



**ХРИСТОС НАРОДИВСЯ!
СЛАВІМО ЙОГО!**

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Ukraine's civil conflict escalates with activists bloodied, foreigners banned

by Zenon Zawada

KYIV – Domestic enemies of the administration of President Viktor Yanukovich survived murderous attacks in recent weeks, while foreign critics are being banned from entering Ukraine as the conflict between the government and pro-Western opposition has escalated since the Euro-Maidan's launch in late November.

Tetiana Chornovol, a political activist who has written extensively about the opaque schemes of Ukraine's top politicians, was viciously beaten the night of December 24, 2013. The same night, Dmytro Pylypets, the leader of Kharkiv's Euro-Maidan, was stabbed 12 times in a downtown assault. Both attacks were attempted murders, opposition leaders alleged.

"I'm afraid that Yanukovich is being deliberately made into the Ukrainian Lukashenka," said Volodymyr Fesenko, a Kyiv political pundit, referring to Belarus President Alyaksandr Lukashenka, widely known as the last dictator in Europe.

"But while Lukashenka has definite resources and freedom to act, Yanukovich can end up in complete dependence to [Russian President Vladimir] Putin," he added.

Following in the footsteps of the Russian and Belarusian governments, the Ukrainian government has begun to target politically active foreigners. Georgian business executive George Kikvadze was informed on December 21, 2013, at Kyiv's Boryspil airport that he could not enter Ukraine.

"Border guards told me there is an order from the state Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) not to let me in," he told the Financial Times by phone. "I've been here for five years, building jobs and attracting investment. Apparently, I am now a dangerous revolutionary trying to take down the government."

Mr. Kikvadze was among 36 foreigners, mostly Georgians but also several Westerners, who were included on a blacklist produced by renowned Ukrainophobe and Party of Regions National Deputy Oleg Tsariov

The list originally surfaced on December 9, 2013, as a letter Mr. Tsariov submitted to SBU Head Oleksandr Yakymenko and Foreign Affairs Minister Leonid Kozhara. Yet few expected that the authorities would act on it.

On December 25, 2013, the SBU stated that any decision to forbid foreigners isn't based on any list produced by a national



Vladislav Musienko/UNIAN

Protesters hold photos of the beaten face of activist and journalist Tetiana Chornovol and demand the resignation of Internal Affairs Minister Vitaliy Zakharchenko at the Internal Affairs Ministry on December 25, 2013.

deputy, but determined on an individual basis, reported the Interfax-Ukraine news service.

Decisions were made as early as November as "one of the state's numerous

instruments to ensure its sovereignty, constitutional order, territorial integrity, as well as the economic, scientific-technical

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Triennial Congress of Ukrainian Canadians elects leadership, moves community forward



UCC

Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada and Ukrainian Canadian Congress National President Paul Grod are greeted by the Barvinok Ukrainian Dance Group.

OTTAWA – The XXIV triennial Congress of Ukrainian Canadians, held in Toronto November 8-10, 2013, set the policy direction and elected the leadership of the Ukrainian community for the next three years, re-electing Paul Grod as its president.

"I am honored to have been re-elected to lead the Ukrainian Canadian Congress for the next three years," stated Mr. Grod in a December 19 news release from the UCC. "I am also energized by the vibrant and stimulating discussion that took place in Toronto."

The leadership of the Ukrainian Canadian community from across Canada met in Toronto for the first time in almost 70 years and brought together some 400 delegates, observers and guests for a week-end filled with culture, policy discussion and debate over key issues. The congress was Chaired by Alexandra Chyczij, along with Daria Luciw and Irka Korpan as vice-chairs. Opening remarks were given on Friday morning by UCC National President Paul Grod and UCC Toronto President Oksana Rewa, the congress co-host.

The triennial congress was kicked off on Friday morning by an impassioned discussion on the theme "Limits on Freedom," featuring Canada's ambassador of religious freedom, Dr. Andrew Bennett; the rector of the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Dr. Serhiy Kvit; and the vice-rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University, Dr. Pavlo Khobzey. The session was moderated by Danylo Bilak, managing partner of the CMS Cameron McKenna LLC Ukraine office.

During the congress working session, Mr. Grod presented the UCC president's report for the last three years, which was followed by the financial report from UCC Treasurer Walter Dlugosh. The financial report highlighted the critical need to significantly increase the UCC's donor base in

order to sustain the programming and services required by our community.

Friday's afternoon plenary session was kicked off with a panel discussion on the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, featuring Mr. Grod, Andrew Hladyshesky and Vasyl Balan, moderated by Prof. Robert Magosci. The session focused on the UCC's concerns about balance in the museum and how key human rights issues such as the Holodomor, World War I Internment Operations and the crimes of communism have been minimized or completely ignored. Congress delegates called for urgent community action, as the CMHR is now scheduled to open its doors on September 20, 2014.

Friday afternoon's session concluded with a presentation by Mr. Hladyshesky on the importance of the work of the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko.

On Friday evening, the star-studded opening ceremonies were attended by several hundred guests. The opening featured Canada's political, religious and business elite.

The congress received blessings from Metropolitan Yuriy Kalistchuk, archbishop of Winnipeg and the Central Eparchy, pri-

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UKRAINE'S OPPORTUNITY THROUGH CRISIS

NEWSBRIEFS

Sen. McCain on Ukraine: Where do we go from here?

Following is the text of prepared remarks by Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) at the Atlantic Council event "Ukraine's Opportunity Through Crisis: America's Role in Europe's East" on December 18, 2013.

...As you know, I traveled last weekend to Ukraine with my friend and fellow member of the Foreign Relations Committee, Democratic Sen. Chris Murphy. We met with senior government officials, including President Viktor Yanukovich; the major opposition leaders; members of civil society, including the daughter of Yulia Tymoshenko; many of the so-called oligarchs; Ukrainian youth and students; and some of the hundreds of thousands of peaceful demonstrators on the maidan.

In all of my many years and travels abroad, I have never seen anything like what we witnessed last weekend in Ukraine. On Saturday night, we stood in the Trade Union Building overlooking the maidan while roughly a quarter of a million Ukrainians cheered and jumped up and down in a sea of sparkling cellphones.

On Sunday, when we addressed the crowd, it was estimated to be as many as a million people. There were Ukrainians of all walks of life, men and women, young and old, from all parts of the country. There were Ukrainian veterans of the Soviet war in Afghanistan helping to protect the demonstrators and securing our passage through the crowd.

And, as we spoke, thousands interrupted us with cheers of, "Thank you, U.S.A.!" It was one of the most moving experiences I have ever had.

Sen. Murphy and I did not go to Ukraine to interfere in its internal affairs... or to favor one leader, or group, or party over another – but rather to support the peaceful aspirations of all Ukrainians and to affirm their sovereign right to determine the future of their independent nation by themselves, in freedom.

Obviously, the major development since we returned was Russia's decision to purchase about \$15 billion in Ukrainian bonds and reduce the price of gas it sells to Ukraine – an estimated annual savings of \$2 billion to \$3 billion. This was a big deal, to be sure, but we need to recognize a few things about Russia's financial intervention.

First, all of this Russian money will not solve Ukraine's structural economic and political problems. It will at best postpone them, and likely exacerbate them. By most estimates, President Yanukovich has bought about a year before Ukraine is once again staring down the barrel of an economic crisis. We can all hope he uses this time wisely to address the sources of this looming crisis – namely, Ukraine's mounting debt burden, unsustainable currency peg, and large distortive energy subsidies – as the IMF [International Monetary Fund] has insisted. Somehow I doubt it. More likely, President Yanukovich will just kick the can down the road, and when the Russian money runs out in a year, Ukraine will again be facing all of the same problems it is now.

We also need to recognize the reality of how President Vladimir Putin's temporary bailout of Ukraine fits into his larger ambition toward Russia's so-called "near abroad." In recent months, President Putin has pulled out all the stops to coerce, intimidate, and threaten Ukraine away from Europe. Russia has blocked large amounts of Ukrainian trade, especially chocolate. It has threatened to cut off its gas supplies in the dead of win-

ter, which it has done before. And according to Ukrainian officials we met in Kyiv, President Putin threatened President Yanukovich with far worse economic retaliation if he signed the Association Agreement with the EU. President Putin stressed on Tuesday [December 17] that Russia's financial assistance to Ukraine is free of conditions. If you believe that, I have a bridge to sell you in St. Petersburg.

Russia's bullying extends beyond Ukraine to the other so-called EU Eastern Partnership countries. In the past few months, Russia coerced Armenia into joining its Eurasian Customs Union. It sought to prevent Moldova from signing its own Association Agreement with the EU by blocking imports of Moldovan wine, threatening to cut off its supply of gas and suggesting it would stoke separatism in Transnistria. Russia has blocked Lithuanian trade and deployed Iskander missiles in Kaliningrad. It is working to establish hardened borders for Abkhazia and South Ossetia by building fences that encroach deeper into Georgian territory. And today we hear news that Russia will soon deploy new rail-based, nuclear-capable ICBMs.

This pattern of behavior amounts to a Russian bid for a kind of quasi-imperial dominance over its neighbors – a newfound assertiveness that has only grown in the void left by the administration's absence of leadership in other parts of the world, especially Syria. President Putin has been emboldened by President Barack Obama's empty threats of red lines and the resulting loss of U.S. credibility. We now have the bizarre situation in which we are working with Russia to dismantle chemical weapons in Syria while Russia is supplying [President Bashar al] Assad with conventional weapons to continue the slaughter and maintain his hold on power. President Putin has taken a clear lesson from all of this: If the United States is unwilling to stand up to him in the Middle East, he can do as he wishes closer to home. And he has.

The key to President Putin's geopolitical ambitions is Ukraine. It is more populous than all of the other Eastern Partnership countries combined. It shares the same cultural, religious and historical heritage as Russia. And President Putin still does not accept that Ukraine is an independent country. He has said as much publicly. For all of these reasons, the Russian-led Customs Union cannot be viable without Ukraine. Indeed, the idea of a modern, democratic Ukraine that is part of Europe is President Putin's worst nightmare – because eventually, Russian citizens would look at that flourishing Ukraine and ask, "Why not us?" This is why President Putin will stop at nothing to thwart Ukraine's aspiration to become part of Europe.

That's the bad news. But we also need to recognize the good news: Regardless of the short-term pain that President Putin can inflict on Russia's neighbors, history is not on his side. The Eastern Partnership countries want the benefits of European integration – a reality that was demonstrated clearly last month, when Georgia and Moldova bucked Russian pressure and signed their own Association Agreements.

There are also reasons for hope in Ukraine. No matter how much money President Putin commits, he cannot change the fact that a majority of Ukrainians – not just in the west, but in the south and east as

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Journalist assaulted in Ukraine

KYIV – A Ukrainian opposition activist and journalist known for her investigations into corruption among senior officials was viciously assaulted by unknown attackers on December 25, 2013. Tetiana Chornovol, 34, was beaten up near Kyiv, hours after an article she wrote on the assets of top government officials was published. Ms. Chornovol, who writes for the Ukrayinska Pravda news site, is a prominent activist who has given speeches at recent anti-government protests. She was dragged out of her car and beaten by unidentified men before being abandoned in a ditch. The news site reported that Ms. Chornovol suffered a broken nose, concussion and multiple bruises. Opposition activists said she was in intensive care in the hospital. Ukrainian opposition leader Arseniy Yatsenyuk told reporters that "the attack is connected with Chornovol's journalistic work." He added, "I have a dashcam which was in Tetiana's car. We found it. It recorded how Tetiana was followed, how they tried to stop her and practically this is the main evidence, which could help to find the attackers." Internal Affairs Minister Vitaliy Zakharchenko said two suspects have been detained in connection with the attack and that police believe three people were involved in the assault. President Viktor Yanukovich's office said the president condemns the attack and urged police to find those responsible for Ms. Chornovol's beating. Several hundred protesters continued to gather outside the offices of the internal affairs minister, calling for his resignation. Some of the protesters held up pictures of the beaten Ms. Chornovol. Oleh Shaporenko, a protester, blamed the attack on the country's leadership. "This action shows the weakness of this leadership," he said. "When people run out of arguments they resort to beating. On top of that, [this time] they have beaten a woman, a mother, how could they do this?" (RFE/RL, with reporting by AFP, Reuters, and Interfax)

U.S. Embassy 'appalled' by attacks

KYIV – The U.S. Embassy in Kyiv released the following statement on December 25, 2013. "The U.S. Embassy is

appalled by the beating of journalist Tanya Chornovol. We condemn the attack and call for an immediate investigation, which unlike previous such incidents must result in those responsible being held fully accountable under the law. We express our concern at a strikingly similar series of events over the last few weeks, targeting individuals, property and political activity, apparently aimed at intimidating or punishing those linked to the Euro-Maidan protests. These are unacceptable violations of civil liberties that have no place in a modern, democratic society. We call upon the government of Ukraine to prevent any further incidents, open fair and transparent investigations into all the attacks that have already occurred, ensuring real results that bring to justice not only the perpetrators, but especially those who ordered such brutal attacks. (U.S. Embassy Kyiv)

OSCE representative condemns attack

VIENNA – OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Dunja Mijatović on December 25, 2013, expressed deep concern about journalists' safety in Ukraine following an attack on Tetiana Chornovol, a journalist with Ukrayinska Pravda. "Attacks on journalists cannot be tolerated, there must be no impunity for the perpetrators. I welcome that President Yanukovich condemned this attack and call on the authorities to conduct a swift and thorough investigation to bring those responsible to justice," said the representative of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). She also reiterated her call to the Ukrainian authorities to improve the safety of journalists which has unfortunately deteriorated in recent weeks. (OSCE)

Protesters call for probe into assault

KYIV – Several hundred Ukrainians have gathered outside the Internal Affairs Ministry in Kyiv on December 26, 2013, to demand the resignation of Minister Vitaliy Zakharchenko after an opposition journalist known for her investigations into government corruption was attacked. Tetiana Chornovol, 34, was dragged out of her car and savagely beaten near Kyiv early on

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A SENATOR'S BLOG POST



At a meeting with the opposition leaders in Ukraine (from left): Arseniy Yatsenyuk, Vitali Klitschko, Sen. Chris Murphy and Oleh Tiahnybok.

by Chris Murphy

Following are excerpts of a December 19, 2013, blog post by Chris Murphy (D), the junior U.S. senator for Connecticut.

... This Sunday [December 15, 2013], I traveled to Kyiv with Sen. John McCain to support the growing pro-European protests taking place in the capital city. It was the experience of a lifetime, and I want to share an inside look at how a trip like this comes together.

The lead up

I wake up Wednesday morning to the news that, overnight, the Ukrainian government brought bulldozers and riot police into Independence Square in Kyiv in another attempt to break up the peaceful protests that had convened in response to President Viktor Yanukovich's surprise decision to decline signing an agreement to begin the process of Ukraine joining the European Union. ...

As chairman of the European Affairs Subcommittee of the Foreign Relations Committee, and representing Connecticut which is home to many Ukrainian Americans, I immediately began drafting a Senate resolution that condemned the Yanukovich government's repression. On Thursday, I began to hear that Sen. McCain was considering travelling to Kyiv to support the protest movement, and since he knew I was also working on the resolution, he approached me on the Senate floor mid-day on Thursday and asked if I would be willing to join him. ...

Arrival in Kyiv

I took an overnight flight to Kyiv... I didn't sleep a wink, and landed in Kyiv at 9:30 a.m. having not closed my eyes all night.

Sen. McCain, who had been on the ground already for a half a day, is notorious for keeping insanely packed schedules when he travels and, as I walk off the plane, our State Department escort tells me that there is no time to go to the hotel because Sen. McCain wants me to join him at our 11 a.m. meeting. ...

The meeting is with President Yanukovich's national security advisor, who tells us the two things we want to hear: Ukraine's future is still with Europe, and there will be no more crackdowns on the square. I am pleased with how Sen. McCain and I work together, delivering a coordinated message, in this first meeting. ...It quickly becomes apparent that Sen. McCain and I, despite being of different parties and generations, are able to work well together.

The maidan

After a quick lunch, we head to the maidan. We hear reports of a half a million people on the square. Oh boy. ...

When we get to the edge of the protest,

we are hustled out of the car by a flock of security guards. ...We enter the square, which is surrounded by makeshift barricades that have been constructed by the protesters since Wednesday morning to better repel another assault from the police. The crowd, seeing a recognizable face in Sen. McCain, starts to close in around us. Their reaction is positive, but the shoving and jostling as security pushes the crowd back is both disarming and thrilling. It feels like we are in the middle of a revolution. We might be.

We are met behind the stage by Vitali Klitschko, the de facto leader of the political opposition. Mr. Klitschko is known best as a former heavyweight boxing champion, owning the second best knockout to fight ratio of any fighter in history. Now he is a 6-foot-7-inch member of the Ukrainian Parliament, and our host on stage. We wait for a few speeches to end, and we ascend the stairs. Holy moly. There is no way to be ready for what it feels like to stand on stage and look out at a half million people. Whoa.

Luckily, I get thrown right up at the microphone, so there is no time to get nervous. I start speaking, and quickly realize that the stage organizers have forgotten to give me an interpreter. Not many in the

audience speak English and my Ukrainian is rusty (read: non-existent). Realizing the mistake, a guy emerges from the crowd of politicians on stage to take the microphone next to me. My speech is short, but well-received. I tell the crowd that the U.S. Senate is with them, and that, as the youngest senator, I am especially proud of all the young people in the crowd and how they have maintained a peaceful protest.

Sen. McCain does a great job when he speaks next, and we descend from the stage to hundreds of thousands of people chanting "Thank you, U.S.A.! Thank you, U.S.A.!" Unbelievable.

Yanukovich calls

The rest of the afternoon is a blur. I meet with Mr. Klitschko and other leaders of the political opposition as Sen. McCain runs off to tape "Face the Nation." Then we meet with several of the leading Ukrainian oligarchs, who are wary of their country turning away from the lucrative European market, as well as a group of student leaders of the protest. We head over to the most watched Ukrainian TV station to do a live segment with their evening news show, when our State Department liaison pulls Sen. McCain and I aside and says, "Yanukovich's people just called. He wants to see you guys. At 9:30."

9:30 p.m.? It's Sunday, and I haven't slept since Friday night, and now I have to be ready for a meeting with the Ukrainian President at 9:30?...

After our TV interview, we head over to the Presidential complex. At 9:30 p.m. on Sunday the place is practically shuttered, but we are brought into an anteroom to await Mr. Yanukovich's arrival. He doesn't show until closer to 10, and we are seated in a big ornate meeting room, with Sen. McCain and me on one side of the table

along with the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, Geoff Pyatt (a super capable diplomat who has been with us for most of our meetings during the day), and President Yanukovich sitting on the other side along with his foreign minister and other deputies.

Sen. McCain and I give opening remarks, lasting about five minutes total, and then we sit, for the next 70 minutes, as Mr. Yanukovich launches into the longest monologue to which I have ever borne witness. He opens by restating his commitment to joining the EU, but spends most of the speech listing the slights he feels Europe has lodged against him and his country. At one point, he spends more than a few minutes talking about a disallowed goal by Ukraine in a 2012 Euro Cup match against England.

After over an hour, I gently interrupt, asking if it would be better if we had a back-and-forth dialogue. He relents. But make no mistake, Mr. Yanukovich is a tested, savvy leader, and he takes his time because he wants to leave us with no misimpression about his intentions: he will join Europe, but only on what he considers to be the most favorable terms to Ukraine. And he hasn't seen those terms yet.

But we hear good news too. Like his national security advisor, he promises that there will be no more violence at the maidan. And he assures us that he has no intention to sign on as a member of the Russian-led Customs Union. After over two hours, Sen. McCain politely ends the meeting (we sense that Yanukovich could have gone for another two hours), and we wearily depart the grandiose room. We walk outside, and the snow is tepidly falling on the quiet Kyiv streets. ...

We get back to the hotel at 1 a.m. ...

(Continued on page 4)

Connecticut Ukrainians gather to hear Sen. Murphy's presentation



HARTFORD, Conn. – Over 350 members of the Ukrainian American community of Connecticut (a portion of the audience is seen in the photo above) gathered at the Ukrainian National Home of Hartford in support of the Euro-Maidan and Ukraine's freedom and democracy on Sunday, December 22, 2013. Sen. Chris Murphy, who along with Sen. John McCain traveled to Kyiv on December 15, 2013, told the community about his experiences speaking to the hundreds of thousands of peaceful protesters gathered on Independence Square in Kyiv. FoxCT News covered the event on its 10 p.m. newscast; there were stories also in the Hartford News and www.thehartfordguardian.com.

– Myron Kolinsky

OBITUARIES

Jaroslav Rozumnyj, 88, professor, Ukrainian language/literature specialist

WINNIPEG, Manitoba – Jaroslav Rozumnyj, a retired long-time professor of Slavic studies at the University of Manitoba, died on December 8, 2013, at home with members of his family at his side. He was 88.

Prof. Rozumnyj was born on September 6, 1925, in Vychilky (now Honcharivka), near Ternopil, western Ukraine, where he completed his primary education. His high school education in Stanislaviv (now Ivano-Frankivsk) was interrupted with the coming of the Soviet army in 1944. Like many of his compatriots, he fled to the West.

As a displaced person, he finished his secondary education in Germany after the war. In 1950 he received a B.A. in philosophy and theology from the Ukrainian Catholic Seminary, which he began in Hirschberg, Germany, and completed in Culemborg, the Netherlands.

After coming to Canada in 1951, he obtained his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Slavic studies from the University of Ottawa. His academic career was primarily connected with the University of Manitoba, where he taught for over 30 years. From 1976 to 1989, he was head of the Department of Slavic Studies, where he reformed and expanded the department's program to become the largest in North America.

His teaching career began at Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario, where he set up the Ukrainian and Russian program (1960 to 1963) and also met and married his wife, Oksana, before taking up a position at Western Michigan University. As a visiting professor, he lectured at the University of Ottawa, the Ukrainian Catholic University in Rome, the Ukrainian Free University in Munich and at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia.

After retiring from the University of Manitoba in 1995, Prof. Rozumnyj served as dean of the Faculty of Philosophy at the Ukrainian Free University in Munich, and was named an honorary professor at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy in Ukraine. In the early 1990s, he was fundamentally involved in the revival of this 17th century academy. As a member of its International Advisory Board, he served as its representative in Canada.

Prof. Rozumnyj's special field of interest was Ukrainian language and literature. He is best known for his publications on 19th and 20th century writers and the Ukrainian

cultural experience in Canada. In the 1960s through the 1980s, he organized many literary readings for writers and scholars from Ukraine, the United States and Canada.

In his final months of illness with cancer, he completed his book on the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in Canada, currently in publication. He leaves unfinished a collection of his essays on Taras Shevchenko, being prepared for the 200th anniversary of the poet's birth.

He was recognized internationally and received numerous awards, including the Petro Mohyla Medal, the Taras Shevchenko Medal, the Plast Order of the Eternal Flame in Silver and the University of Manitoba Outreach Award, and was included in "Who's Who in the World."

Prof. Rozumnyj also took a leading role in the community. He served on numerous boards and organizations, including as president of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in Canada, the Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center, the Markian Shashkevych Center in Winnipeg, as board member of the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature, and as chairman of the Winnipeg Harvard Project Committee.

He was also involved in Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization. In the years leading up to the collapse of the Soviet Union, he played a pivotal role in the Canadian Friends of Rukh (Popular Movement of Ukraine) and co-founded and chaired its Manitoba branch (1989 to 1992).

Surviving are his wife and companion of 51 years Oksana (née Hrycenko); daughter Larysa (Jamie) of Ottawa; sons Roman (Andrea) of North Vancouver, Istan of Kyiv and Ruslan (Demetro) of Vancouver; grandchildren Oleksander, Boyan, Yurdan and Ulyana; sisters-in-law Vera Hrycenko and Zorianna Hrycenko-Luhova (Yurij, Artem and Adriana) of Montreal. He was predeceased by his parents, Hryhorij and Anna (née Parobucha), brother Ivan and sister Marijka.

The funeral liturgy was offered on December 14, 2013, at Ss. Volodymyr and Olha Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral in Winnipeg. Interment was at All Saints Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in Canada, 235 McGregor St., Winnipeg, MB R2W 4W5 or the Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center, 184 Alexander Ave. East, Winnipeg, MB R3B 0L6.

Aka Pereyma, renowned artist, 86

TROY, Ohio – Armenia (Aka) Bohumyla Pereyma, an internationally known artist who resided in Troy, Ohio, passed away peacefully on December 9, 2013. She was 86.

She was born in 1927 in Siedlce, Poland, the daughter of Andrij and Paulina (Elijiv) Klym, Ukrainian schoolteachers. She married Dr. Constantine Pereyma in 1948 in Erlangen, Germany, where they were both students. They emigrated to the United States and settled in Brooklyn.

In Brooklyn, Ms. Pereyma began her formal art education with the encouragement and support of her husband. They settled in Troy, Ohio, in 1959. She continued her art education at the School of the Dayton Art Institute (DAI) and School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She graduated with a degree in sculpture from DAI in 1966. From 1970 to 1980 she was the artist coordinator for the Welding for Artist Program at the Hobart School for Welding Technology in Troy.

She was an internationally renowned artist who worked in many media. In 2001 she received a citation and medal from the Ukrainian government for her contributions to the richness of Ukrainian culture in the world abroad. In 2003 she was honored by the Ohio Arts Council among its first group of Ohio Heritage Fellows.

Ms. Pereyma is survived by three children and their spouses, Marco and Agnes Pereyma of Binic, France; Barbara and Scott Farrara of North Haledon, N.J.; and Christina and Robert O'Neal of Troy; 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Her sister Tanya Osadca lives in Wethersfield, Conn., and her brother Justin Klym resides in Toronto. She was preceded in death by her husband of 62 years, Constantine, in 2012.

Funeral services were conducted on December 13, 2013, at Baird Funeral Home in Troy; interment followed at Riverside Cemetery, also Troy.

Ukrainian Canadian delegation meets with foreign affairs minister



Representatives of the Ukrainian Canadian community at a meeting with Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird (fourth from right).

OTTAWA – A delegation of leaders from the Ukrainian Canadian Community met with Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird on November 26, 2013, to highlight the concerns of the community regarding the situation in Ukraine, and the European Union-Ukraine Association Agreement.

"We met with Minister Baird to express our gratitude for the leadership role played by the government of Canada and the minister personally, in terms of supporting the European aspirations of the Ukrainian people," stated Paul Grod, UCC national president. "A full and frank conversation with Minister Baird took place and we are pleased with the support the government of Canada continues to provide regarding the rule of law in Ukraine and Ukraine's democratic development."

The delegation led by the UCC national president included: Renata Roman (vice-president, UCC National), John Iwaniura (vice-president, Canada Ukraine Chamber of Commerce), Orest Steciw (president, League of Ukrainian Canadians) and Taras Zaluskyy (executive director of the UCC). The group met with the Minister and Member of Parliament Baird and MP Bob Dechert, parliamentary secretary to the minister of justice.

The UCC expressed its concerns over the decision by Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers

to suspend the preparations for the signing of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union, expressed concern that the decision exceeds the authority of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and thanked Minister Baird for his leadership on the issue of EU-Ukraine integration.

The UCC also thanked the minister for confirming Canada's friendship and support for Ukraine at this critical time, and expressed concern over the extraordinary pressure being brought to bear by Russia in its effort to have Ukraine join its Eurasian Customs Union.

The delegation called on the government of Canada to continue to press for the release of Yulia Tymoshenko and informed the minister that the former prime minister wrote to the UCC on the occasion of its triennial congress (November 8-10) to note that she had called on the EU not to allow her imprisonment to be a barrier to signing the Association Agreement.

Minister Baird used the occasion to announce that Canada will be sending a 25-person election observer delegation to monitor the results of the repeat elections in five problematic districts where the results of the 2012 parliamentary elections were not certified by Ukraine's Central Election Commission.

Behind the scenes...

(Continued from page 3)

McCain and I ride to the airport together in the dark of the early morning. ...At 5:30 a.m., I board a flight to Munich, where we will get a connection back to Washington. I fall asleep on the first leg the minute my body hits the seat.

Home

We arrive back to Washington to hear bad news. That morning, President Yanukovich fired several of his deputies that negotiated the draft agreement with European Union, and announced that he would be signing new economic agreements with Russia (though not the

Customs Union). Our meeting with him made it clear to us that his mind had been made up on these subjects for quite a while, so we aren't surprised that we failed to persuade him otherwise.

Our trip was not designed to win over Mr. Yanukovich. Our goal was to provide strength to the people at the maidan, and to the political leaders that support the protests, so that they can continue to organize the critical mass of Ukrainians who want closer ties to Europe and United States. We, like the Ukrainian people, are playing the long game.

It has been an incredible trip, and I am looking forward to meeting with our Ukrainian American community in Connecticut next week to hear their thoughts on what Euro-Maidan means to them and the future of Ukraine. ...

Check out the websites of the UNA, its newspapers and Soyuzivka!

• www.ukrainiannationalassociation.org •

• www.svoboda-news.com • www.ukrweekly.com •

• www.soyuzivka.com •



THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM



Young UNA'ers



Peter Alexander Haidukewych, son of Natalia Labenskyj Haidukewych and Alexander Haidukewych of Madison, N.J., is a new member of UNA Branch 5. He was enrolled by his grandparents, Dr. Bohdan and Lydia Haidukewych and Irena Labensky.

Alexa Julia Kushnir, the daughter of Stephania and Jason Kushnir, is a new member of Philadelphia's Branch 162. She was enrolled with two policies, one from her grandparents Jurij (Secretary of UNA Branch 162) and Jolanta Fedorijczuk, and the second from her maternal great-grandmother, Catherine Jankowski.

Alexander, Katria and Liliana Tomko of Short Hills, N.J., are new members of Branch 37. They were enrolled by their parents, Anya Tershakovec Tomko and Brian Tomko.

Do you have a young UNA'er, or potential young UNA'er in your family?

Call the UNA Home Office, 973-292-9800, to find out how to enroll.

The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund: October

Amount	Name	City
\$200.00	Kashimer Daniel	Brooklyn, NY
\$100.00	Bilash Borislav & Natalia	Millburn, NJ
\$75.00	Hodiak Bohdan	Stuart, FL
\$60.00	Wolosenko Jerema	Brookline, MA
\$50.00	Kuczarskyj Bohdan	Minneapolis, MN
	Mcgrath Michael	Franklin Square, NY
\$45.00	Hazen Deanna	New York, NY
	Paslowsky Helen	North Brunswick, NJ
	Urban Peter	Cary, NC
	Zakala Andrew	Sun City West, AZ

\$35.00	Andrushko Roman & Nadia	Park Ridge, IL
	Dudycz Petro	Arlington Hts, IL
	Kark John	San Diego, CA
	Liedman Lydia	West Des Moines, IA
	Sidorowicz Wladyslaw	South Fallsburg, NY
\$30.00	Palylyk Jaroslaw & Alexandra	Tuckahoe, NY
\$25.00	Bubniuk Irena	St Andrews, NB
	Corvo Nadia	Colebrook, CT
	Motyl Maria	Sunnyside, NY
\$20.00	Clem Zwenyslava	Jacksonville, FL
	Horobchenko Ksenia	Warren, MI
	R & Volodya	

	Kryworuchko Anatole	Saskatoon, SK
	Maksymiuk Toma	Philadelphia, PA
\$15.00	Doboszczak Bohdan	Naugatuck, CT
	Pidhirny Bill	Stamford, CT
\$10.00	Hawryluk Stephanie	Cottkill, NY
	Iwankiw Yaroslav	Pasadena, CA
	Maksymonko G	Springfield, VA
\$7.00	Buzan Jerry	Pittsford, NY
\$5.00	Movchan-Novak Ola	Spring Hill, FL
	Sonevtsky Chrystia	Arlington, VA

TOTAL: \$ 1,157.00

November

Amount	Name	City
\$1,000.00	Mazur Leonard L & Helena	Mountain Lakes, NJ
\$250.00	Bihun Yaroslav	Washington, DC
\$145.00	Steck Ulana	Mississauga, ON
\$100.00	Courtney Laryssa	Washington, DC
	Gural Joseph	Bayside, NY
	Hladky C & A	Randolph, NJ
	Hlushewsky Irene & Bohdan	Harrison, NY
	Klokiw Wolodymyr	Rye, NY
	Kurylko Daria	New Providence, NJ
	Milanych Nickolas	North Port, FL
	Nowak Irene	Milwaukee, WI
	Pankiw Andrew	Upper Arlington, OH
	Pokrifcak Helen	East Chicago, IN
	Sereda Bohdan	New York, NY
\$95.00	Rud Victor	Ridgewood, NJ
\$65.00	Petryshyn Wolodymyr	Cranford, NJ
\$60.00	Mulyk Michael	Holmdel, NJ
\$55.00	Polanskyj Maria	Matawan, NJ
\$50.00	Holowsky-Chen Mary	Belle Mead, NJ
	Ivanonko Zenon	Vestal, NY
	Kashuba Ostap	Kildeer, IL
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	Melnitchenko Helena	Mann Owings, MD
\$30.00	Buniak Gregory	Morris Plains, NJ
	Shepelavey Anya	Columbia, MD
\$25.00	Barna William	Marlboro, NJ
	Davydovych Ihor	Montreal, QC
	Hirka Wsewolod	Katy, TX
	Hursky-Devassal Anna	Gwynedo Valley, PA
	Maziak Roman & Juliann	Bloomfield Hills, MI
	Murskyj L	Troy, MI
	Newmerzhyycky Natalie	Englewood, FL
	Prokopowych Irynej	Calabasas, CA
	Prynada Christine	Gaithersburg, MD
	Szafanski Joseph	West Bloomfield, MI
\$20.00	Dackiw Orysia	Vienna, VA
	Danylyk Oksana	Houston, TX
	Futey Bohdan	Annapolis, MD
	Hanas Orest & Zirka	Timonium, MD
	Ihnat Peter M & Andrea	Princeton, NJ
	Kilar Roman	North Fort Myers, FL
	Kondratiuk Leonid	Belmont, MA
	Mycio Mark	Old Bethpage, NY
	Smith Christine	Harrisburg, PA
\$15.00	Bejger Bohdan	Buffalo, NY
	Hlynsky Boris	Vienna, VA
	Kawka Wolodymyra	Drexel Hill, PA
	Kazewych Andrew	Williamston, MI
	Lobachevsky Oksana	Somerset, NJ
	Mirchuk Ihor	Easton, PA

	Mychalczak Borys	New York, NY
	Rakowsky Alexandra	Riverhead, NY
	Russnak Irene	Rochester NY
	Salak Wasyl William	New Hope PA
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	Samokyszyn Bohdan	Parma, OH
	Skirka Nicholas	Yonkers, NY
	Swrydenko Walter	Cleveland, OH
\$10.00	Fedeckyj Mary	Elizabeth, NJ
	Koblansky Myron	Charlotte, NC
	Leskiw Roman & Stacy	Farmington, CT
	Panycia Chrystya	Lincoln Park, NJ
	Prock Catherine	Frackville, PA
	Pyk Emil	Orland Park, IL
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	Semkiw Jaroslaw	Boiling Springs, PA
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	Dorozynsky Maria	North Port, FL
	Koltyk Silven	Livonia, MI
	Pidlusky Adrian	Alexandria, VA
	Pryshlak Natalie	Getzville, NY
	Trojan Nadia	Watertown, CT

TOTAL: \$4,380.00

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Two messages for the New Year

On New Year's Eve, as is customary, the president of Ukraine delivered his address to the people of Ukraine, whom he addressed as "Dear Compatriots." President Viktor Yanukovich acknowledged that 2013 was "probably the most difficult year in the history of independent Ukraine" – a "year of achievements and challenges, frustrations and new hopes." He claimed that "2013 became a year of progress for us" and stated that "Through maidans and national panel discussions, political arguments and sincere dialogue, we are moving the way of mutual understanding and national consolidation." (The English text of the message appears on the president's website.)

Incredibly, Mr. Yanukovich went on to say: "Focusing on our national interests, we continue moving the way of building the European Ukraine, the way of deep economic modernization and gradual improvement of the quality of people's life." And, he explained, "We continue working over the agreement with the European Union. We have restored the relations of friendship and brotherhood with Russia. ..."

The president referred obliquely to "misunderstandings and quarrels" within the big family that is Ukraine, and noted that "usually all the family members get together on the eve of the New Year, forgetting all the misunderstandings and planning their common future." He concluded his address by expressing his belief that "we have enough wisdom and experience, love and kindness to leave the distrust and conflicts in the past and move the way of dialogue and understanding," and underscoring, "I believe that 2014 will become a year of unity, development and success for all of us."

Mr. Yanukovich's words were heard as the protests of the Euro-Maidan continued and tens of thousands – 200,000, according to some estimates – gathered on Kyiv's Independence Square to sing the Ukrainian national anthem en masse and to welcome the arrival of 2014, as well as to demonstrate their continued hope for a Ukraine that joins its rightful place in Europe. They continue to gather on the maidan in Kyiv and in other squares throughout the country to manifest that they do not agree with the choices made by the Yanukovich regime; to condemn its policies directed against the people of Ukraine and its rampant corruption; to show their support for Ukraine's independence, democracy, civil liberties and human rights.

Also on the occasion of the New Year, over 50 citizens of Ukraine, activists representing various regions and social strata, recorded an address in the name of the people of Ukraine to President Yanukovich. In the four-minute video recording (you can see it, with English subtitles, here: <http://www.radiosvoboda.org/content/article/25217880.html>), they referred to "our children" getting beaten, jailed for no reason, sentenced like criminals. They expressed hope that they would "never have to defend our children and women from you and your criminal orders." They noted assaults and persecution of journalists, and violence against peaceful demonstrators, "even right before European politicians' faces."

"You said that this year would be the year of economic development and social justice. You have promised that all branches of power would insure the highest possible social effect... At night, on November 30, our students have felt the 'effect' on themselves in its full potential..." the speakers commented in their message.

"For the last three years of your presidency, Ukrainians have understood that your words and your promises are worth nothing," stated one of the activists. "Mr. President, I have understood that the future of Ukraine is in our hands, not yours," another activist emphasized. "Next year, we want to wake up in a strong and free country, not in a Soviet republic," said yet another.

The message concludes with a powerful and unequivocal statement. "We are Europeans. We will be in the European Union. With you or without you."

Did the president hear the words of his people?

Political analyst Oleksandr Palii commented to Radio Svoboda (Radio Liberty's Ukrainian service): "I surmise that most Ukrainians in their New Year's address to the president would say one word to him: 'Go!' Viktor Yanukovich promised to hear each and every one, but he has not heard millions."

Jan.
8
2012

Turning the pages back...

Two years ago, The Weekly's issue dated January 8, 2012, reported that Metropolitan Ilarion (Alfeiev) of Volokolamsk, head of the Department of External Church Relations of the Russian Orthodox Church (ROC), had stated the Church's concerns about the statements by Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church that believers of the Ukrainian Orthodox

Church – Kyiv Patriarchate (UOC-KP) are "the main Orthodox brethren" of Ukrainian Greek-Catholics.

"We cannot remain indifferent to the statements of the new head of the UGCC that the believers of the Kyivan Patriarchate are 'the main Orthodox brethren' of Ukrainian Greek-Catholics. The close contacts and even concelebration of Archbishop Sviatoslav with representatives of that schismatic structure unrecognized by any Orthodox Church are, unfortunately, an indication of the ignorance of the official position of the Moscow Patriarchate and disrespect for the canonical rules of the Orthodox Church," the metropolitan said on December 29, 2011.

Metropolitan Ilarion added, "I am deeply convinced that we cannot reach real mutual understanding and reconciliation between our Churches without mutual respect, in particular, in the area of the canonical system."

The metropolitan noted that after the election of Patriarch Sviatoslav, official contacts were established for the first time between the Greek-Catholic and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate. "Subsequent statements by [Major] Archbishop Sviatoslav

(Continued on page 12)

NATIVITY PASTORAL LETTER

A season for reflection

Pastoral letter of the Permanent Conference of the Ukrainian Orthodox Hierarchs Beyond the Borders of Ukraine on the approaching feast of Nativity of our Lord.

To the venerable clergy, monastics and faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church beyond the Borders of Ukraine and to our brothers and sisters of the faith in Ukraine:

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined." (Isaiah 9:2)

These words were spoken long ago to people living in anxiety, fear and despair, people feeling bereft of security, safety and any sense of God's presence. We hear them early on Christmas, forgetting that they were first spoken hundreds of years before the birth we celebrate. Human beings throughout our planet still yearn to know that a more gracious and divine reality is active and evident in our lives.

The Nativity, or as it is often referred to – Christmas – is here! The season has come and with it many joyous moments. What, however, is the real meaning of the Nativity? Is it the gifts under the tree, the lights in the windows, the cards in the mail, dinners with family and friends, snow in the yard, stockings hanging in the living room and greetings of "Merry Christmas" to those who pass us in the streets? Is this really what the Nativity is? For many people, the Nativity Feast is a time of sorrow. They do not have the money necessary to buy gifts for their children, family and friends. Many are saddened at Christmastime when they think of their loved ones who will not be able to come home to join in the festivities. A turkey or ham dinner may be only a wish and not a possible reality for some.

Yet, the Nativity Feast can be a season of great joy, especially if we remember that through it God showed His great Love for us. It can be a time of healing and renewed strength. You see, Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to

be incarnate – to become one of us. His nativity brought great joy to the world. Shepherds, wise men and angels all shared in the excitement of knowing about this great event. They knew this was no ordinary child. The prophets had told of His coming hundreds of years before. The star stopped over the cave in Bethlehem to mark the way for those who were searching for this special child.

The Nativity is also a season for reflection: What is it about Christmas that draws people together? Why do we go to grandma's house for a big dinner or visit family and friends who we see but once a year to exchange presents? Why do we attend one Christmas party after another with people we don't really know? Whatever the reason, it should cause us to reflect deeply about the fact that no one wants to be alone at Christmas. Christmas has become a time for gift giving. Gifts are a sign of the love and friendship people have for one another. Gift giving, however, and perhaps the expectation of gifts can get out of hand. The desire for the latest fashion or gadget can become more important than the friendship a gift symbolizes. Sometimes people judge friendship more by the value of the gifts they are given rather than the value of the person who gives them – a dangerous path to tread – a path that can lead to the breaking down of relationships and the cause of loneliness when we want most to not be alone.

Jesus Christ comes as Savior for all, not just for a select few. His Nativity is God's proclamation that we all matter and that we belong to Him and to one another. The message of His Nativity was first announced to shepherds – people living on the margins of society and often not trusted by others. The angels proclaimed: "Glory to God on High, and peace and good will amongst all people," enabling strangers to become friends and enemies to be reconciled. In that journey towards friendship and the recognition of our common humanity, we discover a freedom that

(Continued on page 24)



"Angel Herald" by Marta Anna (as reproduced on a Christmas card released by the Ukrainian National Association).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UCCA response to Basil Tarasko

Dear Editor:

At a time of a national crisis in Ukraine, where all sides are uniting, it was shocking to read Basil Tarasko's divisive letter to the editor (December 8) regarding the Mets Citi Field Ukrainian Heritage Night event.

To address your letter, let's first state that UCCA nationally and its local branches have worked for the good of the Ukrainian community in the U.S. on a regular basis for many, many years. Most of that work is done on a voluntary basis, and no one should have the audacity to scold an entire organization and its local branches over "an idea" that you had to send some baseballs to Ukraine.

In addition, there is no reason to name individuals in the organization and smear their names in the press. Although you state that "all remained silent" regarding getting the baseballs for you, the opposite is the actual truth. Many members of the national and local branches made calls and sent e-mails to the Mets organization on your behalf either for new balls or scuffed-up used balls. We did not receive a response from the Mets in a timely fashion based on your date requests.

In fact, we were very sympathetic to your goal of obtaining baseballs for Ukrainian orphan children, and we support your work with the orphans. We tried very hard to make it happen. The fact that it didn't work out is not due to our negligence, or lack of concern or support for what you do. In addition, we were in the middle of coordinating all the aspects of the Ukrainian Heritage Night.

It is also not a great idea to scold the Mets organization that for two years in a row has welcomed us to their stadium with open arms and allowed the UCCA to promote the Ukrainian heritage and culture. This type of letter does not bode well for relations with other non-Ukrainian corporations that may want to promote our heritage and that are just now starting to understand that Ukraine is a struggling democracy fighting for its religious, political and human rights.

Jaroslav Palylyk
Chairman, UCCA Westchester, N.Y.

Tamara Olexy-Gallo
President, UCCA National

Liza Szonyi-Donovan
Assistant director, UCCA National

Ihor Czernyk
Coordinator, Ukrainian Heritage Night
New York

Still more about 'Kobzar' translations

Dear Editor:

I prefer to note what Watson Kirkconnell and Constantine Andrusyshen accomplished with their 1964 translation of the "Kobzar," and to leave those interested to fully answer the question posed by Bohdan Pasichny in his December 1 letter to the editor about what they did not do. I will only indicate that the Canadian translators footnoted some deleted sections in their edition. Other omissions can be cross-referenced against an unabridged and uncensored Ukrainian "Kobzar," particularly poems that Taras Shevchenko substantially reworked after exile and those that he

wrote in Russian.

Kirkconnell and Andrusyshen were my constant companions as I worked on my translation. Though my approach is completely different from theirs, I kept their pioneering rendition beside my computer monitor and often accepted their precedent when a word or phrase could be interpreted in more than one way. I also admire their command of vocabulary and effort at conveying the fact that Shevchenko rhymed his poetry. I hope yet another translator will enhance the best of Kirkconnell, Andrusyshen and my own translation to publish another one that rejects the claim by some Shevchenko scholars that he is "impossible" to translate into English. So was the Bible until King James improved upon earlier versions to create a masterpiece.

In the introduction to my work, I explain the dearth of complete "Kobzar" translations by giving grudging recognition to the Kremlin for not only inhibiting Ukrainian intellectual activity, but also keeping Ukraine invisible to the world for centuries. It was a genocidal endeavor carried out through enslavement, isolation, deportation and slaughter of Ukrainians by the millions; through character assassination of heroes and selective revision of history; through prohibitions on the academic use of the Ukrainian language and other repressive means.

I am heartened, however, that a new generation is demanding its right to live freely, justly and prosperously as Ukrainians. It is also lending credence to Shevchenko's prophetic words that "our idea and our song will neither die nor perish." If this new generation finally breaks the chains that have shackled Ukrainians for so long, Ukraine will see more firsts not only in literature, but in science, medicine, commerce and the humanities.

Peter Fedynsky
Columbia, Md.

Whippany preschool deserves plaudits

Dear Editor:

Throughout the years, I have had the opportunity to share with readers of The Ukrainian Weekly some of my adventures as a dancer and a teacher in many parts of the country and world. Now, I am happy to share a new adventure with you that does not center around dance, the adventure of parenthood!

My youngest daughter, Olesya, is now two and a half years old and, given my and my wife's teaching schedules, we do not need daycare or a babysitter for most of the day. However, after becoming involved with the Ukrainian Learning Academy, located in the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, we have started taking Olesya there three times a week.

Our community is blessed to have a bilingual, Ukrainian and English pre-school and daycare for our children. Oksana Petryna and her staff, with a low teacher to student ratio, keep our kids active and learning in a safe environment. Mrs. Petryna, a certified teacher for many years in Ukraine, brings Ukrainian ideas to American education. I remember my first years in Ridna Shkola, where we learned poems and songs, read stories and, unbeknown to us, were learning skills like reading and writing. This is the same atmosphere our kids are given at the

(Continued on page 24)

PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



Ridna Shkola: Happy anniversary!

Ukrainians have been coming to the U.S. for jobs since the Industrial Revolution. Here they established communities with churches, businesses and social clubs. Many also felt the need to perpetuate the language and culture of their ancestors and so, starting in the first decade of the 20th century, Ukrainian heritage schools were born.

I'm a product of those "Ridna Shkola" schools. My two brothers, our parents and I moved to Cleveland on Labor Day in 1954. A week later, I was in the first grade where Pani (Mrs.) Stavnycha was teaching 15 or so of us the Cyrillic alphabet. But not only that: although I was just 7 years old – or perhaps that's why – I have vivid memories of her hair-raising account of the Holodomor, the Kingir uprising in the gulag just a few months before, etc. And, of course, we recited poems and sang. This is how you form consciousness and shape identity. But for Ridna Shkola, I probably wouldn't be writing this column.

Ridna Shkola in Cleveland, as elsewhere, was founded by immigrants who had been driven from their homeland by the horrific policies of Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union. The Soviets, who conquered western Ukraine in 1939, targeted many cultural activists (including my parents) for execution or deportation to Siberian labor camps. Also targeted were the "Ostarbeiters," young people forced to work as slaves in the Nazi economy and stranded in Germany after the war. Stalin saw them as tainted by Western influences.

Those who could fled: first to the displaced persons camps of post-war Austria and Germany, and ultimately to a new life in the U.S., Canada and elsewhere. The bitter circumstances of their immigration reinforced the refugees' determination to perpetuate their identity and culture.

The term "Ridna Shkola" is drawn from 19th century western Ukraine. Roughly it means, "our own native school." Already in 1950 there were informal classes at the Ukrainian National Home; then, in the fall of 1953, educators and organizers formally established the "Ridna Shkola" Association in Cleveland, led by Ivan Fur, a grocer whose real vocation was the Ukrainian community. In January 1954, "Ridna Shkola" was incorporated as a non-profit organization in the state of Ohio and joined the Educational Council of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), which to this day coordinates a nationwide network of Ukrainian heritage schools.

The first director of Cleveland's Ridna Shkola was the distinguished scholar Volodymyr Radzykevych, author of the three-volume "History of Ukrainian Literature," as well as several children's books. For many years, he was librarian at the Ukrainian section of the Jefferson Branch of the Cleveland Public Library.

Ridna Shkola met every Saturday during the school year at Tremont Elementary School before moving to a settlement house a few blocks away. Enrollment grew from 95 students in 1954 to 307 in 1963. That's when the school moved to Parma, following the migration of Ukrainians and others to the suburbs. Since then, several thousand students have attended Ridna Shkola, with more than a thousand completing the "matura," which tests students' knowledge of Ukrainian language, history, literature, geography and culture.

From the very beginning, Ridna Shkola was distinguished by a highly qualified fac-

ulty. Above all, I remember Hryhoriy Golembiowski, who conveyed the beauty of the Ukrainian language like no other. Oleksander Oles's poem, "The Astors," took my breath away – I remember the lines to this day. Prof. Golembiowski also painted dramatic pictures of Ukraine's 1920s literary renaissance and made you feel the horror of the Soviet massacre of cultural figures in the 1930s, even as Famine was raging in the countryside. His lesson on the linguistic politics was chilling – how people, for example, were killed for using the letter "g."

When he retired from teaching in the early 1970s, he recruited me; many a Friday evening he helped me prepare lessons for the following morning. For his day job, Prof. Golembiowski worked on the line at Ford Motors.

Ridna Shkola had its downside, as well. Getting up Saturday mornings was onerous, and homework in Ukrainian was a burden. And, we students didn't always shine: a teacher once memorably rebuked me: "Fedynsky! If a dog were to eat what you've written, he'd become rabid and start biting people." Whoa...

Ridna Shkola depends not only on its teachers – most of them now Fourth Wave immigrants – but also on administrators who secure classrooms, make sure children have books, collect tuition, pay faculty and resolve a thousand details. For many years in Cleveland, Lida Parc fulfilled this role, ensuring a smooth operation. Supporting the school is the association, now headed by Christine Klek, following the path set by Mr. Fur and continued over the past half century by many others – all without compensation. And, as with other Ukrainian organizations, the school would not exist but for a small but dedicated corps of volunteers, and, of course, parents who wake their children Saturday mornings and drive them to school. I was one of those awakened 55 years ago and then, years later, along with my wife, woke our own reluctant children.

On Thanksgiving weekend Cleveland's Ridna Shkola hosted its annual "Maturalna Zabava," a ball honoring its 2013 graduates – they're smart, good-looking kids all on their way to college, and all with a strong grounding in Ukrainian language and culture. Hopefully, they'll fill the ranks of future leaders in the community. Hopefully...

Ridna Shkola – now celebrating its 60th anniversary in a dozen or more cities – is special. Based on my observations as a student, teacher and parent, I can assert that its students contributed in large and small ways to the historic struggle for Ukraine's independence. I also know that many a college application and professional resume lists Ridna Shkola and the matura. Its graduates have gone on to careers in journalism, politics, government, medicine, law, business, media, diplomacy, etc.

And now, a quarter century after Ukraine's independence, Ridna Shkola alumni continue to make a difference, not only in the Ukrainian American community, but also have a positive impact on the country their parents and grandparents left under such bitter circumstances.

Let's hope someone takes up a scholarly study about Ridna Shkola and its impact. It's quite a story, I know. So, happy anniversary, Ridna Shkola, wherever you might be located. May you prosper and thrive for years to come.

Andrew Fedynsky's e-mail address is fedynsky@sbcglobal.net.

FOR THE RECORD

Canadian prime minister expresses deep concern

The statement below was issued on December 11, 2013, in Pretoria, South Africa, where Prime Minister Stephen Harper and a high-level Canadian delegation paid their last respects to Nelson Mandela, former president of South Africa.

Canada is deeply concerned with last night's developments in Ukraine. The decision by Ukrainian authorities to use riot police against peaceful protests in Kyiv's Maidan Square is undemocratic and excessive. It is particularly troubling as it follows on the police violence against peaceful protestors, mostly students, only days ago.

Canada and the international community expect Ukrainian authorities to respect and protect the rights of its citizens, including the right to express their opinions freely.

Canada stands with the Ukrainian people during this difficult time and will continue to forcefully oppose all efforts to repress their rights and freedoms. The House of Commons dedicated time to discussing the situation in Ukraine yesterday.

We and like-minded allies will be monitoring developments closely and considering all options at our disposal.

Members of U.S. Congress send a letter to Obama

Twelve members of the U.S. Congress on December 13, 2013, sent a letter to President Barack Obama regarding developments in Ukraine. Below is the text of the letter signed by Reps. Brad Sherman (D-Calif.), Tom Marino (R-Pa.), James P. McGovern (D-Mass.), Mike Fitzpatrick (R-Pa.), Adam B. Schiff (D-Calif.), Grace F. Napolitano (D-Calif.), Trent Franks (R-Ariz.), Charles W. Dent (R-Pa.), Bill Pascrell Jr. (D-N.J.), Chris Gibson (R-N.Y.), Julia Brownley (D-Calif.) and Judy Chu (D-Calif.).

Dear Mr. President:

Over the past several weeks we have closely watched the historic, unprecedented demonstrations that have taken place across Ukraine. We share the frustration and anger of the Ukrainian people as the security forces have cracked down violently on these peaceful protests.

The protests embody the desire of the Ukrainian people to move their country toward greater respect for human rights, freedom of speech, freedom of the press and the rule of law.

President [Viktor] Yanukovich has long claimed that furthering Ukraine's integration with Europe was a key priority for his administration. His abrupt turnaround left many Ukrainians feeling betrayed and they subsequently poured into the streets.

The Ukrainian government has responded to these protests with violence and repression. Secretary of State John Kerry rightly stated that the United States views such actions with "disgust." We encourage you to make U.S. support for human rights and the rule of law in Ukraine clearly and directly known to President Yanukovich.

The protesters have a right to peaceably assemble and to make their views heard. Continued use of violence or the threat of force by the government is unacceptable.

We stand together in our desire to see an independent and united Ukraine which respects the rights of its citizens. We look forward to working with the Administration to help the Ukrainian people make this goal a reality.

Canada's ambassador for religious freedom criticizes intimidation of UCU officials

Andrew Bennett, Canada's ambassador for religious freedom, on December 19, 2013, issued the following statement in response to reports of pressure being brought to bear on the Ukrainian Catholic University.

Canada is concerned by the pressure Ukrainian security officials have been exerting on the administration and students of the Ukrainian Catholic University over the past weeks in Lviv, Ukraine. Freedom of speech, freedom of assembly and the freedom of religious educational institutions to operate without undue interference are

important principles of any truly democratic country.

As Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird has stated, heavy-handed actions are of concern, not only to Canada, but to democracies around the world.

Canada notes the important and peaceful role played by the clergy and faithful of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church and many other religious leaders in recent weeks in Ukraine.

We will continue to stand with those Ukrainians who believe in freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

UCC slams Yanukovich-Putin sellout

The statement below was released by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress on December 20, 2013.

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress condemns the agreement signed by Presidents Viktor Yanukovich and Vladimir Putin in Moscow, which places Ukraine completely under Russia's economic, political and cultural sphere of influence. The minutes of the sixth meeting of the Russian-Ukrainian Interstate Commission on December 17, 2013, were posted on the Kremlin website http://news.kremlin.ru/ref_notes/1585.

While analysts and politicians are only discussing the \$15 billion announced purchase of Ukrainian bonds by Russia and a discount on gas prices, the real issue is what Ukraine relinquished in return.

The agreement creates a common industrial policy and joint ventures in strategic areas of Ukraine's economy such as gas, aerospace and aeronautics, nuclear energy, shipbuilding and transportation. Among the items found in the document are the "convergence of technical regulations of the Customs Union and Ukraine" and the inclusion of "the Russian ruble to the first group of foreign currencies and precious metals of the National Bank of Ukraine."

Article 28 requires both countries to "develop mechanisms of interaction at the level of law enforcement and intelligence agencies" under the guise of cooperation for the Sochi Olympics.

"In fact, without formally joining Mr. Putin's Eurasian Customs Union, President Yanukovich has agreed to maximum cooperation and has accepted wholesale integration with Russia," stated Ukrainian Canadian Congress President Paul Grod. "This deal will only lead to a loss of Ukrainian sovereignty, as well as economic, political and cultural servitude to Moscow."

Furthermore, this deal provides Russia with a veto on Ukraine's accession to the European Union or any other trade agreements. It requires Ukraine to "refrain from unilateral actions related to the implementation of the policy of import substitution, which can cause economic harm to each other" (Article 2).

A significant focus of the agreement was made on joint Ukrainian and Russia military cooperation and the entrenchment of the Russian military presence on

the territory of Ukraine. Specifically, Mr. Yanukovich agreed to "increase the participation of the Russian Federation in the development of socio-economic sphere of Sevastopol and other settlements - locations of the military formations of the Russian Black Sea Fleet on Ukrainian territory." He further agreed to allow the Russian fleet to enter and exit Ukrainian territory without restrictions (Article 22) and to allow the rearmament of the Russian Black Sea Fleet (Article 24).

Ukraine furthermore agreed to "the development and deepening of cooperation in the field of secondary education" in an agreement between the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine (Article 30).

"Of no less importance is the fact that, in forging closer economic and political ties with Russia while distancing Ukraine from the possibility of expanding its relationship with Europe, the agreement has essentially curtailed all prospects for Kyiv undertaking the desperately needed reforms to its economy, judicial system and political institutions," stated Jars Balan, chair, UCC Canada Ukraine Committee. "These, along with gross mismanagement of Ukraine's finances and the cynically divisive strategies used by the ruling coalition to maintain its tenuous hold on power, are responsible for bringing Ukraine to the point of bankruptcy and the country to the brink of fragmentation."

In addition to selling Ukraine's economic future to Russia, Ukraine's president surrendered perhaps Ukraine's most important asset - its identity. By signing the "Plan of Ukrainian-Russian Measures on Joint Celebration of the 200th Anniversary of T.H. Shevchenko's Birthday in 2014," Mr. Yanukovich surrendered the most iconic symbol of Ukraine's national identity to Russia. "Taras Shevchenko was the poet who did much to unite our nations," stated Mr. Yanukovich. "He was also a man of great foresight, who had far-reaching vision and left us a great legacy."

In truth, Shevchenko was a champion of liberty and Ukraine's distinct language and culture, for which he was relentlessly persecuted by the imperial tsarist state whose symbols President Putin has increasingly revived alongside those of the totalitarian Soviet state.

Ukrainian Catholic University declaration on civil disobedience

The declaration below was issued by the Ukrainian Catholic University on December 11, 2013. It was adopted that day at a general assembly at UCU.

Last night in Kyiv, human blood was spilled again. Brutal invaders again attacked peaceful demonstrators. Human Rights Day turned into the Day of Cruelty Against Peaceful People.

President Viktor Yanukovich has not learned anything. No one has persuaded him, and nothing has stopped him. He and his government are choking in their own impunity and ostensible power. Even the scant opportunity for dialogue that the people gave him was trampled on.

This terrible night of Euro-Maidan, if not for the heroic opposition of the demonstrators, would have been in line

with the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre and the Night of Broken Glass. After this night, to follow the orders of the government would be contrary to human conscience. When from the Maidan dozens of innocent people, beaten, were taken in police vans to an unknown destination, President Yanukovich stopped being the president of Ukraine and his cronies, the government of our country.

The community of the Ukrainian Catholic University calls for civil disobedience against the president and his government and, together with the Euro-Maidan and - we believe - all the Ukrainian people, seeks the immediate resignation of the current government, the formation of an interim government, and the declaration of early elections for all governmental bodies.

We urge all universities in Ukraine to make this only possible decision.

We urge the international community not only in words but in deeds to support the Ukrainian people.

We bow our heads in deep respect to the defenders of the Euro-Maidan. You defended the dignity and honor of Ukraine. Thank you!

And together with the bishops of the Synod of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, "we pray to the Almighty for peace, unity, justice and victory of truth in our nation. In the midst of these trials let the words of Jesus Christ, which were heard in all our churches on Sunday, support us: 'Fear not, only believe, and she shall be saved' (Luke 8:50)."

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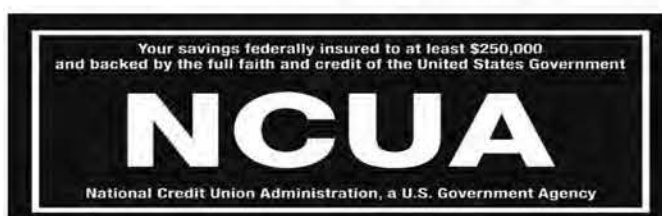
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Harmonious voices fill galleries of Ukrainian Museum with Christmas cheer

by Ihor Slabicky

NEW YORK – Holiday music is arguably the best way to get your Christmas spirit going, and there was plenty of spirit at the sold-out concert on December 7, 2013, here at The Ukrainian Museum. Performing for a very appreciative audience, the Dumka Chorus, under the direction of Vasyl Hrechynsky, presented a program of familiar carols and a few remarkable arrangements.

The evening began with a moment of silence in tribute to the wintry protests called Euro-Maidan that were taking place in Ukraine, with the hope expressed that the crisis be resolved peacefully.

Introductions and announcements throughout the program were made by Paul Liteplo, the president of Dumka and a

member of the chorus.

The performance opened with Artem Vedel's "Irmos," followed by "Z Namy Boh," with solos by Mykola Lutsak and Ihor Stasiuk. Natalia Vashchenko accompanied the chorus on the piano. Dumka continued with "Boh Predvichniy," an arrangement by Alexander Koshetz, and "Nova Radist Stala" as arranged by Kyrylo Stetsenko.

The shchedrivka "A v Yerusالمي, Rano Zadzvonyly" featuring a solo by Andriy Gavdanovich, segued gently into "Dzvony Dzvonyat," a contemporary piece composed by Marta Lozynska – both works enhanced by the delicate tones of the chorus that were reminiscent of distant church bells.

Next, choirsters sang an arrangement by Tadey Kupchynskiy of "Ne Plach, Rakhyle," a perennial favorite for many, with a pow-

erful solo by Roland Liteplo. This first portion of the concert was capped by the ever-popular "Shchedryk" by Mykola Leontovych, known throughout the world as "Carol of the Bells."

A string quartet – Iryna Kit, first violin; Inesa Dekailo, second violin; Jason Mello, viola; and Daniel Go, cello – enriched the performance by joining Dumka for the second half of the concert. The musicians, together with the chorus, performed two works arranged by Maestro Hrechynsky: the classic "Khrystos Narodysia" and the traditional "Try Slavni Tsari."

"Stille Nacht" by Franz Gruber was the vehicle for alto Iryna Ravenburg and tenor Wasyl Szeremeta, superbly supported by the chorus singing in German, English and Ukrainian. Backed by the entire ensemble, soloist Swiatoslava Kaczaraj delivered a

moving rendition of "Oh, Holy Night" by Adolphe Adam. The audience rewarded her passionate delivery with extended rounds of applause and well-deserved outcries of "Brava!"

One of the special surprises of the evening was Michael Clawson's arrangement of "The First Noel – Pachelbel's Canon in D." As the string quartet and pianist played the "Canon in D," the chorus sang "The First Noel," an unexpectedly well-matched combination – a refreshing and truly innovative performance of the two standards.

To close the evening, Maestro Hrechynsky chose the "Hallelujah" chorus from George Frideric Handel's "Messiah." It was an emotional and rousing interpretation that brought the audience to its feet, with loud applause for this and for all of the inspiring Christmas songs in the program.

Ukraine's civil...

(Continued from page 1)

and defense potential of Ukraine," the statement said.

The SBU wouldn't confirm who else was banned from Ukraine besides Mr. Kikvadze, an executive at Ukraine's Terra food conglomerate

Among those of the Ukrainian diaspora on the Tsariv blacklist are Myron Wasyluk, a Cleveland native and senior vice-president and Ukraine managing director for PBN Hill and Knowlton Strategies, as well as Dr. Taras Kuzio, a British citizen who currently serves as a research associate of the Centre for Political and Regional Studies at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

Mr. Wasyluk was a political advisor and speechwriter for former President Viktor Yushchenko, and performed political consulting work for the Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reform (UDAR) during its 2012 parliamentary campaign. His wife is Maria Ionova, an UDAR national deputy.

Indeed Mr. Wasyluk told The Weekly he thinks he was placed on the list as "harassment due to my wife's political activities."

"I consider it political harassment and selective application of the law if I am indeed barred from entry," he said, adding that the authorities haven't informed him of any measures and he intends to continue working and living in Ukraine as a permanent resident.

Another Westerner on the blacklist is Brian Fink, a deputy program officer for the U.S. Agency for International Development. A U.S. Embassy source told The Weekly that the SBU hasn't notified them of any attempts to ban the entry or presence in Ukraine of any of its employees.

Two other Westerners on the Tsariv blacklist are Alexander Rahr, program director of the German Council on Foreign Relations, and Andreas Umland, a German citizen and political science professor at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy since 2002.

"I am not affiliated with any political group," Mr. Umland told the Financial Times. "I am just here as an academic. Of course, I have criticized the government's foreign policy, but I have also criticized the EU policy and opposition parties here in Ukraine."

The blacklist also includes former Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili and Russian opposition leader Boris Nemtsov.

Drawing far more global attention was the violent attack on Tetiana Chornovol, 34, a Kyiv native and veteran of Ukraine's opposition movement.

As early as age 17, she was involved in the Ukrainian National Assembly-Ukrainian

Self-Defense Organization (UNA-UNSO) and got arrested during the Ukraine Without Kuchma protests of 2001.

She campaigned for Parliament in 2012 on the Batkivshchyna party ballot in a Lviv Oblast single-mandate district, during which she was beaten, dunked in paint (as had been reported in The Weekly) and had her car's tires pierced. She finished second to independent candidate Yaroslav Dubnevych, who was cited for numerous violations.

In the late 2000s, Ms. Chornovol became among one of Ukraine's most recognized journalists, largely for being among the few brave scribes willing to investigate the financial machinations of Ukraine's biggest oligarchs and expose them in writing.

Most recently, Ms. Chornovol published materials exposing a billion-dollar heist allegedly hatched by Dmytro Firtash, one of Ukraine's biggest natural gas traders (reported in The Weekly on December 15, 2013), and the extensive business activity between Mr. Putin and the Yanukovych family beginning as early as 2010.

"The research was done before the Euro-Maidan, when Yanukovych publicly stated his Euro-integration intentions," she wrote in her December 13, 2013, blog entry, "Putin with Yanukovych – a 100% Divvy Up [Deryban] of Ukraine."

"And the result of that research personally convinced me of the disingenuity of their public statements. The result was that I was right. Today this research is interesting in that it offers a deeper understanding of what awaits us in the Customs Union," Ms. Chornovol wrote.

The day she was beaten, Ms. Chornovol had been photographing the suburban mansions of Internal Affairs Minister Vitaliy Zakharchenko and Procurator General of Ukraine Viktor Pshonka.

She then posted a blog on the Ukrayinska Pravda news site under the headline, "A Torturer Lives Here! The Mansion of Internal Affairs Minister Vitaliy Zakharchenko," in which she described the location of his residence and its unique amenities, which include a helipad and a hangar.

Ms. Chornovol's research into the residences of Ukraine's oligarchy has been extensive. On Independence Day 2012, she trespassed onto the grounds of the Mezhyhiria residence that Mr. Yanukovych allegedly stole from the state to photograph and expose its luxurious accommodations. She was arrested after three hours of exploration.

While photographing Mr. Pshonka's residence on December 24, 2013, Berkut special forces began tracking her, eventually giving chase with sirens.

That night, she drove to her home in the Kyiv Oblast village of Hora when she was again pursued by at least one automobile, a

Porsche Cayenne that was involved in the chase earlier that day. Ms. Chornovol said a second car – yet to be identified by police – was also involved.

Video footage of the pursuit – recorded thanks to a camera recently installed in the car's dashboard – depicted a six-minute chase along the highway to Boryspil in which the Porsche SUV repeatedly crashed into her car, usually by speeding ahead of her and then suddenly stopping, or by side-swiping her car.

Eventually, the attackers blocked Ms. Chornovol long enough to approach and smash her window. She leapt out of her car only to be chased down by two men who savagely beat her.

Shortly after 2 a.m., she notified her colleagues of the attack from a hospital, where she was diagnosed with a concussion, broken nose and several hematomas, requiring extensive stitching on her face. She was unable to walk.

Ukrainians received a shock on Christmas morning upon being greeted with photographs and videos of the grossly swollen and bloodied face of the vibrant and pretty mother of two.

Photocopies spread through the Euro-Maidan, prompting a new wave of outrage that rejuvenated the protest, which had lost its momentum since the last police attack on December 11, 2013. Several hundred demonstrators took to the Internal Affairs Ministry headquarters where they demanded Minister Zakharchenko's resignation.

Former Internal Affairs Minister Yurii Lutsenko said in a newspaper interview published on December 26, 2013, the attacks on the Euro-Maidan stopped only thanks to warnings of sanctions – to be delivered within five days' time – from the EU and U.S. governments.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland personally met with Ukraine's biggest magnate and Party of Regions sponsor, Rinat Akhmetov, after the December 11, 2013, assault on the Euro-Maidan.

Though the Euro-Maidan still stands (with both Independence Square and the Kyiv City Council remaining occupied), its most active leaders remain vulnerable.

The same night of Ms. Chornovol's attack, a Kharkiv Euro-Maidan organizer was chased in the city's central streets before his assaulters caught up and stabbed him 12 times, reported Arsen Avakov, the city's leading opposition politician of the Batkivshchyna party.

The two assailants tried to immobilize Mr. Pylypets with gas and stabbed him in arteries in his head, revealing their murderous attempt, he said. Additionally, Kharkiv activists endured two cars being set afire while another car's wheel mounts were removed.

"It's practically a war," Mr. Avakov said. "The bandits have thrown down a challenge. Those wretches tried to realistically kill him."

The U.S. government released a statement on December 26, 2013, expressing its "grave concern over an emerging pattern of targeted violence and intimidation towards activists and journalists who participated in or reported on the Euro-Maidan protests."

"The violent beating of journalist Tetiana Chornovol is particularly disturbing," the statement said. "We urge the government of Ukraine to send an unequivocal message that violence against critics of the government and those who are working towards a modern, democratic and prosperous Ukraine will not be tolerated. The U.S. in concert with our European partners, will continue to closely watch the disposition of this and other cases."

Ukraine's police (Internal Affairs Ministry) immediately launched an investigation of the assault, arresting five suspects by the week's end (four of them for two months), collecting more than 20 items of evidence and questioning more than 50 witnesses.

Yet those arrested offered alibis about why they were not involved, with one suspect providing video evidence that he was at another location at the time of the crime. Another suspect offered his Internet activity as proof he was not at the crime scene at that time.

Ms. Chornovol suspected that several high-ranking government officials could be responsible for ordering the attacks, identifying the main one as Kyiv Police Chief Serhii Kusiuk. "They bumped into each other several times near the Kyiv City Council," Mykola Berezovyi, Ms. Chornovol's husband, told Hromadske TV on the Internet.

"When the EuroMaidan barricades were stormed – and beforehand it was known that it was him who led the beating of students and the violent dispersal of the Euro-Maidan – she ran up to Kusiuk and punched him in the liver. Truly that punch was a mosquito bite, but many saw it and that could have pissed him off."

As of December 30, 2013, Ms. Chornovol was in serious condition, mostly sleeping, Mr. Berezovyi said.

Leading opposition politician Vitali Klitschko, someone acutely familiar with facial injuries, offered Ms. Chornovol some healing advice when visiting her, namely "professional recommendations on how to quickly return to normal condition."

"Buy some crème, you need that one and that one," the boxing champion said he told her, his advice this time being applied to Ukraine's political jungle instead of a boxing ring.

TRAVELS

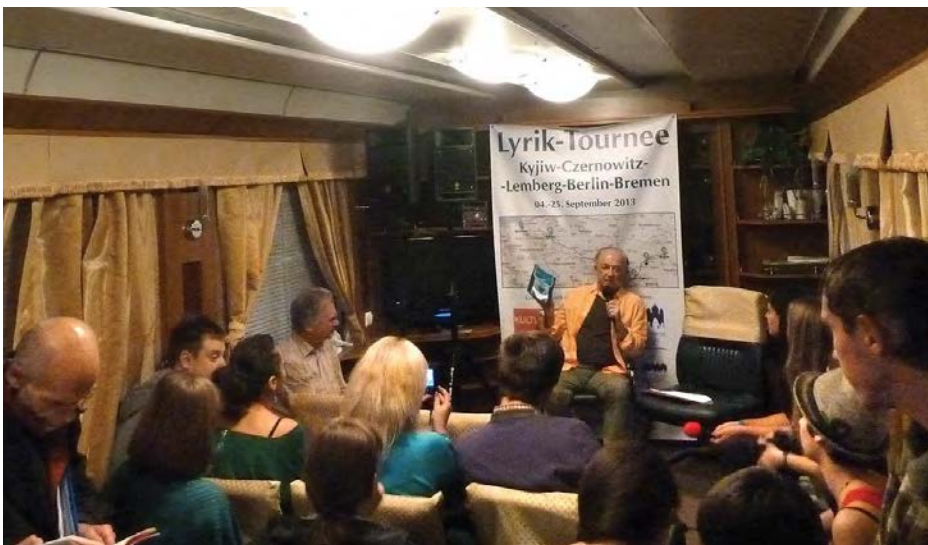


On Olha Kobylianska Street.



Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University.

Chernivtsi and its international poetry festival



Yuriy Tarnawsky reads his poetry during the train ride from Chernivtsi to Lviv.



The rose garden and the Olha Kobylianska Theater.

by Karina Tarnawsky

CHERNIVTSI, Ukraine – If you haven't been to Chernivtsi, you have a wonderful surprise waiting for you. This is a beautiful university town of some 250,000 people situated on a sizeable hill overlooking the Prut River with the foothills of the Carpathian Mountains looming blue in the distance beyond it.

The city was one of cultural centers of the Austro-Hungarian Empire known under its Germanized name Czernowitz and to this day has retained much of the Hapsburg Neo-Baroque architecture that had sprung up in it during those "kaiserly" years, endowing it with a strong family resemblance to the not too distant older sibling Lviv (known as Lemberg in those days); a more distant one, Prague; and the far off paterfamilias, Vienna. (A bronze statue of Franz-Joseph I stands in one of the parks in the city and the "good kaiser" patiently waits for anyone to come up to him and shake his outstretched hand.)

Chernivtsi lies close to the Romanian and Moldovan borders, and during the years between the two world wars it was under Romanian occupation. The town has always been known for its multi-ethnic character, with Ukrainians, Romanians, Germans, Jews and other nationalities co-existing peacefully, each developing their own unique but at the same time cross-fertilized culture.

For Ukrainians, Chernivtsi is known as the hometown of "the father of Ukrainian Bukovynian literature," Yuriy Fedkovych, and the city where the modernist writer

Olha Kobylianska lived and worked. The first has been honored by the city's university that bears his name (it is housed in a magnificent Neo-Byzantine complex of buildings that once served as the residence of the Orthodox Metropolitans of Bukovyna), and the second one by having the city's main theater named after her. There is also a street in the city that carries Kobylianska's name – certainly one of the most beautiful in Europe – that is a pedestrian mall that seems to be a mile long, paved with immaculately clean and smooth cobblestones, and lined with chic restaurants and cafés.

For Romanians, Chernivtsi is the town in which the Romantic Romanian poet Mihai Eminescu went to school, and for Germans and Jews the hometown of one of the greatest modern German-language poets, Paul Celan, who was of Jewish origin.

It must have been this strong aura of a "literary town" that Chernivtsi has taken on over the years that implanted in the minds of a group of culturally minded individuals who are, in one way or another, associated with the city – "the initiative group consisting of Igor Pomerantsev, Yuriy Andrukho, Petro Rykho, Svyatoslav Pomerantsev, Serhiy Zhadan, Yosyf Zisels and Serhiy Osachuk – the idea of establishing in it a poetry festival bearing its name. A corporation was formed for this purpose – ChOHO Kulturnyi Kapital (Cultural Capital Public Organization of Chernivtsi Oblast) – with Svyatoslav Pomerantsev as president and Iryna Vikyrychak as executive director. In 2010 the first festival bearing the name "Meridian Czernowitz" took

place. In 2013 participants, including this writer, had the pleasure of seeing it conducted in splendid fashion for the fourth time.

The IV Meridian Czernowitz proper took place on September 6-8 in the city of Chernivtsi, but it was preceded on September 5 by a "Poetic Tour," a train ride from Kyiv to Chernivtsi, on which invited poets read their works. Another such tour that started on September 9 went first from Chernivtsi to Lviv, and then, after a few days, on to Berlin and Bremen.

The main program of the festival consisted of poetry readings by more than 40 poets from Austria, Belarus, Denmark, Germany, Great Britain, Israel, Japan, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United States, as well as book presentations, performances and a showing of videopoetry from Zebra Film Poetry Festival in Berlin. In addition, some of the guests were given the opportunity to record their readings for local and national TV.

The official opening of the festival took place in the magnificent Marble Hall of Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University, in the course of which the German and Swiss ambassadors to Ukraine, as well as the cultural attaché of Austria, addressed the audience, each stressing the cultural importance of the festival and attesting to it being proof of Ukraine's rightful place in the cultural space of Europe.

One of the interesting features of the festival was the fact that the various performances took place in different, usually cul-

turally and historically significant venues. The Israeli poet Amir Or, for instance, read in a synagogue that had been destroyed by the Nazis in World War II and is now being restored; Polish poets read in a once-closed Polish church; and the Ukrainian American poet Yuriy Tarnawsky held his reading in the building that once housed the high school that Fedkovych attended. (This was the same school that Eminescu attended, and the Romanian poet Nora Iuga had been scheduled to read there too. She was, however, unable to attend the festival.)

The guests were housed at the newly restored Hotel Bukovyna and transported to the various venues whenever possible. As a final touch of the hosts' graciousness, on September 8, before departure for Lviv, the guests were sent off at the train station by a local band playing spirited Bukovynian/Hutsul music. What next awaited them was a five-hour trip during which poetry flowed like (and for some together with) wine. It has been said by some that the latter flowed more freely on the way from Kyiv to Chernivtsi.

It is worth adding that Meridian Czernowitz appears to be part of a trend in the current cultural life of Ukraine as it turns away from its Soviet past and moves toward Europe. Among other important events of this type one should mention the Kyiv Hohofest, the Kharkiv-based Mayk Yohansen Festival and the Lviv Publishers' Forum. It is interesting to note that this coincides with the current political situation in Ukraine as it looks forward to the signing of an Association Agreement with the European Union.

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

December 25, just hours after an article she wrote on the assets of top government officials was published. Protesters condemned the attack and vowed not to leave Independence Square, where weeks-long antigovernment demonstrations continue. "This [attack on Tetiana Chornovol] was very brutal. It was a brutal action by the people who did that. I watched on television yesterday how this all happened. It is not hooliganism, it is an attempted murder," one protester, Oleksiy, said. The Internal Affairs Ministry says police believe three people were involved in the assault, two of whom have already been arrested. The attack against Ms. Chornovol appears to have given a new impetus to Euro-Maidan protesters gathered in the center of Kyiv. One of them, Mykola, vowed to continue the demonstrations into next year: "We came here to stay until the very end and we are not planning to leave. We will be celebrating the New Year here on the square." (RFE/RL Ukrainian Service)

Maidan people's union is created

KYIV – The people's assembly "One Country – One Maidan," which took place on December 22, 2013, in Kyiv, announced the creation of the people's association Maidan. The newly created collegial body is headed by co-chairs of the Maidan Council Oleh Tiahnybok, Serhiy Kvit, Vitali Klitschko, Yuriy Lutsenko, Yulia Tymoshenko and Arseniy Yatsenyuk. The council also includes representatives of the opposition political parties, NGO leaders and prominent public figures. The Maidan Council plans to start mobilization efforts to organize resistance to the current regime in all regions of Ukraine and to coordinate the protest movement throughout Ukraine. (Ukrinform)

Khodorkovsky hopes for Yulia's release

KYIV – Former Yukos CEO Mikhail Khodorkovsky, who has recently been granted an amnesty, has said he hopes that Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich will grant an amnesty to Ukraine's imprisoned former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko after Russian President Vladimir Putin's decision to pardon him. He said this at a

press conference in Berlin on December 22, 2013, while answering questions from Ukraine. "I wish with all my heart that Yulia Tymoshenko will soon be released and I think that President Yanukovich, who recently had frequent contact with the president of my own country, will take an example of what has been done in a very concrete case when it comes to releasing a particular prisoner," Mr. Khodorkovsky said. On December 20, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree to pardon Mr. Khodorkovsky, after which he was released from Prison No. 7 in the Karelian town of Segezha. Mr. Khodorkovsky has been in custody since October 2003. He was charged with embezzlement and tax evasion. His business partner, Platon Lebedev, was also brought to trial. They were found guilty of a number of economic crimes and were sentenced to eight years in prison. In late 2006, another criminal case on theft of oil was opened against Messrs. Khodorkovsky and Lebedev. They were sentenced to 14 years in prison, and later their prison terms were slightly reduced. Mr. Lebedev, who has not requested a pardon, is to be released on May 2 of this year. Mr. Khodorkovsky was to be freed from prison on August 25. (Ukrinform)

Ukraine bans 36 foreigners

KYIV – A newspaper report says the Ukrainian government has banned 36 foreigners from entering the country, including former Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili. Ukraine's Kommersant daily reported on December 24, 2013, that the Foreign Affairs Ministry and the Security Service of Ukraine had banned the individuals because they were suspected of working with the opposition to "destabilize" the country amid mass pro-European Union protests. Apart from Mr. Saakashvili, 29 other Georgians, five U.S. citizens and one Serbian have been declared as personae non gratae, according to Kommersant. The banned Georgians are mostly businessmen, while the U.S. citizens blacklisted are NGO members and scholars. According to the newspaper, the decision was made at the request of Oleg Tsarev, a lawmaker from the ruling Regions Party, who feared "frequent visits of foreign political consultants" was "posing a threat to national security." Former President Saakashvili traveled to Kyiv during the height of the street backlash against the Ukrainian government's decision to suspend EU Association Agreement negotiations in late November, appearing before the Euro-Maidan on Independence Square and telling attendees that "nothing can prevent our common aspiration of freedom." Mr. Saakashvili is reviled in Moscow, which has discouraged Kyiv from its EU aspirations. (Ukrinform, based on reporting by Agence France-Presse, Kommersant and Kyiv Post)

Yanukovich signs amnesty

KYIV – Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich signed a bill granting amnesties to anyone detained during the recent pro-European Union demonstrations in Ukraine. Mr. Yanukovich's press office said on December 23, 2013, that the amnesty "has been sent for publication" and applies to anyone detained in the antigovernment rallies since November 21, 2013. The bill says all criminal cases opened against rally

participants since that date should be closed and individuals released. Protests erupted in Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities after the government announced it was suspending talks with the EU on an Association Agreement and would instead seek closer ties with neighbor Russia. Demonstrations at times involved hundreds of thousands of people. Numbers have dwindled since Mr. Yanukovich and Russian President Vladimir Putin on December 17 reached a deal that cut about one-third off the price Ukraine pays for Russian gas. (RFE/RL, with reporting by Interfax)

Yanukovich warns of separatism

KYIV – The heads of local councils will be held personally responsible for any signs of legal nihilism and separatism. Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich said this at a meeting of the Council of Regions in Kyiv on December 26, 2013. "We will not allow any legal nihilism or separatism. This is unacceptable. We will bring order to this situation, whereas the culprits will be called to account according to the laws of Ukraine," he said. Mr. Yanukovich was addressing representatives of law enforcement agencies and prosecutor's offices who were present at the meeting and asked them to make a proper assessment of the recent decisions made by local councils in the western regions of Ukraine. "As they say, pass my personal greetings to them," Mr. Yanukovich said. The president also recalled that earlier in the year he had signed a decree to expand the powers of local authorities, but instead of directing efforts to increase the pace of regional development, local leaders in the western region had chosen the path of politicking. However, according to the president, now there is no particular regional economy in Ukraine and every region is part of the Ukrainian state and is deeply integrated into a single national system. In general, a new regional policy has created the necessary mechanisms for the successful management of development in the interests of the community, he said. "We have created equal conditions for all," he added. (Ukrinform)

Patriarch appeals to Yanukovich

KYIV – On December 13, 2013, during a roundtable with three former presidents of Ukraine, the current Ukrainian president, religious and academic leaders, and leaders of the three opposition parties, Patriarch Sviatoslav of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church (UGCC) called on the President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich on behalf of the UGCC and religious community to avoid power confrontation in Ukraine. "Mr. President, take personal control over the security forces of our country. For each violent step generates a new wave of violence," the patriarch told Mr. Yanukovich. "On behalf of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, I would like to say a sharp 'no' to any kind of violence. And today whoever comes out with radical calls for violence no matter whether he is under the banner of a party, whether he is in a priestly robe or in a uniform, he is a provocateur. ...We must do everything in order to control the violence in the country," Patriarch Sviatoslav

(Continued on page 13)

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Turning...

(Continued from page 6)

about his will to resolve the existing problems between the Moscow Patriarchate and the UGCC also inspired us with some optimism."

"The question of construction of Orthodox churches in western Ukraine

remains unsettled. Representatives of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church [Moscow Patriarchate] express concern about the mission of Greek-Catholics in eastern Ukraine," Metropolitan Ilarion noted.

Source: "ROC concerned about Ukrainian Catholics' relations with UOC-KP," (Religious Information Service of Ukraine), The Ukrainian Weekly, January 8, 2012.

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 12)

stressed. He said that agreement could come only by means of a dialogue, for a dialogue is the only alternative to violence. "Only a dialogue can save us from the precipice on the brink of which we stand," he said. He noted that "rays of hope for a dialogue" were seen earlier that week, however, on the night of December 11, all those rays were destroyed. "I sincerely hope that there will not be any more such hasty steps," the patriarch said. The primate also mentioned young people and students: "This is a Ukraine that now has a European face. They were born in the independent Ukrainian state. They first came to Independence Square, referring to the European face of Ukraine. I think that the voice of young people should be critical for everyone who accepts a political or economic solution today. Today young people tell us that there is alternative for the future besides a European independent Ukraine." He asked that pressure not be applied to Ukrainian students. "We have, unfortunately, different signals, even in our Catholic university, that the students are prosecuted. Students are called up by the Security Service. This is one of the ways of pressuring them. I am asking: Stop any kind of violence. Hopefully then we will pacify our people. Our youth will be heard, and together we will be able to get out of this crisis," Patriarch Sviatoslav said. (UGCC Department of Information)

Akhmetov comments on situation

KYIV - On December 13, 2013, Rinat Akhmetov released a statement on the current situation in Ukraine. Noting that his company, System Capital Management (SCM), had published its official position

soon after the situation in Kyiv had escalated, he said, "I, as the shareholder of SCM, fully share it." Mr. Akhmetov went on to say: "Currently, many people want to know my personal attitude to the events, here is my position: Ukraine and the president have been going along the European road for three and a half years and much has been achieved over this time. The agreement was not signed in Vilnius. And everybody asked: What happened? Did Ukraine take a pause? Did Ukraine stop? Or did Ukraine take another road? Everyone wants clarity. People began to look for answers to these questions and went out to the Maidan to protest. The fact that peaceful people took to the streets for peaceful demonstrations means that Ukraine is a free democratic country. Ukraine will not turn off this road. This is very good. But the fact that people suffered is unacceptable. I believe that now, at this challenging moment for our country, it is important to keep a cool head and take a balanced approach. In a word, common sense must prevail. I am for a strong, independent and united Ukraine. We are one country and should not be divided. I am for a negotiations table. Politicians, government officials, opposition, and moral leaders of the country must sit down at the negotiating table and make a decision we will be proud of. I repeat, to be proud, not ashamed of. The outcome should be a decision that will benefit Ukraine and every Ukrainian in the short, medium and long term. I would describe this negotiating table, as a table for peace, compromise and the future of our country. While politicians may lose their ratings at this table, the most important thing is to ensure that the rating of Ukraine goes up." (SCM)

Georgian Parliament supports protesters

KYIV - The Georgian Parliament on December 11, 2013, issued a special state-

ment in support of the Ukrainian people, who wish to become a "full-fledged member of the European family." News Georgia/Novosti Gruzia quoted the statement: "The Parliament of Georgia expresses its full solidarity with the free choice of the struggling Ukrainian people, and expresses deep concern about the recent developments and the use of force against civilians. The Georgian Parliament supports the desire of the Ukrainian people to become a full-fledged member of the European family and believes that, despite the existing problems, Georgia and Ukraine will take a worthy place in a democratic international community." The Georgian Parliament also welcomed the efforts "of the international community and the democratic world to support the Eastern Partnership countries and to protect their sovereignty." It noted that no country should infringe on the freedom of choice of those countries and interfere in the process of European integration. "The Parliament of Georgia welcomes the efforts of the EU and Ukraine to resume negotiations on the signing of the Association Agreement and the universal free trade area, as well as efforts to timely resolve the existing problems in this direction," the statement said. (Ukrinform)

Hagel warns against use of force

KYIV - According to December 12, 2013, news reports, U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel warned his Ukrainian counterpart, Pavlo Lebedev, in a phone conversation, against the use of military force against pro-European Union demonstrators. A statement posted on the website of the DefenseNews online newspaper noted: "Secretary Hagel warned Minister Lebedev not to use the armed forces of Ukraine against the civilian population in any fashion." Mr. Lebedev, in turn, stated that it is Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich's

position not to use the armed forces against the protesters and said he would pass the secretary's message directly to Mr. Yanukovich. (Ukrinform)

Chaly: long pause in Euro-integration

KYIV - The deputy director of the Razumkov Center for Economic and Political Studies, Valeriy Chaly, said this at a press conference on December 26, 2013, that "There will be a long pause in the European direction. I take the liberty to say that there will be no opportunities to sign an Association Agreement in the next few months, at least, in the short term - a year or two." Mr. Chaly explained: "The reason is that there is and there was no deep motivation, and a different path was chosen." However, he expressed confidence that Ukraine would return to the issue of association with the EU. "There have always been many vectors. Relations with all countries are developing: Russia is a key partner, China is a possible creditor, and the United States is important globally. The EU is our most important partner, and we focus on integration. I'm sure that we will return [to this issue]," Mr. Chaly said. He predicted that in 2014 Ukraine will expect "creeping Eurasian integration." It can also be sectoral - through joint projects and through part of the agreements functioning in the Eurasian Economic Community. And the question of Ukraine's accession to the Eurasian Economic Union could be raised then, after the presidential election. "And this year has been the year of the loss of opportunities. We came very close to many decisions that would determine Ukraine's agenda for 10 years in advance. Unfortunately, these issues have again been postponed by politicians. Now people in the streets are trying to bring them back to these decisions, but the result is not yet obvious," Mr. Chaly commented. (Ukrinform)



With deep sorrow we announce that

Iwan (John) Witiuk

92, of Astoria, NY, passed away on Friday, Dec. 13, 2013, at Haven Hospice in Manhattan, NY.

Iwan was born on July 12, 1921 in Denisiw, in Ternopil region of western Ukraine. He was the son of Petro and Maria (nee Tabaka) Witiuk.

Iwan was a long-time active member of Holy Cross Ukrainian Catholic Church in Astoria, NY. When it came to serving the community, he stayed heavily involved with his homeland for nearly his entire life. In his Astoria Ukrainian community, he gave many years of leadership serving in numerous roles. He founded and headed chapters of UAYA and ODFFU in Astoria, NY in the late '50s until well into the '90s. Iwan organized endless major fundraising events, produced concerts, wrote for and performed in comedic and dramatic theater, wrote and stage-read poetry. Iwan was also very family oriented, his greatest enjoyment was spending time with his grandchildren.

He is predeceased by his loving wife, Anna, his sister Johanna and his 18-year old grandson, Cameron.

He is survived by:

sons

- Peter with his wife Marie of Edison, NJ
- Andrij with his wife Susan of Brooklyn, NY
- Bohdanna with her husband Douglas of Ladera Ranch, CA

daughter

grandchildren

brothers

sister

brother-in-law

nephews

nieces

- John, Jason and Anna
- Bohdan and his wife Wolodymyra, and Myron and his wife Oksana
- Olha Hawryluk
- Mykola Koziupa
- Michael, Basil, Roman and Orest
- Darka, Vera, Maria, Vira and Lydia

Parastas was held on Friday, December 20, 2013, at Quinn's Funeral Home in Astoria, NY.

Funeral mass was held on Saturday, December 21, 2013, at Holy Cross Ukrainian Catholic Church in Astoria, NY, followed by interment in Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery in Hamptonburg, NY.

In lieu of flowers, kindly make a donation to:

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Virko Baley



Ed Rakowicz accepts
Kvitka Cisyk award



"Voloshky" Ukrainian Dance Ensemble sings
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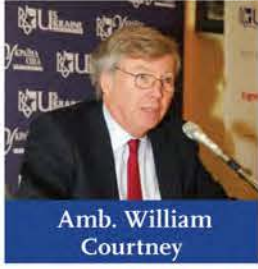
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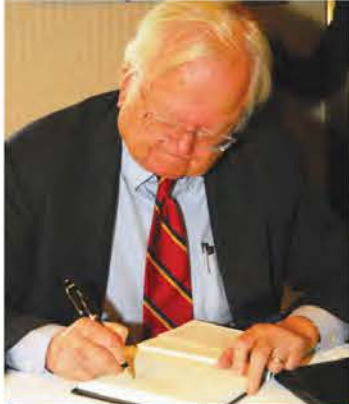


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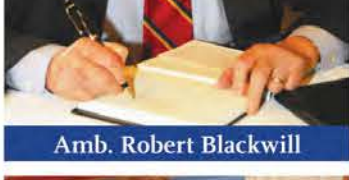
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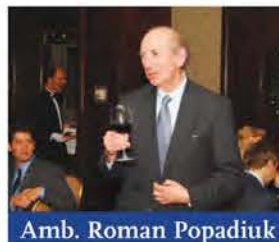
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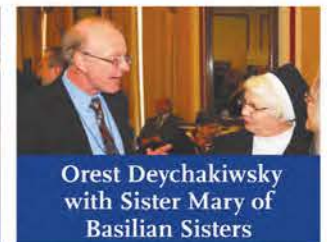
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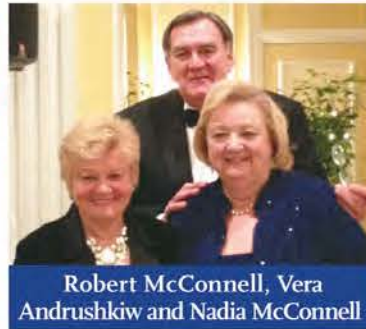
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Amb. John Herbst

COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

New York City school honors memory of Holodomor victims



Olena Furda

Third grade students recite poetry. Principal Ivan Makar is seen in the foreground; Nastya Antoniv is at the piano.

by Xenia Ferencevych

NEW YORK – On the occasion of the Holodomor's 80th anniversary, students, faculty and administrators at the School of Ukrainian Studies of the Samopomich Association in New York City joined Ukrainians around the world in honoring its victims on November 23, 2013.

The short program dedicated to remembering the millions of Ukrainians who perished in the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933, began with a concise history of the Holodomor delivered by the school's principal, Ivan Makar.

"Our presence here today testifies to the fact that Stalin was unable to destroy the Ukrainian people, because we are actually here, honoring and remembering those who died. We remember those victims here in Ukrainian school and we study the Famine, spreading its message all over the world – so that there won't be a country or person that

can deny what happened," said Mr. Makar.

Mr. Makar then lit a candle in solidarity with those marking the day of remembrance, and led the assembly in a minute of silence followed by prayer. Members of Natalia Yezerska's third grade class then recited "The Grasshoppers Sing in the Wheat" by Oksana Krotyuk and Lesya Lubarska's "Fragrant Bread." Pianist Nastya Antoniv performed solemn musical interludes.

One of the program's highlights was an award ceremony featuring ninth grader Yuriy Holiat, who won third place in a nationwide contest sponsored by the Holodomor Education Committee. A special certificate was presented to him by Mr. Makar, who invited everyone to take a look at Mr. Holiat's project: a PowerPoint presentation featuring moving, and at times shocking, images of the Famine. His slideshow can be viewed on the school's web-

(Continued on page 19)

Veterans remembered in Philadelphia



During the observance of Veterans' Day (from left) are: Leo Iwaskiw, John Midzak, the Rev. Protopriest Taras Naumenko, Post 1 Commander Ed Zetick and Myron Soltys.

by John R. Hill

JENKINTOWN, Pa. – Veterans' Day 2013 was observed by Ukrainian American Veterans Post 1 at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center in the suburbs of Philadelphia.

The event was hosted with a brunch by the UECC and the Ukrainian Self Reliance Federal Credit Union. During the festivities, students of the Heritage School of the Center entertained the veterans with performances of both song and the spoken word. Additionally, the new president of the center, Sophia Koropecyji, gave a welcoming speech honoring the role of the veterans in the freedoms that we all enjoy.

The highlight of the day was the installation and the blessing of a memorial plaque honoring the deceased Ukrainians who had served in the five branches of the American military. The plaque project was led by the

executive committee of Post 1; the fabrication, design and construction was led by Peter Labiak. The plaque was blessed by the Rev. Protopriest Taras Naumenko of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Philadelphia. In attendance among the numerous veterans was the post's oldest veteran, Roman Ulans, 100.

The post hopes to be able to engrave the names of the nearly 500 veterans from the Philadelphia area who are known to have served in the military. The post is seeking donations to cover the cost of the brass plate and the engraving. To have a name included on the plaque, readers are advised to contact any member of the post, write to UAV Post 1 at the UECC, 700 N. Cedar Road, Jenkintown, PA 19046, or e-mail a member of the executive committee: ezetick@gmail.com, peterlabiak65@verizon.net, tatibigt@aol.com, kilouniform@aol.com, mbsoltys@gmail.com.

Ukrainian American Archives and Museum of Detroit hosts Yushchenkos



Don Schulte

At the banquet (from left) are: Zwenyslava Hayda, Viktor and Kateryna Yushchenko, Dr. Alexander Serafyn, Chrystyna Nykorak and Dr. Mykola Hryhorczuk.

by Zwenyslava Hayda

GROSSE POINTE SHORES, Mich. – Over two years ago, Ukraine's former President Viktor Yushchenko (2005-2010) and his wife, Kateryna, accepted an invitation from the Ukrainian American Archives and Museum of Detroit (UAAM) to attend an event benefitting that institution. After many months of planning, a celebratory banquet was held on October 6, 2013, at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, with the Yushchenkos as guests of honor.

After being greeted with flowers, the presidential party first met privately with members of the Kobzari Ensemble of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus, during which the president spoke of the advances made in the musical spheres in Ukraine.

The presidential party moved to the Venetian Room, where guests were anxiously waiting to greet them in a reception line. Everyone had an opportunity to speak with President and Mrs. Yushchenko and to have a photo taken with them.

At the grand ballroom, the Yushchenkos were met with the traditional Ukrainian greeting of bread and salt, accompanied by the Kobzari singing "Reve ta Stohne Dnibr Shyrokyi." According to custom, President Yushchenko broke the bread into pieces and shared it with the guests nearby.

Zwenyslava Hayda, president of the Ukrainian American Archives and Museum of Detroit, formally greeted President and Mrs. Yushchenko, as well as honored guests Honorary Consul of Ukraine in Detroit Bohdan Fedorak, the Very Rev. Volodymyr Petriv, the Very Rev. Valeriy Kandyuk and Oleh Mahlay, artistic director of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus.

The Kobzari enchanted the audience with three more songs, including President Yushchenko's favorite "Rozpriahayte Khloptsi Koni," followed by "Mnohaya Lita" dedicated to the Yushchenkos and the UAAM.

Andrij Smyk, master of ceremonies for the evening, welcomed everyone and introduced the past presidents of the UAAM in attendance – Dr. Pavlo Dzul, Dr. Alexander Serafyn and Dr. Mykola Hryhorczuk – as well as the current board of directors: Dr. Stephan Loginsky, vice-president; Joseph Szafranski, treasurer; Wolodymyr Murha, secretary; Dr. Nadia Juzych, Petro Marfey, Yurko Stasiw, Wsevolod Hnatzuk and Mikhaylo Sawicky.

Mr. Smyk gave a presentation on the UAAM's mission and a short history of its inception and existence. He thanked the supporters of the event, especially Tanas Hayda for funding the travel expenses of the Kobzari Ensemble.

Sviltana Rogovyk gave a presentation on the Slavic Languages and Literature Department at the University of

(Continued on page 17)

UKRAINIANS GATHER IN SUPPORT OF EURO-MAIDAN

Raleigh, N.C.

RALEIGH, N.C. – Some 70 members of the Ukrainian Association of North Carolina gathered on December 7, 2013, before the State Capitol to support the European integration of Ukraine. They marched with flags of Ukraine and the European Union, and carried placards with slogans protesting against President Viktor Yanukovich's decision to not sign an Association Agreement with the European Union. The local newspaper and TV news reported on the action. The protesters gathered donations in support of the Euro-Maidan that will be sent to the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee.

– Oleh Wolowyna



Miami

MIAMI – The Ukrainian community in Miami has held four meetings at Bayside Park in downtown Miami in support of the Euro-Maidan in Ukraine. Participants held placards, sang Ukrainian patriotic songs and held a moleben in support. The photo above was taken on December 8, 2013.

– Oksana Piaseckyj



North Port, Fla.

NORTH PORT, Fla. – Ukrainian Americans gathered here on December 20, 2013, to demonstrate their support for the continuing Euro-Maidan in Ukraine's capital.

– Maya Lew

Ukrainian American...

(Continued from page 16)

Michigan, of which she is the Slavic language coordinator and where she teaches the Ukrainian language. She encouraged the community to support the Ukrainian language and literature program at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Andriy Dzul toasted the great strides that were made under the leadership of President Yushchenko in rectifying Ukrainian history and especially the advancement of culture and the arts, and praised the chairmanship of Mrs. Yushchenko of the Ukraine 3000 International Charity Foundation, which helps create a better, healthier life for children in Ukraine. A resounding "Mnohaya Lita" concluded the toast.

The Very Rev. Petriv gave the invocation and blessed everyone present.

In his keynote address, Mr. Yushchenko spoke of the importance of Ukrainian museums both in Ukraine and abroad, and how they were the repositories of our Ukrainian culture and history. He gave examples of the different museums in Ukraine that house very precious and historically significant archives and artifacts, and invited the guests to visit these museums. Mr. Yushchenko spoke of his efforts in establishing a Ukrainian Art Museum in the Arsenal in Kyiv, larger in square footage than the Louvre in Paris or the Hermitage in St. Petersburg. He touched upon the significance of portraying Ukrainian history in its correct context, citing the efforts made

in righting the historical facts regarding Hetman Ivan Mazepa and the Battle of Poltava.

Mrs. Yushchenko spoke in English of her pleasure in being able to honor her commitment made several years ago to visit Detroit on behalf of the UAAM. She spoke of the importance of museums and the significant impact they have in representing a nation, as well as being research centers for centu-

ries to come. She reiterated the benefit of a museum and the need to raise substantial funds in this community to acquire a much needed larger building for the UAAM.

Dr. Dzul presented the Yushchenkos with a book of color renderings of human anatomy, with terminology in both Ukrainian and English.

Petro Marfey presented the Yushchenkos with his painting of a Ukrainian windmill,

explaining the great importance of a windmill in the life of a Ukrainian villager.

The evening ended with concluding remarks by Mr. Smyk, a prayer by the Very Rev. Kandyuk and all of the guests singing "Shche Ne Vmerla Urayina" – Ukraine's national anthem.

Afterwards, Mr. and Mrs. Yushchenko graciously met with more guests, posing for photographs and signing autographs.

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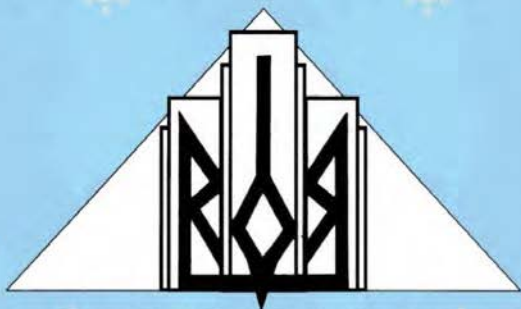
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та
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бажають*

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та бажаємо*

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УКРАЇНСЬКОЇ АМЕРИКАНСЬКОЇ
КООРДИНАЦІЙНОЇ РАДИ**

New York City school...

(Continued from page 16)

site: ukrainianschoolnyc.org.

The program concluded with a request by Mr. Makar to not forget about the victims of the Holodomor, especially during the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday. "We thank God for the food he gives us, for the family we have and that we can eat turkey... during this time, let us also think about those children,

those people who lost their lives 80 years ago," said Principal Makar. He also exhorted the older students to talk about the Holodomor in their American schools and to spread the word, because "7 million to 10 million innocent people lost their lives."

Following the remembrance program, many Ukrainian school students led a solemn procession that opened the requiem service in New York City's St. Patrick's Cathedral commemorating Holodomor victims.



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*За дирекцію ОУА,
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Triennial Congress...

(Continued from page 1)

mate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada; and Metropolitan Lawrence Huculak, archbishop of Winnipeg and primate of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Canada.

UCC National President Grod then declared the congress to be officially opened with an address about the accomplishments and the future of our community. A traditional Ukrainian "Pryvit" was performed by Desna Ukrainian dancers, under the artistic direction of Luba and Yuri Grekhov.

Greetings were received from Vadym Prystaiko, Ukraine's ambassador to Canada; Ukrainian opposition leader Arseniy Yatsenyuk (by video); Jason Kenney, minister of employment and social development; Thomas Mulcair, leader of the official opposition and New Democratic Party of Canada; Justin Trudeau, leader of the Liberal Party of Canada; the Province of Ontario; and from Eugene Czolij, president of the Ukrainian World Congress.

During the opening, Minister Kenney donated a bandura to the Zoloti Struny (Golden Strings) Ensemble that had initially been presented to him by Ukraine's Minister of Culture Mykhailo Kulyniak in 2011.

The official opening ceremonies were concluded with the presentation of the UCC Youth Leadership Awards of Excellence to Christine Czoli, Danylo Korbabicz, Bozena Hrycyna and Andrea Kardasz.

The second half of the evening featured the Ukrainian Dragons segment. This new and highly anticipated session paired community titans/philanthropists with innovative community projects vying for a \$60,000 prize. The event was hosted by Victor Malarek, senior reporter for CTV's "Fifth Estate" and featured the following Ukrainian Dragons: Borys Chabursky, CEO, SHI Consulting; Ian Ihnatowycz, CEO, First Generation Capital; John Ivaniura, president, Caravan Logistics; Nadia Jacyk, CEO, Prombank Group; Eugene Melnyk, CEO, Ottawa Senators; and James Temerty, chairman, Northland Power.

The Dragons heard pitches from five proponents: the Ukrainian Canadian Students Union (SUSK) – represented by Ms. Czoli, Mr. Korbabicz and Olena Kit – presented their project on mentorship for students. Lemon Bucket Orchestra's Mark Marczyk presented a proposal for a Tour of Canada performing Ukrainian and Eastern European musical selections. And, speaking for the Vesnivka Choir, Talia Lysiak, Luba Krekhovetsky and Ivanka Fuke presented their proposal for an online library



Paul Grod is sworn in as president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress by Ukrainian World Congress President Evhen Czolij.

of choral music beginning with Vesnivka's 1,000-song repertoire and adding other songs in the future in order to make choral music available to all choirs around the world. The Ukrainian Canadian Archives and Museum of Alberta (UCAMA) had Paul Teterenko and Krystya Kohut present its proposal for an initial kick-off presentation in the museum that is to open in spring 2015. The project included displays from Ukrainian Jewish relations and cultural connection between First Nations and Ukrainians in Canada. Jennifer LaFontaine presented "Community Digital Stories," her proposal to map places in the Ukrainian Toronto community on a digital map. Each tab would contain a story about the place or the people.

The Ukrainian Dragons selected three winners: SUSK – \$25,000; Lemon Bucket Orchestra – \$20,000; and the Vesnivka Choir – \$15,000.

The evening also included lively performances by the Zubrivka Musical Ensemble, as well as comic relief from Ron Cahute and Ihor Bachynsky.

On Saturday, the work of the congress focused on a dozen concurrent, moderated workshop sessions featuring presentations with leading experts in the areas of: governance and community development (fund-raising, changes to not for profit legislation, advocacy and government relations); promotion of Ukrainian language and culture; Ukrainian Canadian historical issues and Ukraine's historical memory; Ukrainian instruction and expanding the reach of the Ukrainian Canadian community among youth and recent immigrants.

Certainly one of the most highly anticipated sessions of the congress was Saturday afternoon's plenary on "Ukraine: One year after the Parliamentary

Elections." The congress received greetings from President Viktor Yanukovich and a statement from former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko.

In her message, Ms. Tymoshenko stated: "History will never forgive the failure to sign the Association Agreement to those who did everything possible and impossible for it. In just three weeks we will have a chance for the future we dreamed of; for the future that our predecessors fought for. Otherwise, we will have to wait for it for another three centuries. That is why I am stressing it again. I will never impose any conditions or demands on the Cox-Kwasniewski mission regarding my destiny. I am ready to accept any suggestion on their part no matter how difficult for me it might be. I will do it for the sake of signing the Ukrainian Association Agreement with the EU during the Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius on November 28-29, 2013."

Moderated by Mr. Bilak, this roundtable included panelists Serhii Leshchenko, editor of Ukrayinska Pravda; Hanna Herman, advisor to Ukraine's president and national deputy representing the Party of Regions; and Andriy Mokhnyk, national deputy from the Svoboda party. There was a lively discussion on contemporary Ukrainian topics such as Ukraine's Euro-integration, the rule of law, the Yulia Tymoshenko case, and the status of the Ukrainian language.

Saturday evening's sold-out banquet was emceed by Paul Migus. For the first time in 21 years, the congress was attended by a sitting prime minister, Stephen Harper.

The Barvinok Dancers, under the artistic direction of Fedir Danylak, escorted Prime Minister Harper and UCC President Grod into the ballroom for the banquet and greeted them with the traditional Ukrainian bread and salt. Prime Minister Harper was introduced by Ukrainian Canadian Congress Advisory Council Chairman James Temerty.

Attendees were able to witness a 25-minute "Conversation with the Prime Minister." In a wide ranging discussion, interviewer Jurij Klufas addressed numerous issues, including the Canadian government's actions supporting the recognition of the Holodomor as an act of genocide against the Ukrainian people and acknowledging the internment of Ukrainian Canadians during the first world war; the issue of balance in the Canadian Museum for Human Rights; Canada-Ukraine relations; Ukraine's signing of an Association Agreement with the EU; and the bullying of Ukraine by Russia.

Following the conclusion of the "Conversation with the Prime Minister," Eugene Melnyk, chairman of the Ottawa Senators hockey club, thanked Mr. Harper

and presented him with a complete set of the 2014 shortlisted literary works for the Kobzar Literary Awards of the Ukrainian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko.

The dinner was addressed also by Eugene Czolij, president of the Ukrainian World Congress, and was attended by Metropolitans Jurij and Lawrence, Bishops Stephen Chmiliar and Andriy Peshko, Minister Kenney, Members of Parliament Ted Oritz (chair of the Canada Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group), Bob Dechert (parliamentary secretary to the minister of justice), Wladislaw Lizon, Bernard Trottier, Stella Ambler and Peggy Nash, and Toronto Mayor Rob Ford.

The Vira Zelinska Ukrainian Youth Bandura Capella Zoloti Struny played three lovely musical and vocal pieces, including a song by Canadian singer Celine Dion.

Following the dinner, UCC President Grod presented the Taras Shevchenko Medal to nine recipients: Vasyl Balan, Roman Borys, Dr. Daria Darewych, Dr. Jurij Darewych, Halya Kuchmij, Valentina Kuryliw, Irene Mycak, Peter Shostak and Iroida Wynnycyk. The Taras Shevchenko Medal is the highest form of recognition that can be granted by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress.

UWC President Czolij presented the St. Volodymyr the Great Medal to Mr. Temerty and Sen. Raynell Andreychuk.

On Sunday morning delegates participated in a commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the Holodomor. Following divine liturgy celebrated by the Rev. Dr. Peter Galadza of the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute, a requiem in memory of the victims was celebrated by Metropolitan Yuriy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada.

The program that followed included a screening of "Konstantyn Bokan – One of Ten Million Victims" produced by the Ucrainica Research Institute. Irka Mycak, chair of the UCC National Holodomor Awareness Committee, provided a brief update on current Holodomor awareness initiatives, including the publication designed to inform the general Canadian public about the genocide. The main focus for the year is on the contribution of Holodomor survivors to the awareness effort and the role of all Ukrainian Canadians in sharing their stories. The presentation concluded with excerpts from the documentation project "Share the Story."

On Sunday, the congress delegates continued their deliberations and approved a new constitution and by-laws as required under changes to Canada's Not-for-Profit Corporations Act.

The plenary session also approved two dozen policy resolutions on issues such as the Ukrainian language, culture, Ukraine's EU Association Agreement and the situation regarding Ms. Tymoshenko.

Finally, the triennial congress elected the officers, board of directors and board of auditors of the UCC for the next three years.

The members of the Executive Committee are: Mr. Grod, national president; Renata Roman, first vice-president; Emil Yereniuk, second vice-president; Andrea Kopylech, secretary; and Mr. Dlugosh, treasurer.

The elected members of the board of directors are: Oresia Luciw-Andryjowycz, president of the UCC Alberta Provincial Council; Anatoly Ciacka, president of the UCC British Columbia Provincial Council; Oksana Bondarchuk, president of the UCC Manitoba Provincial Council; Steve Andrusiak, president of the UCC Ontario Provincial Council; Zoriana Hrycenko-Luhova, president of the UCC Quebec Provincial Council; Slawko Kindrachuk, president of the UCC Saskatoon Provincial



St. Volodymyr the Great Medal laureates Sen. Raynell Andreychuk (second from left) and James Temerty (second from right) with UWC President Eugene Czolij (left) and UCC President Paul Grod (right).

(Continued on page 24)

A conversation with the prime minister

Following are excerpts of a transcript of the conversation between Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Jurij Klufas at the banquet of the Congress of Ukrainian Canadians on November 9, 2013.

JURIJ KLUFAS: ... we would like to acknowledge obviously the fact that your government proceeded with redress for internment. And it was actually, it was a campaign platform issue still back in 2004. And also, your government was a world leader in recognizing the Holodomor as an act of genocide. It would be interesting to know how you came about steering both of these issues through.

PRIME MINISTER STEPHEN HARPER: Well, we've tried as a government to really put a lot more emphasis on freedom and democracy, human rights and the rule of law, and obviously values in our foreign policy, but also to improve Canadians' understanding of those things in our own society.

Certainly James Bezan, some of you know, with some Ukrainian Canadian background, he was a big driver for us to recognize the Holodomor for what it was, you know.

I don't think we should talk around this. You know, if I can make a little comment about this. Obviously, you know that I grew up here in Toronto, and had a number of Ukrainian Canadian friends, and so I was very aware of the history of the Ukrainian people and the kind of events we had seen – the Famine, the Holodomor and other great tragedies of Ukrainian history, not to mention the Soviet dictatorship that was still in place when I was growing up in the '60s and '70s.

So this is, as you know, is obviously by Ukrainian Canadians, and has been brought here. It is a part of our history and it shouldn't be forgotten.

And I think, if I can talk personally here, I think one of the things that really troubles me is that when we look at the two great evils of the 20th century, fascism and communism, there has been a full reckoning in terms of Western civilization of the terrible nature and terrible events of fascism.

But unfortunately in some circles, there is still a tendency to try and downplay the terrible awful things, the tens of millions of people who died because of Communist ideology and Communist dictatorship.

And I don't think anybody in Canadian political life, anybody who values the kind of freedom and democracy that we have come to love and cherish and understand in this country, anybody in leadership positions should ever, ever downplay the terrible things that Communism and Communist dictatorships have done. It's important they are recognized and that we come to terms with them and that we make a vow that certainly in Canadian foreign policy we will never turn a blind eye to those things again.

KLUFAS: So in light of that narrative, maybe you could explain a little bit to us about the victims of communism monument that you're spearheading for placement in Ottawa in a very, very prominent position.

HARPER: Yes, this has been, you know, we're here on November the 9th, which as many of you know is actually something that should have a much greater prominence. I know we held an event several years in Ottawa to make the 20th anniversary. It was 2009, the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall and that's what today is, the anniversary of the fall of the

Berlin Wall, which really was the beginning of the end of Soviet Communism as we know it. And of course ultimately part and parcel of Ukraine finally gaining its freedom, I'm proud to say, under a previous conservative government, the first democratic country in the world to recognize the independence of Ukraine was the government of Canada.

And, you know, given that history and given that there are so many people in Canada who have family and personal backgrounds from Communist countries that understand the true terror that was and has been for so many people I think it's important as we recognize the Holocaust and recognize other events that we build this into the Canadian narrative.

So the government has been very supportive of Tribute to Liberty and the building of the monument and I am personally very committed to it as well.

KLUFAS: During this congress, the 24th Ukrainian Canadian Congress, for the first time here in Toronto. Up until now it's been in Winnipeg and in Edmonton, we have discussed many, many issues. And one of the main plenary session issues was the issue of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. ...there seems to be a very strong imbalance in terms of the presentation at the Museum in terms of the level of presentation of those topics and even specifically the issue of crimes of Communism isn't even mentioned at all. So we feel there's a strong imbalance there and hoping that somehow you in your position can help straighten that out.

HARPER: Okay, well, Jurij, let me address that. First of all, I think it's important to say, just in the interest of full disclosure, as you know, this government really worked with the government of Manitoba and others to make the Museum of Human Rights a national museum, the first national museum to be based outside of Ottawa, strongly supported by our caucus members in Manitoba and elsewhere.

And I thought the idea and still think the idea is a great idea because you know, we don't understand, in spite of being one of the youngest countries in the world, in terms of our constitutional system, our democratic constitutional system, we are actually one of the longest standing, most enduring democratic governments on the planet. And so we have a great history to tell and one that doesn't just have its roots in, British and French traditions of democracy and the development of freedoms and liberties but also has this interesting contribution that so many people from other countries have made who have fled tyranny to bring their own perspective to that. So I think the museum, and continue thinking the museum is a great idea.

Issues of balance have been raised with me and I think, look, we have to be clear here in that this is set up obviously as a separate crown agency where politicians cannot dictate the contents or subject matter of the museum, that obviously has to be something done by an independent board and by professionals.

But, that said, I do believe it is important. A couple of things are important. First of all, you know, things like the Holocaust, the Holodomor, other events, it is important that they be recognized, and they be recognized really I think from a Canadian perspective.

I don't think we want to duplicate, you know, what they would do in Israel, what they would do in Ukraine, but we do want to bring the Canadian perspective of people who have fled these kinds of events and



Prime Minister Stephen Harper (left) is interviewed by Jurij Klufas during the "Conversation with the Prime Minister" that took place at the banquet held at the XXIV triennial Congress of Ukrainian Canadians.

how they've contributed to the growth of the human rights and democracy narrative in this country. But I do think it is critical, and I say this because I'm saying it at arm's length of the museum, it is important that all of these things be represented, they be represented broadly and in a balanced way. And the fact of the matter is, as I say, I'm very supportive of the monument to victims of communism.

We have a very large number of Canadians who are here today because they have fled the tyranny of communism of other countries and through the generations they have worked hard so that their relatives and their fellow countrymen can be free from that.

And I think that perspective and those histories of all of those communities including Ukrainian Canadians, should be accurately represented in a museum like that.

KLUFAS: In your recent throne speech, you mentioned preparations for the 150th anniversary of Canada. Here at our congress, at the introduction of the congress our president, Paul Grod, introduced the concept of preparing for the 125th anniversary of our being here in Canada. Is there any way that the narrative of Ukrainians being a founding people here in Canada can be woven into government plans as well as other initiatives that you have in your throne speech?

HARPER: Look, what we are trying to do, we actually set out to do it a couple of years ago, as we approach the 150th anniversary of Confederation we're trying to mark not just that great anniversary in 2017 but a whole bunch of other anniversaries along the way that tell people about our country.

For instance, next year, you know, will be a great year really to recognize the contribution of the Canadian military. It's the 100th year anniversary of the beginning of the first world war, the 75th anniversary of the beginning of the second world war. It will be the 70th anniversary of the D-Day invasion. It will be the 200th anniversary of the end of the fighting of the War of 1812, the original Canadian war of nationhood and independence that will be marked in 2014.

And of course our troops will be, the last of our troops will be coming home from Afghanistan after doing their great work in that country.

So every year we're trying to put a different focus and some of them are big national things we're trying to recognize. But we're certainly trying to weave other stories, more regional or community stories, in 2012. You know, for instance we put a lot of emphasis on the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Selkirk settlement, which really is the origin of the first stirrings of what is today the province of Manitoba.

So we'll talk to the minister of heritage and I'm sure we can find ways to make sure things like the 125th anniversary of Ukrainian settlement are woven into that narrative.

KLUFAS: That's a deal. Thank you. Moving on to the international stage... The pressure from Russia towards Ukraine internally, externally, all kinds of aggression is happening and this is threatening Ukraine's sovereignty. It's threatening Ukraine's attempts at building democracy and we're hoping for Canada to express concern in this regard and support for Ukraine's development at this critical stage.

(Continued on page 24)



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A conversation...

(Continued from page 23)

HARPER: Yes, let me maybe talk frankly about that, about the challenges Ukraine faces today and maybe the challenges of the government of Ukraine as well, as I think this is important to talk about.

You know on the one hand I think we all share the concern of the kind of pressures Ukraine does or could face from Russia, you know, pressures to go in that direction to go in that kind of model. And there are things that obviously concern us all.

At the same time, I think we should be equally frank and equally concerned about some of the anti-democratic pressures and tendencies in the government of Ukraine itself.

And as you know, I was quite vocal about this when I was in Ukraine. I've of course written President Yanukovich on the Tymoshenko situation and what we see as the general deterioration of democracy and rights standards generally.

So look, I think what all of our Western

friends are trying to do is figure out, how can we best work to try and not just steer the government of Ukraine, you know, towards really what we believe is its trans-Atlantic, its Western destiny, but at the same time also to make the government of Ukraine understand that part and parcel of that is our values of freedom, democracy and human rights and the rule of law.

And this is a tough balancing act because I think on the one hand the government of Ukraine itself wants to assert its independence from its neighbors, but it also seems to want to assert its independence from some basic democratic values as well.

So we're working with our European and other friends to find best how we can help lead in that direction.

But I think our conviction, we all have the same conviction which is regardless of the government of the day, when you go to Ukraine, you see the Ukrainian people and particularly when you meet the younger generation of Ukrainians, they view their future as being part of the democratic world and alliance of Western nations. And that's where we've got to make sure Ukraine is. ...

Whippany preschool...

(Continued from page 7)

Ukrainian Learning Academy.

Besides their "academic" curriculum, I come and teach elements of Ukrainian dance once a week and my wife, dancer and gymnast Natalia Ejova, teaches gymnastics once a week. It is a challenging but rewarding experience working with such young children. Keeping up with their energy level and their short attention spans makes us have to adapt our teaching methods, but seeing the kids learning new

skills and understanding new concepts is always a joy.

People often thank me for the work I do in our Ukrainian community and now, I want to take the opportunity to thank Oksana Petryna and her staff for offering such a valuable service to us. In the melting pot that is the United States, we need all of the help we can get to maintain and grow our culture. Thank you Ukrainian Learning Academy!

For more information, please see their website at www.ukracademy.com.

Andrij Cybyk
Morris Plains, NJ.

A season for...

(Continued from page 6)

enables us to live in peace with one another and to have respect for every individual and every culture.

Our Savior teaches us that mercy, forgiveness, joy, peace and justice are all possible realities and not to be found only in our dreams. They are possible realities because it is Christ, born in Bethlehem, who is true mercy, forgiveness, joy, peace and justice. These are the real gifts of Christmas, presented abundantly to us by the One, Whose humble nativity we joyfully celebrate. Our prayer for you, for your families, for our parish communities and for our entire world is that these gifts are received with pure hearts, minds and souls and that you will unwrap and quickly share them with others – perhaps even those you may not know – so they too can discover what it truly means to be "home for Christmas." The most incredible thing is that when we share these gifts, they are replaced almost more quickly than we can give them away.

When you are on your way to Christmas dinner, or to visit family and friends, or to exchange gifts, or to attend another Christmas party, or to church to offer praise and gratitude to God on one of the Nativity Holy Days, pray for everyone you greet. Think about how they, through those

prayers, might come to know what you already believe: that God is at home with us and we are to be at home with Him, not in a dream, but in reality through the love of Jesus Christ. May we always live as though we truly hold this to be true all the days of our life.

Christ is born! Glorify him!

With archpastoral blessings,

+ Yuriy,

Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

+ Antony,

Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. and the Diaspora

+ Ioan,

Archbishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Diaspora

+ Jeremiah,

Archbishop of the South American Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.

+ Ilarion,

Bishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

+ Andriy,

Bishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

+ Daniel,

Bishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.

Triennial Congress...

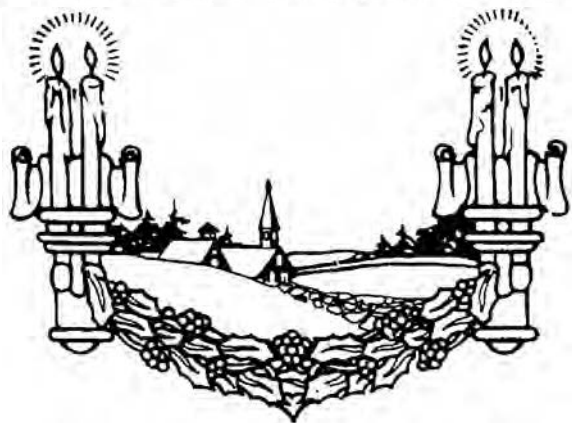
(Continued from page 22)

Council; and Markian Shwec, representative of the UCC Toronto Branch.

Also elected to the board of directors were: Zenon Potichny, president of the Canada-Ukraine Chamber of Commerce; Victor Hetmanczuk, representative of the Canada-Ukraine Foundation; Margareta Shpir, representative of the Canada Friends of Ukraine; Eugene Ladna, representative of the Canadian Lemko Association; Iryna Korpan, president of the Canadian Ukraine Immigrant Aid Society; Renata Roman and Dr. Michael Kondracki, co-presidents of Chornobyl Canadian Fund; Mr. Czolij, representative of the Council of Ukrainian Credit Unions of Canada; Myroslava Pidhirnyj, representative of the League of Ukrainian Canadians; Adriana Buyniak Wilson, president of the League of Ukrainian Canadian Women; Tanya Dzulynsky, president of the Shevchenko Scientific Society; Petro Mycak, representative of the Society of Veterans of Ukrainian Insurgent Army; Michael Hantzsch, representative of the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Federation; Andrew Hladyshevsky, president of the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras

Shevchenko; Jurij Darewych, president of the Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Center; Serhiy Kasyanchuk, representative of the Ukrainian Canadian Social Services of Canada Headquarters; Ms. Czoli, president of the Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union; Glen Tymiak, president of the Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood of Canada; Sophie Manulak, president of the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of Canada; Denis Hlynka, representative of the Ukrainian Fraternal Society of Canada; Markian Shulakevych, representative of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences; Slawko Borys, representative of the Ukrainian National Federation; Katrina Baziuk, president of the Ukrainian Orthodox Youth of Canada; Jaroslaw Balan, representative of the Ukrainian Self-Reliance League of Canada; Sonja Bejzyk, representative of the Association of Canada; Olya Sheweli, president of the Ukrainian Women's Organization of Canada; Roman Brytan, president of the Ukrainian Youth Association in Canada; Ann Szyptur, representative of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Association

The members of the board of auditors are: Halyna Holowka (chair), Borys Mykhajlets, Myron Pawlowsky, Michael Zaleschuk (members) and Ernest Paluck (alternate).



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Unique artifact from 1916 is donated to interpretive center on internment

SPIRIT LAKE, Quebec – A unique donation by Pauline Quessy dating back from 1916 was made this past summer to Canada's first established internment museum at Spirit Lake Internment Interpretive Center located at Abitibi, Trecesson (La Ferme), Quebec.

The donation, which is of significant historic and sentimental value to both the donor and the center, is a handmade, intricately crafted frame of a portrait of Ms. Quessy's paternal grandfather, Raymond Quessy, a guard at Spirit Lake. The frame was made by an internee-prisoner at Spirit Lake who had presented this handmade gift to his guard on May 5, 1916.

"It's another piece of the internment story," commented Caroline Parent, communications coordinator and researcher at Camp Spirit Lake Center. "The artifact reflects how a prisoner interned at Spirit Lake in 1916 eventually created a friendship with the guard, Raymond Quessy, that is depicted in the donated, framed picture of the guard. This donation shows us another dynamic – to which point some prisoners, unjustly interned, created a bond with the guards that held them. It also depicts how resourceful the internees were, trying to pass any free time they had in creative ways."

Ms. Parent further stated, "This unexpected donation has an inestimable value. This donation, dating back to 1916, brings to life and shares the story of the many details of Canada's First National Internment Operations of 1914-1920 and specifically as it relates to the second largest internment site at Spirit Lake, in which the majority were Ukrainians that were held."

To help make this early history better known and understood, Ms. Quessy thought it was important to give to the interpretive center that memory of her paternal grandfather that was so precious to her for so many years. "I want the public and future generations to know about this early history. I'm sure my grandfather and my father, Jean Paul Quessy, would be very pleased with my decision and the steps that I am taking today," she added.

The internee who made the frame was a prisoner at Spirit Lake with the registration number 886. The challenge is now to learn the name of internee number 886.



Martin Guindon/L'Abitibi Express

Pauline Quessy, at the Camp Spirit Lake Internment Interpretive Center, holds her unique donation dated from 1916 – a frame made by Spirit Lake internee number 886.

Ms. Quessy continued: "They told me that prisoner 886 used nails as his tools to carve the intricately made frame. I have had this frame with the photo of my grandfather in my possession since 1972. I asked my father about five years ago, who gave the frame to me, if I could donate this piece of internment history to the Spirit Lake museum, so that my grandfather's name and the internee would be remembered. My father agreed, although unfortunately he

since passed away before I could get into contact with the center to make this happen. I am pleased this historic artifact is now in this museum's permanent collection for future researchers and visitors."

To visit or for more information about the interpretive center at Camp Spirit Lake, readers may see www.camp-spiritlake.ca or obtain internment DVD documentaries at www.yluhovoy.com.



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Let's support our brothers and sisters at Euromaidan!

Sen. McCain...

(Continued from page 2)

well – see their future in Europe. Poll after poll confirms this, as does any time spent with young Ukrainians, who have no memory of the Soviet Union, and who want everything Europe has to offer. For this reason, no Ukrainian president – not this one or any other – will ever be able to take Ukraine off the path to Europe. Doing so would be political suicide. And for Russia to insist on it would only engender the animosity of millions of Ukrainians.

The fact is, Russia is not 10 feet tall, and it cannot bail out Ukraine forever. Russia's economy is growing sluggishly, plagued by corruption and capital flight and dependence on hydrocarbons. Under these circumstances, I imagine many Russians are not too happy to see \$15 billion of their national resources heading to a foreign country in furtherance of President Putin's selfish ideological ambitions.

So the question now is, where do we go from here?

First, we must continue to support the peaceful aspirations of Ukrainians for democracy, rule of law, uncorrupt govern-

nance, equal opportunity and integration with Europe. We must insist that the Ukrainian government uphold the human rights of all Ukrainians, especially the freedom of speech and association. And where Ukrainian citizens remain detained for peacefully exercising these basic rights, we should continue to call and work for their immediate release.

Second, we must continue to demand that all sides in the current political crisis refrain from violence – something the maidan demonstrators have done to a remarkable degree. Both the administration and the Congress have put Ukrainian authorities on notice that any further use of violence or other human rights violations against peaceful citizens will be met with targeted sanctions against those responsible. This is not an idle threat, and I hope we never have to make good on it. But we will vigilantly monitor events in Ukraine and, whether the demonstrations continue or not, we will be prepared to respond as necessary.

Third, we must support Ukrainian demands for accountability for those who ordered and carried out past acts of violence against peaceful demonstrators. President Yanukovich has initiated this process, and we should support Ukrainian efforts to see it through and to expand its scope where the evidence warrants.

Fourth, we must support popular Ukrainian demands for transparency on the terms of the agreement that was signed in Moscow this week. Many Ukrainians fear that President Yanukovich has made a decision that puts his own self-interests above the best interests of the country. It would not be the first time. We think Ukraine's citizens have a right to know the details of what Russia will get out of this deal.

Fifth, if Ukraine's political crisis persists or deepens, which is a real possibility, we must support creative Ukrainian efforts to resolve it. Sen. Murphy and I heard a few such ideas last weekend – from holding early elections, as the opposition is now demanding, to the institution of a technocratic government with a mandate to make the difficult reforms required for Ukraine's long-term economic health and sustainable development. Decisions such as these are for Ukrainians to make – no one else – and if they request our assistance, we should provide it where possible.

Finally, we must encourage the European Union and the IMF to keep their doors open to Ukraine. Ultimately, the support of both institutions is indispensable for Ukraine's future. And eventually, a Ukrainian president, either this one or a future one, will be prepared to accept the fundamental choice facing the country, which is this: While there are real short-term costs to the political and economic reforms required for IMF assistance and EU integration, and while President Putin will likely add to these costs by retaliating against Ukraine's economy, the long-term benefits for Ukraine in taking these tough steps are far greater and almost limitless.

This decision cannot be borne by one person alone in Ukraine. Nor should it be. It must be shared – both the risks and the rewards – by all Ukrainians, especially the opposition and business elite. It must also be shared by the EU, the IMF and the United States. All of us in the West should be prepared to help Ukraine, financially and otherwise, to overcome the short-term pain that reforms will require and Russia may inflict. In short, the West must show Ukraine's leaders and people that they will not face short-term economic destruction in pursuit of a better future.

This is the challenge we now face with Georgia and Moldova, which have decided to deepen ties to Europe and the West. These countries must know that we will help them weather any loss of economic activity or energy supplies. In a sense, by

helping Georgia and Moldova to meet their short-term needs during this transition, we in the West can convince Ukraine and others that they can count on us too.

Ultimately, if we are committed to expanding the promise of the Euro-Atlantic community, we will have to stand up more forcefully to Russia. This is not the way it should be, and certainly not the way we want it to be. Eastern European countries should not have to choose between good relations with the EU or good relations with Russia. That is not a choice we are asking them to make. It is a false choice, premised on an outdated, zero-sum view of the world. Unfortunately, this is exactly the choice that President Putin wants to impose on these countries.

As long as this remains the case, there will be tension with Russia that no amount of happy rhetoric or resets in relations can rectify. For the past two decades, administrations of both parties have sought to cooperate with Russia where possible and compete with Russia where necessary. The unfortunate reality is that, despite our best intentions and efforts, there is more competition than cooperation. We must face this reality squarely. And we must be willing to support our partners when they face undue Russian pressure for making their own sovereign decisions.

Now, many Americans will ask: Why should we care? Why should we care what happens to a country like Ukraine? Why does that affect our national interests? Here is why: For the entirety of the last century, the United States and our friends and allies pursued the vision of a Europe whole, free and at peace. We sacrificed our resources and shed our blood for it, time and time again. And we did so not simply because this vision of Europe's future is just and right, though it is both, but also because it is the only path to lasting stability on the continent, because it benefits our people economically, and because ultimately it makes our nation safer.

Despite growing challenges in the Middle East, and Asia, and other parts of the world, we cannot forget that the work of a Europe whole, free, and at peace is not finished. This struggle continues today in Ukraine, and Moldova, and Georgia, and other countries in Eastern Europe. We must be no less committed now than before in pursuing our national interest of a Europe whole, free and at peace – and supporting the right of all countries to share the benefits of it. That includes Russia.

This vision has always drawn Europeans and Americans, Ukrainians and Americans, together. And we see evidence of that all around us. Just a mile west of here, off Dupont Circle, is a statue of the great Ukrainian poet, Taras Shevchenko. It was dedicated nearly 50 years ago by President [Dwight D.] Eisenhower, who expressed his hope that the statue would, quote, "rekindle a new world movement in the hearts, minds, words and actions of men – a never-ending movement dedicated to the independence and freedom of peoples of all captive nations of the entire world."

After Eisenhower spoke, a Ukrainian chorus led the assembled crowd in singing one of Shevchenko's most famous poems, which concludes with this plea:

"Oh bury me, then rise ye up
And break your heavy chains,
And water with the tyrants' blood
The freedom you have gained.
And in the great new family,
The family of the free,
With softly spoken, kindly word
Remember also me."

America will always remember Ukraine. And we will always support the peaceful aspirations of her people, as we do on behalf of all people, in Europe and beyond.

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OUT & ABOUT

- | | |
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| <p>January 10
Philadelphia
Pub night, Ukrainian American Citizens' Association, 215-600-5128</p> <p>January 10
Toronto
Pub night, "Night B4 Malanka," The Rockpile, 416-504-6699</p> <p>January 10-February 22
Chicago
Art sale and exhibit from private collections, "Paintings by Ukrainian Artists," Ukrainian National Museum, 312-421-8020</p> <p>January 11
Carteret, NJ
Malanka dinner and dance, music by Luna, St. Demetrius Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral and St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, St. Demetrius Community Center, 609-655-4468 or 908-377-6073</p> <p>January 11
Jenkintown, PA
Malanka dinner and dance, music by Svitanok, Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, phillymalanka@cym.org or 215-620-7462</p> <p>January 11
Scranton, PA
Malanka dinner and dance, with music by Fata Morgana, St. Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church, 570-489-1256 (advance only)</p> <p>January 11
Mississauga, ON
Malanka, Ukrainian Youth Association of Canada, Mississauga Convention Center, www.cymmalanka.com</p> <p>January 11
New York
Cocktail party fund-raiser, "Breakfast at Tiffany's," The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110 or info@ukrainianmuseum.org</p> <p>January 11
New York
Malanka dance, music by Anna-Maria Entertainment, New York Branch of the Organization for the Defense of Lemko West Ukraine, Ukrainian National Home, 646-942-2014 or 551-697-0385</p> <p>January 11
Hartford, CT
Malanka dance, with music by the Fourth Wave band, Ukrainian National Home of Hartford, 860-296-6955 or Hartford@cym.org</p> <p>January 12
Parma, OH
Koliada in the Ukrainian Village, St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, ukrainianvillage@yahoo.com</p> | <p>January 12
New York
Concert, with Drakha Brakha, GlobalFEST, Webster Hall, www.globalfest-ny.com</p> <p>January 15
Philadelphia
Concert with Drakha Brakha, Ukrainian League of Philadelphia, 215-327-7614 or www.ukrainianleague.com</p> <p>January 18
Calgary, AB
Malanka New Year's Eve Gala, music by Real Deal and Zhyto bands, Plast Ukrainian Organization in Calgary, Calgary Petroleum Club, 403-241-1781 or www.plast.ca/calgary/malanka</p> <p>January 18
Miami
Malanka, Ukrainian American Club of Miami, donnamak@bellsouth.net or 305-635-6374</p> <p>January 18
Pittsford, NY
Concert marking the 1,025th anniversary of Christianity and Christmas in Ukraine, Linehan Chapel, Nazareth College, tamara@rufcu.org</p> <p>January 25
Penn's Landing, PA
Presentation of debutantes, Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America, Hyatt Regency Hotel, 610-277-1284 or hewka@verizon.net</p> <p>January 25
Randolph, MA
Boston Malanka, with music by Halychany, The Lantana, 508-245-1890 or bostonmalanka2014@gmail.com (advance only)</p> <p>February 1
Hamilton, ON
Volleyball tournament and dance, with music by Zapovid, McMaster Ukrainian Students' Association, Cathedral High School, macmusa1280@gmail.com</p> <p>February 1
Chicago
Presentation of debutantes, Ukrainian Medical Association of North America, Palmer House Hilton, 773-486-7929 or umanadeb@aol.com</p> |
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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.

*The Ukrainian Medical Association of North America
Illinois Branch*

**Cordially invites you to attend the traditional
Banquet and Ball
with the presentation of the 2014 Debutantes**

Saturday, February 1st, 2014

*The Grand Ballroom Palmer House Hilton
Chicago, Illinois*

Music by "Hrim"

Proceeds benefit the UMANA Foundation

*Only guests with a prepaid ticket may view the
presentation of the Debutantes*

*For event details please call (773) 486-7929
or email at UMANAdeb@aol.com*

UMANA Debutante Ball



Nina Byskosh
Barrington Hills, Illinois
Escort: Mark Orland



Tessa Witkowsky
Park Ridge, Illinois
Escort: Paul Temnycky



Adriana Chychula
Chicago, Illinois
Escort: Jeremy Palcan



Justine Hryhorczuk
Park Ridge, Illinois
Escort: Peter Zwarycz



Inessa Kolomayets
Hawthorn Woods, Illinois
Escort: Andrew Dudun



Marianna Oharenko
Chicago, Illinois
Escort: Matthew Wruskyj

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



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

★★★★★ *Goodreads*

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

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

Available on amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com in ebook and soft cover versions or at www.caughtinthecurrent.net

PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Tuesday, January 7

PARMA, Ohio: St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral sponsors its 26th annual Christmas radio program for its sick and elderly shut-in parishioners and the entire Ukrainian community of Greater Cleveland. The Christmas divine liturgy will be broadcast live at 9-11 a.m. over WJMO, 1300 AM. It can also be heard online at <http://praisecleveland.com>. Go to the radio station website for Praise 1300 AM, click on "listen live" on the right-hand side, or to go the parish website, <http://www.stvladimirs.org>. The liturgy will be celebrated by the cathedral's clergy, with responses sung by the Ukrainian and English choirs of the cathedral. (Also at St. Vladimir's, Great Complines and Matins will be celebrated at 7:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve, Monday, January 6.)

Saturday, January 11

JENKINTOWN, Pa.: Come celebrate the New Year with family and friends at the annual Philadelphia Malanka. This year the popular "zabava" band Svitanok will provide entertainment, while a complimentary champagne toast, hot buffet dinner and cash bar will also be offered. The event begins 9 p.m. at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, 700 Cedar Road, Jenkintown, Pa. Discounted advance tickets are available for adults at \$40 (\$45 at the door) and students at \$20 (\$30 at the door). Special discounts apply when reserving a table of 10. Hotel rooms are available at the Willow Grove Hampton Inn. For ticket information contact Dan, 215-620-7462, or PhillyMalanka@cym.org.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

Preview of Events is a listing of community events open to the public. It is a service provided at minimal cost (\$20 per listing) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community.

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.**



Is Your Child Or Grandchild A UNA Member?

Endowment at Age 18*

- Issued to persons between the ages of 0-10
- Minimum policy size is \$5,000
- Premium payable until age 18
- No policy fee
- Full face amount paid at death or on maturity date at age 18
- Life insurance plan and systematic savings combined
- IRS: interest is taxable during accumulation period

*Not available in all states.

20 Year Endowment*

- Issued to persons between the ages of 0-80
- For ages 0-60: minimum policy is \$5,000
- For ages 61-80: premium of \$200 or more is required
- Premiums are payable for 20 years
- No policy fee
- Full face amount paid at death or on maturity date at the end of 20th year
- Life insurance plan and systematic savings combined
- IRS: interest is taxable during accumulation period

*Not available in all states.



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