7171
www.ironwoodgolfcoursehinckleyohio.com
Tee Time will begin at 11 a.m. Friday and Saturday
Banquet immediately following golf at St. Michael’s Shanty
DEPARTED: Margaret “Marge” Hopkosky, who had been active in multiple areas of national, diocesan, pan-Orthodox and parish life, including the FOCA/FROC, fell asleep in the Lord at the age of 95 on Sunday, March 24, 2018, the eve of the Annunciation of the Mother of God, in Parma, OH. The daughter of the late Vasil and Justina (Szet) Hopkosky, Marge served as secretary at the chancery of the OCA Diocese of the Midwest in the 1980’s during the episcopate of the late Bishop Boris (Geeza) and was active in many other diocesan initiatives. She was a long-time member of the Federated Russian Orthodox Clubs, now the FOCA, in which she held a variety of positions nationally, including national recording secretary, as well as in the Ohio District and her home chapter, the Cleveland “R” Club, #4/6. For many years Marge served on the board of the former Orthodox Society of America (OSA), including as national secretary, and was a trusted advisor to its president, George Lichvarik. She was a tireless worker at her parish, St. Michael’s Church in Broadview Heights, OH, having assumed many posts, including that of unofficial historian, organizing the church’s archives and historical items and even translating records from Carpatho-Rusyn and Russian into English. Marge is also remembered as a faithful assistant to Father Vladimir Prislopsky, longtime pastor (and 1st FROC president), and his wife, Matushka Anne, during their lengthy ministry; she was instrumental in organizing a special commemoration of the 40th anniversary of Father’s repose in 2010. A parishioner since 1922, Marge told the media at the event: “His leadership was so great that we built from nothing and had so much in the end. His life was the church first and his family second. He was lucky to have a family that was understanding. I was 13 when he came to the church. Everyone loved Father. He was like a real Father to all of us. He knew his people.” And she was actively involved with Cleveland’s Orthodox Christian Women’s Guild and a number of related organizations and ministries. In recognition of her devotion to the life of the Church, she was awarded a Synodal gramota in March 1968 and the Order of Saint Innocent, Bronze Class, by Metropolitan Herman in 2002.

Professionally, Marge was employed for many years at The Plain Dealer, Cleveland’s newspaper, and endlessly championed the promotion and publication of Orthodox Christian activities, anniversaries and parish events throughout the Cleveland area and beyond. In addition to her parents, Marge was predeceased by her brothers John and Basil, sisters Helen and Mary, and niece Eugenia Bobkins (Dr. George). She is survived by her great-nephews Stephen and Michael Bobkins and great-niece Georgina Bobkins. Funeral services were celebrated at her church by Father John Memorich, rector, and interment followed at St. Theodosius Cemetery in Brooklyn, OH. She truly was a “woman of the Church” as the old Russian saying goes. May Marge’s memory be eternal!

SOURCES: adapted from oca.org; quotation from cleveland.com; photo from Diocese of Midwest newsletter, “The Vigil”

DEPARTED: William S. Kraftician departed this life on June 8, 2018 after a brief illness at a health-care facility near his home in Whippany, NJ. Bill was a well-known church choir director and music composer/arranger, having directed several parish choirs in the Philadelphia and New Jersey areas as well as choirs for special events. He was instrumental in the transition to English-language liturgical music and was involved in the original FROC choir conferences at the Ohio District camp and elsewhere. His arrangement of the “Trisagion” is heard on the noted 1970’s recording “From My Youth: An American Orthodox Journey” by the St. John’s Girls Octet of Warren, OH (now on CD). Bill also worked for the Church in Alaska in many ways, including directing choirs, and often traveled there in the summer leading groups on pilgrimages. A longtime FROC/FOCA member, he together with wife, Sonia, participated in numerous events such as the annual Novogodny Ball, national conventions, New Jersey District gatherings and raising funds for Alaska. And Bill was a singer and board member of “The Spirit of Orthodoxy Choir” based in Jersey City.

Father Stephen Kaznica, pastor of SS. Peter & Paul Russian Orthodox Cathedral, Passaic, NJ wrote the following moving tribute: “Bill was an exceptionally gifted choir director, a true gentleman, and a faithful Orthodox Christian who served the Church tirelessly. He was a man who returned back to the Lord the talents that He had been given[.] It was only a few days ago that Bill contacted me with a request for prayers as he was facing a grave illness, but it pleased the Lord to take him quickly from among us. At every Liturgy we pray for a Christian ending to our life, and the Lord granted that to Bill. It’s hard to find someone today who labors so diligently and joyfully for the sake of Christ and His Holy Church as Bill did. Whenever and wherever he was needed, whether it was at his own parish at Holy Trinity in Randolph or somewhere else, whether it was a complicated project or simply filling in for another choir director, Bill was always at the ready. His gentle ways and professionalism could keep any choir in line, and that’s no easy task. In 2012 our parish held a full Triumph of Orthodoxy service, with concelebrating hierarchs and clergy from the Moscow Patriarchate, the Russian Church Outside of Russia, and the Orthodox Church in America, with a choir comprised of members from all three jurisdictions. Certainly, it was a historic occasion, but Bill readily took on the task of directing what was a very complicated service, and the result was absolutely beautiful and flawless. In spite of his many talents and myriad of life experiences, Bill was a very humble man who you could sit down with and converse about anything, and I recall our conversations with fondness. To say that he’ll be missed is an understatement......such faithful servants of the Church are hard to come by these days. May the Lord say: ‘Well done! Enter thou into My Kingdom.’”

Bill is survived by his wife, Sonia, among others. Funeral services were conducted at his parish, Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in Randolph, NJ, by Father David Fox with interment at St. Tikhon’s Monastery Cemetery in South Canaan, PA. Condolences may be sent to Sonia and family at 52 Reynolds Avenue, Whippany, NJ 07981-1229. May Bill’s memory be eternal!

BIRTH: A baby boy, John Joseph Mindala III, was born to John and Angelika (Delimaris) Mindala on Bright Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at 11:09 a.m. He weighed 8 pounds and was 20 inches in length. The proud father works for the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America (Archons staff) in New York City and the happy mother was formerly FOCA communications director. Congratulations and many years, μακάρια λεγε, χρόνια πολλά!

– submitted by Melissa Tesar
Mother Alexandra (Princess Ileana of Romania)

This year, the Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration in Ellwood City, PA is celebrating its 50th year. This monastery for women was founded by Mother Alexandra, who had been a princess in the country of Romania. Princess Ileana (as she was known) left Romania during a time of trouble after World War II. She came to America and, after some years, she knew that her calling was to be a nun. Mother Alexandra founded the monastery and paid for the land by selling her tiara, a type of crown worn by royalty. When she was a child she tells of seeing angels at the foot of her bed dressed in pastel colors. The current head of the monastery is Mother Christophora. We wish her and the nuns many blessed years!

FIND THE UNDERLINED WORDS IN THE WORD SEARCH BELOW

O P F A R H I D
B R D R W I S H
E I H D R G T Z
V N U N O S I K
S C U A M L A T
W S Y X A E R B
O S F E N G A L
K S M L I N R G
H J Q A A A P K
To the Rectors and Pastors of the Orthodox Church in America:
Dear Fathers, Beloved in the Lord,

Since its founding, the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America has been engaged in expanding the mission of Christ’s Church here in North America, and has been a key partner in the evangelistic work of the Orthodox Church in America. By being one of the first organizations to make available Orthodox literature in the English Language; by producing and publishing Sunday School materials, and by training and encouraging a generation of young people in the sacred choral traditions of our Orthodox Church FOCA has established itself as one of the most important fellowships of the Orthodox Church in America.

As the fellowship celebrates over ninety years of service to the Orthodox Church we anticipate the work of FOCA will continue to bear fruit most especially in working with our youth and young adults, and with continued charitable efforts on behalf of our seminaries and mission parishes. The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America has always served, embraced and welcomed all members of the Orthodox Church in America. We invite every member of the Orthodox Church in America to inquire into the good works of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America so that those works might be multiplied across the entirety of the Orthodox Church in America. By working together, we can more easily continue on our path to expand the mission of Christ and His Church here in North America. We hope you will consider offering your time and talents to the fellowship and become part of the great legacy that is the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America.

In Christ,

+ Tikhon
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada
RECYCLE!
Use This Issue To Encourage New Membership

POSTMASTER - If Undeliverable
Please Send Form 3579 To: Orthodox Christian JOURNAL • c/o 892 Scott Street • Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705

The Fellowship's 92nd National Convention
JULY 20-23, 2018
OrthodoxFellowship.org

19th All-American Council
Orthodox Church in America
JULY 23-27, 2018
19aac.oca.org

UNION STATION HOTEL
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI