

UKRAINIANS ABROAD: NEWS AND VIEWS #156

Compiled by Serge Cipko, Coordinator, Ukrainian Diaspora Studies Initiative, CIUS (Email: scipko@ualberta.ca).

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1. Andorra. "Ambassador Pohoreltsev Meets with Ukrainian Community in Andorra," *News from Ukraine*, 9 November 2021.

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As part of his visit to the Principality of Andorra, Ambassador of Ukraine to Spain Serhiy Pohoreltsev met with representatives of the Ukrainian community.

The Ukrainian Embassy in Spain wrote about this on Facebook, Ukrinform reports.

"The ambassador informed those present about the current state and prospects of development of Ukrainian-Andorran relations, the role and place of the diplomatic mission in this process," the report says.

In addition, the parties discussed in detail ways to intensify activities aimed at meeting the cultural and educational needs of Ukrainian citizens living in Andorra.

2. Brazil. "The Small Part of Brazil That Is Forever Ukraine," *EmergingEurope.com*, 16 October 2021.

By Christian Mamo

The Ukrainian community in Brazil is the third largest Ukrainian diaspora in the world.

Any travellers heading deep into the southern Brazilian state of Paraná will likely encounter an unusual sight for the area.

For there, on a 5,000 square kilometre tract of rural land lives the bulk of Brazil's 600,000-strong Ukrainian community.

The Ukrainian villages – known as colonies – function as something of a time capsule to 19th century Ukraine. Wooden, onion-domed churches dominate the countryside, alongside typical Ukrainian peasant houses. On Sundays, the churches are attended by vyshyvanka-wearing congregations.

Even the form of Ukrainian spoken in Brazil is frozen in time, identical to a dialect spoken in the historical region of Galicia over 100 years ago.

The district of Prudentópolis, encompassing much of this community's territory, is the focal point of the Ukrainian diaspora. In the district's eponymous capital, roughly 75 per cent of the population are of full or partial Ukrainian descent. In early October, Brazilian federal authorities even granted the Ukrainian language co-official status in Prudentópolis municipality.

To Brazil

Ukrainians began migrating to Brazil at the end of the 19th century. Then, successive Brazilian governments were making extensive efforts to encourage European migration, even offering to pay travel expenses as a way of attracting some of the poorest Europeans, including Ukrainians.

Most ended up moving to Brazil from Galicia. Now encompassing the Ukrainian oblasts of Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk and Ternopil, the region was a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and Ukrainians often found themselves marginalised by their reluctance to assimilate into the broader empire.

On arrival in Brazil, having been promised food, clothing and access to fertile land, the immigrants quickly found that this was not true. Instead, they were placed on uncultivated land far away from urban civilisation. Thrust into an unfamiliar environment, and lacking knowledge of how to cultivate the soil, in the early years, many succumbed to disease and hunger.

This suffering was immortalised in a series of poems titled *To Brazil* by esteemed Ukrainian poet Ivan Franko (for whom the city of Ivano-Frankivsk is named).

Immigration slowed after these first waves, with Canada becoming a more popular destination.

However, many Ukrainians continued to arrive in Brazil every year, including tens of thousands of workers imported by the Brazilian government to build a railroad from Sao Paulo to Rio Grande do Sul, passing through the Ukrainian-dominated Paraná state.

A final wave of immigration occurred in the late 1940s, mostly Ukrainian nationalists who feared persecution by the Soviet Union.

Preserving language and culture

In the 150 years since the first arrival of Ukrainians in Brazil, the community has managed to retain its language, culture and customs. This is in stark contrast to next door Argentina, where the roughly 300,000-strong Ukrainian community (including the legendary football manager Jose Pekerman, who coached Argentina at the 2006 World Cup) has been largely assimilated.

According to Professor Gustavo Vizcaya de Lacerda, a sociologist at the Federal University of Parana, a major reason for the preservation of Ukrainian culture in Brazil is the role of the church.

The majority of Ukrainian Brazilians belong to the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, whose rites are almost identical to the Eastern Orthodox churches, but which retain allegiance to the Pope. There are today at least 230 Greek Catholic churches in the state of Paraná.

These are focal points of the community and provide regular lessons in Ukrainian language and history, allowing the community to retain its culture. Furthermore, Ukrainian Brazilians are well-known for being insular. They distinguish themselves as “nashy lyudi” (our people), in opposition to “blacks”: their term for all outsiders, regardless of race or ethnicity.

This insularity and reluctance to mix with the wider population has certainly helped the community maintain its identity, unlike the myriad peoples living in and assimilated into Brazil.

Several Ukrainian Brazilians have nevertheless become prominent members of Brazilian society. Clarice Lispector, of Ukrainian Jewish origin, is one of the most esteemed novelists of Brazil. Rafael Sobis is a former Brazilian international footballer, who won the Copa Libertadores with Internacional.

Then there is Hector Babenco, an Argentinian-born naturalised Brazilian film director best known for creating the stunning, visceral, gut-wrenching film Pixote, about street children in Sao Paulo.

Today, Paraná state is actively building ties with Ternopil oblast in Ukraine, from where many Ukrainian Brazilians originate.

With Ukrainian now having official status in an entire district, and public schools teaching in Ukrainian, the community has a chance to forge even deeper ties with its ancestral homeland.

The Ukrainian government should perhaps also be taking an interest in this community, as guardians of an old Ukrainian identity, largely lost to time.

3. Brazil. “Ukrainian Language Becomes Second Official Language in One of Municipalities of Brazil – UWC,” *Interfax: Ukrainian General Newswire*, 7 October 2021.

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KYIV. Oct 7 (Interfax-Ukraine) - Deputies of the city council of the Brazilian municipality of Prudentópolis have decided to approve the Ukrainian language as the second official language, the press service of the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) has reported on Facebook.

“Ukrainian became the official language of the municipality of Prudentópolis in Brazil ... Congratulations on this success to the Ukrainian-Brazilian Central Representation, led by Vice-President of the Ukrainian World Congress, lawyer Vitorio Sorotiuk, who prepared the draft law and justification,” the message reads.

According to the Brazilian edition of *Nossa Gente*, the decision to recognize the Ukrainian language in Prudentópolis was made due to the fact that it is the second largest in terms of native speakers in the municipality (after Portuguese).

“The presence of two official languages is constitutional and complies with Article 216 of the Federal Constitution, which establishes that the intangible cultural heritage, which carries the traditions and memories of the various ethnic groups that make up Brazilian society, is Brazilian cultural heritage,” the edition notes, citing the rationale of the said bill.

The document also specifies that Prudentópolis has been the twin city of Ukrainian Ternopil since 2019, since it was from there that the largest number of Ukrainian immigrants arrived in the municipality.

4. Brazil. “Cultural Diplomacy Will Contribute to the Bilateral Relations Development between Ukraine and Brazil, – Kostyrya,” *Ukrainian News.com*, 17 September 2021.

Надежда Комендантова

Ukraine and Brazil have great potential for the bilateral relations development, particularly, in the cultural sphere.

This was stated by Inna Kostyrya, Doctor of Political Science, Professor, Head of the International Relations Department, Vice-Rector for International Cooperation of Kyiv National University of Culture when meeting Mr. Norton de Andrade Mello Rapesta, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federative Republic of Brazil to Ukraine.

Within the framework of Inna Kostyrya “Leadership” author’s course, aimed at the Ukrainian cultural diplomacy potential development at the International Relations Department of Kyiv National University of Culture there was organised a meeting with Mr. Norton de Andrade Mello Rapesta, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federative Republic of Brazil to Ukraine. Mrs. Elda Maria Gaspar Alvarez, Minister and Chief of Cultural Sector, visited the University of Culture together with the Ambassador.

The event was of great interest to both the Department's teaching staff and students: future diplomats and specialists in cyber security and international activities information support.

Mr. Ambassador stressed the importance of deepening cooperation between our countries, tourism development, and mutual acquaintance with the cultural diversity of both countries. During the meeting, it was agreed that the university would hold several events, master classes to introduce students to the culture, history and national cuisine of Brazil.

Inna Kostyrya noted that the organization of such meetings would contribute to the further development and professional growth of future specialists in cultural diplomacy. For his part, the Ambassador emphasised that in today's world, that is cultural diplomacy be gaining its relevance. It is a soft power aimed to promote the interests of different countries by building a positive image of the country.

"Ukraine and Brazil have a long history of relations, as this year will mark the 130th anniversary of the Ukrainians first resettlement to Brazil. Currently, our country has many citizens with Ukrainian roots, descendants of those first emigrants. They sing Ukrainian songs, speak Ukrainian in the family circles, and get dressed in embroidered clothes for the holidays", – said the Ambassador.

Inna Kostyrya is convinced that the large Ukrainian Diaspora in Brazil – all about 1 million people – with regard to its 130-year history, should become one of the drivers of relations and cultural exchange development between the two countries.

"For our part, we also consider the possibility of holding online events with Ukrainian Diaspora organizations in Brazil to get acquainted with the country, its culture, politics, economy and possible cultural exchanges", – said Inna Kostyrya.

5. Canada. "Statue of Catholic St. Volodymyr Desecrated at Winnipeg Church Sent for Restoration," *CBC News/Manitoba*, 8 October 2021.

A bronze statue of St. Volodymyr set off on a new pilgrimage Friday.

The statue of the saint at Winnipeg's Ukrainian Catholic Metropolitan Cathedral of Sts. Vladimir and Olga, which was desecrated in 2019, was finally sent away to be restored after what the cathedral's parish chair called "a challenging period of time."

The statue of the Catholic saint at the church on McGregor Street, between Flora and Stella Avenues, was found decapitated early on the morning of May 21, 2019.

The head was left wrapped up in a garbage bag at the front door of the cathedral a few days later.

Parish chair Nicholas Chubenko says the statue's decapitation had a devastating impact on the church.

“It was very demoralizing. It was very sad. A lot of people were shocked by the desecration,” Chubenko told CBC News. “This is an area, a very high-crime area just for the very reason — that we’ve had incidents of this nature, but not to this significance.

“So in some ways the membership was just taken off guard. It was shocking and it was shocking to the entire community.”

The work of famed sculptor Leo Mol stood outside the North End Winnipeg cathedral for decades and was blessed by then Pope John Paul II during his 1984 visit to Canada.

Chubenko credited Bennie Gusnowsky, who started a fundraiser on the website GoFundMe, for his efforts in securing sponsorships and funding, and tapping into resources through city council and private sponsors in the Ukrainian community.

“It’s been well received and it’s an important part of our property here at the cathedral, and not just for the cathedral but for the entire Ukrainian community here in Winnipeg as well.”

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress also provided financial assistance by matching grants the cathedral was able to secure, said Chubenko.

Despite that aid, he said pulling together funds to help with the statue’s restoration has not been easy, in part because of lower attendance at mass during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The restoration is estimated to be complete in six to eight weeks, with the statue likely to be returned in February or March of next year.

A final decision on the placement of the statue has yet to be made, but Chubenko hopes that will be determined in time for the feast day for St. Volodymyr in July 2022.

He also hopes there will be no more acts of vandalism against the church or its property.

“I think we’ve come to grips that this is going to possibly be an ongoing issue in this community, in this area sadly, and we just have to take precautions to make sure that it doesn't repeat itself again,” Chubenko said.

6. Canada. “A Different Spin on Fitness,” *Winnipeg Free Press*, 4 October 2021.

Kazka is the Ukrainian word for “fairy tale.” For dance instructor Kristina Frykas, Kazka Dance Collective is her fairy tale come true.

She opened her boutique studio in Winnipeg two years ago and Hopakercise — her exercise class that blends Ukrainian dance and fitness — has become a hit. Frykas created and even trademarked the name.

Hopakercise originates from “hopak,” a Ukrainian folk dance that’s often referred to as the “national dance of Ukraine.”

“Hopakercise is a dance-based fitness class that combines the principles of Pilates, ballet and Ukrainian folk dance to create a high-energy workout,” Frykas says. “Hopak is the most well-known Ukrainian dance. It’s high energy and usually shows off everyone’s special skills.”

Frykas also teaches ballet classes for both children and adults in addition to jazz and Pilates.

As director of the Sopilka Ukrainian Dance School, Frykas spent years struggling to find rental space in Winnipeg that was suitable for her students — that means mirrors, ballet barres and a sprung floor. In 2019, with the support of the Women’s Enterprise Centre, she opened her own studio and was able to ensure all her dance needs were met. At Kazka, she’s able to teach dance and fitness classes while also using the space to house Sopilka dance students.

“For Sopilka, I was tired of renting (dance space) in other places. I built the studio for them,” she says. “Kazka is also a place for me to teach my own classes with a different spin. A non-competitive, community-first, joy-of-movement alternative from the everyday.”

Frykas is a professional ballet teacher who spent nearly two decades in the studios of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet as both a graduate of the school’s teacher training program and alumni of the RWB School Recreational Division.

She’s been a Ukrainian dance instructor for just as long, has studied and taught dance in both Toronto and Italy, and was awarded the Ukrainian Dance World Instructor of the Year Award in 2019.

Not only does Frykas teach several classes each week, as a collective, the space is also rented by other dance ensembles. At Kazka, her Ukrainian roots and connection to culture, dance and community have played an integral part in the creation of her studio.

“I did my Pilates certification years ago so I always had an interest in fitness. Physiotherapy was something I considered doing as a career,” she says. “But when the teaching-dance bug bites you, you can’t let it go. I’m going to be the 80-year-old still teaching because I feel it really is a calling.”

When Kazka opened its doors in the fall of 2019, Frykas was teaching several in-person classes each week. That lasted just a few months due to the pandemic.

After about two weeks, Frykas says she was so bored that she started making dance and fitness videos for both her youth and senior dancers.

“I sent the videos to everybody. I even sent them to my aunt in Toronto and she was sending them all over the place. I sent them everywhere,” she says.

After the success of her videos, she decided to take it one step further. That May she began teaching virtual ballet, Pilates and Hopakercise classes.

“I started teaching classes over Zoom from my living room because I didn’t have the internet at the studio,” she says. “(My virtual classes) took off like gangbusters.”

By the summer, she was able to teach virtually from her studio. Her Hopakercise class had become so popular that she invested in new equipment.

“At the height of the pandemic, I had over 30 people on the screen,” she says. “I had been using my computer but had to get a TV because I couldn’t see everybody.”

Now, more than a year later, people from all over Canada and beyond take Frykas’s virtual class. Some of her previous dance students — now adults living in Toronto — sign on each week, as well as a former Manitoban (hailing from Dauphin) who now lives in the Cayman Islands.

Frykas has Facebook to thank for helping spread the word.

“A friend of mine facilitates dance tours for teachers and companies. He started an online resource called Ukrainian Dance World. It has a huge following on Facebook,” Frykas says.

Dr. Karen Klym, 57, a Winnipeg family physician who works in private practice, has been a member at Kazka since it first opened and began virtual Hopakercise classes during the lockdown last year.

“The virtual option is super-convenient for me because it means I can attend the class,” she says. “Part of the reason I haven’t been going to the (dance) studio in-person is because I have trouble getting myself anywhere on time from my office.”

Klym does not have a dance background; however, her four adult children all have extensive training and experience in Ukrainian dance. During lockdown, her three daughters joined in on the fun.

“At the time (of lockdown), three of our kids were living with us and two of them danced with Kristina previously, and they joined me for Hopakercise class,” she says. “So, the three of us were dancing together in the living room and our other daughter that lives in Toronto joined online as well. It was so fun and a big thrill for me to be dancing with my adult kids.”

Klym says it was a way to connect with her children, although she admits the class takes a bit of persistence... and a good sense of humour.

“My kids laugh at me and correct me. It’s very funny,” she says. “They roll their eyes and say I should point my foot more. They’re usually very gracious about it.”

For Klym, the advancement in technology is one of the few benefits of the pandemic.

“With the lockdown, my lack of (dance) experience no longer mattered because I was dancing in the living room. I thought, this is another thing I could do. Besides, we couldn’t do anything

else,” she says. “Both working from home and exercising at home are causing people to rethink their schedules. It will be a lasting positive.”

Frykas says a lot of her virtual Hopakercise clients are mothers choosing to do something for themselves.

“Sometimes for moms, your life becomes all about your children and you put yourself last,” she says. “When everyone was at home, moms didn’t have to drive their kids to eight million activities in a day. So, at 7:15 p.m., these moms could go to their basement or living room and have one hour to do something for themselves.”

Having a virtual option allows people to try the class who may not feel totally comfortable doing it in-person.

“Some of these moms maybe wouldn’t have ever felt confident enough to step into the studio or had the opportunity because of all of their other commitments,” Frykas says.

Today, Frykas is back in the studio teaching several classes each week. In addition to her in-studio classes, Frykas will continue to offer virtual dance options. And that means a new and improved setup.

“We’re putting in a whole new system. New TV on the wall, webcam and I’m changing the setup to make it even better than what it is,” she says. “If I didn’t offer Zoom, I’d have a whole handful of clients that wouldn’t do anything anymore. If this is what it takes to keep them doing what they fell in love with, that’s what I’m going to do for them.”

Like many other businesses, it was never the plan to teach online dance classes. But Frykas is embracing this new way of connecting with her clients — and she has her Hopakercise class to thank for that.

“The pandemic was a way for all of us to stop, think and re-evaluate. Leading up to this, never in a million years did I ever think that I would be doing dance virtually,” she says. “But with the Hopakercise ladies, they fed me through the pandemic. I think that’s part of the reason why I’m so passionate about it — because that’s what got me through it.”

7. Canada. “Three Ukrainian Holidays Celebrated in Morden,” *PembinaValleyOnline.com*, 20 September 2021.

Written by Robyn Wiebe/Nicole Klassen

A day of triple celebration took place on Sunday in the Morden Park Bowl.

Event organizer, Morden’s Yevgeniya Tatarenko, said the last time they held this event was five years ago. The three celebrations were for the 130th Anniversary of Ukrainian Immigration to Canada, the 30th Anniversary of Independence Day in Ukraine, and the unfurling of the largest Ukrainian flag in Canada.

After seeing this 25m by 16m flag unfurled in Winnipeg on Aug 28th, Tatarenko decided it was important to have the flag brought to Morden [Manitoba] for the unfurling by the large Ukrainian population in Morden and other people of the community. Tatarenko says she worked together with the Canadian Ukrainian Congress to bring the flag to Morden to be a part of the event.

This bilingual event brought in performers from all over Manitoba and combined them with local Ukrainian performers like the children from the Ukrainian United School in Morden. The crowd was entertained as the singers and dancers donned in brightly coloured traditional Ukrainian clothing.

Tatarenko says the event was designed to bring all of the community together and to celebrate the rich Ukrainian Culture that exists in Morden.

8. Canada. “Lamont County Signs Historic Memorandum of Understanding with Nebyliv, Ukraine,” *Fortsaskonline.com*, 18 September 2021.

Written by Allison Stephen

Lamont County is celebrating its heritage.

On Sept.7, representatives from Lamont County and the village of Nebyliv, Ukraine, came together to re-affirm their bond by signing a memorandum of understanding as ‘twin’ municipalities.

Over 50 people were in attendance to witness the historic event. Lamont County reeve David Diduck as well as members of council, the Ukrainian Pioneer Historical Society, and the Consul General of Ukraine, were joined by their Ukrainian counterparts via Zoom to commemorate the signing and celebrate Lamont County’s Ukrainian heritage.

The 90-minute ceremony featured both lived and taped messages of greetings and congratulations from various government and organization representatives.

“We actually call ourselves the cradle of Ukrainian settlement in Canada because we are the location of where the first Ukrainian settlers came to Canada 130 years ago,” said Tom Koep, economic development manager for Lamont County.

In the late 1800s, settlers Wasyl Eleniak and Ivan Pylypow came to the area now known as Lamont County after a long journey from Nebyliv. According to Koep, they liked what they saw, later convincing friends and family to make the trip over, too.

Consequently, many of them moved out to the area in what is now known as the Edna Star Colony.

Today, over 1-million people in Canada can trace their ancestry back to Ukraine, with a large number of those residing in Lamont County and surrounding areas. The county is home to the

Babas & Borshch Ukrainian Festival and the world-famous Ukrainian-style Easter egg in Vegreville.

The county used its contacts within the Ukrainian-Canadian community as well as the Consul General for Ukraine in Edmonton, to reach out to officials in the Nebyliv area. The Consul General suggested the two municipalities formalize their friendship in the form of an agreement.

“So, it started off as just a simple ceremony, but of course, as these things go, we got some great ideas and some great input from community members and staff from Lamont County,” Koep added. “We ended up having a fantastic ceremony and celebration.”

The twinning initiative was not only crucial to the county as a way to commemorate its culture, but Koep explained the agreement would provide an opportunity to exchange information and culture between the two mutually.

9. General. “Zelensky Proposes to Introduce Dual Citizenship to Ukrainians Abroad, Except for Those Living in Countries Unfriendly to Ukraine,” *Interfax: Ukrainian General Newswire*, 22 September 2021.

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KYIV. Sept 22 (Interfax-Ukraine) - President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky, during a meeting with the Ukrainian diaspora in New York, proposed introducing dual citizenship to Ukrainians living abroad, the press service of the head of state reported.

At the same time, Zelensky noted impossibility of granting dual citizenship to those people who live on the territory of unfriendly states, since this issue must be approached carefully and all difficult issues must be foreseen.

“This is a difficult question, but all the difficulties will be resolved with the help of our energy, our desire,” the president said.

According to the press service of the head of state, Zelensky, at a meeting with representatives of the Ukrainian diaspora in New York, focused on the importance of bringing peace back to Ukraine.

“All the forces and pressure of foreign representatives are needed here: of embassies, leaders of various states, leaders of churches - everyone who feels that they can do something to restore peace. Therefore, each of you should do everything possible to restore peace in our state,” said Zelensky.

The President also presented state awards to representatives of the Ukrainian community in the United States for their active work and noted that in many countries of the world, Ukrainians preserve long-term national traditions.

“I believe that you are our best ambassadors because you protect our state, our sovereignty, territorial integrity abroad,” he stressed.

10. Greece. “Ambassador Meets with Representatives of Ukrainian Societies in Greece,” *News from Ukraine*, 5 November 2021.

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Ambassador of Ukraine to the Hellenic Republic Serhiy Shutenko met with members of the Public Council of Representatives of Ukrainian Societies under the Ukrainian Embassy in Greece.

“The event was attended by the chairman and representatives of the Association of the Ukrainian Diaspora in Greece ‘Ukrainian-Greek Thought’, Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center ‘Berehynia’, Center for Support and Development of Ukrainian Cultural Heritage ‘Trembita’, NGO Association of Ukrainians of Greece - Ukrainian Cranberry region, Public Association ‘Ukrainians of Greece’ and NGO ‘Borysthenes, Greece-Ukraine BusinessHub,” reads the report posted on the website of the Ukrainian Embassy in Greece, Ukrinform reports.

At the meeting, Serhiy Shutenko noted the significant potential of Ukrainian Greek societies’ resource base and called for joint activities and unification of all Ukrainian Greek societies.

The participants of the meeting also discussed priority areas, cooperation plans and project activities for the current year.

11. Hungary. “Ukrainian Greek-Catholics in Hungary Will Be Granted Land for Building Church, School and Kindergarten,” *UGCC News*, 11 September 2021.

On September 9, 2021 His Beatitude Sviatoslav, the Father and Head of the UGCC met in Budapest with Zsolt Semjén, deputy prime minister of Hungary. The agreement was reached to grant Ukrainians land to build a church, school and kindergarten. Ukrainian Greek-Catholics in Hungary requested His Beatitude Sviatoslav and both Roman Catholic Church and Greek-Catholic Church to support their initiative.

His Beatitude Sviatoslav consecrated a monument to the Blessed Omelian Kovch in Lublin When we give all we have then God gives us more than we had before, - Head of the UGCC During the meeting the sides discussed current affairs of Ukrainian community in Hungary. Deputy prime minister assured the Head of the UGCC that Hungarian government will facilitate the process of building church and school with a kindergarten.

The UGCC Department for Information according to report of press service of the UGCC in Hungary.

12. Italy. “Italy in Solidarity with Ukraine - The President of the Italian Republic to the Head of the UGCC,” *UGCC News*, 25 September 2021.

On September 24 the participants of Plenary Assembly of the Council of Episcopal Conferences of Europe (CCEE) met with Sergio Mattarella, the president of the Italian Republic. In his speech the President Mattarella emphasized a special mission of Church in modern Europe – unite different nations for the sake of common good.

A monument to the Blessed Omelian Kovch solemnly unveiled and consecrated in Lublin “In today’s world there are often temptations to think that peace has already been brought about, human rights have been established, religious in particular, and we live in an open and tolerant world. However, we know that in many countries religious feelings are still used as a tool for rivalry in order to justify different types of discrimination, - Mattarella emphasized. He assumes that civility of Europe needed to be exposed in social, political, economic and educational spheres. And here a significant role belongs to religious leaders.

Speaking with the President His Beatitude Sviatoslav thanked him for being welcoming to hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians who live and work in Italy and for his support of Ukraine in time of war. Sergio Mattarella emphasized that Ukrainians are a precious national community for Italian people and added: “I know the pain of your people who are suffering from the war in eastern Ukraine. It provoked a mass emigration of your citizens. Italy is in solidarity with Ukraine”, Mattarella assured.

The Secretariat of the Head of the UGCC [Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church] in Rome.

13. Poland. “Poland Is Main Destination for Migration of Ukrainians – IOM,” *Interfax: Ukrainian General Newswire*, 29 October 2021.

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KYIV. Oct 29 (Interfax-Ukraine) - Poland has become the main destination country for labour migrants from Ukraine, according to the publication “Migration in Ukraine: Figures and Facts” prepared by the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations Agency for Migration in Ukraine (IOM).

“Emigration to the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary has increased in a certain way. As before, Poland is the main destination for Ukrainians,” Doctor of Public Administration, expert on migration issues Olena Malynovska said at the presentation of the publication in Kyiv on Friday.

In particular, in 2020, some 1.329 million applications of Polish employers about their intention to employ a citizen of Ukraine were registered. It is estimated that the labour participation of Ukrainians in the Polish economy has provided 13% of its growth in recent years.

“There has been a noticeable increase in the number of applications by Ukrainians to acquire a long-term or permanent permit to stay abroad, in particular in Poland. The pandemic, which limited the possibility for circular migration, that is, periodic trips abroad, has led to an intensification of the tendency for a part of temporary labor migration to become permanent or for a long migration,” Malynovska said.

According to the publication, in 2020, private remittances to Ukraine amounted to \$11.888 billion, while foreign direct investment amounted to \$868 billion less.

In addition, in 2020, Ukraine issued 12,000 immigration permits and 293,600 permanent residence permits.

“The number of foreign students has been growing, and this is a positive phenomenon, but I want to draw your attention to the fact that last year there was a third less invitations for applicants, that is, the replenishment of the contingent of foreign students last year took place at a lower level. In the coming years, we will have a reduction in the number of foreign students,” Malynovska said.

According to the data indicated in the publication, the number of immigrants on the territory of Ukraine is decreasing, while the number of emigrants is growing. In particular, 4.997 million people of immigrants lived in Ukraine in 2020 (some 6.893 million people in 1990), while 6.139 million people of emigrants from Ukraine lived abroad (some 5.546 million people in 1990).

According to the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, as of July 2021, the total number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ukraine reached 1.474 million people.

The publication informs that in 2020 the population of Ukraine was 41.6 million, while in 2018 the population was 42.4 million. It is noted that in 2020, some 616,800 people died in Ukraine, and 293,400 people were born.

It is indicated that Ukraine's GDP is still below the 2013 level. In particular, in 2020, Ukraine's GDP was \$142.3 billion, while in 2013 it was \$183.3 billion. At the end of 2020, the unemployment rate in Ukraine was 10.1%, which was the highest since 2014. It is noted that the poverty level in Ukraine is 23.3%, below the poverty line are 8.8 million citizens.

14. Poland. “Ukraine to Open Consulate General in Wroclaw This Year – Kuleba,” *News from Ukraine*, 6 October 2021.

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By Oleksandr Panasiuk

Ukraine's Consulate General in Wroclaw will open by the end of the year, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba has said in an interview with Ukrinform.

“We will open Ukraine's consulate in Wroclaw by the end of the year. This is the task I set for the ambassador, and he confirmed that it would be done. Our consul general has already been appointed, the team is already there, the paint is drying in the premises, and we will be opening our consulate general,” Kuleba said.

He added that last year he promised the Ukrainian community to open another consulate in Poland and this promise will be fulfilled.

Ukraine's consulates general in Poland are now operating in Lublin and Krakow. Ukraine also has its consular department in Warsaw and consulate in Krakow. In addition, Ukraine has ten honorary consulates in Poland. In total, Ukraine has offices in 13 of the 16 Polish voivodships.

As of today, about 1.5 million Ukrainian migrant workers could stay in Poland.

15. Russia. “Ukraine Protests against Russian Authorities’ Attack on Rights of Ukrainian Minority,” *News from Ukraine*, 1 November 2021.

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By Oleksandr Panasiuk

The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry has protested against the ongoing attack by the Russian authorities on the rights of the Ukrainian minority in Russia, the ministry’s press service has reported.

The ministry said that as part of Russia’s state policy of forced assimilation during 2011-2020, Russia liquidated the Federal National and Cultural Autonomy of Ukrainians in Russia, the Association of Ukrainians in Russia, Omsk regional NGO Siberian Center of Ukrainian Culture Siryi Klyn, recognized the Ukrainian World Congress as an “undesirable organization” and destroyed the Library of Ukrainian Literature in Moscow.

According to the report, another manifestation of the Russian authorities’ efforts to erase the national and ethnic identity of Ukrainians in Russia was the decision by the Artyomovsk City Court of the Primorsky Territory to liquidate the autonomous non-profit organization Far Eastern Ukrainian Spiritual Cultural and Educational Center Prosvita.

“Decisions to forcibly close the Prosvita Center and other centers of Ukrainian culture in Russia a bright example of true ‘Russian hospitality’ for citizens of other countries the affinity with whom the Russian authorities continue to prove so desperately, encouraging the acquisition of Russian citizenship,” the statement said.

The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry states that the Russian authorities not only do not demonstrate their intention to protect the rights of Ukrainians in Russia, but also limit their opportunities to participate in the decision-making process on issues that affect them, preventing any attempts to self-organize.

“The Russian Federation must fulfill its international legal obligations, in particular in accordance with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the European Convention on Human Rights, the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages,” the statement said.

The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry called on the international community to properly assess the rapid deterioration of the human rights situation in Russia, to condemn and increase political and diplomatic pressure on the Russian authorities to end the attack on the rights of the Ukrainian national minority in Russia.

The Ukrainian World Congress in October strongly condemned the decision of a Russian court to liquidate the Far Eastern Ukrainian Spiritual Cultural and Educational Center Prosvita in Vladivostok as another manifestation of a systemic policy of persecuting the Ukrainian community in Russia in order to destroy Ukrainian public life.

16. Russia. “UWC Addresses UN High Commissioner over Persecution of Ukrainians in Russia,” *Interfax: Ukrainian General Newswire*, 20 September 2021.

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KYIV. Sept 20 (Interfax-Ukraine) - The Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) has sent an official appeal to UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet due to the growing violations of human rights of the Ukrainian minority in Russia and in response to the new repressive measures recently introduced by the Russian authorities against the Ukrainian ethnic minority, the congress’ press office said on Monday.

“Condemning the gross violation of human rights of the Ukrainian ethnic minority in Russia and actions of Russian government aimed at its elimination by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights would be a clear message of support for the global Ukrainian community, which is at the forefront of countering Russian disinformation and aggression against Ukrainians worldwide,” the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights said in the official address.

The Congress said that previously, in late June 2021, Russian President Vladimir Putin enacted draconian laws that imposed criminal sanctions on Russian citizens for associating with “undesirable” organizations, including the Ukrainian World Congress, which forced the UWC to suspend membership of its constituent organizations in Russia.

“During the past 15 years, the Putin government has been pursuing a policy of forceful assimilation of Ukrainians, the largest ethnic minority in Russia, by systematically intimidating and persecuting ethnic Ukrainians,” the Congress said in the official letter.

Another component of this policy to liquidate the Ukrainian minority, Russian authorities have renewed the Tsarist and Soviet tactics of claiming that Ukrainians and Russians are “a single people”. “This policy and crackdowns have led most Russian Ukrainians to simply be afraid of publicly revealing their ethnic identity, as it can pose a threat to their jobs and family safety,” according to the letter.

17. Russia. “How Russia ‘Ground Down’ Ukrainians,” *Ukrinform.com*, 10 September 2021.

Speaking at the MGIMO University on September 1, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said: “We have never tried to grind down the traditions, culture, language of those peoples who have inhabited the territory of our country since the Russian Empire, then the Soviet Union, and now the Russian Federation.” But then why is the vast majority of languages in Russia endangered? And where have millions of Ukrainians disappeared?

The territory of Russia covers one-eighth of the entire land surface on Earth, with the population constituting 1.9% of the world’s, while languages spoken in Russia account for about 2% of all

the world's languages. At the same time, over 90% of these languages (121 out of 131) are threatened to a varying extent, according to UNESCO assessment. The report says 19 languages are "vulnerable," while the rest are in an even more critical situation.

In late 2019, a post by a High School of Economics Professor Gasan Guseynov made quite a splash in Russia, where he wrote that in the capital of a multinational country "hosting hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians and Tatars," nothing is available in languages other than Russian. Perhaps that is why, Guseynov wrote, it seems to some Russians that Russian speakers in Ukraine are unable to learn Ukrainian. The professor was soon fired.

Despite Russia's rhetoric about its multinational nature and multilingualism, the presidential Hotline only accepts questions in Russian, while letters to Ukrainian political prisoners in Russian prisons won't be delivered if written in any other language. Federal TV and radio broadcast entirely in Russian as well. It is the only available language of vocational and higher education, including the Single State Exam in secondary school. National languages, on the other hand, have not been mandated in schools since 2018. In September 2019, Albert Razin, a Russian scientist, set himself on fire in defense of the Udmurt language (the number of speakers dropped by a third from 2002 to 2010 alone), protesting against the innovation. The government turned a blind eye to the dramatic move.

According to a 2010 census, some 552,000 Udmurts were living in Russia, along with 1.9 million Ukrainians, making the latter the third-largest ethnic group in the Russian Federation, after Russians and Tatars. They also make up for the world's largest Ukrainian diaspora. Somewhat fewer (1.3 million) people of Ukrainian descent reside in Canada.

However, overseas it is much easier than in the "sisterly" Russia to remain a Ukrainian, as noted by Forbes. Families are welcome to baptize a child either in a Ukrainian Orthodox or Catholic Church. The child is free to attend a Ukrainian kindergarten, and then, they can learn their native language and history in a municipal secondary school. There are 12 schools like that in Toronto and suburbs, and 25 in the Province of Ontario. In Russia, on the other hand, there are no government schools where Ukrainian is the language of command. Any attempts to open them, as explained by Mykhailo Ratushnyk, head of the Ukrainian World Coordinating Council, immediately get into the FSB focus, with its operatives starting to intimidate the initiators.

"Over the past 20 years, the Ukrainian diaspora in Russia has been under enormous pressure from the government, both at official and unofficial everyday levels," was mentioned at the V All-Ukraine Research Conference in 2013.

Needless to say, it has become very inconvenient to be a Ukrainian in Russia since 2014.

"If we speak about Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars, they are almost the most disempowered people in Russia. It is simply dangerous to be a Ukrainian or a Crimean Tatar. Going to a Ukrainian church, studying the language (you can do it in Kuban, but as a "Russian dialect," "Kuban-speak") – it is all informally prohibited, said Director of the Oleksandr Nykonorov Foreign Policy Research Center and co-coordinator of the "Kuban with Ukraine" Committee Serhii Parkhomenko.

On the other hand, being a Ukrainian had become dangerous in Russia long before 2014.

According to a 1926 census, Ukrainians were the second-largest ethnic group in Russia. Back then, it was 7.8 million people. By the next census, the number more than halved – in 1939, there were just 3.3 million Ukrainians in Soviet Russia. Over the past century, Ukrainians in Russia remained at a quarter of the previous number. Given the circumstances, it would be fair to call it “cultural genocide.”

Kuban

This genocide was most severe in the 1930s when forcible suppression of Ukrainians and their culture started in regions with a historically high Ukrainian population, particularly Kuban.

The first general census of the Russian Empire of 1897 recorded more than 900,000 Ukrainian speakers in Kuban (62% of the total population). Manifestations of the Ukrainian culture were so strong in Kuban that soon after the revolution in the Russian Empire, Kuban People’s Republic emerged, and its Legislative Council in 1918 adopted a resolution to join the Ukrainian National Republic in the form of a Federation. The merger never happened due to aggression by Soviet Russia. In 1920, Kuban People’s Republic was destroyed by the Bolsheviks. However, insurgent units operated in the Kuban area until 1925.

The Soviet census of 1926 showed there were 915,000 Ukrainians in Kuban. At the time of a 2010 census, there were 84,000 left.

In 1992, film director Valentin Sperskach shot a documentary entitled [K]uban Cossacks. For Two Hundred Years Now..., which tells the story of Zaporizhia Cossacks moving to Kuban and the genocide of Ukrainians in Russia.

Its characters open up about their experiences: “Why am I registered as Russian, not Ukrainian... Because we were being strangled, so help us God!.. The entire Krasnodar Krai was made Russian... We were Ukrainians, and now we no longer know who we are. Shapeshifters... In school, I studied in Ukrainian. And we spoke Ukrainian. And since 1933, everything has come to naught.”

On December 14, 1932, the Central Committee of the CPSU (b) and the SNC of the USSR adopted a resolution “On Grain Procurement in Ukraine, the North Caucasus, and the Western region,” which radically changed approaches to national policy: the fight against “Petliura’s Ukrainization” in the Ukrainian SSR and against any manifestations of Ukrainization in the North Caucasus. The next day, the ban on the use of the Ukrainian language in education, office work, and press was extended to other regions of Soviet Russia with a highly dense Ukrainian population.

This was accompanied by repressions. According to one of the characters of Sperskach’s documentary, his family was saved from deportation after his father forbade him to enroll in a Cossack culture club at school. The families of all kids who had signed up were deported.

Far East

Another powerful Ukrainian center outside Ukraine, besides Kuban, was Green Ukraine – a territory in the southern part of the Far East. Based on various estimates, Ukrainians constituted a third to a half of the population in the Far East. In some areas, they even accounted for 60–80% of the population.

“This is a big Malorossiia village. The main and oldest street is Mykolska. Along the entire street, on both sides, white huts are lined up, occasionally still covered with straw... people from the Great Russian counties are barely noticeable among those from Poltava, Chernihiv, Kyiv, Volyn, and other Ukrainians – they vanish among the primary Malorossiia element... People sport Ukrainian clothes. You can hear the joyful, populous, and lively Malorossiia speech everywhere” correspondent Ivan Illich-Svitych wrote, describing the city of Ussuriysk in 1905.

From June 1917 to January 1918, the Provisional Far Eastern Ukrainian National Committee, which was the main executive body of the Ukrainian Far Eastern Republic, was located here in Ussuriysk. Ukrainians also tried to form their state in the Far East.

Throughout its existence, the state-building movement in Green Ukraine focused on unification with the Ukrainian People’s Republic. The Second All-Ukraine Congress of the Far East, held in Khabarovsk in January 1918, appealed to the government of the Ukrainian People’s Republic, demanding that the Russian government recognize Green Ukraine as part of the Ukrainian state.

“Of course, the conditions were hardly auspicious – civil war between the Red and the White armies was already underway in the Far East. Both of them were very negative, even hostile, towards Ukrainians – not only towards their aspiration for independence, but even towards their cultural needs,” said Viacheslav Chornomaz, researcher of the Ukrainian diaspora in the Far East and its representative, editor of the encyclopedia Green Ukraine. Ukrainian Far East.

But as soon as the 1930s, the Far East turned into a “desert of Ukrainian culture,” said Chornomaz. Ukrainians had no opportunity to preserve their identity.

Siberia

The third center was the Ukrainian communities of Grey Ukraine – the territory of Ukrainian colonization in Siberia. After the February Revolution of 1917, the Ukrainians of Grey Ukraine established their own self-government and military units in Siberia. At the First Ukrainian Congress of Siberia in Omsk in July-August 1917, the Main Ukrainian Council of Siberia was elected.

Ukrainian state movement in Siberia stretched across the regions of Western Siberia, where Ukrainians accounted for the majority of the population. At the time of the Ukrainian governmental movement in Grey Ukraine, Ukrainian press was available, Ukrainian unions and associations were created, and even Ukrainian national rallies were held, flying blue and yellow flags.

After termination of the Ukrainian statehood in Grey Ukraine and the occupation of Western Siberia by the Bolsheviks, the Ukrainian population, which constituted about 40% of the 1.5 million people of Grey Ukraine, was destroyed or assimilated.

Volga Region and Others

In addition to Green and Grey Ukraine, there was also the so-called Yellow Ukraine, an ethnic Ukrainian territory in the Volga region where the presence of Ukrainians was so massive that the German Republic of the Volga region created by the Bolsheviks had three official languages – German, Russian, and Ukrainian – enshrined in the constitution. Moscow, however, never approved the constitution, and the autonomy was soon abolished.

In 1926, Ukrainians made up more than 70% of the population of the Taganrog area but in 1939, the Soviet census showed that most Ukrainians in that region had mysteriously “disappeared.” While Ukrainians accounted for about 40% of the population in the Belgorod region in the 1897 census, the area has become practically mono-ethnic today: 94.4% of the population are Russians.

Today's Russia

In the aughts, Ukrainian social, cultural, and religious activists in Russia faced attacks, assaults, attempted and completed assassinations. Ukrainian organizations and establishments that emerged on the wave of democratic reforms were eliminated.

In 2003, the vicar of the Moscow parish of St. Ignatius the Godbearer, Bishop Oleksandr Simchenko of Antioch (UGCC) was first assaulted by a group of unidentified men while on an Ivano-Frankivsk – Moscow train. The priest spent several weeks in hospital but no criminal inquiry was opened. After that, he was assaulted five more times. The perpetrators were never found.

In 2002, Volodymyr Poburnynnyi, a businessman, philanthropist, and member of the “Dream” Ukrainian Cultural Society was killed in Ivanovo region.

In April 2004, Anatolii Kryl, leader of the Ukrainian choir “Horlytsia” and doctor by profession, was killed in Vladivostok.

In July 2006, Natalia Kovaliova, head of the Audit Commission of the Federal National and Cultural Autonomy of Ukrainians in Russia (FNCAUR), survived an assassination attempt in Tula. Two men attacked her, inflicting multiple grave injuries. A metal rod, found near the crime scene, was used to smash her face, break her teeth, and almost knock out her right eye. The woman suffered a fractured skull and intracranial bleeding.

In December 2006, her husband, Volodymyr Senyshyn, member of the Council of the Union of Ukrainians in Russia and head of the Tula regional organization Parents' Roof, was killed in Tula.

In 2008, the Ukrainian Educational Center was terminated in Moscow.

In 2010, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation revoked registration of one of the two largest public associations of the Ukrainian minority, the Federal National and Cultural Autonomy of Ukrainians in Russia.

In 2010, due to a criminal case, the only official library of Ukrainian literature in Russia was shut down to visitors (and eventually closed altogether in 2018).

In 2012, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation ruled to close the second all-Russian public organization of the Ukrainian minority, the Union of Ukrainians in Russia.

Roman Tsymbaliuk, an UNIAN staff writer in Moscow, said: “Even before the invasion, the Russian authorities had done everything possible to destroy the Ukrainian movement in the Russian Federation.”

Center for Strategic Communications and Information Strategy.

[<https://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-society/3313526-how-russia-ground-down-ukrainians.html>]

18. Turkey. “The Orthodox Church of St. Fotinia in Izmir Will Host a Liturgy in Ukrainian for the First Time,” *RISU*, 8 October 2021.

With the assistance of the Consulate General of Ukraine in Istanbul and the Association of Ukrainians of Izmir in the Orthodox Church of St. Fotinia will host a liturgy in Ukrainian for the first time.

According to Ukrinform, this is stated on the event’s Facebook page.

So, on October 16 at 10.00 in the Church of St. Fotinia in Izmir, the Liturgy in Ukrainian will be celebrated by Fr. Yakiv Krochak, Great Synkel of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, especially for the Ukrainian-speaking parish.

Also, after the service, there is an opportunity to gather for a tea party in the kindergarten at the church and get to know Fr. Yakiv and each other.

“This is a great opportunity to remember our Ukrainian roots and cultural heritage! We are waiting for everyone,” the message reads.

The Association of Ukrainians of Izmir has announced the opening of a Ukrainian Book Club.

[RISU = Religious Information Service of Ukraine]

19. United Kingdom. “Bolton Ukrainian Community Sets up Food Bank in Memory of Genocide Victims,” *Bolton News*, 11 November 2021.

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A Bolton community is setting up a food bank for Urban Outreach in commemoration of a tragic genocide.

Bolton’s Ukrainian Association is welcoming food donations at the cultural centre in Castle Street, in memory of the Holodomor tragedy of 1932-33.

Holodomor, sometimes referred to as the Great Famine, was a famine in the-then Soviet Ukraine which killed around 3.5 million people.

The term Holodomor derives from the Ukrainian words for hunger (holod) and extermination (mor), as aid was denied to people from the USSR. People were not allowed to search for food and anything edible was ransacked from homes by Communist officers.

In memory of this, the town’s Ukrainian Association is collecting food for people in need in the borough through the charity Urban Outreach.

Yaroslav Tymchyshyn, branch chair, said: “The Ukrainian community in Bolton has set up this project in memory of the millions of innocent men, women and children who lost their lives through forced starvation in Ukraine in the Holodomor of 1932/33. Through kindness and compassion, we want to keep their eternal memory alive in a positive way.

“We decided to help people in our community who have fallen on difficult times by donating to Urban Outreach Bolton that help those who would otherwise go hungry.

“This also allows us to give back to the people of the UK and thank them for the safe haven our grandparents and parents were given after the Second World War, and all Ukrainians since been given the right to settle here and have the opportunity to work, live safely, prosper and feed their families.

“The men, women and children who so tragically lost their lives through starvation in the Holodomor of 1932/33 had no choice, no care, no help and were shown no compassion.”

He said their donations will “honour the memory” of those who lost their lives.

Donations can be left at the cultural centre on weekdays from 3.30pm, except Wednesdays, when the centre will be only open until 7pm, Saturdays from noon to 10.30pm and Sundays from noon to 6pm.

Donations can also be made at All Saints Ukrainian Catholic Church on Sundays from 9.30am to noon.

20. United Kingdom. “United Kingdom. “Archive Films of Ukrainian Community Opened up for First Time,” *Bradford Telegraph and Argus*, 18 September 2021.

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By Emma Clayton

A PREVIOUSLY inaccessible archive of more than 500 films of Bradford’s Ukrainian community is being unlocked for the first time.

Yorkshire Film Archive has announced a project that will catalogue and open up the Ukrainian Video Archives Society collection to researchers and the public. The work is funded by a £33,350 grant from Archives Revealed, a partnership between The National Archives, The Pilgrim Trust and the Wolfson Foundation, and the only funding stream in the UK dedicated to cataloguing and unlocking archives.

The Ukrainian Video Archives Society Collection (UVAS) was created in 1983 to record the life of Ukrainians in Bradford to pass on to future generations, capturing their cultures, traditions and communities in over 500 films, made over 30 years. Recorded on video tape, the original collection is now being preserved and prioritised for digitisation by the Yorkshire Film Archive (YFA).

Megan McCooley, YFA Collections Manager, said: “We’re incredibly excited to begin work on this significant collection being preserved at the Archive, to give everyone the opportunity to learn about the history of the Ukrainian community and its contribution to the rich, diverse culture of Bradford. The UVAS have always wanted their collection to be seen, to share their stories, and thanks to the Archives Revealed fund, we can now take that first step in making that possible.”

Bradford Council chief executive Kersten England, who lent her support to the project, said, “As the UK’s youngest city it’s important for our young people to understand the diverse heritage of the district and the contributions made by its different communities. And as the first UNESCO City of Film, it’s fitting that we use the medium of film to tell our stories, deepen our understanding of our place and people and bring new opportunities to engage with wider audiences. This remarkable collection does exactly that.”

Bohdan Lanovy and Michael Fedyszyn from UVAS added: “The Ukrainian Video Archives Society would like to thank the YFA for their support and commitment to working with us, in preserving the Ukrainian community’s heritage for future generations.”

Dr Valerie Johnson, Director of Collections and Research at The National Archives, said: “The phrase ‘cataloguing a collection’ only begins to hint at the immense impact these projects will have for communities and researchers. By cataloguing archives, we can reveal hidden stories representing the lives of people across the UK and help people access these records for the first time.”

21. USA. “Check Out Vintage Photos of Ukrainian Village This Weekend at the Ukrainian National Museum,” *Blockclubchicago.org*, 1 October 2021.

WICKER PARK, BUCKTOWN, WEST TOWN

The exhibit features the work of Ukrainian-American photographer Petro Oleksijenko, who lived and worked in Chicago in the 1950s.

Quinn Myers

UKRAINIAN VILLAGE — A photography exhibit displaying historical photos of Chicago’s Ukrainian community opens Friday in Ukrainian Village.

The show at the Ukrainian National Museum, 2249 W. Superior St., will feature 40 photos by Ukrainian-American photographer Petro Oleksijenko. The museum is open 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday-Sunday.

Organizers said the goal of the exhibit is to showcase the contributions Ukrainian immigrants have had on the city’s civic life. Many are shots of parades and events in Downtown Chicago and the neighborhood that would later become known as Ukrainian Village.

We “wanted to demonstrate what people from Eastern European countries did, and how they immersed themselves in American life. ... They truly believed in being grateful to America for what America did for them,” said Lydia Tkaczuk, the museum’s president.

That includes members of Chicago’s current Ukrainian-American community.

“We had a parade on [Aug. 24] and mostly people put on Facebook, ‘Well, it’s the first parade in the history of Ukrainian diaspora,’” said museum archivist Halyna Sarancha. “I try to tell these people, ‘Listen, there was many many different parades, events in Ukrainian life here,’ so it’s a good opportunity to show our people, teach them.”

The exhibit also details Oleksijenko’s life. He fought in the Ukrainian revolution and came to Chicago after World War II. The photos on display range from 1951-1958, before Oleksijenko moved to Denver.

Some local landmarks are identifiable in the photos, including storefronts and houses along Chicago and North avenues.

“Our mission is to preserve our heritage and then sort of promote what the Ukrainian immigrants did for the city, and how they participated,” Tkaczuk said.

The exhibit opens Friday and will be on display through the end of November.

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Serge Cipko
Coordinator
Ukrainian Diaspora Studies Initiative
Kule Ukrainian Canadian Studies Centre
Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies
4-30 Pembina Hall
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta,
CANADA T6G 2H8
Email: scipko@ualberta.ca

To subscribe to “Ukrainians Abroad: News and Views” or to unsubscribe, send an email message to scipko@ualberta.ca.