

2016: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

In Ukraine: economic hardship and Russian hybrid warfare

Ukraine endured another year of economic hardship and unprovoked Russian hybrid warfare on all fronts while a third post-Maidan government was installed amid political turmoil in another attempt to deliver the promises of democratic transformation espoused by the revolution of 2014.

2016 was also the year Ukraine marked the 25th anniversary of the re-establishment of its independence on August 24, 1991, and Ukraine saw many reasons to celebrate. A grand military parade was held on Kyiv's main thoroughfare, the Khreshchatyk, as an expression of defiance toward ceaseless Russian aggression. President Petro Poroshenko had ordered a military parade for a third consecutive year intended to underscore the nation's military capability. But it was the first year that highlighted hardware rolled fresh off factory floors and newly designed uniforms, marking Ukraine's efforts to shed its outdated Soviet past.

After more than 4,000 armed forces units marched past, some equipped with Ukraine-made Tavor automatic rifles, and 200 armored vehicles rumbled by, Mr. Poroshenko said: "Our main guarantor is the Ukrainian armed forces." Approaching a company of camouflaged soldiers still standing at attention, the president said: "Thanks for your patriotism, thanks for your protection. Ukraine's independence was supposed to end at the 23rd anniversary (when Russia invaded Ukraine), but thanks to your sacrifice, it didn't and that's why we're celebrating the 25th anniversary year."

Noting that Ukraine currently spends about 5 percent of its gross domestic product (GDP) on defense, the president said, "from this parade, our international partners will get the message that Ukraine is able to protect itself, but needs further support."

As a whole, Ukraine's economy stabilized, with inflation slowing substantially to 12.4 percent – from 43.3 percent in 2015 – and gross domestic product (GDP) grew for the first time in four years by 1 percent, reaching the \$90 billion mark. The banking system, riddled with so-called pocket banks that engaged largely in third-party lending, saw more than 80 financial institutions lose their licenses. Among them was Ukraine's largest bank by assets, PrivatBank, co-owned by billionaire oligarch Igor Kolomoisky.

Still, Ukrainians haven't felt the benefits of macro stability despite the fact that the government has moved forward to enact crucial legislation and set up institutions that would enable the full implementation of reforms bent on establishing rule-of-law and good governance.

Urged by Western donors and lenders, like the International Monetary Fund, to raise consumer utility rates at cost-recovery levels, households saw their utility bills soar by 47.2 percent. Meanwhile, the average monthly salary hovers at \$200 due to the hryvnia having been devalued by 40 percent since 2014.

On the business side, industrial growth was at 2 percent driven by record grain exports. More than 39 million tons of grain went to foreign markets, 13 percent more than the



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The scene at Independence Square, the Maidan, in Kyiv for celebrations on August 24 of the 25th anniversary of the re-establishment of Ukraine's independence.

previous season, which accounted for 40 percent of the nation's total exports for the first nine months of 2016.

Ukraine slightly improved in the World Bank's "ease of doing business" ranking, going up to 80th place among 190 countries and thus moving up three notches over the previous year. In corruption, Ukraine didn't make much improvement in Berlin-based Transparency International's yearly report. It ranked 130 among 168 countries surveyed on the level of perceived corruption, sharing the same position as Cameroon, Iran, Nepal, Nicaragua and Paraguay.

Thus, Ukraine needs to harness the positive changes it made so that "Ukrainian citizens can reap the benefits," said a European Commission report published toward the end of the year, on December 13.

"Ukraine has taken important steps to address the key, systemic challenge of corruption both by limiting the scope for corruption in a number of areas and strengthening the means to pursue wrong-doers," said Commissioner for European Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn. "This work must continue and bring real change to the way the country operates. Tackling corruption and creating a reliable judicial system are also key to transforming the business climate and rebuilding prosperity. The European Union will continue to support Ukraine in these efforts, both politically and financially."

According to the report, "Ukraine has implemented a number of reforms to curb corruption and to clean up the banking system, and has embarked on ambitious energy reforms, as well as strengthened democracy and the rule of law. Progress in other areas in the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, parts of which have been provisionally applied since November 2014, has also been made, for example regarding the adoption of constitutional amendments to the judiciary, the adoption of an ambi-

tious human rights strategy and action plan, and the undertaking of decentralization reforms."

The report also notes that "Ukraine successfully met all benchmarks under the Visa Liberalization Action Plan, which led to the European Commission's proposal to the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament in April to lift visa obligations for Ukrainian citizens. In this context, the agreement reached on December 7 between the EU Council and the European Parliament on the suspension mechanism, paves the way for the conclusion of visa liberalization for Ukraine."

Kyiv further solidified EU integration when the Netherlands on December 15 reached a compromise with the EU to ratify the Association Agreement with Ukraine. The Netherlands is the last country not to ratify the deal in the 28-nation political union of countries. The Dutch held a non-binding referendum on April 6 that rejected the Association Agreement. After the compromise, which stipulates that ratification doesn't give Ukraine a path toward EU membership, Holland's Parliament will vote on the measure in January 2017.

Kyiv also expects to receive visa-free travel to the EU for its citizens before the April 2017 French presidential election after passing nearly 300 required laws and other legislative measures.

No trickle down

Still, the public has grown disenfranchised with successive post-Maidan governments and with President Petro Poroshenko, Ukraine's first wartime commander-in-chief. Populist sentiment has grown, public opinion surveys have found.

Authorities have failed to recover significant amounts of money and other assets that the previous regime, led by ousted ex-President Viktor Yanukovich, had stolen. No high-profile corruption cases were prosecuted and the killing of some 100 protesters during the Maidan uprising have largely gone unsolved.

Ukrainians were reminded of that fact when the disgraced former president gave testimony from Russia on November 28 via video link related to the trial of five riot police officers who were allegedly involved in the mass killings. Like Mr. Yanukovich, many of the law enforcement officers who allegedly gunned down some 100 protesters during the uprising either fled to the Russian-occupied Ukrainian territory of Crimea or to Russia.

During a break in the former president's six-hour testimony, Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko read a notice of suspicion, charging him with committing "high treason," aiding and abetting Russia to encroach on the "sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine," and for causing more than 1 trillion hrv (\$40 billion U.S.) in damages to the state.

The IMF, with whom Kyiv has a \$17.5 billion lending program to prop its economy, has voiced frustration with "stop-and-go" reforms and lax crime fighting.

"Turning the current stabilization into strong and sustainable growth – so that Ukraine can catch up with its regional peers – will not be an easy task. This has been a challenge in the past, when stop-and-go reforms resulted in the repeated build-up of large imbalances and economic crises," the IMF said on November 18. "Decisive steps particularly need to be taken to fight corruption... tangible



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Some of the heavy weaponry that proceeded down the Khreshchatyk for Ukraine's Independence Day parade.

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results in prosecuting and convicting corrupt high-level officials and recovering proceeds from corruption have yet to be achieved."

Thus, Mr. Poroshenko's rating has dipped below 15 percent, according to a December poll conducted by the SOCIS Center for Social and Marketing Research and Rating sociological service. Another poll, commissioned by Kyiv-based think tank Democratic Initiatives in December, found that 73 percent of the public thinks that the "situation in the country has gotten worse, with 55 percent of respondents saying they aren't willing to undergo hardships for the sake of successful reforms."

The most popular government measure, according to public opinion polls, was the implementation of electronic income declarations for government officials. With more than 50,000 officials filing in 2016, the public witnessed their extraordinary wealth amid the paltry official salaries they receive. The Reuters news agency calculated that the 24 members of the current Cabinet of Ministers declared hoarding \$7 million – and that's just in cash.

Ukraine can expect to receive the next IMF installment in the first half of 2017 due to the reforms it has made, although belatedly, according to S&P, a leading credit-worthiness rating agency. Since 2015, Ukraine has received \$7.6 billion of the \$17.5 billion available under the IMF lending program. The bulk of the funds went to the central bank to enhance foreign exchange reserves. Ukraine expects to receive \$1.3 billion in the next installment.

Third post-Maidan government

Arseniy Yatsenyuk headed the first two post-Maidan governments since February 2014. A third administration started forming on April 14 when the Verkhovna Rada approved Volodymyr Groysman as prime minister. He is the youngest head of government on record and the first Jew to hold the position. Most of his Cabinet subsequently turned out to be loyalists of Mr. Poroshenko, including Mr. Groysman himself and current Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko.

Absent are the foreign technocrats who had resigned in disgust with corruption and resistance to change from entrenched interests. Mr. Groysman's appointment ended political turmoil that started on February 3 when Lithuanian-born Aivaras Abromavicius resigned as economic development minister. The former asset manager and other foreigner technocrats said they were beings used as window dressing for Western lenders and donors, and as a cover for corruption.

Mr. Abromavicius singled out Ihor Kononenko, a senior lawmaker close to Mr. Poroshenko, saying Mr. Kononenko had lobbied to get his people appointed to head state companies and at top government positions. Mr. Kononenko rejected the allegations as "completely absurd" and accused Mr. Abromavicius of trying to shift the blame for his own failures atop the Economy Ministry.

Chicago-born ex-Finance Minister Natalie Jaresko didn't join the new government, while others resigned before Mr. Groysman was appointed. They include Georgia-born Health Minister Aleskandr Kvitashvili (July 2) and former Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili (November 7), who was governor of Odesa Oblast. Also resigning during the year were National Police Chief Khatia Dekanoidze (November 14) of Georgia.



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Approval ratings for President Petro Poroshenko, seen here during a January 11 visit with soldiers of an artillery brigade in the Ternopil region, dropped during 2016. According to a poll released on January 12, about 70 percent disapproved of his administration's handling of the war in the Donbas.

Members of the Ukrainian diaspora and other specialists filled key positions in Mr. Groysman's government. Detroit physician Ulana Suprun became the acting health minister on July 27. Former U.S. federal prosecutor and assistant U.S. attorney Bohdan Vitvitsky on August 8 joined a selection commission that will choose members of a newly created General Inspectorate at the Prosecutor General's Office. Canadian attorney Daniel Bilak became the prime minister's chief investment adviser on November 1 and American Petro Matiaszek was appointed deputy director of Ukraine Invest – the nation's investment promotion office – on the day of its creation, October 19.

Diplomacy keeps Russian sanctions intact

Another constant besides political infighting was that Kyiv's diplomatic corps managed to keep Western partners on board with their restrictive measures that punish Russia for its military aggression towards Ukraine. EU leaders in December extended economic sanctions against Russia by another six months, until July 31, 2017, for its illegal annexation of the Ukrainian territory of Crimea and for stoking war in eastern Ukraine. The U.S. has followed suit with its own set of sanctions through the Treasury Department, some of which include the prohibition of doing business with Russian enterprises.

"We welcome the unanimous decision by the EU to extend economic and sectoral sanctions against Russia," Mr. Poroshenko said in a statement on December 15 when the EU sanctions were extended. "I am sincerely grateful for the unwavering unity and solidarity of the European leaders in restoring Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, including Crimea."

Mr. Poroshenko, Foreign Affairs Minister Pavlo Klimkin and Deputy Prime Minister for EU and Euro-Atlantic Integration Ivanna Klymush-Tsintsadze were instrumen-

tal in convincing the nation's partners of Russia's incessant belligerence.

A testament to the combined work of the diplomatic corps came when the United Nations General Assembly on December 19 passed a resolution that recognizes Crimea as "temporarily occupied" by Russia and condemns the "abuses" and "discrimination" against Crimean Tatars, ethnic Ukrainians, and other groups on the peninsula, RFE/RL reported. "The resolution calls on Russia, as an 'occupying power,' to end all abuses against people living in Crimea, including arbitrary detentions, torture and other 'cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment,'" the report said.

Also not helping Moscow were two reports that pointed the finger at Russia for the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 over Russia-occupied eastern Ukraine in 2014, which resulted in all 298 people on board being killed. A Dutch-led investigation concluded on September 28 that the surface-to-air missile that shot down the passenger aircraft "came from Russia." The missile system came from and returned to Russia after blowing up the airliner and was part of a military convoy of Russia's 53rd anti-Aircraft Brigade based in Kursk, concluded Bellingcat, a group of citizen journalists who use open-source information, including satellite imagery, to analyze data.

Combined, their findings, coupled with dozens of news reports by The Ukrainian Weekly, Reuters, Kyiv Post, The Telegraph, as well as other news outlets, raise questions about the involvement of Russian armed forces, the Kremlin and Russian President Vladimir Putin in the disaster.

One hundred people were identified for their involvement in the disaster, Dutch prosecutors said, but they didn't provide the names of the suspects.

Ukrainian diplomats countered Russia during the ongoing peace talks in the Belarusian capital of Minsk. Notably, they prevented Russia from what former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Geoffrey Pyatt described as an attempt "to confuse, distract, deny and to get Ukraine off track – to keep us off balance."

As a signatory of the Minsk peace accord, Russia – not its proxies – was supposed to ensure that fighting stops in occupied Donbas, heavy weapons be withdrawn, captives be released based on the principle of "all for all," and Ukraine regains control over the eastern border with its belligerent neighbor. In addition, Kyiv was to conduct local elections in the occupied territories.

Russia "has not implemented a single point of the Minsk agreements," Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated in February. The MFA further reported: "Illegally armed groups controlled by the Russian Federation continue to systematically shell and fire on positions of the Ukrainian armed forces. During the previous month, the illegally armed groups fired on Ukrainian positions over 1,200 times; ...The Russian side continues to send weapons, military equipment and mercenaries across the border into Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts."

As The Ukrainian Weekly wrote in an editorial on February 14: "The Washington Post had it right in its February 5 editorial titled 'Is Mr. Putin serious about making peace in Ukraine?' " The Post noted: "The necessary first step is an end to the shooting and other measures to ensure security, such as the deployment of international



Mikhail Palinchak/UNIAN

Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Groysman at the April 14 session of Parliament when he was approved as Ukraine's new prime minister.

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monitors to all parts of the Russian-controlled territories. ...Rather than pressure Ukraine, the Obama administration should enlist the European Union in insisting that Mr. Putin demonstrate with acts that he is ready to end the war. If he does, the climate for a political deal could be set. If not, all will know who is to blame for a frozen conflict."

Peace monitors from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe charged with observing the implementation of the truce have consistently voiced frustration. They never have had unfettered access to the war zone to carry out their mandate. Nearly 700 monitors from 46 OSCE participating states, of whom 39 are from Russia, work in the war zone to provide objective data on compliance of the ceasefire that never took hold. The OSCE's \$98.8 million monitoring mission is set to expire on March 31, 2017, if it isn't extended.

Three U.S. senators visited the frontline area near Shyrokyne just on New Year's Eve. Sens. John McCain, Amy Klobuchar and Lindsey Graham visited with Ukrainian soldiers at a forward command post together with U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch and President Petro Poroshenko. "We urge our colleagues to take more meaningful and severe sanctions against Russia for its hacker attacks on the United States," Sen. McCain said, adding that there is "clear evidence" of Russian intervention in the American presidential election. Sen. McCain also stated: "In 2017, we will defeat the invaders and send them back where they came from. To Vladimir Putin - you will never defeat the Ukrainian people and deprive them of their independence and freedom."

President Poroshenko underscored that Ukraine is fighting for more than its independence amid Russia's unprovoked war. "We are fighting for freedom, for values, for democracy, protecting them in the center of Europe in the 21st century."

Upon the senators' return to Washington, where a new session of Congress was soon to convene, a group of bipartisan lawmakers said they would prepare a bill that would offer sanctions against Russia, CNN reported.

Russia's multi-faceted war

Another constant in 2016 was Russia's war. Ukraine lost 211 soldiers in combat last year and an additional 256 servicemen in non-combat incidents, the armed forces reported toward the end of the year. More than 10,000 people have been killed since the Moscow-engineered war in Donbas started in April 2014, according to the United Nations. More than 1.7 million have been internally displaced, with at least another million seeking refuge abroad, mostly in Russia.

As of the end of 2016, about 5,000 regular Russian soldiers are in occupied Donbas, Defense Minister Stepan Poltorak said. Moscow also has 600 tanks, 1,300 combat vehicles, 760 artillery weapons and 300 multiple-rocket launch systems in eastern Ukraine, he added. A December 21 Bellingcat report concluded that Ukraine faced at least 279 separate attacks likely fired inside Russia, targeting 408 Ukrainian military sites in the "entire border area of the conflict zone."



The Menorah memorial in Babyn Yar, the site in 1941-1943 of the mass killings of over 100,000 people, two-thirds of them Jews, by occupying Nazi forces. 2016 was marked as the solemn 75th anniversary of the Babyn Yar massacre, when more than 30,000 Jews were killed on September 29-30, 1941.



Nadiya Savchenko is mobbed by the news media upon her arrival at Boryspil International Airport in Kyiv on May 25 after she was freed from imprisonment in Russia, where she was held captive for nearly two years.

Calling the cross-border attacks an "act of war," Bellingcat said they numbered in the "thousands" and were the "first and strongest evidence of a direct Russian participation in the fighting." Although they were already proven to have occurred by Ukrainian officials and the U.S. government, the new report analyzed the extent to which they were used in the summer of 2014, when they largely contributed to stemming a Ukrainian counterattack to retake the border areas near Russia, and cut off and surround the occupied Donbas capitals of Donetsk and Luhansk.

Moscow consistently used cyberattacks to target Ukrainian government institutions and energy infrastructure, Mr. Poroshenko announced at an end-of-year National Security and Defense Council meeting.

Some 6,500 Russian cyberattacks were launched only in the last two months of 2016. They included an energy grid in northern Kyiv that led to a brief power outage; the Finance Ministry, Treasury Service and state-owned railway monopoly Ukrzaliznytsia. Nuclear power stations and the nation's biggest air hub, Boryspil Airport, were also targets.

Moscow has also weaponized information and propaganda on a sophisticated and massive scale, publishing fake or skewed news stories whose ultimate aim is to discredit Ukraine and its pro-European and NATO ambitions.

Ukrainian citizens are also constantly harassed in occupied Crimea and inside Russia, where the largest Ukrainian diaspora resides. Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry warned its citizens to avoid travel to Russia because of the high risk of arbitrary harassment and detentions by Russian security services, according to an October 5 statement.

It expressed its "resolute protest to the Russian Federation in connection with the ongoing repressions, illegal detentions, searches, arrests, tortures and ill-treatment towards the citizens of Ukraine," in a separate statement published on December 29. "The aggressor state continues to ignore its obligations under the Minsk agreements on the exchange of hostages and illegally detained persons by the principle 'all for all.' Though six prisoners have returned to Ukraine, their total number has not decreased but increased: now we have information on at least 17 Ukrainians who are being kept under politically motivated reasons on the territory of the occupier. Even more of our compatriots are arbitrarily arrested and detained on the occupied Crimean peninsula. More than 100 Ukrainians are being kept in appalling conditions by the Russian-terrorist forces in the occupied Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine."

Crimean Tatars have faced persecution ever since Russia illegally occupied the peninsula in March 2014. Its highest ruling body, the Mejlis, was suspended and branded "extremist" by Russia's Justice Ministry on April 18. Before the annexation, Tatars made up around 12 percent of Crimea's population of 2.5 million. Human rights watchdog Amnesty International said Russia's decision signaled a new wave of repression against Crimean Tatars.

"Anyone associated with the Mejlis could now face serious charges of extremism as a result of this ban, which is aimed at snuffing out the few remaining voices of dissent in Crimea," Denis Krivosheyev, Amnesty's deputy director for Europe and Central Asia, said in an April 13 statement.

Towards the end of World War II, about 84 percent of the Crimean Tatar population, or 180,000 people, were deported on the orders of Soviet dictator Josef Stalin and carried out by his henchmen. They were only allowed to return to their ancestral homeland in the late 1980s during what was called perestroika. Now they were being forced to leave their homes once more.

Ukrainian hostages released

Perhaps the foremost symbol of Ukrainian resistance on the global stage toward Russian aggression was Nadiya Savchenko, whom Mr. Putin released on May 25 in exchange for two Russian military intelligence operatives. Ukraine's first female military aviator had defied Russia's kangaroo court system with patriotic attire and spells of hunger strikes throughout her extrajudicial prosecution. While incarcerated, she was elected in absentia to the Verkhovna Rada and was appointed as part of Ukraine's delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe - the EU's statutory body. Ms. Savchenko was abducted in Ukraine while serving in the volunteer Aidar Battalion and on June 17, 2014, taken across the border to Russia. She was subsequently sentenced to 22 years in prison on trumped-up charges and cynically fined \$443 for violating the border.

Upon her release, Ms. Savchenko was Ukraine's most popular politician, according to numerous polls. But her allegiance to Kyiv came into question when she met with Kremlin-backed proxies in Minsk on December 11 to discuss prisoner swaps. She justified the meeting in Belarus as a step toward releasing prisoners of war and "strengthening" ongoing peace talks between Ukraine, Russia and its Donbas puppets. Her colleagues in Parliament, including from the Batkivshchyna party on whose ticket she was elected, criticized her for the move.

Her detractors say that, by meeting with the Kremlin-backed separatists, Ms. Savchenko creates the illusion that the key to peace in war-torn Donbas lies with them, and that such overtures lend them legitimacy and undermine Kyiv's efforts to hold Russia responsible for the war and keep Western sanctions in force as punishment.

Three weeks after Ms. Savchenko's release, two more Ukrainians were freed on June 14: Hennadiy Afansyev and Yuriy Soloshenko.

Mr. Afansyev is a Crimean photographer who was arrested months after Russia annexed the peninsula and sentenced to seven years in jail after being convicted of plotting a terrorist act against the Russian imposed authorities. Mr. Soloshenko, 73, is a former electronics-plant chief who was arrested by the Russian authorities in Moscow in August 2014 and accused of trying to buy restricted components for the S-300 air-defense missile system. He was sentenced in October to six years in prison.

"I think that while Putin's regime is running Russia, it will remain our enemy, and therefore we will have to do everything [we can] to release all our friends from Russian jails. ...They are waiting for our help and I believe they will join us," Mr. Soloshenko said, as quoted by RFE/RL's Ukrainian service.

At least 17 Ukrainians are being held for politically motivated reasons in Russia, says Ukraine's Foreign Affairs

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Ministry, and more than 100 Ukrainians are being kept in appalling conditions “by the Russian-terrorist forces in the occupied Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine.”

Crimean filmmaker Oleh Sentsov and Oleksander Kolchenko in August were sentenced in Russia to 20 and 10 years’ imprisonment, respectively. The pro-Ukrainian Crimeans opposed Russia’s invasion and annexation of Crimea and were prosecuted on trumped charges of “terrorism.”

Milestones and notable events

Ukraine marked the 75th anniversary Babyn Yar, in which more than 100,000 people – mostly Jews – were killed during Germany’s occupation of Kyiv during World War II. Commemoration of the horrific event took place on September 23-29 and was organized by the Ukrainian Jewish Encounter, a Canada-based non-profit that works to foster understanding of Ukrainian-Jewish relations.

“It’s essentially a cemetery, a huge killing field. It’s a necropolis, a place for reflection,” Prof. Paul Robert Magocsi told *The Ukrainian Weekly* of the massacre site located in northwestern Kyiv that stands in a public park surrounded by a concrete jungle of Soviet-era high-rise buildings.

In just two days, on September 29-30, 1941, more than 30,000 Jews were slaughtered in the ravine, which the Germans chose to serve essentially as a huge burial pit that required no digging. Jews residing in the city and the surrounding area had been ordered to march to the site the first morning. Due to Soviet propaganda and misinformation, many weren’t aware of the Nazis’ racist policies towards the Jews. And because of the nearby freight train station, some marchers thought they would be deported to Palestine.

The Nazis would continue using the site to kill more Jews, Ukrainian patriots, Communist Party members, Roma, homosexuals and other so-called “undesirables” before retreating in 1943.

“We wanted to do something that has lasting value for Ukraine as a state, and for Jews and ethnic Ukrainians living within the boundaries of Ukraine, and outside the boundaries of Ukraine,” said Prof. Magocsi of the two-year commemoration planning period. As a board director at the Ukrainian Jewish Encounter, the New Jersey native eschewed the typical conference format, where “academics from various aspects of the profession come give papers, and then begin to plan, ‘wouldn’t it be great to publish something,’ and this happens two to eight years from that time in which the whole process and interest will have changed by then,” he said. Instead, 1,000 foreign delegates gathered in Kyiv for the solemn anniversary and were treated to a unique format of commemorations consisting of film screenings, art shows, the presentation of a book on Babyn Yar that was co-edited by Prof. Magocsi and panel discussions, all of which was topped off by a commemorative concert.

The stricken Chernobyl nuclear reactor No. 4 was finally confined on November 29, 30 years after the world’s largest nuclear accident occurred north of Kyiv on April 26, 1986. The sliding structure is the largest moveable land-based structure ever built, with a span of 257 meters (843 feet), a length of 162 meters (531 feet), a height of 108 meters (354 feet) and a total weight of 36,000 tons. It



The new confinement structure for the Chernobyl nuclear power plant’s reactor No. 4 is seen on November 14, as the process of sliding it into place began. 2016 marked the 30th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster of April 26, 1986.

has a lifespan of 100 years and was built by Novarka, a consortium of French construction firms at a cost of \$1.6 billion donated by 45 governments. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development is the administrator of the Chernobyl Shelter Fund, which financed the project and which totals \$2.24 billion.

The body of Ukrainian journalist Heorhii Gongadze was buried on March 22 in Kyiv, nearly 16 years after his killing, but family and friends say their fight for justice is not over. Gongadze, a dogged investigative reporter who exposed high-level political corruption, was kidnapped in September 2000. His headless body was found that November in a forest outside the Ukrainian capital. After years in a morgue, his body was buried on the grounds of a Kyiv church. His widow, Myroslava, the head of Voice of America’s Ukrainian Service, and two daughters, Solomia and Nana, flew in from Washington to attend the ceremony. Gongadze’s relatives “feel relieved that Heorhii’s body has been buried with the dignity every person deserves,” according to a statement from the family that was read at the funeral by a friend of Gongadze’s, journalist Yevhen Hlibovytsky.

Leonid Kuchma, who was president from July 1994 to January 2005, came under suspicion after the publication of a recording on which a voice that sounded like his spoke of the need to “deal with” Gongadze. Prosecutors charged Mr. Kuchma with involvement in the case in 2011, but a court dropped the charges later that year. In 2008, three former police officers were sentenced to lengthy prison terms after being convicted of involvement in the killing. In 2012, former top police official General Oleksiy Pukach received life in prison after being convicted of strangling Gongadze to death.

A Dutch court on December 14 ruled that a priceless collection of gold artifacts from Crimea that were on loan

to a Dutch museum when Russia occupied the peninsula must be returned to Ukraine, reported RFE/RL. The Amsterdam district court said that Crimea was not a sovereign country and so could not claim the treasures as cultural heritage. The ruling drew a swift and angry reaction from Russia and praise from Ukraine, whose president said it means that “Crimea is ours, period.”

Kyiv and four museums in Crimea have been wrangling over the fate of the archeological treasures – which range from gold artifacts to a Scythian helmet dating back more than 2,000 years – ever since Russia seized control of the Ukrainian peninsula in March 2014. The Ukrainian government claimed that, as state property, they could not be returned to territory outside its control, while the Crimean museums argued the objects must be returned by the Netherlands to the institutions from which they were on loan. The treasures, popularly known as Scythian gold, are in the Netherlands because they were borrowed from the four museums in Crimea and one in Kyiv for an exhibition in early 2014 at Amsterdam’s Allard Pierson Museum.

Popular Crimean Tatar pop singer Jamala won the 2016 Eurovision song contest on May 14 in Sweden. Known for her style of R&B and soul, the talented star performed “1944,” a song that ties the current persecution by the Russian occupation to the genocide in which Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin deported most of the Crimean Tatar population to Uzbekistan. The Verkhovna Rada declared the 1944 forced deportation of Crimean Tatars a genocide on November 12, 2015, and designated May 18 as the Day of Remembrance of Crimean Tatar Genocide Victims. In the final round, Jamala – whose birth name is Susana Jamaladinova – won enough votes to surpass runner-up Dami Im of Australia and Sergey Lazarev of Russia.

Looking ahead to 2017

Ukraine could expect to see more signs of economic recovery this year. The state budget has a deficit target of 3 percent of GDP that is in line with IMF program requirements, according to Kyiv-based investment capital Dragon Capital.

“That said, Ukraine can realistically receive \$1.3 billion from the IMF, the fourth tranche of its Extended Fund Facility program, in early 2017,” Dragon Capital wrote in a note to investors.

“Ukraine is unlikely to face serious economic hardships next year. We expect recovery to continue, with real GDP accelerating to 2.5 percent year-on-year from 1.0-1.5 percent this year,” the investment bank said.

However, Ukraine faces a new international political arena given the ascension of Donald Trump to the U.S. presidency and key national elections taking place in Europe – notably France and Germany against the backdrop of the United Kingdom having voted to leave the EU in 2016.

“Domestically, the government will mark its first year in office in April, becoming subject to a potential no-confidence vote, but the risk of early parliamentary elections remains low, in our view,” Dragon Capital noted. “Investors will stay focused on [the] general reform progress, especially in IMF-related areas such as pension reform, privatization, corruption fight and land reform. Global commodities prices (steel, iron ore, oil, grain) and the military conflict in the east will also remain on the watch list.”



Ukraine’s Crimean Tatar singer Jamala reacts to winning the 2016 Eurovision Song Contest on May 14 in Stockholm. She won for her song “1944” about Joseph Stalin’s mass deportations and genocide of the Crimean Tatar people.

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In U.S.-Ukraine relations: concerns about war, corruption

Questionable words uttered by President Barack Obama put Ukraine in the news in the United States at the beginning of the year. In his State of the Union address on January 12, speaking about threats faced by the U.S. and the world, Mr. Obama said: "Even as their economy severely contracts, Russia is pouring resources in to prop up Ukraine and Syria – client states they saw slipping away from their orbit." According to various news media reports, apparently the word "client" was a departure from the president's prepared text, which referred to "states," not "client states."

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America reacted with a statement released on January 13, noting, "In his final State of the Union address, President Obama got it wrong when it came to Ukraine. ... When it came time to mention Ukraine, a long-time strategic partner of the United States, President Obama once again demonstrated a shocking ignorance of foreign policy hotspots in his biggest address to the nation." The UCCA said it was "outraged by the description of Ukraine used in the State of the Union address. To be clear, Russia is not propping up Ukraine; the Russian Federation is destabilizing Ukraine. Nor did Ukraine 'slip away from Russia's orbit'; the people of Ukraine made up their own minds with regards to national policy, including their open and democratic decision to demand basic human rights, journalistic and economic freedoms and closer integration with Europe during the Revolution of Dignity."

And reactions came from other observers as well.

Among the notable comments on Twitters were these: Ambassador Steven Pifer tweeted: "POTUS: #Russia 'is pouring resources in to prop up #Ukraine.' Odd line. More like Moscow pouring resources in to destabilize Ukraine"; and Nicholas Kristof of The New York Times opined: "Russia is pouring resources to prop up Ukraine? Hello? More like pouring resources to destabilize Ukraine." David J. Kramer of The McCain Institute for International Leadership wrote: "...does President Obama really think Ukraine is a 'client state' of Russia? That would be news to the vast majority of Ukrainians, nearly 10,000 of whom have sacrificed their lives to fend off Russian aggression in the past two years. And what money is Russia pumping into Ukraine to prop it up? Absolutely none. Instead, Russia has invested in destabilizing its neighbor as much as possible, to make it unappealing to the West. The president owes Ukrainians an apology."

Two days later, the State Department clarified the president's reference. Spokesperson Mark Toner stated: "Over the past two years, the United States has worked closely with our European and international partners to help Ukraine defend its democracy and territorial integrity, and the United States remains firmly committed to helping the Ukrainian people build a country that is peaceful, prosperous and free to chart its own destiny. The president was referring in his remarks to Russia's previous long-term efforts to bolster the regime of former President [Viktor] Yanukovich as a way to prevent Ukraine from pursuing further integration with Europe, and its current occupation of Crimea, extensive efforts to support armed groups



Presidential Administration of Ukraine

The new U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch, presents her letters of credence to President Petro Poroshenko on August 30. "In the last two years, Ukraine has achieved significant progress. And now we have great opportunities to continue these changes. The U.S. is a reliable friend and supports Ukraine and its reforms," Ambassador Yovanovitch stated.

operating in eastern Ukraine and other efforts to destabilize the country." Mr. Toner's response was to a request for comment from a correspondent for the Ukrinform news service. Notably, The Ukrainian Weekly could find no trace of this clarification on the State Department's website.

In one of a series of interviews published on March 10, President Obama again made comments regarding Ukraine that were seen as troubling. RFE/RL reported on an article in The Atlantic in which the president said Ukraine "is going to be vulnerable to military domination by Russia no matter what" the U.S. does. Furthermore, he said Ukraine was clearly a core interest for Russia but suggested that it may not be one for the United States. Ukraine is "an example of where we have to be very clear about what our core interests are and what we are willing to go to war for," Mr. Obama said. In the article titled "The Obama Doctrine," the president once again used the term "client states" in reference to Ukraine and Syria, saying that in both countries Russian President Vladimir Putin acted "in response to a client state that was about to slip out of his grasp" and "improvised" a way to maintain control – but that in Syria, this came at enormous cost to the well-being of his own country. The president rejected the idea that "talking tough or engaging in some military action" could be useful in resolving the situation in Ukraine and he stated: "If there is somebody in [Washington] that would claim that we would consider going to war with Russia over Crimea and eastern Ukraine, they should speak up and be very clear about it."

Third year of Crimea's occupation

On March 16, U.S. State Department spokesman John Kirby spoke about the situation in Crimea: "Today, as Russia's occupation of Crimea enters its third year, we reaffirm our commitment to a united, sovereign Ukraine."

The United States does not recognize Russia's 'referendum' of March 16, 2014, or its attempted annexation of Crimea, which violates international law. ...We will not accept the redrawing of borders by force in the 21st century. Sanctions related to Crimea will remain in place as long as the occupation continues. We again call on Russia to end that occupation and return Crimea to Ukraine."

On April 28, the Stability and Democracy (STAND) for Ukraine Act was introduced in the House of Representatives by Reps. Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.) and Adam Kinzinger (R-Ill.) and 14 co-sponsors. The bill's aim was to bolster U.S. support for Kyiv with measures that included tightened sanctions against Russia and a push for greater private investment in the Ukrainian economy. The bill would require that the U.S. president, prior to lifting a raft of Ukraine-related sanctions, submit "certification" to Congress that Ukraine has restored "sovereignty" over Crimea or that the peninsula's status has been resolved to the satisfaction "of a democratically elected government" in Kyiv. The legislation would also codify the U.S. government's policy of non-recognition of Russian authority over Crimea, mirroring Washington's policy of refusing to recognize Soviet sovereignty over the Baltic nations of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The bill was passed by the House of Representatives on September 21 and sent the next day to the Senate, where it was referred to the Foreign Relations Committee.

New ambassador to Ukraine

On May 18, President Obama nominated a new ambassador to Ukraine. Marie Yovanovitch, a career member of the Foreign Service, class of minister-counselor, who since 2014 was the dean of the School of Language Studies at the Department of State's Foreign Service Institute, was tapped to replace Ambassador Geoffrey R. Pyatt, who was nominated to serve as envoy to Greece. Ms. Yovanovitch previously served at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv as deputy chief of mission from 2001 to 2004. She was the U.S. ambassador to Armenia in 2008-2011 and the ambassador to Kyrgyzstan in 2005-2008. Speaking before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on June 21, Ms. Yovanovitch stated that "more progress has been made in Ukraine in the past two years" than in the past 25 years of Ukraine's renewed independence and said her objectives as U.S. ambassador will be to assist in reforming key sectors in Ukraine and fighting corruption. She enumerated three aspects to countering Russian propaganda: 1) get the story out, 2) put a premium on analyzing the stories and countering with facts, and 3) build capacities in training journalists to recognize the disinformation and how best to reply. After her confirmation by the Senate on July 4, she was sworn in on August 12 at the State Department. Ambassador Yovanovitch is the eighth U.S. ambassador to Ukraine since its restoration of independence in 1991.

The ambassador was already on the scene as Ukraine celebrated the 25th anniversary of its re-establishment of independence, although she presented her letters of credence to President Petro Poroshenko a few days later, on August 30. In Washington, President Obama and Secretary



Helsinki Commission

At the Helsinki Commission's November 10 briefing on human rights and security violations in Russian-occupied Crimea (from left) are: Paul Goble, Ambassador John Herbst, Orest Deychakiwsky, Oksana Shulyar and Taras Berezovets.

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of State John Kerry issued statements on the historic independence anniversary.

Mr. Obama noted: "On behalf of the American people, I'm proud to join the Ukrainian people in marking this historic anniversary. As we have been reminded in recent years, Ukraine's path has not always been easy. From the hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians who linked arms in a great human chain in 1990 to the fallen heroes of the Maidan, realizing the dream of independence has called on the solidarity and sacrifice of the Ukrainian people. The people of the United States, including proud Ukrainian Americans, have been honored to partner with Ukraine on this journey. Today, we reaffirm that the United States will continue to stand with the Ukrainian people as they protect their sovereignty and territorial integrity, embrace the vision of a strong and united Europe, and deepen their commitment to democracy, anti-corruption and respect for human rights."

Mr. Kerry said: "During my most recent visit to Kyiv, I was deeply impressed by all you have accomplished in the more than two years since the Revolution of Dignity. Despite Russia's aggression in eastern Ukraine and its illegal occupation of Crimea, you have worked steadily to build stronger and more effective political, economic and cultural institutions. These efforts have required perseverance and sacrifice, for which I applaud you. Today we mark not just a quarter-century of your independence, but also of the fruitful partnership between our nations based on our shared commitment to freedom and the rule of law. The United States will stand by you as you continue to strengthen your democracy. With our European partners, we will also press for full implementation of the Minsk agreements to end Russian aggression in Donbas and return the international border to Ukrainian control. We remain steadfast in our refusal to recognize Russia's attempted annexation of Crimea."

U.S. Mission to the OSCE

Meanwhile in Vienna, in a press briefing on July 29 via telephone, two U.S. diplomats – Ambassador Daniel Baer, head of the U.S. Mission to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Geoffrey Pyatt – accused Russia of continuing to supply separatist fighters with fuel and weapons and creating a "deteriorating security situation" in Ukraine's east. "We see continued resupply of weapons and fighters; we see continued provocations to keep the conflict going; we see continued restrictions of the SMM [Special Monitoring Mission of the OSCE] and its monitors; we see continued shoot-downs of SMM UAVs [drones] after they have seen Russian heavy weaponry in places where it shouldn't be," Mr. Baer said, according to RFE/RL. "Rather than terminating this conflict, Russia's actions are having the effect of escalating it once again," Mr. Pyatt said. Both ambassadors stated that Russia was not implementing the Minsk agreements of September 2014 and February 2015.

During the course of 2016, Ambassador Baer and the U.S. Mission to the OSCE repeatedly raised the issue of Russian mendacity and aggression in statements to the OSCE Permanent Council based in Vienna. Most recently,

on December 20, the U.S. Mission expressed "deep concern over the offensive combined Russian-separatist forces launched on Sunday, December 18, in what appears to have been a failed attempt to seize territory in strategic areas outside the town of Svitlodarsk, near separatist-held Debaltseve." The U.S. Mission pointed out: "This Russian-separatist attack is clearly prohibited by Russia's commitments under the Minsk agreements. It is not an isolated action, but a deliberate effort to seize further territory. This is the fourth major attempt by combined Russian-separatist forces to seize territory beyond the Line of Contact that was established when Russia and the separatists it backs signed the September 19, 2014, Minsk Memorandum. Since signing, combined Russian-separatist forces have violated that agreement multiple times including in Debaltseve in February 2015, Mariyinka in June 2015 and Svitlodarsk in June 2016, and again in the last few days. This latest attack at Svitlodarsk is a continuation of this disturbing pattern and a deadly reminder of Russia's disregard for its commitments under the Minsk Agreements."

Back in Washington, the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which is known as the Helsinki Commission, on November 10 held a briefing whose goal was to discuss how Ukrainians continue to defend Helsinki principles in the face of Moscow's egregious and unrepentant violations, and how the international community is responding. Panelists were: Orest Deychakiwsky, U.S. Helsinki Commission; Oksana Shulyar, deputy chief of mission, Embassy of Ukraine to the U.S.; John E. Herbst, director, Dinu Patriciu Eurasia Center at the Atlantic Council, and former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine (2003-2006); Paul A. Goble, editor, "Window on Eurasia," and professor, The Institute of World Politics; and Taras Berezhovets, founder, Free-Crimea Project, Kyiv. During the hearing it was noted that violations of human rights by Russian authorities in Crimea remain persistent and egregious; Crimean Tatars and Ukrainians who oppose the illegal annexation are targeted; and the actions of Russia in Ukraine present a threat to the international order and violate the basic principles of territorial integrity, inviolability of borders, sovereignty, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Concerns about conflict, corruption

At the beginning of the year, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland met in Kaliningrad with Russian presidential aide Vladislav Surkov, reportedly brainstorming on a way to resolve the armed conflict in Ukraine's east. The Weekly's Kyiv correspondent reported at the time that a solution had yet to emerge from the January 15 meeting, the details of which were not made public. U.S. officials said they briefed senior Ukrainian officials about the meeting on January 16.

Secretary Nuland was in the news again two months later when she testified on March 15 before the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, warning that, if efforts to liberalize the economy and fight endemic graft fail, Ukraine "risks sliding backwards once again into cor-



Samantha Power/Facebook

Among the U.S. officials who called for Nadiya Savchenko's release from Russian captivity were U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power, who spoke on March 9, noting that the previous day was her "600th day of wrongful imprisonment," and Secretary of State John Kerry, who said on March 7 that he was "deeply concerned about the health and welfare of Ukrainian pilot and Rada Deputy Nadiya Savchenko," who was on a hunger strike. (The two are seen above in a photo taken in July at the United Nations.)

ruption, into lawlessness, into vassal statehood." She explained: "The oligarchs and the kleptocrats who controlled Ukraine for decades know that their business model will be broken if the Maidan reformers succeed in 2016," adding, "So they're fighting back with a vengeance, using all the levers of the old system: their control of the media, state-owned enterprises, [parliamentary] deputies, the courts and the political machinery."

Concerns about corruption in Ukraine were expressed also by U.S. senators. On February 12, Sens. Rob Portman (R-Ohio) and Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), co-chairs of the bipartisan Senate Ukraine Caucus, and Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.), ranking member of the Subcommittee on European Affairs, joined by Sens. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), Chris Murphy (D-Conn.), Mark Kirk (R-Ill.), Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), and Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) wrote a letter expressing concern to Ukrainian President Poroshenko regarding the resignation of Minister of Economy Aivaras Abromavičius, who alleged that corruption remains a dire challenge within the Ukrainian political system. In their letter, the senators said they recognized the challenges facing the Ukrainian government two years after the Maidan brought positive change to Ukraine. They also reaffirmed their commitment to help President Poroshenko confront the dual threat posed by Russian aggression in Ukraine and entrenched corruption in the government, and to create a transparent and democratic government.

The case of Nadiya Savchenko

Members of the U.S. Congress continued in early 2016 to express their concern about the case of Nadiya Savchenko, who had been captured by pro-Russian forces July 2014 and whose trial in a remote region of Russia had begun in September 2015. Reps. Sander Levin (D-Mich.), Mike Fitzpatrick (R-Pa.), Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio) and Mike Quigley (D-Ill.), members of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, on January 13 called on Russia to release the former Ukrainian fighter pilot and current member of the Ukrainian Parliament. "We are gravely concerned by recent reports of her ill health since the commencement of her hunger strike. ...Russian authorities have repeatedly delayed Savchenko's trial and hearing dates, moved her trial venue to discourage attendance and restricted access to witnesses. We demand that Russia abide by its international obligations and the rule of law, and we join the international community in calling for Nadiya Savchenko's immediate release," said Rep. Levin, co-chair of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus.

Vice-President Joe Biden, Secretary of State Kerry and Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) were among others who spoke out in support of Ms. Savchenko.

Mr. Biden issued a statement on March 8, International Women's Day, noting that as we "honor all the brave women who struggle against injustice in this world, we also stand with Nadiya and with the Ukrainian people. And we call on Russia to make the right choice – to drop all charges and release her at once."



Yaro Bihun

Dmytro Shymkiv (left), the deputy head of Ukraine's presidential administration, discusses the effectiveness of the government reform program at the Wilson Center in Washington on March 3. Seated next to him is the discussion moderator, William Pomeranz, deputy director of the Kennan Institute.

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Secretary Kerry said on March 7 that he was “deeply concerned about the health and welfare of Ukrainian pilot and Rada Deputy Nadiya Savchenko, who since Friday has refused food and water to protest her continued detention by the Russian Federation.”

Sen. McCain stated on March 6: “Today, I stand with the Ukrainian people as they implore the world to open its eyes to the injustice that Ms. Savchenko and so many others face at the hands of a murderous Russian regime and call for her immediate release. I will also keep fighting the Obama administration to finally give the Ukrainian people the defensive weapons they need to defend themselves. Two years after Russia invaded Ukraine and annexed Crimea, the Obama administration has still not provided Ukrainian forces with the lethal assistance they need to fight an advanced Russian military, and which the Congress has authorized. The men and women striving to save their homeland have not backed down, and they will continue to fight for their country with or without the U.S. support they need and deserve.”

Ambassador Samantha Power, U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations, added her voice to the defense of Ms. Savchenko on March 9, noting that the previous day was her “600th day of wrongful imprisonment.” Ms. Power stated: “Today, in spite of a ‘dry’ hunger strike in which she has not had any food or liquid for nearly a week, Savchenko took the stand to deliver her closing statement in a farcical trial. Russia’s continued detention of Savchenko demonstrates blatant disregard for its commitments under the Minsk agreements. Savchenko – as well as all Ukrainians who are being held illegally by separatists and by Russia – should be free.”

Also weighing in on the Savchenko case was Hillary Clinton, candidate for the Democratic Party’s nomination for president. Her March 10 statement noted: “Russia should drop all charges and release her immediately. It should also meet all its commitments under the Minsk agreement to bring an end to the conflict in eastern Ukraine, which has left thousands dead and over 1.5 million people displaced. I stand with Nadiya and the Ukrainian people, as I have always stood for the rights of women and all people suffering injustices worldwide.”

When Ms. Savchenko was sentenced to 22 years’ imprisonment on trumped-up charges of complicity in the deaths of two Russian journalists and illegally crossing the Russian border, once again there was swift reaction from the United States. Condemnation of the trial and verdict came from, among others, Vice-President Biden, the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus and the Department of State.

The U.S. presidential campaign

Speaking of the U.S. presidential campaign, Donald J. Trump, a candidate for the Republican Party’s nomination was quoted on March 21 by The Washington Post as saying: “Ukraine is a country that affects us far less than it affects other countries in NATO, and yet we’re doing all of the lifting.” Speaking of America’s allies he said, “They’re not doing anything. And I say: ‘Why is it that Germany’s not dealing with NATO on Ukraine? Why is it that other



Ukraine’s new prime minister, Volodymyr Groysman, briefs the White House press at the conclusion of his meeting there with Vice-President Joe Biden on June 15.



President Petro Poroshenko responds to questions about the situation in Ukraine after his keynote address at the “Ukraine in Washington” forum in the U.S. Capitol’s Congressional Auditorium on March 30. Sitting next to him is Bill Clifford, president of the World Affairs Council of America, moderator of the session.

countries that are in the vicinity of Ukraine, why aren’t they dealing? Why are we always the one that’s leading, potentially the third world war with Russia.’” At the same time, Mr. Trump said U.S. involvement in NATO may need to be significantly diminished. “We certainly can’t afford to do this anymore,” he said.

Another Republican candidate, Ohio Gov. John Kasich, reacted to a statement by Mr. Trump at a March 30 town hall meeting hosted by CNN in Milwaukee. Speaking at that same meeting, Gov. Kasich said: “I just heard briefly somebody was saying that we should just ignore Ukraine. Are you kidding me? The United States of America should be arming the Ukrainians who want to fight for freedom against Putin. We should be arming them... with lethal defensive aid.” Previously, at a March 2 appearance at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Warren, Mich., the candidate released a white paper detailing “U.S. Policy Towards Ukraine under a Kasich Administration.” Among other things, the release noted the following: “Under President Kasich: The U.S. will not recognize Russia’s annexation of Crimea. We will condemn Russia’s imperialism and destabilization of its neighbors. We will provide Ukraine the lethal defensive weapons needed to defend itself. All parties should fulfill their obligations of the Minsk protocols: strict observance of the ceasefire by both sides; withdrawal of all foreign [Russian] military units, equipment and mercenaries; restore Ukrainian control over the border with Russia; agreement on procedures for elections in Donbass [sic] under Ukrainian law. ...”

Soon after that came news that on March 28 the Trump campaign had made a very controversial hire. The New York Times website reported that Mr. Trump, “girding for a long battle over presidential delegates and a potential floor fight at the Cleveland convention, has enlisted the veteran Republican strategist Paul J. Manafort to lead his delegate-corralling efforts.” The political blog also reported that Mr. Manafort “has drawn attention in recent years chiefly for his work as an international political consultant, most notably as a senior adviser to former President Viktor F. Yanukovich of Ukraine, who was driven from power in 2014.”

Things got worse in July when Mr. Trump, in an interview broadcast on July 31 on the ABC-TV news program “This Week,” said he would consider recognizing Russia’s annexation of Ukraine’s Crimean peninsula. “I’m going to take a look at it,” Mr. Trump said. “But you know, the people of Crimea, from what I’ve heard, would rather be with Russia than where they were. And you have to look at that, also.” Host George Stephanopoulos then asked Mr. Trump: “Why did you soften the GOP platform on Ukraine?” Mr. Trump’s response: “[Vladimir Putin’s] not going into Ukraine, okay? Just so you understand. He’s not going to go into Ukraine, all right? You can mark it down and you can put it down, you can take it anywhere you want.” Mr. Stephanopoulos countered with, “Well, he’s already there, isn’t he?” Mr. Trump then replied: “Okay, well, he’s there in a certain way, but I’m not there yet [apparently a reference to the U.S. presidency]. You have [President Barack] Obama there. And frankly, that whole part of the world is a mess under Obama, with all the strength that you’re talk-

ing about and all of the power of NATO and all of this, in the meantime, he’s going where – he takes – takes Crimea, he’s sort of – I mean...”

Writing in The Washington Post on August 4 about the presidential candidate’s latest statements, opinion writer George Will noted that “Vladimir Putin’s occupation of Crimea has escaped Trump’s notice.” He commented: “It is, surely, somewhat noteworthy that someone aspiring to be this nation’s commander-in-chief has somehow not noticed the fact that for two years now a sovereign European nation has been being dismembered.”

Among others reacting strongly to Mr. Trump’s statements was Rep. Bill Pascrell Jr. (D-N.J.), a member of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus. Speaking on August 1, Rep. Pascrell underscored: “It is simply irresponsible for Donald Trump to perpetuate the idea that the Kremlin has not violated the sovereign territory of another country by force. This runs counter to the current policies of the United States, our NATO allies and even the Republican Party’s platform. These remarks, as well as his history of cavalier compliments for autocratic strongmen like Putin and chosen advisors, demonstrate that Donald Trump would be dangerous for protecting human rights and democracy around the world. I will continue to stand in strong support of the Ukrainian people by pushing for continued sanctions and relief, as they fight against the illegal invasion of its territorial integrity.”

The day after the U.S. presidential election, Ukraine’s President Poroshenko offered his congratulations: “My sincere congratulations to Donald Trump on being elected president of the United States and to the friendly American nation on democratic expression of will. This is a symbol of true democracy when nobody knew the results of the elections until the very last moment. And this is a feature of true democracy always professed and promoted by our reliable and strategic American partners and friends,” he said on November 9 during a meeting with U.S. Ambassador Yovanovitch. Mr. Poroshenko expressed gratitude to the ambassador for the statement that sanctions against Russia will be continued in December and her assurances that the new U.S. administration will remain a reliable partner in the struggle for democracy. He also conveyed his invitation to the newly elected U.S. president to visit Ukraine.

On November 15, the president and the president-elect spoke via telephone, with Mr. Poroshenko again offering his congratulations, expressing his readiness to work with the Trump administration to further strengthen the Ukraine-U.S. strategic partnership, and issuing an invitation to Mr. Trump to visit Ukraine at his earliest convenience. A read-out of the phone call by the Presidential Administration of Ukraine also noted that the two leaders agreed to maintain contacts and to hold a bilateral meeting.

At about the same time, there were questions about what would happen now that there would be a new administration in Washington. Writing in Foreign Policy on October 30, Dan De Luce and Reid Standish asked: “What Will Ukraine Do Without Uncle Joe?” The reference was to Vice-President Biden, who served as the Obama

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administration's point man on Ukraine. The analysts wrote: "No one in the U.S. government has wielded more influence over Ukraine than Vice-President Joe Biden. ...he has rallied support for Kiev [sic] in the face of Russian military intervention and cultivated a personal rapport with its leaders. ...Ukraine's government has relied heavily on its direct channel to the U.S. vice-president, and Biden's departure will leave a gaping hole. ...it's clear the next president will 'have to have a point person for Ukraine,' whether at the White House or the State Department, said a senior administration official who spoke on condition of anonymity. ..."

Visitors from Ukraine

During 2016, there were many visits to Washington by Ukraine's officials and leaders. Among them was the deputy head of Ukraine's presidential administration, Dmytro Shymkiv, the official responsible for overseeing the government's national program of reforms necessary to raise itself to the standards of the European Union. Speaking at the Kennan Institute of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars on March 3, Mr. Shymkiv focused on 18 of the 35 EU criteria Ukraine was striving to implement by 2020 and presented a scorecard on its progress thus far. "We have more than 70 percent of the decisions of the National Reform Council being implemented in legislative documents," he said, adding that an increasing percentage of the people surveyed in Ukraine react positively to these changes. That is especially evident in the their reaction to the "strong development" in the area of defense and security, where, he said, "Russia did everything possible to destroy the Ukrainian army, and we now have an army which is able to stand and defend the country."

He did acknowledge that Ukrainians now see the most serious delays in the implementation of reforms in the areas of anti-corruption, the judiciary, public administration and health care, but underscored that anti-corruption reform is at the top of the government agenda. "We established all the necessary institutions needed to fight corruption," including the Anti-Corruption Bureau. "So, it's working. We're building the muscles," he assured his listeners.

President Poroshenko was in Washington later that month. On March 30, delivering the keynote address at the "Ukraine in Washington" conference in the Congressional Auditorium in the U.S. Capitol, Mr. Poroshenko pointed out that, after Ukraine abandoned the world's third largest nuclear arsenal in 1994, it received security assurances under the Budapest Memorandum guaranteeing its sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence. He asked: "But what has it turned [out] to be in reality?" He explained: "Russia simply defied its assurances to Ukraine and committed a direct armed aggression against my state," referring to Moscow's actions in Crimea and the Donbas region of Ukraine, where "Ukrainian patriots are losing their lives defending the same values that are dear to America and Europe." He called on the United States and other Western powers to continue their sanctions on Russia to help end its "direct armed aggression against my state."



Nadiya Savchenko, former Ukrainian military pilot and now a member of the Verkhovna Rada, discusses her experience as a prisoner of war in Russia and her views on the situation in Ukraine and its relationship with Russia at the Atlantic Council in Washington on September 22.



Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Tarr

Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges (right), commander of U.S. Army Europe, and Dr. Ulana Suprun (left), Ukraine's acting minister of health, speak to the media during the official handover of five Field Litter Ambulances to the Ukrainian armed forces on August 27. With them is Sgt. Taras Vintonyak from the Joint Multinational Training Group-Ukraine. The ambulances were part of the train-and-equip program with Ukraine. "I am very proud, of course, to see these ambulances behind me, a manifestation of the support of the United States for Ukraine," Lt. Gen. Hodges said.

The Ukrainian president said that his country has "effectively stopped" the Russian offensive. But, he added, "The price we paid is striking": almost 10,000 people have died and more than 2,700 Ukrainian soldiers were killed by combined Russian-militant forces – more than the number of American military losses in Afghanistan over the past 15 years. In addition, about 1.75 million people have lost their homes in the Donetsk and Luhansk region and have been forced to move to elsewhere in Ukraine.

The conference at which President Poroshenko spoke was organized – in cooperation with the Embassy of Ukraine – by the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation and the World Affairs Council of America, and co-hosted by the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Jurkiw Family Fund and other organizations. In his address Mr. Poroshenko also thanked the United States "for standing by Ukraine's side over the last two years – the hardest two years in the history of my country"; the Ukrainian American community, which has been supporting Ukraine "so actively and in so many ways"; and "all people of goodwill who stood with Ukraine and extended their financial, in kind and moral support."

The next day, before joining in with the leaders of more than 50 countries at the Nuclear Security Summit, President Poroshenko visited the recently dedicated Ukrainian Holodomor Memorial in Washington, where he laid a floral wreath to honor its millions of victims.

The 2016 "Ukraine in Washington" conference, which focused on the devastating impact of Moscow's war against Ukraine and U.S. efforts to assist Ukrainians with the humanitarian, economic and security crises brought on by Mr. Putin's hybrid military invasion, also featured an address by Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States Valeriy Chaly, who emphasized the very important role that Washington plays in maintaining trans-Atlantic unity regarding support for and solidarity with Ukraine. Ambassador Chaly called the war waged by the combined Russian-separatist forces, which has resulted in 10,000 deaths and 2 million displaced persons, "one of the biggest tragedies in Europe and for Europe in the modern era." Panels were devoted to the topics "The Human Cost of the War in Ukraine," "Economic Development in Rebuilding Ukraine," and "From Budapest to Minsk and Beyond." Among other speakers were: Kurt Volker, a former U.S. ambassador to NATO; Dr. Ulana Suprun, founder of Patriot Defence and director of humanitarian initiatives for the Ukrainian World Congress; economist Anders Aslund of the Atlantic Council; former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Taylor, now with the U.S. Institute of Peace; and David Kramer of the McCain Institute.

The next month, Natalie Jaresko came to Washington as the minister of finance of Ukraine to participate in a discussion on April 14 about the status of Ukraine's economy and the prospects and results of its economic reforms and the effects of the conflict in Donbas. Earlier that morning, however, she learned – as did the rest of the world – that the Ukrainian Parliament had voted in a new prime minister and Cabinet of Ministers, in which she would be

replaced by Oleksandr Danyliuk. In her opening remarks at the conference, organized by the Atlantic Council and the Center for International Governance Innovation, Ms. Jaresko said she had made the decision not to comment on or criticize the new government or her former colleagues because "I believe it is better for Ukraine not to do so." Instead, she focused on the economic reforms initiated in Ukraine and what stills needed to be done.

On his first visit to the United States, Ukraine's new prime minister, Volodymyr Groysman, expressed his gratitude for the support his country is receiving for its political and economic reform programs, and in stopping Russian aggression in eastern Ukraine and Crimea. "In this very important time in Ukraine's history we now have the strong backing of our American partners," was how he described that bilateral cooperation to members of the press on June 15, at the conclusion of his meeting at the White House with Vice-President Biden. As Mr. Biden greeted the Ukrainian prime minister at the White House, he praised him for his efforts. "You've taken on a difficult job," he said. "We have a lot more to do. But I'm impressed." During his visit to Washington, Mr. Groysman also met with Speaker of the House of Representatives Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) and Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.), as well as Democratic Party congressional leaders as and top U.S. government officials.

Sanctions against Russia

The next day, Prime Minister Groysman spoke at the National Press Club, heralding his government's steps toward institutional and economic reforms, saying changes to the customs service, public procurement procedures and the courts will make the country more attractive to investors. According to a report from RFE/RL, Mr. Groysman argued that sanctions enacted by the U.S. and the European Union "can be eliminated only when the aggressor returns within its borders, when the aggressor renounces his aggressive plans."

His words echoed those of Assistant Secretary of State Nuland, who told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on June 7 that sanctions are the most powerful leverage the United States has over Russia. "I think the largest piece of leverage that we have on Russia is the sustainment over two years of deep and comprehensive sanctions across the U.S. and the EU countries," Ms. Nuland was quoted by RFE/RL as saying. "So again this is why we are advocating – because Minsk is not being implemented – that the sanctions have to be rolled over again." She added, "We have deterred further land grabs in Ukraine, and that was a real risk when we first started with sanctions – that they would try to run all the way to Kyiv and Kharkiv. ...I will tell you now that the Russians are now openly talking about the pain of sanctions..."

Secretary of State Kerry reassured Ukraine on July 7 that sanctions would remain in place unless Moscow fulfilled its obligations under the Minsk agreement. Speaking at a joint news conference in Kyiv with President Poroshenko, he also announced an additional \$23 million

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in humanitarian assistance to Ukraine to help those affected by the ongoing war in Ukraine's east. (Two months earlier, the U.S. had announced \$28 million of similar aid. The latest allocation of funds brought the total of humanitarian assistance to Ukraine since the start of the ongoing conflict to over \$135 million.)

Indeed, at the end of the year, the U.S. added seven more well-connected Russian insiders and over three dozen companies in Russia and Russia-occupied Crimea to its sanctions list.

Another visitor to Washington during 2016 was former Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk, now the leader of Ukraine's People's Front party. As did his successor, Prime Minister Groysman, two weeks earlier, Mr. Yatsenyuk met with Vice-President Biden, thanking the U.S. government and people for their support of Ukraine and asking that they continue their assistance in the future. During his June 27-30 visit, he also met with U.S. Treasury Secretary Jack Lew, officials at the International Monetary Fund and with Sens. McCain, Durbin and Bob Corker (R-Tenn.). During an open discussion at the Atlantic Council, he responded to many questions about Ukraine's internal affairs and foreign relations, especially with the United States and Russia.

Two more visitors from Ukraine were National Deputy Savchenko and former President Leonid Kravchuk.

Ms. Savchenko arrived in late September. She received the Atlantic Council's Freedom Award on September 19 in New York and then spoke at the council's headquarters in Washington on September 22. The pilot-turned-politician urged the international community to fight to free every single Ukrainian locked up in Russia. "I was not the only prisoner in a Russian jail. I would like you to continue this struggle to support my colleagues who are still there," she was quoted by the Atlantic Council as saying. "It is important for [Russian President Vladimir] Putin to understand he has no chance of keeping any of the Ukrainian prisoners currently being held – illegally – by him." She also pressed the case for targeted sanctions against Russian kleptocrats, criticized the "underperformance" of Ukraine's current government and explained that "The Kremlin is guided by a sick idea of restoring the territories of the USSR."

Mr. Kravchuk, the first president of the independent Ukrainian state established 25 years ago after the breakup of the Soviet Union, also spoke at the Atlantic Council. He appeared on November 18 alongside two other post-Soviet leaders – the first president of Belarus, Stanislau Shushkevich, and the first deputy prime minister of Russia, Gennady Burbulis – to discuss the "Soviet dissolution, the birth of nations and the successes and challenges 25 years later." Mr. Kravchuk stressed that "Ukraine is growing and doing so in a democratic way, in a European way, and now Ukraine cannot be pushed off this path." Questions about U.S. President-elect Donald Trump's expressed positions on Russia, President Putin and Crimea also came up during the discussion.



Ukraine's first president after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Leonid Kravchuk (right), analyzes the country's conflicts along its border with Russia and Moscow's annexation of Crimea during a panel discussion on November 18 at the Atlantic Council with two other post-Soviet leaders, Russia's first deputy prime minister, Gennady Burbulis (left), and the first Belarusian president, Stanislau Shushkevich (center).

"I cannot fathom the world reaction if the president of the United States is going to recognize the annexation of Crimea," Mr. Kravchuk said. "Neither can I fathom some of the reported statements that Trump made during the election campaign." He noted, however, that Mr. Trump did not make those comments as president, adding that he understands that being a president in the White House changes the way a candidate may have thought about an issue before being elected. "If he expresses it after his January 20 inauguration, then I will express my far negative reaction," Mr. Kravchuk added.

At the end of the year, President Obama signed into law the Fiscal Year 2017 National Defense Authorization Act, which contains a Ukraine security assistance package. The NDAA authorizes \$350 million in security assistance, including lethal and non-lethal equipment, training and technical assistance. Half, or \$175 million, of this money is linked to Ukraine's implementation of critical defense reforms, such as instituting civilian control of the military, cooperation and coordination with Ukrainian parliamentary efforts to exercise oversight of the Ministry of Defense and military forces, increased transparency and accountability in defense procurement, and improvement in transparency, accountability and potential opportunities for privatization. Also part of the NDAA is the Countering Disinformation and Propaganda Act – legislation designed to help American allies counter foreign government propaganda from Russia, China, and other nations.

What will 2017 bring?

As 2016 came to a close, our editorial wondered what the incoming Trump administration would bring. Ukrainian Americans who love both the United States and their ancestral homeland had repeatedly expressed their concerns, as did citizens of Ukraine who feared that their country could be abandoned to Russia's sphere of influence. Things became even more worrying when The Times of the United Kingdom reported on December 28 that there was talk of the Trump administration deploying Henry Kissinger to reset U.S. relations with Russia, and that the Kremlin had reacted favorably to the idea. The Times reported: "Mr. Kissinger is already said to have advised Mr. Trump to roll out a plan to end sanctions on Moscow that would 'recognize Russia's dominance' in the former Soviet states of Belarus, Ukraine, Georgia and Kazakhstan." What's more, there are reports that Mr. Kissinger's strategy might include accepting the annexation of Crimea in exchange for Moscow withdrawing from eastern Ukraine.

But there were pledges from Ukraine's supporters in Congress to continue or even increase sanctions against Russia.

Sens. Portman and Durbin, co-chairs of the Senate Ukraine Caucus, on December 8 led a bipartisan group of 27 senators to call on President-elect Trump to continue America's tradition of support for the people of Ukraine in the face of Russian aggression. "In light of Russia's continued aggression and repeated refusal to respect Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereign right to choose its own destiny, we also renew our call for the United States to increase political, economic and military support for Ukraine," the senators wrote. "This includes defensive lethal assistance as part of a broader effort to help Ukrainians better defend themselves, deter future aggression and implement key structural reforms. Similarly, we believe that Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea should never be accepted, nor should we lift sanctions imposed on Russia for its behavior in eastern Ukraine until key provisions of the Minsk agreement are met."

While visiting Kyiv at the end of December, Sen. McCain told RFE/RL that the United States will not strike a "Faustian bargain" with President Putin, amid speculation that President-elect Trump could scrap sanctions. Speaking in an exclusive interview with RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service on December 30 along with Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) and Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), Sen. McCain said any possible deal with Mr. Putin "would interfere with and undermine the freedom and democracies that exist today." Sen. Graham said Congress in 2017 would pursue more sanctions against Russia, targeting the energy and banking sectors, as well as "Putin and his inner circle." While they were in Kyiv, President Poroshenko awarded Sen. McCain the Order of Freedom and Sen. Graham the Order of Prince Yaroslav the Wise for their significant personal contributions to the enhancement of relations between Ukraine and the United States. All three senators underscored that there is strong support in Congress to provide Ukraine with "lethal defensive weapons" to help Kyiv in its fight against combined Russia-separatist forces.



A delegation of the U.S. Senate on December 31 joined Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko on a working trip to the Donetsk region. The delegation included Sens. John McCain, Lindsey Graham and Amy Klobuchar, and was accompanied by U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch. "I send the message from the American people – we are with you, your fight is our fight, and we will win together," Sen. McCain was quoted as saying by Ukrainian president's press service.

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Our Ukrainian Churches at a time of war in Ukraine

The year 2016 for Ukrainian Churches was a busy one, and complicated by the ongoing war being waged by Russia. But there were notable accomplishments and attempts at healing spiritual disunity – not only between the Catholics and the Orthodox – but also between the meddling of the Russian Orthodox Church (ROC) via the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate (UOC-MP) and the divisions that have fractured the other Orthodox Churches in Ukraine: the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate (UOC-KP) and the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church (UAOC).

The ROC and its affiliated UOC-MP announced in January the establishment of a new staff in the synod department of external church affairs to blacken the reputation of the UOC-KP, to block the Ecumenical Patriarchate from recognizing the Kyiv Church as canonical and to destabilize religious conditions across Ukraine. This move was seen by many experts as part of the hybrid war that Russia is waging against Ukraine and the West. This was the latest attempt using religious groups in Ukraine in filing complaints with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe of religious intolerance in Ukraine and giving Moscow a degree of deniability. Many of these “religious groups” are fronts for Russian Security Services (FSB) operations.

Pope Francis, in his annual New Year’s meeting with heads of diplomatic missions of foreign states and international organizations accredited to the Holy See, met with Ambassador Tetiana Izhevskaya of Ukraine. In his address on that day, January 11, the pope commented on the situation in Ukraine, urging an end to the conflict in eastern Ukraine, and encouraged increased support from the international community, individual countries and humanitarian organizations. Pope Francis assured the ambassador that he would “never forsake Ukraine.”

Prior to the meeting between Pope Francis and Patriarch Kirill of the Russian Orthodox Church on February 12 in Havana, Patriarch Sviatoslav of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church on February 5 issued a statement urging the pope to use caution and not be used for propaganda purposes by Moscow. The Ukrainian Catholic archbishop-major expressed hope that the meeting would change the rhetoric on the part of the radicals within the ROC and that Pope Francis would serve as a voice for the Ukrainian people.

The Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies also issued a statement on February 5, regarding the upcoming meeting between Pope Francis and the Russian patriarch. The institute saw the meeting as a chance for the pope to advocate for Ukraine’s concerns amid the role of the Russian Orthodox Church in the Kremlin’s actions against Ukraine.

Following the meeting between the pope and the Russian patriarch, Patriarch Sviatoslav gave an interview that was published by the Communications Office of the Philadelphia Archeparchy of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. Patriarch Sviatoslav observed that Pope Francis and the Russian Patriarch had “existed in two parallel worlds” and that parallel lines, according to rules of mathematics, do not intersect. The ROC saw the meeting as a



The University Church of the Holy Wisdom of God on the campus of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv was consecrated on September 11 by Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk and Bishop Borys Gudziak.

political showpiece, while the pope demonstrated humility in a genuine dialogue. The Joint Declaration – a socio-political document rather than theological – that was signed by Pope Francis and Patriarch Kirill was prepared by Metropolitan Hilarion (Alfeyev) of the ROC and Cardinal Kurt Koch from the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. The Department of External Affairs of the ROC had drafted certain aspects of the signed statement, and Patriarch Sviatoslav, as a member of the Pontifical Council, was not invited to provide input. The Ukrainian Patriarch was hopeful of the document as it did promote the rights of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church (UGCC) as a subject of inter-Church relations between the Catholic and Orthodox Churches. However, the document cited “ecclesial communities” rather than the UGCC. Commentary on the Russian-led invasion of Ukraine and Crimea had soft language in the document and failed to recognize the ROC’s role in support of the ongoing invasion. The actions of Pope Francis, the patriarch noted, was disappointing, but he reminded the faithful that we must not lose faith in the hope of God’s promise.

The Weekly’s editorial of February 21 commented on the meeting by pointing out that the ROC used it to enhance Patriarch Kirill’s image and supposed global influence prior to the Great and Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church to be held in Crete in June. Paragraph 27 of the declaration was also insulting to Ukrainians, as it gave the “canonical” Moscow Patriarchate churches precedence over other Orthodox Churches in Ukraine.

Commentaries on the meeting between Pope Francis and Patriarch Kirill were also provided by the Rev. Dr. Andriy Chirovsky and Bishop Borys Gudziak.

The Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, led by Major Archbishop Sviatoslav, who was joined by members of the Church’s Permanent Synod, met with Pope Francis in Rome on March 5. The delegation met with the pope and high

representatives of the Holy See to inform them about the ongoing invasion and hybrid war in Ukraine. A statement was released by Patriarch Sviatoslav, noting, “the holy father has heard us... Pope Francis made it clear that he would act.” The meeting was also a re-affirmation of relations between Kyiv and the Vatican on the 70th anniversary of the Soviet liquidation of the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

The Catholic Bishops of Ukraine during their synod issued an appeal on March 6 to the government of Ukraine to fulfill its duty before the people of Ukraine. The sacrifices of blood on the Maidan and on the battlefield should be enough of a motivator to oust corruption from the halls of power. The bishops also called on the people of Ukraine to hold their elected officials accountable and to not lose hope in the face of a desperate situation.

In Canada, month-long field work during June in eastern and southeastern Saskatchewan documenting Ukrainian churches and their contents was a treasure trove for Prof. Natalie Kononenko’s “Sanctuary: the Spiritual Heritage Documentation Project.” Since then, she has documented nearly 600 Ukrainian Canadian churches in digital format. The materials include audio and visual records and are housed at the University of Alberta in Edmonton library as part of the Peel’s Prairie Province collection. Founded in 2009, the Sanctuary Project is affiliated with the Research Program on Religion and Culture at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta.

Thousands of faithful gathered at the Metropolia Center of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. in South Bound Brook, N.J., on May 7-8 to commemorate those buried at St. Andrew Cemetery. Bishop Daniel (now archbishop-elect), president of the Consistory of the UOC-U.S.A., celebrated divine liturgy on Saturday morning, and Metropolitan Antony led divine liturgy on Sunday morning. During the weekend, pilgrims toured the grounds, prayed at gravesites, as well as at the monument honoring



On March 5, Pope Francis received in a private audience Major Archbishop Sviatoslav, patriarch of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, and members of the UGCC Permanent Synod. The pope was presented with a copy of the Ukrainian icon of Our Lady, the Door of Mercy. Joining the UGCC delegation were: Metropolitan Archbishop Volodymyr Vytshyn, Bishop Yaroslav Pryriz, Bishop Ken Nowakiwski, Bishop Borys Gudziak and Bishop Bohdan Dziourach.



Metropolitan Antony, Archbishop Jeremiah and members of the Ukrainian American Veterans following a blessing of the UAV monument on May 7-8 during the annual St. Thomas Sunday Pilgrimage at the Metropolia Center of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. in South Bound Brook, N.J.

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Ukrainian American veterans, and celebrated fellowship at the St. Sophia Theological Seminary, which hosted a picnic and an ice cream social. The Ukrainian Cultural Center hosted various vendors who showcased Ukrainian books, religious items, music, and other goods and services.

A religious procession to mark the 1,028th anniversary of the baptism of Kyivan Rus' into Christianity was organized by the UOC-MP. The nearly 9,000 people had marched – from Pochaiv Monastery, near Ternopil, in the west, and from Svithohirsk Monastery in the east, near Sloviansk – into Kyiv on July 27 under tight security and gathered at St. Volodymyr Hill. The event was promoted by Patriarch Kirill of the ROC, while Patriarch Filaret of the UOC-KP said the procession aimed “to use a church guise to incite unrest, to destabilize Ukrainian society and to set one Church against another.”

The participants who came from the east of Ukraine were greeted on the outskirts of Broyspil near Kyiv on July 25 by 150 Ukrainian veterans of the war in the east and some nationalists who called the marchers, some of whom wore the St. George ribbon of Russia, “agents of Moscow.” Archbishop Yevstratiy of the UOC-KP explained to Espresso TV that he saw the procession as a propaganda display to show broad support for the Russian World (Russkiy Mir) view, using the Russian Orthodox Church as an agent of Kremlin policy.

The Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) announced its plans for the construction of the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Center and the Metropolitian Andrey Library, located on the campus grounds in Lviv. The library is based on the learning commons principle that has been implemented in the West, whereby the library functions as more than simply a book repository, but is a place of free learning and exchange of ideas. It was designed by German architect Stefan Behnisch, whose designs can be seen at the Alston Campus at Harvard University. Mr. Behnisch was assisted by Yulian Chaplynskyi, the city architect of Lviv, who adapted the design to conform to building codes in Ukraine. American architect of Ukrainian descent Ivan Bereznicki, who is UCU's main architectural advisor, was also enlisted in the building project. The library received major funding from the Temerty Family Foundation. The library is scheduled to open in the fall of 2017.

Adjacent to the library is the University Church of the Holy Wisdom of God, which was consecrated by Patriarch Sviatoslav in concelebration with bishops of the Ukrainian Catholic Church's Synod on September 11 in Lviv. The church contains two other churches on a lower tier – the Church of St. Clement, Pope of Rome, and the Church of the Lord's Grave – both representing various stages of Christianity from its early formation. The Church of the Lord's Grave is a place for private prayer. The bells of the church – named in honor of St. Pope John Paul II, Patriarch Josyf Slipyj and Cardinal Myroslav Ivan Lubachivsky – were blessed prior to the consecration of the new church. The church also will have designated areas for its pastoral center for discussions, meetings and interactions – with hopes of attracting visitors from the city of Lviv. Patriarch Sviatoslav called the church the university's most important “classroom” from which great wisdom can be attained. As part of the celebrations, an evening featured art discussions, as well as a theatrical performances by national artists of Ukraine.

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. (UOC-U.S.A.) launched its Strategic Plan during its 21st regular Sobor on October 19-22 in South Bound Brook, N.J., at the Metropolia Center of the Church. Metropolitan Antony outlined the Strategic Plan and underscored its importance for



UOC of the U.S.A.

Participants of the 21st Regular Sobor of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. that was held on October 19-22 at the Metropolia Center of the UOC-U.S.A.

the Church. An attention-grabbing presentation by Bill Marianes outlined goals and areas that the UOC-U.S.A. intends to focus on its work, including administration, clergy, communications, education, family and youth, healthy parishes, outreach and evangelism, stewardship and technology. Among the delegates and clergy were Metropolitan Yuriy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Canada, Archbishop Jeremiah of South America, and Archbishop-elect Daniel, president of the Consistory of the UOC-U.S.A. and ruling eparch of the Western Eparchy of the UOC-U.S.A. Sobor participants were greeted via a letter from Patriarch Bartholomew of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Metropolitan Antony compared the new Strategic Plan to a “renovation” that will renew the UOC-U.S.A.

The election of new officers to the Metropolitan Council, the Audit Commission and the Ecclesiastical Court were announced. The “Great Benefactor” award was presented to Stephen Sivulich, Helen Greenleaf, Michael Heretz, Gayle Woloschak, the Rev. Taras Chubenko and Olga Coffey. The award is presented only at the Sobor meetings. Following divine liturgy, led by Archbishop Jeremiah, break-out sessions were held for the various goals set forth in the Strategic Plan to enable each participant to get directly involved in the Church's renewal for the future.

Metropolitan Stefan Soroka of the Ukrainian Catholic Church led a moleben prayer and memorial service in memory of Bishop Soter Ortynsky, the first Ukrainian Catholic bishop in the United States. The services were held on October 30 at Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Philadelphia, where the bishop's remains are interred within a crypt. The year 2016 marked the 150th anniversary of Ortynsky's birth in 1866, and the 125th anniversary of his priestly ordination, as well as the centennial of his death in 1916. The Rev. Dr. Ivan Kacsaszak, who recently authored a book about the life of Ortynsky, gave the homily during the service.

Prior to the events in Philadelphia, the Rev. Kaszczak spoke at the Ukrainian-American Citizens Club in Watervliet, N.Y., on October 28. His presentation had focused on brotherhoods and the early formation of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States. The event was sponsored by the UACC, the St. Nicholas Brotherhood (commonly called the “bratsvo”) and St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Watervliet. The Rev. Kaszczak is author of several books about the establishment and development of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the U.S., and had edited a new edition of Bohdan P. Procko's book “Ukrainian Catholics in America: A History,” with new material about the how brotherhoods were instrumental in the growth of

the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

The Ukrainian Catholic University concluded its fund-raising events for 2016 in the U.S.A. that were held under the theme “A New Generation for a New Ukraine.” The Ukrainian Catholic Educational Foundation hosted events in New York (November 6), Chicago (October 30), Philadelphia (October 29), Los Angeles (October 23) and Boston (October 28). In the spring, fund-raiser events were held in West Orange, N.J., on May 15 and in Paris on May 20. Since 2010, UCU's Comprehensive Campaign – through U.S., Ukrainian, Canadian and European benefactors – has raised \$65.5 million. It was noted that through the work of UCU, a new generation through education, research and social work, and the nurturing of a spiritual life, the new leaders of Ukraine will come from places like UCU, where they can cultivate a moral compass. Major speakers during the fund-raisers included Dr. Boris Lushniak, former Finance Minister of Ukraine Natalie Jaresko and Bishop Gudziak, president of UCU.

Patriarch Filaret of the UOC-KP visited the Home Office of the Ukrainian National Association on November 7. During the visit to the UNA's two publications – Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly – the patriarch was interviewed by Roma Hadzewycz, editor-in-chief of both newspapers, and Lev Khmelkovsky of Svoboda about the role of the UOC-KP in Ukraine. The UOC-MP, he noted, is not on the side of the Ukrainian state and would settle for enslavement instead of a just peace where a person has complete freedom. In Patriarch Filaret's opinion, had there been one united Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Ukraine, Vladimir Putin would not have dared to attack Ukraine. Mr. Putin, he added, has the support from the UOC-MP and other Russian-infiltrated forces in Ukraine. The UOC-MP's popularity in Ukraine can be attributed to the propaganda campaign by Moscow that paints the Kyiv Patriarchate as schismatic, uncanonical and unworthy. The UOC-KP appealed to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to recognize the autocephaly of the Kyiv Patriarchate, Patriarch Filaret told the editors. The patriarch also noted that he does seek open relations with the clergy of the UOC-MP, as many of them have become priests of the UOC-KP, adding that it is easier to unite with friends than with former enemies. Relations between the UOC-KP and the UOC-U.S.A. have also improved, with the hierarchs of the UOC-U.S.A. appealing to Patriarch Bartholomew to work with the UOC-KP. The UOC-U.S.A. continues to do good work in Ukraine, and the patriarch said that his meeting that day with the Consistory of the UOC-U.S.A. was further proof of those good relations.



Nadiya Krawchuk

The Boston Friends of the Ukrainian Catholic University Committee during an informative presentation on October 28 in Boston by Bishop Borys Gudziak about developments at UCU. From left: Maria F. Saxe, Tamara Nary, Tania Vitvitsky, Bishop Gudziak, Christine Slywotzky and Alicia Szendiuch.



Lev Khmelkovsky

Patriarch Filaret of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate blesses the Home Office of the Ukrainian National Association on November 7 during a pastoral visit to the United States parishes of the UOC-KP. The patriarch gave an interview to Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, which are published by the UNA.

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Our Ukrainian diaspora: unity around the globe

Unity was the key word for 2016 in our Ukrainian diaspora. On February 20, Ukraine's Day of Commemoration of the Heroes of the Heavenly Brigade, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress spoke for Ukrainians worldwide when it said:

"Today, the Ukrainian Canadian community joins our brothers and sisters in Ukraine and around the world in commemorating the memory and heroism of all those who paid the ultimate price in the battle for a free and democratic Ukraine. From November 2013 to February 2014 the citizens of Ukraine took to the streets to protest against the corrupt, authoritarian regime of former President Viktor Yanukovich. On the Maidan in Kyiv (Independence Square), and on city squares throughout the country, the people of Ukraine claimed their unalienable right to liberty and justice. Their demand of their government was simple – to be treated with Dignity. The brave demonstrators were met with state-ordered violence and in February 2014, the regime opened fire against its own people.

"Over 100 people – the Heavenly Hundred [Heavenly Brigade] – gave their lives so that the people of Ukraine can live in dignity with a government that respects their human rights. Their sacrifice will never be forgotten. The victory of Ukraine's Revolution of Dignity will forever stand as an example to us all of courage, determination and unity. ...Today, as we honor the Heavenly Hundred, we also pay tribute to the thousands of Ukrainians who have fallen or been wounded as a result of Russia's invasion and the tens of thousands that are today risking their lives fighting to protect Ukraine's independence and sovereignty."

Next, when Nadiya Savchenko on March 3 declared a hunger strike – her seventh such hunger strike since she was taken into Russian custody in July 2014 – after the judge in the Russian court where she was being tried denied her the opportunity to deliver a final statement, our diaspora communities sprang into action. March 9, the day her trial was to resume, was proclaimed a Global Day of Support for Nadiya Savchenko. Demonstrations in support of Ms. Savchenko were held not just in her beloved Ukraine, but also in Russia, Canada, the United States, Sweden, Poland, Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Slovenia, England, Egypt, Malta, Greece, Bulgaria, Belgium, Portugal, Spain, Italy, France, Hungary, Israel, Hong Kong, China, Malaysia, Georgia, Australia, Cyprus, Uruguay, Argentina, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, Norway, Romania, and, no doubt, other countries – a true worldwide movement.

There was also a worldwide campaign to send birthday greetings to the imprisoned Ms. Savchenko as she marked her 35th birthday on May 11. It was the second year she celebrated her birthday behind bars, and the second time Ukrainians around the world sent her birthday cards with simple, non-political messages (otherwise, her lawyers advised, the mail would be confiscated by Russian authorities and would not reach her). Ms. Savchenko's birthday was the focus of gatherings in various cities. In Kyiv, lanterns were set aloft in order to, as Vira Savchenko said, light her sister's way home. In Riga, the capital of Latvia, 35 blue and yellow balloons, with birthday messages written on them, were released into the air. In Paris, a group of



Participants of the annual general meeting of the Ukrainian World Congress held in Kyiv on August 25-27.

Ukrainians got together to sing a rousing "Mnohaya Lita" and posted video of this greeting on Facebook. Vira Savchenko shared news of these public celebrations on her Facebook page.

To be sure, there were also numerous public expressions of support from diaspora Ukrainians for other citizens of Ukraine held as Vladimir Putin's hostages. Among them were filmmaker Oleh Sentsov and Oleksander Kolchenko, who were tried as "terrorists" and back in August 2015 were sentenced to 20 and 10 years, respectively. In addition, according to the Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group, many Crimean Tatars were being held in Russian-occupied Crimea and were falsely accused of being involved in a terrorist group. And then there were POWs captured by Russia and its "separatist" collaborators.

Ukrainian diaspora organizations, led by the Ukrainian World Congress, combined efforts to call on the international community to secure the release of all Ukrainian political prisoners illegally detained by Russian authorities. They also urged Ukrainians around the globe to take up the cause by contacting their elected officials. Acting in support of an October 5 appeal by the Parliament of Ukraine, the UWC urged the international community, including human rights organizations, to assist with efforts to secure the release of all Ukrainian citizens held by Russian authorities. Similar appeals and statements were issued by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC), Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) and Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organizations.

There were worldwide expressions of solidarity on Ukraine's official Day of Remembrance of the Victims of the Crimean Tatar Genocide, marked on May 18. The UCCA and the UCC joined the UWC and the government of Ukraine in remembering the forcible deportation of over 230,000 Crimean Tatars from their Crimean homeland to the Soviet east and the deaths of over 100,000 of them during this genocidal act of ethnic cleansing perpetrated by the regime of Joseph Stalin in 1944. "This Sürgün, or 'violent expulsion,' remains hidden in the annals of 20th

century atrocities," the UCCA stated. The UCC noted, "Today the Ukrainian Canadian community stands in solidarity with the Crimean Tatar People who mark the anniversary of the mass deportation from their ancestral homeland by the totalitarian regime of Joseph Stalin. The entire Crimean Tatar people, the indigenous people of Crimea, were exiled to the Soviet east in 1944. Hundreds of thousands of men, women and children were forcibly and violently deported – almost half lost their lives during the first year of exile – for no crime other than their language, culture and traditions. They were not allowed to return to Crimea for almost 50 years."

As the 25th anniversary of the re-establishment of Ukraine's independence was celebrated, community leaders in the United States, Canada and Australia, and the leader of the Ukrainian World Congress, Eugene Czolij, shared their thoughts on the significant milestone with *The Weekly* in its issues dated August 21 and 28.

Mr. Czolij wrote: "The 20-million strong Ukrainian diaspora led by the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) joins the people of Ukraine in marking the 25th anniversary of the Independence of Ukraine as proclaimed on 24 August 1991 – a day that saw the fulfillment of the dreams of so many who had dedicated their lives to this goal and a day that offered hope and promise to future Ukrainian generations. Over the course of 25 years we have watched the rebirth of a nation that not only removed the shackles of oppression, but shattered them into pieces, ensuring that they can never again be used to deny our people their freedom, their aspirations or fundamental human rights. The UWC – with its member organizations and global network today spanning 50 countries – has stood with the people of Ukraine at every stage of this often tumultuous journey. There was no greater unifying moment for the Ukrainian diaspora than the proclamation of Ukrainian independence, which resulted in the fall of the Soviet Union."

Referring to the "harsh realities of the events that have transpired in Ukraine since November 2013, including the Revolution of Dignity, the illegal occupation of Crimea by



Delegates at the worldwide Conference of Ukrainian Plast Organizations convened in Kyiv on August 22-26.

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the Russian Federation and its ongoing armed invasion of eastern Ukrainian territories," Mr. Czolij stated: "The UWC, with the support of Ukrainians worldwide and in cooperation with the governing authorities and civil society of Ukraine, has worked determinedly to keep the international community – including national governments, the United Nations, European Union, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, NATO and human rights monitoring organizations – engaged, informed and active in the defense of Ukraine's freedom and territorial integrity."

On the occasion of Ukraine's Independence Day, several international Ukrainian organizations held meetings and conferences in Kyiv. The Ukrainian World Congress convened its annual general meeting in Ukraine's capital on August 25-27, with 184 delegates and guests from 26 countries present, while the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations held its annual meeting on August 21-23, with 18 delegates and nine official guests representing WFUWO member organizations, as well as representatives of women's organizations of Ukraine in attendance.

The UWC meeting was addressed by, among others, Verkhovna Rada Chairman Andriy Parubiy, Minister of Culture Yevhen Nyschuk, Acting Minister of Health of Ukraine Dr. Ulana Suprun, and National Deputies Refat Chubarov, Valeriy Patskan and Ivan Krulko. UWC President Czolij delivered an address highlighting the main aspects of the work done and the key priorities for the Ukrainian diaspora led by the UWC, which were focused on assisting Ukraine in the defense of its independence and territorial integrity. Over the course of three days, reports on UWC activities from the past year and future plans were discussed during five roundtables: "Coordinating Support for Ukraine," "UWC Humanitarian Initiatives in Aid of Ukraine," "Promoting a Positive Image of Ukraine," "Celebrating the UWC's 50th Anniversary" and "Supporting the Economic Development of Ukraine."

Taking advantage of their stay in Ukraine in August, leaders of the UCCA and the UWC had a packed schedule of meetings with members of the Verkhovna Rada, Cabinet ministers and the new U.S. envoy to Ukraine, Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch. The newly elected president of the UCCA, Andriy Futey, and his predecessor, Tamara Olexy, joined the UWC delegation at a signing ceremony with Ukraine's Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman of a Memorandum of Cooperation between the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Ukrainian World Congress. UWC delegates also participated in a special evening celebrating Ukrainian Independence Day organized by First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Economic Development and Trade Stepan Kubiv.

The WFUWO, which encompasses 30 national organizations in 20 countries, reported on its multifaceted work, including support for the people of Ukraine during this time of war, that comprises financial aid; support for the troops; aid to families, children and women; and assistance to survivors of war. Also notable were reports on the federation's work with United Nations bodies, both in New York and in Geneva; and a presentation on "The Role of Women in Contemporary Ukraine."

Dr. Lyudmila Porokhniak Hanovska, president of the



The personalized stamp marking the 25th anniversary of Ukraine's independence that was released in Australia by the Ukrainian Collectibles Society. The design is by Tamara Jakovlev.

National Council of Women of Ukraine (NCWU), honored the president of the WFUWO, Orysia Sushko, the presidents of WFUWO member organizations, its main representatives to the U.N., representatives of women's organizations in Ukraine and the administrator of the WFUWO with the NCWU Order of Peace and Love.

Also in Kyiv at the time of Ukrainian Independence Day celebrations was the Conference of Ukrainian Plast Organizations (known by its Ukrainian-based acronym as KUPO), the body uniting Plast groups worldwide, which convened on August 22-26. More than 100 delegates and guests arrived from Australia, Argentina, Canada, Germany, Poland, the United Kingdom, the United States and Ukraine, which boasted the largest delegation. Discussions at the 19th conference of the international body focused on a plan of action for the next three-year term of the World Plast Executive. Among the topics covered: changes to the by-laws of KUPO, the next International Plast Jamboree scheduled for 2017 in Germany, and the development of Plast in more countries where Ukrainians now reside.

On the eve of the KUPO gathering, Plast leaders appeared at a news briefing at the Ukraine Crisis Media Center. Marta Kuzmowycz, chief executive officer of the World Plast Executive, underscored that the organization is adapting to new circumstances in the countries where it is active, while staying true to its ideals and its primary purpose of educating future leaders in a Ukrainian spirit. Stanislav Andriychuk of Plast in Ukraine reported that there are currently some 7,000 members in Ukraine. The national leadership of the organization, which was reborn in Ukraine 25 years ago, hopes to reach a membership that would encompass 10 percent of the youth of Ukraine by the year 2035.

Greetings to KUPO delegates were offered by special guests, among them Canada's Ambassador to Ukraine



Mark Howansky, president of the U.S.-based Organization for the Defense of Lemkivshchyna, rings the peace bell to honor victims of Akcja "Wisła" on July 22 in Zdynia, Poland, where the 34th Lemko Vatra was held.

Roman Waschuk, a member of Plast; the president of the Ukrainian World Congress, Mr. Czolij; and Cardinal and Major Archbishop emeritus Lubomyr Husar, a fellow Plast scout. Delegates voted on a new World Plast Executive, re-electing Ms. Kuzmowycz of the United States as CEO. Volodymyr Bazarko (U.S.) was elected to chair the World Plast Supervisory Board.

In Australia, the Ukrainian Collectibles Society commemorated the 25th anniversary of Ukraine's independence by releasing an Australian personalized stamp, a first day cover and a postcard. Designed by Adelaide graphic designer Tamara Jakovlev, the image depicts a young girl and boy holding hands while dancing, highlighting the joyous spirit of Ukrainian traditions. On the back of the first day cover, the wording of the 1991 Act of Declaration of Independence of Ukraine is reproduced.

Later in the year, on November 1, the Ukrainian World Congress president met with Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko in Kyiv to discuss joint efforts dedicated primarily to furthering the ratification by the Netherlands of the European Union-Ukraine Association Agreement; the imperativeness of pressuring the Russian Federation to comply with the Minsk agreements and renewing economic sanctions against the Russian Federation until it fully complies with them; the deployment by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe of a police mission in eastern Ukraine to enhance compliance of the Russian Federation with the Minsk agreements; the implementation of a visa-free regime for Ukrainian citizens traveling to EU member states taking into account the fulfillment by Ukraine of all criteria; international support for the U.N. General Assembly resolution on the human rights violations in Crimea, as initiated by Ukraine; the importance of a Tomos of Autocephaly for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate; and UWC support for the economic development of Ukraine. The UWC delegation also included Vice-President and Chair of the UWC Committee in Support of the Economic Development of Ukraine Olena Koszarny and Director of the UWC Mission to Ukraine Serhiy Kasyanchuk. In support of the UWC initiative, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America penned a letter to Prime Minister Mark Rutte of the Netherlands to urge ratification of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement.

Soon thereafter, on November 19, the UWC called for worldwide support of the campaign "Condemn Russia's Crimes in Ukraine and Syria." The UWC stated: "Emboldened by some wavering on the part of the international community regarding sanctions against the Russian Federation in response to its illegal occupation of Crimea and hybrid war on the territory of Eastern Ukraine, the Russian Federation continues to escalate its military involvement in the war in Ukraine and Syria in an effort to continue bolstering its imperialist ambitions. It is critical for the international community to understand the parallels between the Russian Federation's military actions in Ukraine and Syria, including the indiscriminate targeting of innocent civilians, humanitarian aid convoys and hospitals. The UWC calls upon its network of community organizations to support the media campaign launched by the Public Diplomacy Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine titled 'Condemn Russia's



Daria Kish

Participants of the third conference of Ukrainian Journalists of North America, held on May 20-22 at the Soyuzivka Heritage Center in Kerhonkson, N.Y.

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Crimes in Ukraine and Syria' designed to reinforce the message that Russian aggression endangers peace and stability in the world."

In other diaspora news, the professional organization Ukrainian Journalists of North America (UJNA) held its third conference at the Soyuzivka Heritage Center in Kerhonkson, N.Y., on May 20-22. The event brought together a group of journalists from the United States and Canada who represented various news media outlets, print, broadcast and online, as well as the Washington-based Voice of America, the Washington correspondent of the TV channel Ukrayina and free-lance writers. Elected to lead the UJNA for the next two years was Jurij R. Klufas of Toronto.

The conference's keynote speaker was to be Ukraine's ambassador to the United States, Valeriy Chaly, but he sent word that he would be unable to attend and forwarded a message to the UJNA in which he underscored that "journalism is a key factor in the development of democracy." He cited the ongoing information war by the Kremlin against Ukraine, and underscored that it is journalists "who are the main defenders of our freedom on the information front, a firm foundation of the Ukrainian struggle in this hybrid war." The ambassador concluded: "I expect that we, Ukrainian diplomats, together with you, journalists, will continue to stand shoulder to shoulder as we bring the truth to the world until Ukraine's final victory over aggression, evil and falsehood."

A presentation on the topic "Looking Ahead to the 25th Anniversary of Ukraine's Independence" by Ukraine's Ambassador to Canada Andriy Shevchenko opened the conference proceedings. He began his remarks by observing that many Ukrainians in Ukraine once had a faulty image of the Ukrainian diaspora but now understand that it comprises hard-working people who were brought up to understand that they should help Ukraine in any way possible. Yesterday's simple packages of goods (known as "banderoli") for one's family in Ukraine have now evolved into serious support for Ukraine's armed forces fighting in the country's east. Mr. Shevchenko noted that the greatest challenges for Ukraine today are corruption and the war in the country's east, as well as Russia's ongoing hybrid war against Ukraine and the West. Therefore it is most important to fight disinformation and to continue to inform governments about the truth.

The 34th Lemko Vatra took place in Zdynia, Poland, on July 22-24. At the same time, the Presidium of the World Federation of Ukrainian Lemko Associations held its meeting, led by President Sofiya Fedyna. In attendance were Lemko leaders from Poland (Stefan Klapyk, Emil Hojsak), Serbia (Bogdan Vilavski, Joachim Hrubenya, Velemir Paplatsko), Croatia (Zvonko Kostelnik), Slovakia (Petro Sokol, Ivan Laba), Ukraine (Stefan Krynytsky, Stefan Majkovich, Mykola Vovk, Ihor Duda) and Canada (Andriy Rotko), as well as the president of the Organization for the Defense of Lemkivshchyna in the United States, Mark Howansky, who shared his reflections on visiting Lemkivshchyna and his reactions to those events in The Weekly's September 4 issue. He noted that the next congress of Lemko associations will be held in Zymna Voda (near Lviv), Ukraine, in late August 2017.

Canada: marking 125 years of Ukrainian settlement

While 2017 marks the 150th anniversary of Canadian Confederation, 2016 was the year Ukrainians in Canada celebrated the 125th anniversary of their immigration to the country – and Saskatchewan kicked the year off on January 5 when the province's premier, Brad Wall, officially proclaimed 2016 as the Year of Saskatchewan Ukrainians, who comprise 13 percent of the provincial population.

Two months later, on March 10, Manitoba followed suit with its own proclamation, which recognized the contribution Ukrainian Manitobans have made to the province, "initially through agriculture, forestry, railways and mining and, presently, in most professional fields of the workplace," and in the creation and promotion of multiculturalism across Canada. Then-Premier Greg Selinger designated 2016 the Year of Manitoba's Ukrainian Canadian Cultural Heritage through the proclamation, which also noted the provincial capital, Winnipeg, as "the first major urban center of Ukrainian Canadians, where many of the earliest religious cultural institutions were founded, including the Canada-wide coordinating body known as the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, established 75 years ago," and as "the first city outside of Ukraine to dedicate a statue honoring the bard and freedom fighter of Ukraine, Taras Shevchenko, built on the grounds of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress [UCC]."

2016 also marked the 55th anniversary of the Ukrainian education program in Manitoba, which was taught in the early decades until it was disallowed in 1916 and later reinstated in 1961, according to the proclamation, which highlighted three Ukrainian Manitoban institutions established at the University of Manitoba: St. Andrew's College in 1946, Ukrainian Studies in the Department of German and Slavic Studies in 1949, and the Center for Ukrainian Canadian Studies in 1981.

The 125th anniversary celebrations continued through the year, with the July 21 launch of an exhibit – "Journey to Canada: Ukrainian Immigration Experiences 1891-1900" – at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The Ukrainian Canadian community also unveiled a plaque as a tribute to the five waves of Ukrainian immigrants who came to Canada over the past 125 years, and which acknowledged their contribution to building Canada and championing such Canadian values as multiculturalism. "Ukrainian Canadians have enriched Canada through their industriousness, rich cultural heritage, strong religious beliefs and dedication to their community and ancestral homeland," reads an inscription on the plaque.

Less than a month later, Alberta declared 2016-2017 as the Year of the Ukrainian Canadian. "Today, more than 345,000 Albertans are of Ukrainian descent and our province continues to welcome newcomers from Ukraine in this 25th year of Ukraine's independence," said Alberta's Minister of Economic Development and Trade Deron Bilous, a Ukrainian Canadian, while speaking on August 7



The first vice-chairman of Ukraine's Parliament, Andriy Parubiy, visited Ottawa in February, meeting with Canadian officials, including the prime minister. At that meeting (from left) are Ukraine's Ambassador to Canada Andriy Shevchenko, Verkhovna Rada First Vice-Chairman Andriy Parubiy, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Member of the Parliament Borys Wrzesnewskyj.

at the celebrations of the 125th anniversary of Ukrainian immigration to Canada during Ukrainian Day at the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village located outside of Edmonton.

National celebrations for the 125th culminated in the fall – back in Saskatchewan – where the XXV Triennial Congress of Ukrainian Canadians was held in the capital, Regina.

But not everyone was celebrating with Canada's Ukrainian community.

Canada's relations with Russia

At a January 26 news conference in Moscow, Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Sergey Lavrov accused the previous Conservative Canadian government of "blindly following the demands of rabid representatives of the Ukrainian diaspora in Canada." The following day, and four days before his visit to Ukraine, Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister Stéphane Dion said the Liberal government would "not tolerate from any Russian minister any insults against the community" and "deeply disagree[s] with the invasion and interference of the Russian government in Ukraine."

Mr. Dion echoed that position in March, when he released a statement marking the second anniversary of "Russia's invasion and illegal annexation of Ukraine's Crimean peninsula." He said that, "Russian occupation and aggression has led to human rights violations, including unlawful seizure of property, harassment and restrictions on freedom of speech and assembly. Self-proclaimed 'authorities' use force and intimidation to foster a climate of intolerance, where residents who express views contrary to those of Russia face discrimination and persecution." Mr. Dion accused Russia of "displaying a blatant disregard for international law, including the European Convention on Human Rights," and said its actions "continue to undermine peace and security in the region."



Government of Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan Ukrainians present Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall with an embroidered Ukrainian shirt in recognition of the province's proclamation of 2016 as the Year of Saskatchewan Ukrainians. Pictured in the rotunda of Saskatchewan's Legislative Building on January 5 are (from left): Orest Gawdyda and Mary Ann Trischuk, vice-president and president, respectively, of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Saskatchewan Provincial Council; Premier Wall (holding the shirt); Gerald Luciuk, chair of the Saskatchewan-Ukraine Relations Advisory Committee; and Ken Krawetz, member of the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly and legislative secretary to the premier for Saskatchewan-Ukraine relations.



Adam Scotti/Prime Minister's Office

Mykola Nyzhnykovskiy, the 11-year-old boy who lost his legs and an arm in Volodarsk, near the ceasefire line in eastern Ukraine, presents Prime Minister Justin Trudeau his coloring "Tree of Life" on November 9 on Parliament Hill. From left are: MP Borys Wrzesnewskyj, Prime Minister Trudeau, CUF Director of Humanitarian Initiatives Krystina Waler, Mykola's mother, Alla Nyzhnykovska, Mykola, Ukraine's Ambassador to Canada Andriy Shevchenko and Canada-Ukraine Foundation President Victor Hetmanczuk.

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Canadian parliamentarians also heard about systematic violations of human rights by terrorists in the occupied territories of eastern Ukraine and on the situation in Crimea from Andriy Parubiy, the first vice-chairman of the Verkhovna Rada during his late February visit to Ottawa. Mr. Parubiy also met with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Defense Minister Harjit Sajjan to discuss Ukraine's need for military equipment, joint training and continued training missions.

Mr. Parubiy (who in April became chairman of the Rada) also participated in an event on Canada's Parliament Hill to commemorate the Maidan activists – the Heavenly Brigade – who were killed by forces loyal to Ukraine's then-President Viktor Yanukovich in February 2014. Mr. Parubiy also said he would help establish a friendship group involving Ukrainian and Canadian parliamentarians.

Russia's imprisonment of Ukrainian national deputy and former military pilot Nadiya Savchenko captured global attention, including that of both the Canadian government and the UCC.

On March 8, Minister Dion released a statement in which he expressed concern about Ms. Savchenko's health, noting that she had refused food and water after the Russian court adjourned proceedings and denied her the right to make closing remarks. "Canada has repeatedly underlined that Ms. Savchenko's transfer to Russia was illegal, the charges brought against her politically motivated and her treatment during her detention a matter of grave concern," said Mr. Dion, who noted that the court process had been "marked by irregularities from the start." He called for Ms. Savchenko's immediate release.

On the eve of Freedom for Nadiya Savchenko Global Day of Support, March 9, the day her trial was scheduled to resume, the UCC also issued a statement denouncing the "illegal" court proceedings and "fabricated charges" against 35-year-old Ms. Savchenko, which show "the Russian regime's utter, cynical contempt for international law, due process and human rights." The UCC also praised Ms. Savchenko, who was serving in Ukraine's armed forces in eastern Ukraine when she was taken hostage in June 2014 by pro-Russian forces on Ukrainian soil, for responding to her imprisonment and prosecution "with bravery, dignity and heroism."

"Her resistance to injustice is the embodiment of the determination of the people of Ukraine to defend their country against Russia's brutal invasion," said the UCC statement, which called on Canada and the international community to exert pressure on the Russian Federation to ensure the immediate safe return to Ukraine of Ms. Savchenko and all other Ukrainians illegally imprisoned by Russia.

Ms. Savchenko was eventually released, in May, as part of a prisoner swap with Russia, and visited Canada in early December, meeting with Mr. Dion and International Trade Minister Chrystia Freeland, a Ukrainian Canadian. Ms. Savchenko warned Canadian leaders of the global threat posed by Russia.

Canada should be "relentless in supporting human rights and political rights in Russia and in Ukraine" and "to



Three members of the Canada-Ukraine Foundation's Medical Mission team were recognized with awards presented by President Peter Poroshenko of Ukraine on February 24. Leaders and volunteers of the team are seen above (from left): head anesthetist Dr. Paul Slavchenko; honorees Dr. Carolyn Levis, Dr. Oleh Antonyshyn and Krystina Waler; and Victor Hetmanczuk, president of Canada Ukraine Foundation.

be strong in how" that message is delivered to Russia, which "only understands the language of strength," Ms. Savchenko said in an exclusive interview with the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. (CBC). She said she expects that incoming President Donald Trump, who seeks to establish a better relationship between the U.S. and Russia, "will very soon find out that that you cannot have a warm relationship with a country that has no principles [and] that doesn't respect other democratic rights."

As for her own future, Ms. Savchenko told interviewer Terry Milewski that she is ready to serve her country "in any capacity, either as soldier, politician or president, as long as people want," but that she is "not interested in the presidency for the sake of power." Her involvement in politics, she said, is "a way to change politics in itself," and added that she was "disappointed in the politics we have right now and politics as usual we've had for the last 25 years that has led us to nowhere."

Another – much younger – victim of the hostilities in Ukraine also visited Parliament Hill.

Mykola Nyzhnykovskiy, an 11-year-old boy who lost his legs and an arm in Volodarsk, near the ceasefire line in eastern Ukraine, traveled from Montreal's Shriners Children's Hospital to meet with Prime Minister Trudeau while spending the afternoon of November 9 on Parliament Hill as a guest of Toronto Liberal Member of Parliament Borys Wrzesnewskyj.

On August 24, 2015, Mykola and his brother Danyo were playing with two other friends in a field near their home and saw an object that piqued their curiosity. Mykola picked up what he thought was a toy, but it was a grenade that detonated, immediately killing Danyo and

leaving Mykola a triple amputee with severe injuries to his face, teeth, eyes and other parts of his body.

Dr. Oleh Antonyshyn, a plastic surgeon at Toronto's Sunnybrook Hospital, led a team of 22 volunteer Canadian medical professionals who treated Mykola's facial injuries at a hospital in Kyiv as part of a medical mission to Ukraine organized by the Canada-Ukraine Foundation. The CUF also arranged for Mykola's further treatment in Canada at Montreal's Shriners Hospital, which has provided ongoing assessment and treatment of Mykola's prosthetic needs.

In February, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko presented Dr. Antonyshyn with the Order of Merit, and two other members of the CUF medical mission team – plastic surgeon Dr. Carolyn Levis of Hamilton, Ontario, and Krystina Waler, director of humanitarian initiatives from Toronto – were awarded the Order of Princess Olga in a ceremony in Kyiv. All three were recognized for outstanding achievements in service to Ukraine.

Prolific Ukrainian Canadian journalist Victor Malarek profiled the CUF's medical mission to Ukraine, along with Mykola's plight, on CTV's investigative-news program, "W5," in January.

Crimea on the agenda

Crimea was also on the agenda in Canada in 2016.

On May 18, Crimean Tatar leader Mustafa Dzhemilev met with Prime Minister Trudeau and Foreign Affairs Minister Dion, who told him that Canada will never accept Russia's military invasion and illegal occupation of Ukrainian territory, including Crimea, and that Canada stands shoulder to shoulder with the indigenous Crimean Tatar people. Meanwhile, Mr. Dzhemilev, who sits in Ukraine's Parliament, told CBC News that "if Western countries decide to re-establish relationships with Russia and become friends again, it is a disaster for the entire Crimean Tatar people."

Later in the year, in November, Crimean democracy advocate Hennadii Afanasiev met with parliamentarians and attended a working dinner in his honor with members and associate members of the House of Commons Foreign Affairs and International Development Committee. He shared details of his kidnapping, torture by Russia's Federal Security Service and imprisonment in Russia, after a Russian court convicted him of terrorism and sentenced him in December 2014 to seven years in a maximum security prison. Freed in June 2016, Mr. Afanasiev, who was born in 1990 and holds a law degree from Tavrida National V.I. Vernadsky University in Kyiv, now serves as a special representative of Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and is responsible for helping to free 42 Ukrainians illegally imprisoned in Russia, including filmmaker Oleh Sentsov and Ukrainian activist Oleksandr Kolchenko, who have also been convicted on trumped-up charges of terrorism.

In September, Edmonton Conservative MP Kerry Diotte introduced a private member's bill in the House of Commons to establish a Crimean Tatar Deportation (known as the Sürgünlik) Memorial Day and recognize the mass removal of more than 230,000 Crimean Tatars from their ancestral homeland by Soviet leader Joseph Stalin's



Canada's International Trade Minister Chrystia Freeland and Ukraine's First Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Development and Trade Stepan Kubiv sign the Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement (CUFTA). Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada, and President Petro Poroshenko and Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman of Ukraine witness the signing, which took place in Kyiv on July 11.

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regime in 1944 as an act of genocide. The bill, which received support from the UCC, was defeated at second reading in December.

Bilateral trade opportunities

But it wasn't all bad, or sad, news from Ukraine. Bilateral trade opportunities were a top issue for Canada's government and business communities.

On June 20, a Canada-Ukraine Business Forum, which was presented by the federal department of Global Affairs Canada and Ukraine's Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, in partnership with the Canada-Ukraine Chamber of Commerce (CUCC) and the Ottawa-based national think-tank, the Conference Board of Canada, was held in Toronto. The forum focused on four key sectors: information and communications technologies (ICT), agriculture and food, infrastructure and logistics, and energy efficiency and renewables within the framework of the Canada-Ukraine Trade and Investment Support project (CUTIS), a five-year initiative sponsored by the Canadian government to increase trade and investment between the countries that is being implemented by the CUCC and the Conference Board.

Prime Minister Trudeau was the headline speaker at the one-day event, where he announced that he would make his first official visit to Ukraine in July, and meet with President Poroshenko, Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman and Verkhovna Rada Chairman Parubiy, after attending the NATO Summit of Heads of State and Government in Warsaw. While in Ukraine, Mr. Trudeau would also witness the signing of the much-anticipated Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement (CUFTA).

Canada would continue to defend Ukrainian sovereignty "in response to Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea, as well as its support to insurgents in eastern Ukraine," and Canada stands "firmly" beside Ukraine in its efforts to "strengthen democracy, respect the rule of law, and encourage economic growth," the prime minister told the business forum. "We will continue to contribute assistance and expertise whenever possible, because we understand that a strong democracy is at the heart of economic prosperity," he said. "Ultimately, we want to help create stability in Ukraine so that the middle class can grow and thrive."

That goal took a step closer on July 11 when International Trade Minister Freeland and Ukrainian First Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Development and Trade Stepan Kubiv signed CUFTA in Kyiv in the presence of Messrs. Trudeau, Poroshenko and Groysman.

The trade agreement represents an "endorsement" of the Ukrainian economy and "is about Canada strengthening and deepening its historically close friendship with Ukraine, and of supporting Ukraine at a crucial moment" in its history, Ms. Freeland told *The Weekly* in a telephone interview from Lviv. "We really understand, as do the Ukrainians, that a very important front on which Ukraine is fighting today is the economic front."

Mr. Trudeau's prime ministerial predecessor, Stephen Harper, had announced in July 2015, during then-Ukraini-



Members of the newly elected board of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, including re-elected President Paul Grod, at the 25th Triennial Congress of Ukrainian Canadians, which was held on September 29-October 2 in Regina, Saskatchewan.

an Prime Minister Yatsenyuk's visit to Canada that a bilateral trade deal had been reached following five years of negotiations. A year later in Kyiv, Prime Minister Trudeau told reporters that CUFTA "will improve market access and create more predictable conditions for trade." The milestone agreement, he said, will "bolster" the Canadian and Ukrainian economies, "spur innovation" and "contribute to a stable, secure, prosperous economic future for the people of Ukraine."

Once CUFTA is in force, Ukraine will drop tariffs on 86 percent of Canadian imports, with the rest to be phased out or subject to tariff reductions over the next seven years. Ukrainian tariffs will be eliminated on all Canadian industrial products – from automobiles and medical-testing equipment, to industrial machinery, chemicals and plastics. Meanwhile, Canada will eliminate tariffs on almost all (99.9 percent) Ukrainian imports. Ukrainian products to have duty-free access to Canada include all industrial products, fish and seafood, sunflower oil, sugar and sweets, baked goods, vodka, clothing, ceramics, iron and steel, and minerals.

Ms. Freeland, the 48-year-old Alberta-born daughter of two lawyers who speaks Ukrainian fluently, said that "as a very proud Ukrainian Canadian," affixing her signature to the trade pact had "particular emotional resonance" and was a "great moment" for her – and her family.

The minister's late mother, Halyna Chomiak Freeland, was born in a displaced persons camp in Germany when her Ukrainian Catholic parents – Mykhailo Chomiak and Alexandra (Loban) Chomiak – fled their home in western Ukraine before World War II when "they knew the Soviets

would invade," Ms. Freeland told the *Toronto Star* in 2015. She said her maternal grandparents' experience had a "very big effect" on her, and that "they were also committed to the idea, like most in the [Ukrainian] diaspora, that Ukraine would one day be independent and that the community had a responsibility to the country they had been forced to flee... to keep that flame alive."

During her visit to Ukraine in July, Ms. Freeland noticed a change in the country where she once lived and studied, at the University of Kyiv as an exchange student from Harvard, and where she began her journalistic career as a stringer for the *Financial Times*, *The Washington Post* and *The Economist* in the late 1980s.

"Ukraine is more united and more determined than at any time I've seen it," said Ms. Freeland, who first traveled to the country in 1980. "There has been a big transformation over the past three years – a uniting of Ukrainian society. The Ukrainian people are taking responsibility for themselves and their country."

She said the 2014 popular uprising on Kyiv's Maidan "was called the Revolution of Dignity for a reason, because it was about people taking charge of their own lives. And you can really see that and people are aware of that."

During his visit to Ukraine, Prime Minister Trudeau, who was also accompanied by Mr. Wrzesnewskyj (chair of the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group) and a delegation of community leaders from the UCC led by President Paul Grod, visited the Babyn Yar Monument, the Park of Eternal Glory and the Holodomor Monument and Holodomor Commemoration Museum. The prime minister also visited the Maidan, where he laid flowers honoring the Heavenly Brigade, and the International Peacekeeping and Security Center in Yavoriv in the Lviv region, where he met with Canadian Armed Forces personnel who are providing training to Ukrainian forces as part of Operation UNIFIER.

During his visit, Mr. Trudeau announced that Canada would provide \$13 million (about \$9.7 million U.S.) in humanitarian assistance to support the humanitarian needs of the conflict-affected population in eastern Ukraine; deploy additional Canadian monitors to the Special Monitoring Mission in eastern Ukraine of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; and deploy additional Canadian police to Ukraine, focusing on training and institutional development.

Following his meeting with the Canadian prime minister, President Poroshenko stated, "Canada is not just a special partner, but also a true friend that will not leave Ukraine in a difficult situation."

In November, Minister Freeland tabled legislation in the House of Commons to implement CUFTA, which is expected to soon receive the parliamentary green light in both Canada and Ukraine.

Mr. Wrzesnewskyj told *The Weekly* that Ukrainian businesses operating in Canada under CUFTA would be able to take advantage of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) that includes Canada, the U.S. and Mexico. "A company located in a place like southern Ontario would have access to the U.S. market," Mr. Wrzesnewskyj said.



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, International Trade Minister Chrystia Freeland and Member of Parliament Borys Wrzesnewskyj with the Ukrainian Canadian Congress delegation in Kyiv. The Canadian prime minister visited Ukraine on July 10-12.

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Office of MP Borys Wrzesnewskyj

Over 20 Liberal Members of Parliament donned traditional Ukrainian embroidered shirts to celebrate international Vyshyvanka Day on May 19. Seen above are Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Liberal ministers and MPs, Ukraine's Ambassador to Canada Andriy Shevchenko, and interns from the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program.

But such an entrée won't be that straightforward, according to the president of the Canada-Ukraine Chamber of Commerce (CUCC). "If a Ukrainian company makes a product in Ukraine and brings it to Canada, it won't be able to send it on to the U.S. because it's not a Canadian product," said Zenon Potoczny. "But if a Ukrainian company brings part of a product to Canada and adds something to it in Canada, it can export the product to the U.S. under NAFTA," which Mr. Trump talked about scrapping during last year's American presidential campaign and which Mr. Trudeau said his government would be open to renegotiating.

CUFTA is also seen as providing Canadian businesses with a cost-effective gateway into the lucrative European market, to which Canada will soon have access once a trade agreement with the European Union, signed in late October, is ratified. The Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement is massive, and will give Canada access to a market of more than 500 million people in 28 countries, with a combined GDP of more than \$14.9 trillion (U.S.). By comparison, CUFTA addresses a market where bilateral trade amounted to nearly \$207 million (U.S.) in 2015, of which most was Canadian exports to Ukraine.

The benefit for Canada, in Mr. Wrzesnewskyj's view, is that small and medium-sized Canadian businesses can set up a plant or facility in Ukraine and operate it at a much lower cost than in an EU-member country, such as France. A Canadian business can use Ukraine as its home base in Europe, and tap into the broader continental market through the free-trade agreements Canada and Ukraine have both signed with the EU.

Mr. Wrzesnewskyj also expects CUFTA to provide a boost to both Ukraine's and Canada's strengths in the agricultural and food-processing sectors. "For centuries, Ukraine was a breadbasket country that had a capacity to produce vast amounts of food, and now has tremendous potential to return to that position," he explained. "Canada has that potential too, since in many ways it is looked upon as an incubator for new products and new ideas in the food-processing industry."

The CUCC's Mr. Potoczny believes CUFTA could also help Ukraine tackle corruption, since the pact devotes an entire chapter to transparency, and a section outlining measures to combat bribery and corruption in trade and investments by criminalizing such activity. Those provisions, along with another made-in-Canada chapter on labor that gives workers the rights to join unions and collective bargaining, and sets out employment standards, such as minimum wages and overtime pay, could also serve as a model for Ukraine domestically, he added.

CUFTA's labor provisions mark the first time Canada has incorporated a "progressive" and comprehensive chapter in a free-trade agreement that also addresses such issues as eliminating all forms of forced labor and

banning child labor, Canadian Employment, Workforce Development and Labor Minister Mary Ann Mihychuk told The Weekly in an interview following a November visit to Ukraine to strengthen collaboration between Canada and Ukraine on workplace safety in the context of CUFTA.

Ms. Mihychuk, a Ukrainian Canadian who also serves as the Liberal MP for the north Winnipeg federal riding of Kildonan-St. Paul in the House of Commons, also met with representatives of the International Labor Organization – the only tripartite United Nations agency that brings together governments, employers and workers to develop and set labor standards and policies – to create a training plan involving Ukraine, Canada and the ILO with the goal of improving the safety surrounding working conditions in Ukraine's extractive sector. The three-party, workplace-safety strategy is also supported by CUFTA's labor chapter that requires both countries' labor laws and practices to adhere to ILO principles and rights, including the prevention of occupational injuries and illnesses, and offer compensation in such cases.

A geoscientist for 20 years before entering politics in her home province of Manitoba in 1995, Ms. Mihychuk said that according to Ukrainian government statistics, 26 percent of Ukrainian workers faced hazardous conditions on the job in 2015 – and "in particular, the extractive mineral industry was the most hazardous industrial sector."

She also visited the site of the former Chernobyl nuclear power plant where Canada has contributed \$3.6 million (\$2.7 million U.S.) toward a replacement sarcophagus to help contain and safely store radioactive materials resulting from the catastrophic accident in 1986.

Ms. Mihychuk expressed hope that Ukraine will soon be energy-independent and not have to rely on natural gas imports originating from Russia. Ukrainians need "cheap and reliable fuel," she said, and "coal is under their feet," despite the serious risks this energy source poses to both workers and the environment.

But the Minister added that, as abundant as coal is in Ukraine, it could only be a temporary supply for Ukraine's energy needs, particularly in light of the Paris climate-change accord that came into force on November 4. Both Canada and Ukraine have ratified the global agreement that seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions generated in large part by coal – and Canada could help Ukraine move toward a greener economy and "embrace the principles of climate change," she said. "Canadian companies are looking for opportunities to do some drilling in Ukraine to look for natural gas, which is much cleaner than coal. Ukraine could then be economically self-sufficient – and green."

Closer to home, Ms. Mihychuk said she was exploring the possibility of helping Ukraine's health system through an initiative under way in her home riding. Winnipeg's Seven Oaks General Hospital is home to the Wellness

Institute – a world-class facility that promotes healthy living – and the Ukrainian Canadian minister said she would like it to be used as a model to develop a similar center in Ukraine. She raised the idea with Ukraine's acting Minister of Health Dr. Ulana Suprun, a Detroit-born radiologist, whose husband, Marko, is a native Winnipegger.

Minister Mihychuk also wants to memorialize the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike, which marks its centennial two years from now. The massive labor disruption, which lasted six weeks, involved more than 30,000 people, shut down Canada's then third-largest city and culminated on June 21, 1919, a day known as Bloody Saturday, which is chronicled in Ukrainian Manitoban director Danny Schur's stage musical, "Strike!" The musical features two principal characters of Ukrainian origin and which is being adapted for film with shooting schedule to begin in the summer of 2017 in Winnipeg.

Ms. Mihychuk said she plans to work with members of the UCC and Manitoba's labor movement to create a bronze monument in the form of an overturned streetcar, an iconic image from the 1919 strike. "We want it to be a structure where people can see how the labor movement changed history, not only in Winnipeg but in the world, and how Ukrainians made a positive change for workers," she said.

Internment camp in the news

The Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association has tried to have detainees at an internment camp in Quebec properly remembered.

In early 2016, the UCCLA appealed to the Canadian government to recover the camp cemetery at Spirit Lake, known today as La Ferme, which has fallen into disrepair.

Between January 13, 1915, and January 28, 1917, when Spirit Lake was functioning as an internment camp for so-called "enemy aliens" under the War Measures Act of 1914, the camp had a maximum population of 1,312 internees, including entire families – some 60 of them. Many of those interned were parishioners of St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church in Montreal; most of them were men.

UCCLA chairman Roman Zakaluzny called on Canadian Heritage Minister Mélanie Joly, who represents a Quebec riding in the House of Commons, "to investigate how a cemetery, set up by the federal government, came to be sold to the Province of Quebec, and then re-sold to a private landowner, and whether this internee cemetery, one of the very few of its kind in Canada, should be designated a national historic site." He said that, at a minimum, "this sacred space should be re-consecrated and restored, allowing for internee descendants to hallow the memory of those who died at Spirit Lake – people held behind Canadian barbed wire not because of any wrong they had done, but only because of who they were and where they had come from."

The museum at Spirit Lake broke an attendance record in 2016. Last summer, over 4,000 visitors came to the Internment Interpretative Center, which opened in 2011 and chronicles the history of Spirit Lake – the second largest internment site in Canada – and early 20th century Ukrainian immigration to Quebec.

About 30 miles from there, the Quebec municipality of La Morandière permanently erected the Ukrainian blue-and-yellow national flag next to the flags of the municipality, Quebec and Canada in front of city hall in recognition of the direct contribution early 20th-century Ukrainian immigrants made to this northern region of Quebec. La Morandière is the result of a 1983 amalgamation of two communities – Lac Castagnier (originally called Sheptytsky Colony) and La Morandière – both located 357 miles north of Montreal.

Holodomor awareness

Meanwhile, Holodomor history went on the road in 2016 via a classroom in a 40-foot customized RV that visited six Ontario high schools and three Ukrainian Saturday schools in March and April, reaching more than 650 students with up to four lessons a day.

The Holodomor Mobile Classroom is the centerpiece of the Holodomor National Awareness Tour, a project of the Canada-Ukraine Foundation, developed in partnership with the Holodomor Research and Education Consortium (HREC), the Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Center and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, and which received funding from the Canadian, Ontario and Manitoba governments.

On November 29, the UCC, in partnership with the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group and the

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Legendary Crimean Tatar leader Mustafa Dzhemilev held several informative briefings on Parliament Hill on May 18. He is seen above with executive members of the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group and members of the diplomatic corps.

Embassy of Ukraine in Canada, held a solemn commemoration in Parliament to mark the 83rd anniversary of the Holodomor in Ukraine in which millions of people died from starvation under Stalin. Nadia Zelem, daughter of Holodomor survivor Halyna Zelem, lit a candle at the ceremony attended by dozens of MPs and senators. Canada became the first country to officially recognize the Holodomor as genocide in 2008.

The mood on Parliament Hill was lighter on May 19 when over 20 Liberal MPs, including Prime Minister Trudeau, donned traditional Ukrainian embroidered shirts and sang “Vziav By Ya Banduru,” to celebrate international Vyshyvanka Day.

Unbeknownst to the MPs, their performance of the Ukrainian song was recorded and became a major news item in Ukraine, gathering 70,000 views via Mr. Wrzesnewskyj’s Facebook page.

Two members of Mr. Trudeau’s Cabinet, Veterans Affairs Minister Kent Hehr and Minister of Small Business and Tourism Bardish Chagger, also became the first Canadian MPs to answer questions during Question Period while wearing colorful Ukrainian embroidery.

UCC’s 75th anniversary

In 2016, the UCC turned 75 years old, and to mark that milestone, Mr. Grod and Andriy Shevchenko, Ukraine’s ambassador to Canada, went on a cross-Canada tour, visiting Ukrainian communities from Ontario to Alberta before the UCC held its triennial (and 25th) congress in Regina in the early fall, when Mr. Grod was re-elected as national president.

Mr. Grod said that among the UCC’s priorities over the next three years would be to increase support for Ukraine’s reforms process and strengthen Ukraine’s ability to defend itself against Russia’s war of aggression; build on the UCC’s relationship with the Canadian government

and elected officials; and increase youth engagement and re-establish the UCC parliamentary internship program. He noted that over 40 of the some 250 delegates at the 2016 congress represented Ukrainian Canadian youth organizations, almost twice as many as at the previous congress in 2013.

At the 75th anniversary banquet on October 1, Shevchenko Medals – the highest honor bestowed by the UCC – were presented to 13 people, including writer, translator and cultural activist Orysia Paszczak Tracz, whose “The Things We Do” column appeared regularly in The Weekly. She died on November 10 in Winnipeg after suffering a stroke.

Minister Dion also attended the congress and announced that Canada would provide up to \$8.1 million (about \$6.1 million U.S.) in new funding to support the National Police of Ukraine through training and equipment. “We will stand shoulder to shoulder to support Ukraine in its quest for a secure, stable and prosperous country that could serve as a model in the region and become in itself the best rebuke to [Russian President Vladimir] Putin’s attempts to determine its future,” he told delegates.

In October, the UCC’s Ukraine Appeal initiative shipped 10 ambulances to Ukraine as part of a project that began in 2015 to address the humanitarian crisis that has left over 9,500 people killed and more than 20,000 injured or wounded as a result of the ongoing conflict with Russian-backed rebels.

On November 1, the UCC launched a national fund-raising campaign to raise money for local programs and projects, along with national educational and charitable initiatives, such as ensuring that the Holodomor is included in school curricula across Canada and supporting the completion of a memorial to victims of Communism in Ottawa.

Then, on December 3-4, the UCC Board of Directors,



Three legislators of Ukrainian heritage who have done much for Alberta’s Ukrainian community were honored at the Ukrainian Youth Unity Complex in Edmonton on May 25. During the presentation of gifts (from left) are: Peter Dackiw and Gene Zwozdesky (former member and speaker of the Alberta Legislative Assembly), Ivan Fedyna and Ed Stelmach (former Premier of Alberta), Ivanna Szewczuk and Janice Sarich (member of the Alberta Legislative Assembly).

along with special guests, gathered in Toronto for a strategic planning session. The session focused on developing the resolutions set out by the umbrella organization’s recent triennial congress, as well as other key priorities. The board determined three strategic pillars for the upcoming three-year term of the UCC: developing the Ukrainian Canadian community; celebrating and advancing the Ukrainian Canadian identity; and supporting Ukraine.

Over the summer, the UCC participated in public consultations concerning Canada’s new defense policy and submitted a position paper, which addressed several key points, including a call for Canada to help deter further Russian attacks against Ukraine or other states in the region and play a lead monitoring role at the Ukraine-Russia border in any future peacekeeping mission; help Ukraine strengthen its security forces against foreign aggression; increase the number of the current 200 Canadian military personnel training Ukrainian forces under Operation UNIFIER and extend the mission from 2017 until at least 2020; and conclude negotiations on the Canada-Ukraine Defense Cooperation Agreement to improve interoperability and deepen cooperation and investment between Canada’s and Ukraine’s military.

In September, the UCC also called on G-20 leaders, who were to meet in Hangzhou, China, to suspend Russia’s participation in that world body and bolster sanctions against the country to pressure Mr. Putin to end Russian hostilities against Ukraine and its occupation of Crimea, as well as the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

In Edmonton in May, the Ukrainian Youth Unity Council honored three Ukrainian Albertan legislators, including former premier Ed Stelmach, former Alberta Member of the Legislative Assembly and Speaker Gene Zwozdesky (who successfully introduced the Ukrainian Famine and Genocide [Holodomor] Memorial Day Act, which passed with unanimous support in 2008), and former MLA Janice Sarich, who represented the provincial riding of Edmonton-Decore, where the Ukrainian Youth Unity Complex is located.

In other news, \$1.5 million (about \$1.1 million U.S.) was raised to support an initiative to name a central pathway at the site of the First World War Battle of Hill in honor of Ukrainian Canadian Filip Konowal, the only soldier of Eastern European origin to receive the prestigious British Victoria Cross. The Battle of Hill 70 memorial will be officially unveiled near Lens, France, on April 8, 2017.

A pysanka coin

And finally, to crown the 125th anniversary of Ukrainian settlement in Canada, the Royal Canadian Mint released a \$20 silver coin in the shape and in the colors of the beloved pysanka in early 2016. An image of Queen Elizabeth II (not in color) appears on the verso. The Hutsul pysanka coin (the world’s first-ever in the shape of an egg) sold out in a day at a price of \$114.95 (about \$87 U.S.). Only 4,000 coins were produced.

As for who came up with the idea for the design, perhaps it originated from the late Ms. Tracz, who wrote about the coin in a front-page story in The Weekly’s February 14 issue. In 2014, she had written to the mint and suggested the pysanka-design for a \$1 or \$2 coin. Ms. Tracz got that – and 10 or 20 times more.



The \$20 fine silver pysanka coin released by the Royal Canadian Mint to mark the 125th anniversary of Ukrainian settlement in Canada.

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Ukrainians in the U.S.: Activity and advocacy

Ukrainians in the U.S. were busy with the events, festivals and humanitarian projects of various Ukrainian organizations. With the election cycle coming to a close in November 2016, political advocacy was of the utmost concern for many Ukrainians in the U.S.

Ukraine's wounded veterans – Vadim Sviridenko, Vadym Maznichenko, Col. Ihor Hordiychuk and Oleksandr Kosolapov – who were receiving care at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., were greeted by Christmas carolers on January 10. Singers included local members of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization and the Ukrainian American Youth Association.

The United Ukrainian American Relief Committee (UUARC) continued its great work in delivering humanitarian aid and other medical supplies to Ukraine. Roman Dzivinskyi, who lost his left arm from the elbow and fingers of his right hand during the Maidan revolt in Kyiv, got fitted in Philadelphia for a biomechanical prosthetic hand and arm. Nearly the entire cost of \$47,000 was paid for by UUARC donations. Mr. Dzivinskyi, via Facebook, thanked the UUARC and the Ukrainian American community of the United States, as well as the Touch Bionics Ukraine company that helped design the prosthetics.

For the second year in a row, UUARC hosted children living in the frontline cities of the Donbas for a two-week camping trip in the foothills of the Carpathian Mountains in July-August. The program served nearly 200 children at a cost of \$25,000. Children were also able to enjoy a tour of Kyiv, Lviv and the Ivano-Frankivsk regions.

The St. Joseph's Adult Care Home in Slootsburg, N.Y., is celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2017. In 2016, the Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate, who have owned and operated the facility since 1941, announced their plans to expand and renovate buildings – among them a former carriage house and horse stables – on their 256-acre property. The work would include increasing the number of rooms for senior citizens from 31 to 50. The location was at one time part of an estate that was owned by the great-grandson of Alexander Hamilton. The expansion was estimated to cost \$6 million, and at the time, only \$500,000 had been raised. Major advocacy for the project came from Bishop Paul Chomnycky of the Stamford Eparchy of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, and a \$50,000 initial donation came from Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union, with more contributions promised.

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, in a statement on March 8, called on President Barack Obama to demand the immediate release of Nadiya Savchenko. The UCCA stated that she was being illegally detained after being abducted by Russian authorities on June 17, 2014, and described the farcical show trial. Russia, the statement continued, had clearly violated "her human rights and defies all international standards according to clause 5 of the September 5, 2014, Minsk Protocol, which calls for the immediate release of all unlawfully detained persons." Her treatment as a prisoner of war was a direct violation of the Geneva Convention and Russia must be held accountable, the UCCA said. The statement also called



Members of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization and the Ukrainian American Youth Association visited with and sang Christmas carols for Ukraine's wounded warriors who were receiving treatment at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., on January 10.

on the international community to publicly condemn Russia's illegal imprisonment of Ms. Savchenko and demand that she and other illegally imprisoned Ukrainians be freed.

In a release on July 21, the UCCA said it had met with the Democratic and Republican national committees and each leading candidate's policy advisors to express the foreign policy concerns of Ukrainian Americans in the lead-up to the 2016 presidential election. The UCCA proposed party platform commitments in areas of Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty, maintaining and strengthening sanctions against Russia, rejecting Russian rule of Crimea, the withdrawal of Russian troops and equipment from Ukraine's territory, increased military assistance and training programs with Ukraine, NATO's membership policy and U.S. commitment to its allies, development of civil society with educational, professional and democracy-building programs, reform of immigration regulation with the Visa Waiver Program, U.S. trade and investment in Ukraine, and energy independence from Russia.

On July 31 the UCCA expressed its concerns about statements made by Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, following its June meeting with Sam Clovis, policy advisor for Mr. Trump. The UCCA underscored the reality on the ground in Ukraine, with Russians having invaded Ukraine and Russia's occupation of Crimea. "...The United States, as a signatory to the 1994 Trilateral Agreement, has an obligation to assist Ukraine in defense of its national security and territorial integrity, and its efforts to institutionalize democratic and economic reforms," the UCCA statement noted.

On August 8, members of the UCCA executive board,

who were joined by Bishop Daniel of the UOC-U.S.A. and Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, met at the U.S. Department of State with newly confirmed U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch. Ambassador Yovanovitch noted her ancestral roots – she was born in Canada to Russian immigrants – and thanked the UCCA for its work in Ukraine. She also acknowledged the continued work of the religious communities in Ukraine, and the Ukrainian delegation urged for the ambassador to meet regularly with religious leaders in Ukraine.

Prior to the G-20 summit in China on September 4-5, the UCCA sent a letter of concern to President Barack Obama, arguing that Russia's Vladimir Putin had no place at that meeting. "The UCCA finds it reprehensible that world leaders would consider meeting with President Putin to discuss global economic growth and increasing trade and investment, while the Russian Federation continues to illegally occupy Crimea and wage a hybrid war in Ukraine's Donbas region." The UCCA called on Russia to de-occupy Crimea and to abide by international law, citing the threats to the international legal system posed by Russia's actions. "...the security of the U.S. (and the world's democracies) lies in the expansion of democracy and mutual security guarantees, not the appeasement of imperial states," the September letter stated.

At the XXII Congress of Ukrainians at the Ukrainian National Home in Hartford on September 23-25, Andriy Futey was elected president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America. During the meeting, representatives of branches from across the United States (New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Illinois) ratified more than two-dozen changes to the organization's by-laws. Greetings were offered to the 80 attending delegates by surrogates for presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. Other board members elected to a four-year term included National Council Chair Stefan Kazaraj, (president of the Ukrainian National Association and chairman of the board of the Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union), Executive Vice-President Michael Sawkiw Jr. (director of the Ukrainian National Information Service in Washington), Executive Secretary Marie Duplak and Treasurer Myron Kolinsky. The remaining board posts were announced in December at the National Council meeting. The board includes a representative of the UCCA Educational Council, the director of the Ukrainian National Fund, and appointed representatives of: the Providence Association of Ukrainian Catholics in America, Ukrainian National Credit Union Association, United Ukrainian American Relief Committee, Ukrainian American Youth Association, New Ukrainian Wave, Organization for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine and the Illinois Division of the UCCA.

Also during the congress, the Taras Shevchenko Freedom Award was presented to: Roma Hadzewycz (editor-in-chief of The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda), Marie Duplak (executive secretary of the UCCA), Michael Sawkiw Jr. (director of UNIS), and Dr. Larissa Kyj (director of the UUARC).



Andriy Shegera

Ukrainian Americans at the Ukraina Monument, California State Landmark No. 1025, in Garin Regional Park in Hayward, Calif., on May 21 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the death of the Rev. Agapius Honcharenko.

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Interviewed while in Kyiv, Mr. Futey explained the tasks for the UCCA in the next four years. Using his familiarity with elected officials on Capitol Hill and in his home state of Ohio, he said he will focus on the November presidential election with an information campaign to brief the candidates about Ukraine and the concerns to the Ukrainian American community. Other areas of development for the UCCA are new communities that are just beginning to form and encouraging their involvement in expressing concerns to elected officials on the local, state and federal levels. Also on the agenda are working closely with Ukraine's elected officials to facilitate engagement with Washington, and expanding work with the Ukrainian community's partners in the Central and Eastern European Coalition.

Outgoing UCCA President Tamara Olexy offered her reflections following eight years in office. The first woman president of UCCA, she said she was honored to serve the Ukrainian community at large. She noted that she is proud of advocacy efforts in Washington and locally among Ukrainian Americans, and said that witnessing the unveiling of the Holodomor monument in Washington was among her most treasured accomplishments in office. Russia's attacks against the UCCA were among the major challenges, and this appears to be something that the organization will continue to face as part of Russia's hybrid war. The UCCA continues to grow, Ms. Olexy underscored, and through online resources the UCCA has been able to reach a larger audience. Ms. Olexy thanked the community for its support and underscored that she trusts Mr. Futey's experience to lead the UCCA through the difficult challenges ahead.

In preparation for the presidential election, the UCCA initiated a questionnaire to see where each candidate stood on Ukrainian American issues of concern. The questionnaire included points on military assistance to Ukraine, economic sanctions against Russia, Russian disinformation, NATO and government reform in Ukraine. Mr. Trump's advisor's responses were simple one-word yes or no answers, but Ms. Clinton responded at length, with supportive statements, the UCCA pointed out.

The UCCA released a statement on U.S.-Ukraine relations on November 11, following the election of President Donald Trump. The statement urged no recognition of Russia as ruler of Crimea, called for the immediate withdrawal of Russian forces from Ukrainian territory. The UCCA said the U.S. should continue to assist Ukraine in modernizing its military capabilities in the interest of collective security, provide defensive equipment, promote democratic institutions and stabilization, as well as support NATO's "open door" policy of membership for prospective members, including Ukraine. Russia continues to pose a threat to the U.S. and its allies, the UCCA stated, citing a ban on SWIFT banking as a possible response. The UCCA also urged support for S 2692 and HR 5181 that would create a Center for Information Analysis and Response, and said asset freezes and entry visa denials should be applied to Russia's elite who are suspected of money laundering or involvement in the actions against Ukraine.

With fears of another "reset" of U.S.-Russia relations, the UCCA released a statement on December 13, underlining that any retreat from sanctions or military, political or economic support of Ukraine would signal a capitulation



Christine Jancew Iwanik

Members of the Ukrainian American Youth Association meet with members of the rock band Antytila from Ukraine following the Nadiya Ye Festival on July 1-4 at the UAYA camp in Ellenville, N.Y.

with terrifying consequences for Ukraine. The statement cited Russia's involvement in Georgia in 2008, Russia-Iran ties, Russia's meddling in Ukraine in 2010 to place Viktor Yanukovich in power and with Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2014, as examples of Russia's destabilizing practices. The statement urged Ukrainian Americans to contact their elected officials, promoting #NotAnotherReset.

During a meeting of the UCCA National Council on December 10, two new organizations joined the UCCA – the Ukrainian American Veterans and the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America. More than 20 organizations are now members of the UCCA. The Executive Board of the UCCA discussed various projects for 2017, including an information campaign targeting the Trump administration and new members of Congress. On the agenda for 2017: the 20th anniversary of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Ukrainian World Congress, and the 40th anniversary of the founding of UNIS. Another project is the film "Secret Diary of Symon Petliura" by Oles Yanchuk and the Dovzhenko Film Studio that is scheduled for a 2017 release but needs additional funding to be completed in time for the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army. The board voted to donate \$5,000 to the film project.

The UCCA hailed the U.N. resolution on Crimea adopted on December 19, recognizing Russia as a temporary occupying power in the Ukrainian territory. In a vote of 70-26, with 77 abstentions, the world body reaffirmed Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The UCCA said the majority of the nay votes came from countries that identify with the Commonwealth of Independent States (except Ukraine, Moldova and Azerbaijan) and called for Ukraine's withdrawal from the CIS.

The Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA) announced in April a major donation to the Ukrainian Catholic University's Mental Health Institute in Lviv. The project aims to assist in the treatment of those

suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other mental health issues. Dr. Oleh Romanchuk, director of the institute, stated: "The mental health care system in Ukraine is one of the most neglected areas of the modern health care in our country. The quality of care and medical services for people with mental disorders remains very poor... and is very far away from the current European standards." An initial donation of \$100,000 was delivered to the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation in Chicago. Dr. Ulana Suprun, who is Ukraine's acting Minister of Healthcare and co-founder of the Patriot Defence project, noted that the institute would not only serve the needs of patients, but would also serve as an educational center for students, doctors and psychologists.

For its 65th annual membership meeting of Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union, 270 members gathered at St. George Academy in New York on March 20. In its annual report, the credit union said it ended 2015 with \$1.159 billion in assets, an increase of \$71.4 million (6.6 percent) from 2014. Net income was up by \$1 million to \$10.5 million, membership totaled 14,941, with a dividend return of \$18.5 million. The institution made donations of \$1.5 million to cultural, religious, humanitarian and youth organizations. Many of these organizations were represented at the meeting and people voiced their thanks to Self Reliance New York for its financial support. The meeting voted to re-elect board member Adam Hapij and board chairman Stefan Kaczaraj to three-year terms in office.

The Ukrainian American Youth Association (UAYA), in coordination with the world governing body of the Ukrainian Youth Association (UYA), continued for the second consecutive year the "Warming Hearts with Warmth" campaign. The humanitarian project sent gifts to contacts in Ukraine who distributed them to those children whose parents may currently be on the battlefield or have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of Ukraine. Other participating countries included Canada, Australia, German, Belgium and Great Britain. Gifts were delivered to active centers of the UYA, including those in Kalush, Lviv, Ternopil, Khmelnytsky, Chernihiv, Skvyra, Bobynets, Dnipro and Kyiv.

The UAYA continued its exchange program with Ukraine during the summer camp season. U.S. participants included; Alexandra Gorodiski (Chicago), Lesia Hrycyna (Rochester, N.Y.) and Jessica Demianicz (Jersey City, N.J.); and Ukraine participants were: Lesia Holyk (Ternopil), Daryna Symych and Anya Berezovska (both from Kyiv). The Ukrainian participants spent time at the UAYA camp in Ellenville, N.Y., and at Beskyd camp in Baraboo, Wis. In Ukraine, U.S. participants attended camp north of Lviv near the city of Chervonohrad. The U.S. participants wrote about their experiences, friendships and learning in an immersed environment, and compared it to the U.S. experience.

During the 2016 presidential election, Ukrainians across the United States organized a coalition to oust candidate Donald Trump's campaign manager, Paul Manafort, who was used by the Party of Regions of Ukraine that was headed by the ousted president of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich. On April 23 in New Britain, Conn., on the eve of a presidential primary, Ukrainians picketed on Paul Manafort Drive in front of Central Connecticut State University. Many of the protesters described Mr. Manafort



Irene Rejent Saviano

Delegates at the XXII Congress of Ukrainians of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America at the Ukrainian National Home in Hartford, Conn., on September 23-25.

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as a "Trojan horse" for Vladimir Putin.

For the 40th time, New Yorkers celebrated Ukrainian culture, music and dance at the annual St. George Ukrainian Festival on May 20-22 in front of St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church on Seventh Street (between Second and Third avenues). Founded in 1976 to mark the bicentennial of the United States, the annual street festival has been a success thanks to the various organizations that support the event, including the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, The Ukrainian Museum, Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, Razom, the Lemko Research Foundation, Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union and the Ukrainian National Association.

California Ukrainians commemorated the 100th anniversary of the passing of the Rev. Agapius Honcharenko on May 21 at Garin Regional Park. The events included a panakhyda (requiem service) at the Rev. Honcharenko's gravesite, a walk to the Honcharenko homestead site that has been declared a California State Historic Landmark, and musical performances by a bandura trio as well as a Ukrainian Brass Orchestra from Sacramento, Calif. The Rev. Honcharenko lived with his wife in the Hayward Hills from the late 1800s to the early 1900s and is cited as being a nationally conscious Ukrainian who served as a pillar in assisting Ukrainian immigrants in the U.S.

Razom, a non-profit organization founded in 2014 to support the people of Ukraine, hosted its annual meeting in New York on June 25 at the Ukrainian National Home. Since its founding, it has launched six initiatives: Razom IT, Razom Culture, Razom Think with UkrOko.org, Reformers without Borders, Razom Aid with Toy Drive and Razom Partners. Participants learned more about planned projects for the future. The meeting also featured artists, including Waldemart Klyuzko and Sashko Danylenko, musicians Roman Bardun Trio, Letters to Nepal and pianist Alex Pryodny. A fashion show was organized by Ira Lysa. The event was made possible by donations from the Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union, the Veselka Restaurant and the East Village Meat Market.

The Nadiya Ye Festival celebrated its sixth consecutive year at the UAYA resort in Ellenville, N.Y., on July 1-4. The festival program headliner was Antytila from Ukraine. Other performers included DJ Stas, Bratya z Karpatya, the Iskra Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, singers Yulia Vusko and Olga Obertos. There was a zabava to the tunes of the Svitanok band. Taras Topolia, lead singer of Antytila, met with the campers at the UAYA camp to discuss life in Ukraine since the Revolution of Dignity and the hopes for Ukraine's future.

Chicago hosted a fund-raiser on July 17 to support psychological rehabilitation centers in Kyiv and Sloviansk in Ukraine that are coordinated by the Kyiv Mohyla Academy. The featured performers at Chicago's City Winery included R&B singer Lynne Jordan and her band, The Shivers, and Ukrainian pop star Oleh Skrypka. Ms. Jordan and her band had performed in Ukraine in 2000, and noted how Ukrainians are survivors. This led her band to break out the song "I Will Survive." Mr. Skrypka, who had a brief rehearsal with The Shivers, was joined by jazz singer Olha Tsyvntarna. More than \$57,000 was raised from the event, which was sponsored by the Chicago-based Heritage Foundation and the Selfreliance Foundation.

The Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS), the Washington public affairs arm of the UCCA, launched its



Participants of the 2016 Ukrainian National Credit Union Association annual meeting in Somerset, N.J., on September 30-October 1.

#SupportUkraine campaign to bring attention to the situation in Ukraine in light of Russia's invasion and occupation of Ukrainian territories. Events included Ukrainian Days advocacy events, rallies in front of the White House, as well as outreach to the mass media. While Congress was on recess for the month of August, the #SupportUkraine campaign kept up the pressure on elected officials in Washington to maintain pressure on Russia. Among the other events was a celebration marking the 25th anniversary of the independence of Ukraine that was held in Washington on September 15 with members of Congress.

The Lemko community was very active in 2016, with the 16th annual Lemko Vatra in Ellenville, N.Y., at the UAYA camp on June 25-26. The event was an affirmation of Lemko identity, culture and traditions, as well as a commemoration of the forced relocation of Lemkos after the second world war, known as "Akcja Wisla." The Lemko Vatra in the U.S. included performers, dancers and singers, and a crowd favorite, the annual pig roast. Other features at the Vatra included a book presentation by Prof. Stephen Rapawy and informative booths set up by the Lemko Research Foundation, including a Lemko History and Heritage Tent, as well as genealogical guidance by Justin Houser and Michael Buryk.

Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization marked a first in its U.S. camps with a Rock Climbing Camp at Seneca Rocks, W.Va., that began on August 7. Initiated by Dartsia and Marko Jakubowycz, who have traveled throughout the area, climbers had a chance to scale 300-foot rock faces. Led by Seneca Rock Mountain Guides, the campers not only accomplished ascents but were provided with aerial footage that was shot via drone.

The Ukrainian American community in Parma, Ohio, marked the 25th anniversary of Ukraine's independence with its annual parade on August 27. The 1.5-mile parade

route stretched from the Cleveland Selfreliance Federal Credit Union to the entryway of the Ukrainian Village section of Parma on State Road. Major landmarks in the Ukrainian Village include over 40 businesses as well as St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral and St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral, where the festival stage was located. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio), a co-chair of the Ukrainian Congressional Caucus, greeted the crowd and encouraged steadfast support for Ukraine in the face of Russian aggression. Greetings were also read from Sen. Rob Portman (R-Ohio) and Gov. John Kasich.

Sen. Portman, who received a Taras Shevchenko Freedom Award from the UCCA, released a campaign ad in the Ukrainian language that was broadcast on October 18. The ad included his endorsement by the Ukrainian Civic League. Other ads by Sen. Portman were run in local Ukrainian newspapers, as well as Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly.

The U.S. Helsinki Commission, formally known as the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), was recognized by the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation (USUF) on September 14 at the "Ukraine in Washington" Forum. The CSCE was founded more than 40 years ago and serves to support human rights and democratic practices. Since 1991, the Helsinki Commission has supported the development of a democratic Ukraine, including highlighting the effects of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster in 1986. More recently, the organization has pointed to violations of human rights in Russia-occupied Crimea and eastern Ukraine. "The Helsinki Commission's efforts then and now must never be forgotten as they were – though often like cries in the wilderness – critically important in keeping the truth of Ukraine alive and in providing a rallying point for so many efforts that eventually helped Ukraine shed the Kremlin's shackles," Nadia McConnell, president of USUF said.



Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-N.J.) receives the Taras Shevchenko Freedom Award from the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, represented by Executive Secretary Marie Duplak (left) and past president Tamara Olexy, at his office in Paterson, N.J., on November 2.



The Holodomor memorial service is led by hierarchs (from left) Bishop Paul Chomnycky, Metropolitan Antony and Bishop Emeritus Basil Losten at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York on November 12.

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The U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, with the Friends of Ukraine Network, in December launched a policy dialogue with President-elect Trump and his transition team, headed by Vice-President-Elect Mike Pence. Many of these policy recommendations were discussed during the Ukraine in Washington Forum that was held on September 14 on Capitol Hill and October 25 at the National Press Club. The U.S. Congress, it is hoped, will work to inform the Trump administration about Russia and its threat to Ukraine and the U.S.

The Ukrainian American community met with various elected representatives and senators in Washington, including Sen. Portman, Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-N.J.) and Sen. Chris Coons (D-Del.). Many of these meetings were held as part of advocacy events to thank and recognize officials for their support of Ukraine. The UCCA chaired the November 3 meeting in Parma of the Ohio nationalities communities, including the Ukrainian, Polish, Lithuanian, Latvian, Czech, Slovenian, Serbian, German, Slovak, Romanian, Italian, Macedonian and Lebanese communities. Joining the meeting were Sens. Portman and John Barroso (R-Wyo.). Issues of concern centered on Russia's threat to the United States and its allies in Europe.

The first anniversary of the unveiling of the Holodomor Memorial in Washington was marked on November 7. Ukraine's Ambassador to the U.S. Valeriy Chaly opened the commemorative event that included prayers offered by Ukrainian Orthodox and Ukrainian Catholic clergy, as well as Ukrainian religious and patriotic songs sung by the Kyiv Chamber Choir following its concert in Washington.

The Ukrainian National Credit Union Association (UNCUA) held its annual meeting on September 30-October 1 in Somerset, N.J. The 35 delegates who represented 11 Ukrainian American credit unions elected a new board and celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Ukrainian National Federal Credit Union with a banquet and dance at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Somerset. The next meeting is to be held in Washington, and it will mark the 65th anniversary of the Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union.

Hundreds of Ukrainians gathered on November 12 at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York to commemorate the Holodomor of 1932-1933. Bishop Paul Chomnycky of the Ukrainian Catholic Church's Stamford Eparchy noted, in his opening remarks, that the Holodomor is not a lesson for Ukraine, but for the whole world that such an atrocity should never be repeated anywhere. Other statements of support and remembrance were made by Ambassador Chaly, Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), UCCA President Futey, Metropolitan Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Ambassador to the U.N. Volodymyr Yelchenko, and William Pope, senior advisor for Europe to the U.S. Mission to the U.N. Responses during the memorial service were sung by the Dumka Chorus of New York. Metropolitan Antony thanked Cardinal Timothy Dolan for the use of St. Patrick's Cathedral and urged people to take up "the sacred responsibility of sharing the history of the Holodomor" as the only way to prevent another such genocide. A statement by the White House that was read at the event, noted the deliberate nature of the famine but it refrained from using the term "genocide" to describe the Holodomor.

Academia: Anniversaries, conferences, new initiatives

The Ukrainian community saw a productive year in the academic realm with myriad symposia, roundtables and initiatives aimed at furthering understanding of Ukrainians' history and national identity, as well as current developments in Ukraine.

Especially noteworthy throughout 2016 were the 40th anniversary commemorations of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS). Founded at the University of Alberta in 1976, CIUS has expanded over the decades to comprise programs in Canada and, after 1991, in Ukraine. To celebrate this milestone, the CIUS organized a series of events throughout Canada.

On October 1, representatives from the CIUS offered a presentation at a session of the XXV Congress of Ukrainian Canadians being held in Regina, Saskatchewan. Titled "40th Anniversary of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies: Past Present and Future," the session included talks by Jars Balan, coordinator, Kule Ukrainian Canadian Studies Center; Bohdan Klid, assistant director of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies; Volodymyr Kravchenko, CIUS director; and Alla Nedashkivska, director of the Ukrainian Language Education Center.

Later that month, on October 14-15, CIUS hosted a two-day conference titled "Ukrainian Studies in Canada: Texts and Contexts" at the University of Alberta, where the dean of the Faculty of Arts, Lesley Comack, called the CIUS "a jewel in the Faculty of Arts." About 125 people attended the conference, and around 600 others viewed it live online from around the world.

In his keynote address, Bishop Borys Gudziak, spoke of the impact of CIUS in Canada and abroad, especially in Ukraine. The featured speaker, Andriy Shevchenko, Ukraine's ambassador to Canada, emphasized the importance of the work that institutions such as CIUS have done for the development of Ukrainian identity. Thirty scholars and community figures from across Canada and abroad reviewed the history of the institute and the development of Ukrainian studies as an interdisciplinary field. In five roundtable sessions, they discussed the challenges and opportunities confronted by scholars in Ukrainian studies due to the changing intellectual landscape of the humanities, the corporatization of universities and fiscal constraints.

Also to celebrate its 40th anniversary, CIUS published a full-color commemorative overview titled "CIUS: Forty Years of Excellence." The beautifully designed 56-page "ruby jubilee" publication was available in hard copy as well as online.

A major endeavor at CIUS, the Digital Archive Project – which aims to digitize, systematize and describe the core publications of the institute that have been produced over the last 40 years – made great progress. As of December 2016, the CIUS Digital Archive Project website contains the following materials: 33 books published by CIUS Press; 65 research reports; all the back issues of the Journal of Ukrainian Studies; all the back issues of the



Presenters who spoke on October 1 about the 40th anniversary of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the XXV triennial Congress of Ukrainian Canadians were (from left): Volodymyr Kravchenko, Jars Balan, Alla Nedashkivska, Bohdan Klid and Roman Yereniuk.

CIUS Newsletter; and other materials, including a complete set of CIUS press releases. The project is ongoing and will ultimately include video materials, including recordings of lectures, conferences and symposia; and digitized copies of important historical documents. The website of the CIUS Digital Archive Project is <http://cius-archives.ca/>.

Major forums in New York, D.C.

Speaking of conferences, among the most active groups in this regard was the Center for U.S.-Ukrainian Relations (CUSUR), which sponsored or co-sponsored six major forums, including several that are annual events.

The Ukrainian Weekly carried detailed news stories about two of them, both special events presented in New York as part of the "Ukrainian Historical Encounters Series." The first, "Commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Modern Ukrainian State," took place at the Princeton Club on September 17, and the second "Ukraine at 25: A December 1st Remembrance," was held at the Shevchenko Scientific Society.

The first was a symposium that attracted over 150 attendees. Government and non-government representatives, as well as renowned scholars came together to discuss the historical significance of Ukraine, and to delve into the country's prospects for achieving mature nation statehood and becoming a full-fledged member of the Euro-Atlantic community. The day was capped off by speeches by three former Cabinet-level government officials: Gov. Tom Ridge, who had served as the first U.S. secretary of homeland security in 2003-2005; Ambassador Madeleine Albright, who had served as U.S. secretary of state in 1997-2001; and Borys Tarasyuk, Ukraine's minister of foreign affairs in 1998-2000 and 2005-2007, and current chair of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Sixteen leading Ukrainian organizations local to the New York City area signed on as co-sponsors of the event. Throughout the conference, perspectives of Ukrainian diaspora organizations were included as an important voice in interpreting Ukraine's past, present and future. CUSUR's Walter Zarycky was the program coordinator.

In December, CUSUR partnered with the Shevchenko Scientific Society to present a symposium that commemorated the 25th anniversary of the national referendum in which more than 91 percent of Ukraine's electorate voted to confirm Ukraine's August 24 declaration of independence. Speakers at the forum – including scholars, journalists, diplomats and political activists – offered personal stories, eyewitness accounts and commentary on Ukrainian history since the referendum.

In the final session, Myron Rabij, a global partner with Denton's, the world's largest law firm, reflected: "Twenty-five years have brought a new generation of young people into the forefront of society – those that never lived under the USSR and know of it only from history class, and others who can barely remember it and frankly know August 24 and December 1 as simply incontestable historical dates. Those young people are now fighting for their country and are building their country – the only one they have ever really known – with no nostalgia or connection to the Soviet past."



Tom Cecil (via drone)

At what was the first Rock Climbing Camp ever held by Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization in the U.S., campers summit Seneca Rocks holding a Ukrainian flag. The camp took place in West Virginia on August 7-13.

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John Welsh

Jonathan Peri, the new president of Manor College, is pictured with Manor College Board of Trustees Chair Leonard Mazur before his inauguration on April 21.

Others conferences organized by the CUSUR and its partners included these held in Washington: U.S.-Ukraine Security Dialogue VII, whose topic was "Taking New Measure of Russia's 'Near Abroad': Assessing Security Challenges Facing the 'Frontline States,'" which took place on February 25; the U.S.-Ukraine Working Group Yearly Summit IV: "Providing Ukraine with an Annual Report Card," held June 16; and Ukraine's Quest for Mature Nation Statehood Roundtable XVII: "Ukraine and Religious Freedom," on October 27.

At the end of 2016, on December 9 in New York, the CUSUR was involved in presenting a discussion on "Contemporary Lithuanian-Ukrainian Relations: Common Concerns; Common Approaches; Common Solutions; Common 'European' Future." The event was organized by the Ukrainian Institute of America and the Lithuanian-American Community, New York district.

Universities and colleges

In early January, the Harriman Institute at Columbia University announced its spring schedule, with eight courses and several events in Ukrainian studies, and Prof. Sergei Zhuk as associate visiting professor. In these classes, students were able to explore topics such as: challenging traditional Soviet/Russian historical interpretations of Ukrainian history; how consumption of Western books, movies and music contributed to the crisis of Soviet identity after Stalin; and historical perspectives on the development of current Ukraine, contentious issues and non-issues in Soviet and Post-Soviet studies. Additionally, in the spring, Serhiy Zhadan presented the English-translation of his award-winning novel "Voroshylivhrad" and Valentyna Kharkhun delivered a lecture titled "Museums of Communism in Ukraine within the Context of Political Memory."

For the fall semester, Columbia offered six different courses, with Dr. Simone Belleza, a research fellow in contemporary history from Italy, as the visiting professor. The term's courses examined nation and identity, the evolution of Ukrainian history, the role of the Ukrainian cultural dissent in the 1960s in the national debate during the Soviet period, and how Ukraine's foreign policy can

ensure international support for its efforts to rebuff the aggression in the east of the country.

That semester also saw a lecture by Mykola Riabchuk titled "Examined by War. New Bonds and Old Cleavages in the Post-Maidan Ukrainian Society," as well as the 14th installment of the Contemporary Ukrainian Literature Series, which featured poet, screenwriter and journalist Lyuba Yakimchuk.

Both the spring and fall semesters offered three levels of Ukrainian language instruction, as well as screenings of the newest Ukrainian films through the Ukrainian Film Club of Colombia University under the directorship of Dr. Yuri Shevchuk.

On February 1, Manor College in Jenkintown, Pa., hosted a forum and public discussion titled "Ukraine 2016: A Stability Dialogue at Manor College." The event addressed what Western countries can do to promote future peace and stability in Ukraine. Featured speakers included Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio), Ukrainian National deputy Andrey Artemenko, Ukrainian businessman and investor Alex Rovt, former Congressman Curt Weldon and former U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense Bruce Weinrod. The college noted that it plans to feature more Ukrainian-themed programming in the future.

There was major news at Manor College in the spring, when Jonathan Peri was inaugurated as its ninth president – and its first lay president. Leonard J. Mazur, chairman of the Manor College Board of Trustees (and co-founder of Akrimax Pharmaceuticals, LLC) conducted the investiture ceremony on April 21. Mr. Peri had been with Manor College since November 2015, when he was selected by the board after an extensive national search. He succeeded Sister Mary Cecilia Jurasinski, who served as the college's president for 30 years and now serves as the director of the Ukrainian Heritage Studies Center at Manor. Previously, Mr. Peri was vice-president and general counsel at Neumann University (Aston, Pa.).

Speaking of Manor, President Peri underscored: "It is a Ukrainian heritage institution, founded by and faithful to its Ukrainian Catholic Sisters of St. Basil the Great. Manor College is the only Ukrainian heritage institution for higher education in the United States – we are incredibly proud of



Andrij V. Dobriansky

One of the panels at the symposium held on September 17 at the Princeton Club of New York to mark "The 25th Anniversary of the Modern Ukrainian State" was devoted to "Contemplating Ukraine's Further Future." Mykola Hryckowian (right) reads the prepared remarks of Paul Goble of the Jamestown Foundation; seated (from left) are moderator Serhii Meshcheriak (formerly of the Council of Economic Security and Defense of Ukraine), Yuriy Sergeyev of Yale University, Janusz Bugajski of the Center for European Policy Analysis and Herman Pirchner of the American Foreign Policy Council.

our Ukrainian heritage." Today the two-year college, which was founded in 1947 as St. Macrina College, offers more than 30 majors and has a variety of partnerships with other colleges and universities that allow its students to earn associate, undergraduate and graduate degrees.

In September, The Weekly reported on Mark von Hagen's appointment as interim director of Arizona State University's Melikian Center for Russian, Eurasian and East European Studies. Prior to his appointment Prof. von Hagen taught at Columbia University for 24 years. He also served as the chair of the history department and directed the Harriman Institute, where he developed Ukrainian studies in the realm of humanities and social sciences. Prof. von Hagen remarked, "The Ukrainian language, like all the languages we teach at the Melikian Center's Critical Language Institute, is a gateway to a rich culture and dynamic society. After two years of Russia's war with Ukraine, the teaching of this language will also likely become a national security priority for the United States." He added, "I remember fondly and gratefully the generosity of the Ukrainian communities of North America for our Ukrainian programming during my Columbia years."

In November, The Weekly reported that the University of St. Michael's College (USMC) at the University of Toronto had come to an agreement with the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute Foundation (MASIF) about the relocation of the Sheptytsky Institute from Ottawa to Toronto as an autonomous academic unit within the Faculty of Theology. The Sheptytsky Institute was founded by Father Andriy Chirovsky in 1986 at Catholic Theological Union, a graduate school of ministry in Chicago. In 1990, at the request of the Ukrainian Catholic bishops of Canada, it relocated to Ottawa. The institute publishes a peer-reviewed journal, as well as books and audio-visual materials. It is supported by the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute Foundation and operates under the moral and financial aegis of the Ukrainian Catholic hierarchy of Canada.

Special events

In February, The Weekly reported on an exhibition titled "Maidan. Ukraine. Road to Freedom" hosted by the



NaUKMA

U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Geoffrey Pyatt spoke on March 11 at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy about the future of U.S.-Ukraine relations.



Bohdana Urbanovych

"What is Left of 'Two Ukraines'? New Divisions and New Connections in Ukrainian Society, 2014-2016" was the title of a lecture by Mykola Riabchuk at the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family on June 12. The event was sponsored by the Washington chapter of the Shevchenko Scientific Society.

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UHEC of NJ

"Pin your ancestral village" was the task assigned to participants of the genealogy conference held on November 4-5 by the Our Ancestors Family History Group – the Nashi Predky Initiative – at the Ukrainian Historical and Educational Center of New Jersey in Somerset.



Yaro Bihun

The Rev. Bohdan Prach (right), rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University, receives the 2016 Antonovych Foundation award from the foundation's president, Ihor Voyevodka (center), and board member Andriy Lewycky.

Jackson Institute for Global Affairs at Yale University and the Yale World Fellows program. Curated by Serhiy Fomenko of Kyiv and previously presented in Berlin, London, Los Angeles, Washington and New York City, the exhibit included the works of Maidan participants: artists, musicians, filmmakers, photographers, journalists and writers, who documented their individual views of the Maidan events. Hundreds of students, faculty and visitors came to view the exhibit. The opening reception featured a panel discussion with Marci Shore, associate professor of history at Yale; Stathis Kalyvas, Arnold Wolfers Professor of Political Science at Yale; Timothy Snyder, Bird White Housum Professor of History at Yale; and Sviatoslav Vakarchuk, activist, singer and 2015 Yale World Fellow.

On March 11, U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Geoffrey Pyatt spoke at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy on the future of U.S.-Ukraine relations. The ambassador shared his optimism about Ukraine's long-term future. "Ukraine should be a very wealthy country. You have all the ingredients in terms of human capital – its civil society organizations, your culture, your pride, the deep sense of patriotism that the bitter experience of the past two years has helped to reinforce." He continued, "My message to you is to be confident that if you stick to the path of reform, the United States and your other international partners in the G-7 will stand with you, because we want to see Ukraine succeed." He also commented on the war in the east and Russia, affirming, "The United States is very clear that there is a victim and an aggressor in this conflict... I think the challenge now is to consolidate peace through the Minsk agreement, to deliver good governance for all of Ukraine, to include the occupied territories."

On June 12, over 50 people gathered at the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family in Washington to hear Ukrainian political commentator Mykola Riabchuk discuss changing Ukrainian attitudes. In his lecture titled, "What is left of 'Two Ukraines'? New Divisions and New Connections in Ukrainian Society, 2014-2016," Mr. Riabchuk cited a variety of statistics to demonstrate that the stereotypical conception of "two Ukraines" – one patriotic and pro-Western, the other Russian and pro-Soviet – is misleading. According to him, the "other" Ukraine does not have a Russian identity, but rather a different kind of Ukrainian identity. Furthermore, the balance has changed in recent years, so that the patriotic and pro-Western portion of the population is now dominant.

In October, also, two online academic conferences were held to discuss the newest international research about language, culture and higher education reform in post-Maidan Ukraine. Offered in English, the peer-reviewed presentations featured 30 speakers from 18 universities in eight countries. Presenters reported their research findings in a number of areas, including language, literature, national identity, culture and others. Over 650 participants tuned into the 14 20-minute talks online. The conferences are archived on the website of the Research Initiative on Democratic Reform in Ukraine (RIDRU) at <http://ridru.artsrn.ualberta.ca/2016/09/23/language-and-culture-in-post-maidan-ukraine-transformations-at-work-and-higher-education-reform-in-post-maidan-ukraine/>.

In November, the Our Ancestors Family History Group – the Nashi Predky Initiative – at the Ukrainian Historical

and Educational Center of New Jersey held its third annual fall conference, titled "Research Essentials: Combining the Basics with 21st Century Technology," in Somerset, N.J. The initiative began in 2014 with the goal of helping Ukrainians, Lemkos, Boykos, Rusyns, Jews with Ukrainian roots and others in the U.S. learn about their family histories, collect stories and documents about their immigrant ancestors, preserve family records and trace lineages. Speakers at the November 4-5 conference were nationally known experts in Eastern European genealogy.

November also saw the announcement of a new laureate of the Omelan and Tatiana Antonovych Foundation. The Rev. Bohdan Prach, rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, received the award for his work documenting "the Golgotha of the Ukrainian Catholic clergy." During the presentation ceremony at the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington, the foundation singled out the Rev. Prach's latest accomplishment: the publication of his monumental two-volume work: "The Clergy of the Peremyshl Eparchy and the Apostolic Administration of Lemkivshchyna."

Special projects

A story in The Weekly on October 2 featured the back story behind the "Memory Books of Lemkivshchyna 1944-1946," a book written by Yaroslava Galyk and published with the support of the Lemko Research Foundation (LRF) in the U.S.A. The book contains the names of Lemkos who were deported to Ukraine between 1944-1946. The record contains full names, years of birth, fami-

ly relationships within households, original villages of residence and finally the Ukrainian oblasts to which they were resettled. Dr. Galyk obtained these lists from the original resettlement documents presently located in the State Archives of Lviv Oblast.

Throughout 2016, despite the challenges of conducting excavations in Baturyn, Chernihiv Oblast, at a time of war, Ukrainian and Canadian archaeologists and historians proceeded with researching the town and publishing their findings. In the summer of 2016, about 70 students and scholars from the universities of Chernihiv, Hlukhiv and Sumy, and the National University of the Kyiv Mohyla Academy took part in the annual Baturyn excavations. On October 30, The Weekly featured an article by Dr. Volodymyr Mezentsev of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) at the University of Alberta, who is the Canadian executive director of the Baturyn archaeological project. Dr. Mezentsev reported on the 2015-2016 work of these scholars, including hypothetical reconstructions of the interior of Mazepa's palace, as well as excavations of the site of a wooden church at Mazepa's manor and of the remnants of the household of Judge General Vasyl Kochubei.

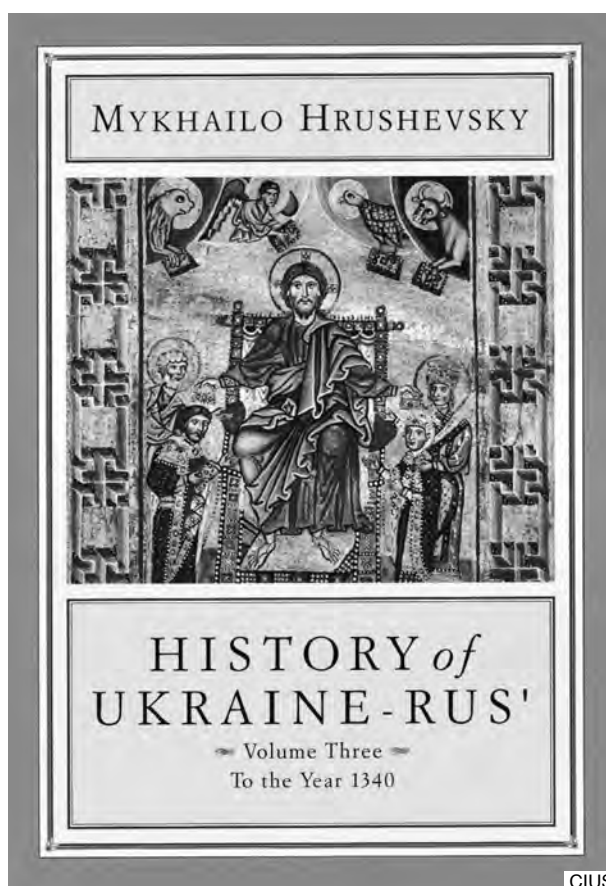
In December, the Peter Jacyk Center for Ukrainian Historical Research of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta and CIUS Press announced the publication of a new volume of Mykhailo Hrushevsky's "History of Ukraine-Rus'." The new English-language Volume 3, like the eight volumes previously published (between 1997 and 2014), was prepared by the Jacyk Center's Hrushevsky Translation Project. The volume, subtitled "To the Year 1340," also marked the 150th anniversary of Hrushevsky's birth.

The Holodomor

Ongoing throughout 2016, The Weekly reported on several initiatives and events regarding the Holodomor, underlining its importance in various fields within academia. The first were scholarly conferences held in Calgary, Alberta, and in Lviv, organized by the Holodomor Research and Education Consortium (HREC).

At the University of Calgary on May 31, the HREC organized the panel "Refugees and the Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine: Accounts of Flight, Early Testimonies, Memoirs and Other Writings (1930s-1950s)" at the conference of the Canadian Association of Slavists (CAS), the major Canadian professional organization in Slavic studies. The conference was part of a larger gathering of 69 member organizations of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences.

On June 26 HREC invited speakers to examine the role of demonization and the "othering" of Ukrainians in the context of the Holodomor. The panel was part of the Lviv conference of the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies, an international organization with more than 3,000 members that supports teaching, research and publication related to Central Asia, the Caucasus, Russia and Eastern Europe. Titled, "Images of 'the Enemy' and the Holodomor in Ukraine (1920s-1950s)," the panel focused on three distinct collections of primary sources on the 1928-1933 period in Ukraine.



Cover illustration of the "History of Ukraine-Rus'," Volume 3: "Christ in His Glory," from the Egbert (Trier) Psalter (11th century).

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On September 15 at another HREC-sponsored event, Prof. Oleh Wolowyna of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill spoke at a University of Toronto seminar titled, "What we now know about the Holodomor: New research results." His presentation addressed the results of research conducted in collaboration with a team of demographers in Ukraine. Prof. Wolowyna noted the progress achieved in the study of the Holodomor, particularly since the opening of Soviet-era archives. However, much is still unknown and common assumptions about the Famine have been shown to be inaccurate. His presentation focused on three topics: questionable "facts" about the Holodomor; direct losses by oblasts in Ukraine; and comparison of famine losses at the regional level in Ukraine and Russia.

Also in September, Valentina Kuryliw, director of education at the HREC, traveled to Kyiv to deliver master classes for educators on new methodologies for teaching about the Holodomor. The symposium "The New Ukrainian School: Teaching about the Holodomor and other Genocides" was attended by teachers from throughout Ukraine. While research on the Holodomor has increased in recent years, the Famine has yet to be integrated into curricula at all levels of education in Ukraine, and many Ukrainian teachers are only now beginning to consider how the subject should be taught in the 21st century classroom. Among the topics addressed at the symposium were developments in research on the Holodomor, the deportation of the Crimean Tatars and other genocides. Mrs. Kuryliw encouraged educators to embrace themes related to human rights in their teaching of the Holodomor, as a means of broadening the Holodomor's applicability across disciplines, including history, law, politics, literature, civics and media studies.

The Holodomor was also a central theme at the symposium "Empire, Colonialism and Famine in Comparative Historical Perspective," held October 28-29 at the University of Toronto. This was the fourth international conference organized by the HREC at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies. The conference featured presentations on the Irish Famine, the Holodomor and the Bengal Famine of 1943 by scholars and genocide specialists. The meeting also welcomed 20 early career scholars from around the world whose research interests ranged from famine relief in colonial India, visual culture of the Irish famine and hunger in 20th century Ghana, to empire and public health in the Caribbean in the 20th century.

On November 11, the 19th annual Ukrainian Famine Lecture was delivered in Toronto by Serhii Plokh, Mykhailo Hrushevskyi Professor of Ukrainian History and director of the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute. His presentation, attended by a full auditorium at the University of Toronto, was titled "The Fields of Sorrow: Mapping the Great Ukrainian Famine." The event was

organized by the HREC with the support of the Petro Jacyk Program for the Study of Ukraine, the Canadian Foundation for Ukrainian Studies and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (Toronto branch). Prof. Plokh provided an overview of the HURI project "Mapa: Digital Atlas of Ukraine." One of the most striking maps, "Total Direct Famine Losses in Ukraine by Region, 1932-1934," shows that the area hardest hit by the Holodomor was the central Ukrainian heartland in the Kyiv and Kharkiv oblasts rather than the main grain-growing region of southern Ukraine, which had suffered the most during the famine of the early 1920s when the Soviet Union had accepted food aid.

On November 17, the Holodomor was the topic of presentations at the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington at an event organized by the Shevchenko Scientific Society's District of Columbia chapter, together with the HREC and the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America. Speakers included: Frank Sysyn, director of the Peter Jacyk Center for Ukrainian Historical Research at CIUS, who spoke about the evolution of the study of the Holodomor in the West and his experience with the Harvard Famine Project; Bohdan Klid, director of research at HREC and co-editor with Alexander Motyl of "The Holodomor Reader: A Sourcebook on the Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine" (2012), who gave an overview of HREC's major publication projects; HREC Executive Director Marta Baziuk, who described activities of HREC that engage scholars from a range of fields; Larysa Kurylas, the design architect and sculptor of the Holodomor Memorial in Washington, who described the genesis of the memorial's design and challenges in its execution; and Liudmyla Hrynevych, director of the Holodomor Research and Education Center in Kyiv, who spoke on the topic "The Holodomor and the Language of Hate in Stalinist Propaganda."

Finally on November 20, an article by Lana Babij followed up on an earlier report on the Holodomor information project, stating that during this year's peak period for school reports (March through June) the Holodomor information website, www.holodomorct.org, received approximately 75,000 visits, showing the growing popularity of the website throughout the English-speaking world. There is obvious interest and need for an online guide to Holodomor resources that are authentic and comprehensible to the general public and students of varying ages and backgrounds; that meet today's educational standards; and that are readily accessible to a social media-savvy population. Created in 2007, the website's original intent was to inform the Connecticut public of the upcoming 75th anniversary commemoration plans of the newly formed CT Holodomor Awareness Committee. The website has since turned into a passionate commitment for its webmistress, Natalka Sazonova. Still a work-in-progress, the site is looking to add new features and welcomes all comments.

Culture and the arts in all their diversity



Vasyl Slipak, a Ukrainian opera singer who left the Paris National Opera in 2014 to fight Russia-backed militants in eastern Ukraine was killed on June 29 by sniper fire.

The year 2016 witnessed several anniversary celebrations of important Ukrainian artists and seasoned Ukrainian ensembles and organizations, as well as the birth of new groups. Even when not directly related to the ongoing specter of war in their homeland, the activities of Ukrainian artists and performers found a resonance far beyond their local communities.

Music

The operatic world mourned the tragic death of baritone Vasyl Slipak, a soloist for 20 years with the Paris National Opera, who was killed by sniper fire in eastern Ukraine on July 29. Born in Lviv, Mr. Slipak, a former member of the Dudaryk boys' choir, returned home to participate in the 2014 Maidan Revolution and joined the Right Sector 7th Battalion to fight Russia-backed militants near Luhansk.

Adopting the nom de guerre "Meph" (a reference to the aria of Mephistopheles from "Faust"), Mr. Slipak told his colleague at the Paris Opera, Guillaume Dussau, that it "was about culture and the freedom of his country... he insisted Ukraine needed him more than French opera." In Paris he was well-known for his powerful portrayals from "Carmen," "Aida" and "Faust" to rarities like Ulmann's "Emperor of Atlantis." Major media outlets throughout the world covered the story about the opera singer-turned warrior.

On March 20, Toronto's Vesnivka Choir launched the first phase and public presentation of its ambitious e-library of Ukrainian choral music sheet music in the public domain of its webpage (www.vesnivka.com/e-Library). The goal is to share the choir's vast collection of over 1,000 works composed by Ukrainian composers and by Canadian composers of Ukrainian heritage. This initiative was created as a legacy project of Vesnivka's 50th anniversary and as a gift to all who share the love of singing and Ukrainian choral music. The archives allow the downloading of sheet music either in the original Ukrainian or in a transliterated form, using the English alphabet. This most valuable program also provides an audio recording and a YouTube link to view the actual score as a synthesizer generates all the voices. Now many Ukrainian songs with informative historical notes will be easily available to choir directors and singers all over the world.

Also in March in New York, Music at the Institute presented a program by the ensemble Origo directed by Eric Rice called "Musical Grammar in 17th Century Cracow and Kyiv." The aim was to show the pollination of Western (Italy and Germany) musical styles in the lands of the East – Poland and Ukraine. Half the program was devoted to the divine liturgy of Mykola Dyletsky, one of the most important figures in early Ukrainian music and author of the first book on musical theory in Eastern Europe, "Musical Grammar."

Violinist Solomiya Ivakhiv in February released her CD recording of 20th and 21st century Ukrainian music for violin and piano. Together with her pianist, Angelina Gadeliya, Dr. Ivakhiv began to record these compositions the previous summer. One unique aspect of the CD is the close personal collaboration she has with the living Ukrainian composers. Dr. Ivakhiv explained, "For me this was deeply personal as well as professional. I wanted to expose the journey of the featured Ukrainian composers and to raise awareness of Ukrainian musical culture." Each of the composers faced many obstacles in trying to main-



An event related to the Holodomor was held at the Embassy of Ukraine on November 17. Speakers included (from left): Oksana Shulyar, counselor and head of the Political Section of the Embassy; Bohdana Urbanovych, head of the Shevchenko Scientific Society's Washington chapter; Dr. Frank Sysyn, director of the Peter Jacyk Center for Ukrainian Historical Research at CIUS; Larysa Kurylas, architect/sculptor of the Holodomor Memorial in Washington; Liudmyla Hrynevych, director of the Holodomor Research and Education Center in Kyiv; Marta Baziuk, executive director of the Holodomor Research and Education Consortium; and Bohdan Klid, director of research at the HREC.

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Anatoliy Mushtuk

The newly founded Women's Bandura Ensemble of North America presented its first full-fledged concerts in October and November. Above, the ensemble is seen during its concert at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Conn., on November 19.

tain his artistic voice during times of harsh Soviet oppression. The CD features the music of Borys Liatoshynsky, Myroslav Skoryk, Valentyn Silvestrov, Yevhen Stankovych and others. Naxos Records distributed the CD "Ukraine - Journey to Freedom" to over 9,000 libraries and the album is currently in the top six classical music albums on iTunes.

The newly formed Women's Bandura Ensemble of North America gave its first concerts, titled "Expanding Traditions," at The Ukrainian Museum in New York on February 13 and in October-November in Detroit, Cleveland, Whippany N.J., and at Wesleyan University in Connecticut. The ensemble has 20 members from several states and Canada. The programs included a wide mix of instrumentals, vocals, smaller quartets and solos.

Four members of the Canadian Bandurist Capella presented a concert called "Bandura Without Borders" at The Ukrainian Museum in New York on May 21. In their first program as a quartet, Ivan Dusanowskyj, Borys Ostapienko, Orest Chornomaz and Oleksander Petlura omitted all vocals, instead showcasing the possibilities of the modern bandura instrument. In addition to more familiar Ukrainian folk tunes, the concert featured arrangements of Mozart, Bizet and even a pop song by Steven Tyler and a set of variations on a tune from the movie "Pirates of the Caribbean."

The Canadian Bandurist Capella presented two concerts in January in the Greater Toronto area, combining with the St. Elias Church Singers of Brampton Ontario, and two Toronto women's choirs, Dibrova and Levada.

The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art in Chicago on February 21 hosted a recital by two opera stars: internationally acclaimed bass Stefan Szkafarowsky and Lviv Opera soprano Marta Zaliznyak-Derzhko.

Three Ukrainian performers assumed principal roles in a new production of Modest Mussorgsky's "Boris Godunov" at the Commonwealth Lyric Theater in Boston in May. Adrian Bryttan conducted a cast that included soprano Olga Lisovskaya as Ksenia and Dmytro Pavlyuk, bass soloist from the Odesa Opera, in the title role.

On May 14, Crimean Tatar R&B/soul-style singer Jamala succeeded in drawing the world's attention to the Russian government's persecution of her people by winning the annual Eurovision Song Contest with her song "1944" about Stalin's mass deportations and genocide. This was widely reported as a victory for Ukraine and the Crimean Tatars. Former winner and singer Ruslana wrote: "What's most important to me is that Ukraine is sending the world a message with this song of its deep pain and strong spirit. Only something real is capable of transmitting that energy! Ukraine looks like the real thing."

Pianist Mykola Suk opened The Washington Group Cultural Fund's 2016-2017 Music Series with his solo recital on October 2, featuring Myroslav Skoryk's Partita No. 5, which Mr. Skoryk composed and dedicated to Mr. Suk. Another notable concert was held on November 13 with jazz pianist John Stetch.

The Ukrainian National Museum in Chicago held its annual fund-raiser on September 24 with the theme of a



Mykola Dyletsky's Divine Liturgy was among the compositions performed at the Ukrainian Institute of America during a program on "Musical Grammar in 17th Century Cracow and Kyiv" on March 5. Seen above is "Circle of Fifths," from Dyletsky's "Musical Grammar" (1675), the Eastern Europe's first book on music theory.

"living exhibit" of the renowned Chicago-based band Good Times and its contribution to the Ukrainian American heritage.

In Washington on November 6, the 21-member Kyiv Chamber Choir, directed by Mykola Hobdych, sang the last of nine concerts of its 2016 "Sounds of Ukraine" tour that began in Chicago and continued through Cleveland, Toronto, Rochester, N.Y., Hartford, Conn., Boston, New York and Philadelphia. Enthusiastic audiences welcomed its programs, which combined the best examples of Ukrainian sacred and classical songs with folk music, as arranged by contemporary Ukrainian composers.

Art/Folk Art

2016 saw a kaleidoscope of artistic activity, from traditional folk art genres to cutting-edge contemporary artists.

The Ukrainian Museum in Chicago on January 8 launched its "Bohdan Soroka (1940-2015) Retrospective Art Exhibit" devoted to the artist's most recent graphic series, including Ukrainian Christmas traditions, angels, musicians, the four seasons and Ukrainian wooden churches. The son of politically active parents, Mr. Soroka was born in a prison in Lviv, where his mother was being held for assisting in anti-Soviet uprisings. The artist has



Yaro Bihun

Kyiv Chamber Choir conductor Mykola Hobdych joins his choristers in responding to the audience's ovation at the conclusion of their Ukrainian sacred and folk music concert at the National City Christian Church in Washington on November 6. The concert was part of the choir's "Sounds of Ukraine" tour of the U.S.



Stephanie Braue

Violinist Solomiya Ivakhiv in February released a CD recording of 20th and 21st century Ukrainian music for violin and piano that was ranked in the top six classical music albums on iTunes.

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“Bohdan Soroka (1940-2015) Retrospective Art Exhibit” opened at the Ukrainian National Museum in Chicago on January 8. Seen above is “Musicians” (2011).

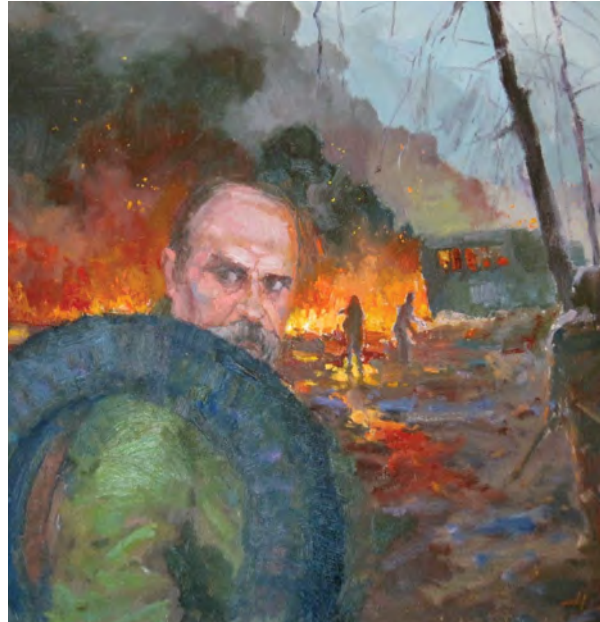
had personal exhibits in Ukraine, England, Germany, France and Canada, and throughout the United States.

A unique exhibit titled “Invasion Redux” depicting the hybrid war waged by Russia in Ukraine opened at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York on January 22. Kyiv-based artist Mykola Zhuravel offered viewers a look at current events in Ukraine not as a documentary, but as a highly personal metaphorical reflection with striking elements of surrealistic grotesque. Through his paintings, 3-D panels, installations and videos, Mr. Zhuravel created a phantasmagorical world of life-sized Russian TV propaganda “zombies” and aggressive bears with videos linking to flight MH17 shot down by Russian terrorists and zombies towering above Kyiv buildings.

Another multi-media exhibit, “Ukraine Exists,” which was also on view at the United Nations, opened on January 31 at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey in Whippany. Dubbed a “Project of Truth and Art,” this exhibit featured installations, posters, embroidery, calligraphy and ceramics by various contemporary artists in war-torn Ukraine. By developing the theme of a country tearing itself away from the Soviet past, the various artists underscored that through their works they are not indifferent to the fate of Ukraine and its people. This exhibit later travelled to the Ukrainian National Museum in Chicago.

An exhibition of paintings, titled “Folkways and Fantasies,” by Jewish scholar and artist Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern opened at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York on February 7. Professor Petrovsky-Shtern teaches at Northwestern University in Chicago. His paintings evoke fantastic fairy-tale imagery and echoes from the artist’s conflicted unconscious.

Marta Kuzma, vice-chancellor and rector of the Royal Institute of Art in Stockholm, was appointed to be the next dean of the Yale School of Art on February 9. Born in New Jersey, Ms. Kuzma brings more than 25 years of experi-



The multimedia exhibit “Ukraine Exists,” which was on view at the United Nations on January 8-20, opened on January 31 at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey (UACCNJ). Seen above is a detail from “Hryhorovych,” a painting by Yura Shapoval.

ence in leading international institutions of contemporary art as a curator, writer and academic.

Kyiv-based artist Petro Bevza exhibited his paintings exploring metaphysical imagery titled “Jordan” also at the UIA on March 18. As stated in the title, the central imagery is of water in Ukrainian folk traditions as cleansing and as a symbol of longevity, renewed emotions, and irresistible force. Mr. Bevza attempts to unlock the hidden secrets of immediate and distant spiritual memory.

Marking its 40th anniversary, The Ukrainian Museum in New York launched an exhibition of the works of an artist long associated with the museum, titled “Jacques Hnizdovsky: Content and Style. Evolving Perspectives” on March 13. Mr. Hnizdovsky had designed the museum’s logo for its debut in 1976. This current exhibit comprised more than 100 works, including oils, woodcuts, linocuts, ceramics, sculptures and drawings.

Approximately 200 people attended the 40th anniversary banquet celebration for The Ukrainian Museum in New York on April 17 at the Tavern on the Green in Central Park. Honored guests included Ambassador of Ukraine to the United Nations Volodymyr Yelchenko, Consul General in New York Igor Sybiga and representatives of many Ukrainian organizations.

Co-curators Myroslava Mudrak and Tetiana Rudenko received the 2016 Alfred H. Barr Award for Smaller Museums, Libraries, Collections and Exhibitions for the catalogue “Staging the Ukrainian Avant-Garde of the 1910s and 1920s,” which accompanied the exhibition organized by The Ukrainian Museum in New York in cooperation with the Museum of Theater, Music and Cinema Arts of Ukraine in Kyiv. The jury deciding on the award made it clear that “these artists, filmmakers, dancers, scenographers, theater directors and costume designers deserve to be considered alongside their better known counterparts in the Paris and the Russian avant-gardes.”



An exhibition of 29 paintings by scholar and artist Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern, titled “Folkways and Fantasies,” opened on February 27 at the Ukrainian Institute of America. Seen above is “Carpathian Dream” (2009).

A contemporary take on the age-old Kozak Mamai image was displayed starting on June 12 at The Ukrainian Museum in New York in an exhibit of the works of Lviv-based artist Orest Skop. While referencing the traditional role of Mamai as musician/warrior of the steppes, musician/philosopher and a sort of Ukrainian Robin Hood, Mr. Skop imbues his colorful paintings with the imagery of the new contemporary Ukraine.

The ancient and colorful Petrykivka art style was on prominent display during Philadelphia’s Fairmount Avenue Arts Crawl festival on June 3-5. This art form began as painting on adobe white-washed walls, beams and hearths, as well as furniture and household items. This exhibit was presented by the Cultural Trust of the Ukrainian League of Philadelphia. The Petrykivka style was recently added to the list of “Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity” by the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage. In 2003, an exhibition of Petrykivka masters took place at UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

In a unique cross-cultural exhibition, The Ukrainian Museum in New York presented Romanian and Ukrainian folk textiles side by side beginning on October 9. Titled “Carpathian Echoes: Traditional Textile Materials and Technologies in the Carpathian Mountains of Romania and Ukraine,” the exhibit featured complete costumes, sashes, shirts, vests and coats woven out of colorful fabrics made of hemp and sheep wool. This exhibition was the result of a fruitful collaboration between guest curator Dr. Florica Zaharia from the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Lubow Wolynetz, curator of folk art at The Ukrainian Museum.

Meanwhile in Cleveland, another collaboration took place between the Costume Society of America and the Ukrainian Museum-Archives. For its 2016 project, the CSA trained UMA volunteers on professional handling of pre-



Andy Wowk

Seen at The Ukrainian Museum’s 40th anniversary celebration at Tavern on the Green on April 17 are some of the event’s sponsors (from left): Alexandra Sawczuk, Dr. Ihor Sawczuk, Prof. Jaroslaw Leshko (past president), Alla Leshko, Luba Firchuk, Prof. Renata Holod (current president), Prof. Oleh Tretiak.



Walter Ciszewycz

When the Costume Society of America held its annual meeting this year in Cleveland on May 24-29, it chose for its “CSA Angels Project” the Ukrainian Museum-Archives. Seven college professors, four professional textile conservators and more than a dozen volunteers came to the UMA to clean, catalogue and place more than 300 items into acid-free storage boxes.

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Sean Murphy

Damian Kolodiy's film "Freedom or Death" was screened on February 4 at the Ukrainian Center in Passaic, N.J., as part of a commemorative evening marking the second anniversary of the sacrifices made by the Heavenly Brigade. Mr. Kolodiy (center) is seen here with community activists and the event's organizers.

cious textiles and other costume-related apparel. The UMA textile collection consists of over 1,000 items from the late 19th century to the present day. In all, the CSA provided the UMA with services and equipment valued at over \$30,000.

In early October, Adrian Bryttan presented a series of lecture exhibits in Tannersville, N.Y., showcasing his large-sized gold-leafed sculptures based on Scythian themes. He conducted two classes for students and faculty at local high schools.

On October 14, the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York opened an exhibit of paintings by Lviv-born artist Serhiy Hai depicting archaic motifs with echoes of Hellenic and Etruscan art, such as riders and horses, nudes, masks and still lifes.

And in Chicago on October 30, the Ukrainian National Museum showcased the paintings of Khrystyna Kozyuk, titled "A Colorful Kaleidoscope of Cultures." Ms. Kozyuk uses oversized canvases to experiment with a variety of vibrant colors, textures and shapes.

Seven contemporary Ukrainian American artists from the New York City area were featured in the exhibition titled "CIM" at The Ukrainian Museum on December 11. The participants were Luba Drozd, Adriana Farmiga, Maya Hayuk, Roman Hrab, Yuri Masnyj, Christina Shmigel and Marko Shuhan; they had studied at places like Bard College, Pratt Institute, Cooper Union and the School of Visual Arts. A wide variety of materials and styles was the hallmark of the exhibit from the representational to conceptual, incorporating drawing, painting, sculpture, installation, video and sound.

The year closed with a far-reaching decision on December 14 by the Amsterdam district court, which ruled that the priceless collection of gold artifacts on loan to a Dutch museum when Russia occupied Crimea must be returned to Ukraine. While provoking an angry Russian reaction, the decision drew praise from Ukraine, whose president said it means "Crimea is ours, period." The battle for the return of the Scythian treasures had been fought in the Dutch courts since early 2014. However, if

the Dutch legal system accepts appeals in this case, the treasures could still remain in storage for months more pending a final appeal.

Film

According to filmmaker Damian Kolodiy, more video footage has been collected and archived from Maidan events than since the 2004 Revolution. On February 4, Mr. Kolodiy's documentary film "Freedom or Death" was screened in Passaic, N.J., at a commemorative evening marking the two-year anniversary of the sacrifices of the fallen Heavenly Brigade during the Maidan Revolution. Mr. Kolodiy also related his experiences showing the film in Donbas, Sloviansk, Kramatorsk and Mariupol. The filmmaker explained the change within Ukrainians in Ukraine after the screenings "because the film hit them a lot harder than the diaspora audience due to the information bubble created by Russia, and the way we showed the facts on the ground. The film serves as a tool for learning." A similar screening was held in Philadelphia.

"Julia Blue" is a film about a university student, Julia, falling in love with a traumatized soldier in war-torn Ukraine. The filmmakers held a panel discussion at St. George Academy in New York City on April 3 to discuss their movie, then in post-production. "Julia Blue" was shot entirely on location with breathtaking cinematography of the Carpathian Mountains and Kyiv, and was written and directed by Roxy Toporowych. On November 28, Ms. Toporowych was announced at the 26th annual Gotham Independent Film Awards as the winner of the Calvin Klein Spotlight on Women Filmmakers "Live the Dream" grant. The \$25,000 cash award aims to further the careers of emerging women directors by supporting the completion, distribution and audience engagement strategies of their first feature film or episodic series.

Ariadna Ochrymovych, an independent film producer and director, interviewed Holodomor survivors in every city in Canada for her documentary "Holodomor: Voices of Survivors." It was screened at the Yorkton Film Festival in Saskatchewan on May 28 and at the International Short



Julia Blue/Facebook

Filmmaker Roxy Toporowych on November 28 at the 26th annual Gotham Independent Film Awards with actress Margot Robbie. Ms. Toporowych won the Calvin Klein Spotlight on Women Filmmakers "Live the Dream" grant.

Film Festival in Selby, the United Kingdom, on July 30. One version of this film was cut to 30-minute length so it could be used in schools as part of the "Holodomor National Awareness Tour" in Canada.

On October 14, "Women of Maidan," a feature documentary by filmmaker Olha Onyshko made its world premiere at the 17th annual Woodstock Film Festival in Woodstock, N.Y. The film is set in the harsh winter and recounts the violent backlashes of the Berkut police at Maidan. Women who risked everything standing side by side with their men became the core and heartbeat of a movement that united and ignited Ukrainian society. While editing her film, Ms. Onyshko began coordinating efforts to bring wounded soldiers to the United States for medical treatment. In 2014, she received recognition from the U.S. House of Representatives and the Embassy of Ukraine for her extraordinary work.

Filed in eastern Ukraine, the feature documentary film "Okradena Zemlya" premiered at the Ukraine House in Kyiv on November 25 and was greeted with a standing ovation. Montreal filmmaker Yuriy Luhovy combined Holodomor survivor testimonies, commentaries by historians, recently declassified Soviet archival documents and rare historical footage. The English version, "Genocide Revealed," gathered 12 international awards, including best Historical Film and Best Documentary.

Theater

One of Ukraine's most distinguished cultural institutions, Lviv's Maria Zankovetska Theater presented its production of Mykola Lysenko's "Natalka Poltavka" on a tour of Stamford, Conn., New York City, Lindenhurst, N.Y., Detroit, Chicago, Cleveland and Philadelphia in the first weeks of April. Based on the 1819 play by Ivan Kotliarevsky, "Natalka Poltavka" is a classic Ukrainian operetta, whose themes of a marginalized culture evoke George Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess" and Leonard Bernstein's "West Side Story."

On June 3, Yara Arts Group in New York City launched an ambitious new theater piece, dramatizing the meetings of the great Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko with Ira Aldridge, the great African American Shakespearean actor. "Dark Night Bright Stars" explores how these two great artists, who rose from serfdom and slavery, and found a common language in art and song, even though they could not speak to each other directly. Their meetings in 1858 were documented in the diary of Count Tolstoy's 15-year-old daughter, who also acted as translator. The production by Virlana Tkacz included excerpts from Shevchenko's poems and Aldridge's stage monologues. The original musical score was by Julian Kytasty. "Dark Night Bright Stars" was also performed before Ukrainian audiences in Odesa, Lviv and Kyiv.

Dance

2016 marked the anniversary celebrations of two major dance companies that have been showcasing Ukrainian culture for many years not only in America, but internationally. The Hromovytsia Dance ensemble was founded in Chicago in 1980 by Roxana Dykyj and her hus-



Nick Syzonenko

The Iskra Ukrainian Dance Academy and the Iskra Ukrainian Dance Ensemble that emerged from it, celebrated 20 years of educating youngsters and delighting audiences with their productions of Ukrainian folk dance. "A Celebration in Dance," was presented on October 16 at the College of St. Elizabeth in Morris Township, N.J.

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band, Ivan Pylypczak. Thirty-five years later, the company comprises over 45 dancers age 18-40 dedicated to reshaping the very definition of Ukrainian dance. Hromovytsia travelled to Ukraine in 2003 and 2011. In 2007 the troupe embarked on a European tour that took the dancers to Florence, Rome, Strasbourg, Munich and Paris.

And on October 16, the Iskra Ukrainian Dance Academy and the Iskra Ukrainian Dance Ensemble that emerged from it, celebrated 20 years of educating youngsters and delighting audiences with their productions of Ukrainian folk dance. Presented as “A Celebration in Dance,” the program at the College of St. Elizabeth in Morris Township, N.J., was a journey through Ukraine’s various regions, as well as the journey in the life of a young dancer from neophyte to seasoned performer. Iskra’s first artistic director was the renowned Roma Pryma Bohachevsky, who was dedicated to teaching dancing shaped by ballet. Iskra’s current artistic director is Andriy Cybyk. Programs include a pre-dance class for children age 3-5 and a dance fitness class for adults.

Literature

The biennial \$25,000 Kobzar Literary Award Ceremony and Dinner was held on March 2 in Toronto. Exploring Ukrainian Canadian themes, the five Kobzar finalists shared their personal motivations and recited excerpts from their shortlisted books. Shevchenko Foundation President Andrew Hladyshevsky told the audience that it was interesting to have finalists of non-Ukrainian background as “those authors express how they have been influenced by core Ukrainian Canadian values that have emanated out in ripple effect to other communities.” The 2016 Kobzar Literary Award was presented to Indiana-born Maurice Mierau for his book “Detachment: An Adoption Memoir” about a Mennonite father and his two newly adopted boys from Ukraine.

Photography

The U.S. Agency for International Development on January 15 sponsored an exhibition at America House in Kyiv of photos taken by young people internally displaced by the conflict in eastern Ukraine. The exhibition also toured Kharkiv, Zaporizhia, Dnipro, Odesa, Severodonetsk, Sloviansk and Lviv.

On April 24, prize-winning photojournalist Marta Iwanek won first place from the National Press Photographers Association for the best photo in the category of Photojournalism, Portrait and Personality, an international award. The powerful photo shows an 11-year-old boy of Ukraine on his bed after being admitted to Shriners Hospital for Children in Montreal. Ms. Iwanek also received an award for the best Single Multimedia Project for her work on "The Amazing Repair of Charlie's Tiny Heart," which documented open-heart surgery at Sick Kids.

Exhibits

On April 26, students at Wesleyan University in Connecticut commemorated the 30th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear tragedy in Ukraine with a performance of "Voices from Chernobyl." Adapted, produced and directed by Wesleyan history major Rachel Santee, this imaginatively produced performance consisted of 10 monologues from the book of the same title by Nobel laureate Svetlana Alexievich. Accompanying the performance was a gallery exhibition of photographs titled "Chernobyl + 20: This is Our Land, We Still Live Here."

An exhibit of photographs, campaign buttons and memorabilia, signs and fliers going back to the 1910s titled “Politics and Ukrainian-Americans” debuted on July 18 at Cleveland’s Ukrainian Museum-Archives. Citizenship manuals from the 1920s and ‘30s showed Ukrainians enjoying their ethnicity while learning, becoming naturalized and ultimately voting. A special display consisted of rare buttons like an “I Like Ike” button in Ukrainian, and buttons for different nationalities for Nixon, from Armenians to Ukrainians. The United States is a nation of immigrants and visitors to UMA quickly realize this is not just a Ukrainian museum, it’s an American museum.

The Ukrainian Museum in New York marked Ukraine's Independence with two exhibitions opening on September 11: "In Metal, On Paper: Coins, Banknotes and Postage Stamps of Independent Ukraine, 1991-2016" and "Money, Sovereignty and Power: The Paper Currency of Revolutionary Ukraine, 1917-1920." Together these two exhibitions provided a unique opportunity for visitors to take a walk through Ukraine's 1,000-year-old history from ancient to contemporary times.

Ukrainian National Association: caring for our community

Traditionally, the UNA marks the beginning of a new year with the release of its new Almanac. The Almanac of the Ukrainian National Association for 2016 (Petro Chasto, editor) marked several notable anniversaries, including the 70th anniversaries of both the so-called Lviv Sobor of 1946 that liquidated the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church by proclaiming a “reunion” with the Russian Orthodox Church and of the famine of 1946 in Ukraine.

Also at the beginning of the year, on January 19, the UNA coordinated a meeting between U.S. Rep. Frank Pallone (D-N.J.) and several leaders from the Ukrainian American community at the congressman's New Brunswick office. Included in the group were: Andrij Dobriansky from the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Walter Zaryckyj of the Center for U.S.-Ukrainian Relations, as well as Roma Lisovich, UNA treasurer, and Yuriy Symczyk, UNA fraternal coordinator. The congressman had reached out to Mr. Symczyk, expressing his desire to meet with leaders of the Ukrainian American community to share details from his trip to Ukraine and reaffirm his efforts in continuing to help Ukraine, including providing military and humanitarian assistance, and supporting a Crimean annexation non-recognition bill.

As always, the UNA continued to care for its members of all ages. The organization's scholarship program continued in 2016 and an editorial in the April 17 issue of The Ukrainian Weekly highlighted that popular fraternal benefit. "It's that time of year when our high school seniors are making decisions about where to attend college – decisions that will have a far-reaching effect on their future. ... Thus, it's a good time to remind readers that our publisher, the Ukrainian National Association, offers scholarships and monetary awards to college students who are its members. In fact, you may have noticed that this newspaper and our sister publication, Svoboda, have been running advertisements announcing that applications for the 2016-2017 academic year are now being accepted..."

The editorial also noted that the program traces its beginnings to the informal granting of scholarship assistance almost since the organization's founding in 1894 and that since its formal establishment in 1964, the UNA has disbursed over \$2 million to students. The UNA's 2016-2017 scholarship recipients were featured in the September 4 issue of *The Ukrainian Weekly* (and in *Svoboda* as well) – just as the new academic year got under way. Notably, that issue was distributed during the hugely popular Labor Day weekend festivities at the Soyuzivka Heritage Center, which are attended by hundreds of our community's young people. For the 2016-2017 school year, the UNA assisted 42 of its student members with scholarships totaling \$11,050.

The UNA Seniors – rebranded as “Savvy Seniors” – held their annual conference and getaway at Soyuzivka on June 12-17. On the agenda were informative presentations, workshops, delicious meals and various fun activities.

Also in June, a front-page story in *The Weekly* cited the work of the Ukrainian National Foundation (an affiliated

Congratulations to the UNA scholarship winners for 2016-2017!

by Mary Davis

The United Nations Association, a U.S. federal incorporation, annually awards scholarships to graduate students at the UNA who are serving degrees at institutions of higher learning in the U.S. and Canada for the 2016-2017 school year. The UNA Scholarship committee awarded 42 students with Scholarships totaling \$1,100, of which \$5,500 were set aside for special scholarships.

Applicants for the special scholarships were reviewed by the UNA Scholarship Committee and winners were determined based on academic achievement, financial need, field of study and activity in the United Nations area.

The Joseph and Irene Galadikoff Scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 was awarded to Alexander Teter, member of UNA Branch 277 who is an honors student at Wagner College in Staten Island, NY. Teter is a physics student at Wagner College in Staten Island, NY. Teter is an honor and Joe Teter is a member of Phi Kappa Phi at college as a volunteer of the Physics Academic Association, where he spent eight hours on volunteer projects. He also serves as vice-president of the Catholic student club at the college. In the Russian community, Mr. Teter is a graduate of St. Michael School of Ukrainian Studies in Hartford, Conn. and performed with the Zolotyi Prometey dance ensemble as a member of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (UAYA). He also worked as a member of the UNIS sports and youth center.

The Drs. Maria, Imprimeo and Ula Lemonsky Scholarship, in the amount of \$1,000 was awarded to Matthew Hantley, student at UNA Branch 617 who is an honors student studying computer science at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ. He is with minor Ukrainian studies. Mr. Hantley worked to keep Ukrainian traditions the School of Ukrainian Studies in Newuch, NJ, and as a member of the United Nations Young Organization. He attended many UN events and worked as a member of the UN Youth Council and with the high school jazz ensemble, and as a member of the UN Youth Council, where he remains active, he remains active with the Rutgers Ukrainian Student Club.

The UNA Branch 134 Scholarship in the amount of \$700 was awarded to Larissa Kozlovskaya, member of UNA Branch 134 who is a graduate student in Biology at Eastern College in Hartford, Conn. She is a graduate student in Biology at Eastern College in Hartford, Conn. She is a graduate student in Biology at Eastern College in Hartford, Conn. She is a graduate student in Biology at Eastern College in Hartford, Conn.

The Joseph Muth Scholarship in the amount of \$700 was awarded to Larissa Kozlovskaya, member of UNA Branch 134 who is a graduate student in Biology at Eastern College in Hartford, Conn. She is a graduate student in Biology at Eastern College in Hartford, Conn. She is a graduate student in Biology at Eastern College in Hartford, Conn.

Alexander Teter
(UNA Branch 277)
Wagner College

Matthew Hantley
(UNA Branch 617)
Rutgers University

Larissa Kozlovskaya
(UNA Branch 134)
Eastern College

Matthew Hantley
(UNA Branch 617)
Rutgers University

Maria Kozlovskaya
(UNA Branch 617)
Rutgers University

Larissa Kozlovskaya
(UNA Branch 134)
Eastern College

Larissa Kozlovskaya
(UNA Branch 134)
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Eastern College of NJ

The first page of the UNA scholarship awards supplement that appeared in the September 4 issue of The Ukrainian Weekly.

company that performs charitable activities on behalf of the UNA), the Markian Paslawsky Fund and the Kyiv-based International Alliance for Fraternal Assistance, who are working together to develop a modern rehabilitation space at the Lviv State Enterprise for Prosthetics and Mobility. The Markian Paslawsky Fund was organized by the family and friends of the Ukrainian American who died while fighting with a volunteer battalion in the battle of Illovaisk. Representatives of the Paslawsky family and the IAFA agreed that developing a modern rehabilitation facility in Ukraine was a worthwhile endeavor. The UNF played a key role in generating much-needed funding that allowed the project to progress. At the same time it was reported that the UNF and the Paslawsky Fund were in talks with the Ukrainian Catholic University to work together for the rehabilitation of war victims.

Part of the UNA's community outreach program during 2016 was a Petrykivka Workshop held on April 8 at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey in Whippany. About 50 participants – a full house – were instructed in this Ukrainian art form by Natalia Lyubytska an artist who hails from Lviv. The evening's five-course dinner of small plates paired with various wine selections was arranged by Soyuzivka Manager Nestor Paslawsky and prepared by Soyuzivka's head chef, Andrey Sonevtsky. The event was organized by the UNA in support of the UACCNJ's Arts, Education and Culture Committee.

To mark Life Insurance Awareness Month, The Ukrainian National Association Forum pages in The Weekly in September featured a series of four articles



Participants of the Petrykivka Workshop sponsored by the UNA on April 8 at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey in Whippany show off their artwork.

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penned by Irene Jarosewich under the column heading "Insurance Matters."

Speaking of insurance, the UNA published a new version of its full-color magazine. This year, it was called "Guide to Life." Inside, readers could find not only facts and figures about the UNA, UNA products and UNA benefits, but also concise explanations of insurance products and their value in establishing financial well-being. At the same time, "Guide to Life" was a comprehensive explanation of the value and benefits of turning to the UNA in particular for these products.

Throughout the year – and especially during festival season – the UNA's representatives were busy promoting the organization and its offerings, which include life insurance, endowments, and annuities, as well as various fraternal benefits. Also in the spotlight at such events were the Ukrainian National Foundation and its Soyuzivka Heritage Center. (Readers will recall that it was in January 2015 that the UNA announced it had realized its goal of charitable status for the Soyuzivka Heritage Center, as the Ukrainian National Foundation Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization became the owner of Soyuzivka.) The first festival of the season at which the UNA and the UNF were represented was the St. George Ukrainian Festival in New York City on May 20-22.

The UNA's booth at the Ukrainian Cultural Festival at Soyuzivka turned out to be very popular with guests, especially the youngsters who were treated to beautiful and unique free face-painting by artist Athena Zhe. Ms. Zhe was a hit also at the UNA table during the Ukrainian Festival at the UACCNJ on October 1.

A notable event of 2016 for the UNA was the observance of the international Vyshyvanka Day. Staffers at the Home Office of the Ukrainian National Association, which includes not only UNA employees but also those of its two newspapers, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, on May 19 proudly wore their embroidered shirts as a visible expression of Ukrainian unity worldwide.

In July, the entire UNA community was saddened over the death of National Secretary Christine E. Kozak, the UNA's top life insurance professional and one of three full-time executive officers. Ms. Kozak passed away on June 27 at the age of 62. She was hired as an underwriter in the UNA's Recording Department in 1996, then rose to become director of its insurance operations and was elected as national secretary in 2002. She was re-elected in 2006, 2010 and 2014.

The 2016 annual meeting of the UNA General Assembly was convened at the Soyuzivka Heritage Center on November 18-19. The business sessions were marked by good news about the UNA's continued progress during 2016 – the fourth year in a row that the fraternal organization has enjoyed net profits. In addition, during the past year the UNA's surplus has grown by nearly \$1 million and was projected to stand at \$9.3 million by the end of the year. Reports were delivered by the full-time executive officers of the UNA, President Stefan Kaczaraj and Treasurer Roma Lisovich, as well as Deputy National Secretary Yuriy Symczyk. All other General Assembly members – executive officers, advisors and auditors – as well as the editor-in-chief of the UNA's official publications, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, had the opportunity to deliver addenda to their written reports.



Stefan Slutsky

Employees of the Ukrainian National Association, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly in their Ukrainian embroidered finery on Vyshyvanka Day, May 19.

An important item on the first day's agenda was filling the vacancy on the UNA Executive Committee that occurred with the death in July of National Secretary Kozak. The UNA's deputy national secretary, Mr. Symczyk, was unanimously elected as national secretary. Mr. Symczyk, who had held the title of UNA fraternal coordinator, was tapped as deputy national secretary at the beginning of April.

Meanwhile, at Soyuzivka, there were several new developments. In March, Roma Lisovich, treasurer of the Ukrainian National Foundation, reported that renovations of Soyuzivka's Main House were in full swing. She noted: "The right wing of the second floor has been stripped to the studs, leaving the bare bones structure. Plumbing is being fixed and new bathrooms, walls, ceilings and light fixtures, as well as carpeting, are being installed. Each renovated room will have its own air conditioning/heating unit installed in the wall, allowing guests to control the settings. In addition, the balcony rooms have been beautified with the installation of new screened-in French doors." In addition, paving projects were completed and a major renovation of the reservoir was under way.

Over 3,000 visitors flocked to the Soyuzivka Heritage Center for the 10th Ukrainian Cultural Festival on July 8-10. Oksana Mukha of Lviv, and Kyivans Ivo Bobul (originally from Chernivtsi) and Viktor Pavlik (originally from Terebovlia, Ternopil Oblast) were the show's headliners. They were joined by virtuoso violinist Vasyl Popadiuk, master bandurist Victor Mishalow and vocalist/musician Oleh Skrypka. Also on the bill were two perennial festival favorites, the Dumka Chorus of New York and the Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Ukrainian Dance Workshop, as well as the folk musicians known as Hurt Udech. License plates from various parts of the United States and Canada were spotted entering Soyuzivka: Nebraska, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Ontario and Quebec, and from the tri-state area

of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

Another special feature of the 2016 festival was the Ukrainian Artisan Village, a depiction of Ukrainian village life with arts and crafts demonstrations, information on the folk uses of various plants, as well as folk singing, all presented by artisans and artists coordinated by Halyna Shepko of nearby New Paltz, N.Y. In addition, there were crafts activities for children. Of course there were also the annual varenyky-eating competition, a vendors' marketplace and a food court.

As the festival was getting under way on Friday evening, a fund-raising gala on the theme of "Solidarity with Ukraine" was taking place on the expansive lawn of the Lviv camp. More than 100 people attended the event, held under a beautifully decorated party tent. The reception, which included a cocktail party, a five-course dinner and performances by the festival's top stars, was sponsored by the Ukrainian National Foundation in cooperation with the Ukrainian Catholic University of Lviv. A total of \$33,000 was raised for the UCU rehabilitation center via the fund established in memory of Markian Paslawsky.

Another notable event at Soyuzivka was the annual Miss Soyuzivka Contest, which this year marked its 50th anniversary. Crowned Miss Soyuzivka 2017 at the August 13 events was Irene Kulbida of Niskayuna, N.Y.; Teya Lucyshyn of East Aurora, N.Y., was voted the runner-up.

The Soyuzivka Heritage Center hosted its full complement of summer camps, ranging from Tennis Camp and heritage camps to dance and sports camps. A special visitor this year was Miss Ukraine 2013 Anna Zayachkivsky, who met with the dance and sports campers.

Later in the year, the Tennis Camp celebrated a significant milestone – its 50th anniversary – and honored one of its founders, George Sawchak, for five decades of service. The festivities took place at Soyuzivka at what was billed as a Tennis Camp reunion weekend on October 1-2.



Roma Hadzewycz

Seen at the annual meeting of the UNA General Assembly, which took place on November 18-19, are members of the UNA Executive Committee (from left): newly elected National Secretary Yuriy Symczyk, President Stefan Kaczaraj, Treasurer Roma Lisovich, First Vice-President Michael Koziupa, Second Vice-President Eugene Oscislowski and Director for Canada Myron Groch.



Bohdana Puzyk

Anna Zayachkivska, Miss Ukraine 2013, visited the Soyuzivka Heritage Center and met on July 27 with campers enrolled in the dance and Sitch sports camps.

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The wide world of Ukrainian sports

The 2016 sports year was an internationally competitive one with Ukraine an active participant on the world stage. After a dreadful performance at soccer's 2016 Euro Cup and a disappointing result at the Rio Summer Olympic Games, Ukraine demonstrated it is a world leader in Paralympic sports.

Three straight losses on the pitch in a somewhat challenging grouping with Poland, Germany and Northern Ireland cost national coach Mykhailo Fomenko his job. Ukraine continued its downward trend of medaling at the Summer Olympics, where Oleh Vernyayev was a rare celebrated podium presence. Expectations for Ukraine were still high heading into the third international contest and this time the nation exceeded them with an unbelievable third overall showing at the Rio Paralympic Games. Ukraine won 117 medals at the Paralympics, including 41 gold and 37 silver. On the heels of winning 84 medals and placing fourth overall in 2012, Ukraine firmly established itself as a Paralympics power. Ukrainian Vasyl Lomachenko solidified himself as a boxing champion by winning and defending the WBO junior lightweight title. Ukrainian tennis star Elina Svitolina shocked the world when she defeated American champion Serena Williams in round of 16 Olympics tennis. In a sign of the times, the Ukrainian rhythmic gymnastics, five-a-side ultimate fighting and biathlon teams boycotted scheduled competitions held in Russia – the Moscow Grand Prix (February 19-21) and the Alina Cup (February 19-20).

The Ukrainian Weekly's sports correspondent's annual sports awards for 2016:

- Most Outstanding Male Athlete – Maksym Krypak, Paralympic swimming.
- Most Outstanding Female Athlete – Hanna Rizatdinova, rhythmic gymnastics.
- Most Outstanding Coach – Hennadiy Vdovychenko, Paralympic swimming team.
- Rookie of the Year – Colton Parayko, St. Louis Blues.
- Team of the Year – Ukraine Paralympic Swimming Team.

Here comes our annual highlight package of the year's top performances in sporting competitions and a recap of Ukrainian sports headlines from around the globe and our diaspora.

Eight all-star teams competed at the 17th Little League tournament in Kremenets, Ukraine, at the end of May with Kremenets beating Rivne 7-1 in the June 1 final. Ukraine won its first European Under-21 **BASEBALL** Championship on August 1-4 in Tel Aviv, Israel, after defeating Russia 7-5. The ninth Ukraine Little League Championships for orphans and invited New Programs was played in Kremenets, Ternopil Oblast in late September.

Sviatoslav Mykhailiuk enrolled at the University of Kansas to play **BASKETBALL** at one of the NCAA's most storied college hoops programs in hopes of an NBA career. Alex Len of the NBA's Phoenix Suns enjoyed a breakthrough second half of the 2015-2016 season when he averaged 12.5 points and 10 rebounds per game, making himself a valuable contributor to a rebuilding squad and setting himself up for a most lucrative second contract.

Ukraine's women's **BIATHLON** team (Iryna Varvynets, Yuliia Dzhamina, Valj Semerenko + Olena Pidhrushna) won gold at the BMW Biathlon World Cup 5 in Germany on



Wounded warriors from Ukraine (from left, front row): Vadym Maznichenko, Vadym Sviridenko; (back row) Natalia Melnychenko, Dmytro Fesenko, Kateryna Mashko and Volodymyr Havrylov during the 41st U.S. Marine Corps Marathon on October 30 in Washington.

January 10-17. Ukraine's mixed relay team (Yuliya Zhuravok, Nadiia Bielkina, Andriy Dotsenko + Artem Pryma) won gold at the IBU Cup Biathlon 5 in Italy on January 13-17. Ukraine's mixed relay team (Bielkina, Yana Bondar, Ruslan Tkalenko + Dmytro Rusynov) won gold at the IBU Cup Biathlon 6 in Aber, Germany, on January 20-23. Ukraine's single mixed relay team (Anastasiya Merkushyna + Artem Tyshchenko) won gold with a 41:50.9 time. Pidhrushna won gold in the women's 7.5-km sprint race at the BMW IBU World Cup 7 on February 3-7 in Alberta, Canada. Bielkina won first place in the women's 7.5-km sprint at the IBU Cup Biathlon 8 in Italy on March 9-13. Merkushyna won gold in the women's junior 12.5-km race at the IBU Junior Open European Championships in Slovenia on March 16-20.

April 23 in Kyiv saw featherweight Oleg Malinovsky defeat Russian Ruslan Berchuk for the WBO European title. On May 6 in Odesa, heavyweight Andrey Rudenko bested Mike Mello (USA) for the vacant WBC International Silver Heavyweight title. Bantamweight Oleksandr Yehorov won a unanimous decision over Andrey Isael of Belarus in mid-May, claiming the vacant World **BOXING** Association Continental title. Featherweight Oleg Yefimovych won by third-round KO versus Eugene Sorin Tanasic of Romania for the WBA Continental title. Cruiserweight Dmytro Kucher claimed the EOU title with a first-round TKO of Enzo Maccarinelli in London on June 10. Junior lightweight Vasyl Lomachenko added the WBO title to his collection after a fifth-round KO of Roman Martinez on June 11 at Madison Square Garden. Oleksandr Usyk won a unanimous decision over Krystof Glowacki of Poland on September 17 to win the WBO cruiserweight title. Lomachenko retained his WBO junior lightweight title against Nicholas Walters of Jamaica on November 26 in Las Vegas. The seven-round TKO saw the southpaw Lomachenko land 33 percent of his punches. WBC champion Francisco Vargas may be his next bout.

Hanna Ushenina won gold in the European Women's **CHESS** Championship held on May 26-June 3 in Romania.

In **CYCLING**, Natalia Krompets won the Portugal Cup race in Viana-du-Kashtel on March 17 with a time of 1:25:02 seconds. Ukraine's women's saber team (Kharlan, Komashchuk, Kravatska + Voronina) won 45-44 in the final against Russia at the World Cup of **FENCING** competition in Athens on January 31. Olha Kharlan won first place in the women's individual saber event at the Yves Brasseur World Cup on February 19-21 in Belgium. Dimitri Karinchenko (U-23) won gold in saber at the 2016 junior fencing championships on March 12 in Poland. Bohdan Nikishin won gold in the Rio Grand Prix men's epee event on April 22 in Rio de Janeiro. Kharlan won another gold in the women's saber event at the Foshan World Cup on May 13-15 in Foshan, China. Ukraine won first place in the team event Challenge SNOF Reseau in Paris on May 22. Olha Kharlan won the Moscow Grand Prix in women's saber on May 28.

Hanna Rizatdinova won five gold medals (senior individual all-around, hoop, ball, clubs and ribbon) at the Miss Valentine 2016 Competition on February 11-14 in Estonia. Rizatdinova won two first-place medals in the senior hoop and ribbon events at the Rhythmic **GYMNASTICS** World Cup in Espoo, Finland, on February 26-28. Ukraine's Krystym Pohranychna and Olena Diachenko won first place in the junior individual team final at the 2016 Aphrodite Cup on March 11-13 in Athens. Oleh Vernyayev won gold in the men's vault and horizontal bar at the Gymworld Challenge Cup Turnier der Meister in Germany on March 31-April 3. Ihor Radivilov won gold in men's rings. Rizatdinova won two golds and a silver at the FIG Rhythmic Gymnastics World Cup on April 1-3 in Italy and gold at the women's International Rhythmic Gymnastics Tournament in France on May 6-8, earning first place in hoop, ball, clubs, ribbon, all-around and seniors finals. Ukraine won five gold medals at the 2016 World Challenge Cup in Bulgaria on May 13-15. Vernyayev won gold in men's parallel bars, pommel horse and floor exercise. Radivilov took gold in rings and vault. Yana Fedorova won gold in the women's vault at the Gym Festival 2016 in Slovakia on May 15. Rizatdinova won a gold medal in hoop at the 2016 Rhythmic Gymnastics World Cup in Bulgaria on May 27-29 and gold medals in hoop and clubs, while team Ukraine won gold in the two hoops and six clubs event at the 2016 Rhythmic Gymnastics World Cup series event in Berlin on July 1-3.

Three young budding Ukrainian players in the National **HOCKEY** League, among many, included Calgary's Matthew Tkachuk, Toronto's Dmytro Timashov and new Flames prospect Hunter Shinakruk. The first was waiting to be drafted, the second was awaiting a call-up from the minors and the third was recently traded. Colton Parayko, "the Uke with the nuke," surprisingly stuck with the St. Louis Blues after his recall from Chicago (AHL), making a huge impact on the team's blueline and garnering serious support for Rookie of the Year. Tom Lysiak, 63, an NHL All-Star and 13-year veteran, passed away on May 30 after battling leukemia. He scored 292 goals and 551 assists in 919 career games. Three Ukrainians were selected in the first round of the 2016 NHL Entry Draft, all sons of ex-NHLers. Matthew Tkachuk (No. 6), Jakob Chychrun (No. 6) and Kieffer Bellows (No. 19) were selected by Calgary,



Members of the Ukrainian Running Club New York, organizers of the Vyshyvanka Run, on August 28 in New York's Central Park.

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Arizona and New York Islanders, respectively. Defenseman Mark Pysyk was traded by Buffalo to Florida, Lee Stempniak signed with Carolina, and Dave Schlemko cashed in on a new deal with San Jose. Kyle Brodziak stayed in St. Louis, while Jordin Tootoo hooked up with the Blackhawks. Two-time Stanley Cup champion Ruslan Fedotenko announced his retirement from professional hockey at the age of 37 on October 11.

Ukraine announced plans to send a team of athletes to the 2017 **INVICTUS GAMES** in Toronto on September 24-30, 2017, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress announced in late September. The Invictus Games are an international sports competition in which wounded, ill and injured military personnel and veterans take part. The UCC is partnering with Ukraine's Ministry of Youth and Sport under the action plan of the Ukrainian World Congress, the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine and the National Committee for Paralympic Sports. The first meeting of the UCC Invictus Games Organizing Committee took place in Toronto on November 10 with a call for some 1,500 volunteers to join the community efforts to support Team Ukraine's participation in the games.

Artem Bloshenko (100 kg) won gold at the **JUDO** Grand Prix Havana 2016 on February 8. Iakiv Khammo (+100 kg) won gold in the men's division at the Judo Grand Prix in Dusseldorf, Germany, on February 19-21. At the Judo Grand Prix in Hungary on June 25-26, Stanislav Bondarenko (+100 kg) won gold. Dmytro Kanivets (73 kg) won gold at the Judo Grand Prix in Croatia on September 23-25.

Ukraine won 11 medals (two gold, five silver and four bronze) at the 2016 Rio **OLYMPICS**. Gymnast Oleh Vernyayev and fencer Olha Kharlan each earned a pair of medals – Vernyayev a gold in parallel bars and silver in men's artistic all-around routine, Kharlan a bronze in women's saber and silver in women's team saber event. Canoeist Yuriy Cheban surprised the competition with a gold medal in the men's 200-meter sprint. Other silver medalists included Serhiy Kulish (rifle shooting), Zhan Beleniuk (Greco-Roman wrestling) and Pavlo Tymoshchenko (modern pentathlon). Ukraine won 18 medals in 2012, 27 medals in 2008 and 22 medals in 2004. The ongoing war in eastern Ukraine and the nation's struggling economy are factors in the downward trend of medal victories. Recruiting and developing world-class athletes requires elite facilities, equipment and coaching staffs – a commitment Ukraine is incapable of making at the current time.

Ukraine's Paralympic swim team won 110 medals (45 gold) at the European Swimming Championship in Portugal on April 30-May 7. Thirty-five out of 45 athletes were medal winners. Ukraine set 10 records and surpassed rival Russia for the first time in several years. It is worth repeating: Ukraine is a **PARALYMPICS** power! With 117 total medals at the Paralympic Games in Rio, behind only China and Great Britain, it was a second successive worldly demonstration of Paralympic prominence. Swimming (74 medals)



Myron Bytz (left) of the Ukrainian Sports Museum during its grand opening at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey in Whippany on September 18. Joining the ribbon-cutting were Ken Daneyko of the N.J. Devils, Whippany Mayor Ron Francioli and Ihor Laszok of the Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union.

was Ukraine's sport of expertise, with Maksym Krypak's outstanding achievement of four gold and two silver individual medals, plus two additional medals in relay victories. Yelyzaveta Mereshko was top female performer with four gold medals in swimming and another in relay. Denis Dubrov (two gold, two silver, two bronze) and Ievgenii Bogodaiko (three gold, two silver, one bronze) each captured six individual swimming medals and two additional relay medals. Yehor Dementyev (two golds) was a force in both road and track cycling, while Ukraine proved most competitive in athletics with a total of 19 medals. Valeriy Sushkevych gets credit for his country's Paralympics success. The president of the National Paralympic Committee developed a training program called Invasport, which works by having schools and facilities dedicated to Paralympic sports in every Ukrainian oblast. The goal is to set up the best system possible of physical education, sports and rehabilitation for people with disabilities.

In the first of two warm-ups for the 2016 Euro Cup, Ukraine defeated Cyprus 1-0 in Odesa on March 24 and outkicked Wales 1-0 in Kyiv on March 28. One of Ukraine's most talented **SOCCER** players, Andriy Yarmolenko, held out hope for a promotion to the English Premier League. Andriy Shevchenko joined Ukraine's national team coach-

ing staff ahead of Euro 2016, replacing assistant Olexandr Zavanov in mid-February. Ukraine defeated Romania, 4-3, on May 29 and beat Albania 3-1 on June 3 in two final friendly matches before Euro Cup 2016. Germany and Ukraine served up high levels of technical ability and plenty of drama in their 2016 Euro Cup opener on June 12. Goals by Mustafi and Schweinsteiger allowed the Germans to survive several scares and defeat Ukraine 2-0. Ukraine lost its second Euro Cup match to Northern Ireland 0-2 on June 15, effectively earning the dubious distinction of being the first of 24 participating nations to be eliminated from the tourney. Poland's 1-0 victory in the final contest left Ukraine with zero points, five goals against and zero goals for after three matches. The Dynamo-Shakhtar conflict, coaching strategies, lack of talent, a lack of competitive spirit and the two-year battle with Russia-backed separatists all factored into Ukraine's dismal showing at the 2016 Euro Cup. Dnipro midfielder Roman Bezus, 25, a Ukrainian national team member, signed a one-year deal with Belgian club St. Truiden on July 12. Shevchenko was promoted to head coach of the men's national team on July 15 in a unanimous vote, replacing Mykhailo Fomenko, who resigned following his club's failure in the 2016 Euro Cup.

Ukraine's team won eight medals (three gold) at the 2016 **SUMO WRESTLING** World Championships in Mongolia on July 28. Alina Boikova (65 kg), Maryna Maksymenko (80 g) and junior Kateryna Kolesnyk (60 kg) were gold medal winners.

Ukraine won 20 medals (five gold) at the European Aquatics Championships in London on May 9-22. Illya Kvasha, Yulia Prokopchuk, Maksym Dolhov won gold medals. Ukraine's synchronized **SWIMMING** free routine team won gold. Andriy Hovorov won two gold medals at the French open European Swimming Championships in Vichy, France, on July 2-3.

Sofia Khobtar won gold in the women's (51 kg) division of women's cadets, and Dmytro Meshchuk (57 kg) won gold in the men's cadets at the Turkey Open **TAEKWONDO** tournament on February 14-17 in Istanbul.

In **TENNIS**, Elina Svitolina won the BMW Malaysian Open on February 29-March 6 after defeating Eugenie Bouchard, 7-5, 6-4, 6-7(5) in the finals. Sergey Stakhovsky won the ATP Challenger Tour event in Seoul, South Korea, on May 9-15 after topping Yen-Hsun Lu of Chinese Taipei in the final. Illya Marchenko won the Guzzini Challenger tournament in Recanati, Italy, on July 18-24, beating Belarus' Ilya Ivashka in the final. Lesia Tsurenko and Kateryna Bondarenko have both trended upward in the WTA rankings based on their recent tournament play. Add in top-20 ranked Elina Svitolina and it is obvious women rule the Ukrainian professional tennis world these days. Tsurenko won the WTA tournament in Guangzhai, China, on September 19, after defeating Jelena Jankovic, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 in the final match.

Natalia Strohova won the 60-meter sprint at the 4th Martin Kutman Memorial **TRACK AND FIELD** tournament



Serhiy Kulish, silver medalist in the 10-meter air pistol at the Rio Summer Olympic Games in August.



Elina Svitolina celebrates after defeating Serena Williams of the U.S.A. in the round of 16 at the Rio Summer Olympic Games in August.



Saber fencer Olena Kharlan celebrates her bronze medal at the Rio Summer Olympic Games in August.



Olympic champion canoeist Yuriy Cheban



Olympic champion gymnast Oleh Vernyayev



Zhan Beleniuk, silver medalist in Greco-Roman wrestling, at the Rio Summer Olympic Games in August



High-jumper Bohdan Bondarenko, bronze medalist at the Rio Summer Olympic Games in August.



The silver medal-winning women's saber team – Olha Kharlan, Alina Komashchuk, Olena Kravatska and Olena Voronina – at the Rio Summer Olympic Games in August.

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Inna Cherniak, a judoka who was the first female to win Ukraine's first gold medal, at the Rio Paralympic Games in September.



NOC.Ukr.org

Roman Danyliuk, who won Ukraine's first medal at the Rio Summer Paralympic Games – a bronze in shotput.



NOC.Ukr.org

Ievgenii Bogodaiko, who won Ukraine's first gold medal at the Rio Summer Paralympic Games in the 100-meter backstroke.



NOC.Ukr.org

Ruslan Katyshev, who won bronze in the men's long jump, was Ukraine's second medalist at the Rio Summer Paralympic Games.



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Serhii Yemelianov won gold in the men's canoe sprint (KL3) 200-meter race with a time of 39.810 seconds at the Rio Summer Paralympic Games.



www.2014paralympic.org.ua



www.2014paralympic.org.ua

Ukraine's seven-a-side men's soccer team won the gold medal at the Summer Paralympic Games in Rio. Pictured left are: Oleh Len, Edhar Kahramanian, Volodymyr Antoniu and Vitalii Romanchuk. Pictured right are: Kostiantyn Symashko, Vitaliy Trushchev and Taras Dudko.



www.2014paralympic.org.ua

Jaroslav Denysenko (100-meter backstroke) and Viktoriia Savtsova (100-meter freestyle) celebrate winning silver medals at the Rio Summer Paralympic Games.

in Estonia. Olha Kotovska won first place in the New Taipei City Wan Jin Shi Marathon at the IAAF Bronze Label Road Races on March 18-20. Nataliya Pryshehepa won gold in the women's 800-meter race at the European Athletics Championship in Amsterdam on July 6-10.

Ukraine's athletes swept the podium positions at the European Aquathlon (**TRIATHLON**) Championships in France on June 25-26 in the elite men's category. Oleksiy Syutkin won gold in the combo run (swim/swim/run) event.

Ukraine won 11 medals (six gold) at the European **WEIGHTLIFTING** Championships in Forde, Norway, on April 8-16. Iryna Dekha (75 kg) won three gold medals, Yulia Paratova (53 kg) won one gold and Oleksandr Pielieshenko (85 kg + 204 kg) won two golds.

Three Ukrainian freestyle wrestlers – Andriy Kviatkovsky, Olena Zasayeva and Oksana Herhel tested positive for a banned substance, meldonium. Zhan Beleniuk (85 kg, Greco-Roman) won gold at the 2016 European **WRESTLING** Championships in Riga, Latvia, where Ukraine's women's freestyle team also won first place.

Khrystyna Dmytrenko won gold in the women's 7.5-km biathlon at the fourth **YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES** on February 12-21 in Norway.

A team of Ukrainian wounded warriors participated in the 41st **U.S. MARINE CORPS MARATHON** on October 30 in Washington. Nine Ukrainian soldiers dedicated their run to all Ukrainian military personnel who lost their lives or health while combating Russian aggression against Ukraine.

In **DIASPORA** sports news, Ukrainian American soccer club FC Connection finished in second place in the First Division Indoor standings of the MSL of Chicago. The New York Kozaks won the inaugural "Alexander Cup" USCAK

hockey tournament in Newark, N.J., on February 13, besting two Ukrainian Canadian hockey clubs and the N.Y./N.J. Kings. On February 13, the Yonkers Krylati U-14 boys team won the Armonk Winter Indoor soccer tournament.

Valentine's Day was the date of the third annual Ukrainian Heritage Day with the New Jersey Devils, when fans attending a hockey game witnessed a Ukrainian festival. Ukrainian dance groups and soloists performed while two wounded Ukrainian warriors were presented as "Heroes of the Game" during the second period of the game, won by New Jersey 1-0 against the Los Angeles Kings.

Eighty-four skiers from preschoolers to seniors competed in the 62nd annual ski races of the Carpathian Ski Club (KLC) held at Hunter Mountain on February 27. Chornomorska Sitch held a spring soccer tournament for youths age 7-12 in Whippany, N.J. Fifteen boys competed in the five-a-side, round-robin competition, showing off skills developed at Sitch-led soccer sessions. Memorial Day weekend saw the Ukrainian American Sport Center Tryzub host its 15th annual Ukrainian Nationals Soccer Tournament. Youth from six mid-Atlantic states and Toronto competed in several age brackets. The annual Soyuzivka-USCAK tennis camp was held on June 19-30 at Soyuzivka. George Sawchak was honored for 50 years of service and dedication to the camp.

Chornomorska Sitch won 2-1 in the final against Krylati Carmel at the 2016 Steven Howansky Memorial Soccer Tournament on June 18 held in Yonkers with seven participating teams. The fifth annual USCAK National Beach Volleyball Tournament was played on August 26 in Wildwood Crest, N.J. with eight teams battling it out. "Sets on the Beach" prevailed as champions, with Marko

Bobriwnyk winning MVP honors. Eighty-eight golfers from six states competed in Tryzub's 40th annual golf outing at Tryzubivka in Horsham, Pa.

Nearly 100 participants, most dressed in Ukrainian-themed attire, took part in runs/walk on August 28 in New York's Central Park in an event entitled "Vyshyvanka Run," hosted by the Ukrainian Running Club New York. USCAK's 61st National Tennis Championships took place at Soyuzivka over Labor Day weekend. Players from 11 states took to the courts with Marko Krasij besting Mykola Stroynick in men's and Lesia Bilak Schinnerer topping Nastya Koval in women's competition. Yonkers, N.Y.'s Krylati Sports Club, a member of the Eastern District Soccer League's Open division, won the "treble" in 2015-2016 when the club captured the regular season championship, the league playoff and the league cup.

September 17 saw the formal opening of the Ukrainian Sports Museum and Hall of Fame at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey in Whippany, thanks to much dedicated effort by Myron Bytz. Some 180 guests attended the gala event which included the inaugural induction of 51 sports persons into the Ukrainian Sports Hall of Fame. Master of ceremonies for the evening was The Weekly's sports correspondent, Ihor Stelmach, and ex-New Jersey Devils defenseman Ken Daneyko (who is 100 percent Ukrainian) was the keynote speaker. On October 20, hockey great Wayne Gretzky was captured in a photo accepting his induction plaque and gifts from the Ukrainian Sports Museum and Hall of Fame at the NHL store in New York City. Museum curator Theodore Bodnar made the presentation, which coincided with the "Great One's" book tour stop.



NOC-Ukr.org

Saber fencer Olha Kharlan serves as flag-bearer for Ukraine during the closing ceremonies of the Rio Summer Olympic Games in August.



Mickey Williams/Top Rank

Vasyl Lomachenko (right) displays his high-tech skills against Nicholas Walters of Jamaica at the Cosmopolitan arena in Las Vegas on November 26 to retain his WBO junior lightweight title.

2016: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The noteworthy: people and events

This section features the noteworthy events and people of 2016 that defy easy classification (or could fit under more than one of our Year in Review categories).

- Representatives of Ukrainian American community organizations and institutions gathered on January 10 at the Ukrainian Restaurant in New York to bid farewell to Ambassador Yuriy Sergeyev, Ukraine's permanent representative to the United Nations from 2007 until the end of 2015, and his wife, Dr. Nataliya Sergeyev. Speaking on behalf of the community, President Tamara Olexy of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America thanked Ambassador Sergeyev for his many years of work for the benefit of Ukraine and his exemplary cooperation with Ukrainian Americans.

- Volodymyr Yelchenko, Ukraine's new ambassador to the United Nations, along with his wife, Iryna, hosted a luncheon reception for Ukrainian American community representatives on February 5 at Ukraine's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York. Thanking his guests for their support, Ambassador Yelchenko urged the community leaders to continue their work for Ukraine and its democratic evolution.

- It was announced in February that Kyiv model-turned-designer Anna Karenina would be included in 2016 Fashion Week in New York, scheduled for September 7-15. Ms. Karenina was born in Kremenchuk in 1995 and graduated from Kyiv State University of Technology and Design. She began her modeling career at the age of 14 and designed her own line of clothing at the age of 16. Her fashions have been shown for several seasons at the Mercedes-Benz Kyiv Fashion Days. Ms. Karenina's designs have been featured in more than 40 top international retailers in 25 countries.

- Ivan Pasichnyk, a 28-year-old hailing from Kyiv, was named as one of Forbes' magazine's "30 under 30" young leaders, creative inventors and entrepreneurs. Mr. Pasichnyk helped launch a project called Ecois.me, which sells specially designed sensors that track electrical energy consumption. Data from the sensors is uploaded to a website, from which a mobile app will provide tips on how to save energy – recognizing the most energy-efficient devices and finding ways to optimize their usage during energy consumption peaks.

- Hoping to raise awareness of the situation in Ukraine, first-generation Ukrainian American Maya (surname withheld by request) continued a "Walk for Ukraine" cross-country trek across the United States, which she had begun on November 21, 2015, in Front Royal, Va. Maya



Representatives of Ukrainian American community organizations and institutions gathered at the Ukrainian Restaurant in New York on January 10 to bid farewell to Ambassador Yuriy Sergeyev, Ukraine's permanent representative to the United Nations from 2007 until the end of 2015.

was motivated by a desire to do something for Ukraine; a previous long walk of 500 miles in Spain as well as time spent living in Ukraine – teaching English to orphans while in high school and summer study at the Ukrainian Catholic University while in college – helped her decide on this trek. Averaging 10-12 miles per day, Maya stopped her walk in Tennessee in May for a planned summer hiatus. She restarted in October for several weeks, reaching Arkansas – a total distance of over 800 miles – before stopping for the winter. She plans to resume the walk in the spring of 2017 when the weather improves.

- Freedom House published its annual Nations in Transit report, which monitors the democratic developments of 29 countries in the former Soviet Union, the Balkans and Central Europe, on April 12. The report warned that economic woes are threatening the stability of "entrenched dictatorships" in the former Soviet Union, the migration crises is fueling populism in Eastern Europe, and reforms in the Balkans are in retreat. The situation is particularly grim, the report noted, in the seven countries led by dictators who have been in power at least 10 years: Russia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. On a positive note, the report called Ukraine "the single most important opportunity for establishing democracy" in the region and

said that the government had achieved "some progress" in reforms in 2015 but that continuing Russian occupation of Crimea, the separatist conflict in the east, widespread corruption and impunity for crimes during the political upheaval of 2014 are holding back further progress." If Ukraine does not move forward, the report noted, "there's a real significant threat that Ukraine falls back and continues a tradition of very, very corrupt governance."

- The U.S. State Department's annual human rights report, released on April 13, said that the world faces a "global governance crisis" as both governments and non-state actors increasingly infringe on human rights. Secretary of State John Kerry, writing in the report, denounced governments for cracking down on freedom of expression by "jailing reporters for writing critical stories" or targeting non-governmental organizations "for promoting supposedly 'foreign ideologies' such as universal human rights." The report accused governments across the former Soviet Union of both overt repression of political freedoms and bureaucratic measures aimed at stifling opposing voices. In particular, it accused Russia of "especially" targeting individuals and organizations that have opposed the Kremlin's forceful and illegal annexation of Crimea and Moscow's support for separatists in eastern Ukraine. In Crimea, the report added, Russian authorities have subjected Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars to "systematic harassment and discrimination."

- The Group for Tomorrow's Ukraine (GTU), together with the Harvard Ukrainian Student Society, led an experiential trip to Ukraine in May for 20 Harvard University graduate students, with the goal of introducing future leaders in the public, private and non-profit sectors to Ukraine. The group, which visited Kyiv and Lviv, had a packed schedule of meetings with representatives of Ukraine's government, members of Parliament, key figures in media and industry, Ukraine-based members of the U.S. Foreign Service, as well as cultural, historical and leisure activities. The GTU is a non-profit organization of young professionals and academics offering analysis on Ukraine and dedicated to promoting human rights as the country changes.

- Ambassador of Ukraine to the United States Valeriy Chaly was decorated with the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland during a ceremony at the Polish Embassy on May 23. Awarded by Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski in recognition of Ambassador Chaly's outstanding achievements in promoting friendly Ukrainian-Polish relations, the award was presented by Polish Ambassador to the U.S. Ryszard Schnepf. In his remarks, Ambassador Schnepf mentioned not only Ambassador Chaly's role in strengthening the strategic partnership between Ukraine and Poland, but also pointed out that Poland was the first country to recognize the independence of Ukraine. "In the face of unprecedented Russian aggression... we wish to once more be a source of support for our neighbor, to be close to Ukraine and Ukrainians," Ambassador Schnepf noted.

- After 98 years in business, the Surma Book & Music Company of New York closed its doors in June. Founded by Myron Surmach Sr. in 1918, the store had been operated by Markian Surmach for the last 30 years and sold pysanka-making supplies, embroidery, fabrics and trims, books and assorted items, many from Ukraine. Mr.



Markian Surmach poses in front of Surma, the store founded by his grandfather Myron Surmach Sr. in 1918. Surma closed in June after 98 years of being in business in New York City.

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Surmach told The Weekly: "My cultural and heritage roots are as strong as ever, but reality being as it is, the increasing costs of running the store, as well as limited personal time for family have been the main motivating factors in this decision."

- Two Ukrainian American women were among the 17 recipients of the International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit's 2016 Michigan International Professional Women's Awards, which recognize distinguished women in Michigan, from different cultural backgrounds, who have succeeded in their professional endeavors and have markedly contributed both to their own ethnic community and to the Michigan community at large. The Ukrainian honorees were Dr. Anna Czubytyj and Ulana Ohar-Kushner. Dr. Czubytyj is the director of the RN to BSN completion program at South University; Ms. Ohar-Kushner is a successful businesswoman. Both women are active in the Ukrainian American community.

- 2016 marked the 25th anniversary of the founding of the sister city relationship between Kyiv and Chicago, which was marked by two special events: the Armed Forces Memorial Day Weekend Run and the visit of Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko. The Kyiv Committee of Sister Cities International was chosen as an official participating charity of the Soldier Field 10-Mile Run, which celebrates the service and supports the needs of the U.S. Armed Forces. Over 50 runners and volunteers participated as part of the Friends of Ukraine team, including Larysa Gerasko, the consul general of Ukraine in Chicago, and her entire staff. Three Ukrainian soldiers undergoing physical rehabilitation in the Chicago area received financial help as a result of the race. Mayor Klitschko visited Chicago to attend a roundtable hosted by Mayor Rahm Emanuel on June 1, in conjunction with the second annual Chicago Forum on Global Cities. Mr. Klitschko's jam-packed schedule included visits to the Ukrainian National Museum, the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, the St. Nicholas Cathedral School, a community meeting at the Ukrainian Cultural Center and an appearance on NPR's "Worldview," where he stressed Ukraine's geopolitical significance and the importance of continuing to support its European trajectory.

- Former Assistant U.S. Attorney Bohdan Vitvitsky, a Ukrainian-born corruption expert from New Jersey who specialized in prosecuting and investigating complex financial fraud, joined a selection commission whose job is to choose members of a newly created General Inspectorate at the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine, it was announced by Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko on August 8. The commission was to choose over 80 inspector generals, who "will supervise the legality of actions of prosecutors and investigators through out the prosecution system," Dr. Vitvitsky explained. Dr. Vitvitsky was the resident legal adviser at the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine in 2007-2009. Of his current role, he said, "I wasn't looking for this. It was presented as an opportunity to be helpful in some way that might have a little bit of an impact." He added, "I like to find ways to be helpful, and there's no shortage of things to do here."



Ivan Dzyuba was awarded the 2016 Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Medal on September 28 in Kyiv as part of the solemn commemorations of the 75th anniversary of the Babyn Yar massacre. The award was conferred by the Jewish Confederation of Ukraine and the Ukrainian Jewish Encounter.



Former Assistant U.S. Attorney Bohdan Vitvitsky points to the date (September 12) when the final applications were to be accepted for some 80 inspector general positions within the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine. Dr. Vitvitsky was tapped on August 8 to serve as an adviser to the prosecutor general.

- The remains of a U.S. Army second lieutenant who was shot down near Novi Troyany, Odesa Oblast, in June 1944, were repatriated to U.S. custody at a ceremony at the National History Museum in Kyiv on August 12. The officer had been participating in Operation Frantic – a series of shuttle bombing operations against Germany during World War II conducted by American aircraft based in Britain and southern Italy which then landed at three airfields in Ukraine. U.S. Ambassador Geoffrey Pyatt and Ukrainian Deputy Chief of General Staff Sirotenko spoke at the ceremony.

- Ukraine's Culture Minister Yevhen Nyschuk and National Television Company head Zurab Alasania announced on September 9 that Kyiv had been chosen as the host city for Eurovision 2017, edging out the other finalist, Odesa, in a 19 to 2 vote with one abstention. Other cities that had originally been considered were Dnipro (formerly known as Dnipropetrovsk), Kharkiv, Kherson and Lviv. Ultimately, Kyiv won because of its superior infrastructure; the 11,000-seat International Exhibition Center was chosen as the Eurovision 2017 venue. Ukraine was awarded the right to host Eurovision 2017 after Ukrainian singer Jamala, who is a Crimean Tatar, won the 2016 contest. Kyiv also hosted Eurovision 2005, after Ruslana won in 2004.

- On September 15, an appeal to the European community, signed by over 30 political leaders and intellectuals and titled "On being tired from being conscientious," was released by the First of December Initiative Group. Citing Russia's war against Ukraine, the occupation of Crimea, the armed conflict in the Donbas, tens of thousands of victims, 1.5 million internally displaced persons, daily Russian provocations and blackmail, the group said Europeans have become accustomed to these problems, routine dulls empathy, and indifference equates the victim and the aggressor. The European exhaustion with the war in Ukraine is Russia's strongest ally, signatories noted. The appeal called on "all thinking people of our joint European community to show solidarity" and adhere to the values that created Europe's civilization: freedom and the rule of law, the vision of a united Europe over local interests and ambitions.

- The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) awarded its highest honor – the Shevchenko Freedom Award – to seven individuals in 2016. The award is given to those who have displayed a remarkable understanding and given substantial assistance to the Ukrainian American community and the Ukrainian people. Five recipients were honored during the XXII Congress of Ukrainians in America held on September 23-25: Michael Sawkiw, longtime director of the UCCA's Washington office, the Ukrainian National Information Service, and a former UCCA president; Dr. Larissa Kyj, longtime president of the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee; Marie Duplak, longtime UCCA executive secretary, distinguished editor, business owner and former president of the Organization for the Defense of Lemkivshchyna; Roma Hadzewycz, editor-in-chief of Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly; and posthumously, Markian Paslawsky, the only Ukrainian American to have given his life in defense of Ukraine against Russia's most recent invasion. Mr. Paslawsky's award was accepted by his family. Presented with awards at their offices were U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Ohio), in recognition of "his continued support of Ukraine's territorial integrity and for pursuing steadfast relations with Ukraine in recognition of its

vital importance to trans-Atlantic peace and security," and U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-N.J.) for his "deep understanding and ongoing support for the Ukrainian American community and the Ukrainian nation."

- Ivan Dzyuba, writer and former Soviet-era dissident, received the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Medal for 2016 on September 28 in Kyiv, at a dinner commemorating the 75th anniversary of Babyn Yar. The award is given by the Jewish Confederation of Ukraine and the Ukrainian Jewish Encounter, and recognized Mr. Dzyuba for his decades-long commitment to human rights and fostering dialogue between nations, and for speaking out against xenophobia and anti-Semitism during the Soviet years.

- Dr. Boris D. Lushniak was appointed dean of the University of Maryland's School of Public Health. Prior to his appointment as dean, Dr. Lushniak was with the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS), where he served as professor and chair of the Department of Preventive Medicine and Biostatistics, and professor of dermatology at F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine. Before his tenure at USUHS, Dr. Lushniak served as the U.S. deputy surgeon general; in 2013-2014 he served as acting surgeon general. He retired from the U.S. Public Health Service in 2015 as a rear admiral.

- The Ukrainian Technological Society (UTS) of Pittsburgh honored U.S. Rep. Tim Murphy (R-Pa.) with its 2016 Friendship Award. The award was presented at the society's annual dinner-dance on November 5. The UTS annually recognizes a Ukrainian of the Year or a Friend of Ukraine, individuals of local, national and international stature who have contributed to the Ukrainian community or Ukrainian scholarship, or who have demonstrated significant achievement, which brings recognition and prestige to the Ukrainian community. In accepting his award, Rep. Murphy recalled his visits to the Maidan and the lasting impression this made on him, and he reiterated his support for a strong U.S.-Ukraine relationship.

- Serhii Ploky, one of the foremost historians of the former Soviet Union, authored a new book, a novel called "The Man with the Poison Gun," based on the true story of KGB assassin Bohdan Stashinsky, who defected to the West in 1961. Stashinsky's story captured the attention and imagination of the West, inspiring Ian Fleming's "The Man with the Golden Gun," but there were always doubts about its veracity. Using previously unavailable files from the CIA; Soviet, German and Polish archives; and memoirs and interviews of former KGB officers, Dr. Ploky was able to put to rest much of the early theories about Stashinsky.

- The Foundation of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) was among the organizations honored on December 15 at a ceremony at the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington. The award was received by Dr. Maria Krycelak, president of the UMANA Foundation. The organization was recognized for providing assistance in the training of Ukrainian medical personnel and volunteers who care for wounded soldiers. The UMANA Foundation had partnered with the World Federation of Ukrainian Medical Associations and the California Association to Aid Ukraine to raise funds enabling the teaching of Prehospital Trauma Life Support as well as U.S. Department of Defense Tactical Combat Casualty Care courses to medical personnel in Ukraine. A key component of this training was providing sophisticated technical manikins – total body simulators as well as specialized anatomical units – for trauma response training.

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Our community mourns their passing

During 2016 our community mourned the passing of many of its prominent members: artists, church leaders, soldiers and community activists. Among them were the following, listed in order of their passing.

Orest Kaczmarczyk, 74, Centerville, Va.; pursued an Army career after college, serving for 21 years as an infantry, logistics and foreign area officer throughout the world; known for his fluency in six languages and his intrinsic ability to quickly adapt to native dialects; recipient of the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and the Army Good Conduct Medal; with family, friends and soldiers in attendance, was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery on May 27 – January 8.

Sophia Lada, 74, Toronto, visual artist who explored several media – painting, iconography, textile art; commissioned by the Sisters of St. Basil the Great in Rome to decorate the chapel of their Motherhouse with icons in the Byzantine style; worked on many commissions and took part in various solo and curated group shows; her works are found in collections in Canada, the United States and Europe – February 14.

Walter Baranetsky, 96, Maplewood, N.J., longtime member of the Ukrainian Institute of America, who served multiple terms as president and vice-president; served as head of the non-profit Coordinating Committee to Aid Ukraine; provided invaluable philanthropic support for UIA initiatives in projects, especially those involving the preservation of the institute's landmark building – February 18.

Ivan Lobay, 104, New Haven, Conn., worked as a university professor and mechanical engineer in Ukraine, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Venezuela, Algeria and the U.S.; was a professor at the College of Engineering at the University of New Haven for 15 years and taught post-graduate courses at Yale University; was appointed official consultant at the Ministry of Education of Ukraine in 1993, at the age of 82 – March 3.

Nina Ilnytskyj, 91, Oradell, N.J., worked at Prolog Research and Publishing Corp. in New York from 1965-1990, where her duties included administering the journal *Suchasnist*, as well as translating, proofreading and editing; was instrumental in publishing the memoirs of UPA veteran Ivan Dmytryk, titled "In the Forests of the Lemko Region," in 1976, as well as those of another soldier, A. Plechen, in 1987, titled "Nine Years in a Bunker" – March 14.

Michael Pap, 95, Ishpeming, Mich., professor at Notre Dame University and at John Carroll University in Cleveland, where he founded the Institute for Soviet and Eastern European Studies in 1961, which became a center for scholarship and public outreach; served as director of human resources and economic development in the administration of Cleveland Mayor Ralph Perk in 1972-1974; founder and longtime head of the Ukrainian American Association of University Professors, president of the United Ukrainian Organizations of Cleveland 1969-1970; honored by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America with its Shevchenko Freedom Award in 1964 – April 1.

John Shmerykowsky, 79, born in Yaremche, Ukraine; architectural engineer; partner at Weiskopf & Pickworth in New York before founding Shmerykowsky Consulting Engineers in 1966; led construction projects up and down the East Coast in addition to high-rises on Park Avenue, Fifth Avenue and Maiden Lane in New York; Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers; was actively involved



Michael Pap



John Hvozda



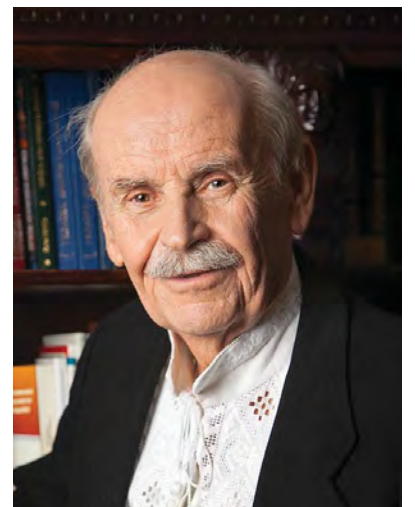
Christine E. Kozak



Orest Subtelny



Bishop Richard Seminack



Bohdan Hawrylyshyn

in the Ukrainian Engineers Society of America and the Ukrainian Institute of America – April 2.

Mykola Katsal, 75, Lviv, Ukraine; graduate of Lviv Polytechnic Institute, Lviv Music School and Lysenko Lviv State Conservatory; founder, in 1971, and permanent director of the male choral group *Dudaryk*; Honored Artist of Ukraine – May 24.

Bohdan Kotys, 89, Plainsboro, N.J.; earned a degree in architecture from the prestigious Karlsruhe Institute of Technology in Germany; worked as an architect in New Brunswick, N.J.; active in the Ukrainian Engineers' Society and The Ukrainian Museum in New York, where he served on the board of directors in 1981-1986 and 1995-1998 – May 26.

John Hvozda, 89, Syracuse, N.Y.; taught political science at Cayuga County Community College 1963-1982, where he created a Model United Nations Conference; founder of the Syracuse chapter of the Ukrainian American Youth Association; scoutmaster in Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization; president of the World Lemko Federation; president of the Syracuse branch of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America; director of the Ukrainian Free University Foundation; chief editor of the *Lemko News*; member of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences (U.S.), Ukrainian American Association of University Professors and the New York state Russian and Eastern European Association; author of over 118 newspaper articles in *Svoboda*, *Sivach*, *The Ukrainian Weekly* and *The Syracuse Post*, among others – June 5.

Luba Lapychak-Lesko, 91, Morristown, N.J.; worked for the Ukrainian National Association 1950-1991; long-

time administrator of the publishing house and print shop of the UNA's newspapers, *Svoboda* and *The Ukrainian Weekly* – June 24.

Christine Kozak, 62, Pompton Plains, N.J.; national secretary of the Ukrainian National Association since 2002; oversaw the staff of licensed insurance professionals at the UNA Home Office in Parsippany, N.J. and organized insurance courses for the UNA's branch secretaries; added several new policies to the UNA's portfolio of products; produced the UNA's life insurance illustration software, co-created the resource center for branch secretaries and field agents and created the UNA rate book tutorial; produced the "UNA and the Community" magazines in 2013 and 2014 – June 27.

Vasyl Slipak, 41, near Debaltseve, Ukraine; born in Lviv; considered a musical prodigy; graduated from the Lysenko National Music Academy; moved to France in 1996, where he had a successful career with the Paris National Opera for almost 20 years; in 2014, returned to Ukraine and joined volunteers fighting the Russian-backed forces in the country's east, saying he was inspired to serve his country by the popular uprising on the Maidan; killed by sniper fire in an attack launched from Debaltseve – June 29.

Osyp Holynskyj, 92, Livingston, N.J.; born in the Sambir region of Ukraine; part of the post-World War II immigration to the United States; served as "khorunzhyi" of the 1st Ukrainian Division "Halychyna"; businessman and community activist – July 2.

Pavel Sheremet, 44, Kyiv; a Belarus-native killed by a car bomb in what was a most high-profile murder of a



Pavel Sheremet



John Gregorovich



Orysia Paszczak Tracz



Sviatoslav Karavansky

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journalist; winner of numerous journalism awards during an illustrious career in Belarus, Russia and Ukraine (since 2011); founder of Istorychna Pravda, a sister site of Ukrayinska Pravda that is devoted to Ukrainian history; host of a weekday political talk show on Radio Vesti; blogger for Ukrayinska Pravda – July 20.

Orest Subtelny, 75, Toronto; noted historian and political scientist, university professor, scholar and author; completed his Ph.D. at Harvard in 1973, the first doctorate in the newly formed Ukrainian Studies Program; professor of history and political science at York University in Toronto from 1982 until retirement in 2015; author of six books on East European and Ukrainian history, the most important of which was “Ukraine: A History,” published in 1988; presented with the Order of Merit by the government of Ukraine in 2001; awarded the Shevchenko Medal by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress – July 24.

Lubov Kolensky, 93, Slootsburg, N.Y., journalist, author; worked as an editor of Svoboda for 25 years; wrote novellettes, short stories, sketches, dramas and poetry, with several of her works published by Svoboda Press; was recognized for her literary work in 1982 with an award from the Ivan Franko Literary Fund in Chicago – August 14.

Bishop Richard Seminack, 74, Chicago; fourth bishop of the Chicago Eparchy of the Ukrainian Catholic Church; ordained as a priest in 1967 and served the faithful in several Philadelphia-area parishes; served as chaplain for the Sisters of St. Basil the Great and campus minister at Manor College in Jenkintown, Pa., and chaplain in the U.S. Navy; ordained to the episcopacy by Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, then major archbishop of Lviv, on March 25, 2003 – August 16.

Joanna Ratych, 90, Somerset, N.J.; teacher of English and German in the displaced persons camp in Bayreuth, Germany; completed her doctorate at the Ludwig-Maximilian University in Munich, before emigrating to the United States; a professor of German language and literature at Rutgers University, where she was among the first tenured female professors and became the director of the Department of German Studies – September 5.

Iwan Nazarkewycz, 94, Glen Spey, N.Y.; member of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA); built a thriving real estate business, NBKN Realty Management Corp., in New York; member and benefactor of St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church in New York and St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Catholic Church in Glen Spey, N.Y., helping to build the latter with his own hands – September 11.

John Gregorovich, 89, Toronto, lawyer, Ukrainian Canadian community activist; born in Vegreville, Alberta; chairman of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress’ Civil Liberties Commission (CLC), which represented the Ukrainian Canadian community before the Commission of Inquiry on War Criminals; founded the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, which helped spearhead the efforts for acknowledgement and redress of Canada’s first national internment operations – September 26.

Bohdan Hawrylyshyn, 90, Kyiv, economist, thinker, benefactor and advisor; born in the Ternopil Oblast and uprooted by World War II, he immigrated to Canada; director of the International Management Institute in Geneva, 1968-1986; in 1988 helped found the International Management Institute in Ukraine, the first in the former USSR to offer an MBA program; authored two books and more than 100 academic articles on management and economic and political environment; helped found the World Economic Forum in Davos; consulted governments of various countries as well as corporations such as General Electric, IBM and Phillips; advised Ukraine’s first president, three prime ministers, and four chairmen of parliament – October 24.

Orysia Paszczak Tracz, 71, Winnipeg, Manitoba, writer, translator, researcher, lecturer and story-teller; accumulated a vast knowledge of Ukrainian traditions, ethnography and song; most recently published “The First Star I See Tonight,” a collection of her articles on Ukrainian Christmas traditions; translated 10 books from Ukrainian into English and wrote numerous articles for Canadian and American publications, including the column on why Ukrainians do “The Things We Do” in The Ukrainian Weekly; laureate of the Taras Shevchenko Medal awarded by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, for “outstanding national contribution to the cultural and artistic development of the Ukrainian Canadian community” – November 10.

Orest Rudzik, 80, Oakville, Ontario, professor, lawyer, community activist; active in the Civil Liberties Commission in 1984-1987, when the Ukrainian Canadian community challenged unfounded allegations about war criminals in their midst; spent a sabbatical year in Kyiv shortly after independence as director of law training for young Ukrainian professionals under the auspices of the Ukrainian Legal Foundation – December 8.

At The Ukrainian Weekly: special issues, special focuses

Nothing like starting the year off right! On January 30, Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union made yet another generous donation to the Ukrainian National Association’s two newspapers, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, giving each \$12,500. The \$25,000 donation was noted in the Press Fund reports of both newspapers. (The credit union had made a donation for that same amount to Svoboda and The Weekly in late December 2014.)

Editor-in-Chief Roma Hadzewycz commented that Self Reliance’s donations “have gone a long way toward helping the newspapers continue their mission of informing the world about Ukraine and Ukrainians, and keeping Ukrainian communities in touch with each other.” Thanks to such donations, the complete archives of Svoboda and The Weekly were digitized, and the websites of the two newspapers were redesigned, giving them not only a new look but also a new functionality. (Take a look by visiting svoboda-news.com and ukrweekly.com.)

Self Reliance New York President Bohdan Kurczak wrote that the donation was meant to assist the further development of The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda. “We believe that thanks to the newspapers’ presentation of information and events via the Internet, devoted readers have been found not only in America, but throughout the world,” he noted.

He couldn’t be more right!

The Weekly has always encouraged readers and community activists to use our newspaper. In our editorial titled “News from your community” (September 11), we underscored: “We love working with our readers and community activists in producing each week’s issue of The Ukrainian Weekly. This type of collaboration benefits all and enriches our newspaper’s pages.” The editorial also pointed out: “...we always want to publish community news, but it quite often seems that local ‘hromady’ are content to communicate only among themselves instead of sharing the news with others. That is one of the main functions of our newspapers Svoboda and The Weekly. Please keep that in mind... Such sharing of information and ideas benefits us all; it empowers us as a community and supports our community’s needs and aspirations.”

Our special issues of the year included: the four-part “2015: The Year in Review” published January 17 through February 7; the “Ukrainian Debutante Balls” issue dated April 3; our annual edition of “A Ukrainian Summer,” which this year comprised 24 pages in our May 1 issue; and our two Ukrainian Independence Day issues – spotlighting “Ukraine at 25” – that were dated August 21 and 28.

There were a number of special features during 2016, including “What’s brewing in Ukraine?” by Mike Buryk (yes, this was about beer) in the June 19 issue; and several photo reports on our community festivals, including the St. George Festival in New York City (June 5), Soyuzivka’s Ukrainian Cultural Festival (July 17 and 24), and the Ukrainian Festival at the Whippany-based Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey (October 23).

To mark the anniversary of the historic events of the Euro-Maidan-turned-Revolution of Dignity, we published a photo essay by Petro Matiaszek who reflected in photos and words on “Memories of the Maidan two years after.” Mr. Matiaszek wrote: “I will never forget my long walk home to the Maidan four days after the shooting stopped. As I made my way on February 24, 2014, down now halLOWed Instytutska Street and across the Maidan, the silence and devastation were utterly unbelievable. There was almost nowhere to walk with so much debris and still-smoldering rubble. Scores of everyday people were walking about stunned and silent, some carrying flowers, all crying, stopping at the sites where there were still fresh puddles of blood, bullet-scarred lampposts and trees.”

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the re-establishment of Ukraine’s independence, we ran a photo report about the momentous events of 1991 in Ukraine (August 21 issue), and in remembrance of the millions killed during the Holodomor, we published a full-page of photos from the memorial event held at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York (November 20).

Demographer Dr. Oleh Wolowyna weighed in during the year with two timely articles on Ukrainians in the U.S. during a presidential election year: “Support of Ukraine through political action” (January 17) and “The importance of voting” (July 10).

To be sure, there was much news during this very politicized year about the party platforms of the Republicans and the Democrats, and about the positions and statements of the presidential candidates. Two editorials published in July took a look at the platforms adopted at the two parties’ conventions.

The Weekly published a significant address by the well-known analyst Paul Goble, an expert on the USSR and the post-Soviet space, titled “Ten reasons why we must remain anti-communists” (July 10). The speech was delivered at the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation’s Triumph of Liberty reception and dinner on June 9 in Washington. The next day, in recognition of his decades of work advancing freedom and opposing tyranny, Mr. Goble was awarded the foundation’s Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom during a wreath-laying ceremony at the Victims of Communism Memorial.

As is now traditional, The Weekly marked its own anniversary in October with an editorial. The 2016 editorial, however, was dedicated to two anniversaries, as was evident from its title, “The Weekly at 83; Svoboda at 123.”

Our editorial stated:

“...As usual, we take the opportunity offered by the annual anniversary of our founding in 1933 to share some thoughts in this editorial space. This year, we thought it would be appropriate to also note the incredible 123 years of uninterrupted service to our community of our sister publication, Svoboda, founded in 1893. For those unfamiliar with our elder sister, that date – 1893 – seems astounding. And rightly so. How many newspapers can boast of such a history?”

“And, in this day and age, when we see newspapers dying, or curtailing their publication, left and right, the fact that the Ukrainian National Association continues to publish Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly is not only noteworthy but praiseworthy as well. Clearly, our community still needs these two newspapers that have served Ukrainians for a combined 206 years. ...”

Which brings us to a mention about The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund. We received a total of \$26,319 for all of 2016 (almost \$4,000 more than in 2015). We greatly appreciate these donations, which ensure that our newspaper continues to be published.

During 2016 there was a changing of the guard for The Weekly in Kyiv. Our longtime correspondent Zenon Zawada, who at one time was chief at our Kyiv Press Bureau and more recently (since 2014) was a free-lancer based in the Ukrainian capital, decided to pursue other opportunities. We were thrilled to announce that he was replaced in July by veteran Kyiv-based reporter/editor Mark Raczkiwycz, who hails from Chicago and has 10 years of journalism experience in Eastern Europe. Our principal free-lance correspondent very quickly made his presence felt – getting the scoop on the appointment of Dr. Ulana Suprun, a Ukrainian American radiologist, as Ukraine’s deputy minister of health – and we trust read-



The page featuring the photo essay “Memories of the Maidan two years after” by Petro Matiaszek, which appeared in the February 28 issue.

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ers are enjoying and benefiting from his fine reporting.

There was sad news to report about one of our columnists. Orysia Paszczak Tracz, a well-known writer and activist who specialized in Ukrainian culture and ethnology, died suddenly on November 10 in Winnipeg, Manitoba; she had been hospitalized briefly after suffering a stroke. An obituary in the Winnipeg Free Press noted that a local broadcaster had once called her "a walking, talking Ukrainian encyclopedia." Her column for The Weekly, "The Things We Do," was enjoyed by readers for many years. Many of those columns appeared in Ms. Tracz's highly popular book "The First Star I See Tonight," a collection of her articles on Ukrainian Christmas traditions. Less than two months before her passing, Ms. Tracz had been honored with two major awards of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress: the provincial Bulava Award in Manitoba and the national Taras Shevchenko Medal, the UCC's highest honor.

The Weekly's editor-in-chief also was honored this year, receiving the highest award of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, the Shevchenko



The service is led by hierarchs (from left) Bishop Paul Chomysky, Metropolitan Antony and Bishop Emeritus Basil Loutin.



Speakers at the commemoration included (from left) Ukraine's Ambassador to the U.S. Valeriy Chaly, Sen. Charles Schumer and Metropolitan Antony.



Seminarians of St. Sophia Seminary of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.



UCCA President Andy Foley delivers his address.

A page of photos from the memorial service for victims of the Holodomor held at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York on November 13.

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Chervona Kalyna Cotillion Ball now in its 65th year

Debutantes and their escorts (from left): Alexandra Melnik Prybylo, Matthew Luczyk, Julia Anna Trzaskowska, Arkadiy Halapov, Adrianna Koslowsky, Zofia Gaiduk, Tereza Hladkova, Mikolaj Borek, Roma Boryak, Olga Choma, Julia Hryshchuk, Zash Fekel, Juliana Carney, Michael Szwed, Zaryna Makarska, Natasia Shkurbat, Caroline Anna Witek, Julia Podkova, Khrystyna Khymenko, Luba Kapelchuk, Orestia Horyk, Greg Lepiutsky, Natalia Julia Trzaskowska, Alexander Zaslavsky, Christine Clark, Stephen Rando.

By Roma Freneswycz

PEARL RIVER, N.Y. — On Saturday, January 30, 1951, the elegantly appointed main ballroom of the Hilton Pearl River Hotel, where more than 600 guests gathered for the annual Chervona Kalyna Cotillion Ball. The atmosphere was happy and full of excitement for one of the most anticipated debutante balls of the season.

The Chervona Kalyna Cotillion Ball of "Chervona Kalyna" is a tradition that in the 1950s was established in New York City by members of the Ukrainian Irish Klymenko and military veterans who, upon coming to the U.S., joined their society chiefly in the 1950s and 1970s. Today, one of the main attractions of the ball is the presentation of debutantes, a custom begun with an impressive introduction of young ladies in 1959.

And this year, after nearly six decades, the Ukrainian American community welcomed into its society 13 debutantes from throughout the United States, including New York, New Jersey, and Maryland. The ball was initially scheduled for January 23, but had to be postponed due to the severe blizzard that hit the area the weekend before.

It was fortunate that all the debutantes (and their escorts) were available for the postponed date. A disappointment was expressed from the Ukrainian Catholic Archdiocese, since the new date was after the beginning of Lent according to the Gregorian calendar.

The debutantes and their escorts (from left): Nana Fekel and Alex Dole, Kaitlyn Flynn and Orest Komarsky, and Deanna Fekel and Peter Kondrat.

The ball was a great success despite the postponement.

There were three debutantes: Orestia Horyk, Zash Fekel, and Zaryna Makarska. The ball was held at the Hilton Pearl River Hotel on Saturday, February 13, 2016. The ball was a great success despite the postponement.

A highlight of the evening was a special performance by renowned pianist Roman Rudnytsky, who played four short pieces and received a standing ovation. His daughter is the grandchild of debutante-Mia Flynn.

The debutantes and escorts were elegantly well prepared by Julia Hryshchuk and Anna Bohdanovych-Lukashchuk, and they performed their presentation beautifully.

Music was provided by the Svatyni band from New York.

Engineers' Society sponsors Philadelphia debutante ball

A page from the Ukrainian Debutante Balls section printed in The Weekly's April 3 issue.

Freedom Award, for "commitment to pursuing the truth regarding Ukraine." The award was presented in September, during the Congress of Ukrainian Americans. At the same time, Ms. Hadzewycz received the Order of Princess Olha (third degree), which had been announced in an August 2015 decree by President Petro Poroshenko, for "contribution to strengthening the international authority of Ukraine, popularization of its historical heritage and modern achievements." The Ukrainian state honor was presented by Ukraine's Ambassador to the U.S. Valeriy Chaly at the congress banquet.

In concluding this last section of our "2016: The Year in Review," we are pleased to report that the number of "Likes" for our Facebook page as of the end of 2016 was 7,029. In comparison, at the end of 2015 we had 4,300. We'd like to reiterate that what we do on Facebook differs greatly from what we offer on the pages of our newspaper. On Facebook, The Weekly shares links to interesting stories from a variety of sources, lets our friends know when a new issue becomes available online; and allows visitors

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A Ukrainian Summer

Supplement to The Ukrainian Weekly, May 1, 2016

Welcome to the 26th annual issue of our supplement "A Ukrainian Summer." Can you believe we've been doing this for 26 years?

We begin with a calendar of Ukrainian festivals. After all, nothing says summer like festivals! To be sure, "summer" is a relative term, as the high season for festivals is May through October, and we tried to include all the festivals in North America. If your festival is not listed here, it's because you didn't let us know, and therefore our readers missed it.

In between, there are stories about all types of summer events: camps, workshops, cultural events, sports competitions, social gatherings — whatever gets us to please diverse segments of our community. The past adventures, too, are informative, providing more details about upcoming summer events.

We thank all who submitted materials for this year's 20th annual supplement. Remember our invitation to be a part of this special section is open to all and we hereby repeat that invitation for 2017. So mark your calendars so that you can remember to send us information for next year's edition (typically, the deadline is in mid-April).

In the meantime, enjoy the summer of 2016!

It's Festival Time!

May 7 Sarasota, FL Sarasota Festival, Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Southwestern Provincial Council, Parkland Park, www.sarasotafestival.com or 202-633-8353	May 20-22 New York Ukrainian Festival, St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church, Festival.stgeorge.org@gmail.com	June 5 States Island, NY Ukrainian Festival, Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church, 718-442-2555	June 10-12 San Antonio, TX Texas Folk Festival, Ukrainian San Antonio, with performances by Yevheniia Dancer Ensemble, www.texasfolkfestival.com or 210-658-2300	June 17-19 Yonkers, NY Yonkers Ukrainian Heritage Festival, St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, www.yonkersukrainianfestival.org	June 18 Missoula, MT Missoula Ukrainian Festival, Missoula Ukrainian Square, www.missoulaukrainianfestival.com	June 19 Fisher's Day Ukrainian Folk Festival, Ukrainian American Sports Center, Trynny, www.trynny.org	June 25-26 Elmhurst, NY Lemko Vatra, Organization for the Defense of Lemko Vatra, Ukrainian American Youth Association camp, www.lemko-vatra.com	June 26 Pawnee, IL Ukrainian Festival, Immigrant Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church, 815-991-1000 or 771-104-8145	July 1-3 Vegreville, AB Klief Pivnitsky Festival, Vegreville Exhibition Grounds, 780-632-2777 or www.pivnitskyfestival.com	July 1-4 Elmhurst, NY Madison Festival, Ukrainian American Youth Association, www.uay.org/ny-elmhurst	July 9-10 Belleville, NY Ukrainian Cultural Festival, Ukrainian National Foundation, Szechenyi Heritage Centre, www.uayusa.com	July 16-17 Johnson City, NY Ukrainian Days Festival, St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Orthodox Church, http://ufbny.org	July 21-24 Orono, ME Orono Ukrainian Festival, http://oronoukrainianfestival.com	July 29-30 Syracuse, NY Syracuse Ukrainian Festival, www.syrucukrainianfestival.org	July 29-31 Ottawa, ON Canada's National Ukrainian Festival, Ukrainian National Foundation, Szechenyi Heritage Centre, www.ncnf.ca or 204-622-4600	August 7 Pawnee, IL Ukrainian Festival, Immigrant Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church, 773-368-8145 or 1000ukrainian2016@gmail.com	August 18-21 44th St. Joseph Ukrainian Festival, St. Joseph Ukrainian Catholic Church, www.stjosephukrainianfestival.com
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(Continued on page 32)

The first page of The Ukrainian Weekly's annual supplement called "A Ukrainian Summer." The 2016 edition appeared on May 1.

to take a look at our latest front page. We encourage all our readers to subscribe to our newspaper and to like us on Facebook.

Rolling the credits

This edition of "The Year in Review" was prepared by Roma Hadzewycz and Matthew Dubas of The Weekly's editorial staff; our part-time staffer Christine Syzonenko; our Kyiv correspondent Mark Raczkiewicz; our colleagues Chris Guly, Adrian Bryttan and Deanna Yurchuk; and Ihor Stelmach, our sports columnist. Credit for the layout goes to our design artist, Stepan Slutsky.

The articles in this yearender were prepared based on stories about developments in 2016 that were published in The Weekly. The materials used were articles written by our staffers and regular correspondents, news sources like RFE/RL and Eurasia Daily Monitor, and submissions by local community activists. A huge thank you is hereby sent out to all!

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