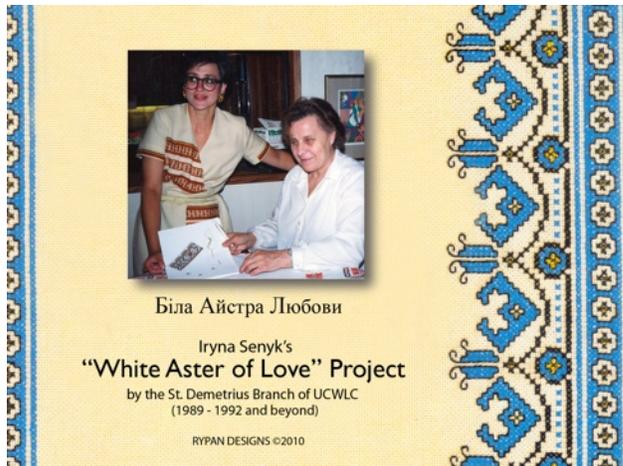


"White Aster of Love" Tribute to Iryna Senyk



Visual presentation was launched Feb 8, 2010 for UCWLC, St. Demetrius Branch, Toronto, ON

About the presentation:

See the inspirational story of how a Women's League in Canada brought a former Ukrainian dissident's smuggled poetry and embroidery to the world.

Iryna Senyk, poet, former political prisoner who spent 34 years in Soviet hard-labor camps and exile, member of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) and the [Ukrainian Helsinki Group \(UHG\)](#), died on October 25, 2009 at the age of 83. Indescribable suffering, hunger, degradation, failed to crush her invincible spirit.

UCWLC member Christine Bolubash smuggled Iryna's fifty embroidery-embellished fashion sketches out of Ukraine in 1989. Her St. Demetrius Branch of the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of Canada agreed to publish a book of Senyk's embroidery fashion sketches and poetry.

The **poems were translated into English** by Chrstitine Borsuk so everyone could appreciate them. You will wonder, "How could someone who has gone through so much brutality can maintain such a strong spirit and foster beauty in her poems and embroidered miniatures?" She became an inspiration for the project participants.

In 1992 Iryna visited North America for the multi-media **Première and Book Launch of her "White Aster of Love"**. She returned to Toronto again, and then travelled on to Rochester, NY, to personally receive **One of 100 Heroines of the World Award in 1998**. Several ladies went along in their embroidered "Senyk Dresses" for moral support. See the scope and breadth of this project! "A picture is worth a 1000 words!"

Presentations:

- UCWLC Museum (St. Demetrius Branch), Toronto, ON, AB – Feb 2010
- Ukrainian National Museum, Chicago, IL – Jun 2010

Speaker:

Maria Rypan was the fashion designer of the "Iryna Senyk" embroidered dresses, "White Aster of Love" book designer and producer of the Première Book Launch and slide show. Drawing on her wealth of design materials and archives, she created an on-screen show.

Since 1995 Maria teaches beadwork, produces a kit line and lectures on beading and global folk arts. <http://www.rypandesigns.com>, <http://rypandesigns.blogspot.com>