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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Historic National Geographic photos on exhibit at Ukrainian Embassy in D.C.



WASHINGTON – With some of the National Geographic magazine's early 20th century photographs of Ukraine on the wall behind him, Terrence B. Anderson, executive vice-president of the National Geographic Society, participates in the opening on October 4 at the Embassy of Ukraine of an exhibit of the magazine's published photographs taken in Ukraine. The exhibit contains 33 photographs, dating from 1918 to the present. Early next year, the exhibit will travel from Washington to other major U.S. cities, including New York, Chicago and San Francisco. In April of this year, which marks the National Geographic Society's 125th anniversary, it began publishing the magazine in Ukrainian.

– Yaro Bihun

Holodomor memorial receives \$2.5 M donation from Firtash

Construction can now proceed in Washington

U.S. Holodomor Committee

WASHINGTON – For the past several years, the U.S. Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor-Genocide Awareness 1932-33 has worked diligently to raise awareness within American society about one of the least known tragedies in the world – the 1932-1933 Famine-Genocide in Ukraine, or the Holodomor. In commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the Ukrainian Holodomor this year, the U.S. Holodomor Committee intends to continue this important work throughout 2013.

One of the greatest achievements of the Ukrainian American community in the campaign to raise awareness about the Holodomor has been the allocation of federal land in Washington for the establishment of a memorial dedicated to the victims of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide.

This tremendous effort, spearheaded by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), led to federal approval of land allocation in Washington, and the signing into law of a bill by President George W. Bush in 2006, that allowed the U.S. Holodomor Committee, in close cooperation with the Embassy of Ukraine in



Dmytro Firtash

Washington, the National Park Service (NPS), and Hartman-Cox Architects, to embark upon securing design concept approval for the memorial. As of October 1, the National Park Service has issued the Embassy of Ukraine a construction permit

(Continued on page 9)

Antin Muharskyi stirs controversy on Ukraine's cultural battlefield

by Zenon Zawada

KYIV – Ukrainian culture has lost most of its gains from the Orange era in the last three years as Moscow has flooded commercial television and radio networks with its content. Meanwhile, homegrown goons take to the airwaves to denigrate, dismiss or ignore anything Ukrainian, creating a hostile climate.

It's these desperate times that have given rise to Antin Muharskyi, 44, an iconoclastic showman, author and art curator who's giving the Ukrainian-bashers a taste of their own medicine.

In the last four years, he's launched numerous creative projects to defend Ukrainian culture, which includes a heavy dose of constructive criticism, and combat Russian chauvinism. What these efforts have in common is that they're sometimes offensive, often vulgar, but always provocative. He insists that's entirely appropriate for the times we live in.

"Venom kills in certain amounts, but in small doses it heals," Mr. Muharskyi told *The Weekly*, a week before he presented the "Zhlobolohiya" books at the Lviv



Zenon Zawada

Ukrainian patriot and iconoclast Antin Mukharskyi presents the "Zhlobolohiya" art almanac at the Salo Museum Party Bar in central Lviv on September 12.

Publishers Forum on September 12. "Zhlobolohiya" refers to the study of the cultural phenomenon of "zhlobstvo" in

post-Soviet Ukraine.

"Alcohol is also a poison. If you drink a bottle, you become nauseated. But you may

feel better after a shot of 50 or 100 grams. What I do is analogous to alcohol, and one needs to know how to enjoy this art."

The "Zhlobolohiya" collection consists of a 376-page book of commentary by 33 cultural leaders, including publisher Ivan Malkovych and iconic writer Yuriy Andrukhovych, and a 250-page almanac of paintings, installations and photos in the Zhlob-Art genre that Mr. Muharskyi brought to the forefront in spring 2009 as its curator and organizer.

In the view of the Zhlob-Art community, zhlobstvo is not only the defining characteristic of contemporary Ukrainian society and culture, but at the same time its biggest problem. In the words of Zhlob-photographer Stas Volyazlovsky, "Zhlobstvo is the essence of our post-Soviet reality and humor for my work."

"Zhlobolohiya" offers many definitions for what is a "zhlob" (plural: zhloby), a synonym for the Ukrainian word "kham." The British equivalent is boor or lout, with the best American equivalent as goon, poser, and in some cases, white trash.

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ANALYSIS

Old game with new rules in Russia's backyard

by Brian Whitmore
RFE/RL

A former Soviet republic has its sights set on moving closer to Europe, a move staunchly opposed by Moscow.

With the Kremlin's tacit support, one of its majority ethnic-Russian cities votes to secede, sparking fears of violent conflict. Officials in Moscow vow to defend the rights of its smaller neighbor's Russian-speaking residents.

Ukraine or Moldova in 2013? Not quite. This scenario played out, peacefully in the end, in the Estonian city of Narva during the summer of 1993, less than two years after the Soviet Union dissolved. Today, the Russian-speaking residents of Narva – EU passports in hand – are far less restive.

The Kremlin's current drive to prevent Ukraine, Armenia and Moldova from signing Association Agreements with the European Union has again focused attention on Moscow pressuring its neighbors into remaining in Russia's sphere of influence.

But as the averted conflict in Estonia two decades ago illustrates, this is nothing new. Almost from the moment the Soviet Union broke up in 1991, Russia has been leaning hard on its former vassals – stoking conflicts in Georgia and Moldova and stirring unrest among Russian speakers in the Baltics and in Ukraine.

But while Moscow's policy toward its so-called "near abroad" has been consistent, analysts say the game in the post-Soviet neighborhood has changed dramatically. The West – and particularly the European Union – is becoming more proactive. The Kremlin has become more focused in pursuing its interests. And Russia's former Soviet neighbors have become increasingly confident in charting an independent course.

According to John Lough, a former NATO official who is now a fellow at Chatham House's Russia and Eurasia Program, this all adds up to the region becoming "an area of increased competition" between Moscow and the West.

"I think the Russian approach has become more coherent," he says. "But at the same time, those countries around it have become much stronger."

EU gets tough

Observers say the EU's more forward-leaning profile in places like Ukraine and Moldova is a direct result of Moscow's tactics in the region, which have included boycotts, threats of trade wars, using energy to gain political leverage, and inciting unrest among Russophone minorities.

Longtime Kremlin-watcher Edward Lucas is the International Editor for the British weekly *The Economist* and author of the book "Deception: Spies, Lies, and How Russia Dupes the West."

He believes the current situation "is teaching the EU that whether they like it or not they are in a geopolitical clash with Russia."

"There has been this naive assumption in the EU in the past that there are lots of win-win [situations] out there and if we only talk nicely to the Russians then everything will be fine," he says. "It's not. It's pretty much a zero-sum game and either you go with Russia or the EU. And I think the EU has had to fight much tougher than it's done in the past."

Moreover, as memories of the Soviet Union fade and Russia's neighbors become more comfortable with their sovereignty, they have become more willing to resist pressure from Moscow. Mr. Lucas says this tendency has been reinforced by the stronger European presence.

"The West has gotten much more entrenched in these countries and the national consciousness is more developed," he says. "People in Belarus or eastern Ukraine genuinely believe they are in a real country, whereas back in the early 1990s it hadn't clicked for a lot of people that the Soviet Union was over. So the national identities are stronger."

Mr. Lucas adds that trade in many post-Soviet states has been "hugely reoriented" toward the West creating "a stronger base for European influence."

Old habits die hard

Nevertheless, Moscow still has cards to play.

Strong networks continue to exist between Russia's political and business elites and those in its former Soviet neighbors. Corruption remains rife and many prefer the clannish post-Soviet style of doing business than the more transparent model that integration with Europe would entail.

"The Russians know that their way of doing business is widely accepted in many of these countries and that there are people in the business and political elites in those places who would prefer to operate in the Russian way," says Mr. Lough.

Mr. Lough adds, however, that even these elites are resistant to accepting a "diktat from Moscow" and that too much Kremlin pressure could drive them away. And, he says, others already "see what the Russians are offering as a scary proposition."

Nevertheless, Russia appears determined as ever to prevent Ukraine, Moldova, and Armenia from signing Association Agreements with the European Union at a summit in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius in November.

Instead, Moscow is pushing these countries to join a Russian-led Customs Union that already includes Belarus and Kazakhstan – something Brussels says would be incompatible with an Association Agreement.

And, at least in the case of Armenia, Russia appears to have been successful. On September 3, Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan announced that his country would join Moscow's Customs Union project, in essence, scrapping years of work toward an EU Association Agreement.

Analysts say the unexpected move came after Russia threatened to cut off its military aid to Armenia, which would leave Yerevan vulnerable to its main regional rival Azerbaijan.

"The Armenians took the hint: If they signed the trade deal with Europe, Russia might sell more arms to their rival and expel the Armenians who live in Russia," Anne Applebaum, author of the book "Iron Curtain: The Crushing of Eastern Europe, 1945-56," wrote in *Slate.com*.

Counterproductive pressure

But having apparently cowed Armenia, Russia is having less success with Ukraine – which Mr. Lough calls "the key prize" – despite placing boycotts on Ukrainian goods and threatening Kyiv with rising gas prices, trade wars, and bankruptcy.

And on September 21, Sergei Glazyev, a senior adviser to Russian President Vladimir Putin, upped the ante, darkly warning that Russian speakers in Ukraine's east and south would seek secession if Ukraine goes ahead and signs the Association Agreement.

But Mr. Glazyev, who made his remarks at a conference in the Black Sea resort of Yalta, was met with boos, jeers and catcalls.

"For the first time in our history more

(Continued on page 7)

NEWSBRIEFS

A petition for Tymoshenko's release

KYIV – An official petition for the pardoning of former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko has been signed by 166 national deputies. The leader of the Batkivshchyna faction in Parliament, Arseniy Yatsenyuk, said on October 9: "The European Parliament's mission of [Pat] Cox and [Aleksander] Kwasniewski appealed to the Ukrainian president with a petition to pardon Yulia Tymoshenko. And we, in support of this petition, collected the signatures of people's deputies of Ukraine so that President [Viktor] Yanukovich could make a decision." He said that the petition to the president had already been signed by 166 MPs and 10 more were planning to sign the document. Mr. Yatsenyuk also said that none of the Party of Regions MPs had signed the application. "By the end of the day the signatures collected will be sent to Viktor Yanukovich through the mission of Cox and Kwasniewski," he said. (Ukrinform)

Yatsenyuk: all grounds exist for pardon

KYIV – Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich has all legal grounds to sign an act on pardoning former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, according to the leader of the Batkivshchyna faction in the Verkhovna Rada, Arseniy Yatsenyuk. Speaking from the Verkhovna Rada rostrum on October 8, he said, "There were no legal grounds for the imprisonment of Yulia Tymoshenko, but there are all legal grounds for the Ukrainian president to sign an act on her pardon." According to Mr. Yatsenyuk, the provision on pardons was approved by presidential decree No. 902/2010 of September 16, 2010. It notes that the request for pardoning convicts who have not yet served half of their sentence and persons convicted for particularly serious crimes can be satisfied in the circumstances requiring particularly humane treatment. "President Viktor Yanukovich clearly stated that in order to fulfill a humanitarian mission he is ready to consider granting Yulia Tymoshenko a chance of obtaining medical care. There are all legal grounds for that in the president's act. We're asking the president to sign this decision," he said. (Ukrinform)

Yanukovich meets Komorowski

KYIV – Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich was in Krakow on October 7 to meet with Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski to discuss Kyiv's prospects for signing an Association Agreement at an upcoming EU summit in Vilnius. The talks come one month before Ukraine is expected to sign the agreement during an Eastern Partnership summit in the Lithuanian capital. One of the EU's requests before Ukraine signs the agreement is the release of imprisoned former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, who is serving a seven-year sentence for crimes related to a 2009 gas deal with Russia. She says the charges are politically motivated. Poland, along with Sweden, has been the driving force of the Eastern Partnership program, which seeks to draw ex-Soviet states closer to Western structures. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by UNIAN and Polish Radio)

Ukraine, Poland OK cooperation program

KYIV – Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich and his Polish counterpart, Bronislaw Komorowski, signed the program of Ukrainian-Polish cooperation for 2013-2015. The signing ceremony took place as part of the Ukrainian president's working visit to Poland on October 7. The program foresees that in 2013-2015 the two countries will focus on trade, economic and investment activities, security issues, defense and energy safety, the development of cross-border and interregional cooperation, cooperation in the field of agriculture, culture and education, and the deepening of human contacts. The document also envisages the deepening of bilateral cooperation in Ukraine's European integration course, including in the context of preparations for the signing of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union during the Eastern Partnership summit in Vilnius. The previous document that defined the priorities of bilateral relations was the roadmap of Ukrainian-Polish cooperation for 2011-2012. (Ukrinform)

Azarov for Customs Union road map

KYIV – Prime Minister Mykola Azarov of Ukraine has stressed the need to create a

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Ukrainophobia rages unchecked under Yanukovich administration

by Zenon Zawada

KYIV – Ukrainophobia has raged in recent months in Ukraine with the tacit approval of the administration of Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich and the ruling Party of Regions, who have pursued an aggressive neo-Soviet, Russocentric cultural policy since taking power in 2010.

The latest incident involved the September 25 destruction of a stone and metal plaque in Kharkiv honoring its native son, highly regarded linguist and literary historian Yurii Shevelov, who lived in New York City for 50 years, where he taught Slavic philology at Columbia University for 23 years.

Kharkiv State Oblast Administration Chair Mykhailo Dobkin, who is Mr. Yanukovich's representative in Kharkiv, set the gears in motion for its liquidation by slandering Shevelov and his admirers as "fascists" a day after the plaque was established.

"Those fascist creeps put up a plaque for their fascist creep," Mr. Dobkin tweeted. "Hastily and in the dark, how a traitor acts. Yurii Volodymyrovych Shevelov – a traitor, deserter, accomplice to fascists in occupied Kharkiv."

The ruination was approved by 65 deputies of the Kharkiv City Council (just four voted against) three weeks after it was legally established by private citizens who raised private funds. Hours after the vote



The memorial plaque in Kharkiv honoring the renowned linguist and literary historian Yurii Shevelov is destroyed.

an alleged city employee took a sledgehammer to the plaque, smashing it to bits.

The plaque read, "In this building in 1915-1943 lived the prominent philologist, Slavic linguist, Ukrainian cultural and academic figure Yurii Shevelov."

Kharkiv City Council Chair Hennadii Kernes signed the order for the liquidation, ignoring a letter addressed to the Kharkiv City Council that signed by prominent scholars from Cambridge, Columbia, Kansas, Rutgers, Northwestern and Alberta universities.

The letter condemned the "slanderous, groundless assertions of certain people," an indirect reference to Mr. Dobkin and others.

"The accusations regarding the activity of Prof. Shevelov during the second world war first surfaced in the early 1960s and came from the KGB," the letter stated. "These accusations were thoroughly researched by numerous American state agencies and Columbia University, where Prof. Shevelov taught. All of them were fully and unanimously rejected."

Shevelov was 33 years old when the Nazis arrived in Kharkiv. He didn't serve any army during the war, instead writing for Ukrainian nationalist newspapers, being involved in the Prosvita organization and working for the city administration during the Nazi occupation.

It's such activity that draws the accusation of being a fascist accomplice by Kharkiv's leadership. Shevelov and his mother fled the city during the Nazi retreat in 1943.

Many eastern Ukrainians can only see World War II in black-and-white terms, said Ostap Kryvdyk, a social commentator and author of "Uzhosy' Ukrayinizatsiyi" (The Horrors of Ukrainianization). In their view of history, either you served the Red Army or you were the enemy.

"Soviet identity is so weak that the war in its Stalinist interpretation is the basis for self-determination, with the division between 'ours' who fought for the USSR and all others, who by default are 'Nazis.' Therefore I think Dobkin is sincere in believing Shevelov to be a Nazi," he said.

Ukrainophobia has flared not only in Ukraine's second-largest city but also its largest, Kyiv, which is much more tolerant of Ukrainian culture but still has pockets of neo-Sovietism and Russian chauvinism.

Kateryna Abdullina, 36, a soloist at the Kyiv National Opera, engaged in a Facebook conversation on September 5 in which she wrote the following:

"I sent my child to a Russian gymnasium and I still haven't regretted it. All the subjects are in Russian, everything is utmost clear and understandable. I liked the first day more than anything. The older students spoke Russian very beautifully. They sang and read poems."

"In general the contingency of parents and children sharply differs from the farm-animal [bydliachi] Ukrainian schools. The first grade has Ukrainian language three times a week and graduates speak much better than the graduates of Ukrainian schools. I am glad that my daughter studies among morally healthy children, and not among livestock [bydlo]."

Needless to say, her words were picked up by the Ukrainian media and raised hellfire. Several Ukrainian nationalists with the Bratstvo organization drenched Ms. Abdullina with mayonnaise during a television interview conducted to do damage control on the afternoon of September 6.

Her National Opera colleagues expressed shock, and general director Petro Chupryna said it said it could be the end of her career there. She has only performed six times in the last five seasons. "If she has enough of a conscience, she will submit her resignation herself," Mr. Chupryna told reporters.

Yet Ms. Abdullina remains employed with no indication that she will be forced to leave. Moreover, she has made infantile excuses for the comments, claiming that her ex-husband, a Russian citizen, broke into her Facebook account and inserted the offensive words into her otherwise polite commentary.

He denied such actions when asked during a 1+1 television interview, adding that she's denigrated Ukrainian culture in the past. He also said she's had delusions in the past, claiming that she was courted by Russian President Vladimir Putin and Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev.

"There is a need for more civic pressure on Abdullina so that she clearly and publicly apologizes and condemns her words," Mr. Kryvdyk said. "She still hasn't done that on her personal site. Her tactic is to wait out the civic pressure, which doesn't have a systemic basis, until the informational wave dies off and she will continue her work."

Meanwhile, the government of Prime Minister Mykola Azarov has been silent on the matter, which observers said is because

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EU officials in Kyiv ask for Tymoshenko pardon

Opposition leader accepts offer of medical treatment in Germany

RFE/RL Ukrainian Service

KYIV – Two EU envoys have asked Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich to pardon jailed former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko.

Serhiy Vlasenko, Ms. Tymoshenko's lawyer, said at a news conference on October 4 in Kyiv that former European Parliament President Pat Cox and former Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski had asked Mr. Yanukovich for the pardon during a meeting with the Ukrainian president earlier in the day.

Messrs. Cox and Kwasniewski visited Ms. Tymoshenko in prison in the eastern Ukrainian city of Kharkiv on October 3.

Mr. Vlasenko said Ms. Tymoshenko has also accepted an offer extended to her for medical treatment in Germany for a back problem.

He read a statement from Ms. Tymoshenko: "To settle the question of political prisoners in Ukraine, a special mission of the European Parliament working in Ukraine and headed by Pat Cox and Aleksander Kwasniewski are constantly negotiating with Viktor Yanukovich for my release. I am infinitely thankful to them for that, as well as to all the world leaders who delegated them, issued them their mandate, and who support their work. Pat Cox and Aleksander Kwasniewski conveyed to me an offer to go to Germany for medical treatment. I publicly accept this offer."

At the same time, Ms. Tymoshenko stated she would not seek political asylum while abroad.

Ms. Tymoshenko, 52, was sentenced to seven years in prison in 2011 for crimes related to a 2009 gas deal with Russia. She denies the charges and says they are politically motivated.

The charges came after she lost a close presidential election to Yanukovich in 2010.

The governments of several Western countries and numerous international human rights organizations have called on Kyiv to release Tymoshenko.

The EU has long sought a pardon for Ms. Tymoshenko or at least her release for medical treatment abroad ahead of Ukraine's expected signing of an EU Association Agreement in Vilnius in November.

Former Ukrainian Internal Affairs Minister Yurii Lutsenko told RFE/RL that the EU had been linking the signing of the agreement to Ms. Tymoshenko's release.

"It looks like under the pressure of, first of all, the European public, Yanukovich in recent days has realized that he cannot fool Europeans," he said. "Talk that it is impossible to change the status of Tymoshenko does not work. Today the process of Tymoshenko's release has begun. I don't know when it will end, but I wish very much that it will be soon."

Also on October 4, President Yanukovich dismissed First Deputy Prosecutor Renat Kuzmin. Mr. Kuzmin was the chief prosecutor in the Tymoshenko case and had accused her of complicity in the 1996 killing of lawmaker Yevhen Shcherban. He had also threatened Ms. Tymoshenko with further charges. Mr. Kuzmin was appointed to the National Security and Defense Council after his dismissal.

With additional reporting by Reuters.

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Quotable notes

"An artist can inspire the public and get it to question its assumptions, either through the sheer aesthetic force of his work or by means of the self-reflective process that his work induces. And if art can affect the individual, then it can also affect society. An ethically grounded artist who knows this has an obligation to create in full cognizance of the impact his art can have.

"As one of the 20th century's most horrible and internationally least recognized crimes, the Holodomor demands artistic treatment, because it's imperative both to give voice to justice and truth and to enable Ukraine to deal objectively with its past. Coming to terms with its past is the precondition of Ukraine's social, economic and political development, inasmuch as the past, present and future are inextricably interconnected.

"I chose to compose a symphony about the Holodomor because I believe I can make an important, even if modest, contribution to Ukraine's necessary coming to terms with its own history. Conversations with many Ukrainians in England, France, Canada and Ukraine have only enhanced my passion. Moreover, I confess to having always been drawn to the Slavic spirit so evident in Slavic art."

– Austrian composer Stephan Maria Karl speaking in an interview conducted by Prof. Alexander Motyl. (To read the full interview go to <http://www.worldaffairsjournal.org/blog/alexander-j-motyl/holodomor-symphony>.)

New Ukrainian Canadian senator gives exclusive interview to UCC

by Marta Tkaczyszyn

OTTAWA – The Ukrainian Canadian Congress conducted an exclusive interview with a newly appointed senator, Denise Batters, to discuss her new role and responsibilities in the Senate, current initiatives and the senator's Ukrainian background. She was appointed to the Senate on January 25.

In an intimate setting in Ottawa on April 30, Sen. Batters answered questions covering her educational background, her interest in politics and her fondest memories regarding her Ukrainian Canadian heritage.

Sen. Batters smiled warmly, recalling how, even at the tender age of 12, she knew she wanted to be in the Senate. Coincidentally, her husband, Dave, had also known he had a calling in Parliament at an early age.

"They used to have a show on television called 'This Week in Parliament,' which was right before 'Hockey Night in Canada,' and I used to watch it every week. When my husband was little he wanted to be an MP [member of Parliament] or an MLA [member of the Legislative Assembly] and I wanted to be a senator, I'm not sure why that initially started but I was drawn to the whole idea of sober second thought," stated Sen. Batters.

Sen. Batters grew up in Regina, Saskatchewan, and was very involved with the Ukrainian community throughout her childhood. The senator attended Ukrainian School and participated in the Ukrainian Folk Dance Ensemble Tavria, with whom she danced at the Canadian Pavilion during Expo '86 in Vancouver, British Columbia.

She was baptized and still attends St. Basil Ukrainian Catholic Church in Regina.

Sen. Batters shared warm memories of her youth, which included competing and winning the title of "Miss Kiev" –



Sen. Denise Batters

representing the provincial Ukrainian community at the multicultural festival Mosaic in Regina in 1989.

A politically engaged individual from the start, the new

senator also shared fond memories of her political endeavors with her husband, the late Dave Batters, an MP from 2004 to 2008.

Sen. Batters openly discussed his political roles, commenting on the stresses of a political life and how her political ideology has been shaped because of it. Mr. Batters had left his MP position due to severe anxiety and depression, and died by suicide in 2009.

During the course of the interview, Sen. Batters reflected on the generosity of spirit of her late husband and reaffirmed her commitment to his cause by politically and personally ensuring that dispelling the stigma of mental illness would remain an independent as well a political priority.

Sen. Batters openly encourages Canadians to watch a 30-second television commercial produced by the senator herself in memory of her husband, which focuses on raising awareness about depression and suicide on the local, community and provincial level.

Sen. Batters graciously commented on how being a part of the Senate provides a national platform to discuss these issues in addition to working alongside other influential colleagues and spokespeople, including fellow Ukrainian senators Raynell Andreychuk and David Tkachuk. Sen. Batters proudly pointed out that 50 percent of the senators from Saskatchewan are 100 percent Ukrainian.

Sen. Batters discussed her understanding of the pioneer spirit and how it related to her Ukrainian relatives. "What struck me one day as I was sitting in the Senate is that it really wasn't that long ago that my grandparents lived in Ukraine. Who would think that this many years later, their granddaughter is sitting in the Senate of Canada helping to make laws and having discussions about bettering the country that they so bravely left their security for?"

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SPOTLIGHT ON...

Eugene Oscislawski, the UNA's second vice-president, secretary of UNA Branch 234 and licensed insurance agent, became a member of the UNA in 1993, when he bought his first whole life policy.

by Irene Jarosewich

You have been a branch secretary for 20 years, this year. Congratulations! With that experience of 20 years, what are some insights that you have gained?

Time goes by so quickly that it is difficult to believe that 20 years have passed! Soon after my wife, Maria, and I became members of the UNA, our then branch secretary, who was in failing health, asked me to help him. I assumed the role, then also served as chair of the Northern Jersey District Committee from 1993 to 1998, was elected to the UNA General Assembly in 1998 and as second vice-president in 2010. I have been fortunate to have a variety of experience with the UNA.

Since the first UNA branch was established in 1894 in Shamokin, Pa., UNA branch secretaries have been the backbone of our fraternal network. As local leaders, branch secretaries have linked the UNA Home Office with our members for many generations. The one-on-one relationships that can be developed when the branch secretary is a visible member of a local community – attending church, local events, festivals – has fueled the growth of the UNA and remains essential.

I'll be frank. You have to love doing this. You have to be willing to want to help people. It has to be in the temperament of a good branch secretary. Not only do you need to be willing to know the product, you need to be able to truly get satisfaction from giving people psychological comfort – giving them peace of mind. Which is what insurance really is, it's peace of mind that you are taking care of those you love. This is one of the most gratifying aspects of my job: when years after I convinced someone that they really should get a policy to protect their family, they come up to me and thank me.

So how do you convince people who are busy that they should take the time to listen to you?

It is a matter of trust. For young couples, often I just tell them directly: "Trust me, believe me, you need this." I can do this because I have a solid reputation. If I sold a term policy to a young man 10, 15 years ago, I can now approach him and say, OK, you're older, making more money, your term policy is ending, now you need to start focusing not on your immediate needs, but long-term protection, retirement. We have a relationship of trust, and he will listen. In addition, I explain about the extensive benefits the UNA offers members. A popular one is

scholarship that young UNA members apply to receive for their first year in college. All high school graduates in good standing and with good grades are eligible; in addition, we have several name scholarships for which student members can apply.

For 2012, you were one of the top "UNA Builders" in terms of bringing in members and selling policies. Again, congratulations! What is your strategy for approaching potential new members?

Agents develop their own style. My experience has taught me that people are often grateful when I take the initiative, for example, with a newborn child – parents are often very busy and know that they need to be responsible and need to buy insurance, but never get around to it, so they appreciate when someone calls them. People have different needs, therefore the UNA has different policies. People appreciate that you immediately narrow down the possibilities for them. Target their needs. It saves them time. Also, I have many new immigrants in my community. I have learned that it is not necessarily the most effective strategy to try to convince them that they need life insurance in America. Many don't understand it, are distrustful of it. However, many have family members who have been here for many years. So, I try to encourage the family members to buy a policy to protect the family that has come here recently, even if it's a small term policy. Then after five, 10 years go by, after a new immigrant's understanding is much deeper, they are more receptive to speaking with me directly. With time, referrals come in, or children whose parents were covered by a UNA policy see how effectively and quickly it was paid out, they then come to me. However, a good reputation, trust, that is the essential element.

You have a large and happy family – children, grandchildren – are they all UNA members?

My wife, Maria, and I, our children and grandchildren are all members – we, have 17 policies among us – term, permanent, endowments. I am happy to tell people this and then they begin to listen to all the options available to them. With 17 policies in my family, it almost goes without saying that I am an optimist for the UNA!

Eugene Oscislawski can be reached at (908) 782-5451 or via email at eugenemaria@comcast.net.



Eugene Oscislawski

"Since the first UNA branch was established in 1894 in Shamokin, Pa., UNA branch secretaries have been the backbone of our fraternal network. As local leaders, branch secretaries have linked the UNA Home Office with our members for many generations. The one-on-one relationships that can be developed when the branch secretary is a visible member of a local community – attending church, local events, festivals – has fueled the growth of the UNA and remains essential."

UNA MEMBER BENEFITS

PUBLICATIONS

- Svoboda published since 1893
- The Ukrainian Weekly published since 1933
- UNA Almanac published since 1903
- Open-access electronic archive of all publications

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

- Monetary award given upon successful completion of Ukrainian Saturday School
- UNA scholarships available for qualified members during college years
- Special scholarships ranging from \$750-\$2,000 available annually (must meet qualifications)



SOYUZIVKA HERITAGE CENTER

- Summer camps
- Cultural events year-round
- Organization meetings, reunions, educational seminars, retreats
- Annual Ukrainian Cultural Festival

MEMBER DISCOUNTS

- ScriptSave prescription plan
- Hertz Rent-a-Car
- Auto insurance through Plymouth Rock Assurance (NJ only)
- Reduced rates for lodging at Soyuzivka
- Reduced subscription price for UNA publications

UKRAINIAN NATIONAL FOUNDATION

- Support of community events and organizations
- Humanitarian aid Student scholarship and Awards

Mission Statement

The Ukrainian National Association exists:

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

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

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

An appreciation for 80 years

Picking up where we left off last week, when we celebrated this newspaper's 80th anniversary by highlighting its continuing mission, in this week's editorial we express our appreciation for all those people behind the scenes who made The Ukrainian Weekly possible each and every week for eight decades.

Yes, it's true, readers got some sense in last week's issue of who the editors were during those 80 years – we were thrilled to have found a photo of all 24 of them (even the elusive Walter Prybyla, whose photograph was found in a little-used clippings file once maintained by Svoboda editor Bohdan Krawciw). But, you ask: who is missing? The answer: administrators, advertising managers, subscription department personnel, printers and expeditors, summer interns, editorial assistants, correspondents and columnists, proofreaders, layout artists, typesetters, webmasters, computer troubleshooters, mailroom employees, freelancers...

We couldn't possibly name them all. And, if we tried, we'd probably unwittingly omit someone since there's no master list of all those involved with this paper since 1933. So, let us try to thank the countless people who've been involved with our newspaper by citing some of them as examples.

On the administration side, the administrators of what used to be known collectively as Svoboda Press included Luba Lapychak Lesko, who served in that capacity under several editors-in-chief and editors of Svoboda and The Weekly, as well as two long-serving and highly successful advertising managers, "Pani Kvitka" – Maria Steciuk and "Pani Mariyka" – Maria Oscislowski.

Among columnists, the longest serving are Dr. Myron B. Kuropas, who's written columns for 29 years (and whose first byline in The Weekly dates to a 1958 news story) and Helen Smindak, who wrote her "Dateline New York" column for nearly 20 years and prior to that her "Panorama of Ukrainian Culture in the Big Apple" (she's been associated with The Weekly in one way or another since 1957).

We've had an incredible number and variety of summer interns! Some of them returned for more than one tour of duty, and a few were basically interns on call – ready to help whenever needed beyond the summer months. Several of them went on to become our editorial assistants. (Funny how we always managed to work around their schedules, allowing them to go to Plast camps as counselors... We even had interns who filled in for other interns.)

As for production staff, which includes our layout artists, typesetters, computer troubleshooters, webmasters – sometimes all those things rolled into one – we've been lucky to have quite a few dedicated colleagues. Serge Polishchuk, who was responsible for computerizing our production and designed our new flag (that's a newspaper's nameplate) for our 60th anniversary, and our current layout artist, Stefan Slutsky, are among two of the most creative and innovative of the bunch. Awilda Arzola Rolon, who began as a typesetter back in 1980, took on more and more production tasks through the years; she left our staff earlier this year. Our webmaster Ihor Pylypchuk (who is also Svoboda's layout artist, as well as webmaster for both newspapers and the UNA), also deserves a shout-out.

And just how do we cite the truly countless number of community activists who've submitted untold numbers of stories and photos through the years? Then there are our donors, large and small, named and anonymous, who've donated to The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund. And, of course, there are our dear loyal readers. Without subscribers, well, there'd be no Weekly.

To all of the above, we offer an enthusiastic "THANK YOU!" for 80 years of devotion and support. You have proved yet again that "The whole is greater than the sum of its parts."

Oct.
16
1978

Turning the pages back...

Thirty-five years ago, on October 16, 1978, Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, archbishop of Krakow, was elected as the 264th Catholic pope and took the name John Paul II. He is considered one of the most influential leaders of the 20th century and many Ukrainians hoped that he would play a role in its liberation struggle under the Soviet regime, or if at the very least the easing of religious persecution.

Patriarch Josyf Slipyj greeted the newly elected Pope John Paul II in a statement on October 17, 1978, calling the election of the Polish cardinal (the first non-Italian pope in 455 years), a "new direction" for the Church, and noted that it had raised the hopes of the entire Catholic world and especially those of the Ukrainian nation. "He knows what it means to suffer; to be persecuted, to have no rights. He also knows what a thirst for truth is," wrote Patriarch Slipyj.

Expectations for the new pontiff included his championing the defense of human rights throughout the world. Patriarch Josyf noted that this also included the hope for the re-establishment of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Ukraine.

The pope's election was a bit of a miracle too, as neither of the two leading candidates, Cardinal Giuseppe Siri, the conservative archbishop of Genoa, and Cardinal Giovanni Benelli, the more liberal archbishop of Florence, could gain the necessary two-thirds majority after two days of voting. The influential and widely respected Cardinal Franz Konig, archbishop of Vienna, then suggested 58-year-old Cardinal Wojtyla as a compromise candidate.

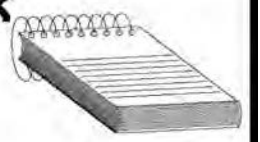
Following the fall of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev noted, "The collapse of the Iron Curtain would have been impossible without John Paul II."

Pope John Paul II, the second-longest serving pope (26 years), who succeeded the shortest-lived pope, John Paul I (33 days), is to be canonized by the Church on April 27, 2014. In the process of canonization, he was beatified by the Church on May 1, 2011. He personally elevated the current pope, Pope Francis, to archbishop of Buenos Aires and then as cardinal in 2001.

Source: "Election of Pope John Paul II hailed by Patriarch Josyf, Say election raised hopes of Ukrainian nation," *The Ukrainian Weekly*, October 22, 1978.

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

BY ZENON ZAWADA



BOOK REVIEW: "Sweet Snow," a novel about the Holodomor

by Zenon Zawada

Reading the volumes of eyewitness testimony about the Holodomor can be a life-altering experience.

Personally, the gruesome details provoked the deepest questions that, along with the severe Kyiv winter and economic crisis, plunged me into a months-long depression during which I wondered, "What drove people to such insanity? What would I have done in the thick of it all? Could it ever happen again?"

Dr. Alexander Motyl, a political science professor at Rutgers University in Newark, N.J., also struggled to come to terms with the Holodomor after exhuming its abominations through mounds of archives.

He was editing the "Holodomor Reader," perhaps the best reference book to emerge on the subject, when he "for the first time came face-to-face with its concrete horrors, and not just abstract issues such as how many died and was it genocide."

"It was then that I saw a dearth of literary depictions of the Holodomor," he said.

His 207-page historical fiction work, "Sweet Snow," ponders the issues at the very heart of human existence that are inevitably raised by the Holodomor, while answering only some of them, and sometimes only partially: What's the meaning of life? Why struggle? What hope is there? Is survival worth any price?

Just as importantly, Dr. Motyl challenges readers to confront the Holodomor in its day-by-day, step-by-step terror with his intense descriptions. Therefore, "Sweet Snow" is not for the delicate or faint-hearted as the novel takes you to the vicious frontlines.

Vivid descriptions of beatings, blood, bones, vomiting, cannibalism and starvation are all served up in smorgasbord of human depravity. A journalist like me can appreciate this sort of thing.

However, it won't appeal to those looking for a story that will try to make sense of the Holodomor's senselessness or to offer psychological comfort to relieve the horrors that it sprung upon human consciousness.

At which point it's worth stressing that "Sweet Snow" is a book to be most appreciated by philosophers, political junkies and history buffs. Once again, guys like me would find nothing better to do on a Sunday afternoon than to kick up our feet on a cushioned couch and eagerly flip the pages of such material.

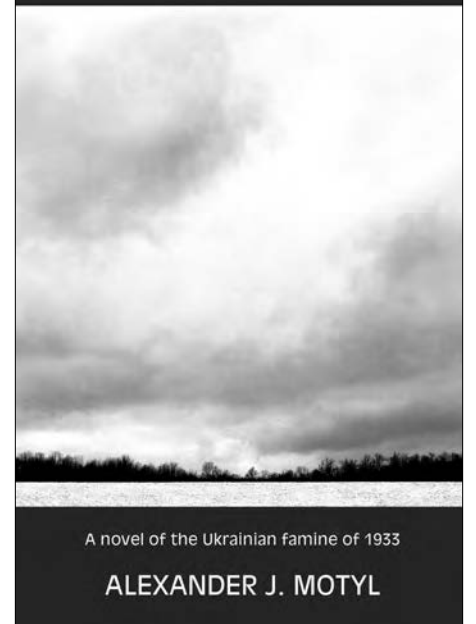
Dr. Motyl accurately depicts a war zone, an orgy of brutality with no rules, clearly having derived his accurate descriptions from his extensive research on the subject and having the guts to retrace such scenes in his imagination.

To try and make sense of it, one of the main characters, the affable German aristocrat August Graf von Mecklenburg, often refers to his wartime experience.

An equally compelling character, the Jewish Communist Golub from New York, relies on his survival training in the Catskill Mountains to help his fellow prisoners conquer their troubles.

Among the book's accomplishments is enabling the reader to get a sense of just how hopeless the situation was, offering a literary vehicle that could enable a Western

SWEET SNOW



A novel of the Ukrainian famine of 1933

ALEXANDER J. MOTYL

reader to comprehend the horror. The story begins with von Mecklenburg, Golub and Polish diplomat Pieracki thrown into a Spartan, cold prison cell.

They are eventually joined by the Ukrainian émigré from Vienna, Kortschenko, and are transported on a truck that crashes into a ravine, delivering the four Westerners smack into the middle of the raging famine amidst the snow-covered Ukrainian steppe.

Immediately, it would seem, their fates are sealed. Even if they found food, an unlikely prospect, and medical treatment, an even unlikelier prospect, they would eventually be found by the authorities, who would torture or kill them. But what's captivating is not so much their doom as the way they cope with it.

What Dr. Motyl also fabulously accomplishes is showing that, even when hell comes to earth, the human spirit musters perseverance, brotherhood amidst ideological and ethnic divisions, and yes, even humor, to cope with the misery.

In between the descriptions of what happens to a human body when it begins to decompose, or when starving men attempt to eat a cooked squirrel, Dr. Motyl, with remarkable tact, slips in biting one-liners and clever dialogue that breaks up the morbidity with pleasurable moments of relief.

For instance, among my favorite moments in "Sweet Snow" is when the German diplomat von Mecklenburg is accused by Golub of being an anti-Semite. Mind you, it's after they've both saved each other's lives. "Only slightly," is the dry response Mecklenburg offers. "Only very, very slightly and mostly as a matter of taste."

It's such one-liners that distinguish Dr. Motyl's unique wit, which enables him to repeatedly mock the extremists and ideologues of the world as personified by Golub. His character demonstrates that the more things change, the more they stay the same.

Very often also, political radicalism is a projection of wanting to fix one's own feelings of inadequacies. Indeed Dr. Motyl's description of Golub could apply to your run-of-the-mill, "progressive" university

(Continued on page 13)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Happy 80th anniversary!

Dear Editor:

A very happy 80th anniversary to the staff at The Ukrainian Weekly. You continue to produce the best ethnic community newspaper anywhere.

I hope we'll all be here to celebrate the 100th anniversary in 2023. Keep up the great work!

Mike Buryk
North Caldwell, N.J.

Zenon Zawada tells it like it is

Dear Editor:

I thoroughly enjoy reading Zenon Zawada's articles in The Ukrainian Weekly. Typically, his are among the first I read. In the "Reporter's Notebook" column of September 15, Mr. Zawada outdid himself. He told the truth about Ukrainian's politicians in his "tell it like it is" style. I respect this approach.

It seems that our diaspora community leaders in the United States and Canada can't accept the reality that Ukraine's politicians are corrupt from the top to the lowest level in any small village. Why bother with them? Why support any of them?

On a recent visit to Ukraine, probably my last, I witnessed this corrupt behavior by the "DAI," the road police: "Pay me or you cannot pass."

I only hope that if and when Ukraine becomes an associate member of the European Union, Western culture will have an impact on Ukraine. Otherwise it is a lost cause.

I agree with Mr. Zawada's assessment of the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) in Lviv, but it is only a drop in a bucket in the whole of Ukraine. UCU is the only institution in Ukraine that makes any sense for the future of Ukraine – if the government does not come up with a reason to take it under its control.

I wish UCU well, and I thank Mr. Zawada.

Jerry Zinycz
Venice, Fla.

Yatsenyuk is no hero

Dear Editor:

Re Zenon Zawada's column "No heroes in Ukraine's politics" (September 15), Arseniy Yatsenyuk's party Front for Change obviously did what the name says to the Batkivshchyna party.

I recall that when he came to Toronto wearing an ornate Hutsul jacket Mr. Yatsenyuk did not answer the questions posed to him by the audience. The obedient audience did not ask for clarifications. They just sat there expressionless as the beautiful Hutsul jacket stood in front of them.

As for The Ukrainian Weekly, I must comment: You have great news in your paper, even though some of it is not good news. But it is what it is. Keep up the good work!

Pearl Holubowsky
Toronto

It was great to be at Soyuzivka

Dear Editor:

Labor Day weekend, 2013 was a pleasant surprise at Soyuzivka. There was a substantial crowd in attendance from Friday through Sunday. The overall mood was mellow and easy. Everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves, and everyone seemed to be glad to be at Soyuzivka.

The young people were having some good old-fashioned fun.

The Syzokryli dancers received a couple of standing ovations at the end of their Saturday night performance. I was pleased to see new dances being performed.

Klopit, the band, took me by surprise Sunday night. Their repertoire was all about new arrangements of some great old songs. The band connected very well with the audience.

I was glad that I hung around at Soyuzivka.

Until the summer of 2014!

Lidia Leshchuk
New York

Old game...

(Continued from page 2)

than 50 percent of the people support European integration, and fewer than 30 percent of the people support closer ties with Russia," Ukraine's former Trade Minister Petro Poroshenko said in response to the Kremlin adviser, according to press reports. "Thank you very much for that, Mr. Glazyev."

Indeed, Ukraine's move closer to the EU – and its defiance of Moscow – comes under President Viktor Yanukovich, who won election in February 2010 on a platform of closer relations with Russia.

And the country's powerful Russian-speaking oligarchs in eastern Ukraine, once staunchly pro-Moscow, have been making it increasingly clear that they prefer closer relations with the EU.

Analysts say Russia's deep historical ties to Ukraine often cause Moscow to overplay its hand in dealing with Kyiv.

"Russia finds it terribly difficult to deal with Ukraine because it is such an emotional issue," says Mr. Lough. "The heart seems to get in the way of the head, and invariably they seem to adopt policies that are counterproductive and wind up driving Ukrainians away."

Like in Ukraine, Moscow's efforts to per-

suaide Moldova to forego an EU Association Agreement are also making little headway. On September 11, Russia banned Moldovan wines and spirits, claiming they contain impurities.

In response, Dacian Ciolos, the EU's commissioner for agriculture, has proposed eliminating all restrictions on Moldovan wine imports ahead of Moldova's initialing of an Association Agreement. Moldova's Foreign Minister Natalia Gherman told RFE/RL that Chisinau is "strong enough to resist any pressure" from Russia as it strengthens ties with the European Union.

Analysts nevertheless expect Russia to continue ramping up the pressure on Kyiv and Chisinau in the two months remaining before the EU's Eastern Partnership summit in Vilnius.

"We're still more in the overture to the opera than in the opera itself," says Mr. Lucas. "The people in the countries concerned know that there is a lot more that Russia can do. If you have an unpleasant dog and it growls, you don't need for it to bite you in order to be scared."

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CROSSCURRENTS

by Andrew Sorokowski

The other Eurasians

Sometimes, the best approach to a dilemma is to introduce a third element that puts the first two into perspective, and perhaps provides alternatives. This method could be applied to Ukraine's dilemma between Russia and Europe. The third element is a country similar in shape to Ukraine, though about 30 percent larger and with a population about 74 percent greater. Straddling Asia and Europe, it has been a member of NATO since 1952. It is, of course, Turkey.

In 1922, the founder of modern Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, said, "If we take a look at the geographical location and position of the two countries, we see the Black Sea in between. If we just assume for an instant that the Black Sea is not there, we may say that Turkey and Ukraine share borders. Friendship bears significance for both countries." (Hasan Kanbulat, "Turkish-Ukrainian Relations on the Twentieth Anniversary of Ukrainian Independence," Today's Zaman, September 26, 2011. <http://todayzaman.com/columnist-257998-turkish-ukrainian-relations-on-the-20th-anniversary-of-ukrainian-independence.html>.)

Both Turkey and Ukraine belong to the Organization of Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), launched in 1992 with the Bosphorus Statement. Ukraine supplies Turkey with aerospace and defense products, while Turkey provides textiles and processed foods. The Turks maintain a friendly interest in formerly Ottoman Crimea. Though their non-Indo-European language poses a challenge, Ukrainian speakers will recognize such words as liman (harbor), meydan (public square), şapka (hat), torba (bag), çay (tea) and tütün (tobacco).

When we think of the history of Ukrainian-Turkish relations, we remember the Kozak wars with the Ottomans and their yeni çeri ("new soldiers," that is, janissaries). But Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky sought, and Petro Doroshenko achieved, an alliance with the Turks during the complex and shifting diplomacy of the 1600s. In the last quarter of that century, Podillia was under Turkish rule.

It was in the previous century, however, that one of the most popular figures in Ukrainian history made her mark. Then, as today, human trafficking was a major industry. The Ottomans imposed high quotas for slaves on their Tatar vassals, who systematically raided Ukrainian villages in Poland-Lithuania. Among the kidnapped was a priest's daughter from Rohatyn, whom European sources call "Roxolana" or "Roxelana" (ca. 1505-1558). She was converted to Islam and sold to the harem of Sultan Süleyman I (known to Europeans as the Magnificent, but to Turks as the Lawgiver; he ruled 1520-1566). Roxolana bewitched him (some suspected, literally) into marrying her and even choosing monogamy. Clever and intelligent, Hürrem Sultan ("the joyful Sultanness," as she was called) systematically eliminated her rivals, allegedly persuading her husband to execute his close friend and talented advisor, the Grand Vizier Ibrahim, as well as his own son Mustafa, the very capable heir apparent. She thus cleared the way for the survival and succession of her own no-goodnik child, who eventually ruled as Selim the Sot, while the empire began its slow decline.

Roxolana, who lies buried near her husband in the cemetery adjoining Istanbul's exquisite Süleymaniye Mosque, is the subject of a historical novel by Pavlo Zahrebelny, a number of paintings, an opera by Denys Sichynsky, and the 1997 ballet "Hürrem Sultan" by Turkish composer Nevit Kodallı. See Encyclopedia of Ukraine s.v. "Roksoliana" (<http://www.encyclopediaofukraine.com/display.asp?lin>

[kpath=pages%5CR%5C0%5CRoksoliana.htm](http://www.encyclopediaofukraine.com/display.asp?lin)). She also figures prominently in the Turkish television series "Muhteşem Yüzyıl" ("The Magnificent Century"), an Ottoman soap opera which, dubbed into Ukrainian, is currently playing on 1+1 television. Whether Roxolana should be regarded as a Ukrainian feminist icon we will not speculate, but she would certainly make a fascinating case study in any women's history course.

The Ottoman Turks built their civilization – in some cases literally – upon the ruins of Byzantium, the Eastern continuation of the Roman Empire, which lasted 1,123 years. Byzantine history has been described as "a monotonous story of the intrigues of priests, eunuchs and women, of poisonings, of conspiracies, of uniform ingratitude, of perpetual fratricides" (W.E.H. Lecky, "History of European Morals," 1869, quoted in Norwich, cited below, at p. xxxix.) This is, of course, grossly unfair. It was from the "New Rome," after all, that Kyivan Rus' received Christianity, and it has left us, as W.B. Yeats put it in "Sailing to Byzantium" (1927), "monuments of unaging intellect."

For Ukraine, modern Turkish history offers interesting parallels. The country underwent a radical secularization in the 1920s and a Soviet-style five-year plan in the 1930s. Turkish nationalism veered from left to right. Greeks were expelled, and the Armenians, suspected of aiding Russia in World War I, suffered what many regard as genocide. Struggling to forge a modern identity, Turkish intellectuals have remained suspended between East and West, at times indulging in an almost comical Europeanization. Today, frequently corrupt nouveau-riches launch reckless construction projects, heedless of history or tradition. Not unlike that of Lviv, Istanbul's ethnically diverse past (between a quarter and a third of Constantinople's population was Christian or Jewish) contrasts with its monochrome present. Nobel Prize-winning novelist Orhan Pamuk evokes its melancholy atmosphere. Turkey has also experienced the post-imperial syndrome of nations like Austria, Hungary, and Russia. But just as the Greeks have abandoned their historical claims to Constantinople, so Turkey has made its peace with the loss of the vast Ottoman empire.

Atatürk's secularization involved abolishing the caliphate, closing the dervish lodges and banning the veil. It remains to be seen whether a secular state inevitably produces a secular society. Secularism is sometimes used to restrict the rights of religious minorities. The seminary of the Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarchate, on Heybeli (Halki) Island, for example, has been closed since 1971, though a reopening is rumored. New religious education programs reportedly favor Islam. The prospect of Turkey joining the European Union means that the country will have to conform to the religious liberty provisions of European law (http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1867).

Turkey may not resolve Ukraine's East-West dilemma. But it is a promising friend and a much-needed ally.

Further reading: John Julius Norwich, "A Short History of Byzantium" (1997); Ahatanhel Kryms'kyi, "Istoriia Turechchyny" (Kyiv, 1996, 1st ed. 1924); Orhan Pamuk, "Istanbul: Memories and the City" (2005).

Andrew Sorokowski can be reached at samboritanus@hotmail.com.

What is a "zhlob"?

KYIV – The "Zhlobolohiya" collection, consisting of a 376-page art almanac and 250-page book of essays, was presented at the Lviv Publishers Forum on September 12.

The writings and artwork are an attempt to study the post-Soviet Ukrainian social phenomenon of "zhlobstvo," including its visualization through paintings, installations and other artwork and by creating a dictionary of terms.

"The project's goal is not to fight against this phenomenon," said Antin Muharskyi, "Zhlobolohiya's" initiator and author. "On the basis of a cultural-artistic dialogue, we are trying to objectively as possible research, classify and structure it, and create a precedent for its discussion in society. We worked on this project guided by the desire to make our life and the lives of others cleaner, more honest and freer, above all."

"Zhlobolohiya's" 32 contributors, which comprise Ukraine's leading writers and publishers, demonstrated that the modern Ukrainian zhlob has many forms and appearances. The following are some of their attempts to characterize them.

* * *

"A zhlob is a person who finds self-affirmation and self-realization at the expense of others, without having any intellectual, professional or spiritual basis. It's an uneducated person who doesn't know anything on his own, neither with his hands or intellect, and instead decides to hatch some scheme and gain money from it."

– Yurii Izdryk,
2009 BBC Book of the Year laureate.

"A zhlob is a person who thinks that he's better than others. From that viewpoint, the majority of imperialistic Russians who come to Ukraine are 100 percent zhlobs."

– Yevhen Karas, art curator.

"A refined zhlob is barely distinguishable from a snob. He always has his own opinion and is never interested in the opinions of others. A zhlob is always trying to be at the center of society's attention. He's always mingling at openings, premieres, private viewings, he's giving interviews (are they paid for?) and being photographed. For some reason, his opinion suddenly becomes all too important on any issue."

– Oleksandra Koval,
founder of the Lviv Publishers Forum.

"A zhlob is jealous and isn't able to find joy in other people's successes."

– Vladyslav Kyrychenko,
entrepreneur and patron of the arts.

"A zhlob wants to rule over people – savagely and without rules. Zhlobstvo propagates jealousy. Useless, lazy, empty people envy the rich, the rich envy those even richer."

– Ivan Malkovych, publisher.

"A zhlob is the animal in man. As much as every person is an animal to a certain extent, then a priori all people are zhlobs, and I'm no exception."

– Anton Muharskyi, the initiator of
"Zhlobolohiya" and curator of Zhlob-Art.

"A zhlob is a person who wants to have something because he wants to have it."

– Yuriy Vynnychuk,
2012 BBC Book of the Year laureate.

"A zhlob is a person without faith. He can think anything of himself, while a devout person truly begins to consider his life as one big task, or an assignment."

– Volodymyr Yeshkiliiev,
author and culture expert.

Antin Muharskyi...

(Continued from page 1)

"A zhlob is an imitation of a person," is how Mr. Muharskyi succinctly summarizes its essence. "The vast majority of zhloby only simulate someone, which is not who they really are. From there all the lies and chaos emanate."

Before zhlobstvo there was "kham-okratiya," a term coined by literary icon Oksana Zabuzhko to describe the Ukrainian government under the rule of President Viktor Yanukovich, whose nickname in prison was "kham," as reported by the Channel 5 television network.

Yet Mr. Muharskyi said his inspiration for Zhlob-Art stems from an experience with former President Viktor Yushchenko, who is identified as a zhlob by numerous "Zhlobolohiya" contributors because he was merely a simulation of a Ukrainian president and patriot.

"People who don't know how to do anything well, even with their hands, force their way into national politics," Mr. Muharskyi wrote. "That's where there are the most zhloby, or imitations of persons, who multiply around them the chaos, lies and delusion."

In the fall of 2007, Mr. Muharskyi was at a state event at the Ukrainian Home in central Kyiv where those in attendance waited for the arrival of former President Yushchenko, who ended up being late by more than an hour and a half.

Tardiness was a habit for which Mr. Yushchenko became notorious, and not only within Ukraine's borders. Someone in his protocol service snapped and began a rant. "Two years ago, I truly believed that everything could be changed in this country. Moreover, take notice, I truly believed," he said, as recounted by Mr. Muharskyi in "Zhlobolohiya."

"That's why I quit my job in a bank and joined the state service. But what's happening can't be called anything other than zhlobstvo. Peasant villagers grabbing hold of power – that's terrifying! Zhlobstvo is our mental karma, from which everything decays! Now I understand why Ukraine walks in a circle, time and time again, stepping on the same rakes. Because the state is governed by zhloby with an absolute village-agrarian philosophy, aesthetics and thinking. On all levels, at that."

"Believe you me, this country is doomed. And it will die not from a foreign aggressor, and not from geopolitical quarrels between East and West. It will die from within from its own zhlobstvo because its statesmen are incapable – regardless if they're orange or blue-and-white – to leave the bounds of their own farmstead zhlobstvo."

It was that conversation that sparked Mr. Muharskyi to pursue his art project "Zhlob. Zhlobstvo. Zhlobism," suddenly realizing it as the defining characteristic of Ukraine and its people, including himself, who 20 minutes earlier had been praising the government in a speech.

"This whole country is a continuous begetting of zhlobstvo, which has been the single constant form of Ukrainian existence," he wrote in summary.

"Zhlob. Zhlobstvo. Zhlobism"

Mr. Muharskyi organized the first "Zhlob. Zhlobstvo. Zhlobism" art exhibit in April 2009, about a year after he met artist Ivan Semesiuk. His compelling paintings reflected the realities of contemporary urban Ukrainian life, even earning a prize from former President Leonid Kuchma, who remarked after seeing the painting "Bratelo": "The artist keenly senses reality."

Recognized as the founding work of the Zhlob-Art genre, "Bratelo" depicts a standard Ukrainian urban denizen – wearing



Zenon Zawada

Zhlob-artists (from left) Olexa Mann, Andrii Yermolenko and Ivan Semesiuk have their work featured in the "Zhlobolohiya" almanac, which chronicles the genre since its emergence four years ago.

an Adidas sweat suit, earphones, a Nike cap and smoking a cigarette – with his back turned to the sun and a cat, or "Kit Vasya," which is the Soviet term for "average Joe" that is a constant theme in Mr. Semesiuk's artwork.

"I was riding on a tram and suddenly a guy in a cap walked in, sat in the back and was smoking," he described the inspiration for "Bratelo," which is an urban slang term for "brother." (The canvas painting is selling for \$4,000 at www.catalog.antins.net.)

Though Bratelo can have different interpretations, its evident main theme is how contemporary urban life in Ukraine is plagued by a dark selfishness. That "what's in it for me" worldview forms the basis for contemporary Ukrainian zhlobstvo.

Besides his "Kit Vasyas," another favorite theme for Mr. Semesiuk is lampooning Ukrainian stereotypical iconography (sharovarshchyna), for which he openly expresses his contempt.

Sharovarshchyna is the result of Ukrainians not being able to develop a modern culture of art because of their arrested development under the Soviet Union, which suppressed Ukrainian identity, said Mr. Muharskyi. As a result, шароваршчина became endemic in the diaspora as well.

"There was a totalitarian country that was only allowed to establish a totalitarian Ukrainian culture," Mr. Muharskyi said. "It had to survive the conditions of Stalinism only in its most conservative form, preserving its nucleus. We had to walk a certain way and sing certain songs. The diaspora often still perceives Ukraine that way, reading [Taras] Shevchenko and singing 'Chervona Kalyna.'"

Mr. Semesiuk's "Traditions. Rebranding" series of paintings combines Ukrainian iconography and classic embroidery and with contemporary urban Ukrainian symbols that cover the urban landscape.

For instance, two paintings depict a glassy-eyed "gopnik" under the word, "Gopak," which is a play on words. A Ukrainian gopnik (plural: gopniky), who represents only one of many types of Ukrainian zhloby, can be described as a nihilistic urban goon who exists on society's edges.

The first gopnik wears a multicolored flower wreath – a classic Ukrainian symbol – while smoking a cigarette in a black, white-striped Adidas sweatshirt, which are the symbols of contemporary Ukraine.

Embroidered above his head is the word, "Montana," which refers to the Montana watches that became a symbol of Western luxury when they were smuggled into the Soviet Union in the late 1970s, Mr. Semesiuk said.

"That has become a part of Ukrainian slang: 'Montana, man. Quality job,'" he said. "Given that Ukraine has a feminine mentality, a bit infantile as well, I gave him a colorful Poltava headdress, as a joke."

The gopnik in the other "Gopak" painting is in the same black Adidas sweatshirt, but above his head instead is the Adidas trefoil logo embroidered in traditional Ukrainian style.

"Many are alcoholics and don't play sports," Mr. Semesiuk said of the gopniky. "Sweatsuits are for sports, not for going to the supermarket or work. There should be a systemic urban culture, which is not always comfortable. I try not to walk in the city in sweatpants."

The Zhlob-Art genre has made a particular target of the gopnik, which became personified with the emergence in May this year of Vadym Titushko, the "gopnik-sportsmen" who attacked television journalist Olha Snitsarchuk and photographer Vlad Sodel.

His name has become synonymous with the government's violent measures against the political opposition, with Ukrainian journalists even dubbing the gopnik goons hired by the Party of Regions to intimidate activists as "titushky."

Zhlob-artist Andrii Yermolenko decided to immortalize Mr. Titushko in his Adidas black sweatshirt and attack pose, with the caption underneath his portrait reading, "Gopnik – a representative of Soviet and post-Soviet subculture, created as a result of the infiltration of criminal aesthetics into the working class."

Real live gopniky are even a part of Zhlob-Art exhibits, displayed in metal cages placed at the center of an art gallery for visitors to view. Actors playing gopniky nibble on the sunflower seeds and contemptuously spit or hurl the moist shells at passers-by.

The gopniky shout not to take pictures, even throwing kicks. They mock guys with glasses as "professors" and flirt with young women, insisting, "At least give me your number." If someone gets too close, they grab for a purse or wallet.

"Careful! Don't approach the cage! They're gopniky from Troyeshchyna," Mr. Muharskyi shouted to visitors at the Lviv Publishers Forum, referring to one of Kyiv's most crime-ridden districts.

He and the caged gopniky were situated at the forum's very center, near its entrance, drawing hundreds to gawk in amusement, laughter or puzzlement in the case of the older folks who didn't get the joke. "What do you pay them?" someone shouted, referring to the gopnik actors.

(Continued on page 10)

Wladimir Klitschko retains titles against Povetkin

by Ihor N. Stelmach

SOUTH WINDSOR, Conn. – Wladimir Klitschko (61-3, 51 KO) retained his WBA, IBF, WBO and IBO heavyweight titles on Saturday, October 5, in front of some 35,000 at the SC Olimpitskiy Arena in Moscow. In what was supposed to be the toughest challenge of his career, Klitschko dominated Alexander Povetkin (26-1, 18 KO), knocking down the Russian three times in the seventh round, for the Russian's first professional loss in 27 fights.

All three judges scored the bout 119-104 for Klitschko (61-3). "Povetkin is a fighter with high spirit," said older brother Vitali Klitschko in a post-fight press conference. "He fought till the end. I do not think the bout could have finished earlier. If Wladimir could do it he would have certainly done it."

Klitschko stuck to his usual game plan, scoring often with his quick left jab, forcing Povetkin to attack, but with little success. The Ukrainian first knocked Povetkin down

with a combination 51 seconds into the seventh round. Thirty-five seconds later he floored the Russian a second time with a left hook, and again with 57 seconds left, though Povetkin recovered.

Klitschko defended the title for the 15th time, utilizing his four-inch height advantage and 16-pound weight difference to lean on and clinch his opponent after almost every punch or combination he threw. Despite the monotony of Klitschko cracking Povetkin with a powerful left jab and then falling on him repeatedly, the champion also landed many clean, hard shots, bloodied Povetkin's face and again left no doubt he was still the king of heavyweights with no serious challenger looming on the horizon.

Remarkably, Klitschko routed Povetkin without being credited with landing a single body punch. The mandatory challenger and secondary titlist was expected to at least offer Klitschko some competition in the long-awaited match between the 1996 Olympic super heavyweight gold medalist from Ukraine and the 2004 Olympic super



Wladimir Klitschko lands a left jab against Alexander Povetkin in Moscow.

heavyweight gold medalist from Russia. That did not happen.

Povetkin's opening strategy of brawling made Klitschko uncomfortable a few times, but the champion answered with left hooks and jabs. Povetkin altered his approach to simple survival while hoping for a miraculous knock-out punch after many of those hooks and jabs connected.

A fast, clean short left hook dropped Povetkin for the first time in his life in the second round. Klitschko went on to methodically sap Povetkin's strength by punching and leaning on top of him, coming close to ending the battle in the seventh round when Povetkin went down three times.

Povetkin was exhausted when the seventh round ended, and it appeared to be only a matter of time before he would be finally knocked out. To the Russian's credit, he continued to take punishment – his right eye was badly bruised and his left eye was cut. He showed heart, but was a badly beaten man.

Klitschko's 75 percent take of the purse was a career-high \$17,500,000. The

Ukrainian heavyweight has won virtually every round of his title reign as he continues to climb boxing history's ladder. His 15 successful title defenses are third-best all time in the heavyweight division. This victory was Klitschko's 22nd in a world title fight across two title reigns, tying him for second place in heavyweight history.

This was the dominant champion Povetkin challenged when he finally faced Klitschko after two previous fights were called off when the Russian pulled out. On October 5 Povetkin finally entered the ring in front of his hometown fans, enduring quite a beating and suffering the first loss of his professional career.

Champion punchlines:

- Landed 139 of 417 punches (33 percent) – none to the body;
- 15th consecutive title defense (third most in heavyweight history);
- 22nd career win in heavyweight title fight (tied for second place with Muhammad Ali);
- 64 percent of punches thrown were jabs (265 of 417).



Wladimir Klitschko holds his heavyweight title belts – IBO, IBF, WBO, WBA and Ring Magazine – after the fight. Behind him is his brother, Vitali.

Holodomor...

(Continued from page 1)

to begin the construction of the "Field of Wheat" design by architect Larysa Kurylas.

This endeavor, however, would not have been possible without the understanding and support of the President Viktor Yanukovich of Ukraine and cooperative efforts of all parties, most notably prominent Ukrainian entrepreneur Dmytro Firtash. Mr. Firtash agreed to provide a generous donation of \$2.5 million in support of the commitments associated with the construction of the Holodomor Memorial. The donation covers projected building costs. Funding for the construction and all federal agency approvals were necessary prior to obtaining the construction permit. Mr. Firtash's donation finalized the completion of this mandate.

Previously received donations and funds from the government of Ukraine – which amounted to nearly \$500,000 – covered such pre-construction expenses as environmental assessments and agency approval processes.

Representing Mr. Firtash, Anthony Fisher visited the site in June and was impressed by the location of the future memorial, as well as the due diligence of the designer, the architects, the Embassy of Ukraine and the U.S. Holodomor Committee in their commitment to bringing this project to fruition.

Explaining his support for the Holodomor Memorial, Mr. Firtash said: "I



The "Field of Wheat" design for the Holodomor Memorial in Washington by architect Larysa Kurylas.

do believe that the U.S. Holodomor Committee plays a key role in raising the world's awareness about the Holodomor. Due to the committee's work and the endeavors of many committed people, the Memorial will be erected in Washington, D.C. It will be a compelling reminder of the tragic chapter in Ukraine's history for modern and future generations. Many Ukrainians surviving the Famine immigrated to the United States of America. This country became their home. The memorial dedicated to the Holodomor victims is a tribute to this great country that opened its doors to so many Ukrainians. Their chil-

dren – our fellow-Ukrainians – are a large, prosperous and valued part of American society."

U.S. Holodomor Committee Chairman Michael Sawkiw Jr. commented on Mr. Firtash's donation: "We are truly grateful for Mr. Firtash's generosity and commitment to the building of a memorial in Washington, D.C., that will educate and inform thousands of people about a forgotten chapter in world history. Having worked on this issue for many years, this project would not have been successful without Mr. Firtash's keen awareness and dedication to seeing this project completed.

The community commends Mr. Firtash for this memorable deed and act of charity."

Also commenting on the donation and permit acquisition, UCCA President Tamara Olexy stated: "We are extremely proud of the fact that the UCCA initiated the U.S. Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor-Genocide Awareness 1932-1933 and of all of the work that has been done to date. Throughout the past years, we have dedicated our efforts to establishing a memorial to the victims of Ukraine's Genocide in our nation's capital, and it has finally borne fruit. The world will finally become more aware of the true nature of this heinous crime committed against the Ukrainian nation. Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to Dmytro Firtash for funding this project and understanding the importance of exposing this dark page of our history so that such crimes are never committed again."

With this generous donation in hand, construction of the memorial will begin in early 2014, but plans are also currently under way to confirm a date in mid-November of this year for a groundbreaking ceremony at the site. Further details are pending.

For further information about the Holodomor Memorial in Washington or other programs, readers may join the U.S. Holodomor Committee's Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/US-Committee-for-Ukrainian-Holodomor-Genocide-Awareness-1932-33/115928911852192#!/pages/US-Committee-for-Ukrainian-Holodomor-Genocide-Awareness-1932-33/115928911852192>.

Antin Muharskyi...

(Continued from page 8)

"No money," Mr. Muharskyi responded. "Just three liters of beer, sunflower seeds and cigarettes."

Beyond the comical side of the Zhlob-Art genre is its seriousness, addressing the social degradation that has plagued Ukraine in its 22 years of independence.

More than a decade before Zhlob-Art's emergence, Serhiy Kolyada was a pioneer in painting scenes of Kyiv's harsh, post-Soviet reality and the absurd street scenes that it produced. Ukrainians became shocked at seeing begging babusias standing alongside \$100,000 BMW SUVs.

The "Zhlobolohiya" almanac includes many of Mr. Kolyada's works, including the iconic 1999 painting "Zapovit" (Testament), a reference to one of Shevchenko's famous poems.

In that painting, Mr. Kolyada juxtaposed a well-known portrait of Shevchenko against a McDonald's restaurant and a Coca-Cola bottle; begging children with their hands outstretched are juxtaposed against a sexy woman in a luxurious evening gown.

Amidst such poverty, prostitution

became commonplace in Kyiv, which is a topic that echoes throughout Mr. Kolyada's work, sometimes subtly, other times pornographically.

"We show some dirty stuff in order to stir loathing in you. It's hard but necessary," he said.

For example, Zhlob-artist Serhiy Hohol painted three naked women, wearing sexy thigh-high stockings and headdresses, holding ears of wheat and presenting a traditional korovai (ritual bread) amidst the words, "Welcome to Ukraine. Sex Tourism Country."

The painting aptly contrasts virginal Ukrainian iconography and infantile folk traditions that persist to this day – such as greeting politicians and diplomats with a korovai – with the sordid poverty of contemporary Ukrainian life that has led hundreds of thousands of women to sell their bodies.

Such artwork also hints of an attempt to take ownership of the humiliation of seeing your country become a globally recognized destination for sex tourism.

Mr. Semesiuk also addresses contemporary sexuality. In the "Kyiv Evening" painting of his "Traditions. Rebranding" series, he depicts sewn patterns of women's

breasts, lips and men's genitals. The words "Vechirnyi Kyiv" are embroidered in the style of the logo for the famous brand of chocolates, creating a double entendre.

"What is Vechirnyi Kyiv? To me it's drunk gopniky and prostitutes," Mr. Semesiuk said.

A recurring social theme for Zhlob-artist Oleksa Mann is police brutality; he depicts the baton-wielding officers with pig-like faces and skulls on their service caps, just like the Nazis had.

His paintings adopt the style of comics because they are Mr. Mann's attempt to create a Ukrainian urban folklore that was mostly suppressed under the Soviet Union.

For example, Kyiv's notorious door-to-door Jehovah's Witnesses inspired Mr. Mann to paint them as googly-eyed ghouls as seen through his peephole, beckoning him with the words, "Hello! My name is Svetlana. And with me is Valentina. Don't you want to talk about God?"

"For many years in Ukraine, a rural folklore was created upon which all of contemporary Ukrainian mythology is based," Mr. Mann said. "I want to create an urban folklore with all these local stories and characters such as hipsters, gopniky and punks. That's our urban life that was never popu-



Zhlob-artist Ivan Semesiuk's painting "Gopak," which is a play on the word "gopnik," combines classic Ukrainian symbols, such as embroidery patterns, with contemporary Ukrainian symbols such as the Adidas trefoil that is worn as a badge by urban gopnik goons.

lar in Ukraine because there were always vyshyvanochna/sharovarna aesthetics of rural folklore. That's why Ukraine has had an absolutely agricultural tradition. But I think the agricultural tradition is over. Ukraine has to be an urban culture where a person is always an individual."

Like all zhlob-artists, Messrs. Mann and Semesiuk speak Ukrainian, both declaring that among the goals of Zhlob-Art is to create a Ukrainian-speaking, Ukraine-oriented urban culture completely distinct from the stereotypical Ukrainian rural existence and its iconography.

They dismiss claims by Ukrainophobes, such as Segodnya (Today) newspaper journalist Oleksandr Chalenko, who insists that Kyiv is no different than your standard Russian city like Rostov-on-Don or Novosibirsk and that Russian is the language of urban intelligentsia.

"The times are changing and a new urban Ukrainian-speaking culture is emerging," Mr. Semesiuk said. "A process is occurring now of building a new nation in which the language is changing, the genotype is changing and even how people walk is changing. New faces as well. On the other hand, Chalenko is stuck in the Brezhnevshchyna [Brezhnev era phenomena] of the 1970s and 1980s."

Besides battling with Russian chauvinists, Zhlob-artists face criticism from conservative Ukrainophiles. For example, literary icon Oksana Zabuzhko declined to offer commentary for "Zhlobolohiya."

"This project is anti-Ukrainian in its spirit," she said, arguing that its artists are profane provocateurs.

Former First Lady of Ukraine Kateryna Yushchenko wasn't much impressed either when viewing a Zhlob-Art exhibit in 2009, approaching several artists, including Mr. Kolyada, and pointedly posing the question, "Boys, why do you not love Ukraine so much?"

The boys chuckled, glanced at each other and delicately remained silent, Mr. Muharskyi wrote. Yet he offered what their response would have been had they spoken.

"We're sick of the lies and impudence; we're sick of these games of princes and counts and all that stupidity of officialness; we're sick of the sharovarshchyna that you, Ms. Kateryna, cherish because you live in another world," Mr. Muharskyi wrote. "We are the salt of this land, blood from blood and flesh from flesh. And we, unlike you, love Ukraine not as a dollish-folklore-imbecility, but the way she is – sick, imperfect, sometimes scary and horrible."



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Designs by Oksana Karavanska.



Designs by Elena Vasilevsky.

Sebastian Piras

“Fashion, Ukrainian Style” a hit at The Ukrainian Museum

by Deanna Yurchuk

NEW YORK – Ukrainian fashion designers Oksana Karavanska, Katya Pshechenko and Elena Vasilevsky captivated a capacity audience at The Ukrainian Museum in New York City on Sunday, September 29, with their innovative clothing and jewelry at “Fashion, Ukrainian Style,” a runway show of contemporary wearable art.

This special event, with almost 200 attendees, was a benefit for The Ukrainian Museum and was presented in conjunction with the recent exhibition, “Out of Tradition: Contemporary Decorative and Applied Art,” featuring 35 decorative artists of Ukrainian background.

Dr. Renata Holod, president of the board of trustees at the museum, said she believes that the sold-out show’s popularity may be attributed to the fact that it was held in September, not long after New York’s Fashion Week. “This event extended the season of fashion and celebrated high-level Ukrainian talent in this very competitive field,” she stated.

This was the first such runway show presented by the museum in its current location, and it was organized by a committee spearheaded by Chryzanta Hentisz.

The museum’s recent exhibit, with its colorful fiber art, served as a backdrop for the runway show, and the catwalk extended from the first to the second floor of the museum. Motria Kuzycz Maleckyj, the emcee for the afternoon, introduced the designers, and gave thoughtful insight into their work and inspiration.

Models from Fenton Moon and Shae Cooper BMG model agencies walked to music meticulously chosen by each designer. There was high energy in the rooms of the museum, with guests carefully analyzing and discussing the individual pieces.

As food for thought, Ms. Kuzycz Maleckyj

posed the following question to the audience: “Is fashion art?” She followed up with examples of how fashion is increasingly being recognized as a cultural endeavor in our society.

Ms. Karavanska, a designer working and living in Lviv, began the show. Her work is known for its modern and edgy lines, and her clothing line titled “Garden of Never Melting Sculptures, Summer ‘14” was a hit with the crowd. According to Ms. Karavanska, the collection was inspired by the poetry of Lina Kostenko and was designed to have a timeless quality. “Fashion is ever-changing, and the goal is to create clothing that transcends time,” she explained.

Her pieces particularly appealed to one of the younger attendees, Uliana Bilash, 17, of Millburn, N.J., “The black and white style gave [Ms. Karavanska’s] dresses a dramatic look,” Ms. Bilash commented.

Ms. Pshechenko, a designer of fashion and accessories from Kyiv, showed multiple pieces from her “Milanka Collection.” Ms.



Designs by Katya Pshechenko.

Kuzycz Maleckyj noted that Ms. Pshechenko’s clothing is marked by ethnic influences, romance and mysticism, and her lyrical style stems from her studies of choreography and piano.

During the runway show models also showcased the jewelry of Masha Archer and Motria Jackewych Holowinsky. The jewelry made a particular impression on Daria Kotlarchuk, of Ridgewood, N.J.

“The jewelry was gorgeous, and I liked the jackets. They had very bold and beautiful colors,” she commented.

Ms. Vasilevsky showed two collections: a jewelry line called “Love, Life, Jewelry” and a clothing line, “Memoirs of Aphrodite.” Ms. Kuzycz Maleckyj called Ms. Vasilevsky a designer for a confident, professional and stylish woman living a busy life.

Ms. Vasilevsky, currently a resident of New York City, says that the native culture of Ukraine mixed with the energy of New York inspired her current line. “It’s a very exciting combination,” she said. “In my work, I express the native Ukrainian culture and the diverse multitude of New York, the city that never sleeps. It is intensity and simplicity mixed with glamour and culture.”

Ms. Vasilevsky said she felt honored to bring Ukrainian fashion to New York. “It means a lot to me because I was born in Odessa, and I feel proud about my heritage,” she said.

When asked what advice she might have for young designers, Ms. Vasilevsky shared, “Artists need to express themselves and never be afraid of the competition.” She added, “You are your own competition, and it makes you an individual.”

Ms. Kuzycz Maleckyj ended the show by quoting from a recent article in the Nova Hazeta newspaper, which stated “A woman knows she’s young if she is still interested in fashion.” The vigor of the crowd underscored this notion and showed that fashion greatly appeals to the Ukrainian American community.

After the show Ms. Kuzycz Maleckyj, stated, “A museum exists for people’s enjoyment, and given the success of and excitement over this fashion show, The Ukrainian Museum would love to consider holding another such show.”

For Ms. Bilash, who helped out by ushering guests to their seats, the highlight of the event was being asked to model some of the jewelry on display. “I really felt like I was part of the show, like I was one of the models,” she shared.

After the show, Dr. Holod commented, “The highlight for me was the enormous talent of all three designers, their inventiveness in terms of texture, color and proportion.”

When asked to choose a favorite design, Ms. Kuzycz Maleckyj couldn’t decide. “Oksana Karavanska’s collection’s ethereal neutrals, ultra-feminine shapes and subtle yet striking Ukrainian elements, Katya Pshechenko’s appliqués and stunning details, and Elena Vasilevsky’s juxtaposition of different fabrics and shapes all showed

(Continued on page 13)



Designers (from left) Elena Vasilevsky, Katya Pshechenko and Oksana Karavanska at the conclusion of the show.



Guests at The Ukrainian Museum’s “Fashion, Ukrainian Style” show.

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

road map of cooperation between Ukraine and the Customs Union. At a government meeting on October 9, he said, "I'm confident that we can use the experience of Ukrainian-Belarusian relations and create an intergovernmental road map of Ukrainian-Russian cooperation and cooperation with the Customs Union." He recalled that the 10th meeting of the committee on economic cooperation of the Russian-Ukrainian Interstate Commission would be held in Russia on October 15. The PM added that, as part of the implementation of agreements reached during his meeting with Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev in Astana, bilateral intergovernmental consultations had already been held at the level of Ukrainian and Russian Vice Prime Ministers Yuriy Boiko and Igor Shuvalov, during which the sides outlined the advantages and disadvantages of trade and economic relations between Ukraine and the Customs Union after the signing of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement. "As Yuriy Boiko reported, there was a very meaningful and constructive dialogue. We, in turn, set the task of not just making an 'inventory of problems,' but also finding a solution how to eliminate risks to our trade turnover and industrial cooperation," Mr. Azarov said. (Ukrinform)

Man blows himself up at border crossing

KYIV – A man has blown himself up at a Ukrainian border post, killing himself and seriously injuring two guards. According to

Ukraine's border service, guards stopped a minibus with Moldovan plates as it crossed into Ukraine from Russia at the Bachevsk border point early on October 4. The minibus was carrying four passengers, but guards found a fifth passenger hidden inside. The man showed border guards a Russian passport that was not his. An adviser to the head of the Ukrainian border guards, Sergiy Astakhov, said the man detonated explosives attached to his body as he was being interviewed. The motive for the incident is not clear. The border-crossing point was closed while an investigation is under way; other border crossings were placed on high alert. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by Agence France-Presse and Interfax)

Patriarch Mstyslav plaque unveiled in Lviv

LVIV – A commemorative plaque to the first patriarch of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church (UAOC), Mstyslav (Skrypnyk) was unveiled on September 27 in Lviv at 17 Piskova St. Many relatives from Ukraine and Canada, including his son, Yaroslav Skrypnyk, were present at the unveiling. The dedication of the plaque was headed by the Rev. Ihor Burmylo of the Assumption Church of the UAOC in concelebration with the Revs. Mykola Kavchaka and Mykhailo Savka. Metropolitan Dymytriy of Lviv of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Kyiv Patriarchate (UOC-KP) was also present. After the dedication, the patriarch's niece, Zoya Bezotosna, spoke to those present at the dedication. Ms. Bezotosna is the only Skrypnyk relative who survived the Soviet government's destruction of the Skrypnyk family in Ukraine. "Bishop Mstyslav was a

man of high culture who gave the world light. After my father was shot in 1937 for having the name Skrypnyk and for being Symon Petliura's nephew, it seemed that our family connections were lost... but God brought us together," she said. Patriarch Mstyslav's son, Yaroslav Skrypnyk, 93, who made the trip to Ukraine from Edmonton, Alberta, to be with his Ukrainian family in Lviv, also spoke. "Dear priests, dear Lvivians. This plaque is not only a monument to the bishop's triumphant stay in Lviv and in this house, but also a piece of our soul. My father left his home at age 18. He never again saw his whole family together. He wandered the world: Zalishchyky, Rivne, Stanislav, Warsaw, followed by France, Canada, the U.S.A. ...and he lived his life in his native Poltava. In the '70s we received a call from New York and were told that there is a letter from our family in Ukraine. Until then, we did not know whether any of our relatives were alive because our family was killed. That same day we went to the specified address. In a squalid house we met with a Jewish family from Lviv who gave my father the letter. In it we discovered that of our entire family only our cousin Zoya survived, who today lives at 17 Piskova St. Metropolitan Mstyslav, after high-profile meetings, came here to Piskova. Forty-nine years the family did not see each other, and that meeting I remember to this day. After a lifetime of wandering the world, the bishop came to his home, and it remained his native home in Ukraine to the end of life; Lviv was his second hometown after Poltava. I thank the government, the city, and the region which reacted favorably to our request." The commemorative plaque to Patriarch Mstyslav was not the first in Ukraine: such plaques are on the UAOC Assumption Church in Lviv, the Pokrova Cathedral of the UAOC in Ivano-Frankivsk, and the UAOC Church of St. Andrew the First-Called in Kyiv. Streets in Ternopil and Ivano-Frankivsk also are named in honor of the hierarch. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

try of the World Trade Organization with sanctions as a PFC. (Ukrinform)

Pshonka to assess soccer fans' actions

KYIV – President Viktor Yanukovich on October 7 instructed Procurator General Viktor Pshonka to make a legal assessment of the actions of soccer fans during the 2014 World Cup qualifier between Ukraine and San Marino, which took place at the Arena Lviv stadium on September 6. "I propose that Pshonka make a legal assessment of the actions of individual fans during the 2014 World Cup qualifier between the national teams of Ukraine and San Marino, which was held at the Arena Lviv stadium on September 6, 2013, and which drew the attention of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee. The deadline is October 19, 2013," reads the directive posted on the president's website. On September 27, the Disciplinary Committee of FIFA, the international federation of football (soccer) associations, decided that Ukraine's next World Cup qualifier against Poland in Kharkiv on October 11 would be played without spectators. The decision was made on the basis of reports drafted by the referee and inspector of the Ukraine-San Marino match, as well as a report drafted by an observer from FARE, a network of organizations from several European countries that combats discrimination in soccer, concerning several racist and discriminatory incidents apparently perpetrated by local supporters during the match, in particular, by displaying neo-Nazi banners and by making "monkey noises and gestures," as well as Nazi salutes. On October 3, it was reported that the match in Kharkiv would be held with spectators as FIFA's sanctions against the Football Federation of Ukraine (FFU) for the Ukraine-San Marino match had been suspended (only for one match) pending the consideration of an appeal lodged by the Ukrainian side. (Ukrinform)

Ukrainians prefer European Union

KYIV – Almost 76 percent of Ukrainians are ready to take part in a referendum on Ukraine's accession to the European Union or the Customs Union. About 41 percent of those surveyed would vote for joining the EU, while 35 percent would support integration with the Customs Union. According to October 3 news reports, these are the findings of a survey conducted by Kyiv International Institute of Sociology (KIIS). "The number of supporters of EU accession exceeds the number of supporters of entry into the Customs Union in the western and central regions of the country (73 percent vs. 13 percent, and 45 percent vs. 25 percent), and supporters of the Customs Union dominate in the southern and eastern regions (46 percent vs. 26 percent, and 57 percent vs. 18 percent)," the KIIS press office said. At the same time, the attitude of Ukrainians to Ukraine's accession to the EU and the Customs Union, in principle, is contradictory, and it can influence the referendum, if people are not asked to choose the integration vector. Thus, if a separate referendum were to be held on Ukraine's accession to the EU, more Ukrainians are ready to vote "in favor" than "against" – 43 percent and 30 percent, respectively. If a separate referendum were to be held on accession to the Customs Union, more Ukrainians are ready to vote "in favor" than "against" – 40 percent and 33 percent, respectively. The survey also found that young people are more inclined to vote for joining the EU (ages 18-29 – 50 percent, ages 30-39 – 48 percent), including the middle age group (are 40-49 – 46 percent), whereas joining the Customs Union is supported by older age groups (age 50-59 years old – 44 percent, age 60-69 – 47 percent and over age 70 – 53 percent). The opinion poll was conducted on September 13-23. (Ukrinform)

Yulia's lawyers to appeal 'gas case'

KYIV – The defense team of Yulia Tymoshenko has again filed through the Supreme Specialized Court in the Supreme Court of Ukraine a petition to review the so-called "gas case" against the former prime minister. Ms. Tymoshenko's lawyer Serhiy Vlasenko spoke to reporters in Kyiv on October 9, saying: "Based on the decision of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe of September 24, 2013, the defense team has today re-filed in the Supreme Court a petition for the review of the improper, illegal verdict on the gas case." (Ukrinform)

Kyiv hopes to be excluded from list

KYIV – Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Leonid Kozhara said on October 8 that he hopes the United States will exclude Ukraine from the category of a Priority Foreign Country (PFC) that violates intellectual property rights. Speaking at a roundtable meeting in Kyiv, he said, "This decision significantly impedes investment in our country and we cannot accept that. We hope that our country will be excluded from this list." The foreign minister emphasized that Ukraine will continue to cooperate with the United States regarding measures that are being implemented for the protection of intellectual property rights. Back in May, the United States Trade Representative identified Ukraine as a priority foreign country triggering a 30-day countdown to initiate an investigation under Section 301 of the Trade Act to determine trade sanctions. The identification was the culmination of several years of growing concern over widespread intellectual property theft, including the growing entrenchment of intellectual property rights infringement that is facilitated by government actors. This was only the second time that the U.S. has threatened a member coun-

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“Sweet Snow”...

(Continued from page 6)

professor today who praises Hugo Chavez or Alyaksandr Lukashenka:

“Nor was his communism more than skin-deep. It was confined to bombastic rhetoric and rooted in the spiritual perturbations of his divided self and deeply troubled soul. He talked like a Bolshevik, but he could never act like one. He knew too much, he felt too much, and he thought too much to be a Bolshevik.”

Like the ideological Bolsheviks, however, Golub rejects any notion of God and sin in the mistaken notion that he can solve the world's problems by constructing his own system of right and wrong, which instead leads to his own destruction, as it did for the Bolsheviks, and eventually Soviet society as a whole.

If history has proven anything, it's that there's no one-size-fits-all political solution to the world's problems.

They need to be addressed and resolved one at a time, with as much communication and cooperation as possible, as demonstrated by the novel's protagonists, Pieracki and Kortschenko.

Meanwhile, any political system built on an extremist ideological system – be it Bolshevism, National Socialism or Islamism – is doomed to fail because human needs will always take precedence over ideology.

“Sweet Snow” accurately portrays the Bolsheviks as thieves who weren't the least bit concerned about building a worker's paradise, but instead used that alleged struggle as the pretext to commit their crimes.

The two drivers transporting the prisoners not only viewed anyone who was not part of their gang (i.e. “the party”) as an enemy, but they even lied to each other.

In this sense, the Stalinist system was a daily battle even for those who served in its ranks. Only the most ruthless and deceitful survived, which is an approach to social relations that plagues Ukrainian society to this day. Indeed Ukrainians to a large degree have yet to learn how to cooperate with each other.

Yet that's what protagonists Pieracki and Kortschenko do to survive from one day to the next, with the Ukrainian romantic even willing to ignore Pieracki being a relative of the Polish interior minister persecuting Ukrainians at the time.

That is among the lessons I have taken from Prof. Motyl. In times of trouble, strategic alliances and pragmatic decision-making will triumph over radicalism (as personified by Golub) and conservatism (von Mecklenburg). Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich seems to be taking notes too.

Dr. Motyl's haunting descriptions of the Ukrainian steppe in the dead of winter lends the impression that Dr. Motyl spent many a winter there himself:

“It seemed self-evident to von Mecklenburg that the appallingly white whiteness of the white snow and white sky was intolerable. It was arguably worse than the carnage – the brown dirt and red blood – of the front. Where was one to go in a world without dimensions, in a world of emptiness?”

Readers are forewarned that “Sweet Snow” gets off to a slow start as Dr. Motyl devotes the first quarter of his novel to a

painfully meticulous description of the conditions of a prison cell into which the main characters are thrown.

If I were someone in retirement with all the time in the world to kill, I suppose such intense description would be interesting. For example, the wind and the cell's only window are mentioned about 10 times, making me wish I had an editor's red pen so I could have cut out at least a third of those references. Perhaps it's a generational issue. Those having grown up with the Internet are used to speeding through dozens of texts in a single day.

The other hurdle was the heavy load of rarely used English words that require a dictionary, not to mention German words and phrases. These are words that might certainly be familiar to those who survived the displaced persons camps and picked up German along the way. They're a mystery to a guy in his mid-30s who spent high school studying Spanish and learning about the civil rights movement instead of 19th century Austrian culture, to which the book has many references.

Literature is supposed to expose us to a world and a history that readers otherwise know nothing about. But there's a fine line to esoteric cultural references. When crossed, any book becomes a textbook that requires Googling dozens of terms in order to weed through the material.

In a few instances, the novel ignores some very important aspects of the Holodomor. For example, when Pieracki says to himself, “there was no resistance, no struggle – nothing. These miserable people simply accepted their fates and welcomed their own annihilation,” that has to be qualified by the fact that historians estimate Ukrainians engaged in 1,500 revolts in 1931-1932.

To its credit, the book's beginning has an unforgettable first sentence and introduces the characters in a compelling way. Yet once the prisoners get removed from their cell, the book becomes a brisk page-turner that balances the characters' political symbolism with their well-developed human dimensions.

A perfect example of that is another gem of a sentence that appears towards the end of their incarceration: “The world would belong to the Golubs as long as the von Mecklenburgs continued to mismanage it and the Pierackis failed to take matters into their own hands.”

As for the ending, it's largely expected. It's neither fatalist, but not particularly hopeful as well. But perhaps that's one of the messages that Dr. Motyl sees the Holodomor as having for humanity as well. Death is something we'll all face, sooner or later.

“Perhaps he, too, should consider praying?” the German aristocrat wonders to himself when examining a corpse with a prayer book in its hands. “It did not save the dead woman from extinction, but who was to say it made no difference?”

“Sweet Snow” is available through Amazon.com and Barnesandnoble.com. Dr. Motyl will present his sixth novel in Washington on November 3 and Miami on November 30, with presentations also being planned for Chicago and a second time in New York.

He's already presented his latest book in Philadelphia, Toronto, Detroit and Winnipeg.

Fashion...

(Continued from page 11)

such creativity and talent!” she summarized. “Hard to pick a favorite.”

After the show, attendees mingled with the designers and according to Ms. Kuzycz Maleckyj, there were several inquiries about purchasing and ordering the displayed fashions. The event also featured a silent auction of works by artists from the exhibit and a Viennese Café reception filled with colorful home-baked tortes and pas-

tries organized by Oksana Trytjak.

Distinguished guests at the event included Dr. Natalia Sergeyeva, wife of Ambassador Yuriy Sergeev, permanent representative of Ukraine to the United Nations.

The exhibit on decorative and applied art closed on October 5. Next at The Ukrainian Museum will be three exhibitions connected with the commemoration of the Holodomor starting in the middle of October. An up-to-date program of events can be found on the museum's website, www.ukrainianmuseum.org.

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Natalia Krawec Hanks

July 2, 1950 – September 29, 2013

Born in Washington, DC on July 2, 1950 to Filohonij and Sophia Krawec, Natalia grew up in the close knit Washington Ukrainian community where her grandfather, the Very Reverend Vasyl Warvariv formed the first Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the Nation's capital.

Natalia received a BA in History from Averett College, Virginia and continued to take graduate courses in city planning in the Washington, DC area while working for various government agencies including Voice of America, the President's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Smithsonian and the National Endowment for the Arts. She raised her family in Silver Spring, MD, Ridgefield and Farmington CT, Bloomfield Hills, MI and Avon, CO where most recently Natalia worked as Director of Development for the Walking Mountains Science Center, a hands-on educational science program for children. Her organizing skills and love of event planning helped the Center fund and build its new campus in Avon.

Natalia was energetically involved in numerous school, girl scout, church, musical and sports endeavors. Her passion for the great outdoors manifested in a variety of activities that included Plast, hiking, mushroom gathering, rafting as well as gourmet cooking.

A memorial service was held on Sunday October 6th at St Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Washington, DC and a memorial service will also be held October 24th at 4:00 pm at the Beaver Creek Chapel in Beaver Creek, CO followed by a reception at the Walking Mountains Science Center in Avon, CO at 6 pm.

In profound sorrow:

husband: Clyde Hanks
daughters: Katharine Loveland and husband Adam of Colorado; Alana Hanks and Christina Hanks of Colorado
mother: Sophia Krawec of Washington, DC
sister: Oksana Snow and husband Robert of Texas
uncle: Dr. Eugene Warvariv and wife Tamara of California
niece: Ilaria Prescott and husband Travis of Texas
nephew: Mark Kupchuk and wife Amelia of Virginia
cousins: Iryna Priester and husband Richard of Massachusetts; Victoria Markowicz and husband John of Kyiv, Ukraine; Taras Warvariv and wife Dr. Monica Hauptman of Arizona; Dr. Vasyl Warvariv of California and Alla Volkoshovets and family of Rivne, Ukraine.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Natalia Hanks School Programs Fund at Walking Mountains Science Center, www.walkingmountains.org, or mail to PO Box 9469, Avon, CO 81620.

May Her memory be eternal



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Ukrainophobia...

(Continued from page 3)

they couldn't care less about Ukrainian culture. Moreover, Education Minister Dmytro Tabachnyk is an outspoken Ukrainophobe.

"The 7-8 percent of voters who are anti-Ukrainian are a part of Yanukovich's electoral nucleus," said Oleksandr Palii, author of "The History of Ukraine" and 2012 laureate of the James Mace Prize.

"Meanwhile, the Azarov government consists of people who simply feed off Ukraine and base their interests on that alone."

That's also why the Russian coffeehouse franchise Kofe Khauz is able to get away with instructing its employees in Ukraine to serve customers in the Russian language only.

The Ukrayinska Pravda news site on August 23 published a page from an employee manual with the instructions,

"Communicate in the café only in Russian." The photograph was taken by Ivan Filipovych, who requested that he be served in the Ukrainian language at a Kofe Khauz café in August, only to get a rude response from a waitress denying his request.

"When I left the café having thanked them, the workers even laughed at me, which made me turn around and request the complaint book," he said.

He was then informed by one of the workers that the franchise requires employees to speak Russian only, showing him the manual. "When he asked at one training session whether he could speak Ukrainian and [noted] that the manual is for Russia, his trainer and a manager both said, 'Only in Russian!' Here everyone understands Russian beautifully and no one's going to change the standards for the 1 percent of weirdos," Mr. Filipovych quoted the employee as telling him.

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COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

'First bell' begins 64th academic year at School of Ukrainian Studies in NYC



Students, teachers and administrators of the School of Ukrainian Studies of the Selfreliance Association in New York City gathered for a photo at the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year.

by Xenia Ferencevych

NEW YORK – On Saturday, September 14, following a solemn divine liturgy at St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church in New York City, a new school year of Ukrainian studies got under way. During a ceremony in the gymnasium of St. George Academy, assembled students were welcomed by school principal Ivan Makar and administrator Natalia Duma. The now-traditional ringing of the “first bell” followed their remarks.

Every Saturday during the academic year, the School of Ukrainian Studies of the Selfreliance Association offers parents and children in the New York area a curriculum that teaches the schoolchildren and enriches their knowledge of Ukrainian language, culture, literature, geography and history, and also provides lessons in religion. Enrollment typically runs around 200 students in grades K-12. A pre-school under the auspices of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 83 is available for children age 3-5.

Principal Makar believes that scholarship and knowledge are the keys that open the world to students. He encourages them to study diligently in American school

while always remembering that they are descendents of a great people. “Our children differ from the average American because they can be proud of a thousand-year history and culture. Students should learn from their teachers every Saturday in Ukrainian school. Teachers do all they can so that, as [Taras] Shevchenko taught us, their students ‘learn, think, read and never shun their own.’”

The school administration for the 2013-2014 academic year includes: Mr. Makar (principal), Talia Danysh (vice-principal administrative affairs), Chrystyna Vasylykiv (vice-principal, academic affairs), Natalia Duma (school administrator). Lower school teachers are: Natalia Guga (kindergarten), Ulana Hanuszcak (Grade 1), Olya Kit-Wowk (Grade 2), Natalia Yezerska (Grade 3), Svitlana Hrabovska (Grade 4), Victoria Slobodian (Grade 5), Anna Tupytsia (Grade 6) and Halyna Halychanivska (Grade 7th). Upper school teachers (grades 8-12) are: Olya Matviyishyn (Ukrainian), Valentyna Hlushak (history), Nastya Antoniv (literature), Serhiy Shokalo (geography) and Mykhajlo Barabash (culture). Sisters Yulia Bronyska and Vera Yulyk teach religion; Elya Romanyshyn is the choral director; and Zoriana Vynar is the school librarian.

With the help of the Parents' Committee, teachers and administrators commit their time, effort and attention to students with the intention of educating cognizant citizens of Ukrainian heritage. That is why, in addition to the core curriculum, the school organizes cultural, artistic and recreational activities and participates in community events. This year's events include: a carnival, November 2; an 80th anniversary commemoration of the Holodomor, November 23; a Christmas concert, December 14; a concert marking the 200th anniversary of Shevchenko's birth, March 8, 2014; and Easter “hahilky,” April 20, 2014.

The School of Ukrainian Studies in New York City has entered its 64th year thanks to the efforts and support of hundreds of former teachers, administrators and parents. It is also vital to acknowledge the moral and spiritual guidance of St. George Church's priests and the generous financial assistance of the Selfreliance Association.

* * *

Ukrainian studies classes take place every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The school is located at 215 E. Sixth St., New York, N.Y. 10003. For more information visit the school's website: www.ukrainianschoolnyc.org.

Hartford school begins new academic year



HARTFORD, Conn. – St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic School began its school year on Saturday, September 7. The faculty and staff welcomed back the students after a wonderful summer off. The school, which is part of St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Parish in Hartford, Conn., celebrated its first day with students attending liturgy in the morning, followed by activities, lunch and studies. Currently over 75 students are enrolled in this school. On opening day, faculty and staff wished their students a very productive and fun-filled educational year.

– Christina Iwanik

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- October 17
New York
Kinofest film festival, "Select Short Films," Ukrainian Institute of America, 212-288-8660 or www.kinofestnyc.com
- October 19, 26
Pittsburgh
Hoverla Ukrainian American Film Festival, Ukrainian Community of Western Pennsylvania, Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, www.ucowpa.org
- October 19
Palatine, IL
Fall fund-raiser, Latin Night cocktail hour and dance, Ukrainian American Youth Association, Palatine UAYA Center, www.cym.org/ua-palatine
- October 19
Coraopolis, PA
"Vyshyvani Vechornytsi," Ukrainian National Women's League of America, Pittsburgh Airport Marriott, www.ucowpa.org
- October 19
New York
Lecture by Anastasia Grynko, "Ukrainian Journalism in Turbulent Times: Challenges and Ethical Dilemmas," Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130
- October 20
Colebrook, CT
Fall Foliage Festival and "Pechennia Baraboli," Bobriwka camp, www.bobriwka.com
- October 20
Uniondale, NY
Volleyball tournament, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America Uniondale, N.Y., branch, St. Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Parish Center, 516-804-3583
- October 20
Whippany, NJ
Wine and cheese reception, "Networking and Strategy Discussion," Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey
- October 20
Chicago
Presentation by Paul Goble, "Religion and Politics in Ukraine," Chicago Business and Professional Group, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, www.uima-chicago.org
- October 22
Montclair, NJ
Presentation by Mike Buryk, "Genealogy: Researching Your Immigrant Ancestors," Adult School of Montclair, www.adultschool.org
- October 25-26
Jenkintown, PA
Art exhibit of works by Zenowij Onyshkewych, Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 67, Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, 215-663-1764
- October 26
Olyphant, PA
Ukrainian Cultural Day show, Ss. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, 570-489-2271 or www.stcyril.maslar-online.com
- October 26
Palatine, IL
Presentation by Peter Potichnyj about the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, Ukrainian Veterans and the Conservative Veterans of America, Ukrainian Center, 847-910-3532
- October 26
Philadelphia
Halloween party, Ukrainian American Citizens' Association, 215-627-8790 or www.ukieclub.com
- October 26
New York
Presentation by Julian Kytasty, "Songs of Truth: The Art of the Kobzari," New York Bandura Ensemble, The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110
- October 26
St. Petersburg, FL
Art show, Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 124, Epiphany of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church, stpeteukie@aol.com or 727-421-0221
- October 27
Olyphant, PA
125th anniversary celebration, Ss. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, hierarchical divine liturgy followed by a banquet at Fiorelli Catering, 570-489-3489 or www.stcyril.maslar-online.com
- October 27
Chicago
Presentation by Peter Potichnyj about the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, Ukrainian Veterans and the Conservative Veterans of America, Ukrainian Cultural Center, 847-910-3532
- October 27
New York
Film presentation by Yuriy Shevchuk, "Holodomor: Technology of Genocide," The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110

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.



CELEBRATE with us & Save these Dates!

OCT 26 <small>2013</small>	Montreal Friends of UCU Fundraising Banquet <i>Saturday, October 26, 2013</i> Loyola High School Atrium, 2477 West Broadway
NOV 3 <small>2013</small>	New York Friends of UCU Fundraising Banquet <i>Sunday, November 3, 2013</i> Ukrainian National Home, 140 Second Avenue
NOV 8 <small>2013</small>	"Jazz it up for UCU, Chicago" <i>Friday, November 8, 2013</i> Ukrainian Cultural Center, 2247 West Chicago Avenue
NOV 10 <small>2013</small>	Chicago Friends of UCU Fundraising Banquet <i>Sunday, November 10, 2013</i> Ukrainian Cultural Center, 2247 West Chicago Avenue
NOV 16 <small>2013</small>	Calgary Friends of UCU Fundraising Banquet <i>Saturday, November 16, 2013</i> St. Stephen Protomartyr UCC, Cultural Center, 4903, 45th Street
DEC 1 <small>2013</small>	Toronto Friends of UCU Fundraising Banquet <i>Sunday, December 1, 2013</i> UNF Trident Hall, 145 Evans Avenue

FOR MORE INFORMATION please contact the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation:
in the **US**, (773) 235-8462 or in **Canada** (416) 239-2495, or visit us at www.ucef.org



UKELODEON

FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Children enjoy Ukrainian Arts Camp at UAYA "oselia"

by Orysia Soroka

LIVINGSTON, N.J. – “Mom, when are we going to start dancing with Pan Andriy?” This question, coming from my youngest son, an electronics enthusiast, sounds very foreign and strange to me. The answer is that classes for new students at the Iskra Ukrainian Dance Academy, based in Whippany, N.J., where Andriy Cybyk is the long-standing choreographer and artistic director, will begin in October.

I owe my son’s interest in Ukrainian dance to the Ukrainian Arts Camp, held in August at the beautiful Ukrainian American Youth Association “oselia” (resort) in Ellenville, N.Y.

“The purpose of arts camp is all-round development of the child,” chief counselor Victor Kurylyk told me. “Children who have spent time at the Arts Camp in recent years have experienced the spiritual riches of traditional Ukrainian arts and were exposed to a more modern manifestation of the culture.”

Embroidery, beading (making gerdany and bracelets), painting on glass, making pysanky, pottery, wood burning/carving, Ukrainian folk and ballroom dance, drama, singing, playing the bandura and the guitar – this is but a sample of everything that the campers were able to experience at the Arts Camp.

This year, the camp’s director was Zirka Kovbasnyuk, who perfectly applies her creative nature and organizational skill to camp life. Scribe Halyna Bartkiv was the



Participants of the Arts Camp “Descendants of Kozak Glory” after their final concert.

epitome of responsibility and friendliness.

On the 100th anniversary of the death of Lesia Ukrainka, Mr. Kurylyk, teacher of drama and modern technologies, turned to her “Lisova Pisnia.” The camp’s presentation of this mythological drama used videos with combined snippets of children’s portrayals of the story as well as the beautiful nature around oselia.

After art classes with experienced artisan and talented teacher Stephanie Shkafarovska, we joked that even a person with two left hands could learn to embroider and string gerdany. I was impressed by my 8- and 10-year-old sons’ gifts, and I proudly showed off the bead chain and bracelet to my co-workers.

Also I showed them a video of dances – “Pryvit,” “Spring Fantasy,” a dance from Volyn, “Kozak History,” “Hopak.” After only two weeks, Mr. Cybyk perfected these

dances even though in many cases he was working with children who had zero dance experience. The “Hopak” was the highlight of the concert – what dance better fits a camp with the name “The Descendants of Kozak Glory”?

We had a nice surprise during the concert: a show by masters of the martial Hopak who visited the oselia this summer. The intense movements of their dance captured the hearts of the audience, as if the spirit and energy of Zaporozhian Kozaks had touched us through space and time. During the camp, the guests from Ukraine conducted a martial Hopak workshop on the camp grounds and in the local river. They also conducted a ceremony of initiation into the Kozaks.

A well-known artist and potter, Ivan Bratko, introduced campers to the ancient traditions of clay modeling. During three days of intensive

training, children learned how to create drawings (self-portraits), watercolor paintings (landscapes) and clay sculptures.

Singing and playing the bandura have been always a favorite pastime for Arts Camp participants. Diana Vasylyk continued that tradition, choosing cheerful Ukrainian songs for the kids to sing during and after camp. Stefan Szkafarowsky, a singer of the Metropolitan Opera, gave a master class for the campers, introducing them to the mysteries of Ukrainian opera.

These are just a few of the reasons that I, and my children, appreciate this Arts Camp. Learning the Ukrainian heritage in an atmosphere of joy and creativity, where the instructors – themselves deeply in love with Ukrainian culture – transfer their love and skills to the next generation is simply invaluable.

(Translation by Sofia Soroka)

Kids’ dance rocks Wildwood during “Ukrainian Week”

by Adrian Horodecky

WILDWOOD CREST, N.J. – A multitude of Ukrainians gathered at the Crest Pier Recreation Center here on August 23 for a night of dancing and interactive entertainment.

Starting the night of festivities, the “Party Ptashat” kids’ dance was supervised by the “Three Bratchyky” – Mako Zawadiwsky, Steve Maksymovych and Danylo Santore – who led the children into rousing renditions of classic dances like the “Kolomyika” and current favorites like “Gangnam Style,” which played for three encores.

Up next was the “Club Crest” disco party, where groups of teens danced the night away. DJ Matey Liteplo provided



Youngsters enjoy the “zabava” in Wildwood Crest, N.J.

an assortment of terrific dance music and a dazzling light show.

The “zabava” (dance) is a fund-raising event organized during “Ukrainian Week” in Wildwood by the Khmelnychenky fraternity of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization. The proceeds go towards the Plast campgrounds Vovcha Trova, Novyi Sokil and Pysanyi Kamin.

The Khmelnychenky thanked all the Ukrainian vacationers who attended the zabava and contributed to this worthy cause. Next year will be the dance’s 10th anniversary in Wildwood.

Pictures of the 2013 zabava are available for viewing in the galleries section of www.xmel.org – the official website of the Khmelnychenky.

Michigan group attends World Youth Day in Brazil

by Natalia Boyko

HAMTRAMCK, Mich. —Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church’s Youth for Christ group under the leadership of the Rev. Daniel Schaicoski, OSBM, organized a trip to World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Our trip took place on July 19-30.

Over 4 million pilgrims from around the world participated in the World Youth Day journey in Brazil. During the first two days of our pilgrimage, the people of Jacareí welcomed our group from Hamtramck, Mich., into their homes and families. They were extremely generous, kind and spiritual people who introduced us to beautiful Brazilian music, dance, traditions, food and other aspects of their culture. We enjoyed Brazilian barbecue, played soccer, learned Brazilian dances like the samba and sang popular Brazilian songs. The people of Jacareí truly showed us how the simple things in life bring the greatest joy.

We participated in a beautiful liturgy at the parish church celebrated by Brazilian and American clergy. The homily was given in Portuguese and English by our pastor, Father Schaicoski.

On our way to Rio de Janeiro, we visited the city of Aparecida, where the grand Basilica of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Aparecida was built in honor of the miracle that had occurred in a nearby town called Guaratinguetá. In 1717, three fishermen had set out to catch a large amount of fish for the banquet that was to be held for Pedro de Almeida, the governor of São Paulo. They prayed to God for help in their endeavors. Afterwards, they found a statue of the Mother of God and later the head of the statue in their net. These fishermen wrapped the statue in cloth and miraculously caught abundant amounts of fish. A chapel was built to house this miraculous statue, but now it is found in the Basilica of Our Lady of Aparecida. Our Lady of Aparecida is the patroness of Brazil and one of the symbols



Seen in Rio de Janeiro are: (top, from left) Maria Kupyna, Ulyana Kucherepa, Yuliya Yanushevka, (bottom) Oksana Melnechenko, Nataliya Boyko, Pavlo Krushchov and the Rev. Daniel Schaicoski, OSBM.

of the 2013 World Youth Day.

In the bustling city of Rio de Janeiro, where all the World Youth Day activities occurred, catechesis was available in many different languages each day and many spiritual events occurred on Copacabana Beach, such as musical and cultural performances, a papal welcoming ceremony, the Way of the Cross, an overnight vigil led by Pope Francis and the final mass.

The Way of the Cross was re-enacted by many performers on the main stage and along the sides of it, allowing all the people to spiritually connect with Jesus’ struggles and redemption. At the final station, Pope Francis invited the youth to rebuild the Church by becoming disciples of Jesus. His Holiness spoke of the three steps to becoming a disciple: listening to the Word of God, prayer, and service in order to bring the Good News to the entire World.

During our spare time, we visited the Corcovado Hill, on which the gigantic statue of Christ the Redeemer is located. The statue of Christ, his arms outstretched as if to envelop all of the Earth with his love, can be seen from almost any area in Rio de Janeiro. Our group of seven Ukrainian pilgrims also explored the beautiful Botanical Garden of Rio de

phrases such as “We are the youth of the Pope,” the unifying force of God’s grace made us realize that we were truly fulfilling the message of the World Youth Day theme.

Pope Francis encouraged us through his speeches to use all the knowledge and experience that we had gained from this World Youth Day gathering to go out into the world and to fearlessly serve God. World Youth Day opened up our eyes to all with which God has blessed us, allowed us to explore various cultures, gave us the opportunity to meet amazing people from around the world, and most importantly showed us the way to a better Christian life.

Nataliya Boyko, 17, attended Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Schools (Warren, Mich.) in grades K-8 and is now a senior at Regina Catholic High School (Warren). She is a member of Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church in Hamtramck, Mich., and of the parish’s Youth for Christ group. She is American-born; her parents, Mykhaylo and Lilia Boyko, are Ukrainian-born.

Janeiro and the famous Sugar Loaf Mountain, a nature’s wonder, from which one can see the entire breathtaking city.

The theme of this year’s World Youth Day was “Go and make disciples of all nations” (Mt. 28:19). As we walked through the streets of Rio de Janeiro, proudly carrying our flag and chanting with millions of people from around the world such

Mishanyna

The topic of this month’s Mishanyna challenge is ... ta-da... fall! See if you can find the colorful fallen leaves of the trees listed below in your neighborhood. (And, don’t forget: there are many varieties of oak, maple, birch, etc.)

ASH	ELM	OAK
ASPEN	GINKGO	POPLAR
BEECH	GUM	SASSAFRAS
BIRCH	LINDEN	SOURWOOD
CHESTNUT	LOCUST	SYCAMORE
COTTONWOOD	MAPLE	WILLOW

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	R	A	R	I	N	G	G	I
P	E	N	D	R	U	I	O	D	O	O	W	C	D	N
P	E	A	C	M	A	N	W	D	E	R	S	O	O	D
E	C	R	A	O	Y	K	O	O	N	A	I	T	O	I
L	H	O	K	G	U	G	O	L	L	O	D	T	W	G
S	I	D	A	L	A	O	D	R	Y	L	A	O	R	O
U	E	R	O	M	A	C	Y	S	Y	C	I	N	U	W
M	L	O	C	K	U	R	A	S	H	R	U	W	O	O
A	M	A	P	L	E	R	H	B	A	C	L	O	S	O
A	C	O	R	N	F	I	S	R	A	L	P	O	P	D
F	I	R	O	A	C	K	O	H	I	N	O	D	I	A
C	H	E	S	T	N	U	T	N	C	R	E	A	N	E
X	O	S	I	D	R	U	D	E	E	R	T	P	E	P
O	A	T	R	E	E	S	P	R	U	I	E	S	L	
S	T	R	E	E	N	L	O	C	U	S	T	B	O	A



A scene from the group’s arrival in Jacareí, where the Michigan youths are seen with their local peers.

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Tuesday, October 15

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Studies Program at the Harriman Institute, Columbia University invites all to a lecture by Dr. Anastasiia Grynko titled "Ukrainian Journalism in Turbulent Times: Challenges and Ethical Dilemmas." Dr. Grynko is currently a post-doctoral fellow and lecturer at the Harriman Institute, Columbia University, and is assistant director for research at the Mohyla School of Journalism in Kyiv. This event will take place at noon in the Marshall D. Shulman Seminar Room (Room 1219), International Affairs Building, 420 W. 118th St. The event is free and open to the public. For additional information call 212-854-4697.

Saturday, October 19

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites all to a lecture "Media in Ukraine: Challenges and Ethical Dilemmas of Contemporary Journalists" by Dr. Anastasiia Grynko, visiting lecturer at Columbia University in 2013. Dr. Grynko is deputy director for research and senior lecturer at the Mohyla School of Journalism at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy. In 2012 Dr. Grynko defended her dissertation titled "Media Transparency Through Journalists' Interpretations: Research in Ukraine" at the Autonomous University of Barcelona. Her research interests include media ethics and transparency, media and democracy, and media transformations in post-Soviet countries. The event will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For additional information call 212-254-5130.

Sunday, October 20

CHICAGO: The Chicago Business and Professional Group (CBPG) invites members and the community to a presentation by Paul Goble titled "Religion and Politics in Ukraine." Mr. Goble, a specialist on Eurasia, will discuss the geopolitical and geocultural fault lines in Ukraine and their implications for regional

stability, especially in light of the forthcoming European Union-Ukraine Association Agreement. Mr. Goble is a professor at the Institute of World Politics. Previously, he was dean at the Audentes University in Tallinn, Estonia, and served in various capacities in the U.S. State Department, the Central Intelligence Agency and at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. The presentation will be held at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, 2320 W. Chicago Ave., at 1 p.m. Admission: \$10 for CBPG members; \$15 for non-members and guests.

Sunday, October 27

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Museum will host a film presentation at 2 p.m. of "Holodomor: Technology of Genocide" by Dr. Yuri Shevchuk, Ukrainian Film Club of Columbia University. This two-part documentary (2005, Ukraine; 58 minutes and 53 minutes, Ukrainian with English subtitles, English voice-over and subtitles) is a detailed step-by-step factual account of how the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 in

Ukraine was conceived, executed, covered up; who its masterminds, perpetrators and apologists were; and against whom it was directed. Admission (including gallery access) is \$15; \$10 for members and seniors; \$5 for students. Tickets are available online at www.ukrainian-museum.org or at the door. The Ukrainian Museum is located at 222 E. Sixth St., telephone, 212-228-0110.

Saturday, November 2

PITTSBURGH: The Ukrainian Technological Society of Pittsburgh invites you to attend its 44th annual Dinner Dance and Presentation of the Ukrainian of the Year Award to Roma Hadzewycz, editor-in-chief of Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, at The Club at Nevillewood, 1000 Nevillewood Drive, Presto, PA. Social hour at 6 p.m.; music by Mosaic of Toronto. Tickets are: \$75 per person; \$50 for students. Black tie. Please contact board@utpsgh.org for an invitation. RSVP by October 25. For more information call 412-835-8714.

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 to be published for readers who may require additional information. Items should be **no more than 100 words long**; longer submissions are subject to editing. Items not written in Preview format or submitted without all required information will not be published.

Preview items must be received no later than one week before the desired date of publication. No information will be taken over the phone. Items will be published only once, unless otherwise indicated. Please include payment for each time the item is to appear and indicate date(s) of issue(s) in which the item is to be published. 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; payment should be sent to Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054. **NB: If e-mailing, please do not send items as attachments; simply type the text into the body of the e-mail message.**

Soyuzivka
for all seasons



Save the date!

Halloween Weekend!

October 25-27, 2013

FRIDAY

TREMBITA Opens – 9 p.m.
Featuring the music of EMCK – 10 p.m.

SATURDAY

MASQUERADE PARADE – 4:30 p.m.
Other details to follow

COSTUME ZABAVA – 9:30 p.m.
Featuring Svitanok

\$20 entrance fee for all guests

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