



Ukrainian Genealogy Group

National Capital Region

The Ukrainian Genealogist

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March Meeting

Borys Sirskyj gave an informative presentation on the history and role of the Ukrainian War Veterans' Association of Canada also known as the Ukrainska Striletska Hromada v Kanadi.

The second wave of Ukrainian immigration to Canada (1920-1939) included a significant number of veterans from the Ukrainian national armies which fought for the independence of Ukraine in the years 1918-1920. In 1928, these new immigrants established this nationalist veterans' association in Winnipeg. Within a short time, branches were established in most of the Ukrainian communities across Canada. New branches were also founded in the mining and industrial centers of northern Ontario and Quebec where many immigrants from the second wave settled. By 1939, there were 22 Branches.

The association raised funds to assist war invalids and support Ukrainian organizations in Halychyna (Galicia) then under Polish administration. The association was instrumental in the establishment of the Ukrainian National Federation of Canada (UNF) in 1932 and the Ukrainian National Youth Federation and the Ukrainian

Women's Organization of Canada in 1934. The association was incorporated in 1950 and its goals were to preserve Ukrainian military traditions and to support the struggle for the independence of Ukraine.

With the aging of the membership, the association became an affiliate of the UNF. One of the main goals of the association, the independence of Ukraine, was achieved in 1991 and the association supports the democratic development of Ukraine and Ukrainian cultural activities in Canada.

Among the prominent leaders of the UNF were Senator Paul Yuzyk and Vladimir Kossar and their papers are preserved at the Library and Archives Canada in Ottawa. The records of the Ukrainian National Federation are preserved at the Archives of Ontario at York University in Toronto and the records of the Ukrainian National Youth Federation are held at the Library and Archives Canada.

New Novel on Ukrainian Pioneers in Canada

This Unbroken Sky by Shandi Mitchell

Winner of the Thomas Head Raddall Atlantic Fiction Prize and Margaret and the John Savage First Book Award; Winner of the Commonwealth Writers Prize – Canada and Caribbean Region – First Novel

Based on Editorial Reviews from Publishers Weekly

An immigrant Ukrainian family suffers unrelenting hardship on the tundra of late 1930s western Canada in this grim frontier tale. Thrown in prison for two years for helping himself to some of his own grain after defaulting on a homesteading contract, Ukrainian immigrant Theo Mykolayenko must deal with his nearly destitute wife and children. His oldest son helps to plow and plant fields owned by Theo's sister, Anna, who is married to Stefan, a wayward and violent military man. Theo's long-suffering wife, Maria, is tireless in caring for her family, nurturing the garden that feeds them and mending every stitch of clothing they wear.

The extended family survives fire, dust storms, cold and hunger, only to face a nastier enemy much closer to home. This ambitious novel, full of the minutiae of the savage existence of a frontier family, comprises a harsh picture of lives lived in an unforgiving landscape.

(If any member would like to read this or any other novel on Ukrainian Canadians and submit your comments, we will include your review in the Newsletter).

Community Events

May 1, Saturday, 7 pm. "Celebrate Spring!"

Winnipeg's O. Koshetz Choir in concert with AKORD Ukrainian Men's Choir of Ottawa. The concert will feature a selection of spiritual and folk music. At St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Shrine hall, 952 Green Valley Crescent. Admission \$10 per person at the door, with children under 10 free.

May 11, Tuesday, 7 pm. Documentary film 'Soviet Story'.

At Mayfair Theatre, 1074 Bank Street. This is an interesting documentary made by a Latvian filmmaker.
<http://www.sovietsroty.com>

May 15 Saturday 4:00 pm A Montage of Ukrainian Song and Dance

(Ottawa International Tulip Festival) AKORD and Svitanok will present "A Montage of Ukrainian Song and Dance" at Major's Hill Park Main Stage

May 16, Sunday. 2 pm. Kateryna, a Folk-Ballet-Opera

The Suzirya Ukrainian Dance Theatre of Calgary and the Ukrainian Male Chorus of Edmonton will perform Kateryna, a Folk-Ballet-Opera based on an epic poem by Taras Shevchenko at Centrepointheatre. Tickets \$36-\$40 at Centrepointheatre Box Office or 580-2700 or
<http://www.centrepointheatre.com>