



Tidewater Ukrainian Cultural Association

Newsletter No. XLII, July 30th, 2009

<http://tuca.us>

TUCA Summer Picnic:

On Sunday, August 23, 2009, TUCA will be hosting our annual picnic. This year it will be held on the South-Side at the First Landing State Part in Virginia Beach from 1 to 5 PM. It will be a wonderful time to eat, drink, and be merry, as well as to renew old friendships and enjoy the beautiful outdoors.

First Landing State Park (formerly known as Seashore State Park) is Virginia's most popular state part, offering 19 miles of marked trails for hiking or biking through coastal dunes. (If you should run across Blackbeard's buried treasure, or by-laws demand a 50-50 split with TUCA -- just so you know.) We will also have Chesapeake Bay beach access for swimming. There is no lifeguard, but the bay swells are mild and you will most likely be with friends.

Our picnic area does have bathroom facilities, a covered pavilion should we need it, and a "jungle gym" for children. It is beautifully shaded by live oaks and is an easy five-minute walk to the beach.

TUCA will supply hot dogs and hamburgers -- we ask that you bring a side dish to share and bring your own drinks. The park ranger says alcoholic beverages "can be consumed, but not displayed" (the park's version of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell", I guess).

Call your TUCA friends and urge them to meet you there -- and bring prospective new members!

In Summary:

Picnic Date:

Sunday, August 23, 2009, from 1 to 5 PM. (Business meeting and eating will start at 2 PM, so be sure you are at the pavilion by then).

Bring:

Side dish to share with your friends, insect repellent, sun screen and your own beverages (discreet alcohol OK). Swim suit and towel if you plan to use the beach.

Directions:

From I-64 East take Northampton Blvd/US Rte 13 North at Exit 282. Go through eight stoplights, then take the Shore Drive/US Rte 60 Exit to the right) last exit before Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel). Take a right on Shore Drive and go 4.5 miles to the park entrance. Turn right into the park and pay \$4.00 parking fee at the entry booth. Immediately after the booth, turn right again, into the parking lot. Drive to the end and look for the Ukrainian Flag and lots of friends. TUCA has paid for rental of the picnic grounds.

Submitted by Thomas Krop. Nadia's Departure:

Dear TUCA members and friends! As some of you may already know, our President, Nadia Hoots, is moving to the Sunshine State. She has packed her bags and is leaving for southern Florida, primarily to be closer to her aging mother. As well as serving as TUCA President since 2007, Nadia was previously TUCA Treasurer, and has been one of the pillars of the organization since its inception. It goes without saying that we will miss her presence. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Nadia for her dedication and service to TUCA and to the Ukrainian American community of Hampton Roads, and wish her well in her new venture.

Nadia was re-elected President for another term last Christmas, and as the current Past-President it falls to me to take over the reigns until the next elections, which will be at the end of next year, 2010. I look forward to working with the TUCA Board in making sure that our organization remains vibrant and serves the interests of the local Ukrainian American community.

(See Nadia's picture with her farewell gift from TUCA.)

Our next major event will be the Ukrainian Independence Day Summer Picnic, which will be held on Sunday, August 23 at the First Landing State Park in Virginia Beach. Please see the announcement at the beginning of this Newsletter for further details. For those who have not been to this site, it has beautiful views of nature along its many walking trails, is close to the ocean, and is in fact, Virginia's most visited state park. The summer picnic, along with our Christmas party, has become one of our main events on the calendar. Along with the standard grill fare, we plan to have lively Ukrainian music, several special guests, and a few other surprises, so please come along as we are sure you'll have a great time.

Until then, stay safe and have a happy summer!

Submitted by Wolodymyr (Wally) Melnitchouk.

TUCA President.

VIRSKY Is Coming!!!

Please SAVE the date and make a note on your calendar: on Friday, November 6, at 8:00 PM, The Ukrainian National Dance Company, "Virsky", will again be performing in Tidewater!

It will be at the Ferguson Center for the Arts at Christopher Newport University in Newport News. CNU is on Warwick Blvd (US Rte 60) at the intersection of Avenue of the Arts / J. Clyde Morris Blvd. Some of us had the pleasure to see Virsky perform at the American Theater in Phoebus several years ago. "Here is bravura dancing at its greatest" according to The New York Times. We hope that many TUCA members and friends will be able to attend; and wear our Ukrainian blouses/shirts!

Ticket prices will be \$29, \$34 and \$39. If enough people are interested we may get a group discount.

Submitted by Elaine Hampton

45th Anniversary of the Taras Shevchenko Monument in DC

The Ukrainian-American community and representatives from the Embassy of Ukraine assembled to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the unveiling of the Taras Shevchenko monument in Washington DC. Oleh Shamshur, Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States, addressed the crowd and highlighted the achievements of the Ukrainian-American community and their "commitment to the liberty to their historic motherland." The Ambassador acknowledged the creators of the best memorial in the world honoring Taras Shevchenko, sculptor Leo Mol and landscape architect Radoslav Zuk.

The ceremony included words from a few government officials and Paula Dobriansky, the daughter of the late Dr. Lev Dobriansky who initiated the project while serving as president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America. Ms. Dobriansky talked about the "special meaning" of the

monument to her father, who died earlier this year. Other guest speakers included Archbishop Alexander Bykowitz of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate, Borys Hlynsky of the Shevchenko Scientific Society and Bohdan Urbanovych of the Shevchenko Memorial Committee. Music was provided by a combined Ukrainian church choir conducted by Gregory Oleynik, with soprano Solomiya Dutkewych as the soloist.

Taras Hryhorovich Shevchenko was a great poet, artist and thinker. He was born March 9, 1814 to parents who were serfs in the village of Moryntsi in central Ukraine and an orphan at age twelve. He lived a very hard life and reflected this in his writings. His love for Ukraine and the struggles of its people to reach their dream of freedom and a happy life became the focus of his poems. After his death on March 10, 1861, he was returned to his beloved Ukraine and buried in Kaniv at Chernecha Hill (now Taras Hill) by the Dnipro River. To learn more about Taras Shevchenko, go to: <http://www.encyclopediaofukraine.com/pages/S/H/ShevchenkoTaras.htm>.

Submitted by Lucy Halunko.

Cossack's Contribution to the Constitution

Ukraine is an ancient land with an ancient history and ancient traditions. The Tripillian and Scythian cultures, the Dnipro River, the never-ending steppes, rapacious neighbors, countless military campaigns, all have shaped its evolution and development. But with the approaching 18th year of Ukraine's independence, new scholarship and research is exposing not only the past but also the deep roots of modern democracy as developed by the Cossacks. The one/man one/vote election of the Hetman has been well known and documented but now comes exciting news of the existence of a Cossack Constitution.

In 1710, in the town of Bendery (present Moldova), Pylyp Orlyk, Hetman of the Cossacks, proposed a Constitution for the Cossack Nation. This document was subsequently adopted by the Cossacks. For centuries, the only copy of the Orlyk Constitution existed in a Latin origin and copies and was treated by unversed historians as forgeries of a non-existent document.

In early 2009, a young Kyiv historian searching an unsorted collection of older documents, "Files on Ukraine" in archives in Moscow, found the only known Ukrainian language version of the Orlyk's Constitution. It is written in 18th century Middle Ukrainian (Ruthenian) language and thus this copy has legitimized the origin and existence of this Constitution.

The importance of the Orlyk Constitution lies in the astonishing fact that it was the first in the world to establish a separation of government powers into our modern three branches: legislative, executive and judicial. It consisted of a preamble and 16 Articles and provided laws for local self-government. Sounds familiar to what we learned in civic class in our schools but the Orlyk Constitution predated the US Constitution of 1787 and of France and Poland of 1791. So it begs the question "were the Cossacks the Fathers of the US Constitution"?

Unfortunately, due to the perilous political and military situation of Ukraine at that time, the Constitution was not implemented. Today, Ukraine still faces perilous political and adversarial conditions; even with an adopted Constitution, implementation is political, messy and sporadic. But the seeds of a democratic nation ruled by a Constitution, those seeds sown 300 years ago, are bearing fruit on Ukrainians fertile steppes. Happy 18th Birthday to Ukraine!

A big diakuyu (thank you) to TUCA member, Lieda Boyko of Florida, (my sister), for connecting me with this Web site. I urge TUCA members to access <http://cybercossack.com/?p=1359> if only to see the updated photo of the famous painting "Cossacks writing a letter to the Sultan", very witty and topical.

Submitted by Olena Boyko.

Kremenchuk Playground Completed!

Although we are not the only ones responsible for the successful fundraising and final completion of the new playground at the Kremenchuk Baby House (orphanage), we certainly can be proud of our significant contribution that made this playground a reality. Members of An Orphans Bright Star and CBN's An Orphan's Promise made large contributions to start this project and to get the needed funds "over the top". This spring the long awaited playground was assembled and its new equipment and bright colors were just waiting for the kids to climb all over it. Since the project had been dedicated to Zina's memory, its completion is especially meaningful to me and my family. One of these years all of us plan to visit Kremenchuk and check out the playground and my grandchildren's place of origin. In the meantime, we would like to thank all contributors who helped to make it happen. *Duzhe Dyakuyemo!* Hopefully I'll be able to insert a few pictures into the newsletter. Natalia's Ukrainian contact has made a video, which we hope to see soon. (See playground pictures.)
Submitted by Andy Grynewytsch.

Berdyansk Training Center:

We would like to share the life story of one of the best students of Berdyansk Training Center – Zhenya Kosa. She is an orphan even though her parents are still alive. She was a little girl when her father was sent to prison for 11 years. Her mother began to drink and to bring drunkards to her home. Zhenya and her two brothers were often hungry and spent a lot of time in the streets. They were almost burned once when left alone in the apartment. After that the children were taken to the Berdyansk boarding school. All of Zhenya's school years were spent at the internat. Here Zhenya learned not to trust people and felt abandoned and unwanted. She found that she could avoid depression and find some joy in books. When she got a little older she began to write letters to her father. She was hoping they would be together when he was released from prison. But it didn't happen. Her father left the prison when Zhenya was graduating from school. He wasn't interested in his children and just drank every day. Zhenya was afraid that after graduation from school she would be left all alone for the rest of her adult life. But the Lord gave her an opportunity to get support in the CBN's Orphan's Promise Center. The staff workers accepted Zhenya like their daughter. The girl repented there and began to attend church. Her life was changed greatly. Her newfound confidence in God and healing changed her future. Now Zhenya studies in a medical college and lives together with other girls attending the Training Center in the same block of flats with the center's staff workers. She was always afraid that she may be left in the streets after graduation from school, but now she has a real family instead. She says that Misha and Lyuda, the Center directors, became her father and mother. Recently Zhenya was baptized. She plans to enter a missionary school and serve the Lord.

(See Picture of Zhenya in Berdyansk Orphan's Promise Training Center.)

Submitted by Natalia Khomyak.

Orphan's Promise.

New Orthodox Parish in Tidewater:

My name is Fr. Maximus Tatum and it is with great joy and excitement (and, I must admit, some nervousness) that I announce the early stages of forming a new Orthodox Christian parish in the Hampton Roads area - *The Holy Myrrhbearers Orthodox Mission Parish*.

The Holy Myrrhbearers Orthodox Mission Parish is under the omophorion of His Eminence, Metropolitan Nicholas of Amissos, the Ruling Hierarch of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese (www.acrod.org).

Now, you might be asking yourselves: "Why in the world is he announcing this in our newsletter?" Frankly, that would be an appropriate question. The fact of the matter is that I am making the announcement for a few reasons. First and foremost, I am a priest! I want nothing more than build a parish in the Hampton Roads area and spread the Gospel of our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ to both those persons who want to worship in The Holy Orthodox Church that has a similar tradition as

their own, and to those persons who have yet to discover all that Orthodoxy has to offer. Second, I truly hope this parish will be pan-orthodox – one where all ethnic groups can come together and worship. Third, part of your organization’s stated mission is to focus “...on humanitarian, educational, cultural and social events and the fellowship and friendship we derive from association with others of similar backgrounds and interests.” I believe that you will find that participating in an Orthodox parish possessing a similar cultural tradition as your own will serve to enrich your mission statement and your spiritual lives. Finally, the Carpatho-Russian and Ukrainian peoples have a shared history, culture, and tradition. I believe you will find our Diocese open, friendly, and deeply respectful of all traditions. We do not attempt to make anyone “Carpatho-Russian,” indeed God’s house is for all!

If you are interested in learning more about the parish, if you would just like to talk, or if for any reason you need a priest, please feel free to give me a call at (757) 270-2160. If you prefer email, I can be reached at priestmaximus@gmail.com.

I look forward to meeting all of you soon.

May our good God bless you,

Submitted by Rev. Maximus Tatum.

TUCA Dues – Are you paid up?

The label on your TUCA Newsletter indicates if your 2009 annual dues are paid. If the address label displays "Pd=2009", your dues are up-to-date. If an earlier year appears on your label, we have not received your dues for 2009. If "Pd=0000" appears, we have no record of you ever paying TUCA dues of \$20 per family.

Contributions for the children of Ukraine are always welcome. Please specify the money is to go to the children's fund. Checks may be made out to TUCA and sent to Lucy Halunko, PO Box 18351, Richmond, VA 23226.

Submitted by Lucy Halunko.

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



Nadia turns over her symbol of authority to Wally. 5



Nadia and her farewell gift from TUCA.



Part of new Kremenchuk Playground looks very busy.



Kremenchuk Playground is like Bush Gardens. You have to stand in line.



Elaine, Joanna and Nadia at the Pysanky workshop in VAB Library



This is an Orphan's Promise Gift. Hope it has four-wheel drive!



Zhenya Kosa at the Berdyansk Training Center



One more Playground picture at the completion of the construction.