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# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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## Profile of the Cabinet: Ukraine's new ministers

by Zenon Zawada

KYIV – The new Cabinet of Ministers approved by Parliament on December 2 failed to impress Ukraine's political observers, many of whom are already predicting their demise, partly because of reasons beyond their control.

They described a no-win situation, in which dramatic reforms will slash social payments and stir protests among those vulnerable and dependent, while a lack of adequate reforms will upset the creative, upwardly mobile middle class.

Former National Deputy Taras Stetskiy called it a transition government and gave it a lifespan of three to six months, while Dnipropetrovsk political expert Andrii Zolotariov dubbed it "the heating season government" that would last no longer than the spring.

Many of the Cabinet's members have already served in government without demonstrating any commitment to reform, experts said. Meanwhile, "three foreigners won't rescue the government," said Ihor Losiev, a lecturer at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy.

Another ominous sign was that the Cabinet's composition was determined behind closed doors, with President Petro Poroshenko and Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk spending weeks struggling to divvy the majority of the posts between them, despite the president's assurances that the Cabinet wouldn't be determined by quotas.

"There are two big groups here – Yatsenyuk's and Poroshenko's – who gained posts through quotas. A government in this form isn't capable of anything. There won't be any significant changes because they will be competing against one another," said Serhii Rudenko, a Kyiv political expert.

Following are capsule profiles of the Cabinet ministers.

**Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk:** Though his public support plummeted after the Euro-Maidan, the 40-year-old redeemed himself when taking the helm of the interim government afterwards.

He led officials in conducting snap reforms and meeting International Monetary Fund (IMF) requirements to gain a \$17 billion stand-by loan program, including an immediate \$2 billion tranche in April, without which the Ukrainian government would have gone bankrupt.

Though he was not a presidential contender in May, by the time October rolled around, Ukrainians wanted Mr. Yatsenyuk to remain as prime minister, casting the most votes for the People's Front party

that he scraped together with his allies at the last minute.

As part of the government's reform program, Mr. Yatsenyuk announced on December 9 such proposals as dismissing 10 percent of the government workforce; raising wages for those remaining; replacing Soviet-era benefits with contemporary social payments; reducing the personal income tax, while introducing a real estate tax (among others); and eliminating half of state regulatory agencies.

Age: 40

Party: People's Front

Hometown: Chernivtsi

**Vice Prime Minister Hennadii Zubko:**

A highly trusted confidante to the president, he will serve as the minister of regional development, construction and utilities and maintenance. He gained what's called in Ukrainian politics a "khibna posada" (a bread-winning post), as are many that were secured by the Poroshenko Bloc. He earlier served as Mr. Yatsenyuk's go-to guy in Zhytomyr. He took a course in innovation management at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. in 2006.

Age: 47

Party: Independent

Hometown: Mykolayiv

**Vice Prime Minister Vyacheslav**

**Kyrylenko:** A veteran of Ukraine's pro-Western politics, he was part of the 1990 student protests, joined the Rukh party, and participated in the Orange Revolution of 2004 and the Euro-Maidan. He served as vice prime minister for humanitarian affairs in the Orange government and will serve as culture minister this time, drawing wide criticism for a lack of experience. He is believed to have gained vice prime minister status as a result of being a confidante to Mr. Yatsenyuk.

Age: 46

Party: People's Front

Hometown: Village of Poliske, Kyiv Oblast

**Vice Prime Minister Valerii**

**Voschevskyi:** He is a leading entrepreneur and president of several agri-firms in the Chernihiv Oblast, which is the political stronghold and native oblast of Radical Party Head Oleh Liashko. He has extensive experience in politics, serving in the administration of former President Leonid Kuchma. This nominee drew the most controversy, given that he served as head of Ukravtodor – among Ukraine's most corrupt state enterprises – for two months in 2010 before being dismissed.

(Continued on page 4)

## Ambassador to Ukraine says U.S. and Europe must help Ukraine



Yaro Bihun

Ambassador Geoffrey Pyatt shares his reflections and analysis of current and possible future developments in Ukraine.

by Yaro Bihun

WASHINGTON – U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Geoffrey Pyatt said that the United States and Europe must help Ukraine in protecting its territorial integrity, now threatened by Russian aggression, as well as assist the Ukrainian government in building a better future for its people.

He presented his analysis of the current situation in Ukraine and the best possibilities for that country's future development on December 8, during a discussion with foreign policy experts, officials and journalists at the Atlantic Council, a leading Washington think tank.

The crisis Ukraine faces today is unprecedented in as many ways as its resolution is hopeful, he said.

The resolution of the crisis in the Donbas region will have positive consequences for Ukraine, the Euro-Atlantic Security system and American interests in the region, he said. "But just as important," he added, "in

some ways even more important, is what happens in the other 95 percent of Ukraine: how the reform projects are sustained and how this newly elected reformist Cabinet is able to deliver on the very high expectations that the Ukrainian people have laid out today."

Looking back on the past year, since Viktor Yanukovich left the presidency, Ambassador Pyatt noted that there have been two democratic elections, resulting in a new government and a strong pro-European coalition, as well as a strong consensus on the essential requirements for reform.

"Ukraine's political leaders, Ukraine's democrats, have managed to put aside their parochial interests and have managed to focus on the long-term task of building a more democratic, just and European Ukraine," he said, adding that this makes him optimistic.

"I am absolutely convinced that the

(Continued on page 5)

## Biden: Ukraine can't 'blow' another chance to change

by Luke Johnson  
RFE/RL

WASHINGTON – U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden has said Ukraine cannot lose another chance to change the country for the better.

Speaking at an event at the National Democratic Institute in Washington on December 9, Mr. Biden said, "These people have braved snipers' bullets, freezing cold, to win for themselves a chance to fundamentally alter their country for the better."

His message was that if the pro-Western

government formed this month fails to reform the economy and fight corruption, the efforts of Ukrainians who risked their lives in street protests that pushed Viktor Yanukovich from power in February could be in vain.

Vice-President Biden said battling corruption and "kleptocracy" would help Ukraine protect its sovereignty, which is threatened by Russian-backed separatists who have been fighting government forces

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## ANALYSIS

# In annual address, Putin pledges to stay the course, hits a dead end

by Pavel K. Baev  
Eurasia Daily Monitor

The Kremlin has a lot to explain following the dangerous deterioration of Russia's international situation and the drastic degradation of its economy. And President Vladimir Putin opted in his annual address to the Federal Assembly, delivered on December 4 (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, December 4) to provide one particular explanation for all the setbacks that have happened on his watch. His explanation was strikingly plain and straightforward: Russia is the target of a Western policy of containment because it has become "too strong or independent"; and the United States and its allies aim to force Russia into "the Yugoslav scenario of disintegration and dismemberment" (Kremlin.ru, December 4).

In this apparent irreducible clash of geopolitical interests, the Russian president explained, the Ukraine crisis is merely a pretext for Russia's foes to subject it to pressure and sanctions, which is, according to Mr. Putin, "an exercise in futility" because "we have a modern and combat-ready army" – and Russia will not be contained.

This defiant stance against the alleged Western attack on Russia's sovereignty is supplemented by the assertion of the righteousness of Moscow's choice to annex Crimea. And perhaps feeling the need to reenergize this tired discourse, Mr. Putin argued that Crimea is as sacred to Russians as the Temple Mount is to the "followers of Islam and Judaism" (Gazeta.ru, December 5). The argument is blatantly false, but the Russian leader is clearly struggling to maintain the national mobilization achieved with the Crimean "triumph," since he cannot offer any useful direction for further advances (Bolshoi Gorod, December 4).

The theme of upholding Russia's sovereignty, which Mr. Putin used as the central message of his address, is hardly inspiring, as the best-case-scenario for this defensive posture is a long stagnation in self-isolation (Slon.ru, November 4). Economic modernization, which was notably espoused by former President Dmitry Medvedev, has apparently been discarded as incompatible with this prospect; and Mr. Putin also did not say a word about domestic political reforms, which would, indeed, be nonsensical in the current rigidly centralized Putinist system – described by one sharp analyst as controlled by a "corps of protectors of sovereignty" (Forbes.ru, December 5).

Alexei Navalny, a leader of the Russian liberal opposition who remains under house arrest amid an investigation into crudely fabricated charges, argues that Mr. Putin's neo-feudal regime is doomed because it stands in the way of Russia's development (Sobesednik, December 5). His point that the next president would have to deliver the country out of severe instability was sharply illuminated by the December 4 rebel attack in Grozny, in which 14 policemen were killed (Lenta.ru, December 5).

The gun-battle erupted just two days after Chechen head Ramzan Kadyrov announced that terrorism and extremism had been exterminated in the republic (RBC.ru, December 4). Mr. Putin accused the West of supporting the Chechen rebels, but the attack proved that 20 years after the first military invasion into Chechnya, it remains a massive security challenge, to which Moscow has no answer (Ezhednevny Zhurnal, December 5).

Brutal suppression was supposed to be one key part of an answer, while another was extra-generous funding channeled through local elites, who keep demanding more – but the state coffers continue to shrink. The arrival of a deep economic recession is perhaps the most demanding problem that Mr. Putin should have focused on in his address – but neither his instructions to punish supposed "speculators" attacking the ruble, nor his order to counter Western sanctions with expanded import substitution has any convincing power (RBC Daily, December 5).

He offered many hollow promises to jump start the economy, but the only practical measure was to declare "amnesty" for any capital returning to Russia from offshore accounts, which, for all intents and purposes, is merely a one-off rescue measure for state-owned companies run by Mr. Putin's allies that are being targeted by Western sanctions (Polit.ru, December 5). The two main ills that drive the Russian economy into structural and irreversible recession are devastating corruption and a serious lack of property rights protections – and neither was even briefly mentioned in Mr. Putin's state of the nation address (Slon.ru, December 5).

Moscow is abuzz with expert speculations on the downward dynamics of oil prices, but the shocking contraction of petro-revenues has not convinced the government of the need to execute liberal economic reforms, which would have clashed with Mr. Putin's orders to rigidly mobilize all state resources (Nezavisimaya Gazeta, December 4).

Stubborn insistence on this clearly unworkable guideline might appear irrational, but the Kremlin is apparently hoping that the economic disaster in Ukraine will run faster and hit harder than in Russia. It is not a far-fetched expectation, except that the newly formed Ukrainian government seems to be progressing on launching economic reforms that target, first of all, the country's deeply rooted networks of corruption (RBC.ru, December 3). Kyiv's success is by no means guaranteed at this stage, and the second part of the Kremlin's calculations is that the European Union, preoccupied with its own economic ills, will not be able to provide Ukraine with the necessary support.

European discord is real, but the downward shift in the global energy market denies Moscow the leverage it has previously enjoyed by manipulating gas supplies to its European customers. And the abrupt cancellation of the South Stream pipeline project boldly highlighted these trends (Gazeta.ru, December 6). The Kremlin has thus been reduced to spinning diplomatic intrigues aimed at convincing European leaders that Russia seeks to resolve the Ukraine conflict through dialogue (Kommersant, December 1).

Dialogue could indeed yield some fruit were Russia to refrain from further aggressive moves against Ukraine and come to recognize that its control over the rump "Novorossiya" around Donetsk and Luhansk is not sustainable. However, Mr. Putin's problem is that he cannot afford such a "freezing" of the conflict, which would fail to prevent Russia from sinking into recession, while inevitably quickly eroding his sky-high – though far from reliable – public support. His maneuvers,

(Continued on page 3)

## NEWSBRIEFS

### NSDC reports on "silence regime"

KYIV – "The silence regime established yesterday brought its first results," said Col. Andriy Lysenko, spokesman of the Information Analytical Center of the National Security and Defense Council (NSDC). Speaking on December 10 at the Ukraine Crisis Media Center about the "Day of Silence" called for by President Petro Poroshenko, he noted: "For the first time in quite a while Ukrainian servicemen in the east did not suffer losses. No cases of Ukrainian servicemen killed or wounded were observed. The number and intensity of shelling in the east of Ukraine decreased. Since the bilateral ceasefire regime was announced, fire was opened 16 times, all cases are qualified as provocations." Col. Lysenko added, "We would like to bring attention to the restraint of our servicemen who complied with the 'silence regime' in exemplary way and did not return fire of the provocateurs." Outside Donetsk terrorists fired at Ukrainian military positions at the territory of the airport and outside Mariinka with anti-aircraft mounts and small arms. Fire was observed outside Debaltseve in the area of Ridkodub and Nikishyne, on the outskirts of Horlivka near Mayorske and Shumy. "The biggest threat came from the fire opened from tanks, artillery and small arms at the Ukrainian positions in the area of towns Krymske and Sokilnyky located on the Bakhmutka road. Our positions near Stanytsia Luhanska also came under fire. In the South bandits fired at the stronghold near Mykolayivka village of Volnovakha district," Col. Lysenko said. He also spoke about the drastic increase of the internally displaced persons from territories temporary controlled by terrorists. In the last 24 hours, he said, 7,246 persons resettled in other areas of Ukraine. Since the start of the anti-terrorist operation (ATO), over 514,000 persons have been resettled. (Ukraine Crisis Media Center)

### No agreement on new peace talks

KYIV – Ukraine's government and pro-Russian separatists have failed to agree on a new round of peace talks, but Ukraine's military says it will prolong a 24-hour ceasefire agreement. Ukraine's former

President Leonid Kuchma – Kyiv's envoy in talks with Russia, separatists and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) – said on December 10 that a new round of negotiations should not be held in Minsk in the coming days because separatists had violated a previously agreed ceasefire deal. Mr. Kuchma was quoted by Interfax as saying, "In a situation where the second party is unable to ensure the cease-fire regime, I do not consider this meeting expedient." He also reportedly said the separatists should "show that they really want peace and not war, and that they fully control their armed formations." Denis Pushilin, the envoy for separatists in Donetsk, told Interfax on December 10 that Mr. Kuchma's remarks confirmed Kyiv is not interested in obeying a September 5 Minsk peace accord and ceasefire deal. That ceasefire deal has been broken on a daily basis, with more than 1,000 people being killed in eastern Ukraine since the accord was agreed upon in the presence of mediators from Russia and the OSCE. A new round of peace talks, possibly in Minsk, was expected to be arranged by the end of this week following a "day of silence" truce between Ukrainian government forces and Russian-backed separatists on December 9. (RFE/RL, with reporting by Reuters, the Associated Press, Agence France-Presse, Deutsche Presse-Agentur and Interfax)

### OSCE Ministerial Council discusses Ukraine

BASEL, Switzerland – The chairperson-in-office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Swiss Foreign Affairs Minister Didier Burkhalter, summarized the discussions of the first day at the OSCE 21st Ministerial Council in Basel, noting that OSCE foreign affairs ministers are meeting against the backdrop of one of the worst crises in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian area since the end of the Cold War. Speaking on December 5, Mr. Burkhalter said that there is general concern that the crisis in and around Ukraine is having a negative impact on security and stability in the OSCE area and beyond. He added that negotiations and other exchanges of views

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# Interview: Ukrainian 'cyborg' describes nine days defending Donetsk airport

RFE/RL

For weeks, Ukrainian soldiers struggled to maintain their sole foothold on the war-torn outskirts of Donetsk – the city's newly modernized airport. The area has seen some of the fiercest fighting between pro-Russian separatists and the Ukrainian government troops known admiringly as "cyborgs." Daria Buniakina of RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service caught up with one such cyborg – 22-year-old Cherkasy native Serhiy Halyan – who survived a surreal nine days at the airport and whose father is a Russian army colonel. The interview was posted on November 15.

## What was it like at the airport?

Words can't convey what's going on at the Donetsk airport. It's a totally different world. I wasn't battle-hardened when I arrived. And then I saw how they were shooting at you with every kind of weapon: grenade launchers, machine guns, mortars, missiles. The most frightening thing was probably being fired at by a tank. It was also really frightening just being taken to the airport in a tank, because the road was completely surrounded by snipers.

There were two buildings under our control, and when I got to the new terminal, the first floor was ours, the second was ours, and the third was the separatists'. I was just in complete shock when I got there and saw what was going on. The enemy was above us, they were below us in the basement, and their snipers were surrounding the building.

In terms of morale, it's very difficult to realize that there's nowhere to retreat. God forbid you got into a really tough situation, because you wouldn't be able to get out of there. If you stepped out of the building, a sniper would get you immediately. Everyone understands that you need to hang in there until the last bullet is fired. You get used to the shelling, to things flying over your head. They become ordinary.

## How did you get used to it?

We do our jobs, we carry out orders. One of the guys we were replacing gave us some good advice about how not to go crazy. He said don't just sit there – you've got to keep living your life. Make some tea, go figure something out, check the ammunition. You need to live with it. Otherwise, if you just sit there turning things over in your head, the fear is going to take control of you, and things won't end well. So we tried to contribute to that kind of atmosphere. We held our positions, fulfilled our duties and supported each other.

## Were there any parts of the Donetsk airport left where it was possible to hide from fire?

When they're firing tank shells, you simply lie on the floor as flat as you can because there's no real cover, only drywall around you. We were in what was the airport's Customs Department, where there were conveyors that moved luggage. These conveyors are metal constructions that go up to your waist. So you could hide behind those. That was the one thing that could save you – these three millimeters of metal running along the conveyor.

So we lie down, we sleep, we work, and we take our breaks all behind that space. They can open fire at any moment and cause a lot of damage. So you needed to be on your toes constantly and know that the lives of your comrades depend on you. And your life depends on them.

## Why do you think the defenders are called cyborgs?

Early in my training, before I realized that I would end up at the airport, we really worried about the guys there. We were watching a TV report about them, and it was then I first heard the term "cyborgs." By the time I was there, I figured out that for nine days straight I was running on

pure adrenalin. I probably ate once every 24 hours. And not because of the fighting, just because I didn't want to. I would eat once and drink tea with lots of sugar.

Everything there is adrenalized. I lost six kilos in nine days. And you're not really sleeping. After nine days, your body is just completely worn out. But the whole time you're thinking clearly, you're fighting, you're hauling boxes of ammunition. That's when I understood what they meant by cyborgs.

## Did you see people die?

Yes, during those nine days I did. Before that, perhaps, God protected me from such situations. I spent a lot of time in the convoys, but that was all calm. Now I understand that life, as they say, is cheap. It's a really frightening thing. An ordinary person doesn't understand that. I didn't understand it myself. It's like you grow up, finish school, go to university, find work. You have children, build a house, earn a pension.

And in reality, a person's life is nothing. Especially when people have machine guns and there's no law behind what they're doing. They do whatever they want. If they don't like someone, then it's simpler to just get rid of the problem – and then the person's not there anymore. It's really terrible.

## Who was worried about you back in Cherkasy?

My university professors. My friends worried a lot. My mother didn't know. She thought that I was in Zhytomyr the whole time. I said that we were just being mobilized, that we were sitting in our units. Then, when I was going to the airport, I said that I was going for training and that I wouldn't be able to talk to her for a while because I wouldn't have a phone but that everything was fine.

And then literally with three days to go until my break, she recognized me in a photograph. The [Los Angeles Times] cor-

respondent Sergei Loiko came and photographed us. And she saw his photo of me at the airport. Of course, my mother was shocked. But thank God they suddenly gave us leave after those three days. And I arrived home with a big bouquet. "Mama, I'm alive, I'm in one piece, and I'm here."

## Loiko's story about the defenders of the Donetsk airport was on the front page.

Yes, I talked to him. I'm also interested in journalism, so I got a chance to ask him about this difficult profession. And he interviewed me. He was interested in the fact that my father lives in Russia and serves in the Russian armed forces.

## Is your father fighting against Ukraine right now?

No, he's not fighting, he's at his base. It's one of the crazy, ridiculous things about this. So many people have relatives over there. It's painful that people are so susceptible to propaganda. You should get your news from other sources and judge the information fully.

## Are you and your father in touch?

Yes, our communication is on the level where he's concerned about me, he knows where I am and asks how I am – am I healthy, am I sick? But we don't speak about the conflict.

## Do you feel like you and your father are fighting on opposite sides?

In fact, yes. Unofficially. But I think that if my father ever received a deployment order, he would never agree to this "vacation," as they call it.

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## Biden...

(Continued from page 1)

in the east in a conflict that has killed more than 4,300 people since April.

Ukrainians have a chance again, and "they can't blow it," he said, adding, "Freedom is over 25 years old and they blew it; the Orange Revolution and they blew it." The vice-president warned, "They don't have many more chances in the near term."

The Ukraine crisis began in November 2013, when the government abandoned plans for a landmark agreement with the European Union in favor of closer ties with Moscow, sparking huge protests that toppled President Yanukovich in February of this year.

The United States, the European Union and Western states have placed economic sanctions on Russia for its annexation of Crimea from Ukraine in March and its support for the pro-Russian rebels who control parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

Moscow denies it has sent troops or weapons into Ukraine despite what Kyiv and NATO say is clear evidence of a direct military role.

Mr. Biden said that Ukraine has been a "kleptocracy." He noted, "Some think that's offensive to say but it's a reality. And they've made great progress. But there's still major, major impediments."

The vice-president also said that Russian President Vladimir Putin has been using "kleptocracy and oligarchy" as "tools of international coercion." In such a situation, he said, "Fighting corruption is not just about good governance, it's about self-

defense, it is about integrity, it is about sovereignty."

Mr. Biden emphasized his connection with Ukrainian government officials, saying he was "literally on the phone" with them for at least an hour and a half to two hours a week.

The vice-president's remarks came as Ukrainian forces and the rebels largely suspended hostilities in the country's east on December 9. President Petro Poroshenko had called for a "Day of Silence," saying it was included in a ceasefire deal signed in Minsk on September 5.

Despite a noticeable decrease in the level of violence, the Ukrainian military said there were 13 attacks on army positions and residential areas in government-controlled settlements. Rebel authorities said they were engaged with small arms fire.

Viktor Muzhenko, chief of Ukraine's General Staff, said the truce was open-ended and that no termination date had been set. It remained unclear whether a new round of peace talks, involving Russia, Ukraine and the rebels, under the auspices of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), would take place this week.

With reporting by the Associated Press and Reuters.

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## Sen. Portman meets with U.S. ambassador to Ukraine



WASHINGTON – Sen. Rob Portman (R-Ohio) met on December 9 with U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Geoff Pyatt (left). Messrs. Portman and Pyatt discussed the latest developments in Ukraine and the state of current U.S. assistance efforts. "I appreciated the opportunity to meet with Ambassador Pyatt to discuss the U.S.-Ukrainian relationship and ways to strengthen it going forward," Sen. Portman stated. "Ambassador Pyatt is deeply committed to standing with Ukraine during this challenging time, and both the United States and Ukraine benefit from his deep knowledge and experience. I look forward to continuing to work with him in the future." The Ohio senator previously met Ambassador Pyatt in Ukraine in May, when he and Sen. Ben Cardin (D-Md.) led a Congressional delegation to observe the Ukrainian presidential election.

## In annual address...

(Continued from page 2)

which combine fragments of dialogue and a chain of military provocations, are not aimed at finding a face-saving exit from the dead end of an unwinnable confrontation. Rather he seeks to pre-empt a unified response from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to any new spasm of violent escala-

tion of this smoldering conflict.

In the end, Mr. Putin had little to say in his reality-denying address to the nation. But his message that he will not be deterred from pursuing the course of confrontation came out loud and clear.

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

## Profile...

(Continued from page 1)

He told parliament on December 2 that the Yanukovych administration threatened to throw him in prison if he didn't surrender such a bread-winning post. He also said the structure should be dissolved, reorganized and possibly privatized.

Age: 58

Party: Oleh Liashko's Radical Party

Hometown: Village of Halytsia, Chernihiv Oblast

### Foreign Affairs Minister Pavlo Klimkin:

A lifelong diplomat, he served a key role in the Foreign Affairs Ministry during the Yanukovych administration. Since becoming foreign affairs minister in June, he has remained in the background of Ukrainian diplomacy to handle its nuts and bolts, with the Presidential Administration taking the lead in dealing with its counterparts in the Kremlin. He has made two proposals for Ukraine's future defense against the Russian Federation: creating tactical fighting groups with European Union member-states and gaining Major Non-NATO Ally (MNNA) status.

Age: 46

Party: Independent

Hometown: Kursk, Russian Federation

### Defense Minister Stepan Poltorak:

He spent most of his career, 12 years, directing the Internal Army Cadet Academy in Kharkiv. During the Euro-Maidan, he ordered his cadets to use force in suppressing the protest, according to Soviet dissident Stepan Khmara. Yet since then, he helped launch the National Guard of Ukraine and earned the respect of military experts and battalion commanders. Among his proposals is creating an army reserve, including manpower, technical equipment and arms.

Age: 49

Party: Independent

Hometown: Vesela Dolyna in the Odesa Oblast

### Internal Affairs Minister Arsen Avakov:

Among the more controversial ministers, he began reforming the national police force by dissolving the Berkut special forces responsible for the Euro-Maidan killings. Yet none of the Berkut or other internal affairs officers responsible for the murders has been brought to trial or convicted. On December 2, he presented to the Verkhovna Rada his plans for further reform, which include dividing the ministry into five main divisions: the National Guard, the National Police (to replace the current "militsiya"), the State Migration Service, the State Emergency Service and the State Border Service. His critics said the measure is an attempt to consolidate power and create opportunities for corruption.

Age: 50

Party: People's Front

Hometown: Baku, Azerbaijan

### Justice Minister Pavlo Petrenko:

He is a childhood friend of Mr. Yatsenyuk; they attended the same school and then Yurii Fedkovych National University in Chernivtsi. Mr. Petrenko moved to Kyiv in 2001 to work as the head lawyer for the leading state bank, Oschadbank, at the tender age of 22. He has claimed credit for conducting numerous reforms since becoming justice minister in late February, including the creation of a lustration department, opening access to the registries of real estate and legal and physical entities and the introduction of an electronic system of selling confiscated property. Incidentally, the Nashi Groshi news site reported that Mr. Petrenko likely has a stake in the firm that won the right in May to install this electronic system via an allegedly rigged tender. Among his planned

reforms are developing a National Human Rights Strategy and its implementation; simplifying the procedure for registering real estate; and submitting constitutional amendments to form an independent body to improve the selection and reappointment of judges.

Age: 35

Party: People's Front

Hometown: Chernivtsi

### Finance Minister Natalie Jaresko:

Having lived in Ukraine for more than 22 years, she has close ties to former First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko, who also has ties to the Chicago area. Various theories have surfaced as to why she was selected, including Western lenders having lost trust in Ukrainian officials, Mr. Poroshenko wanting to dilute Mr. Yatsenyuk's influence with foreigners, her lack of incentive for corruption, and her extensive experience in working with Western financial institutions in attracting capital to Ukraine as co-founder and CEO of the Horizon Capital venture capital fund. She announced as her immediate goals amending the tax code to boost state revenue and slashing spending in the 2015 budget, which would be ready by December 20. Kyiv's pro-Putin media have already launched a smear campaign against her, implying she could be a U.S. government spy (having worked at the State Department and U.S. Embassy in Ukraine) and digging into her personal life.

Age: 48

Party: Independent

Hometown: Chicago

### Economic Development and Trade Minister Aivaras Abromavicius:

Though not a Kyiv resident as long as Ms. Jaresko (arriving in 2008), he shares with her extensive experience in attracting investment to Ukraine as fund manager of the Swedish-based East Capital asset management group, among the biggest investment funds in Eastern Europe. He is credited with bringing \$200 million in investment to Ukraine for banks, the pharmaceutical company Darnitsa and the Lviv-based gasoline retailer Galnaftogaz. He told the parliamentary Economic Policy Committee on December 11 that the state is practically bankrupt and the best policy would be to not get in the way of business. Among his goals is to raise Ukraine's ranking on the Doing Business index to the top 50 from its current No. 96. Kyiv's pro-Putin media have launched a smear campaign, pointing out his Jewish background and accusing him of knowing little beyond basketball (he played for the Soviet teen champion team in 1988.)

Age: 38

Party: Independent

Hometown: Vilnius, Lithuania

### Health Minister Alexander Kvitashvili:

After earning a master's degree from the NYU Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, he served as the health minister under former Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili in 2008 to 2010. He served as rector of Tbilisi State University between 2010 and 2013. Although he helped introduce insurance-based healthcare in Georgia, he said Ukraine isn't ready for a full transition, as proposed by Mr. Yatsenyuk. "There's hope for Kvitashvili, who received nice reviews in Georgia and here. But if you add a little bit of syrup in a pot of rot, it's doubtful it will taste different," said Mr. Losiev, a lecturer at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy, referring to Ukraine's corrupt health sector.

Age: 44

Party: Independent

Hometown: Tbilisi, Georgia

### Infrastructure Minister Andriy Pyvovarskyi:

He enjoys close ties to Volyn oligarch and mega-millionaire Ihor Yeremeyev and will represent his interests

in the government, in what's reported as an alliance sought by Mr. Poroshenko. He earned a master's degree in international business and finance from The Fletcher School at Tufts University in Boston. He served as the director of investment banking for Dragon Capital in Kyiv before becoming general director in Mr. Yeremeyev's Kontinium group of companies, which includes the WOG gasoline retail chain and several dairy producers.

Age: 36

Party: Independent

Hometown: Kyiv

### Energy and Coal Industry Minister Volodymyr Demchyshyn:

In what is perhaps the most "khlivna posada" in the Ukrainian government, it should come as no surprise that it fell under the Poroshenko Bloc's influence. Mr. Demchyshyn earned a master of business administration from the University of Kansas School of Business. Between 2008 and August 2014, he served as the director of investment banking services at Investment Capital of Ukraine, whose board chairman during these years, Valeriia Gontareva, currently serves as the head of the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU). In turn, Ms. Gontareva has handled much of the finances in Mr. Poroshenko's business empire. As one of his first moves, Mr. Demchyshyn announced Ukraine has no choice but to buy electricity from Russia because the war has disrupted coal supplies to Ukraine's electric power plants. He also dismissed the general director of a state electric producer, Centrengo, for his alleged role in corrupt purchases of coal from the Republic of South Africa.

Age: 40

Party: Independent

Hometown: Lviv

### Social Policy Minister Pavlo Rozenko:

His political career began with the student hunger strike in 1990 and membership in the People's Rukh of Ukraine. He climbed the bureaucratic ladder after graduating from Kyiv Polytechnic Institute in 1993, serving in various state bodies. He is returning to the ministry where he served as first vice-chair between 2005 and 2010. Afterwards, he served as a non-staff consultant at the Razumkov Center think tank in Kyiv. He is faced with conducting unprecedented cuts in social payments to vulnerable parts of society, particularly pensioners, which will make him unpopular. "He's a whipping boy," said Mr. Zolotariov. "He will be helpless before many problems. There will be a contrast between the new faces directing government on the exterior and representatives of the old system."

Age: 44

Party: Poroshenko Bloc

Hometown: Kyiv

### Education Minister Serhiy Kvit:

The former president of the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy is credited with the only structural reform of the interim government that took power after the Euro-Maidan. His work was good enough to keep him the job (and joining the Poroshenko Bloc certainly didn't hurt). Besides implementing the complex of reforms under the law "On Higher Education," further changes include a market approach to vocational-technical education, which remains structured under the outdated Soviet system. However, whatever further changes are planned will have to be done on a tight budget amid painful reductions. The first drafts of the 2015 budget call for eliminating schools and nurseries with fewer than 30 students, eliminating higher education scholarships (except for orphans and the disabled) and eliminating extra pay for teachers.

Age: 49

Party: Poroshenko Bloc

Hometown: Uzhhorod in the Zakarpattia Oblast

### Agrarian Policy and Food Production Minister Oleksii Pavlenko:

He earned his bachelor's degree in economics from the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy and master of business administration from Nyenrode Business University in the Netherlands. He served on the auditing of an international Dutch company, and was the general director of a Ukrainian agricultural holding firm and the executive director of the Foxtrot electronics retail chain in Ukraine between 2006 and 2009. Afterwards, he served on the supervisory boards of several companies, including Agroprom, and became a partner in the Pharos Assets Management fund.

Age: 37

Party: Self-Reliance

Hometown: Uman, Cherkasy Oblast

### Ecology and Natural Resources Minister Igor Shevchenko:

After graduating from the Kyiv Institute of International Relations and studying overseas, including Harvard University, he founded the law firm Shevchenko Didkovskiy and Partners in 1995. Their remarkable success led Mr. Shevchenko to retire from the legal progression in 2007 and launch Shevchenko Asset Management to invest the millions that he earned. His hobbies include healthy food, traveling and taking photographs with stars; he once published a glossy magazine, Elite Club. He is believed to have qualified for the Cabinet under the quota of the Batkivshchyna party, having served as an adviser on foreign investment to former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko in 2005. He has minimal experience in ecology, though the ministry handles business matters surrounding Ukraine's highly coveted natural resources.

Age: 43

Party: Meritocratic Party of Ukraine

Hometown: Oleksandria, Kirovohrad Oblast

### Sports and Youth Minister Ihor Zhdanov:

After earning a candidate of sciences degree from Taras Shevchenko National University in Kyiv, he served the Kuchma administration in various legal positions. He joined the Razumkov Center think tank in Kyiv in 2000 and worked for the Yushchenko presidential election campaign in 2004 as its leading analyst. After serving in several posts in the Our Ukraine People's Union party, he abandoned it to join Batkivshchyna in time for the 2012 parliamentary election campaign. He has minimal experience in sports.

Age: 46

Party: Batkivshchyna

Hometown: Vinnytsia

### Information Policy Minister Yuriy Stets:

The most controversial nominee, he is the godson of First Lady Maryna Poroshenko and presidential adviser Yurii Lutsenko. The president is being widely criticized for creating a new ministry, moreover for such a questionable purpose, at a time when ministries are supposed to be merged and consolidated for more efficient work. Though Mr. Stets has insisted on the need to counter Russian war propaganda and promote Ukraine's positive image in the world, critics insist that could be done with a department in an existing government body. They believe the ministry was created to give Mr. Poroshenko an additional vote in the Cabinet to offset Mr. Yatsenyuk's influence. They also believe the ministry could be used to pressure the president's critics. The ministry is derisively referred to as the "Ministry of Truth" and "Minstets" by its critics.

Age: 38

Party: Poroshenko Bloc

Hometown: Chortkiv, Ternopil Oblast



## Sacral Heritage workshop looks at Church decision-making in view of demographic changes

WINNIPEG, Manitoba – A workshop funded by the Killam Foundation at the University of Alberta was recently held here at St. Benedict's Retreat and Conference Center to explore how scholars – specifically the faculty at the University of Alberta and Cape Breton University involved in the Sanctuary Project – might work with the Ukrainian Catholic and Ukrainian Orthodox Churches of Canada to help them utilize academic research in Church decision-making related to demographic changes.

The goal of the Sanctuary Project, which is based at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) at the University of Alberta, is to document the Ukrainian spiritual heritage on the Canadian prairies.

The attendees at the workshop in Winnipeg discussed pressing issues of demographic change. With migration to urban centers and the dwindling membership in rural parishes, churches will need to be closed. Formulating best policies for meeting the needs of congregations who will lose their churches is a priority.

The closing of churches will involve disposing of both the building and its contents. Church buildings and the icons, crosses, chalices, vestments and other items they contain need to be treated with respect. Because not all buildings and not all church contents can be preserved, policies need to be developed for dealing with these issues. The workshop, therefore, discussed preservation options



The ritual burning of a church on the Canadian prairies.



CIUS

At the workshop are: (seated from left) Natalie Kononenko, the Rev. Roman Bozyk, Metropolitan Lawrence Huculak, Sophia Kachor, (standing) Sterling Demchinsky, Leonard Krawchuk, Roman Yereniuk, Gloria Romaniuk, Ihor Okhrymchouk, Marcia Ostashevski, Frances Swyripa, the Rev. Mark Gnutel, Donald Machnee and Robert Klymasz.

and studied how the data compiled by the Sanctuary Project team might be used for developing best practices.

Present at the workshop, which was held on August 27-28, were Natalie Kononenko, Marcia Ostashevski and Frances Swyripa from the Sanctuary Project team. (John-Paul Himka, also a member of the team, was unable to attend.) Roman Yereniuk represented the collection work done at the University of Manitoba. He was joined by Robert Klymasz, formerly of the Museum of Civilization.

Metropolitan Lawrence Huculak, Gloria Romaniuk of the Archeparchy Archives, and the Rev. Mark Gnutel spoke for the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church was represented by Sterling Demchinsky and the Rev. Ihor Okhrymchouk, both of the Rural Issues Committee, and the Rev. Roman Bozyk of St. Andrew's College. The group was joined by Sophia Kachor from Oseredok, the Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center in Winnipeg, and Leonard Krawchuk and Donald Machnee, community activists. (Metropolitan Yuriy Kalistchuk of the UOC-Canada) was unable to attend due to health issues.

The workshop proposed a series of recommendations. These include the formation of a Consortium of Heritage Institutions, which will consist of those present at the workshop plus other academic partners, specifically Natalia Khanenko-Friessen and the scholars at the

University of Saskatchewan. The proposed consortium will continue field research and documentation. It will run small workshops in rural areas to train local communities in record-keeping and object maintenance. It will expand and systematize the digital database of photographs and sound files and make this resource maximally useful to academics, church officials and interested citizens.

The consortium will continue to meet on a regular basis and work to develop guidelines to be used in determining which churches to close and when. Similarly, criteria of uniqueness and representativeness will be formulated. These can be used in selecting objects for preservation. Another objective is the standardization of terminology so that available data can be cross-referenced. The consortium will seek to involve civic officials who are in charge of heritage issues and heritage preservation.

Presenting the rich sacral heritage of Ukrainians in Canada to the public is an important goal, and an exhibit, a book, and journal articles are planned. The exhibit will open at Oseredok in Winnipeg to coincide with 150th anniversary of the confederation of Canada and the 125th anniversary of Ukrainian immigration to Canada, and then travel to Edmonton, Saskatoon and Toronto. The Canadian Institute for Ukrainian Studies has already requested a book based on the Sanctuary Project's work, and the completion of that book will be one of the consortium's goals.

## Ambassador...

(Continued from page 1)

greatest single risk factor facing Ukraine today is 'business as usual,' " he said, pointing out that both President Petro Poroshenko and Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk are fully aware of that imperative. And he stressed that if Ukraine is to surmount this crisis in the political process, Ukrainian leaders "will have to put aside the habits of the past" and focus on implementing the ambitious program of reform embodied in the November agreement of the five coalition parties.

He said he was optimistic that document won't just "sit on the shelf" but actually can turn into a practical road map for the implementation of a reform agenda entailing significant and, at times, painful changes in such critical sectors as energy, justice, defense and security.

First and foremost on Ambassador Pyatt's suggested reform priority list for Ukraine should be energy. "The is no sector more in need of reform or more central to the maintaining of Ukrainian democracy than energy and energy reform," he said, adding that because of the "egregious corruption under multiple governments" and their poor management, this area has been a drag on Ukraine's economic growth and competitiveness, and Russia has been able to use it to increase its influence over Ukraine. And Ukraine's new energy minister understands this, he noted.

The second area on the Kyiv envoy's suggested priority list is the speedy implementation of anti-corruption reforms. This "pernicious phenomena of politically driven corruption" in Ukraine has sapped the people's confidence in government, he said, and "in many ways, it was the root of the Maidan."

It will not be easy, because oligarchic politics dominated the old political system, he said. "But that's now changed. Certainly one of the most inspiring things in Ukraine today is the emergence of a new generation of political leaders in the Rada – in almost every political party – who have come to office with a focus on achieving better governance."

And the third area on the priority list is constitutional reform, which began under Prime Minister Yatsenyuk's first government, when his deputy, Volodymyr Groysman, suggested following the Polish example and move more decision-making down to the lower levels of government, where governors and mayors were more accountable to the people.

Ambassador Pyatt also noted some of the leading indicators of progress to watch for, a major one being national unity. He said he has personally witnessed the extraordinary courage and resilience of the Ukrainian people, their decisive wish to determine their own future and change their destiny.

The Russian government has tried to defeat that objective, suggesting falsely that Ukraine was on the cusp of a civil war, Ambassador Pyatt said. But on his visit to Kharkiv a few days before coming to Washington, he said he found it remarkable to see Ukrainian flags flying everywhere – on the main streets and draped over the Shevchenko monument – and this in a city that had been targeted by Russia to instigate a break away from Ukraine.

There is a noticeable emergence of a stronger national identity with a resolve to resist this false narrative for division, as well as a strong effort to reach out to the east, to the Donbas, by the western parts of Ukraine, he said. "This kind of bridge-building remains critically important."

Ambassador Pyatt also cited Mariupol and Sloviansk as examples of this movement. These two eastern cities, which had been occupied by Russian separatists, are now looking to Kyiv for help in their reconstruction and a clear signal that they will have a voice in the future governance of Ukraine.

The ambassador also raised the question of what role the opposition bloc parties will play in developing Ukraine's future and "how to leave behind the poisonous history of Yanukovich and the damage that he did."

And then there is the financial situation the Yanukovich government left to Ukraine's new government. Ambassador Pyatt called it "a disastrous macro-economic situation, which Prime Minister Yatsenyuk has done a commendable job of managing." He added that the United

States will be working closely with the International Monetary Fund and its European partners to support this government as Ukraine moves forward and seeks to manage its way out of the situation left by the Yanukovich government and exacerbated by the Russian intervention.

He noted that the U.S. Congress has played and will continue to play a critical role in resourcing the American contribution to helping Ukraine.

"The circumstances are difficult, but they are not insurmountable," he said. "There is a wide understanding among Ukraine's political leaders today that the country's survival depends on more honest politics and meaningful progress... and we will support them as strongly as we can in that process."

As for Ukraine's defense and security problems, Ambassador Pyatt noted that the United States has already played a "critical role" with the expansion of its security sector aid to \$118 million and a commitment to do more in cooperation with its European partners and Ukraine in the development of a roadmap for its security sector reforms, which are just as sweeping as the reforms in the ministries of energy and justice.

He said the U.S. must continue to help protect Ukraine, which is also being confronted by Russian President Putin's "weaponized" media strategy aimed at trying to confuse the issues involved and sow a division between the U.S. and Europe.

Ambassador Pyatt said that the door remains open for Ukraine's possible membership in NATO. But that is a question that the people of Ukraine will have to decide as they choose the road to their future, he added.

Mr. Pyatt is the eighth U.S. ambassador to serve in Ukraine since it gained its independence. He said that before departing for Kyiv in December of 2013, he sat down to talk with all his predecessors and they informed him that Ukraine has become a different country from the one they experienced – in terms of the security environment, the expectations of the Ukrainian people and its politicians, as well as in terms of the partnership he may hope to build between Ukraine and the United States.



## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

### Season of giving

In 2013 at this time of the year, one of our editorials spoke about the importance of helping the courageous people of Ukraine who were on the barricades of the Euro-Maidan. The goal then was to provide humanitarian assistance to the hundreds of thousands who had flooded the streets of Kyiv and other cities in Ukraine to protest the suspension of Ukraine's Euro-integration. What started out as the Euro-Maidan movement was soon transformed into a true Revolution of Dignity, whereby the people of Ukraine clearly made known their civilizational choice.

Today, Ukraine is in a battle, a war, for its continued existence. And Ukraine's defenders – its soldiers and members of volunteer battalions – desperately need our assistance. There are countless fund-raising initiatives in our local communities that are geared toward soliciting monetary donations and/or supplies for these brave men and women. It is important to note that our projects here parallel efforts in Ukraine that have been organized in cities and towns from the west to the east. We're sure you've seen leaflets in your "hromada," or e-mail messages, or posts on Facebook. We've seen special events, organized by such groups as Razom, the proceeds of which go to help Ukraine's warriors; we've noted the creation of special funds to assist them, whether that's through a humanitarian aid organization like the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee, or community organizations like the Ukrainian National Women's League of America or the worldwide Plast Conference Inc. And then there is Patriot Defence, a group working with the Ukrainian World Congress that sends IFAKs (individual first aid kits) and other medical necessities to the troops. We've also seen praiseworthy individual initiatives, including one you can read about in the UKELODEON section of this issue. Yes, even our children are involved in helping Ukraine!

All these initiatives are worthy of our support, however we can provide it. That, Dear Readers, is up to you. Support the organizations or groups that you're familiar with, that you trust will deliver assistance to Ukraine's defenders on the frontlines in the war against a powerful aggressor that has invaded the country.

We may not be able to help Ukraine's soldiers and volunteers with the defensive weapons they so sorely need to protect our ancestral homeland in its latest existential fight – that is one of the purposes of the Ukrainian Freedom Support Act of 2014, Senate bill 2828 and House bill 5782. [The news as this issue went to press was that S 2828 had been passed by unanimous consent; the fate of HR 5782 was yet unknown.] But we can certainly do our share to help provide the crucial supplies, such as food, winter clothing and medical items, needed by our fighters for freedom.

Remember, Christmas is the season of giving.

Dec.  
19  
2008

### Turning the pages back...

Six years ago, on December 19, 2008, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Volodymyr Ohryzko signed the "Charter on Strategic Partnership" in Washington. The document affirmed the U.S.-Ukraine bilateral relationship in areas of security, energy, economic issues, as well as indicated that the U.S. would establish a

"diplomatic presence" in Crimea.

The last line of the charter stated: "Ukraine welcomes the United States' intention to establish an American diplomatic presence (American Presence Post) in Symferopol."

U.S. State Department Spokesman Sean McCormack said that opening a diplomatic presence is a bilateral matter between the U.S. and Ukraine. If the Russian government "chooses to be upset" by this, he added, "well, there's not much I can do about that." Mr. McCormack explained that an American Presence Post is led by one or two diplomats on cultural exchanges, events and political reporting, among other duties.

Ms. Rice stated prior to signing the charter, "We have long believed that Ukraine's independence, its democracy, is essential to a Europe whole and free and at peace."

The charter states in the first section, "support for each other's sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders constitutes the foundation of our bilateral relation."

The document further states the two countries "share a vital interest in a strong, independent and democratic Ukraine," that Ukraine's integration into Euro-Atlantic institutions "is a mutual priority," and that they plan to deepen their security cooperation that would include "enhanced training and equipment for Ukrainian armed forces" in order to strengthen Ukraine's candidacy for NATO membership.

Other areas of cooperation included strengthening democratic institutions through cultural, professional, educational exchange programs. Reforms in the judiciary were recommended, including the adoption of a Criminal Procedure Code compliant with Council of Europe standards. U.S.-assisted improvements to Ukraine's law enforcement against such threats as terrorism, organized crime, trafficking, money-laundering and cyber crime were also noted.

Russia, despite numerous meetings with its Ukrainian counterparts, remained unwilling to seriously discuss border demarcation in the Azov and Black seas, the removal of Russia's Black Sea fleet from Crimea by 2017 and other issues that remained "major irritants in our relations," Mr. Ohryzko explained.

In 2010, Viktor Yanukovich became president of Ukraine and forced through Parliament (with 236 votes out of 450) an extension of the lease for the Russian naval presence at Sevastopol until 2042, with a possible additional five-year extension. The treaty also allowed Russia to station up to 25,000 troops in Crimea. Russia's Parliament formally terminated the treaty on March 31, 2014, following the invasion and annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation.

Source: "U.S. and Ukraine affirm relations in Charter on Strategic Partnership," by Yaro Bihun, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, December 28, 2008.

## REMEMBERING THE HOLODOMOR

# White House banality

by Askold S. Lozynskyj

Almost every year since its inception in the early 1990s I have participated in the annual Holodomor commemoration on the third Saturday of November at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York. However, in particular since 2010, instead of finding some degree of solace from the beautiful religious service, I have been further saddened and sometimes infuriated by the governmental statements.

From 2010 to 2013 when Viktor Yanukovich – a Russian stooge – was in power, Ukraine's representative at the commemoration would read a meaningless composition of verbiage. One year President Yanukovich forgot to issue a statement entirely.

This year with the advent of a new president in Ukraine, Ukraine's consul general read an incisive and analytical statement including language that referred to the Holodomor as an attempted genocide of the Ukrainian people. This was in line with prior statements issued by Ukraine's Presidents Leonid Kravchuk, Leonid Kuchma and Viktor Yushchenko.

Unfortunately, the statement issued by the White House was once again banal, and displayed a typical generic and routine attitude.

The following terms were employed to characterize the historical event being commemorated: "death by hunger," "one of the gravest atrocities," "tragic chapter," "man-made famine," "horrific tragedy." In vain, I listened most attentively to hear the word "genocide" because, after all the rhetoric, that's what it's all about – recognition that the Holodomor was an attempted genocide of the Ukrainian people.

At the conclusion I sought out Senior Advisor to the U.S. Permanent Mission to the United Nations William P. Pope, who had read the White House statement. He seemed almost apologetic, stating that he is from the Department of State, intimating that he does not bear responsibility for White House statements. Nevertheless, he suggested that I send him some material on this issue.

Instead of presenting my own analysis, which may or may not be persuasive to the White House or State, I decided to submit findings made by U. S. governmental authority that characterized the Holodomor as genocide. In 1985 the U.S. Congress formed the Commission on the Ukraine Famine. That commission rendered a report and submitted it to Congress on April 22, 1988. Among the findings of that commission was the following: "Josef

*Askold S. Lozynskyj is an attorney based in New York City. He is a former president of the Ukrainian World Congress.*

Stalin and those around him committed genocide against Ukrainians in 1932-1933."

That finding was supported by a definition of genocide taken from the Genocide Convention as one of more actions committed with intent "to destroy a national, ethnic, racial or religious group wholly or partially as such."

The commission's report went on to point out that one or more of these actions was taken against the Ukrainians in order to destroy a substantial part of the Ukrainian people and in this way to neutralize them politically. The report referred to substantial evidence that Stalin was warned of impending famine in Ukraine and pressed for additional measures to ensure its occurrence and exacerbate its effects. These policies were entirely dissimilar to Stalin's response to food difficulties in other regions in the previous year. Furthermore Stalin's measures to aggravate the situation in Ukraine were implemented with great vigor in ethnically Ukrainian areas. Stalin's intent in this regard was manifest through his writings, which displayed a clear intent to eliminate any manifestation of Ukrainian national self-assertion.

The following government people were members of the Commission: Reps. Daniel A. Mica, William Broomfield, Benjamin Gilman and Dennis Hertel from the House of Representatives; Sens. Dennis DeConcini and Robert Kasten from the Senate; Gary L. Bauer, assistant to President Ronald Reagan for policy development; C. Everett Koop, surgeon general.

Neither the White House nor the Department of State has conducted an independent study of the events in Ukraine in 1932-1933. The question that has to be asked is: Wouldn't it be appropriate for the White House and State to respect the findings of a commission convened by the U.S. Congress and which included an assistant to the president of the United States and the surgeon general?

Furthermore, on October 13, 2006, the 109th Congress approved Public Law 340 authorizing the government of Ukraine to establish a memorial on Federal Land in Washington to "honor the victims of the Ukrainian famine-genocide of 1932-33." This law was signed by President George W. Bush.

All I ask is that the White House and the Department of State respect findings and laws passed by Congress and signed by a president of the United States, and act accordingly. There is a clause in the U. S. Constitution about the states affording full faith and credit to laws of other states. Shouldn't similar full faith and credit be afforded by the current White House to prior bipartisan Congressional action and laws passed by a prior White House?

## GUIDELINES

### FOR SUBMITTING MATERIALS TO THE WEEKLY

In order to facilitate preparation of *The Ukrainian Weekly*, we ask that the guidelines listed below be followed.

- E-mail submissions are preferred. Stories and photos may be sent to [staff@ukrweekly.com](mailto:staff@ukrweekly.com).
- Materials may also be mailed to: *The Ukrainian Weekly*, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.
- Stories should have the name of the author; photographers should be credited for photos. All photos must be clearly labeled and accompanied by captions.
- Persons who submit any materials must provide a complete mailing address and daytime phone number where they may be reached if any additional information is required.
- News stories should be sent in not later than 10 days after the occurrence of a given event.
- Full names (i.e., no initials) of all persons mentioned in stories and captions must be provided. English spellings must be verified.
- Information about upcoming events must be received one week before the date of *The Weekly* edition in which the information is to be published. For items to be listed in Preview of Events, information must be sent to [preview@ukrweekly.com](mailto:preview@ukrweekly.com); information for the Out & About listing must be e-mailed to [mdubas@ukrweekly.com](mailto:mdubas@ukrweekly.com).

Any questions? Call 973-292-9800 or e-mail [staff@ukrweekly.com](mailto:staff@ukrweekly.com).



## NEWS AND VIEWS

# When “high culture” merges with terrorism

by Adrian Bryttan

Concert pianist Valentina Lisitsa should be a familiar name to readers of The Ukrainian Weekly from her performances at the Ukrainian Institute in New York, The Washington Group Cultural Fund music series and other Ukrainian organizations. Ms. Lisitsa continues to promote herself as “Ukrainian-born” and is one of the most recognizable names on the professional circuit. She is a self-made YouTube superstar of sorts, with 156,000 subscribers and over 72 million global views.

What might be less familiar to readers is the content of her Internet Twitter pages @ValLisitsa. Outnumbering the mundane photos of hotel rooms, airports and tidbits for her fans about her orchestra rehearsals, there is an unrelenting stream of disinformation and vulgar polemics, denigrating Ukraine in the most hateful terms, while praising Russian terrorists and Vladimir Putin’s invasions.

Starting on August 28, Ms. Lisitsa adopted an abhorrent racist tone in her anti-Ukraine hate speech. She repeatedly posted photos of spear-carrying, half-naked African villagers juxtaposed with Ukrainians in embroidered “vyshyvanky” shirts on her Twitter page. Her captions stated: “New school year begins in Odessa with teachers forced to wear Ukrainian tribal dress, a truly European custom.” What is abominable is her appeal to “high culture” to make Ukrainian patriotic feelings seem like barbarism, and also with the same brush to smear Africans and mock them as inferior to “Europe.”

Who reads these tweets? Well, the 8,350 followers registered on Ms. Lisitsa’s Twitter include the nationally syndicated talk radio host John Batchelor, who retweets a number of her posts. Also listed among her followers are major international symphony orchestras, universities, professors, news networks, magazines, journalists, hordes of pianists, music teachers, students and devoted (and perhaps unsuspecting) music lovers and fans.

In addition to her own Twitter, Ms. Lisitsa is also credited as translator for 16 articles thus far on a second website: slavyangrad.org. This is simply another pro-Putin propaganda Internet hive dedicated to Ukraine bashing, legitimizing “New Russia” (Novorossiia), and Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 conspiracy theories. Slavyangrad is itself partnered with a number of further similar blogs, like “The Unwashed Brain” and Anti-Maidan.com. The same bloggers appear and reappear, posting on several sites – a concerted action by Internet trolls, many operating under bogus names with manufactured identities and fake photographs.

The ValLisitsa Twitter pages take any opportunity to smear and mock Ukraine. Tweets include a maniac restrained by a straitjacket with the heading “Glory to Ukraine, Glory to her Heroes” and a photo (captioned “Darling I am waiting for you”) of a crazed, deformed girl in a blue-and-yellow dress, clutching an axe, about which the tweet says, “The mental state of Ukraine today... This photo kinda nails it.”

More Lisitsa tweets: “Quietly without complaining Russia is looking after 1 million refugees from eastern Ukraine...” “Ukrainians are notoriously unwilling to share, they owned long and proud history with Russia, threw it away and invented myths...” “Ukraine: a society sunk beyond redemption...” “Odessa was, is, and always will be Soviet...” “Cluster-bomber-in-chief [photo of President Poroshenko] gets standing ovation in U.S. Congress... Go Novorossiia :-))”

Such mean-spiritedness by Ms. Lisitsa is all the more

disheartening when one compares the courage and integrity of major artists like violinist Nathan Milstein and cellist/conductor Mstislav Rostropovich who always spoke out against the atrocities of the Soviet Union. Today, conductor Daniel Barenboim devotes much of his time to noble work with the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, which includes Israelis playing side by side with Palestinians, in order to build bridges and promote understanding.

By contrast, the Russian Ministry of Culture website displays a letter “in support of Putin’s actions in Crimea and Ukraine” signed by 511 artists, musicians and directors of cultural institutions. High-profile conductors Valery Gergiev and Vladimir Spivakov, violist Yuri Bashmet, and soprano Anna Netrebko have all been quite forthright about their support for Mr. Putin and his regime. (Not to mention the pro-Putin solidarity of sports figures like hockey stars Alexander Ovechkin, Evgeni Malkin, Sergei Gonchar, Semyon Varlamov and Pavel Datsyuk, and “King of Mixed Martial Arts” Fedor Emelianenko.)

The tide is incrementally turning. Violinist Gidon Kremer enlisted his colleagues pianist Martha Argerich and Mr. Barenboim for an anti-Putin concert in 2013, and in November the Saar International Music Festival in Germany announced it was removing Mr. Gergiev from a concert with the Munich Philharmonic because of his outspoken support for Mr. Putin.

## Netrebko and Novorossiia

On December 9, Austrian Airlines announced it will no longer be an advertising partner to opera superstar Anna Netrebko, and dropped her promotional ad campaign, stating they want to “distance ourselves from extreme political positions and the use of armed violence.” Ms. Netrebko had just announced her 1 million rubles (about \$18,500) gift to the Donetsk Opera. She gave the check to Oleg Tsariov, posing with the Novorossiia flag. (Mr. Tsariov, a former national deputy of Ukraine, had been expelled from the Party of Regions and is wanted by Ukrainian police for terrorism and violence.) According to Deutsche Welle, Ms. Netrebko later said: “The presence of the flag was unplanned and caught me off guard; I actually did not recognize it at first and realized only later what it was.” It remains to be seen how much of that money Mr. Tsariov will use for new trombones and how much for new Kalashnikovs.

Ms. Netrebko is scheduled to appear with Valery Gergiev for numerous performances of Tchaikovsky’s “Iolanthe” starting January 26, 2015 at the Metropolitan Opera in New York.

## “Material Evidence”

Moreover, all those Lisitsa tweets were not an isolated event. On September 21, an art exhibit titled “Material Evidence” opened at the Art Beam Chelsea in New York for a three-week run, following a previous tour in Berlin. This exhibit, heavily promoted on the sides of buses and subway platforms, was basically a photo gallery of recent events in Ukraine.

The exhibit described the Maidan as “...an upsurge of nationalists-banderovtsy groups, which... could not be ignored by the eastern parts of Ukraine, which are mostly populated with Russian-speaking people, who... strongly oppose ‘benserovtsy’ [sic] and ‘Westerner [sic] Oligarchs’ who had come to power. Accordingly the Autonomous Republic of Crimea held a referendum on the separation from the Ukraine and its reunification with Russia.” In other words, typical talking points of Kremlin propaganda



In front of Heinz Hall, at a protest against Valentina Lisitsa’s engagement by the Pittsburgh Symphony, (from left) are: Borys Wowczuk, Adrian Bryttan and George Honchar.



In a photo posted by Oleg Tsariov on his Twitter page, Anna Netrebko poses with the “Novorossiia” flag and Mr. Tsariov, who refers to himself as chairman of the “Parliament of Novorossiia,” to whom she gave a 1 million ruble gift for the Donetsk Opera.

and its trolls. It is frightening that such an exhibit was formally visited by students from the John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Who was behind this? Well, Mat Babyak, an editor at EuromaidanPress.com posted an investigative article about this exhibit. It turned out “Material Evidence” was organized by an anti-Ukrainian Moscow newspaper, Journalistic Truth (Zhurnalistskaya Pravda). This newspaper also offered cash prizes for journalism via the “Material Evidence” site totaling over \$93,000. Their editors have disturbing connections with the extremist National-Bolshevik Party (a Nazi-Communist hybrid) and the notorious Izborsky Club, which advocates a “Eurasian Empire,” and truman-lab.com, an ugly racist and anti-American website.

After Mr. Babyak’s article appeared, the Lisitsa site defended the “Material Evidence” exhibit in typically vitriolic tweets, tried to cover up all its dirty handlers and attempted to smear Euromaidan Press.

On September 20, outraged demonstrators gathered in front of Heinz Hall to protest the Pittsburgh Symphony’s engagement of Valentina Lisitsa as piano soloist for the opening concerts of their 2014 season. Complaints about the hiring of Ms. Lisitsa had previously been e-mailed to the Pittsburgh Symphony management, principal donors and local media. Protesters from Pennsylvania and New York carried placards and handed out information leaflets to ticketholders, orchestra members, pedestrians and passing motorists. True to form, the ValLisitsa pages subsequently attacked these concert protesters (among whom was this writer).

Ukrainian communities might be interested to greet Ms. Lisitsa at her upcoming concerts in Quebec, the Netherlands, Paris, Washington, Leipzig, London, Cincinnati, Stockholm and in April, 2015 with the Toronto Symphony. Her current international tour schedule can be found at: <http://www.deccaclassics.com/us/artist/lisitsa/ontour>.



Two photos from one of Valentina Lisitsa’s tweets: one of African villagers which she linked with another of Ukrainian schoolteachers with the caption: “New school year begins in Odessa with teachers forced to wear Ukrainian tribal dress, a truly European custom.”



# BOOK REVIEW: *The life of Vasile Avramenko*

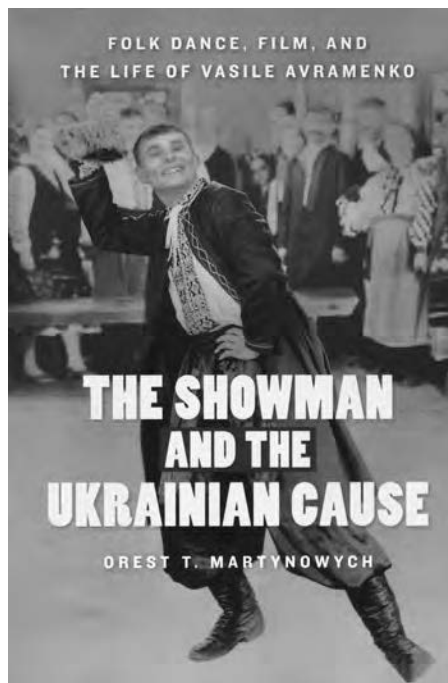
*"The Showman and the Ukrainian Cause: Folk Dance, Film and the Life of Vasile Avramenko"* by Orest T. Martynowych. Winnipeg, University of Manitoba Press, 2014. (Studies in Immigration and Culture, No. 11) 219 pp., illus. ISBN 978-0-88755-768-2 (also available as ebook and pdf) \$27.95, paperback. U.S. distributor: Michigan State University Press.

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

In the mid-1950s when I was a kid, my parents and I took the Hudson Tubes to the Lower East Side, to a small hall someplace on Second Avenue to watch Ukrainian films produced by Vasile Avramenko. These trips must have made an impression on me, because I still remember the black-and-white films. Who knows, I probably watched young performers in those films whom I later met as mature adults when I moved to Winnipeg. From that time on, the name Avramenko remained important in my memory.

In Winnipeg, he was a larger-than-life figure from the late 1920s into the 1960s, a dancer and dance teacher, film producer and impresario. It is because of him that Ukrainian folk dance grew on this continent, especially in western Canada, into the phenomenon it is now. The founder of Winnipeg's Rusalka, Peter Hladun, studied with Avramenko, as did Edmonton's Chester Kuc, who founded Shumka and Cheremosh. So did many other dancers and founders of Ukrainian Canadian dance ensembles. So many seniors across North America are proud that they had studied dance with Avramenko way back when.

But there was another side to Avramenko, a side historian Orest Martynowych uncovers so meticulously. While giving Avramenko credit for his



many accomplishments, Mr. Martynowych's book knocks a hero off his pedestal. Not so much knocks him down, but brings to light how Avramenko did this to himself.

Vasile (Vasyl) Avramenko (1895-1981), born in the Kyiv region of Ukraine (then part of the Russian tsarist empire), had a difficult childhood under a cruel father. As a teenager he traveled for work to Vladivostok, Russia, on the Pacific coast. It was there that he saw his first theater production, the Ukrainian operetta "Natalka Poltavka." This inspired Avramenko's passion in theater and productions, and he never looked back. His life is an engrossing journey of self-discovery, learning, enthusiasm, patriotism, world travel, accomplishment, and loneliness and disappointments.

Mr. Martynowych is a historian at the

Center for Ukrainian Canadian Studies, University of Manitoba in Winnipeg. He is the author of "Ukrainians in Canada: The Formative Years, 1891-1924" (Edmonton: Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, 1991). He is meticulous and scrupulous in his research, much to the chagrin of those who remember only the legend of Avramenko. One wonders how many among the heroes, award-winners and "idols" do not have a dark side. Most also have the egos to go with their reputations, as did Avramenko.

Mr. Martynowych writes that "modesty and perspicacity were not the maestro's (as he liked to be called) strongest traits. Convinced that his work was more important than that of any other Ukrainian in North America, Avramenko amassed and guarded an enormous archive of more than 150 large boxes of documents..." Readers questioning the author's statements can check the documentation themselves.

No one can take away from Avramenko his endeavors and legacy in Ukrainian folk dance, film production and popular culture. But his fund-raising and investment methods tainted that legacy and ruined his reputation among his investors. Some of the letters from friends and others warning him of the consequences of his misdeeds are quoted in this book. Mr. Martynowych explores both sides of the man and his character, providing exact details. Some artists have no business notion at all, they just mean well but are clueless, and are legends in their own minds. And some misadventures are not of their deliberate doing; others are.

This book will be of interest to readers across Canada and the U.S.A., so many of whom learned Ukrainian dance from Avramenko and/or from his original students, those who performed in his films

and those who lost their money by investing in his projects. People, places and events discussed here are still remembered.

For example, Winnipeggers now retired still remember dancing in the mass "Metelytsia" dance choreographed by Avramenko at the Winnipeg Arena during the celebrations in 1961 when the Taras Shevchenko monument at the Legislature was unveiled by John Diefenbaker. Ukrainian Americans across the whole country will remember Avramenko's classes, performances and productions at the Chicago World's Fair in 1933, in Hollywood, New York and Detroit, among the major venues.

The book covers Ukrainian, Ukrainian Canadian and Ukrainian American history, culture, politics and entertainment over many decades. It is well-illustrated with archival photographs. However, in today's world, transliteration from Ukrainian rather than Russian should be used, e.g., Dniπρο (not Dnieper) River.

In great detail, Mr. Martynowych "attempts to present a nuanced and balanced picture of a deeply flawed but fascinating character, one who deserves a place in the history of interwar Canada and North American popular culture." Some readers who remember Avramenko may question why Martynowych "tarnishes" the reputation of a great man. But the author simply presents the truths of a well-documented life. Readers can decide for themselves. Now we know about the whole person, not just the persona.

We are left with the old proverb: Shcho pravda – to ne hrih (Saying the truth is not a sin).

Orysia Tracz is a Winnipeg writer, translator, lecturer and consultant.

# BOOK REVIEW: *Koliada in a Carpathian Village*

*"Still the River Flows: Winter Solstice and Christmas Rituals in a Carpathian Village"* (Тече Річка: Стародавня коляда в Криворівні), by Virlana Tkacz, with translations by Virlana Tkacz and Wanda Phipps. New York: Yara Arts Group, 2014. 53 pp. ISBN: 978-1-63443-233-7. \$25.

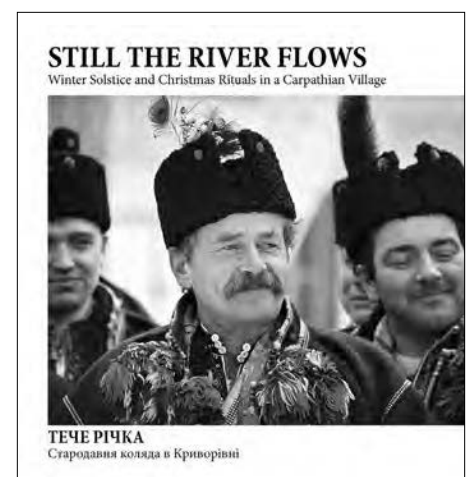
by Maria Sonevytsky

"Still the River Flows," the new bilingual (English-Ukrainian) publication lovingly documents the winter "Koliada" ritual as practiced by Hutsuls in the Carpathian Mountains.

It ends with a poem and its translation. On the last page of the book, the bilingual reader can track how a Ukrainian text composed by Odosia Plytka-Sorokhan, a legendary poet and lifelong inhabitant of the village of Kryvorivnia, became transformed through its translation into English by Virlana Tkacz and Wanda Phipps to "Still the River Flows" – also used as the title of a Yara Arts Group piece staged at the venerated La MaMa Experimental Theater in 2008.

The imprint of Ms. Plytka-Sorokhan's original text, a poem that celebrates and glorifies these winter rituals, is felt in the translation, though Mmes. Tkacz and Phipps omit some detail of the original poem and extract its essence. Ultimately, "Still the River Flows" becomes an incantation on the enduring properties of time, nature and winter ritual songs. For those readers acquainted with Ms. Tkacz's visionary transformations and re-contextualizations of indigenous ritual practices to the experimental theater stage (in New York and around the world), this poem in translation is a familiar kind of metamorphosis; it is a respectful reinvention, a creative re-imagining.

The pages preceding this last poem, however, offer an educative – less poetic, though still very artful – portrayal of the winter solstice and Christmas singing practices known as Koliada. In this annual ritual, male musicians spend 12 days in the deep snows of January delivering messages of joy, encouragement and gratitude to the villagers in their community. The Koliada is connected to ancestry, and is thought to harness powers from the supernatural



realm. Ms. Tkacz presents the ritual as it is conducted in the picturesque and storied village of Kryvorivnia, with field recordings from 2003, and in collaboration with Ukrainian ethnomusicologists who had worked in the region since 1965.

Songs are presented in English translations alongside the Hutsul originals, and the book is powerfully enhanced by the presence of 33 color photographs by Yara Arts Group long-time collaborator Alexander Khantaev.

As a book of art featuring Mr. Khantaev's sumptuous visuals and the crystalline verse of these songs, this is an object to covet. As ethnography, it provides an invaluable glimpse for the English-speaking world into a unique ritual practice from a mythologized and under-represented part of the world.

(Continued on page 9)

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# Alexander Motyl presents his latest novel in Boston



Prof. Alexander Motyl presents his latest book in Boston.

by Peter T. Woloschuk

BOSTON – Approximately 70 people attended Prof. Alexander J. Motyl's presentation and reading of selections from his latest novel, "Fall River," in Christ the King's Ukrainian Catholic Parish Center in Boston, Sunday, November 16. The event lasted two hours and was followed by a question-and-answer period and a book signing. It was sponsored by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Boston Branch (UCCA Boston).

The novel is based on the life stories and personal memories of Prof. Motyl's mother and her younger brother and sister – Manya (Maria), Mykhaylo (Mike), and Stefka. It is a multi-dimensional exploration of how Ukrainian and Polish roots, family history and World War II shaped the destinies of the three who were born in Fall River, Mass.; grew up in Peremyshlyany (western Ukraine), Poland in the 1930s, and then returned to an America after World War II that was both alien and yet somehow welcoming and familiar. Fall River paints a complex picture of three young Ukrainian Americans forced by fate to become emigrants, then refugees from Polish Ukraine, and later European immigrants back to the United States.

The presentation was opened by UCCA Boston's president, Vsevolod Petriv, who welcomed Prof. Motyl and then gave his biography as a well as a brief overview of the book. As prelude to his presentation, Prof. Motyl explained that he got the idea for the novel while doing research on his family's history, particularly, that of his mother's family. The basic facts, which serve as a prelude to the novel are that his grandparents, Ivan Bojczuk and Anna Dembicka Bojczuk came to the United States in 1910 from then Austrian Galicia and immediately headed to the coal fields of Pennsylvania.

Ivan could not take the life of a coal miner and, on the advice of family and friends, headed in 1913 just before the

beginning of World War I to Fall River, where he became a shoemaker and started his own business. In the course of the next eight years he and his wife had three children. At that point Anna died, asking her husband to take the children home to Europe and raise them there, which he did, remarrying in the process.

Prof. Motyl said the starting point for his research were memoirs that both his father and mother wrote, some family photographs, a few old letters and some family lore. He also mentioned that the genealogical records of the Church of the Latter Day Saints proved invaluable. The Church's records department has microfilmed all of the extent state and church records in Ukraine and they are available for a very modest fee. If a family name and town are known, records are obtainable. As a result, Prof. Motyl was able to trace his family back to the mid-18th century.

Fall River is divided into three chapters; one for each of the three Bojczuk children. Interestingly, each is also written in a different person. Mike is introduced first and is dealt with in the second person. He is the first to come back to America, and his ultimate fate is truly tragic as he spent almost half a century in a veterans' psychiatric hospital. Many's tale comes next, and it is written in first person. Stefka, who was the youngest, is dealt with in the third person.

Prof. Motyl was born in New York City and studied at Columbia University, earning both his bachelor's degree in history and his doctorate in political science there. He has taught at Columbia, Lehigh, and Harvard universities, and is currently professor of political science at Rutgers University-Newark.

Prof. Motyl is a prolific author and editor of both scholarly works and novels. "Fall River" is his seventh work in the latter genre. He is also a published poet and a visual artist, and has had showings of his works in New York City, Toronto, Philadelphia and other venues.

Hutsul Koliada winter songs and music to the world stage.

To order "Still the River Flows," send \$25 plus \$5 shipping to: Yara Arts Group, 306 E. 11th St. – No. 3B, New York, NY 1003. Copies will also be available at all Koliada 2014 events.

Maria Sonevsky is assistant professor of music and ethnomusicology at Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson, N.Y.

## BOOK NOTES

### A novel about family history

"Fall River," by Alexander Motyl, Marlboro, N.J.: Alternative Book Press, 2014. 150 pp. ISBN: 978-1-940122-13-7. \$14.99 (paperback). Also available as an e-book, prices vary.

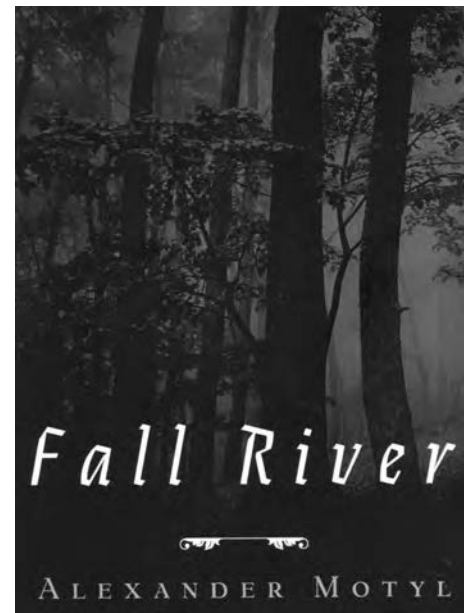
Alexander Motyl's latest novel, "Fall River," examines how family history, Ukrainian roots and war shaped the lives of three Ukrainian Americans who were all born in Fall River, Mass., grew up in inter-war Poland and returned to a very different United States that was as welcoming as it was alienating.

Based on, as Dr. Motyl writes, "95 parts fiction and five parts fact" the novel focuses on three main characters – Manya (Prof. Motyl's mother), Mike and Stefa (Many's two siblings) – and the trio's beginnings in Fall River; the death of their mother in 1922, the move to Poland in 1923, and the return to the United States in 1938 and 1947.

"Stefa's husband, Bohdan, was in fact tortured and killed by the Soviet secret police in late 1941. Most of the other people and places the novel mentions were also real. Everything else – the motivations, the fears, the emotions, the expectations, the interpretations, the experiences... is fictional," Dr. Motyl writes.

Variances in perspective voice in the book's chapters – Mike in the second person, Many in the first person and Stefa in the third person – offer each character's insights.

Dr. Motyl, who resides in New York City, is professor of political science at Rutgers University-Newark, and is a writer and



painter. With six other novels to his credit, as well as his widely published poetry selections, Dr. Motyl is currently working on a satire of intellectuals, policy-makers and businesspeople called "Ardor House." His artwork has been featured on the Internet gallery [www.artsicle.com](http://www.artsicle.com). Dr. Motyl has also authored six academic books, as well as numerous scholarly and policy articles, in addition to his weekly World Affairs Journal blog "Ukraine's Orange Blues" ([www.worldaffairsjournal.com](http://www.worldaffairsjournal.com)).

Readers may obtain copies from the publisher, [www.alternativebookpress.com](http://www.alternativebookpress.com), or via retailers such as Amazon. E-book versions are also available.

## Koliada...

(Continued from page 8)

The new book is part of Yara Arts Group's ongoing "Koliada Project," which also includes the CD "Koliada: Winter Songs and Music from the Carpathians," recorded by the Koliadnyky of Kryvorivnia, and more than a decade of collaboration with traditional artists of Kryvorivnia to bring the

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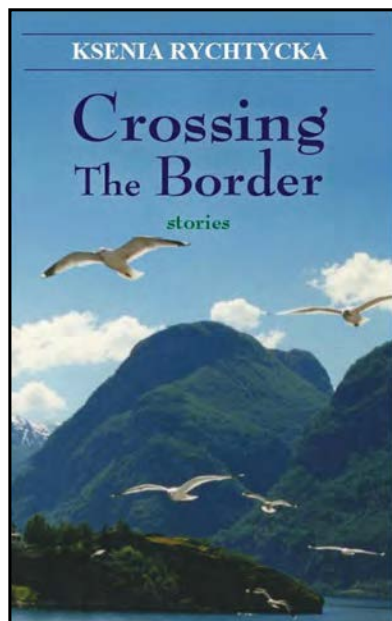
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"The stories crossed geographical borders, but also cultural and emotional ones. The dialogue was spare but so eloquent that it catches your breath and steals your heart. The descriptions of the settings draw you in as though you are intimately part of the story. You'll find yourself revisiting the stories long after you've put the book aside. Savor these stories as you would a fine wine!" – *Goodreads*

"Ksenia's talent lies in her ability to poetically weave significant details of Ukraine's history without being didactic or intrusive." – Myrosia Stefaniuk, *Detroit'ski Novyny*

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## Yuri Turchyn to perform in Winter Solstice Concert

by Christina Kotlar

PATERSON, N.J. – A Winter Solstice Concert that blends the contemporary inspirations of acclaimed jazz violinist Yuri Turchyn with the ancient traditions of renowned music and healing artist Alessandra Belloni will be presented by the Ivanhoe Artists Mosaic on Sunday, December 21, at 2-4 p.m.

The concert, part of celebrations of the 350th birthday of New Jersey, will take place in the Hannah Art Galley within the Paterson Museum, 2 Market St., in the Paterson Historic District. The museum, which once met the large-scale needs of the Rogers Locomotive Works, provides a venue with 30-foot ceilings, exposed beams and walls of historic brick.

An acclaimed violinist and international jazz cat, Mr. Turchyn will appear with his ensemble musicians. Whether solo, as part of an eclectic ensemble or with his Latin Jazz quintet Grupo Yuri, he has performed at world-class jazz festivals, regional concerts and A-list clubs throughout the New Jersey/New York metropolitan area.

Alessandra will perform the Tarantata: Spider Dance, a ceremonial dance that comes from Roman mythology of the women who were disciples of Bacchus. The dance is based on a tale of a poisonous spider bite, which could be cured only by performing a ceremonial dance to stomp out the poison. The dancer makes use of large tamborines and moves with frenetic energies, to cleanse herself from the infection. Joe Denizone, known as the "Jimi Hendrix of the Violin," will complement and add to



Violinist Yuri Turchyn

the pace of Ms. Belloni's wild cathartic dance.

Tickets to the concert are \$20; parking at the Paterson Museum is free. To reserve tickets, call 917-605-0880 or e-mail [marchharemedia@me.com](mailto:marchharemedia@me.com); tickets are available also online at [www.marchharemedia.me](http://www.marchharemedia.me).

Come early to visit the Paterson Museum ([www.patersonmuseum.com](http://www.patersonmuseum.com)), which features antique textile looms, Abbot and Costello memorabilia, some of the first Colt revolvers, and a newly opened Lenape Indian Exhibit, or visit a local treasure: The Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park ([www.nps.gov/pagr/](http://www.nps.gov/pagr/)).

Ivanhoe Artists Mosaic, Inc is a non-profit organization that promotes art, history and culture in Paterson ([www.Ivanhoeartistsmosaicinc.org](http://www.Ivanhoeartistsmosaicinc.org)).

## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

during the Ministerial Council have illustrated that there are diverging assessments on the root causes of the crisis. He said that OSCE participating states are united in the conviction that there is no military solution to this crisis and pledge their strong collective support to its peaceful settlement and to all efforts directed towards resolving the crisis by diplomatic means and through inclusive political dialogue. (OSCE)

### 10,000 soldiers get lifesaver training

TORONTO – In November the humanitarian initiative Patriot Defence reached a milestone: 10,000 soldiers trained in Combat Lifesaver techniques. A news release sent by the Patriot Defence noted: "This would not have been possible without the help of hundreds of concerned people from all over the world, without the tremendous work of our instructors (modest and simply the best) and without the dedicated work of our volunteers that have carefully packed almost 8,000 IFAKs [individual first aid kits]. ...Ukraine's patriots are defending the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Ukraine. Together, we can continue to train as many defenders of Ukraine as possible, arming them with the knowledge and techniques to save their own lives and the lives of their brothers-in-arms." For a donation of \$100, Patriot Defence will deliver an IFAK to a soldier. To learn more, readers may visit the project's website at <http://patriotdefence.org/>. (Ukrainian World Congress)

### Russian gas flows resume to Ukraine

KYIV – Supplies of Russian gas are flowing to Ukraine after a six-month suspension.

Maksim Belyavskiy, the head of Ukraine's gas transportation network Ukrtransgaz, said on December 9 that gas supplies from Russia to his country have resumed. Mr. Belyavskiy said Ukraine should receive some 43.5 million cubic meters of gas daily for the rest of this month. State-controlled Russian exporter Gazprom confirmed it resumed deliveries to Ukraine after received a \$378 million prepayment for 1 billion cubic meters of gas for December. Russia suspended gas shipments to Ukraine in June as tension mounted following the ouster of Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich and Moscow's annexation of Crimea. Gazprom cited Ukraine's multi-billion dollar gas debt and demanded prepayment for future supplies. The resumption of supplies follows an October 30 deal signed by Russia, Ukraine and the European Union to ensure deliveries to Ukraine over the winter. (RFE/RL, based on reporting from Interfax and Reuters)

### Saakashvili rejects government post

TBILISI – Former Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili says he has rejected a vice prime minister's post in Ukraine. Georgia's Rustavi 2 TV on December 1 quoted Mr. Saakashvili as saying he would not take the post because it would require him to renounce Georgian citizenship in order to become a citizen of Ukraine. Ukrainian media had reported earlier that Mr. Saakashvili, who is hated by Russia's leadership, could be offered the post in a government to be formed after the victory of pro-Western parties in Ukraine's parliamentary election last month. Media reports in Ukraine on December 2 said that two members of Mr. Saakashvili's former government, Aleksandr Kvitashvili and Eka

(Continued on page 16)

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# UNA CHRISTMAS CARD CONTEST FOR CHILDREN

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For the second year in a row, the UNA initiated a Christmas card contest for our children. What a wonderful way to promote our children's talents while exchanging best wishes for the holidays and the new year! This year's special collection of cards includes drawings created by the youngest members of our community – the future artists of tomorrow. Twelve entries were selected for the published cards, and they are featured on the first page of this pull-out section; other submissions appear on the following pages, as we appreciate every child's participation.

As always, all the proceeds from the sale of the cards are assigned to Soyuzivka, where children's camps and programs are held. We ask that you support this Christmas card project and thus encourage all the children who participated and shared their talents with us. Please forward your donations to the Ukrainian National Foundation (UNF), a 501(c)(3) foundation; all donations are tax-exempt as permitted by law.

**Oksana Trytjak**  
UNA Events Coordinator



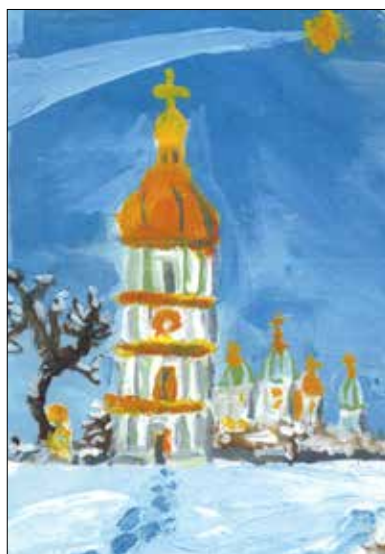
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*Cold Spring Harbor, NY*



*Bozhena Kulchickij, 14*  
*Arnold, MD*



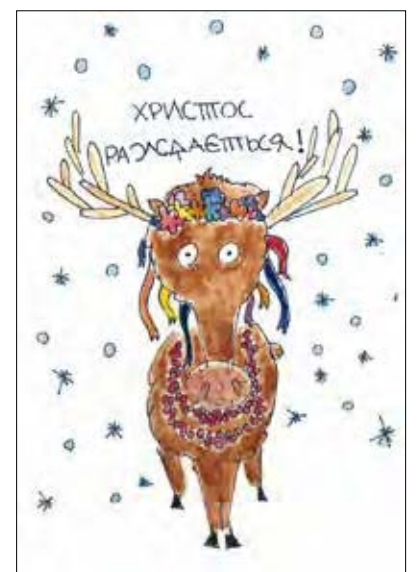
*Sofia Yarosh, 10*  
*Parma, OH*



*Maksym Kuropas, 10*  
*Waxhaw, NC*



*Ksenia Kuzo, 9*  
*Roseville, CA*



*Hannah Bazylevsky, 11*  
*Warwick, NY*



*Sophia Leshchysyn, 11*  
*Columbia, MD*



*Susanna Popyk, 13*  
*Newburgh Heights, OH*



*Nina Rakowsky, 10*  
*Bloomfield, NJ*



*Nazar Yarosh, 7*  
*Parma, OH*



*Julianna Lykety, 16*  
*Cary, NC*



*Volodymyr Sadovy, 14*  
*Brooklyn, NY*





Paul Salvi, 11  
Washington, DC



Tara Manasterski, 9  
Moon Township, PA



Isabelle Alyskevycz, 13  
Cold Spring Harbor, NY



Victoria Schwetz, 6  
Newport Coast, CA



Vika Lapka, 10  
Parma, OH



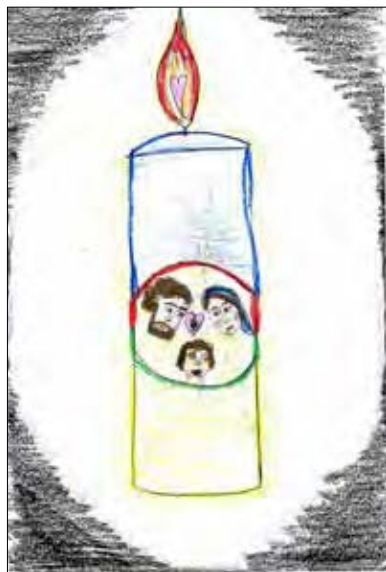
Olga Drobockyi, 9  
Amston, CT



Valya Breslawec, 11  
Potomac, MD



Aleksa Bazylevsky, 9  
Warwick, NY



Nina Nebesh, 12  
Columbia, MD



Marko Paxi, 7  
Broad Brook, CT



Yuriy Bilous, 12  
New Britain, CT



Karolina Petruk, 9  
Parma, OH



Sofia Kipran, 6  
Cleveland, OH



Natalie Zborowski, 7  
Southington, CT



Julia Rokycy, 7  
Wethersfield, CT



Axel Kolcio, 6  
Higganum, CT 06441



Marko Paxi, 7  
Broad Brook, CT

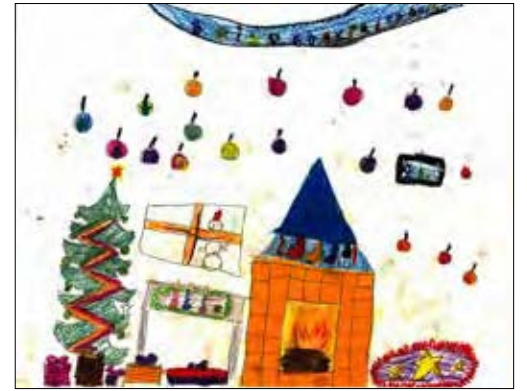




Mark Rokychky, 10  
Wethersfield, CT



Anastasiya Andriyashko, 10  
Wethersfield, CT



Maria Toronchuk, 11  
Andover, CT



Mariana Toronchuk, 10  
Andover, CT



Anna Drobockyi, 11  
Amston, CT



Sophia Paxi, 4  
Broad Brook, CT



Taras Panchyshyn, 13  
Southington, CT



Sophia Martyniuk, 14  
Hartford, CT



Tanya Messenger, 15  
Wethersfield, CT



Maxim Markiw, 7  
Bloomfield, CT



Anastasia Prediy, 6  
Strongsville, OH



Arianna Rudko, 10  
Colchester, CT



Maksym Tseplyy, 9  
Chicago, IL



Andriy Grynyk, 12  
Newington, CT



Kotyk, Nadia, 10  
Baltimore, MD



Maksym Kuropas, 10  
Waxhaw, NC



Yuriy Mishtal, 13  
Suffield, CT



Olga Salamakha, 9  
Chicago, IL





Ariana Moreno, 10  
Chicago, IL



Anna Chaban, 11  
Chicago, IL



Katarine Oliynyk, 10  
Chicago, IL



Jorge Lopez, 9  
Chicago, IL



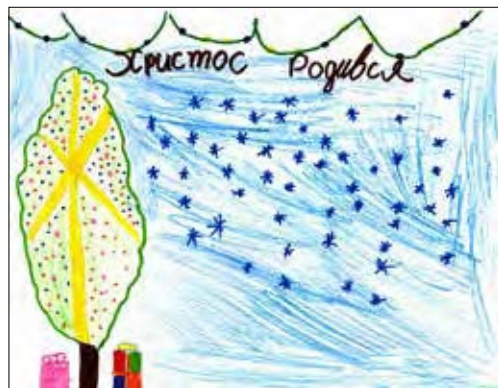
Kayla Mercado, 10  
Chicago, IL



Oleksandr Ivanyshyn-Ugryn, 10  
Chicago, IL



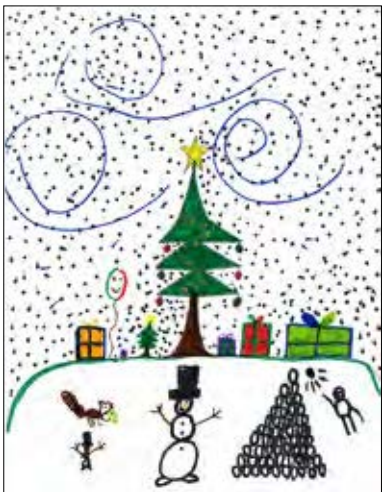
Adriana Hrytsyshyn, 10  
Chicago, IL



Juliia Khlystun, 10  
Chicago, IL



Victoria Pylyavska, 11  
Chicago, IL



Alex Musyakevych, 9  
Chicago, IL



Yuliya Lutsyk, 10  
Chicago, IL



Larysa Butenko, 7  
Chicago, IL



Sofia Kotyk, 9  
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Taras Seredyuk, 8  
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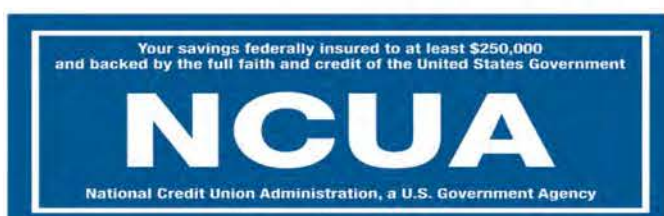
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## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 10)

Zguladze, had been named by Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko's bloc as potential candidates for minister of health and vice-minister of internal affairs, respectively. Georgian Vice Prime Minister Kakha Kaladze said on December 2 that it would be "painful" to see former Georgian officials, some of whom are suspects in crimes, in Ukraine's government. Mr. Saakashvili, whose term ended in 2013 after nearly a decade in office, has been charged with several crimes by the government that came to power after his party's defeat in a 2012 parliamentary election. He and members of his former government say the charges against them are politically motivated. Mr.

Saakashvili lives in self-imposed exile in the United States. (RFE/RL Georgian Service)

### NATO chief blasts Russia for military activity

BRUSSELS – The head of NATO says Russia has been sending large amounts of weapons to rebels in eastern Ukraine and stepped up its military activity around Europe and the world. NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg told a monthly news conference in Brussels that "efforts for a lasting peace continue" despite daily violations of a September ceasefire in the conflict between Ukrainian government forces and pro-Russian separatists. "We see a significant military build-up in and around Ukraine, large transfers of Russian advanced weapons, equipment and military personnel to violent separatists, and a major increase in Russian military activity around Europe and

beyond," Mr. Stoltenberg said. He said Russia and the separatists are not respecting the ceasefire deal signed in Minsk, which aimed to end a conflict that has killed more than 4,300 people since April and driven East-West ties to post-Cold War lows. The Ukrainian military accused Russian special forces of taking part in rebel attacks on the Donetsk airport, a strategically important facility that has been a focus of fierce fighting despite the ceasefire. "These are Russian special forces. It's already the third day that they've been trying to do something," the Reuters news agency quoted military

spokesman Andriy Lysenko as saying by telephone. Russia has dispatched several shipments of aid to alleviate what it says is a drastic humanitarian situation in eastern Ukraine, but the pro-Western government in Kyiv accuses Moscow of using the shipments to send military equipment to separatists. Mr. Stoltenberg said, "The best way of improving the humanitarian situation in eastern Ukraine is to stop the violation of the Minsk agreement, to respect the ceasefire, and we have seen that the separatists and Russia [are] not doing that" (RFE/RL, with reporting by Reuters and the Associated Press)

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Ділимося сумною вісткою, що у вівторок, 9 грудня 2014 року, на 87-ому році життя у Чикаго відійшов у вічність

св. п.

### Анатолій Коломиєць

найдорожчий чоловік, батько, дід, і брат  
художник, український патріот, шляхетна й добра людина.  
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у Кобеляках, Полтавська область, Україна.

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| сина   | - Андрія із дружиною Зоряною та дітьми Дем'яном, Мар'яною, Інсою і Максимом  |
| брата  | - Юрія з дружиною Александрою  |
| племінника                                     | - Анатолія з дружиною Феліцією   |
| племінницю                                     | - Тамару з чоловіком Міхаелем Ампульським та сином Адамом з дружиною Тифані  |
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| шваґра   | - Олега Каравана з дружиною Іванкою та донькою Танею з чоловіком Романом Куропасем і дітьми Максимом, Катею, Зоряною та Ізабелю та сином Григорієм з дружиною Адріаною і дітьми Миколою та Олександром |
| сватів   | - Левка і Віру Ременюків з родиною   |
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Панахида буде відправлена у неділю, 14 грудня, о 5-ій годині вечора в похоронному заведенні Муzyka Funeral Home, 2157 W Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL.

Похорон відбудеться у понеділок, 15 грудня, о годині 10 ранку в Українській православній катедрі св. Володимира в Чикаго.

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## Kalyna Tysiak

peacefully departed from her family on November 20, 2014 at Eddy Village Green. Kalyna formerly resided in Troy where she lived for more than 60 years.

Kalyna was born on October 26, 1920, in Stinka (Ternopil Oblast), Ukraine. She was born to the late Timoté and Phalaghia Myhailuk who passed away in 1935, leaving Kalyna orphaned as a teen-age girl who then became caught-up in the crosswinds of World War II. Kalyna was the youngest of five children. Her two brothers (Mikhail and Stefan) and two sisters (Olyha and Maria) were born prior to World War I and have since all passed on. Given the age gap between Kalyna and her siblings, after the passing of her parents in 1935, she basically became nanny to her nephews and nieces.

As a young woman in Ukraine, she became involved in nationalistic activities in the 1930's which at the time were highly harassed while Ukraine was occupied by Poland between the two world wars of the 20th Century. Her witness and participation in the national identity movement as a young woman became a defining moment that fostered a strong belief and life-long commitment to maintaining the Ukrainian identity abroad awaiting the establishment of a free and independent Ukraine.

With the advent of World War II, and given her age and orphan status at the time, the winds of war conspired to lead her on an unwanted journey as a forced laborer to Germany where she remained throughout and immediately following the end of the war years. Upon her marriage to Ivan Tysiak on June 10, 1945 and eventual immigration to the United States in early 1951, she embarked on her life's destiny as wife, mother, homemaker and preserver of Ukrainian culture and traditions in her new homeland. Kalyna and Ivan enjoyed 35 years of marriage until his passing on October 10, 1980.

The turmoil of the war years gave her a great inner strength making her resolute but very open, loving and accepting of all that life brought her way.

After the war, she and her husband Ivan immigrated to the United States where they ultimately settled in Troy. Upon arriving in Troy, Kalyna worked in the needle crafts industry and, after working for several different employers, retired from The Arrow Company in 1980.



As she began her new life in the United States of America, she approached everything with vitality, happy to be surrounded by her cherished family and circle of friends and acquaintances. Throughout her 9 decades of life, she was devoted to her family and friends, to her church and to her community.

Kalyna is survived by her son Gerald and his wife Cynthia, her two daughters Martha and her husband Dr. Antonio Artiles, and Marika Papa and her long-time companion Tom Mulhall. She also leaves behind six grandchildren and two great grandchildren. In addition, she is survived by her surviving nieces and nephews and their families in Ukraine.

Embroidery is an ancient and symbolic tradition in Ukraine; a national pastime that is part of Ukrainian cultural and national identity. Embroidery was her passion and favorite past time. Kalyna in her life-time elevated her mastery of embroidery to an art form. She embroidered portrait quality images, many of which are suitably framed and hung in the homes of her children and grandchildren, and created hundreds of individual pillows, towels, table cloths, napkins, blouses, shirts and even dresses and jackets with traditional Ukrainian embroidery showing motifs reflective of styles found in the different regions of Ukraine.

She was a communicant of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Watervliet and for decades a member of the Ukrainian National Women's League, in Cohoes and later in Watervliet. She sang in church choirs most of her life and worked on numerous church fundraiser projects over the years. In addition, she devoted time and energy to the mission and projects of the Ukrainian National Women's League. Her life-long devotion to church and community became an inspiration to her children and grandchildren calling them to remember Ukraine's proud traditions, and to remember the country's painful and conflicted past and present.

A special thank you is extended to the staff of Eddy Village Green, House #1, for the loving comfort and care they provided Kalyna these past three-years especially during her final days. The family also wishes to acknowledge the visitations by Pastoral Council members and by Fr. Mikhail Myshchuk while a resident of Eddy Village Green.

Friends were invited to call at Parker Funeral Home, 2013 Broadway, Watervliet, NY on November 25. A mass of Christian burial was held on November 26 at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, 2410 Fourth Avenue, Watervliet. Interment followed at St. Nicholas Catholic Church Cemetery in Watervliet.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Kalyna's name may be made to the Ukrainian National Women's League, Watervliet Branch.

## In memory of

## Ivanka Prystacky Szkafarowsky

### BEFORE YOU WERE HERE

by Adrianna Rudyk-Odomirok

It's hard to imagine what life was like before you were born. What were your parents like when they were kids? How did your grandparents live without today's technology? Travelling around the world took weeks or months instead of hours. Our elders tell us stories, show us pictures, share with us their favorite books and recipes, and fill our imaginations with the people and life that once were. Although these experiences and people only live in our imaginations, we indulge in these stories and dream of meeting our ancestors and learn how life came to be the way it is today.



One of our elders' life story began October 13, 1937 in Lviv, Ukraine. Born to Maria and Mykola Prystacky, Ivanka was the youngest of three children. At age 3, she, her parents and brother Stax, were ripped from their homes by the invading German forces and sent to work on a German farm as forced laborers. (Her older sister Pavlina was spared as she went into hiding with the neighbors.) Living on a farm with strangers was a difficult adjustment. Her only escape was in the evening when her father would tell her stories and sing folk songs about her homeland. She indulged in the history, traditions and legends about the kniazivstvo, kozatstvo, and Sichovi Striltsi. Like the legendary kobzari on their bandury, her father would enchant her with folklore, read from Taras Shevchenko's Kobzar, and ignite her unwavering passion and patriotism for her native Ukraine. Meanwhile, her practical mama taught her to seek out opportunities in the most unlikely

situations. From her she learned domestic skills such as how to cook, sew and even barter.

When WWII ended, the family found themselves in an American Displaced Persons camp in Bayroit, Germany. Although the next five years continued to bring hardships, the Ukrainian community within the DP camp founded a church, choir and even a school where Ivanka learned Polish, German and English. While there, her tato Mykola, was poisoned by Russian spies for protecting his family from resettlement or so called "repatriation" in the Soviet Union. In dealing with the loss of her hero, Ivanka promised to honor his love for his homeland and pass his passion down to generations to come. As a widow, Maria and her family were accepted to the Catholic League Relief who sponsored her voyage to the United States. Settling on 7th Street, New York City, amongst other Ukrainian émigrés, the family began a new life filled with freedom, hope and opportunity. To make herself look older, Ivanka used her mother's makeup and got a job at Nabisco while attending beauty school classes at night. One Christmas Eve, at St. George Ukrainian church, she met Petro Szkafarowsky and on May 23, 1953 they were married. They were soon blessed with a daughter, Olia. Later, came two more children: Stefan and Lillianna and eventually the family moved to Yonkers, New York. To help support her family, Ivanka worked as a beautician, sewed custom clothing, embroidered, and after attaining her High School Diploma worked as an Aid at St. John's hospital. Eventually Ivanka overcame her fear of driving and at 47 attained her driver's license.

Always the worker-bee she was present at every church and community event not merely as an audience member but as a contributor. She belonged to St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church, the "Sestrystvho", ODFU Women's Auxiliary, and "CYMA". She baked numerous cakes for bake sales, sewed costumes for children's theater productions, and taught/tutored elementary students at the School of Ukrainian Studies.

In keeping her promise to her father, her children were raised in the Ukrainian patriotic spirit, learning

the language, history, traditions and culture of her homeland. She loved to embroider, make gerdany, bake korovaii and Ukrainian torty. She sewed and embroidered Ukrainian blouses and even created her daughters' Debutante Ball gowns. Recognizing her children's talents, Ivanka supported their endeavors. Heeding the advice of Stefan's 8th grade teacher, Ivanka helped her son pursue a singing career. In 1977 the family donned their finest gowns and tuxedos to attend Stefan's historical debut, being the youngest solo artist to sing at Carnegie Recital Hall. Her daughter Olia commanded the stage through recitation and Lillia had a flair for painting, as well as, music and performance theater.

In 1992, a year after Ukraine's proclamation of independence, Ivanka, along with her grandchildren, made an emotional trip back to her native Ukraine. Even at the age of 9, her grandson was moved by the tearful reunion of Ivanka and her sister Pavlina, after 52 years of separation. It must have been Divine Providence that timed this reunion because two years later, on December 14, 1994 Ivanka Prystacky Szkafarowsky passed on to her Eternal Life in God's keeping. Mama-Baba Ivanka lives on in our hearts, photos, stories and imaginations. Since her passing, her family has grown in number and her personality and characteristics continue to shine through in the smiles and gestures of her five grandchildren and four great grandchildren. For the past 20 years, her family has thought about her every day, wondering what life would be like if she were still around. Her great grandchildren and younger grandchildren see her picture on the mantel or in a wallet and, although still young themselves, realize that she is someone important in their family. At dance recitals, they wear her "vyshyvky." In high school, they write essays about her. At Christmas they use her many recipes including their favorite medivnyk. At formal events they wear her favorite jewelry. They watch her great grandchildren smile in their sleep and know she is singing them a lullaby and recounting the glory days of her heroes, from tato Mykola to Taras Shevchenko.

We miss you and love you. Thank you, Mamo-Babo for everything! Tsiom tsiom, tuli tuli, Your children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.



## COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

# "Spotlight on Ukraine" at the Miami Book Fair International



Oksana Piaseckyj

At the Miami Book Fair International (from left) are: Iryna Virstuk, Peter J. Piaseckyj, Oksana Piaseckyj, Roksoliana Havryliw and Natalka Sharshanevych.

by Oksana Piaseckyj

MIAMI – This city is gaining momentum each year as a cultural center, with an expanding emphasis on art, theater, music and literature. On November 17-23, the Miami Book Fair International was held at

the Miami Dade College, Wolfson Campus in downtown Miami.

This is the largest literary event in the country, with international authors presenting their latest works in a speaker's series, such as Joyce Carol Oates, Nicholas D. Kristof and Colombian writer Plinio

Apuleyo Maedosa, and thousands of people attending.

Local Ukrainians felt it was the right opportunity to set up a Ukrainian booth with Ukrainian-themed books. So, for the first time in its 31-year history, the fair had a booth called "Spotlight on Ukraine."

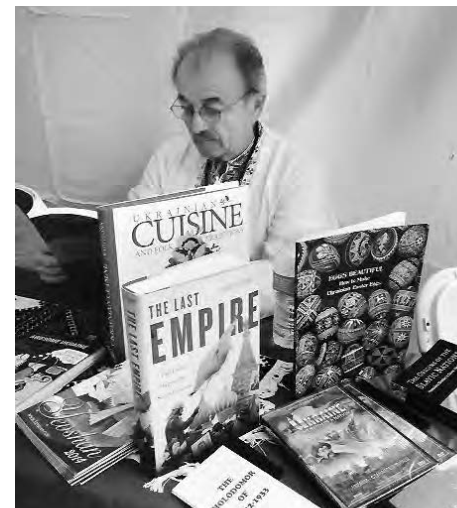
With the cooperation of Harvard's Ukrainian Research Institute and Prof. Serhii Plokhyy; the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies Press and Prof. Frank Sysyn; Rutgers University's Prof. Alexander Motyl; and Marijka Sochan Tymyc of the Yevshan Corp., the project came to fruition, and a varied collection of books was for sale on November 21-23.

Thousands of people passed by the booth, some stopping to look and browse, or at least acknowledging with a thumbs up that they are for Ukraine in its struggle with Russia. Inquisitive readers stopped to ask questions.

Tending the booth, Peter J. and Oksana Piaseckyj tried to disseminate information on Ukraine and persuade readers to pur-

chase books that shed light on Ukrainian history, culture, politics and the arts.

The Ukrainian American Club Inc. of Miami supported this first-time event in Miami.



Peter J. Piaseckyj with the display of books about Ukraine at the Miami Book Fair International.

## Community holds memorial service for Holodomor Victims

NORTH PORT, Fla. – On November 23, in solidarity with the people of Ukraine, a memorial service for the victims of the Holodomor of 1932-1933, was held in local Ukrainian churches here. Members of the Community Committee, headed by Romana Guran, took part in the memorial service at the Presentation of the Most Holy Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church. Officiating at the memorial service were the Rev. Severyn Kowalyshyn and the Rev. Wolodymyr Woloszczuk with Bishop Michael in attendance. Representatives of the Community Committee holding candles at the memorial service were: Ms. Guran, Marion Boysiuk (Ukrainian American Veterans), Ann-Marie Susla and Lidia Bilous (Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 56), Vira Bodnaruk (Ukrainian Language Society), Lieda Boyko and Doris Horbachevsky (Ukrainian American Club) and Klara Szpiczka (Ukrainian Congress Committee of America).

– Vira Bodnaruk



Bohdan Bodnaruk

## Bees and beekeeping at community event



Roma Hadzewycz

WHIPPANY, N.J. – An audience of enthusiasts attended a special evening event about beekeeping held here at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey that was organized by Petrusia Kotlar Paslawsky. The November 7 program included a screening of a new short documentary, "Bee Dance: Steps to a New Future in Beekeeping," directed by Dr. Paslawsky. The presenter also spoke about Taras Shevchenko and bees, and answered myriad questions from her audience about bees, beekeeping (including colony collapse disorder) and honey. Attendees were able to sample honey-based hors d'oeuvres and herbal teas. Dr. Paslawsky, a chiropractor, is a member of the Ukrainian American Beekeepers Society. Seen above are some of those who attended the presentation by Dr. Paslawsky (seated, second from left).

## UCCA reports major donation to UUARC from proceeds of September banquet

NEW YORK – The banquet held at the Waldorf Astoria in New York City on September 25 was intended as a unique opportunity for the Ukrainian American community to show its support by welcoming President Petro Poroshenko to New York City and demonstrating that the community stands united with the people of Ukraine, especially during this time of crisis.

Over 800 people gathered in at the Waldorf Astoria's grand ballroom that evening, welcoming Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk, who was delegated by President Poroshenko to attend the gala in his stead.

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) and the Reception Committee had stated that any proceeds from the banquet would go directly to the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee Inc. (UUARC) to assist in its humanitarian aid mission to help the Ukrainian army, the National Guard and the families of the soldiers of Ukraine.

In a December 5 news release, the UCCA and the Reception Committee announced that a donation of \$40,000 was made to the UUARC.



## COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

# Parma cathedral celebrates 90th anniversary

PARMA, Ohio – On Saturday and Sunday, October 25-26, the faithful of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral here celebrated the parish's 90th anniversary. Organized in Cleveland in 1924, the parish moved to Parma in 1967.

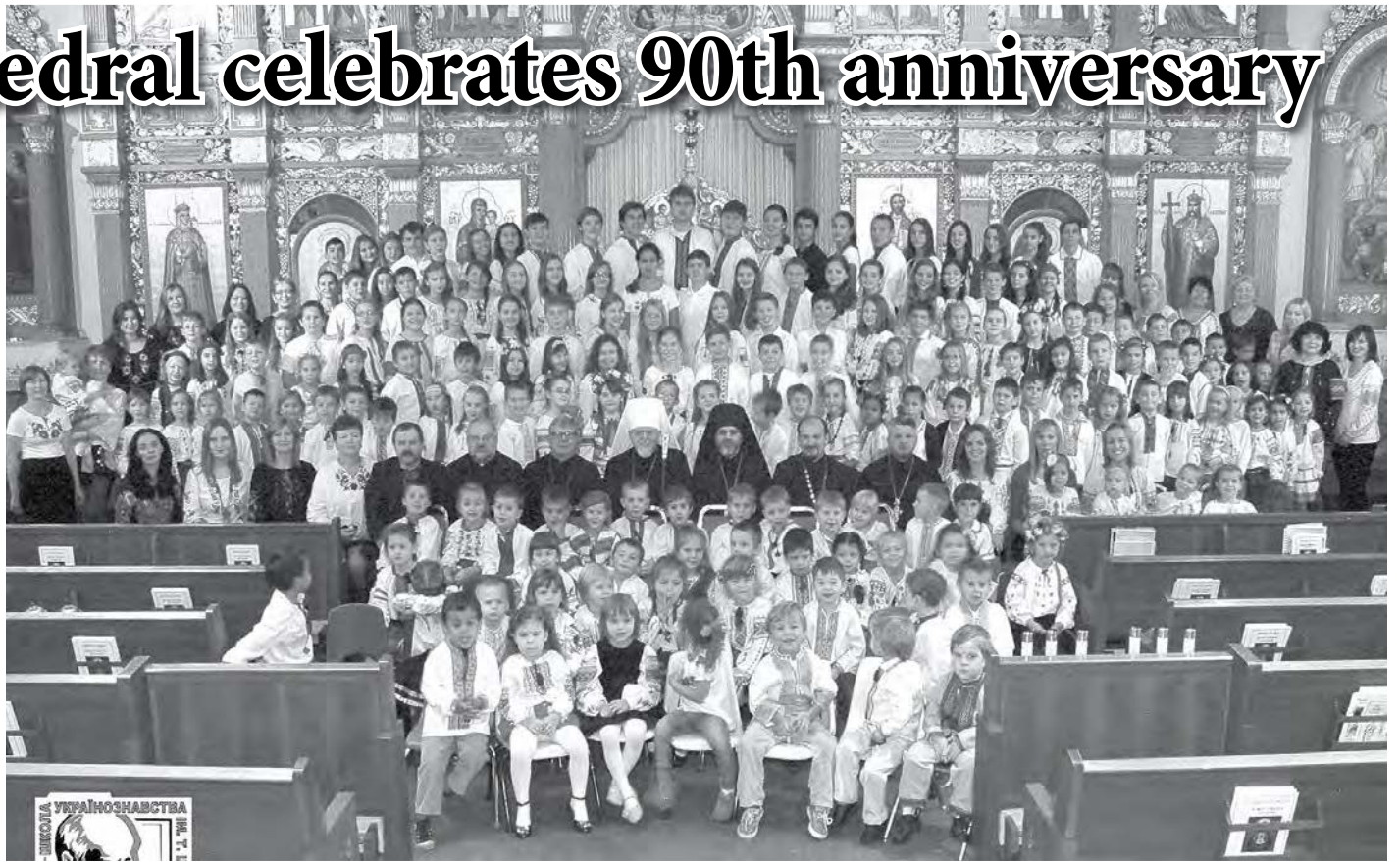
Metropolitan Antony and Bishop Daniel, cathedral archpastor, led the weekend celebrations. The festivities began on Saturday morning with the hierarchs visiting the 180 children of the cathedral's Taras Shevchenko School of Ukrainian Studies.

On Saturday evening, vespers and a memorial service for departed pastors and "panimatky" (priests' wives), and deceased founders and parishioners were held.

On Sunday morning, a hierarchal liturgy was celebrated by Metropolitan Antony and Bishop Daniel. Five priests, a deacon and 14 altar boys served. Responses were sung by the combined English and Ukrainian choirs. Metropolitan Antony delivered the homily.

Following the liturgy, an anniversary banquet was held in the parish cultural center. The Ukrainian Dance and Bandura Schools provided entertainment during the dinner, with an attendance of 375 people. Bishop Daniel delivered the main address.

Bishop John Bura of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Parma was also in



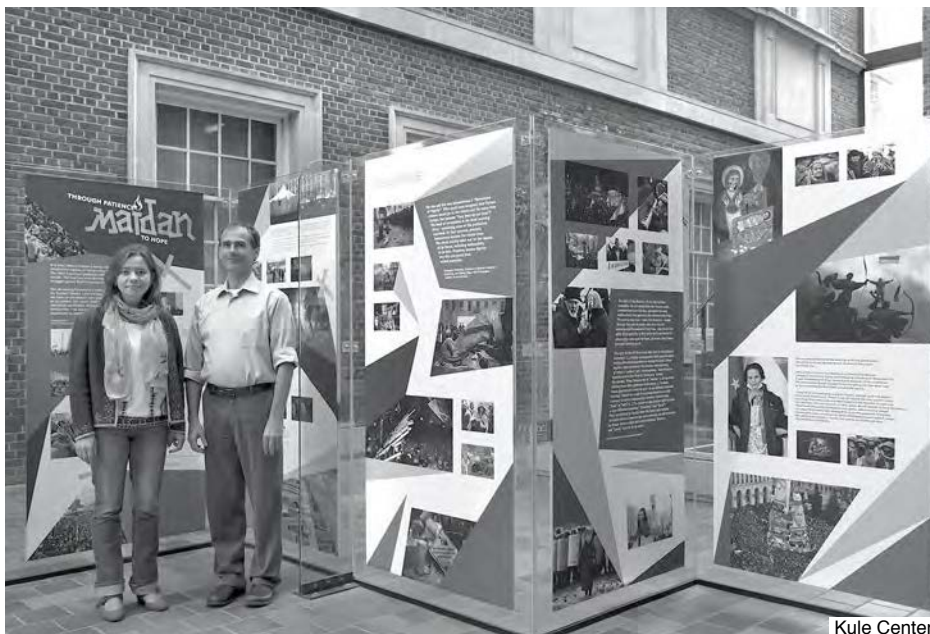
Metropolitan Antony and Bishop Daniel with children, clergy and the teaching staff of the Taras Shevchenko School of Ukrainian Studies at St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, Parma, Ohio.

attendance. He was presented with flowers and a model of St. Vladimir Cathedral as a remembrance of his five years of outstand-

ing ecumenical cooperation between the Churches during his years as administrator of the Parma Eparchy, and the banquet par-

ticipants sang "Mnohaya Lita" for Bishop Bura. The Catholic bishop delivered the benediction concluding the banquet.

## "Maidan – Through Patience to Hope" exhibited at U. of Alberta



Nataliya Bezborodova (left), graduate student and Dr. Andriy Nahachewsky, director of the Kule Folklore Center in front of the Maidan Exhibit at the University of Alberta.

EDMONTON, Alberta – The Kule Folklore Center at the University of Alberta (U. of A.) hosted the exhibit "Maidan – Through Patience to Hope." For 12 days in October, this exhibit was displayed in the Galleria Atrium of the U. of A. Rutherford Library. It captured the protests and changes in Ukraine that occurred last winter, bringing life to the quotes and feelings of the people who experienced this event.

This exhibit was originally displayed at the Rimini Meeting Festival in Italy during the summer of 2014. U. of A. graduate student Natalia Bezborodova spoke at the festival and made arrangements to recreate the exhibit together with the original authors – Oleksandr Filonenko, Anastasia Zolotova, Oleksiy Chekal and Oleksiy Sigov

– through the Kule Folklore Center.

Ms. Nataliya Bezborodova, herself from Kyiv, is one of the many Ukrainian graduate students at the U. of A. who have had a hard time focusing on their studies while critical events shake their homeland this school year. She is working on her master's thesis in Ukrainian folklore, analyzing the role of social media during the Maidan. Ms. Bezborodova has a huge database of material collected from Facebook during the critical months of the Maidan. A folkloristic exploration can show how personal experiences illuminate many elements not exposed by normal media coverage and official reports. The Maidan phenomenon is a rich source of contemporary and urban folklore, a physical and social site that con-

tinues to generate a great deal of creative human expressions, she notes.

The "Maidan – Through Patience to Hope" exhibit generated great feedback, and several organizations, including the Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in South Korea, have expressed an interest to display this recreated exhibit and will do so in the near future.

This exhibit is one of several that have

been created or recreated in partnerships through the Kule Folklore Center and displayed throughout Canada. Folklore is the traditional beliefs, customs, skills, arts and stories of a community, passed on from person to person in living context and exhibits have included "Journey to Canada: Ukrainian Immigration Experience 1891-1900," "Ukrainian Wedding" and "Ukrainian Dance: From Village to Stage."

## Philadelphia area students send greetings to Ukrainian soldiers



JENKINTOWN, Pa. – Students of the Ukrainian Heritage School at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center in Jenkintown, Pa., recently sent greetings to Ukrainian soldiers. Above, some of these soldiers hold the messages they received. As one Ukrainian American veteran put it, such greetings for the soldiers are "as precious as weapons." The students also participated in a letter-writing activity to President Barack Obama and other elected officials, asking their help for the Ukrainian people.

– Vera Andryczyk

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# Club Suzie-Q Week offers local adventures, Ukraine insights

by Anisa Handzia Sawyckyj  
with Yuri Mykolayevych

FOREST HILLS, N.Y. – When Club Suzie-Q, a gathering of (then) young Ukrainian professionals from the U.S. and Canada, first met at Soyuzivka in 1983, few could have imagined that they would still be enjoying camaraderie, non-stop conversations and new adventures three decades later. However, this past summer, that is exactly what they did at Club Suzie-Q's 31st annual get-together at Soyuzivka, the UNA Heritage Center in Kerhonkson, N.Y.

From nature hikes to urban adventures and intellectual stimulation – Club Suzie-Q Week held August 9-16 offered something for everybody.

This year's Club Suzie-Q participants hailed from the Northeast, the Washington, D.C., area and as far west as Pittsburgh and Kentucky. Fully one-third of this year's 30 attendees were Canadians, representing the cities of Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and Thunder Bay, Ontario. While there were many familiar faces of Club Suzie-Q regulars, there were also a few new participants, as well as some newly retired old-timers who have returned this year after a few years' absence, now that they have plenty of vacation time to spare.

While it is possible to simply relax, partake of good conversation and enjoy the



Andrew Hrechak

Friends gather at the 31st annual Club Suzie-Q Week at Soyuzivka.

beauty of Soyuzivka's natural setting, Club Suzie-Q members are always organizing group activities that are hard to resist.

This year's offerings featured day hikes to nearby Lake Mohonk and Lake Minnewaska as well as a trip to Hunter Mountain. The latter was followed by an

evening at Adrian Bryttan's Hunter-area country home, with a splendid gourmet dinner, house tour and exhibit of art works all created by the host himself.

There were also several new excursions during the week. These included walking tours of the nearby towns of Rosendale and High Falls with its D&H Canal Museum, as well as a trip to Ashokan Reservoir, source of New York City's water supply. The latter three tours were organized by area resident Halyna Barannik, with Yuri Mykolayevych arranging the canal museum tour segment. The trip to Ashokan Reservoir was inspired by the showing of a documentary film about the building of the reservoir, which was produced by Ms. Barannik under a grant from the Mid-Hudson Library System.

Another presentation was made during the week by Mr. Mykolayevych, a private pilot, who narrated a slide show featuring his aerial and ground photos of unique natural features and hiking destinations in the Northern Shawangunk Ridge on which Soyuzivka is located. His inspiring photographs prompted a number of intrepid souls to hike the next day to the 87-foot high Stony Kills Falls, located only three miles from Soyuzivka.

Lucy Alonso and Roma Cehelsky Nightengale made a presentation on the topic of healthy eating, covering such subjects as GMO and processed foods, the Chinese approach to health, cooking oils, herbs, supplements and vitamins. Andrew Hrechak entertained during the week with images of previous Club Suzie-Q gatherings.

For several days, delicious refreshments for the presentations were prepared by

Slavka Jarema and Maria Zaliszczuk, with Dr. Hrechak organizing the beverages. In addition, on Monday evening, prior to steak night alfresco on the Vorokhta lawn, attendees enjoyed a wine tasting and appetizers, courtesy of Soyuzivka management. Indeed, Club Suzie-Q organizers have credited Soyuzivka management, especially Nestor Paslawsky and Sonia Semanyshyn, with making a special effort to accommodate the needs of the group throughout the week.

In the latter part of Club Suzie-Q week, some of this year's participants made a brief trip to New York City, with excursions to museums, the World Trade Center site and other venues. An unexpected bonus was the opportunity to participate in a march up Fifth Avenue that culminated with a demonstration in front of the Russian Consulate protesting against Russia's ongoing armed invasion of Ukraine.

Indeed, developments in Ukraine were never far from the minds of Club Suzie-Q members, who eagerly looked forward to a long-standing annual tradition: a panel discussion devoted to Ukrainian issues. The wide range of topics covered this year included a historical overview of political events in Ukraine since independence, observing elections, countering Russian disinformation and dealing with PTSD victims. (See sidebar below.)

Ms. Nightengale and Dr. Hrechak planned and managed this year's Club Suzie-Q Week, as they have for the last several years. They have already announced the date of next year's gathering: August 15 - August 22, 2015. For further information, contact them at clubsuzieq@gmail.com.

## Panel discussion: Ways to help Ukraine

Club Suzie-Q would not be complete without its traditional evening presentation and discussion about Ukraine, an event in which Club Suzie-Q participants discuss current issues, share their expertise and make plans for further engagement and networking on various community projects to aid Ukraine. This year the dark shadow cast by Russia's military offensive against Ukraine gave a special urgency to the evening, whose theme was "How to Help Ukraine." Roma Cehelsky Nightengale was the organizer and moderator of the event.

The first speaker, Andriy Masiuk of Washington, who spent a number of years in Kyiv as a management consultant, traced the political developments in Ukraine since 1991 that were the background to the Euro-Maidan and Ukraine's Revolution of Dignity. Ukraine was never more united and determined to shed its colonial past than it is today, he said.

Mr. Masiuk has been providing much-appreciated Ukraine updates at Club Suzie-Q gatherings for nearly two decades. Starting in September 2014, he has been a visiting lecturer at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. He promised to return to Club Suzie-Q in 2015 with new insights based on his experiences in Kyiv.

Ron Chyczij of Toronto shared his expertise as both an election observer and an observer team leader in numerous official Canadian government delegations to Ukraine and other countries. He focused on issues such as party politics, corruption, the election cycle, and the opportunities and challenges faced by election observers. He believes that good documentation, such as filming incidents, being at the right place at the right time, and efficient reporting sometimes can lead to successful election fraud deterrence. He recently traveled to Ukraine to observe the October 26 parliamentary elections as did another Club Suzie-Q member, Lyubko Zobniw of Binghamton, N.Y.

Adrian Bryttan of New York City discussed the nuances of Russia's all-encompassing disinformation and propaganda war against Ukraine, emphasizing the need for Ukrainians to push back by providing good English-language materials on Ukraine for Western media and audiences. He mentioned a number of important English-language information sources and in particular euromaidanpress.com and its international team of volunteer translators and editors, a website for which he both translates and contributes original material.

A conductor and concert violinist, Mr. Bryttan recently both wrote about and personally demonstrated against appearances at U.S. venues of pro-Putin musicians such as conductor Valery Gergiev and pianist Valentina Lisitsa.

Additional comments were made by psychiatrist Jurij Savvyckyj, M.D., of Greenwich, Conn., who shared his experiences in Kyiv last March as a volunteer with the Philadelphia-based charity United Ukrainian American Relief Committee (UUARC), which, among many other projects, works with Maidan survivors who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder. He also described his consultations in March with Kyiv psychiatrists, psychologists and social workers who work daily with PTSD patients. In late August, Dr. Savvyckyj was able to reconnect with these colleagues when a delegation of these professionals arrived in New Haven, Conn., to attend a Yale University-sponsored conference on PTSD.

Also, Walter Derzko of Toronto spoke about the need for coordinated organizational work among volunteer groups in the U.S. and Canada who are aiding Ukraine. He pointed out the methods used by the Russian government to keep Ukraine and the West off balance, hesitant as to intentions and in a reactive mode, and suggested ways to turn the tables. His fall plans included travel to Ukraine to attend the Model Ukraine Conference at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv.

At evening's end Donna Sianchuk of Ottawa spoke for all attendees when she thanked the organizer, the speakers and discussants for updating the audience on the challenges facing Ukraine today and new ways North Americans can help.

Many Club Suzie-Q members are already proactively involved with various Ukraine aid committees in their local communities. This presentation gave them food for thought and a stimulus to further action.



A hike at nearby Lake Mohonk is an annual Club Suzie-Q tradition.



# OUT & ABOUT

- |                               |  |                                  |   |
|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---|
| December 14<br>Miami          | St. Nicholas children's program, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, <a href="https://ukrainianmiami.org">https://ukrainianmiami.org</a>                          | December 27-28<br>New York       | Performance, "Winter Light," by Yara Arts Group, La MaMa Experimental Theater, 212-475-7710 or <a href="http://www.lamama.org">www.lamama.org</a>   |
| December 14<br>Chicago        | Book presentation by Roman Cybriwsky, "Kyiv, Ukraine: The City of Domes and Demons," Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, <a href="mailto:chicagogroup@comcast.net">chicagogroup@comcast.net</a> | December 31<br>Perth Amboy, NJ   | New Year's Eve celebration, Assumption Ukrainian Catholic Church, 732-826-0767 or 202-368-2408 or <a href="http://www.assumptioncatholicchurch.net">www.assumptioncatholicchurch.net</a>                    |
| December 14<br>Ottawa         | St. Nicholas Day festivities and pot-luck lunch, St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Shrine, 613-440-2784  | January 16<br>Philadelphia       | Malanka Pub Nite, Ukrainian American Citizens' Association, 215-284-0185  |
| December 14<br>Ottawa         | Christmas concert, featuring Akord Ukrainian Men's Choir of Ottawa, St. Albertus Church, <a href="http://facebook.com/akordukrainianmenschoir">http://facebook.com/akordukrainianmenschoir</a> | January 17<br>Jenkintown, PA     | Malanka celebration, with music by Zvook, Ukrainian American Youth Association, Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, 215-620-7462 or <a href="mailto:PhillyMalanka@cym.org">PhillyMalanka@cym.org</a> |
| December 14<br>Whippany, NJ   | Christmas bazaar, St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, 973-476-1970   | January 17<br>Scranton, PA       | Malanka celebration, with music by Fata Morgana, St. Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church, <a href="mailto:paulewasko@gmail.com">paulewasko@gmail.com</a>   |
| December 14-21<br>Chicago     | Exhibit, "The Magic of Beads," Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, 773-227-5522   | January 30<br>Philadelphia       | Pub Night, featuring music by Svitanok, Ukrainian League of Philadelphia, <a href="http://www.ukrainianleague.com">www.ukrainianleague.com</a> or 215-684-3548  |
| December 20<br>Bethesda, MD   | Mykolai show and holiday bazaar, Taras Shevchenko School of Ukrainian Studies, Westland Middle School, 410-730-8108 or <a href="mailto:lada2@verizon.net">lada2@verizon.net</a>                | January 31<br>Penn's Landing, PA | Presentation of debutantes, Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America, Hyatt Regency Hotel at Penn's Landing, 610-277-12814 or <a href="mailto:hewka@verizon.net">hewka@verizon.net</a>                       |
| December 20<br>New York       | Literary bazaar, dedicated to the Maidan and war in Ukraine, Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130   | January 31<br>New Britain, CT    | New Britain Malanka, to benefit Zolotyj Promin Ukrainian dance group, featuring music by Hrim and Klooch, St. George Greek Orthodox Church hall, 860-452-4023   |
| December 20<br>Kerhonkson, NY | Christmas bazaar, Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church, 845-647-6911   |                                  |   |
| December 21<br>Paterson, NJ   | Winter solstice concert, featuring violinist Yuri Turchyn, Paterson Museum, <a href="http://www.marchharemedia.me">www.marchharemedia.me</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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FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

## For the love of Ukraine, showing our support



*Father Mykhaylo Dosyak blesses the Dnipro LLC truck, for a safe journey in front of the Syracuse Ukrainian Federal Credit Union, as community members sing the Ukrainian National anthem.*

by **Adriana Buniak**

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – In early September of this year, Roman Volynsky, a resident of Syracuse, N.Y., and a former Maidan participant, contacted our local Plast chapter

about spearheading a collection drive for the brave men and women members of the Ukrainian volunteer battalions fighting in the Anti-Terrorist Operation (ATO) zone in the Donbas region of Ukraine.

Up until that point, I had been

feeling very frustrated just sitting at home, reading newspaper articles and watching the news of how Ukraine is struggling to reform itself into a more pro-Western democracy, but continues to be viciously attacked by the Putin-backed separat-

ists (terrorists) in eastern Ukraine.

As a member of Plast, I took an oath to: be faithful to God and Ukraine, help others, and live by the Plast Code and obey the Plast leadership. To me, this means that my obligations as a scout are to always look for ways to do good deeds by helping others, especially if it can help to preserve our Ukrainian identity and heritage.

I wanted to do something to help Ukraine, and I could not think of a better way to begin working towards my Plast “treta proba” – akin to an eagle scout badge – than to make this my first project.

After distributing flyers and posting news on social media about this collection drive, I was amazed by the outpouring of support and interest from other Ukrainian organizations and businesses, both locally and beyond the Central New York area, who wanted to help with the project.

Thanks to our community and individuals, we collected over 39 large

(Continued on page 23)



*Adriana Buniak stands in front of a truck loaded up with 39 boxes of aid and several sets of crutches wrapped up in duct tape.*

## New York students remember Holodomor

by **Daria Kozak-Tymets**

NEW YORK – On Saturday, November 22, the Ukrainian community of the New York City-metro area marked the 81st anniversary of Ukraine’s 1932-1933 genocide, the Holodomor. Also on that day, students, teachers and parents of the New York City School of Ukrainian Studies gathered in St. George Academy’s gymnasium to participate in a program of remembrance on the occasion of this tragic event in Ukrainian history.

Principal Ivan Makar spoke about

the Holodomor, exhorting those in attendance to never forget about the millions of Ukrainian victims who perished from the man-made famine on their fertile land. He reminded all about those who bravely stood up to the outright lies of the occupiers, the decades of cover-up and twisting of the facts surrounding the genocide, and asked participants to honor and support the ongoing fight for dignity and freedom in Ukraine.

For young people today, who don’t know the meaning of hunger, it is



*Pupils of the school at the Holodomor remembrance at St. Patrick’s Cathedral.*

impossible to imagine or comprehend what happened to millions of Ukrainians who died from forced famine. A quarter of modern-day Ukraine’s population died as a result of the genocide, which peaked in the spring of 1933. At that time, 17 Ukrainians died of hunger per minute, thousands per hour and almost 25,000 per day.

School community members said a prayer and stood for a minute of silence to honor the souls of the victims of the Holodomor, and also for the Heavenly Hundred and thousands of known and unknown heroes who gave

their lives for Ukraine’s liberty.

11th grade students presented “A Small Poem about Big Trouble,” to the haunting musical accompaniment of violinist Anastasia Antoniv and pianist Elya Romanyshyn. Then, a candle of remembrance was lit.

Following a final prayer, School of Ukrainian Studies students took part in the annual, solemn procession and requiem liturgy at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in midtown Manhattan, where, together with survivors of the Holodomor, they brought “kolosky” (ears of wheat) of truth.



*Students of the New York School of Ukrainian Studies during a school program in memory of the Holodomor.*



# Plast's Orlykiada competition: the winning group's perspective

by Ruta Odulak

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – Stepping off of the bus onto the chilly grounds of the oh so familiar Soyuzivka this year held a new promise for all of us, girls from the Passaic, N.J., branch of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization. In previous years, we'd always arrived with more anxiety than excitement, but never had we all worked this hard in preparation for the Orlykiada competition for Plast scouts from all over the United States and Canada.

Upon reading the competition material months before, we all realized the importance of this year's topic: Taras Shevchenko. We discovered that the words he wrote in the mid-19th century are tragically relevant today, as Ukraine battles for its freedom once again.

We were united by the motivation to portray our true feelings on the Orlykiada topic, the idea that Ukraine is worth fighting for and the importance of remembering the soil in which our roots lie.

We soared through the question section of the Orlykiada competition, and we gave a wholehearted performance of our rendition of the Maidan. We were proud to present the exhibit that we made: a tree adorned with inscribed acorns and oak leaves that outlined Shevchenko's words and how they affect us everyday.

Feeling closer than ever as a Plast branch, we marched down to the closing of the weekend in our new crimson vests and berets. We felt united



Andrew Zwarych

At the 2014 Orlykiada are: Christina Temnycky (foreground), holding the first-place certificate awarded to Passaic Plast's girls; (first row, from left) Sofia Migalko, Maria Migalko, Laryssa Horodysky, Olha Shchur, Lexi Hamilton, (second row) Lena Wanio, Iryna Chorniy, Stephanie Domaradsky, Ruta Odulak, Nadiya Stakhrya and Lidia Drybushar. (Another member of the group was Olenka Tytla, who is missing from the photo.)

and proud to be Plast Troop 38 from Passaic.

When we were announced as the overall winners, we were flooded with disbelief and elation. We had put our hearts and souls into our work and had high hopes, but this was an unbelievable moment! It was a moment that we hope the men,

women and children in Ukraine will soon feel with the triumph of freedom.

Ruta Odulak, 16, is a junior at Nutley High School where she is a staff writer for the school newspaper, *The Maroon and Gray*.

## For the love...

(Continued from page 22)

boxes of much-needed aid. Those involved included: members of the Syracuse's Ukrainian American Youth Association and Odesa dance ensemble under the leadership of Christina Bobesky; treta proba candidates from the Plast branch of Newark N.J., Andrey Pencak and Olenka Hladky, under the guidance of Borislav Bilash; the entire Plast group and Spartanky sorority in New York City, coordinated by division head Natalia Danysh O'Connell; managers of the Syracuse Ukrainian Federal Credit Union Nadia Hayduke and Tanya Dashkevich of the Rochester Ukrainian Federal Credit Union; black-belt and Plast member Alexandra Salenko from Southern Tier Martial Arts of Binghamton, N.Y.; Father Mykhaylo Dosyak from St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Syracuse; Leonid Jemetz of St. Luke Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Warners, N.Y.; Greg Lisnyczyj of Syracuse's Ukrainian Congress Committee of America; Dr. Borys Buniak from the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America; and my school, Manlius Pebble Hill.

On Saturday, November 21, we had a gathering of the members of our community to bless a truck from the Dnipro LLC company that

was filled with the following boxed items that were collected: aspirin, thermal underwear, cold medication, crutches, toothbrushes, army fatigues, ski masks, warm hats, gloves, wool socks, warm jackets and vests, scarves, sweaters, laundry detergent, personal hygiene products, and medical supplies including Celox/ combat gauze, hypothermal blankets, medical tape, abdominal pad dressings, anosopes, stethoscope, stretch bandages and disposable towels.

As in other Ukrainian communities, both here in the United States and abroad, we are still collecting items because Ukraine is still in desperate need of support. What I appreciated most about this project was seeing first hand that, although Russia's government continues to encroach upon Ukraine by trying to divide us as a nation, the Ukrainian diaspora is more united than ever in wanting to help Ukraine.

I know that, in the end, the country of my heritage will overcome, because there are many young people like me who will continue to work hard to raise awareness and offer support to show the world that Ukraine is always in our hearts.

Adriana Valentyna Buniak, 16, is a working toward her Plast eagle scout rank. She is a member of the Syracuse branch of Plast and a 10th grader at Manlius Pebble Hill School.

## New Haven schoolchildren send messages to Ukraine's soldiers



NEW HAVEN, Conn. – The school year at Ridna Shkola, the School of Ukrainian Studies in New Haven, Conn., started with a divine liturgy celebrated by the Rev. Iura Godenciuc. Afterwards, the parents had a meeting with the director of the school, Myron Melnyk. Meanwhile, some of the students, under the supervision of Halia Lodynsky, a teacher at the school, drew pictures and wrote letters to the soldiers in Ukraine. Many of the students enjoyed doing this. The teachers this year are: Nataliya Danchenko, Volodymyr Dumalsky, Nataliya Korenovska, Ms. Lodynsky and Myron Melnyk. Also, catechism is taught by Luba Dubno and Ms. Lodynsky. The first day of classes was Saturday, September 27.

– Halia Jurczak-Lodynsky





# CHRISTMAS SPECIAL!

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## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

### Saturday, December 20

**NEW YORK:** The Shevchenko Scientific Society will hold its annual Literary Bazaar dedicated to the Maidan and war in Ukraine. Participants include Andrey Gritsman, Anna Fralich, Oksana Lutsyshyna, Taras Malkovych, Alexey Tsvetkov and Vasyl Makhno, who will also emcee the evening. Also, poems by various Ukrainian, Polish and Russian poets, including Bohdan Zadura, Boris Khersonsky, Halyna Kruk, Olena Herasymuk, Marianna Kijanovska, Mariana Savka and others, will be read. The bazaar will be held at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For additional information call 212-254-5130.

**WASHINGTON:** Taras Shevchenko School of Ukrainian Studies will host a Mykolai show and holiday bazaar. Students will present a Mykolai show at noon. Sviatyi 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).

### Wednesday, December 31

**PERTH AMBOY, N.J.:** A New Year's Eve dance (zabava) will be held by Assumption Ukrainian Catholic Church, 380 Meredith St., Perth Amboy, N.J., beginning at 8 p.m. Music will be by Oberehy. Tickets are \$80 per person; children (age 5-12), \$40. (Tickets purchased after December 25 will be \$90). A TV will be raffled off as a door prize. Menu will include: main course – stuffed salmon, French-style pork, roasted chicken, chicken with barbeque sauce, chicken loaf, meatloaf, stuffed cabbage, pyrohy, roasted potatoes, cheese blintzes, puffs with meat, mushroom gravy, borshch; European salads – salad olivier, cold feet (studynets), "shuba," carrot salad with raisins, cold cuts, pickled cucumbers and tomatoes; desserts – cakes, fresh fruit and champagne. For tickets call 732-826-0767 or 202-368-2408. All seats reserved; no tickets will be sold at the door. For information see [www.assumptioncatholicchurch.net](http://www.assumptioncatholicchurch.net).

## 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.

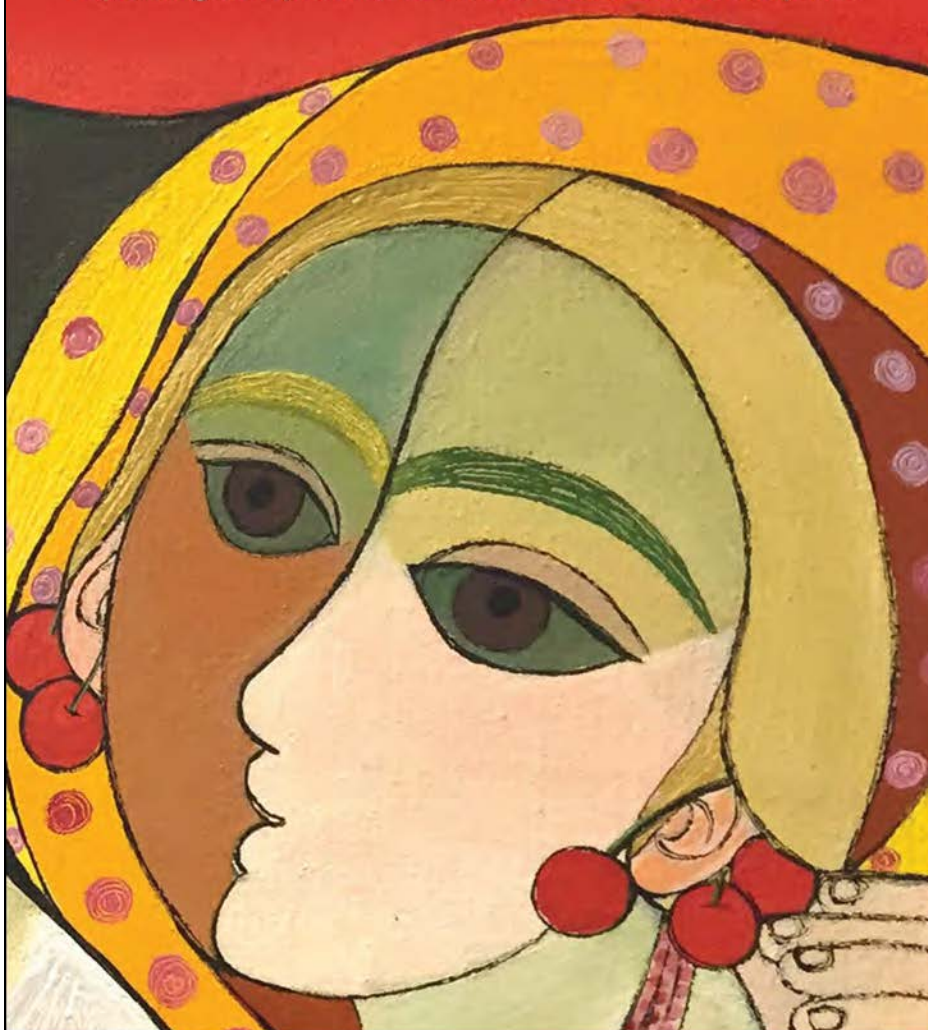
To have an event listed in Preview of Events please send information, in English, written in Preview format, i.e., in a brief paragraph that includes the date, place, type of event, sponsor, admission, full names of persons and/or organizations involved, and a phone number and/or e-mail address to be published for readers who may require additional information. 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** (i.e., they must be received by 9 am Monday morning). 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. Also, senders are asked to include the phone number of a person who may be contacted by The Weekly during daytime hours, as well as their complete mailing address.

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.

## MEMBERS COLLECT I

A new exhibition at The Ukrainian Museum  
Opening reception December 20th, 2014 7:00 p.m.



Museum hours:  
Wednesday – Sunday  
11:30 - 5:00



The Ukrainian Museum  
222 East 6th Street, New York, NY 10003  
T: 212.228.0110 • [info@ukrainianmuseum.org](mailto:info@ukrainianmuseum.org)  
[www.ukrainianmuseum.org](http://www.ukrainianmuseum.org)

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