



Eastern Europe Highlights December 2023



CheonBo Event
in Yekaterinburg, Russia
2-3 December



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Baltic Nations CheonBo Special Event Held in Lithuania



Members from the three Baltic nations of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania attended an inspiring CheonBo Special Event on 16 and 17 December in Lithuania. A total of 118 members gathered at a sports centre about 20 kilometres from Vilnius, the capital, and were joined by 142 online participants from throughout the EUME region. – *Tibor Krebsz*



Albanian Ambassadors for Peace Study Peace Principles in Depth

About 50 Albanian Ambassadors for Peace attended a special three-day seminar to study the Unification Principle in depth. The seminar, "Love God, Love People, Love the Nation," was held jointly by the Albanian chapters of UPF and FFWPU at a newly opened hotel in the city of Vlora. The participants – mainly chairs and vice chairs of local Peace Councils, as well as other special guests – came from 17 cities. Some of the main UPF-Albania leaders took responsibility for moderating the sessions, taking care of guests, and conveying messages of peace and love. Besides studying the Principles of Peace, the participants had discussions, explored Vlora's beautiful sites, and had coffee at the city's newly built pedestrian walkway. During the artistic evening each Ambassador for Peace expressed his or her talent through singing, dancing or poetry. Four wives of Ambassadors for Peace themselves were awarded an Ambassador for Peace certificate. At the end of the seminar, the participants agreed that more such seminars should be held to introduce the Principles of Peace not only to Ambassadors for Peace but also to young people. –

Gani Rroshi

Moscow Forum Attracts Pro-Family NGOs

Around 50 representatives of pro-family NGOs attended the forum "Let's Make Russia a Nation of Happy and Prosperous Families," held on 20 and 21 December in the Moscow Peace Embassy. The Russian chapters of FFWPU and WFWP held the forum jointly, with financial and staff support from UPF and UC. This was the last in a series of events honouring the 30th anniversary of True Mother's speech in the Kremlin in November 1993. On the first day of the forum, FFWPU gave a presentation on its family festivals and WFWP reported on its "Families of Peace" contest. In the evening there was a special family time. *(Continued on next page)*





Moscow Forum

The second day featured an introduction to True Parents' concept of a movement of happy families, followed by a strategic session for its future development. Pro-family parliamentarian Tatyana Viktorovna Butskaya, who sent her representative to the forum, greeted the audience by video. Through this forum, FFWPU showed itself as one of the main pro-family organizations in Russia, clearly promoting traditional family values and the importance of purity and fidelity. Russia's declaration of 2024 as the Year of the Family will give our movement greater opportunities to promote these values. – Alexei Saveliev





Russian HTM Couples Sing, Dance and Discuss Family Traditions

Married couples who had received the Blessing at Family Festivals held by our members were invited to a New Year's party with the theme "In a Big Family Circle," organized by FFWPU in the Ural region city of Yekaterinburg. There were discussions about family traditions and how important it is, at the end of the year, to give thanks for the past year, set goals for the coming one, and write a list of our plans for family activities. The evening ended with a large circle dance and the song "We Wish You Happiness." Our goal was to give the love of Heavenly Parent and True Parents and convey the feeling that we are all one big family. – *Olga Pyatayeva*



Belarus Roundtable Honours True Mother's 1993 Visit

To commemorate the 30th anniversary of True Mother's visit to Minsk, Belarusian members held a roundtable on 15 December titled "Mothers of Peace – Women of the Universe." Presentations were given by women leaders of public organizations and charitable, creative and social projects that promote the moral education of children and youth. The leader of WFWP for Eastern Europe, Olga Vakulinskaya, spoke about True Mother's vision for the role of women in modern society and her 1993 peace-making tour, as well as WFWP activities. The program included beautiful folk music and songs, the giving of small gifts and a closing banquet. The participants, both old contacts and new guests, gave very positive feedback.

One day earlier, Mrs. Vakulinskaya was the main speaker at a WFWP master class on pure-love education at the offices of the Belarusian Women's Union. Her talk, "Love and Sexuality," was very well received by the participants, who were mostly from the field of education. – *Olga Plotnikova*



WFWP Holds Pure-Love Master Class in Belarus

“Love and Sexuality” was the topic of a master class for Minsk teachers, school directors and psychologists given by WFWP of Eastern Europe, working together with the Family World social organization. The event was held at the invitation of the Youth Department of the Belarusian Women’s Union at its office. The 11 participants—people with big hearts who sincerely want to invest in the younger generation—were unanimous in their approval of the presentation and their intention to use it in their work with children. The representative of the Belarusian Women’s Union and the participants expressed their desire to continue cooperation with WFWP. – *Olga Vakulinskaya*



UPA Cadets Speak at Online Youth Sunday Service

Three UPA cadets who have been assigned to Eastern Europe were the main speakers at an online Sunday service for youth. Approximately 75 young people participated, from across Russia (Moscow, St. Petersburg, Yekaterinburg, Kazan, Ulyanovsk, Saratov, Ufa and Nizhny Novgorod) as well as from Moldova and Belarus. The cadets, Erika and Shin Joon from Brazil and Shim Hong from Korea, explained the goals and objectives of UPA, why True Mother created the organization, and the hopes that she has for cadets. They also described their school and university years, when they had to make decisions about their future while facing challenges in their life of faith. They explained what led them to apply to UPA and why it was a valuable and important decision. After a question-and-answer session, there was a group discussion of the value of missionary work and the responsibilities of the Second Generation. Afterward many participants said they were interested in UPA, and at least one person was thinking of applying to join. – *Elena Kalmatskaya*



Romanian CARP Holds Open HDH with a National Flavour

In honour of Romania's National Day on 1 December, CARP chose "Celebrating Romanians" as the theme of its Open Hoon Dok Hwe event, in which the most inspiring words said by Romanians were read aloud and discussed. The 12 participants included seven UPA missionaries, of whom three had just arrived from Korea. There was a warm and relaxed atmosphere in the Bucharest CARP Centre, as the participants enjoyed Romanian sweets and discussed the nation's legacy to its young people. – *Miki Predescu*



YSP Leaders Speak at Romania CARP Meeting

Two major international leaders of Youth and Students for Peace were the special guests at Romania CARP's final Open Hoon Dok Hwe of 2023. A total of 38 participants, including 16 guests, gathered at the Bucharest CARP Centre to meet YSP International President Dr. Koji Matsuda and EUME President Bogdan Pammer. Dr. Matsuda was visiting Romania as part of a tour of Europe. The theme of the meeting was "The Meaning of Christmas." After singing Romanian Christmas carols and taking part in an ice-breaker game, the participants read True Parents' words about Jesus and discussed how to practice true love this Christmas. Then Mr. Pammer gave a short report on YSP activities in Europe, followed by Dr. Matsuda's explanation of the YSP vision and objectives. Through these presentations, the guests understood the extent of CARP's global connections. – *Miki Predescu*



Romanians Share Christmas Joy at Sunday Service



Romanian blessed families, members and guests gathered at the Bucharest Peace Embassy on 24 December for a special Christmas Sunday service. The 19 participants included a new CARP member who is Muslim and a guest from an Orthodox background. The participants were encouraged to reflect on the deep meaning of Christmas and to recall happy family memories. The UPA cadets created a joyful Christmas spirit through the songs they prepared. National leader Miki Predescu led the main program, which centred on reading and discussing True Father's 1976 speech "God's Will and Christmas" in small groups. This was followed by the exchange of gifts and lunch of pizza and chicken. – *Miki Predescu*



Romanians, Moldovans Attend Seven-Day Workshop

Romania CARP members, Moldova YSP members and UPA missionaries are attending a seven-day Divine Principle workshop in Șugaș Băi, a beautiful forest location in Romania. A total of 28 people, including staff, are participating in the workshop, which began on 27 December and will conclude on 2 January. Each lecture is given by a different lecturer, who includes advice about applying the Principle in daily life. A discussion follows each lecture, centred on questions given by the lecturer. Every afternoon, participants work on Action Tasks as a team, and they have made plans to carry out a future social project involving both Romanians and Moldovans. – *Miki Predescu*





Activities in Moldova - FFWPU



Sunflower Centre held a New Year's party for its 70 children. Its NGO partner National Centre for Training, Assistance, Counselling and Education from Moldova provided each child with a gift. – *Sabina Nadejdin*



Moldova - Anenii Noi Fairytale Centre

The Fairytale Centre in Anenii Noi invited parents from the Association of Blind People to discuss the negative effects of electronic gadget use on children's development. The parents were very grateful for the session. ... On 23 December the Fairytale Centre celebrated the first anniversary of its opening. A team from the East Europe Foundation came to the celebration to make a video about the centre's successful first year. – *Sabina Nadejdin*





Activities in Moldova - HPHC



A one-day Christmas DP workshop for Second Generation children and youth was held on Saturday, 23 December, at the Peace Embassy. Six children aged 3 to 12 years and nine teens 15 years and older participated. In addition to DP lectures, the interactive program included the making of Christmas handicrafts and watching a movie. The children stayed overnight in the Peace Embassy and attended Sunday school the next day. - *Sabina Nadejdin*



Activities in Moldova
- YSP



Fifteen participants, representing various cultures and nations, attended the YSP Christmas party, which included a “Secret Santa” activity and generated a joyful and youthful atmosphere. – *Sabina Nadejdin*





Zadovoljstvo nam je pozvati vas na
predstavljanje knjiga
**Hrvatska u 30 priča
i Croatia in 30 Stories**
autora **Bože Skoke** i **Zvonimira Frke-Petešića** te
ilustratora **Vedrana Klemensa**,
a koje će se održati u **ponedjeljak 4. prosinca
2023.** s početkom u **18.00 sati** u kazalištu
Kerempuh u Zagrebu.



Croatian National Leader Invited to VIP Book Launch

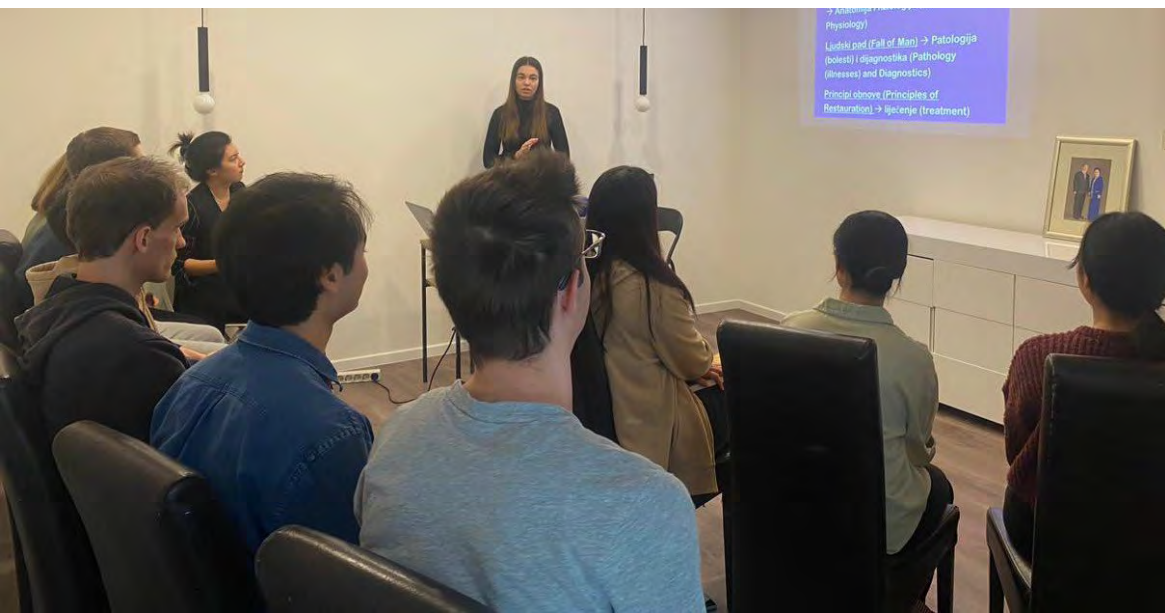
Croatian national leader Ji Suk Baek was invited by professor and best-selling author Dr. Božo Skoko to be a speaker at the launch of his new book, *Croatia in 30 Stories*. Ji Suk, who is also a professional artist, met Dr. Skoko years ago when he bought one of her paintings and discovered that they were neighbors. Despite being the only non-VIP among the speakers, Ji Suk won the hearts of the audience with her humorous observations about Croatia. The audience of 300, which included the prime minister and several government ministers, gave her the loudest applause. – *Ji Suk Baek*





Croatian, Slovenian Youths Attend Divine Principle Workshop

A year-end Divine Principle workshop for young people is being held in the main centre in Zagreb, Croatia, from 28 to 31 December. The participants are not only Croatian youths but also Second Gens from the neighbouring nation of Slovenia, as well as guests who have been witnessed to by UPA missionaries. Dora Purgar, a Second Generation young woman, is the main lecturer, and the UPA missionaries are giving their personal testimonies. In addition, the participants take part in song practice, cooking and baking, and games. They also receive internal guidance from the Croatian national leader. – *Ji Suk Baek*





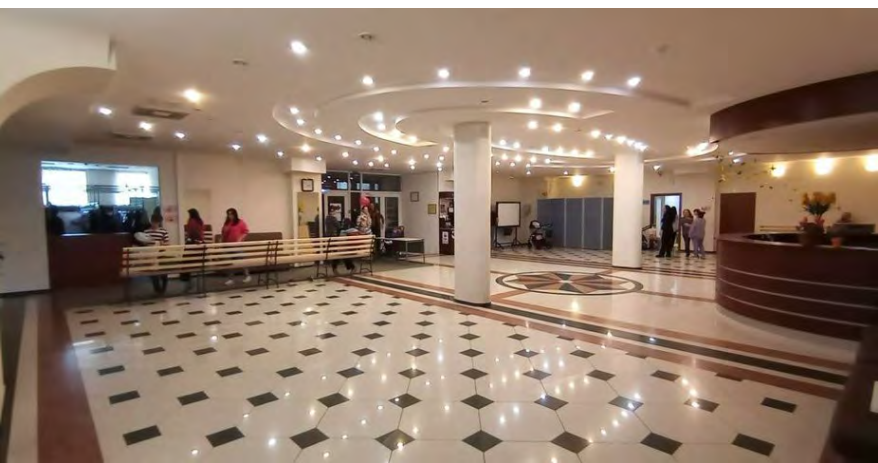
International Teamwork Raises Funds for Armenian Refugees

Four Armenian families who fled the conflict in Karabakh to settle in Armenia each received a new sewing machine as the result of a fundraising event in Vienna, Austria. Peter Deininger, an Austrian Second Gen member of IAYSP, was so moved by the plight of the Armenian refugees that he organized the fundraiser, reaching out to Armenians living in Austria. The event, held on 24 November at the Austrian headquarters, by the Austrian chapters of IAYSP, UPF and WFWP, raised over 2,000 euros. In early December, Armenian national leaders Hovhannes and Nora Barseghyan visited four refugee families and presented each of them with a sewing machine, with which they can support their family. – *Nora Barseghyan*



New Format for Sunday School in Estonia

Estonian blessed families have begun an online Sunday service for young Second Generation children, which is held once every two weeks. The children come together at least once a month in the Tallinn Peace Embassy and are encouraged to invite their friends. The topics of the meetings so far have been various nations: China, Japan, and the next topic will be Korea. Through the discussion and actions such as drinking tea, the children come to know the country's culture and virtues, games and creativity. – *Olga Martinson*



After 20 Years, a Final Victory for Eastern Europe Headquarters

In 2003, True Parents gave a generous donation to what was then the Northeast Continent region (the former Soviet Union, Mongolia and China) to purchase or build a regional headquarters. A former cinema in southeast Moscow was purchased; it had been converted into a printing factory and needed major reconstruction. Two years later, however, a beautiful new regional headquarters was officially opened. However, changes that the previous owner had made to the building without proper permits resulted in legal issues which prevented its proper registration for public use. For the past 20 years, we have attempted to correct the legal status through numerous negotiations and seven court cases, while at the same time the Moscow City Property Department was trying to have the building declared illegal and possibly destroyed. In 2017 True Mother offered financial support for us to continue to fight to keep the building. Finally, on 17 April 2023, a three-judge panel of an appeals court definitively rejected the case of the Moscow City Property Department. The final victory came on 19 December, when Moscow City Court ruled that the “illegal” designation must now be removed, thereby ending 20 years of uncertainty. We want to thank True Parents for this priceless gift and pledge to use it to expand Cheon-il Guk. – *Jack Corley*



Thank You
and
Happy New Year!