



Ukrainian Genealogy Group

National Capital Region

The Ukrainian Genealogist

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May UGG-NCR Webinar

Jars Balan, Studying Ukrainian Communities in Canada: Where to Start?

Jerry Fikis welcomed the participants to this webinar by mentioning his role as an organizer of this presentation with Mike Dowhan and also as moderator of the 'Question-and-Answer' session. He introduced Jars Balan and the main themes of the webinar.



Jars Balan, our May Speaker

Jars Balan has a long career of activism in the Ukrainian Canadian community. He authored numerous scholarly and popular articles on Ukrainian Canadian history, literature and theatre and also authored an illustrated history of Ukrainians in Canada. Jars has participated in many academic conferences and made presentations on his research and writing in Canada and the United States. He has been an active staff member of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta since its inception. Jars made an earlier presentation to the UGG at the November, 2021

meeting entitled, Coverage or Cover-up? Frederick Griffin's Soviet Stories During the Man-Made "Great Famine" in Ukraine.

Jars began his presentation with an overview of the various sources available to researchers interested in the Ukrainian Canadian experience based on his own writing and research over the years. He suggested that interest in Ukrainian Canadian studies depends very much on the reasons for this interest - genealogy, local history, organizations and political life, cultural activities, religion and church life, the status of the contemporary Ukrainian community among other themes.

Jars gave a brief description of Ukrainian Canadian immigration and settlement and contributions and achievements in political and academic life that deserve further research. Jars outlined the various methods and sources to begin an investigation – internet, community and university libraries and archives, museums and art galleries and made several useful suggestions for research. Among the useful and essential sources on Ukrainian Canadian studies are commemorative books, local and parish histories and family histories that are available.

He described the digitized sources available by searching on the internet, especially catalogues of university and community libraries and archives. Among English-language sources are mainstream newspapers, magazines and popular literature. He mentioned written and published sources including popular newspapers such as The Globe and Mail and the Toronto Star that have been digitized and are indexed. He also mentioned material published in Ukrainian both in Canada and in Ukraine.

For a more detailed understanding of the Ukrainian Canadian experience, Jars described in general terms, the written and published record from academic conferences to popular publications such as novels, short stories and poetry by mainstream Canadian authors that wrote on the Ukrainian Canadian community. He included a list of names of Canadian writers of Ukrainian descent that wrote on Ukrainian topics. Jars mentioned that creative literature can provide the reader with an understanding of the emotional and spiritual dimensions of the community that do not usually appear in historical and political publications.

The presentation concluded with a 'Question-and-Answer' session moderated by Jerry Fikis.

Danyliw Seminar on Ukraine (28-30 September, uOttawa)

***The Seminar is open to the public and registration is free. Since space is limited, people interested in attending the seminar are invited send an email to the Chair of Ukrainian Studies at chairukr@gmail.com*

The Danyliw Seminar is Back! "Ukraine at War"

28-30 September, uOttawa (FSS 4007)
www.danyliwseminar.com

The Danyliw Research Seminar on Ukraine will be holding its 17th edition under the dramatic conditions of an ongoing Russian war of aggression in Ukraine. The three-day event (September 28-30) will bring together more than 35 international guests, nearly half from Ukraine. The Seminar remains the largest in-person academic conference on Ukraine in the world.

The program is online at <https://bit.ly/3PkI8Pd>