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# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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## Canadian medical mission to Ukraine performs complex surgeries on Euro-Maidan's injured

by Laryssa Waler

TORONTO – A specialized team of Canadian health professionals recently returned home after completing a medical mission in Ukraine during which, working alongside Ukrainian doctors and nurses, they performed reconstructive complex surgical procedures on victims of the Euro-Maidan movement and Vladimir Putin's invasion into eastern Ukraine.

The mission was organized by the Canada Ukraine Foundation and Operation Rainbow Canada, under the patronage of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress. The medical team of 25 professionals was composed entirely of volunteers and included

surgeons, anesthetists and nurses. The team was assembled from across Canada, including Victoria and Vancouver, British Columbia; Edmonton, Alberta; Winnipeg, Manitoba; and Toronto.

Over 60 patients from across Ukraine with complex post-traumatic defects and deformities were seen in consultation. A total of 37 reconstructive procedures were performed in 30 patients. These included: seven skull reconstructions; 10 bony reconstructions of the facial skeleton; nine soft tissue reconstructions of the eyelids, nose, lips; five burn and scar revisions; and six upper extremity reconstructions

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Roman Waschuk, ambassador of Canada to Ukraine, with members of the Canadian and Ukrainian medical team.

## Ukrainian Days event stresses urgency of situation in Ukraine



Matthew Dubas

A delegation of Ukrainian Americans from New Jersey during the Ukrainian Days event in Washington.

by Matthew Dubas

WASHINGTON – The Ukrainian Days advocacy event on November 18-19 on Capitol Hill attracted dozens of Ukrainian Americans as they expressed their concerns about the ongoing crisis in Ukraine at the offices of their respective Congressmen and senators. The event was sponsored by the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS) and the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) with assistance from the newly established Ad Hoc Committee on Ukraine (AHCU).

Proposed legislation includes S 2828 (Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014), HR 5190 (Ukraine Security Assistance Act of 2014) and S 2238/HR 5241 (Crimean Annexation Non-recognition Act). There is also work being done to have the United

States designate Ukraine as a Major non-NATO ally (MNNA), which will facilitate the U.S. to support Ukraine with military supplies, arms, increased border security and other areas of cooperation.

On Wednesday, November 19, Ukrainian Americans met in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee room with staffers from Sen. Robert Menendez's office and advisors to the Foreign Relations Committee. Jodi Herman, foreign policy and trade advisor to Sen. Menendez, who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, reported that S 2828 had passed unanimously in committee voting 18-0 in September. The legislation is pending submission to the Senate floor due to resolution of budgetary issues and provisions for

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## Holodomor tragedy haunts memory of Zhytomyr doctor

by Zenon Zawada

LIUBAR, Ukraine – Dr. Hryhorii Osypenko remembers that he had an older brother Mykhailo. During the frigid autumn of 1932, his mother sent Mykhailo to a field to find any frozen or rotten potatoes that hadn't yet been dug up.

"It was pretty far and it was cold already," Dr. Osypenko recalled, having been 7 years old at the time. "And he rested at a haycock and froze to death there. But we didn't know where he was or what happened to him."

By springtime, some boys who were tilling the field found Mykhailo's body and buried him there, placing his cap on a stake to mark the spot, Dr. Osypenko said. "There was a bag near him and it was empty," he said. "Everyone wanted to eat something in those days. So probably someone ate those potatoes."



Zenon Zawada

Dr. Hryhorii Osypenko, 89, stands in front of his house and outdoor cellar on the same land in the Zhytomyr region from which he and his family were evicted by the Communists during the Holodomor. He lost two of his brothers in the genocidal famine.

Dr. Osypenko, 89, is among the rapidly diminishing number of Holodomor survivors who can offer such testimony of the Soviet genocide of the Ukrainian people.

Among the latest estimates, offered in 2008 by then-Vice Prime Minister Ivan Vasiunyk, was 168,812 survivors still alive – a number that has since diminished. To offer any recollection of the event, one would have to be no younger than 84 (born in 1930).

Ukrainians say only those with the strongest immunity survived the Holodomor, and there may be no better example than Dr. Osypenko, born on February 8, 1925, who still walks 30 minutes a day to catch a ride to his job as an infectologist (infectious disease specialist) in the district hospital in the town of Liubar, on the southwestern edge of the Zhytomyr Oblast.

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## ANALYSIS

# With Ukraine going strong, Putin becomes lost in fog of hybrid war

by Pavel Baev

Eurasia Daily Monitor

Last weekend (November 21), Ukraine marked the first anniversary of the Euro-Maidan – the public protests in Kyiv that lasted through the hard winter of discontent and brought down the corrupt regime of Viktor Yanukovich on February 21. As its war for state survival continues to rage, the country is in no mood for street festivities. Nevertheless, the Euro-Maidan clearly still drives Ukraine's policy, as was illustrated by the formation of a broad governing coalition pledging to restore the country's territorial integrity and deepen its pro-Western orientation, including the goal of joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) (Gazeta.ru, November 21).

United States Vice-President Joe Biden was in Kyiv to express full support for reforms and to warn Russia against further violations of Ukraine's sovereignty, which would be punished by new sanctions (Lenta.ru, November 21).

This warning was reinforced by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, who checked the deployment of new military assets in Lithuania and confirmed that the Alliance was carefully monitoring the movements of Russian troops and heavy weapons in eastern Ukraine (Newsru.com, November 21).

Russia's leadership shows little interest in reflecting on the chain of miscalculations that started with the decision to forbid Ukraine to sign an Association Agreement with the European Union in November 2013. Moscow is now at a deadlock where it can neither afford to annex the rebel-held territory around Donetsk and Luhansk, nor abandon it (Forbes.ru, November 19).

President Vladimir Putin held a meeting of his Security Council last week and ordered to effectuate a strategy of pre-emptive measures against extremism exemplified by "color revolutions," which were

propagated by "anti-national thinking" about "a violent overthrow of the existing regime" (Kommersant, November 21). This discourse betrays deepening fear about a sudden explosion of mass protests, which would break through the shields of the OMON (Russian riot police), despite the fact that Russia is one of the most heavily policed states in the world (Moscow Echo, November 22). Meanwhile, Foreign Affairs Minister Sergei Lavrov showed a different side of the same fear, arguing that Western sanctions are aimed at "regime change" in Russia by ruining its economy (RIA Novosti, November 22).

The economy is indeed sinking into a recession so fast that the government is unable to produce any meaningful set of guidelines for Mr. Putin's annual address (due on December 4) and all its ministers could be collectively sacked, according to informed insiders such as Alexei Kudrin (RBC, November 22). The state budget for 2015, approved by the State Duma last week, is based on the premise of oil prices at \$100 per barrel and envisages growth in the range of 3.3 to 1.2 percent, so the inevitability of severe cuts in expenditures is beyond doubt (Slon.ru, November 21).

Liberal economists, who try to preserve the goals of modernization and seek to curb inflation, are increasingly marginalized by traditionalists who demand a "patriotic" mobilization of economic resources (Novaya Gazeta, November 19). Their prescriptions for rigid control over prices and capital flows fit well with the political discourse on confronting the hostile West, but the problem is that such state-owned giants as Rosneft or VTB Bank, controlled by Mr. Putin's associates, are not at all interested in such mobilization and, for that matter, refuse to work in the newly annexed Crimea (Moscow Echo, November 21).

(Continued on page 12)

## Agreement reached on new coalition

RFE/RL

KYIV – Ukraine's newly agreed five-party ruling coalition has reportedly set the country's membership of NATO as its major goal.

The coalition comprises the Petro Poroshenko Bloc, the People's Front, Self-Reliance, the Radical Party and Batkivshchyna.

The five pro-Western parties that passed the 5 percent threshold in last month's parliamentary elections control a total of 288 seats in 421-seat Verkhovna Rada.

They reportedly hammered out a draft agreement early on November 21, after hours – and indeed weeks – of negotiations. The official signing of the coalition agreement was expected to take place at the first session of the new Parliament scheduled for November 27.

Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk said at a ceremony to initial the document that the coalition would be made up of 300 legislators out of a total of 450 seats. He also said that new Cabinet would be established in 10 days, adding that preparation of the agenda of the new government was under way.

Ukrainian media reports cite participants as saying that besides joining NATO the coalition also agreed that the return of

Russian-occupied Crimea under Ukrainian control will be one of its major goals.

It also mentioned as a priority the protection of the legal interests of Crimean Tatars, as well as all Ukrainian citizens living in "occupied territories."

The parties also agreed on working together toward Ukraine's integration into the European Union.

The coalition called for permanent military bases in the country's east, where the Ukrainian army is fighting a pro-Russia insurgency, and for the allocation of at least 3 percent of the nation's gross domestic product for defense.

Additionally, the parties agreed to cancel immunity for lawmakers, reform the election system, ban Soviet and Nazi symbols, and decentralize the power structure.

The parties also agreed to thoroughly investigate the killings of protesters on Kyiv's Maidan in February of this year.

The United States and other Western governments have criticized Kyiv for failing to put together a government following the pre-term parliamentary elections in October and putting on hold needed reforms linked to Western aid.

With reporting by UNIAN, liga.net, Interfax and pravda.ua.com.

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Poroshenko likens Holodomor to war in east

KYIV – Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko compared the Holodomor of 1932-1933 with the current war in eastern Ukraine, saying the war is a continuation of imperial genocide against the Ukrainian people. He spoke in Kyiv as he laid a wreath in memory of the victims of the Famine-Genocide during a ceremony at the Holodomor memorial in the Ukrainian capital on November 22. This was the date Ukraine had chosen to mark 81 years since the Stalin-era Holodomor that killed millions of people in Ukraine. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by ukrnews.com and united-humanrights.org)

### Kyiv remembers start of Euro-Maidan

KYIV – Ukrainians are marked a new national holiday on November 21 – the anniversary of the start of the Euro-Maidan protests that led to the ouster of the country's former pro-Kremlin regime. President Petro Poroshenko signed decree on November 13 that declared the holiday for annual "Day of Dignity and Freedom" commemorations. The protests began with a few hundred people who met spontaneously on a vast square in central Kyiv of November 21, 2013 – disappointed by then-President Viktor Yanukovich's rejection of a landmark deal with the European Union in favor of closer ties with Russia. After that first night, as the protests quickly swelled to tens of thousands of demonstrators, brutal police efforts to disperse the crowds with batons and teargas backfired. As the crowds got bigger, the protesters began to call for President Yanukovich's ouster – which came in February of this year, after more than 100 people were killed in clashes with police that failed to end the demonstrations. (RFE/RL)

### Russia warns U.S. on aid to Ukraine

MOSCOW – Russia warned the United States on November 20 against supplying arms to Ukrainian forces. Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman Aleksandr Lukashevich cautioned against "a major change in policy of the [U.S.] administration in regard to the conflict" in Ukraine. He was

commenting on remarks by U.S. President Barack Obama's choice to fill the number two spot at the State Department, Anthony Blinken, who told a congressional hearing on November 19 that lethal assistance "remains on the table. It's something that we're looking at." The U.S. State Department's Director of Press Relations Jeffrey Rathke on November 20 told reporters that "our position on lethal aid hasn't changed. Nothing is off the table and we continue to believe there's no military solution." He added, "But, in light of Russia's actions as the nominee mentioned yesterday in his testimony, as he indicated, this is something that we should be looking at." Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, during a visit to Washington in September, appealed for lethal aid – a request echoed by some U.S. lawmakers in response to what NATO allies say is Russia's movement of tanks and troops into eastern Ukraine. Reporting on U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden's November 20-21 visit to Kyiv, The Washington Post noted: "In private meetings with Poroshenko and Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk, Biden also again told the Ukrainians that the United States had made no decisions on the country's long-standing request for lethal military equipment to combat the separatists, according to senior administration officials traveling with the vice president." Previous nonlethal aid to Ukraine included military equipment such as counter-mortar detection units, body armor, binoculars, small boats and other gear for Ukraine's security forces and border guards in the east. (RFE/RL)

### Savchenko to represent Rada in PACE

KYIV – Ukrainian politician Yulia Tymoshenko says Nadiya Savchenko, the Ukrainian military pilot who is in Russian custody, will represent the Verkhovna Rada in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). Ms. Tymoshenko, a former prime minister who heads the Batkivshchyna party, made the statement at a November 21 ceremony in which pro-Western parties in Ukraine's Parliament initialed a coalition agreement. 1st Lt. Savchenko, a member of Batkivshchyna, is

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# Faces of the Maidan: Where are they now?

by Iryna Stelmakh and  
Tom Balmforth  
RFE/RL

Kyiv's Euro-Maidan protests began a year ago on November 21 and continued for months, through the cold winter of 2013-2014. During the long, tense days of waiting and of celebrating genuine people power on Kyiv's Independence Square, the world had the chance to meet many of the faces of Ukraine, ordinary citizens who refused to stay home as well as political leaders and celebrities.

Some stories are well-known. Former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich fled to Russia in February and made occasional press statements in the ensuing months. His former prime minister, Mykola Azarov, is also in Russia. He has reportedly bought a lavish mansion outside of Moscow and has been seen consulting with members of the Russian State Duma. The Ukrainian Internal Affairs Ministry has said that both Messrs. Yanukovich and Azarov have been granted Russian citizenship and authorities in Ukraine are investigating charges that both men continue to receive Ukrainian pensions.

To mark the first anniversary of the beginning of the protest that transformed Ukraine, RFE/RL caught up with some of the people we met during those icy, heady days and find out what they are doing now and how they look back on their time at the center of the world's attention.

## "All Ukraine is here"

Maryna Sochenko and her sketchbook were permanent features of the Maidan from the first day. Now, a year later, she flips quickly through an endless pile of canvasses and drawings in her Kyiv studio. She is marking the first anniversary of the protests with an exhibition of her portraits of the faces of Maidan.

"There were so many different types of people," she says. "The most interesting thing is the geography, of course. I didn't go looking for people. They came to find me. This one is from Sevastopol. This one from Kherson. Here is a journalist from Kyiv. All of Ukraine is here."

Looking back after a year, Ms. Sochenko thinks maybe the protesters should have been more active, more decisive. "I think we

shouldn't have sung so long on the square, but we should have gone and thrown them out of their offices, ushered in some new people," she says. "We should have made a real revolution."

Since she left the Maidan, Ms. Sochenko has battled depression, working through her feelings in her art. She remembers the tense times when the Berkut riot police announced they would clear the square and protesters waited in the night.

She remembers how the protesters stood their ground then and draws parallels with what is going on now in the fight against pro-Russian separatists and their Russian supporters in eastern Ukraine.

"We are stronger because we are right," she says. "That is why we are stronger. God is on the side of those who are right, who are defending their land. They are not right – they have come here and they can feel that they are not in the right. When they are captured, they can't understand what they are doing here at all. They have no moral justification, just as they didn't in Afghanistan. That's why they lost there – because they weren't fighting for anything."

## "People are ready to pitch in"

During the protests, Nazariy Boyarskyi worked for Euro-Maidan SOS, a group that organized a volunteer initiative to track down the dozens of people who went missing during the demonstrations. He estimates that approximately 30 people are still unaccounted for.

He continues to work as a human rights advocate and says that the spirit of cooperative public involvement that was born on the Maidan continues to this day.

"You can see it in the eyes of the volunteers who come in to help, beginning with the talented lawyers who work for us for free to help detainees and going all the way to the wonderful woman who comes to us to make us lunch," he says. "You can feel from these examples that people are ready not just to sympathize, but to pitch in. And that is the most vivid impression of the last year for me."

Last year, Mr. Boyarskyi marked his 25th birthday on the Maidan on November 30, a dramatic day on which Berkut forces attacked protesters.

This year, he anticipates a more relaxed celebration aimed at making up for lost time. "I'll spend the evening together with my

closest friends and relatives because over the last year, unfortunately, my friends and relatives suffered the most because I didn't have time for them," he says. "So now, I want to see them."

## "I used to be timid"

Halyna Trofanyuk, who cooked for the demonstrators, was changed by the three months she spent at the Maidan protest in Kyiv last year.

"I used to be timid," she says. "But you'd better not mess with me now. If necessary, I can get people behind me and convince them that you have to fight for what you need and not wait to see what others give you."

Her broad, kind smile was a landmark at the Kolomyia tent, although it was often obscured by clouds of steam rising from cooking pots.

Her fellow protesters took to calling her "Mama" because of her astonishing knack for quickly putting together hot meals for large numbers of people. When she returned to the village of Rosokhach, Ms. Trofanyuk was something of a celebrity. She was invited to speak at the village club and a Ukrainian flag that she brought back from the square still hangs there.

Slowly, Ms. Trofanyuk's life has returned to normal. Her daughter, who was with her on the Maidan, has married and had a son, conceived during the protests. "A little Maidanovets," she smiles.

She continues to travel to Poland for seasonal work. She contributes to the army and regularly donates blood.

But she can't hide a measure of disappointment as well and fears that Ukraine's politicians have not learned the lessons of the protest movement.

"There could be another Maidan if the politicians don't understand the chaos they are creating," Ms. Trofanyuk says. "People are getting ready for the worst, and they have become disillusioned even with the Maidan."

"We need wise politicians so that people can really see that their sons are not dying for nothing," she says.

## "The feeling remains"

On a cold day in late December, university student Sofia Marchenko was handing out patriotically themed biscuits to Maidan protesters.

"I think sweets always raise people's spirits," Ms. Marchenko told RFE/RL at the time. "I love seeing people smile as they take the biscuits, as they express thanks and say how tasty they are."

Now 19, Ms. Marchenko has resumed her studies and continues to develop her small baked-goods business. But her memories of the Maidan remain fresh.

"The most vivid memory isn't one particular moment when something happened or someone said something," she says. "There isn't that sort of thing. But I really remember the general mood when everyone who was there became sort of one big family and everyone tried to help one another."

Despite bitter cold and her parents' fears about the danger, Mr. Marchenko went to the Maidan several times to hand out her baked goods. She also collected money and much-needed items for the protesters throughout the demonstration.

A year later, she continues this activity – selling her biscuits at fairs and participating in other activities to support the Ukrainian army's operations against the separatists in the eastern Donbas region.

The spirit of family that was born on the Maidan, she says, lives on among her circle of university friends.

"I still feel it," she says. "I don't know about other people, but among me and my friends, the feeling remains."

She's fatalistic about the Maidan, convinced that the protest had to happen exactly as it did and when it did. She says that the experience changed her and many – but not all – Ukrainians.

"Among us [Maidan veterans], there has been a change in our way of thinking," she says. "Now people don't think about what Ukraine can give them but about what they can give Ukraine. And I think that is the foundation of love of one's country. Not, what can I get, but what can I give? And my disappointment is that a lot of people still don't understand this."

Robert Coalson contributed to this report.

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# In Kyiv, Biden tells Putin: "Do what you agreed to do"

RFE/RL

KYIV – Visiting Kyiv on November 20-21, U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden said "it is unacceptable in the 21st century for countries to attempt to redraw borders by force in Europe or intervene militarily because they don't like a decision their neighbors have made."

Speaking alongside Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko on November 21, he also said if Russia would fulfill commitments it made in Minsk to end the crisis in Ukraine and would respect the country's territorial integrity, "we could begin a rational discussion about sanctions." But instead, he said, "we have seen blatant disregard of the [Minsk] agreement by Moscow."

"Do what you agreed to do, Mr. Putin," Mr. Biden said.

The U.S. vice-president was in Ukraine as the country marked the first anniversary of the start of protests that led to the ouster of the country's former pro-Kremlin regime.

Mr. Biden also said Washington does not and will not recognize Russia's annexation of Crimea and will insist others also do not recognize it. He called Russia's annexation



U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko in Kyiv.

of the peninsula and its backing for separatist rebels in eastern Ukraine a "flagrant violation of the bedrock principles of the international system."

The vice-president who arrived in Kyiv late on November 20, also urged Ukrainians to form a new government in "days not weeks" following recent elec-

tions, which he said were free and fair.

He called on the new government to work toward greater integration with Europe and work for Ukraine's democratic and economic future. He said so long as Kyiv does that, the United States will be "at your side."

Mr. Biden's visit came as Ukrainians marked a new national holiday commemo-

rating the start of the Euro-Maidan protests a year ago. Dozens of people gathered on November 21 in Independence Square, laying flowers at shrines to the more than 100 people who died in protests that started on the same day in 2013.

When President Poroshenko laid a candle at one of the shrines, some mourners frustrated by the authorities' failure to bring officials of the previous government to justice over the deaths shouted "Shame!" "Who is a hero for you, Poroshenko?" and "Where are their killers?" They also heckled him for failing to keep a promise to confer the title of national hero on the victims, which would bring financial benefits to their families.

The Washington Post reported that Vice-President Biden – who was to have joined the Ukrainian president at the makeshift shrine, but was unable to do so because of security concerns – later paid his respects at another memorial to the heroes of the Euro-Maidan.

Based on reporting by Reuters, Agence France-Presse, the Associated Press, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service and The Washington Post.



# Commemoration on Parliament Hill marks 81st anniversary of Holodomor

OTTAWA – On November 19, to mark Holodomor Awareness Week, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) in cooperation with the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group (CUPFG) and the Embassy of Ukraine in Canada held a solemn commemoration of the 81st anniversary of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 on Parliament Hill.

The commemoration was opened by master of ceremonies James Bezan, a member of Parliament and the parlia-



At the Holodomor commemoration on Parliament Hill (from left) are: Ukrainian Canadian Congress President Paul Grod, Minister Jason Kenney, Member of Parliament James Bezan and Ambassador Vadym Prystaiko of Ukraine.

mentary secretary to the minister of national defense, whose sincere and dignified remarks ingrained a somber but memorable message in the hearts of those in attendance. The Rev. Michael Winn of the Archeparchy of Winnipeg, who is rector of the Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Seminary, and the Rev. Ihor Okhrimchouk of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Ottawa, led the group in prayer as well as the singing of "Vichnaya Pamiat" (Eternal memory).

The speakers at the service included Andrew Scheer, speaker of the House of Commons; Jason Kenney, minister of employment and social development and multiculturalism; and Members of Parliament Linda Duncan and Chrystia Freeland. In addition Ukraine's Ambassador to Canada Vadym Prystaiko addressed the gathering.

UCC President Paul Grod spoke on behalf of the Ukrainian Canadian community, and praised the government of Canada and all parliamentarians for their support in acknowledging the Holodomor. "Stalin launched his assault on Ukraine because he knew that Ukraine was resistant to centralized rule, that Ukrainians were attached to their land and their traditions, and that Ukrainians could challenge Bolshevism and even cause it to collapse," he noted.

"Today, Russia's President Vladimir Putin fears the attachment of Ukrainians to ideas of freedom, democracy and the West," Mr. Grod continued. "In fact Putin's regime,



The Revs. Michael Winn (left) and Ihor Okhrimchouk lead the assembled in prayer.

as did Stalin's, cynically deny the very existence of a separate Ukrainian people."

Other honored guests in attendance included: Shelly Glover, minister of Canadian heritage and official languages; Sens. Raynell Andreychuk and David Tkachuk; Members of Parliament Mark Warawa, Mike Wallace, Wladyslaw Lizon, Robert Sopuck, Peter Stoffer, Joy Smith, Irwin Cotler and Russ Hiebert.

Holodomor survivor Dr. Julia Woychysyn lit the ceremonial candle, and Michael Hrycak read the names of the victims from the "Book of Memory."

## Sen. Andreychuk honored for promoting recognition of Holodomor as genocide

OTTAWA – The League of Ukrainian Canadians on November 19 awarded Sen. Raynell Andreychuk with the Mikhnovsky Medal of Merit for her contribution towards a universal recognition of the Ukrainian Holodomor of 1932-1933 as an act of genocide by famine.

"I am humbled by this acknowledgment," said Sen. Andreychuk, who was also made an honorary member of the League of Ukrainian Canadians. "As we prepare to commemorate the seventh Holodomor Memorial Day this Saturday, I am proud that the Ukrainian Canadian community has helped raise awareness about the Holodomor amongst all Canadians."

The award was presented at a small ceremony on Parliament Hill. It was attended by Orest Steciw, president, and Borys Mykhaylets, vice-president of the League of Ukrainian Canadians.

"Sen. Andreychuk has been instrumental in initiating the process of Holodomor recognition on Parliament Hill, and we are

eternally grateful to her for this," said Mr. Steciw.

Sen. Andreychuk introduced the resolution on Holodomor Ukraine Famine/Genocide in the Senate, which was adopted on June 19, 2003. She also sponsored Bill C-459, an act to establish a Ukrainian Famine and Genocide ("Holodomor") Memorial Day and to recognize the Ukrainian Famine of 1932-33 as an act of genocide, which received Royal Assent in May 2008.

The Mikhnovsky Medal of Merit is awarded to individuals for their enduring and outstanding service to community and humanitarian causes. It was created by the League of Ukrainian Canadians and the League of Ukrainian Canadian Women in honor of the renowned Ukrainian political leader, jurist and publicist Mykola Mikhnovsky (1873-1924), whose pivotal treatise, "Independent Ukraine," earned his place in history as the father of the modern Ukrainian liberation movement.



Sen. Raynell Andreychuk (center) receives the Mikhnovsky Medal of Merit from Borys Mykhaylets (left) and Orest Steciw, vice-president and president, respectively, of the League of Ukrainian Canadians.

## Canadian medical...

(Continued from page 1)

"This mission focused on post-traumatic defects and deformities, many of which were horrific. Most resulted from explosive blast wounds and high-velocity missile wounds. The patients presented major reconstructive challenges," said Dr. Oleh Antonyshyn, head of the Adult Craniofacial Program at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Center and professor of plastic surgery,

University of Toronto.

"The surgical procedures were complex, technically demanding, and time-consuming, some lasting for as many as seven hours. We hope to return in the near future and continue to work with our Ukrainian counterparts to provide the best possible care to those injured in the current crisis," he noted.

The medical mission spanned 10 days (including travel), November 6-16. The Canada Ukraine Foundation had traveled to Ukraine in the spring on a medical needs

fact-finding mission aimed at studying how best to help those in need.

Funding for the mission came from "United for Ukraine," a gala fund-raiser organized by the Canada Ukraine Foundation and held in September in Toronto.

"The attendance of Prime Minister Stephen Harper at our gala was vitally important and speaks to his ongoing leadership in supporting Ukraine," said Eugene Melnyk, who served as the gala's diamond sponsor and is also a member of the Advisory Council of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress. "With the support of more than 1,200 people and special guests like the prime minister and Wayne Gretzky, we were able to raise the much-needed funds to support this very important humanitarian initiative."

"This mission was groundbreaking in terms of the collaboration between medical professionals in Ukraine and Canada," continued Dr. Antonyshyn. "To be welcomed into the surgical theaters and entrusted with the care of patients in another country is truly a privilege. This mission has allowed us to establish critical relations with medical professionals and health administrators in Ukraine, and provides a foundation for future collaborations in health delivery and surgical education."

The Canada Ukraine Foundation expressed thanks for the support of Stryker

Canada, which awarded the mission a grant for virtually all surgical hardware and implant materials for the medical procedures; and to Operation Rainbow Canada for providing guidance in terms of planning a mission of this scale.

"From a fund-raising perspective, 'United for Ukraine' was an incredible success, bringing in more than \$200,000," said Victor Hetmanczuk, president of the Canada Ukraine Foundation. "We are looking at the feasibility of a second mission, and it looks very promising."

The Canada Ukraine Foundation also expressed gratitude to the sponsors of 'United for Ukraine,' who made this medical mission possible. They included: Mr. Melnyk, Canadian Tire, Molson Coors Canada, the Temerty family, the Ihnatowycz family, Bell Media, The Globe and Mail, The National Post, the Jacyk Foundation, the Ukrainian Credit Union, Buduchnist Credit Union, Buduchnist Foundation, Caravan Logistics, Yarcia Huculak and family, CIBC, Manulife and Community Trust Credit Union.

The Canada Ukraine Foundation ([www.cufoundation.ca](http://www.cufoundation.ca)) was established by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress to coordinate, develop, organize and deliver assistance projects generated by Canadians and directed to Ukraine. It is a registered charitable foundation.



Dr. Oleh Antonyshyn and Dr. Ulana Kawun of Toronto review x-rays with fellow members of the medical mission.





# THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

## Four generations of UNA'ers

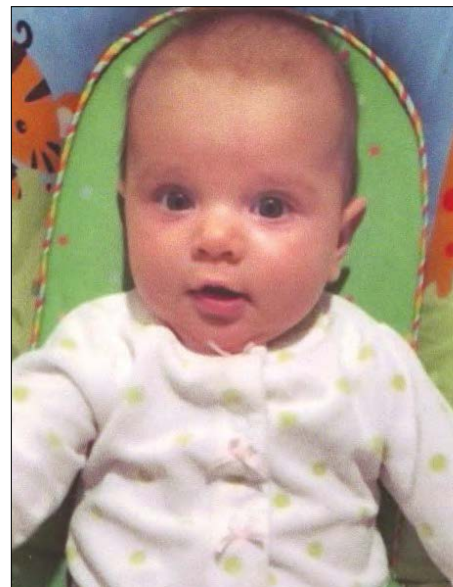


Peter Serba, secretary of UNA Branch 173 in Wilmington, Del., since 1954, proudly purchased an endowment policy for his great granddaughter Zoe Ann Zetterstrom. Zoe's parents, Diana and Paul Zetterstrom, are members of Branch 173. Zoe's grandfather, UNA Auditor Eugene Serba, and her uncle, Greg Serba, also are members of Branch 173. Pictured above at Zoe's baptism on October 5 are (from left): Greg Serba, Diana Zetterstrom, Zoe Zetterstrom, Eugene Serba and Peter Serba. Throughout the years, Peter Serba has purchased endowment policies for all the members of his family as a means of funding their college education. Both his son and grandchildren used the endowments to assist in paying for college and graduate school. The patriarch of the Serba family says he feels it is an excellent means to provide a basis for college funding and encourages all members of the UNA to consider using UNA products to supplement a financial portfolio.

## Young UNA'ers



Andrew Joseph Maliczyszyn, son of Michael and Amanda Maliczyszyn of Flemington, N.Y., is a new member of UNA Branch 234. He was enrolled by his grandparents Theresa and Walter Maliczyszyn.



Kalyna Nadia Pylyp, daughter of Tania and Yura Pylyp of Lexington, Mass., is a new member of UNA Branch 171. She was enrolled by Nina Wedmid.

**Do you have a young UNA'er,  
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## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

## GUEST EDITORIAL: Ukraine's Revolution of Dignity

*The guest editorial below is from a statement released by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America on November 21, on the first anniversary of the beginning of the Euro-Maidan movement.*

Today, Ukrainians observe a new national holiday – the anniversary of the start of the Revolution of Dignity. In subsequent years and decades, we will gather on November 21 to remember the Euro-Maidan protesters, those seemingly ordinary people who stood out in the cold, united in prayer and in song, astounding the world and exceeding its expectations about Ukraine. This massive, months-long movement in support of reform and modernization led to the end of a criminal regime, and the beginning of a future based on European values, free of corruption and where rule of law and human rights are respected.

On this Day of Freedom and Dignity, we applaud the achievements of the past year, including the open election of Ukraine's new president and its new Parliament. The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America stood witness at both of these historic elections in 2014, which saw the final demise of the Communist Party as a political power in Ukraine.

Perhaps the longest-lasting legacy of last winter's revolution will be the transformational sense of national identity and patriotism in Ukraine, with its vibrant and thriving civil society, full of extraordinary volunteers and young professionals dedicated to reforming their country. The Maidan transformed not only Ukrainians in Ukraine, but the worldwide diaspora as well. In the United States, hundreds of demonstrators would gather in support of their countrymen in streets of New York and Chicago, in Georgia and in Texas, Ohio and California and beyond. Ukrainians and their supporters marched on Washington in numbers that had not been mobilized since the fall of the Soviet Union. And across the country, new organizations were formed, joining dozens of pre-existing community organizations in supporting Ukraine in its struggle for freedom and dignity.

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America applauds the countless hours of humanitarian work undertaken during and after the revolution. The enormous charity and goodwill of our community helped support our people, from the massive shipments of the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee, to the proceeds of church bake sales and charitable fund-raisers.

The UCCA would also like to thank the incredible outpouring of support from our non-Ukrainian friends, especially those in elected office who stood and condemned the draconian measures of Ukraine's former government. Throughout the course of the Euro-Maidan protests, numerous Congressional and Senate resolutions of support were passed with near unanimity, and many more in local state houses and municipalities.

While a year ago there was peace on Ukraine's borders and injustice and tyranny ruled within, today Ukraine is dealing with a bloody invasion from a familiar foe. Toward this struggle, both Ukraine and its diaspora remain united: vigilant against the return of tyranny and mindful of this opportunity for which the Heavenly Hundred laid down their lives. The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America will continue to unite our community in support of the fundamental ideas of freedom and dignity for which Ukrainians stood and died on the Maidan.

Dec.  
5  
1994

### Turning the pages back...

Twenty years ago, on December 5, 1994, Ukraine signed the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and received security assurances from three nuclear powers – the United States, Russia and Great Britain – during a two-day summit of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) in Budapest that attracted 52 member nations.

By 1994, the CSCE had existed for 19 years and was the only institution that brought together NATO and Warsaw Pact nations to discuss security and human rights.

As a signatory of the treaty, Ukraine would eliminate more than 9,000 nuclear warheads and would allow for the implementation of the START I and eventually START II agreements on nuclear arms reductions.

President Leonid Kuchma stated in Budapest, "This decision was not too easy for Ukraine," as he explained that Ukraine – a nation of 52 million people, with the third largest nuclear arsenal – voluntarily gave up its nuclear status and acceded to the Non Proliferation Treaty. "I would like to underscore that our decision to accede to the NPT became possible thanks to the depository-states' understanding of Ukraine's unique situation and their issuance of security assurances," Mr. Kuchma said, while thanking Presidents Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin, and British Prime Minister John Major.

The memorandum offering Ukraine security assurances reaffirms the commitment of the U.S., Russia and the U.K. to respect the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, in accordance with the CSCE Final Act. It also reaffirms their obligation to refrain from the threat of use of force against the territorial integrity of Ukraine, and asserts that none of their weapons will ever be used against Ukraine except in self-defense or otherwise in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

In point four of the memorandum, the signatories state they would seek U.N. Security Council action to provide assistance to Ukraine if Ukraine was victimized or threatened with the use of nuclear weapons.

Presidents Yeltsin and Clinton had the following exchange over NATO expansion.

President Yeltsin stated: "It is a dangerous delusion to suppose that the destinies of

(Continued on page 12)

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

## NED president on the new Ukraine and first anniversary of Euro-Maidan

*Following is the text of the keynote speech delivered by Carl Gershman, president of the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), on November 15 at the Ukrainian American Bar Association's annual convention in Washington. The speech elicited a standing ovation.*

There are two important post-Communist anniversaries this week. The first is on Monday, November 17 – the 25th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution, on which occasion a bust of Vaclav Havel will be unveiled in the U.S. Capitol. The second, just as important but probably less noticed, is the first anniversary of the Maidan uprising in Ukraine, which occurs next Friday, November 21.

It's hard to believe that so much has happened in less than one year: the Euro-Maidan uprising, the sustained protests in sub-freezing temperatures against the corruption of the Yanukovich government, the repression, the martyrs, the fall of Viktor Yanukovich, then the Russian invasion and annexation of Crimea, and now Russia's continuing aggression in eastern Ukraine. These have been world transforming events, and they're continuing to this day, with consequences that go far beyond Ukraine.

A new Ukraine has emerged from all of this turmoil and struggle. It's a more unified country than ever before, with a much stronger sense of national identity. I was speaking over dinner with Prof. Volodymyr Vassilenko, who said that Vladimir Putin is trying to destroy Ukraine's national identity. But in an ironic way, it is because of Ukraine's struggle, and therefore also because of Putin and Yanukovich, that Ukraine has become a new country, a unitary state where language and other divisions are no longer as difficult as they once were; a country that wants to become a modern, European state with democracy and the rule of law.

I was in Ukraine last May for a solidarity conference of intellectuals organized by Prof. Timothy Snyder and Leon Wieseltier of The New Republic. There was a session bringing together religious leaders from all different faiths – Greek and Roman Catholics, Orthodox Christians, Protestants, Muslims

and Jews. There was also a panel of seven Jewish leaders. Everyone there was speaking as a Ukrainian. This could never have happened before, and it's happened because of the Maidan and the Russian aggression against the uprising and against Ukraine itself.

The Maidan uprising was a profoundly democratic event, with the protesters embracing a concept of democratic citizenship involving individual responsibility to uphold democratic values and to serve the larger community. Ukraine took another step towards democracy on October 26 when it held parliamentary elections. NED's Nadia Diuk, who is with us tonight, was there as an election observer. She reported afterwards that one of the most significant things that happened in the elections was that civil-society activists, journalists and other leaders from the Maidan entered politics for the first time.

The decision by these activists and journalists to run for Parliament was not an easy one because politics and politicians

have such a bad reputation in Ukraine – for good reason since it's considered a dirty business. But they knew that they could not defend the revolution and achieve the reforms contained in the Reanimation Reforms Package initiative if they did not make the jump from civic activism to politics. They simply had done as much as they could do as civic activists and had to take responsibility for governance. This is something that the protesters in Egypt's Tahrir Square could not do, which is why in the end Egypt's revolution fared so badly.

And so activists like the journalist Mustafa Nayyem, whose Facebook post launched the Maidan protests, made the difficult decision to move from protest to politics. And I think Ukraine will benefit as a result. I'm happy to announce that on December 9 three of the Maidan activists who were elected to the new Parliament will be honored at a dinner in Washington of the National Democratic Institute, one of NED's four core institutes which is chaired by Madeleine Albright and has been very active in Ukraine. The three are Serhiy Leshchenko, the investigative journalist who took a leave from his Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow at NED to return to Kyiv when the Maidan protests erupted last November; Hanna Hopko, an ecology advocate and journalist; and Oleksandr Solontay, a political analyst and civic educator.

The entry of such people into politics is extremely important since there is now an urgent need to implement real reforms. Anders Aslund, a leading specialist on post-Communist economic transition, has described the current economic situation in Ukraine as "desperate, though not hopeless." He has written that the economy is on the verge of a meltdown, with the GDP plummeting by 8 percent this year – 10 percent according to The Economist – and the budget deficit rising to 12 percent of GDP. The value of the hryvnia has fallen by half

and is likely to fall much more. Inflation for this year will reach 24 percent, and of course the war in the east has caused billions of dollars in damage.

In a policy brief published by the Peterson Institute for International Economics, Aslund offers "An Economic Strategy to Save

Ukraine." Among its key points are that the reformist forces that won the parliamentary elections need to agree as soon as possible on the formation of a highly competent coalition government, which then will launch the kind of radical reforms contained in the Reanimation Package.

These include cleaning up the government from the top down, including the purge of corrupt officials from the old regime, especially in the judiciary and police; abolishing the legal immunity of parliamentarians so that they can be held accountable; closing or merging superfluous or even harmful state agencies, and laying off excess staff while raising salaries and qualifications; cutting public expenditures by one-tenth of GDP in the next year; and reducing energy subsidies by unifying energy prices – meaning putting an end to the trading of gas between low state-controlled prices and high market prices – which Aslund calls "the main mechanism of corruption" in Ukraine.

(Continued on page 14)

**Vladimir Putin's standard operating procedure is to escalate the conflict and then agree to go no further in exchange for concessions, and he has been getting away with it.**



## The things we do...

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

## Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



### A story from the Luhansk region

This article by economist Borys Kushniruk appeared online at uainfo.org, and is translated here with the author's permission.

There is a well-known quote from Volodymyr Vynnychenko (1880-1951) that "where the Ukrainian question begins, the Russian democrat disappears."

No one has ever questioned why this is so.

I made an interesting conclusion based on this after a conversation with a young man, a historian by education, who was traveling from the ATO (Anti-Terrorist Operation) zone on leave to his wife and small child. Returning from a lecture tour, I picked him up in Cherkasy and dropped him off in Kyiv.

He told me an interesting story from a village in Luhansk Oblast. He was buying milk from a very old woman, way over 80 years old. He went to her on purpose, because she treated our soldiers with such rage but, still, she needed the money, and sold the milk to those she truly and sincerely hated.

This old woman was originally from Russia. She was brought to this village as a very young child by her parents, who were purposely resettled by the Soviet government. They were relocated to a village where during the Holodomor over 90 percent of the population died from starvation. Russians were settled in the homes where whole families of Ukrainian villagers lived and died from hunger. And this old woman furiously hated everything Ukrainian, because she understood that her family had been given that which once belonged to Ukrainians. They did this as looters, as marauders. They appropriated from those they had killed.

This is why in this woman there was such a subconscious hatred of those who would be considered the descendants of the murdered Ukrainian peasants. This

rage was based on the fear of having the long-ago crime exposed.

We see the same thing on the subconscious level in the majority of Russians. They understand that their ancestors stole from the Ukrainians their history, the name of the people – all that is the basis of a nation. Thus, there is such a hatred for all things Ukrainian, and the denial and disavowal of Ukrainian traditions, the language and the cultural heritage.

Because, if they were to admit that all this is stolen, it would become evident that most of what Russians pronounce as "Russian from the beginning of time" does not belong to them. At some time in the past, they just seized from other nations with extreme insidiousness and brutality. This is the anger of malefactors who fear that someday their crime will be called a crime, and the stolen – stolen.

It's no wonder that we so often can hear from perfectly intelligent Russians the emotional thought that the question is not at all about Ukraine and Ukrainians, whom the Russians on a subconscious level never even recognize as a separate nation. The question is in Russia itself. By recognizing Ukraine and Ukrainians, they will have to recognize that they themselves are the descendants of those who lived in Kyivan Rus' – Ukraine. And then the whole concept of the "Russian world" collapses into dust, they really have nothing of their own. Everything was taken by force from someone else.

That is why today the fate of the Russian empire is actually being decided. If Ukrainians hold on to their sovereignty, then the final collapse of this prison of nations is just a matter of time. Moreover, I am sure that this is not a matter of decades, but just of numbered years.

Orysia Tracz may be contacted at [orysia.tracz@gmail.com](mailto:orysia.tracz@gmail.com).

### The Great War and the UNA

When the Great War in Europe began 100 years ago, the UNA house organ Svoboda was ecstatic.

"Let all Slavic people live full, sovereign and independent lives, among them the Ukrainians," declared Svoboda on August 6, 1914. "Let's Be Ready," Svoboda opined on September 1. Predicting that a peace conference would be convened after the war, the UNA newspaper wrote that "Poland and Ukraine will have their chance." But, the editorial suggested, the Ukrainian agenda could be ignored. "The Poles will no doubt want to attach Galicia and Kholm to their Poland... or Austria may want all Ukrainian lands... or all Ukrainian lands may be awarded to Russia." Ukrainians must play a role in the negotiation process, Svoboda concluded, and to do that, "we must be prepared."

The Ukrainian National Association wasted no time. A national coordinating council was established during the 13th UNA Convention in Buffalo, N.Y., in September 1914. In its first formal statement, the council declared that, while "Ukrainians have no reason to be friends of either Austria or her ally, Germany... We hope Russia is defeated in the war and the Russian empire is broken up into its constituent parts. And we have good reason to feel as we do: for the Treaty of Pereyaslav, violated and trampled upon by the tsar; for Poltava, for our hetmans, shamefully disgraced; for the destruction of the Zaporozhian Sich; for the Kozak bones on which St. Petersburg was built; for the spirit that was kept in chains; for the language that was mutilated; for the many prisons and for Siberia; for the blood and tears of Ukrainian women and children; for centuries of torture, cruelty and oppression."

The council established itself in the UNA offices in Jersey City, N.J., along with two recently created affiliates – the Ukrainian Information Bureau and the Fund for the Liberation of Ukraine. By September 1915, the fund had collected \$21,661.44 – the equivalent of some \$504,000 in 2014 dollars. In 1914, the council also published and distributed two monographs in English, "Ukraine" by Bedwin Sands, and "The Memorandum on the Ukrainians Question in Its National Aspect" by Yaroslav Fedortchouk. Two pamphlets were published in 1915, "Russia, Poland and Ukraine" by Gustav Stefen, and "The Russian Plot to Seize Galicia," the latter a monograph describing Russian military behavior in Galicia and reiterating the Ukrainian contention that Russia's primary goal in the war was to expand its empire.

Despite its successes, the UNA leadership was aware that the council it had created was not representative of the entire Ukrainian American community. This changed once Dr. Semen Demydchuk, a representative of the Ukrainian National Council in Lviv, arrived in the United States. On October 8, 1914, representatives of the UNA, the Ukrainian Workingman's Association (UWA), the Providence Association of Ukrainian Catholics and the Haidamaky, four major national organizations at the time, met with Dr. Demydchuk and established an organizational committee headed by Dr. Volodymyr Simenovych, well-known community activist from Chicago, for the purpose of convening a

"Ukrainian Diet" (legislative assembly) in America.

Another joint UNA-UWA project was the English language publication "Ukraine's Claim to Freedom" (1915). Following a brief review of Ukraine's history, the publication declared unequivocally that the "ultimate goal" of the Ukrainian people "is the establishment of an independent Ukrainian state." Realizing that total independence might not be achieved in the near future, self-governing Ukrainian provinces in Austro-Hungary and Russia were suggested as alternatives.

Svoboda continued to push for an all-Ukrainian political action committee, exhorting all Ukrainian Americans to fulfill their "national obligation." At the same time, the UNA newspaper scrupulously reported on events in Ukraine with headlines such as: "Hrushevsky Arrested in Kyiv," "Huge Muscovite Pogrom in Galicia," "Muscovite Pogrom Near Peremyshl" and "Muscovite Behavior in Ukraine." As historians of this period have discovered, Ukrainian Americans were well informed by Svoboda.

Seeking to familiarize Americans with Ukraine, the entire Svoboda issue of February 29, 1916, was devoted to the Ukrainian question. It was a magnificent effort. Among the many articles in this special English-language issue was one by the editor of Svoboda who wrote about Ukrainians in America and another by Bedwin Sands titled "The Ukrainians to the Anglo-Saxon World." Ukrainians perceive the war as "a conflict between Austria and Russia as to who should dominate the Slav-world outside the Russian empire," wrote Dr. Sands. As far as Ukrainians are concerned, "there can be no comparison between the treatment they received at the hands of Austria and the treatment they receive from Russia," concluded Dr. Sands. "The Ukrainians of Galicia were considerably happier than their brothers across the Russian frontier."

Prior to America's involvement in the Great War, it was clear that Svoboda favored independence for Ukraine if possible and, if not, autonomy. It was also obvious that the editors supported an Austrian victory over Russia.

What is amazing about the initial Ukrainian response to the Great War was the national patriotism that emerged, especially when one considers the fact that up until its 1914 Convention, the Ukrainian National Association was officially known as the Ruskyi Narodnyi Soyuz. It was soon afterwards that Svoboda, which until then had called itself a Ruthenian newspaper, became "a Ukrainian newspaper published by the Ukrainian National Association."

The Great War led to a decisive moment in Ukrainian American history. Our national identity was confirmed, the enemy was clearly identified and branded, and the community was cautiously optimistic about the future of the Ukrainian people. The UNA Convention in Buffalo proved to be a national milestone in the history of our community.

And what about now? Has Russia changed in the last 100 years?

Myron Kuropas's e-mail address is [kuropas@comcast.net](mailto:kuropas@comcast.net).

### MUST READ

• In "The Sources of Russian Conduct; The New Case for Containment" ([www.foreignaffairs.com](http://www.foreignaffairs.com), November 16), Alexander J. Motyl, professor of political science at Rutgers University-Newark, refers to George F. Kennan's famous "X" article ("The Sources of Soviet Conduct," July 1947, *Foreign Affairs*) and notes: "Compelling then, Kennan's case for containing Russia makes just as much sense now."

Prof. Motyl argues: "The implications for the West of Kennan's analysis are no less relevant today. For starters, the United States and Europe must understand that 'there can never be on Moscow's side any sincere assumption of a community of aims between the Soviet Union and powers which are regarded as capitalist.' Second, Putin's Russia 'can be effectively countered not by sporadic acts which represent the momentary whims of democratic opinion but only by intelligent long-range policies on the part of Russia's adversaries.' It's high time, in other words, for the West to abandon its illusions about Putin and his regime and develop a serious, steady, long-term policy response to Russian expansionism."

He continues: "And that, of course, means containment. In today's terms, the front lines of containment are the non-Russian states in the potential path of Russian expansion. Seen in this light, a divided Ukraine occupies the same role in today's containment strategy as a divided Germany did in yesterday's. Ukraine should therefore be the recipient of similar financial, political, and military assistance. Finland, Sweden, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Moldova – as well as, possibly, Belarus and Kazakhstan – must also figure as points where counterforce, in the form of enhanced military assistance, will have to be applied. The goal in all these cases is not to roll back Russian power but to stop its penetration of the non-Russian post-Soviet states."

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# INTERVIEW: Reflections on the Ukrainian Film Club's first decade

by Ali Kinsella

## Part 1

*In this two-part interview, Yuri Shevchuk, founder and director of the Ukrainian Film Club at Columbia University, reflects on the club's first decade in New York. Since starting the UFC in 2004, the collection has grown to number hundreds of movies including classics and even some yet to be released. The club itself provides an unparalleled platform for the digestion and discussion of Ukrainian cinema; not even fans of Polish cinema with its undeniably beautiful movie-making tradition have a similar monthly home.*

*I met with Prof. Shevchuk, who teaches a course on Soviet and post-colonial film in addition to Ukrainian language courses, before one of the club's off-site screenings at the Ukrainian Museum: Ihor Savchenko's 1951 Taras Shevchenko. True to the mission of the club, our discussion wandered over into the realm of Ukrainian culture and national identity, where it sat down, made itself comfortable. This cultural analysis appears in Part 2; here the interview focuses more expressly on the club's history, activities and plans for its big birthday bash. For more information, please visit the club's website: [www.columbia.edu/cu/ufc/](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/ufc/).*

**You're celebrating 10 years of the Ukrainian Film Club at Columbia University. How did the idea of a permanent forum for the celebration and criticism of Ukrainian film come up?**

It came up immediately after I started working at Columbia University. I was trying to think of how I might expand the appeal of the Ukrainian Studies Program that was kind of in its incipient stage in 2004. I thought, "Nothing yields itself better or offers itself better as such a popularizing tool as cinema." That was immediately a kind of self-created challenge because Ukrainian cinema was, as the saying went at that time and still goes today, "in the state of a coma." Very few films were being produced, and the idea sounded fantastic, very nice, but its realization looked like wishful thinking.

My initial concept for the film club was to create something that would depart from what used to be done: namely to show the newest, the freshest, the best films being produced in Ukraine, and only if there is time and no films left, to fill in the gaps with the so-called Ukrainian classics, which everybody already who was interested in film could access. So, I went to Ukraine with the express purpose of probing the ground for how many films I could get, and my primary target was new films and to open up for the local viewers and people interested in Ukrainian cinema. I immediately started calling people in Ukraine and pulling strings and simply knocking on doors.

**Was the project welcomed enthusiastically or with some skepticism?**

One was this very prestigious and high-quality industry publication called Kinokolo. I simply invited myself to their office and introduced myself to their editor-in-chief, Volodymyr Voitenko – one of the most pre-eminent and respected Ukrainian film critics at the time – and he absolutely loved my idea and immediately supported me with great enthusiasm. He also introduced me to a number of people – I knew nothing about the Ukrainian filmmaking scene at the time so I was doing everything from scratch. I started frenetically calling everybody and anybody whose phone numbers I could land and there was like a chain reaction because once you meet somebody, they have somebody else's phone.

I was able to bring with me a little collection of probably five new films; it was a motley crew, really, because they were of all genres. The big breakthrough everybody seemed to be talking about at that time was the feature film "Mamai" by Oles Sanin, Ukraine's 2003 entry for Oscar consideration in the Best Foreign Language category.

I met Oles Sanin and he was very receptive both to my initiative, my invitation and to the realities of our activity – namely that we were a non-profit, educational initiative that could not pay any money for the rights to screen the film. I was actually blessed by the problem that I kept meeting as enthusiastic and idealistically minded people in Ukraine as I myself felt I was. And so there was Sanin's film, then there was the film by Hanna Yarovenko called "Kinomania," a feature-length documentary. There were a number of short films, animated films. I was initially helped quite a bit by another Ukrainian film scholar, Larysa Briukhovetska, who runs the film program at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy. She basically unloaded everything she could share with us in VHS format. Here the



Yuri Shevchuk

reception was also very enthusiastic. I don't think people realized how big the challenge there was, because everyone was wondering, "Why hasn't anybody done this before?"

Our first event was in late October 2004 and we advertised it everywhere as pompously as we could, including in The Ukrainian Weekly. It was in a very modest setting in a room that is absolutely not fit for screening anything, never mind an arthouse film, which is visually very gorgeous and stunning. So many people showed up that they had to open a make-shift partition to make the room twice as big, and it still couldn't seat everyone: between 80 and 90 people.

I myself didn't have anywhere to sit, and happily I stood with my heart throbbed because I was so very excited and nervous about how it would go. I diligently prepared an intro. I read everything I could find about Sanin – things that he probably didn't suspect existed in print about him – about the film; I read the 16th- or 15th-century ballad about the flight of three brothers from Azov that inspired the film.

It was the success of the first event that kind of inspired all of us. And from day one, that initiative was very much cooperative. Immediately people who liked film and who liked Ukrainian culture and who liked Ukraine just showed up. The head of the then very vibrant students' society, Adrian Podpirka, immediately came up with the brilliant idea of designing a website to get the word out. The first website was kind of basic, but it existed and people began writing from all over the world including Australia, Japan, you name it. The reaction both in New York and outside was very welcoming. It gave us this added motivation to keep going and to think of the film club as kind of a permanent investment of intellectual and organizational effort. As something that should be here to stay.

**How has the film club changed throughout the decade of its existence and can you tell us about some of the more memorable events?**

Well, it's a very loose kind of thing, but it has evolved. It doesn't have any formal membership, though sometimes people write me almost weepy letters: "How could we please become members of the Ukrainian Film Club? What do we have to do?" No, no publications are required, not even membership fees! We used to put out a donations box, but when donations petered out we stopped.

All the time there are enthusiasts, among students primarily, who like the idea of promoting Ukrainian film and Ukrainian culture with it. Because, really, Ukrainian film is just an excuse; it's just a vehicle to promote something much bigger and to speak about something much bigger, namely, the entire invisible civilization which is Ukraine, and largely remains unknown despite the fact that it has been in the news. And even today when they [the media] speak about Ukraine, they kind of develop all kinds of mythologies that have been created outside Ukraine, outside Ukrainian discourse, outside Ukrainian culture. What

dominates is the inertia, on the one hand, of American ignorance about Ukraine, and on the other hand, as an imposed vision of Ukraine generated in Russian imperial ideology. So the film club thought very strategically that we would generate not only a new discourse on Ukrainian national film, but on Ukraine itself.

And that brings me to the part of your question about the most memorable event we've had. Perhaps number one was the American premiere of the feature documentary by Serhii Bukhovsky, "The Living," which was the crowning event of an international conference conceived and organized by the Ukrainian Film Club with the support of the Harriman Institute in 2008, "Holodomor in Film." We were trying to get both film specialists and historians involved to analyze how the Holodomor is and is not reflected in film, and why and with what consequences.

So we invited people who work with video and oral history archives of the Shoah, of the Holocaust at the University of Southern California, where there are from 700 to 800 units of eyewitness accounts of the double victims of both the Holodomor and the Holocaust who survived both to tell about their experience. We had a number of historians, and of course we had Serhii Bukhovsky with his entire film crew, with his producer from Paris and his producer from Ukraine, his wife, Viktoria Bondar, and some of the Welsh protagonists who discovered Gareth Jones's documents pertaining to the history of the Holodomor in their attic.

The event was immediately grabbed by Harvard University; the following day we had the screening at Harvard University. Eventually the film was invited to another conference modeled on ours at the American John Cabot University in Rome, and they had some of the priests who many, many, many years ago – 50 years ago – unearthed documents in Italian archives pertaining to the reports from the Italian Embassy in Kharkiv about the Holodomor. It was nothing short of living history.

We are particularly proud that we've provided a platform for a young generation of Ukrainian filmmakers, hosting such filmmakers as Taras Tkachenko, Taras Tomenko, Yelizaveta Kliuzko. We've also hosted a number of foreign filmmakers, like Carlos Rodriguez who made a very interesting documentary on Chornobyl, a feature documentary on Chornobyl. We also had an Italian filmmaker at Harvard University, David Griego with his film "Yevilenko" loosely based on the story of the Russian serial killer called Chekatilo of Ukrainian origin. That film was like a metaphor for the dying, agonizing Soviet system if you could reduce it to the story of one cannibal.

**The film club is a traveling club, is it not?**

An important aspect of our activity is branching out, encouraging others to be interested in Ukrainian film. We hit the road because we started getting invitations from all kinds of places: of course, initially, the greatest centers of the Ukrainian diaspora: Philadelphia, Harvard Summer School, Toronto, Detroit.

In Philadelphia we became kind of a known presence because we were getting invited by another enthusiast of film, a devotee really, Andrii Kotliar. He mobilized young people there and we did a couple of very successful Ukrainian mini-film festivals. Eventually, Kotliar branched out, moved to New York, and ended up organizing a very good and very favorably regarded (both locally and in Ukraine) festival called Kinofest. I think they've had already four editions of Kinofest and I'm looking forward to the next one this coming spring. By his own admission, Kinofest is really a branch of our film club.

The University of Toronto started a permanent film series called Contemporary Ukraine Cinema and I would travel there every semester for at least two screenings. We had a mini Ukrainian film festival in Edmonton; then we had a small, two-day festival at McGill University sponsored by the local Ukrainian student society.

I immediately started pushing, probing the ground with bigger outlets, namely the Tribeca Film Festival, and trying to sell the fact to them, "We are here representing Ukrainian film and we would be happy to help you connect to Ukrainian filmmakers back in Ukraine and offer you advice and what not." Slowly some American filmmakers interested in Ukraine started contacting us for different reasons: location scouting or looking for professional help on site as they were shooting their footage. We helped connect two or three American filmmakers with Ukrainian counterparts.

(Continued on page 13)



## Ukrainian Days...

(Continued from page 1)

sanctions. On the House of Representatives side, more budget issues can delay the bill from moving forward in a timely fashion, she said. The resolutions on Crimea have more widespread support on both the Senate and House sides, she added.

The situation in Ukraine requires an increased sense of urgency for the passage of this kind of legislation. Support from the Obama administration is also gaining ground as regards coordinating with its European allies for defensive weapons for Ukraine, noted Brittany Beaulieu, a policy analyst for Europe and Eurasia with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Ms. Beaulieu added that appropriations is what the legislation needs to overcome in order to maintain momentum, noting that commitments have been slow and that pace must be quickened. Ms. Beaulieu recommended the creation of a Senate Task Force to focus on areas of concern and noted the need for the Senate and House to coordinate their efforts.

Gordon Humphrey, a former U.S. senator, attended the briefing and noted the challenges facing U.S. support for Ukraine; he commended Sen. Menendez's efforts. Sen. Humphrey had met with staffers and members of Congress in the weeks leading up to the Ukrainian Days event.

Mykola Hryckowian of the Center for U.S.-Ukraine Relations asked how the U.S. would deliver weapons to Ukraine and coordinate delivery logistics with the Pentagon when the U.S. has failed to deliver winter coats to Ukraine and radar equipment ordered two months ago from the U.S.

had yet to be delivered. Mr. Hryckowian also said there needed to be a high-level response to Russian lies in light of President Vladimir Putin's information war.

Sen. Humphrey added that Ukraine also needed medical diagnostic equipment, and a list of items needed should be included in the legislation. Ukraine also needs field hospitals and MASH units in the areas of the Anti-Terrorism Operations in eastern Ukraine.

Tamara Olexy, president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, said that training options had been explored with the California National Guard. Michael Sawkiw Jr., director of the Ukrainian National Information Service, noted the option of sending U.S. military medical staff to Ukraine as part of U.S. humanitarian support. Mr. Sawkiw said that other options include sending surplus aircraft via NATO countries to

Ukraine. Ms. Beaulieu responded that these programs do exist, but they needed to be further explored and expanded.

Borys Potapenko of the Ad Hoc Committee on Ukraine said the U.S. State Department needs to create fact sheets to counter Russian disinformation and so that a clearer picture emerges of what is happening on the ground. Though the finances in Ukraine are not good, it is encouraging to see the unity of the people of Ukraine.

Regarding Crimea, the delegation expressed the feeling among many Ukrainians that Washington did not keep its promises. The lack of real-time intelligence reporting by the U.S. has kept everyone in the dark, especially in reporting examples of Kremlin-funded terror across eastern Ukraine.

Roma Lisovich, treasurer of the Ukrainian National Association (UNA),



Steve Wilson (right), senior policy advisor to Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-N.J.), discusses concerns about the crisis in Ukraine with Ukrainian American constituents from New Jersey.

thanked Sen. Menendez's office for contacting the UNA to learn more about the situation in Ukraine. Ms. Lisovich thanked the senator's office for his continued support and his understanding that this does not affect the fate of Ukraine alone, but is a threat to global security.

The Ukrainian delegation underscored: the U.S. cannot appear weak to its adversaries and ignore threats to democracy; the wait-and-see attitude adopted by Europe and the U.S. leadership is not inspiring; and U.S. commitments to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity in the 1994 Budapest Memorandum must be honored.

Following the meeting, the delegation broke off to continue meetings with legislators, including Sens. Sander Levin (D-Mich.), Chris Murphy (D-Conn.), Mark Kirk (R-Ill.), Kelly Ayotte (R-N.H.), Ted Cruz (R-Texas), Rob Portman (R-Ohio), Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), as well as with senior staff of Sens. Cory Booker (D-N.J.), Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), Pat Toomey (R-Pa.) and Bob Casey (D-Pa.). Reps. Candice Miller (R-Mich.), Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-N.J.) and others were also visited.

Steve Wilson, senior policy advisor for Congressman Frelinghuysen, said that military equipment was sitting in Eastern Europe awaiting delivery to Ukraine. Ihor Zwarycz of New Jersey underscored that Ukrainians needed to be able to defend themselves, noting that anti-tank weapons such as the javelin could be sent. Ukrainians need to see strong leadership in support of Ukraine legislation, including Ukraine's status as a MNNA, he added. Mr. Wilson replied that Rep. Frelinghuysen supports Ukraine and is looking for ways to

(Continued on page 18)

## Holodomor...

(Continued from page 1)

He is overweight, and he smoked for most of his life. Yet, for a man his age, he's sound in body and mind, being able to recollect with remarkable clarity those days of extreme human suffering.

There were five Osypenko brothers when the Holodomor struck. Their father, Matvii, had been branded a "kurkul," or relatively affluent farmer, by the local Communists, who were all natives of their village, Yurivka, located about two miles from Liubar.

Matvii Osypenko earned his enemy status because he owned a cement slate roof, known as a "shyfer." It was a crime for him to own it but not for the Communists, who wanted to build their local office with it. He also had a cow and two horses, which were confiscated with the demand that Matvii join the collective farm (kolhosp).

"But he was an uneducated man, a peasant, and he did not want to join the kolhosp," Dr. Osypenko said of his father. "So he was labeled a kurkul. But nobody worked on his fields. He worked by himself."

By autumn, the Communists were conducting regular inspections of the Osypenko home and confiscating whatever they could find, including millstones used for grinding grain to bake bread. They even smashed the millstones.

"They looked with a special sharpened rod for anything buried, but they didn't find anything because they had taken everything anyway," he recalled. "They looked for anything. They even found a bottle filled with millet, which is a kind of grain our mother kept to make porridge for the baby. They took it away."

They even directed their violence towards his younger brother, Andrii.

"They took the crib with the baby in it, with Andriyko, and hurled it into the cold and the rain outside," he recalled. "It was winter, by the way, but it was rainy, muddy weather with puddles. And they said, 'Take your puppy, bitch.'"

His aunt Yevdokha, who lived across the street, picked Andriyko out of the puddle "but he did not last long and died," said Dr. Osypenko. "Of hunger, that's for sure."

The Communists threatened to arrest and imprison Matvii Osypenko, who had no choice but to abandon his village and family that autumn to look for work in the Zhytomyr Oblast town of Berdychiv.

Soon afterwards, the authorities evicted the Osypenko family. The same day, the Osypenkos returned in the dead of night. His mother lit the stove and the brothers took refuge on top and along its sides.

"My mother tucked us in and I said, 'Mama, look! The "zahata" is swaying,' " Dr. Osypenko said, referring to the layers of dry leaves and grass that covered the house's walls to insulate heat. "And that was because they had removed all the windows in the house. And we were atop the stove."

By now, without their millstones, the Osypenkos were surviving on soups made from goosefoot herbs and nettles.

After about three weeks of hiding in their own home, they moved to the cellar of an old relative, sleeping on rags on the floor. They cooked in his kitchen.

"With a little water, we cooked porridge with goosefoot, nettles, beetroot greens," he said. "We ate and were satisfied. Some days we did not eat at all. Sometimes two times a day, depending on whether we had anything. People were hiding everything."

When smoke came from the kitchen, the authorities would come to inquire what they were eating and where they got their food.

"We said we have nothing, just a 'burda' of boiled weeds," he said. "A little bit of flour, water, some greens, goosefoot and nettle. That was a burda."

Occasionally, they'd feast on a frozen potato that slipped by the authorities. They also watched for people collecting wheat cones, which were dried, crushed and ground to make flour. Any bags with cones were confiscated, he said.

It was common to see people with swollen stomachs lying near the fences of their homes. "Nobody took them to their homes,

nobody cared," he said. "Maybe someone was even breathing a little, but he was put on a cart and taken to a cemetery."

As spring approached, their father came one night and took them to live in Berdychiv, where he found work at the Progress factory, while their mother joined a collective farm.

"She could ask for at least a bottle of milk to whiten the water," he said. "There were soups there, potatoes. She brought home to us everything there was. And later, there was even bread."

No one mentioned a word about the famine, neither at school nor at home.

Within a decade, Berdychiv would be bombed by the invading German Nazis. Dr. Osypenko remembered hiding in a hole near his family house as war erupted around them.

"The military base was destroyed, the confectionary and stocking factories were on fire," he said. "We were running, especially to the confectionary factory, to its storage area, and taking something from there. And it worked out for us. We would walk across the bridge and, if the good German was on duty, he would let us pass. And if he was not good, then we'd throw the candy into the water."

His older brother Vasyl was killed in the war. Another older brother, Ivan, abandoned Ukraine for Leningrad. Two sisters were later born, one of whom died young and the other with whom Dr. Osypenko currently lives.

Hryhorii Osypenko himself was to be transported to serve in the Red Army, but when he reached the railway station, he dropped his bags and returned home. There, his mother dressed him in a kerchief and skirt whenever he had to go outside to harvest the fields.

He endured many encounters with the Germans, who forcibly deported the local young, healthy residents of Ukraine to work in the labor camps. Yet the horrors of war paled in comparison to the famine, he said.

"War is when one eats, as it should be," he said. "A war is when they kill you, but the Holodomor was non-stop hunger, day and night. You look everywhere, but there is

nothing. It is misery and suffering."

Dr. Osypenko said he has no doubt the Holodomor was the planned mass extermination of Ukrainians, led by Joseph Stalin and his entourage, but unfortunately, also with the participation of those who helped kill their own people. "Our people served them," he said.

After the war ended and peace came to Ukraine, the Osypenkos returned to their native village of Yurivka and found that the Communists had moved their local office to another building, even taking the cement slate roof with them, where it remains to this day.

In order to get back their own house, the Osypenkos had to buy it from the state.

Hryhorii Osypenko became an infectologist in 1962, five years later becoming the director of the infectious disease department of the Liubar District Hospital. Eventually, the day came when he was asked to treat the very man who had thrown his infant brother into a cold puddle.

"I was called in as a doctor to this man's house. He had cancer," he recalled. The brute recognized Dr. Osypenko, but mentioned nothing of the past.

"I checked on him, recommended treatment and I don't remember how much money, but they put a bribe for me on the table," he said. "I returned this money and said, 'I am very grateful, but take this money and buy yourself some medicine.' I just wanted to show him that I am a decent human being."

Dr. Osypenko thought to himself: "And who are you? Remember how you evicted us from our house?" But never uttered those words to his tormentor. He described this painful encounter with the grace and mercy typical of Holodomor survivors: they are solemn and sometimes shed tears, but they are rarely angry despite their stories of horror and suffering.

Even decades later, the prevalent feeling is shock and disbelief that it ever happened, with many rhetorical questions.

"There was bread in kolhosp's storage," Dr. Osypenko said. "What kind of famine could there have been? Why not just give it to people, little by little?"





Christine Syzonenko  
**Metropolitan Antony delivers closing remarks.**



Christine Syzonenko  
**Students participate in the solemn procession.**



Christine Syzonenko  
**Bishop Paul Chomnycky addresses mourners.**

# Service at St. Patrick's remembers Holodomor



Irene Rejent Saviano  
**Holodomor survivors Oleksander and Nadia Severyn.**



Irene Rejent Saviano  
**During the panakhyda (from left) are: UCCA President Tamara Olexy, William Pope of the U.S. State Department, Consul General Igor Sybiga and Ambassador Yuriy Sergeyev.**

NEW YORK – Over 1,500 people attended memorial services at St. Patrick Cathedral on Saturday, November 22, held to mark the 81st anniversary of the Holodomor, the genocidal famine of 1932-1933.

Officiating at the panakhyda for the millions killed by Joseph Stalin were Metropolitan Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. and Bishop Paul Chomnycky of the Stamford (Conn.) Eparchy of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, assisted by many priests. The responses were sung by the Dumka Chorus under the baton of Vasyl Hrechynsky.

A procession of students and children bearing a wreath, flowers, wheat stalks, ritual breads and candles began the ceremonies. Holodomor survivors Oleksander and Nadia Severyn joined the group.

Both hierarchs addressed the mourners. Also speaking were: William Pope of the U.S. State Department, who read a message from the White House press secretary; Ukraine's Ambassador to the United Nations Yuriy Sergeyev; and Ukraine's Consul General in New York Igor Sybiga, who read a statement from President Petro Poroshenko.

President Tamara Olexy of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America underscored that "What occurred 81 years ago in Ukraine was evil in its design and brutal in its methods."

"The Soviet regime under the notorious dictator Joseph Stalin sought to wipe out the Ukrainian nation as a whole, and with it any hope of freedom," she explained. "Through a carefully orchestrated mass collectivization campaign, the Soviet regime imposed unreachable grain quotas, confiscated all foodstuffs and even sealed Ukraine's borders, trapping Ukrainians within their own bountiful country, with no food and no chance of escape. This savage example of man's inhumanity towards man – resulted in the death of nearly a quarter of Ukraine's rural population, the backbone of the nation."

She recalled the words of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky, who became a martyr for his faith under the Soviet regime. In a 1933 pastoral letter he wrote: "To all people of good will: Ukraine is in agony." He urged them to protest against the famine occurring in Ukraine and to res-

cue the Ukrainian villagers from their unbearable circumstances.

The UCCA president also stated that "the Holodomor is but one example of Russia's ongoing campaign to enslave Ukraine. ... Today, as we mark the 81st anniversary of Ukraine's Genocide of 1932-1933, we also commemorate the first anniversary of Ukraine's Revolution of Dignity – a glaring reminder that Russian aggression against Ukraine continues into the present."

Sen. Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.), a regular participant of the annual Holodomor commemorations, was unable to attend this year due to the ongoing snow emergency in the Buffalo area. He was in Buffalo to arrange for the delivery of federal aid, but sent a message to the UCCA to express his strong belief that "it is our sacred duty to honor those whose memory calls down to us through the decades for justice – the innocent victims of the Ukrainian Genocide."

"Remembering those murdered millions matters. It matters because, to secure our place as a civilized people in

Ukraine and here in America, and indeed in every corner of this globe, we must call out evil for what it is; we must stare directly into the heart of darkness and answer the questions: How did this happen? Who was responsible? Who answered the call for help? And who ran from responsibility? It matters because, if we do not do these things, with courage and honesty and thoroughness, then we ignore our moral responsibility to never forget and to make sure the world knows the truth," Sen. Schumer wrote.

"Our responsibility to remember the abuses of history takes on a new light this year – a year marked by violence and political upheaval in Ukraine," he continued. "The perseverance and resilience of the Ukrainian people is tested – again by seditious forces in the east, who carry with them Russian arms, financing and military strategy. The Russia-backed separatism in eastern Ukraine and the annexation of Crimea was, and continues to be, unacceptable and abhorrent to me, the United States and a broad coalition of Western nations."

## FOR THE RECORD:

### Statement by the White House on Holodomor Remembrance Day

*The statement below was released on November 21 by the White House, Office of the Press Secretary.*

Today, we join Ukrainians around the world, including many Ukrainian Americans, to honor the memory of the millions of Ukrainians starved to death in 1932 and 1933 by the barbaric policies of Stalin's Soviet Union. The Holodomor, or "death by hunger," remains one of the gravest atrocities of the last century and is a singularly tragic chapter in Ukrainian history.

While the suffering of the Holodomor was immeasurable, this man-made famine failed to extinguish the

unconquerable spirit of the Ukrainian people. As we commemorate this horrific tragedy, we also pay tribute to the enduring strength, courage and spirit of the people of Ukraine – qualities that Ukrainians continue to draw upon today as, in the face of great adversity, they seek to build a more prosperous, secure and democratic state.

As we unite in remembrance of the millions of innocent victims of the Holodomor, we also reaffirm our shared commitment to Ukraine's bright future, and to promoting respect for the universal human rights and fundamental freedoms that are the birthright of all humankind.



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## Turning...

(Continued from page 6)

continents and of the world community can  
somehow be managed from a single capital.  
We are concerned about the changes that  
are taking place in NATO. Why sow the  
seeds of distrust? After all, we are no longer  
enemies, we are partners now."

President Clinton responded: "NATO will  
not automatically exclude any country from  
joining. At the same time, no country out-  
side can be allowed to veto NATO expan-  
sion."

President Kuchma explained that Russia  
would never agree to Eastern European

countries rapidly joining NATO, adding that  
the process should be slowed down. The  
rapid NATO expansion could disturb the  
balance of power in Europe and promote  
division. However, Mr. Kuchma did agree  
with Mr. Clinton that no state outside the  
NATO bloc could veto another state's mem-  
bership. Playing the role of bridge builder,  
Mr. Kuchma explained he wanted Ukraine  
to be a "civilized bridge between the West  
and the East, including Russia, but not a  
'cordon sanitaire.'"

*Source: "Ukraine receives security assur-  
ances, signs Nuclear Non-Proliferation  
Treaty, by Marta Kolomayets, The Ukrainian  
Weekly, December 11, 1994.*

## With Ukraine...

(Continued from page 2)

Mr. Putin is stuck between the political  
need to deliver a new victory to the hyper-  
agitated "patriotic" camp, which continues  
to spin the vicious propaganda campaign,  
and the economic imperative to prevent an  
implosion similar to the one that deter-  
mined the collapse of the Soviet Union not  
quite 25 years ago. He would have probably  
opted for a wise strategy of doing nothing,  
but every attempt to assess the year's gains  
and losses since he made a determined  
effort to prevail over the Ukrainian Euro-  
Maidan brings a disappointingly negative  
outcome (Slon.ru, November 21).

The spike of enthusiasm over the spec-  
tacular annexation of Crimea cannot be  
sustained, whereas the irritation over the  
deteriorating quality of life, exemplified by  
the fetid smog that has covered Moscow in  
the last couple of weeks, is set to grow  
(Gazeta.ru, November 21). Mr. Putin needs  
to shift public attention toward exaggerat-  
ed security threats, but Moscow's officially  
stated demand for rock-solid guarantees of  
Ukraine's non-accession to NATO is not  
going to receive even a politely ambivalent  
response (Vedomosti, November 20).

The greatest setback in Mr. Putin's pro-  
active maneuvering amid the Ukraine crisis  
is probably the profound alienation from  
Europe, which – against his expectations –  
has not succumbed to the usual bitter quar-  
rels but mostly found determination to  
stand united against his blatant blackmail.

Germany has provided mature leader-  
ship in forging this common front, and  
Chancellor Angela Merkel wasted more  
hours in fruitless conversations with Putin  
than all her other peers put together.  
However, the long face-to-face meeting  
with the Russian president at the G-20  
Brisbane summit apparently exhausted her  
patience (Novaya Gazeta, November 18).

German Foreign Affairs Minister Frank-  
Walter Steinmeier traveled to Moscow last  
week and had a late-evening meeting with  
Mr. Putin, but the only result was the can-  
cellation of the traditional dialogue meet-  
ing of the St. Petersburg forum (Gazeta.ru,  
November 22). This firm rejection has  
probably hurt Mr. Putin more than the  
sharp affront from Lithuania's President  
Dalia Grybauskaitė, who called Russia a  
"terrorist state" (Moskovsky Komsomolsk,  
November 21).

Both Russia and Ukraine have travelled  
far during the year since the Euro-Maidan  
exploded, and if the latter is united as never  
before around the effort to assert its  
European identity, the former is sleep-  
walking to yet another state failure, intoxi-  
cated by the fumes of its jingoist policies.  
Mr. Putin seeks to achieve new stability in  
the midst of the "hybrid war" of his own  
making, but his seemingly solid domestic  
support is just a thin crust on shifting social  
sands eroded by economic misfortunes. He  
tries to deter the hostile West from exploit-  
ing this weakness by using military and  
even nuclear brinksmanship, but this  
requires steely precision – and he is con-  
stantly irked by the lack of respect to his  
petulant persona. He cannot slow Russia's  
sinking into recession, so he has to stop  
Ukraine's recovery from the near disas-  
trous encounter with the specter called  
"Novorossiya."

Every day in the current pause brings  
him new setbacks and insults, and every  
Rubicon he has crossed granted him a  
moment of triumph before delivering  
Russia deeper into the hole of a losing con-  
frontation. He is now set to savor another  
bold move but may be worried that it could  
be his last one.

*The article above is reprinted from  
Eurasia Daily Monitor with permission from  
its publisher, the Jamestown Foundation,  
[www.jamestown.org](http://www.jamestown.org).*

## SUMA Federal Credit Union Yonkers, New York

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## Reflections...

(Continued from page 9)

**What sets the Ukrainian Film Club apart from forums for national cinema; does it have any peers? Where does the Ukrainian Film Club stand in the field of post-Soviet film clubs?**

In a way we exist in a kind of self-imposed isolation not being terribly interested in film clubs that are out there. At Columbia University I'm not aware of a single outfit that presents itself as a film club. For us, showing the film is only an excuse to speak about something the film represents, about Ukraine, about Ukrainian culture in its infinite manifestations. Film is an excuse to have a conversation, to create buzz, to make people think about things that are larger than the film, both that appear in the film, but also that are significantly left out of the film, and why.

So it's always, always the case that we have a discussion of the film and very often the discussion is long. And I always make a point of introducing the film to create a larger both social-historical and cultural context against which the viewer interprets the film. It's not just pure entertainment or pure visual experience; it is primarily an intellectual experience. And in that sense, I think we stand apart even from such hallowed film platforms as the Lincoln Center Film Society or the MoMA film series where films are screened and on very few occasions discussed.

Another difference: unlike any other film club, we are acutely aware – we almost function with the awareness – that we are the only ones: if we don't do it, nobody will. So we are kind of a lonely warrior in the field with a very keen sense of mission: that we represent something infinitely big and that gives us a kind of self-understanding and self-vision that keeps us going even when sometimes we encounter obstacles.

What's also important is that we are very picky. From day one, we decided that we needed to be a kind of filter that kept the notion of Ukrainian national cinema uncontaminated by colonialist influences, so we favor films that manifest recognizable attributes of national film. That does not mean that we don't screen films that don't, but that for us is another pretext to talk about the current state of Ukrainian culture and the ongoing colonialist influences. From that angle, for instance, we showed a patently anti-Ukrainian film, "Taras Bulba," by Vladimir Bordko which is simply a propaganda and agitation film and openly anti-Ukrainian, openly imperialist. Not only did we show the film, we organized conferences around that film. We invited a specialist in history, a specialist in Russian literature and a specialist in film, and we had a very stimulating discussion with sparks flying and the public was huge-

ly rewarded. So the intellectual dimension of the film club is very pronounced and probably, without fear of exaggeration, is central really.

Also we don't mince words broadcasting the message about our preferences back to Ukraine and telling them, "The films that you are making can hardly be seen or understood or presented as Ukrainian 'cause there's nothing Ukrainian in them." We try to encourage those who make Ukrainian films that give a voice to a people and a culture that have been deprived of a voice for decades.

**How are you celebrating 10 years of the Ukrainian Film Club?**

An excellent question! Of course we want everybody to know that we have been around for 10 years, and even more so that we have done a lot of things and, most importantly, intend to do many more things, but not without the support and interest of the community we're serving. And that is not only the Ukrainian community, but the American community, those Americans who are looking for something other than Hollywood fare. So we are organizing an American tour for the film "The Guide," the latest work by the director Oles Sanin, and not unimportantly, Ukraine's official entry for Oscar consideration in the best foreign language film category.

This tour is going to start at Columbia University on December 2 with the unofficial premiere of "The Guide," followed by a screening in Philadelphia the following day, and then by a screening at Harvard University under the auspices of the Ukrainian Research Institute there and then followed by Chicago. The Ukrainian community in Chicago is organizing a screening there, and then by Detroit and Ann Arbor in Michigan. And finally, as kind of a framing, ending in New York again by the final screening at The Ukrainian Museum.

All the screenings in all those cities are going to be attended by the director himself, who will be able to present the film and entertain questions from the audience, creating a unique opportunity for the public to socialize with him. Additionally, the screening at The Ukrainian Museum will be attended by Anton Sviatoslav Greene, who plays the principal role in the film, that of the boy guide.

So that's one way, but we don't see this celebration as confined to a specific one project. We're going to celebrate it every time we screen films. We have an ongoing film series in Philadelphia this year with three screenings played in addition to "The Guide" and we are in conversation with other potential venues where we are going to be bringing Ukrainian films as well. Basically, it's an open-ended celebration.

**What do you see as the role of this club in the near future and what projections**

citizenship. The Poltava City Council decided on November 25 that the title given to Kobzon in 2002 must be withdrawn because his anti-Ukrainian stance. Mr. Kobzon, who was born in Ukraine's Donetsk region in 1937, was extremely popular as a singer in Soviet times. A member of the Russian Duma, he has been supportive of Russian President Vladimir Putin's politics towards Ukraine, the annexation of Crimea in March, and the pro-Russian rebels in his native Donetsk region in eastern Ukraine. In September, another city in Ukraine's east, Dnipropetrovsk, stripped Mr. Kobzon of honorary citizenship. The Security Service of Ukraine has placed Mr. Kobzon on the list of individuals banned from entering the country. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by UNIAN and Interfax)

**would you make for the next 10 years?**

Well, ideally I would like for some kind of a sponsor to materialize with enough money to make the club into an institution. We are now – and this I didn't mention – one of the biggest collections of Ukrainian films outside Ukraine, and we sit really on a treasure trove of Ukrainian cinematographic legacy. For a number of reasons, we cannot be a lending library; we cannot even allow people who are interested in Ukrainian film to watch them outside our regular screenings, and I don't think that's right.

Ideally I would love for our film club to develop into a research outfit and provide open access to all the films. If there could be a film librarian who could do things with films like catalogue them, but also cater to those who would like to use them, and describe them and study them and what-not, that would be fantastic. And that would probably be in addition to spreading the geography of our screening and engaging more film platforms from other institutions into the sphere of Ukrainian filmmaking. That would be the next step.



With deep sorrow, we announce  
that our dearest  
HUSBAND, FATHER, GRANDFATHER

**MYRON MARTIUK**  
departed on November 19, 2014.

Born May 8, 1938  
Zboriv, Ternopil Oblast, Ukraine.



In deep sorrow:

wife MARIJKA MARTIUK  
son ROMAN MARTIUK  
son MARK MARTIUK with his wife, KIMBERLY,  
and their children, TARAS and MILA  
daughter NATALKA MARTIUK

and family in the Diaspora and in Ukraine.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made to the following:

CurePSP Foundation: [www.myronmartiuk.com](http://www.myronmartiuk.com)

St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church • 97-06 87th St, Ozone Park, NY 11416

The Ukrainian Museum • 222 East 6th St., New York, NY 10003

*May His memory be eternal!*



With deep sorry we announce that our beloved mother, sister,  
grandmother, mother-in-law, sister-in-law, aunt, cousin

**Maria Anna Pidlusky,**  
**neé Olynec**

passed away November 8, 2014.

She was born in 1936 in Zolochiv, Ukraine.

Funeral services were held November 11, 2014, at Peter Jarema Funeral Home in New York.

Interment took place at Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery in Hamptonburg, NY.

M. Pidlusky spent time at a displaced persons camp in Mittenwald, Germany, moved to New York City where for many years sang in the Ukrainian choir Dumka, married Bohdan Pidlusky and moved to Maine, thence to Ellenville, NY, near Soyuzivka. After years of fighting dementia, she passed away in Middle Village, NY at the home of her sister.

In deep sorrow:

son - Adrian Pidlusky with wife Liana Pidlusky and son Mark  
daughter - Lydia Pidlusky with husband Claudio Stalling  
sister - Lydia Zakrewsky  
brother - Roman Olynec with wife Maria Harasymowycz-  
Olynec and children Andrew and Natalia Olynec-  
Mikkelsen with family  
sister-in-law - Martha Tymkiw-Olynec with son Gene and daughter  
Adriana

cousins with families in America and other relatives in Ukraine and abroad.

**Memory eternal!**

The family appreciates funeral services attendees and condolences. In particular, the family is grateful to Very Rev. Bernard Panchuk, Rev. Vasile Tivadar, and Rev. Yaroslav Kostyk for conducting services.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests prayers and memorial donations to:

- Ukrainian Chorus "Dumka" of America, Inc., 144 2nd Ave., New York, NY 10003
- "Nashe Zhyttia" Press Fund of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, 203 2nd Ave., 5th Fl, New York, NY 10003-5706
- St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church, 9706 8th St., Ozone Park, NY 11416
- St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church, 30 East 7th St, NY, NY 10003
- Other charitable organizations.

## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

being held in Russia on charges of complicity in the deaths of two Russian journalists during the conflict between government forces and pro-Russian rebels in eastern Ukraine. She says she was captured by separatists on June 18 and illegally transferred to Russian custody in July. The pilot won a seat in the Verkhovna Rada last month. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by UNIAN and pravda.ua.com)

### **Poltava strips singer of honorary citizenship**

POLTAVA, Ukraine – Ukraine's eastern city of Poltava has stripped Russian singer and lawmaker Yosif Kobzon of honorary



## NED president...

(Continued from page 6)

In addition to implementing radical reforms, Ukraine will need much more financial support than it has received to date from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other international financial institutions – not in the form of credits, which Ukraine won't be able to repay as the economy is collapsing – but as aid to rebuild its economy. What's needed, according to Aslund, is a new Marshall Plan to save Ukraine, just as the United States saved Europe after World War II. And it can work, because Ukraine is now ready to do what has to be done to control corruption and become a modern state.

The challenge confronting Ukraine is more difficult than the one faced by post-war Europe because it needs to rebuild economically while the war is still going on – in this case, the war caused by Russia's continuing aggression in Ukraine's east. Ukraine is now fighting a war of survival against a very brutal, dangerous and powerful enemy. NATO Commanding Gen. Philip Breedlove said on Wednesday that Russian forces have again crossed the border into southeast Ukraine with tanks, artillery and troops. He charged that Putin is ignoring last September's Minsk peace accords calling for the withdrawal of Russian troops from the region, but as The Economist reports in the current issue, Putin claims he doesn't have to do so since Russia has no troops in Ukraine in the first place.

Of course he's lying, but the West, Breedlove aside, is not calling him on it. The Economist notes that Putin's standard operating procedure is to escalate the conflict and then agree to go no further in exchange for concessions, and he has been getting away with it. It quotes

***The greatest threat to autocracy in Russia is a successful and a democratic Ukraine. This is what Putin fears most, because the mentality of Russian imperialism that Putin represents will wither if Russia cannot control Ukraine.***

Kirill Rogov, a Russian political analyst at the Gaidar Institute in Moscow, as saying that "Putin likes to open talks by putting a knife on the table first." Yet somehow we continue to think that Putin is a potential partner in securing a more peaceful world order.

But of course he's not a partner. The German government has called the latest Russian move "incomprehensible," but it's perfectly comprehensible if one just observes Russian behavior. And the new foreign policy chief of the European Union, Federica Mogherini of Italy, has said that we can't let the peace process break down because it will be so difficult to start it again. But what peace process is she speaking about? The Wall Street Journal said yesterday that "Putin has never stood down" – not in Chechnya in 1999 when he used the Chechen war to take power; not in Georgia in 2008; and not in 2012, when he whipped up anti-Americanism and domestic repression to crush anti-government street protests. He will stand down only if and when he is forced to stand down.

No, he's not a partner in peace or in negotiations, and he has demonstrated a seething anti-Americanism. Here's how The Washington Post characterized his recent speech in Valdai. They called it "a poisonous mix of lies, conspiracy theories, thinly veiled threats of further aggression and, above all, seething resentment toward the United States."

Now he's gone even further with his endorsement of the Nazi-Soviet Pact. What can this mean? Tim Snyder's answer is that Putin is following Stalin: "In his own way, Putin is now attempting much the same

thing. Just as Stalin sought to turn the most radical of European forces, Adolf Hitler, against Europe itself, so Putin is allying with his grab bag of anti-European populists, fascists and separatists. His allies on the far right are precisely the political forces that wish to bring an end to the current European order: the European Union."

What are we to do? More important, really the first question, is what are we dealing with here? If Putin's Russia is not a partner, then what is it? And if it is an adversary, or an opponent, or even an enemy – which is certainly how Putin views it – how does this affect us?

I suggest that Putin seeks a different kind of world order than the one that followed the end of the Cold War and the break-up of the Soviet Union, which he said was "the greatest geopolitical tragedy of the 20th Century." That's why he "drove a tank over the world order" as The Economist put it last March after the invasion and annexation of Crimea: He thinks the current world order represents a grave injustice to Russia. He is seeking to reverse the verdict of 1989, which he considers to be an unjust and humiliating defeat for Russia.

The Russian analyst Lilia Shevtsova, who delivered the NED's annual Lipset Lecture on Democracy last month at the Canadian Embassy, has said that the world is in the midst of an authoritarian surge. She adds that "Today's Russia is an advance combat unit of the new global authoritarianism, with China... waiting in the wings to seize

its own opportunities." She warns that if the West chooses to respond with appeasement, "this will give a green light to the Authoritarian Internationale, signaling that the West is weak and can be trampled underfoot." As The Wall Street Journal said yesterday, it will certainly open the way for Putin to threaten and attack other countries aside

from Ukraine – Moldova, the Baltic states, Poland and Kazakhstan.

Should this matter to the United States? Are our own interests involved, leaving aside those of Ukraine and our allies? Why should we care? I raised this question at a forum we organized the day following Lilia Shevtsova's lecture. A member of the panel, Leon Aron of the American Enterprise Institute, responded that Russia is a country with 1,700 nuclear missiles and is now in the grip of a leader with a messianic, revanchist ideology and historic grievances against the United States. Shouldn't that matter to us? If Putin wants to destroy NATO and the EU, shouldn't we care? Have we no sense of what our national interest is and what we must do to defend it?

We are entering a new moment in our politics. After last week's election, we can expect a much tougher tone in the debate in Congress over foreign policy, and more pressure for a stronger response than we've seen so far to Putin's aggression. There will certainly be an effort to expand sanctions to sharpen the economic crisis that is growing in Russia. The ruble has fallen by 22 percent so far this year, a rate of decline second only to Argentina. The drop in oil prices, the outflow of capital that could exceed \$100 billion this year, the inflation in food prices caused by Putin's retaliatory embargo on agricultural imports from the West – all of this will contribute to Russia's severe economic difficulties and present new opportunities to increase pressure on Russia by tightening sanctions.

But what is most urgent, as Sens. Carl Levin and Jim Inhofe wrote in The Washington Post last month, is the need to

give Ukraine the weapons it needs to defend itself. They don't want U.S. boots on the ground, but blankets and food rations are hardly enough, as President Poroshenko told the Congress in September. What they need is what was provided for in the bill adopted with bipartisan and unanimous support in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee: anti-tank weapons to defend against Russian-provided armored personnel carriers; ammunition; vehicles and secure communications equipment; and intelligence support and training.

Key leaders in the U.S. and Europe have said that they oppose weapons for Ukraine because they fear that an armed Ukraine

might think that there is a military solution to the conflict. Unfortunately, as The Washington Post has repeatedly pointed out, Mr. Putin does not agree that there is no military solution. He has used military escalation to achieve his victory in the form of a dissected Ukraine

and a frozen conflict that will destabilize Ukraine for the foreseeable future and deny it membership in the European Union and NATO. Military aid to Ukraine may not by itself bring the conflict to an end, but no political solution will be possible in the absence of a military balance that convinces Putin that his aggression will meet with stiff resistance and will not be able to succeed.

If he does fail, the consequences for Putin could be severe. Clearly he hopes that the invasion and annexation of Crimea and the attack on eastern Ukraine will help him gain support in Russia and resist pressures for change. He's not the first Russian leader to think that way. In 1904, the tsarist interior minister Vyacheslav Plehve said, "What this country needs is a short victorious war to stem the tide of revolution." He had in mind Russia's war against Japan. But what happened? Plehve was assassinated, Russia lost the war, and the defeat precipitated the revolution of 1905, which brought about Russia's first Parliament and the reforms of Pyotr Stolypin.

According to both the Russian analyst Vladimir Kara Murza and the Georgian writer Ghia Nodia, this was not the only case of a Russian military defeat or setback leading to political change. They note that Russia's defeat in the Crimean War of 1853-1856 demonstrated the backwardness of its autocratic system and led to the abolition of serfdom and other liberal reforms, including the establishment of local self-government and trial by jury. Russia's devastating setbacks in World War I contributed to the collapse of the tsarist system and the Russian Revolution of 1917, which began as a democratic revolution before the Bolshevik coup. And the failed Soviet invasion of Afghanistan precipitated the disintegration of the Soviet Union. Putin may yet regret the day he decided to send troops into Ukraine.

But many people argue that the fall of Putin would itself present a great danger because he will likely be replaced by someone even worse. They say that Russia, with its autocratic history and authoritarian culture, is not capable of establishing a real democracy. But is that true?

I asked that question of my friend Vladimir Kara Murza, who now works in Moscow for Mikhail Khodorkovsky's Open Russia, which seeks a democratic opening and a European future for Russia. Kara Murza responded by saying that anti-democratic forces have always done badly in Russian elections whenever they were free and competitive. The first-ever election was in 1906, when the Constitutional Democratic Party, which had campaigned for liberal reforms and a British-style parliamentary system, won a plurality of seats

in the State Duma, while the far-right monarchists failed to get even a single candidate elected. In 1917, in the election for the Constituent Assembly held after the Bolshevik coup, the Bolsheviks lost to the pro-democracy Socialist Revolutionary Party by 40 to 24 percent, which is why the Bolsheviks then dispersed the "bourgeois" Assembly by force.

The next time the Russians had a chance to vote, according to Kara Murza, was in 1991 when Boris Yeltsin, backed by the opposition Democratic Russia movement, overwhelmingly defeated the Communist candidate, former Soviet Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov, by 57 to 17 percent. Even in the

1993 parliamentary elections, when ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy won a plurality, the centrist and liberal parties outpolled the combined total received by Zhirinovskiy and the Communists by 40 to 35 percent. And in 1996, even though Yeltsin was an unpopular incumbent and in poor health, he was

able to defeat the Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov by 54 to 40 percent in the second-round presidential runoff.

I am by no means saying that democracy is inevitable in Russia, only that it is possible, and that one should not resign oneself to Putin's continued rule on the grounds that the only possible alternative to him would be worse. I believe that Putin does not feel secure in his power, and that the greatest threat to autocracy in Russia is a successful and a democratic Ukraine. This is what Putin fears most, because the mentality of Russian imperialism that Putin represents will wither if Russia cannot control Ukraine. Without Ukraine, Russia ceases to be an empire, as Zbigniew Brzezinski has said, and it can become a more normal country, even a democracy, where the central concern is not the power of Great Russia but the welfare of the people.

Putin also fears a democratic Ukraine because it will be a powerful model for Russia itself. He knows that a neighboring Ukraine, with millions of Russian-speaking people freely expressing themselves, will be a magnetic symbol of democratic freedoms for people inside Russia.

So the strategic goal for people who want to see a more peaceful and democratic world is a Russia that, like Ukraine, wants to be democratic and a part of Europe. I don't know if that will happen. But I do know that a successful and democratic Ukraine is a precondition for it to happen. Therefore, Ukraine's struggle for democracy, independence and territorial integrity has global significance. It's a struggle that will have consequences for the whole world. And I believe that the U.S. has a profound national interest in its success. So we must stand with Ukraine, not just because it deserves our support, but to defend our values and our national security.

In conclusion, I want to refer back to the October 26 election and to the thought that Ukraine is a new country. As I mentioned, Nadia Diuk was there as an observer, in Dnipropetrovsk, which used to be a center for Soviet missile production. She wrote afterwards that she saw signs of a different country and a new patriotism all about her; in political graffiti and in walls and fences painted yellow and blue. She said that on her return plane trip to Kyiv from Dnipropetrovsk, the steward made the usual announcements before landing, saying that the passengers "should make sure to take all of your personal belongings." And then he ended with the phrase that was as unusual as it was expressive of the new spirit of the country, and it's how I want to end tonight: "Slava Ukraini!" – Glory to Ukraine.

***What is most urgent, as Sens. Carl Levin and Jim Inhofe wrote in The Washington Post last month, is the need to give Ukraine the weapons it needs to defend itself.***



# Lisovi Mavky Plast sorority meets in Michigan



Tanya Brown

Young adult members of the Lisov Mavky sorority of Plast.

BRIGHTON, Mich. – The Plast campground Zelenyi Yar, located by the grounds of Dibrova in Brighton, Michigan, provided the perfect backdrop for this year's Lisovi Mavky sorority annual meeting of their young adult members (age 18-35).

Over 20 participants converged on October 3-5 during an unusually chilly and rainy weekend to discuss their plans for the year, share in friendship and song, and discuss long-range goals for the sorority and its members. The famous Ukrainian writer Lesia Ukrainka is the patron of the Lisovi Mavky sorority, which focuses on Ukrainian folklore and culture.

The annual meeting was coordinated by members of the Toronto and Midwest/Detroit branches of the sorority. Members from Ontario, Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Michigan and even Florida traveled to engage in fruitful conversation, initiate new members and discuss projects for Plast youth and upcoming folklore-related activities.

Previous sorority initiatives include organization of art exhibits, lectures on Ukrainian folk and ethnic themes, poetry readings, an environmental awareness project, and organizing Ukrainian holiday events for Plast youths throughout the United States and Canada. In addition, this

past year, the Mavky held lessons on women's empowerment by teaching Ukrainian youth about microfinancing Ukrainian businesswomen's shops. As part of its ongoing commitment to preserving folklore and Ukrainian tradition, the sorority will continue its practice of holding informative lessons with Plast scouts, teaching them about Ukrainian traditions such as the Christmas "vertep" and folk singing. The sorority also hopes to prepare materials, both printed and audiovisual, that can be disseminated to scout leaders across the country and Canada via the Internet.

Meeting participants enjoyed a brisk walk around the Dibrova grounds, and took part in a folkloric round robin, in which they learned about korovai decoration, Ukrainian folk singing and embroidery from fellow members.

Thanks to modern technology, a Skype meeting was held with members of the Lisovi Mavky in Lviv, Ukraine. During the hour-long meeting, common goals and activities for the year were discussed, while stressing a continued commitment to frequent communication via the Internet and e-mail. Lisovi Mavky in Ukraine told their American and Canadian sisters about their plans to develop mentorship programs for orphans in Ukraine.

The weekend concluded with the election of leadership for the new year, with members unanimously voting to keep the current president, Stephanie Procyk, on for another term, thanks to her successful leadership. Next year's Rada will be held jointly by the young adult and senior members (scouts over the age of 35) in September, with Toronto discussed as the likely location. The younger sorority members will hold a mini-conference in Boston in March 2015.

Founded in 1947 in Erlangen, Bavaria, by a group of young women who shared a common love of Ukrainian folklore and their beloved homeland, the Lisovi Mavky have established a legacy of activity. Both branches continue their dedication to Plast and their love of Ukrainian culture and enjoy lifelong friendships.

For more information on the Lisovi Mavky sororities readers may visit [www.lisovimavky.org](http://www.lisovimavky.org) or [www.facebook.com/LisoviMavky](http://www.facebook.com/LisoviMavky).

# Senior sorority of Spartanky meets in Catskills

by Irka Sawchyn-Doll

JEWETT, N.Y. – The senior Plast sorority Spartanky had their annual retreat-conference on September 26-27 in the gorgeous Catskill area of Hunter, N.Y. The towns around Hunter are home to a vibrant Ukrainian community, and this year's conference took advantage of the fact that several members have homes close to each other. The conference was centered in what was previously the Hilltop Acres Resort in Jewett, N.Y.

The purpose of the annual conference is to review and refresh the members' commitment to Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, take a look at what the sorority members accomplished in the past year, and plan another year of actively supporting the goals of the parent Plast organization. Spartanky members are enthusiastic contributors to Plast, taking on leadership roles on many levels in the organization. The annual conference is an opportunity to determine where the members can best apply their efforts in the coming year.

The weather was a blessing from heaven – almost unseasonably warm and sunny during the days. The conference started on Friday night with several recreational events. After dinner, everyone gathered for a traditional campfire. The actual campfire was enormous, the camaraderie so sweet, and the new and old skits delightfully entertaining. As always, everyone sang songs next to the blazing fire, keeping warm together as the night air cooled down. Everyone's high spirits continued late into the night as friends caught up with each other, or became acquainted with someone new.

The serious planning stage of the conference took place outside on Saturday, under the beautiful fall foliage. A new member, Chrystia Iwanik from Connecticut, was enthusiastically inducted into the sorority. As her introductory project she had run a fund-raiser and helped organize the conference. Two new candidates were welcomed to the sorority: Nadia Gluch from Connecticut and Katia Savyckij from New Jersey. The sorority also marked the passing of one of its beloved members, Vera Gorloff, who died this year after



Chrystia Iwanik

Members of Plast's senior sorority of Spartanky at their annual retreat-conference.

a courageous battle with illness.

This summer marked the 20th anniversary of the start of "Pochatkovyi Tabir" (Beginners' Camp) at East Chatham. The camp was conceived by Spartanka Petrusia Paslavska as a one-week starter camp for 6- and 7-year-olds, to prepare them for the three-week camps for Plast cub scouts. This innovative concept has proven to be very successful, and Spartanky have organized these camps for the past 20 years. These camps were also a means for introducing young counselors to camp counseling, before taking on full camp responsibilities. This remarkable milestone was celebrated this past summer at Vovcha Tropa, the Plast campground in East Chatham, N.Y., with a barbeque and program that were very well attended.

Plans for the coming year include continuing annual events, such as conducting testing the Physical Fitness Badge and ecology talks at Vovcha Tropa next summer. Spartanky branches are organizing a traditional St.

Andrew's Eve (Andriyivskiy Vechir) in December with older scouts, as well as caroling and coffee hours. Other events are a Christmas party for senior Plast members in New Jersey and a winter ski trip for younger scouts in early 2015 in New York.

A new leadership board was elected: Irka Pelech Zwarych, president; Louisa Kaminska, vice-president; Vera Myskiw, treasurer; Marusia Kolodij, recording secretary; Irka Sawchyn-Doll, press secretary; Chrystia Centore, chronicler; Chrystia Iwanik and Lesia Palylyk, candidates' directors; and Lyalya Nahnybida, flag-bearer.

The new chapter leaders are: Chrystia Gnoy-Stasiuk in New Jersey, Lesia Kozicky in New York, and Halia de Vassal in Philadelphia.

Planning has already begun for the next conference; it will take place the weekend of October 30, 2015, in Spring Lake, N.J. For further information about Spartanky, readers may contact Ms. Iwanik at [ciwanik@yahoo.com](mailto:ciwanik@yahoo.com).



## NOTES ON PEOPLE

### Wins first prize for computer programming



Iryna Pashenkovska and Walter Syzonenko.

EASTBOURNE, England – Ukrainian computer programmer Iryna Pashenkovska won first prize in the non-student category of the 2014 International Dyalog APL Programming Contest, which offers a prize for the best solutions in the APL programming language to two sets of programming problems.

First-prize winners in both student and non-student categories presented their solutions at the 2014 Dyalog User Meeting held in September in Eastbourne, England.

Awards were presented to the two winners by Walter Syzonenko, vice-president of Development for Fiserv, one of the corporate

sponsors of the contest. "It's always a pleasure to present this award, recognizing bright young talent. For me – a first-generation Ukrainian American – being able to present it to a Ukrainian winner was a particularly great honor," commented Mr. Syzonenko.

A resident of Kyiv, Ms. Pashenkovska recently completed the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, majoring in engineering mathematics. She is employed by SimCorp Ukraine LLC.

Readers who might be interested in entering this contest may visit [www.dyalog.com/student-competition/htm](http://www.dyalog.com/student-competition/htm) for more information.

### Receives award in field of oncology



BINGHAMTON, N.Y. – After returning to Binghamton, N.Y., from Ukraine, where he was an election observer, Lubomyr Zobniw (left) was invited by his daughter, Chrystia Zobniw (right), a doctor of pharmacy, to the dinner of the Roswell Park Cancer Institute. Mr. Zobniw was not aware that this June 19 dinner was an awards ceremony at which fellows and residents were recognized in various oncology fields. Among the two recognized residents was his daughter, Dr. Zobniw. The photo above, Mr. Zobniw says, captures a father's pride in his daughter's professional achievements, as well as her contributions to the Ukrainian community in Binghamton. Now, Dr. Zobniw has moved to Houston, to work at the top-rated MD Anderson Cancer Center.

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

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## FOR LOVERS OF UKRAINIAN ART

Several works of art from a significant private collection are being released for sale.

The private collection includes icons as well as works by Mykola Pymonenko, Ivan Trush, Vasyl Kassian, Roman Selsky, Roman Kurach, Mykola Azovsky, Oleksa Hryshchenko, Victor Cymbal, Borys Kriukov, Nadia Somko, Volodymyr Makarenko and Mykola Nedilko.

All of the artwork, which was maintained in the diaspora, can be authenticated.

For more detailed information, please contact the following email:

[ukrainianpaintings@gmail.com](mailto:ukrainianpaintings@gmail.com)

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## Ukrainian Days...

(Continued from page 10)

make the legislation move forward.

The delegation explained the urgency of the situation with Russian military hardware and Russian troops in Ukraine. The Obama administration has been a hindrance in gaining support for Ukraine, community activists said. They noted that community action is needed to reach the president, vice-president and secretary of state, reminding them that the time has come for deeds not words.

Mr. Wilson said that HR 5190 needs more support and the legislation would have to be approved by the Senate and/or the House, which would preserve the work for legislation to carry over into 2015. December 11-12 are the cutoff dates for the congressional winter recess.

Mr. Zwarycz noted the great shift in U.S. position on the matter after U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Geoffrey Pyatt termed Russia's actions in Ukraine an "invasion," a term that the Obama administration has shied away from using to describe Russia's actions. Mr. Zwarycz added, "The U.S. has taken a 'step back' from conflict areas, leading to the rise of terrorism. Russia's military reform is not as widespread as it would like the world to believe if it is sending prop planes to buzz borders

of the U.S., NATO members and its allies."

The U.S. is set to become an energy superpower, Mr. Wilson noted, and Russia will need U.S. technology cooperation if it wants to compete.

"We can support Ukraine," Mr. Wilson said, "by maintaining interest in the public sphere via opinion pieces, letters to the editor and demonstrations. The biggest shift in the U.S. following Russia's actions is that non-Ukrainians recognize the need to preserve Ukraine as a democracy."

As reported by the AHCU, since the Ukrainian Days event, Sen. Levin has become a co-sponsor of S 2828, and support was voiced by Sens. Kirk and Durbin. To help get S 2828 to the Senate floor, the Chicago Ukrainian American community is being advised to schedule meetings with Sen. Durbin in his Chicago office during the Thanksgiving recess.

The Ukrainian community is also seeking intervention on the hold-up of the shipment of sniper rifles and country-battery radar sets to Ukraine, the AHCU report stated, and Sen. Menendez's recent letter to the Senate Appropriations Committee should be distributed to committee members. On the House side, text identical to S 2828 was recommended to be put to a floor vote. Other work includes petitioning for a U.S. government grant for the Patriot Defence medical kit initiative and contacting senators and representatives for commitments of support.

## IN MEMORY OF OUR PARENTS



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We hold them dear though you are gone  
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# OUT & ABOUT

- |                            |  |  |  |
|----------------------------|--|--|--|
| December 2<br>Washington   | Panel discussion with Olena Chervonik, William Green Miller and Pavlo Gudimov, "Walls in Ukraine: Art Before and After the Euro-Maidan Revolution," Kennan Institute, Ronald Regan Building and International Trade Center, 202-691-4000     | December 7<br>New York                     | Children's Christmas Party and Tree Trimming, Ukrainian Institute of America, <a href="http://www.ukrainianinstitute.org">www.ukrainianinstitute.org</a>   |
| December 6<br>New York     | Performance, "Koliada and Music from the Carpathians," featuring the Yara Arts Group and the Koliadnyky of Kryvorivnia, The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110 or <a href="http://www.ukrainianmuseum.org">www.ukrainianmuseum.org</a>           | December 7<br>Toronto                      | Book launch and panel discussion, "History of Ukraine-Rus'. Volume 10. The Cossack Age, 1657-1659" by Mykhailo Hrushevsky, with celebration of the sponsor of the volume, the late John Yaremko, St. Vladimir Institute, 416-923-3318  |
| December 6<br>New York     | Workshop on Ukrainian Christmas Traditions, The Ukrainian Museum, <a href="http://www.ukrainianmuseum.org">www.ukrainianmuseum.org</a>   | December 7-<br>January 25, 2015<br>Chicago | Children's exhibit, "From Past to Present: Ethnic Heritage Through the Eyes of My Elders," Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, 312-421-8020   |
| December 6<br>Chicago      | Christmas concert, featuring the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus, St. Joseph the Betrothed Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, 773-505-4806  | December 11<br>New York                    | Film screening, "The Guide," with director Oles Sanin and Anton Sviatoslav Greene, Ukrainian Film Club of Columbia University, Harriman Institute at Columbia University, The Ukrainian Museum, <a href="http://www.ukrainianmuseum.org">www.ukrainianmuseum.org</a> or 212-228-0110 |
| December 6<br>Miami        | Christmas choral program, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, 954-434-4635 or <a href="mailto:donnamak@bellsouth.net">donnamak@bellsouth.net</a>  | December 11<br>Ottawa                      | Christmas dinner and presentation of awards, Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association of Ottawa, Marconi Center, <a href="mailto:Cornell.Popyk@gmail.com">Cornell.Popyk@gmail.com</a> or 613-851-9171  |
| December 6-7<br>New York   | Christmas bazaar, The Ukrainian Museum, <a href="http://www.ukrainianmuseum.org">www.ukrainianmuseum.org</a> or 212-228-0110   | December 11<br>Annandale-on-<br>Hudson, NY | Performance, "Koliada and Music from the Carpathians," featuring Yara Arts Group and the Koliadnyky of Kryvorivnia, Bard College, <a href="mailto:msonevyt@bard.edu">msonevyt@bard.edu</a> or 845-752-2405   |
| December 7<br>Chicago      | Divine liturgy sung by the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus, St. Joseph the Betrothed Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, followed by auditions for new members, 773-505-4806   | December 12<br>New York                    | Concert featuring classical works performed by violinist Solomia Soroka and pianist Arthur Greene, The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110 or <a href="http://www.ukrainianmuseum.org">www.ukrainianmuseum.org</a>  |
| December 7<br>New York     | Concert marking Taras Shevchenko's 200th birthday, featuring vocalist Oksana Dyka, pianist Mykola Suk and violinist Solomiya Ivakhiv, Merkin Concert Hall, <a href="mailto:info@shevchenko.org">info@shevchenko.org</a> or 212-254-5130      | December 12<br>Chicago                     | Ukrainian Festivities on the Eve of St. Andrew, Ukrainian Cultural Center, 312-421-8020 or <a href="mailto:curator@ukrainiannationalmuseum.org">curator@ukrainiannationalmuseum.org</a>  |
| December 7<br>Hillside, NJ | St. Nicholas Children's Program, Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church, 908-322-7350 or <a href="http://www.byzcath.org/immaculateconception">www.byzcath.org/immaculateconception</a>   |  |  |
| December 7<br>Whippany, NJ | Performance, "Koliada and Music from the Carpathians," featuring the Yara Arts Group and the Koliadnyky of Kryvorivnia, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, 973-590-8026 or <a href="http://www.uaccnj.org">www.uaccnj.org</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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## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

### Saturday, December 6

**NEW YORK:** The Ukrainian Museum and Yara Arts Group present "Koliada and Music from the Carpathians" featuring the Koliadnyky from Kryvorivnia Ivan and Mykola Zelenchuk, with "troista" musicians Mykola Ilyuk, Vasyl Tymchuk and Ostap Kostyuk. They will be joined by special guests: Crimean Tatars violinist Nariman Asanov and percussionist Lennur Mamutov, as well as bandurist Julian Kytasty. The program is at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. at The Ukrainian Museum, 222 E. Sixth St. Tickets: \$25; \$20 for museum members, seniors and students. For information call 212-228-0110 or visit [www.ukrainianmuseum.org](http://www.ukrainianmuseum.org).

### Sunday, December 7

**WHIPPANY, N.J.:** The Arts, Culture and Education Committee of the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey (UACCNJ) and Yara Arts Group presents "Koliada and Music from the Carpathians" featuring the Koliadnyky from Kryvorivnia Ivan and Mykola Zelenchuk, with the "troista" musicians Mykola Ilyuk, Vasyl Tymchuk and Ostap Kostyuk. They will be joined by special guests: Korinya Ukrainian Folk Band, Max Lozynskyj and bandurist Julian Kytasty. The program is at 1:30 p.m. at the UACCNJ, 60-C N Jefferson Road, Whippany, NJ 07054. Tickets: \$25; \$20 for seniors, students and children. For information call 973-590-8026 or log on to [www.uaccnj.org](http://www.uaccnj.org).

### Thursday, December 11

**ANNANDALE-ON-HUDSON, N.Y.:** Yara Arts Group presents "Koliada and Music from the Carpathians" featuring the Koliadnyky from Kryvorivnia Ivan and Mykola Zelenchuk, with "troista" musicians Mykola Ilyuk, Vasyl Tymchuk and Ostap Kostyuk. They will be joined by special guests: Raphaelle Condo and bandurist Julian Kytasty. The program is at 8 p.m., at Bard College, Bard Hall, 70 N.

Ravine Road. For information e-mail [msonevyt@bard.edu](mailto:msonevyt@bard.edu) or call 845-752-2405. The concert is free and open to the public.

### Saturday, December 13

**PHILADELPHIA:** Yara Arts Group presents "Koliada and Music from the Carpathians" featuring the Koliadnyky from Kryvorivnia Ivan and Mykola Zelenchuk, with "troista" musicians Mykola Ilyuk, Vasyl Tymchuk and Ostap Kostyuk. They will be joined by the Accolada Chamber Choir. The program is at 7:30 p.m. at the Ukrainian League of Philadelphia, 800 N. 23rd St. Tickets: \$25; \$20 for seniors, students and children. For information call 215-776-1004.

### Sunday, December 14

**WASHINGTON:** Yara Arts Group presents "Koliada and Music from the Carpathians" featuring the Koliadnyky from Kryvorivnia Ivan and Mykola Zelenchuk, with "troista" musicians Mykola Ilyuk, Vasyl Tymchuk and Ostap Kostyuk. They will be joined by the SPIV-Zhyttia vocal ensemble, as well as bandurist Julian Kytasty. The program is at 2:30 p.m. at the Ukrainian National Catholic Shrine of the Holy Family, 4250 Harewood Road NE. Tickets: \$25; \$15 for seniors and students. For information e-mail [ukeliving-song@gmail.com](mailto:ukeliving-song@gmail.com).

### Saturday, December 20

**WASHINGTON:** Taras Shevchenko School of Ukrainian Studies will host a Mykolai show and holiday bazaar. Students will present a Mykolai show at noon. Sviaty Mykolai (St. Nicholas) will then meet with each grade/age group (non-students welcome). The Heavenly Office will be open at 9:15-11:45 a.m.; only one item per child (\$2 fee), labeled (child's name, grade/age). The bazaar/bake sale at 9:30 a.m. to noon will feature a variety of home-baked treats and holiday foods, as well as books and gift items. Location: Westland Middle School, 5511 Massachusetts Ave., Bethesda, MD 20816. For further information visit [ukrainianschoolbazaar.weebly.com](http://ukrainianschoolbazaar.weebly.com) or contact Lada Onyshkevych, [lada2@verizon.net](mailto:lada2@verizon.net) or 410-730-8108.

### Saturday-Sunday, December 27-28

**NEW YORK:** Yara's new theater piece "Winter Light" with koliada and vertep featuring Koliadnyky, Yara artists and special guests. The program is on Saturday at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m. La MaMa Experimental Theater is located at 66 E. Fourth St. Admission is \$25; \$20 for seniors, students and children. Tickets may be purchased by calling 212-475-7710 or at [www.lamama.org](http://www.lamama.org).

## 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 must be **no more than 100 words** long.

Preview items must be received **no later than one week before the desired date of publication**. 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). When e-mailing, please do not send items as attachments – simply type the text into the body of the e-mail message. Preview items and payments may be mailed to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.



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