

Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September at the UECC

Jenkintown, PA – September 27, 2008. The Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center (UECC) a nonprofit educational and cultural organization in Jenkintown, Pa opened its doors in early September ready to tackle the upcoming 2008-2009 year. The maintenance staff, headed by newly appointed UECC Maintenance Superintendent Wasyl Sichkar, spent the summer preparing for that first day when Ukrainian Life begins again in the Greater Philadelphia area. The small staff and the Building and Maintenance Committee under the leadership of UECC Board Member George Danyliw accomplished a lot in a short time frame including: a walkthrough and evaluation of the current physical condition of the facility; a thorough cleaning and general maintenance of all common areas; the waxing of all floors; the installation of an overhang at the daycare entrance in back; the paving of a new walkway to the daycare; landscaping work; and creating small ramps to the main hall.

In anticipation of the new school year at the Ukrainian Heritage School, under Director Stephan Patrylak and Assistant Director Olya Kostiv one new classroom was created, two classrooms were enlarged and existing classrooms were thoroughly cleaned, painted and prepared. The school continues to grow with current enrollment at 357 students. The UECC is acutely aware of this situation and the need for additional classrooms. It will continue to try to accommodate the growing school and will look into various possibilities to create a suitable educational atmosphere for our Ukrainian children. Also as part of Phase I of the UECC Master Plan, the lavatories in the main hallway will be renovated in the coming months. Preparations and planning for these renovations have kept the Building and Maintenance Committee very busy this summer as well. Plans and renovations for the arrival of our newest tenant, Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union are well under way. Look for announcements soon concerning the opening of their newest branch at the UECC!

This summer was a busy one for the parents of Svitlychka as well, who in preparing for the upcoming school year, replaced the old floor and carpeting with a beautiful new laminate floor for the young children in the Ukrainian pre-school program. The UECC is thrilled that the parents of Svitlychka are actively involved and are developing a sense of ownership, not just in creating an academic program but also in maintaining the physical surroundings for the children as well. Svitlychka is thriving this year with over 30 children presently enrolled in its Saturday and weekly program now offered with extended hours.

The UECC has made great efforts in working with our local Ukrainian organizations over the last year. We have held several meetings to open the channels of discussion and

promote cooperation. In keeping with this new spirit and tradition of cooperation and “spivpratsya”, the UECC sponsored a “Meet and Greet” – a welcome back day for UECC members and guests on Saturday, September 13, 2008. Organizations were invited to participate in this first time event. The goal of the “Meet and Greet” was to introduce or reintroduce the Philadelphia organizations to the Ukrainian hromada in the Philadelphia area. Organizations were encouraged to enhance membership by distributing information regarding their organization to potential members, enlighten the public about the organization, mission, and upcoming meetings and events. Organizations that are housed in the UECC participated for free as a thank you by the UECC; those outside of the UECC participated with a nominal fee. The organizations that took part included the Ukrainian Heritage School, Svitlychka – Ukrainian Co-op Nursery School, Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUMA), Plast – Ukrainian Youth Scouting Organization, Ukrainian Engineers Society of America, Providence Association of Ukrainian Catholics in America, Ukrainian National Women's League of America, United Ukrainian American Relief Committee, Ukrainian Library of the UECC, Ukrainian Senior Citizens Association, School of the Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble and the Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, Ukrainian Federation of America, Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union, and the Sisters of St. Basil the Great.

Also joining the local Ukrainian organizations was UECC proud sponsor Western Union. Not only did they provide various give-aways, a raffle and information on the services they provide, they presented a check for \$6,330 to President Borys Pawluk and Executive Director Orysia Hewka for a new ESL course to be taught at the UECC. Those interested in registering for this course had the opportunity to do so at the “Meet and Greet”. For additional information about this ESL course including times and dates, please contact the UECC Office at 215.663.1166.

The response to this well-attended event was very encouraging to those who helped put it together. Nina Prybolsky of the School of the Voloshky Dance Ensemble stated, “The feedback that I received was very positive. It was well organized and overall I believe everyone deemed this event a success! Thank you for taking the time to organize this event and for providing us with a forum for the great information exchange.”

The Ukrainian Federation of America was also pleased to participate in the first "Meet and Greet" hosted by the UECC. Lada Pastushak of the UFA stated, “Such an event is very beneficial for the Ukrainian community to be fully aware of all the various organizations and their missions in the Philadelphia area. This was a great opportunity for interested people to learn about various activities which UFA is involved in such as: the organization of a two week informational study for a delegation of Ukrainian Greenhouse owners in October, flood relief in Ukraine, a summer camp for children with MS, as well as its various other activities in public advocacy, social services and much more.”

Keeping in touch with today’s financial situation and economy, Basil A. Kuzio, a UECC Board of Director and a financial advisor for Ameriprise Financial created a Financial Planning Workshop designed to cover key areas of financial planning, including employee-sponsored benefits, demystifying the concepts and showing how they are connected. He presented this free workshop on Saturday morning, September 20, 2008 at the UECC and emphasized the value of a financial plan and how dreams fuel or drive a financial plan.

The Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, founded in 1980, is a non-profit organization whose objective is to preserve and promote awareness of Ukrainian heritage throughout the Philadelphia community. The UECC is located at 700 Cedar Road in Jenkintown, PA 19046 and can be reached at 215-663-1166 or e-mail at contact@ueccphila.org. Visit us on the web at www.ueccphila.org.

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