



# Tidewater Ukrainian Cultural Association

Newsletter No. XLIV, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010

<http://tuca.us>

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## **TUCA Spring Meeting:**

The TUCA Spring Meeting will actually take place! Candy and Tom Krop have again volunteered their lovely home for this occasion. Please everyone be ready on **Sunday, May 2, at 3:00 PM**. The address is **1629 Godfrey Lane, Virginia Beach VA 23454-1301**. Telephone number, in case you get lost, is **(757) 481-3711**.

As in all previous TUCA events, this is a "feed your friends" occasion. This of course means that you bring some of your delicacies to share with the rest of us. Hopefully, some of you will bring something created in your Ukrainian kitchen, that actually has a Ukrainian name. If you're challenged in that department, we will eat anything regardless of its ethnicity, just bring it. Also don't forget some liquid refreshment, May 2 may be a hot day.

The directions to the Krop residence are as follows:

1. Follow I-64 to Exit 284A which should be I-264 East to Virginia Beach.
2. Go on I-264 for approximately 5 miles to Exit 5B, Lynhaven Parkway North, (Rte 414).
3. Go North on Lynhaven Parkway approximately 0.6 miles to Virginia Beach Boulevard, (Rte 58).
4. Turn right on Virginia Beach Boulevard for approximately 0.8 miles to North Great Neck Road (Rte 279).
5. Turn left on North Great Neck Road for 3.2 miles (past Exxon and Cape Henry Hardware) until you see a large new development of homes on your right behind a brick wall. It is called "The Reserve".
6. Turn right on Godfrey Lane and go 0.4 miles until you reach a cul-de-sac.
7. Pass through the cul-de-sac between two brick pillars. The Krops are in the third house on the left.

There probably will be a Ukrainian flag near their driveway.

*Submitted by Andy Grynewytsch*

## **A Few Words From The President:**

After a long and cold winter, spring is finally here -- which means that our TUCA Spring Meeting is coming up soon. This year we are grateful to Tom and Candy Krop for welcoming TUCA members to their home in Virginia Beach for the meeting, which will be held on **Sunday, May 2 at 3:00 p.m.** (see more details above).

Last month also saw what is becoming another annual spring event -- the "pysanky" (Easter eggs) workshop at the Virginia Beach Public Library. Thanks to our Cultural Director, Elaine Hampton, and Joanna Griffin for once again organizing the workshop, which showcases this wonderful Ukrainian tradition.

Ukrainians are really blessed to have so many unique and colorful cultural traditions. Maintaining them not only enriches our experience and connects us to our ancient homeland, but also gives us a sense of belonging and a perspective which is unique. In recent history, as conditions in Ukraine have oscillated from difficult to extreme, especially in the 20th century, many of these traditions have survived largely through their preservation by Ukrainians in the Diaspora. Now, as we watch with growing concern events unfolding in Ukraine which threaten to roll back many of the cultural and democratic gains made over the last few years (recognition of the Holodomor, and the Ukrainian language are but two examples), it is even more important that we connect with our history and be proud of being Ukrainian. The most that we can do in the U.S. is to continue to be ourselves and enjoy our rich heritage -- luckily for us this includes the wonderful Ukrainian food, song and friendly atmosphere that we see at TUCA get-togethers!

This year in August we will also mark the 19th anniversary of Ukrainian independence. As an advance notice, the TUCA Ukrainian Independence Day Summer Picnic will be held this year at the historic Fort Monroe on Sunday, August 29 (see article by Myron Bilyj). So mark your calendars!

I hope you all had a pleasant Easter holiday, and look forward to seeing you at our Spring Meeting.

*Submitted by Wally Melnitchouk*

### **Pysanka Workshop at the Virginia Beach Central Library:**

March 21, 2010 was a beautiful spring day, perfect for "writing" pysanky, at the Virginia Beach Central Library. Once again, TUCA members, Joanna Griffin and Elaine Hampton were invited to lead the pysanky workshop. Some TUCA members, and forty-plus participants (forty more were on the waiting list!) eagerly listened to Joanna carefully and fully explain the steps in creating pysanky, icons of the universe.

Elaine gave an historical perspective of the decorated eggs which originated in pagan times, 5000-3000 BC. The egg was the symbol of re-birth in Spring, and a ritual object of the Cult of the sun. Contrary to what was thought previously, all Slavic peoples decorated eggs. But, some of the countries were influenced by other art forms. Ukraine not only continued the decorated eggs, but has had the greatest growth and the richest ornamentation of pysanky.

Elaine emphasized to the group, that the pysanky are more than an expression of beauty. And that beauty does not depend upon perfectly fine lines and variety of colors. What is important is the symbolism related to the designs which produce a motif.

When Christianity came to Ukraine around 988, the Pagan symbols were "transmuted" to relate to Christianity. The Sun symbol came to represent the Son of God, for example. Meandering lines encircling the egg reflect God's infinite life, not merely the cycles of nature.

Bringing an inherent optimism and love of life, as previous pysanky makers have done for centuries, to the "table", elevates this simple, beautiful craft to an expressive, treasured art form. Pysanky-making kits and instructions will be available for purchase at the next TUCA meeting; Joanna and Elaine will be happy to answer pysanky questions.

*Submitted by Elaine Hampton.*

### **A Bit More About the Pysanka:**

The high fashion house of Gucci has used pysanka designs as a source for some of their clothes before, and has apparently expanded the pysanka inspired collection again. The Gucci web site pictures eight beautiful pysanky and matching design haute couture dresses worn by Gucci models. The Gucci collection may conjure up visions of the combination of folk textiles, detailed handiwork, and tapestries, which bring to mind pysanky -- traditional Ukrainian Easter eggs decorated using a wax-resist 'batik' method. The web site explains that the Hutsuls (Ukrainians who live in the Carpathian Mountains of western Ukraine) believe that the fate of the world depends upon the pysanka. As long as the egg decorating custom continues, the world (and those in it) will continue to exist. Sounds like a good reason for everyone to sign up for next year's pysanka workshop.

*Submitted by Andy Grynewytsch.*

**"Papa Duke" Does the Town in Portsmouth and Seaford:**

On Sunday, March 14, **Vasyl Popadiuk**, Ukrainian violinist extraordinaire, and his group of equally talented musicians, known collectively as "Papa Duke", treated a very fortunate audience to an exciting blend of jazz, Gypsy and Ukrainian fusion music. At Willett Hall in Portsmouth, the violin bow's hairs were flying under the unbelievable expertise and expression of emotion by Vasyl. The audience was moved, sometimes to tears, in response; sometimes to pure euphoria, by some of the familiar Ukrainian melodies. And what one would think couldn't be a more exciting evening, became even more memorable, when Oksana and George Makowiec graciously invited the Papa Duke group to the Makowiec's lovely Ukrainian home in Seaford.

What were perceived as on-stage magical, talented, musicians connecting with the audience, were now also seen as truly sincere, kind, caring, sons, husbands, fathers, as guests. After a short but personal violin solo by Vasyl using Oksana's son, Vitaly's violin, "Papa Duke" drove off into the darkness and quiet of night. So much an opposite to the bright, beautiful concert. It would be a twelve-hour drive to Buffalo, then another day to home, in Canada, to their waiting families who shared them with us for a short time.

Our sincere "Doozhe Dyakooyou!" to Oksana and George for making it possible. We were so fortunate to hear their music in person in a concert setting and then to meet them all one on one to "share bread" and a glass with these very special musicians.

Papa Duke.com has a sample of their music, bios, etc. on their web site. They are also scheduled to perform at the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington on May 7 and 8. No information regarding tickets could be found, as yet.

*Submitted by Elaine Hampton.*

**Rostyslav Vasylenko:**

Some of our TUCA members who have a subscription to the "Ukrainian Weekly" newspaper may have noticed, in the April 4 issue, an obituary about the recent passing of Rostyslav Vasylenko. Mr. Vasylenko was our special guest and speaker at the Holodomor Commemoration program three years ago.

He was a prominent Ukrainian actor, director, author, poet and a MEd from the University of Toronto. He subsequently served for over 20 years as a school principal in Ottawa, Canada. After our Holodomor program I had the pleasure of meeting him and his wife Ija at George and Oksana Makowiec home and in my home. His passing is a great loss to the Ukrainian community in the Diaspora and in Ukraine.

Our sincere condolences and sympathy to George and Oksana, who were good friends of Rostyslav. He was buried on April 6 at the St Andrew Ukrainian cemetery in S. Bound Brook, NJ. May the Lord give him rest and Eternal Memory! **Vichnaya Pamyat!**

*Submitted by Andy Grynewytsch.*

**News from the TUCA Supported Berdyansk Training Center for Orphans and Vulnerable Children:**

The TUCA supported Orphan's Promise Training Center continues to change lives of orphans and vulnerable children in Berdyansk, Ukraine. Thank you, TUCA members, for your part in this project! Here is an update from the Center staff about their latest activities (original language kept unchanged):

"We had a rehearsal on the first of March of the holiday devoted to the **Women's Day**. We fed all present at the meeting girls and boys by macaronis with sausages and salad. The students were happy to have dinner and began their rehearsal. The girls prepared souvenirs at the same time for this holiday, which they planned to distribute among women in the streets of our town congratulating them on the 8-th of March. Only boys took part in the rehearsal. Every young man got the part of speech from the general scenario. The rehearsal went on cheerfully as all the boys did their best. It was pleasant to look at the

enthusiasm of our students. They were happy to participate in the prospective holiday. It appeared in the process of preparation that the students read very slowly. They couldn't understand the meaning of fragments they read so the leader had to read it again for them to catch the idea. They found it funny. It appeared that almost all the students read slowly so one of our teachers told them that we would need to start one more course – for learning to read. The students laughed but agreed to this suggestion. One of the teachers in the process of preparation of the holiday paid attention to one of the boys printing the text on the computer. It was Aleksey who recently began to attend courses in the center. It appeared that he wanted to make an announcement but made 3 mistakes in two words. It means that the students really feel a lack of literacy. We discuss the way to help the students together with our staff workers. The leader of the rehearsal already talked to volunteer Nataliya about possibility of providing such a course. Nataliya offered to begin a course of rhetoric for the students to learn to read and express their thoughts.

The boys congratulated all the girls of our center on the **Women's Day**, traditionally celebrated on the 8-th of March. The students were preparing to this event during 2 weeks. Most of young men put on the shirts and ties and the rest didn't have such clothes at home so they were a little nervous and suggested other boys not to wear the ties. The boys opened the concert program devoted to this holiday. They presented smiles and good spirits to females, dedicated the words of the songs and poems to them. Sincerity and vitality of the boys made laugh all females present at the holiday. The girls encouraged the boys with applause so they felt confident. The boys presented flowers to the girls and it called great admiration of the females.

Vladimir Nefedov, the volunteer of our center, created a song especially for this holiday, found accompaniment and presented the song to all present girls. This act was very important for him as he prepared it for a long time. He had complications in the beginning of the preparation process. The words of the song didn't fit to the thematic of the holiday at first as they had private character. So Vladimir had to change some words. He had concerns about reaction to his presentation. He sang his song under guitar accompaniment and one of the student's help Edgar. His debut was successful. Their efforts were rewarded and they got appreciation of the girls for the song. Now Vladimir has a new dream: to shoot a video of singing the song to see himself from aside. He agreed with the staff worker of the center to provide the first movie test in April.

We are now planning an **Easter Program** in the center of Berdyansk on the 31st of April – 1st of May with participation of staff workers and volunteers and the girls from dancing course. We plan to invite students from technical schools of the town. We also were invited to participate with this performance in interdenominational Easter parade. We watched a Christian movie "**Passions of Christ**" in the center with the purpose to get the students prepared to the Easter holiday. The students watched the film very attentively and one of the girls even cried. The teachers talked to the students after the movie and discussed the true meaning of Easter. We noticed that they didn't remain indifferent and the Lord touched their heart. We also are preparing for the Easter performance. We discussed the content of perspective performance, listened to music for the performance and took the parts and roles for it. At first the girls looked at the performance with caution but they took the images and way of dancing close to their hearts in the process of preparation so they began to fulfill the tasks with great pleasure. Besides, we were offered to take part in municipal Easter event in the city celebration on the 4th of April. We also continued to get acquainted with the modern direction of choreography – jazz-modern dance that would become a basis for dancing part in the Easter performance. We learnt combinations of dancing movements and discussed every movement. Also, this gave us an opportunity to discuss with children the meaning of Easter in history, as well as in their lives now.

The students participating in the program asked us to get them involved in future events. They were happy to find application for their abilities. The staff of the center noticed that the students began to open their hearts. The young people behaved composedly and tentatively when they came to the center for the first time but now they are communicative and self-motivated."

*Submitted by Nataliya Khomyak.*

### **New Ukrainian Priest in Williamsburg:**

It might be of interest to all TUCA members that Ascension of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church in Williamsburg has a new priest. To my joy he is Ukrainian, born and ordained in Ukraine. Many of the prayers of the Liturgy he recites in Ukrainian. He is on loan to the Byzantine Church from the Ukrainian Church. He speaks perfect Ukrainian (not with a Russian dialect). His English is O.K. He is very much interested to come to our TUCA meetings, so we will put him on our Newsletter mailing list. He is wonderful!!!!

For those that might be interested to come to church, the Holy Liturgy begins at 10:00 AM on Sundays. The church is located on 114 Palace Lane, Williamsburg, Va. 23185. His name is Fr. Alexander Shuter. Local address: 4528 Wimbledon Way, Williamsburg, Va. 23188-2486.

*Submitted by Orysia Stefaniw.*

### **TUCA Ukrainian Independence Day Summer Picnic:**

This year the TUCA Ukrainian Independence Day Summer Picnic will take place on Sunday afternoon, **August 29**, at historic Fort Monroe in Hampton. Please block off the day and time in your calendar now so you don't miss it. You should make an extra effort to attend this year since Fort Monroe is scheduled for closure next year by the last Base Realignment and Closing Commission (BRAC). Its future and eventual use is still being discussed and debated.

The picnic area has a children's playground and access to a sandy beach front. The post itself has many historical buildings. Additionally, there is the Casemate Museum inside the fort itself that will be open the day of our picnic. There are historical markers throughout the installation.

Fort Monroe is still an active military installation and has a security check at the entrance gate. There are two things that you **must have** to get on the installation: a current vehicle registration and a picture ID for **every person in the car** over 18 years old.

TUCA will provide Fort Monroe security with a list of names of people known to be attending the picnic so that day passes will be available in advance. If the name is not provided by TUCA, it takes about three minutes to obtain a pass at the security check point.

Additional information and directions will be provided in a future newsletter. Please plan to attend the TUCA Picnic in celebration of Ukrainian Independence in this historic setting

*Submitted by Myron Bilyj.*

### **Dues for 2010:**

Again, once more a reminder that it is time to take care of your TUCA annual dues. The label on your TUCA Newsletter indicates whether your 2010 annual dues have been paid. If the address label displays "**PD = 2010**" your dues are up-to-date. If an earlier year appears on the label, we have not received your dues for this year. If "**PD = 0000**" appears, we have no record of you ever paying TUCA dues of **\$20.00** per family per year, which is only **38** cents per week. Checks may be made out to TUCA and sent to Lucy Halunko, PO Box 18351, Richmond, VA 23226-8351.

Additional contributions for the orphan children of Ukraine are always welcome. Please specify on your check that the money is to go to the children's fund.

*Submitted by Lucy Halunko.*

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*TUCA is a social and cultural organization with no political or religious affiliation. The opinions expressed in the articles appearing in this newsletter are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of TUCA.*