



UKRAINIAN CANADIAN CONGRESS SASKATOON BRANCH NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023

UCC—Saskatoon Branch (UCC - SB) is a diverse federation of Ukrainian organizations which assists the community in its desire to maintain, develop and share its Ukrainian Canadian identity. We are the voice of Saskatoon's Ukrainian community and represent our community locally, provincially and nationally.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President—Pat Tymchatyn
Vice-President— Megan Worobetz
Treasurer—Martin Zip
Secretary—vacant
Board—Marcus Abrametz, Roger Blum, Nataliia Melnychenko, Laurianne Gabruch, Kevin Kardynal, Andy Smycniuk, Karen Sopotyky-Pidskalny, Mykola Zakharchuk

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Saskatoon UCC is proud to present our first ever newsletter showcasing our activities and upcoming events. Over the past year, we have been very active in initiating and promoting Ukrainian events. Our Board has also been very active in supporting newcomers who arrived to Saskatoon following the full-scale war on Ukraine, gathering humanitarian aid and raising funds to support Ukraine's defence forces. We are proud of Saskatoon's Ukrainian community and appreciate all of the support we have received. Please consider joining our Board to further advance Ukrainian culture in Saskatoon and area! Have a blessed Christmas with family and friends and continue standing with Ukraine! Слава Україні! Pat Tymchatyn



HELPING NEWCOMERS MAKE SASKATOON HOME

Saskatoon UCC has made supporting displaced Ukrainians a priority to ensure they are able to concentrate on supporting their families. With support from the City of Saskatoon, we opened a furniture depot to distribute donated furniture to Ukrainian newcomers who fled the war. Volunteers picked up donated furniture and household items and took them to the warehouse where newcomers could come and select needed items, which were then delivered free of charge. With the help of many generous volunteers and donors, we were able to distribute thousands of items from clothing to couches from August 2022 to October 2023. We are grateful to the City of Saskatoon for providing the warehouse space, the Ukrainian Canadian Professional Business Association of Saskatoon for their financial donation, and Dave Dutchak for his financial support and help in securing the location.

UCC – SB IN THE COMMUNITY



Volunteers who dedicated endless amounts of time at the Saskatoon UCC furniture warehouse receiving, organizing and delivering furniture and other wares to Ukrainian newcomers at the volunteer appreciation night, December 9.

We are looking for a
**Ukrainian Day in the Park
Committee Chair**

E-mail us if you are interested or check out our
social media
uccsaskatoonbranch@gmail.com

UKRAINIAN DAY IN THE PARK A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

This year marked the 23rd Ukrainian Day in the Park (UDIP) Festival organized by UCC – Saskatoon’s fantastic volunteers. The event returned to Kiwanis Park on August 26 with over 5,000 people coming through the gates. Performers this year included dance groups, Yevshan Ukrainian Folk Ballet Ensemble, Pavlychenko Folklorique Ensemble, Steppe band from Edmonton and many other local groups and performers. UCC –SB would like to give a huge thank you to the outgoing Chair of the UDIP festival, Andriy Bondar, who has headed the festival for the past 5 years. A special thank you to the UDIP Sub-Committee and all of the many volunteers who made the festival an amazing day—preparation for the festival happens all year and we are grateful for all of the time and energy they spent on the festival!

BANDURA LESSONS

Saskatoon UCC has been offering bandura lessons to adults and youth since January 2023. Oksana Hushliak, from Lviv, Ukraine, who fled the war and arrived in Saskatoon in July 2022 is teaching the classes. She studied at Drohobitskomy Institute I. Franko in the city of Drohobuch and taught at the Zolochiv’sky children’s music school for 24 years. The bandura players had their first performance at the Taras Shevchenko Concert in March and they also played at Folkfest and Metis Days. There are five new participants in the beginner class. We are excited to see the renewed interest in the bandura. Lessons are supported by the Shevchenko Foundation Temerty Foundation, Ukrainian Canadian Professional & Business Association of Saskatoon, and UCC – Saskatchewan’s Hromada Legacy Fund, and Mohyla Institute loans the instruments for a small fee.



UCC – SB IN THE COMMUNITY

HELPING UKRAINE

Since the onset of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Saskatoon UCC has made one of its priorities to help support Ukrainians by providing humanitarian aid and funds for self-defence. With the help of individuals and organizations in our community we have raised and distributed \$200,000 worth of aid that has gone directly to those in need. We support a free and democratic Ukraine and will continue to do whatever we can to ensure Ukraine's continued successes!



OTHER RECENT ACTIVITIES

UCC—SB has been busy over the past year promoting Ukrainian culture in and around Saskatoon.

- Holodomor Commemoration to raise awareness of the millions who died of starvation at the hands of the Soviets (November)
- *Heroes of Their Day* commemoration honouring the thousands of Ukrainian Canadians who served Canada during the Second World War (November)
- Ukrainian Independence Day Rally (August)
- Ukrainian Day Camp (July)
- Vyshyvanka Day (May)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

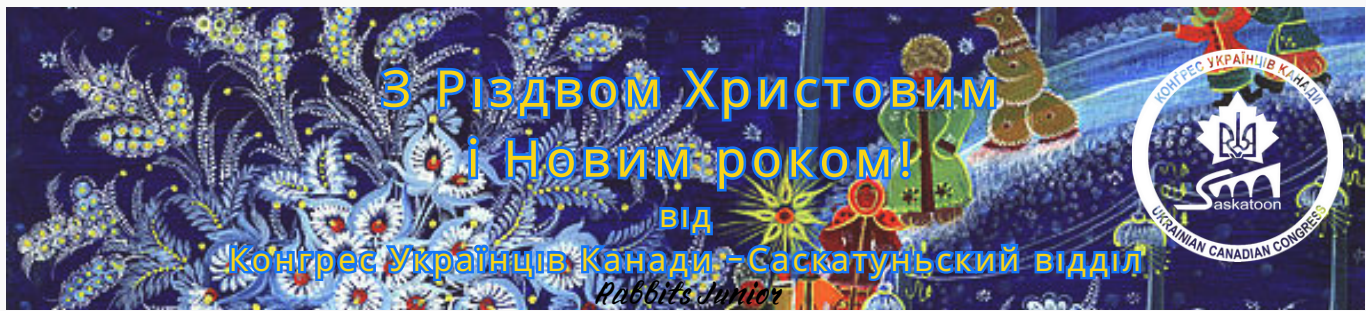
- February 24 – Commemoration of two years of the full-scale invasion war on Ukraine. Location TBD
- March 9 – Shevchenko Concert Bethlehem High School
- May – Vyshyvanka Day
- July – Day Camp
- August 24 – Ukrainian Day in the Park

Stay up to date by following our social media and website.

HUSKIES UKRAINIAN NIGHT

Saskatoon UCC was proud to organize Ukrainian night at the University of Saskatchewan Huskies women's and men's basketball games on November 24th. Kateryna Grace sang the Canadian anthem and our member organizations, Pavlychenko Folklorique Ensemble and Rushnychok Ukrainian Folk Dance Association, provided entertainment. The Huskies provided 100 tickets for free to newcomers who helped pack the PAC! GO HUSKIES!





UKRAINIAN DAY CAMP

For a second year, we held a day camp in July. Thirty children attended with 24 of them being displaced Ukrainian children. Camp instructors, Odessa Bahri and Marta Kreuger, led a fun-filled week of singing, dancing and play along with a field trip to the Ukrainian Museum of Canada. We are starting to plan for the summer 2024 camp so keep an eye out for announcements. We thank the Stephen and Michelene Worobetz Foundation and Canada-Ukraine Foundation for financial support and Mohyla Institute for providing space for the camp.

BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED!

UCC – SB is a volunteer run organization and is best able to serve the needs of its >30 member organizations and the broader community when it has input from its membership. At no other time has it been more important to be involved to ensure that our local community thrives but also to support our relatives and friends in our ancestral homeland. We have a very active Board and there are opportunities for new ideas and input. Please get in touch if you would like to volunteer!

STAY IN TOUCH WITH SASKATOON UCC

EMAIL: uccsaskatoonbranch@gmail.com
 WEBSITE: <https://uccsaskatoon.ca>
 FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/uccsaskatoon
 INSTAGRAM: [ucc_saskatoon](https://www.instagram.com/ucc_saskatoon)
 VIBER: Конгрес Українців Канади у Саскатуні



Saskatoon UCC is the voice of Saskatoon’s Ukrainian community and represents our community locally, provincially and nationally. We rely on fundraising to ensure we are able meet our objectives. If you would like to contribute to our activities, please consider donating. THANK YOU!

Name of Organization: _____

AMOUNT I WOULD LIKE TO DONATE: ___ \$20 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ \$250
 _____ OTHER AMOUNT

ADDRESS: _____

**RETURN TO: UKRAINIAN CANADIAN CONGRESS - SASKATOON BRANCH
 PO BOX 1592, SASKATOON, SK S7K 3R3
 OR, YOU CAN E-TRANSFER FUNDS TO UCCFORUKRAINE@GMAIL.COM**