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THE NEW HOMELAND

Pravda vítězí!

CZECH AND SLOVAK BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER www.masaryktown.ca

Prime Minister Stephen Harper Comments on the Situation in Ukraine

March 3, 2014 - Today, while in Toronto Prime Minister Stephen Harper today delivered the following remarks on the troubling situation in Ukraine:

"The situation in Ukraine remains extremely serious for global peace and security.

"Canada and its G-7 partners have spoken with one voice in condemning President Putin's military intervention in Ukraine. "We call once again on President

"I've also spoken today with the Prime Minister of Ukraine, and I've said the following to the people of Ukraine on behalf of Canadians: Canada pledges ongoing friendship and steadfast support for your efforts to defend your sovereignty, and to restore economic and political stability."

Spource: <http://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2014/03/03/statement-prime-minister-canada-situation-ukraine>



Putin to immediately withdraw his military.

"President Putin's actions have put his country on a course of diplomatic and economic isolation that could well see Russia exit the G-8 entirely.

"Canada has suspended our engagement in preparations for the G-8 Summit planned in Sochi.

"We have also recalled our Ambassador to Russia, cancelled any Government representation at the Paralympic Games, and I've instructed officials to review all planned bilateral interaction with Russia.

"I would also note the resolution put before Parliament today and encourage its immediate passage by all political parties.

"We will continue to work closely with our G-7 partners and our allies.

RUSSIAN SOLDIERS TRAINING IN CANADA GIVEN 24 HOURS TO LEAVE COUNTRY Andrea Janus, CTVNews.ca

Nine Russian soldiers who were participating in military exercises in Canada have been expelled from the country, as Ottawa continues to denounce Russia's military intervention in Crimea, CTV News has learned.

A government source confirmed that the soldiers were informed Thursday afternoon that they had 24 hours to leave Canada.

Six of the soldiers were in Saint-Jean, Que., where they were learning English and French. Another two soldiers were participating in a training program at 5 CDSB Gagetown, and the ninth soldier was teaching Canadian soldiers Russian in Gatineau, Que.

The move comes days after Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced that all planned bilateral activities between the Canadian Armed Forces and the military of the Russian Federation are suspended, including exercises such as NORAD's Exercise Vigilant Eagle.

On Thursday, Harper said the government would not recognize the results of a referendum in Crimea on whether to join Russia because the region is "currently under illegal military occupation."

Lawmakers in Crimea voted unanimously Thursday to leave Ukraine and join Russia. They have scheduled a referendum for March 16 so voters can weigh in on the decision.

The vote was denounced by the international community. In his statement, Harper once again criticized Russia's incursion into the Crimean peninsula as "an act of aggression, a clear violation of Ukraine's sovereignty, and of international law.

"Canada will not recognize a referendum held in a region currently under illegal military occupation. We will continue to view the situation in Ukraine with the gravest concern and will continue to cooperate closely with our G-7 partners and like-minded allies," the prime minister said in a statement.

Later, after question period, Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird said "you can't have a valid referendum in 10 days."

"It's unacceptable and it's wrong and we won't recognize it," he told reporters in the foyer of the House of Commons.

Source: <http://www.ctvnews.ca/mobile/politics/russian-soldiers-training-in-canada-given-24-hours-to-leave-country-1.1717172> ■

Photo wikipedia

Dear Friends, MMI members and Associates

I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to all donors - supporters of the restoration project of the "Crucified Again" monument located on Masaryktown.

Plans for the restoration started in June 2013. The target date for unveiling the restored monument is July 2, 2014. To proceed according to plan, the project will start as soon as weather permits.

Some people may not be aware of the monument's importance. Twenty five years ago this monument was erected in the memory of all political prisoners in Czechoslovakia. At that time all funding was donated by people who believe in Liberty and Humanity.

This is the time to show that our beliefs did not fade away. With the support of the Czech and Slovak community and friends we will do it again.

Donations supporting the monument restoration are getting closer to the needed sum of \$15,000 for this project.

At this point we are still looking for \$3,000 dollars to reach our goal and winning number. Please let all your friends and associates know of this project, and encourage them to help.



This monument should serve as the reminder to future generations, in sincere memory of ALL those for whom this monument was erected.

On behalf of all Masaryk Memorial Institute board members

Jecmen, Frantisek, President

Thanks to: Frederic Sirotek - Ottawa On, CSSK Hamilton ON, Mrs. Jitka and Mr. Pavel Bresky - Toronto, Mrs. Martha and Mr. Jerry Vydra - Mississauga ON, Mrs. and Mr. J. Zemanek - Toronto.

New Canadian citizens in February 2014

Ottawa, February 28, 2014 — More than 19,200 people from 193 countries have become Canadian citizens at citizenship ceremonies held across Canada over the month of February. This is almost 100 percent higher compared to the same period last year (February 2013) when approximately 9,980 people were granted citizenship across Canada.

At 220 citizenship ceremonies held across the country this past month, from school gymnasiums, to Citizenship and Immigration offices, to city halls and hotel conference rooms, Canada has welcomed our newest citizens.

These high numbers demonstrate that the system is becoming more efficient and the backlog of citizenship applications is decreasing, helping more people realize their dream of becoming Canadian sooner. The government's proposed changes in Bill C-24, the Strengthening Canadian Citizenship Act, will also reduce wait times by streamlining the decision-making process for citizenship. It is expected that these changes will bring the average processing time for citizenship applications down to under one year

> 10

When she died Feb. 20 at age 100 in a nursing home in Tabor, a village south of Prague, she was a Czech celebrity. That afternoon she had received a visit from the President, and a tabloid headline the following day announced, "She Saw President Zeman ... And Then Died."

"Your history always eventually comes back at you, no matter where you are in the world," she wrote in her 48-page autobiography, *Dreams and Memories*, published last year.

In the chaos of postwar Europe, a tireless 31-year-old Josefina Napravilova set out to find Czechoslovak children who had been scattered by the Nazis, and take them home. Following tenuous leads and vague hunches, she hitched rides across the countryside, often in the back of military trucks. She slept on benches in train stations. She relied on her knowledge of several languages, and had a remarkable gift for detective work and meticulous documentation. In the end, she found about 40 children.

The Nazis had sent hundreds of them from occupied Czechoslovakia to concentration camps. Many had been killed, but some were placed with SS families, given German names and forced to assimilate.

Such was the case with the children of Lidice. Most infamously, on June 10, 1942, Hitler ordered that the village, near Prague, be wiped off the map as an act of revenge for the assassination of high-ranking Nazi officer Reinhard Heydrich (known as Heydrich the Hangman) days earlier in Prague. Czechoslovak paratroopers, sent in from England, had orchestrated the attack, so Hitler directed his rage at their compatriots. All the men of Lidice were rounded up and shot, the women were sent to Ravensbrück concentration camp, and of the village's 105 children, most were sent to a Nazi extermination camp in occupied Poland and only 17 were spared. One of them was 8-year-old Vaclav Hanf.

The boy was placed with the family of a German SS officer, with his sister, but he rebelled, so he was sent to a Hitler Youth military camp. When he refused to co-operate, there, an SS officer smashed his left knee. He was moved from camp to camp and at one point he was shot in the left arm, but he recovered.

In 1945, Mrs. Napravilova found Vaclav, then 11, at a displaced persons camp in Salzburg. She was pushing her way through a crowd of 200 children, repeating the Czech words for mother, father and grandmother, hoping to trigger early childhood memories. Vaclav stepped forward, saying he was Czech, but he had no documents to prove it. Only when the boy identified a picture of his mother and father, as well as an old school photo from Lidice to the officer in charge, was he free to leave with Ms. Napravilova and return to Prague by train. She took him into her home for several days, and they celebrated Christmas together with her husband. They bonded, and Ms. Napravilova, who had no children, offered to adopt Vaclav. But his sisters had also returned home, and he was sent to live with them instead at their uncle's

JOSEFINA NAPRAVILOVA RESCUER OF CHILDREN

KATERINA CIZEK, Special to the Globe and Mail

home near Lidice.

"She was an incredibly kind woman. I loved Mrs. Napravilova and I will never forget her. I called her my second mother," Mr. Hanf said.

Josefina Napravilova was born on Jan. 21, 1914, in Plzen, a bustling Austro-Hungarian city west of Prague. She was the only child of Adolf and Bohumila Gottfried. When she was six months old, her father left to fight in the First World War, and

she wrote.

Family friend Gillis Rosborg, the Swedish consul in Prague, told her about the flood of people drifting into Prague from the concentration camps. Ms. Napravilova joined the Red Cross and spent long days handing out food stamps and clothing. As the people and their stories poured in, she began to document missing family members in her notebooks.



he never returned, remaining instead in Trieste, Italy, to build a factory. Josefina grew up in her mother's care, in a modest home in Plzen. They attended the theatre together every Thursday evening. She had lessons in music, dance and languages. Her mother instilled in her strong values of humanism and social equality, rooted in the burgeoning Czech cultural nationalism of the time.

"My mother was my lifelong role model," Ms. Napravilova wrote in her book.

Her first love was a young poet named Miloslav Matasov, but she left him behind in Plzen when she moved to Prague with her mother to attend law school. Her studies were abruptly halted in 1939, though, when Charles University was closed during the Nazi occupation.

She met and quickly married Karel Napravil, a wealthy banker. They moved into an apartment on Karlovo Namesti, in central Prague.

While she was resting after lunch at the apartment on Feb. 14, 1945, her life took another abrupt turn. American forces dropped 152 tons of bombs on Prague. The bombs fell just out her window, and she said she was lucky to survive. That day, 701 people died and 1,184 were wounded. She ran out into the streets to help the injured. She said she felt an urgent calling to do it.

In May, she joined the Prague Uprising, a battle to liberate the city from the German occupation. She filled in at Karlovo Namesti hospital, next to her apartment, improvising as a nurse while those who were better qualified were stuck behind barricades.

"At first I fainted during the amputations, but I eventually got used to it,"

Meanwhile, Mr. Rosborg had heard that 15 Czech girls released from Ra-



vensbrück were stuck in Smaland, Sweden. He asked Ms. Napravilova to travel there and help them return home.

Her treacherous journey to find missing children had begun. The girls' recovery was fairly straightforward, but she quickly found more difficult cases: The children Hitler had attempted to assimilate into Nazi Germany. Her efforts were complicated by the fact that toward the end of the war, the Nazis had relocated many children to the countryside. Ms. Napravilova crisscrossed Germany and Poland, then went back to Sweden and Austria.

By the spring of 1946, she had helped recover several dozen Czech and Slovak children.

"The greatest reward is to see joy in the eyes of children ..." she wrote in her memoir. "I could never have children of my own, but in the end, I like to think I had 40 children. They were all between the ages of 2 and 15 when I found them."

In 1947, she followed her husband to Vienna. But as the Communist regime gripped Czechoslovakia, they soon realized they could not return to Prague. Her husband died of a heart attack a year later. She joined the International Refugee Organization, and in an ironic twist, began helping Czechs flee to Austria. Consequently, she was stripped her of her citizenship, and became stateless.

Friends in Canada helped her emigrate, and she landed in Halifax on Dec. 6, 1949, moving on to Vancouver, where she found a job as a bank teller at CIBC. Her talent for detective work undoubtedly contributed to her eventual promotion to auditor, which saw her reviewing financial records. She retired in 1979, but worked at the bank occasionally for another four years, especially at tax time.

"Computers were coming in, but I used my old, tried and true methods to find errors and mistakes." She retired to Guelph Ont., and began a routine of feeding swans on the river. She never remarried.

Her volunteer work never stopped, though. Shortly after her arrival, she organized other Czechs to make it to Canada. In 1956, she helped Hun-

Sunday, I wrote to my mother," she said.

When the Velvet Revolution erupted in Prague in 1989, Ms. Napravilova was there, supporting the students in the streets, taking them food and other supplies.

"Throughout her life, she showed up to help, at all the key moments in Czech history," said Jiri Fiedor, a documentary filmmaker who interviewed Mrs. Napravilova for a program titled *Unsung Heroes*.

"Throughout my time in Canada, I always wondered if 'Little Vaclav' Hanf was still alive," she wrote in her memoir.

In 1994, she returned to live in the Czech Republic. One day in 2000, her neighbour showed her a newspaper article in which Vaclav Hanf named her as the woman responsible for his safe return to Lidice. She contacted him and they met. They held hands, cried and called each other mother and son. Their friendship instantly resumed, 55 years later.

He and his family visited her frequently, and in 2009, when she could no longer live independently, Mr. Hanf offered to take her into his home.

"We wanted to have her come and live with us where we could take care of her," Mr. Hanf said. "But the doctors wouldn't allow it."

She sold her villa and moved into a nursing home in Tabor, south of Prague, where she received frequent visits from friends, journalists, politicians and Mr. Hanf's large extended family. She was awarded numerous honours, including a Masaryk Medal, and an honorary citizenship to the village of Lidice. She was still translating Czech poetry into English, and penned her memoirs at age 99.

She died in her sleep one month after her 100th birthday.

At her funeral in Tabor on Feb. 27, Vaclav Hanf, 79, laid a wreath with a banner reading, "For my Second Mother." ■

To submit an I Remember: obit@globeandmail.com

Source: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/josefina-naprilova-second-mother-reunited-czech-families/article17382712/?page=all>

Photo: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/in-pictures-josefina-naprilova-czechoslovakias-heroic-mother/article17382767/?from=17382712>
Published Friday, Mar. 07 2014, 7:30

garians come, and in 1968, in the aftermath of Prague Spring, she helped yet another generation of Czechs emigrate. She celebrated Czech holidays, and wrote her mother a letter every week

		FULL NAME NAME ET PRÉNOM Имя и Фамилия NAME AND SURNAME NÁPRAVILOVA Josefina geb. Gottfried	
DATE OF BIRTH DATE DE NAISSANCE Дата рождения DATE OF BIRTH 21.1.1914		PLACE OF BIRTH LIEU DE NAISSANCE Место рождения PLACE OF BIRTH Plzen, CSR	
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R. LEGAL AND POLITICAL PROTECTION ONLY.			

until her death in 1972. "That was my religion. Instead of going to church on

PM EST, Last updated Friday, Mar. 07 2014, 7:34 PM EST

Thought For Food Production presents the Canadian premiere Vaclav Havel: The Memo (Vyrozumění)

Thought For Food is proud to present the Canadian premiere of Paul Wilson's new translation of Vaclav Havel's *The Memo*. This hilarious satire of office life is also an incisive examination of politics and bureaucracy.

The *Memo* is a parody of bureaucratic banality instantly recognizable to anyone who has ever dealt with a large organization. Full of absurd characters, ridiculous situations and an undercurrent of political satire, this intellectual comedy will make you laugh – just before it makes you think.

Vaclav Havel was one of the twentieth century's leading playwrights as well as being an accomplished statesman (President of the Czech Republic, Honorary Companion of the Order of Canada) and *The Memo* is a masterpiece of absurdism. With this fresh new edition by Governor General Award-winning translator, Paul Wilson, Thought For Food explores the terrifying, comical parallels between Communist Czechoslovakia and modern-day Canada.

The *Memo* (Wilson, trans.) is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

SYNOPSIS

The play begins with Andrew Gross, the managing director of an unnamed organization, receiving a memo written in a language unfamiliar to him. He soon discovers that this is Ptydepe, an artificial language that has been introduced to the organization by his deputy director with the intent to streamline office communications. Gross is determined to stop Ptydepe, but must first translate his memo to find out the results of his recent performance review.

Gross soon discovers that anyone who receives a memorandum in Ptydepe can only be granted a translation if they have been certified in the new language. „In other words,” he muses, „the only way to learn what is in one's memo is to know it already”. Ptydepe causes chaos in the firm and Gross finds himself demoted to staff watcher, where his job is to monitor other employees.

Eventually he persuades a secretary to make an unauthorized translation of his memo—which turns out to be a document praising his opposition to the spread of Ptydepe. Restored at last to his post as director, Gross is so depersonalized that when the secretary appeals to him to keep

her from being fired for translating his memo, he cannot even put in a good word for her. It might jeopardize his job in which he is „attempting to salvage the last remains of Man's humanity...but I must go now, and have my lunch.”



Director Tyler Sequin

PLAY HISTORY

First performed in 1965, *The Memo* was the second of Havel's plays produced at Prague's Theatre of the Balustrade, where he was then literary manager. The play made its American debut in 1968 at the Public Theatre in New York where it won an Obie Award for best foreign play.

VACLAV HAVEL (playwright)

Havel began co-writing plays during his military service in the 1950s and his first solo play, *The Garden Party*, was staged in 1963. His plays satirised the absurdities of life under communist rule, but his work was banned after the reformist Prague Spring of 1968 was crushed by a Soviet-led invasion. By the late 1970s he had become Czechoslovakia's best-known dissident and he was imprisoned several times. He helped found the Charter 77 movement for democratic change. When communist rule unraveled in late 1989, he was elected president by the interim coalition cabinet. He resigned in 1992 after Slovak nationalists successfully campaigned for the break-up of Czechoslovakia. He was elected the first president of the Czech Republic in January 1993, serving until 2003 when he resigned due to his deteriorating health. After his political career, Havel returned to literature and his last play *Leaving* made its American debut in 2008 (translated by Paul Wilson). Adapted from various sources, mainly the BBC's report on his death in 2011.

Among other awards, Havel was the recipient of the Order of Canada (Honorary Companion), and the US Presidential Medal of Freedom. Vaclav Havel passed away in 2011 from a respiratory illness.

PAUL WILSON (translator)

is a freelance journalist, magazine editor, radio producer and translator

of Czech literature.

Paul spent ten years in Czechoslovakia (1967-1977). He was eventually expelled by the Communist government for his association with the dissident movement, particularly for his involvement with the underground music scene as a member of the legendary rock band, The Plastic People of the Universe.

He has contributed essays, articles and reviews to many North American and European publications, including *The New Yorker*, *The New York Review of Books*, *The Globe and Mail*, *The Toronto Star* and other literary and general interest magazines including *The Walrus*, which he helped establish as deputy editor, *Saturday Night*, where he was Senior Editor from 1998-2001, *The Idler* (Associate Editor, 1988-1992), and *Books in Canada*.

He has translated many plays, essays, books, and speeches by Václav Havel. His translation of *The Engineer of Human Souls*, by Josef Skvorecky, was awarded the Governor General's Award for Fiction in 1984, and his translation of Ivan Klima's *My Golden Trades* was short listed for the Independent newspaper's International Translation Award in 1993.

The Memo is one of four plays by Vaclav Havel that Wilson has translated for the stage. The other three are *The Beggar's Opera*, *Guardian Angel*, and Havel's last play, *Leaving*, which received its North American premiere in Philadelphia's Wilma Theater in 2010.

THOUGHT FOR FOOD

Established in 1994, Thought For Food is a Toronto-based company that began as a summer project for university and high school students. Fifteen years and fourteen productions later, the company remains dedicated to showcasing the talents of emerging artists.

Originally just a play on words, in 1997 the company decided to live up to its name. To date we have collected over 250lbs of food for various Toronto area food banks by offering discounted tickets in exchange for donations.

A workplace comedy that proves just how inefficient "efficiency" can be! *THE MEMO* is open for business April 23rd to May 10th at Unit 102 Theatre, 376 Dufferin St. W, Toronto.

More: thought4food.ca or <http://www.thought4food.ca> or info@thought4food.ca
Adm. \$25

Photo by vk: *Actors of The Memo* ■

The right music helps achieve relaxation, calming the nerves, - and after this comes the mental peace and quiet...

The impact of music on people ... It should be borne in mind that within each genre there are a variety of styles. Some of them are active and have energy, while others are passive and help relax...

Jazz, blues, reggae and other musical and dance forms, which are based on African expressive melodies, can cheer up and inspire, to give vent to joy, to dispel sadness, humor and irony to sharpen, enhance sociability...

Jazz is a musical style that originated at the beginning of the 20th century in black communities in the Southern United States... It was born out of a mix of African and European music traditions. Its black African pedigree is evident in its use of blue notes, improvisation, polyrhythm, syncopation and the swung note... From its early development until the present day jazz has also incorporated music from American popular music...

The Jazz Age was a movement that took place during the 1920s, or the Roaring Twenties, from which jazz music and dance emerged with the introduction of mainstream radio and the end of the war. This era ended in the 1930s with the beginning of The Great Depression but has lived on in American pop culture for decades. With the introduction of jazz came an entirely new cultural movement in places like the United States, France and England. From 1919 Kid Ory's Original Creole Jazz Band of musicians from New Orleans played in San Francisco and Los Angeles where in 1922 they became the first black

Jazz symbol - Louis Armstrong Did you know?

jazz band of New Orleans origin to make recordings... However, the main center developing the new „Hot Jazz” was Chicago, where King Oliver joined Bill Johnson. That year also saw the first recording by Bessie Smith, the most famous of the 1920s blues singers...

Bix Beiderbecke formed *The Wolverines* in 1924. Also in 1924 Louis Armstrong joined the Fletcher Henderson dance band as featured soloist for a year, then formed his virtuosic Hot Five band, also popularizing scat singing...

LOUIS ARMSTRONG - A BLACK BOY WITH A JEWISH STAR

Louis Armstrong (August 4, 1901 – July 6, 1971), nicknamed Satchmo or Pops, was an American jazz trumpeter and singer from New Orleans, Louisiana...

The grandson of black slaves, this boy was born in poverty-stricken quarter of New Orleans known as “Back of Town”... His father abandoned the family when the boy was still an infant. His mother was a prostitute, and the boy had to live with his sister by his grandmother...

He showed early musical talent, and together with three other youngsters, he sang in the street quartet, so that the first of its earnings was a trifle, you petition the streets of old New Orleans...

Seven-year boy was sorry, and warmed himself at the Jewish Karnofsky family recently immigrated to America from Lithuania. At first they just let him “work” at home to feed the ever hungry child...

Then he began to stay overnight in the house of the Jews, for the first time in his life he was treated with kindness and affection ... When he went to bed, Mrs. Karnofsky Russian lullaby sung to him, and he sang it ... Later, he learned to sing and play a lot of Russian and Jewish songs...

Over time, the boy has actually become an adopted son in the family... Karnofsky gave him money to buy his first trumpet, as is customary in Jewish families, they really admired his musical talent

Later, when he became a professional musician and composer - he used the Jewish melodies in such compositions as the *St. James Infirmary* and *Go Down, Moses*...

Negro boy grew up and wrote a book about a Jewish family who adopted him in 1907...

In memory of them until his death, he wore a Star of David, and told me that it was in this family, he learned “how to live real life and determination.”

In 1922. Louis Armstrong moved to Chicago, it was his professional career... He soon became one of the best-known jazz artists in their home country - and now his name is one of the best known around the world - has become a symbol of jazz...

When asked about his religion, Armstrong would answer that he was raised a Baptist, always wore a Star of David, and was friends with the Pope... Armstrong wore the Star of David in honor of the Karnofsky family, who took him in as a child and lent him the money to buy his first cornet. Louis Armstrong was, in fact, baptized as a Catholic at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in New Orleans, and he met popes Pius XII and Paul VI, though there is no evidence that he considered himself Catholic. Armstrong seems to have been tolerant towards various religions, but also found humor in them...

Source: <http://marija-music.blogspot.ca/2012/05/jazz-symbol-louis-armstrong.html>
Satchmo: My Life in New Orleans: [Hardcover],
Louis Armstrong (Author) Louis Armstrong, In His Own Words: Selected Writings ■



Some years ago Michaela and I were flying from our trip to Hawaii. We did not get our seats together and although the airlines and flight attendants were supposed to help they did not. Michaela was young, the flight was long, and our assigned seats far apart, so I was trying to get my daughter next to me. I was just reading book about Buddhism. It was a chapter on how it is important to be kind and to help others. Life is not always easy (I should say life is MOSTLY not easy), but people can make it easier if they would be nicer. I asked the people sitting next to Michaela, an older couple in colorful dresses, if they would be willing to split up for us to sit together. For some reason I thought they would understand. They did not even look me in the eyes when they were saying, "No way!" I looked around and sought help from the passengers around. Somebody on this flight must be a good person and would be willing to change their seat with mother and young child, right? I looked and asked and looked again but nobody was willing. The engines were roaring and the flight attendant was pushing everyone to their seats, including me.



I took one last chance and tapped on the young man's shoulder who was sitting right next to me. He was holding hands with his girlfriend or probably a new wife, because Hawaii gets a lot of honeymooners. That's why I did not want to separate them and asked them last. They also had their head phones on and were reading a book (one book together). I said that I was really sorry to bother them. They looked at me, looked at each other, and then he asked his girlfriend-wife if it is alright with her if he goes sit somewhere else. She said of course. I waved at Michaela who was watching me from the other side of the plane, bravely holding her tears back. I was so happy that I almost kissed the young couple on their suntanned cheeks. The plane took off, my happy child was now sitting next to me and I promised myself that in the future I will pay it forward.

My chance to pay this favor forward came last spring. I was on a flight from Philadelphia to Los Angeles (by myself). I got one of the best seats on the flight! An aisle seat right in the front. The flight was totally full. Few minutes later a young man came and sat next to me. But he kept turning back as if he was looking for someone. He was also extremely good looking (did you ever noticed that a lot of the passengers on flights to LA are extremely good looking?). He looked like some of the new stars that show up in TV commercials or shows, even movies. He was also very pleasant and smiled a lot. We started conversation and I learned that he was the dancer for Taylor Swift. He also said that he has another friend on this flight but unfortunately they did not get their seats together. They were flying from one of their performances.

Pay It Forward

By Katerine Dehning

Ah ha! I remembered my Hawaii "pay it forward" promise and immediately asked him if his friend would like to switch the seats with me. The young man, Kevin was his name, said that it would be fantastic, but he feels really bad about asking me because I will get a worse seat. But I was already on my feet. I got middle seat between two ladies. They looked like relatives so I asked them if they would like to sit next to each other. And the younger lady answered: "No, thank you, we would love to have you in the middle, because I like the window and my mom likes the aisle." I climbed in the middle and introduced myself. The lady by the window introduced herself, too, "Hi, I am Monique and this is my mom." Since that moment we did not stop talking. We talked the whole flight, which was five hours! We talked until we landed in LA. We did not feel like we said it all, so we exchanged emails and continued our conversation by writing. We continued for months and kept planning our meeting. To meet with Monique is not easy task. She is a very busy woman and devoted traveler. To meet with me is not easy either. On top of that we don't live close to each other. Our schedules kept overlapping. We finally set a date and met for an amazing lunch half way in between our homes.

As I was driving back home from our lunch I was thinking about how karma worked. Somebody did something good for me and I decided to pay it forward. In return I gained a new wonderful friend. If I would not have exchanged the seat I would never met Monique.

Did the young man in Hawaii exchange his seat with me just because he was nice or because someone did it for him in the past as well? I will never know, but it reminds me of the movie Pay It Forward. And I, once again, have fully realized that life is so much easier, so much richer, and so much more fun when we are kind to one another! ■ (October 2013)

E-passport in Canada and new fees

The vacation season to Europe is slowly starting. It would be very helpful for your readers to be familiar with new passport requirement for travel to EU.

PLANNING A TRIP TO EUROPE?

Better make sure your passport is valid at least three months past your return date to Canada. If it isn't, you could get turned away.

A regulation that went into affect July 19, 2013 requires non-EU nationals to present travel documents that are valid for at least three months after the departure date from the European country. That means that if you're planning to return from your trip on September 1st, your passport needs to be valid until at least December 1st.

If this is the first time you are hearing about this policy, you are not alone. However, this lack of information is bound to impact people's travel plans.

And there really is no faster way to ruin a vacation than to be denied entry into a country.

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Norway, Romania, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland have implemented the regulation. However, it does not apply to the United Kingdom or Ireland, as they are not part of the Schengen Agreement.

Citizens of Canada can refer to: www.passport.gc.ca for forms and instructions for new passport applications and

Canadian passport renewal.

TRAVEL OUTSIDE THE EU:

The EU isn't the only area to place entry and exit restrictions on its visitors.

WHILE CANADIANS GOING TO CUBA need a passport valid on arrival, visitors headed to different countries must hold a passport valid for at least three or six months after their intended stay. If you are not sure about your destination's entry and exit regulation, log onto the Government of Canada's Travel website and simply type in the name of the country you are headed to. You will find a wealth of information including visa and passport regulations and travel advisories. Being prepared ahead of time will ensure smooth, worry-free travel.

Prepared by: Agatha Rondzik, International Travel

CANADA'S NEW PASSPORT FEES

New passport and travel document fees came into effect on July 1, 2013, coinciding with the introduction of the 10-year ePassport.

Rather than being funded by taxpayers, Canada's Passport Program is financed by passport applicants. As a cost-recovery organization, it must generate enough revenues from fees charged for passports and other travel documents to pay for its expenditures.

Until now, Canada's passport fees had not changed since 2001 (apart from a \$2

increase to reflect rising shipping costs in 2005). The new fee structure that came into effect on July 1, 2013, will allow to the program to cover its costs and expenditures to be able to continue to provide excellent client service, facilitate travel for Canadians, maintain existing security standards, fight identity fraud, and keep pace with technological advancements and international standards so the Canadian passport remains a secure and trusted travel document.

Canada's Passport and Other Travel Document Services Fees Regulations was approved by the Canadian Governor General in Council on November 29, 2012.

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE FEES

On March 31, 2014, new fees will be charged for specific value-added services offered by Passport personnel. These fees have been created to recover the administrative costs of providing the service, an increase that was supported by Canadians during consultations.

- Certified true copies of part of a passport or other travel document (up to three copies) \$45
- Replacement of lost or stolen passport or other travel document (in addition to passport fee) \$45
- File transfers (between offices in Canada) \$45
- Retention of valid passport \$45 ■

For more visit www.passport.gc.ca

New Canadian citizens in February...

from pg. 7 and that the current backlog will be reduced by more than 80 percent by 2015-2016.

QUICK FACTS

In 2013, 128,936 people were granted citizenship—an average of 10,745 each month. So far in 2014, Canada has welcomed more than 41,000 new citizens at 462 ceremonies across Canada.

Since 2006, Canada has enjoyed the highest sustained levels of immigration in Canadian history—an average of 257,000 newcomers each year. Accordingly, the demand for citizenship has increased by 30 percent.

Canada has the highest rate of naturalization in the world—85 percent of eligible permanent residents become citizens. Citizenship and Immigration Canada received 333,860 citizenship applications in 2013, the highest volume ever. For a new Canadian, the citizenship ceremony marks their formal entry into the Canadian family. It is one of the few occasions when we formally reflect on the rights, responsibilities, privileges and benefits of being a Canadian citizen.

QUOTE

"Canadian citizenship comes with rights, responsibilities and a commitment to Canadian values and

traditions. To the number of new Canadians who have taken the Oath of Citizenship this month, I welcome you to the Canadian family.

Our government will continue to take action to improve the citizenship process for future new Canadians. We will build on our successes in reforming the immigration system and, with the launch of the Blueprint for Citizenship Improvements, we will improve the citizenship process so newcomers become Canadian citizens more quickly." ■

Chris Alexander, Canada's Citizenship and Immigration Minister
Source: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/>

Eva Koťátková is a young Czech artist. We do not hesitate to label her as the most successful young Czech artist abroad nowadays. Art en Valise, non profit organization, will introduce Eva to Canadian audiences with solo art show.

The show will take place at the Scrap Metal Gallery, 11 Dublin Street, Toronto from April 3 to June 27, 2014. The artist will work on new pieces of art for the show during her stay in Toronto. She will be in conversation with International Curator Cecilia Alemanni.

Eva Koťátková (born 1982 in Prague) studied at the Prague Academy of Fine Arts, Prague Academy of Applied Arts, San Francisco Art Institute and Akademie Bildende Kunst Wien from 2002-2007. In 2007 - at the age of 25 - she became the

later is revealed in the final form and content - and video or photographed performances, which could be characterised by their playful exploration of the artists immediate environment and society.

Koťátková exhibits extensively internationally and in the Czech Republic and her work is included in numerous private and public collections. Her latest international shows were in solo show Modern Art Oxford 2013 and Venice Biennale 2013. Koťátková recently exhibited at the 55th Venice Biennale as part of Massimiliano Gioni's The Encyclopedic Palace and in Modern



Eva Koťátková in Toronto

youngest artist ever to be awarded the Jindřich Chalupecký Award for young artists in the Czech Republic. The basic techniques that Koťátková uses in her work are drawing - her many drawings are initially created without a set intention, which only

Art Oxford with solo show. How British Guardian reviewed her Oxford exhibition: <http://www.theguardian.com/artand-design/2013/dec/08/eva-kotatkova-modern-art-oxford-review>



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