



TRIBUTE TO LIBERTY

News

Commemorating the Victims of Communism

Volume 4, Issue 4
Fall 2012

Message from the New Chair of Tribute to Liberty

Dear Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. First, I would like to acknowledge and thank Mrs. Alide Forstmanis, our outgoing Chair, who has proved to be one of the most devoted and strongest supporters of Tribute to Liberty. She will remain in her position as treasurer and board member, and I know that she will continue to work hard. Please help me to express our gratitude to her for the last four years and for the years to come.

My name was put forward to be Chair of Tribute to Liberty mainly for two reasons. First, I'm the Vice-President of the Canadian Polish Congress for Canadian Affairs. I work and live in Ottawa and have extensive knowledge and understanding of how the government works. I trust this will help our cause a great deal when personal contact is needed to advance the memorial project. Also, I was born and educated in Warsaw, Poland. Thus, I know from personal experiences what Communism looks like. Mainly, how destructive it can be—how people, families and whole nations can be shackled by its misguided ideology. I will do everything possible to make sure that proper respect is given to the suffering and death of 100 million people due to Communism. I don't see this project as a Polish, Ukrainian, Vietnamese or any other ethnic group endeavour. This is a Canadian monument to the victims of Communism—because of our shared values, our dedication to liberty and democracy, and because Canada provided a safe harbour to as many as eight million people who came from Communist countries.

Second, in my day-to-day activities I run an investment and financial planning company. I know how finance works and how to help a charitable organization raise money, invest it prudently and to provide for its constituents—and I'm not shy about asking for money. I'm confident that with your help, emotional and intellectual as well as financial, we will build this memorial in no time. I would ask all of you to get involved. We need you to talk to us, tell us how we can make the project better and what we can do to move it forward as quickly as possible. If you need our presence in your communities to explain and to promote the memorial, and to get people to buy into it emotionally, let us know and we will be there.

Lastly, I know that we can count on our government and all the political parties to support us; but this memorial is ours—let us be proud that we can build it ourselves, one brick at a time. Within the next couple of years, we will meet at the memorial in Ottawa.

Yours Truly,
Ludwik Klimkowski, CFP
613-841-2772



Tribute to Liberty is a Canadian organization whose mission is to establish a memorial to the victims of Communism in the National Capital Region.

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Ludwik Klimkowski, Chair
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For more information about Tribute to Liberty visit: www.tributetoliberty.ca



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“999” Fundraising Project

Dear Friends,

The “999” project is a new initiative of Tribute to Liberty. We need at least 2 to 3 million dollars for the monument to victims of Communism to be built in Ottawa. Tribute to Liberty wants to ensure that this memorial will keep alive the memory of the millions who suffered and died as a result of the injustices perpetrated by Communism.

The proposed location is just west of the Parliament Buildings, near the Supreme Court of Canada. This very visible location will allow all communities affected by Communism to come together to honour their heroes and victims.

I believe in leading by example. Therefore, I have donated \$1,000, and now we need 999 of you to proudly stand next to me and raise \$1,000,000. Matching funds have been promised, guaranteeing that with your donation of \$1,000 for the monument to victims of Communism, the memorial will become a reality.

Donate before December 31, 2012, and receive a tax receipt for 2012!

Everyone touched by Communism directly or indirectly should feel a need to contribute toward the completion of this monument. The design, prominence and its grandeur is dependent only on you and your generosity. Please give from your heart.

Sincerely,
Ludwik Klimkowski, CFP
613-841-2772

Community Outreach Update

Tribute to Liberty’s new Chair met with project stakeholders in the fall, informing them of the project’s progress and encouraging people to donate.

Mr. Klimkowski met with Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Jason Kenney on October 4. Minister Kenney reinforced his support of the memorial project and wished Tribute to Liberty success with fundraising.

On October 12, Mr. Klimkowski attended a meeting of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, General Assembly, and received a pledge for \$1,000.

Tribute to Liberty’s new Chair attended the Canadian Polish Congress AGM, October 19-21 in Edmonton. He received pledges for almost \$25,000.

Tribute to Liberty was promoted at the Free Thinking Film Fest in Ottawa, November 1-4. Mr. Klimkowski addressed

the audience on the subject of the memorial project prior to the screening of *Death by China*.

A briefing on the memorial project’s progress was held in Ottawa for the ambassadors of Central and Eastern European countries on November 7.



Support from the Vietnamese Community in Toronto

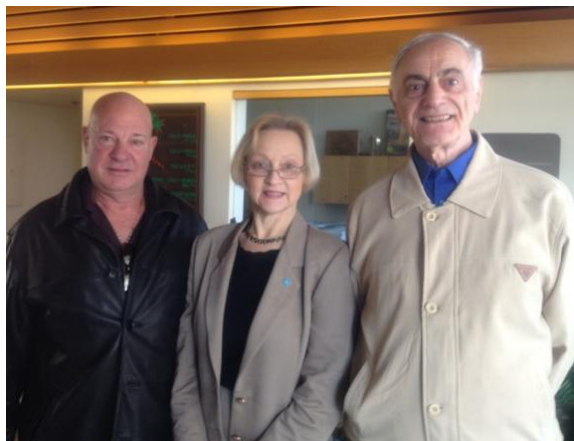
The Vietnamese community in Toronto continues to assist Tribute to Liberty with both moral and financial support. At Viet SummerFest 2012 on August 5, held at Mississauga’s Celebration Square, the Vietnamese

community distributed Tribute to Liberty brochures. Thank you to Mr. Nhan Tran at Express Printing, 806 Bloor Street West, who printed the 2,000 brochures for handing out. The Vietnamese community is planning on highlighting Tribute to Liberty at their upcoming New Years' celebration events in January 2013.



Support from the Cuban Community in Canada

On Nov 18, Cuban Canadian National Foundation (CCNF) President Ismael Samba and CCNF past president David Levy presented Tribute to Liberty with a \$1,680 donation. The Cuban community supports the memorial project and is working hard to raise funds.



The following is the dedication that accompanies the donation:

In 1992, myself and another 18 members of a group of dissidents named "New Generation" were sentenced to prison in Santiago de Cuba. Our crime was to ask for freedom and democracy. "Vote for freedom not for Castro, down dictatorship"—expressed one of our pamphlets. They were distributed in different places in my city. Other members of this group were not discovered by the state's security agents; however, my two children were involved.

My family also suffered the consequences of our actions during our incarceration and in several hunger strikes, in demand of respect of human rights and of respect of our status as political prisoners (not common prisoners as the regimen named us). "New Generation" represented the biggest group of peaceful protesters at the beginnings of Cuba's civil society, after the collapse of the Soviet Union. We would like to dedicate our contribution to all those who kept a vertical position facing harassments, tortures and any kind of abuses from the regime against prisoners and the people in the biggest prison in the world, that is, Cuba. Also, to those seven political prisoners who at the end of 1994 risked their lives during 40 days in hunger strike, in the Prison of Boniato, in which my eldest son Guillermo Samba participated when he was only 22 years old. We also dedicate our contribution to our friend Marcelo Amelo, who later died in this jail, from the tortures and abuses of the guards and agents of Castro's regime.

Ismael Samba
President, Cuban Canadian Foundation
ccf@cubancanadianfoundation

History Unhidden *Matriarch lived life full of grace*

Maria Makalo was born in 1927 in the western Ukrainian village of Kurnyky. She was only 16 when the Germans came, transporting her to Bavaria, press-ganged into the service of the Third Reich. She was not alone. Millions of Ukrainians suffered a similar fate. Many would not survive. Being young and petite, Maria was not the first choice of those selecting slaves for hard labour. Paradoxically, that was lucky. For when she was finally picked it was by a *Bauer* (farmer) whose ailing wife and two children needed help. So Maria worked mainly in the kitchen, able to scrounge food and even sneak some to the Polish POWs the farmer held captive. Somehow her father, Stepan, a First World War veteran of the Austro-Hungarian army, and fluent in German, learned where his daughter was. From occupied Ukraine he posted letters of encouragement, those few sheets of paper becoming some him again. Still a teenager when the Second World War ended, in May 1945, Maria again found herself among millions of people cast adrift, political refugees unwilling to return to Soviet-dominated eastern Europe. There the Stalinist regime was brutally suppressing Ukrainian nationalism, a counterinsurgency campaign that continued well into the 1950s. Maria's father was a member of the resistance. Captured by the Communists, Stepan perished rather than renounce the cause of Ukraine's liberation. His final resting place is unknown. The Iron Curtain then severed Maria's ties to her mother, three brothers, and a sister, a chasm un-breached until the Soviet empire fell and Ukraine regained its rightful place in Europe, almost a half century later.



Not able to go home, Maria instead found sanctuary in the 'Freiman Kasserne' Displaced Persons camp, near Munich. There she joined the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists, (*OUNb*), becoming a trusted underground courier. It was a dangerous time. Hundreds of thousands of "Soviet citizens" were forcibly repatriated to the USSR, there were political assassinations, widespread criminality, and a climate of fear, many believing a Third World War was imminent. So most DPs lived "on packed suitcases," motivated by a "compulsive need to return home," seeing themselves as the "second line" of the liberation movement, determined to husband their Diaspora's resources until they could get home. They believed that would happen soon. They were mistaken. Their exodus would last for decades.

Unbeknownst to her, Maria came under surveillance. One day he stopped her, in Munich's famous 'English Gardens.' Fortunately, the man who crossed her path was another nationalist. His name was Danylo. He became her unofficial escort and bodyguard and, eventually, her husband, rarely leaving Maria's side until she died, peacefully, in his arms, in their bed, in their home, after more than six decades of happily married life.

Resettled from post-war Europe to Kingston, Ontario, in 1949, Maria and Danylo found work, she at Hotel Dieu of Hospital, he at Brock Jewellers. At first they lived in a Queen Street boarding house, on the edge of Kingston's immigrant and working class "North End." Wanting to start a family they moved to 68 Nelson Street, infusing their home with all things Ukrainian. Anyone crossing that threshold immediately entered what Maria and Danylo remembered or imagined Ukraine should be like, a welcoming and happy place. It still is. When their children were born they named them Lubomyr, "Lover of Peace," and Nadia, "Hope," signalling what their adopted homeland had given them - peace, love, and hope.

In their early years in Canada Maria and Danylo encountered many fellow citizens who knew little, if anything, about Ukraine or Ukrainians. She dedicated

herself to overcoming that ignorance. Maria taught Ukrainian school, pushed her children to study hard, was a leading member of St Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Parish, a founding and lifelong member of the Kingston Branch of the Canadian League for the Liberation of Ukraine, helped establish the Kingston and District Folk Arts Council, the Ukrainian Maky Dance Ensemble, the Ukrainian Canadian Club of Kingston, and was the heart and soul of the "Lviv, Ukraine" pavilion during Kingston's annual "Folklore" festival, for 42 years. Her commitment to her culture and, in particular, to Ukrainian embroidery and traditional cooking, were a delight within her own *hromada* (community) and for the many thousands of Kingstonians she hosted over several decades. We will not see the likes of her *pyrohy* (perogies) and *holubtsi* (cabbage rolls) again. And yet, while she always made sure people knew she was a Ukrainian, and what that meant to her, Maria was equally keen on learning about the lives and cultures of everyone she met, genuine in her advocacy of multiculturalism, believing it to be a strong pillar girding up Canada's uniqueness as a society.

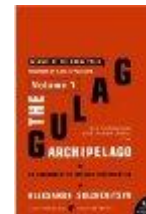
Maria and Danylo's enduring support for the cause of Ukrainian independence - for many who knew them nothing but a quixotic émigré dream - was vindicated when the USSR collapsed, in 1991. And, at almost the same time, they became grandparents, who savoured watching their granddaughter, Kassandra, become a woman and a young scholar of modern Ukraine's history. For *Baba* and *Dido* (grandmother and grandfather) there could be no more satisfying legacy.

On the evening before she died Maria spoke her last words, in Ukrainian: "Goodnight, my children." Her family was with her when she passed, at 9:03 a.m. on Friday, 10 February. She was calm and unafraid. Just like the Mary whose name she bore Maria had witnessed appalling suffering in her lifetime yet remained a woman of faith. Parting with motherly words of comfort she finally went home, full of grace, to be with God, reminding us of the psalmist's words: "for He grants sleep to those He loves."

Submitted by Lubomyr Luciuk.

Tribute to Liberty Website Resource Section

Don't forget to visit the [resource section](#) on Tribute to Liberty's website—it contains valuable resources for those interested in reading about the victims of Communism.



Tell Your Story...

And help build the Memorial to Victims of Communism in Ottawa.

A donation of \$200 buys a brick for the virtual Pathway to Liberty that leads to the Memorial.

Each brick can be donated with a story of a victim of Communism, a message or a dedication. Donate today at: tributetoliberty.ca.

For more information about Tribute to Liberty and the Memorial to Victims of Communism, visit tributetoliberty.ca.



Mail-in Contribution Form

**Don't forget to enclose your story,
message or dedication!**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Phone (____) _____ Email _____

Donation Amount: \$1000 _____ \$500 _____ \$100 _____ Other _____ I wish to remain anonymous: _____

Please make cheque payable to Tribute to Liberty and mail to:
Tribute to Liberty, P.O. Box 84558, 2336 Bloor St. West, Toronto, ON M6S 4Z7

Tribute to Liberty is a registered charity. Charitable Number: 814999660RR0001