

Tidewater Ukrainian Cultural Association

(Українське Культурно-Освітнє Товариство в Приморській Віржинії)

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money we collected was designated for the building of a playground to be named in honor of Zina. Andy and Zina's two grandsons were adopted by Chris and Mark from this orphanage. It was indeed a special moment when the 2 boys selflessly gave money that they had saved in memory of their grandmother for the building of the playground.

The day was beautifully spent. It was probably one of the nicest picnics we had. There was something really special about this day. To top it off we celebrated Andy's 75th Birthday! Mno Haya Lita Andy. Yes everything about the day was special.

TUCA Annual Picnic

Submitted by: Nadia Hoots

The TUCA annual picnic was held on August 24, 2008 at Big Bethel Park, in Hampton, Virginia. The event date coincided with Ukrainian Independence Day.

The weather was absolutely perfect as was the food and fellowship. We had a good turnout and some special guests. Olena Boyko brought her friends who had served in the Peace Corps in Ukraine and Nadia Hoots invited Chris Williams who is a folklorist and is one of the coordinators of the Richmond Folk Festival.

In honor and celebration of Ukrainian Independence Day, Wally Melnitchouk shared some thoughts and comments and lead the group in the singing of the Ukrainian National Anthem.

This was not only a special day celebrating the Independence of Ukraine, but we also took time to honor one of our esteemed members who recently passed away, our beloved Zina. Olena Boyko lead the TUCA members in a moment of silence and shared her recollections of Zina and her contributions to TUCA as one of the founding members of the Ukrainian organization.

During the picnic we also had a special table set up with doilies crocheted by Zina which were available to the members for a small donation for Kremenchuck orphanage in Ukraine. The



Tribute To Zina

Submitted by: Nadia Hoots and Olena Boyko

Amongst the members of TUCA, there was none like Zina Grynewytsch, she was a shining star, a bright beacon of warmth, goodwill and kindness. Andy worked in the spotlight, but it was Zina who, with her easy going get it done attitude that provided the bedrock which accounted for so much of TUCA's success. In the 10 years of TUCA's existence there was not one meeting, gathering, picnic or party that TUCA did not benefit from Zina's contribution. Her presence and her cooking delighted us all.

We have all come to know and love Zina for her warmth, generosity and gentle spirit. Zina was always willing to help and had a whatever it takes attitude and could always be counted on regardless of the task. A great example of Zina's generosity of spirit is when several years ago a group of Ukrainian orphans was visiting Virginia Beach. There was a need for suitcases for the children. The members of TUCA were asked to provide at least one suitcase. Zina did not buy one suitcase but 5! She searched every thrift shop in order to make sure that there would be enough suitcases for the visiting children to take back to Ukraine.

Over the years we have shared many memories, many dinners and celebrations. Anytime that TUCA would be having a meeting or a party, Zina would always be asked to make her famous "kapusta". Everyone absolutely loved her kapusta that really put her on the map with the TUCA members. Zina radiated with the warmth of Ukrainian hospitality and extended that to all who knew her and to those who were strangers.

During the spring and summer months Zina took great pride and joy in her garden. The roses, peonies and all the flowers seemed to flourish in her nurturing and loving care. The tomatoes, cucumbers and herbs grew in abundance. This was her sanctuary, her delight. Zina was a rose among roses and continues to live on in our hearts today and will always live on in our memories.

It is without a doubt that Zina will be missed by all whose lives have been touched by her. For Andy, Chris, Mark, Zack and Nick, the loss of a beloved wife, mother and grandmother will certainly leave a void, but over time the beautiful memories of someone so dear will help fill the emptiness and the gentle hand of God will heal the pain of such a great loss.

In loving memory of Zina, TUCA is contributing to Kremanchuck orphanage in Ukraine. The donation will go towards the building of a playground to be named in her honor.

For all of us who are part of TUCA, we have been blessed to have had someone so special as a part of our lives and someone who will live on in our hearts.

17th Anniversary of Ukraine's Independence

Submitted by: Wally Melnitchouk

This August 24, 2008, marked the 17th anniversary of Ukraine's independence. While by now many may take it for granted, for most people who remember the Soviet era, each passing year's anniversary is a reminder of how much Ukraine has achieved and what a miracle it has been to see a free, independent Ukraine on the world stage. This is something that many of our ancestors longed for, fought and died for, and we are really the lucky generation that has witnessed this monumental event in our lifetimes.

Of course this is not to say all is now well in Ukraine and the country doesn't have major challenges to overcome. I'm sure most readers are aware of the hardship of ordinary citizens' lives, at a time when Ukraine boasts a growing number of billionaires (23 at last count). And while the country's parliament, government and the President are busy squabbling and undermining each other, it is sometimes not clear whose hands are on the steering wheel and where it is all going. This is especially worrying in this critical time when Russia's recent invasion of Georgia has exposed to the world the imperial mindset of today's Kremlin leadership, and there are real fears that Russia's attention might turn next to Ukraine.

On the bright side, however, both President Yushchenko and Prime Minister Tymoshenko, despite their differences, appear to be strong supporters of Ukraine's European integration, which is vital to the country's long-term prosperity and security. This includes membership of NATO (a fact that this organization has recently accepted as inevitable, despite Russia's protestations), as well as closer ties with the European Union. Other notable events over the past year have included Ukraine gaining its long-awaited membership of the World Trade Organization (WTO), becoming its 152nd member, and the celebration of the 1020th anniversary of Christianity in Kyivan Rus'. The past year witnessed the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor, with commemorations in Ukraine and worldwide, with a growing number of countries recognizing the tragedy as a genocide by Stalin and his henchmen against the Ukrainian people.

On the lighter side, this past year witnessed a memorable performance by ex-Beatle Paul McCartney, giving a free live concert in front of some 200,000 fans on Kyiv's "maidan". And in the sports arena, preparations are under way (albeit slowly) for the Euro 2012 Soccer championships, to be hosted jointly by Ukraine and Poland.

Finally, as we recount our homeland's 17th anniversary, Ukraine's athletes have just returned home from a highly successful 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, bringing back 27 medals, including 7 gold, 5 silver and 15 bronze. The country finished 10th in the overall medal count, something which we can all be very proud of!

Happy 17th Birthday, and Mnohaya Lita!

Icon “Writing”

Submitted by: Elaine Hampton

Elaine Hampton had a very special and unique experience participating in two Icon “writing” workshops given in Williamsburg, by a Ukrainian monk. (One “writes” an Icon in the same sense that one “writes” a pysanka) No artistic experience was necessary; all participants were given very detailed instruction, and much individual assistance by Father Mefodii. It was a spiritual experience, with Father explaining the religious symbolism of each step in creating the Icons.

Father Mefodii will be offering another Icon workshop in October, around the 19th, for several days, again in Williamsburg at the Bruton Church Hall. Anyone with a desire to create a beautiful Icon that is part of our Ukrainian culture is encouraged to participate in this unique spiritual expression.

The classes are sponsored by
This Century Art Gallery in Williamsburg : 229-4949

* Richmond Folk Festival *October 10-12, 2008*

This year TUCA will be participating in the Richmond Festival which will be held in downtown Richmond at the riverfront. This festival will include various programs from different countries featuring crafts, folklore and traditions. There will be a wide variety of music food and dance. Last year an estimated 175,000 people attended this event. This year promises to be just as successful as it has been in the past.

TUCA has been invited to share the art of Pysanky painting. Joanna Griffin, Elaine Hampton and Nadia Hoots will be demonstrating and sharing information on this age old Ukrainian art form. Members of TUCA are asked to come and show their support. We will also have the opportunity to share about Ukrainian history and Elaine will be exhibiting her Madonnas.

Admission to this event is free. There are volunteer opportunities for anyone interested in helping out. For more information please visit the website:
www.richmondfolkfestival.org.

* TUCA Christmas *January 4, 2009*

The TUCA Christmas party will be held on January 4, 2009 at the home of Myron and Cynthia Bilyj in Hampton.

This event is always a great time and we all look forward to getting together with our TUCA family. More information will be sent out closer to the holidays.