



Ukrainian Genealogy Group

National Capital Region

The Ukrainian Genealogist

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February UGG-NCR Webinar

Ukrainians in the Oriental Republic of Uruguay: A Historical Overview

Dr. Serhii Cipko made a presentation on October 25, 2022 entitled, *The 125th Anniversary of Ukrainian Settlement in Argentina: Some Reflections* and this presentation on February 27, 2024 on Ukrainians in Uruguay may be considered as a sequel. Serhii recently visited Uruguay to 'launch' his book on Ukrainians in Uruguay.



Dr. Serhii Cipko - our February Speaker

He began the presentation speaking on the various 'waves' of Ukrainian immigration to Uruguay. The first 'wave' arrived from the Russian Empire in the years 1897 to 1914. In 1913, approximately 300 families settled in a predominately Russian Christian religious colony known as 'New Israel'. Serhii referred to a map of Uruguay and pointed out areas of Ukrainian settlement in particular, San Javier.

The second 'wave' brought approximately 5,000 to 10,000 Ukrainians in Uruguay between the years 1920 and 1939 from western Ukraine. Only a few Ukrainians arrived in the years after the Second World War in comparison to a large Ukrainian immigration to Argentina, Brazil and Venezuela. Most Ukrainians in Uruguay worked in the meat-packing industry, construction and domestic service in the capital, Montevideo. Other Ukrainians settled on farms and were known for growing wheat and sunflowers.

The second inter-war 'wave' formed Ukrainian organizations such as the Taras Shevchenko Workers Society, Prosvita, Volia, Ivan Franko Ukrainian Cultural-Educational Society and Lemko Society. There were some changes during the Second World War when a pro-Soviet 'All-Slavic Committee' that included Russian and Belarus members was formed.

After the war, the Prosvita Society was active and also a Ukrainian Catholic parish, a small Orthodox community and also some Protestant in Montevideo. At present, there are no Ukrainian organizations in Uruguay. Since the independence of Ukraine, an Honorary Consul of Ukraine was appointed. Some records and photographs of the Ukrainian community have been preserved and included in Serhii's book on Ukrainians in Uruguay. Perhaps the more interesting aspect of the presentation was the list of names that Serhii obtained of Prosvita members and their origins in Ukraine. This list will certainly be useful for anyone searching for relatives in Uruguay.

Serhii also presented photographs of the Ukrainian community and several had captions with the names of the individuals in the photographs. The photographs included members of the Lemko group, Prosvita Society, Ukrainian dance group, Ukrainian school, and the Ukrainian Catholic parish. Serhii concluded his presentation with a short description of the 'book launch' on Ukrainians in Uruguay that was published in Spanish and hosted by the Honorary Consul of Ukraine.

The presentation by Serhii was followed by a question-and-answer session.

Kobzar Book Award

The Kobzar Book Award this year was made to *Ghosts in a Photograph* (NeWest Press) by Myrna Kostash. The shortlist included *Ukrainian Ritual on the Prairies* by Natalie Kononenko who had made a presentation to the UGG on April 25, 2023 and *Five Stalks of Grain* by Adrian Lysenko, illustrated by Ivanka Theodosia Galadza (from Ottawa).

This book and the book by Myrna Kostash are available at the Ottawa Public Library. For further information on the Kobzar Book Award, members may examine the site, <https://www.kobzarbookaward.com/>

Community Events

Saturday, March 30 @ 10am – 2pm

Easter Market

Ukrainian traditional food and pastries, pysanka (Easter egg) making kits and supplies, locally made artisanal merchandise, imported Ukrainian handicrafts and Ukrainian inspired streetwear.

Where: Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, 1000 Byron Ave

For more information: email uoc.market@gmail.com

Cash/cheque/e-transfer accepted as payment.

Sunday 7 April 3:30 – 5:30 p.m..

“Rocky Road to Berlin” Movie Screening, in Ukrainian with English subtitles

Where: Mayfair Theatre, 1074 Bank Street, Ottawa

For more info, click [here](#)