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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Interim government to be led by Yatsenyuk

by Zenon Zawada

KYIV – An interim Ukrainian government was elected this week to replace the ousted administration of Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich. It will serve until the next government is formed after the May 25 presidential elections.

Parliament began approving the first nominees on February 22, the day after Mr. Yanukovich's flight, before approving the bulk of the appointments on February 27. Upon his election as prime minister, Arseniy Yatsenyuk declared it "the government of political kamikazes."

"We stand before inconceivable economic challenges and in order to conquer them I declare from this high tribune: we don't have any other way out besides making extremely unpopular decisions," he said. "These decisions will apply to [state] subsidies, these decisions will apply to [utility] rates, these decisions will apply to cuts in social programs, and these decisions will apply to preserving the country's financial system."

Dr. Olha Bohomelets, who gained heroic status for leading the Euro-Maidan's medical brigade, said she

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Ukraine on brink of economic collapse, pro-Russian forces call for secession

Yanukovich flees country, reported to be in Russia

by Zenon Zawada

KYIV – After three months of a peaceful protest that turned into a bloody battle, the Euro-Maidan movement achieved its revolution on February 21 by forcing former President Viktor Yanukovich and his entourage to abandon the Ukrainian government and flee the country, fearing inevitable criminal prosecution.

The collapse of the Yanukovich administration ignited conflicts nationally as pro-Russian forces took over the Crimean parliament and shot at Euro-Maidan activists in eastern cities.

The prime concern, however, was the catastrophic condition of the economy left behind by Mr. Yanukovich and his cronies, who reportedly embezzled \$70 billion offshore in their three years in power while bleeding the nation's financial reserves dry. Interim officials warned of economic collapse if the West didn't offer aid.

"Ukraine hasn't had such economic and political catastrophe for all the history of its independence," Arseniy Yatsenyuk told a February 24 meeting of state officials, three days before he was elected prime minister. "The state treasury has been plundered and the country has been brought to bankruptcy."



Aleksey Ivanov, UNIAN

Verkhovna Rada Chair Oleksander Turchynov, who is also the acting president of Ukraine, addresses the Maidan on February 26. That night the nominations of members of the interim government were announced.

It took six days since Mr. Yanukovich's flight for Parliament to approve a new government on February 27. (See sidebar for the list of new officials.)

Parliament also formed a new majority called the European Choice Coalition, consisting of the Batkivshchyna, Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reform (UDAR) and

Svoboda factions, as well as the Economic Development and Sovereign European Ukraine groups of independent deputies and a handful of Party of Regions defectors.

In the time it took to form the new government, the Ukrainian hryvnia lost more

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Religious, political, community leaders meet in New York's Ukrainian Village

by Irene Jarosewich

NEW YORK – Quoting Scripture, Rabbi Yaakov Dov Bleich, chief rabbi of Kyiv and Ukraine, began his remarks here at a February 23 press conference with the words "Thy princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves: every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards. ...And I, (said the Lord), will restore thy judges... and thy counselors.... afterward thou shalt be called The City of Righteousness, the faithful city."

Although originally intended for Zion, said Rabbi Bleich, these words reflect the Ukraine that he has come to know during the past few years – a country that has been overwhelmed by thieves and greed, corruption and abuse of power.

Describing the Maidan movement, the three-month long demonstration in the center of Kyiv and throughout Ukraine, the rabbi said that this was not a political battle between ideologies, nor was it a religious or ethnic struggle. "The system disintegrat-



Irene Jarosewich

At a press conference in New York (from left) are: Dania Lawro, head, New York chapter, Ukrainian American Youth Association; Rabbi Yaakov Dov Bleich, chief rabbi of Kyiv and Ukraine; Tamara Olexy, president, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America; U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney; and Tom Birchard, owner, Veselka Restaurant.

ed from within. This was a civic revolt, that's what these protests, the Maidan, have been about. ...The indomitable spirit of the Ukrainians will continue... they will not go home."

"[Viktor] Yanukovich thought that he could use violence and people would retreat. But Ukrainians are not Russians," he added, "this is the mistake that Yanukovich made. Every time he beat people, more people came out."

The desire by millions is to live in a normal country, with a normal government, free of corruption, is something that everybody in Ukraine wants, said Rabbi Bleich.

At the press conference, he was joined by U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-N.Y.), Tamara Olexy, the president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, and Dania Lawro, the head of the New York City chapter of the Ukrainian American Youth Organization (UAYA).

The speakers stood outdoors on the side-

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ANALYSIS

Ukraine's ruling party faces defections

by Oleg Varfolomeyev
Eurasia Daily Monitor
February 21

The Ukrainian authorities and the mainstream opposition leaders signed a deal on February 21 in Kyiv to settle the political crisis continuing since November 2013. They agreed to undertake constitutional reform, form a coalition government, conduct early presidential elections by December and, most importantly, put an end to the violence (Kyiv Post, February 21). The deal reflects the building pressure President Viktor Yanukovich's government was under in recent days and weeks caused by escalating street violence, which culminated with a number of high-level and parliamentary defections from the ruling party.

Several national deputies have quit Ukraine's ruling Party of Regions (PRU) since the start of the mass anti-government protests in Kyiv last November. But the exodus has accelerated in response to the outbreak of violence on February 18-20, when at least 77 protesters and policemen were killed. The PRU has consequently significantly reduced its comfortable majority in Parliament, which it has controlled since early 2010 jointly with its allies, the Communist Party.

However, the PRU is unlikely to split or lose its prominent position in Ukrainian politics in the short to medium term. Most of those who had left the PRU faction in Parliament by midday February 21 were rather fellow travelers who joined the ruling party in order to pursue their career goals and business interests. The Donetsk region core of the party apparently remains intact. Also, those deputies who have expressed disagreement with the party's line on the protests, like former presidential candidate Sergey Tigipko, do not intend to leave it but are rather pursuing their own ambitious goals within the party.

Deputies started to defect from the PRU faction in early December, when three members of Parliament (MPs) quit in protest against the brutal dispersal of a peaceful pro-European protest in Kyiv's Independence Square on November 30, 2013. On February 20-21, at least 20 deputies said they would quit the PRU faction. Also two of Yanukovich's key allies have left him. Serhiy Lyovochkin, who headed the presidential administration since Mr. Yanukovich's election in 2010, submitted his resignation reportedly in early December and was replaced with Andriy Kliuyev on January 24 (liga.net, January 24). On February 20, Volodymyr Makeyenko, who was recently appointed as Kyiv city administrator, quit the PRU. He also showed his disobedience to Mr. Yanukovich by restarting the subway,

whose service was suspended on February 18, apparently in order to disrupt supplies to the protesters' camp (5 Kanal TV, February 20).

Although the defections made the PRU faction numerically smaller and weakened Mr. Yanukovich personally, their significance should not be overestimated. Most of the defectors joined the faction in recent years and were not senior MPs. As for Mr. Makeyenko, he joined the PRU about 10 years ago, after defecting first from the Communists, then from the Socialists and then from the nationalists. Born and educated in Russia, he has never been close to the PRU's Donetsk core (<http://file.liga.net/person/245-vladimir-makeenko.html>).

Mr. Tigipko is a special case. He was viewed by many as a successor to then-president Leonid Kuchma in the early 2000s, but Mr. Kuchma preferred Mr. Yanukovich. After his surprising performance in the 2010 election, when he came in third after Mr. Yanukovich and then-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, Mr. Tigipko disbanded his own party and joined the PRU, harboring ambitions to become the party chairman (UNIAN, September 10, 2011). However, he was demoted to secondary roles in the government and had to return to Parliament in 2012.

On February 20, Mr. Tigipko said on his Facebook page that Verkhovna Rada Chair Volodymyr Rybak should be replaced with someone from the opposition and that a new prime minister should be urgently appointed. He said the authorities had lost control over the situation. Mr. Tigipko was also among the initiators of the urgent Parliament meeting on the same day, which issued a resolution condemning the use of force against the anti-government protesters, and outlawed the "anti-terrorist" operation declared by the security service (see "Hot Issue - Ukrainian Protests and the Armed Forces: Will the Military Stay in Its Barracks?" in The Jamestown Foundation, February 20). However, neither Mr. Tigipko nor other PRU deputies who backed the resolution said they would quit the PRU. Later on, Mr. Tigipko posted that there was a group of 31 people within the PRU faction with a "special position," but he noted the group was not going either to quit the PRU or to back Mr. Yanukovich's impeachment.

Mr. Tigipko, who is reportedly linked to Mr. Lyovochkin, may become the leader of the PRU's liberal wing. He may eventually become the leader of the PRU, if Mr. Yanukovich's Donetsk core is demoralized by what currently looks like a defeat of the party's hardliners due to the failure to suppress the mass protests.

Separately from Mr. Tigipko, a group of 12 deputies issued a statement on February 20, urging a return to the 2004 Constitution, which Mr. Yanukovich's team abolished in 2010 in order to strengthen his presidency. They voiced their "support for the Ukrainian people," and called on "both sides" to stop the bloodshed, thus dissociating themselves from the government (Ukrayinska Pravda, February 20). Also in this case, the signees did not say they would quit the PRU faction, and most of them are rather businessmen who bandwaggoned with the PRU in 2010-2012 in order to further their business interests.

On February 21, Vitaly Khomutynnyk said on his Facebook page that he also had decided to quit the PRU. This is, indeed, a

Rada wants Yanukovich tried at Hague

KYIV - The Verkhovna Rada has voted in favor of having ousted President Viktor Yanukovich and others brought to trial before the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague for serious crimes. The Parliament on February 25 overwhelmingly backed a resolution saying Mr. Yanukovich, former Internal Affairs Minister Vitaliy Zakharchenko, former Procurator-General Viktor Pshonka and others should be tried at the ICC for "crimes against humanity" allegedly committed during the brutal crackdown on anti-government protesters. More than 100 people were killed in clashes between protesters and riot police. Mr. Yanukovich, who was ousted by parliament on February 22, is on the run. Messrs. Zakharchenko and Pshonka are also being sought by Ukrainian authorities. Andriy Kliuyev, a former chief of Mr. Yanukovich's presidential administration, who is also on the run, has reportedly been shot. His spokesman, Artem Petrenko, said he was told that Mr. Kliuyev had come under fire by unknown attackers and was wounded, but that his life was not in danger. Mr. Petrenko said he had not spoken to Mr. Kliuyev himself and did not know where he was. Mr. Yanukovich was last reported seen in Crimea. The ICC says it needs a request from Ukraine's government giving it jurisdiction to investigate Mr. Yanukovich and others over deaths during the protests. (RFE/RL)

Yanukovich hiding at monastery?

KYIV - The monastery in which fugitive ex-President Viktor Yanukovich is now hiding is located in the town of Volnovakha, Donetsk Oblast, on the territory of the Forest Park, Batkivshchyna National Deputy Oleksander Bryhynets of the Batkivshchyna party, reported on February 24. St. Nicholas Monastery of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church - Moscow Patriarchate is where Mr. Yanukovich's confessor lived and died, he said. "This monastery has a three-story underground bunker, such as those that were built for Hitler or Himmler, and it is fully equipped. There are several hundred guards together with Yanukovich there, as well as some persons from his

close entourage," Mr. Bryhynets said. (Ukrinform)

A government of people's trust

KYIV - The main priority for the Ukrainian Parliament, which "in essence has remained the only legitimate authority in the country," is restoration of executive power in the country's center and locally. Verkhovna Rada Chairman and acting President Oleksander Turchynov told U.S. Deputy Secretary of State William Burns in Kyiv on February 25, according to Mr. Turchynov's spokesman. "Virtually all the power is concentrated here, in Parliament, but it cannot be directly involved in the work of the executive branch," Mr. Turchynov said, adding that on February 26 the Verkhovna Rada intends to vote for a government of people's trust. Mr. Turchynov also expressed his belief that the new government will resume the course of European integration, "which was blocked by the previous government," and cooperation with the International Monetary Fund. "We are going to implement deep reforms of economic, administrative and law enforcement agencies and modernize the judiciary, which is actually completely destroyed," he said. (Ukrinform)

Presidential election campaign begins

KYIV - The presidential election campaign began in Ukraine on Tuesday, February 25. It started automatically on the basis of a Verkhovna Rada resolution on scheduling early presidential elections in Ukraine for May 25, the press service of the Central Election Commission (CEC) reported. On February 24, the CEC published the schedule of organizational measures on preparing for and holding the elections. According to the schedule, the nomination of presidential candidates begins on February 25 and will last until March 30. Candidates may be nominated by parties or self-nominated. It is necessary to make a deposit of 2.5 million hryvnia to register a candidate. For this purpose, the CEC has published the number of a special account opened for the placement of deposits by

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Correction

The caption to the photo on page 8 that accompanied our main story of February 23 should have read Serhiy Didych (not Didenko).

Credit for the photo that appeared on page 1 with the story headlined "Patriarchs Filaret, Sviatoslav attend National Prayer Breakfast in D.C." (February 16) should have been given to Yaro Bihun, not the USUF (U.S.-Ukraine Foundation), which hosted a meeting at its headquarters.

The errors have been corrected in our online edition.

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Editor: Matthew Dubas

e-mail: staff@ukrweekly.com

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ADMINISTRATION OF THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY AND SVOBODA

Walter Honcharyk, administrator
and advertising manager

(973) 292-9800, ext. 3040
fax: (973) 644-9510
e-mail: adukr@optonline.net

Subscription Department

(973) 292-9800, ext. 3040
e-mail: subscription@ukrweekly.com

N.J. Ukrainian community discusses Ukraine concerns with Rep. Bill Pascrell

by Matthew Dubas

PATERSON, N.J. – “The agreement reached today is a positive step towards ending future bloodshed and preserving democracy for the Ukrainian people,” Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-N.J.) wrote on his Facebook page on February 21. “The call for new elections in this agreement is the right course for the future and will allow the voice of the Ukrainian people to be heard. However, we cannot relent on the need for change. This is why I continue to call on President Obama and his administration to keep up the pressure on the current Ukrainian government including the threat of sanctions if necessary. It is vital that the U.S. remain engaged in the future of Ukraine and its people.”

More than 30 Ukrainian Americans attended a meeting on February 20 called by Rep. Pascrell at his office in Paterson, N.J., at the Robert A. Roe Federal Building, to discuss the developments in Ukraine following the Euro-Maidan protests.

Representatives of the Ukrainian community included: Tamara Olexy, president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA); Kenneth Wanio, president of the UCCA Passaic branch; Roma Lisovich, treasurer of the Ukrainian National Association; and others.

The meeting was opened with an invocation by the Rev. Oleh Zhownirovych, pastor of Holy Ascension Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Clifton, N.J.

Rep. Pascrell noted that H.R. 447, “Supporting the democratic and European aspirations of the people of Ukraine, and their right to choose their own future free of intimidation and fear,” was voted on February 10 and passed by the House. It called for targeted sanctions against Ukraine’s government officials and those in Ukraine’s business community who are responsible for committing violence against peaceful protesters of Euro-Maidan.

The legislation, sponsored by Edward Royce (R-Calif.), Sander Levin (D-Mich.), Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio), William R. Keating (D-Mass.) and Jim Gerlach (R-Pa.), with 58 co-sponsors, passed with a vote of 381-2. (208 Republicans and 173 Democrats voted in favor; two Republicans voted against. A total of 48 representatives did not vote, 21 Republicans and 27 Democrats.)

Ms. Olexy highlighted the almost minute-to-minute developments in Ukraine and called for targeted sanctions, and possibly a United Nations peacekeeping mission, and expressed the Ukrainian community’s preference for European Union, rather than Russian, mediation of the situation.

Ms. Olexy added that following the \$15 billion Russian bailout, Russia will pay more attention to Ukraine after the Olympics, and “hitting them in their pockets is the only way” to protect against the potential encroachment by Russia.

Rep. Pascrell noted that, at the center of all of this is Mr. Putin, whose role is felt not only in Ukraine, but in Syria and other places, he added.

“We need to prevent troops from outside and let the Ukrainians handle this, but I am ready to vote for sanctions – not against the people – but directed against those who



Tom Hawrylko

Ukrainian community members with Rep. Bill Pascrell.

fund violence against protesters.” During the Orange Revolution, Rep. Pascrell stated, it was “who is with us” and “who is against us,” and there were calls for all the bandits to be jailed. However, under the Yanukovych administration, how many needed to go to jail on politically motivated charges for a response? “Our options now is to push the authorities responsible and strengthen the people’s resolve,” Rep. Pascrell said.

Myroslav Smorodsky underscored, “Russia is the main problem. Targeted sanctions against Russia for violating its human rights commitments, including barring Russia from economic clubs like the G8 and blocking its WTO accession, and this should be a team effort.” Ukraine gave up the third largest nuclear arsenal in the world, and the security charter signed by the U.S., Russia and Ukraine obliges the U.S. to defend the territorial integrity of Ukraine against all invaders, even Russia. Russia, Mr. Smorodsky added, has already violated that agreement by applying economic pressure. Ukraine needs security assurances based on the international treaties it has signed, he underscored.

Rep. Pascrell said that the radical elements have made negotiations more difficult, with agitators attacking police. Rep. Pascrell also voiced concern for former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and called for the shifting of Cabinet positions among the opposition factions.

Mr. Smorodsky urged Rep. Pascrell to push for economic pressure on Russia and Mr. Putin, as well as targeted sanctions.

Rep. Pascrell noted that Russia did not celebrate the Soviet collapse or Ukraine’s declaration of independence. Noting that globalization shows that what happens in Ukraine, China, Syria or Egypt, affects the world, he said the U.S. should not respond individually, but collectively, with other countries.

When strategic to U.S. security, the U.S. must respond directly, otherwise it is “not a priority,” Rep. Pascrell added.

The violation of agreements places responsibility on the U.S. We cannot have a discussion of a “good” dictator or a “bad” one – all are bad. “The longer it takes to stabilize the situation, the more likely for outside military intervention and more people will be killed. The objective is a true democracy.”

However, the U.S. is against sending arms to Ukraine, Rep. Pascrell said, as these could end up in the wrong hands and be used against the U.S.

Dr. Michael Lewko told Rep. Pascrell that the U.S. needs to counter the disinformation campaign out of Moscow against the protesters, who have been misidentified as fascists and anti-Semitic Banderites.

Peter Paluch of Clifton, N.J., said, “Ukraine’s independence means a strategic partner for the U.S., and independence also means a dwindling of Russian influence in Ukraine. The theaters of conflict are formed by Russia’s conflicting agenda with the U.S. Ukraine has had a rich history of democracy, including the first [democratic] constitution,” Mr. Paluch added. “We don’t need to be taught democracy. It is the removal of certain elements that hinder that Ukraine needs help with.”

Rep. Pascrell commented that Ukraine has become a beacon of hope for other countries.

Ms. Lisovich explained that her son is in Kyiv during the protests and how he has been relaying information about the situation on the ground there and the changing developments, including the shootings of peaceful protesters.

Rep. Pascrell said he was ready to institute immediate strong economic sanctions against those responsible.

Ms. Lisovich added that perhaps U.N. peacekeepers should be sent to Ukraine, as SBU (Security Service of Ukraine) snipers had killed unarmed students and targeted average citizens.

(Continued on page 5)

Interim government...

(Continued from page 1)

had declined her nomination as vice prime minister for humanitarian affairs after her demands for transparency from the Health Ministry weren’t met.

No one met to discuss with her what her authority would be either, she told journalists on February 27. She was also disappointed the government didn’t include any Afghanistan war veterans or Pravyi Sektor members, “without whom these results would not have been achieved.”

Ukraine’s interim government

Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk (Batkivshchyna)

First Vice Prime Minister for Law Enforcement Vitalii Yarema (Batkivshchyna)

Vice Prime Minister for European Integration Borys Tarasyuk (Batkivshchyna)

Vice Prime Minister for Regional Policy Volodymyr Hroisman (Sovist Ukrayiny)

Parliament Chair Oleksander Turchynov (Batkivshchyna)

Internal Affairs Minister Arsen Avakov



Vladislav Musienko/UNIAN

National Deputies applaud Arseniy Yatsenyuk on his election by the Verkhovna Rada as prime minister in Ukraine’s interim government.

(Batkivshchyna)

Procurator General Oleh Mikhnitskyi (Svoboda)

Security Service of Ukraine Chief

Valentyn Nalyvaichenko (Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reform)

National Security and Defense Council Secretary Andrii Parubii (Batkivshchyna)

Acting Defense Minister Ihor Teniukh
Acting Foreign Affairs Minister Andrii Deshchysia

Finance Minister Oleksander Shlapak
Economy Minister Pavlo Sheremeta
National Bank of Ukraine Chair Stepan Kubiv (Batkivshchyna)

Justice Minister Pavlo Petrenko (Batkivshchyna)

Education Minister Serhiy Kvit
Social Policy Minister Liudmyla Denysova (Batkivshchyna)

Culture Minister Yevhen Nishchuk
Ecology Minister Andrii Mokhnyk (Svoboda)

Health Minister Oleh Musii
Fuel and Energy Minister Yurii Prodan
Sports and Youth Minister Dmytro Bulatov

Agriculture Minister Ihor Shvaika (Svoboda)

Infrastructure Minister Maksym Burbak (Batkivshchyna)

Anti-Corruption Bureau Chief Tetiana Chornovol

Lustration Committee Chair Yegor Sobolev

National Security and Defense Council Deputy Secretary Viktoriia Siumar

Demonstrators gather in Washington to honor, and mourn, Kyiv protesters



Ukrainian Americans from Washington, Baltimore and Philadelphia gather in front of the White House on February 23.

by Yaro Bihun

WASHINGTON – On the day Ukraine's Parliament announced a number of major changes in the make-up of the country's government – Sunday, February 23 – hundreds of Ukrainian Americans from Washington, Baltimore and Philadelphia gathered here in front of the White House and the Taras Shevchenko monument to honor the protesters in Kyiv who fought for those reforms and the fallen heroes who gave their lives in that effort.

The crowd, estimated at about 500, including seniors and babies in carriages, joined with priests of the local Ukrainian

Catholic and Orthodox churches and ad hoc choir in a brief requiem service for those who perished and, with the accompaniment of two guitarists, sang some of the songs sung by the protesters on Kyiv's central square, the Maidan.

They were addressed by representatives of a few Ukrainian organizations, as well as of a few other nations also interested in how things develop in Ukraine – Georgia, Belarus and Syria – who called on Europe and the United States to help Ukraine achieve its goal of becoming a truly independent, democratic European country.

That evening, a smaller group of these demonstrators gathered in front of the

Shevchenko monument for a candlelight vigil in honor of the close to 100 killed and thousands injured on the Maidan that week. Among the estimated 100 people who came to pay their respects was

Ukraine's ambassador in Washington, Olexander Motsyk.

Ambassador Motsyk and 31 staffers of Ukraine's Embassy in the United States on February 20 had released a statement on the Embassy's Facebook page that stated, "We are with our people, we stand for our people's genuine European future."

The full text of the statement read:

"It is impossible to keep silent when your motherland is on fire, people are dying from bullets, there is shock, pain and suffering, and a real threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. We express our sincere condolences to the families of the deceased and share their pain. Ukrainians fought for centuries for their right to live in a free, democratic and independent country, which our generation must build. We are with our people, we stand for our people's genuine European future. At this tragic time, wisdom must prevail, there must be an immediate end to bloodshed and fratricide. We call for a peaceful resolution of the confrontation for the sake of the entire people of Ukraine, for the unity and the future of our country."

The same statement was issued by Consul General Igor Sybiga and the staff of Ukraine's Consulate General in New York.



A candlelight vigil near the Taras Shevchenko monument in Washington in the evening of February 23.

"Simply stated, *Caught in the Current* is one amazing read and decidedly establishes Daniel Hryhorczuk as a talented author of wit, imagination, and a fundamentally gifted storyteller able to draw upon his own first-generation Ukrainian-American background to create a semi-autobiographical novel that never fails to entertain the reader from first page to last." *Midwest Book Review*



"Deftly written with a keen focus on Ukrainian culture, author Daniel Hryhorczuk weaves a journey of self discovery through one of the most vibrant times in recent history. Readers will share in the inner turmoil and political conflict that Alec experiences, but will revel as he discovers and accepts who he truly is."

★★★★★ *Goodreads*

"This is a coming of age novel like no other because we are now grown distant from what life was like in the Soviet Union, a complete dictatorship. This novel is semi-autobiographical and well worth reading for its insights and drama."

Bookviews by Alan Caruba

"This novel will resonate with the Ukrainian American community."
John Serio, PhD, Winner of the 2012 Distinguished Editor Award

Available on amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com in ebook and soft cover versions or at www.caughtinthecurrent.net

N.J. community attends prayer service for Maidan



Christine Syzonenko

WHIPPANY, N.J. – Flanked by altar servers, the Very Rev. John Lyszyk (left) of Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Irvington, N.J., and the Rt. Rev. Mitred Protropresbyter Roman Mirchuk of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church co-celebrate a prayer service for Ukraine on Wednesday, February 19, at St. John Church that was attended by many Ukrainian Americans from Morris, Essex and Somerset counties, and beyond.

UNA stands with brethren in Ukraine



Ukrainian National Association representatives at the February 23 demonstration in New York: (from left): Sviatoslava Kaczaraj, Sofia Derzko, UNA President Stefan Kaczaraj and UNA Treasurer Roma Lisovich.

Below is the text of remarks delivered by Ukrainian National Association President Stefan Kaczaraj on February 23 in New York at a demonstration in support of the people of Ukraine.

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Ukrainian National Association, today we stand with our Ukrainian brethren.

Today, Ukraine and all of us here in America simultaneously mourn and celebrate. Our mood is somber, but at the same time joyful. Because yesterday and today, the bloodshed has stopped and it appears that the individuals responsible for the taking of innocent lives, for trampling on democracy, for creating a dictatorship, are no longer in power.

The entire world is in awe of the Ukrainian people who rose up and demanded that the tyranny must stop. We rejoice that new presidential elections have now been scheduled for May 25 and that steps toward a free and real democracy of the people are taking hold.

But these are only the first steps. Much more has to be done. There will continue to be elements that will work toward crushing the people's spirit and democracy. Ukraine must remain vigilant and we must continue to advocate for its humanity, dignity and right of the people of Ukraine to live in a free and democratic society.

For all the fallen heroes, we bow our heads. They will not be forgotten. *Vichnaya pamiat!*

Human chain of freedom crosses Brooklyn Bridge



Yuri Skalchuk

NEW YORK – Close to 1,000 area Ukrainians walked across the Brooklyn Bridge on Saturday, February 22, to demonstrate their support for Ukraine in an action called Human Chain of Freedom that was organized by the recently established group Razom for Ukraine. The demonstrators held a 50-meter-long Ukrainian national flag. Among the participants were many young people of the Fourth Wave of immigrants from Ukraine, who organized the event, as well as representatives of the Belarusian, Georgian and Jewish communities. Above, the marchers are seen on the Brooklyn Bridge with the Freedom Tower in the background.

Boston community joins in prayer



Yuri Petriv

BOSTON – Boston area community members attend an ecumenical prayer service and "panakhyda" at Christ the King Ukrainian Catholic Church in Boston on Saturday evening, February 22.

N.J. Ukrainian...

(Continued from page 3)

Jaroslav Fedun stated that Moscow, not Kyiv, was the problem, and that the sanctions should target the gangsters who are fomenting fear among the citizenry. Mr. Fedun called Rep. Pascrell a true friend of Ukrainians. "Our heroes are dying, but you have become our hero."

Mr. Wanio urged Rep. Pascrell to pressure Ukraine's authorities to grant amnesty to the political prisoners, apply targeted sanctions against those responsible for violence against protesters and call for U.S. adherence to its treaty obligations to defend the territorial integrity of Ukraine.

Ms. Olexy underscored U.S. State Department statements about Ukraine and the support necessary to ensure lasting change, including election observer missions and the rebuilding of civil society structures in Ukraine. Ukraine's Ambassador to the U.S. Olexander Motsyk, she said, should be called to the White House for consultations.

Rep. Pascrell said that he would again meet with Ukrainian community representatives on February 24 at his Paterson, N.J., office before he returned to Washington.

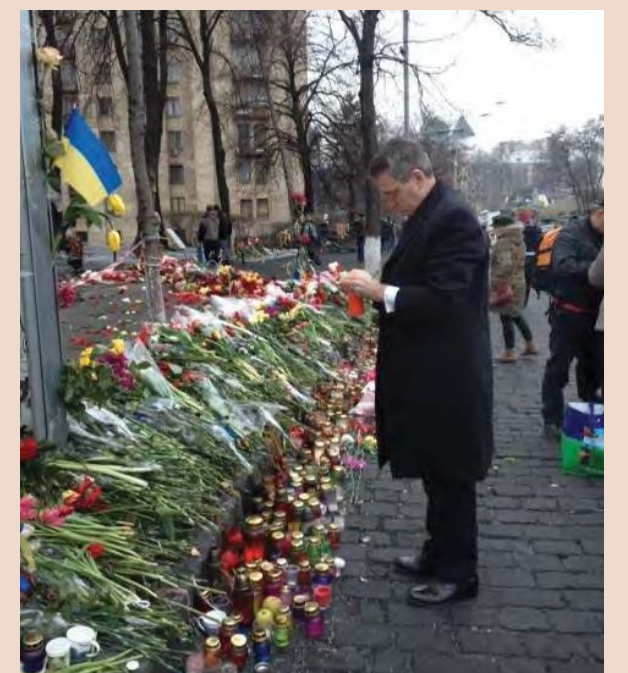
The Rev. Zhownirovych offered the benediction to close the meeting.

Immediately after the meeting, Rep. Pascrell sent a letter on to President Barack Obama urging targeted sanctions "It is vital that the U.S. act now to prevent Ukraine from descending into further chaos," Rep. Pascrell wrote. "We cannot allow this situation to devolve into all-out civil war, as we have seen in Syria. Again, I urge you to impose immediate sanctions on Ukrainian government officials and those in the Ukrainian business community who have enabled heinous acts of violence against protesters."

In the letter, Rep. Pascrell also called for visa bans and asset freezes against those who have been complicit in the violence against peaceful protesters.

Rep. Pascrell noted: "I am proud to represent a large and active Ukrainian American community in New Jersey's 9th Congressional District. I held a meeting today with a number of prominent Ukrainian American organizations and they expressed a deep desire for a solution to this crisis which respects the fundamental rights of their sisters and brothers in Ukraine to free speech, free press and peaceful assembly. They also made clear to me that they believe that current President Viktor Yanukovich must step down in order for the Ukrainian people to come together to form a lasting political solution to this crisis."

U.S. Embassy Kyiv offers condolences



U.S. Ambassador Geoffrey Pyatt lit a candle at a memorial erected on Instytuttska Street, commenting "Renewed democracy can ensure they did not die in vain." The photo was posted on the U.S. Embassy Kyiv Facebook page on February 25.

KYIV – The U.S. Embassy in Kyiv on February 20 issued the following statement of condolences.

"The United States offers sincere condolences to the families of those killed in the tragic events of last week. We will continue to honor the memory of all the victims of the last three months. From the Carpathians to the Donbas, from the Crimean cliffs to the Kyiv Sea – the United States stands with the Ukrainian people. We will support Ukrainians in their efforts to write a new chapter in their history that leads to a Ukraine that is democratic, sovereign, prosperous, and in Europe."

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

The new Ukraine

For 11 years, a single man obsessed with accruing power and using it to enhance his family's wealth (to the tune of \$12 billion, according to Ukraine expert Dr. Anders Aslund) was a dominating force on the Ukrainian political scene. Viktor Yanukovich and the Party of Regions he led were a menace to independent Ukraine ever since he became prime minister in November 2002.

First came the fraudulent presidential elections of 2004. Then came his attempt to force Viktor Yushchenko from the presidency in 2007, which almost became Ukraine's first armed civil conflict. Let's not forget the 2010 Constitutional Court decision overturning the 2004 constitutional amendments dividing power between the presidency and Parliament. It was this cynical destruction of checks and balances that enabled Mr. Yanukovich to establish his authoritarian rule. The next year, Mr. Yanukovich arranged for the courts to ensure that his main political rival, former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, was thrown in jail. Then came the parliamentary elections of 2012 that failed to meet international standards.

For too long, Ukrainians allowed a psychopath to make a disaster of the country. Finally, a new generation of patriots stepped up to the plate and gave the schoolyard bully a dose of his own medicine.

An ultimatum was declared from the Maidan stage the evening of February 21, after Ukraine's opposition politicians failed their constituents for the umpteenth time. They wanted the Maidan protest to keep going until presidential elections in December. No, they responded. Either Yanukovich goes by the next morning, or we go after him.

Meanwhile, the Russian government and its media lackeys condemned the "violent mobs" in Ukraine. But they weren't particularly bothered when Mr. Yanukovich monopolized power, rigged the 2012 parliamentary elections, wrecked the opposition media, and threw his political and business opponents in jail. In fact, the Russians supported all of Mr. Yanukovich's moves towards building his dictatorship – illegally overturning the 2004 constitutional amendments, destroying the free press and restricting individual rights – which is why the majority of Ukrainians want no part of any Russian integration. And now Russia is conducting military exercises on its territories close to the border with Ukraine, and there are threats of Russian intervention, as separatists protest against the new Ukrainian authorities – approved, we hasten to underline, by the only remaining legitimate power in Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada.

Mr. Yanukovich's departure creates a new era of Ukrainian politics in which he and the Party of Regions will no longer be the dominating factor. That's a relief, because their politics were destructive. But naturally, there's great concern regarding what comes next.

Now, we don't rule out that it wasn't just the ultimatum and the threat of storming the Presidential Administration that prompted Mr. Yanukovich to abandon ship. Ukraine's oligarchs also played a role in Mr. Yanukovich's demise. His brewing civil war threatened the stability and value of their billions of dollars worth of assets in Ukraine. Rinat Akhmetov and Dmytro Firtash are widely believed to have pressured him to agree to early presidential elections and a return to the 2004 Constitution, which became the first cracks in his demise. But that doesn't mean they should get off scot-free. They need to pay a price for Ukraine's current financial ruin.

The interim government that will lead Ukraine will have to find money from various sources. Dr. Aslund of the Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington suggested tapping Mr. Yanukovich's billions. We also suggest tapping the resources of those very oligarchs who financed the Party of Regions, got their dividends during Mr. Yanukovich's rule beginning in 2010 and maintained their support for the ruthless thug during the Euro-Maidan movement – even as protesters were being beaten and bloodied.

Many of their current assets were privatized in rigged auctions of state properties during the last three years, which include such lucrative enterprises as the state landline communications monopoly Ukrtelecom, and large stakes in the nation's biggest electricity generators, most notably Dniproenergo and Donbasenergo. They should also be forced to sell their assets abroad, which they gained from their rape of the Ukrainian economy that has left the population destitute and the country nearly bankrupt. What's more, newly confirmed Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk told the Verkhovna Rada on February 27: "About \$70 billion has been withdrawn from Ukraine's financial system to offshore accounts over the last three years. Now it's clear that they withdrew the funds that were raised as loans under state guarantees and stolen by representatives of the previous government."

And thus, the new Ukraine faces difficult challenges on all fronts. It needs, and deserves, the strong support of the West as it begins its necessary course correction.

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Turning the pages back...

Nine years ago, on March 6, 2005, Roman Solchanyk wrote a brief analysis of the Orange Revolution that had brought President Viktor Yushchenko to power and relegated then Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich as the de facto loser of the presidential election after millions came to Independence Square (Maidan) to protest the falsified election results.

Mr. Solchanyk wrote: "Now that the tents have been dismantled in Kyiv's Independence Square and the Orange revolutionaries have gone home to attend to more mundane matter, it's time for a sober look at what Ukraine's Orange Revolution has changed and, no less importantly, what it has not changed."

Ukraine's Orange Revolution did not give birth to a "new Ukrainian nation" – if only because nations are not born, but made, Mr. Solchanyk stated. The final round of the December 2004 elections, which the international community touted as "free and fair," showed that half of Ukraine's voters still pined for the "Soviet way of life."

(Continued on page 9)

CURRENT POLITICS IN UKRAINE

Viktor Yanukovich: From partner to violent kleptocrat

by Taras Kuzio

Over the course of four years, a highly negative view of Ukraine's President Viktor Yanukovich has evolved from one espoused by only a minority to one that is now uncontested. This was because much of what United States and European Union policymakers had believed about Mr. Yanukovich was wishful thinking rather than based on facts or intelligence. Links between Mr. Yanukovich, the Party of Regions and crime have been long known to U.S. policymakers as seen in U.S. cables from Kyiv that are available in Wikileaks. At least 18 Party of Regions deputies continue to hold criminal ties according to Hennadiy Moskal, deputy head of Parliament's Committee on Organized Crime and Corruption.

Attitudes towards Ukraine's president have evolved through four stages.

The first stage – wishful thinking – dominated 2010, when Mr. Yanukovich became president in the last free election Ukraine has held, with policymakers either believing he had changed under the influence of U.S. con-

Dr. Taras Kuzio is research associate at the Center for Political and Regional Studies, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta, and non-resident fellow at the Center for Transatlantic Relations, School of Advanced International Relations, Johns Hopkins University.

The article above is reprinted from the blog "Current Politics in Ukraine" (<http://ukraineanalysis.wordpress.com/>) created by the Stasiuk Program for the Study of Contemporary Ukraine, a program of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta. It was posted on February 17.

sultants or would be no different than President Leonid Kuchma (1994-2004). Policymakers reserved their criticism, arguing Mr. Yanukovich needed to be given a chance to prove himself. Mr. Yanukovich attended the April 2010 nuclear summit in Washington, where he offered to give up Ukraine's stockpile of highly enriched uranium.

Wishful thinking papered over democratic regression, the transformation of Parliament into a rubber-stamp institution, corruption of the Constitutional Court and local election fraud. It also sidestepped the first signs of selective justice against defeated opposition candidate and Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and former Internal Affairs Minister Yuriy Lutsenko. The U.S., to its credit, condemned Mr. Lutsenko's imprisonment on New Year's Eve 2010. Wishful thinking was mixed with lobbying by U.S. journalists and consultants who praised the reformist and democratic credentials of Yanukovich.

The second stage – thaw – began with Freedom House downgrading Ukraine from free to partly free and continuing to issue highly critical reports. Although Ukraine's democracy was being rolled back and opposition leaders were being persecuted, the EU continued to negotiate with Ukraine for an Association Agreement (AA) and a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA).

EU and U.S. comments became more critical from the summer of 2011 and culminated in a crescendo of condemnations when Ms. Tymoshenko was imprisoned in October of that year. The EU, in what could be only described as a slap on Mr.

(Continued on page 15)

WINDOW ON EURASIA

Absorbing Ukraine would destroy Russia, Moscow commentator says

by Paul Goble

Vladimir Putin would view drawing Ukraine into a single economic and political arrangement with Russia as an enormous geopolitical achievement, but if he were to succeed initially, the Kremlin leader would be setting the stage for the demise of the Russian Federation itself, according to a Moscow commentator.

In an essay on the Forum-MSK.org portal published on February 9, Yevgeny Ikhlov says that "the creation of a Russian-Ukrainian confederation would be the most grandiose foreign policy victory of [post-1991] Russia." But "at the same time [it would be] a terrible national defeat of Ukraine" and ultimately for Russia too (forum-msk.org/material/fpolitic/10229277.html).

Paul Goble is a long-time specialist on ethnic and religious questions in Eurasia who has served in various capacities in the U.S. State Department, the Central Intelligence Agency and the International Broadcasting Bureau, as well as at the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Mr. Goble writes a blog called "Window on Eurasia" (<http://windowoneurasia2.blogspot.com/>). This article above is reprinted with permission.

The Ukrainian economy would be reduced to being a fiefdom of Russian monopolies, Ukrainian politics "to a branch of the Kremlin," and "Ukrainian culture to be a rudimentary part in an all-Russian mass culture." It would be left insulted and injured, and it would become a far bigger problem than many in Moscow now realize, Mr. Ikhlov suggests.

He asks his readers to consider for a moment what would happen if Canada were to become part of the United States. All Canadians and not just those in Quebec "would feel themselves to be second-class Americans." Dissatisfaction among them and among other Americans who would have to bear the costs of absorption would quickly grow.

Consequently, even though initially such a combination would make the United States "a super-super power" from the outside, it would set in motion forces that would undermine that status both inside the country and in its relations with others, the threat of which is clearly enough to restrain anyone from pushing this idea.

"The inclusion of Ukraine in the Russian financial-economic, political and cultural system would lead to [that system's] rapid national collapse" as well, Mr. Ikhlov continues. A "confederal" Ukraine would soon

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NEWS AND VIEWS

In Ukraine it's 'Hromadske'

by Dora Chomiak

Ukraine now has public radio. It's called Hromadske Radio. I'm very excited about this, even though it took 22 years to launch it.

Twenty-three years ago I went to Ukraine to work with the new independent media. In those days in our International Media Center and elsewhere people began talking about the need for public radio in Ukraine, and no one really knew what public radio was. Paying for it, as we do in the U.S. with tax money and private donations, or as in Britain, where receivers were licensed to support BBC, was abhorrent to my friends.

Don't forget, my new colleagues had just worked on Soviet and Soviet Ukrainian radio and TV, where they were salaried and funds to transmit their productions came from somewhere. And I was talking about American listeners paying for public radio.

Soon – "na nashykh ochakh" (before our very eyes) – a lot of commercial, non-governmental FM radio stations went on the air, and some of my colleagues were hired by them. (FM stations were becoming accessible and cheap.) Our center, established by American foundations and by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), began supplying programs and equipment to these independent, non-governmental stations, and we established an information center in Kyiv to advise the new media owners about their rights as broadcasters.

Dora Chomiak is a partner at Inflection Point Strategy in New York City.

But public radio refused to take root. The nearest thing was the efforts of my late friend Oleksandr Kryvenko, who built an amazing team of journalists, but was blocked at every turn by Ukraine's National Council on Broadcasting. Sashko Kryvenko died in an auto accident shortly after the "Ukrainian FCC" again refused him a radio frequency. The team kept working, but was not able to build a sustainable organization of public broadcasting. It fizzled.

Now it's a whole new ballgame. Now Ukrainians have computers and access to the Internet via broadband. And now my old friends from 1991-1994 created Hromadske Radio – yes, NPR in Ukrainian. And because broadband is broadband – whether in Makiyivka or Solitude, Utah, or in my West Village condo – we all can hear it.

I urge you to sample it. Hromadske Radio broadcasts in Ukrainian, English and Russian. Its motto is "Slukhayte. Dumayte." (Listen. Think.) Find out more at www.HromadskeRadio.org. You can listen to the stream from the site, from the TuneIn Radio App and on SoundCloud. And, yes, like the public radio in our country, the listeners support it. Last fall, they ran a successful crowd funding campaign in Ukraine. (You can read the names of the donors on the site.) The team also got grants from several foundations.

Now a group of us in the U.S. have come together to lead a crowd funding campaign to collect support from around the globe for Hromadske Radio. Please contribute at igg.me/at/publicradio.

Keep public radio on the air in Ukraine now.

FOR THE RECORD

Bildt: "a dark day in Europe"

The following statement by Carl Bildt, Sweden's minister of foreign affairs, was released on February 19.

It is a dark day in Europe. On the streets of one of our capitals, people are being killed. Their demands were simple and natural: democracy, reforms and European cooperation. Their desire was, for a long time, the desire expressed by the entire Ukrainian nation. And this was why we in the European Union, through the Eastern Partnership, opened the door to cooperation, trade, reforms and integration.

We did so because we too were convinced that this was in the interests not only of Ukraine, but of the whole of Europe. But let us be clear about what happened. Last summer, Russia launched a single-minded pressure offensive to make Ukraine deviate from its chosen course. Brutal trade barriers were combined with open threats. And a wavering leadership in Ukraine gave in.

But when they gave in, it was seen as a betrayal by all those people who had hoped for a better future. The European flag flew in Maidan Square as a symbol of the desire for a better future. People wanted to move forwards alongside the rest of Europe – not backwards towards the all too well-known. Without those threats from Moscow and the wavering in Kyiv, Ukraine could today have been clearly on its way to a better future.

The International Monetary Fund, with support from us all, was prepared to offer an economic assistance and

reform program. And the door to European political cooperation, and the political solidarity that goes along with it, had been opened.

Not all of the problems had been resolved. But Ukraine was, with broad European and international support, clearly on a path to a better future. But this future of European cooperation was a future that powerful forces did not want to see. And that is where the responsibility for the killings on the streets of Kyiv clearly and ultimately lies.

Today, President Yanukovich has blood on his hands. And I am afraid that the path he has now taken will lead to even more suffering and violence. He was the only one who could have prevented the killing – by extending a hand of genuine cooperation to the democratic opposition.

Instead they were shown a fist. People have been shot dead with live ammunition. Peaceful demonstrators. But police officers and others have also been harmed in the violence that broke out. I am afraid that Ukraine is now heading for dark times. The crisis in the country will become deeper and longer. I am deeply concerned.

But the outcome of the violence will be precarious and short-lived. It will die away like a storm on the steppes. What has happened, and is happening, in Ukraine also demonstrates the power of the European dream. A Europe of peace and freedom and cooperation.

And sooner or later, it will triumph in Ukraine too.

PERSPECTIVES

by Andrew Fedynsky



Поклін тобі, Тарасе –
A bow to thee, Taras

by Andrew Fedynsky

Taras Shevchenko and I go way back. I was a first grader in 1954 at Cleveland's "Ridna Shkola" Saturday school when I learned to sing "Cherry orchard by the house..." and, of course, "Testament," which exhorts Ukrainians to rise up and sprinkle liberty with their oppressors' blood.

A couple of years later, I recited "Ivan Pidkova" from the Merrick Settlement House stage: "...cannons once roared and Zaporizhians, garnering liberty and glory, knew how to command..." By 1839 when he wrote the poem at the age of 25, all that was gone, Shevchenko notes, Ukraine having long since become a Russian colony; descendants of Kozaks relegated to serfdom, bound to the soil with no more rights than a tree or a cow.

"Ivan Pidkova" is about 75 lines. I rehearsed it over and over under my mother's patient but stern supervision. Wearing an embroidered shirt and baggy Kozak "sharavary" pants, I sailed through the first 60 lines, and then my brain locked. I stood helplessly: the final stanzas lost. Seeing my distress, my classmate and scouting buddy, Yurko Huk, who was following in his own copy of Kobzar, slammed the book shut and announced, "That's it!" I bowed and, both relieved and chagrined, walked off.

Today, I can still recite a couple hundred lines of Shevchenko's verse, but nothing will ever be as memorable as in 1970, just outside of Rivne, Ukraine, when three friends and I, having secured a rare camping visa to the Soviet Union, stopped at the only gas station on the "highway" between Kyiv and Lviv. The attendants, flabbergasted to have four Americans speaking Ukrainian pull up in a Volkswagen microbus, questioned us at length: who were we; who were our parents; how many hours in America do you work to buy a van, a shirt, a pair of shoes; how we had the freedom to travel; and what we'd do when we flew home at the end of the summer, etc.

Then the big question: "Khloptsi (guys)...have you ever heard of Taras Shevchenko?" Of course, we replied. Okay, Who was he? Ukraine's national poet. That's when one of them began reciting the "Testament," and then broke off after a couple lines. In unison, we continued from where he'd stopped.

That was it. They closed the station and produced onions, tomatoes, pickles, radishes, bread and multiple bottles of vodka. In a room with the hammer and sickle and portraits of Leonid Brezhnev and Alexei Kosygin on the wall, we spent hours telling stories, laughing, singing and bonding over the Kozak legacy we shared across an ocean, a continent and 350 years. It was one of the most memorable parties of my life. Thank you, Taras.

If you're Ukrainian American, you certainly have your own Shevchenko memories; and if you're of a certain age, chances are one of those is the 1964 Shevchenko monument unveiling in Washington. Today, the monument is an obligatory stop for

Ukrainian presidents, ambassadors, entertainers, religious leaders and tourists of all kinds.

Half a century ago, it was a big controversy. The Soviet Union declared its construction an unfriendly act – not that they were against Shevchenko, at least as they defined him. Rationalizing his contempt for Russian imperialism and censoring his revolutionary Ukrainian message, they claimed him as a proto-communist, one of their own. No, the problem the Soviets had was how the monument would define Shevchenko for the world: as a fighter for Ukraine's independence and liberty, which indeed he was. That's why the tsar arrested him and why the Soviets distorted his meaning.

And so, in typical style, Soviet spinmeisters smeared the monument's sponsors as neo-Nazi, anti-Semitic nationalists – disinformation virtually identical to what's been thrown against the Euromaidan.

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America would have none of it. Led by Prof. Lev Dobriansky of Georgetown University, the UCCA won overwhelming congressional approval for the monument, raised millions for its construction and had President Dwight D. Eisenhower for the unveiling. The Washington Post, which had waged an editorial campaign against the monument as a Cold War provocation, put the event on the front page, conceding that 40,000 had attended. Organizers counted more like 100,000.

What I remember from that day was the huge crowd, stifling heat and friendly African American neighbors on the parade route generously offering cold water for the parched marchers, including me. No doubt many of them had attended Martin Luther King's March on Washington, 11 months earlier. I doubt they knew who Shevchenko was, but they respected how people came long distances to honor a poet's legacy.

I've had many other Shevchenko encounters. In 1977 in Rome, I saw the statue where he's clad in a classical toga. In 1988 on our honeymoon, my wife and I stumbled upon a monument to him on the Boulevard St. Germaine. I've sat next to Shevchenko's bust at the Ukrainian National Association's Soyuzivka Heritage Center and bowed to his statue in Kyiv at the university named in his honor. I've visited him a couple hundred times at Cleveland's Cultural Gardens, and nearly every day I see his plaster image, crafted by Alexander Archipenko's hands, at the entrance to the Ukrainian Museum-Archives. Indeed, there are more than 1,000 monuments to Shevchenko in Ukraine and major world cities. Regrettably, I'll never see them all.

On the bicentennial of his birth, it's impossible to overestimate Shevchenko's importance. Without him, Ukrainians would have long since disappeared from history. That didn't happen, and today the nation plays a key role in geopolitics. And Shevchenko's there. Watching live Internet coverage of the Maidan – a couple of hundred yards from where he lived on the

Andrew Fedynsky's e-mail address is fedynsky@sbcglobal.net.

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Russia accuses Kyiv of using 'dictatorial,' 'terrorist' means

RFE/RL

Russia's Foreign Affairs Ministry has alleged that "dictatorial and sometimes terrorist methods" are being used in Ukraine to pressure dissenters against the country's new authorities.

It accused the Parliament that ousted President Viktor Yanukovich of pushing through constitutional reforms without proper debate, and passing legislation curtailing the rights of ethnic Russians.

A ministry statement called for a "crack-down on the extremists who are trying to get established in power" in Ukraine.

The ministry also accused Western states, saying they were not worried about Ukraine's fate but instead engaged in "unilateral geopolitical calculations" in support of their own interests.

Western reactions

While the United States said Mr. Yanukovich was not "actively leading" Ukraine as president, the White House stopped short of endorsing anyone else as the country's legitimate leader.

Spokesman Jay Carney said on February 24 the Obama administration believed the Ukrainian Parliament lawfully elected a new speaker, Oleksander Turchynov.

But Mr. Carney declined to say whether Washington considers Mr. Turchynov to be Ukraine's legitimate acting leader since Mr. Yanukovich fled Kyiv in the face of deadly mass protests. Mr. Carney said the United States did not know Mr. Yanukovich's whereabouts.

The U.S. spokesman added that the United States is prepared to help Ukraine regain economic stability by providing support that complements assistance from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The European Commission, meanwhile, said on February 24 that it recognized Mr. Turchynov, an ally of formerly jailed Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, as Ukraine's legitimate acting president.

The commission also said Ukraine could sign EU political cooperation and free-trade accords after a new government is

formed through elections. Mr. Yanukovich's decision not to sign those accords in November 2013 led to the movement that last week forced him to abandon his office and residence and flee Kyiv.

Russian concerns

Earlier on February 24, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said Moscow had "serious doubts" about the legitimacy of many of Ukraine's government bodies following President Yanukovich's ouster.

Mr. Medvedev said there was no one to deal with in Kyiv, as "masked men carrying Kalashnikovs" could not be partners for dialogue. He said recognizing the new authorities in Ukraine would be an "aberration."

"Some of our foreign partners, Western partners, think otherwise – they consider these authorities legitimate. I don't know which Constitution and what legislation they are reading from," Mr. Medvedev said. "I think it is an aberration of consciousness of some kind to give legitimacy to something

that in essence is a result of an armed revolt."

After Mr. Yanukovich rejected the EU accords, Moscow extended a \$15 billion aid package to Kyiv aimed at helping the government overcome Ukraine's debt crisis. That aid package now appears to be in doubt.

Warrant for Yanukovich

Ukraine's acting government has issued an arrest warrant for Mr. Yanukovich, accusing him of mass murder over the killings of dozens of anti-government protesters by police.

Vitali Klitschko, one of the former opposition's leaders, accused Mr. Yanukovich of going into hiding to escape responsibility.

"It's a remarkable situation when the most sought-after character in the country is the president of Ukraine, who is hiding and doing everything to flee from the country and to avoid the responsibility that he must bear," Mr. Klitschko said. "I would like to emphasize that hundreds of victims are the responsibility of Yanukovich, who gave

the orders [to disperse protesters with violence]."

Acting Internal Affairs Minister Arsen Avakov said that Mr. Yanukovich was last seen in the pro-Russian Black Sea peninsula of Crimea late on February 23 in a private residence in the Balaklava region.

He said that Mr. Yanukovich arrived there earlier that day accompanied by his head of administration, Andriy Kliuyev. Mr. Avakov said that Yanukovich relinquished his state-appointed bodyguards, then drove off to an unknown location.

With reporting by Reuters, AP, AFP, ITAR-TASS, Interfax, and RFE/RL's Tatar-Bashkir and Russian services.

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Ukraine's acting president warns of 'signs of separatism'

RFE/RL

Ukraine's acting president said on February 25 that he's concerned about "signs of separatism" and threats to Ukraine's territorial integrity following the upheaval that has rocked the country in the past week.

The comments by acting President Oleksander Turchynov follow protests in Crimea, where many residents are pro-Russian, against Ukraine's new authorities following the ouster of Moscow-backed President Viktor Yanukovich.

Both Russia, and Western countries, which backed the opposition movement, have warned of the threat of growing instability linked to a split between Ukraine's Western-leaning and Russian-speaking regions.

Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Sergei Lavrov said on February 25 that Moscow has no intention of interfering in Ukraine's internal affairs.

However, later on the same day, a top Russian lawmaker said Russia "will not stay aside" if the lives of its compatriots in Ukraine were in danger.

Leonid Slutsky, deputy chairman of the Russian Duma's Foreign Affairs Committee, said the Russian Parliament is considering a bill that would clear the way for residents of Crimea and

other people in Ukraine to swiftly obtain Russian citizenship.

"This is a very sensitive issue," he said. "It has to be worked on by a number of federal departments. This has to be decided by the highest authorities in Russia. And, of course, we should understand that if such proposals are legally approved in Russia, the reaction of Kyiv will be very negative. We can't do anything which could provoke armed response and bloodshed, especially against our compatriots."

Speaking to activists in Symferopol, the capital of the Crimea region, Mr. Slutsky said the elected Mr. Yanukovich remains Ukraine's only legitimate leader.

Arseniy Yatsenyuk, the chairman of the former opposition faction Batkivshchyna, urged Moscow not to meddle. He said the situation in Crimea is "very complicated."

With reporting by the Associated Press, Agence France-Presse, Reuters and Bloomberg.

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UOC-MP Synod elects new locum tenens for Kyiv Metropolitan See

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The Synod of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church–Moscow Patriarchate (UOC-MP) voted Metropolitan Onufriy (Berezovsky) to the post of locum tenens in a secret ballot on February 24.

The previous head of the UOC-MP in Kyiv was Metropolitan Volodymyr (Sabodan), who for a while now has been ill and unable to fulfill his duties.

Metropolitan Onufriy is the titular bishop of Chernivtsi and Bukovyna. Born in Chernivtsi in 1944, he was the son of a priest, attended the Moscow theological Seminary and was a member of the Trinity-St. Serhiy Lavra in Moscow, then the Pochayiv Lavra of the Holy Assumption in Ukraine. He has served as bishop for 23 years and in 1992 refused to sign a request to Patriarch Alexei II that would have granted autocephaly to the UOC-MP. Metropolitan Onufriy also denies that the Holodomor was genocide against Ukrainians.

"Holodomor was a correction from God, suppression of our pride that rebelled against ourselves, against human existence. There's a Ukrainian expression, it's a bit vulgar, 'katuzi po zasluzi' (an executioner gets what he deserves). Thus, we got what we deserved," Metropolitan Onufriy told the Interfax news agency on November 24, 2008, during the 75th anniversary com-

memoration of the Holodomor.

During a meeting at the Synod, chaired by Metropolitan Onufriy, the UOC-MP discussed the appeal by the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate (UOC-KP) on overcoming the divisions within the Orthodox Church in Ukraine. The Synod resolved: that it is ready to continue the dialogue with the UOC-KP and the UAOC, and called for the creation for a commission for the dialogue. Members of the commission would include: Archbishop Mytrofan of Luhansk and Alchevsk, Archbishop Feodor of Kamianets-Podilskyi and Horodok, Bishop Filaret of Lviv and Halych, Archbishop Mykolay Danylyevych and Prof. Volodymyr Bureha of the Kyiv Theological Academy and Seminary.

The Synod also adopted an appeal to the government in connection with the Euro-Maidan events. The Synod condemned the "criminal actions of the government that provoked the bloodshed on the streets and squares of gold-domed Kyiv" and assured of prayers for the dead and care of the wounded. The appeal stressed the importance of "building a new country on the principles of good and justice, territorial integrity and consolidation of society" and said that "the authorities should be aware of their responsibility before God, their own consciences,

and past, present and future generations."

The UOC-MP assured that it does not divide its faithful along political, territorial, ethnic, linguistic or social lines and supports the territorial integrity of the Ukrainian state; it urged the government to prevent the collapse of the country. "We have to keep a single united Ukraine for future generations. In the current situation of severe social stress, we must make every effort to preserve religious peace in Ukraine," the statement concluded.

After celebrating divine liturgy in Moscow on February 23, Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill said that the schism of Ukraine's Orthodox Churches should be overcome by returning to the principles of canonical church life. "Only such unity will be strong and salutary." On February 22, the Synod of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church–Kyiv Patriarchate published an appeal calling for the UOC-MP and part of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church to unite in one national Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

Service on the Maidan

Ukrainian clergy gathered on Independence Square in Kyiv on February 22 to lead memorial prayers for protesters who were killed there in the fighting. They

called the protesters fallen heroes of the "Heavenly Brigade" and assured that their love of others will grant them eternal life in the kingdom of heaven.

The prayers were led by leaders of the UAOC, UOC-KP, the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, the Roman Catholic Church, the Jewish community and Protestants. An archpriest of the UOC-MP was also present.

Patriarch Filaret of the UOC-KP, who was warmly greeted by the people, warned that the fight was not over. "We need to be careful," he said, "because the evil forces are trying to break our unity. We need to cease hostilities and to stand firmly on the principles of truth. For there can be no reconciliation between good and evil. There can be nothing in common between light and darkness."

Patriarch Filaret also called for the creation of one national Ukrainian Church. "The Synod of the Church appeals to the episcopate of the UOC-MP with a proposal to unite in one Church. They do not realize whom they serve. They must serve their people and be independent from other states. Love them, but above all their country. Because the enemies are using our division, and this division is not only in the Church, but in the entire nation. Therefore,

(Continued on page 9)

UCCA calls on U.S. to support Ukraine's new interim government

The following statement was released by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America on February 26.

For the past three months, the Ukrainian people have been the active front line of defense for not only their own freedom, but the freedom of the entire trans-Atlantic alliance. While the world looked on, they courageously withstood bloody assaults, murders and executions. Still, they continued to stand together in their demand for the rule of law and the right to live with dignity in a civil society.

Now, the collapse of the Yanukovych regime comes amidst reports that Russian warships are amassing off the Ukrainian coast and that the Putin regime is attempting to establish a pretense for a Hitleresque Sudetenland option in Ukraine. Additionally, the Russian government is pursuing ever increasing, multi-vectored, political, economic, informational, social, cultural and religious aggression and encroachment directed against Ukraine's sovereignty. Vladimir Putin's moves towards re-colonization are rightly viewed with alarm by our NATO allies, particularly by those in Central Europe. They are understood to be a threat to the stabilizing transnational, trans-Atlantic security framework that first emerged in the years after the second world war and seemingly transformed with the fall of the Soviet Union.

American geo-strategic interests depend upon regional stability, which can only be achieved by supporting the fragile democracy in Ukraine through its interim government. The United States must take the lead in promoting international norms. The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America calls on the United States to:

- Facilitate all possible unilateral and multi-lateral economic assistance to Ukraine – in an effort to stabilize the situation in Ukraine; including urging the International Monetary Fund (and our

European Allies) to provide the interim Ukrainian government with the necessary financing so that it can begin restructuring its economic institutions according to OECD country norms; work with our allies to establish a Marshall Plan for Ukraine.

- Act upon the public and politically binding security guarantees including, but not exclusively, the 1994 Trilateral Agreement which elicits, at the very least, Washington's engagement when Ukraine's security is threatened. The agreement offered these assurances in exchange for Ukraine's commitment to its renunciation of its nuclear weapons and its ascension to Non-Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear state. These assurances were critical for Ukraine and they included U.S. support for Ukraine's territorial sovereignty and integrity, the non-use of force and the freedom from economic coercion.

- Publicly condemn any internal or external attempts or threats that affect Ukraine's territorial integrity, stability and political independence.

- Expand the list of visa sanctions against the perpetrators of the massive violence in Ukraine, to include Viktor Yanukovych and his "clan," as well as Russian officials actively threatening Ukraine. Institute asset freezes for Ukrainian and Russian government officials and others implicated in the state-sponsored crackdown on the peaceful protestors.

- Freeze Russia's membership applications to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and other international organizations.

- Support the Global Human Rights Accountability Act, legislation that would ensure that human rights abusers from anywhere in the world are denied entry into the United States and barred from using our financial institutions.

- Actively engage in monitoring the upcoming presidential elections slated for May 25, and provide technical assistance where needed to ensure that they are held in

a free and fair manner, in accordance with international standards, so that the voice of the people will be truly represented.

The United States must work to facilitate the transformation of Russia's lingering imperial ambitions into ambitions of democratic statehood. With American support, a democratic, independent Ukraine can be that keystone of freedom in the region. However, anything less than a full commitment to strengthening Ukraine as a bulwark of freedom amounts to nothing other than a policy of appeasement, and history has shown that appeasement simply does

not work. Unless Ukraine is fully integrated into Europe and its structures, trans-Atlantic security is simply an illusion.

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, the umbrella organization representing over 1 million Americans of Ukrainian descent wholeheartedly commits itself to the rebirth of a truly democratic and free Ukraine and to the people of this freedom-loving nation and pledges, our support to them in the hopes of attaining a future where true freedom, democracy and the rule of law will endure and thrive.

UCCA calls on international community to support Ukraine's economic restructuring

The statement below was released by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America on February 22.

External financing is needed to stabilize the situation in Ukraine. Not only have the events of the last three months disrupted the economy, but the events themselves were the results of Viktor Yanukovych's agreement with Russia and not the European Union for the loans that he desperately needed. Ukraine's kleptocratic governments have never had a strategic economic plan for the country. Since 1991, the economic policy of Ukraine has proceeded from the notion that the metallurgical complex, agriculture and chemical industries of Ukraine would finance economic development. This also allowed the rise of the oligarchs, who became owners of many of these complexes, yet the government was left with the risks of compensating victims of accidents in privatized mines.

The present 2 percent growth of the Ukrainian economy is almost stagnation, since it is growing from a very low base.

Ukraine needs much more substantial growth, which would allow the economic structure to improve and to raise the standard of living of the average Ukrainian. The per capita GDP in Ukraine is around \$7,300, compared to \$22,200 in Poland and around \$51,700 in the United States. Ukraine ranks 137th worldwide, behind El Salvador, Namibia and Guyana. Yet, Universitas 21 ranked Ukraine fourth in the proportion of workers with the highest level of education in the workforce. Besides all the political issues, the new government faces a huge challenge to dramatically increase the rate of growth of the economy. If not, stagnation and unrest may last for years.

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America calls on the United States to urge the International Monetary Fund to provide the interim Ukrainian government with the necessary financing so that it can restructure its economic institutions according to country norms of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

UOC-MP Synod...

(Continued from page 8)

for the entire Ukrainian people to be one, the Orthodox Church must be one," the patriarch said.

On February 21 Bishop Borys Gudziak, eparch of Paris of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, urged that the Euro-Maidan heroes be honored. "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13). "I encourage everyone, especially journalists, to create the lives of the martyrs who gave their lives for our dignity, for our liberty," Bishop Gudziak wrote on his Facebook page. "Let their witness, death and eternal life be for

us a source of understanding truth and a return to our dignity," he wrote.

UOC-MP priest addresses Berkut

"Religion in Ukraine" reported that the Rev. Archpriest Oleksiy Yefimov, a parish priest of the UOC-MP in Vasylkiv, held a prayer service in Kyiv on February 12 during the Euro-Maidan protests. In his sermon, the Rev. Yefimov instructed the Berkut to strictly abide by their commitments, including the official oath, otherwise "you will doom your soul to damnation" and urged them to not switch to the side of the protesters, whom he compared with the Nazis and drew a parallel with the Second World War. "This is not the people

of the nation! This is rubbish! The people look to you for protection, are relying on you," the Rev. Yefimov said.

On February 11 a group of priests of the UOC-MP released a statement declaring their desire to have closer ties with "Christian Europe. ...With the basic European values, which are fundamentally Christian values. These are: truth, justice, freedom, value of each individual."

"Fighting for these ideas, we must ourselves be normal people – people with whom we want to live nearby – together to build the future. We are not against those who are on the other side of the Maidan. We are not against those who were cheated. We are opposed to the fact that they

deceived them and us. We oppose all kinds of lawlessness and violence," they wrote.

"...The people are taking to the streets. On the other side of the barricades are the government people who like all of us suffer from the gluttony of the officials. Those who, not of their own will, are taken to the 'anti-Maidan' are also our brothers and sisters. They just do not know who we really are. That we are not enemies. We are not against Donbas, Sevastopol, Luhansk or Odesa. We are together. We are not here for the politicians who are on the podium. We are against all kinds of evil, injustice and violence. And when we are together, we are strength!" The statement was signed by 11 priests and three bishops of the UOC-MP.

Turning...

(Continued from page 6)

Opinion polls conducted at the end of 2004 showed that half of Ukrainians (and 67 percent of Russians) were saddened by the collapse of the Soviet Union. When respondents were asked to choose between a union with Russia and Belarus or membership in the European Union, slightly more than half opted for the "outpost of tyranny" in Minsk and Vladimir Putin's "managed democracy."

In a commentary on the poll, Oleh Ryabchuk, newly appointed vice prime minister for European integration, told Izvestia news that Russians need to abandon the notion that they are "almost Ukrainians" and Ukrainians should stop saying that they are "almost Russians."

Russia's perceptions of Ukraine had not changed following the Orange Revolution, with the majority of Russians still not prepared to recognize Ukrainians as a legitimate and separate nation. Russia's leading pollster, Yuri Levada, said that nearly 80 percent of Russians were convinced that Ukrainians (and Belarusians) are really Russians; nearly 70 percent did not think that Ukraine is a genuine country.

President Vladimir Putin told a press conference in December 2004 that Ukraine, including its western part is "completely Russian speaking," while Russia's Foreign Affairs Minister Sergei Lavrov announced a "turnaround" in Moscow's approach to relations with Kyiv, asserting that it now viewed Ukraine (and Georgia) as "absolutely sovereign," and that the term "near abroad" was no longer applicable.

However, Oleksander Chalyi, Ukraine's

first vice-minister for foreign affairs, said he would like to see Mr. Lavrov's statements recorded in official bilateral documents governing Russia's relations with the U.S. and the European Union.

These assurances of mutual respect go as far back as the Ukrainian-Russian treaty of 1990, Mr. Solchanyk noted.

The previous leadership under President Leonid Kuchma was fond of pointing out that "no one is waiting for us in Europe." Europe's sentiments on the Orange events were positive, Mr. Solchanyk added, but various Eurocrats had indicated that the European house was full at the moment, and Ukrainians needed not apply. However, the EU would entertain petitions from Albania and Turkey, who seemed to qualify as "European."

An Action Plan between the EU and Kyiv offered some economic concessions that the

EU touted as a "deepening" of relations, but omitted any assurances of the possibility of eventual associate membership prospects. EU Commissioner for External Relations Benita Ferrero-Waldner described it as an EU door that is "neither open nor closed."

The U.S., along with Warsaw and Vilnius, had shown its support for Ukraine's European aspirations at the 2004 NATO Summit in Brussels, where President Yushchenko met with White House representatives as part of the NATO-Ukraine Commission.

Indicating "old" Europe's sentiments, France's President Jacques Chirac walked out of the NATO meeting directly after Mr. Yushchenko's speech at the summit.

Source: "What the Orange Revolution did not revolutionize," by Roman Solchanyk, The Ukrainian Weekly, March 6, 2005.

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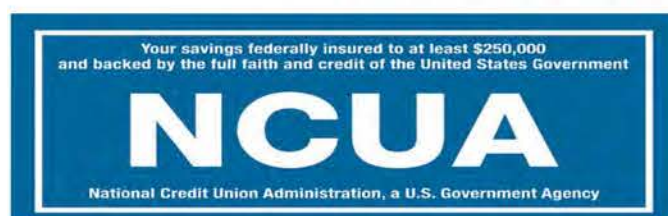
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Ukraine's biathlon team wins gold

by Ihor N. Stelmach

The Ukrainian women's biathlon team gave its country a momentous victory on Friday, February 21 – a victory that a nation marred by deadly political protests desperately needed. The quartet won the Olympic 4x6-kilometer relay for its first gold medal of the Sochi Games. Defending champion Russia was 26.4 seconds behind for the silver medal, and Norway won the bronze medal.

The Semerenko twins, Vita and Valj, Juliya Dzhyima and anchor Olena Pidhrushna missed five targets, but avoided penalty loops to finish in 1 hour, 10 minutes, 2.5 seconds. It was Ukraine's second medal in these Games and second medal in women's biathlon with Vita Semerenko having won a bronze medal in the women's 7.5-kilometer sprint. This was Ukraine's first gold medal at a Winter Olympics in 20 years, since Oksana Baiul's figure skating gold in Lillehammer, Norway, in 1994.

The 4x6-kilometer relay requires all four athletes to be at the top of their game both on skis and taking aim at their targets. No one was better than the Ukrainian women, who were not considered a gold medal favorite.

Ukraine was third at the first exchange, trailing Italy by six seconds. After Italy lost its lead, Dzhyima hit all 10 targets, giving third starter Valj Semerenko a 26-second head start. Semerenko stayed clear in her first shooting and left the range 40 seconds ahead of Russia and Norway, a minute ahead of the remaining field. She went on to extend the lead, but had to reload three times in her second shooting, forfeiting some 30 seconds. Anchor Pidhrushna missed once in her first round, then was flawless in her second,



Ukraine's women's biathlon team with gold medals.

withstanding the pressure and bringing home the gold medal.

At the finish line Pidhrushna collapsed face down after finishing the last leg and was immediately swarmed by her teammates and coaches. In the crowd Ukrainian flags flapped frantically, and the crowd's roar lasted at least a full minute.

Any doubt Ukraine had the top women's biathlon team at these 2014 Winter Olympics disappeared when the four

women joined hands and flung their arms in the air prior to taking bows, like stage actors acknowledging a standing ovation. For that moment their performance seemed to transcend the sport.

"It is the dream of a whole lifetime," said Vita Semerenko during a February 21 press conference from Sochi, Russia. "Our dream and the dream of the whole of Ukraine have come true."



A Ukraine fan at the biathlon awards ceremony.

by Ihor N. Stelmach

The accumulation of medals is not the sole criteria of successful participation at an Olympics. (Ukraine finished in 20th place at Sochi in the medal standings.) Granted, winning gold, silver and bronze is the ultimate reward for a nation's team of athletes. For Team Ukraine, which won zero medals at Vancouver's Winter Olympics in 2010, these 2014 Games are a marked improvement in a couple of ways. Yes, the women's biathlon team won gold and bronze medals. However, as important, or perhaps more important, is the ongoing upgrading of Ukraine's winter athletes – younger, better trained, more competitive in the world's greatest sporting arena. Evidence of the above progress was seen in Sochi with the following performances:

After finishing 41st in the men's 10-kilometer sprint, then 39th in the men's 12.5-kilometer pursuit, Ukrainian Serhiy Semenov shocked the biathlon world with his ninth-place showing in the individual 20-kilometer event. Ninth place out of 89 total participants was the best Ukrainian men's showing of these Sochi Games. The 25-year-old, two-time Olympian's final time was +1:36.2 minutes.

Three-time Olympian Oleksandr Abramenko surprised observers at the men's aerials free style ski competition when he finished sixth out of 21 competitors after placing third in the Group 1 final. In his qualification run the

25-year-old Kharkiv native scored 109.5 points, improved to 119.03 points in the first final and finished with a score of 113.12 points in his second final.

Back to biathlon, where in one of the discipline's final events, the women's 2x6-kilometer and 2x7.5-kilometer men's mixed relay, Team Ukraine finished eighth out of 16 nations. It was a solid performance spurred by the efforts of Natalya Burdyga and Serhiy Semenov who, unfortunate-

ly, could not overcome their two struggling teammates. Mariya Panfilova lost nearly a minute and 36-year-old Andriy Derezemlya lost another 90 seconds in their respective legs of the event.

An analysis of the bottom line sees progress being made. For the progress to continue in the future, several key ingredients must mesh together to form an elite winter Olympics team: young athletes need to be recruited and trained, training facilities must be built and maintained, high-level coaches need to be found and developed, and Ukraine's government must allocate the proper funding for all of the above. The country's leadership will ultimately decide how big a priority the National Olympic Team is in Ukraine's continued growth as a nation.

SOCHI SHORTS: Five-time Olympian and flag-bearer Valentina Shevchenko finished a respectable 14th out of 57 in the Ladies' 30-kilometer mass start free cross-country skiing event...Canada's Lucas Makowsky placed 28th in men's 1,500-meter speed skating and his Team Canada relay squad finished fourth overall in the men's team pursuit, just missing the bronze medal.

Cross-country skier Marina Lisogor, 30, who competed in two events (10-kilometer classic and women's sprint) at the Sochi Games, tested positive for trimetazidine, which is classified as a "specified stimulant" on the World Anti-Doping Agency's prohibited list. These specified substances are considered more susceptible to inadvertent use and can carry reduced penalties. During a disciplinary hearing she told the commission that she had taken a medicine not knowing that it contained this banned substance. Two other athletes who failed doping tests at Sochi were German biathlete Evi Sachenbacher-Stehle and Italian bobsledder William Frullani.

Quotable notes

"...What to say of the gormless press-agent twaddle conjured up to describe the Soviet Union? In its opening video for the Olympic Games, NBC's producers drained the thesaurus of flattering terms devoid of moral content: 'The empire that ascended to affirm a colossal footprint; the revolution that birthed one of modern history's pivotal experiments. But if politics has long shaped our sense of who they are, it's passion that endures.' ...

"Watching the opening ceremonies of the Olympics, you'd have no idea that from the Moscow metro system to, literally, the roads to Sochi, the Soviet Union – the supposed epitome of modernity and 'scientific socialism' – was built on a mountain of broken lives and unremembered corpses. ...

"If it is conventional wisdom that the Nazi Holocaust was worse than the Soviet Terror; you would at least think earning the silver in the Devil's Olympics would earn something more than feckless wordsmithery and smug eye-rolling from journalists and intellectuals. Imagine if, instead of Sochi, these games were in Germany, and suppose the organizers floated out the swastika while NBC talked of the 'pivotal experiment' of Nazism. Imagine the controversy. 'But when the hammer and sickle float by, there's no outrage. There is only the evil of banality.'"

– Jonah Goldberg, "The Olympic whitewash of Soviet evil," *The New York Post*, February 14.

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

candidates for the Ukrainian president. The deadline for the submission of documents to the CEC for the registration of presidential candidates is April 4. The CEC has to create 225 district election commissions. The Verkhovna Rada allocated 1.965 billion hrv to the CEC for the holding of early presidential elections. (Ukrinform)

Barroso for guarantees of Ukraine's unity

KYIV – European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso urged international partners, especially Russia, to guarantee Ukraine's unity as a factor of stability in Europe. Speaking in the European Parliament in Strasbourg on February 25, he said, "I launch from here an appeal to all our international partners, in particular Russia, to work constructively with us to guarantee a united Ukraine that can be effective for stability in the European continent." He also said that Ukraine should have good relations both with its Western and Eastern partners. Mr. Barroso reiterated that the EU supports Ukraine in conducting political and economic reforms.

"We are already working together with the international community and international financial institutions to find ways to support the country," he said. Mr. Barroso stated that the "winds of change are knocking again at Ukraine's door." (Ukrinform)

EU offers support of 20 B euros

KYIV – The European Union is prepared to support Ukrainian reforms with 20 billion euros after the country forms its new government, European Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee President Elmar Brok said on February 23. He told the 1+1 channel he believed that 20 billion euros would be on the table to back the reforms and the support could be granted immediately to prevent Ukraine's default. The European Parliament deputy expressed hope for the soonest possible formation of a new Ukrainian government, which would carry out the reforms. He promised the EU's support for the new government and told Ukrainians they must not be afraid of default or that a lack of support would prevent the reforms. The EU assistance will aim for the best economic conditions, which will prepare Ukraine for signing an Association Agreement with the European Union, he added. (Interfax-Ukraine)

Ashton urges Russian understanding

KYIV – While visiting Kyiv, the European Union's foreign policy chief, Catherine Ashton, called on Russia to behave like a good neighbor toward Ukraine and let it move forward in the way it chooses. Speaking at a press conference on February 25, Ms. Ashton voiced "strong support" for Ukraine's new leaders. She is the first foreign leader to visit Ukraine since Parliament ousted President Viktor Yanukovich on February 22. Ms. Ashton also urged Ukraine's new authorities to form an "inclusive" government. She said the new government must work out a reform program so that the West could consider financial aid to the country's battered economy. She said the EU was considering possible short-term and long-term loans to Ukraine, but provided no details. She said the EU would work with the International Monetary Fund, but that the IMF would make its own assessment of the situation. (RFE/RL)

Doubts on Russian aid package

KYIV – Moscow has no legal obligation to pay further tranches of a \$15 billion bailout package for Ukraine that was agreed with ousted President Viktor Yanukovich, Deputy Finance Minister Sergei Storchak said on February 25. He noted that Moscow believes there's a "slight" risk debt-burdened Ukraine will not repay the first installment. Russia disbursed \$3 billion in an initial tranche, but suspended the next \$2 billion tranche after violence and political turmoil roiled Ukraine last week. Moscow has declined to recognize the former opposition politicians who have taken over as Ukraine's authorities. Russia agreed to the bailout in November 2013 after Mr. Yanukovich rejected signing cooperation accords with the European Union. Ukraine's new authorities have estimated the country will need \$35 billion over the next two years to stave off financial ruin. (RFE/RL)

Investigation of Yanukovich documents

KYIV – On February 22, volunteer divers found nearly 200 folders of documents in a lake at the Mezhyhiria residence of the former president of Ukraine. They had been thrown into the lake to destroy them as people were escaping the compound. A group of journalists and activists has undertaken to rescue, systematize and investigate the enormous wealth of information about the former owners of the residence. The recovered documents are being published on a website to make them available to journalists and citizens around the world. The investigations based on these documents also will be published at <http://yanukovychleaks.org/> and in Ukrainian media. (yanukovychleaks.org)

NATO secretary general on Ukraine

BRUSSELS – The secretary general of NATO, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, on February 23 released a statement on Ukraine. He noted: "I am closely monitoring the important developments in Ukraine. The people of Ukraine must determine their own future in freedom and democracy. I continue to call for calm and restraint, so that all sides can focus on pursuing the path of democracy, stability and prosperity through peaceful dialogue and early elections. I commend the statement of the Ukrainian army that it will in no way intervene in the political crisis. It is important that this continues to be the case. Ukraine is a close partner to NATO and NATO is a friend of the Ukrainian people. We look forward to continued cooperation with Ukraine based on the NATO-Ukraine Charter. (NATO)

Treasury secretary phones Yatsenyuk

KYIV – U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Jacob Lew on February 23 called Arseniy Yatsenyuk to discuss financial assistance for Ukraine. According to an official read-out of the call: "Today Secretary Jacob J. Lew spoke by phone with Ukrainian leader Arseniy Yatsenyuk en route back to Washington, DC, from the G-20 meeting in Sydney, Australia. Secretary Lew noted the broad support at the just-concluded G-20 meeting for an international assistance package centered on the IMF as soon as the transitional Ukrainian government is fully established by the Parliament. He encouraged Ukraine to begin discussions with the IMF as quickly thereafter as possible. Secretary Lew noted that many of the Finance Ministers at the G-20 meeting made similar statements. Secretary Lew expressed that the United States, together with Europe and others in the international community, are ready to supplement an IMF program to cushion the impact of reforms on low-income Ukrainians. However, Secretary Lew underscored the need to implement reforms that could be supported by an IMF program. Secretary Lew and Mr. Yatsenyuk agreed to stay in close contact over the coming days and weeks as Ukraine moved forward rapidly to establish political and economic stability." (U.S. Embassy Kyiv)

Yulia to be treated in Germany

KYIV – Freed former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko says she's planning to receive medical treatment in Germany. A statement on Ms. Tymoshenko's website said she had accepted an offer of treatment from German Chancellor Angela Merkel. The statement said Ms. Tymoshenko would

(Continued on page 13)

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Adia Fedash – President
Motria Milanytch – Secretary, tel. 917-841-0962

UNA BRANCH 277 ANNUAL MEETING Saturday, March 8, 2014

Hartford, CT. - The annual meeting of UNA Br. 277 - St John Society-Hartford will be held on Saturday, March 8, 2014, at 2:00 p.m., in the lower meeting room of the Ukrainian National Home of Hartford, 961 Wethersfield Avenue, Hartford CT 06114-3137. At the meeting a delegate will be elected to the 38th UNA Convention. All members are asked to attend.

Myron Kolinsky, Branch President.

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 12)

seek treatment in Germany after attending the European People's Party congress, which starts in Ireland on March 6. Ms. Tymoshenko, who suffers from chronic back pain, left prison on February 22 after Parliament voted on measures that resulted in her release. (RFE/RL)

U.S. on signing of agreement

WASHINGTON – A February 21 statement by the White House press secretary welcomed the agreement signed that day between Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich and opposition leaders. The agreement, facilitated by Foreign Affairs Ministers Laurent Fabius of France, Radoslaw Sikorski of Poland and Frank-Walter Steinmeier of Germany and witnessed by Russia, "is consistent with what we have advocated in calling for a de-escalation of the violence, constitutional change, a coalition government and early elections," the statement said. The statement went on to note: "We support the efforts of all those who negotiated this agreement, commend the courageous opposition leaders who recognized the need for compromise, and offer the support of the United States in its implementation. Now, the focus must be on concrete action to implement this agreement, which we will be monitoring closely. In this regard, we call for immediate implementation of the initial steps – an end to the violence, amnesty and security normalization, and passage of the constitutional package in the Rada – to provide space for the negotiations to begin on formation of a technocratic coalition government. Respect for the right of peaceful

protest – including on the Maidan – is essential. As we have said, there must be accountability for those responsible for the violence and the casualties that have resulted since the crisis began, and we remain prepared to impose additional sanctions as necessary. The United States stands with the Ukrainian people as they work to restore peace, security, and human dignity across the country and determine the future course of their nation." (White House, Office of the Press Secretary)

OSCE chair welcomes agreement

BERN – Didier Burkhalter, Swiss foreign affairs minister and chairperson-in-office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, on February 21 welcomed the agreement reached between the parties regarding the settlement of the crisis in Ukraine. "The agreement is an important step towards the end of violence and the solution of the conflict," Mr. Burkhalter said. He appealed to all sides to ensure its implementation and stick to the agreed settlement. He congratulated all sides on their work to make this breakthrough possible, including the contribution of the Polish, German and French foreign affairs ministers and the special envoy of the Russian Federation. "The OSCE Chairmanship is looking into options for the organization to support the implementation of the agreement. I reconfirm the OSCE's readiness to assist Ukraine in every way possible, including through the observation of elections and efforts to establish facts on acts of violence and human rights violations. Given the urgent need to rebuild trust between all parties involved, an OSCE role as impartial witness and guarantor to the implementation of concrete steps agreed between the parties could also be envisaged," Mr. Burkhalter said. (OSCE)

UCCA on "Bloody Thursday"

NEW YORK – The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, reacting to the events of February 20, "Bloody Thursday," in a statement issued that day called on "the United States and the European Union to immediately freeze the assets of not only the criminal Yanukovich regime but more importantly, the assets of Putin and his imperialist regime." The UCCA statement also said: "We call on U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and members of the U.N. Security Council to refer the crimes against humanity perpetrated by Putin and his proxy Yanukovich to the International Criminal Court in the Hague. We call on the International Community to support a United Nations Peacekeeping Mission to Ukraine. We reject all Russian 'mediators' as nothing but a thinly veiled attempt to manipulate and control Ukraine." Furthermore, the UCCA said, "We call on the international press corps to help keep a free flow of information about events transpiring in Ukraine and to break any communications blockade that the thugs may try to put in place around Ukraine." (UCCA)

Canada announces more sanctions

OTTAWA – Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper on February 20 announced additional sanctions in response to the escalation of violence in Ukraine. His statement noted: "Canada continues to be outraged by the ongoing violence in Ukraine. Our government has responded by introducing a travel ban on the regime's senior leaders and announcing medical aid to assist the protestors in their time of need. Today, our government is taking additional action to increase pressure on the regime to end the violence. ...Today, we are imposing an expanded travel ban which will prevent senior members of the Ukrainian government and other individuals, who bear political responsibility for the violence, from traveling to Canada. This expands the scope of travel restrictions announced on January 28. We will also be imposing economic sanctions on the Yanukovich regime and its supporters. It is our hope that these serious steps will convince the Ukrainian Government to seek a peaceful resolution to the crisis. We will continue to monitor developments in Ukraine, and, with our international allies, consider further options. ..." (www.pm.gc.ca)



Nicholas Bobeczko

99, passed away Monday, February 10, 2014 at Parker Place Independent Living in Mentor, Ohio, where he had been living since July 2010. Mr. Bobeczko married Mary Szmagala August 6, 1938 in Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church in Cleveland, Ohio and remained married for 72 years until Mary's passing in July 2010.



Nicholas was born in Chester, Pennsylvania December 1, 1914. He graduated from Collinwood High School, Cleveland, in January, 1933 and attended Cleveland Trade School where he studied tool and diemaking. He also took courses at Fenn and Huntington colleges. Nick worked at his trade for more than 50 years, most of which were spent at The Murray Ohio Manufacturing Company and Quality Mfg. Company. Mr. Bobeczko retired in 1984 at the age of 70.

Mr. Bobeczko had been very active in the Ukrainian National Association since 1947, holding the position of Financial Secretary of the Sts. Peter & Paul Brotherhood UNA Branch 102 for over 60 years. He attended numerous UNA conventions as a delegate and served on the elections committee at most of them. Nick was a member of the UNA Senior's group and attended many annual meetings at the UNA resort, Soyuzivka, in Kerhonkson, New York.

He remained active in his retirement years as a member of St. Andrew's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Parma, Ohio and volunteered at the Tri-City Senior Center in Middleburg Heights, St. Josaphat's Ukrainian Seniors Club in Parma, and at St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church bingo in Solon.

Nick was a great gardener, liked to travel, loved to play cards and watch westerns on TV. You could always find him in the activities room at Parker Place playing pinochle or bingo, helping to make rosaries or baking cookies.

Mr. Bobeczko was preceded in death by his parents Theodore and Catherine Bobeczko; son, Taras (January 2-7, 1953); his beloved wife Mary (née Szmagala); brothers Steve and John; and sisters Mary Toth and Rose Popiolek.

Nick is survived by his sons Gerald (Mary Jo), and Daniel (Oxana); grandchildren Paul (Laura), Anne (Joe Callis), Karen (Paul Ridder), Daniel Jr. (Gary DiBianca), Andrea Gyure, and Gregory (Kristin).

Also surviving are great-grandchildren Alex and Zach Bobeczko, Emily and Megan Callis, Drew and Katie Ridder, Delaney, Austin and Hayden Gyure and Quinlan, Justin, Griffin and Weston Bobeczko; brother-in-law Taras Szmagala (Katherine); and many nieces and nephews.

Entombment was February 15, 2014 at St. Andrew's Ukrainian Catholic Church Cemetery in Parma, Ohio.

May His memory be eternal!



У глибокому смутку повідомляємо все членство Спілки Української Молоді в Америці та українську громаду, що у п'ятницю, 7 лютого 2014 року, відійшла до вічності

сл. п.

подр. МАРІЯ П'ЯТКА

народжена 3 січня 1918 року в Україні.

Марія П'ятка була вірною дочкою України. Була членкинею ОУН з-під стягу Степана Бандери. Однак найбільше праці присвятила вона Спілці Української Молоді. Після приїзду у 1962 році з Франції до Нью Йорку, була zatrudнена як керівник канцелярії КУ СУМ. На цьому пості гідно сповняла обов'язки понад 30 років. Вона була учасницею багатьох Світових та Крайових Конгресів, Злетів та Здвигов СУМ, кількакратно обиралась членом КУ СУМ в Америці, членом Контрольної Комісії та Товариського Суду. За її довголітню та віддану працю на XV Конгресі СУМ у 1996 році вона була відзначена IV ступенем Суспільника. За її працю для КУ СУМ та за працю в місцевому Осередку СУМ ім. ген.-хор Тараса Чупринки в Нью Йорку була відзначена званням "Визначного Члена" як Крайовою Управою так і Управою Осередку СУМ. Подруга П'ятка рівночасно була членом та сповняла ряд обов'язків в інших організаціях - ООЧСУ, УККА, Фундації УВУ. Улюбленою душевною розрадою для неї було належати до церковного хору св. Юра в Нью Йорку. Вона була невтомним збірщиком на національні цілі, а її дім на протязі довгих років був гостинним прибіжищем для всіх приїжджих з України та діаспори. Подруга П'ятка була невимовно жертвенною, часто анонімно, на різні цілі - допомагаючи численним церковним та суспільно - громадським організаціям та установам в Україні та діаспорі.

Похоронні відправи відбулися у понеділок, 10 лютого, в похоронному заведенні Петра Яреми. Парастас, у присутності численних прихожан відправили о. Вернард Панчук, ЧСВВ і о. Петро Шишка. Почесну варту біля домовини із сумівським пропором тримали члени КУ СУМ і місцевого Осередку СУМ. Прощальні слова висловили о. Панчук, а від КУ СУМ та суспільно-громадських організацій та установ - Аскольд Лозинський. Траурно прозвучала пісня "Чуєш брате мій", а на кінець було віддано по-друзі П'ятці останній сумівський салют – окликом "Гартуйсь!"

Похоронні відправи відбулись в вівторок, 11 лютого, в церкві св. Юра, а тілні останки спочили на цвинтарі св. Духа, Гемптонбург, Н.І. (секція членів ОУН-УПА).

Висловлюємо наші найглибші співчуття доням Покійної з їхніми родинами – Лесі, Тересі і Стефі, і ближчій та дальшій родині. Нехай американська земля буде для неї пухом, а пам'ять про неї вічною!

Крайова Управа СУМ в Америці

Ukraine on brink...

(Continued from page 1)

than 16 percent of its value, dropping to its lowest level since its 1996 introduction, as investors and common folk alike bought up foreign currencies for safety. The hryvnia has plunged 25 percent since January, becoming one of the world's worst performing currencies in that span.

"The timing of the government formation was much more important than its personalities," said Alexander Paraschiy, the head of research at Concorde Capital investment bank in Kyiv. "Current urgent problems that can't be delayed by jostling for posts are the currency crisis, the approaching fiscal crisis and the Russian activity in Crimea."

As much as 7 percent of total bank deposits – or \$3.1 billion worth of hryvni – were withdrawn during the week of bloody clashes, reported Stepan Kubiv, a Lviv banker who was appointed on February 24 as the new chair of the National Bank of Ukraine.

He had been among the Euro-Maidan's commanders and belongs to the Batkivshchyna party. Indeed Parliament elected numerous members of Batkivshchyna, Ukraine's biggest pro-Western party, to key posts in the interim government.

Oleksander Turchynov was elected Verkhovna Rada chair on February 22, which means he will also serve as acting president until the elections. Since 1998, Mr. Turchynov has been the right-hand man to former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, who gained her freedom on February 22 after serving two and a half years of a seven-year prison sentence.

As acting internal affairs minister Parliament chose Arsen Avakov, a Kharkiv mega-millionaire who led the party's city organization and served as a Euro-Maidan commander. Mr. Yatsenyuk, who led Batkivshchyna during Ms. Tymoshenko's imprisonment, was elected prime minister on February 27.

What's left of the Party of Regions, led by oligarchs Oleksander Yefremov and Sergey Tigipko, declared their opposition to the government and the parliamentary coalition.

Meanwhile, UDAR said it would not join the government (with the exception of Mr. Nalyvaichenko) in preparation for Mr. Klitschko's presidential candidacy. His likely competitors are Oleh Tiahnybok of Svoboda, Ms. Tymoshenko and Petro Poroshenko, an independent billionaire businessman.

The interim government includes only three nationalists from the Svoboda party and none from the Pravyi Sektor coalition, which played a key role in the use of force in the Euro-Maidan movement.

Svoboda National Deputy Oleh Makhnitskyi, a former investigator in the Lviv prosecutor's office, was elected Procurator General by Parliament on February 24.

Part of the reason the new government has kept the nationalists on the sidelines has been the urgent need for Western funds. EU-Russia Cooperation Parliamentary Committee Chair Knut Fleckenstein said the Ukrainian government would have difficulty attracting funds if it includes nationalists.

"The EU doesn't support forces such as Pravyi Sektor," Mr. Fleckenstein said, as reported by the Kommersant-Ukraine newspaper on February 26. "As a member of The European Parliament from Germany, I feel particular responsibility for not allowing into government right-wing extremist parties."

The Ukrainian government needs \$35 billion during the next two years, according to an estimate cited on February 25 by then Finance Minister Yurii Kolobov, who proposed holding an international donors' conference to enable the Ukrainian government to conduct reforms and modernization, including fulfilling the Ukraine-EU Association Agreement.

The European Union's Foreign Affairs

Parliamentary Committee Chair Elmar Brok said the EU is ready to offer \$27 billion in aid once an interim government is elected and is ready to prepare for signing the Association Agreement.

"It seems to me that there will be 20 billion euros on the table to conduct reforms and that support can be offered immediately to prevent default," he told the 1+1 television network on February 24.

The day before, IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde said her organization will consider a loan should the Ukrainian government turn to it for help.

"Each day of delay looks risky for Ukraine's macroeconomic stability," Mr. Paraschiy said. "The West is very unlikely to provide financing unless a new government is formed."

Judging by how long it took for the West to impose sanctions on the Yanukovich administration, the wait for aid might be uncomfortably long as well.

The Euro-Maidan activists achieved their goal of removing Mr. Yanukovich in spite of Ukrainian politicians and Western diplomats, who were ready to allow Mr. Yanukovich to remain as president until an early presidential election which was to take place by December.

Not only would that have postponed an inevitable conflict, in the view of Euro-Maidan activists such as Yevhen Nishchuk and commander Andrii Parubii, but it could have given Mr. Yanukovich plenty of time to regroup and wreck the political opposition through ruthless persecution methods.

Mr. Yanukovich's demise was triggered by the mass murder of activists on the Maidan and surrounding area on February 20, when armed conflict escalated between the government, defended by Berkut special forces, and its Euro-Maidan opponents.

Its leaders claimed the police violated a ceasefire declared by the president at about 8 a.m. Euro-Maidan fighters – led by Afghanistan war veterans and nationalists – staged an armed insurgency that pushed the Berkut soldiers further up the heights they were shooting from.

But while these organized units didn't tread too far into the Berkut's line of fire, inexperienced fighters did press forward, only to be killed by the dozens. If they had rifles (many didn't), they were no match for the AK-47s the Berkut were shooting with.

In one such incident, a dozen activists were killed and dozens injured inside and near the lobby of the Hotel Ukrayina that overlooks the Maidan, from which snipers were shooting.

Additionally, dozens of Euro-Maidan activists were killed or injured even though they had no involvement in the armed conflict but merely were present on the Maidan. More than 100 were reportedly killed and more than 700 injured from both sides during the three-day battle.

Among them was Serhii Bondarev, a computer programmer with Global Logic, a U.S.-based software development firm. A native of Kramatorsk in the Donetsk Oblast, he suffered four bullet wounds on February 18. He left behind his wife who is eight months pregnant.

Bohdan Solchanyk, 29, was a native of Stryi Sambir and a history lecturer at Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv. He was fatally shot in the neck by a sniper on February 20. He was with the students beaten by the Berkut on November 30, 2013, the violent incident that thrust the Euro-Maidan movement onto the national level.

Red Cross medic Olesya Zhukovska, 21, of the Ternopil Oblast miraculously survived a wound to her neck with a bullet that was banned by the Hague conventions of 1907. At one point, she was attached to a respirator and tweeted, "I'm dying." She had been on the Maidan since its earliest days.

The violence on February 20 was enough to prompt a stream of Party of Regions members to begin abandoning its ranks, most notably Volodymyr Makeyenko, who was appointed head of the Kyiv State Administration by Mr. Yanukovich a little less than a month earlier.

He defied the Yanukovich administration by ordering the Kyiv underground metro system to resume operations the evening of February 20, after the entire system was ordered shut down as part of the "anti-terrorist" operation launched by the Security Service of Ukraine on February 19.

During the peak of the fighting, Mr. Yanukovich invited Dmytro Yarosh, the leader of the Pravyi Sektor armed nationalist fighters, to the Presidential Administration, offering to sign a ceasefire agreement with him.

"I told him that we never were mario-nettes and never will be, and Viktor Fedorovich, remove your soldiers because a partisan war will erupt throughout Ukraine," Mr. Yarosh told the tyzhden.ua news site. The embattled president looked exhausted and startled, he said.

"The matter was we won't back down, we won't put away our arms, and we will stand until the end," Mr. Yarosh said. "I don't claim credit for this, since diplomats were pressuring him too, but it's possible that was also a certain signal for him, when he decided to halt the so-called anti-terrorist operation and remove his forces."

That night, Parliament met to prevent the eruption of a civil war in Ukraine. At about 10:20 p.m., it approved a resolution calling for a ceasefire on both sides and for Berkut special forces and Internal Army soldiers to withdraw from Kyiv's central streets. It was signed next morning by Parliament Chair Volodymyr Rybak.

It also called for the state armed forces and law enforcement organs to stop fulfilling the government anti-terrorist operations and for public transportation to resume normal operation.

That night, rather than supporting the ceasefire, dozens of Party of Regions national deputies were abandoning the Ukrainian capital, many of them hopping on flights to go abroad. It had become apparent that the Yanukovich administration was nearing its end.

At the same time, top EU diplomats were meeting with Mr. Yanukovich and Ukraine's three opposition leaders in all-night talks.

The EU contingent consisted of German Foreign Affairs Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Polish Foreign Affairs Minister Radoslaw Sikorski, French Foreign Affairs Minister Laurent Fabius and EU Foreign Affairs Parliamentary Committee Chair Brok.

The Russians dispatched Russian Ambassador to Ukraine Mikhail Zurabov and Russian Human Rights Ombudsman Vladimir Lukin.

The first concessions from Mr. Yanukovich were revealed around 1 p.m. on February 21, declaring pre-term presidential elections by December and a return of the 2004 constitutional amendments that divided authority between the Parliament and the president.

"During these tragic days when Ukraine endured such heavy losses, when people died on both sides of the barricades, I believe it's my duty in light of the memory of the deceased to announce that there's nothing more important than human life and there aren't any steps that we shouldn't take together to renew peace in Ukraine," Mr. Yanukovich said in a statement.

Within the next few hours, special forces and internal army soldiers abandoned their posts in Kyiv's central streets and at the Presidential Administration by the busloads.

More than 35 buses had left by 2:40 p.m., which was the final nail in the coffin of the

Yanukovich administration, said Petro Oleshchuk, a political science lecturer at Taras Shevchenko National University in Kyiv.

"After the agreement was approved between the opposition and Yanukovich, which in particular required the removal of military formations, the leader of these very formations perceived it as permission to abandon the war," Mr. Oleshchuk said. "They began leaving the government quarter for the entire second half of the day, since no one wanted to die for Yanukovich anymore."

In conjunction with the pressure on the streets, Western pressure on Ukraine's biggest oligarchs, including Rinat Akhmetov and Dmytro Firtash, likely led them to ask Mr. Yanukovich to surrender power as a civil war threatened to ruin the value of their assets, observers said.

The three opposition politicians – Mr. Yatsenyuk of Batkivshchyna, Mr. Klitschko of UDAR and Mr. Tiahnybok of Svoboda – signed the critical settlement agreement with Mr. Yanukovich.

"The West pressured Akhmetov and others, who in turn pressured Yanukovich," Mr. Oleshchuk said.

Mr. Sikorski met with them Euro-Maidan civic leaders, among the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy politics professor Olexiy Haran, who complained the agreement should have demanded more from the Ukrainian government. The Polish foreign affairs minister responded that this was the best that could be achieved.

When leaving the meeting, Mr. Sikorski told the activists, "If you don't support this, you will have a state of emergency, there'll be an army and you will all die."

Yet the Euro-Maidan fighters weren't as intimidated by Mr. Yanukovich as the politicians. They vented their outrage with the three political opposition leaders when they appeared on the Euro-Maidan stage at about 8 p.m. to explain their agreement with Mr. Yanukovich.

Each leader was jeered when he attempted to justify the agreement. Mr. Tiahnybok pointed out that 16 of his party members had died during the three days of violence and he didn't want any more bloodshed.

Mr. Klitschko allowed the leader of a "sotnia" (brigade), Volodymyr Parasiuk, 26, to interrupt his speech and come on stage. He delivered an impassioned plea that helped change the course of Ukrainian history.

"We created a turning point. We gave the politicians a chance to become future ministers and presidents, but they don't want to fulfill one condition: that the convict goes away," Mr. Parasiuk yelled from the stage. "Friends, I won't say much. I don't want to dilute these stupid words that they've been feeding us for two and a half months. I don't believe in these heavy political processes they're taking about. Seventy-seven people gave their lives, and they're making agreements!"

"I deeply plead with you: support this thing. I tell you from my sotnia, which includes my father who came here: If you don't demand by 10 a.m. that Yanukovich steps down, we are going on an armed assault, I promise you."

His words drew a roar of approval and applause from the Euro-Maidan crowd.

Another Euro-Maidan activist, Dmytro Hnap, told the political opposition leaders they had betrayed the Euro-Maidan, particularly when signing the agreement with its consent. Mr. Yarosh declared that the Euro-Maidan was not surrendering its arms, in violation of the agreement that had just been signed.

After the venting of disappointment, Mr. Klitschko apologized for shaking Mr. Yanukovich's hand. At one point, all the political leaders expressed their solidarity with the disappointed crowd by kneeling on one knee before them.

But by the time the crowds were done jeering, Mr. Yanukovich had already ordered his staff at his Mezhyhiria suburban man-

(Continued on page 15)

Absorbing Ukraine...

(Continued from page 6)

be swept by “a new wave of separatism, the logical outcome of which would be another anti-Russian uprising.”

That is all the more likely, he continues, because it is precisely “through the territory of Ukraine” where “the civilizational barrier between ‘maternal’ European civilization and Russian civilization passes.” The latter, Mr. Ikhlov says, should be called “Byzantine” rather than “Eurasian” as it typically is now.

That is why he says he is “categorically against drawing Ukraine into a common political and economic space with Russia” and “categorically for a peaceful and democratic Euro-Maidan” there.

Attitudes among Russians toward Ukraine reflect “the conflict of two forms of Russian patriotism,” Mr. Ikhlov says. One is convinced that including Ukraine “in a Russian megasystem is the highest goal of Russia and opposition to this is a betrayal of national interests.” But the other is certain that doing so threatens the interests of the Russian people.

Mr. Ikhlov says he is firmly in the second camp and believes most Russians should be as well, particularly if they reflect on their history, including the consequences of seeking to absorb Poland and Finland or conquering the Caucasus. Also indicative, he suggests, “is the history of the 40-year-long Soviet control over Eastern Europe.”

But there is another reason that a Ukrainian-Russian super state would be a disaster for the Russian people. The United States, he says, is “categorically” against the expansion of Moscow’s zone of influence “in a Western direction.”

In many ways, the U.S. is playing a role in that regard like the one Great Britain played in the 19th century in resisting the expansion of the Russian empire to the south. “Therefore, the anti-American Russian propaganda [of today] almost exactly repeats its anti-English antecedent.”

Whether one likes it or not, he continues, “America is the only great power in the world,” and its often “demagogic” policy of giving “priority to human rights [for Europeans] objectively turns out to be the main opponent of Putin’s imperialism. Therefore, if one puts an equal sign between Russia and empire, the U.S. is the enemy.”

“But,” Mr. Ikhlov says, “if one starts from

the proposition that the police despotism and latest imperialism of Moscow are themselves the main enemies of Russia, then America [becomes] the objective ally of anti-Putinism, just as 70 years ago it was the objective ally of German democratic anti-fascism.”

“There is nothing miraculous in this uniqueness of the U.S.,” he continues. It reflects the fact that “the American [democratic] branch of Anglo-Saxon culture won the competition of civilizations,” having defeated all comers, including “the aristocratic Anglo-Saxon [British], the French, the German and the Russian.”

Russian “enemies of the Euro-Maidan” challenge those who support it by asking: “How can you defend ethnic nationalism?” One need not cite Lenin’s notion about the difference between the nationalism of the oppressor nation and the nationalism of the oppressed to recognize that today “Russians in the Russian Federation are not the oppressor nation,” but rather they are despite their numbers oppressed by “the ruling ‘oprichnik’ nomenklatura.”

That nomenklatura over the last 20 years has been “powerless” to establish “a super-ethnic civic nation,” he writes. “Therefore, integration with Russia would be condemned to be carried out exclusively in the format of Russification,” something that would exacerbate Ukrainian nationalism and isolate Russia from the rest of the world.

Only if Russia were able to offer a unity like that which is taking place in Europe under NATO and the European Union, a unity which “does not threaten the identities of European peoples,” could a unification of Russia and Ukraine work. But “the entire experience” of Russia since 1991 and “especially the Putin era” shows that is not what is on offer, Mr. Ikhlov notes.

Instead, Putinism “with its legal and cultural unification, its ‘single textbook,’ its forced imposition of state mythology on the basis of the autocratic and Stalinist imperial traditions and the struggle with the ‘lezginka’ [a dance from the Caucasus region] shows that the integration of Ukraine would in fact mean an attempt to deprive it of its national identity.”

Consequently, Mr. Ikhlov says, those concerned about the future of Russia and the Russians must support the aspirations of Ukrainians who want to join Europe rather than Mr. Putin’s Eurasia. Any other approach carries the risk that Russia will have absorbed something that will lead to its own demise.

burn buildings, offices. More than 200 offices were burned in Ukraine.”

That same day, Parliament approved a resolution dismissing Mr. Yanukovich on the basis that he removed himself unconstitutionally from fulfilling his constitutional authority, which threatens the state’s governability, territorial integrity and sovereignty, as well as violated the rights and freedoms of its citizens.

Later that evening, the State Customs Service reported that it denied permission for a charter plane with Mr. Yanukovich aboard to fly from a Donetsk airport. A group of armed men had offered a large bribe in exchange for allowing the plane to depart without the required documentation, the service reported.

There were various reports suggesting that the ex-president was in the Donetsk Oblast, and he was last rumored to have left a Crimean port bound for Turkey. There was no confirmation of his whereabouts, and Mr. Yanukovich was subject of an international manhunt.

On February 27, reports surfaced that Mr. Yanukovich was in Russia, which apparently had given him sanctuary, and that he would give a press conference in Rostov-on-Don the next day. Via Russian media, he released a statement insisting that he continued to be the lawful president of Ukraine.

Viktor Yanukovich...

(Continued from page 6)

Yanukovich’s wrist, postponed the initialing of the AA from December 2011 to the following March but continued to hope it would be signed in late 2012.

The third stage – stagnation – dominated 2012 with efforts to end selective use of justice and free Ms. Tymoshenko and Mr. Lutsenko. Mr. Yanukovich was only invited to one Western country – Cyprus – as he became internationally isolated. Additional criminal charges, including murder, were added against Ms. Tymoshenko, which did not prevent the EU from continuing to negotiate with Ukraine. Meanwhile, the U.S. adopted a different policy and placed First Deputy Prosecutor Rinat Kuzmin, who oversaw selective use of justice, on a visa blacklist.

Attacks on democratic rights and media freedom continued to escalate and Parliament adopted a highly controversial language law in July 2012 that raised Russian to the same level as Ukrainian. Transparency International (TI) reported on rampant growth of corruption and emergence of “the Family,” a new clan of presidential loyalists from Mr. Yanukovich’s home region headed by his eldest son, Oleksander, who, although a dentist by profession, entered the ranks of the top 50 wealthiest people in Ukraine list. In the former USSR, only four Central Asian countries had worse levels of corruption than Ukraine, according to TI, while the Heritage Foundation ranked Ukraine as having the least economic freedom in Europe.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Council of Europe and Western governments criticized the November 2012 parliamentary elections as not meeting democratic standards. The Svoboda nationalist party that was predicted to barely scrape into Parliament received 10 percent of the vote as Ukrainians turned to it in protest against attacks on their national identity and language. Svoboda and other nationalist groups entered national politics just ahead of the following year’s crisis, where they played an important role.

The fourth stage – violent kleptocracy – was a long time in coming because news was dominated by negotiations over the AA and whether Ms. Tymoshenko would be released or permitted to travel abroad for medical treatment. Mr. Lutsenko’s release in April 2013 had been insufficient to satisfy U.S. and EU demands for an end to selective use of justice. Many believed Mr. Yanukovich’s desire to enter history as the

leader who would take Ukraine into Europe would outweigh his fear of Ms. Tymoshenko and that she would be freed (http://www.jamestown.org/single/?tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=38631&no_cache=1#UvJO-GJdUrU).

At the end of November 2013 the Ukrainian government, without public consultation or warning, abruptly cancelled European integration and locked Ukraine into a Russian loan agreement. Incompetent and corrupt policies by Party of Regions leader and Prime Minister Mykola Azarov had brought Ukraine to bankruptcy.

The decision ended Western illusions about Mr. Yanukovich’s commitment to Europe and most came to believe his choice of foreign policy partner was linked not to Ukrainian national interests but to what would be best for his re-election the following year. Russian loans with fewer conditions – rather than unpopular reforms demanded by an International Monetary Fund agreement – would be more likely to secure his re-election.

The occupation of downtown Kyiv and massive popular protests that reached a million people at its peak – in freezing winter weather – were also fueled by four years of attacks on democracy and Ukrainian national identity, and rapacious corruption. Unwillingness to compromise added fire to the protests as did the use of vigilantes working with the police who beat, kidnapped and tortured protesters.

Protests turned violent after “Black Thursday” (January 16) when what was left of Ukraine’s democracy was destroyed in the space of 21 minutes when Party of Regions and Communist national deputies voted by an illegal show of hands rather than using the electronic system. Ukraine had become a dictatorship.

The image of Mr. Yanukovich and his administration dramatically changed to that of a violent kleptocrat after a tally by mid-January of seven dead (including an Armenian and a Belarusian), 2,000 protesters wounded, 136 journalists attacked, 30 protesters kidnapped and 120 detained. This was reinforced by images of Auto-Maidan leader Dmytro Bulatov who had been kidnapped and tortured and crucified in what Amnesty International described as a “barbaric act.”

U.S. and EU policymakers took four years to come to view Mr. Yanukovich as a violent and corrupt kleptocrat who had no allegiance to European values. With Mr. Yanukovich now persona non grata in Europe and North America, it is time for the EU to follow the United States and Canada in introducing targeted sanctions.

Ukraine on brink...

(Continued from page 14)

sion to pack several trucks – as released video surveillance evidence later showed – with many of the luxurious belongings he had accumulated over the years.

“By nightfall, Yanukovich understood that there’s no one between him and the Maidan,” Mr. Oleshchuk said. “The Maidan’s radicals had already promised to go to him demanding his resignation. Obviously, that became a motive for him to flee, worrying about his own safety. His demonstration of fear, having left hanging the Congress of Southeastern Deputies [scheduled for the next day in Kharkiv], became a catalyst of a steep ruination of the system. The regime’s core that had long rotted away disintegrated.”

On February 22, the day after his flight, Mr. Yanukovich released a video statement declaring he was not resigning and would not abandon the country.

“I will call upon all international observers, all intermediaries who participated in this political conflict to stop the bandits. This isn’t an opposition, these are bandits,” he said, comparing them to Nazis. “They banned parties, just as now they’re banning the Party of Regions, the Communist Party. They create stereotypes, persecute, beat,

A bow to thee...

(Continued from page 7)

Khreshchatyk when he was arrested in 1847 – I saw his portrait behind the speakers’ podium. No doubt he’d approve of the people rising for their nation and liberty.

Me? I’m a more than half a century removed from public recitations of Shevchenko’s work and now plan to enjoy his verse privately. On that note, allow me

to put in a plug for Peter Fedynsky’s translation of the Kobzar into English – the first complete edition, from the most famous poems to the obscure – and suggest you get a copy and perhaps donate one to your local library or school. You can find it on Amazon or the gift shop at <http://www.umacleland.org>. (Full disclosure: Peter is my brother, and I’m proud of him.) As for Shevchenko, every Ukrainian can claim him as a father, which is why I say to Batko Taras: Happy birthday and thank you!

Ukraine’s ruling...

(Continued from page 2)

real blow to the PRU, as Mr. Khomutynnyk – although only in his late 30s – is one of those Donetsk politicians who have been in the leading positions in the PRU since its creation. In Parliament, Mr. Khomutynnyk chairs the influential Committee on Taxation. The PRU will be seriously weakened if more people from its old guard, like

Mr. Khomutynnyk, head for the exit. Support for the PRU from Ukraine’s richest businessman and Mr. Yanukovich’s long-time ally Rinat Akhmetov is also essential. Thus far, there have been no indications from Mr. Akhmetov that he disagreed with Mr. Yanukovich.

The article above is reprinted from Eurasia Daily Monitor with permission from its publisher, the Jamestown Foundation, www.jamestown.org.



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Religious...

(Continued from page 1)

walk in front of the UAYA headquarters at 136 Second Ave., beside a makeshift memorial made to honor the defenseless activists violently murdered while on the Maidan. The memorial, made of candles, wreaths and photos of the victims, was constructed by the young members of the UAYA on February 22, under the direction of Ms. Lawro.

Congresswoman Maloney confirmed her personal commitment and the commitment of members of Congress “to support all those people who are putting their lives on the line for a free and democratic Ukraine. ...The whole world is inspired by the peaceful efforts to achieve democratic change and the human liberties, the freedoms that are the bulwark of our American life. ...You are not alone, we support your efforts, you are in our hearts, in prayers... to remember the heroines, heroes, those who have died and were wounded.”

The UCCA welcomes the cessation of violence and the establishment of an interim government in Ukraine, stated Ms. Olexy, who called for the May 25 elections to be free so “that the voice of the people will be truly represented in government.”

“We urge the global community to hold an international tribunal in The Hague... in order to bring to justice Yanukovych and other officials in Ukraine who are responsible for crimes against humanity,” added the UCCA president.

Recognizing the economic crisis before Ukraine, Ms. Olexy urged the West to provide Ukraine with the necessary financing to begin restructuring its economic institutions according to Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development country norms.

Rabbi Bleich concurred that the largest challenge before Ukraine is salvaging the economy. “As they say here in New York, ‘it ain’t over ‘til it’s over.’ There are many challenges ahead. The economy is in shambles. It is my hope that the EU and the U.S. will work together to bring the economy back.”

Commenting on the violence inflicted upon protesters in recent days in Kyiv, Ms. Lawro explained how the children who constructed the memorial have been following events in Ukraine with their parents, with the community, and wanted to honor the sacrifice made by the victims of the Maidan. Many have family members in Ukraine who were on the Maidan and the children were acutely aware that the risk, although thousands of miles away, was really close to hearts and homes here in New York.

Rabbi Bleich, an active member of the All Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations in Kyiv, underscored that the council has consistently opposed the use of violence. “There is no excuse for anybody to be shot,” adding, “we must remember that people gave their lives, remember that the freedom did not come cheap.” He is proud of the work of the council, calling it “the most powerful NGO in Ukraine right now,” noting the strong involvement of religious leaders on the Maidan. “We have met with Yanukovych, traveled to the European Union to explain the aspirations of the people of the Maidan, met with foreign visitors. We strongly support the move towards to more democracy in Ukraine.”

Although the Russian Orthodox Church and its leader, Patriarch Kirill, have come out vehemently opposed to the Maidan, Rabbi Bleich said that, in contrast, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church–Moscow Patriarchate has been working with the council, advocating council positions.

Asked about Russian President Vladimir Putin and Mr. Yanukovych’s portrayal of the protesters on Maidan as “violent fascists and Nazis,” he immediately rejected that characterization. “This is not the Ukraine that I know. The Ukraine that I have known for 24 years is open, welcoming. There

have been some incidents of anti-Semitic graffiti, but it is not an organized effort. ... Everybody is on the Maidan. The people on the streets – regular everyday people. They care about the future and want to make change. They are not fascists. They are not neo-Nazis.”

“We [the Council] have been working with leaders of the opposition, with Klitschko, Yatsenyuk and some even with Tiahnybok,” Rabbi Bleich continued. “I have been asked, but probably will not meet with Svoboda, Tiahnybok, because of statements they have made, but Svoboda and other right elements are not reflective of the whole. ... One of my colleagues was misquoted, said that we said to evacuate. This is not true. Our rabbinical seminary is still working. One mile from Maidan. Of course, we say to be cautious. Everybody should be cautious.”

Then he added, “Ukraine has the spirit of fighting for freedom. ...Ukraine is blessed.”

The press conference was originally scheduled to be held a few doors away at the Veselka Restaurant, an East Village landmark. Although moved outdoors to the memorial, Veselka owner Tim Birchard nonetheless opened the press conference, greeting speakers, assembled media and approximately 30 members of the Ukrainian American community.



Irene Jarosewich

A makeshift memorial constructed in the Ukrainian Village section of New York by children of the Ukrainian American Youth Association to honor those killed on the Maidan in Ukraine.



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NOTES ON PEOPLE

UCU vice-rector receives award

CHICAGO – Myroslav Marynovych, former dissident and current vice-rector for university mission at the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU), received the 2013 Sergio Vieira de Mello Humanitarian Award “for service in the matter of peaceful coexistence and the cooperation of societies, religions, and cultures.” He received the award in Krakow, Poland.

“For me it is a great honor to be acknowledged with this distinguished award,” Mr. Marynovych said at the awards ceremony on October 17. “It is perfectly clear that my contributions are all too humble to honor them so highly. The value of this award is not to foster the vanity of the laureate. Rather, it gives an opportunity again to recall with noble words the person after whom the prize was named. The sacrifice of Sergio Vieira de Mello has always ensured the gratitude of those who respect human dignity and his place among those who will fight for human rights in the future.”



Irena Woycicka, secretary of state of the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland, presents the Sergio Vieira de Mello Humanitarian Award to Myroslav Marynovych.

At the initiative of the Villa Decius Association, the Polish prize of Sergio Vieira de Mello was established in 2003. Every year awards are presented in two categories:

to an individual and to a non-governmental organization. Candidates can be individuals and institutions in Poland or abroad.

According to Mr. Marynovych, the presentation of this award gave him the great honor of representing his fellow countrymen and those of like mind. “This,” he said, “is one more opportunity for all of us to ‘enjoy the luxury’ of human solidarity. For a

Polish award in honor of a sacrificial Brazilian is a hand reached out to us Ukrainians in a warm feeling of brotherhood,” added the laureate.

The recipients are selected by a special committee that includes representatives of the president of Poland, the ambassadors of Brazil and Sweden, the United Nations Refugee Agency, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland and Institute of National Memory and the speaker for civic matters, as well as the establishers of the award, the director of the Villa Decius Association.

Sergio Vieira de Mello was born in Brazil in 1948 and began to work for the United Nations while he was studying philosophy and the humanities at the Sorbonne. Beginning in 1971 he took part in U.N. humanitarian missions in Bangladesh, Sudan, Cyprus, Mozambique and Peru. Starting in 1981 he held high positions in the U.N. leadership and was a special ambassador to Lebanon, Cambodia, Kosovo and East Timor.

In 2002 he was appointed U.N. high commissioner for human rights. In 2003 Mr. Vieira de Mello was appointed the special representative of the U.N. secretary general to Iraq, where he was to engage in high-level discussions for four months. He died on June 19, 2013, in the terrorist-related bombing of the Canal Hotel in Baghdad.

Translation of UCU Press Office text by Matthew Matuszak.

Dancer honored in local paper

GLENSIDE, Pa. – The Times Chronicle featured the area’s doyen of Ukrainian folk dance, Halyna Kozak, in an article on the front page of the paper’s February 17 edition. The piece was the 10th and final story in a series of articles titled “Art Talk,” profiling local artists.

Ms. Kozak, 62, a resident of Abington, Pa., described dance as “the fun part of life,” – a part that’s been there since she was 7 years old.

Ms. Kozak was a soloist and dancer in various groups, including The Dancing Sopilka and the Ukrainian American Youth Association, and has danced on three continents: North America, South America and Europe. She has directed Ukrainian folk dance groups in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and directed and taught dance workshops in Sao Paulo and Curitiba,

Brazil. She studied in New York City in the 1970s with the renowned dancer and choreographer Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky, and was the co-founder of the Ukrainian Folk Dance camp in Lehigh, Pa.

Among her favorite memories are performing at the Garden State Arts Center in 1980, with then-presidential candidate Ronald Reagan and his wife, Nancy, in attendance, and being part of a concert honoring distinguished dance instructor Valentyna Pereyaslavets.

Ms. Kozak called dance her vocation and her joy, and shows no signs of slowing down. Recently she choreographed a work commemorating the 80th anniversary of the Holodomor; the dance was performed in Philadelphia as part of the Holodomor commemorations in November.

Readers may view the article, as well as photos and a video, at http://www.montgomerynews.com/articles/2014/02/17/glenside_news_globe_times_chronicle/news/doc52fe664b8e5cc935361512.txt?viewmode=fullstory.

“Notes on People” is a feature geared toward reporting on the achievements of members of the Ukrainian community and the Ukrainian National Association. All submissions should be concise due to space limitations and must include the person’s UNA branch number (if applicable). Items will be published as soon as possible after their receipt.



UKRAINIAN NATIONAL
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OUT & ABOUT

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|--|
| March 5
New York | Literary evening dedicated to Lesia Ukrainka, Ukrainian Institute of America, ypc@ukrainianinstitute.org | March 11
Cambridge, MA | Concert, "Shevchenko and Shakespeare," featuring selections from the Ukrainian Art Songs Project, Swedenborg Chapel, Harvard University, 978-254-5070 or 617-864-4552 |
| March 7-April 27
Chicago | Exhibit, "Honoring the 200th Anniversary of the Birth of Taras Shevchenko," Ukrainian National Museum, 312-421-8020 | March 14-15
Toronto | Symposium, "Ukraine: Lessons of the Past and Outlook for the Future," University of Toronto, ukrainian.gradsymposium@utoronto.ca |
| March 8
San Francisco | Taras Shevchenko 200th anniversary concert, Ukrainian American Coordinating Council - Northern California Branch, Koret Auditorium, San Francisco Public Library (Main Branch), 650-281-6927 | March 15
Palatine, IL | Presentation by Terrence Moore, "The New Educational System Called 'Common Core,'" Ukrainian American Veterans 1st Lt. Ivan Shandor Post 35, Palatine Library, romangolash@sbcglobal.net or 847-910-3532 |
| March 8
Newark, NJ | Ukrainian Heritage Hockey Night, N.J. Devils versus the Carolina Hurricanes, Prudential Center, 973-919-1322 or UkrHeritageNight.Devils@gmail.com | March 15
Edmonton | Concert, "Shevchenko 200 Concerts," featuring works by Mykola Lysenko and Mykhailo Verbytskyj, West End Christian Reformed Church, www.westendcrc.ca |
| March 8
New York | Concert, "Shevchenko and Shakespeare," featuring the selections of the Ukrainian Art Songs Project, Ukrainian Institute of America, 212-288-8660 or www.ukrainianinstitute.org | March 15
Cambridge, MA | Taras Shevchenko Bicentennial Celebration, featuring the Joint New England Church Choir, bandurist Julian Kytasty, Olga Lisovskaya and Antonio Stroud, Edward M. Pickerman Concert Hall, Longy School of Music, www.shevchenko200.org or 781-277-7037 |
| March 8
New York | Lecture by George Grabowicz, "Shevchenko Studies Today: A Framing of the Problem," Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130 | March 16, 23, 30, April 6
Olyphant, PA | Pysanka classes, Ss. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, 570-383-0319 (reservations only) or www.stcyril.maslar-online.com |
| March 9
Perth Amboy, NJ | Taras Shevchenko 200th anniversary concert, featuring a performance of the play "Naimychka" and selections by the Boyan choir, Assumption Ukrainian Catholic Church, www.assumptioncatholicchurch.net or 732-826-0767 | March 18
Morristown, NJ | Concert, "Starlight on Stage," featuring pianist Larysa Krupa Slobodyanik and cellist Wanda Glowacka, Mayo Performing Arts Center, 973-539-8008 or www.mayoarts.org |
| March 9
Montreal | Commemorative concert, marking the 200th anniversary of the birth of Taras Shevchenko, Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Montreal Branch, Ukrainian Youth Center, 514-259-7162 or 514-481-5871 | March 21
Whippany, NJ | Varenyky dinner, Ukrainian American Youth Association, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, 973-479-8715 or pierogi.dinner.at.uaccnj@gmail.com |
| March 9
Alexandria, VA | Concert, featuring pianist Thomas Hrynkiw, The Washington Group Cultural Fund, The Lyceum, 301-229-2615 or events@twgculturalfund.org | | |
| March 10
Cambridge, MA | Seminar with Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern, "Equal Opportunity Violence: Everyday Life in the Ukrainian Shtetl," Harvard University, 617-495-4053 or huri@fas.harvard.edu | | |

Entries in "Out and About" are listed free of charge. Priority is given to events advertised in *The Ukrainian Weekly*. However, we also welcome submissions from all our readers. Items will be published at the discretion of the editors and as space allows. Please send e-mail to mdubas@ukrweekly.com.

Support the Ukrainian Heroes:

A non-profit organization
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is raising funds to provide humanitarian aid to the citizens of Ukraine united in "Right Sector" – heroes that are defending the liberty and dignity of the Ukrainian people at Euromaidan in Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine.

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People, wounded and just operated in the middle of the night, sleep on the floor of St. Michael's Golden-Domed Cathedral.



The corpses of an elderly woman and a man, murdered by "Berkut" near the exit of subway "Khreshchatyk" on Instytutska street 02/18/14



Annual Meeting

Saturday, March 15 at 7:00pm

Ukrainian Youth Center
301 Palisade Ave.
Yonkers, NY 10703

This year 3 board members are up for re-election:
John Olijarczyk, Lubomyr Shchur and
Steven Kapitula and two members of the credit
committee: Jerry Hac and Peter Mul

All members are welcome!

R.S.V.P to Anna Kocur 914-220-4900 ext. 0



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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Thursday-Sunday, February 27-March 9

NEW YORK: La MaMa Experimental Theater and Yara Arts Group present "Capt. John Smith Goes to Ukraine." In 1607 Captain Smith founded Jamestown, the first English settlement in America, but in 1603 he was in Kolomyia. Directed by Virlana Tkacz, the show is a comedy/musical/historical epic-in-an-hour with three characters: John Smith, created by poet Bob Holman; Susan Hwang, comic/performance artist and accordion player; and Julian Kytasty, legendary Ukrainian bandurist. Show times: Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 2:30 p.m. La MaMa Experimental Theater is located at 74 E. Fourth St. Admission \$18; \$13 for seniors and students. For tickets call 212-475-7710 or log on to www.lamama.org.

Saturday, March 8

NEW YORK: In the program "Shevchenko & Shakespeare," world-renowned bass baritone Pavlo Hunka and pianist Albert Krywolt perform a concert of Ukrainian art songs by Lysenko, Stepovyi, Liudkevych and Turkewich based on Shevchenko's poems. Also, hear the world premiere of contemporary Ukrainian composer Oleksandr Jacobchuk's composition "Song of Love," a song cycle of Shakespearean sonnets. The event is sponsored by Music at the Institute and will take place at 8 p.m. at the Ukrainian Institute of America, located at 2 E. 79th St. Admission is free. For information call 212-288 8660 or visit www.ukrainianinstitute.org/events.php.

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh-A), jointly with the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S. (UVAN) and the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI) invite all to a lecture on "Shevchenko Studies Today: A Framing of the Problem" by George G. Grabowicz, president of the Shevchenko Scientific Society, dedicated to the bicentennial of Taras Shevchenko. Opening remarks will be by Anna Procyk, vice-president and learned secretary of the Shevchenko Scientific Society in the U.S. Greetings from the World Council of Shevchenko Scientific Societies will be delivered by Leonid Rudnytsky. Concluding remarks will be by Albert Kipa, president of UVAN. The lecture will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For additional information, call 212-254-5130.

Sunday, March 9

ALEXANDRIA, Va.: The Washington Group Cultural Fund will present pianist Thomas Hrynkiw in a recital of works by Beethoven and Bach, as well as piano solos by Ukrainian composers Lysenko, Revytsky, Ludkevych,

Kosenko and Bortniansky at 3 p.m. For information call 301-229-2615 or e-mail events@twgculturalfund.org. Suggested donation is \$20; free admission for students. A reception to meet the artist will follow the performance.

MONTREAL: The Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Montreal branch, invites you to Montreal's commemorative concert marking the 200th anniversary of the birth of Taras Shevchenko (1814-2014) to be held at the Ukrainian Youth Center, 3270 Beaubien East, at 3 p.m. Guest speaker will be Nadia Oliynyk. Admission is \$10. For further information call Bohdanna, 514-259-7162; Zorianna, 514-481-5871; or e-mail marikaputko@sympatico.ca. Shevchenko commemorations will continue with the erection of a statue of Taras Shevchenko in Quebec City and a gala concert in the province's capital at the end of May, with details to follow. For information contact Orest, 514-255-6021.

PERTH AMBOY, N.J.: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish and the Boyan choir of Perth Amboy, N.J., invite all to celebrate Taras Shevchenko's 200th anniversary. The program will start with the celebration of divine liturgy in Ukrainian at 10 a.m. in the church. After the Liturgy, at noon, in the parish school auditorium, a concert marking the 200th anniversary of Shevchenko's birth will feature a short production of his dramatic play "Naymychka" (The Servant Girl). Afterwards, Boyan will present a moving concert of songs, poems and recitations. Free admission. Address: 684 Alta Vista Place, Perth Amboy, NJ 08861; telephone, 732-826-0767; website, www.assumptioncatholicchurch.net.

Tuesday, March 11

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.: In the program "Shevchenko & Shakespeare," world-renowned bass baritone Pavlo Hunka and pianist Albert Krywolt perform a concert of Ukrainian art songs by Lysenko, Stepovyi, Liudkevych and Turkewich based on Shevchenko's poems. Also, hear the world premiere of contemporary Ukrainian composer Oleksandr Jacobchuk's composition "Song of Love," a song cycle of Shakespearean sonnets. The event is sponsored by the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute. Admission is free. The event will take place in the Sweedenborg Chapel, 50 Quincy St. For information call 617-864-4552.

Saturday, March 15

EDMONTON, Alberta: "Shevchenko 200 Concert. World-renowned bass-baritone Pavlo Hunka performs Ukrainian art songs based on Taras Shevchenko's poems accompanied by pianist Dr. Joachim Segger. Maestro Laurence Ewashko will conduct a combined

choir. A highlight of the program will be the Strathcona String Quartet and the performance of two choral cantatas, "The Raging Rivers" by Mykola Lysenko and "Testament" by Mykhailo Verbytskyj. The event is sponsored by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Alberta branch, and the Ukrainian Music Society of Alberta. It will take place at 7 p.m. in the West End Christian Reformed Church, 10015 149th St. Admission is \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door and \$10 for students. Tickets are available at Orbit, Meest and from members of the UCC executive.

PALATINE, Ill.: The Ukrainian American Veterans 1st Lt. Ivan Shandor Post 35 invites the members of the community, veterans and patriots to a social/informational meeting on a new educational system called "Common Core" presented by Prof. Terrence Moore of Hillside College. Prof. Moore served with distinction in the United States Marine Corps. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Edinburgh and is the author of "The Story-Killers," a common sense case against the Common Core. The presentation takes place at the Palatine Library located at 700 N. Court, Palatine, IL 60067 at 2pm to 4pm. There is no charge for this event. For additional information, contact Col. Roman G. Golash (ret.) at romangolash@sbcglobal.net or call 847-910-3532.

Tuesday, March 18

MORRISTOWN, N.J.: The Mayo Performing Arts Center (MPAC) will present a concert by pianist Laryssa Krupa Slobodyanik and her colleague cellist Wanda Glowacka in a program of Beethoven, Prokofiev and Franck. This last concert of the "Starlight on Stage" series will begin at 7:30 p.m. at MPAC, located at 100 South St. Tickets are \$40. For more information visit mayoarts.org or call 973-539-8008.

Friday, March 21

NEW YORK: The Chamber Chorus of the University of California, led by Marika Kuzma, will take part in a special concert at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall at 8 p.m. The concert, titled "a cappella NEXT," features three choirs: the Ad Astra Singers from Wichita, Kansas; the Chamber Chorus of the

University of California; and the Indiana University Contemporary Vocal Ensemble. For tickets, visit the Carnegie Hall website, <http://www.carnegiehall.org> For more information call 925-586-9348 or e-mail univchorus@gmail.com.

Saturday, March 22

NEW YORK: The Chamber Chorus of the University of California, led by Marika Kuzma, will perform at the Church of St. Luke in the Fields, New York City (487 Hudson St. at Christopher Street) at 4 p.m. Their concert of colorful a cappella music will include works in English, Ladino, Spanish, Tagalog and Ukrainian, including the Kyiv composer Lesia Dychko's stunning "Vesna" from her "Pory Roku." The chorus will accept suggested donations of \$20 at the door. For more information call 925-586-9348 or e-mail univchorus@gmail.com.

Sunday, March 23

CAMBRIDGE, MA: The Chamber Chorus of the University of California, led by Marika Kuzma, will perform at Memorial Church on the Harvard Campus at 7 p.m. Their concert of colorful a cappella music will include works in English, Ladino, Spanish, Tagalog and Ukrainian, including the Kyiv composer Lesia Dychko's stunning "Vesna" from her "Pory Roku." The chorus will accept suggested donations of \$20 at the door. For more information call 925-586-9348 or e-mail univchorus@gmail.com.

TORONTO: At the "Shevchenko 200 Concert," Pavlo Hunka, international operatic bass-baritone, and the award-winning Gryphon Trio, will join a combined choir to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Taras Shevchenko. Program highlights include the world premiere of "The Dream" by Bohdana Frolyak, as well as cantatas for Mykola Lysenko and Mykhailo Verbytskyj. The event is sponsored by Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Toronto branch, and the Vesnivka Choir. Tickets are available online at <https://tickets.rcmusic.ca/public/>. The concert will take place at 3 p.m. in Koerner Hall, Telus Center for Performance and Learning, 273 Bloor St. W. For tickets call the Koerner Hall box office, 416-408-0208.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

Preview of Events is a listing of community events open to the public. It is a service provided at minimal cost (\$20 per listing) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community. Items should be **no more than 100 words long**.

Information should be sent to: preview@ukrweekly.com; payment should be sent to Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054. **NB: If e-mailing, please do not send items as attachments; simply type the text into the body of the e-mail message.**

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