



# Ukrainian Genealogy Group

## National Capital Region

The Ukrainian Genealogist

May 2024

913 Carling Avenue Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4E3

Website: [www.UkrainianGenealogyGroup-NCR.org](http://www.UkrainianGenealogyGroup-NCR.org)

eMail: [uggncr1@gmail.com](mailto:uggncr1@gmail.com)

Contact: Myron Momryk (613) 731-1870

Editor: Mike Dowhan (613) 606-9176

### **April UGG-NCR Webinar**

#### *Ghosts in a Photograph*

Myrna Kostash's presentation in April was based on photographs of family members described in her most recent book, "*Ghosts in a Photograph, a Chronicle*", published in 2022.

Myrna explained that she inherited family photographs that were largely unidentified and this encouraged her interest in her family history, a common experience in many families. She began to research and document the lives of her grandparents in Canada and also in Ukraine.



*Myrna Kostash - our April Speaker*

Since most of her relatives from her parents and grandparents generations had passed away, Myrna had to depend in many instances on secondary sources for information – newspaper clippings, letters, official documents, maps, taped interviews, scholarly publications, including novels and including poetry. Useful sources were a memoir by Peter Svarich, a great

uncle, and also an unpublished memoir by her father entitled, "A Gift to Last".

Her family members immigrated with the first wave of Ukrainian settlement from small villages in Galicia and she traced their story to this region and period in history. She had the opportunity to visit these villages several times to interview descendants of her family.

She spoke about the political choices made by members of her family both in Canada and in Ukraine revealing some tragic stories. During her visits to Ukraine she learned about other writers in her family that she did not know. This information encouraged her to continue her research and writing that resulted in her most recent book.

The presentation concluded with members forwarding questions to Myrna about her presentation. Her book, "*Ghosts in a Photograph, a Chronicle*", is available at any local branch of the Ottawa Public Library.

Myrna has posted photos of her family along with material from her book on a website.

Readers interested in the photos may access them at

<https://www.ghostsinaphotograph.com/photographs/>

A book review of this publication by Myrna is included in the UGG Annual Report, 2022-2023.

### **UGG Summer Break**

There will be no UGG meetings during the summer months, June, July, August and the presentations will resume on September 24, 2024.

## **Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy's Fall 2024 courses**

This program features a course stream entitled “*Slava Ukraini! Genealogical Research in Ukraine.*”

Students taking these courses will develop an understanding of the records and research methods for tracing families in this region, and learn skills in searching, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from records from Ukraine and the historical jurisdictions that became part of it. The course includes instruction and practice in the Cyrillic alphabet and handwriting, progressing to guided analysis of various source documents. Students will also learn about the historical and geographical context of the region, methods for tracing immigrant origins, and how to navigate to relevant records.

Enrollment is now open and more information can be found [here](#).

## **Community Events**

(courtesy of Ottawa UCC Events Calendar)

*Friday, May 31 @ 7–9pm*

### **Ukrainian Singing Circle**

The Ukrainian Singing Circle is waiting for you again! During our meetings, we get to know each other, share emotions and experiences, and revive traditions.

Organized by the Ukrainian Women’s Association of Canada.

This event takes place at Ukrainian Banquet Hall, 1000 Byron Ave

More info can be found [here](#).

*Saturday, June 1 @ 3:00 pm.*

### **Ottawa School of Ukrainian Dance**

The Ottawa School of Ukrainian Dance is excited to present an end-of-season performance by all ages and for all ages!

Along with the Svitnok Ukrainian Dance Ensemble and other guest artists, join us as we showcase Ukrainian-Canadian dance, music, and costumes.

Tickets available online at <https://meridiancentrepointhe.com/> or by calling 613-580-2700. The event takes place at Les Lye Studio Theatre (Meridian Centrepointhe Theatre), 101 Centrepointhe Dr.

*Sunday, June 2 @ 12pm.*

### **Borsch Cook-Off**

We want to share our traditions and treat you with the most famous Ukrainian dish - borsch!

Donations for support of our Cathedral and for the Renovation fundraising campaign are appreciated.

Event being held at the Ukrainian Banquet Hall, 1000 Byron Ave.

*Sunday, June 2 @ 12pm.*

### **Mad Heads concert.**

Where: Ukrainian Banquet Hall, 1000 Byron Ave. For information and tickets, click [here](#).

*Tuesday, June 4 @6:30pm.*

### **“Q&A with Oleksandra” Wine & Cheese Fundraising Reception**

Where: Café Ukraine, 911 Carling Ave

A conversation with Nobel Peace Prize laureate Oleksandra Matviichuk, talking about her work investigating and cataloguing Russian war crimes for the International Criminal Court, and the work being done to return the 20,000 Ukrainian children abducted by the Kremlin. Limited tickets! Fundraiser for the Canada-Ukraine Foundation and Ms. Matviichuk’s Centre for Civil Liberties. Tax receipts will be issued for 80% of ticket price.

Tickets available here:

[www.cufoundation.ca/canadian-speaking-tour](http://www.cufoundation.ca/canadian-speaking-tour)