



UCHI News

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Education	2
Contributions	2
Archives	2
Cooperation	3
Language Meetup	3
Publications	3
Letter from Donets'k	4

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. It serves three constituencies: Ukrainians in Ukraine seeking to build democratic structures in Ukraine, Ukrainians in America, and others interested in learning about modern Ukraine.

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UCHI:
Bringing the US and Ukraine Closer

UCHI Re-focused

Original Focus

UCHI was chartered in 2002 to serve three constituencies: Ukrainians in Ukraine, who are adapting to a free-market-based democracy; Ukrainian immigrants to the USA; and Americans interested in working with or learning about Ukraine. Though a very small organization staffed primarily by volunteers, UCHI has successfully met its mission by hosting seven delegations of professionals from Ukraine through the Open World Program of the US Library of Congress; publishing information manuals for new immigrants from Ukraine, which is in use across the USA; hosting numerous workshops and lectures on Ukrainian topics for community groups; among many other projects.

Focus 2011- 2017

Our last newsletter was published in 2011. Following the hosting of its seventh Open World delegation in late 2012, the Board decided to focus efforts on its *Western Pennsylvania Ukrainian Archives* project. The collection was introduced to the community on August 24, 2014 at the Celebration of Ukrainian Independence at the SNPJ Hall in Imperial. The collection of materials, spanning the 130+-years of Ukrainian settlement in the area, consists of a permanent archive of materials maintained in UCHI facilities as well as materials donated to the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center and the Pennsylvania Room at the Carnegie Library Main Branch in Oakland.

Future Focus

Archives: Continue to develop the online archive found on UCHI's website; expand the collection with the help of community organizations and individuals; and lead the way to establish a collection of Ukrainian materials at the Heinz History Center (HHC) Special Collections in the Strip District. HHC has a 10,000 square-foot permanent exhibit of artifacts and costumes from Pittsburgh ethnic communities. Unfortunately, Ukrainians do not yet have a presence in this display.

Education: Provide assistance to researchers interested in Ukrainian topics, and update UCHI publications. The status of these consulting projects is detailed below, and publications on page 3.

Exchanges: Develop training programs for delegations of professionals from Ukraine.

Current Happenings

- * UCHI launched a Facebook page in July 2017 — "Like" Ukrainian Cultural and Humanitarian Institute — with regular postings highlighting photos, videos, and other material from our extensive archives. Archive materials are being loaded to UCHI's website — www.uchi-us.weebly.com — regularly!
- * Pittsburgh-born Ukrainian-American author Corinna Wengryn Caudill's book on the oral **histories of the ethnic cleansing of the Lemko population of Southeast Poland during and following World War II** will be released soon with a non-fiction book to follow. Corinna's project has been featured in UCHI News in the past, as Corinna utilized UCHI archives in this project. For a peek at what these books will contain, visit <http://lemkoproject.blogspot.com/2015/10/the-lemko-muse-travelogue-and-biography.html>.
- * Local filmmaker Nick Childers is producing a film, **Sisters: Life in Pittsburgh and Donets'k**, as part of his fellowship at the Pittsburgh Filmmakers/Pittsburgh Center for the Arts (PF/PCA) - a non-profit arts organization founded in 1971 and committed to the advancement of artistic excellence in visual arts. Through documenting the citizens of each town and examining their daily lives, Nick hopes to learn more about both places and create a platform for better understanding between East Ukrainians and Americans. His film is expected to be released in March 2018 at PF/PCA's monthly Film Kitchen program that highlights the work of regional filmmakers. A **display of still photos** from his project will be shown October 27-28, 2017 in conjunction with the Kyiv Ukrainian Dance Ensemble's Show at the Andrew Carnegie Free Library in Carnegie, PA.

Education

UCHI is recognized in the greater community for its knowledge of things Ukrainian and is regularly approached to conduct workshops, talks, and demonstrations. The following is a mostly-complete list of organizations UCHI has conducted either Ukrainian Easter Egg (pysanky) demonstrations or presentations about Ukrainian culture or current events:

- Frick Art Museum (2010)
- Greensburg Harrold Middle School “International Days” (2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017)
- Brashear High School (2005 and 2009)
- Westmoreland County Christian Coalition (2005 and 2014)
- International Women’s Group of Pittsburgh (2005 and 2008)
- Baldwin High School (2008)
- Community College of Allegheny County, South Campus (2003)
- University of Pittsburgh, Greensburg campus (2002 and 2007)
- South Allegheny Middle School (2000)
- North Allegheny High School (1999 and 2001)

UCHI Needs You!

UCHI is a non-profit, non-governmental organization recognized by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as a 501 (c)(3) organization. Donations made to UCHI are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. You may make a donation to UCHI by writing a personal check to:

UCHI

610 Bouquet Street
Carnegie, PA 15106

If you prefer your donation to remain anonymous, please indicate so on your check or donation stub. [Gifts with donation noted by amount.]

President’s Club (\$1,000)
[autographed copy of “Ukrainians of W PA” and copy of “Festive Ukrainian Cooking”]

Gold Circle Donor (\$500)
[autographed by author copy of “Ukrainians of W PA”]

Benefactor (\$250) [pysanka]

Sponsor (\$100) [Ukrainian flag for desktop and flag sticker]

Patron (\$50) [Ukrainian flag]

Friend (\$25)

Contributions

* In 2015 - 29 documents to the Heinz History Center, which increased their collection of Ukrainian material by almost five times!

* 2015 - A dozen items to the Pennsylvania Room at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh’s Oakland Main Branch.

* 2012 - 200 copies of the Handbook to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA.

* 2011 - a copy of *Ukrainians of Western Pennsylvania* to the following libraries: US Library of Congress ~ New York Public Library, Slavic Collections ~

University of Manitoba, Immigration History Research Center ~ Historical Society of Indiana County, PA ~ Hillman Library, University of Pittsburgh ~ Carnegie Library, South Side Pittsburgh branch ~ Pattee Library, Penn State University, Slavic Collections ~ Penn State Library, Harrisburg ~ Hoover Collection, Stanford University ~ Elizabeth Dafoe Library, University of Manitoba ~ Ukrainian Orthodox Church, St. Sophia Seminary Library ~ Ukrainian Catholic Church, St. Basil Seminary

Debut



UCHI Archivist Michael Janakis discusses the scope of UCHI’s Western Pennsylvania Ukrainian Archives during its introduction to the community at the August 24, 2014 Celebration of Ukrainian Independence.

**UCHI welcomes new
Program Director
Chris Mills!**

Cooperation

UCHI's relationships with other non-profit organizations of common purpose help UCHI to provide additional services in a most resource-efficient manner.

The University of Pittsburgh's Center for Russian and East European Studies (REES) has connected many community organizations and individual researchers to UCHI, and has provided free space for lectures and meetings that UCHI sponsors.

SS Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Carnegie has also provided much help through its Ukrainian Orthodox League Chapter for use of pysanky supplies and its hosting of events in its social hall and Museum and Archives center. SS Peter and Paul has been hosting a grand sale of Ukrainian eggs every (American calendar) Palm Sunday since 1966.

The Ukrainian Selfreliance of Western Pennsylvania Federal Credit Union (uswpfcu) has been host to UCHI's Ukrainian Gift Shop since 2007, and has provided storage space as well as meeting space for special events since UCHI's founding. UCHI's English as a Second Language Program was hosted at the credit union, as was UCHI's Ukrainian Language Table.

Magee WomanCare International has provided meeting space for UCHI, and has also paid UCHI for home stay placement and driving services for 15 Open World delegations from Ukraine, Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, and Bolivia.

The Pittsburgh-Donets'k Sister Cities Committee (pdsc), which established a formal relationship through Sister Cities International between Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Donets'k, Ukraine in 2000. Much of the work pdsc accomplished formed a base of operations for UCHI's activities. The organizations continue to work together on projects raising awareness about the current political situation in Donets'k since the annexation of Crimea by Russia.

Pittsburgh

Ukrainian

Language Meetup

Join this UCHI-sponsored

social media group at

www.meetup.com and join

us for casual Ukrainian-

language conversation held

on a Saturday morning -

www.meetup.com.

Вічна Пам'ять!



UCHI lost a very dear friend in 2015—Lesya Protynyak. A fourth-wave immigrant from Ukraine who came to the USA in 1994 and completed a Master's Degree in Public and International Affairs at the University of Pitts-

burgh, Lesya was the epitome of Christian modesty and devotion to the church she held so dear. She performed a good deal of UCHI's translation work; she assisted with home placements and other logistics with regard to UCHI's work with the Open World Program, always eschewing the limelight. Memory Eternal!

Publications

All three of UCHI's major publications are in the process of being revised and improved with anticipated publication in 2018:

* *Ukrainian Immigrant Handbook* was first published in 2005, and is a one-of-a-kind Ukrainian-language document containing vital information for integrating into American society. It discusses a comprehensive range of issues related to settling in the USA and also openly contrasts specific differences between life in the US and Ukraine. A second, expanded edition was published in 2009, which added an introduction to credit - its uses and importance; an overview of the Rule of Law and the intricacies of legal issues in the USA; and expanded information on Ukrainian communities in the USA. Material for the publication was gathered from multiple sources including: RC, UCIS, ICE, UCHI.

* *Welcome to Pittsburgh* was first published in 2005 as a directory of social services, educational, cultural, and recreational resources for newcomers to the Pittsburgh area with an updated second edition in 2007.

* *Tour Ukrainian Pittsburgh* was first published in 2007 and updated graphics and color will enhance your visit to Pittsburgh with its presentation of historical places with a Ukrainian character.

Letter from Donets'k

The following is the condensation of two letters from Ninel Ryzhok, a journalist who visited Pittsburgh in February 2000. She wrote these letters to UCHI President Stephen Haluszczak, who had hosted her as a member of a delegation of journalists from Donets'k.

It is terrible here now. The enemy is shooting up the city of Donets'k day and night with heavy artillery. Parts of the city are in ruins, and there are many casualties. Our army is situated only at the entrances to the city, and the enemy simply shoot their weapons into the air in peaceful quarters.

People sit in bomb shelters. Many have left the city. Nobody is on the streets. It is a dead city, and it looks frightening. Something is always burning, and smoke hangs over the city. The tremors are so strong that the windows in homes shake and rattle.

Soon enough a quiet comes over the city, but what kind of sleep can a person get in such an environment? Banks and businesses are not able to operate. No one has any money, and pensions aren't paid, because there is no way to get them.

Leaving the city is a big problem as the trains run only when the rails can be repaired during the lulls in the violence. At the one bus station that is still operating, there are long lines, but the buses often run into gunfire on the road out of the city.

I spent a month in Dnipropetrovs'k, where there is peace, and where a lot of people from Donets'k are hiding out. I returned to Donets'k to be near my oldest son, as I worried about him. My younger son, who has a four-year old, left Donets'k.

The situation in Torez, where our friend Anatoliy [another of the program participants, sic] lives, is very bad/hot. He has not fled anywhere, as he has fourth stage blood cancer.

We hope for a quick freeing of Donets'k – we pray. But we are very worried, because the Russian forces every day shadow the border – entire columns of tanks and cars with soldiers carrying heavy artillery. They provide support for the terrorists, winning battles from a distance. Many of the best and brightest Ukrainian patriots are perishing. We are so worried from the thought that Russia will stage an outright invasion, and there will be a great war.

Many who because of deceptive propaganda wished to unite Donets'k with Russia now understand their grave error. But it most astonishes and bothers me that there remain many who believe it is the Ukrainian army that is shooting up the town. This is because the terrorists closed down the Ukrainian television station, and now all people see is dirty propaganda broadcast by Russian media. A portion of the populace has become like zombies and has fallen under the spell of this propaganda.

At one point, the Ukrainian National Guard began to free the suburbs around the city. Not far from my home, the terrorists built a military position, and four tanks arrived. [They always do this – locate themselves near residences, so that the National Guard can't return fire – they hide behind the people.] Very close by, however, stands a whole quarter of multi-story residential buildings – in one of which is located my apartment. And just as the four tanks of terrorists arrived from the terrorist-occupied village, they began to shoot at the tanks with surface-to-air missiles. This was done to create a "scene" to show on Russian television that makes it look like the Ukrainian Army was shooting at the residential buildings!

Missiles hit a few buildings and some landed in the children's playground, which is located in the courtyard. Glass flew from the windows, several private buildings burned. A man who was walking near the building was blown to bits. The shooting lasted about an hour. When it calmed down a bit, I ran through the forest to be with my son, who lives in a different part of the city. Missiles started whistling over my head and exploding close by. I fell on the ground and branches from the trees started falling on me, which were broken off by fragments of the shells. I fell in that way several more times, because another terrible round of shooting began. Alone in the forest under fire.

Such terror I never felt in my life. It is now eleven o'clock at night. Once again explosions have begun to echo. People are prepared to hide in basements, many of them spend each night there. I am trusting in God and go nowhere, because in our building there is no basement. I hope that I will see the sun tomorrow...

We so value every single moment of quiet... We support each other... We rejoice that we are still alive.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights reported that from 4/14/14 to 8/15/17 it recorded 34,766 conflict related casualties in Ukraine with 10,255 people killed and 25,451 injured. The International Organization for Migration reported that as of 3/31/16, displaced persons from Crimea and Eastern Ukraine numbered 1,754,901. The European Commission reported that 4,000,000 people are believed to be in need of humanitarian assistance as of 9/28/17.