UCHI News

UCHI Hosts Two Open World Delegations

- UCHI hosted two delegations through the Open World program this year. The first took place in March and was full of positive impressions and developments. The second group came to America in October, and while it posed the organization quite a number of challenges, it proved to be a learning experience nonetheless.
- Dozens of Americans in our community, be they home hosts or presenters, have participated in the Open World and the Community Connections Program before that over the years, contributing to its success by providing to their utmost ability the best which they have to offer their guests. Their participation has not been mo-

tivated by a desire for selfish gain – rather it has come from a sense of good will and a belief in the power of citizen diplomacy.

- Throughout the years, sentiments expressing increased understanding and a relief to have moved past the old Cold War sense of being enemies have been oftvoiced. The concept that the people of Ukraine and the people of America have more in common than not has been mentioned often throughout the years with both conviction and hope. There are differences between our countries, however, and bridging cultural differences is not as easy as either side would hope. Years of being on opposite sides of the Cold War, aspects of culture shock, the limited amount of time the delegates have to study and truly absent American culture and hard hald process.



Open World Program Delegates enjoyed a tour of the Ukrainian Nationality Room at the University of Pittsburgh with Maxine Bruhns (third from left) in March. (l-r): Tetyana Dobrovols'ka, Ol'ha Tsibizova, Ms. Bruhns, Ismet Ismaylov, facilitator Kateryna Timinska, Ol'ha Pavlova, and Inna Sheremet.

sorb American culture, and hard-held preconceived notions of America cannot be broken down so quickly and neatly. Fortunately, a long-term commitment to mutual understanding has been forged and is being nurtured by these valuable citizen diplomacy efforts. The seeds that are planted may take time to bear fruit, but time has shown these attempts to work together for a better future are not in vain.

OW5 (March 19 - 27, 2010) Highlights:

- The Open World Program is a "two-way street" whereby Americans learn as much about Ukraine as our Ukrainian guests do about America. For example, US hosts were surprised to learn of the differences in working conditions between American and Ukrainian physicians. Representatives of the Allegheny County Health Department were surprised to learn of the large number of people infected by tuberculosis in Ukraine at the present time. They discovered that their Ukrainian colleagues treat only actively sick patients as the lack of funds does not allow them to treat infected patients, since they usually get infected again within a year.
- American non-profit organizations learned that their Ukrainian colleagues do not get any funds from the Ukrainian government. All financial help comes from private donors or international organizations. American hosts gained more appreciation for the support they receive from various governmental agencies through the availability of grants and the like. *(continued on page 2)*

Inside this issue:

Open World Program (continued)

Програма «Відкритий Світ»

Learn Ukrainian!

Volunteer Ukrainian! 3

Speak Ukrainian!

Shop Ukrainian!

Thank You's

Keep an "I" on UCHI

UCHI continually adjusts the focus of its operations in order to remain responsive to the needs of its constituents. Future plans include: Creating an endowment fund to provide a basic level of services well into the future: Updating and adding to its current catalog of publications; Continuing to host Open World delegations; and more!

Open World Delegations

(continued from page 1)

OW6 (October 13 - 23, 2010) Highlights:

- The theme of this group was journalism, and UCHI took advantage of the opportunity to self-nominate delegates for the first time. Trusted in-country partners from Donets'k provided assistance in gathering applications and making recommendations for participants. The delegation's program included in-depth discussions of issues regarding freedom of the press; the role of non-profit organizations in open, democratic societies; transparency in elections; and recreational activities for youth and tourism. Host organizations included the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, Point Park University's School of Journalism, League of Women Voters, Howard Heinz Endowment, Greater Pittsburgh Convention and Visitors' Bureau, Allegheny County Regional Asset District, KQV Radio, Pittsburgh Business Times, Bayer Center for Non-Profit Management at Robert Morris University, and the University of Pittsburgh's Center for Russian and East European Studies (REES). ■
- Цього року УКГІ приймав дві групи українських громадських лідерів по програмі «Відкритий Світ». Перша делегація відвіала Пітсбург в березні, отримавши надзвичайно позитивні враження від спілкування з своїми американськими колегами. Друга група приїхала в жовтні і УКГІ мала певні труднощі у задоволенні потреб наших гостей. Проте, це теж був повчалний досвід.
- Десятки американців з нашої спільноти, будучи приймаючими родинами чи доповідачами беруть участь у програмі «Відкритий Світ» вже протягом багатьох років. Їхня щедрість і гостинність завжди були підвалинами успіху програми. Важливо відзначити, що участь американців у тренинговій програмі «Відкритий Світ» повністтю будуєть-ся на їхній добрій волі. Вони не отримують жодних фінансових заохочень, приймаючи наших українських гостей.
- Вже протягом багатьох років учасники програми «Відкритий Світ» висловлюють думку про краще розуміння американського життя. Поняття холодної війни і ворожого ставлення відходять у минуле. Багаторічний досвід програми показує, що американці і українці поділяють багато спільного. Звичайно є і відмінності які ми намагаємося подолати, прокладуючи міст між двома націями. Ідеї холодної війни, культурний шок, короткий період часу перебування українських гостей і їхні стериотипи про США не можуть бути усунуті легко і швидко. Нащастя, взаємне бажання людей до порозуміння і пізнання один одного відкриває довготривалі перспективи. Зерна цього бажання вже посіяні і з часом з'являться плоди. Час і досвід показує, що всі намагання до співпраці задля кращого майбутнього не змарновані.

«Відкритий Світ» 5 (березень 19-27, 2010)

- Програма «Відкритий Світ» це "вулиця з двостороннім рухом," де американці пізнають Україну, а наші українські гості Америку. Наприклад: американський медичний персонал був здивований різницею в умовах праці їх українських колег. Представники департаменту по охороні здоров'я округа алегені довідалися про велику кількість хворих на туберкульоз в Україні. Американські лікарі дізналися, що їхні українські колеги лікують лише активно хворих паціентів. Фінансова скрута не дає можливості лікарям лікувати всіх заражених паціентів.
- Американські неприбуткові організації взнали, що їхні українські колеги не отримують жодної фінансової допомоги від уряду. Вся їхня фінансова допомога надходить від приватних жертводавців і міжнародних організацій. Ця інформація примусила американських фахівців більше цінувати підтримку, що надходить від урядових агенств і фундацій.

«Відкритий Світ» б (жовтень 13-23, 2010)

Тема цієї групи була журналізм і УКГІ вперше отримав можливість вибрати делегатів. Наші партнери з Донецька допомогли у виборі і надали рекомендації учасникам. Програма делегації включала поглиблені дискусії на тему свободи преси, ролі неприбуткових організацій у відкритому і демократичному суспільстві, прозорості виборів, а також відпочинку молоді і туризму. В загальному, делегати відвідали такі організації: the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, Point Park University's School of Journalism, League of Women Voters, Howard Heinz Endowment, Greater Pittsburgh Convention and Visitors' Bureau, Allegheny County Regional Asset District, KQV Radio, Pittsburgh Business Times, Bayer Center for Non-Profit Management at Robert Morris University, and the University of Pittsburgh's Center for Russian and East European Studies (REES). ■

Page 2 UCHI News

Learn Ukrainian!

Since its inception in the mid-1970s, almost 800 students have enrolled in Ukrainian language study at the University of Pittsburgh, which includes courses in Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced Ukrainian plus Intensive Ukrainian through the Summer Language Institute. There are many options available to students to take advantage of these courses and not just for students enrolled at the University of Pittsburgh. For example:

- Students enrolled at Carlow University, Carnegie Mellon University, Chatham University, Community College of Allegheny County, Duquesne University, LaRoche College, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Point Park University, and Robert Morris University can cross register at Pitt and earn credit for the Ukrainian courses at their own college or university.
- Non degree path students can register in Pitt's College of General Studies and take the Ukrainian courses for credit.
- Adults age 50 or more can take the Ukrainian courses under the financially advantageous Osher Foundation Life Long Institute.
- Finally, persons may audit the courses for no credit through the College of General Studies.

For further information about taking advantage of these unique educational opportunities contact Chris Metil at the Slavic Department (412) 624.5714. ■

Volunteer Ukrainian!



<u>Oral History Project</u>: Help collect oral histories to preserve for research and documentation purposes.

<u>Home Host</u>: "Citizen diplomats" welcome foreign guests to their homes, providing a separate bedroom for their guests plus breakfast and an occasional dinner. Home stay placements generally last between five and ten days and most visits take place between June and November.

<u>Driver:</u> Drivers assist with transportation for Open World Training Program groups in the mornings and evenings.

Practice Ukrainian!

The University of Pittsburgh's Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures begun to sponsor a weekly "Ukrainian Language Table" at the Panera Bread restaurant on Forbes Avenue in Oakland in the Fall 2010 semester. It is run by instructor Joel Brady and takes place on Monday evenings beginning at 6:00 PM. For more information on this informal learning opportunity: jcb33@pitt.edu.

Shop Ukrainian!

UCHI's Ukrainian Gift Shop is located in the offices of the Ukrainian Selfreliance of Western Pennsylvania Federal Credit Union - 95 South 7th Street on Pittsburgh's South Side. The shop contains cook books, gerdany (hand-beaded necklaces), greeting cards, music CDs, picture books, pysanky, reverse glass paintings, wooden boxes, and more! Open during credit union office hours (412) 481.1865, gifts and educational publications can also be ordered by mail by contacting uchi@uchi.us.

- 1. <u>Ukrainians of Western Pennsylvania</u> available now! Get your autographed copy of this book which is part of Arcadia Publishing's "Images of America" series sent to you by mail for only \$25.91. Contains 219 photos from Ukrainian communities throughout the 27-county Western Pennsylvania region dating back as far as 1890.
- 2. Welcome to the USA: A Handbook for New Immigrants: First-of-its-kind Ukrainian-language handbook explaining differences between US and Ukrainian cultures, rights and responsibilities of immigrants to the USA, and other helpful information for new Americans. (Expanded 2nd edition now available.)
- 3. <u>Welcome to Pittsburgh</u>: A directory of social services, educational, cultural, and recreational resources for new-comers to the Pittsburgh area. *(English-language)*

Volume 8 Issue 1 Page 3



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UCHI's mission is to develop relationships between the US and Ukraine on cultural, educational, and humanitarian levels. It also serves to develop cross-cultural understanding between the peoples of the US and Ukraine.

"Follow On"

UCHI has actively participated in the Open World training program since 2004, having hosted six delegations of Ukrainian professionals from various fields of endeavor including legal professionals, educators, librarians, social service workers, health care workers, and journalists. The relationships don't just end once the delegates return to Ukraine, however, and UCHI actively maintains contact with program alumni assisting where possible with potential projects and partnerships initiated by the delegates and their American counterparts. One of these "follow-on" projects that have developed include the Sister Library relationship between the Andrew Carnegie Free Library in Carnegie and the Chonomors'k (Ukraine) Oblast' Library. Another is a potential journey to Ukraine by staff of the Allegheny County Children and Youth Services department. And another yet is an internet-based video-conference project which would link professionals in the US and Ukraine and create a multiplier effect.

Починаючи з 2004 року, УКГІ приймає активну участь у тренинговій програмі «Відкритий Світ». Інститут мав нагоду прийняти шість делегацій українських фахівців включаючи юристів, освітян, бібліотекарів, соціальних працівників, медиків і журналістів. Наші взаємини з українськими делегатами активно продовжуються і після їх повернення на Україну. Інститут є певним мостом між американськими і українськими організаціями, які розвивають і поглиблюють свою співпрацю. Сестринськи бібліотекі є одним з проектів, що активно розвиваються. Він включає співпрацю між бібліотекою Ендрю Карнегі в Карнегі і Чорноморською обласною бібліотекою в Криму. Інший проект має на меті подорож працівників департаменту по роботі з дітьми, молоддю і родинами округа алегені в Україну для обміну досвідом з своїми українськими колегами. Ще один проект над яким працює УКГІ поєднає американських і українських фахівців у відеоконференціїї для обговорення важливих питань демократизації суспільства в Україні. ■

Thank you! Велике Вам Спасибі!

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"Ukrainian Archives" Project: \$0.00

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You may make a donation to UCHI by writing a personal check to: UCHI – 610 Bouquet Street – Carnegie, PA 15106.

All donations will be acknowledged in our annual newsletter and on our website.

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