



# Ukrainian Genealogy Group

## National Capital Region

The Ukrainian Genealogist

April 2017

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### **Mar 28 2017 Meeting**

#### *Lost Folk Art in Ukrainian-Canadian Cemeteries*

At our last meeting, Slavco Demchinsky gave an informative presentation on 'The Lost Folk Art of Ukrainian Canadian Cemeteries'. Slavco began his presentation by describing his vocation to photograph and document Ukrainian churches across Canada. Slavco has already made presentations on this subject and his photographs are preserved at the Library and Archives Canada.

While researching the church buildings, he extended his research, in some cases, to the local cemeteries near the churches. According to Slavco, cemeteries serve several purposes including communication with the dead through various rituals, for example, the annual blessing of the graves, decorating the graves with flowers and the sharing of food.



*Slavco Demchinsky – March 2017 meeting*

The grave markers are a form of communication and Slavco described the different types of markers. During the pioneer period, wooden crosses were used but in the 1920s and 1930s,

markers made of cement were used. The last cement markers were made in the 1960s. Slavco described how a cement marker was made using a mold.

In some districts of western Canada, wrought-iron crosses can also be found. Some markers include photos of the departed and biographical and family information that are of special interest to genealogists. They may include the place of origin in Ukraine, community involvements and military service. Slavco included an example where it was necessary to carefully 'read' the name and dates. Also included on the markers were various religious and mystical symbols such as the sun, flowers, and crescent moon. According to tradition, the graves face east towards the rising sun. Slavco's presentation was followed by a question-and-answer period.

### **Departed Friends and Members:**

#### *Elizabeth Dugger Udell (1941-2017)*

Elizabeth attended several of our meetings and travelled to Ukraine to visit her ancestral village.

#### *William (Bill) Czuboka (1935-2017)*

Bill was a retired Canadian military officer and he attended several of our meetings. He became interested in his family history when he learned that his father was interned as an 'enemy alien' during the First World War.

*Betty Guty*, wife of John Guty, passed away on Saturday, 22 April.

## **2017 Capital Ukrainian Festival**

From July 21-23, 2017 bring your family and friends to experience the life, joy and heritage of Ukrainian art and culture. Vibrant music, delicious cuisine, lively dance, refreshing drinks, stunning artwork, handmade crafts, informative displays all along the scenic banks of the Rideau Canal in the heart of Ottawa. Wish table mates "Smachnoho" (Bon appétit!) and toast friends "Na zdorovia!" (To your health!)

Top performers and ensembles from across North America and around the world dance, sing and play modern and traditional favorites. Prepare your taste buds for a menu chock full of Ukrainian soul-food classics prepared from fresh, local, and simple ingredients. Workshops vary from year to year but generally include pysanky, vinok making, ritual bread braiding weaving, and kolomejka!

Refer to: <http://capitalukrainianfestival.com/> for more information.

## **UGG-NCR at the Capital Ukrainian Festival**

The UGG-NCR is planning to return to this year's Capital Ukrainian Festival with another informative display to encourage community members to seek out their Ukrainian roots and Family Histories. We are looking for volunteers from our members to help man the table throughout the weekend and to provide any new ideas for building upon last year's success.

If you would like to help out, please speak to Myron, Mike, or Jerry – or email us at: [uggncr1@gmail.com](mailto:uggncr1@gmail.com)

## **Next Meeting:**

May 23, Tuesday 7:30 pm.

Our next meeting will be held on May 23, 2017. Orest Zakydalsky will speak on "*The Situation in Ukraine and Canada's Response*".

## **Community Events**

*April 30, Sunday; 12 – 2:30 pm*

*Ukrainian Night at the Races* at Rideau Carleton Raceway, Dining Room 4837 Albion Rd.

This is a Charity Event to raise money for Medical Assistance to Ukraine, and the UCPBA Ottawa Student Scholarship Fund. Ticket includes: All you can eat Buffet, Ukrainian Food and Drinks, Live Harness Racing. Price \$35. Tickets available at the Buduchnist Credit Union and Ukrainian Credit Union. Tickets also sold after most liturgies at the Catholic and Orthodox Churches. Tickets also sold online at Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/ukrainian-night-at-the-races-tickets-32574047854>

Note: Children's Tickets (Ages 6 to 12) \$20 will be available at the door.

<http://www.ucpbaottawa.ca/Home.php>

*May 4-7, Thursday - Sunday*

The Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union is hosting the 2017 National Congress in Ottawa. Theme "*True North SUSK & Free*" will focus on the celebration of Canada's 150th Anniversary of Confederation. More information at <http://congress.susk.ca>

*May 26-27, Friday-Saturday.*

The Embassy of Ukraine celebrates Canada 150 in the Horticulture Building at Lansdowne.

<http://www.ottawa2017.ca/ottawa-welcomes-the-world-with-a-year-long-multicultural-showcase/>

*June 22, Thursday.*

Ukrainian food featured at the Canada Agriculture Museum, Experimental Farm