

**INSIDE:**

- Expert says “tide has turned a bit” for Ukraine – **page 3**
- More on the UNA’s 38th Regular Convention – **pages 4-5**
- Chicago premiere of composition honoring Shevchenko – **page 11**

# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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## Western leaders congratulate Ukraine on successful election

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Leaders of the United States, NATO and the European Union on May 25 and 26 issued statements congratulating the people of Ukraine on the presidential election successfully held on May 25 and pledged to work with the new president of Ukraine as the country seeks to determine its own future.

Below are the full texts of their statements about the historic election.

### Statement by President Barack Obama, May 25:

On behalf of all Americans, I congratulate the people of Ukraine for making their voices heard by voting in their presidential election today. Despite provocations and violence, millions of Ukrainians went to the polls throughout the country, and even in parts of eastern Ukraine, where Russian-backed separatist groups sought to disenfranchise entire regions, some courageous Ukrainians still were able to cast their ballots. We commend the resolve of all those who participated, as well as the efforts of the Ukrainian government to conduct these elections in the face of those threats.

Throughout the last few months, the Ukrainian people have repeatedly demonstrated their desire to choose their leaders without interference and to live in a democracy where they can determine their own future free of violence and intimidation. This election is another important step forward in the efforts of the Ukrainian government to unify the country and reach out to all of its citizens to ensure their concerns are addressed and aspirations met.

The United States looks forward to working with the next president, as well as the democratically elected Parliament, to support Ukraine’s efforts to enact important political and economic reforms. We also continue to support Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, condemn and reject Russia’s occupation and attempted annexation of Crimea, and remain committed to working with Ukraine and other partners to find a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

### Statement by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, May 26:

The United States congratulates the people of Ukraine and the Ukrainian government for their historic elections on May 25.

(Continued on page 14)

## Poroshenko elected president

### Free and fair election foils Putin’s scheme

by Zenon Zawada

KYIV – Confectionary magnate Petro Poroshenko, 48, was elected Ukraine’s fifth president on May 25 when nearly 55 percent of voters cast their ballots for him, giving him the needed majority to avoid a runoff. Runner-up Yulia Tymoshenko earned about 13 percent of the vote.

Buttressing Mr. Poroshenko’s convincing victory was the absence of any reports of massive, organized fraud or intimidation of voters and commissioners in the presidential vote beyond the violence-plagued Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. The election earned a unanimous stamp of approval from international election observers.

“This was the most important election in independent Ukraine’s history,” said a statement from the election-observing mission of the National Democratic Institute that was read at a May 26 press conference in Kyiv by its chair, Madeleine K. Albright. “By turning out to vote yesterday across the vast majority of the country, Ukrainians did more than elect a new president. They showed the world their commitment to sovereignty, unity and democracy.”

The free and fair vote, combined with the 60 percent voter turnout rate and consolidation behind Mr. Poroshenko, served

(Continued on page 15)



Petro Poroshenko and his wife, Maryna, cast their ballots on election day.

## UWC and UCCA release preliminary observations on elections

### UWC: Vote met international standards for conduct of democratic elections

*The Ukrainian World Congress International Observation Mission on May 26 released its preliminary observations, which were signed by Bohdan Futey, head of mission, and Peter Szytk, chief observer.*

The Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) International Election Observation Mission (UWC Mission) is the third largest international observation mission to the early presidential election in Ukraine after the observation missions of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations (ENEMO).

The UWC Mission numbers 236 observers who have travelled to Ukraine from 22 countries (including observers from the World Congress of Ukrainian Youth Organizations, who were supported by the International Renaissance Foundation).

The conclusions of the UWC Mission are based upon direct observations by its short-term observers and meetings held with officials from state institutions, representatives of political parties, media, civil society and the international community.

(Continued on page 14)

### UCCA: Ukrainians demonstrated their commitment to democracy

*The preliminary statement below was released by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America on May 26.*

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America’s International Election Observer Mission, which observed the elections in every region of Ukraine, including Cherkasy, Dnipropetrovsk, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Kherson, Kyiv, Lviv, Mykolaiv, Odesa, Poltava, Sumy, Zakarpattia, Zaporizhia and Zhytomyr, as well as at the diplomatic posts in the United States – affirms that the May 25 elections met international standards for free and fair elections and accurately reflects the will of the Ukrainian electorate.

Despite minor infractions, including the presence of campaign advertisements in a few municipalities, instances of inaccurate voter lists in a handful of precincts, and voter frustration with long lines in Kyiv, the 222 officially registered UCCA international election observers who visited over 600 polling stations reported that the voting process was conducted in a peaceful, transparent and democratic manner.

(Continued on page 14)



## ANALYSIS

# Ukrainian businessmen support paramilitary units in state service

by Vladimir Socor  
Eurasia Daily Monitor  
May 20

Ukrainian forces are struggling to contain Russia's proxy insurgency in the Donbas (Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts). The Ukrainian "anti-terrorist operation," under way since April 13, remains inconclusive thus far. This operation has revealed how deeply Ukraine's army and police were hollowed out in recent years, materially and morally.

The insurgency's nucleus of combatants from Russia turns out to have been overrated; and their locally recruited auxiliaries seem little more than a scattered rabble, deeply disappointing the Russian commander Igor Girkin, a.k.a. Strelkov (video address via Ukrainska Pravda, May 18). The insurgents are too weak to establish any compact territorial base (unless and until further reinforced from Russia). They merely control some urban pockets dispersed across the Donbas. They have spawned would-be political authorities to proclaim secession from Ukraine, but these are confined to buildings in some downtown squares.

However, the insurgents are well-placed to thwart Ukraine's May 25 presidential election in the Donbas, to sabotage the region's industrial economy, and infiltrate farther afield into Ukraine. The Ukrainian army and police have proved generally unable, and at times unwilling, to deal effectively with this insurgency.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian paramilitary and territorial defense units are being raised by civic initiatives, cutting across social class lines, to supplement the inadequate forces of an insolvent state. This is, in practice, a form of private-public partnership dictated by an unprecedented emergency.

Some wealthy businessmen are financing such new units and related security measures to assist the state administrations in certain oblasts. Those new units draw on volunteers, giving preference to former military personnel with experience in international operations and anti-terrorist police veterans. Recruitment is mainly local. While salaries are attractive (far higher than army salaries for corresponding ranks), the basic motivation is probably patriotic, spurred no doubt by the spectacle of defeatism and defections in the army and police.

While the sponsorship is private and the enrollment voluntary, such units are officially set up by oblast-level state administrations (governors' offices), and subordinated to Ukraine's Ministry of Defense or Ministry of Internal Affairs. The units are armed with submachine guns and other light infantry weapons from the defense ministry's surplus stockpiles. The sponsors cover the salary supplements (that which exceeds the level of army salaries), various kits and gear, billeting and transportation costs (biz.liga.net, May 15; Kyiv Post, May 16, 17).

The trend, thus far, is to create battalion-size units, comprising some 400 lower ranks and some 20 officers for each. Such units or their elements operate for the most part covertly in their own oblasts on guard, patrol and escort duty, manning checkpoints, handing over suspected rebels to state authorities and presumably training for combat. Elements of one battalion based in the Dnipropetrovsk Oblast have

started operating in the nearby Donbas (see below).

On April 13 the Dnipropetrovsk Oblast administration announced the decision to set up a Dnipro 1 Battalion in that oblast, sponsored by billionaire governor Igor Kolomoisky, at the disposal of Ukraine's Ministry of Internal Affairs. Shortly thereafter, the same administration announced plans to set up a further battalion, with personnel from the former Berkut elite unit (disbanded merely three months ago). On May 11, the Defense Ministry approved plans to create two battalions of territorial defense in that same oblast. Additionally, Mr. Kolomoisky is advertising his private offer of bounties for the capture of armed insurgents (1 + 1 TV, May 12; euromaidan-pr.org, accessed May 19).

On May 2 in the Mykolayiv Oblast, agribusiness entrepreneur Oleksiy Vadaturskiy announced his offers to equip and pay volunteers for road patrols and checkpoints. These are manned by volunteers jointly with national guardsmen and border troops in that oblast. Mr. Vadaturskiy has also offered bounties for the capture of armed insurgents. Owner of the Nibulon agroholding, evaluated at \$800 million by Forbes, Mr. Vadaturskiy is one of the sponsors of the Defend Ukraine Together movement against "federalization" in the Mykolayiv Oblast (<https://news.pn/de/public/98168>). In the neighboring Odesa Oblast, the newly appointed governor (since early May) Ihor Palytsya has inherited his immediate predecessor's plan to form a Shtorm battalion under the Internal Affairs Ministry.

The Donbas Battalion has started operating covertly in the Donetsk Oblast, out of a base camp in the neighboring Dnipropetrovsk Oblast. This unit is reported to consist of unpaid volunteers. The Donbas Battalion has succeeded in recapturing the Velyka Novosilka district center (in the western part of the Donetsk Oblast) from rebel hands (Ukrainska Pravda, May 15; mashable.com, May 17).

The Dnipropetrovsk Oblast currently shields the rest of Ukraine against subversion from Donbas insurgents. By the same token Mr. Kolomoisky's oblast can become the springboard for restoring Ukrainian authority in the Donbas. Therefore, it seems premature at this stage to propose enlarging the territory of the Dnipropetrovsk Oblast by incorporating portions of the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. Such proposals might perhaps make sense if Donetsk and Luhansk are seen to be lost to Ukraine. But such an outcome is by no means predetermined (Espresso TV, May 11).

In the Donetsk Oblast, industrial magnate Rinat Akhmetov has authorized metallurgical workers to set up unarmed vigilante patrols, starting from May 10, in and around the city of Mariupol. On May 20, Mr. Akhmetov launched an appeal for peaceful mass demonstrations throughout the region against the secessionist rebels (Interfax-Ukraine, May 20).

Ukraine's nascent volunteer units are not aligned with any party, politician, governor or territorial interests. The units operate within the central authorities' chain of command. This arrangement will need to continue for the existing and planned units, along with clear procedures

(Continued on page 16)

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Obama speaks with Poroshenko

WASHINGTON – President Barack Obama called Ukraine's president-elect on May 27 to offer his congratulations and assurances of U.S. support for Ukraine. The White House, Office of the Press Secretary released the following information: "President Obama called President-elect Petro Poroshenko of Ukraine today to congratulate him on his victory and offer the full support of the United States as he seeks to unify and move his country forward. The president stressed the importance of quickly implementing the reforms necessary for Ukraine to bring the country together and to develop a sustainable economy, attractive investment climate, and transparent and accountable government that is responsive to the concerns and aspirations of all Ukrainians. The United States will continue assisting Ukraine in these efforts. The two leaders agreed to continue their conversation during the President's upcoming trip to Europe." (White House)

### Obama, Poroshenko to meet

KYIV – The White House confirmed on May 28 that a meeting of U.S. President Barack Obama with Petro Poroshenko, president-elect of Ukraine, has been scheduled for next week in Poland. A senior official at the U.S. president's administration told Ukrinform: "Obama will meet with Poroshenko during a trip to Europe on June 3-6." The White House official did not elaborate on the particular time or venue of the meeting. Next week, the U.S. leader will go on a European tour, during which he is to participate in the Group of Seven summit in Brussels and visit Poland, where he is due to meet Mr. Poroshenko, the White House source said. (Ukrinform)

### EU backs new Ukrainian leadership

BRUSSELS – European Union leaders praised Ukraine's presidential election and vowed to support the country's new leader as he assumes power in a country struggling with a flailing economy, pro-Russian separatists in the east, and ongoing pressure from Moscow. In a statement following an informal dinner in Brussels on May 27, the heads of state of the EU's 28 member countries called the elections in Ukraine that saw businessman Petro

Poroshenko secure the presidency "an expression of the will" of the country's citizens. "The presidential election was characterized by high turnout and a clear resolve by the authorities to hold what was a genuine election largely in line with international commitments and respecting fundamental freedoms, despite the hostile security environment in two eastern regions of the country," the leaders said in the statement. The leaders added that they "stand firm in upholding Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity" and condemn Russia's "illegal annexation" of Ukraine's Crimea territory in March. They also called on Moscow to engage with Mr. Poroshenko, to withdraw its troops from Ukraine's borders, and to "use its leverage on the armed separatists to de-escalate the situation in eastern Ukraine." French President Francois Hollande said that if the Kremlin fails to cooperate or help end the violence in eastern Ukraine, Russia could face a fresh round of sanctions. "President Putin must now not only respect the [election] outcome but also recognize the Ukraine president and make sure there is a de-escalation, which is expected and possible today," Mr. Hollande said. Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaitė said she now expects Ukraine and the EU to sign a deal on closer trade ties at a Brussels summit on June 27. Kyiv and the bloc have already signed the political chapters of their association agreement. (RFE/RL).3

### Ukraine envoy wants tougher sanctions

BRUSSELS – On May 27, Ukraine's ambassador to the European Union, Kostiantyn Yeliseiev, expressed frustration over what Kyiv judges to be Europe's hesitance to impose further, tougher sanctions on Moscow. "We should not appease the aggressor," Mr. Yeliseiev told the German dpa news agency. "The EU should not wait for new red lines to be crossed. When Russia invades the territory of Ukraine, it will be too late to impose sanctions." He called for economic measures such as "cutting Russia off from the global financial system," along with "creative" sanctions such as revoking Russia's hosting of the 2018 World Cup. (RFE/RL)

(Continued on page 12)

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# INTERVIEW: Russia Watcher Lucas says 'tide has turned a bit' for Ukraine

RFE/RL

*There are still plenty of ways Russia can continue to meddle in Ukraine's affairs. But with Petro Poroshenko's apparent victory in the May 25 presidential election amid a solid turnout, Kyiv may have turned a corner. RFE/RL's Brian Whitmore spoke to longtime Russia-watcher Edward Lucas, senior editor of the British weekly The Economist.*

## What is your main takeaway from today's election in Ukraine?

This was quite unlike a Russian election because we didn't know at the start of the campaign who was going to win it. There was a real political choice. It turned out that Poroshenko thrashed [Yulia] Tymoshenko, but that's not unusual in democracies to get landslides. But we didn't know [this would happen] at the beginning. So this was a profound challenge to the Putinist idea of managed democracy. This was unmanaged democracy. ...

Another thing that is important is that the far right got thrashed. So this idea that Ukraine is run by fascists is complete nonsense. Ukraine is run by a guy who makes chocolate. So the way in which [far-right parties] Pravy Sektor and Svoboda went nowhere is a very powerful counterpoint to the Kremlin demonization of Ukraine.

## Do you think the disruptions in the east, in the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, will harm the election's legitimacy?

It is only part of the east. If you take Crimea as a lost cause, you have two provinces where things were seriously disrupted, about a tenth of the population. So, in 90 percent of Ukraine things went normally

and 10 percent there was some severe disruption. But I still think, even with these lost or disrupted provinces, you'll have a higher turnout than you have in most American elections. ...

By European standards, this is an impressive turnout. It's going to be very hard for Russia to say that this is a perpetuation of a fascist coup. But this is a necessary but not sufficient condition – one of many necessary but not sufficient conditions – necessary for Ukraine to get back on its feet again. We have an absolutely dreadful economic situation, major constitutional issues, parliamentary elections – and then after that try and form an effective government. So we're at first base, no more than that.

## So is it fair to say Ukraine has turned an important corner?

I think they have turned a bit of a corner. They have reversed the narrative. Two months ago we had a narrative of creeping Kremlin disruption and Novorossiia stretching from Crimea to Odesa. And it is pretty clear that most Ukrainians quite rightly don't like the way their country's been run. But most Ukrainians, regardless of what language they count as their first, don't want to be part of Russia and don't want to see the country break up. ...

I think the idea that Ukraine is doomed as a state because of its linguistic divisions has been heavily knocked down. It is something gradually sinking in with the outside world that Ukrainians have known for a long time. You have a naturally bilingual country where people are happy speaking Russian and Ukrainian. Your linguistic choice doesn't reflect anything more substantial than your family circumstances. ...

I think the tide has turned a bit. I don't

think [Vladimir] Putin has been deterred by sanctions. But I think the narrative of Novorossiia has proved less attractive than perhaps he had hoped. It's one thing to get little green men to run around and start chaos. It's another thing to get people to support a full-fledged separatist agenda.

## Russia seems to be backing off in recent weeks. Do you see this as a tactical retreat?

As so often in Ukraine, things haven't quite gone Putin's way. This is not the first time he's gotten something wrong. He bet heavily on Yanukovich and that didn't work. He didn't understand Maidan, thought it was just a stunt and didn't realize it was an authentic political expression. I think he's still betting on making Ukraine a semi-failed state. And that could still prove right. He's done terrible damage to the Ukrainian economy. He's still got the gas card to play. He's set fire to the house in terms of ethnic and linguistic animosities in some parts of the east, where some people have died and families traumatized. There's certainly a bit of a tactical retreat. But he's achieved quite a lot of what he wanted with his ability to prove he can cause chaos, that Ukraine is in terrible trouble and the West is pretty toothless.

## What do you expect Putin's next move to be?

I think the gas card is a pretty obvious one for him to play. He can say that Ukraine has to pay full price for gas and if it doesn't he will cut it off. That puts Ukraine in a position of either having to cut off supplies to Europe or accepting a massive shock to the already wobbly Ukrainian industries. I suspect that will be the next card. ...

I think that the separatists in Luhansk

and Donetsk, and their so-called Novorossiia will continue to be a problem. The Russian propaganda machine is still very effective and – in defiance of logic and facts – will keep things churning. The Ukrainians will continue to have a problem of either using force to regain control of their sovereign territory or allowing these ragbag militias, thugs and bandits to set up their quasi-state entities. We're still at the early stages of all of this and there is plenty of scope for Kremlin mischief making and meddling.

## What are you expecting going forward?

We've got to keep our attention focused on what is happening inside Russia, on the way this is playing. Is Putin continuing to keep this nationalist frenzy going at home? Are Russians beginning to question the official narrative? Will he try this someplace else? I wouldn't be a bit surprised if he lets Ukraine fester for a bit and turns his attention to somewhere else like Moldova, or Kazakhstan, or Belarus.

One of the big points about this is that Putin constantly keeps us off balance. Words and deeds don't match. He does things we don't expect. We try and create a nice rational picture that fits with our world view, but Putin doesn't have our world view. He is very happy to jolt us. So whatever happens next will be something we don't expect.

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# NEWS ANALYSIS: What to expect from Poroshenko in national security

by Maksym Bugriy  
Eurasia Daily Monitor

The swift and overwhelming victory of Petro Poroshenko in the May 25 Ukrainian presidential election (ITAR-TASS, May 25) raises questions about the new president's security policy. In fact, he now faces multiple national security challenges.

- Insurgency in the east supported by Russia and some local businessmen/politicians: Ukraine has been conducting a laborious Anti-Terrorist Operation (ATO) in the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts from the beginning of May. Yet, there may also be challenges to national cohesion elsewhere, including western Ukraine or even Kyiv, as the political deal to bring peace to eastern Ukraine would require extensive compromises (The Ukrainian Week, Issue 21 [341], May 23-29). Alongside the internal insurgency supported by Russia, there remains the threat of a direct Russian invasion of mainland Ukraine – though less likely, it is still not impossible to rule out.

- Problems within the security and defense sector: The need for comprehensive reform alongside the need to respond to the insurgency requires finding an optimum policy mix and balance among long-term strategic and urgent operational issues.

- Overcoming economic hardships to raise Ukraine's power base: Ukraine's GDP is expected to fall by 5 percent in 2014, while the need to finance military spending is also a fiscal burden for the country. Overcoming these economic difficulties would require restoring economic ties with Russia in the energy sector, the defense

industry and machine building, not to mention defending market access for Ukrainian food producers including Mr. Poroshenko's own confectionery business Roshen.

- Governance and institutions issues, including systemic corruption as well as integrity and competence issues: To compensate for the lack of integrity and professionalism in the armed forces, Ukraine recently created numerous volunteer militia units (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, May 15) and called up reserves from the old Soviet military school cadres. Military governance has consequently become more complex in relation to the state's monopoly on the use of force.

- The security vacuum that Ukraine finds itself in and how it will affect talks with Russia over Ukraine maintaining "non-bloc" status: This is, in fact, questionable; at the moment, Ukraine is not able to defend itself on its own. Yet, a path toward membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) would be a "red line" for the Russian government and is not likely to find support among some European states, foremost Germany. Furthermore, what Ukraine perceived as legally binding territorial integrity guarantees in the 1994 Budapest Memorandum turned out to be non-binding assurances – Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said Moscow never guaranteed Ukraine's territorial integrity (<http://lenta.ru/news/2014/05/20/medvedev/>).

National security, in its two dimensions of security policy and security sector reform, was important to Mr. Poroshenko's campaign. In fact, he proposed an initiative to replace

the notorious Budapest Memorandum with an international treaty that would contain security guarantees for Ukraine. Such a security treaty for Ukraine would also make it possible, in Mr. Poroshenko's view, to negotiate a "lend-lease"-type international military assistance program for the Ukrainian military (<http://interfax.com.ua/news/general/206602.html>).

Advantageously, Mr. Poroshenko's background is in international relations. He graduated from the elite Institute of International Relations at Kyiv-based Taras Shevchenko University, with a degree in international economics in 1989. He was Ukraine's foreign affairs minister from October 2009 to March 2010, and was one of the most active sponsors of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union.

The president-elect is seen as a moderate politician, able to reach a deal with Russia. Throughout his political career, he has not been perceived as "anti-Russian." Yet, since he became a strong proponent of Ukraine's EU integration, his Russian confectionery exports and two factories that belong to his Roshen Group inside Russia were periodically disrupted (ITAR-TASS, May 20).

On May 25 Mr. Poroshenko told journalists he believes without Russia's participation, stabilizing southeastern Ukraine is not possible, and he hopes to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin. He insists, however, that there are two issues Ukraine would defend firmly in any bilateral talks: a non-recognition of the Crimean referendum and Ukraine's right to pursue EU integration. (<http://zn.ua/POLITICS/>

[poroshenko-vstrecha-s-putiny-m-obyzatelno-sostoitsya-145817.html](http://poroshenko-vstrecha-s-putiny-m-obyzatelno-sostoitsya-145817.html)). For now, Mr. Poroshenko opposes NATO membership for Ukraine. He said on April 2, "The level of popular support for the idea of Ukraine joining NATO is currently too small to put [...] on the agenda" (<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/198839.html>).

The next Ukrainian president's national security and defense team is unknown at present, though his top campaign foreign policy staffer was the former vice-minister of foreign affairs and deputy director of the think tank Razumkov Center, Valery Chaly. Mr. Poroshenko's views on the security situation indicate that he understands the need to reform the security sector and to raise the professionalism level of Ukraine's security forces. During his campaign, he criticized the "partisan quota" principle dominating management-level personnel appointments, and promised to change it. Mr. Poroshenko also advocates a significant increase in Ukrainian defense spending and believes that the domestic defense can provide the bulk of the military requirements of the Ukrainian military, as well as become a major driver of the country's economic modernization (The Ukrainian Week, Issue 21 [341], May 23-29, p. 16).

Ukrainians widely believe President-elect Poroshenko can end the war in the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. His first official visit will be not to Brussels or Moscow, but to the troubled Ukrainian east. Moreover, he has promised amnesty for insurgents not implicated in grave crimes.

(Continued on page 17)





## THE 38th CONVENTION OF THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION



Delegates during a convention session.



President Stefan Kaczaraj speaks at the opening ceremonies.

# Resolutions of the UNA's 38th Convention

Below are the resolutions adopted at the 38th Regular Convention of the Ukrainian National Association.

1. Whereas, the Ukrainian National Association (UNA) Constitution and By-Laws represent the governing rules for the association, and whereas, the UNA's convention delegates while in session are the highest legislative body of our association and may change by-laws on a quadrennial basis, be it resolved that the Convention By-Laws Committee shall provide full disclosure in writing concerning all recommended By-Laws changes, including authorship and the key supporting arguments.

2. Whereas, time is limited at UNA conventions and many reports need to be reviewed in detail to ensure the continued good of the organization, be it resolved that all received reports of all General Assembly members be sent to all delegates at least 30 days in advance of the convention in order to give delegates time to review reports in a timely fashion. Be it further resolved that the minutes of the convention of the UNA be distributed electronically to all delegates within 12 months and to any UNA member who requests a copy at that time.

3. Whereas, there is serious trepidation regarding the current geopolitical crisis in Ukraine, and whereas, the current events in Ukraine represent a serious threat to the recent progress toward democracy in Ukraine, and the continued existence of Ukraine itself, and whereas, Ukraine is a crucial strategic partner of the United States, Canada and Europe, be it resolved that the Executive Committee of the UNA speak out on behalf of Ukraine and its democratic aspirations and on an ongoing basis establish contact with the president of the United States and the prime minister of Canada, all members of the U.S. Congress and Canadian Parliament, as well as the Embassies of Ukraine in the U.S.A. and Canada, to resolutely convey opposition to all anti-democratic efforts of the Ukrainian and Russian governments as permitted by current law. Be it further resolved that the UNA's president, as well as members of the General Assembly, continue to be integral members of ongoing delegations meeting with government officials to voice their concerns regarding the future relationship between the U.S.A., Canada and Ukraine as permitted by current law.

4. Whereas, there continues to be a seri-



The Resolutions Committee deliberates.

ous deficiency in the appropriate mail delivery of our publications, and whereas, we have paid for and fail to receive appropriate service, be it resolved that the UNA's president contact the U.S. Postmaster General to strongly protest any instances of deficient service that our publications receive and to underscore that an immediate resolution to this problem is expected.

5. Whereas, the management of the daily activities of the UNA involves the complex interaction of our insurance business and related fraternal activities, and whereas, transparency of the organization's activities is paramount in engendering trust, and whereas, more frequent meetings and appropriate updates can motivate the general membership to become even more active in this organization, be it resolved that the Executive Committee meet no less than on a quarterly basis to formally discuss the status of the organization and developing plans, and be it further resolved that reports of these meetings are issued

within 30 days of the meeting and a summary published in our publications.

6. Whereas, the Ukrainian Cultural Festival is a major undertaking of the Soyuzivka Heritage Center and is sponsored by the Ukrainian National Foundation, be it resolved the Executive Committee shall establish a full accounting of all revenues and expenditures associated with this event and report the results in its financial statements. Be it further resolved that any revenues and expenditures on the days of the festival and relevant to the festival will be considered revenues and expenditures of the festival.

6. Whereas, other business enterprises and organizations are contacting members of the Ukrainian community, many of whom are UNA members, with the sale of financial and insurance products, be it resolved that the Executive Committee shall pursue mutually beneficial marketing opportunities, particularly with affinity groups, to promote UNA products and other offerings.

## Greetings to the UNA Convention

Present at the banquet held during the 38th Regular Convention of the Ukrainian National Association were the following representatives:

- Marianna Zajac, president, Ukrainian National Women's League of America
- The Rt. Rev. Mitred Archpriest Ihor Midzak, president, Providence Association of Ukrainian Catholics
- Kvitka Semanyshyn, vice-president, Providence Association of Ukrainian Catholics

The following individuals and organizations sent written greetings to the UNA's 38th Convention:

- Metropolitan Archbishop Stefan Soroka, Metropolitan Archeparchy of Philadelphia, Ukrainian Catholic Church
- Bishop Borys Gudziak, St. Volodymyr Eparchy of France, Switzerland and the Benelux, Ukrainian Catholic Church
- Bishop Paul Chomnycky, Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford, Conn.
- Yuriy Sergeyev, permanent representative of Ukraine to the United Nations

- Olexander Motsyk, ambassador of Ukraine to the United States
- Igor Sybiga, consul general of Ukraine in New York
- Dr. Ihor Pasichnyk, rector of the National University of Ostroh Academy
- Serhiy Kvit, minister of education and science of Ukraine and professor of the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy
- Ukrainian Congress Committee of America
- Paul Grod, president, Ukrainian Canadian Congress
- The Ukrainian Museum
- Marianna Zajac, president, and Ulana Zynych, vice-president, Ukrainian National Women's League of America
- Ukrainian Athletic-Educational Association Chornomorska Sitch
- Kirsten E. Gillibrand (N.Y.), U.S. senator
- William B. McKinney, chair of the board, American Fraternal Alliance
- United Ukrainian American Relief Committee



The Toronto Bandurist Capella directed by Victor Mishalow (seated, right), performs in a special concert, "The Word of Taras," dedicated to Taras Shevchenko, patron of the UNA.





## THE 38th CONVENTION OF THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

# Delegates recount experiences at 38<sup>th</sup> UNA Convention

Following the convention, *The Ukrainian's Weekly's* Matthew Dubas asked delegates to share their thoughts on experiences at the 38<sup>th</sup> UNA Convention that was hosted at Soyuzivka in Kerhonkson, N.Y., on May 15-18.

### Ewhen Osidacz, Krikland, Quebec, Branch 465:

This being my second UNA convention, I knew what to expect, and this year's convention was a truly positive experience. From my arrival at Soyuzivka, the staff surprised me by fulfilling my room request, when initially it was indicated that my first choice of room may have been unavailable. This simple accommodation request set the tone for a great start. Soyuzivka's familiarity to me from the previous years in my youth that were spent there was like coming home. When I arrived at my room, a welcome basket was awaiting me filled with apricot wine [from Ukraine] and – very importantly – a wine opener.

Everything about the convention was well organized and adaptive to the changing weather and daily agendas. From the opening ceremonies, the singing of the anthems of America, Canada and Ukraine, to when the convention sessions got under way, hearing the reports on Thursday were a bit dry, and a necessary evil, but it was nicely done and proceeded without much delay.

Thursday night's sing-along, with Slavko Kosiw on accordion, was adapted from its originally planned format of a bonfire (vatra) outdoors, but due to weather, the organizers shifted the event indoors to the Main House lobby in front of the roaring fireplace, where delegates gathered in song. Little details like the distribution of flashlights so that people could read the songbooks showed the level of foresight and planning involved among the convention organizers.

Friday evening's concert with the Toronto Bandurist Capella, the post-concert reception and Saturday's banquet, thanks to chef Andriy Sonevsky's magic in the kitchen, were excellent. The service staff should also be commended for their work during the convention. Many of them had recently arrived from Ukraine – and given the events going on in Ukraine, including the election and the anti-terrorism operations against the separatists – it was nice to see these young smiling faces who are the future of Ukraine as the youth is the future of any nation.

I had known many of the delegates at this year's convention, but only a few were from Canada. The delegate demographics are changing too, as we still see many older delegates at these conventions but more young people have begun taking an active role. I would like to see more youth at the next convention, as the future of the UNA lies in the growth and activity of its young members.

I liked how the convention provided resources for the sale of UNA products, including help with training and customer service presentations showed good support from the Home Office. The presenters and Home Office employees made themselves available during the convention to answer any questions and were approachable for suggestions.

The convention election process could use an update to speed up the primary and secondary rounds of voting. Technology may assist in this area, with electronic voting or other means.

Leaving the convention, I was inspired by a positive "new wind" at least for the U.S.A., but from Canada, the situation is saddening. New regulations – years in its process – restricts Canada from selling or promoting, leaving the UNA's Canadian business subject to natural attrition. Endowments are regular, but the low dollar amounts also limit growth. Branch secretaries need to stay on top of maturation dates, inspire members to reinvest in the UNA after maturation rather than cashing out, and suggest ways which the UNA members can donate their investments to Ukrainian organization/community projects or general charities and causes.

The convention was time well spent, and it was uplifting to attend services at Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church on Sunday morning that were led by the Rev. Dr. Ivan Kaszczak, who was very welcoming to all of the delegates.

Mr Osidacz was re-elected to the UNA General Assembly for his second consecutive term as an advisor. He serves as secretary of UNA Branch 465.

### Andriy Gavdanovich, 27, Eatontown, N.J., Branch 234:

This was my second UNA convention. I enjoyed the presentations made during the convention, particularly Oksana Stanko's on UNA customer service. I thought Dr. Andriy Szul did an excellent job explaining the business part of the convention and the parliamentary procedures. The Toronto Bandurist Capella performance was most enjoyable, as well as the meet and greet



Roma Hadzewycz

Andriy Gavdanovich votes during a convention session.

with the performers afterward in the Trembita Lounge.

This year's convention had more variety of events, more interesting presentations and well-organized social events, which showed the advance planning of the organizing committee. Also I noticed the updated UNA brochures and materials that were provided to the delegates. The positive atmosphere of the convention fostered a more open exchange of ideas among the delegates. From the UNA conventions I have learned how the UNA operates and the ways it coordinates with the Ukrainian community on projects at the branch level and how we can all contribute locally.

The UNA is attracting younger members

who need encouragement in becoming more active in their local branches, and maybe one day they will attend a convention and learn even more about the UNA. Many among the new wave of Ukrainian immigrants don't understand the UNA fraternal concept and this is an area of outreach for the future – not just for the UNA but for the future of the Ukrainian diaspora.

I look forward to participating in more UNA conventions.

Mr. Gavdanovich, who arrived in the United States seven years ago from Lviv was elected for his inaugural term as a UNA advisor. He sings with the Dumka Chorus of New York and is president of UNA Branch 234.

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## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

### Ukraine's presidential election

As this week's editorial was being written on May 29, Ukraine's Central Election Commission (CEC) released the results of the extraordinary presidential election based on 100 percent of the electronic voting reports. Petro Poroshenko (independent) received 54.7 percent of the vote (or 9,856,911 votes) – enough to win the presidency outright, without the need for a runoff. Yulia Tymoshenko (Batkivshchyna Party) was a distant second – more than 40 percent behind – with 12.81 percent. She was trailed by Oleh Lyashko (Radical Party), 8.32 percent; Anatoliy Hrytsenko (Civil Position Party), 5.48 percent; Sergey Tigipko (self-nominated), 5.23 percent; Mykhailo Dobkin (Party of Regions), 3.03 percent. Fifteen other candidates were on the ballot, barely registering support. Significantly, the two far right candidates, Oleh Tiahnybok (Svoboda Party) and Dmytro Yarosh (Right Sector), polled, respectively, at 1 percent and less than 1 percent. These two, readers will recall, were repeatedly trotted out as bogeymen by the Putin disinformation machine that painted Ukraine as a land of ultra-nationalists, fascists, anti-Semites, etc.

Thankfully, the presidential election did not need to go to a second round, winning Ukraine and its people precious time – time that should now be used to get post-Maidan Ukraine moving in the right direction.

According to the CEC, 18,019,456 voters cast ballots on election day. Voter turnout was reported to be over 60 percent – and that's despite the fact that in two oblasts, Luhansk and Donetsk, Russian-backed militants terrorized the population, kidnapped election commission members and prevented polling stations from opening. [And, lest anyone doubt these are true terrorists, consider just today's news: "separatists" were holding four monitors from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, detaining them as spies; they had shot down a Ukrainian military helicopter in Sloviansk, killing 13; and they forced about 80 National Guard soldiers in the Luhansk Oblast to surrender by using their parents as human shields.] There were numerous news reports of Ukrainian citizens in the Donbas region distraught that they were not able to vote on Ukraine's future. At the same time, it must be noted that displaced voters from Crimea, recently invaded and annexed by Russia, were able to vote on Ukraine's mainland.

Very noteworthy is the fact that in this election there was no sign of division between Ukraine's east and west – belying the facile description of Ukraine so often employed by many news media and commentators. Mr. Poroshenko won the support of voters across the country. Thus, he has a mandate to govern from all of Ukraine's people.

President Barack Obama offered congratulations to "the people of Ukraine for making their voices heard by voting in their presidential election today." He underscored that, "Despite provocations and violence, millions of Ukrainians went to the polls throughout the country, and even in parts of eastern Ukraine, where Russian-backed separatist groups sought to disenfranchise entire regions, some courageous Ukrainians still were able to cast their ballots. We commend the resolve of all those who participated, as well as the efforts of the Ukrainian government to conduct these elections in the face of those threats." Secretary of State John Kerry emphasized: "Ukrainians united to express their political will freely and to choose their own future together. The large turnout sends a clear message: the Ukrainian people want to live in a united, democratic and peaceful Ukraine anchored in European institutions."

President-elect Poroshenko posted on his Facebook page on May 26: "I respect and value everyone's choice. It does not matter who you voted for – your active participation yesterday and tonight at polling stations proved that Ukrainians are not indifferent about the fate of their state. We have a new country, informed and active citizens, a new stage of development for our country."

With the inauguration now scheduled to be held on June 7, we wish the new president Godspeed, wisdom and fortitude to overcome the myriad challenges, and dangers, that he and his country face. Slava Ukraini!

June  
6  
2005

### Turning the pages back...

Nine years ago, on June 6, 2005, former Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, today the fugitive ex-president of Ukraine, appeared at a Kyiv police department building after being summoned by anti-organized crime investigators.

Mr. Yanukovich, who showed up more than a half hour late with his attorney, Olena Lukash, was called to testify as a witness in a 2004 government transfer of 4.8 million hryv from the state budget for the overhaul of the airport in Donetsk, Mr. Yanukovich's hometown.

After three hours of questioning, Mr. Yanukovich repeated that he had nothing to fear "because I don't consider myself guilty of anything."

This was Mr. Yanukovich's third summons to appear; he had ignored the previous two that were issued via the media. The third notice was sent by the Internal Affairs Ministry to Mr. Yanukovich's attorney and to the headquarters of his Party of Regions political party, with its stronghold in Donetsk. No explanation for the failure to appear was provided by Mr. Yanukovich or his attorney.

The summons was part of the anti-organized crime initiative begun by President Viktor Yushchenko in January 2005 following the two-terms of President Leonid Kuchma. Mr. Yanukovich lost the secondary presidential election against Mr. Yushchenko after massive election fraud that sparked the Orange Revolution.

For more than two months, investigators had also arrested about a dozen regional and local officials on charges including abuse of office, extortion, making death threats and

(Continued on page 18)

## WINDOW ON EURASIA

### Putin suffers "crushing defeat" in Ukraine elections, Illarionov says

by Paul Goble

The "most significant result" of the Ukrainian presidential elections was not the selection of Petro Poroshenko, his victory in the first round, or the defeat of Yulia Tymoshenko but rather "the formal-legal death of the Putin myth about the so-called 'split' of Ukraine into a west-central and south-eastern part," says Andrey Illarionov.

As such, the Russian commentator says, the vote effectively represents "the funeral of [Russian President Vladimir] Putin's plan for the division of Ukraine, the final completion of the 20-year period of 'Ukrainianization, [and] an important stage on the path to the Westernization and Europeanization of Ukraine" (echo.msk.ru/blog/aillar/1327642-echo/).

In this Ukrainian election, in contrast to earlier presidential votes there, the winner was not someone who won the most votes

in the west but lost the east, or who won the east but lost the west. "For the first time, the president of Ukraine was chosen by the votes of all Ukraine, by the votes of the residents of all major Ukrainian macro-regions," Mr. Illarionov notes.

Even more, Mr. Illarionov says, the three trailing candidates received approximately the same level of support in the two regions, something that represents "the absolute victory of the national choice by Ukrainian citizens" of the entire country "of the Western variant of development of a united Ukraine."

"In other words," he continues, the Ukrainian election has led to the "total collapse of Putin's plans" for that country. Ukraine "did not become Banderite or an anti-Russian federation or anti-Russian," but that country, and indeed "practically" all of it, however, "has become anti-Putin" and seeks "integration in the Western, that is, the contemporary world."

### Putin's obsession about Ukrainians comparable to Stalin's and Hitler's complexes, says historian

by Paul Goble

Thanks to the presidential elections, Ukraine has received "a breathing space," but that space won't last long, says Yuri Felshtinsky, because "Putin's Ukrainian complex can be compared only with Stalin's Polish complex and Hitler's Jewish complex."

The last several months have demonstrated, the Russian historian says, that "one must not believe Putin or negotiate with him," that he will "make promises and sign documents" but violate his words and signature at the first opportunity and continue to move in the same direction he was before speaking and signing (kasparov.ru/material.php?id=5383129102FE4).

That pattern is especially important to remember in the wake of the Ukrainian elections, Mr. Felshtinsky continues. They

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

showed that "Ukraine is united, that there is no split of east and west, that that is a phantom, invention and fiction of Russian television... [and] that the separatists in Luhansk-Donetsk are few and cannot survive without military support."

In short, he says, they show that "Ukraine is not Moldova" and that Moscow "won't be able to create a Transdnistria" within its borders.

Russia's aggression in Ukraine has had "a boomerang effect," not the falsely claimed one that Vladimir Putin says has been the true result of Western sanctions but rather a real one that has come back to haunt the Kremlin leader.

In this round in Ukraine, "Putin has really lost. He lost in those March days when the Russian army seized the Crimean peninsula." But "the problem is that Putin doesn't know that. He does not suspect that the battle is lost. He sincerely believes that the fight has only just begun. And therefore he will continue the war he has thought up."

Increasingly, Mr. Felshtinsky says, Mr. Putin and his entourage talk about the creation of "a new order" in the world. That inevitably recalls the words of Hitler and his regime who also talked about creating "a new order." And because of his obsessions with Ukraine and his own power, "Putin will go into history as the Russian Hitler," as someone who can't stop until he is stopped.

### FOR THE RECORD: From Obama's major foreign policy address

*President Barack Obama delivered a major foreign policy address at the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., during the May 28 commencement ceremony. The excerpt below is from the transcript published by The Washington Post (courtesy of Federal News Service).*

"...Now, there are lot of folks, a lot of skeptics who often downplay the effectiveness of multilateral action. For them, working through international institutions, like the UN or respecting international law, is a sign of weakness. I think they're wrong. ...

"In Ukraine, Russia's recent actions recall the days when Soviet tanks rolled into Eastern Europe. But this isn't the Cold War. Our ability to shape world opinion helped isolate Russia right away. Because of American leadership, the world immediately condemned Russian actions, Europe and the G-7 joined with us to impose sanctions, NATO reinforced our commitment to Eastern European allies, the IMF is helping to stabilize Ukraine's economy, OSCE monitors brought the eyes of the world to unstable parts of Ukraine.

(Continued on page 18)



## NEWS AND VIEWS

## Voting in NYC for a new president, and a new future, for Ukraine



At Ukraine's Consulate General in New York (from left) are: Vice-Consul Kostyantyn Vorona, Kvitka Semanyshyn of the Providence Association of Ukrainian Catholics, Consul General Igor Sybiga and Roma Lisovich of the Ukrainian National Association.

by Roma Lisovich

Finally, Ukraine's election day, May 25, 2014, had arrived. Ukrainians around the world were going to the polls to vote for a new president – and a new future. Russian aggression in the east had been stepped up in the days preceding the elections. Continuous violence threatened to disrupt the process. No one knew what to expect.

Here in New York City, it was a beautiful summer day. After days of storms and rain, the clouds had lifted and the sun was shining down upon us. The expectations were for a record high voter turnout. According to Ukraine's Vice-Consul Kostyantyn Vorona, fewer than 500 people had voted in the last election. Judging by the number of those who registered this time, thousands were expected to vote in New York alone. Buses from New Jersey and Pennsylvania were on their way.

All of us at the Ukrainian National Association had been reading and watching the events in Ukraine unfold with great concern. UNA's advocacy role, certainly a familiar one in UNA's history, was reaffirmed over the past six months as Ukraine struggled for a free and democratic society. Educating the public and bringing about a greater awareness of the situation was the UNA's primary role, but, in this struggle for Ukraine's survival, I have come to realize

*Roma Lisovich is treasurer of the Ukrainian National Association.*



Yuriy Symczyk (left), the Ukrainian National Association's fraternal coordinator, with Vice-Consul Kostyantyn Vorona on election day in New York.

that every bit helps. There is much truth in the saying, "Little things make big things happen." UNA Fraternal Coordinator Yuriy Symczyk and I were part of the election day volunteer squad at Ukraine's Consulate General in New York.

We arrived at 8 a.m. Already the lines of potential voters weaved down the block. We arrived armed with hundreds of UNA pens (to ensure the Consulate would not run out of pens with such a large crowd expected); issues of our newspaper *Svoboda* (for people to read while they waited) and UNA promotional materials. We also came with boxes of munchkins and coffee, very gratefully received by the Consulate. After all, it would be a very long day.

We were warmly greeted by Vice-Consul Vorona and Consul General Igor Sybiga. They reported that the first voters had begun queuing up at 6:30 a.m.

Although my personal contribution was minimal (crowd control and bringing in the elderly and those with children) in the grand scheme of things, the satisfaction it gave me was indescribable. We witnessed history in the making that day. Ukrainians took back their country and spoke up for a democratic society. *Vyshyvanky* (embroideries), T-shirts with Ukrainian pride slogans, blue-and-yellow-colored fashions, flags and other symbols of patriotism were aplenty. A group of teenagers from the New York branch of the Ukrainian American Youth Association entertained the crowds all day with music and song. Bohdanna Wolansky, director of the Promin ensemble, joined the young guitar-strumming Maksym Lozynskyj with her own trusty guitar. People gladly joined in. It was an all-day, spirited sing-along to help the waiting time go by more pleasantly.

Volunteers from the organization Razom passed out Ukrainian snacks, including *borshch*, to the waiting and appreciative voters. Proving that volunteerism starts at a young age, a few youngsters age 6-7 set up a lemonade stand; they were not charging for the refreshments, but instead were passing the lemonade out for free to the waiting voters.

Frequent shout-outs of support from passengers on the triple-decker New York sightseeing buses were met with responses from the crowd of "Freedom for Ukraine" or "Slava Ukraini." Flash mob renditions of "Shche ne Vmerla Ukraina," Ukraine's national anthem, brought tears to my eyes every time I heard it.

(Continued on page 9)

## Ukrainian citizens cast ballots in D.C.

Poroshenko the overwhelming favorite



Yaro Bihun

People line up at the registered voters lists to receive their presidential election ballots.

by Yaro Bihun

WASHINGTON – While Ukrainians were voting for their next president on Sunday, May 25, all over Ukraine, some of their fellow citizens living in the United States were casting their ballots at the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington, as well as at three Ukrainian Consulates around the country – in New York City, Chicago and San Francisco.

At the Embassy, the voting began at 8 a.m., with the first group of voters reportedly coming here from Cleveland. The polls closed at 8 p.m. On the following day, it was estimated that a little over 500 of the close to 6,500 registered voters on the Embassy list actually cast their ballots in Washington,

and that Petro Poroshenko received approximately 65 percent of these votes – about 10 percent more than he received in Ukraine.

There were two official international election observers on the scene, both from the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America – Michael Sawkiw Jr. and Roman Ferencevych. In front of the Embassy street entrance, welcoming those coming to vote with Ukrainian flags and placards, were representatives of Razom, an organization established by an active group of young recent Ukrainian immigrants to the United States. As stated in their leaflets, their organization's aim is "to support the people of Ukraine in their continued quest for democracy, justice and human rights."



Members of the Razom organization outside the entrance to the Embassy of Ukraine welcome potential voters on election day.

## Citizens of Ukraine vote in Ottawa

OTTAWA – Three hundred forty ballots were cast on May 25 at the polling station set up at the Embassy of Ukraine in Canada. EuroMaidan Ottawa cited the following vote totals as reported by the election commission: Petro Poroshenko, 175 votes (51.4 percent of the vote); Anatoliy Hrytsenko, 53; Yulia Tymoshenko, 33; Oleh Lyashko, 33; Olha Bohomolets, 24; and Dmytro Yarosh, nine; and Oleh Tiahnybok, three. Others – there were 21 candidates – received from zero to two votes. Above, one of the voters is seen outside the Embassy, proudly displaying her Ukrainian passport (and her patriotic blue-and-yellow manicured nails).



EuroMaidan Ottawa



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# Thousands gather at annual St. Thomas Sunday pilgrimage

SOUTH BOUND BROOK, N.J. – Thousands of Ukrainian Orthodox and Catholic faithful congregated at the Metropolia Center of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. (UOC-U.S.A.) for its annual St. Thomas Sunday Pilgrimage on April 26-27.

Held the first weekend after Easter, the event celebrates the Resurrection with the departed who are buried in St. Andrew Cemetery.

Saturday's divine liturgy at St. Andrew Memorial Ukrainian Orthodox Church was celebrated by Bishop Daniel, president of the Consistory of the UOC-U.S.A., who commemorated the victims of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster on the 28<sup>th</sup> anniversary date of the catastrophe.

Following liturgy, the St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary hosted a picnic, sponsored by the seminary's Ukrainian Orthodox League chapter. Metropolitan Antony and Bishop Daniel visited the picnic, and vespers were served in the seminary chapel by the Rev. Vasyl Pasakas, assistant dean of students at the seminary.

On Sunday, Metropolitan Antony and Bishop Daniel celebrated divine liturgy and were joined by clergy from the Mid-Atlantic states and beyond. From the church, a procession led by a color guard of the Ukrainian American Veterans followed by the hierarchs and clergy continued to the Memorial Cross in St. Andrew Cemetery, where prayers were offered for the repose of the victims of the Holodomor of 1932-1933, the victims of Chornobyl, those who served in the armed forces of Ukraine and the U.S.A., as well as those who died during the recent fighting on Independence Square in Kyiv.

This year, the procession featured placards of photos of the Heavenly Brigade (Nebesna Sotnia) that were carried



Metropolitan Antony blesses the faithful during divine liturgy on Sunday, April 27, at St. Andrew Memorial Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

by children, parents and grandparents in attendance. Prayers were also offered for the millions of people who have lost their lives in the fight for freedom, justice and peace, both in the U.S.A. and Ukraine.

Many faithful pilgrims then began the blessing of gravesites as the hierarchs then proceeded to Holy

Resurrection Ukrainian Orthodox Mausoleum and prayed at the crypt of Patriarch Mstyslav I, the first patriarch of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Ukraine. Similar services were held at the gravesites of Metropolitan Vasyl Lypkivsky, the United Ukrainian Orthodox Sisterhoods monument commemorating the women and children victims of the Holodomor, and at the gravesites of 11 other hierarchs interred at St. Andrew Cemetery, as well as generous donors to the Church and its ministry programs.

Visitors had an opportunity to stop in to the Consistory, St. Sophia Seminary, the UOC/St. Sophia Seminary Library, as well as the Ukrainian Cultural Center – where vendors sold all kinds of Ukrainian items, and Church organizations and ministries offered exhibits. Also available were the Holy Resurrection Mausoleum, and the temporary exhibit of the future museum of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, which is to be included in the Historical and Educational Complex of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.

In the afternoon, the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry hosted an ice cream social at the seminary. Under the leadership of Natalie Kapeluck-Nixon, the ministry offered an opportunity for youth to meet their bishops – Metropolitan Antony and Bishop Daniel. The hierarchs distributed icon prints of the Resurrection to the children.

The weekend's events were made possible by the Consistory Office staff, and the property management, under the direction of Emil Skocyec, the Cultural Center staff, Memorial Church choir under the direction of Michael Andrec, and the members of the Ukrainian Orthodox League, who directed parking.



Bishop Daniel censes around the Memorial Cross in St. Andrew Cemetery on April 27 during commemorative prayers for the heroes of Ukraine and the U.S.A., victims of the Holodomor and Chornobyl, and those who recently died in their participation in the Euro-Maidan events. The faithful are seen carrying placards of the Heavenly Brigade, which were left at the Memorial Cross for pilgrims to view.



A proud voter in New York.

## Voting in NYC for a new president...

(Continued from page 7)

Despite the long lines and waiting times, the people were friendly and upbeat. In line were members of the Hassidic community, Catholic nuns, Asian-looking Ukrainians whose familial origins were in the "Stans," Ukrainians of all sizes, confessions and descriptions. But the atmosphere was one of unity, solidarity and pride.

A new day had dawned, and people seemed to be aware of the importance of the day. Hopefulness was in the air. The eldest voter of the day was Mykola Diakiv, who at 90 was determined to make his vote count.

Despite the crowd's diversity in terms of language and backgrounds, I witnessed tolerance and patience throughout the day. For example, one elderly woman in line stopped me to ask a question. She spoke so quickly in Russian I couldn't make it out. I explained in Ukrainian: "Sorry, I don't speak Russian, only Ukrainian. If you can speak more slowly I will try to understand. Or, if you prefer, I can call over someone who speaks Russian. Do you speak English?" I added. In her heavy accent she replied: "No English today. We Ukrainian. I love Ukraine. I try speak in Ukrainian – I 'vill' try understand you, you 'vill' try understand me."

Clearly, language is not a barrier to loving one's homeland.

The people kept coming and coming, and the lines just kept growing. The Consulate staff was wonderful, sharing in the excitement of the day. It was a proud moment for Ukrainians everywhere.

We were pleased we were able to make a contribution, no matter how seemingly insignificant, to Ukraine's democratic process. Personally, I was thrilled to be part of history in the making. It was the most gratifying and uplifting of experiences, one I will treasure forever.



Chairman of the Precinct Election Commission in New York, Teodor Shevchuk.



# La Salle U. hosts international conference on "The Church of the Catacombs"

by Alex Nalencz

PHILADELPHIA – On the 25th anniversary of the emergence of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church from the underground in the Soviet Union, the M.A. program in Central and Eastern European Studies at La Salle University in Philadelphia, in cooperation with the St. Sophia Religious Association U.S.A., the Shevchenko Scientific Society U.S.A., the Ukrainian Free University Foundation (New York), and the Lypynsky East European Research Institute (Elkins Park, Pa.), hosted an international scholarly conference.

The audience, consisting mostly of students and faculty of La Salle and neighboring universities, as well as members of the Philadelphia Ukrainian community numbered over 60 people.

The site of the conference was the De La Salle Chapel, which hosted a concomitant exhibit of banners and publications, including a recently published guide to the exhibit titled, "To the Light of Resurrection through the Thorns of Catacombs: The Underground Activity and Re-emergence of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church." The English version of the guide was prepared



Presenters at the conference, from left: Leonid Rudnytsky, Nicholas Rudnytsky, Geoffrey Kelly, Iryna Ivankovych, Svitlana Hurkina, the Rev. Marko Semehen, the Rev. John Sianchuk and Paul Mojzes.

by Iryna Ivankovych, executive director of the St. Sophia Religious Association and curator of the Patriarch Josyf Slipyj Center (Elkins Park).

The morning session of the conference, chaired by Dr. Leonid Rudnytsky (La Salle University), was opened with a prayer for peace led by the University chaplain, Robert Kinzler, FSC. In his opening remarks

Dr. Rudnytsky read a letter from Cardinal Lubomyr Husar addressed to the conference participants and also conveyed the greetings sent by Patriarch Sviatoslav of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church.

The keynote address on Churches in a totalitarian state was delivered by Geoffrey Kelly (Department of Religion, La Salle University). Prof. Kelly focused on the life

and activities of the German theologian and Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945). His presentation included numerous parallels between the life of the Church under National Socialism and Communism.

Svitlana Hurkina, a historian from the Ukrainian Catholic University (Lviv), read her paper on "The Responses of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Faithful to the Liquidation of their Church: 1945-1989." The morning session concluded with a brief presentation by Ms. Ivankovych aptly titled, "To the Light of Resurrection through the Thorns of Catacombs," which elucidated the banners and books forming the exhibit.

The second session, chaired by Nicholas Rudnytsky (Manor College/La Salle University), opened with a PowerPoint presentation by the Rev. John Sianchuk, CSSR, director of the Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine (Winnipeg), titled "Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky: 'Father of the Underground Church.'" Bishop Velychkovsky (1903-1973) was beatified together with other martyrs of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church on June 27, 2001, during the visitation of Pope John Paul II to Ukraine. Father Sianchuk also analyzed the relationship between Patriarch Josyf and Bishop Velychkovsky, as well as the latter's many-faceted activities in the underground Church.

The Rev. Marko Semehen, of the St. Sophia Religious Association in Rome, offered an analytical study of "The Liturgical and Pastoral Life of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church in the Catacombs," which included numerous specific instances of pastoral care by men and women under a totalitarian regime.

The final paper of the conference, authored by Andrew Sorokowski (Washington), and read in the absence of the author by Dr. Albert Kipa, president of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences (New York), dealt with "The Road to Legalization of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, 1984-1991." Dr. Sorokowski stressed that the legalization process of the Church occurred in several stages and on several levels, and as a result had a plethora of consequences which are still being felt today. In the final analysis, the emergence of the Church from the underground provided it with the ability to pursue its mission under relatively normal circumstances.

In his concluding remarks to the conference, Paul Mojzes (Rosemont College), offered a comparative analysis on the Church in Ukraine and other Churches in Eastern Europe. It was resolved to try to publish the proceedings in a forthcoming issue of *The Ukrainian Quarterly* and subsequently also in the journal *Religion in Eastern Europe*.

Alex Nalencz, M.A., is the administrative assistant for the M.A. program in Central and Eastern European Studies at La Salle University.

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Chicago Ukrainian Choir and Northwest Chicago Symphony participants.

## *UIMA in Chicago hosts premiere of composition honoring Shevchenko*



Soprano Ludmila Ostash and cellist Nazar Dzhuryn.



Actor and narrator Bohdan Kozak.



Pianist Natalia Pelekh.

by Marta Farion

CHICAGO – In commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Taras Shevchenko, Chicago's community witnessed an extraordinary musical tribute to Ukraine's prophet, famed poet, artist and national hero. The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art hosted the premiere of the composition "Poslaniye" (Epistle) by Ukrainian composer Yuri Laniuk, performed by the Northwest Chicago Symphony and the Chicago Ukrainian choir comprising community singers, conducted by Michael Holian, with performances by soprano Ludmila Ostash, accompanied by Natalia Pelekh on piano, Nazar Dzhuryn on cello, and recitation of segments from Shevchenko's "Kobzar" by actor and narrator Bohdan Kozak.

The March 30th concert was dedicated to the Heavenly Brigade, the fallen heroes of the Maidan, on the 40th day since their passing. Donations were earmarked to help Ukraine and the families of the victims of violence on the Maidan. The concert was performed at the beautiful and acoustically balanced St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral. Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union and Heritage Foundation of First Security Federal Savings Bank sponsored the concert.

"Kobzar," the collection of Taras Shevchenko's poems, has played an important role in galvanizing the Ukrainian nation, its identity and its struggles for independence. Shevchenko's words resonate today, when the Ukrainian nation has defended its honor on the Maidan, and as a consequence is under Russian threat.

Shevchenko's words and his persona, which has attained mythical symbolism for all Ukrainians, serve as an inspiration for the Ukrainian people in reclaiming their rights to freedom and independence. His famous "Epistle," the subject of Mr. Laniuk's composition, is addressed "To the Dead, the Living, and to Those Yet Unborn, My Countrymen, All Who Live in Ukraine and Outside Ukraine."

One of the first victims on the Maidan, Serhiy Nahoyan, had a copy of the "Kobzar" with him when he fell as one of the Heavenly Brigade who gave their lives for freedom. Shevchenko inspired generations in the past, as in the current struggles of Ukraine to attain independence, human dignity and pride in their nation. Shevchenko's genius has continually inspired artists and writers in their creative expressions of his life and writing.

The performance enthralled the audience that filled the cathedral to capacity. This was a concert performed at the highest professional artistic level, rarely heard in the diaspora community. There were many noteworthy moments of musical accomplishment.

The creative team included Ukrainians and non-Ukrainians from the United States, and prominent artists who traveled from Ukraine specifically for the performance. Mr. Laniuk, composer, cellist and professor at the Lviv National Academic Opera and Ballet Theater, was honored with a standing ovation at the conclusion of this premiere of his composition. The orchestral work, based on Ukrainian sonic motifs within a contemporary framework of musical resonances and rhythms, absorbed the audience's attention

and emotions.

It was a courageous undertaking by the music director, Mr. Holian, who serves as chairman of the Music Committee at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art. Mr. Holian managed to prepare the chorus, whose members sing in various community choirs, and deliver a performance worthy of the challenge, with a collective understanding of the composition with its various dissonances, cadences and rhythms.

Together with the soloists and the recitation of Shevchenko's poetry by the virtuoso actor Mr. Kozak, Mr. Holian delivered a probing and vibrant performance as an organic unity. Mr. Kozak, one of Ukraine's leading actors from the Zankovetska Theater of Lviv, left the audience spellbound with his contemporary recitation of Shevchenko's poetry. It felt as if Shevchenko foresaw that there would be a Maidan, and that the Ukrainian nation would rise up, inspired by his words.

Ms. Ostash of the Lviv National Academic Opera and Ballet Theater shared the palette of her soprano voice, delivering the subtleties of the challenging score, reflecting the courage, despair and hope expressed in the composition. Accompanying on piano, Ms. Pelekh, an accomplished pianist who performs in Ukraine and on international stages, discreetly and powerfully partnered with the individual performers and the entire ensemble. Mr. Dzhuryn, who moved from Ukraine to the United States, performs as soloist and in chamber and orchestral ensembles. The energy and intonation of his cello contributed to the rich outpouring of sound and expression. The beauty of the sound expanded over the orchestra, the

singer's voice and the individual musicians, spiraling into a powerful effect over the audience.

When the performance came to its conclusion, audience members rose to their feet in resounding applause of appreciation. It was without a doubt one of the most memorable concerts in the diaspora – one that left the audience feeling proud and filled with hope for Ukraine's future.

Dr. Pavlo Nadzikewycz, chairman of the board of the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, welcomed everyone to this unforgettable premiere, and identified the words of Shevchenko to the current situation in Ukraine:

"It makes a great difference to me / That evil folk and wicked men / Attack our Ukraine, once so free, / That makes a great difference to me."

The concert was then introduced by a distinguished member of the Chicago community, Dr. Vasil Truchly, who dedicated his life efforts not only to medicine, but also to music, the community and Ukraine's culture and independence. In addition to his profession in medicine, Dr. Truchly is a composer and choir director.

A reception followed at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, where Orysia Kossak-Cardoso, president, thanked the sponsors, performers and the audience for the exceptional artistic experience and support.

With the message of the Maidan, and honoring the memory of the Heavenly Brigade, the emotional and artistic power of this concert will remain embedded in the memory of each member of the audience for a long time to come.



## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

### Putin demands end to offensive

PRAGUE – Russian President Vladimir Putin on May 27 called for an immediate end to what he called the Ukrainian government's "punitive" military operation in the east, after dozens were reported killed in a day of fighting in the eastern city of Donetsk. Ukraine's Internal Affairs Minister Arsen Avakov said on May 27 that government forces were now in control of Donetsk airport, which separatists tried to seize the day before. The Kremlin said Mr. Putin had spoken to Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi by telephone and "underscored the need for an immediate halt to the punitive military operation in the southeastern regions and the establishment of peaceful dialogue between Kyiv and representatives of the regions." There is no official death toll from the fighting. Separatists said at least 30 and possibly up to 100 fighters were killed. The mayor of Donetsk said 40 people were killed, including two civilians and 38 "combatants." Internal Affairs Minister Avakov said the rebels had suffered heavy losses but gave no figures. He said no government troops were killed. The fighting – in which government forces used combat

jets and helicopter gunships – began after the separatists seized Donetsk airport. It was the first time the fighting has spread to the city of Donetsk since the unrest in eastern Ukraine began some two months ago. (RFE/RL)

### Ukraine forces retake airport

KYIV – Reports said sporadic fighting was continuing on May 27 on the outskirts of the eastern Ukrainian city of Donetsk, a day after heavy clashes in which dozens of pro-Russian separatists were reported killed. Ukrainian local and national authorities also report that security forces have regained control of the airport, which was occupied by gunmen on May 26. The separatists said at least 30 and possibly up to 100 fighters were killed during nearly 24 hours of fighting that followed the airport seizure. The mayor of Donetsk, Oleksandr Lukyanchenko, said the death toll from the fighting stood at 40, including two civilians. He did not specify whether the remaining 38 dead were rebels or government troops. Pavel Gubarev, the self-proclaimed "people's governor" of Donetsk, said government forces opened fire on a truck carrying wounded fighters from the airport to a hospital, killing 35. He said another 15 fighters were injured. It was not immediately clear whether the reports referred to the same incident. Internal Affairs Minister Arsen

Avakov said the rebels had suffered heavy losses but gave no figures. He said no government troops were killed. The fighting – in which government forces used combat jets and helicopter gunships – began after the separatists seized the Donetsk airport on May 26 and continued into the following day. It was the first time the fighting has spread to the city of Donetsk since the unrest in eastern Ukraine began some two months ago. Mr. Avakov said on May 27 that government forces now controlled the airport. Deputy Prime Minister Vitaliy Yarema said that the "antiterrorist operation" will continue "until not a single terrorist remains on the territory of Ukraine." Petro Poroshenko, the victor in Ukraine's May 25 presidential election, has vowed to open a dialogue with residents of Ukraine's eastern regions but rejected talks with "terrorists." He added, "The antiterrorist operation cannot and should not last two or three months. It should and will last hours." (RFE/RL, with reporting by AP, Reuters, UNIAN, and RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service)

### Uneasy calm reported in Donetsk

PRAGUE – An uneasy calm appeared to have returned to the eastern Ukrainian city of Donetsk, one day after dozens of pro-Russian separatist fighters were reported killed in fighting with government forces. Intense gunfire was reported earlier on May 28 around the Ukrainian Security Service (SBU) building occupied by the separatists, and jet fighters were heard flying over the city. There were, however, no immediate details on fighting, and the gunfire later stopped. In an interview with Germany's "Bild" daily, the winner of Ukraine's presidential election, Petro Poroshenko, said that "the antiterrorist operation has finally begun in earnest." He added, "A real war is being waged against our country. We will end this terror." Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said that the Ukrainian people were "in essence being pushed into the abyss of fratricidal war." An aide to Russian President Vladimir Putin, Yuri Ushakov, said that what he described as the Ukrainian government's "provocative" military actions in eastern Ukraine were pushing the crisis further into deadlock. Ukrainian officials said there were Russians and Chechens among the dead and wounded. On May 28, Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov denied that he had sent soldiers to help the pro-Russian separatists, but did not rule out that some Chechen volunteers could have gone there on their own. (RFE/RL, with reporting by UNIAN, Reuters, ITAR-TASS)

### MFA: separatists hold OSCE observers

KYIV – The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) on May 28 confirmed that the observers of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) who disappeared during a patrol in the Donetsk region, are being held by one of the separatist groups in the area. The director of the MFA Information Policy Department, Yevhen Perebyinis, said at a briefing in Kyiv, "we are working to secure their release." The spokesperson also said that the kidnapped observers are being held in eastern Ukraine and expressed hope that there will be more information about their location "very soon." Mr. Perebyinis noted that the Foreign Affairs Ministry has been in contact with law enforcement bodies of Ukraine on this issue. A task force of law enforcement agencies has been set up to resolve the situation. On May 27, the OSCE's Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine said it lost communication with the four observers while they patrolled the east of the Donetsk region on Monday evening, May 26. The missing OSCE observers are citizens of Estonia, Switzerland, Turkey and Denmark. (Ukrinform)

### EU energy chief comments on gas deal

BERLIN – European Energy Commissioner Guenther Oettinger says he believes a deal is

possible that would see a resumption of Russian gas supplies to Ukraine. Mr. Oettinger said after a May 26 meeting in Berlin with Russian Energy Minister Aleksandr Novak and Ukrainian counterpart Yuriy Prodan there was a "good chance" of reaching an agreement. Mr. Oettinger said under the deal, Ukraine would pay off \$2 billion of its debt by May 29. He said Ukraine would pay an additional \$500 million of the debt by June 7. Mr. Novak said Russia was prepared to start negotiations on a price for gas if Ukraine's \$2.5 billion bill was paid by May 31. Ukraine's Energy Minister Prodan said there was not yet an agreement between Ukraine and Russia to resolve the dispute. Russia and Ukraine have been locked in a dispute over the gas price and Moscow's demands for prepayment for future supplies that has raised the possibility of interrupted supplies of gas to customers in Europe. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by ITAR-TASS, Interfax, and Agence France-Presse)

### Thousands of mercenaries in Ukraine

KYIV – The number of armed mercenaries, acting in Ukraine as so-called separatists, may be several thousand, according to Ihor Smeshko, a former chairman of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) and former head of the Main Intelligence Department of the Defense Ministry. Speaking at a press conference in Kyiv, he said, "I do not know, of course, an official answer. But I think that these are several thousand [mercenaries]," he said. According to Mr. Smeshko, the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) forces should more effectively work with local residents as regards information. People should understand that law enforcers are called just for their defense. These measures will allow the armed militants to be isolated. At the same time, according to his information, support among the local population for the militants in Ukraine's east is now subsiding. "Local communities stand for peace and do not support an outrage, which separatists and armed mercenaries bring," Mr. Smeshko noted, according to May 28 news reports. (Ukrinform)

### Russian TV said Yarosh was ahead

MOSCOW – Russian state TV reported that controversial far-right politician Dmytro Yarosh was leading Ukraine's May 25 presidential election, even though by all indications he wasn't even close. Displaying figures purportedly taken from Ukraine's official election website, Channel 1 anchorwoman Irada Zeinalova announced that the Right Sector leader was comfortably ahead in the race, with more than 37 percent of the vote. The report was illustrated with a screenshot of a website adorned with the title "Ukraine's Presidential Election" that appeared to be from the official Central Election Commission. The announcer acknowledged that the figures, coming as the vote was still being counted, were rather "strange." She noted: "It's unclear what it means – because it is radically different from exit poll data by four pollsters. According to exit polls, Petro Poroshenko is leading with 55.9 percent." Perhaps the strangest thing is how such obviously questionable figures could be broadcast on Russian national television. Ukrainian media reported shortly before the vote that the Central Election Commission website had been targeted by a cyberattack. The Interfax news agency quoted Ukrainian officials as saying on May 26 that the information about Mr. Yarosh's alleged lead "was prepared in advance" by hackers, and was "stored on Russian Internet resources." In the end, official preliminary results showed Mr. Yarosh far out of the running after receiving slightly above 1 percent of the vote. Mr. Yarosh, 42, is a nationalist leader known for his anti-Russian remarks. He calls Russia Ukraine's "eternal foe," and has said a

(Continued on page 13)

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## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 12)

war between Russia and Ukraine is "inevitable." Moscow accuses Mr. Yarosh of publicly calling on anti-Russian forces to orchestrate terror attacks against Russia, and Russian media frequently refers to him as being a fascist. (Farangis Najibullah of RFE/RL)

### Italian photojournalist, translator killed

PRAGUE – A Soviet-era dissident and Russian rights activist was killed on May 24 alongside Italian photojournalist Andrea Rocchelli for whom he was translating as the two covered the separatism-fueled violence in eastern Ukraine. The head of Russia's human rights group Memorial, Aleksandr Cherkasov, identified the slain Russian as Andrei Mironov. Mr. Mironov was a Soviet-era dissident and former member of Memorial. Italy's Foreign Ministry said Mr. Rocchelli was believed to have been killed on May 24 near the city of Sloviansk, where pro-Russian forces have been fighting Ukrainian government troops. The statement said the journalist's body, which was taken to a hospital along with Mr. Mironov's, was awaiting official identification. Reports said that the two were hit by mortar fire. The Italian Foreign Affairs Ministry said on its website, "We urge the Ukrainian authorities to track down the dynamics of the attack which killed Andrea Rocchelli." (RFE/RL, based on reporting by the Associated Press Agence France-Presse and Reuters)

### Russian prime minister visits Crimea

PRAGUE – Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev arrived on May 25 in Crimea for a two-day working trip as Ukrainians were voting in a presidential election. Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry described the visit as "a deliberate provocation aimed at destabilizing the situation in Ukraine." Mr. Medvedev was expected to visit immigration offices in the city of Sevastopol, where Russian passports are being issued to local residents. Mr. Medvedev's office said he would also visit the Artek children's center on the Black Sea on May 26. It will be Medvedev's second trip to Crimea since Russia annexed the Ukrainian peninsula in March in a move that has not been recognized internationally. President Vladimir Putin attended Victory Day celebrations in early May in Crimea. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by the Associated Press and ITAR-TASS)

### Yatsenyuk urges voters to 'defend Ukraine'

KYIV – Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk urged Ukrainians to vote in the country's May 25 presidential election to "defend Ukraine." In a statement on May 24, he told Ukrainians they have a responsibility to vote despite threats by "bandits sponsored from abroad" to disrupt the election. Pro-Russian separatists had vowed to block voting in areas they control in the east of the country. The days before the election saw a resurgence in fighting between government forces and separatists who have declared their own so-called "people's republics" in the east. Mr. Yatsenyuk said he was sure the winner of the election will make it a priority to sign a key political and free trade agreement with the European Union. Mr. Yatsenyuk said the May 25 vote would be an expression "of the will of Ukrainians from the west, east, north and south." (RFE/RL, based on reporting by Reuters and Agence France-Presse)

### Amnesty says Crimean Tatars at risk

PRAGUE – Amnesty International (AI) has expressed concerns over the situation faced by Crimean Tatars in Ukraine's Crimea after the peninsula was annexed by Russia earlier in March. In its statement issued on May 23, AI said that Crimean Tatars face an uncertain future ahead of

presidential elections in Ukraine in which they and other residents of Crimea will no longer be able to take part. John Dalhuisen, director of AI's Europe and Central Asia Program, said that armed groups backed by the peninsula's new authorities had alienated Crimean Tatars by harassing Tatar leaders, threatening to dissolve their self-governing body, the Mejlis, and restricting their rights to freedom of assembly and expression. Mr. Dalhuisen added that up to 7,000 Tatars have fled Crimea and those who have stayed face the unenviable choice of accepting Russian citizenship or becoming "foreigners" in their homeland. (RFE/RL, based on Amnesty International's statement)

### Russia: Border withdrawal to take weeks

MOSCOW – Russian military officials said on May 23 that their promised withdrawal of 40,000 troops from Ukraine's borders will not be completed until weeks after Ukraine's May 25 presidential election. They say the withdrawal is likely to be completed around the time that a second round vote would take place if no single candidate wins an outright majority in the May 25 vote. U.S. and European officials expressed concerns that the Russian troop presence on the border was destabilizing the election by emboldening pro-Russian separatists who are battling against state forces after seizing government buildings in several towns and cities in eastern Ukraine. Russian President Vladimir Putin has claimed on three separate occasions that he ordered a complete withdrawal of Russian forces away from border regions where they were deployed when Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimea region earlier this year. Speaking at an international business forum in St. Petersburg on May 23, Mr. Putin said Russia also wants "some calming of the situation, and we will respect the choice of the Ukrainian people." But he stopped short of declaring the May 25 election legitimate. U.S. State Department deputy spokeswoman Marie Harf on May 23 called on Russia to use its influence with separatists and urge them "to cease their violent activities and lay down their arms" ahead of the May 25 vote. It was at a security conference in Moscow on May 23 that Gen. Valery Gerasimov, the chief of Russia's general staff, announced that it will take 20 days for Russian troops in regions bordering Ukraine to return to their permanent bases. Earlier on May 23, Russia's Deputy Defense Minister Anatoly Antonovay had said that all forces would leave the border regions "within days." (RFE/RL, with reporting by Reuters, the Associated Press, Agence France-Presse and ITAR-TASS)

### Poroshenko wants direct U.S. military aid

KYIV – To protect its independence, Ukraine should build up its armed forces and at this stage needs direct military aid from the U.S., something like the Lend-Lease Program during World War II, Petro Poroshenko told Jackson Diehl, deputy editorial page editor of The Washington Post, in an interview published on May 27. "Now we should create a new security treaty exactly like Lend-Lease. We should cooperate in military technical assistance and in advising assistance. We are ready to fight for independence, and we should build up the armed forces of Ukraine," the president-elect said. Mr. Poroshenko said more aggression against Ukraine is possible, "and when aggression starts, no sanctions help." Mr. Poroshenko believes that what would help is direct U.S. military aid. The Washington Post notes that Mr. Poroshenko's first challenge will be to rebuild a demoralized and decrepit Ukrainian army "on the fly while trying to eliminate the threat posed by the heavily armed mix of militants and Russian agents holding key infrastructure in the provinces of Donetsk and Luhansk." Also, the newspaper added, Mr. Poroshenko has made it

clear he is ready to negotiate with Russia. "I know Putin quite well," he said, adding that he is ready to compromise over everything but Ukraine's claim to Crimea and its decision to pursue economic association with the European Union. (Ukrinform)

### SBU detains saboteurs recruited by Russia

KYIV – The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) detained eight residents of the Odesa region who were recruited by Russian secret services for terrorist and subversive acts on the territory of Ukraine. "SBU agents detained eight saboteurs at the Odesa railway station, including their coordinator 'D,' who were going to a training camp of militants in Russia," the SBU report

reads. The would-be saboteurs planned to travel to Moscow for training at one of the undercover special schools of the Main Intelligence Directorate (GRU) of the General Staff of the Russian Defense Ministry. The sabotage group was headed by a 45-year-old citizen of Ukraine, a former airborne major and parachute training instructor; most members of the terrorist group had served in special units of the armed forces. While preparing for the trip, the SBU said the saboteurs adhered to harsh conspiracy measures: they used aliases and divided into groups. After training, each member was promised a monthly fee of \$1,000 (U.S.) and a separate "bonus" at the end of the operation. (Ukrinform)



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## Western leaders...

(Continued from page 1)

Ukrainians united to express their political will freely and to choose their own future together. The large turnout sends a clear message: the Ukrainian people want to live in a united, democratic and peaceful Ukraine anchored in European institutions.

We welcome today's preliminary report from the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] and other international observers, including their finding that the election demonstrated, "the clear resolve of the authorities to hold what was a genuine election largely in line with international commitments and with a respect for fundamental freedoms in the vast majority of the country." As the international observers made clear, the security situation and outright armed intimidation by separatist groups prevented some voters in two of Ukraine's regions in the east from participating in the polling, while voting was also prevented in occupied Crimea. We commend the courage and determination of those in Donetsk and Luhansk who ensured voting did take place in some precincts. We thank the OSCE's Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the many others who made this international observation effort possible.

The successful conduct of these elections reaffirms Ukraine's commitment to the democratic process. The United States will continue to work with the people of Ukraine and the newly elected president to build on this victory for democracy. We will support their efforts to determine their own future in a more united, secure, independent, and prosperous Ukraine. The United States respects Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, condemns and rejects Russia's occupation and attempted annexation of Crimea, and remains committed to working with Ukraine and other partners to find a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

### Statement by NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, May 26:

I congratulate the people of Ukraine, who peacefully exercised their right to vote in Sunday's presidential election. They showed their commitment to freedom and democracy and their determination to decide their own future.

I commend the considerable efforts of the Ukrainian authorities to organize the election throughout the country. Despite the criminal violence, intimidation and provocation by pro-Russian separatists, who tried to deny the people of Ukraine their democratic right, the election was declared by international observers to be largely in line

with international commitments and respectful of fundamental freedoms.

NATO is committed to our distinctive partnership with Ukraine. We look forward to continuing our cooperation with the new president, and we will continue to support efforts to find a peaceful resolution to this crisis.

NATO Allies will not recognize Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea. NATO supports Ukraine's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, and the right of the Ukrainian people to determine their own future, without outside interference.

### Joint statement by President Herman Van Rompuy of the European Council and President Jose Manuel Barroso of the European Commission, May 26:

The EU [European Union] welcomes the holding yesterday of presidential elections in Ukraine. We look forward to working closely together with the next president in view of ensuring the political and economic stability of Ukraine.

We take good note of the OSCE/ODIHR's [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe/Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights] preliminary assessment that the presidential election in Ukraine was characterized by high turnout and a clear resolve by the authorities to hold what was a genuine election largely in line with international commitments and that respected fundamental freedoms, despite the hostile security environment in two eastern regions of the country. All Ukrainians should take these polls as an opportunity for a fresh start for the country and commence by accepting the outcome of the vote once the final results are known.

The successful holding of these elections constitutes a major step towards the objective of de-escalating tensions and restoring security for all Ukrainians. We count on the continued commitment of all parties to the Geneva Joint Statement to the electoral process and to its outcome, and welcome statements by the Russian Federation indicating that it will respect the will of the Ukrainian people and engage in a dialogue with the new Ukrainian president. We look forward to further concrete steps on this constructive path, including the use of leverage on armed groups to de-escalate the situation on the ground.

Ukraine and its people now need peace and stability in order to engage in the implementation of much-needed and far-reaching reforms. The roundtables of national unity have underlined the preparedness of Ukrainians from different political backgrounds and regions to take up this challenge. The EU stands ready to assist Ukraine in this endeavor, and it counts on other international partners to do the same.

## UWC...

(Continued from page 1)

The UWC Mission is also cooperating with the observation mission of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, a UWC member organization.

The UWC Mission monitored the vote in over 1,700 electoral precincts in 39 Ukrainian cities.

During the election campaign, eight media releases were issued. The UWC Mission has analyzed both the campaign and the elections in light of Ukraine's international commitments to democracy, the rule of law, freedom of speech, and fair and free elections.

To properly examine whether the presidential election and municipal elections in Ukraine demonstrated the will of the Ukrainian people, the UWC Mission examined the entire election process in the context of key international standards. These included universal and equal suffrage, a sound legal framework, a level playing field for all candidates in the campaign, impartial and transparent election administration, an election process free of pressure and coercion, independent media and balanced coverage, ability to remedy violations of electoral rights, and a voting process that is free of manipulation.

UWC observers recorded a range of infractions in various regions of Ukraine, the most common being: campaigning at the polling stations and outside them; delays in opening the polling stations; missing names of voters on Precinct Election Commission voters' lists; confusion in the work of Precinct Election Commissions; inappropriately sealed ballot boxes; distribution of ballots without the appropriate documentation; and obstacles to the work of observers and mass media.

During the observation, two UWC observers, one from Canada and the other from Moldova, were blocked at polling station No. 480752 in the city of Mykolayiv; together with the Precinct Election Commission members and the candidates'

observers, they held back a group of individuals of athletic appearance who were trying to storm the premises.

The UWC Mission highlights that in cities where mayoral races were being run concurrently, including in the cities of Kyiv, Mykolayiv, Kherson, Odesa, Cherkasy and Sumy, the voting process was considerably slower and long lines were experienced, resulting in extended hours in some polling stations. Higher incidents of infractions were observed in cities where mayors and municipal representatives were being elected as opposed to cities in which there was only a presidential vote, however, these infractions had no material impact on the results of the vote.

These infractions and shortcomings did not impact the election results and were instead isolated and irregular occurrences. The government of Ukraine made an effort to ensure that the elections would be transparent and conducted on the highest level without the misuse of administrative resources for the support of any one candidate. Most voters were able to express their will on election day, despite the complicated situation in eastern and southern Ukraine. Official government statistics and the statistics of independent non-governmental organizations confirm a voter turnout surpassing 60 percent.

On the basis of the monitoring results of the UWC Mission the 2014 early Presidential Election in Ukraine has met international standards for the conduct of democratic elections.

This preliminary statement is delivered prior to the completion of counting and tabulation, the announcement of preliminary and final results, and adjudication of possible complaints and appeals. The UWC Mission will publish a comprehensive final report, offering recommendations for potential improvements after completion of the process.

The UWC Mission expresses gratitude to the Ukrainian people for their hospitality during its work, particularly on May 25, the day of monitoring of the early presidential election and municipal elections in Ukraine.

## UCCA...

(Continued from page 1)

The UCCA abhors the Soviet-style methods used by the Russian-backed armed separatist to disrupt the elections in the east. Despite these violent and intimidating tactics, the UCCA commends the brave citizens of Donetsk and Luhansk who cast ballots in the presidential elections. Moreover, the UCCA lauds the thousands of Ukrainian citizens of Crimea, including the Crimean Tatar community, who risked their personal safety to exercise their civic duty and traveled long distances to vote.

The UCCA further applauds the Ukrainian government's and Central Election Commission's efforts to utilize

every means available to ensure that the May 25 elections took place.

The UCCA stands with the people of Ukraine in their desire for a united and democratic country and wishes the newly elected president strength in normalizing and stabilizing the situation in Ukraine for the furtherance of democracy. We stand together with the Ukrainian people in their desire for real reforms, including, first and foremost, an end to endemic corruption, which will ensure the further development of Ukraine's economy, democratic institutions, and Eurointegration.

And lastly, the UCCA expresses its sincere gratitude to members of its delegation, who volunteered their time and money to participate as international election observers. Their commitment to democracy must be commended.



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# Poroshenko...

(Continued from page 1)

as a potent foil to Russian President Vladimir Putin, said Ukrainian officials, who have alleged that he has tried to undermine the vote and Ukraine's unity by authorizing sabotage and terror attacks.

"The high turnout is the response of Ukrainians to those who tried to make a failed state of Ukraine and achieve foreign control during the last three months, not holding back any resources," said Viktor Siumar, the deputy secretary of the National Security and Defense Council. "The response is convincing."

The peaceful election came as a surprise to the public as the Russian government was widely expected to expand its campaign of sabotage and terror beyond the Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts during the weekend in an effort to intimidate the public and discredit the vote's legitimacy.

Among the few major incidents reported on May 25 was a fake bomb threat made by telephone in Mykolayiv, in which the assailant claimed seven polling stations in three schools were targeted. The polls had to be evacuated for inspection, which found no bombs.

In all, observers with the Opora election monitoring organization tallied 168 procedural violations for all of Ukraine, 36 incidents of interfering with the election process, 32 incidents of illegal voting and 20 violations of campaign restrictions. Only one case of vote-buying was reported.

The results sharply contrasted with the 2012 parliamentary elections, which were rejected by observers as failing to meet international standards for free and fair elections. Vote-buying, fraud and intimidation were widely reported to have been organized by the administration of former President Viktor Yanukovich.

"The elections were held openly and transparently, and voting occurred freely without fake restrictions and administrative pressure," said acting President Oleksandr Turchynov on the night of the vote. "With the elections, which I hope will be recognized by all the civilized countries of the world, we ruined the plans of our enemies. It's our common victory."

Observers credited the interim Ukrainian government with undermining Russian sabotage attempts. In the week leading up to elections, Ukrainian police and armed forces stopped numerous terrorist plots.

A Russian sniper planning to participate

in the warfare in Donbas was arrested at the Kharkiv rail station on May 22, the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) press service confirmed on May 24. Under questioning, he admitted the Russian intelligence services offered him an award of \$100 for killing a Ukrainian soldier, \$1,000 for an officer and a \$2,723 bonus upon his return.

On May 22, the SBU announced it arrested a saboteur who organized fighting units in Odesa and dispatched them to Donbas. A week earlier, the SBU arrested six fighters, residents of the Odesa Oblast, who had been organized by the suspect.

The same day, the SBU announced it arrested a military officer in Cherkasy who called upon his colleagues to ignore orders and engage in armed resistance against the government. In Kyiv, the SBU arrested two former police officers who supplied weapons from Russia to pro-Russian fighters.

The SBU also subverted a planned attack on May 18 in central Odesa, arresting three citizens of Ukraine and one citizen of Belarus, who admitted to planning provocations in the Luhansk Oblast to disrupt the elections there.

The attempted subversion went beyond the military to involve the members of the Communist Party of Ukraine, who reportedly abandoned election commissions by the hundreds in cities such as Kyiv and Dnipropetrovsk in order to deprive them of legitimacy at the last minute.

Western governments also played a key role in keeping the peace on May 25, observers said, having warned the Russian government of a third round of sanctions should it sabotage the vote beyond the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

It was a series of factors that ensured peace on election day, said Petro Oleshchuk, a political science lecturer at Shevchenko National University in Kyiv.

"They couldn't dispatch enough saboteurs and lacked resources," he said. "Law enforcement was able to close some channels of financing. Obviously, concern about sanctions worked as well. But the main factor is Russia finally understood the real mood of the local population. The residents of Mykolayiv, Odesa, Kherson and Dnipropetrovsk showed the pro-Russian fighters what they can expect if they engage in provocations."

It was widely expected that Mr. Poroshenko would win the most votes, but it remained a cliffhanger as to whether he'd surpass the 50 percent barrier to avoid a second-round.

Indeed, Mr. Poroshenko and his allies



Andriy Bashtovyy/Radio Svoboda

The new mayor of Kyiv, Vitali Klitschko.

spent much of the election campaign urging voters to cast their votes for him in order to avoid the runoff, which they argued would have sowed division and given the Russian government the pretext to cast doubt on the vote's legitimacy.

The runoff would have also given Mr. Putin three more weeks to undermine the vote with sabotage and violence, they argued.

The Poroshenko team also called upon his competitors to remove their candidates, particularly Ms. Tymoshenko, even offering her the prime minister post in exchange, said Yuri Lutsenko, the leader of the Third Ukrainian Republic civic movement. Ms. Tymoshenko rejected Mr. Poroshenko's request.

Some voters criticized the candidate for using the Russian military threat to scare voters into casting their votes for him.

"They hammered into the heads of the older voters that a one-round election was needed, while they urged the youth to vote for a European candidate," said Mylaslava Holubyeva, 45, of Mykolayiv, as quoted by gazeta.ua. "Poroshenko acted as if he became president long ago."

Ultimately, the Ukrainian electorate heeded the advice of Mr. Poroshenko, who earned 9.85 million votes and finished in first place in each oblast. The candidate, who grew up in the Vinnytsia region, was most popular in the Lviv (70 percent), Vinnytsia (67 percent) and Ivano-Frankivsk (65 percent) oblasts.

"Voting for Poroshenko was rational and pragmatic," said Volodymyr Fesenko, the director of the Penta Center for Applied Political Research in Kyiv. "He's not seen as a savior or uniting figure. He's a compromise figure. Voters knew they needed someone to become president ASAP, someone who's experienced and pro-European. So there are no illusions as in 2004."

Mr. Poroshenko's role as a compromise figure is bolstered by his service in the last two presidential administrations.

Under Viktor Yanukovich, he served as economic development and trade minister. His biggest accomplishment was the July 2012 initialing of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area of the Ukraine-European Union Association Agreement.

Under Viktor Yushchenko, he served as foreign affairs minister and head of the National Security and Defense Council, a seven-month tenure that concluded with his notorious quarrel with Ms. Tymoshenko, prime minister at the time. They were jockeying for power, and Mr. Yushchenko decided to dismiss them both.

Ms. Tymoshenko enjoyed more popularity than Mr. Poroshenko until the Euro-Maidan, during which the popular appeal of the chocolate magnate (whose wealth is estimated at \$1 billion) suddenly surged.

He was actively involved, speaking from its stage and even inserting himself in conflicts to urge a peaceful resolution.

The failure of the leaders of the three pro-EU parties to offer leadership prompted voters to favor Mr. Poroshenko. Meanwhile, Ms. Tymoshenko failed to impress voters upon her release from prison.

She resorted to her standard emotionally charged rhetoric about fighting the oligarchs when voters were looking for stability, experts said.

"People associate this with tumult and lack of calm," Andrii Zolotariov, a political consultant who used to work for Ms. Tymoshenko, told gazeta.ua. "Poroshenko acted carefully and avoided boisterous statements. They associated him with calm and establishing some kind of order at least."

Ms. Tymoshenko wavered in her positions, he said, promising not to attack Mr. Poroshenko, then deciding to do so; vowing not to pursue an ad campaign, then flooding the streets with them during the last two weeks.

She switched her hairstyle on the eve of election day to a Babette hairstyle (which resembles a beehive) sported by Brigitte Bardot in the 1959 film, "Babette Goes to War." A last-ditch maneuver involved proposing a referendum for Ukraine to join NATO, after she spent her entire political career opposing the idea.

"She threw herself from one extreme to another as part of her desire to somehow catch a trend," Mr. Oleshchuk said. The result was her popularity plunging from the 2010 presidential election, when she earned 6.2 million votes in the first round, or 25 percent. This time, 2.3 million voters voted for her, with the strongest result coming from the Chernihiv and Chernivtsi oblasts (19 percent each).

To her credit, Ms. Tymoshenko immediately recognized Mr. Poroshenko's victory, in contrast to what happened in the 2010 presidential election. "That's the deed of a responsible politician," Mr. Fesenko said. "The candidate was able to keep her emotions under control."

Mr. Poroshenko's inauguration ceremony is scheduled for June 7 on the Maidan, whose tents, barricades and central stage remain mostly intact. Indeed Maidan leaders announced on May 28 that they would not disperse until all their demands were met, also demanding that the territory become a permanent, pedestrian zone that serves as an educational complex where civic organizations are based and operate.

Mr. Poroshenko's top priorities upon assuming the presidency will be to form a team to meet the expectations of the Maidan, experts said. The president-elect said he will keep Arseniy Yatsenyuk as prime minister.

(Continued on page 18)



Facebook/Petro Poroshenko

The Poroshenko family in a photo from February 2012: Maryna and Petro with their children, Oleksi, Yevheniya, Oleksandra and Mykhailo.



# Van Cliburn winner Kholodenko dazzles during Wesleyan concert

by Alexander Kuzma

MIDDLETOWN, Conn. – A near sell-out crowd filled Crowell Auditorium on the campus of Wesleyan University on February 14 to hear a dazzling performance by pianist Vadym Kholodenko, winner of the coveted Gold Medal in last year's Van Cliburn International Piano Competition.

Mr. Kholodenko mesmerized the audience with his rendition of the seldom heard "Forgotten Melodies" by Nikolai Medtner and "Four Ballades" by Johannes Brahms. Showing the crystal-clear technique and fearless innovation that has won him acclaim across the United States, Germany and Russia, Mr. Kholodenko brought the audience to its feet for three standing ovations.

Born in Kyiv 26 years ago, Mr. Kholodenko has performed with Maestro Leonard Slatkin, Yuri Bashmet and Vladimir Spivakov, among many other



Vadym Kholodenko (in tuxedo) greets members of Connecticut's Ukrainian American community following his triumphant concert at Wesleyan University.

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world-renowned conductors and virtuosi. In recognition of Valentine's Day, he ended the Wesleyan concert with the Kreisler arrangement of Rachmaninoff's "The Joy of Love" (Liebesfreud) that even many of the world's finest concert pianists do not dare to include in their repertoire for fear of its endless stream of treacherous passages.

Following the concert, Mr. Kholodenko attended a reception sponsored by the Ukrainian Self-Reliance New England Federal Credit Union of Hartford, where he signed autographs and charmed his admirers with his humble and approachable style.

Pamela Tatge, director of Wesleyan's Center for the Arts announced that Mr. Kholodenko's "truly historic" concert had attracted one of the largest crowds ever to Crowell Auditorium. She thanked Irene Oleksiak, the director of Wesleyan's Center for Creative Youth, and Prof. Katja Kolcio, the chairman of Wesleyan's Dance Program, for their assistance in promoting the concert and drawing so many first-time attendees to Crowell Auditorium.

## Ukrainian businessmen...

(Continued from page 2)

for demobilizing volunteers or incorporating them into regular forces, if Ukraine is to prevent any fragmentation of these units into politicized and territorialized paramilitary formations.

Privately financed, volunteer-staffed units are an emergency solution dictated by the inadequacy of Ukraine's own regular forces in the anti-terrorist operation in Donbas. The operation's immediate goal was to limit rebel interference with the May 25 presidential election, ensuring at least a decent turnout in at least some polling places. After the election, Ukrainian forces will have to isolate the Russian-held pockets, protect industrial and infrastructure assets, and prevent a spread of the insurgency within the Donbas and beyond that region. Mere containment, however, would invite heavier Russian pressure to "federalize" Ukraine or break up the country. Containment can be only a temporary expedient, pending a reorganization of Ukrainian security forces to conclusively defeat the rebels.

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# Sweet sorrow from the village: Trio Zozulka in concert

by Natalie Gawdiak

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – No microphones were needed when the three engaging young women who make up the Trio Zozulka performed at The Washington Group Cultural Fund's 2013-2014 season finale at the Lyceum in Alexandria, Va., on May 17. Maria Sonevytska, Eva Salina Primack and Willa Roberts opened their program with a full throated example of the little-known genre of Ukrainian village singing.

To an audience used to classic chamber performances at the Lyceum, the singers delivered a stunning blend of effortless harmony that ranged from typical folk vivaciousness to a haunting lyricism.

Zozulka is an outgrowth of the Ensemble Hilka, part of the Chornobyl Songs Project. Hilka was coached by Yevhen Yefremov of Kyiv who is the founder of the influential village style vocal group Drevo. The beauty of such lyric songs, specifically "Kalyna Malyna nad Yarom Stoyala," inspired the performers to form the Trio Zozulka.

In introducing the selections, Ms. Sonevytska, an ethnomusicologist, began by explaining that the "zozula," or cuckoo bird, is often the bearer of heartbreak, loss



The Trio Zozulka (from left): Maria Sonevytska, Eva Salina Primack and Willa Roberts at the Lyceum in Alexandria, Va., on May 17.

or bad luck. Although some light moments in the lyrics came across, such as the familiar problem of the difficult "svekrukha," the fabled tyrannical mother-in-law, the majority of songs in the trio's presentation were ones focused on unrequited love and love lost.

The sorrowful and plaintive nature of the songs reflected the release a village singer might have felt in singing them. The songs could be understood at the same time as a protest against the sorrows of fate and the pains of one's individual soul.

Most of the program's selections derived from the Poltava and Polissia regions of central and northern Ukraine, and traced songs typically sung during certain seasons. This multi-faceted group has in-depth experience in the vocal traditions of many countries, however, and all three have wide-ranging repertoires. It is to their credit that they have honed such skill in helping to preserve and to give life to such a precious element of Ukraine's music heritage.

## What to expect...

(Continued from page 3)

Equally importantly, Mr. Poroshenko was perhaps the only Ukrainian politician or interim government leader who has spoken publicly about the need "to provide security guarantees to all Donbas residents" ([http://www.ukrinform.ua/ukr/news/poroshenko\\_v\\_ukraini\\_zakinchitsya\\_viyina\\_1941914](http://www.ukrinform.ua/ukr/news/poroshenko_v_ukraini_zakinchitsya_viyina_1941914)). This political support of the population is, in fact, vital to a successful counter-insurgency operation.

Mr. Poroshenko has also promised to amend the Anti-Terrorist Operation. He said the ATO "will change cardinally. It will be more efficient and shorter. The equipment and terms of payment will change cardinally" ([http://www.ukrinform.ua/ukr/news/poroshenko\\_obitsyae\\_kardinalno\\_zminiti\\_ato\\_1941899](http://www.ukrinform.ua/ukr/news/poroshenko_obitsyae_kardinalno_zminiti_ato_1941899)).

There are certainly inherent risks in delivering on this promise, particularly because of Mr. Poroshenko's lack of hard security sector experience. Even though he was secretary of the National Security and Defense Council in 2005 under President Viktor Yushchenko, this was not the post he wanted; his position was probably masterminded by Yulia Tymoshenko. Ukrainian Policy Institute Director Kost Bondarenko told Jamestown on May 23 that the only security experience Mr. Poroshenko had at that time was successfully preventing a political crisis Ms. Tymoshenko sought to generate in August 2005. Ms. Tymoshenko allegedly conspired with some political activists of the 2004 Orange Revolution and certain security forces personnel, aiming to remove then-President Yushchenko from power and hold early presidential elections.

Mr. Poroshenko's strongest qualities seem to be his professional managerial approach, a fair degree of foreign policy pragmatism and his moderate nationalist stance. And, thanks to his robust, first-round victory, he can now also claim the people's trust, allowing him to act promptly and without hesitation to strengthen Ukraine's position.

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## Poroshenko...

(Continued from page 15)

Mr. Poroshenko will also have to resolve the separatist war in the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, experts said. At a May 26 press conference, he proposed conducting the anti-terrorist operation in a few hours, rather than several months. He said his first visit will be to the Donetsk Oblast.

Voter turnout was weakest in the oblasts of southeastern Ukraine, where a significant number of voters viewed the election as illegitimate, were indifferent or still recovering from the shock of the overthrow of the Yanukovych administration, or were prevented from voting, observers said.

Besides the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, where the vote was largely undermined, turnout was lowest in the Odesa (46 percent) and Kharkiv (48 percent) oblasts.

"The boycott of the election is the expression of the position of pro-Russian voters who haven't recognized the Kyiv government," Mr. Oleshchuk said.

The results were the weakest in the Luhansk Oblast, which registered a 39 percent turnout, and the Donetsk Oblast, with only a 15 percent turnout. Armed terrorists made it impossible to vote throughout the region by shutting down polling stations, destroying voting documents, and kidnapping election commissioners and even candidates, such as Andrii Iskra in the Donetsk Oblast town of Snizhne.

At 4 a.m. on May 24, five trucks and two cars carrying armed men crossed the Ukrainian border from Russia without permission from the State Border Service, reported the Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry.

"We have all the grounds to assert that this provocation occurred with the direct support and permissiveness of Russian border guards," the ministry said in a statement. "This invasion of Ukrainian territory by armed terrorists, organized by the Russian government, is nothing other than the latest act of aggression against our state and cynical disregard of the norms and principles of international law by Russia."

As a result of the chaos, only two of 12 districts in the Luhansk Oblast and seven out of 22 in the Donetsk Oblast reported results, according to the Central Election Commission. The terrorists had committed 62 crimes against district election commissioners already on the eve of the vote.

"Takeovers of polling stations, destruction of election documents and damaging of servers is occurring," Mykola Hoshovskyi, the head of the main administration of the Procurator General of Ukraine, said on May 24. "There are cases of kidnappings of election commission members; 612 criminal cases have been opened based on evidence related to separatism, violating Ukraine's territorial integrity, committing terrorist acts, and financing terrorism and separatism."

In the view of Ms. Siumar, the turnout

was impressive considering the terrorists aimed to disrupt the elections in all of eastern Ukraine.

She estimated that more than 1,000 polling stations were operating in the two oblasts, with some districts entirely unaffected by terrorism, such as Svatovo in the northern Ukrainian-speaking Slobozhanshchyna region of the Luhansk Oblast and Dobropillia on the western edge of the Donetsk Oblast.

More than 2,000 international observers monitored the election, led by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations (ENEMO).

A total of 236 observers represented the Ukrainian World Congress and 222 observers came with the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America delegation, forming the third-largest mission at 458 observers.

In their reports, observers all agreed that the elections were remarkably calm with no evidence of organized mass fraud or voter intimidation.

"I expected it to be tense, but it was surprisingly calm," said Jean-Pierre Pasternak, a French citizen who observed the vote in Kharkiv. He said the anti-Maidans organized on Saturday and Sunday, May 24-25, drew only a dozen people. "Too few people voted and many were indifferent. For me as an observer, it was too easy but that's good for Ukraine. It means there truly was a revolution," he said.

His wife, Natalia, led the UWC's French delegation that included 41 observers, two journalists and famous French philosopher Philippe de Lara. "They were impressed at how confident and calm the people were, as well as with their patriotism, as evidenced by the embroidered shirts being worn," she said.

Also attending the vote were U.S. Sens. Rob Portman (R-Ohio) and Benjamin Cardin (D-Md.), and Canadian Sen. Raynell Andreychuk of Saskatchewan, who addressed the UWC mission at its May 27 debriefing session at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy.

"Think back seven days when we came here. We were all worried about security and terrorist attacks," she said. "The Ukrainian people surprised us. There was calm and peace. The Ukrainian people spoke and we acted professionally. We watched them express their democratic will, and we could learn something from them."

Local elections were held to elect city councils and their heads in several key cities, including Kyiv, Odesa, Kherson and Cherkasy.

Vitali Klitschko, who withdrew his presidential candidacy to support Mr. Poroshenko, won the election for Kyiv City Council chair (mayor) with 56 percent of the vote, compared to 8 percent for the runner-up, 32-year-old Lesia Orobets, a national deputy, reported Opora, which conducted a parallel vote count.

The party he founded and leads, the Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reform (UDAR), won 39 percent of the seats for the Kyiv City Council, compared to 7 percent for runner-up Samopomich, a party founded and led by Lviv Mayor Andrii Sadovyi, according to Opora's parallel vote count.

The results confirmed that Mr. Klitschko will enjoy a large influence on politics in Kyiv, as well as a close relationship with the Presidential Administration.

"His alliance with Poroshenko helped," Mr. Oleshchuk said. "Plus there was a lack of serious competitors. Some were too old (Volodymyr Bondarenko, Oleksandr Omelchuk), some too young (Orobets) and others too marginal."

While the presidential election earned a clean bill, observers reported the local elections to be far more problematic.

Election commissions had to process as many as four ballots (for the president, city council, its head and district council), which created long waits at polling stations throughout Kyiv, many of which decided to allow voters to cast ballots for several hours after the 8 p.m. closing time that they had to arrive by.

The Democratic Alliance party said its votes were stolen in several precinct election commissions of the Solomianskyi district in Kyiv.

In Sumy, precinct election commissioners at 28 polling stations failed to include control reports in voting urns for the city council chair (mayor), Opora reported. These reports establish the number of ballots at a polling station at the start of election day and other key details.

Ilya Ryvkin, a UWC election observer from Germany, said he noticed at least 100 ballots for the city council head were destroyed at a polling station he visited in the Odesa Oblast. Yet he could not submit a report because the international observers could monitor only the presidential vote.



### THE UKRAINIAN MUSEUM'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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## Turning...

(Continued from page 6)

plotting assassinations. In May 2005, prosecutors questioned Mr. Yanukovych about his business dealings with Borys Kolesnikov, a jailed regional official from Zakarpattia, but no charges were filed.

Mr. Yanukovych, who had claimed that the action against him was politically motivated, said that the government was trying to humiliate and intimidate its opponents with the threat of criminal action.

Source: "Yanukovych appears for questioning and accuses administration of political persecution," by Olga Nuzhinskaya, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, June 12, 2005.

## From Obama's...

(Continued from page 6)

"And this mobilization of world opinion and international institutions served as a counterweight to Russian propaganda and Russian troops on the border and armed militias in ski masks.

"This weekend, Ukrainians voted by the millions. Yesterday, I spoke to their next president. We don't know how the situation will play out, and there will remain grave challenges ahead, but standing with our allies on behalf of international order, working with international institutions, has given a chance for the Ukrainian people to choose their future – without us firing a shot. ..."

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# OUT & ABOUT

- |                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| June 5<br>Washington        | Panel discussion, "If It's Not a Cold War, What Is It?"<br>Kennan Institute, Woodrow Wilson International Center for<br>Scholars, Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade<br>Center, 202-691-4000 or <a href="http://www.wilsoncenter.org">www.wilsoncenter.org</a> | June 8<br>Jamaica Plain, MA | Commemorative event, "Sviato Heroyiv" (Heroes of Ukraine),<br>Ukrainian American Youth Association - Boston branch,<br>Christ the King Ukrainian Catholic Church,<br><a href="mailto:bostonuaya@cym.org">bostonuaya@cym.org</a>                                                                                                                                                    |
| June 5-July 3<br>New York   | Art exhibit, "Faces of Ukraine 1950-1980, Highlights of<br>The Jurii Maniichuk and Rose Brady Collection,"<br>Ukrainian Institute of America, 212-288-8660                                                                                                                 | June 9<br>Washington        | Blood drive, "United with Revolutionary DNA,"<br>Ukrainians and Syrians unite for charity blood drive for<br>America, Razom for Ukraine, U.S.-Ukraine Business<br>Council and Syrian American Council, McPherson Metro<br>Station (orange line), Franklin Square,<br><a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/731847826848061">https://www.facebook.com/events/731847826848061</a> |
| June 6<br>Sherwood Park, AB | Golf tournament fund-raiser, Friends of Ukrainian Village<br>Society, Broadmoor Golf Course,<br><a href="http://www.friendsukrainianvillage.com">www.friendsukrainianvillage.com</a>                                                                                       | June 11-13<br>Cambridge, MA | Conference, "States, People, Languages: A Comparative<br>Political History of Ukrainian, 1863-2013," Harvard<br>University, 617-495-3549                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| June 6-7<br>Toronto         | Holodomor Workshop for Graduate Students and Early<br>Career Scholars, Holodomor Research and Education<br>Consortium, <a href="mailto:hrec@ualberta.ca">hrec@ualberta.ca</a>                                                                                              | June 13-15<br>Yonkers, NY   | Yonkers Ukrainian Festival, Ukrainian American Youth<br>Association, St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church,<br><a href="http://www.yonkersukrainianfestival.org">www.yonkersukrainianfestival.org</a>                                                                                                                                                                              |
| June 7<br>Ambler, PA        | Golf tournament and banquet, Ukrainian American Sports<br>Center Tryzub, Limekiln Golf Club, <a href="http://www.tryzub.org">www.tryzub.org</a>                                                                                                                            | June 13-July 27<br>Chicago  | Art exhibit, "Morris Barazani: Shoots Straight, 1948-<br>2014," Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, 773-227-5522                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| June 7<br>Ottawa            | Ukrainian School graduation dance, Ottawa School of<br>Ukrainian Studies, Museum of Science and Technology,<br>613-739-9185                                                                                                                                                | June 14<br>Passaic, NJ      | Commemorative event, "Family Portrait," New Ukrainian<br>Wave, St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church,<br><a href="http://www.stnicholasucc.org">www.stnicholasucc.org</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| June 7<br>Cleveland         | End of Year Concert, "Finale 2014," Kashtan School of<br>Ukrainian Dance, St. Ignatius High School Breen Center for<br>the Performing Arts, 440-728-4483 or <a href="http://www.kashtan.org">www.kashtan.org</a>                                                           | June 15<br>Horsham, PA      | Father's Day Ukrainian Fest, featuring stage show, soccer<br>tournament regional finals and dance, Tryzubivka -<br>Ukrainian American Sports Center, 215-362-5331 or<br><a href="mailto:eluciw@comcast.net">eluciw@comcast.net</a>                                                                                                                                                 |
| June 7<br>New York          | Concert, "In Our Time," featuring Bandura Downtown in<br>conjunction with the exhibit "Taras Shevchenko: Poet,<br>Artist, Icon," The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110 or<br><a href="http://www.ukrainianmuseum.org">www.ukrainianmuseum.org</a>                             | June 20<br>Mundare, AB      | Ed Stelmach Charity Golf Tournament, Ukrainian Resource<br>and Development Center at MacEwan University,<br>Whitetail Crossing Golf Course, 780-497-4373                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| June 7-8<br>Jenkintown, PA  | Ukrainian Summer Festival, St. Michael Ukrainian<br>Catholic Church, 215-576-5827                                                                                                                                                                                          |                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| June 7-8<br>Calgary, AB     | Calgary Ukrainian Festival, Acadia Recreation Complex,<br><a href="http://www.calgaryukrainianfestival.ca">www.calgaryukrainianfestival.ca</a> or<br><a href="mailto:info@calgaryukrainianfestival.ca">info@calgaryukrainianfestival.ca</a>                                |                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

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](mailto:mdubas@ukrweekly.com).



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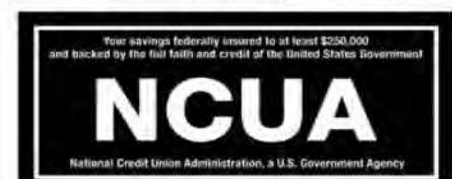
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## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

### Saturday, June 7

**NEW YORK:** Join us at 7 p.m. for "In Our Time," the final Bandura Downtown concert of the 2013-2014 season presented by New York Bandura and The Ukrainian Museum in conjunction with the exhibition "Taras Shevchenko: Poet, Artist, Icon." Musical director Julian Kytasty will be joined by Bandura Downtown regulars – singer and multi-instrumentalist Michael Alpert, dancer Inka Juslin and lutenist Roman Turovsky – and other special guests to perform new work and revisit old songs that have gained fresh meaning from the tumultuous events of the last six months in Ukraine. Admission includes reception and gallery access): \$15; \$10 for members, seniors; \$5 for students. To order tickets log on to [www.ukrainian-museum.org](http://www.ukrainian-museum.org) or call 212-228-0110. The Ukrainian Museum is located at 222 E. Sixth St.

### Friday-Sunday, June 13-15

**YONKERS, N.Y.:** The Ukrainian Heritage Festival in Yonkers, N.Y., is celebrating its 29th year this Father's Day weekend and extending a welcome to everyone within Westchester and the surrounding area to sample Ukrainian customs, culture and cuisine.

There will be three days of Ukrainian food (varenyky, holubtsi, kovbasa, borshch, etc.) and American favorites (hot dogs and hamburgers), music, dance, carnival rides (on Saturday there are one-price bracelets on sale for multiple rides at 1-4 p.m.), attractions and crafts sales. Entertainment includes live stage performances with dancers, singers, comedians and bands. For more information see <http://www.yonkersukrainianfestival.org> or call 914-310-0551.

### 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, the 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. Admission and parking are free on both days. For information call 215-362-5331 or e-mail [eluciw@comcast.net](mailto:eluciw@comcast.net). Also, check out the website [www.tryzub.org](http://www.tryzub.org), or the Facebook page Tryzub UkrainianClub.

## PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

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

Preview items must be received no later than one week before the desired date of publication. Items will be published only once, unless otherwise indicated. Please include payment for each time the item is to appear and indicate date(s) of issue(s) in which the item is to be published.

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

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# Yonkers Ukrainian Heritage Festival

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



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

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

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

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