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Dozens die in Odesa battle, as Russia expands offensive

by Zenon Zawada

NEW YORK – The Russian government's undeclared war against Ukraine expanded to Odesa on May 2, where the burning of the local trade union building killed 31 pro-Russian fighters and injured about 50, according to police. They took refuge there after street fights that killed more than a dozen, including pro-Ukrainian fighters, and injured about 150, including 22 police.

Ukrainian law enforcement authorities accused the Russian government of dispatching provocateurs to Odesa to incite the conflict, having arrested three Russian citizens. They also said the deadly fire was mistakenly set by the pro-Russian fighters themselves, who threw Molotov cocktails that landed nearby.

The Odesa street battle offered more proof of the Russian government's plan to occupy southern Ukraine, observers said. It involves forming a Russian-controlled territory autonomous from Kyiv along the Black Sea that links Russia to the Transdnier, thereby blocking Kyiv's access to the coastline.

"The bloody pictures from Odesa have shown us that we are just a few steps away from a military confrontation," German Foreign Affairs Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said in an interview published in European newspapers.

Dmytro Tymchuk, director of the Center for Military-Political Research in Ukraine, predicted the Russians would target Odesa two weeks before the battles erupted.

"It's an opportune moment to launch a scheme in Odesa while Ukraine's attention is tied to Donbas," he wrote on his blog on April 17. "Having lost Odesa, Ukraine will lose the entire south."

As Mr. Tymchuk foresaw, the Odesa battle occurred just as the Ukrainian government launched an anti-terrorist operation in Sloviansk, a city in the Donetsk Oblast located on a key transportation route that has been taken over by pro-Russian fighters.

The Odesa street fights were provoked by about 200 pro-Russian provocateurs, who attacked more than 1,000



Oleg Kutsy/UNIAN

Pro-Ukrainian fighters watch as the Odesa Oblast Federation of Trade Unions building burns on May 2. Thirty-one were killed in the blaze and 50 were hospitalized.

peaceful pro-Ukrainian protesters – many of them Chornomorets Odesa soccer fans – with bats, chains and guns, pravda.com.ua reported. The pro-Russian forces swelled throughout the day, unrestrained by local police as they engaged in violence.

Indeed, photographs flooded the Internet of the pro-Russian fighters carrying guns alongside indifferent police officers. Yet the Internal Affairs Ministry also reported that three police officers were injured as they tried to separate the sides throughout the day's street fights.

Eventually, the pro-Ukrainian forces retaliated and the battles escalated, involving fireworks, stun grenades,

stones, rocks, bats, Molotov cocktails and air pistols used by both sides.

They attacked the pro-Russian camp set up a few months earlier at central Kulykov Field and set it ablaze, causing the pro-Russian fighters to retreat to the trade union building, from where they attacked the pro-Ukrainians with firearms and Molotov cocktails, reported dumska.net, an Odesa news site.

Unfortunately for the pro-Russians, at least one of the Molotovs landed close enough to the building to set it afire,

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Kerry: referendum in Ukraine's east utilizes "the Crimea play-book"

RFE/RL

WASHINGTON – Washington has denounced what it calls "contrived and bogus" plans by pro-Russia separatist groups in eastern Ukraine to conduct a weekend referendum on self-determination.

The pro-Russia separatists that are planning the referendum are pushing for autonomy and independence for parts of eastern Ukraine – a situation similar to a regional referendum in Crimea on March 16 that led to Russia's annexation of the peninsula.

Speaking after meeting in Washington on May 6 with European Union foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said: "We flatly reject this illegal effort to further divide Ukraine. Its pursuit will create even more problems in the effort to try to de-escalate the situation."

Mr. Kerry described regional votes in the eastern Ukrainian cities of Donetsk and Luhansk as "the Crimea play-book all over again," adding "no civilized nation is going to recognize the results of such a bogus effort."

Although Russia has de facto control over Crimea, few nations recognize the move. The United States and Europe have imposed sanctions against Russians linked to President Vladimir Putin's inner circle and against pro-Russia Ukrainians

who were involved in Russia's annexation of Crimea.

Sanctions also have been imposed over Moscow's continued destabilizing actions in Ukraine's east.

U.S. officials have said that all Ukrainians should vote on their future governance in nationwide elections set for May 25.

Ms. Ashton said after her talks with Mr. Kerry that "It's for the people of Ukraine to decide what Ukraine is and will be, and they will consider very carefully where they sit in the world."

Meanwhile, both Mr. Kerry and Ms. Ashton criticized Russia for failing to abide by an agreement reached in Geneva on April 17 aimed at de-escalating tensions in eastern Ukraine.

They threatened that any move by Moscow to annex additional parts of Ukraine would be met by more sanctions. Such sanctions, they said, would go beyond penalties already imposed on Russian officials and executives – and would be applied to entire sectors of the Russian economy, including the defense industry, finance and energy.

A few days earlier, President Barack Obama said the United States and Germany are united in their determination to impose "costs" on Russia for its actions in Ukraine, accusing Russia of providing "significant support" to "heavily armed militants" in eastern Ukraine. He said those costs include "coordinated sanctions" that will increase Russia's diplomatic and economic isolation.

Speaking at the White House with visiting German Chancellor Angela Merkel on May 2, Mr. Obama also said that Germany and the United States had an "unwavering Article 5 commitment to the security" of NATO allies. He added that part of that Article 5 commitment was the use of German military aircraft that are joining with NATO air patrols over the Baltics, which border Russia.

Mr. Obama's remarks came after Kyiv on May 2 launched military operations at the eastern Ukrainian city of Sloviansk – where pro-Russian separatist forces have seized government buildings, blockaded the city, and detained a group of international monitors from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Mr. Obama said that, "as Ukrainian forces move to restore order in eastern Ukraine, it is obvious to the world that these Russian-backed groups are not peaceful protesters."

He called eastern Ukraine's pro-Russian separatists "heavily armed militants who are receiving significant support from Russia." Mr. Obama said that Ukraine's government in Kyiv "has the right and responsibility to uphold law and order within its territory" and that "Russia needs to use its influence over these paramilitary groups so they disarm and stop provoking violence."

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

ANALYSIS

Despite Russian attacks, Crimean Tatars and Mustafa Dzhemilev will not retreat

by Paul Goble

Eurasia Daily Monitor

In sharp contrast to his handling of Western leaders in the course of the Ukrainian crisis, Vladimir Putin and the Russian occupation authorities in Crimea have consistently underestimated the Crimean Tatars and their irreplaceable leader, Mustafa Dzhemilev. Mr. Putin thought he could buy off the Crimean Tatars by offering them an autonomous republic if they supported his annexation of the Ukrainian peninsula, but the Crimean Tatars generally, and Mr. Dzhemilev personally, made clear that they are Ukrainian citizens, see their future in Ukraine, and would not participate in the referendum charade that Moscow organized.

The Russian occupation authorities then thought they could decapitate the Crimean Tatars by banning Mr. Dzhemilev from returning to his homeland, only to see some 5,000 Crimean Tatars break through the illegal Russian border posts to meet with him, to see him win support for his much-persecuted people at the United Nations and especially from Turkey, and to watch the Crimean Tatars gain the sympathy of public opinion in the West as the public face of resistance to Moscow's aggression.

And then, Moscow and the Crimean authorities decided that they could crush the Crimean Tatars by refusing to recognize their land holdings, cutting off the limited supplies of water to Crimean Tatar areas in order to weaken them economically, charging their leaders with extremism and threatening to suppress the Crimean Tatar

Mejlis, that nation's de facto quasi-governing assembly. But instead, these actions only pushed the Crimean Tatars to unite even more firmly behind Mr. Dzhemilev and their leader to declare that the Mejlis is ready to go underground if need be to continue the struggle his people have been engaged in since they were deported by Joseph Stalin in 1944. The 70th anniversary of this tragedy will be marked on May 18 (15minut.org/article/dzhemilev-ne-iskljuchaet-cto-medzhlis-mozhet-ujti-v-podpole-2014-05-05-13-02-00).

It is entirely possible that Mr. Putin and his Russian proxies in Crimea hope that driving the Crimean Tatars underground, tarring them with "Islamist" denunciations and organizing provocations will give the Russian security services a free hand to crush the Crimean Tatars once and for all. But again, the Kremlin and the local Crimean authorities are underestimating the Crimean Tatars, their resilience and the support that this nationality has abroad (echo.msk.ru/blog/echomsk/1313408-echo/).

The Crimean Tatars have been fighting for their rights for 70 years. And, unlike some embattled nations, the Crimean Tatars have an important ally in Turkey, to which they are closely linked linguistically and culturally. As some in Moscow have already noted, the last thing Russia needs right now is to antagonize the Turks – and a sweeping crackdown on the Crimean Tatars would certainly lead to that (echo.msk.ru/blog/aiderm/1313194-echo/).

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Hostages for trading: An innovation of Putin's Kremlin in Ukraine

by Vladimir Socor

Eurasia Daily Monitor

On May 3, Russia's proxy forces in Ukraine's city of Sloviansk released from captivity the military observers of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The German-led group of eight unarmed officers (four Germans and one each from Sweden, Denmark, Poland and the Czech Republic) had been held hostage since April 25 in Sloviansk (ITAR-TASS, May 3).

This case may well be the first recorded instance of Russia's top leaders directly using hostages as bargaining chips for diplomatic trade-offs. During that ordeal, the German government and the OSCE were asking Russia to intercede for the observers' release. Moscow repeatedly offered to arrange the observers' conditional release, in return for Western political concessions to Russia in the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

According to the German government's analysis, the observers' abduction was a highly professional intelligence operation, before the group was handed over to the local paramilitary rebels (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, May 6). This seems to imply that Russian intelligence operatives abducted the OSCE observers, whereupon the Sloviansk command took them into custody so as to exempt Moscow from direct responsibility.

While officially disclaiming any control over its armed proxies, Moscow, in fact,

confirmed its control by offering to have the hostages freed conditionally. Germany, which led the negotiations, refused any direct trade-off. At that point, the Kremlin again confirmed its control by simply instructing the Russian field commander in Sloviansk, Col. Igor Strelkov/Girkin, to release the OSCE observers.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Foreign Affairs Minister Sergei Lavrov publicly asked Germany and the OSCE to acknowledge the authority of Moscow's proxies in the "Donetsk People's Republic." Messrs. Putin and Lavrov set their conditions, as did the Sloviansk rebel command. The Kremlin's and Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry's press releases expose those demands.

The first condition was a quasi-recognition of the secessionist leaders' authority de facto. According to Mr. Putin, "in entering a territory that does not recognize Kyiv's authority, the observers should have reached agreement with those people who are in control of the situation in those territories. The [observers] did not do this, and therefore ended up in the situation that we see. They [OSCE] should draw the appropriate conclusions and make sure to avoid such mistakes in the future" (kremlin.ru, April 30). Similarly, according to Mr. Lavrov, those observers were wrong to enter the area "without proper notification to the public structures that control the situation there"; the OSCE should have requested

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NEWSBRIEFS

Putin calls for postponing referendums

MOSCOW – Russian President Vladimir Putin has called on separatists in eastern Ukraine to postpone plans to conduct referendums on self-determination planned for May 11. Speaking after meeting on May 7 with Swiss President Didier Burkhalter, whose country currently holds the rotating chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Mr. Putin called on the pro-Russian separatists to hold their referendums at a later date. At the same time, Mr. Putin called on authorities in Kyiv to immediately halt security operations in eastern Ukraine aimed at wresting control of several cities and towns from the pro-Russian separatists. The Russian president also said the planned presidential election in Ukraine, set for May 25, was a "step in the right direction" but would not help solve that country's problems, as there are people in Ukraine who do not understand how their rights would be protected after the election. Mr. Putin also claimed that Russian forces near the Ukrainian border had been pulled back but added that those forces had withdrawn to their areas of "permanent exercises." Meanwhile, NATO said it could not confirm that any Russian troops had been pulled back from the border with Ukraine. Moreover, Ukraine's border control said Russian military maneuvers were continuing (RFE/RL, with news service reports).

EU ready for further sanctions

BRUSSELS – The European Union is ready, if necessary in case of destabilization of the situation in Ukraine, to introduce further sanctions against Russia, European Council President Herman Van Rompuy said on May 7 after the EU-Japan summit in Brussels. "We decided at the European Council that further steps on the part of Russia to destabilize the situation in Ukraine will lead to additional far-reaching consequences in relations with Russia in a broad range of economic branches. The European Commission's preparatory work is in progress. We are ready to make decisions if necessary," Mr. Van Rompuy said. He noted that the EU and Japan were agreeing on positions to impose further sanctions on Russia. The EU and Japan also

expressed their solidarity with Ukraine and determination to help Ukrainians resolve the crisis. (Ukrinform)

Yatsenyuk: Violence engineered by Russia

KYIV – Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk has accused Russia of engineering the week's violence in Odesa that left dozens of people dead. Speaking on a visit to the southern port city on May 4, Mr. Yatsenyuk said the violence resulted from a "well-prepared and organized action against people, against Ukraine and against Odesa." He also blamed security forces for failing to prevent the bloodshed. More than 40 people died on May 2 in clashes between pro-Russian separatists and pro-Kyiv protesters. Most of the victims died in a blaze apparently started by firebombs thrown inside the building where pro-Russia activists had sought refuge amid the street fighting. Russia has accused Mr. Yatsenyuk's government of provoking bloodshed in eastern Ukraine with an operation to restore Kyiv's authority in a series of cities under the control of pro-Russian rebels. Mr. Yatsenyuk rejected the accusation, saying "The process of dialogue had begun, only it was drowned out by the sound of shooting from automatic rifles of Russian production." Mr. Yatsenyuk also said the Odesa violence was provoked by pro-Russia militants. He has blamed security forces for failing to prevent the bloodshed, and promised a full and independent investigation. (RFE/RL)

Moscow calls for OSCE evaluation

MOSCOW – On May 4, the Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry called on the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Council of Europe to "objectively evaluate" developments in eastern Ukraine. It accused Ukraine's government of conducting "punitive" operations in the country's east and the West of imposing an "actual information blockade" on developments. The Ukrainian government accuses Russia of engineering the crisis in eastern Ukraine, and Internal Affairs Minister Arsen Avakov has said there were Russians and Chechens among the pro-Russian fighters in Sloviansk. Moscow denies it has special

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NEWS ANALYSIS: *The war over Ukraine*

by David Marples

The tragic events in Odesa indicate the escalating war in Ukraine: from separatists, to ultras (soccer fans) or the Right Sector, the groups involved are fanatical and determined, though it is not always clear what their respective desired outcomes would be. Nor is it clear what the goals of Vladimir Putin are or when they will be revealed.

If we analyze the complaints and grievances of the separatists and their Russian patrons, the following contentions spring most readily to mind:

1. The takeover of power in Kyiv through a coup allegedly conducted by a right-wing paramilitary group that brought about the ouster of the elected president, Viktor Yanukovich.

2. The establishment of an interim government that largely excludes representatives from the Donbas and the south.

3. Threats to the rights of Russian-speakers throughout Ukraine and their right to use their native language.

4. Intrusions into Ukrainian politics both financially and personally by leaders of the United States and the European Union.

5. Fear that Ukraine will join not only European structures, but also, importantly, the NATO alliance. A subtext here is the post-2004 eastward expansion of NATO and its threat to the interests and territory of the Russian Federation.

All five of these points have been cited at various junctures as reasons why separatists have taken over towns in Ukraine's east, established their own local leaderships, fought battles against Ukrainian government forces and now plan referenda on their future; and why Russia opted to annex Crimea, following a contentious referendum.

Taking the points in turn, none can be described as obviously valid. No doubt the Euro-Maidan, at its peak a peaceful and sincere demonstration against the government and presidency of Mr. Yanukovich, the most corrupt leader in Europe, ultimately turned violent with clashes against Berkut riot police. But, while not condoning the violence and the policies of leaders of some right-wing forces (Dmytro Yarosh, Oleh Tyahnybok, etc.), simply to allege that the whole civic protest constituted a right-wing coup, led by neo-Nazis, is outright propaganda.

Moreover, as the British analyst J. V. Koshiw has convincingly argued (<http://www.jvkoshiw.com/#!/Why-President-Yanukovich-fled-Ukraine/ck8a/F4D49016-F69F-45D6-AE4A-027C10E02B79>), former President Yanukovich was not overthrown; rather, he abandoned his office – and ironically at a time when, according to an agreement brokered with EU leaders and observed by Russia, he could have remained in power until the end of his legal term.

The interim government was elected from within the Parliament. With the departure of Mr. Yanukovich, the assembly naturally assumed leadership of the country pending new presidential elections. Though some parties chose not to take

part, most obviously the Party of the Regions and the Communists – but also the opposition party UDAR led by Vitali Klitschko – it is hardly surprising that they lack representatives in the interim Cabinet.

In fact, the Batkivshchyna Party, whose members hold the positions both of acting president and prime minister, has gained most. Prior to the Euro-Maidan, it was the second-largest political party in Ukraine. Yet, even with the release of its leader Yulia Tymoshenko, there are few indications that in the event of a free and fair election, its representative will be the next president. It is, somewhat ironic given that the Euro-Maidan was in part a protest against corruption and oligarchs, yet the chocolate manufacturer Petro Poroshenko leads convincingly in opinion polls (http://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2014/05/02/Billionaire-Poroshenko-leads-field-in-Ukraines-May-25-presidential-election/3451399054225/).

Turning to the third question, namely the interim government established to conduct new presidential elections, it quickly rescinded an initial decision to abrogate the controversial language law guaranteeing citizens' right to use their language if they constituted more than 10 percent of the population. Aside from that instance, there have been no threats to Russian-language speakers anywhere in Ukraine. On the contrary, they made up a substantial number of those who took part in the Euro-Maidan.

The fourth question is not so easily dismissed, at least in terms of perception. The taped conversations of U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Geoffrey Pyatt and Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland (<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-26079957>), and the public appearances in central Kyiv by Sen. John McCain did indeed signal that the United States supported the civic protests. Similarly, in my own country of Canada, Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who visited Kyiv on March 22, supported the Ukrainian position unequivocally – even before the invasion of Crimea (<http://www.cbc.ca/news/world/stephen-harper-pledges-continued-support-for-ukraine-1.2582669>).

Western leaders perceived the situation last November as one in which Ukrainians were deprived of their keen desire to sign the Association Agreement with the EU. And that may well be true, though there was also significant opposition. But their open involvement without doubt incited in part the Russian response.

It is also true that the prospect of Ukraine joining NATO incensed Russia. Yet the idea was virtually inconceivable in Ukraine too, prior to the annexation of Crimea. And nothing Western leaders did merited the violent confrontations that have ensued. They are a result, it seems, of two factors: first, the innate fears of Russian President Putin that, once again, his country seemed to be in full-scale retreat before the onslaught of the liberal West; and second, the alienation of many parts of eastern and southern Ukraine from the changes in Kyiv.

The Putin issue has been analyzed ad nauseam for several weeks in the Western media. He has his supporters (see, for example, <http://www.thenation.com/blog/176189/chance-putin-has-given-obama-diplomacy#>) and more frequently his detractors (<http://www.faz.net/aktuell/politik/ausland/timothy-snyder-about-europe-and-ukraine-putin-s-project-12898389-p11.html>). Both sides in turn have accused the other of being pro-Nazi (http://lb.ua/news/2014/05/03/265204_ostanovite_fashizm.html), causing Toronto

political scientist Lucan Way to respond on Facebook to one such analogy: "I think there should be a BAN on all Nazi analogies for the next 10 years. We will all be the better for it."

But the situation in Crimea and eastern Ukrainian cities merits a thorough analysis. Their disaffection was noted by then Chair of Parliament Leonid Kravchuk following Ukraine's declaration of independence in 1991. He visited Symferopol in the latter part of that year (Pravda Ukrainy, October 12, 1991, p. 1), heading off calls for a referendum on independence. In Donbas there were calls for the introduction of a federative system and a secessionist initiative (Pravda Ukrainy, October 3, 1991, p. 3). Both regions ultimately supported the referendum for an independent Ukraine and to postpone their grievances.

A crisis nonetheless quickly emerged in Crimea in the early 1990s, when Republican Party of Crimea leader Yury Meshkov became president of the autonomous republic. It was "resolved" only by Kyiv's firmness and the abolition of the position of Crimean president (http://gazeta.zn.ua/POLITICS/zvezda_i_politicheskaya_smert_yuriya_meshkova.html). On the other hand, subsequently, there had been no major calls for independence on the peninsula or for joining Russia, other than from members of the Russian Duma and the then mayor of Moscow, Yury Luzhkov.

The Donbas is a complex case. As Patricia Herlihy remarked recently (<http://www.latimes.com/opinion/commentary/la-oe-herlihy-russia-ukraine-odessa-20140501%2c0%2c1564808.story#axzz30Z862jQU>) with regard to Mr. Putin's "New Russia" conception, its major towns, Donetsk and Luhansk, owed their founding to a Welshman and Englishman, respectively. Mr. Putin's historical understanding exhibits a peculiar, if not completely ignorant knowledge of the past. The Donbas, however, was an important industrial region of both the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union. And perhaps most significantly, worker protests there have continued intermittently since the late 1980s, largely due to the economic downturn and dire situation in the Ukrainian coalmines.

It is critical that the Ukrainian government address the needs of industrial centers in the east of the country. These towns are run down and decrepit – Horlivka, which I visited a decade ago, is among the starkest examples. Coal miners and steelworkers are only too aware that in Russia, including in that part of the Donbas coalfield that runs into Rostov Oblast, their salaries could be up to six times higher overnight. They resent most bitterly the avarice, greed and selfishness of regional self-made billionaire businessmen who have exploited their labor.

Still, taken overall, the claims of separatists and their supporters over the border regarding Euro-Maidan are largely specious. Though Western leaders may have

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Senators introduce Russian Aggression Prevention Act

WASHINGTON – U.S. Sens. Rob Portman (R-Ohio), Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) and Bob Corker (R-Tenn.) on April 30 announced they had introduced, along with several other senators, the Russian Aggression Prevention Act.

This legislation seeks to address the deteriorating situation in eastern Ukraine, and Russia's role in creating it, by providing a comprehensive strategy to strengthen the NATO alliance, deterring Russian aggression through tough new sanctions and strengthening non-NATO partners like Ukraine by providing direct military assistance.

"The United States and its allies must stand with the Ukrainian people during this time of Russian aggression, and this legislation will allow us to engage in a strong, comprehensive approach to the deteriorating situation in eastern Ukraine," Sen. Portman stated. "By imposing tough and meaningful new sanctions, strengthening NATO, and providing direct military assistance to Ukraine, the U.S. will begin to send a clear message that this Russian aggression must end."

The Russian Aggression Prevention Act

would:

- require the president to substantially increase U.S. and NATO support for the armed forces of Poland, Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia;
- impose immediate sanctions and position further sectoral sanctions in the event of further Russian aggression;
- place immediate new sanctions on any Russian officials and agents involved in the illegal occupation of Crimea, as well as on corrupt Russian officials and their supporters;
- impose even tougher new sanctions if Russian armed forces cross further into Ukraine, or if Russia further annexes the sovereign territory of Ukraine or any other country;
- authorize the president to evaluate the needs of the Ukraine armed forces and to provide \$100 million worth of direct military assistance to Ukraine, including anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapons and small arms; and
- provide authority for exports of U.S. natural gas to all World Trade Organization members.

Quotable notes

"There is a war going on against us on our territory. Our hands and feet are tied because of the civilian population around us. Some support us, others don't. Somebody supports the Russian language, others don't. None of that matters. Ukrainian soldiers cannot shoot at civilians. This is our limitation, which our enemy is making full use of. Our enemy is hiding behind them and shooting at us. That is the main problem in a nutshell for you."

– Ukrainian Internal Affairs Minister Arsen Avakov speaking on May 6 to journalists when he visited Ukrainian troops fighting pro-Russian separatists near the city of Sloviansk in the country's east, as quoted by RFE/RL.

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



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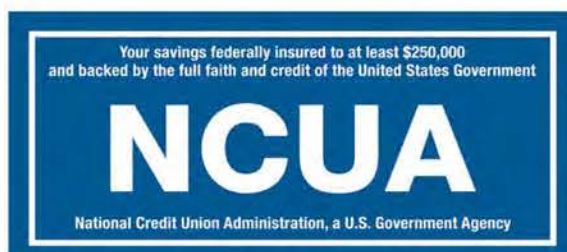
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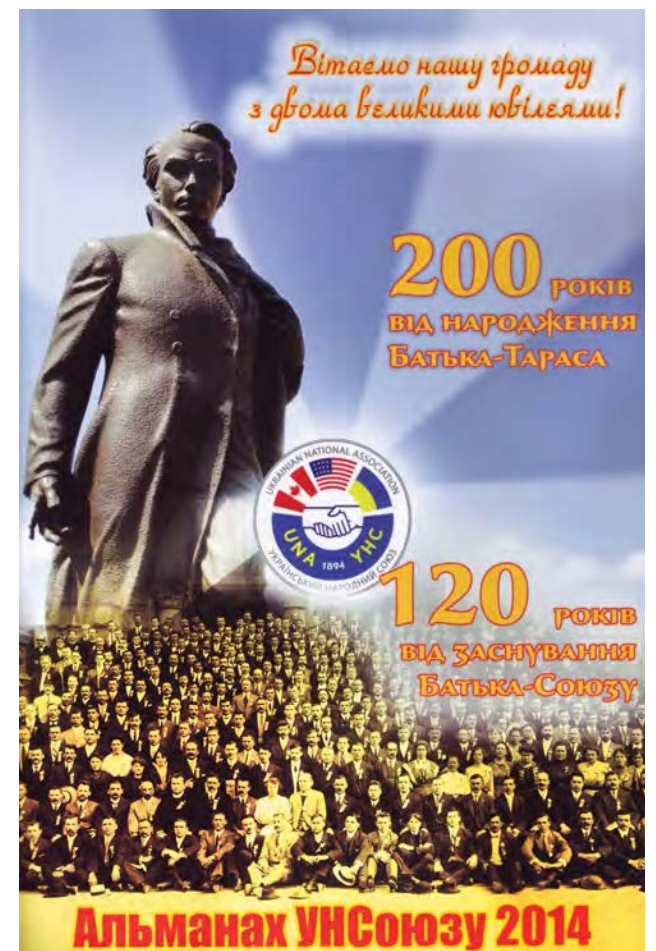
THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

Credentials Committee verifies delegates to 38th UNA Convention



PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The Credentials Committee for the 38th Regular Convention of the Ukrainian National Association met at the UNA Home Office on April 24. Seen above are the committee members at work (from left): Maria Drich (UNA Branch 269), Valentina Kaploun (Branch 269), Bohdan Doboszczak (Branch 59) and Michael Bohdan (Branches 133/142). Yuriy Symczyk (Branch 42) was unable to attend. The Credentials Committee verified the status of all the delegates in accordance with the UNA By-Laws. All delegates must be social members or have active policies and be in good standing as of December 31, 2013. The committee confirmed that there are 59 delegates eligible to be seated at this year's convention.

UNA Almanac for 2014 marks two significant anniversaries



PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The Almanac of the Ukrainian National Association for 2014, which was released early this year, commemorates two significant anniversaries.

Ukrainians around the globe are celebrating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Ukraine's greatest poet and national bard, Taras Shevchenko (March 9, 1814-March 10, 1861). The Ukrainian National Association and its membership throughout North America are marking the 120th anniversary of the UNA's founding on February 22, 1894.

Worth noting also is the fact that the UNA since its founding has considered Shevchenko its spiritual patron. Thus, the two anniversaries marked in this year's almanac are fittingly intertwined.

The 2014 almanac – the 101st released in the UNA's long history – also features sections on the Pereyaslav agreement, including an article on "The History and Myths of 1654"; on Ukraine's road to its self-discovery; notable personages and jubilees; and culture around the globe. As is customary, the almanac also includes both the Gregorian and the Julian church calendars.

The editor of the 2014 almanac is Petro Chasto, a long-time member of the Svoboda editorial staff. The book's cover and layout design are by Ihor Pylypchuk.

Subscribers of Svoboda, the UNA's Ukrainian-language weekly, received copies of the 2014 almanac earlier this year. Readers who would like to purchase a copy of the book may call the Svoboda administration at 973-292-9800, ext. 3040, or e-mail adukr@optonline.net. Price is \$15 (shipping included).

Professional agent presents UNA products to Whippany parishioners



WHIPPANY, N.J. – Oksana Stanko, one of the Ukrainian National Association's professional agents at the Home Office, on Sunday, April 6, presented UNA life insurance and annuity products to parishioners of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Whippany, N.J. After divine liturgies, parishioners had the opportunity to learn more about the benefits of UNA's permanent insurance and deferred retirement plans when planning for the future.

Young UNA'ers



Jackelyn Karol, daughter of Dr. Michael and Josefina Karol of Danbury, Conn., is a new member of UNA Branch 59. She was enrolled by her grandmother June Muc.



Farrah Eve Stanko, daughter of Stefan and Meghan Stanko of New Bern, N.C., is a new member of UNA Branch 37. She was enrolled by her grandparents George and Oksana Stanko.

Mission Statement

The Ukrainian National Association exists:

- to promote the principles of fraternalism;
- to preserve the Ukrainian, Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian heritage and culture; and
- to provide quality financial services and products to its members.

As a fraternal insurance society, the Ukrainian National Association reinvests its earnings for the benefit of its members and the Ukrainian community.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Smoke and mirrors

On Wednesday of this week (May 7), when we posted "breaking news" on our Facebook page, we hoped against hope that the news was true, but deep down we felt this was yet another ruse by Vladimir Putin. The Russian president announced that Russian troops had been pulled back from the Ukrainian border and that he had asked separatists in eastern Ukraine to postpone their referendum on sovereignty. Soon thereafter came news from NATO and the Pentagon that there was no evidence of troops being withdrawn from the border.

Our favorite report on these developments appeared in The New York Times: "... it remained unclear to analysts and political leaders on both sides of the Atlantic whether he [Putin] was truly reversing course on Ukraine or if this was just another of his judo-inspired feints."

Then came news that the "separatists" were intent on holding their "referendum." Some news media – we saw this first on CNN – were reporting on May 8 that the "pro-Russian separatists" were "choosing to defy Putin"; Reuters said their decision to proceed with the vote "contradicted the conciliatory tone set by Putin just a day earlier."

"Defying Putin"? "Conciliatory tone"? We think not. The news about Mr. Putin's pronouncements was subterfuge. Mr. Putin has simply taken another route to move ahead with his plan – whose most immediate goal is to stop or disrupt Ukraine's May 25 presidential election. At the same time, he has acted to once again delay the imposition of additional, and stronger, sanctions and thus to buy himself more time to ensure that he continues to exert control over Ukraine.

Consider this: On May 6, speaking in Vienna, Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Sergei Lavrov had said, "Holding elections in a situation where the armed forces are being used against part of the population [a reference to the anti-terrorist operation being conducted by Ukraine's authorities] is rather unusual. ... Elections and referendums must be free and fair, and they must proceed in a situation excluding violence and under objective and unbiased international monitoring." After Western countries resoundingly declared that the May 25 election in Ukraine was crucial and had to take place, President Putin said on May 7 that he might consider the election to be legitimate. He was quoted as saying "I want to underline that the planned presidential elections in Kyiv are a move in the right direction, but they won't solve anything if all of the citizens of Ukraine don't understand how their rights will be guaranteed after the elections are held."

Regardless, a "referendum" will be held in Ukraine's east. Mr. Putin – who can now claim that he tried to have it postponed and that he does not control the "separatists" – would prefer that it be held without the presence of Ukrainian government forces and only with the "assistance" of pro-Russian and Russian militants. Just as in Crimea, the vote will be falsified to provide the desired results. Afterwards, the vote in the "referendum" in Ukraine's east will be used to undermine the upcoming presidential election.

The Crimean results, we must add, came under more scrutiny this past week when Paul Roderick Gregory revealed on Forbes.com that "according to a major Ukrainian news site, TSN.ua, the website of the President of Russia's Council on Civil Society and Human Rights (shortened to President's Human Rights Council) posted a report that was quickly taken down as if it were toxic radioactive waste. According to this purported report about the March referendum to annex Crimea, the turnout of Crimean voters was only 30 percent. And of these, only half voted for the referendum – meaning only 15 percent of Crimean citizens voted for annexation." Another report cited in the Forbes article says the actual vote for annexation was between 15 percent and 30 percent. So much for the reported 83 percent turnout and 97 percent support for annexation in that bogus vote on March 16.

Now, as we write this editorial on the eve of Victory Day (a holiday that marks the capitulation of Nazi Germany to the USSR in 1945), there is palpable fear in Ukraine about what May 9 might bring and uncertainly about what will happen on May 11, the date of the "referendum" in eastern Ukraine. However, a young man from Donetsk made a telling comment to The Washington Post: "Do you think our referendum will be held the way things are done in America? ...The referendum results will be falsified. No one will ask us if we want to remain in Ukraine or become part of Russia. The argument of guns is stronger than anything else."

May
11
2010

Turning the pages back...

Four years ago, on May 11, 2010, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC), representing some 1.2 million Canadians who trace their roots to Ukraine (the second-largest Ukrainian community outside of Ukraine), issued a statement reflecting the deeply disturbing developments in Ukraine, concerning the Black Sea Fleet, the Holodomor, Ukraine's Parliament and

Ukraine's strategic assets.

The fleet's lease extension by 25 years, signed by Ukraine's Viktor Yanukovich, was named "highly inflammatory and divisive" for the people of Ukraine. Besides the questionable constitutionality of this move, the UCC said that the move was "made precipitously and rushed through Parliament without any consultation with Ukraine's citizens or its neighbors."

The UCC noted that Canada's Globe and Mail newspaper on April 29, 2010, had characterized Mr. Yanukovich's move as "having sold Ukraine into Russia's sphere of influence in exchange for subsidized natural gas which will largely be enjoyed by Ukraine's oligarchs and industrialists."

Mr. Yanukovich's remarks in Strasbourg, France, the UCC statement underscored, continued to "aggravate tensions in Ukraine by diminishing the enormous suffering of the Ukrainian people in the Holodomor, by saying it was a consequence of Stalin's totalitarian regime, rather than a genocide." Mr. Yanukovich's statement was contrary to Ukrainian law, the vast body of current academic research based on original Soviet archives in Ukraine, the position of the previous Ukrainian government, the current government of

(Continued on page 13)

COMMENTARY

Euro-Maidan, Crimea and eastern Ukraine prove Russian nationalism threatens democracy, peace

by Taras Kuzio

Discussion of the far-right nationalist threat in Ukraine by academics has sometimes ventured deep into ideologies and outright biases. I wrote about this last year in an analysis of a workshop at Columbia University on Russian and Ukrainian nationalism (The Ukrainian Weekly, May 19, 2013). Since then, the massive use of violence by the regime of Viktor Yanukovich that led to over 102 murders and the torture and violence by vigilantes point to the post-Soviet criminal-kleptocratic structures and Vladimir Putin's Russian nationalism/imperialism as being far more extremist, anti-democratic and xenophobic than any groups on the Ukrainian right.

Russia's annexation of Crimea, the torture and murder of Tatars and threats to ethnic cleanse them, coupled with a huge campaign of Ukrainophobia in the Russian media are not comparable to anything found in Ukraine. And it is clear that Russian extremist nationalism is present within the Party of Regions and the Communist Party and that support for separatism in Eastern Ukraine has come from these sources.

There are four factors that point to these conclusions.

First, political statements on "fascist" influences and anti-Semitism in Ukraine and Russia almost always overlook Russian collaboration with the Nazis and Russian Nazi émigré movements such as NTS (People's Labor Alliance). These omissions are significant, because all of these tenets of Russian nationalism have their place in the Putin regime, today's Crimea (where self-proclaimed leader Sergei Aksyonov leads the neo-fascist Russian Party of Unity) and within the Party of Regions.

When organizing discussions of Russian and Ukrainian nationalisms, ignoring certain facts – such as the half million-strong Russian Vlasov army and also Eurasianism, Stalinist national-Bolshevism, émigré Russian nationalists (NTS), the Russian nationalist approach to Ukrainian national rights, contemporary Russian nationalism such as that exemplified by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy and, of course, Putinism – is to commit intellectual malpractice.

After the Euro-Maidan murders, the illegal annexation of Crimea and violent separatism in eastern Ukraine, it is now obvious that a discussion of Ukrainian and Russian nationalisms should not ignore all the aspects of the latter. This is especially the case in the light of the Putin regime being increasingly described as fascist. Russian fascists have travelled to Crimea and eastern and southern Ukraine to support separatists (<http://tyzhden.ua/News/105811>), and the only observers who attended the Crimean March 16 referendum were from far-right and Nazi European parties (<http://khpg.org.ua/index.php?id=1394946269>).

As Jewish organizations have stated, Jews living in Ukraine have little to fear from anti-Semitism which, according to

Josef Zissels, vice-president of the World Jewish Congress and Chairman of Vaad (Confederation of Jewish Organizations and Communities), had not been growing. Last year there were 27 anti-Semitic incidents in Ukraine, compared to 612 in France, 800 in the United Kingdom, and a whopping 1,300 in Germany. Peter Dickinson, general producer of Jewish News One (JN1), the world's only international Jewish TV news network, which broadcasts out of Kyiv, said, "Kremlin claims that the protests in Ukraine have been accompanied by rising anti-Semitism simply don't stand up to even casual scrutiny. There have been a small number of anti-Semitic incidents reported in Ukraine over the past few months of unrest, but Jewish community officials regard them as likely Russian provocations designed to discredit Ukraine's pro-democracy protest movement."

The Russian language, the language spoken by most Jews in Ukraine, was widely heard on the Euro-Maidan. Euro-Maidan self-defense units were multi-national. Three Jews, two Georgians, an Armenian and a Belarusian were among the 102 who were killed in January and February. One of the Jews, Alexander Shcherbatiuk, has two children who attend a Jewish school in Chernivtsi in western Ukraine. Two other Jewish protesters died from sniper fire on February 20 – Josef Shiling and Evgeniy Kotlyar. Pravyi Sektor gave a gun salute at the funeral of Mr. Shcherbatiuk – hardly the actions of anti-Semites.

Mr. Dickinson continues: "In reality, Ukraine's Jewish community has overwhelmingly supported Ukraine's Euro-Maidan protests. Jewish leaders have publicly backed the protests, while Jews have been a strong presence among the protest crowds. A number of those killed in the police crackdowns on protesters were Jewish, while the activists manning the barricades also included veterans of the Israeli army. In a bid to underline the falsity of the Kremlin's anti-Semitism claims, the Jewish community in Ukraine has arranged for a number of wounded Euro-Maidan protesters to be flown to Israel to receive medical care. Meanwhile, prominent members of the international Jewish community, including France's Bernard-Henri Levy and Russia's Mikhail Khodorkovsky, have appeared on Kyiv's Independence Square to denounce the Kremlin's lies and show their support for Ukraine's democratic aspirations."

A Jewish "sotnia" (company of 100 volunteers) was led by five former Israeli Defence Force (IDF) veterans and included an Orthodox Jew. Jews also worked as medical volunteers. Speaking about Mr. Putin's claims of anti-Semitism on the Euro-Maidan, one of the IDF veterans replied "I never saw any expression of anti-Semitism during the protests, and the claims to the contrary were part of the reason I joined the movement." Another Jewish Euro-Maidan self-defense leader said, "At the end of the day, living in this country has been worth it – because we've lived to see the Maidan." Seventeen wounded protesters were in Israel undergoing medical treatment.

Tens of Jewish-Ukrainian businesspeople, academics, religious leaders, journalists and cultural figures rejected Russia's justification for invading and annexing Crimea. They pointed out in an open letter

(Continued on page 16)

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Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



A brew, a dollop, a dose

When the Soviet Union disintegrated, the free world breathed a sigh of relief, exulted, and, confident that "all's well," relaxed.

Vladimir Putin didn't do that. He mourned the Soviet collapse, recovered, regained his bearing and began to plot his path to power. He studied, pondered and dreamed of Russian revanchism. The result today is a witch's brew – a world order designed by Putin Power.

The basic ingredient of this brew is the belief that Russia is a messianic nation, the "Third Rome" destined to dominate the world, a 1510 concept articulated by Filofei, a Russian Orthodox monk, in a letter to Muscovite Prince Vasily III declaring: "Two Romes have fallen. The third stands. There shall never be a fourth."

Rome, the first capital of Christian civilization was succeeded by Constantinople, the second capital of the Christian world, which fell to the Turks in 1443. Moscow is the third and final capital of Christianity.

The ideological pillars of the third Rome paradigm, autocracy, orthodoxy and "narodnichestvo" (the Russian soul) remained in place in tsarist times, in Soviet times (Marxist/Leninist orthodoxy was the new standard) and, now, in Mr. Putin's Russia.

President Putin, a former atheistic KGB lieutenant colonel, has embraced Russian Orthodoxy not because he suddenly became a believer. No. Mr. Putin knows and appreciates the fact that Russian Orthodoxy has consistently served as "Symphonia," the glue of Russian imperialism, a Byzantine-style symbiotic relationship between Church and state. Notice how quickly Russian Orthodox priests hit the streets of Crimea following the *anschluss*, harassing and expelling Catholic priests. "Holy Russia" is back!

In his studies, Lt. Col. Putin discovered Ivan Ilykin, an anti-Bolshevik émigré who fled Russia and authored "Our Tasks," his proposed design for a post-Bolshevik Russia. "Three great ideas run through this work," wrote David Brooks in the March 3 issue of *The New York Times*. "The first is Russian exceptionalism: the idea that Russia has its own unique spiritual status and purpose. The second is devotion to the Orthodox faith. The third is belief in autocracy." According to Ilykinism, the rationalistic, materialistic West has had a corrupting influence on Holy Russia. "Having lost our bond with God and the Christian tradition," wrote Prof. Ilykin, "mankind has been morally blinded, gripped by materialism, irrationalism and nihilism."

Mr. Putin so loved Dr. Ilykin that he brought his body to Russia in 2005, had it buried at Donskoy monastery with great ceremony and personally paid for the headstone.

We find echoes of Ilykin thinking in the recent writings of Patrick Buchanan, who also tends to believe the West is morally bankrupt and in decline. And, dare I mention, also among Islamic fundamentalists who condemn the West for being depraved, degenerate and debauched.

Adding flavor to Mr. Putin's witch's brew is a dollop of Pan-Slavism, initially a liberal ideology in the mid-19th century aimed at uniting all Slavic peoples. Writing of the Slavs, historian Hans Kohn wrote that "their national consciousness was weak and still in the process of formation..." Beginning in Prague in 1848, various Pan-Slavic congresses were held strengthening

"the nascent national movements among the Slavs." This tolerant ideal was co-opted by Russians at the 1867 Pan-Slav Congress in Moscow when "the visiting Slavs were told that Slav unity demanded unity of faith, of alphabet and of language, the acceptance by all the Slavs of Orthodoxy, of the Cyrillic alphabet and of the Russian language." Pan-Slavism deteriorated into a vehicle of Russian imperialism against the West, a concept roundly rejected by most Slavs. The Russian Pan-Slavic ideal lived on in Russian consciousness. It has gained new life under the Putin regime. "Mother Russia" is back!

A huge dose of fascism is the final stabilizer of Mr. Putin's witch's brew. According to Prof. Robert O. Paxton, among the characteristics of fascism are a sense of overwhelming crisis, the belief that one's group is a victim, dread of decline under the corrosive effects of individualistic liberalism and alien influences, the need for authority by natural chiefs, the right of a chosen people to dominate others without restraint from any kind of human or divine law. Col. Putin, the new "vozhd," is convinced that Russia's 1990s crisis was due to Western manipulation. A muscular, remedial order must now be applied to protect Russia from the West and to restore her greatness. Fascism is back!

During the past 15 years Lt. Col. Putin observed the United States and Western Europe up close, concluding that NATO is a paper tiger; that European economic interests trump moral principle, and that the United States is war weary, in economic turmoil, still powerful but devoid of the kind of principled leadership needed to counter Putin's power. America neither deters its foes nor reassures its friends.

We underestimate Lt. Col. Putin at our own peril. He is a clever man (dummies don't become KGB colonels), keenly conscious of history and geopolitical realities, oblivious to Western mollifications, determined to have his way with the world.

In 1994, during the halcyon days of early independence, Ukraine relinquished its nuclear arsenal in return for perpetual guarantees of sovereignty and territorial integrity from Russia, the United States and the United Kingdom, guarantees now perceived as rubbish by Lt. Col. Putin. Hollowed out by four failed presidents, their crony capitalist buddies and government kleptocrats, Ukraine today is a shell, penniless, powerless, and alone.

As I write this, a civil war appears to have erupted in eastern and southern Ukraine. Will Lt. Col. Putin move? Maybe not. He could delay, allow chaos and anarchy to build, and monitor the results of the May 11 referendum. If it fulfills his wishes, another chunk of Ukraine will be his, "legally." If not, mayhem will return, and the colonel will invade to restore tranquility and to protect Russians. Will the *vozhd* invade all of Ukraine? If the May 25 presidential election in Ukraine is agreeable, he won't; if not, he might go all the way to Kyiv.

Ukraine's situation today is grim. Ukrainians need to pray for the best and prepare for the worst. An armed "partizanka" might not be bad idea.

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CROSSCURRENTS

by Andrew Sorokowski

The cockney cabbie's solution to the Russo-Ukrainian crisis

From time to time, the British satirical journal *Private Eye* features the purported views of a London cabbie on some problem of the day. Invariably the cabbie, having identified the responsible party, concludes with some such words as these: "There's only one way o' dealin' wi' people like 'at. String 'em up! It's the only language they understand."

This satire of the proletariat's proclivity for harsh, simple solutions to complex problems is typical of the magazine's upper-class public-school humor. A gentleman, after all, would try to reason with his adversaries and find a rational solution. That, no doubt, was what British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain was thinking at Munich in September 1938. After all, Hitler had a point: there were 3 million Germans living in Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland; why shouldn't Germany have a right to that territory? If that was the price of peace, maybe it was worth it.

Unfortunately, Chamberlain was not dealing with a gentleman. It is difficult for the civilized to understand the mentality of the criminal. A thug does not keep his word. Moreover, he is inclined to threats, violence, and deceit. Hence, the comparison between Munich and the April 17 Geneva accord with Russia, though imperfect, does have merit. Russia's seizure of the Crimea had a less plausible rationale than Hitler's seizure of the Sudetenland: the Russians there have experienced privilege, not privation. President Vladimir Putin has been much quicker than Hitler in breaking his promises. And now, his regime continues to threaten Ukraine with violence, planting tens of thousands of troops along its borders and filtering in armed subversives while repeating lies about the "fascist" government in Kyiv and the threat to Russians in Ukraine.

The propaganda, in fact, is worthy of a Joseph Goebbels. A typical tactic is the "stop, thief!" gambit. You accuse someone else of the crime you are in the course of perpetrating. But Mr. Putin's Russia has improved on it, making the accusation well in advance of the perpetration. Thus, the Russian authorities referred to the "neo-Nazis" in power in Kyiv long before replicating Hitler's seizure of the Sudetenland by taking the Crimea. They alleged that Ukraine's interim government was illegally installed by a mob, but later used real mobs to set up rogue "people's republics" in eastern Ukraine. They accused Ukrainians of persecuting the Russian minority, but then threatened Muslim Tatars and Ukrainian Greek-Catholic priests in the Crimea, Jews and Roma in the southeast. And when the international community exposes their behavior, they can plead that it is no worse than what the Ukrainian nationalists have allegedly done.

Another tactic is to create instability, then use it as a pretext for intervention. Russian agents and their well-armed sympathizers block roads and seize buildings. When the Ukrainian authorities attempt to stop them, Russia cries "civil war" and threatens to intervene "for the sake of peace." Sheer brazenness is yet another tool in the criminal's kit. Foreign Affairs Minister Sergei Lavrov has declared that Ukraine must federalize its government. Is

this his business? President Putin has demanded that Ukraine withdraw its army from its eastern regions – perhaps to make room for the invading Russians. The breathtaking impertinence of such demands can throw one off balance.

In short, the Putin regime is behaving like a thug. This may seem like a harsh judgment. But as Maria Snegovaya has argued, the young Mr. Putin's experience in the back streets of St. Petersburg had a major influence on his psychology. (Maria Snegovaya, "Russia's Crimean Invasion is Beginning of War in Ukraine," *New Republic*, March 11) According to this interpretation, Mr. Putin, like Viktor Yanukovich, thinks and acts like a street criminal. Hence, he must be dealt with in the same way.

But what does Mr. Putin's Russia really want? Is the Crimea enough? Will it seize Ukraine's south and east – or all of left-bank Ukraine plus Kyiv, as under the 1667 Treaty of Andrusovo? Or does it want all of Ukraine, right up to the Polish border? That would be consistent with the dream of restoring Kyivan Rus' in Russian form. Perhaps what Russia wants is simply to annex a part of Ukraine and federalize the rest, rendering the central government powerless. Or perhaps it would settle for Finlandization.

So is force the answer? Certainly Ukraine must prepare for an invasion, although the odds are steeply stacked against it, due to years of corruption that eviscerated its military capacity. But what about the West? Should it provide military assistance?

If a nation, like an individual, has a right to defend itself, then it follows that a strong nation is justified in defending a weak one from a powerful aggressor. Enhanced NATO military readiness, aerial surveillance, warships in the Black Sea all create counter-pressure. Non-lethal assistance – food, medical supplies, bullet-proof vests – is easier to justify ethically than weapons and ammunition. This can be more effective than one might suppose, as logistics is by far the greater part of a war effort. Training, technical and intelligence support can go a long way, considering that Russia is waging a new kind of war, using covert special-forces operations, cyberwarfare and disinformation.

But in the final analysis, a thug's trump card is brute force. He steals your stuff, then dares you to reclaim it. Hitler knew France and Britain would not fight over a piece of Czechoslovak territory, just as Mr. Putin knew that neither the Europeans nor the Americans would fight over the Crimea. Hitler correctly predicted he could seize yet more territory without serious consequences – just as Mr. Putin knows he can take Ukraine's southeast regions without risking Western military intervention. As for economic sanctions – Russia can weather much more than that, its people content to suffer for the glory of their nation, until Western banks and big business convince their governments to ease the pressure.

Force is a last resort. But we are there. It is, unfortunately, "the only language they understand." Most regrettable.

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Diane Flacks wins 2014 Kobzar Literary Award for Luba Goy story

by Oksana Zakydalsky

TORONTO – The play “Luba, Simply Luba” was presented the fifth Kobzar Literary Award, during a ceremony at the Palais Royale in Toronto. “Luba, Simply Luba” was written by playwright Diane Flacks as a stage presentation for the incomparable Ukrainian comedienne Luba Goy. The book chronicles the life of one of the best known and successful Ukrainian Canadian actors, a 35-year veteran of the CBC’s political and cultural satire “Royal Canadian Air Farce,” while weaving through it a poignant immigrant story.

The work was a collaborative effort, written by Ms. Flacks with assistance from Ms. Goy and director Andrey Tarasiuk.

The runners-up included: Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch’s “Making Bombs for Hitler” – the story of a young girl abducted from Ukraine in 1943 and forced to work for the Nazis in Germany; Barbara Sapergia’s book “Blood and Salt” – an imagined love story of a young man from Ukraine who comes to Canada to meet his sweetheart and, instead, is



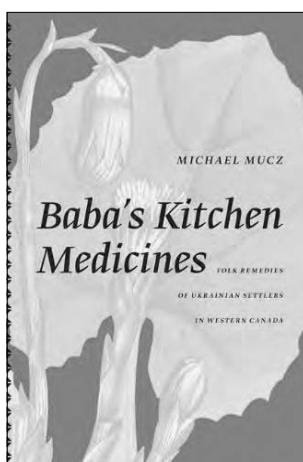
At the awards ceremony (from left): Frances Itani, Joe Kertes, Luba Goy, Andrey Tarasiuk, Olive Senior and Andrew Hladyshevskij, president of Shevchenko Foundation.



“Luba, Simply Luba” by Diane Flacks with Andrew Tarasiuk and Luba Goy (Scirocco Drama, J.Gordon Shillingford Publishing, Winnipeg, 2013).



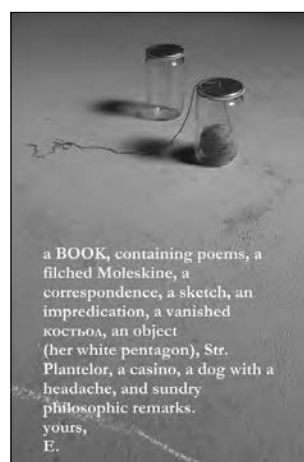
“Making Bombs for Hitler” by Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch (Scholastic Canada Ltd, Toronto, 2012).



“Baba's Kitchen Medicines” by Michael Mucz (University of Alberta Press, Edmonton, 2012).



“Blood and Salt” by Barbara Sapergia (Coteau Books, Regina, 2012).



“The Unmentionable” by Erin Moure (House of Anansi Press, Toronto, 2012).

incarcerated in an internment camp; Michael Mucz’s book “Baba’s Kitchen Medicines,” which began as a botanical project which the author, a biology professor at the University of Alberta, interwove with Ukrainian healing traditions explained through real-life stories; Erin Moure’s quirky poetical work “The Unmentionable,” which tells the story of burying her mother’s ashes in Ukraine “in the village where her maternal family was erased by war and time.”

The ceremonial evening on March 5 attracted 260 patrons and literati with guest speaker Sen. Raynell Andreychuk, an honorary patron of the Kobzar Literary Award. Sen. Andreychuk had only recently returned from Kyiv, where she was part of a Canadian government delegation that met with the new Ukrainian government and

Maidan protesters. The guests joined the senator in a minute of silence for all the heroes who had died on Maidan.

Fred Keating, actor/producer, who has served as master of ceremonies since the inaugural award, continued to do the honors, aided by Lada Darewych, actor/ director, who served as presenter. Musician Alexander (Sasha) Boychouk provided multi-instrumental musical interludes.

The award evening was delivered elegantly by the Kobzar Award Ceremony Committee and its chair, Alla Shklar. Committee members included: Irene Bilaniuk, Odarka Chudoba, Lesia Ferenc, Sonia Holiad, Irene Hordienko, Dr. Christine Kowalsky, Winn Kuplowsky, Dr. Oksana Kuryliw, Nadia Luciwi, Daria Olynyk, Iryna Revutsky, Olesia Romanko, Lesia Stefaniw, Zenia Turkewych-Miner, Olenka Wasley and Oksana Zakydalsky.

Presented every two years, the \$25,000 Kobzar Literary Award recognizes a Canadian writer who best presents a Canadian Ukrainian theme with literary merit. Four esteemed Canadian authors served as jurors for the award: Joe Kertes, dean of the School of Creative and Performing Arts at Humber College; Annabel Lyon, author of the award-winning book “The Golden Mean”; Olive Senior, prize-winning author of 13 books of fiction, poetry and non-fiction; and Frances Itani, an award-winning author of 15 books. The Kobzar Literary Award is sponsored by the Shevchenko Foundation.

In the 10 years since its inauguration, the Kobzar Literary Award, under the leadership of Dr. Christine Turkewych as director of the Literary Arts Program of the Shevchenko Foundation, has become an established celebration of literature with a writers’ scholarship endowment fund. It is fulfilling its goal to contribute to the literary arts of Canada by providing writers with an incentive to explore Ukrainian Canadian themes.

Will the Ukrainian Canadian Art Foundation be homeless?

by Oksana Zakydalsky

TORONTO – The Ukrainian Canadian Art Foundation (known by its Ukrainian acronym KUMF) on Toronto’s Bloor Street was established by Mykhailo and Yaroslava Szafraniuk. Until World War II, they ran a business in Ukraine; after the war they emigrated, at first to Argentina, and then they came to Toronto, where for 16 years they owned a retail furniture establishment.

They collected Ukrainian art and, when they liquidated their business, their art collection numbered about 200 works. In 1975 they established KUMF for which, in 1979, they bought a building. After extensive renovations, it was valued at \$650,000. They donated 120 works of art from their collection and this became the basis of the KUMF Collection. In addition to the KUMF gallery, the building contained the offices of the World Congress of Free Ukrainians (today known as the Ukrainian World Congress) and the Toronto branch of the Ukrainian Canadian Committee (later Congress). The rest of the building was rented out.

The Szafraniuks supported KUMF financially, but with their deaths – Mr. Szafraniuk died in 1991 and Mrs. Szafraniuk in 1996 – although KUMF was led to believe that it would acquire ownership of the building, ownership was passed on to the family. Until 2003, the KUMF gallery received a financial contribution from the Pomich Ukrainy Fund (established by the Szafraniuks). But after 2003, financing of KUMF gallery came to depend on the community: membership dues, sale of works of art and Christmas

bazaars, rental of the gallery premises and some modest grants and donations.

Two years ago the family sold the building where the gallery is located. The KUMF directors signed a two-year contract with the new owner with the condition that the owner would give them 120 days’ notice to vacate the premises. Recently, the other shoe dropped: KUMF has to vacate its 2118 Bloor St. premises by June 18.

KUMF owns a permanent collection of over 500 works of art – the work of 155 artists from 1903 to today. The majority are works by well-known Ukrainian Canadian and Ukrainian American artists, as well as some Ukrainian classics such as Oleksa Novakivsky and Oleksander Hryshchenko (Alexis Gritchenko). There are sculptures by Leo Mol, Mykhailo Chereschniowski and Hryhorij Kruk.

The goal of KUMF has always been to foster the development of Ukrainian art. When artists-modernists started to come from Ukraine, they were invited to exhibit at KUMF: Volodymyr Makarenko (1984), Anton Solomukha (1984) and Vitaly Sozonov (1986).

KUMF gallery had held 446 exhibits. Some notable ones:

- 1982 – international exhibit of Ukrainian art, in which 88 artists from nine countries took part;
- 1983 – anniversary exhibit of Jacques Hnizdovsky;
- 1984 – Toronto’s 150th birthday exhibit, with 39 national groups and 82 artists participating;
- 1988 – to mark 1,000 years of Christianity in Ukraine, KUMF commissioned a large painting of “Baptism of Ukraine-Rus” from artist Yuri Kozak;

- 1994 – “The Return,” featuring 40 works of art from the KUMF Collection were exhibited and gifted to the National Art Museum of Ukraine in Kyiv.

Since 1975, responsibility for the governance of KUMF has been held by its board of directors; of the 13 members of the initial board, 10 are deceased. But KUMF has always been able to attract new volunteers who were willing to work to ensure the existence of this unique establishment. Currently the executive of the board is composed of: Taissa Matiyashek-Ruzycky (president), Bohdan Myndiuk (treasurer), Pavlo Lopata (secretary) and Irene Hordienko (program committee).

KUMF has become the best known Ukrainian cultural center of arts in Toronto. And now there is the danger that KUMF, on the threshold of its 40th anniversary, will become homeless.

What is the solution? Will a patron, who can take KUMF under his or her protection, appear? One patron or a group? Perhaps a community organization will agree to share its premises with KUMF?

The KUMF gallery is the only Ukrainian gallery in Canada that is committed exclusively to visual arts. As such, it merits support from the Ukrainian community and community organizations.

On March 9, the Ukrainian Association of Artists of Canada, founded over 70 years ago, held its group exhibit there.

The question is: Will this be one of the final exhibits at KUMF?



Congratulations to the UNA scholarship winners for 2013-2014

\$2,000



Roman Krywulych (UNA Branch 266) is a student at Lehigh University.

\$1,000



Nadiya Pavlishyn (UNA Branch 130) is a student at Stonybrook University.

\$750



Larysa Drocak (UNA Branch 283) is a student at Rutgers University.

\$500



Andrea Zelez (UNA Branch 277) is a student at Bryan University.

by Maria Drich

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The Ukrainian National Association this year marks its 120th anniversary. On February 22, 1894, 10 Ukrainian fraternal groups merged to form the UNA, which is one of the oldest Ukrainian organizations in North America.

As a fraternal benefit organization, the UNA has never shied away from using its assets to assist in attaining worthy community goals; it always has been and continues to be an organizer and sponsor of numerous cultural, educational, sports-fitness and religious endeavors. Since its founding, the UNA has funded more than \$2 million in scholarships and awards to its student members.

The UNA Scholarship Committee for the 2013-2014 academic year recognized 57 student members with scholarships totaling \$13,175, of which \$4,250 was designated for special scholarships. These special scholarships, which allow for more financial assistance from the UNA, are awarded based on scholastic achievement, Ukrainian community involvement and the financial needs of the applicant.

Roman Krywulych, a member of UNA Branch 266, was awarded the Joseph and Dora Galandiuk Scholarship, in the amount of \$2,000. Roman is an honors student studying civil engineering at Lehigh University and a 2010 graduate of the Lesia Ukrainka School of Ukrainian Studies in Whippany, N.J. For eight years he has performed with the Iskra Dance Ensemble, and in 2008, while performing with the Barvinok dance group, he participated in an international Ukrainian dance competition in Lviv. Roman currently dances with Syzokryli Ukrainian Dance Ensemble of New York and the Yunist Dance Ensemble. An active member of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, Roman has attended camps at Vovcha Tropa, as well as tennis and dance camps at Soyuzivka. Roman hopes to visit Lviv, where he plans to enroll in Ukrainian language and culture

classes offered by the Ukrainian Catholic University.

Nadiya Pavlishyn, a member of Branch 130, won the Drs. Maria and Dmytro Jarosewycz Scholarship, in the amount of \$1,000. Nadiya is an honors student in applied mathematics and statistics at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

Who hasn't heard of the performing Pavlishyn Sisters? Nadiya is one of those sisters. She arrived in the United States with her parents when she was still little, having just completed the first grade in Ukraine. Settling in New York, she attended the St. George Ukrainian School, where she began to sing with her younger sister. The sisters have performed at more than 450 concerts in Ukraine, Canada and the United States, and have recorded three award-winning albums of Ukrainian songs, including one that received an award from Pope Benedict XVI.

The union of music and math may seem a strange pairing at first glance, but Nadiya wants to be a professional biostatistician, and is a successful university student who continues to promote Ukrainian music and culture on American soil.

Larysa Drocak, a member of Branch 283, is the recipient of the Joseph Wolk Scholarship, in the amount of \$750. Larysa is an honors student at Rutgers University. For her, a child of immigrants from Ukraine, Ukrainian music and culture are like mother's milk. She grew up in a household where Ukrainian traditions were honored and cultivated for the future. Larysa attended Ukrainian Saturday school, as well as Ukrainian American Youth Association (UAYA) camps and dance camps. At Rutgers University, she joined the Ukrainian Students' Club and the Ukrainian volleyball team.

Andrea Zelez, a member of Branch 277, was awarded the Blackstone Scholarship, funded by the Ukrainian National Home Corp. in Blackstone, Mass., in the amount of \$500. Andrea is an honors student at Bryant University in Rhode Island. From childhood, she has been active in the

Ukrainian community, and successfully completed Ukrainian school. Since she was 10, Andrea has been active with Ukrainian dance groups. She has annually competed in the UAYA competition known as Zlet, where Andrea has won multiple medals. Andrea has worked as a counselor at the UAYA Sports Camp and continues to be an active member of the organization.

The remaining 53 scholarship winners received regular financial awards. Sums are commonly based on year of study, and were distributed thusly: 10 freshman-year applicants received \$125 each; 13 sophomore-year students were awarded \$150 each; 11 junior-year students received \$175; and 19 students in their final year of study received \$200.

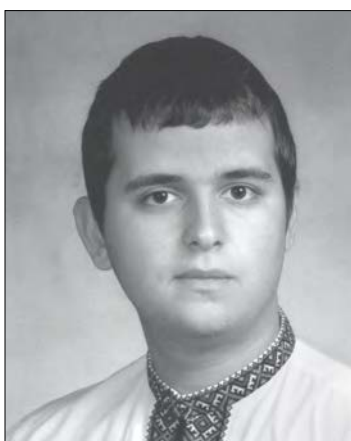
The Ukrainian National Association sincerely congratulates all of the scholarship winners for the 2013-2014 school year. The UNA wishes all of them great success in the future.

Not all fraternal organizations can claim such a long-standing tradition as the Ukrainian National Association. With this, we are thankful to you, our active members. The success of the UNA as a fraternal benefits organization depends on its membership. Therefore, we place our hope in you, the younger generation. We encourage you to support the UNA through its various insurance policies and financial products, which the UNA promotes; subscribe to the weekly newspapers published by the UNA, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly; and visit the Soyuzivka Heritage Center, which is owned and operated by the UNA. To future UNA members, the UNA says: you can take advantage of all of the membership privileges provided by the UNA, and take up your role in the cultivation of Ukrainian culture and heritage.

For more information about the Ukrainian National Association, readers may visit the website www.ukrainian-nationalassociation.org or call 800-253-9862.

(Translated by Matthew Dubas)

\$200



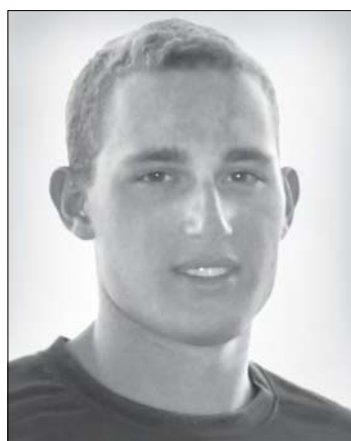
Yuri Balaban (UNA Branch 401) is a student at the University of Toronto.



Laryssa Boyko (UNA Branch 161) is a student at the Catholic University of America.



Cassidy Conroy (UNA Branch 242) is a student at Wilkes University.



Christopher Demczar (UNA Branch 13) is a student at Rochester Institute of Technology.



Angela DeSantis (UNA Branch 230) is a student at Case Western Reserve University.



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2014 SUMMER CAMPS



Tennis Camp

June 22 - July 3

Kicks off the summer with 12 days of intensive tennis instruction and competitive play, for boys and girls ages 10-18. Attendance will be limited to 45 students. Room, board, 24-hour supervision, expert lessons and loads of fun are included. Under the direction of George Sawchak.

Tabir Ptashat

Session 1: June 22 - 28

Session 2: June 29 - July 5

Ukrainian Plast Tabir for Ukrainian speaking children ages 4-6 accompanied by their parents.

Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Ukrainian Dance Camp

Session 1: July 20 - August 2 (recital August 2nd)

Session 2: August 3 - August 16 (recital August 16th)

Directed by Ania Bohachevsky-Lonkevych (daughter of Roma Pryma Bohachevsky), this camp is for ages 8-16, and offers expert instruction for beginning, intermediate and advanced students. Room, board, 24-hour supervision, expert lessons and loads of fun are included. Each camp ends with a grand recital. Attendance will be limited to 60 students.



Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Ukrainian Dance Academy Workshop

June 29 - July 12

A vigorous 2 week dance training for more intermediate and advanced dancers ages 16 and up under the direction of the Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Ukrainian Dance Foundation, culminating with performances on stage at our Cultural Festival Weekend.

Additional information <http://www.syzokryli.com/>

Ukrainian Heritage Day Camp

Session 1: July 13 -18 • Session 2: July 20 – 25

A returning favorite, in the form of a day camp. Children ages 4–7 will be exposed to Ukrainian heritage through daily activities such as dance, song, crafts and games. Children will walk away with an expanded knowledge of Ukrainian folk culture and language as well as, new, lasting friendships with other children of Ukrainian heritage. Price includes kid's lunch and t-shirt, and unless noted, is based on in-house occupancy of parent/guardian.

Discovery Camp • July 13- 19

Calling all nature lovers for this sleepover program filled with outdoor crafts, hiking, swimming, organized sports & games, bonfires, songs and much more. Room, board, 24 hour supervision and a lifetime of memories are included! Ages 8-15.

Chornomorska Sitch Sports School

Session 1: July 20-26 • Session 2: July 27 - August 2

45th annual sports camp run by the Ukrainian Athletic-Educational Association "Chornomorska Sitch", for children ages 6-17. This camp will focus on soccer, tennis, volleyball and swimming, and is perfect for any sports enthusiast. Registration can be completed on-line at Soyuzivka.com. For additional information please email: sportsschool@chornomorskasitch.org.

\$200



Taissa Hamulak
(UNA Branch 37) is a student at Rutgers University.



Julianna Hanas
(UNA Branch 327) is a student at Towson University.



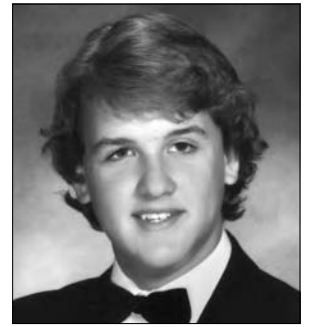
Stephen Hryshchyshyn
(UNA Branch 83) is a student at Texas A&M University.



Marianna Kozak
(UNA Branch 83) is a student at New York University.



Joseph Kozak
(UNA Branch 83) is a student at the University of Pittsburgh.

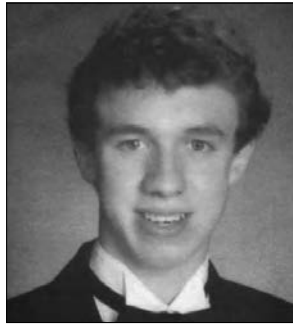


Andrew Lazirko
(UNA Branch 269) is a student at William Paterson University.

\$200



Ivanka Lazirko-Farrell
(UNA Branch 269) is a student at George Washington University.



Orest Michel
(UNA Branch 42) is a student at the New Jersey Institute of Technology.



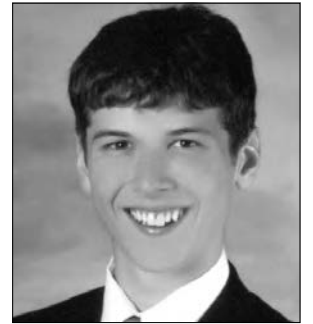
Andrew Mikhalyuk
(UNA Branch 277) is a student at the University of Connecticut.



Anna Solomeya Pylypiw
(UNA Branch 269) is a student at Rutgers University.



Daniel Reft
(UNA Branch 120) is a student at The Ohio State University.



Andrew Salamak
(UNA Branch 242) is a student at Penn State University.

\$200



Aleksandra Teper
(UNA Branch 206) is a student at the University of Massachusetts.



Alicia Zagwoski
(UNA Branch 288) is a student at Towson University.



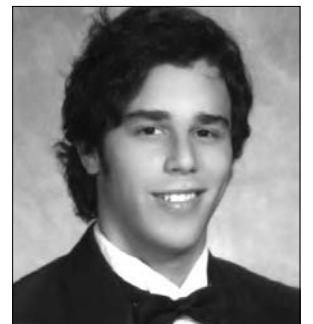
Andriy Balaban
(UNA Branch 401) is a student at York University.



Megan Ben
(UNA Branch 230) is a student at Heidelberg University.



Raphael Guida
(UNA Branch 234) is a student at Manhattan College.



Alexander Kobryn
(UNA Branch 130) is a student at Mercy College.

\$175

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\$175



Grace Kobryn
(UNA Branch 130) is a student at the State University of New York.



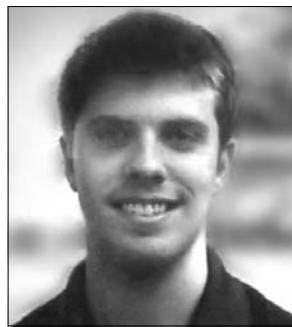
Mariya Kobylnyak
(UNA Branch 283) is a student at Cayuga Community College.



Katherine Kopystanski
(UNA Branch 360) is a student at Ithaca College.



Adrianna Krul
(UNA Branch 15) is a student at Montclair State University.



Andrew Kuchta
(UNA Branch 368) is a student at the University of Texas.

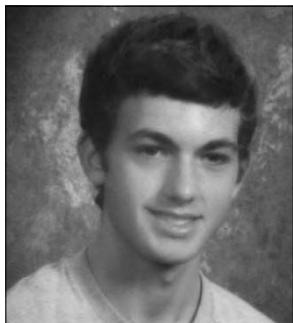


Erin Niedzwiecki
(UNA Branch 372) is a student at Rowan University.

\$175



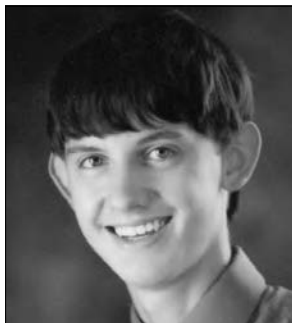
Andriy Vasiyschouk
(UNA Branch 269) is a student at New Jersey Institute of Technology.



Nicholas Demczar
(UNA Branch 13) is a student at the University of New Haven.



Andrew Drozd
(UNA Branch 240) is a student at The Ohio State University.



Roman Kowalchuk
(UNA Branch 367) is a student at Duke University.



Irena Mikhalyuk
(UNA Branch 277) is a student at the University of Connecticut.



Paul Monks
(UNA Branch 67) is a student at Western Connecticut State University.

\$150



Aleksandra Nagurney
(UNA Branch 777) is a student at Lafayette College.



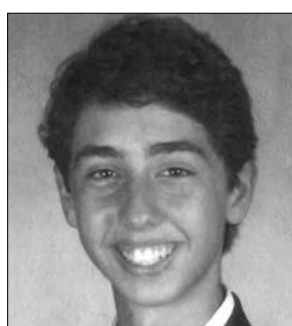
Lynn Nemeth
(UNA Branch 83) is a student at Philadelphia University.



Nataliya Pavlishyn
(UNA Branch 130) is a student at Hunter College.



Ivanna Peleschuk
(UNA Branch 59) is a student at DePaul University.

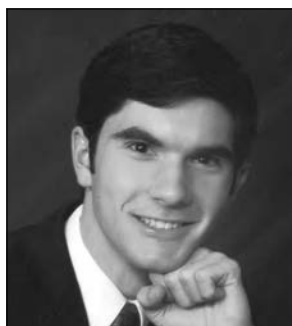


Paul Senica
(UNA Branch 130) is a student at Manhattan College.



Allison Sweeney
(UNA Branch 42) is a student at Georgetown University.

\$150



Alexander Syzonenko
(UNA Branch 76) is a student at Rutgers University.



Andrei Tabachouk
(UNA Branch 269) is a student at Rutgers University.



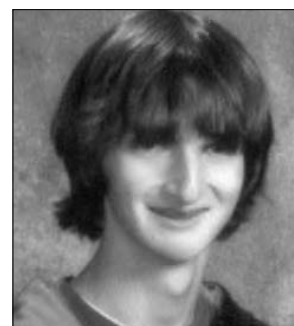
Michaela Charlton
(UNA Branch 112) is a student at the University of Tampa.



Peter Chudolij
(UNA Branch 42) is a student at Rutgers University.



Jessica Demczar
(UNA Branch 13) is a student at Ithaca College.

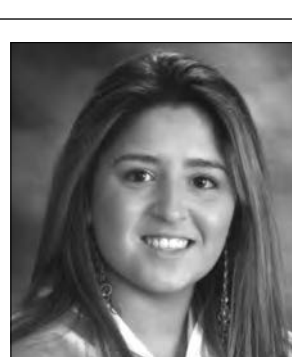


Daniel H. Harper
(UNA Branch 247) is a student at the University of Oklahoma.

\$125



Carly Rose Hawrylko
(UNA Branch 25) is a student at Montclair State University.



Tatiana Matejko-Lima
(UNA Branch 234) is a student at Marymount Manhattan College.



Taissa Michel
(UNA Branch 42) is a student at Rowan University.

\$125



Darby Pochtar
(UNA Branch 42) is a student at the University of Rhode Island.



Lesia Sisung
(UNA Branch 13) is a student at Sacred Heart University.



Anastasia Vandermark
(UNA Branch 137) is a student at Kansas State University.



The UNA announces Scholarships and Awards for students attending college in the 2014-2015 academic year.

Students wishing to apply for a UNA scholarship or award must meet the following criteria:

- Have been an active, premium-paying UNA member for at least two years by June 1st of 2014
- Have had a single premium policy or an annuity, valued at a minimum of \$5,000 during the last two years
- Be enrolled as a full-time student in an accredited college or university, studying towards their first bachelor's degree

The application for a UNA scholarship or award must be postmarked no later than June 1, 2014.

For complete details and applications, please call the UNA headquarters or visit the Our Benefits page on the UNA website at:

www.UkrainianNationalAssociation.org

UNA, Inc. 2200 Route 10
Parsippany, NJ 07054
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Dozens die...

(Continued from page 1)

dumskaya.net reported. Pro-Russian fighters accused their enemies of setting the blaze with Molotovs, which police acknowledged were being thrown from various directions.

The fire began on the top floors where a Molotov was dropped, Serhii Chebotar, a deputy head of the Internal Affairs Ministry, said on May 6. On May 3, the ministry also offered video evidence of the fire starting from inside the building and not caused by Molotovs thrown from outside, thereby exonerating the pro-Ukrainian fighters of culpability.

Most of the fatalities were the result of asphyxiation caused by overwhelming smoke and fumes, which forced numerous fighters to leap to their deaths.

"Many people died jumping from the fourth and fifth floors of the building, the rest from carbon monoxide poisoning or were burned," Vitalii Yarema, first vice prime minister of Ukraine, said on May 3.

"I was at the scene and saw a large number of bodies. And it was apparent that they died suddenly, very quickly. That is to say, some substance burned, emitting a gas, and that gas very quickly affected the people who lost consciousness and died on the spot," he added.

Those who survived were treated for wounds, arrested and in some cases "severely beaten" by their opponents, reported Howard Amos, a reporter for theguardian.com. He quoted a trade union employee as suspecting burning plastic doors on the first floor could have released toxic gases to the higher floors.

"What was scary was the police inaction, even when it was clear people were getting killed," Mr. Amos tweeted after the arson.

Police arrested 172 suspects in an investigation of the incident, among them three Russian citizens. By the next day, the number of suspects was reduced to 127.

"All the grounds exist to claim that the tragedy was planned ahead and the act was generously funded by the Russian intelligence services, the goal of which was to provoke an eruption of violence in Odesa and destabilize the situation in all of Ukraine's southern regions," Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry said in a May 3 statement.

The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) claimed on May 3 that the Odesa provocations were financed by former First Vice Prime Minister Serhii Arbuzov and former Revenue and Fees Minister Oleksandr Klymenko, who responded with their own statements denying any involvement and threatened slander lawsuits against the Ukrainian government.

Presidential front runner Petro Poroshenko said on May 6 that the Odesa blaze was an organized terrorist act in which poisonous

substances were employed. An international investigation will confirm that most of the deaths were not the result of fire, but from the inhalation of noxious fumes, he said.

Mr. Poroshenko said those responsible were Russian saboteurs and city government officials, who organized and financed the act.

As it turned out, the police were just as passive after the conflict as during it.

On May 4, several hundred pro-Russian fighters stormed the local police headquarters to demand the release of their allies. Video surfaced on the Internet showing police laying down their shields and retreating under the applause of the pro-Russians.

In response, the police released 67 suspects, alleging orders from the local prosecutor, which drew harsh criticism, dismissals and removals of the Odesa police leadership and a criminal investigation of the police by the interim government in Kyiv.

"I don't have words to express my anger with the disgraceful fact of the release of 10 provocateurs, who were responsible for 43 deaths and 160 injured," Internal Affairs Minister Arsen Avakov said in a statement released on May 4.

The provocateurs were supposed to have been transferred to Kyiv the prior night, he said, which was later forbidden by the deputy procurator general, Mykola Banchuk, who reportedly anticipated an attack to release them by pro-Russian forces. Afterwards, the procurator general, Ihor Borshuliak, declared their release, according to police.

"This vigilante decision of the prosecutor demands the most serious investigation," Mr. Avakov said. "The release of the provocateurs can lead to new eruptions of violence in Odesa."

The deputy chief of Odesa Oblast Internal Affairs (police chief) Dmytro Fuchedzhi, who was photographed marching and communicating with the pro-Russian fighters during the street fights, was removed from his post and released on his own recognition on May 7.

He was the oblast's acting police chief when arrested fighters were released on May 4.

His predecessor, Odesa Oblast Police Chief Petro Lutsiuk, was dismissed immediately after the May 2 street fights. Besides provocateurs and fighters, imprisoned gangsters were among the dozens released on May 4, Mr. Fuchedzhi's successor, Ivan Katerynychuk, reported on May 7.

"Besides the law enforcement organs being corrupt, they are also simply unprofessional," said Petro Oleshchuk, a political science lecturer at Shevchenko National University in Kyiv. "This is evidence that the state mechanism is utterly rotted. It's hard to even talk about a fight against corruption, which involves overcoming certain trends. The whole system here has to be broken down. But I have yet to see a great desire to break down the system."

Meanwhile, the Odesa prosecutor issued

a statement on May 4 denying the Internal Affairs Ministry's accusation and laying blame on the local police leadership, implying the guilt of Mr. Fuchedzhi. No one from the prosecutor's office has been removed or dismissed for the release of the prisoners.

A handful of key politicians blamed the violence on presidential candidate Yulia Tymoshenko, who is widely believed to control the current interim government that is being led by her closest political confidante, Oleksandr Turchynov.

Odesa Oblast State Administration Chair (Governor) Volodymyr Nemirovskyi said on May 6 that he blames the May 2 provocations on Oleksandr Dubovyi, the head of the Odesa oblast organization of the Batkivshchyna party founded by Ms. Tymoshenko.

He accused Mr. Dubovyi of buying the local enforcement chiefs to sabotage Ukrainian state efforts to combat the pro-Russian fighters. "As a result, the oblast leadership couldn't influence them," Mr. Nemirovskyi said, submitting his resignation the same day. "His goal was to destabilize the situation to undermine the presidential election."

Indeed, a growing number of Ukrainian politicians and observers have accused Ms. Tymoshenko of allowing the current instability to be fomented by Russia in order to disrupt the May 25 vote, enabling her to remain in power by proxy. (She reportedly attended a meeting of the National Security and Defense Council on March 1 though she holds no state position.)

Ms. Tymoshenko is expected to lose the presidential election to her longtime rival, Petro Poroshenko.

Euro-Maidan leader Yurii Lutsenko, an advisor to Mr. Turchynov, also cited Mr. Dubovyi's incompetence as a factor in the violence, but he didn't support the accusation that he intentionally sabotaged police efforts.

"The events in Odesa are a result of party quotas, above all," said Mr. Lutsenko. "I said immediately that appointing a former Zakarpattia traffic officer, Lutsiuk, as Odesa police chief is absolute stupidity. Everyone agreed with this, including Avakov. But the Batkivshchyna deputy, Dubovyi, decided that Odesa is his quota in return for his allegiance."

Mr. Fuchedzhi was de facto in charge of the police on May 2, Mr. Lutsenko confirmed, as well as May 4, when the criminals were released. Mr. Fuchedzhi reportedly fled

Odesa on May 7, after which the police issued a warrant for his arrest.

In Mr. Oleshchuk's view, Ms. Tymoshenko could be suspected of sabotage, but there's evidence of other factors at play. Ukraine's law enforcement organs are rotten and corrupt, still serving the Party of Regions in the southeastern oblasts.

The Yanukovych family continues to spend millions of dollars to destabilize Ukraine, he said. Meanwhile, the government led by the Batkivshchyna party is continuing to award key government jobs based on quotas awarded to each loyal party member, he said.

"So it's possible to accuse Tymoshenko, and that's possibly justified, but the full truth is it can be a mix of selling out, state betrayal and the quota principle of divvying up posts, which is basically legalized corruption," Mr. Oleshchuk said. "The state mechanism so decayed that it's not certain she could stabilize the situation even if she wanted to."

It seemed evident that the Russian government was planning for further military action in the Odesa region until Russian President Vladimir Putin on May 7 issued a statement in which he said he would accept the postponement of separatist referenda in the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts in eastern Ukraine.

"Fulfilling two projects – holding the May 11 referenda and disrupting the presidential elections – is very complicated," said Taras Berezovets, the director of the Berta Communications personal and strategic consulting company. "That's why Putin has backed off the referenda and now will concentrate on undermining the presidential elections."

Mr. Putin also wants to delay the third round of sanctions from the West, which will inevitably be imposed once the presidential elections are disrupted, he told the gazeta.ua news site.

"He understands that these sanctions will affect him personally," said Mr. Berezovets, who has worked with the Batkivshchyna party in the past. "\$40 billion, which the Americans have already found in Swiss banks, can be frozen in two minutes. And he simply wants to delay this moment and transfer the money to other accounts and rescue his assets."

Zenon Zawada, who is normally based in Kyiv, is reporting this week from New York.

Turning...

(Continued from page 6)

Canada, the Ukrainian World Congress and the UCC. Instead, it used the Moscow interpretation of the Holodomor.

The UCC was disturbed by Ukraine Prime Minister Mykola Azarov's statements about considering the Moscow-proposed merger of Russia's Gazprom with Ukraine's Naftohaz, as well as the nuclear assets of both countries, as suggested by Prime Minister Vladimir Putin. Russia's usage of energy as a leverage tool in Ukraine, and its proposals for mergers would make Ukraine entirely dependent on Russia. "Such a move would be an unpardonable sell-out of Ukraine's principal strategic assets and, indeed, its independence – something that no other nation in the world would countenance," the statement added.

Based on these noted concerns, the UCC urged Mr. Yanukovych and the Verkhovna

Rada to reassure Ukrainians and the world that Ukraine's sovereignty was not under threat from Russia by: not signing the Black Sea Fleet lease extension; ceasing all discussions on the sale or merger of Ukraine's state assets to Russia or any other party in the areas of energy, infrastructure, aviation or other strategic industries or assets of Ukraine; and modernizing Ukraine's gas transit system in a manner that leaves the ownership of this strategically important energy and economic asset in the hands of Ukraine, such as the current proposal from the European Union, which includes financing.

The UCC also urged President Yanukovych to issue a public statement and appear on Ukrainian television to reaffirm Ukraine's position that the Holodomor was an act of genocide against the Ukrainian people.

Source: "Ukrainian Canadians express concern over recent developments in Ukraine," (Ukrainian Canadian Congress). The Ukrainian Weekly, May 23, 2010.



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Цьогорічну тему конкурсу "Жінка в творах та картинах Т. Г. Шевченка" обрано з нагоди відзначення 200-ліття від дня народження Тараса Шевченка. Літературний твір може бути у формі нарису, наукового дослідження або оповідання, розміром від 1000 до 2000 слів та підписаний псевдонімом. Додатково, в закритому конверті просимо вислати коротку довідку про автора , ім'я та прізвище автора , вік, підписану фотографію та адресу.

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Імена переможців будуть опубліковані в журналі „Українка в Світі”.

Переможцям конкурсу урочисто будуть вручені нагороди .

Запрошуємо всіх бажаючих до участі в конкурсі.

За Управу СФУЖО

Орися Сушко
голова СФУЖО

Ірина Паттен
координатор конкурсу

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

forces operating in Ukraine's east and accuses the Kyiv government – which it refuses to recognize – of “waging war against its own people.” (RFE/RL)

Rada holds emergency meeting

KYIV – Ukraine's Parliament held an emergency session on May 6 to discuss the escalating crisis in the east of the country. Security chiefs were expected to brief lawmakers of the Verkhovna Rada behind closed doors on the situation in the east, where pro-Russian forces have seized government buildings and police stations in a string of cities and towns. Internal Minister Arsen Avakov said 30 pro-Russian militants were killed during an operation mounted by government forces against the rebels in the flashpoint city of Sloviansk. Mr. Avakov said four Ukrainian troops were also killed in fighting around Sloviansk on May 5. A military helicopter was also shot down by the pro-Russian fighters, the third to be shot down since the offensive began last week. (RFE/RL)

Turchynov decrees mourning period

KYIV – Acting President and Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksandr Turchynov signed a decree on two days of mourning for the people killed during mass disturbances in Odesa and an anti-terrorist operation in eastern Ukraine, the Ukrainian Parliament's press service reported. “May 2 was a tragic day for Ukraine... We have to draw the right conclusions from the tragedy that occurred primarily due to an external provocation. Those guilty of organizing and provoking these events will be punished,” Mr. Turchynov said. Three days of mourning were declared in Odesa for the victims of the clashes initiated by pro-Rus-

sian separatists. The death toll has currently reached 46. (Ukrinform)

U.S. on ‘tragic loss of life in Odesa’

WASHINGTON – Marie Harf, deputy spokesperson at the U.S. Department of State, on May 2 made the following statement: “The United States today mourns with all Ukrainians the heartbreaking loss of life in Odesa. Today the international community must stand together in support of the Ukrainian people as they cope with this tragedy. The violence and mayhem that led to so many senseless deaths and injuries is unacceptable. We call on all sides to work together to restore calm and law and order, and we call on the Ukrainian authorities to launch a full investigation and to bring all those responsible to justice. The events in Odesa that led to the deadly fire in the Trade Union Building dramatically underscore the need for an immediate de-escalation of tensions in Ukraine. The violence and efforts to destabilize the country must end. We again call for the immediate implementation of the commitments made in Geneva on April 17. The United States stands ready to support this implementation.” (U.S. Department of State)

Lavrov: Talks should include rebels

VIENNA – Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Sergei Lavrov said any new international talks on easing Ukrainian tensions should include pro-Russian rebels in the east and south of Ukraine. Following a Council of Europe foreign ministers' meeting on May 6, Mr. Lavrov said he was not against a new round of talks in Geneva but said progress was unlikely unless representatives of the pro-Russian rebels were invited. He also said “consistent efforts” were being made to make “meaningless” the agreement reached on April 17 in talks in Geneva involving Ukraine, Russia, the United States and the European Union. That agreement called for the dissolution of all illegal military forma-

tions in Ukraine. It also said those occupying buildings should leave them and lay down their arms. Mr. Lavrov said Ukraine's authorities should pull back the army from eastern regions in order to de-escalate tensions. He also said it would be “rather unusual” to hold elections in Ukraine while the army is being deployed against the civilian population. Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Andriy Deshchytzia rejected the demand that pro-Russian rebels be included in a possible new round of Geneva talks. He demanded instead that Russia stop interfering in Ukraine ahead of the planned May 25 presidential election and set this as a condition before there can be a new round of talks. (RFE/RL, with news service reports)

Member of Mejlis beaten in Crimea

PRAGUE – A member of the Crimean Tatars' self-governing body, the Mejlis, has been beaten by a so-called self-defense group in Crimea. The head of the Mejlis department for external ties, Ali Hamzin, told RFE/RL that unknown individuals in military uniforms stopped Abduraman Egiz in Symferopol on May 6 and demanded identification. Mr. Egiz refused to produce his documents, demanding police be present at the site. The men, who called themselves members of the “Crimean self-defense force” attacked Mr. Egiz, beat him and searched his vehicle. When they discovered that Mr. Egiz was a member of the Mejlis, they let him go. Mr. Hamzin says the incident will be reported to the police. He predicted that violent attacks against Crimean Tatars will likely intensify in coming days ahead of the 70th anniversary of the Crimean Tatars' deportation to Central Asia to be marked on May 18. The Mejlis has refused to recognize Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea. (RFE/RL Tatar-Bashkir Service)

Kyiv ditches separatist-linked ribbon

KYIV – The St. George Ribbon, traditionally worn to mark victory against Nazi Germany in World War II, will be conspicuously absent from Ukraine's May 9 ceremonies this year – at least in the country's west. The ribbon has come to symbolize separatist sentiment in eastern Ukraine, where pro-Russia militants have seized government buildings in a dozen towns. Instead, many Ukrainians will be donning poppies resembling those worn in Britain and other Western countries to commemorate soldiers who have died in wars. A stylized poppy created by Kharkiv designer Serhiy Mishakin has been adopted as an official emblem for May 9. The initiative was launched by the Ukrainian Institute for National Memory, established in 2006 by then-President Viktor Yushchenko to shed light on little-known episodes of Ukrainian history and to combat what it says are Soviet-era misrepresentations. The institute's director, Volodymyr Viatrovych, said the poppy was a fitting symbol since Ukrainian folk songs mention “poppies blooming where Kozak blood had been spilt.” (Claire Bigg, RFE/RL)

U.N. concerned about Ukraine violence

UNITED NATIONS – The U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights has expressed concerns over the ongoing standoff between Ukrainian government forces and pro-Russian armed groups in Ukraine's east. In a statement issued on May 6, the commissioner's spokesman, Rupert Colville, called on all sides involved in the conflict to find peaceful solution of the crisis. Mr. Colville called on the Ukrainian government to ensure that military and police operations are undertaken in line with international standards, and to thoroughly investigate violence, including the fire in the labor union building in Odesa last week that killed dozens. The statement said that armed opposition groups must stop all illegal actions, including detaining people and seizing public buildings, lay down weapons, free

arbitrarily detained persons, and vacate occupied public and administrative buildings, the statement said. (RFE/RL)

OSCE fears for journalists' safety

VIENNA – OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Dunja Mijatović on May 2 renewed her call on all parties to show respect for media freedom in Ukraine following new cases of intimidation of journalists, disappearances and a violent takeover of a television station. “On the eve of World Press Freedom Day we are witnessing journalists in Ukraine being subjected to brutal violence, kidnappings and intimidation while media outlets are repeatedly seized by armed individuals who switch off Ukrainian broadcasts to replace them with Russian ones,” said the representative of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). That day, journalists from BuzzFeed and the TV networks Sky News and CBS were detained by armed individuals for three hours at a road block in Sloviansk. They were blindfolded, interrogated and some of them reportedly beaten before they were released. Also on May 2, a lifenews.ru correspondent in Sloviansk, Hermine Kotanjyan, reportedly received death threats through social media. On May 1, armed people entered a regional television station in Luhansk and programming was changed from the First Ukrainian National Channel to Russia 24. On the same day a journalist of Radio Liberty was intimidated and bullied by the crowd in Kharkiv while reporting on a protest, and had to seek police protection. (OSCE)

OSCE observers safe in Germany

PRAGUE – Seven European military observers arrived in Berlin after pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine released them from captivity. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) observer team landed in Berlin on the evening on May 3. German Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen said she was “filled with great relief” that the men had “landed here safe and well.” The seven observers and five Ukrainian military officers had been held by pro-Russian separatists near the flashpoint city of Sloviansk since April 25. (RFE/RL)

Moldova puts forces on alert

CHISINAU – Moldova has placed its border forces on alert, citing deteriorating security and escalating violence in neighboring Ukraine. Moldovan leaders announced the move after Kyiv deployed an elite military unit to Ukraine's port of Odesa on May 5, and after fighting in eastern Ukraine killed government troops and pro-Russian separatists. Moldovan President Nicolae Timofti, Prime Minister Iurie Leanca and Parliament Speaker Igor Corman said in a joint statement that Moldovan security forces had been ordered “to take all necessary actions to ensure public order inside the country.” They also affirmed Moldova's support for Ukraine's territorial integrity. Moldova has about 1,500 Russian troops stationed within its breakaway Transdnister region. Separatists in Transdnister recently asked to be united with Russia. Moldova's pro-European prime minister has warned about “provocations” from Transdnister. NATO officials have warned that Transdnister could become a target of Russian military activity. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by the Associated Press and Reuters)

President signs order for military draft

KYIV – Acting Ukrainian President Oleksandr Turchynov on May 1 signed an order reinstating military conscription as pro-Russian separatist groups continue to storm and seize government buildings in eastern Ukraine. The order is effective immediately. Mr. Turchynov said in a statement the move was necessary “given the

(Continued on page 15)

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 14)

deteriorating situation in the east and the south, ...the rising force of armed pro-Russian units and the taking of public administration buildings ...which threaten territorial integrity." Ukrainian police and security forces in eastern Ukraine have found themselves in a delicate situation as they are expected to defend state buildings but reluctant to use force against pro-Russian demonstrators, fearing that could trigger an invasion of Russian forces currently massed along the two countries' border. (RFE/RL)

Lithuanian FM on separatists

WASHINGTON – Lithuanian Foreign Minister Linas Linkevicius says Ukraine has the right and the obligation to use direct force, if necessary, to quell pro-Russian separatist movements in the eastern part of the country. "It's not just [a] right, it's a duty to defend [the] sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country," he told RFE/RL on April 30. "And we definitely support [the] actions of the government and we believe they are legitimate." Mr. Linkevicius's comments came on the same day that Ukraine's acting president, Oleksandr Turchynov, said the country's military is on "full combat alert" as pro-Russian militias continue to seize government buildings in eastern Ukraine. The Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry said in an April 30 statement that it was unnerved by what it described as Mr. Turchynov's "militaristic statements." Mr. Linkevicius, however, praised Ukraine for "really showing restraint" in its attempts to curtail the unrest in eastern Ukraine, which the United States and Lithuania's other Western allies have accused the Kremlin of stoking after Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean territory in March. U.S. troops arrived in Lithuania last week in a show of U.S. solidarity, assurances that Mr. Linkevicius said are appreciated in Lithuania and fellow Baltic countries Estonia and Latvia, which were previously controlled by the Soviet Union and have ethnic Russian minorities. As NATO members, all three countries are guaranteed protection by the military alliance's Article 5, which states that an attack against one member is an attack against all members. But reinforcements are nonetheless welcomed, Mr. Linkevicius said. "As a former defense minister, I know through the contacts with military authorities, I know that these Article 5 commitments are not artifi-

cial," he said. "They are real, and we have no doubts about the security. But people are nervous." (RFE/RL)

IMF approves loan for Ukraine

WASHINGTON – The International Monetary Fund has approved a \$17 billion two-year aid program for Ukraine to help spur its economy and fill its depleted treasury. The decision by the IMF's executive board on April 30 includes an immediate disbursement of \$3.2 billion to the government in Kyiv. The \$17 billion aid deal will allow Ukraine to also receive more than \$10 billion from the World Bank, the European Union and other donors. The IMF said the deal "aims to restore macroeconomic stability, strengthen economic governance and transparency, and launch sound and sustainable economic growth, while protecting the most vulnerable [members of society]." Ukrainian officials have said the economy is likely to contract by 3 percent this year, while the IMF says it could contract by as much as 5 percent. The government also faces mounting debts to Russia for energy supplies while it also tries to deal with a pro-Russian insurgency in eastern Ukraine. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by Reuters and the Associated Press)

About Putin's "Novorossiya"

KYIV – Well-known political scientist Oleksandr Paliy criticized statements by Russian President Vladimir Putin about the alleged inclusion of "Novorossiya" into Ukraine at the beginning of the 20th century, as not consisting with historical reality. Speaking on the BTV channel on April 18, Mr. Paliy said: "Absolutely absurd things were said about the Ukrainian territory, about some Novorossiya. I would just like to say to everyone who relishes this idea: There never was a Novorossiya in Ukraine. Before the formation of only a province called 'Novorossiya' as a part of Russia, there was, first, the Kyiv Principality with access to the Black Sea – Oleshky, Kherson region, Bilhorod-Dnistrovsky – it's all up to the 15th century. Since the 15th century there was the Zaporozhian Sich – these were the lands of the Zaporizhia army. If the Sich was basely destroyed, it does not mean that its lands suddenly became some Novorossiya – these are all Ukrainian lands," the expert said. Commenting on the Russian president's televised conversation with the Russian people on April 17, Mr. Paliy noted that it was not by chance conducted on the day of the four-party talks in Geneva and had both external and internal targets. The

external target was to primarily demonstrate to the world the strength and firmness of Russian positions. (Ukrinform)

Yanukovych "stole \$100 B"

KYIV – Ukraine's acting procurator-general, Oleh Makhnitsky, has accused former President Viktor Yanukovych of stealing some \$100 billion from the country. Mr. Makhnitsky said on April 30 that a check of financial records from Mr. Yanukovych's time in office showed close to \$100 billion is missing. "Our operational information says that the amount of cash taken out to

Russia amounts to almost \$32 billion," he said, adding that at least part of the remaining \$68 billion is somewhere in European banks. Mr. Makhnitsky conceded that part of the missing money was used to "hire thugs" to clamp down on the Euro-Maidan protests. He portrayed Mr. Yanukovych as the leader of a mafia structure that extended into the Ukrainian government, law enforcement agencies, the procurator's office and the courts. Mr. Yanukovych fled Ukraine in late February amid anti-government protests in Kyiv. He was last known to be in Russia. (RFE/RL)



It is with great sadness we inform that
on the 1st of May, 2014

Stephen Szyszka

born July 19, 1924 in the village of Toporiv in the Lviv oblast of Ukraine,
son of Alexandra (Chuchman) and Ivan Szyszka
passed into the embrace of Our Lord.



Stephen dedicated his life to his family, the Ukrainian community, the Ukrainian church and the Ukrainian Scouting Organization, Plast. Having survived the Nazi youth camp where he was taken by the Germans in 1944 during the Second World War, Stephen eventually settled in Buffalo, NY. He was an active parish member of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, and later St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church. He was active in the community and especially in Пласт - a member of the Chota Krylatykh fraternity, a camp director and leader of Plast-Buffalo. He married Gloria (Czeslawa) Choma in 1952, with whom lived happily until 1992 when she was called to the Lord. He retired from Chevrolet-Buffalo after working there for 25 years. In recent years he lived with his daughter Mary Makar and her family, and was an active member of the St. Michael the Archangel UGCC in Hillsborough, NJ.

Grieving Stephen's passing are:

daughter - Mary Makar with her husband John,
son - Stephen Leo and his wife Julia (Fedyk)
grandchildren - Thomas, Mark and William Makar
- Larissa and Stephen Roman (Gogo) Szyszka

close and extended family in the United States, Canada, Ukraine and Latvia.

Funeral services were held 8 May at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church with interment at St. Matthew's Cemetery, 2644 Clinton Street, Buffalo, NY 14224.

In lieu of flowers, please make contributions in Stephen's memory to:

- United Ukrainian American Relief Committee (UUARC) (www.uuarc.org), 1206 Cottman Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19111
- St Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, 308 Fillmore Ave, Buffalo NY
- St Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church, 1700 Brooks Blvd, Hillsborough, NJ 08844
- Plast - Chota Krylatykh c/o Danylo Darewych 2074 Feldwood Rd. Mississauga, Ontario, L4X1E9, Canada
- Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation (UCEF) (www.ucef.org) 2247 West Chicago Ave. Chicago, Ill 60622
- Kyiv Sobor of the Holy Resurrection (www.kyivsobor.ugcc.org.ua) 161 Glenbrook Rd. Stamford Ct 06902-3099 (Checks payable to "Eparchy of Stamford")



У глибокому і безмежному смутку
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вічність наша найдорожча і
незабутня Мама і Тета



св. п.

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вдова мгр. прав Святослава Коцибали
нар. в Дрогобичі, Україна.

Горем прибиті:

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сестринки - Ігор Таратуський з дружиною Джоен
- Сяня Смит з мужем Берні
- Таня Татарко
- Ярको Кобилецький з дружиною Пією
та ближча і дальша родина в Америці й Україні.

Парастас відбудувся в четвер, 1 травня 2014 року в похоронному заведенні Whalen and Ball в Йонкерсі, Н.Й. Похоронні відправи відбулися в п'ятницю, 2 травня, в церкві св. Михаїла в Йонкерсі, Н. Й., а відтак на Ferncliff Cemetery - Rosewood Mausoleum, Hartsdale, NY.

Пожертви в пам'ять Покійної можна складати на:
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св. п.

Іванна Острук Сперкач

вдова по св. п. Борисові та мама св. п. Богдана

Парастас – в п'ятницю, 9 травня, о годині 7:30 вечера в похоронному заведенні Gregg L Mason Funeral Home, 10936 NE 6th Ave., Miami, FL 33161.

Похоронні відправи – в суботу, 10 травня, о годині 10:00 ранку в церкві Успення Пресвятої Богородиці в Маямі, Флориди, а опісля на цвинтарі Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Cemetery.

Залишені у смутку:

сини: – Ярослав з дружиною Лесею і дітьми Танею,
Адріаном і Романом
– Зорян з дружиною Олею і дітьми Калиною, Маєю і Марком
– Любомир
– Роман з дружиною Джіні і сином Адріаном
сестра – Надія Лучанко з чоловіком Любомиром, дітьми і внуками
ближча і дальша родина

Замість квітів родина просить складати пожертви в пам'ять покійної на Українську католицьку церкву Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary або Ukrainian American Club of Miami, c/o Zorian Sperkacz, 8918 Carlyle Ave., Surfside, FL 33154.

Вічна їй пам'ять!

Euro-Maidan...

(Continued from page 6)

to Mr. Putin that most Ukrainian Jews are Russian-speaking and they do not need "defending." They do not believe that anti-Semitism has been rife in Ukraine. (The letter was reprinted in The Weekly on April 16).

Chief Rabbi of Ukraine Yaakov Don Bleich was a prominent speaker at Euro-Maidan rallies. He recently protested Russia's invasion of Crimea and ridiculed claims of widespread anti-Semitism among Ukraine's new government.

In contrast to the security of Jews in Ukraine, Crimean Tatars fear for their future after the Russian annexation of what they see as their homeland. The torture and murder of Crimean Tatar Reshat Ametov proves they are right to fear for life under Russian occupation.

It must be noted, first, that while memoir wars in post-Soviet Ukraine are often subjects covered in presentations, the same topic in Russia (where Mr. Putin has supported a growth in adoration for Joseph Stalin) is largely ignored. Stalin monu-

ments were installed in different localities in eastern and southern Ukraine during the four-year Yanukovich regime – such installations obviously and purposefully forgot about Stalin's three-year collaboration with Adolf Hitler in 1939-1941.

Second, some academics' theoretical and comparative understanding of nationalism is simply poor, as they associate "nationalism" only with right-wing Ukrainian nationalism. Nationalism, in fact, is present across the entire political spectrum and examples can be found as much on the left (e.g., Scotland, Quebec, Cuba, etc.) and among democratic parties, as well as on the right. By ignoring left-wing nationalism, some academics cannot fully grasp the central role that this ideology has played in Ukrainian history and why today in Ukraine there are both pro-Ukrainian democratic left-wing parties (e.g., Socialist Party) and Soviet and national-Bolshevik left-wing parties (e.g., Communist Party, Progressive Socialist Party, etc.).

Third – and this point flows from the previous one and relates to the bias reflected in some academic discussions of the use of Rogers Brubaker's "nationalizing state" framework to explain Svoboda's ideology –

the biggest "nationalizers" in Ukraine were always the Party of Regions who sought to establish monopolies in every facet of life. Mr. Yanukovich and the Party of Regions sought to establish a Russian-speaking, authoritarian "nationalizing state" similar to Belarus, but with a gangster profile. In the end, their undoing was the attempt to monopolize power in a regionally divided country, which led to the Euro-Maidan uprising against them. The Brubaker framework of a "nationalizing state" is far more applicable to the Party of Regions than it is to Svoboda, which could never hope to monopolize Ukraine.

Fourth, single-minded attention to Svoboda blinds discussants to other forms of intolerance in Ukraine. For example, people raising the question of Svoboda's gayphobia overlook the fact that the Party of Regions had been in the lead in the Parliament in lobbying for the adoption of anti-homosexual legislation (a key figure being Ukrainophobe Vadym Kolesnichenko, co-author of the 2012 language law). The counter-argument that, yes, this is true, but the Party of Regions was only doing this for election purposes while Svoboda went viral on this question,

does not hold up to scrutiny.

As we can see from recent riots in France against gay marriage rights (which included the protest suicide of a historian in the Louvre), the issue of gay rights is one that divides European societies as much as young democracies such as Ukraine.

The public discussion and study of such a large topic as Ukrainian and Russian nationalisms requires an objective approach, one unencumbered by ideological bias, personal agendas or intellectual laziness. This is surely what recent events and developments on the Euro-Maidan, in Crimea and in eastern Ukraine call for.

Despite Russian...

(Continued from page 2)

Despite Moscow's hopes and expectations, the Crimean Tatars and Mr. Dzhemilev show absolutely no signs of backing down. Aleksandr Formanchuk, a political analyst on that Ukrainian peninsula, says that Mr. Dzhemilev has effectively "declared war on Putin" and that everything Mr. Putin and his regime have done in response has worked to the advantage of the Crimean Tatars and their leader. Indeed, Mr. Putin's policies may boost Mr. Dzhemilev's chances of winning the Nobel Peace Prize (ru.krymr.com/content/article/25373969.html).

Denying Mr. Dzhemilev entry to Russian-controlled Crimea (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, April 28), in fact, has allowed the Crimean Tatar leader to demonstrate his continuing influence there. And his long-standing struggle for "national self-determination" has now gained energy because he and his people are "fighting against Russian aggressors," Mr. Formanchuk says.

What is likely to happen next? Clearly, the Russian occupation forces are looking for anything they can use to blacken the reputations of the Crimean Tatars and Mr. Dzhemilev personally, and they are prepared to stage provocations on the May 18 anniversary. Indeed, Mr. Dzhemilev has already warned his people and the world that such provocations are coming.

Those are likely to take three forms. First, Moscow will seek, as it has in the past, to paint the Crimean Tatars as Islamist radicals in order to deprive them of support from the West. But however hard Russia tries, this charge will not stick: the Crimean Tatars and their national hero Ismail bey Gasprinski have been the leading promoters of moderate and modernized Islam.

Second, the Russian authorities in Crimea will attempt to trigger new conflicts over land, sending Russian "settlers" to claim territories that belong to the Crimean Tatars. But Moscow's ability to play this card is limited: if it turns Crimea into a Palestine, as some have suggested it is already doing (polit.ru/article/2014/05/05/ukraine/), the Russian authorities will never be able to attract investment there, and the cost to Moscow of integrating Crimea into the rest of the Russian Federation will rise.

And third – and this is the most likely – the local authorities may move to arrest Crimean Tatar leaders still on the peninsula. However, many of them have been in Russian prisons before, and Mr. Dzhemilev, whom they have exiled, will continue to speak out abroad and attract support from Turkey and the West.

In short, Moscow will continue to underestimate the Crimean Tatars, and it will pay a high price for that.

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COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

Saskatoon's Shevchenko 200 concert attracts hundreds



Judy-Anne Chabun

Andrij Hornjatkevych recites "Zapovit."

by Albert Kachkowski

SASKATOON, Saskatchewan – One hundred and fifty entertainers, from seven of Saskatoon's Ukrainian performing groups, combined forces to deliver a stunning concert in tribute to Ukraine's bard Taras Shevchenko on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of his birth.

Over 300 people, some from as far away as Vancouver and Winnipeg, bought tickets to witness this commemorative event, which took place the evening of Saturday, March 8, at the Lakeview Church in southeast Saskatoon.

The concert opened with the 80-voice combined choir rendering the cantata "Radusya Nyvo Nepolytaya" (words by Shevchenko and music by Mykola Lysenko), which was ably accompanied by pianist Paul Hnenny. A huge screen between the two halves of the choir carried projected images of Shevchenko's artwork, his self-portraits and Saskatoon's Shevchenko 200 logo, designed by Mykola Karnaukh.

The masters of ceremonies for the concert were Sonia Kodak and local CTV television personality Michael Ciona. They read a bilingual (English and Ukrainian) script that described Shevchenko's life story, interwoven with the concert items.

"Selo" was beautifully sung by the Lastivka Female

Chorus, followed by the recitation "Meni Trynadtsiaty Mynalo" by Bishop Filevich School student Richard Kricsfalussy.

The Lastivka Choir and the Pavlychenko Folklorique Ensemble dance troupe combined for two numbers, "Kozak Vidyizhdzhaye" and "Ivan Pidkova – Nash Otaman Hamalia." Both are stirring numbers of Kozaks going to war, backed by strong choral renditions with orchestra.

An innovative item with a modern twist was a 10-minute video titled "Taras Shevchenko: A Legendary Hero Through Modern Eyes," which was presented by students of the Ukrainian 217 class at the University of Saskatchewan. It featured interviews with children, students and members of the community expressing their heartfelt and reverential views of Shevchenko and his impact on the Ukrainian nation and the community today.

Guest artist Andrij Hornjatkevych of Edmonton, Alberta, presented "Kozachchyna," playing the bandura and singing excerpts from "Chaika," "Zruynuvannia Sichi" and "Pereyizd na Kuban."

The adult choirs combined for the obligatory "Dumy Moyi" and hummed one verse as a background while Mr. Hornjatkevych recited "Zapovit."

The finale featured a mass chorus of all of the choirs,

adults and children together, singing "Bozhe Ukrainu Zberezhy (Hospody Pomylui Nas)," music and words by Taras Petrynenko. Prior to the music beginning, the two children's choirs filed up on stage, placing flowers in front of a portrait of Shevchenko and then took their places across the front of the choir. With an image of Shevchenko's monument in Kaniv, Ukraine, displayed on the video screen, soloists Andriy Karnaukh and Larry Klopoushak alternated in singing the verses, while the choirs sang the chorus after each verse. Musical accompaniment was by Mr. Hnenny on piano and Stepan Kodak on drums.

A warm prolonged standing ovation from the audience greeted the performers at the conclusion of the finale.

Cec Kachkowski, organizing committee chairperson, stated, "All in all, this concert project was a gratifying endeavor, uniting the efforts of the whole Ukrainian community of Saskatoon in a manner seldom experienced before. Those who experienced it are still talking about it. Those who didn't attend have all heard the positive comments."

The concert was sponsored by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) Saskatoon Branch with financial support from the UCC Saskatchewan Provincial Council, Sask Lotteries and a number of individuals and Ukrainian community organizations.

Manitoba public school honors Taras Shevchenko

by Oksana Shulakewych

VITA, Manitoba – Did you know that there is a public "Shevchenko School" in Manitoba, Canada?

Settled predominantly by Ukrainians, the town of Vita, Manitoba, was known as Szewczenko (the Polish spelling, since the Ukrainian immigrants from Halychyna had official documents in Polish or German). This school (Grades 1 to 12), located about 60 miles south of Winnipeg, continues to be called Shevchenko School and is part of the Borderland School Division in Manitoba.

The school has a bust of Taras Shevchenko by world-renowned artist Leo Mol prominently displayed in its main hallway. In March of this year the school celebrated the bicentennial of Shevchenko's birth with a gala afternoon program.

Helen Bialty wrote the following in the Carillon Newspaper of Steinbach, Manitoba on March 13.

"It was appropriate for the afternoon program to have as guest speaker the Very Rev. Archpriest Roman Bozyk, who also led the opening prayer. The Rev. Bozyk was a former Vita resident and student of Shevchenko School. He gave respect to the first people of the area and the development. ...Greetings were extended by Jim Swidersky (reeve). Dr. John C. Lehr gave a visual presentation where the early settlers were referred to as heroes.

"The Sun is Setting" was recited by Principal Peter Osadchuk, who was also the emcee. Two dance groups entertained, the Susydka and Zvizda ensembles. A well-documented biography was given by Aaron Klassen, a teacher. Prelude musicians were Greg and Katrina Bugera and Harry Hawryshko.



Michele Thibodeau

Students of Shevchenko School, a public school in Vita, Manitoba.

"For the love of our beloved Ukraine, through the continuation of celebrating Taras Shevchenko's work, many generations will be blessed to remember his songs and his writing which are now translated in many languages

around the world."

It is important to note that this area is composed of fourth- and fifth-generation Ukrainian Canadians, who have not forgotten their roots. Shevchenko's legacy lives on.

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Hostages...

(Continued from page 2)

agreement from the "people's self-defense forces" there (Interfax, April 26, 30; RIA Novosti, April 27). That way, international organizations – the OSCE for starters – would de facto have acknowledged the authority of Russia's proxies in territories they have seized.

The second condition was an exchange of the OSCE's abducted observers for the secessionist militants detained by Ukraine's authorities in early April, prior to Kyiv's loss of control in the Donetsk region. Commenting on the hostage situation in Sloviansk, Mr. Putin suggested, "Kyiv's authorities should release from detention the people in whom the [Donetsk] population has placed its trust, and should talk directly with them" (krem-lin.ru, April 30).

When Swiss President Didier Burkhalter, the current holder of the OSCE's chairmanship, called on Mr. Lavrov to intercede with the hostage takers, Mr. Lavrov "drew attention to [Donetsk] community leaders detained in Kyiv for political reasons." Mr. Lavrov asked Mr. Burkhalter to obtain access to them and demand their release. The main figure among them is "Donetsk people's governor" Pavel Gubarev [Pavlo Hubaryov], who led the early, abortive assaults on administrative buildings in Donetsk (RIA Novosti, April 2; Interfax, April 26, 30).

The third condition was for Ukraine to withdraw its military units from areas that Moscow wants to be defined as contested areas. When Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel called on Mr. Putin to help release the German-led OSCE group, Mr. Putin replied that Ukrainian troops should be removed from Ukraine's "eastern and southern regions [sic]" (Interfax, May 1). Ms. Merkel further asked Mr. Putin to let Ukraine's presidential election be held on May 25 in Donbas. In the same context, Russia's Foreign Affairs Ministry warned Ukraine not to move against "community defense volunteer units composed of local citizens" there (Interfax, April 29).

The armed secessionists in Sloviansk and elsewhere in Donbas had issued those same demands in their own name. Moscow spoke in unison with them. The Kremlin put its weight behind the

Sloviansk command in seeking to trade hostages for political concessions.

The crowning demand was for Kyiv to "enter into dialogue with representatives of [Ukraine's] east and south," and the OSCE to mediate between these "parties to the conflict at the negotiating table" (implying the two parties' equivalence). Messrs. Putin and Lavrov both used that formulation or slight variations on it. They invoked the April 17 Geneva statement as a basis for appointing the OSCE to mediate between "the sides," in what Moscow depicts as a conflict within Ukraine, instead of a Russia-Ukraine conflict (kremlin.ru, April 30; Interfax, April 29, 30, May 1; see Eurasia Daily Monitor, April 30, May 11).

That demand remains at the top of Moscow's agenda for the upcoming Geneva 2 meeting. The OSCE helps Russia to accredit that mischaracterization of this conflict, de facto equating Russia's proxies with Ukraine's government in negotiations, and potentially encouraging Ukraine's "federalization." This is not a quid-pro-quo for Moscow ordering the release of OSCE observers. This organization had shown itself ready to endorse Russia's definition of the conflict, at Ukraine's expense, well before the hostage crisis.

Ultimately, it was Germany that refused a direct trade-off, and the Kremlin that arranged the hostages' release by telephone with the captors. Mr. Putin's "special envoy for human rights," Vladimir Lukin, and his office made several telephone calls to Col. Strelkov/Girkin in Sloviansk. The Ukrainian authorities have posted the audio recordings of three calls, made on May 1 and 2, on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXZuHUyWQuw>).

These conversations make clear that the Russian field commander had already received orders from his own superiors in Moscow (whom he does not identify) to release the OSCE observers on May 3. Mr. Lukin merely arranged some logistical and public relations aspects of the release with Col. Strelkov/Girkin. The release at the snap of the Kremlin's fingers (and reversing the previous stance) confirms that Russia controls the rebel command, notwithstanding Russian diplomacy's continuing denials of that fact.

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The war...

(Continued from page 3)

encouraged the association with the EU, full membership for Ukraine was never on the table. In fact, most EU members are wary of further expansion. The violence that has ensued since March is the result of the actions of a militant minority that has conducted kidnappings, carried out assaults on locals and resisted government forces with the sort of weaponry of which most terrorists could only dream. Its actions have the covert and formidable backing of a substantial Russian army parked around borders of Ukraine in three directions and the open support of a belligerent Russian president.

Again, none of the above is to suggest that the temporary leaders of Ukraine have always acted wisely, but that reflects their predicament. They face a situation that changes daily, as they encounter yet another government takeover in eastern towns, led by self-appointed mayors and military leaders who act like local satraps in the manner of Chechnya's President Ramzan Kadyrov (lacking only their pet tigers). Ukrainians see their country disintegrating

about them – one that has struggled economically for 23 years, but has never questioned its own existence or territorial integrity. And nothing Ukraine has done merits such destruction.

A solution amenable to Mr. Putin would be to elect as president another Alyaksandr Lukashenka of Belarus, i.e. a hardline leader who may stabilize the country, offer some token national rhetoric, but ultimately be loyal and subservient to Moscow. A second option, which seems inconceivable, is the division of the country, entailing the loss of its industrial heartland and Black Sea ports.

The third option is the one that has been chosen: new presidential elections, which should be followed closely by new parliamentary elections. All parts of Ukraine would then be represented in the new government. The separatists and their patron seem determined to prevent such an outcome, decrying neo-Nazis and juntas that supposedly threaten them from Kyiv. Eliminating the separatists carries the threat of a full-scale Russian invasion. Doing nothing results in the proliferation of city takeovers. And the longer the conflict continues, the more polarized the sides become.

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OUT & ABOUT

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|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|
| May 11
Trenton, NJ | Photo exhibit, "Maidan Through the Lens," Ukrainian American Cultural Center, 609-392-2455 | May 20
New York | Presentation by Andriy J. Semotiuk, "Skills to Succeed: Young Professionals and Their Challenges," Ukrainian Institute of America, ypc@ukrainianinstitute.org |
| May 14
Washington | Presentation by Natalia Moussienko, "EuroMaidan Art: Art of the Barricades, Voice of Ukraine," Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 202-691-4100 or kennan@wilsoncenter.org | May 21
Whippany, NJ | Wine tasting, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, www.facebook.com/uaccnj |
| May 16
Stanford, CA | Lecture by Michael McFaul, "A New Cold War?: Causes and Consequences of Confrontation with Russia," Stanford University, www.creeds.stanford.edu/events/upcoming | May 24
Toronto | Book launch with Andrew Gregorovich, trilingual translation of Taras Shevchenko's "Kobzar" in Ukrainian, English and French, Taras Shevchenko Museum, 416-534-8662 or www.infoukes.com/shevchenkomuseum |
| May 16
Silver Spring, MD | 200th anniversary of Taras Shevchenko concert, St. Andrew Ukrainian Cultural Center, www.sandrewuoc.org | May 27
New York | Panel discussion, "Poland/Ukraine 2014," The Kosciuszko Foundation, www.thekf.org/events/upcoming_events or kharanczyk@thekf.org (rsvp only) |
| May 16-18
New York | St. George Ukrainian Festival, St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church, 212-253-2417 | May 31
Philadelphia | Book presentation by Kristina Lew, "100 Nahirny Churches: The Churches of Vasyl Nahirny," Ukrainian League of Philadelphia, 215-840-7841 |
| May 17
Alexandria, VA | Concert, featuring a program of songs from the Ukrainian village, with trio Zozulka, The Washington Group, The Lyceum, 301-229-2615 or events@twgculturalfund.org | June 1
Stamford, CT | Lemko Genealogy Workshop, with Mike Buryk, Organization of the Defense of Lemkivshchyna, Ukrainian Museum and Library, 347-992-9038 or Diana_reilly@hotmail.com |
| May 17
New York | Book launch, "Volodymyr Makarenko. Painting," Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130 or www.shevchenko.org | June 1
Hillside, NJ | Religious Education Class, Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church, 973-599-9381 or www.byzcath.org/immaculateconception |
| May 17
New York | Art exhibit opening, "We Are All Ukraine," featuring art by Waldemart Klyuzko, The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110 | June 3
Stanford, CA | Lecture by Tommaso Piffer, "The Allies, the European Resistance and the Origins of the Cold War in Europe," www.creeds.stanford.edu or creedsinfo@stanford.edu |
| May 17
Chicago | Photo presentation and lecture, with Natalia Moussienko, "Art of the Barricades - Voice of Ukraine: Photographs from Ukraine's Maidan Revolution," Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 85, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, 773-227-5522 or www.uima-chicago.org | June 6
Sherwood Park, AB | Golf tournament fund-raiser, Friends of Ukrainian Village Society, Broadmoor Golf Course, www.friendsukrainianvillage.com |
| May 18
New York | Performance, "Dark Night Bright Stars: In Concert," by Virlana Tkacz and the Yara Arts Group, The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110 or www.ukrainianmuseum.org | | |

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.



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bandura virtuoso, Bohdan Temniuk – recitation of Taras Shevchenko's poetry.

ADMISSION \$10



PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Saturday, May 17

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites all to a book launch of “Volodymyr Makarenko. Painting” (2013). The book contains 200 pages, over 150 color illustrations, a number of photographs from the personal archive of the artist, and forewords by Prof. Daria Darewych (Toronto) and Vita Susak (Lviv), an article by Jean Claude Markade (Paris) and an interview with the artist by Alexander Demko recorded in Paris in 2008. Illustrated works by Makarenko are from the artist's collection, as well as from museums and private collections in the U.S., Canada, Germany, France and Ukraine. Makarenko (born 1943) is a contemporary Ukrainian artist who lives in Paris. Mr. Demko and Jaroslaw Martyniuk will participate in the presentation. The book launch 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.

Saturday, May 24

TORONTO: The Taras Shevchenko Museum invites you to the book launch for the new trilingual “Kobzar” of Taras Shevchenko in Ukrainian, English and French. The event will take place at 2 p.m. at the museum building, 1614 Bloor St. W. and will feature speaker Andrew Gregorovich. Wine and cheese will be served. For additional information call 416-534-8662 or visit the website www.infoukes.com/shevchenkomuseum.

Saturday May 31

PHILADELPHIA: The Ukrainian League of Philadelphia (ULP) invites you to a presentation by Khristina Lew of “100 Nahirny Churches: The Churches of Vasyl Nahirny” (2013) by Khristina Lew, Vasyl Slobodian and Natalka Filevych. The book brings together, for the first time, contemporary photographs, original architectural renderings and historical accounts of churches designed by noted

Ukrainian architect and civic activist Vasyl Nahirny (1848-1921). The presentation will be held at 7 p.m. at the Ukrainian League of Philadelphia (800 N. 23rd St, Philadelphia, PA 19130). The event is free and co-sponsored by the ULP Cultural Trust and the Ukrainian Community Foundation of Philadelphia. For additional information call 215-840-7841.

Sunday, June 1

STAMFORD, Conn.: Uncover your roots at a “Lemko Genealogy Workshop” at noon-2:30 p.m. on the premises of the Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford, 161 Glenbrook Road, Stamford, CT 06902. The workshop will include how to research your family history, available archives and online resources, and tips for finding living relatives. The workshop will be conducted by Mike Buryk, who has 35 years of experience with genealogical research in southeast Poland. Cost: \$20 per participant. To register online, go to http://www.lemko-ool.com/genealogy_workshop.html. The workshop is organized by the Organization for the Defense of Lemkivshchyna and the Lemko Research Foundation. For more information call 347-992-9038.

Sunday, June 15

HORSHAM, Pa.: The popular Father's Day Ukrainian Fest will commence at 1 p.m., at “Tryzubivka” (Ukrainian American Sport Center, County Line and Lower State roads). A 2 p.m. stage show will feature the Voloshky School of Ukrainian Dance, Karpaty Orchestra and more (to be announced). A zabava/dance to the tunes of the orchestra will follow. There will be plentiful Ukrainian home-made foods and baked goods, picnic fare and cool refreshments. There is free admission and parking on both days. For information call 215-362-5331, e-mail eluciw@comcast.net, log on to www.tryzub.org, or check out the Facebook page of Tryzub UkrainianClub.

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