

The Barbara J.Olender Scholarship

A role model....an example of dedication and caring...an inspiration....

In an effort to familiarize the parish with this scholarship, I spoke to Barbara's husband Bernie and received permission to write this article. As she was a relatively new member at St. Luke, many parishioners probably did not know her well enough to know details about her background. Barbara was a cheer leader for education. Because of that, her husband and children have set up an annual scholarship in her memory to be given to a student who is a member of St. Luke and whose field of study is education or areas related to education.

Barbara was a long-time member of St. Nicholas Church in Enfield, CT. Her parish participation included being the parish organist, a Sunday school teacher, and a member of the parish council. At the time of her death on January 31, 2014, she was a member of St. Luke. While a member of St. Luke, Barbara attended Liturgy regularly and attended and participated in many church events.

Barbara grew up in Ludlow, MA and was valedictorian of her high school class. She went on to receive her Bachelor's degree from Fitchburg State College and her Master's degree from Central Connecticut State University. Barbara felt education was the pinnacle of life. You could see this in her zest for learning as well as her enthusiasm for teaching.

Barbara was born with spina bifida and was told that by age 30, she would be restricted to a wheel chair. This was her main reason for going into the field of special education. She taught at Memorial School in West Springfield from 1964 to 1969. In 1968, Grade Teacher Magazine named her one of the top 150 Special Education teachers in the United States. This was only one of the many awards and recognitions she received during her teaching career. In 1982, Barbara began teaching in the Enfield, CT school system and continued teaching there until her retirement in 2000. In the years prior to retirement, she was a special education teacher at John F. Kennedy Middle School where she was known and loved as a role model. Due to her own physical condition, she was able to identify and help others who were dealing with physical and cognitive conditions that might affect their ability or will to learn. And that she did well.....

If you are a student studying in the field of education and/or its related fields (see listing of all areas below) and are interested in applying for this scholarship, please call the church office for more information. You may apply for a scholarship as a high school

senior, at any point during your college/graduate school career, or if you are a student in a continuing studies program.

Eligible Fields of Study:

Elementary/Secondary Education
Early Childhood Education
Special Education
Remedial Reading and/or Writing and Instruction
Speech Pathology
School Guidance
Linguistics
Certification in specific disciplines (i.e. Math, Social Studies, Science)
Theology/Divinity
Occupational Therapy
Technology in Education
Curriculum Development/Instruction
Education Administration
Child, Family, and School Social Work
Librarian
Learning Disorders
Ongoing Professional Certification as Related to Education

THE BARBARA J. OLENDER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Barbara J. Olender Memorial Scholarship is given in memory of Barbara Olender to a high school senior, college/graduate student, or a student in a continuing studies program pursuing studies in education or its related fields.

Her family wishes to honor the memory of Barbara and her accomplishments with a scholarship of \$500.00 each year to a student who meets the following criteria:

- Is a high school senior; full or part time college/graduate student; or a student in a continuing studies program pursuing studies at an accredited institution in the field of education and its related areas (see listing)
- Has a minimum combined GPA of 3.2
- Has/had been actively involved in the ministries of Saint Luke or Saint Nicholas in Enfield, CT (i.e., Altar duty, choir, GOYA, Sunday School etc.)
- If applicable, the parent/s of the applicant have been stewards of Saint Luke or Saint Nicholas for at least three years
- Must be an Orthodox Christian
- Studies must begin no later than September of this year
- The course of study is for not less than two (2) years.

The deadline for applications is May 15th. A decision will be made and announced at Graduation Sunday.

Instructions for Filing Application

1. All information requested must be provided and must accompany this application:
 - Official Transcripts of Coursework
 - Letter of acceptance to institution of higher learning or registrar's report
 - Saint Luke/St. Nicholas parish involvement response
 - Two short essay questions (see application)
2. It is the responsibility of the applicant to submit all material requested to the Barbara J. Olender Memorial Scholarship Committee by May 15th.
3. Please submit completed application and supporting material either via email to, saintlukego@gmail.com, or via regular mail to:

Saint Luke Greek Orthodox Church
Attn: Barbara J. Olender Memorial
Scholarship 400 Prospect Street (PO Box 381)
East Longmeadow, MA 01028

Evaluation of Application

1. The applications will be reviewed by the Barbara J. Olender Memorial Scholarship Committee.
2. The evaluation of the application will be based on the following criteria:
 - Academic record
 - Church participation
 - Application essays

APPLICATION *(The application is 5 pages long, pgs. 5-9. Please ensure you complete all pages and questions)*

Please write or type the following information:

Name:

Address:

Current Grade and School/program:

Have you previously received the Barbara J. Olender Memorial Scholarship?

Are you enrolled in an Educational Studies program?

Such a program may include, but is not limited to, a degree or certification in the following:

- Early Childhood Education
- Elementary/Secondary Education
- Special Education
- Remedial Reading and/or Writing and Instruction
- Speech Pathology
- School Guidance
- Linguistics
- Certification in specific disciplines (i.e., Math, Social Studies, Science)
- Theology/Divinity
- Occupational Therapy
- Technology in Education
- Curriculum Instruction/Development
- Education Administration
- Child, Family, and School Social Work
- Librarian
- Learning Disorders
- Ongoing Professional Certification as related to Education

Please answer the following question:

1. In what ministries at Saint Luke or Saint Nicholas have you been involved, when, for how long, and in what manner? Please describe.

Please answer two of the following questions (no more than 250 words each):

1. What reason(s) draws you to your field of study?

2. What supplementary courses might you take to support your studies; or, how do you see other coursework supporting this major?

3. How do you see the role of technology in education?