



# Ukrainian Genealogy Group

## National Capital Region

The Ukrainian Genealogist

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### **November UGG-NCR Webinar**

*Ukrainian Women of Ravensbrück Concentration Camp by Kalyna Bezchlibnyk-Butler (Solonyinka) and Lydia Replansky*

Two presenters spoke at this webinar about the Ukrainian women prisoners of the Ravensbrück Concentration Camp as documented in the bilingual (Ukrainian-English) book "*Ukrainian women of Ravensbrück concentration camp: voices of prisoners / Українські жінки концтабору Равенсбрюк: голоси в'язнів*".



*Our November speakers*

*Kalyna Bezchlibnyk-Butler and Lydia Replansky*

The first presenter, Kalyna Bezchlibnyk-Butler (Solonyinka) described how she became involved in researching Ukrainian women prisoners who were incarcerated at the Ravensbrück Concentration Camp during the Second World War. She became interested in this story from family documents and continued her research at the Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Centre and at various libraries and archives in Toronto. In this slide presentation, Kalyna provided a brief description of the Ravensbrück Camp and its prisoners, gave an overview of the contents

of the book including copies of prisoner registration and transfer documents, maps, and illustrations. She described the day-to-day life in the Camp and read quotes from individual prisoners about their experiences.

She talked about methods and sources used to compile the text as well as examples from a database of the Ukrainian prisoners. Kalyna is planning a further study of all Ukrainian political prisoners in Germany during the Second World War.

The second presenter, Lydia Replansky, spoke about her mother, Olha Froliak-Eliashkevsky and her incarceration as a political prisoner in Nazi prisons and the Ravensbrück Concentration Camp from December 11, 1943 to April 5, 1945.

She began her presentation with a biographical note on her mother and the story of her mother's arrest on December 11, 1943 during her studies at the University of Vienna. Her mother was arrested as a suspected member of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists and for aiding the Ukrainian underground. Lydia described the interrogations of her mother by the German Gestapo, her incarceration in the Camp, the daily Camp routines, and forced labour at the Siemens factory making electrical components for the German war effort.

Lydia's slide presentation included maps, photographs, and illustrations of prison uniforms and insignia. Her mother was released in April, 1945 at the end of the war and eventually immigrated to Toronto. Lydia's mother did not speak about her incarceration in the Camp but later in life, she wrote her memoirs and provided interviews recorded at the Multicultural History Society of Ontario and

the Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Centre.

The book can be purchased through the Ukrainian Canadian Research & Documentation Centre, (416) 966-1819; Cost: \$20.00

A documentary was produced by the Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Centre on the Ravensbruck Concentration Camp and is available at:

[http://www.ucrdc.org/Archive-Textual\\_and\\_Photo\\_Records-World\\_War\\_II.html](http://www.ucrdc.org/Archive-Textual_and_Photo_Records-World_War_II.html)

This information includes the List of Ravensbrück Resources/References.

### **City of Ottawa Archives**

We are proud to report that the City of Ottawa Archives has accepted material from our UGG-NCR group related to Ukrainian Genealogy as well as the local Ukrainian community.

The initial list of materials are:

Souvenir (Booklet) - Ukrainian Week in Ottawa, 30, 1-8, 2, 1976, Ukrainian Canadian Committee, Ottawa Branch, (unpaginated) (2 copies)

Booklet, Ukrainian Week in Ottawa, Jan. 18-25, 1981, Ukrainian Canadian Committee, Ottawa Branch, (unpaginated) (2 copies)

Brochure, Capital Ukrainian Festival, July 21-23, 2017 (2 copies) (unpaginated)

Brochure, Capital Ukrainian Festival, July 20-22, 2018 (2 copies) (unpaginated)

Publication, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, 1949-2009, Ottawa, 138 pages.

Publication, The Capital's Parish, St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, Ottawa, 1914-2014, 105 pages.

Publication, Ukrainians in Ontario, Polyphony, The Bulletin of the Multicultural History Society of Ontario, Vol. 10, 1988. ( 298 pages; Includes Myron Momryk's article, Ukrainians in Ottawa).

Ukrainian Genealogy Group National Capital Region, Annual Reports, 1999-2023 (Binder).

Gary Bagley, (Coordinator), Bukowinian Greek Orthodox Holy Trinity Cemetery and Ukrainian Orthodox Church Cemetery, (Ottawa Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society)

Myron Momryk, Annotated Bibliography of Ukrainian Canadian Family History Publications, UGG, (37 pages)

Walter Zayachkowski, Obituaries of Members of the Ukrainian Community in Ottawa, Ontario (1980-2012), UGG, (82 pages).

Joseph R. Romanow, A Family History, The Coming Together of Four Ukrainian Pioneer Families in Canada, (400 pages) (Ottawa, 2003)

Thank you to Myron Momryk for his tireless efforts in helping preserve our Ukrainian-Canadian history.

In the future, more material will be submitted to the archives as required.

### **Community Events**

*Saturday, February 15 @ 6:00 pm*

#### **Family Perogy Night**

Proudly hosted by St. Volodymyr the Great Knights of Columbus, together with the UCWLC.

Menu: Varenyky (Perogies), Kovbasa (Sausage), Smatchny Kapousta (Fried cabbage with bacon and sausage), Green Salad, Buns, Mushroom Gravy, Dessert, Tea and Coffee! Cash Bar. Entertainment. Door prizes, raffle prizes and free gifts for kids.

Tickets are \$30 for Adults, \$20 for Teens ages 13-17, \$10 for Children ages 5-12 and free for children 4 and under.

Please email [kofc9557events@gmail.com](mailto:kofc9557events@gmail.com) for tickets or more information or call Paul 613-915-3551 or Mike 613-327-4749.

**Where:** St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Shrine, 952 Green Valley Cres.

**When:** 5:00pm Vespers  
5:30pm Cocktails  
6:00pm Dinner