



Oregon Senate Rules Committee

**Ukrainian-American Cultural Association
of Oregon and SW Washington**

February 15, 2017

Ukrainian American Community of Oregon and SW Washington is numerous and diverse

The true size of the community has been hard to estimate, it is probably significantly larger than appears in government surveys

- Community members estimate that about 60,000 – 80,000 people in Oregon and SW Washington come from Ukraine
- According to 2010 US Census, Oregon is home to 20,000 Ukrainian Americans. However, as refugees from state persecution, many members of the Ukrainian American community still have a strong distrust of government institutions and tend to give as little information as possible to Census officials
- According to the Multnomah County Library's Needs Assessment Report, between 1990 and 2000 the number of Oregon residents reporting Ukrainian or Russian ancestry climbed to 52,911 with the vast majority of the population coming from rural villages or small towns, mostly in Ukraine *
- According to the data from the 2005 American Community Survey, 23,565 Multnomah County residents (3.6% of the entire population) claim either Russian or Ukrainian ancestry. Significantly more county residents were born in Ukraine (5,986) than in Russia (3,937)* While “most of the county’s Russian-speaking residents are from Ukraine, ...the government infrequently collects data on speakers of Ukrainian”*
- 3% of households in Portland speak Ukrainian as their primary language – making it one of the most commonly spoken languages in Portland after English (83%) and Spanish (7%)

* Source: Multnomah County Library Needs Assessment Report for the Russian-speaking, Vietnamese and Chinese Communities, 2006

http://www.nwcentral.org/files/MCL_LanguageNeedsAssessment_FINAL%20REPORT.pdf

Ukrainian American Community of Oregon and SW Washington is numerous and diverse *(continued)*

Although first generation Americans are a significant part of the local Ukrainian American community, the community has deep roots



The majority of the Ukrainian community arrived in the 1980's and 1990's fleeing religious persecution in the former Soviet Union

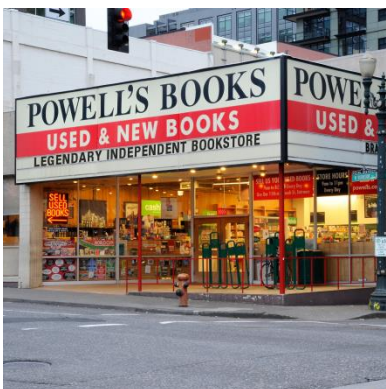
- More Ukrainians came to Oregon and Washington between 1990 and 2005 than to any other region of the US*

Recent immigrants also include technology and science workers attracted by job and research opportunities in Oregon

- Ukrainian researcher Oleh Taratula received 2016 New Investigator Award that honors a young researcher who shows exceptional promise early in a career in biomedical research. Oleh and Olena Tarahula came to Oregon to work in OSU & OHSU labs; their research focuses on nanomedicine approaches to effectively diagnose and treat cancer
- Oregon technology companies employ Ukrainian engineers and software developers

Significant part of the community are second and third generation Americans with links to Ukraine through family and friends

- Ukrainian Americans, like many other immigrants to the Pacific Northwest, came to this area because of its natural beauty and climate (similar to Ukraine), its political and economic culture, and in pursuit of jobs and education
- A number of prominent Oregonians have roots in Ukraine, including Michael Powell, founder of Powell's books (Ukrainian father), Nicholas Kristof, NYT columnist (Armenian/Polish/Romanian family comes from the area that is now present day Ukraine)



*Source: University of Oregon, "Understanding the Immigrant Experience in Oregon", <http://pages.uoregon.edu/lerc/public/pdfs/immigrationenglish.pdf>

Ukrainian American Community of Oregon and SW Washington is numerous and diverse *(continued)*



We are a religiously diverse community with many places of worship. Many local churches have majority Ukrainian membership, both Ukrainian and Russian speaking, including

- Ukrainian Bible Church (Fairview, OR)
- Slavic Church Emmanuel (Portland, OR)
- Ukrainian Bible Church “Pathway to God” (Milwaukie, OR)
- Slavic Church “Sulamita” (Fairview, OR)
- New Life Missionary Church (Gresham, OR)
- God Will Provide Evangelical Church (Gresham, OR)
- St John the Baptist Ukrainian Orthodox Church (Portland, OR)
- Nativity of the Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church (Springfield, OR)



Ukrainian-American Community of Oregon and SW Washington is numerous and diverse *(continued)*

In addition to places of worship, many other institutions and businesses provide services to the community



Ukrainian School of Knowledge

- Founded in 1998, 130 children ages 5 to 14 (grades K through 8)
- Secondary educational institution, Saturday school providing instruction in Ukrainian; subjects include Language (spoken and written), Math, Music Theory/Choir, Religion
- The purpose of Ukrainian School of Knowledge is through education and performance to encourage, develop and promote knowledge of Ukrainian language

Ukrainian Federal Credit Union

- Founded in Rochester, NY, in 1953
- 11 branches in the US, 2 of them local: Portland branch opened in 2006, Vancouver branch in 2014
- 2,000 accounts in Portland, OR
- Local branches provide small business loans—the majority of business customers are sole proprietorships in trucking, construction, car repair, other businesses

More than 20 grocery stores, many café and restaurants, and other businesses serve day-to-day needs of the Ukrainian and American communities

- Saturday varenyky (pierogi) at the St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Orthodox church in Portland is a gathering place for neighborhood residents and community members



Ukrainian American Cultural Association of Oregon and Southwest Washington is as diverse as the community in general

Ukrainian-American Cultural Association is a non-profit organization that welcomes everybody who is interested in Ukrainian culture and language

- Educational activities: lectures, presentations, showcases
- Ukrainian events, festivals, concerts
- Ukrainian-language media



Ukrainian American Cultural Association of Oregon and Southwest Washington is as an active members of the non-profit community

UACA partners with other organizations in Oregon to support Ukrainians affected by the war in Ukraine

- Mercy Corps: advocacy and program support for 1.8 million internal refugees
- Medical Teams International: containers of medical supplies and tens of dozens of boxes of supplies for Ukrainian hospitals
- World Affairs Council of Oregon: support for visiting delegations from Ukraine, programs on Ukraine

