

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Published by the Ukrainian National Association Inc., a fraternal non-profit association

Vol. LXXXII

No. 3

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2014

\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

UNA organizes roundtable with Sen. Menendez on situation in Ukraine

by Roma Lisovich

NEWARK, N.J. – Acting on the request of U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez (D-N.J.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the Ukrainian National Association organized a roundtable discussion with leaders of New Jersey-based Ukrainian American community organizations on January 2 at the senator's offices in Newark, N.J.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, New Jersey has the fourth highest population of Ukrainian Americans in the United States, behind New York, Pennsylvania and California.

The senator reached out to the UNA during the Christmas holidays through the UNA's fraternal coordinator, Yuriy Symczyk. The short notice and inclement weather, unfortunately, prevented a number of organizations from participating. Despite these limitations, the representative cross-section of community leaders who were able to attend collectively prepared a comprehensive presentation for the senator.

Sen. Menendez warmly welcomed the Ukrainian American representatives and immediately expressed his support of the Ukrainian people and their struggle. "We stand with the citizens of Ukraine who meet in Kyiv's Maidan Square seeking their human rights and dignity," he said as he greeted the delegation.

He further stated that his purpose in initiating the meeting was to learn what the Ukrainian American community and his constituents in New Jersey felt about the current situation in Ukraine, and he expressed his desire to address the community's concerns.

In attendance as representatives of the UNA were Treasurer Roma Lisovich (coordinator of the meeting), President Stefan Kaczaraj and Mr. Symczyk. Representing the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), the national Ukrainian American umbrella organization, were New Jersey residents Tamara Olexy, president, and Ronya Lozynskyj, external affairs director.

Dr. Alexander Motyl, professor of political science at Rutgers University-Newark, a well-known author and specialist on Ukraine, Russia, the Soviet Union and the post-Soviet order, joined the illustrious panel. Representing the Ukrainian American Bar Association (UABA) were Myroslaw Smorodsky, communications director, and Victor Rud, Foreign Policy Committee chairman. Mr. Smorodsky has a diverse background, which ranges from representing Soviet political prisoners in the 1970s to acting as legal advisor to the Ukrainian Mission to the United Nations and the Ukrainian Embassy post-independence. Mr. Rud has served as legal counsel to the U.S. public mem-

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Lutsenko becomes latest victim of Ukrainian authorities' violence

by Zenon Zawada

KYIV – The Ukrainian government extended its battle against the Euro-Maidan as it entered its eighth week, with former Internal Affairs Minister Yuriy Lutsenko becoming its latest victim. He was beaten the night of January 10 during scuffles with the Berkut after the police brutally beat demonstrators that evening.

Mr. Lutsenko has been among the Euro-Maidan's leaders since its beginning after he was released from prison, where he spent more than 15 months on politically motivated charges. He suffered a concussion, head trauma and wounds that landed him in intensive care, and he remained hospitalized for at least a week after the assault.

Eliciting outrage was how Ukraine's authorities handled the beating of a former minister, which observers say confirms that the administration of President Viktor Yanukovich has embraced a neo-Soviet authoritarian governing style. The authorities told Western diplomats that Mr. Lutsenko was drunk and that police didn't assault him.

"The drunk Lutsenko beat himself up and threw himself under a fence," his wife, Iryna, summed up the authorities' version of events after a January 13 meeting that involved the ambassadors of the United States, Canada and European



Andriy Kovalov

A bloodied Yuriy Lutsenko after he was beaten about the head by Berkut forces on January 11.

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CONVENTION OF THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, BRANCH OFFICERS AND TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, THAT THE

38th REGULAR CONVENTION of the UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

will be held at Soyuzivka Heritage Center in Kerhonkson, NY Beginning Thursday, May 15, 2014, through Sunday, May 18, 2014.

In accordance with the By-Laws of the UNA regarding election of delegates to the Convention, the qualifications for delegates, the number of delegates from each Branch and the credentials of delegates are as follows:

The election of delegates and their alternates must be held within 60 days of the announcement of the Convention. Since the Convention was announced on January 17, 2014, the 60-day term for election of delegates and their alternates ends on March 15, 2014.

Delegates and their alternates to which the Branch is entitled shall be elected at a regular meeting of the Branch by the members present. Nominations shall be made from the floor and all candidates will be presented to the membership for a vote. The candidate or candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected delegates. Alternate delegates shall be elected by separate vote in similar manner. All tie

votes involving alternates shall be immediately resolved by another ballot for the candidates involved. Each member shall be entitled to one vote for each delegate and each alternate authorized to the Branch. Delegates and their alternates must be elected at the same regular Branch meeting. In the event that a delegate fails or is unable to attend a Convention, an alternate shall be seated in his or her place, and remain seated for the balance of the Convention. If a Branch has more than one delegate, the seats of the absent delegates shall be occupied by alternates in the order of the highest number of votes received in the election.

Only UNA members in good standing may be present at the meeting and vote for delegates and their alternates. A member in good standing is one who has a certificate of insurance in the UNA on which dues are being paid. A member who has

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ANALYSIS

2013 a controversial year for Ukraine: Yanukovich makes U-turn to avoid default

by Oleg Varfolomeyev
Eurasia Daily Monitor

Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich made a sensational U-turn last year, choosing Russian economic assistance over an association and free-trade deal with the European Union. The decision, which triggered the most massive anti-government protests since 2004, was dictated by a dismal state of the Ukrainian economy and by Mr. Yanukovich's desire to be re-elected to a second term in 2015. In any case, Kyiv's choice in favor of Russia does not look final. Mr. Yanukovich may return to the negotiating table with the EU as Ukraine has not joined the Russia-led Customs Union.

The year 2013 was successful for President Yanukovich. He managed to improve relations with Russia and, despite the U-turn in November-December 2013, also with the EU. While EU leaders shunned him early in the year, demanding that he release political prisoners and conduct serious reforms before any serious talks could take place, by the end of November they were willing to sign the association deal with him even if his main political opponent, former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, remained in prison.

The attitude toward Kyiv started to change in the West in April, when Mr. Yanukovich pardoned an ally of Ms. Tymoshenko - former Internal Affairs Minister Yuriy Lutsenko. And Western leaders began to sympathize more with Kyiv last summer, when Moscow began to openly discriminate against Ukrainian imports and made it clear that Kyiv was being punished for its pro-European course (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, July 31 and September 3, 2013).

Eventually, the opposition and the Yanukovich team came to terms on EU-related issues in Parliament and began to pass legal acts required by the EU for the association deal. As a result, by the time of the Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius on November 28-29, 2013, the EU was more ready to accept the deal with Ukraine than ever before.

However, the EU had been slow to notice a change in the mood in Kyiv in the fall of 2013 and seemed too inattentive to Kyiv's calls for economic assistance. Moscow did scare Kyiv with a week-long blockade of Ukrainian imports in August and the informal bans on the imports of railroad cars, steel pipes and candies introduced by Moscow last summer and early fall. Furthermore, Russia, which remains Ukraine's main trading partner, threatened that it would not respect a free-trade agreement with Ukraine if the deal with the EU were signed (Vesti, August 21, 2013).

The situation was exacerbated by rising current-account and fiscal deficits; the economy did not rebound in the third quarter of 2013 as the government had expected. In the meantime, the central bank was spending more dollars from its reserves to stabilize the local currency, while repaying debt to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Ukraine was quickly nearing a default, as Prime Minister Mykola Azarov

acknowledged recently (Interfax-Ukraine, December 13, 2013).

The government hoped that the EU and the United States would help it persuade the IMF to issue a new loan of about \$15 billion, but the IMF refused to ease its conditions, demanding domestic gas price hikes in order to reduce the fiscal deficit, a wage freeze and a devaluation of the hryvnia (Ukrayinska Pravda, January 5).

Ukraine probably would have benefited in the medium to long term if it accepted those conditions, but accepting them would have been tantamount to a political default for Mr. Yanukovich. He would most likely lose re-election in 2015 if the IMF's conditions had been accepted. So, from Mr. Yanukovich's point of view, he had no option but the U-turn at the Vilnius summit, for which Moscow rewarded him on December 17, 2013, with a promise of \$15 billion in loans and a price cut to \$268.5 per 1,000 square meters of natural gas from around \$400 charged in 2013.

However, bridges to Europe have not been burnt. First, even after the U-turn, EU leaders insist that the association deal offer remains on the table (Interfax, November 25, 2013; ITAR-TASS, December 18, 2013). Second, although accepting Russia's assistance, Mr. Yanukovich has not agreed to join the Russian-led Customs Union, after which a free-trade agreement with the EU would have been definitely off the agenda. Third, the U-turn has prompted the most massive street protests since the Orange Revolution of late 2004. The tens of thousands of Ukrainians who have gathered in central Kyiv every Sunday starting from December 1 are probably a convincing emotional argument for those EU politicians who have been skeptical about the deal with Ukraine. The protesters initially demanded that the government return to the negotiating table with the EU, and became anti-government-minded only after police tried to disperse them by force.

Mr. Azarov reiterated after his most recent visit to Moscow that the government was not going to revise the conditions of the planned deal with the EU. He also made it clear that Kyiv would not have refused to sign the deal, had the circumstances been different (Interfax-Ukraine, December 25, 2013).

The year 2014 will show if Ukraine and the West can understand each other better and if the government is serious about not changing its pro-EU course. However, it is not yet clear what exactly Mr. Yanukovich promised Russia in return for the assistance. And if Russia promised support in the upcoming presidential election, the deal with the EU will be postponed at least until after spring 2015. On the upside, the December deal with Russia should help the government to stabilize the economy in the short term.

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NEWSBRIEFS

Klitschko urges Europe to impose sanctions

KYIV - Ukrainian opposition leader Vitali Klitschko has called for European leaders to slap sanctions on members of the government of President Viktor Yanukovich. The former boxing champion issued the appeal on January 11 after riot police clashed with protesters overnight in Kyiv. At least 10 people were injured in the clashes outside of a courthouse in the Ukrainian capital, including former Ukrainian Internal Affairs Minister Yuriy Lutsenko. "I am calling again on European politicians to consider this question as soon as possible. Only personal sanctions against those who are the backbone of the Yanukovich regime can stop this regime," Mr. Klitschko said in a video released by his UDAR party. The violence came after a court in Kyiv sentenced three men to six years in jail for allegedly plotting to blow up a statue of Lenin in 2011. Reports said around 10 protesters were injured in the violence. The Internal Affairs Ministry said 20 officers had been hurt. Mr. Lutsenko's wife and his Third Ukrainian Republic organization said Mr. Lutsenko had suffered a concussion and other injuries after being struck in the head. RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service quoted his wife as saying on January 11 that he was still hospitalized in "moderate" condition. Anti-government protesters took to the roads of Kyiv in the evening on January 11 to protest the latest police action. Honking their horns, they drove by the headquarters of the riot police, or Berkut. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by Agence France-Presse, Reuters and RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service)

EPP condemns assault on Lutsenko

BRUSSELS - The vice-president of the European People's Party (EPP), Member of the European Parliament Jacek Saryusz-Wolski, on January 14 strongly condemned the violent assault against prominent Ukrainian opposition leader, Yuriy Lutsenko, which happened last weekend in a clash between peaceful protesters and police in the Ukrainian capital. "I was shocked and horrified at the events in Kyiv on Saturday which involved the brutal beating of Yuriy Lutsenko. Needless to say, violence of this kind is completely unacceptable, especially in response to peaceful

protests. The EPP reaffirms its full support for all Ukrainians who are protesting peacefully as part of the Euro-Maidan demonstrations and applauds them for their commitment to a democratic, independent and European Ukraine. I call on the Ukrainian authorities to immediately investigate the attack on Mr. Lutsenko and to prosecute those responsible for this crime, which is in clear contradiction to the basic principle of freedom of assembly. I also call on the EU institutions to identify the appropriate steps which could be taken in order to prevent further abuses." The EPP is the largest and most influential European-level political party of the center-right, which currently includes 74 member-parties from 39 countries, the presidents of the European Commission and the European Council, 12 EU and four non-EU heads of state and government, 13 members of the European Commission and the largest group in the European Parliament. (EPP)

Kyiv, Moscow formalize gas deal

KYIV - Ukraine and Russia have signed a formal amendment to a natural-gas contract that cuts the price of Russian gas by one-third for the first quarter of 2014. Ukraine's energy and coal industry minister, Eduard Stavitskiy, told journalists on January 9 that the agreement established the price of Russia's natural gas to Ukraine at \$268.50 per 1,000 cubic meters. The deal was reached last month, a few weeks after Kyiv walked away from signing a free-trade pact with the European Union. A new price level must be confirmed every quarter, an arrangement that analysts say creates financial leverage for Moscow to prevent Kyiv from seeking to revive ties with the bloc. Ukraine paid around \$400 per 1,000 cubic meters to import an estimated 26 billion-27 billion cubic meters of natural gas from Russia, its main supplier, in 2013. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by Reuters, UNIAN, Interfax, and RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service)

Pro-EU activist in pretrial detention

KYIV - A pro-EU activist in Ukraine who was arrested last month on charges of involvement in mass disorders has been

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

FOUNDED 1933

An English-language newspaper published by the Ukrainian National Association Inc., a non-profit association, at 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

Yearly subscription rate: \$65; for UNA members - \$55.

Periodicals postage paid at Caldwell, NJ 07006 and additional mailing offices.
(ISSN - 0273-9348)

The Weekly:
Tel: (973) 292-9800; Fax: (973) 644-9510

UNA:
Tel: (973) 292-9800; Fax: (973) 292-0900

Postmaster, send address changes to:
The Ukrainian Weekly
2200 Route 10
P.O. Box 280
Parsippany, NJ 07054

Editor-in-chief: Roma Hadzewycz
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The Ukrainian Weekly Archive: www.ukrweekly.com

The Ukrainian Weekly, January 19, 2014, No. 3, Vol. LXXXII
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www.ukrweekly.com

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Ministry of Culture threatens to terminate registration of UGCC



RISU

Patriarch Sviatoslav, speaking at a press conference on January 13, reveals that the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church was threatened by the Ministry of Culture that it could have its registration revoked for holding religious activities on the Maidan.

Religious Information Service of Ukraine

KYIV – Patriarch Sviatoslav of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church (UGCC) on January 13 released and commented on a letter sent by the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine regarding the possible termination of activities of religious organizations based on their activity on Independence Square, where peaceful protests have been held since late November 2013.

On Christmas Eve, January 6, the UGCC leader received an official letter from the ministry about “systematic disregard for the law by some priests on Independence Square, allegedly supported by UGCC authorities.”

According to the ministry, the UGCC violated the requirements of the law on freedom of conscience and religious organizations, holding religious activities on Independence Square (Maidan) in December 2013 and at the beginning of 2014.

In response to this information from the Ministry of Culture, Patriarch Sviatoslav said that the Church is not taking part in political events, but it “cannot stay apart when the faithful ask for spiritual care.”

“Our Church has always been true and will remain so for the future mission that Christ the Savior entrusted, despite all the threats. We thought that the time of repression had passed, but letters like these raise doubts. We are not ashamed of our presence on the Maidan and will remain there,” said the head of the UGCC.

It is not known if such letters were received by other Churches or religious organizations.

The last time the UGCC was “removed from the register” was in March 1946, during Stalin’s purges. For 40 years it existed illegally and became known as “the Church of the catacombs.”

Euro-Maidan leaders bicker, exposing rifts in movement

by Zenon Zawada

KYIV – Besides police brutality, an equal threat to the Euro-Maidan has been the increasing quarreling among its leaders.

“The government is trying to play on these conflicts,” said Volodymyr Fesenko, chair of the Penta Center for Applied Political Research in Kyiv. “Everything will depend on the ability of the opposition and the Euro-Maidan activists to consolidate and organize for a long-term struggle.”

The Euro-Maidan’s political and civic leaders have come to realize that their best chances of removing the authoritarian administration of President Viktor Yanukovich will be the March 2015 presidential elections. They’ve indicated as much from the Euro-Maidan stage in recent weeks.

As a result, they’re already competing with each other, said Petro Oleshchuk, a political science lecturer at Shevchenko National University in Kyiv.

“The division in the opposition is explained by the desire of each player to seize as much a share of the popularity and influence that, in their view, should ensure them more power once it will be taken,” he said. “That’s why every strong leader is seen as a competitor. So, if Ruslana becomes more popular, she becomes the target of criticism.”

On January 6, Svoboda National Deputy Iryna Farion accused pop singer and Euro-

Maidan night DJ Ruslana of serving the government when insisting on an apolitical Maidan during its first days in Kyiv.

“It’s not possible to resolve extraordinary political issues of a geopolitical character with singing and dancing,” she told a demonstration in Drohobych, adding, “We didn’t come together for dancing or for some singer to tell us about how this is a creative Maidan and not political, but to replace the criminal Ukrainophobe horde led by the convict Yanukovich and the underdeveloped Azarov. That’s our main goal, and not to lead dances throughout Kyiv.”

Besides revealing the competition within the opposition camp, their conflict reflected the skepticism with which civic activists view the opposition politicians. During the early days of the Euro-Maidan in Lviv, civic activists refused to allow Svoboda national deputies on stage.

Public trust in the opposition politicians suffered not only from the vicious conflict between former President Viktor Yushchenko and former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, but also from news reports of their alleged corruption that had been surfacing on a monthly basis prior to the Euro-Maidan.

The activists-politicians rift surfaced again on January 10 when the Maidan Citizens Council issued an ultimatum that

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NEWS ANALYSIS: Russia begins collecting its Ukrainian gas bill

by Stephen Blank

Eurasia Daily Monitor

Although demonstrators still occupy the maidan in central Kyiv and none of Ukraine’s fundamental issues that precipitated the crisis in late 2013 have been resolved, it is clear that the Russian “transfusion” of support for Ukrainian bonds and lower natural gas prices has given President Viktor Yanukovich’s government a respite. In this interval, it still is not fully clear what Ukraine’s obligations will be to Russia in return for this support. Nevertheless, one can observe the beginnings of the outline of what Ukraine now “owes” Russia. It should be remembered that as part of the Russian solution Ukrainian Prime Minister Mykola Azarov stated that Russia devised a plan to restore “full-fledged” ties between Moscow and Kyiv (Interfax-Ukraine, December 7, 2013).

This does not include the question of Ukraine and the Russian-led Customs Union – indeed, Moscow seems hardly willing to admit an economic basket case the size of Ukraine into the union at present given the economic disaster it would portend and the political explosion that would surely erupt. But full-fledged ties clearly point to modifications, probably in Russia’s favor, in gas, defense issues and industry, as well as other economic sectors.

Thus, Russia wrote into the agreement important clauses on the maintenance and re-equipment of the Black Sea Fleet and construction of a bridge over the Kerch Strait between Ukraine’s Crimea and Russia’s Krasnodar Krai (Vedomosti Online, December 19, 2013). What this means is that Russia is strengthening its hold on Crimea and adding infrastructure so that this region remains hostage to bilateral relations. And should Kyiv falter in its obligations or become sufficiently

weak, Crimea will likely revert de jure to Russia – even though it is already de facto largely controlled by Russia.

Importantly, both sides differ in their opinion of Ukraine’s “assets.” President Yanukovich insists that his country’s gas transport system remains an important commodity, while Russian President Vladimir Putin said its value is approaching minimal levels (Nezavisimaya Gazeta Online, December 20, 2013). This may be a tactic to drive down the price of Ukraine’s pipeline network. But it is unlikely that Moscow has given up its dream of acquiring that network even

Ukraine is liable to wake up one morning soon and find that its independence and territory have been gradually sold off to Russia.

though it has begun work on the South Stream gas pipeline, which avoids Ukrainian territory entirely. The political payoff of controlling Ukraine is too large for the Kremlin to renounce; and second, too many Russian elites’ private interests are embroiled in Ukraine’s gas issues for anyone to walk away empty-handed.

But since Yanukovich has shown no sign of reforming Ukraine’s wasteful energy policies, which make it essentially an addict to Russian gas, it is likely that the Russian price reduction will only encourage further dependency on Kyiv’s Russian pusher. Moreover, even though Ukraine’s Vice Prime Minister Yuriy Boyko says the country’s gas problem is now solved until 2019 and that Ukraine will keep reducing its gas purchases from Russia, in fact the notorious take-or-pay clauses of the 2009 contract remain in force. This arrangement ensures that these problems will continue to roil the waters of Russo-

Ukrainian relations (ITAR-TASS, December 23, 2013; Kommersant-Ukraine, December 19, 2013).

Ukraine’s “addiction” will likely persist because the Russian price relief leads to a rate that is evidently lower than what Ukraine has been paying for gas purchases from Europe (Kommersant-Ukraine, December 18, 2013).

And Ukraine’s respite will probably be short-lived; Gazprom will be able to revise the price on a quarterly basis, and the Russian funding for state bonds to Ukraine will come only in individual tranches. Ironically, Ukraine probably did not need

tinuing high risks for its financial sector (Kommersant-Ukraine, December 18, 2013).

Nonetheless, Ukraine is already paying back its obligations. It will supply Russia with Zenit carrier rockets at a price yet to be agreed upon (Interfax-Ukraine, December 28, 2013). It will also make natural gas tankers for Russian use in the Arctic (Interfax, December 21, 2013). Furthermore, the Kyiv Post reported that Ukraine recently repaid a \$750 million loan issued by Russia’s VTB Capital PLC and Sberbank. Essentially, this means that Ukraine used the first tranche of the Russian fiduciary support for its bonds to pay off debts.

And the figures on Ukrainian borrowing suggest that Russian funds will be used to pay off other debts rather than go to productive investment. Thus, debt is turning into debt, not equity, and Russia is the creditor – hardly a sign of future success or independence for Ukraine, let alone reform. Indeed, Ukraine borrowed 23.98 billion hryv (\$3 billion) from abroad in 2013. This amount in U.S. dollars is equivalent to the funding that Russia granted by way of purchasing Ukrainian Eurobonds with National Welfare Fund money (Kyiv Post, December 30, 2013)

Arguably then, the above-described package deal represents a gradual Russian leveraged buyout of Ukraine, which is liable to wake up one morning soon and find that its independence and territory have been gradually sold off to Russia. One can already see this happening in the gas, finance and defense sectors. But should anyone profess to be surprised at these results?

The article above is reprinted from Eurasia Daily Monitor with permission from its publisher, the Jamestown Foundation, www.jamestown.org.

OVERVIEW

Government's key players in relation to the Euro-Maidan

by Zenon Zawada

KYIV – The following is a list of key players in the Ukrainian government and their relationship to the Euro-Maidan.

President **Viktor Yanukovich**, 63, is the top enemy of the Euro-Maidan. In August 2103, he mobilized the Ukrainian government to prepare for signing the Association Agreement with the European Union, only to pull the rug out from under everyone at the November 28-29, 2013, Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius. It's now widely accepted that he was using the threat of signing the EU Association Agreement to get bigger concessions from Russian President Vladimir Putin, which were offered on December 17, 2013.

In 2010, he arranged for a court to cancel the 2004 amendments to the Ukrainian Constitution that shifted authority on domestic issues to the prime minister. Therefore, the Euro-Maidan views him as responsible for all the acts of excessive force and violence against protesters and it's widely accepted that Mr. Yanukovich calls all the shots on the government's key decisions, both foreign and domestic.

Mr. Yanukovich authorized the police attacks on protesters on November 30 and December 1, 2013, Party of Regions defector Inna Bohoslovskaya told journalist Mustafa Nayem in an interview published on the Ukrayinska Pravda news site on December 2. "I am sure. Without him, no one would have done that," she said. "It's another issue that he could have, for example, said, 'Well, play it by ear.' And the spiteful guys might have taken advantage of that."

Mr. Yanukovich hasn't seemed emotionally stable since the Vilnius summit, Ms. Bohoslovskaya said. "That was apparent in the video from Vilnius," she said. "I saw his face, I saw his eyes. I had the feeling that he was doing not at all what he wanted to, as a matter of fact." Such claims have fueled conspiracy theories on the Euro-Maidan that Mr. Putin used "kompromat" (compromising information) to blackmail and prevent him from signing the EU Association Agreement.

"My very close friend is convinced that the last straw was the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate," she said. "It's impossible to rule that out because Yanukovich does listen to his spiritual fathers."

At a closed door meeting of the Party of Regions on September 4, 2013, Mr. Yanukovich "in the strongest manner masterfully sorted out the situation," she said, regarding the EU Association Agreement. "He persuaded everyone that there was no other way out, that Russia isn't capable of upholding agreements, that Putin isn't capable of upholding agreements and views Ukraine only as a target of his personal influence and there could be no negotiations with them."

A third of the Regions parliamentary faction was against the EU agreement, yet he "simply rolled over them, without effort, simply broke them over his knee," Ms. Bohoslovskaya commented.

Since then, however, "Yanukovich restricted communications with some entirely inconceivably tight circle," she said. He prefers to restrict the information flow, she said, adding, "The tsar's entourage acts as the tsar wants."

Presidential Administration Chair **Serhiy Lyovochkin**, 41, is reported to have submitted his resignation hours after the November 30, 2013, violent dispersal of the Euro-Maidan, but Mr. Yanukovich didn't accept it. It was the second time Mr. Lyovochkin submitted his resignation, the first being in November 2012, when it was



The top three enemies of the Euro-Maidan (from left): President Viktor Yanukovich, Prime Minister Mykola Azarov and Minister of Internal Affairs Vitaliy Zakharchenko.

also reportedly declined by the president.

Mr. Lyovochkin "knew about plans to disperse the Maidan but didn't participate in discussing them and demonstratively removed himself, giving the opportunity to his primordial opponent, [National Security and Defense Council Secretary Andrii] Kliuyev, to completely discredit himself in the eyes of the West," according to one version of events reported by Ukrayinska Pravda on December 6. "According to another version, Lyovochkin didn't answer his phone as much since he wanted to rest after the tense Vilnius summit."

On November 30, Mr. Lyovochkin tried to contact Mr. Yanukovich, who was still hunting. Besides his resignation letter, he gave Mr. Yanukovich a disc with recordings of global news reports of the violent dispersal and a statement announcing the resignation of Internal Affairs Minister Vitaliy Zakharchenko, which the president never announced.

He also contacted Mr. Kliuyev to remind him of his personal responsibility for the Maidan. The latter reportedly responded that the television news would report the Berkut police was defending maintenance workers from protesters in order to set up the Christmas tree.

Mr. Lyovochkin is not a member of "The Family," which is the tight circle that surrounds the president's older son, Oleksandr. Instead, Mr. Lyovochkin enjoys close ties with billionaire gas trader Dmytro Firtash and Vice Prime Minister Yuriy Boiko.

"During the last year, after the change of the Cabinet, Yanukovich kept Lyovochkin only for balance," Ms. Bohoslovskaya said. "In reality, he was removed from decision-making." Mr. Lyovochkin supports the EU Association Agreement, she added.

Mr. Lyovochkin is widely believed to have controlled the news content on Ukraine's biggest television network, Inter since taking office in February 2010. Among his key advisors is Igor Shuvalov, a Russian citizen. Inter offered relatively balanced coverage of the Euro-Maidan, which is widely believed to reflect the neutral position of Mr. Firtash towards the events.

Yet Mr. Yanukovich reportedly ordered the network's coverage turned against the Euro-Maidan in the third week of December. Numerous journalists quit and a report surfaced on Telekritika on December 26 that Mr. Lyovochkin would be involved in the launch of a new TV network. It's widely believed he will leave the Presidential Administration in the next few weeks.

Prime Minister **Mykola Azarov**, 66, is the second biggest enemy of the Euro-Maidan. His role is not that of a decision-maker, Ms. Bohoslovskaya said, "Azarov never in his life made any statements not cleared by Yanukovich." Instead, he is widely believed to be in charge of the technical side of governing. Perhaps most importantly, he's been a key player in Ukrainian politics since 1996 and is believed to hold kompromat on all of Ukraine's key players.

The longest serving prime minister in

independent Ukraine (nearly four years), Mr. Azarov spent more than half his life in Russia before arriving in Donetsk in 1984. He's been mocked for failing to learn the Ukrainian language by the Euro-Maidan, where refrigerator magnets are sold that say "Z Novim Rikom!" (instead of "Z Novym Rokom!"). He is widely believed to favor Ukraine's integration with the Russian-led Customs Union.

Mr. Azarov is reviled for his vile and degrading tone towards his political opponents. Mr. Azarov has expressed his contempt for the Ukrainian people, openly stating in August 2012: "Our people have a great deal of patience. It seems that it should have ended long, long ago, but they continue to persevere. They put up with the Orangists, they put up with hell knows who, and they also put up with us. But at least we do less bad things to them."

First Vice Prime Minister **Serhiy Arbuzov**, 37, demonstrated that he supports signing the EU Association Agreement over any deal with Russia. For the Vilnius summit, Mr. Arbuzov prepared a one-page memorandum calling for the formation of a bilateral working group to draft a road map to implement the agreement, assess the economic damage it would do to the Ukrainian economy and relax International Monetary Fund loan conditions.

Mr. Arbuzov gained support for the memorandum from EU Enlargement Commissioner Stefan Fule and EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht, but Mr. Yanukovich declined to authorize it, insisting on the presence of Russian diplomats in the working group – a condition rejected by the EU.

Later on, Mr. Arbuzov was reportedly close to getting a road map for adopting the Association Agreement signed by Mr. Fule, but it fell through at the last minute. Mr. Fule tweeted: "Told deputy PM Arbuzov in BXL & after that further discussion is conditioned on clear commitment 2sign. Work on hold, had no answer."

Mr. Arbuzov was reported by the Ukrainian press to have been very disappointed with the president's decision. He's part of the Family, though Ms. Bohoslovskaya said he has distanced himself in recent months, particularly from Mr. Zakharchenko.

Observers said he wants to distinguish his image as a pro-European politician, repeating as recently as January 13 that the Ukrainian government is doing "everything possible" to sign the Association Agreement this year. Deutsche Welle reported that Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry said such consultations haven't begun yet.

National Security and Defense Council Chair **Andrii Kliuyev**, 49, was accused of ordering the November 30, 2013, assault on the Euro-Maidan by Oleksandr Popov, the Kyiv City State Administration chair, who was one of three state officials dismissed by the president for his alleged involvement.

Mr. Kliuyev went to prosecutors on December 16, after Mr. Popov's accusation, and testified that he had no involvement.

He's identified as the fourth biggest enemy of the Euro-Maidan.

"That innocent people suffered is a misfortune. It's very bad," he told a German media outlet on December 19. "I believe what happened was the clearest of provocations."

Yet the Ukrayinska Pravda news site reported on December 6 that Mr. Kliuyev had planned to forcibly clear the maidan a week before the November 30 assault. "Together with first deputy Volodymyr Sivkovych, they selected the Berkut division that was assigned the dirty deed," it reported. Mr. Sivkovych was among those held responsible by prosecutors and dismissed from his post by Mr. Yanukovich.

As evidence of his direct involvement, Ukrayinska Pravda cited sources confirming that Mr. Kliuyev planned for TV news reports to state that the November 30 beatings were the result of Berkut police protecting maintenance workers in their attempt to put up the Christmas tree on Independence Square – the maidan.

Sure enough, Russian TV news broadcast that version of events, which Ukrayinska Pravda attributed to Mr. Kliuyev's close relationship to Viktor Medvedchuk, Mr. Putin's right-hand man in Ukraine.

Hanna Herman, identified by Ukrayinska Pravda as being under Mr. Kliuyev's control, called an urgent press conference during which she denied his responsibility for the beatings.

"The conclusive evidence of Mr. Kliuyev's complicity in the maidan dispersal was his address at the morning meeting of the Party of Regions faction on December 3," Pravda reported, pointing out that it was Mr. Kliuyev addressing the incident, not Mr. Zakharchenko, who controls Ukraine's national police force.

"Those present said Kliuyev so eloquently described the effectiveness and bravery of the law enforcement officers that those in the audience began to joke, 'Maybe Zakharchenko needs to be rewarded?'" the news site reported.

"When asked directly whether he was personally complicit in the plan to disperse the maidan, he placed full responsibility on Kyiv Police Chief Valerii Koriak, forgetting to even mention the role of Zakharchenko. That's more than odd, since the central police chief can't deploy the Berkut, moreover redeploy regional detachments, without a command from the internal affairs minister," Ukrayinska Pravda wrote.

Mr. Kliuyev's wealth was estimated at \$130 million in 2013 by Korrespondent magazine in Kyiv. His business empire includes numerous Donbas factories. He led the Party of Regions campaign for the 2012 presidential elections and is widely believed to have led the shadow campaign for Mr. Yanukovich's re-election in 2004.

Mr. Kliuyev is "very close" to Mr. Medvedchuk, Ms. Bohoslovskaya said. "Using the hands of Kliuyev and a series of other fellows, Medvedchuk is playing out his own personal scenario. That's his style," Ms. Bohoslovskaya commented.

Mr. Kliuyev knew in advance that the Association Agreement wouldn't be signed, she said, adding that he likely knew from Mr. Medvedchuk. "I was convinced that he was bluffing because 99 percent of those with whom I communicated said that he would sign it."

Mr. Kliuyev said on December 19 that Ukraine could fracture into three separate states should the political crisis deepen. "If we continue to accuse each other, that's a path to the collapse of the country not even into two, but three parts," he told the

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'Embroidery Tuesday' attracts thousands of Euro-Maidan supporters via Facebook

by Deanna Yurchuk

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

NEW YORK – On December 13, 2013, 28-year-old Alex Oryshkevych, 30, of Rochester, N.Y., created a Facebook event he dubbed "Vyshyvanyj Vivtorok" ("Embroidery Tuesday") encouraging 450 of his friends to wear Ukrainian embroidered shirts on the following Tuesday in support of the protesters on the Euro-Maidan.

The invitation read: "By wearing our [embroidered shirts] at work, at home, among friends, in public, etc. we are showing our support for those on Independence Square and those rallying throughout Ukraine. We are also supporting each other, educating those around us and bringing light to an important time in our history."

The initial 450 invitees seemed to really like the idea and quickly passed it along to their friends, and in a few short weeks the event invitation had reached almost 13,000 Facebook users, with nearly 2,000 actively participating.

Mr. Oryshkevych came up with the idea as he considered ways to show his support for those on Independence Square. "I thought, what better way to show our support from afar than by wearing our vyshyvanky on a periodic basis, and not just on August 24 or within the confines of our homes," he said. "Thanks to some very patriotic people and the power of social media, the event became widespread."

As a way to showcase the project, Mr. Oryshkevych asked all participants to pho-

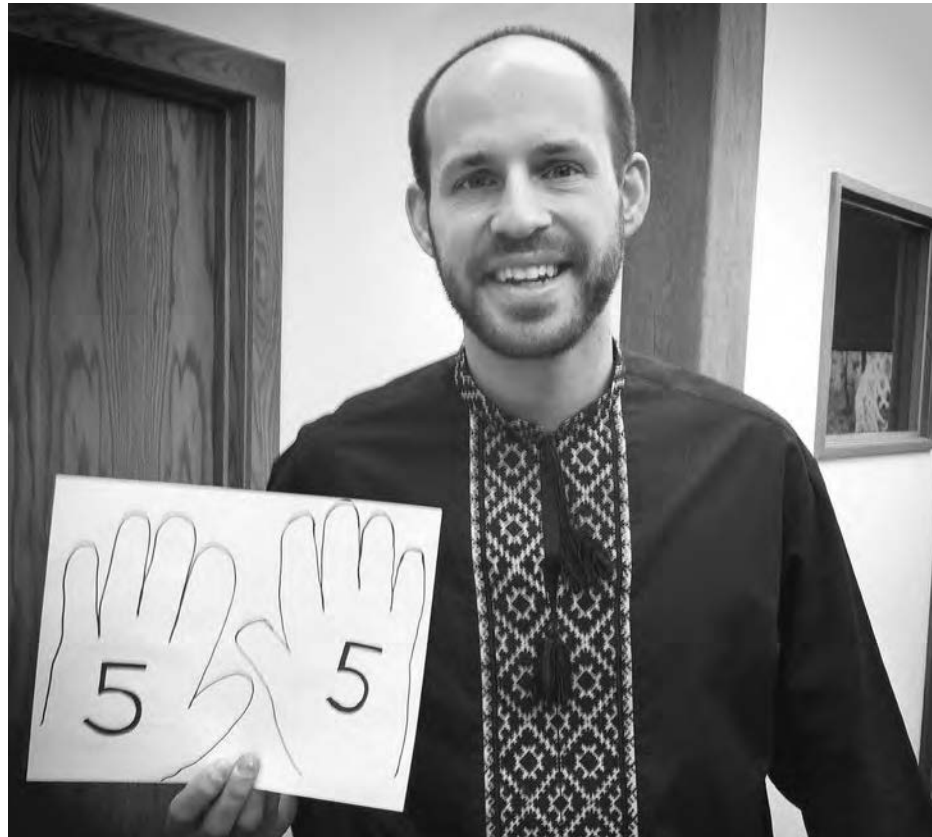
tograph themselves wearing their "vyshyvanky" (embroidered finery) and post the photos on the event site for everyone to enjoy. The initial response on December 17, 2013, was impressive, with photographs of people wearing their vyshyvanky to laboratories, classrooms, hospitals and offices around the world. And on the following Tuesday, December 24, as many families gathered on Christmas Eve, even more photographs poured in for Vyshyvanyj Vivtorok.

How far-reaching has this event been? The site has received photographs from Ukrainians in 23 U.S. states, five provinces in Canada, three provinces in Australia, 12 European countries (including Ukraine), three Asian countries, two Central American countries and even one from South Africa.

Tariq Laham from Syria wore a vyshyvanka to show support for the Ukrainian people, as his country is going through something similar, he stated. "My wish is for Ukraine to join the EU," he added.

News of Vyshyvanyj Vivtorok reached the stage at Euromaidan in Independence Square in Kyiv, where Ruslana Lyzhychko on the night of December 17 explained the project to the thousands present at the demonstration. The news was received with a loud "Diakuyemo" (thank you) from the gathered crowd.

Two days later, Karen Pidskalny and Andrea Kopylech of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, created a five-minute YouTube video featuring photographs of the first round of vyshyvanka-wearing sup-



"Vyshyvanyj Vivtorok" (Embroidery Tuesday) initiator Alex Oryshkevych photographed on day 55 of the Euro-Maidan protests.

porters in order to display the photographs publicly. "We wanted to share a story of solidarity and cultural pride with the people on the Maidan, and with everyone who sent in photos," Ms. Kopylech commented. "Seeing how many people wanted to show their support for Ukraine was overwhelming." The video clip can be found at: <http://youtu.be/7YuEQ2BKs-0>

Mr. Oryshkevych believes deeply in his brainchild. "I think 'Vyshyvanyj Vivtorok' is important because it is a worldwide display of our culture and support for the citizens of Ukraine, who are seeking a truly free country, one that my ancestors could only have wished for," he said. "Uncompromised freedom has the potential to become a reality in our generation for Ukraine."

Mr. Oryshkevych was not able to point out a favorite photograph. "If I had to choose, I'd go with the family photos from Christmas dinner and images of those wearing vyshyvanky in the cold weather, which symbolize our culture and our nation's fortitude," he stated.

Chris Cooley, 30, of Rochester, N.Y., is not

of Ukrainian descent, but he heard about the project from Mr. Oryshkevych and decided to wear a vyshyvka (embroidery) in solidarity. "After being educated about the nuances of the demonstration, I knew I believed in the cause," he stated. "I decided to do whatever I could to be supportive of [Alex], his family and all of the Ukrainian people taking a stance to make their voice heard."

"Vyshyvanyj Vivtorok will continue indefinitely," Mr. Oryshkevych noted. "Fortunately, the holidays of New Year's and Christmas on the 7th [of January] all line up quite well for this event and really provide a nice jump start."

The vyshyvanka-wearers have many wishes for the protesters in Ukraine.

Mr. Cooley shared, "I hope they create a designed outcome or a set of goals, and achieve those goals by creating awareness, instilling pride and voicing their concerns."

Ms. Kopylech stated, "I hope they know the world is watching, and supporting their peaceful protests. I wish that this story of solidarity gives them the strength to carry out their protests, and the courage to fight for the change Ukraine deserves."



A photo posted in late December on the "Vyshyvanyj Vivtorok" Facebook page by Ola Herasymenko shows Euro-Maidan supporters in northern California.

Government's...

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German media. "And unfortunately, such scenarios in our country are possible."

Internal Affairs Minister **Vitaliy Zakharchenko**, 51, is the third top enemy of the Euro-Maidan as he is held responsible for the police's brutal treatment of protesters.

Besides the November 30, December 1 and December 11, 2013, police assaults on demonstrators, Mr. Zakharchenko is being held responsible for the December 24 brutal beating of Tetiana Chornovol and the Berkut attack on demonstrators on January 11 of this year, in which former Internal Affairs Minister Yuriy Lutsenko was injured.

The day she was beaten, Ms. Chornovol took pictures of the suburban Kyiv mansion built by Mr. Zakharchenko, exposing a helipad on his territory.

"I am shocked that Zakharchenko took upon himself to disperse the maidan," Ms. Bohoslovka said. "He's an intelligent, well-raised, wise and thinking man. I don't understand how he was able to do that."

A member of The Family, he was reported to have acquired last year an indirect stake in Ukraine's only gold deposit, located in the Zakarpattia Oblast.

The company privatizing the property is owned by Valerii Bredykhin, described as Mr. Zakharchenko's right-hand man by journalists Dmytro Hnap and Kateryna Kapliuk, who published their findings, including a documents and a video report, on January 13 on the hromadske.tv website. The territory contains 55 tons of gold and 1 million tons of zinc and lead, together worth an estimated \$3.8 billion, the report said.

Mr. Zakharchenko is on the list of Ukrainian officials who could have their travel visas denied as part of U.S. sanctions, *Ukrayinska Pravda* reported.

Vice Prime Minister **Yurii Boiko**, 55, is believed to have played a key role in arranging the December 17, 2013, agreement for cheaper natural gas and loans from Moscow. He is a close associate of Mr. Firtash.

On December 23, he admitted to reporters that the emergence of the Euro-Maidan partly prompted Mr. Putin to extend Ukraine the cheaper gas and credit. Observers said Mr. Putin wanted to avoid economic collapse and a pro-Western government coming to power.

Messrs. Boiko and Firtash are both accused by journalists of engaging in grossly corrupt business schemes during the Yanukovich presidency that cost the Ukrainian budget billions of dollars.

Ukrainian Choice Head **Viktor Medvedchuk**, 59, is widely recognized as the right-hand man in Ukraine to Mr. Putin, who is godfather to his daughter Daria.

Like Mr. Putin, Mr. Medvedchuk served in the KGB (joining at the age of 16) and is most famous for having served as Vasyl Stus's state-appointed defense attorney. The persecuted legendary poet refused his counsel before his ultimate incarceration and death in prison.

Mr. Medvedchuk led numerous failed political projects in Ukraine before launching the Ukrainian Choice civic movement in 2012, whose goal is Ukraine's membership in the Moscow-led Customs Union. It also advocates a return the parliamentary-presidential form of government and the federalization of Ukraine.

Mr. Medvedchuk also served as an intermediary between Mr. Putin and former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko in 2008, when she was looking for allies in her battle with former President Viktor Yushchenko. He was identified by observers as being responsible for improving their relations.

In the weeks leading up to the Vilnius summit and afterwards, Mr. Medvedchuk was reported to be in frequent and extensive contact with Messrs. Yanukovich and Kluyev.

"With Medvedchuk, he felt in his bones

that he's an enemy," Ms. Bohoslovka said of the president.

Among Mr. Medvedchuk's brokered services was enabling Mr. Kluyev to have access to the Russian media to portray his version of events surrounding the Euro-Maidan, *Ukrayinska Pravda* reported.

"I am convinced that the situation is controlled now by Putin through Medvedchuk," Ms. Bohoslovka said. "They say that nothing is 100 percent, but this is a case in which I can say this is 100 percent."

Through Mr. Yanukovich, "Putin's dream of dividing the country into several territories is being fulfilled," she said. "I am convinced of that 100 percent."

Ms. Chornovol, the activist journalist brutally beaten on December 24, suspects that Mr. Medvedchuk could have ordered the attack, her husband, Mykola Berezovyi, told *hromadske.tv* on December 28.

"That absolutely figures into the activity that Medvedchuk is conducting with Russia – isolating us from the West and forcing us into the Customs Union. "On the other hand, such an order would have resolved many goals in his 'personal revenge.' Beforehand, there was her visit to Medvedchuk's [home], during which Tetiana wrote, 'Maidan is taking away your house.' And we know how Medvedchuk reacts to such actions."

COMMENTARY

Ukraine's national deputies hold key to country's sovereignty and future

by Taras Zalusky

The deal signed by Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich with Russian President Vladimir Putin is an appalling step toward strengthening Moscow's blatantly hegemonic agenda vis-à-vis Ukraine, seeking to destroy Ukrainian sovereignty and place the citizens of Ukraine under Russia's economic, political and cultural sphere of influence.

Taras Zalusky is a former chief of staff to several Canadian Cabinet ministers and is the executive director of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress.

The Russian-Ukrainian Interstate Commission on December 17, 2013, resolved to increase Ukraine's dependence on Russia in a number of strategic areas.

While many analysts have focused on the \$15 billion purchase of Ukrainian bonds by Russia and a reduction to \$268.50 per thousand cubic meters 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.

So why is this important?

Without formally joining Mr. Putin's Eurasian Customs Union, President Yanukovich has agreed to maximum cooper-

ation and has accepted wholesale integration with Russia – in a relationship that in essence puts an end to Ukraine's independence.

Thus, the deal effectively 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 Russian mili-

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UNA organizes...

(Continued from page 1)

ber of the delegation to the Helsinki Accords Review Conference in Madrid and is a researcher of U.S.-Soviet and U.S.-Russian relations.

Rounding out the group were Dr. Christine Rohowsky-Kochan, chair of the U.S. National Board of Directors of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, and Mark Howansky, the newly elected president of the Organization for the Defense of Lemkivshchyna.

Prof. Motyl opened the presentation with an overview of the current situation in Ukraine. "The demonstrations, which began as protests against the government's decisions to snub the European Union in favor of the Customs Union with Russia, quickly morphed into assertions of the dignity and autonomy of self," he noted. "Now that Ukrainians have freed themselves from the fear, impotence and self-denigration that the many decades of Communist and post-Communist despotism promoted, there is no going back," he asserted. "Free Ukrainians – and now they are the majority of the country – have also sent a clear signal to the Ukrainian regime: that the European revolution is only the first stage in what is likely to become a protracted struggle to replace an illegitimate regime with popular sovereignty," Prof. Motyl explained.

Mr. Rud next presented a brief outline of the issues, illusions and measures in U.S. relations with Russia and Ukraine, past and present, and made recommendations for the future. He described Russia's historic oppression of Ukraine and its current attempt to economically coerce Ukraine into a subjugated position.

Mr. Smorodsky then rounded out the presentation by specifically addressing various treaty violations by Russia, particularly those related to the U.S. and Ukraine. The United States has provided public and politically binding security guarantees



Ukrainian American community representatives with Sen. Robert Menendez (fifth from right) after a roundtable discussion on current development in Ukraine at his office in Newark, N.J.

including, but not limited to the 1994 trilateral agreement that provides for, at the very least, Washington's engagement when Ukraine's security is threatened in exchange for Ukraine's commitment to renounce its nuclear weapons and accede to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear state. These assurances were critical for Ukraine and they included U.S. support for Ukraine's territorial sovereignty and integrity, the non-use of force and the freedom from economic coercion, he explained. "Today, each of these security components is at issue," Mr. Smorodsky emphasized.

The final presenter was UCCA President Olexy, who highlighted the need for the United States to take an active role in supporting Ukraine. She presented a list of specific recommendations for the United States to implement and requested that Sen. Menendez consider these requests on behalf of the Ukrainian American community.

The UCCA, through its Ukrainian National Information Service office in Washington, is the central and key repository for information about the activities related to the U.S. response to Ukraine's

struggle. More information can be found on the UCCA website, www.ucca.org.

Ms. Olexy called on the senator to consider the following recommendations:

- Support S. Res. 319/H. Res. 447 calling for targeted sanctions against Ukrainian government officials for their corrupt practices.

- Expand Magnitsky Act legislation to include the Yanukovich "clan," their supporting oligarchs and security forces, as well as Russian officials who are actively threatening Ukraine.

- Freeze Russia's membership applications to Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and other international organizations.

- Publicly condemn Russian economic aggression and its consequent violations of the tripartite agreement, the Helsinki Final Act, the World Trade Organization agreement and other international treaties and accords as they affect Ukraine's territorial integrity, stability and political independence.

- Facilitate all possible unilateral and multilateral economic assistance to Ukraine under circumstances ensuring its benefit to the Ukrainian people, not to governmental functionaries.

- Maintain U.S. government spending on democracy programs and continued civil society in Ukraine at 2013 levels.

- Provide immediate emergency supplemental funding to counter the regime's efforts to block the Ukrainian public's access to information.

A package of resource materials, which included copies of the presentation and a position paper prepared by the Mr. Rud of the UABA, was presented to the senator for further reference.

After the presentation, a lively discussion ensued. The senator seemed genuinely receptive to the Ukrainian American community representatives' analyses, observations and recommendations.

Sen. Menendez promised the group he would set up a full Senate hearing on the situation in Ukraine and indicated he would study and consider proposing Magnitsky-type legislation that would freeze assets and enact sanctions against the appropriate corrupt government officials in Ukraine. Furthermore, the senator said he would organize a fact-finding mission to Ukraine to observe the situation first hand.

Sen. Menendez has made good on his first promise, and a hearing was scheduled to take place on January 15 in Washington. Mr. Kaczaraj was to attend as a representative of the Ukrainian National Association.

In conclusion, Sen. Menendez stated, "Ukrainians should be allowed to determine their own destiny." He added, "That's why I find Russia's coercive trade, treatment and economic tactics against Ukraine reprehensible. I look forward to pursuing this foreign policy issue before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee."

"We deeply appreciate the efforts and hard work of our presenters, who worked throughout the holidays to make this presentation cohesive and complete. It was a great collaborative effort," commented Ms. Lisovich. The outcome of the meeting was indeed positive and the UNA is now urging other community leaders to organize similar meetings with their members of Congress.

For those who require assistance with organizing a similar event, community activists are encouraged to contact the Ukrainian National Information Service office in Washington at 202-547-0018. UNIS has been coordinating efforts with the Washington offices of members of the Senate and House of Representatives with the intent of arranging meetings with the Ukrainian American communities in their local constituencies. UNIS can also provide the necessary resource materials needed for presentations.



Prof. Alexander Motyl addresses the meeting with Sen. Robert Menendez (D-N.J.).

2013: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

U.S.-Ukraine relations: more downs than ups

The development of Ukraine's relationship with Europe and the possibility of its association with the European Union continued to be the dominant issue also in the development of Ukraine's relationship with the United States in 2013 – much as it had been in the previous few years. But it came to the fore near the end of November, when President Viktor Yanukovich decided against signing the Association Agreement with the EU and followed up with a visit to Moscow, where on December 17 he signed an agreement with President Vladimir Putin which rewarded Ukraine for doing so and for continuing its Moscow alliance with a \$15 billion loan and lower prices for the natural gas it imports from Russia.

The 2013 calendar also saw, among other events, the assignment of a new U.S. ambassador to Kyiv and the opening of a Ukrainian consular office in Arizona, a number of official statements and visits, congressional hearings, continuing bilateral cooperation programs, and the groundbreaking ceremony in Washington of the long-awaited Holodomor memorial honoring the millions of Ukrainians who perished during Stalin's 1932-1933 genocidal famine.

Relations with the EU and Russia

In Washington, Ukraine's problems were outlined early in the year by three former U.S. ambassadors to Ukraine in a roundtable discussion on January 30 at the Woodrow Wilson Center's Kennan Institute. The ambassadors – William Miller, Steven Pifer and John Herbst – in their reflections and recommendations agreed that Ukraine's road to developing a truly democratic, just and economically viable and fair society has been a difficult one, but that it may well achieve it in the not too distant future.

As Mr. Miller, the second ambassador to serve in Kyiv, noted, Ukraine must reform its political and economic system – now run by a “criminal plutocracy ruled by the few for the benefit of the few” – and imprisons its political opponents, notably former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and former Internal Affairs Minister Yuriy Lutsenko.

Ambassador Steven Pifer agreed with Ambassador Miller, his predecessor in Kyiv, stressing that Ukraine must end corruption and promote a wide-based economy and the rule of law – especially in the highly corrupted energy sector, which is exceedingly dependent on Russia. He recommended that the U.S. continue its diplomatic dialogue with Ukraine on the “working” – but not “senior” – level until the Kyiv government changes its course in favor of building a democracy.

Washington's fifth ambassador to Ukraine, Mr. Herbst, presented an assessment similar to that of his predecessors, adding that there are “reasons to be cautious, rea-



Ambassador William Green Miller (right) presents his “sober and dismal” assessment of the current political and economic developments in Ukraine. Participating along with him in the ambassadorial roundtable on the subject at the Woodrow Wilson Center on January 30 are (from left): Ambassadors Steven Pifer and John Herbst, and moderator Dr. William Pomeranz.

sons to be sober, but no reasons to be pessimistic.” He stressed that it is very important for Washington to maintain a peaceful and constructive relationship with Ukraine, but – unlike Ambassador Pifer – he recommended that it be at the very highest level.

New U.S. ambassador

During this phase of the development of U.S.-Ukraine relations in 2013, the White House on February 26 announced that the president was nominating as the next ambassador to Ukraine Geoffrey R. Pyatt, a career Foreign Service officer whose previous experience centered on Asia and Latin America.

During his confirmation hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on June 19, Mr. Pyatt presented the Obama administration's policy toward Ukraine and its recommendations for building a stronger and more productive bilateral relationship. He said that his highest goal in this new assignment will be to continue the U.S. effort to advance Ukraine “on the path toward a modern European democracy.”

If confirmed, he said, he will encourage Ukraine “to take advantage of this historic opportunity to pursue Ukraine's hopes for European integration and to meet the European Union's conditions for signing the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement.” Those conditions include resolving the issue of the imprisonment of the former prime minister, Ms. Tymoshenko. “This is not about an individual, it's about a principle,” he stressed. “And the principle is: how a democratic government deals with the political

opposition when their leaders are out of power.”

Following his July 9 confirmation by the Senate, Ambassador Pyatt met with representatives of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and other Ukrainian American organizations on July 17 at the State Department. He thanked the Ukrainian community for its undying commitment in supporting reform efforts in Ukraine. The community representatives, in turn, related their concerns and shared their recommendations for what needs to be done.

Mr. Pyatt was sworn in on July 30, becoming the eighth U.S. ambassador to serve in Kyiv since the U.S. Embassy was established there in 1992. He was preceded by: Roman Popadiuk (1992-1993), William Green Miller (1993-1998), Steven Pifer (1998-2000), Carlos Pascual (2000-2003), John Herbst (2003-2006), William Taylor (2006-2009) and John Tefft (2009-2013).

Statements and actions on Ukraine

The U.S. government and Congress reacted to events in Ukraine during 2013 on a number of occasions, in addition to those mentioned above.

- On February 25 the State Department released a statement following the fifth meeting of the Political Dialogue /Rule of Law Working Group, congratulating Ukraine for the adoption of a new Criminal Procedure Code. At the same time, however, it expressed concern over politically motivated prosecutions and detention of former government officials and electoral fairness issues.

- On March 5 the State Department expressed deep concern about steps in Ukraine to deprive Serhiy Vlasenko, who served as the defense counsel for Yulia Tymoshenko, of his seat in the Verkhovna Rada, his immunity from prosecution and his right to travel outside Ukraine. “These actions appear to be politically motivated,” the State Department said – as does the decision to annul the mandates of independent members of the Verkhovna Rada Pavlo Baloha and Oleksander Dombrovsky.

- On March 20 U.S. Undersecretary of State Wendy Sherman met with President Yanukovich in Kyiv, with the jailing of Ms. Tymoshenko reportedly at the top her discussion agenda. With Ms. Tymoshenko now facing a new trial on tax evasion and embezzlement charges, her case continues to sour Ukraine's ties with the West, she said and urged Kyiv to “step back from this very dangerous moment.”

- On April 8, the day after President Yanukovich signed a decree pardoning former Internal Affairs Minister Yuriy Lutsenko and former Environment Minister Heorhii Filipchuk, the White House released a statement by National Security Council Spokesperson Caitlin Hayden, stating that the United States was encouraged by this decision, seeing it as an “important step toward addressing concerns about democracy and the rule of law in Ukraine.” However, she added, “much remains to be done,” and urged Ukrainian authorities to “end all politically motivated prosecution, undertake comprehensive judicial reform to ensure such selective justice does not recur.”



Meeting with the new U.S. ambassador to Ukraine on July 17 (from left) are: Kvitka Semanyshyn, Providence Association vice-president; Stefan Kaczaraj, UCCA National Board chairman and Ukrainian National Association president; Bishop Daniel, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.; Tamara Olexy, UCCA president; Ambassador Geoffrey Pyatt; Bishop Paul Chomnycky, Ukrainian Catholic Church; Marie Duplak, UCCA executive secretary; Bohdan Futey; the Rev. Robert Hitchens, Ukrainian Catholic Church; and Michael Sawkiw Jr., Ukrainian National Information Service.

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- Secretary of State John Kerry on April 19 presented to the press the State Department's 2012 "Country Reports on Human Rights Practices," in which the State Department noted that one of the most serious human rights problems in Ukraine is the "politically motivated" imprisonment of Ms. Tymoshenko. Another major problem cited was the failure of the October 2012 parliamentary election to meet international standards of fairness and transparency. Among other issues noted was government pressure on the media, an "inefficient and corrupt" judicial system, "pervasive corruption" in all branches of government and government pressure on non-governmental organizations. The report also cited a "rise in discrimination and violence" against lesbians, bisexual and transgendered people, as well as the non-prosecution of security officials who committed abuses.

- Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Leonid Kozhara visited Washington for three days in early May, where on May 10 at the State Department he met and discussed bilateral issues with his American counterpart, Secretary of State Kerry. While neither side divulged to the press what was discussed during their meeting, their comments prior to the meeting pointed to some of the topics that were uppermost on their minds.

Secretary Kerry spoke about improving the bilateral relationship in proliferation and security matters and Washington's commitment "to helping Ukraine become a prosperous European democracy" and an associate member of the European community. "We're particularly anxious and hopeful that the leaders will work through some of the difficult issues with respect to that transition, including, hopefully, the ending of the prosecution of some people, and particularly former Prime Minister Tymoshenko," he said.

In his brief statement, Minister Kozhara did not mention Ms. Tymoshenko or any other specific issue that he planned or expected to discuss. However, on the previous day at the National Democratic Institute, according to press reports, he said he would urge Secretary of State Kerry to look beyond the Tymoshenko case and focus on the potential areas of cooperation between the two countries.

Mr. Kozhara also discussed the Tymoshenko case and other Ukrainian issues May 8 during a hearing of the U.S. Helsinki Commission.

- One day before the Kozhara visit, an outspoken independent member of the opposition to the Yanukovich government in the Ukrainian Parliament, Oles Doniy, came to Washington to express his views on developments in Ukraine. Speaking at the National Endowment for Democracy on May 7, he presented a negative assessment of the current political situation in his country, castigated President Yanukovich for his political persecution of Ms. Tymoshenko and suggested ways the opposition should organize its political forces and the Ukrainian community to help return the country on the road to becoming a true democracy.

Mr. Doniy's week-long U.S. visit, sponsored by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, also included meetings with representatives of Ukrainian American communities in New York, Cleveland and Chicago.



Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Leonid Kozhara (right) in discussion with Rep. Christopher Smith (R-N.J.), the co-chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, at the conclusion of his testimony before the commission on May 8. Standing next to him is Ukraine's Ambassador to the U.S. Olexander Motsyk.



The crowd of Ukrainian Americans and others who came to Washington on December 4 to witness the groundbreaking ceremony of the Ukrainian Holodomor Memorial listen to one of the dignitaries speak.

- In late June, still another leader of the opposition in the Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada, Arseniy Yatsenyuk, of the Batkivshchyna party, discussed the situation in Ukraine with foreign policy experts at the Brookings Institution think tank on June 24, the day after his meeting with representatives of the Ukrainian American community and his laying of a floral wreath at the Taras Shevchenko monument.

- On August 22 the State Department released a statement by Secretary of State Kerry marking the 22nd anniversary of Ukraine's independence, in which he reiterated the U.S. commitment "to helping our Ukrainian partners as you work to become a prosperous European democracy with a free and open economy," strongly supporting its fulfillment of EU conditions for signing the EU Association Agreement, and applauding Ukraine's efforts to advance global peace and security.

- On October 25, before departing Kyiv after his talks with Ukrainian officials there, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor Thomas Melia released a statement "to set the record straight on some inaccurate press report" that misrepresented the U.S. government's position on Ms. Tymoshenko. The U.S. supports the efforts to allow Ms. Tymoshenko to go to Germany for medical treatment and is concerned about politically motivated prosecutions of opposition leaders in Ukraine, he said, adding that her political future should be for the Ukrainian courts and voters to decide. The U.S. also supports Ukraine in signing the EU Association Agreement, fulfilling all the necessary conditions, he said.

- Testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on November 14, Assistant Secretary of State

for European and Eurasian Affairs Victoria Nuland said the United States was working "in lock-step" with its European partners to help Ukraine meet the conditions for receiving a "yes" vote to sign the EU Association Agreement in Vilnius later that month. But Ukraine still had to take three important reform steps, among them reforming the Procurator General's Office and the parliamentary election code, and the release of Ms. Tymoshenko for medical treatment. And, in light of the hard economic pressure Moscow was putting on Kyiv not to go in that direction, Washington has working with the EU on options for Ukraine to make the difficult but necessary trade adjustments, as well as encouraging Moscow to abide by its international commitments, including to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), to honor "their neighbors' rights to pursue any political and economic arrangements they choose."

That same day, Sen. Chris Murphy, who heads the Foreign Relations Subcommittee on European Affairs also criticized Moscow for its pressures, including the banning of imports from Ukraine and other neighboring countries that were considering association with the EU. Four days later, on November 18, the Senate passed a resolution calling on Ukraine to release Ms. Tymoshenko from prison and on the EU to retain her release as a criterion for Ukraine signing the Association Agreement.

U.S. reaction to Ukraine's EU decision

Reacting to the Yanukovich administration's decision in November not to pursue the signing of the Association Agreement with the EU, the State Department released a statement on November 21 expressing Washington's disappointment. "We stand with the vast majority of Ukrainians who want to see this future for their country, and we commend the EU for keeping the door open," State Department spokesperson Jen Psaki said, adding that the United States is convinced that Ukraine's integration with Europe "is the surest course to economic prosperity and democracy."

With the mass protests against this decision growing on Kyiv's maidan and in elsewhere in Ukraine, Vice-President Joe Biden telephoned President Yanukovich on December 9, expressing his deep concern about the growing potential for violence. According to a White House report on the conversation, Mr. Biden underscored the need to de-escalate the situation and develop a dialogue with Ukraine's opposition leaders.

In a statement released by the State Department the following day, Secretary of State Kerry expressed America's "disgust" over the Ukrainian government's response to the peaceful Euro-Maidan protests with riot police, bulldozers and batons, rather than with respect for democratic rights. "This response is neither acceptable nor does it befit a democracy," he said, adding: "As church bells ring tonight amidst the smoke in the streets of Kyiv, the United States stands with the people of Ukraine. They deserve better."

Members of the U.S. Congress reacted as well. Rep. William Keating and four of his colleagues in the House of



Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland testifies on November 14 before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee concerning the possibility of Ukraine and other East European countries signing on to European Union Association Agreements in Vilnius.

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U.S. Sens. John McCain (foreground) and Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) on the Euro-Maidan in Kyiv on December 15.

Representatives sent a letter to President Yanukovich on December 12 condemning "in the strongest possible terms" his government's use of force against the peaceful demonstrators.

A number of senators – Rob Portman (R-Ohio) and Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) among them – also condemned the violent crackdown on the peaceful protesters, and the chairman of the Foreign Relations Subcommittee on European Affairs, Sen. Murphy (D-Conn.) on December 13 introduced a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that it stands with the people of Ukraine in their peaceful call for a closer alignment with the European Union in the face of "unacceptable violence" from their government. The resolution, co-sponsored by ten of his colleagues, is expected to be passed when the Senate reconvenes after its Christmas holiday break, as is a similar resolution introduced in the House of Representatives.

Meanwhile, Sens. John McCain (R-Ariz) and Murphy traveled to Kyiv to discuss the situation with Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Kozhara, as well as with the head of the opposition UDAR party, boxing great Vitali Klitschko, and other protest organizers and religious leaders. On December 14, the two senators joined in with the several hundred thousand Ukrainians protesting on the maidan. In his remarks to them from the podium, Sen. McCain called their protest "inspiring" to Ukraine and the world, and assured them that the U.S. and the rest of the free world stands with them.

Also visiting Kyiv at that time and talking with the Euro-Maidan demonstrators and passing out some food to them was U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Nuland.

With the new year approaching, U.S. Ambassador Pyatt summarized the official American view of how things have and should develop in Ukraine in a statement released on December 20 on the U.S. Embassy's website. He said it was clear that many Ukrainians are eager for change, and that President Yanukovich has the opportunity to address their concerns, to implement real reforms and lead the country toward close integration with Europe. And this course does not have to conflict with Ukraine's robust trade relationship with Russia. "This is not a zero-sum game," he said, adding, "In 2014, I hope the Ukrainian government will listen to its people and find a path forward to the democratic, economically prosperous, European future its citizens desire."

Other bilateral developments

- Ukrainian Ambassador Olexander Motsyk on February 23 formally opened a Ukrainian Consular Office in Tucson, Ariz., and appointed Taras Warvariv as the honorary consul. In addition to other Ukrainian diplomats, participating in the event were members of Arizona's growing Ukrainian community, which had the opportunity to discuss various issues with the ambassador.

- The Ukrainian president's commissioner for children's rights Yuriy Pavlenko, came to Washington in early April to discuss with U.S. officials possible ways of improving the process of gathering and forwarding infor-

mation about the well-being of Ukrainian orphans now living in the United States. Afterwards, during an April 4 briefing at the Ukrainian Embassy, he spoke about some of the problems involved in the adoption process and how they could be resolved. He noted that in 2012, 480 Ukrainian orphans were adopted in the United States – more than any other country in the world.

- On June 19, the State Department released the "Trafficking in Persons Report 2013," in which Ukraine is listed on the "Tier 2 Watch List." This places Ukraine among those countries that do not fully comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to do so. The report notes that children in Ukrainian orphanages and crisis centers are particularly vulnerable to trafficking.

- The U.S. State Department's Office of the Inspector General reported on October 25 that organized fraud rings have taken control of the Diversity Visa program in Ukraine. The report says the fraud scheme is pervasive and sophisticated, affecting the U.S. visa lottery program, and it intimidates and extorts Ukrainian citizens by buying, stealing and obtaining personal information about Ukrainian citizens from public sources. The extortion continues when the Ukrainian visa holders move to the U.S., when the criminal groups take control of their Social Security numbers and cards for further exploitation. Efforts are under way to combat this fraud.

- U.S.-Ukrainian cooperation in education was advanced November 1 in Kyiv when U.S. Ambassador Geoffrey Pyatt and Ukrainian Minister of Education and Science Dmytro Tabachnyk signed a memorandum of understanding launching the first jointly funded Fulbright Science and Technology Education Program. This pilot project will fully fund the travel and studies expenses for up to 10 Ukrainian graduate students at U.S. universities in 2014.

- While under the cloud of the Yanukovich government's decision vis-a-vis relations the European Union and Moscow, U.S.-Ukraine relations in the year 2013 had an uplifting moment on December 4 at the solemn groundbreaking ceremony for the Ukrainian Holodomor Memorial on a small triangular site not far from the U.S. Capitol with more than 200 people who came to remember and honor the millions of Ukrainian who perished during Stalin's 1932-1933 Famine-Genocide in Ukraine.

Among those participating were representatives of the U.S. Congress and government instrumental in having the monument approved on National Park land, Ukrainian Orthodox and Catholic metropolitans and clergy, Ambassador Motsyk of Ukraine and ambassadors of the Czech Republic, Hungary and Lithuania; Anthony Fisher, the trustee of the Dmytro Firtash Foundation, which provided the \$2.5 million necessary to build the memorial; and its designer-sculptor, Larysa Kurylas. Also participating in the event was a 91-year-old survivor of the Holodomor, Oleksandr Severyn of the Bronx, who joined in with seven other key participants in shoveling the dirt in the symbolic groundbreaking.

The monument is expected to be completed by the end of 2014.

Canada-Ukraine relations: policy of engagement persists

During 2013, the Ukrainian Canadian community was ably represented by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) which was very active in putting forward the community interests to the Canadian government and Canadian parliamentarians, greatly facilitated by the fact that its now had an Ottawa office, which had been set up in March 2012.

On January 15 the UCC met with Minister of International Cooperation Julian Fantino to discuss the community's priorities relating to the Ukraine programming of the Canadian International Development agency (CIDA). The UCC wanted to ensure that the government of Canada maintained a policy of engagement with Ukraine, therefore it suggested areas of continued engagement. The UCC believed it was critical that Ukraine remain as a priority country for CIDA in order to support stability in a region that is facing significant democratic backsliding. There is a need to target those sectors where Canada has the know-how and experience to benefit both countries, the UCC noted. For Ukraine, Canada is most important in promoting governance, civil society and the medical educational system. The Ukrainian Canadian delegation noted the value of the 500-member observer mission that Canada had sent to the 2012 parliamentary elections in Ukraine.

On March 2-4, Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Jason Kenney was scheduled to visit Ukraine. On February 23 UCC President Paul Grod met with Minister Kenney and asked him to address a number of policy issues with Ukrainian government officials during his visit. Mr. Grod emphasized: Canada should express strong support for Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic integration and encourage the expeditious signing of the Ukraine-European Union Association Agreement; Canada should continue to voice its concerns about the state of Ukraine's judicial system and with the selective prosecution of political opposition figures; bilateral relations between Canada and Ukraine should be strengthened by moving towards a free trade agreement.

On February 19 Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced the establishment of the Office of Religious Freedom within the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade to promote freedom of religion or belief around the world, showing that freedom of religion is a Canadian foreign policy priority. The new ambassador, Dr. Andrew Bennett, is a subdeacon and cantor with the Holy Cross Eastern Catholic Chaplaincy and St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Shrine, both in Ottawa. He is also vice-president and chairman of the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute Foundation. During the Euro-Maidan demonstrations in the fall, Dr. Bennett had the opportunity to express Canada's critical view in response to reports of pressure being brought to bear on the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv. He issued a statement on December 19, in which he stated: "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."

After a Cabinet shuffle in the summer, representatives of the UCC, headed by President Grod, met with the new minister of citizenship and immigration, Chris Alexander, to discuss issues of concern to the Ukrainian Canadian community. Mr. Grod raised several immigration related issues with the minister: increasing the level of immigration from Ukraine; changing language requirements which currently are an impediment for workers and immigrants from Ukraine; and easing visa requirements for Ukrainian nationals coming to Canada. Evhen Duvalko, co-chair of the UCC Immigration Committee, later explained that, although the minister seemed open to a larger immigration from Ukraine, it would be a challenge for the UCC to maximize any opportunities available for such immigration in the context of current immigration programs.

The UCC delegation stated its stance on the denaturalization and deportation policy, as well as family

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At a January 15 meeting between Ukrainian Canadian Congress representatives and Canada's minister of international cooperation (from left) are: Renata Roman, Zenon Poticzny, Paul Grod, Minister Julian Fantino, Ann Szyptur, Borys Potapenko, Bohdan Onyschuk and Taras Pidzamecky.

reunification. It also made the new minister aware of its position on appropriate representation of Ukrainian-related issues in the Canadian Museum of Human Rights (CMHR), specifically the Holodomor and Canada's National Internment Operations.

On November 27, a UCC delegation met with John Baird, minister of foreign affairs, to present its concerns about the current situation in Ukraine and the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement. UCC President Paul Grod explained that the UCC wanted to convey to the government, and the minister personally, its gratitude for supporting the European aspirations of the Ukrainian people, as well as for the support of Ukraine's democratic development. But the UCC delegation also expressed its concern about the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine to suspend preparations for the signing of the Association Agreement.

Mr. Grod briefed the minister on his meeting with Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada Chair Volodymyr Rybak, who had been in Ottawa and who had assured him that it was only the timing of the signing of the agreement that was at issue, because of the economic and political coercion being applied by Russia that would create significant economic hardship for Ukraine. Mr. Baird advised that he was dispatching David Anderson, his parliamentary secretary, to the EU's Vilnius summit to monitor the situation and express support for the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement.

Minister Baird also said that Canada would be sending a 25-person election observer mission to monitor the repeat elections in five districts where results had not been certified by Ukraine's Central Election Commission in the 2012 parliamentary elections. He underlined that the mission was a demonstration of Canada's continuing commitment to supporting democratic development in Ukraine.

As proof that the Canadian government was keeping tabs on what was happening on the Maidan at the time, Prime Minister Harper, who was in Pretoria, South Africa, on December 11, issued a statement on the use of riot police in Ukraine against protesters. He charac-



Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada (left) with Ambassador Andrew Bennett, who was appointed on February 19 to head the newly created the Office of Religious Freedom within the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

terized the action as undemocratic and excessive, and said that Canada supported the Ukrainian people and opposed all efforts to repress rights and freedoms. He referred to the discussion of the situation in Ukraine that had been held in the Canada's House of Commons.

On December 20 the UCC released a statement condemning an agreement signed by Presidents Viktor Yanukovich and Vladimir Putin in Moscow on December 17. The UCC characterized the agreement as placing Ukraine completely under Russia's economic, political and cultural sphere of influence and that, without formally joining the Eurasian Customs Union, President Yanukovich had agreed to maximum cooperation and had accepted wholesale integration with Russia, including Ukrainian and Russian military cooperation and the entrenchment of Russian military presence on the territory of Ukraine. Furthermore Ukraine had consented to the development of cooperation in the field of secondary education and that, by agreeing to a plan for a joint celebration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Taras Shevchenko in 2014, Mr. Yanukovich had surrendered the most iconic symbol of Ukraine's national identity to Russia.

The Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program (CUPP) has existed since 1990 with over 700 students, mostly from Ukraine, completing internships in Canada. According to former Canadian Ambassador to Ukraine Derek Fraser, "the internship program is in many ways a better introduction to Western democratic practice than any course in political science." For the fifth time a Model Ukraine Conference was also organized (on October 16-18) by the program to discuss the current state of affairs in Ukraine. The issues were first addressed by experts and CUPP alumni.

The opening presentation was given by Ambassador Derek Fraser, who spoke about how accession to the EU could help Ukraine on its path to a stable democracy. There were two full days of presentations - on education, citizen identity, development of democracy-building, judicial aspects, study of humanities, human rights and minorities, and freedom of expression. On the last day, participants discussed recommendations in groups which were then formulated in a white paper to be presented to the president and the government of Ukraine.

A crucial aspect of the CUPP program success has been the role of Ihor Bardyn, its founder and mentor. On October 24, Mr. Bardyn was presented with the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for his role in conceiving and guiding a path dedicated to the democratization and development of Ukraine through the CUPP program.

Ted Ovitz, Conservative MP (Etobicoke Center) was chosen on March 4 as the new chairman of the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group. The UCC expressed its support, saying that it considered Mr. Ovitz, who represents a riding with a significant number of Ukrainian Canadians, a strong advocate for the interests of the Ukrainian Canadian community. The newly elected executive of the group has representation from across Canada: four members from Manitoba, two from Ontario, and one each from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Quebec. Sen. Raynell Andreychuk will serve as vice-chair of the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group.

Ukrainians in the U.S.: making their voices heard

Ukrainians in the United States attempted during 2013 to have their voices heard by the leaders of the country. At the Ukrainian Days advocacy event in Washington on April 17-18, some two dozen community members participated in a program designed by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) and its Washington bureau, the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS), to promote the concerns of the Ukrainian American community, as well as to establish better contacts with their senators and representatives in Congress.

First on the agenda was a briefing at the American Foreign Policy Council that in addition to AFPC leaders included the director of the Office of Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, UNIS Director Michael Sawkiw Jr. and Volodymyr Viatrovych, lecturer at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy. Tellingly, Baxter Hunt, director of the Office of Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus Affairs, spoke about the intricacies of Ukrainian politics and how Russia tried to influence Ukraine's domestic and foreign policy agendas. In the afternoon, Ukrainian Days participants met with staff at the congressional offices of their senators and representatives. The day ended with a reception at the Embassy of Ukraine, where participants had an opportunity to speak with Ukraine's diplomats.

The next day's agenda included a breakfast with staff members of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, during which the group discussed the current situation in Ukraine, followed by a briefing organized by the Central and East European Coalition, which unites 18 national ethnic organizations that represent 22 million Americans. Rounding out the schedule was more time for meetings with staff of congressional offices and committees.

In all of their meetings on Capitol Hill, Ukrainian Days participants presented members of Congress with policy papers on issues of importance to the Ukrainian American community, as well as informational brochures about the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, the Ukrainian National Information Service and the Ukrainian Genocide of 1932-1933. Topics covered included: U.S. foreign assistance to Ukraine (including that of the U.S. Agency for International Development); the Holodomor, or Ukrainian Genocide of 1932-1933; the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus; and civil liberties violations in Ukraine. Much of the focus during the discussions with various congressional offices was on promoting congressional support for Ukraine's association with the European Union.

Also in the early part of the year, one of the Ukrainian American community's strongest organizations, the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, held a major board meeting on February 1-3 to discuss its ongoing programs and new initiatives, among them a partnership with Doctors Collaborating to Help Children and Shriner's Hospital; financial aid for upgrading the pediatric burn unit in Hospital No. 8 in Lviv; support of nursing homes in Ukraine by supplying wheelchairs and other necessities; the fund for orphans and grandmothers (elderly women); scholarships for Ukrainian students in Ukraine and in the diaspora; active support of The Ukrainian Museum in New York; speaking out in defense of human rights of Ukrainians, especially women; and promotion and participation in the Ukrainian, American and international women's movements.

A major event in Ukrainian American community life was the groundbreaking on May 12 of the Ukrainian American Veterans National Monument, which will be erected on the grounds of St. Andrew Memorial Church and Cemetery on a site donated by the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. Metropolitan Antony of the UOC-USA officiated at the May 12 service, briefly underscoring the importance of memorializing all American veterans of Ukrainian heritage who served with honor and dignity in the U.S. Armed Forces, especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice on the battlefields of the 20th and 21st centuries. The ceremonial groundbreaking - the first official step of erecting the monument - was performed by William Szozda, national vice-commander of the Ukrainian American Veterans Inc., in the presence of clergy, guests and UAV members.

Designed by Ukrainian Canadian artist John Jaciw, the UAV National Monument will feature the seals of the five branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, as well as the UAV logo,

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engraved on the Constantine Cross that will be placed atop both pillars. An octagonal stone at the base between the two pillars will be engraved with the American eagle. The inscription will read: "Dedicated to all Ukrainian American men and women who served in the United States Armed Forces."

Another major organization, one that represents the community's powerhouse credit unions, held its annual meeting on June 6-8 in Rochester, N.Y., where the Ukrainian Federal Credit Union was celebrating its 60th anniversary of service to the Ukrainian American community. The Ukrainian National Credit Union Association (UNCUA) meeting attracted 30 participants representing 13 Ukrainian American credit unions headquartered in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Connecticut and Maryland, who gathered to hear presentations on current topics of interest to credit union leaders and to elect a new board of directors. UNCUA Chairman Bohdan Kurczak, who was re-elected, reported on the current status of the association: as of December 31, 2012, the assets of the 15 UNCUA member credit unions totaled \$2.644 billion, with reserves and undivided earnings totaling \$400.7 million; member deposits totaled \$2.232 billion, with \$1.515 billion total loans issued in 2012; there were 101,895 individual members of Ukrainian American credit unions in the U.S. Ukrainian American credit unions, he underscored, contributed nearly \$5 million in support of community organizations, once again demonstrating the tremendous impact credit union membership has on the development of Ukrainian American community life.

Among those donations during 2013 was \$10,000 given by the board of directors of the SUMA (Yonkers) Federal Credit Union to support the construction of the Holodomor Memorial in Washington. (See section on U.S.-Ukraine relations for more on the memorial.) A check was presented to the U.S. Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor-Genocide Awareness 1932-1933 during the credit union's annual meeting on March 16.

Another major donation was the sum of \$20,000 donated by Self Reliance (N.Y.) Federal Credit to the newspapers Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, which celebrated a collective 200 years of service to the Ukrainian community and nation. Svoboda was founded in 1893, while The Weekly was established in 1933. (More on that in the final section of our Year in Review: "Meanwhile, at The Weekly.") Both newspapers are published by the Ukrainian National Association.

In other news, there was a merger of two Ukrainian credit unions as the Ukrainian Home Dnipro Federal Credit Union based in Buffalo, N.Y., merged with the Ukrainian Federal Credit Union, headquartered in Rochester. At the time of the merger's announcement, UHD FCU, founded in 1962, had \$8.9 million in assets and five employees, while Ukrainian FCU, founded in 1953, had \$152 million in assets and six full-service branches located in Rochester, Albany and Syracuse, N.Y., Sacramento, Calif., Boston and Portland, Ore. The merger was seen as further strengthening the Ukrainian American credit union movement in New York state.



Steven Fartuszok

The audience applauds the children of the Svitlychka Ukrainian Co-op Nursery of Philadelphia as it celebrated its 50th anniversary on April 28.

Among the many anniversaries celebrated by Ukrainians in the United States was the very happy golden anniversary of the Svitlychka Ukrainian Co-op Nursery in the Philadelphia area. Consider this: the first "graduates" of the preschool today are in their mid-50s. The 50th anniversary was marked with a banquet at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center in Jenkintown, a suburb of Philadelphia, on April 28. It was a fitting tribute to a half-century of nurturing care in a Ukrainian nursery program that grew out of the commitment of a few dedicated parents in 1963 who saw the need for a nursery school. Chrystina Turczeniuk was the school's founder back in 1963; the Ukrainian Gold Cross was its sponsor. Over 1,000 tots have come from these first steps into the active Philadelphia community. The highlight of the anniversary event, to be sure, was a performance by the school's current pupils, who sang their little hearts out.

Meanwhile, New York City had to bid farewell to one of its schools. In May the community learned that St. George Ukrainian Catholic School in New York would be closing, reportedly because of declining enrollment – the elementary school and high school combined (grades K-12) had merely 90 students. There was no official announcement that we could find at the time, yet the community was abuzz at around the time of St. George Parish's annual Ukrainian street fair in mid-May. Local activists told The Ukrainian Weekly that school administrators did nothing to promote it, to attract new students (particularly among new immigrants from Ukraine), to announce available scholarship money... An announcement posted on the school's website a few days after parents were informed about the closing said: "After over 60 years of serving the NYC East Village Community, St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church has elected to close its elementary school doors after the 2012-2013 school year. The St. George

Academy remains open. We are extremely grateful for all those who donated time and money to help our school over the years. ..."

Another sign of the changes, and decline, in our community was the demise of one of our newspapers. The weekly newspaper America, the official organ of the Providence Association of Ukrainian Catholics in America, a fraternal society based in Philadelphia, at first became an online-only bilingual publication and, after several months, closed up shop due to lack of funds. America's last issue was dated May 4, 2013. The newspaper served the Ukrainian community since 1912.

On the bright side, at least one organization in 2013 demonstrated that it was moving forward. At the national conventions of two U.S.-based Lemko organizations in October, elections resulted in the selection of new presidents, signaling the organizations' continuing growth and development as the baton of leadership passed from the older to the younger generation. On October 26 members of the Organization for the Defense of Lemkivshchyna (Orhanizatsiya Oborony Lemkivshchyny, or OOL) elected Mark Howansky as the new president of their national board, while on October 6 members of the Lemko Research Foundation Inc. (LRF) elected Andriy Khomyk as their new president.

Ukrainians in the United States this year commemorated the 80th anniversary of the Holodomor, or Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933. Countless communities held their own church services, special programs and other forms of solemn remembrance. The major event held in memory of the Holodomor's millions of victims took place at the landmark St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York on November 23. About 2,000 attended the requiem service led by hierarchs of the Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox Churches – Metropolitan Antony and Bishop Daniel (Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.) and Bishop Paul Chomnycky (Ukrainian Catholic Church, Stamford Eparchy) – who were joined by area clergy of both Churches, with the Dumka Choir of New York singing the responses. Sen. Charles Schumer was among the speakers; he remarked how he was humbled to share his thoughts annually at this commemoration – to honor those who can no longer speak, the "murdered millions" of Stalin's crime. "We seek justice for the innocent, but prayer after prayer, resolution after resolution, we continue to call out evil for what it is – noting how did this happen, who offered aid, who is responsible and who stands in the way," he underscored. The White House Office of the Press Secretary issued a statement for the occasion.

In Massachusetts, local Ukrainians continued their mission to establish the Holodomor as a subject for study in the state's curriculum on genocide. The Boston Holodomor Committee prepared for a hearing before the Massachusetts Joint Legislative Committee on Education that was held on October 31 and encouraged Massachusetts residents to contact their state legislators to seek their support for the relevant bills in the state's House and Senate.

In the capital of New York state, Albany, the local community succeeded this year in holding a major commemoration of the Holodomor at the Empire State Plaza. The goal of the event was not only to remember the millions who were killed in this genocide but also to educate the



Anna Krawczuk

Metropolitan Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. officiates at the May 12 groundbreaking on the site of Ukrainian American Veterans National Monument.

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A view of the Holodomor commemoration held on Empire State Plaza in Albany, N.Y., on November 2.

public about this heinous crime. Ceremonies on the plaza were followed by a solemn procession to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, led by a Memorial Holodomor Cross especially designed for this occasion by John Uruskyj and carried by him and the other two children of survivors, Dr. Nicholas Kulbida and Zina Smith. Inside, a requiem service was held. The commemoration was widely covered by the local print and broadcast news media. Dr. Andrij Baran, chairman of the Ukrainian Famine Genocide Commemoration Committee of the Capital District, noted that a long-term goal of the committee is recognition of the Holodomor as genocide by the New York State legislature and incorporation of the study of the Holodomor into the mandatory genocide curriculum in the state's schools.

There was news, good and bad, in our community's parishes during 2013.

In Whippany, N.J., the solemn consecration of the new St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church took place on September 21. Officiating at the consecration was Archbishop Stefan Soroka, metropolitan for Ukrainian Catholics in the United States. Also participating were Bishops Paul Chomnycky and Basil Losten (emeritus) of the Stamford Eparchy, as well as the Rt. Rev. Mitred Protopresbyter Roman Mirchuk, pastor of St. John's, and visiting clergy. The occasion was marked by three days of services, ceremonies and festive gatherings, with the faithful attending en masse in their Ukrainian embroidered finery. The church was designed by architect Taras Dobusz.



Paul Hadzewycz

A crane lifts the main cupola for placement atop St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Whippany, N.J., on September 20, one day before the new church was consecrated.

In Minneapolis, St. Constantine Ukrainian Catholic Parish on September 21-22 celebrated the centennial of its founding. A small group of Ukrainians, along with their pastor, the Rev. Konstantyn Kurylo, had established the first Ukrainian Catholic parish in the Twin Cities in order to better serve the needs of some 70 families in the area. Their effort, and the generosity of the community, culminated in the consecration of the cornerstone of the first church on August 17, 1913.

In Philadelphia, a four-alarm fire on August 25 severely damaged St. Mary the Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Church. The blaze broke out inside the historic church around 1 p.m., soon after a Sunday divine liturgy had concluded. Some 125 firefighters managed to get the blaze under control by about 3:19 p.m. A large portion of the church's roof collapsed in the blaze. Metropolitan Antony, the primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., said the fire destroyed millions of dollars in furniture, religious art and icons. "It's a tragedy, but by the grace of God, we'll make it through," he told the local affiliate of NBC.

And, of course, there were many festivals during 2013. Two of the largest and most popular took place in the state of New York. On July 12-14, the seventh annual Ukrainian Cultural Festival at the Soyuzivka Heritage Center in Kerhonkson attracted guests from near and far to see and hear top performers from Ukraine and North America. Headlining the show were singer/songwriter Vika Vasilevych of Ukraine and virtuoso violinist Vasyl Popadiuk, originally from Ukraine and now of Canada,

with their respective bands. Also on the bill were the always popular Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Dance Workshop and the Dunai Dancers of Edmonton, Alberta, newcomers to the festival.

A week earlier, the third annual Nadiya Ye! Festival took place on the Ellenville grounds of the Ukrainian American Youth Association over the Independence Day weekend. The culmination of the festival was a Saturday night concert by Ot Vinta from Kyiv. This unique band, which performs a new genre of Ukrainian music known as Ukrainian Rockabilly, brought down the house with an energetic and powerful concert.

During 2013, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America was active in supporting the Euro-integration of Ukraine. On October 2 the UCCA sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, asking his assistance in urging the government of Ukraine to release Yulia Tymoshenko from prison. The letter stated that her "immediate release will affirm Ukraine's commitment to democratic values and European standards" and will remove the remaining obstacle to Ukraine signing an Association Agreement with the European Union during the Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius, Lithuania. The UCCA's letter reaffirmed the Ukrainian American community's concern about the future of Ukraine and its belief that "it is in the best interests of the European Union, as well as the United States, for Ukraine to integrate into Euro-Atlantic structures through the signing of an Association Agreement in November." As outlined in the letter, the politically motivated continued imprisonment of Ukraine's former prime minister severely threatened Ukraine's ongoing transformation into a modern European democracy that respects the rule of law.

At year's end, as the authorities' response to the ongoing Euro-Maiden in Ukraine turned ugly, the Ukrainian American community was gathering in support of the peaceful demonstrators in Ukraine and the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America was calling for sanctions to be imposed on President Yanukovich and his cronies. In a December 13 news release, the UCCA stated: "We once again call upon the U.S. government to extend their warning to the Russian government and Vladimir Putin who are attempting to foment civil unrest in Ukraine and in this way re-establish the Russian empire. The UCCA again encourages the United States government to impose austere sanctions, which will include freezing of assets and visa restrictions against Viktor Yanukovich and his regime. The Ukrainian government must: refrain from any further acts of violence; call for early presidential and parliamentary elections; immediately release all political prisoners, including former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and [provide for] the full restoration of her civil rights, including her ability to participate in the upcoming elections; initiate criminal proceedings against all the members of government, Parliament, armed forces (i.e., Berkut, Internal Affairs Ministry forces) and hired civilian thugs, who participated in the brutal crackdown against the peaceful Euro-Maiden demonstrations."



Andrij Wowk

Ukrainian Americans demonstrate on December 1 in support of the Euro-Maiden near of Ukraine's Mission to the United Nations.

2013: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Ukrainian Canadians: speaking out on the issues

For Ukrainian Canadians, the Canadian Museum of Human Rights (CMHR), scheduled to open in Winnipeg in September 2014, continued to be an issue of discussion and contention. In early 2013 it was reported the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) had held a two-day board meeting to discuss the issues, which primarily concern the inclusion of Canada's First National Internment operations of 1914-1920 as well as the Holodomor, as exhibits in the CMHR. The board unanimously adopted a motion reiterating its position – held for the last nine years – in support of a permanent, prominent and distinct gallery for the Holodomor at the CMHR, as well as a permanent and dedicated exhibit on the internment.

CMHR's CEO, Stuart Murray, its head curator, Dr. Clint Curle, and director of communications, Angela Cassie, attended the late December 2012 meeting with the UCC. They presented the proposed content and layout of the CMHR, in which the UCC board expressed disappointment. The UCC board established an Advisory and Coordinating Committee (ACCE), whose role is to provide support to the CMHR on academic research and artifacts on Ukrainian issues. The committee is to be convened and directed by Dr. Jurij Darewych, Valentina Kuryliw and Iryna Mycak.

The Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association (UCCLA) also was active in the discussion on the exhibits planned for the CMHR. It began a national educational campaign raising concerns over CMHR's failure to include any significant exhibit dealing with the story of Canada's first internment operations. The UCCLA released a postcard highlighting the case of one World War I internee – Montreal-born child Mary Manko Haskett – who had been interned with her parents and siblings in the Spirit Lake Camp in Quebec. Roman Zakaluzny, president of UCCLA, maintained that the Ukrainian community is being punished for having raised objections about CMHR's contents and governance, the exclusion or the trivializing of Ukrainian-related content. CMHR relegates the Holodomor in Soviet Ukraine in 1932-1933, in which millions of Ukrainians perished, to a secondary gallery. He maintained that the taxpayer-supported museum references the World War I internment operations only in passing, although this was a thoroughly Canadian story of human rights.

During 2013, the UCCLA also continued its project of memorializing sites of internment camps with plaques or exhibits, supported by the Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund, a redress settlement that the Canadian government had created in 2008. An exhibit was opened to provide information about two internment camps, which existed in what is now Banff National Park, from July 14, 1915, to July 15, 1917. On September 13 a permanent exhibit at Cave and Basin National Historic Site at Banff, on a site set beside the actual place where the internee barracks once stood, was opened. Parks Canada had been provided with the resources to help build it.

A trilingual (English, French, Ukrainian) plaque was



Chrystia Freeland, candidate for the Canadian Parliament, with her children during the parade of the Toronto Ukrainian Festival on September 13.

unveiled at the Exhibition Grounds in Lethbridge, Alberta, on October 29. The plaque marks the site of an internment camp that was in operation from September 30, 1914, to November 7, 1916. This is the 22nd plaque placed by the UCCLA, leaving only two camp sites out of the total 24 – Montreal and Halifax – to be memorialized.

The celebration of the centenary of Plast continued during 2013 in Winnipeg with an exhibition and public lecture. The exhibition, "The Story of Plast," organized by Oseredok – the Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center – and curated by Executive Director Sophia Kachor, was officially opened on October 21 by Prof. Jaroslav Rozumnyj. It portrayed a unique narrative of an organization that was founded in western Ukraine, banned there by Polish authorities, survived clandestinely through repressions and World War II, was successfully "exported" abroad and finally "imported" back to the homeland in the early 1990s. The story was illustrated with photos from the Central State Historical Archives of Lviv, Archives of Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast, archives of Plast in Ukraine, the United States and Manitoba, as well as the collection of Oseredok.

Complementing the "Story of Plast" was an exhibition of artwork by Plast's youngest members, depicting scenes of favorite activities with symbols and ceremonies. On November 18, the senior historian at the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village, Radomir Bilash, gave a presentation about Plast in Canada in the 1930s. He traced the interest of various parties in those years in establishing Plast in Canada; those early groups calling themselves Plast or "plastuny" were ultimately integrated into the Boy

Scouts of Canada.

The centenary was also marked by a Ukrainian-language documentary film "100 Rokiv Plastovoyi Ideyi" (known in English as "100 Years of Ukrainian Scouting") which was shown in Montreal on February 24. (It had already been shown at the centenary celebrations in Lviv in the summer of 2012 and Toronto's centennial celebrations in October 2012). The 30-minute film was produced and edited by Montreal based filmmaker Yuriy Luhovy. The film screening was enthusiastically received, during which Mr. Luhovy acknowledged the film's initiator and director Tanya Dzulynsky and graphic designer Adriana Luhova. Mr. Luhovy noted that the film was an example of how the Ukrainian diaspora, after World War II, continued the work of Plast, which had been founded in Lviv in 1911-1912 and banned by the Polish authorities in 1930. The film is narrated by Irena Korpan with original music by Roman Luhovy of Kyiv.

Mr. Luhovy was also responsible for the production of the first French version of the documentary film "Ukrainians in Quebec 1891-1945" ("Les Ukrainiens du Québec") which premiered on June 17 at the Spirit Lake Internment Interpretive Center. The keynote speaker was François Gendron, deputy premier of Quebec, who expressed delight that the history of early Ukrainian settlement was now available to Quebec's majority Francophone population. Mr. Luhovy, who was producer and director of the documentary, gave an overview of how the original English-language version of the film was made and shot in 16 mm film in the mid-1970s. The film includes a section



Vicki Karpiak (left), daughter of the late Sen. Paul Yuzyk, presents the Yuzyk "First Day Issue" commemorative stamp in the Senate of Canada to Sen. Raynell Andreychuk (center) and Minister Jason Kenney on October 24.



Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada (foreground) and Ukrainian Canadian Congress National President Paul Grod are greeted by the Barvinok Ukrainian Dance Group at the XXIV triennial Congress of Ukrainian Canadians, which was held on November 8-10.

2013: THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Olya Grod

One of the lively break-out sessions during the "Stronger Communities" workshop organized in Toronto on April 13 by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation.

on the internment of Ukrainians at the Spirit Lake camp

The Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union (SUSK) held its 55th national congress, hosted by the Ukrainian Students' Society at the University of Alberta on May 9-12. The four-day congress featured professional seminars on topics such as: the Holodomor, George Orwell and the refugees (Andrea Chalupa), contemporary politics in Ukraine (Marta Farion), the UCC (Daria Luciw), the Shevchenko Foundation (Andriy Hladyshevsky), business and the Ukrainian connection (Canada-Ukraine Chamber of Commerce) and others. Participants also attended social and team-building activities – they brainstormed ideas on this year's selected problem: the decline of bilingual education in Canada. In the elections of the executive Christine Czoli was voted as SUSK president.

Volunteer organizations are the mainstay of Ukrainian community life, but sometimes they need to brush up on how to plan strategy and tactics. To assist them, an all-day leadership workshop, "Stronger Communities Through Stronger Organizations," was held on April 13. It was co-sponsored by the UCC and the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation (UCEF) and attracted 70 participants, representing 30 Ukrainian Canadian organizations. The conference was the brainchild of Christine Kuzyk, a development manager for UCEF. She opened the proceedings and introduced the facilitator, Elisabeth Way of Management Stratagems Group, who outlined the need for institutional balance between dynamic vision and charismatic leadership on the one hand, and sound management and fiscal stewardship on the other. Alex Kuzma, chief development officer for UCEF, spoke about the challenges facing many organizations which have become risk-averse, prone to be overly cautious, unoriginal. Formal presentations at the sessions were interspersed with group discussions. Two other consultants explained how organizations build strong relationships with their donors. In summing up, several community leaders gave positive feedback on the workshop but said that talking was not enough: "Great ideas! Now we need to follow through and implement."

The news at the end of 2012 that the Canadian government intended to create a Canadian Museum of History on the site of the current Museum of Civilization created some concern about the fate of one of the most prominent artifacts in the Canada Hall of the Museum of Civilization. Originally erected by Ukrainian Catholic pioneers in 1907, in the town of Smoky Lake, Alberta, a modest chapel was replaced in 1913 by a sanctuary designed by the missionary priest and architect, the Rev. Philip Ruh, a native of Alsace Lorraine. It was dedicated to St. Onufrius and served its parishioners until 1964 when, due to depopulation, the congregation was no longer viable. Thirty years later the church was donated to the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Gatineau, Quebec. It was disassembled, shipped and then reassembled inside the Canada Hall of the museum, reconsecrated and opened to the public on June 18, 1996. The UCC concern as to the future of the St. Onufrius Church received reassurance from president of the Museum of Civilization that the church would continue to be featured in the new history museum.

The Globe and Mail became the fifth recipient of the John Synnack Journalism Award. The Toronto newspaper was chosen for providing illuminating coverage of an issue significant to Ukrainian Canadians: the 2012 parliamentary elections in Ukraine. Dr. Christine Turkewych, selection

committee chair, said that the newspaper's coverage of the elections was presented with well-researched and thoroughly written articles of importance and relevance to all Canadians. The articles were authored by Brian Bonner, John Doyle, Ambassador Derek Fraser and John Stackhouse. The 2013 Synnack Award was presented on April 24 at Massey College, University of Toronto, by Sen. Raynell Andreychuk and Andrew Hladyshevsky, president of the Shevchenko Foundation, which sponsors the award.

Awards and honors were given out during the year through the UCC. On February 8, Dr. Orest Cap and Sophia Kachor were awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Medal at a special awards ceremony at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg and presented by UCC President Paul Grod on behalf of the Governor General. Dr. Cap, professor of technology education and director of the Imperial Oil Academy at the University of Manitoba, was honored for his work in establishing the Chernihiv State Teacher Innovation Award Project at Hohol State University in Nizhyn and the Chernihiv State Pedagogical University of Chernihiv, both in Ukraine. Ms Kachor, the executive director and chief of collections of the Ukrainian Cultural and Education Center (Oseredok) in Winnipeg, is a board member of the Taras Shevchenko Ukrainian Canadian Foundation, a past board member of UCC National and has been active in Plast on the local, national and international levels. The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal was created in 2011 to mark the 60th anniversary of her reign.

The awards ceremonies continued in Toronto on September 26, where seven more people were honored with the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal: Anna Trojan, Ann Szyptur, Oksana Zakydalsky, Olya Sheveli, Bozhena Iwanusiw, Valentina Kuryliw, Maria Szkambara.

In 2013, Sen. Paul Yuzyk (1913-1986) was honored with a Canadian postage stamp. On October 24 the newly released Paul Yuzyk stamp was unveiled in the Senate of Canada; it was officially released by Canada Post on October 26. Sen. Yuzyk was known for his role in defining contributions of Canadians of non-British and non-French origins, of shaping an all-inclusive Canadian identity and for the concept of multiculturalism. The senator had stressed that Canadians of every ethnic background contribute to the nation-building process and for this he is recognized as the "Father of Multiculturalism." Daughters of the late senator – Eve Yuzyk-Duravetz, Vicki Karpiak and Vera Yuzyk – attended the unveiling ceremony.

On September 13-15 the 17th Toronto Ukrainian Festival launched a whirlwind of non-stop entertainment, traditional food, cultural displays and activities for all ages. This free, three-day family-focused showcase of the most widely identifiable aspects of Ukrainian culture, attracted a diverse audience of about 600,000. This year the festival headliners were classic rockers Kozak System from Ukraine, who teamed up with Taras Chubay for a performance of Ukrainian world music – modern technology and rhythms combined with Ukrainian melodies and lyricism. The group's appearance was made possible by a grant from Celebrate Ontario, which also helped to bring such out-of-town groups as the Cheremosh dancers from Edmonton, the Syzokryli Dance Ensemble from New York, the Todaschuk Sisters from Winnipeg and the St. Andrew Vodohray Dancers from Bloomingdale, Ill.

The crowd-pleasing parade that opened the festival featured more than 65 entries and 2,000 participants led by the

parade marshal – author, journalist and media personality Chrystia Freeland with her three children. At the official opening, Chris Alexander, Minister of Immigration and Citizenship presented Jurij Klufas, founder and chair of the festival, with the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. Premier Kathleen Wynne of Ontario was welcomed on stage and Mr. Klufas presented an award to Eugene Melnyk, philanthropist and owner of the Ottawa Senators hockey team, recognizing his role as an ongoing festival sponsor.

One of the unique events at the festival this year was the photo exhibit by Ukrainian Parisian photographer Youry Bilak "The Hutsuls: In the Shadow of the Carpathians." The Kule Center for Ukrainian and Canadian Folklore featured an interactive exhibit "The Ukrainian Dance from Village to Stage." On Sunday, the youth program featured some 170 young performers.

On November 8-10, the UCC held its XXIV Triennial Congress of Ukrainian Canadians to set its policy direction and elect its leadership for the next three years. For the first time in 70 years, the gathering was held in Toronto and brought together some 400 delegates, observers and guests. Some of the highlights of the Congress included a financial report that highlighted the critical need to increase the UCC's donor base and a panel discussion on the CMHR, focusing on the UCC's concerns over balance in the museum.

A new event at this year's congress was the "Ukrainian Dragons" competition. This highly anticipated session – based on the TV program "Dragons' Den" – paired philanthropists Borys Chabursky, Ian Ihnatowycz, John Ivaniura, Nadia Jacyk, Eugene Melnyk and James Temerty with innovative community projects vying for a \$60,000 prize. Out of over 30 submissions of projects from community organizations which had been submitted, hoping for financing, five were pitched to the funders at the public session. The winners were: Ukrainian Canadian Students Union (SUSK) – for mentorship of students (awarded \$25,000); Lemon Bucket Orchestra – for a tour of Canada performing Ukrainian and Eastern European musical selections (awarded \$20,000); and the Vesnivka choir – for an online library of choral music (awarded \$15,000).

The gala dinner featured Prime Minister Stephen Harper in a 25-minute "Conversation with the Prime Minister" conducted by Mr. Klufas. The prime minister commented on many issues currently of concern to the Ukrainian community.

The Taras Shevchenko Medal was awarded to nine recipients: Vasyl Balan, Roman Borys, Dr. Daria Darewych, Dr. Jurij Darewych, Halya Kuchmij, Valentina Kuryliw, Irene Mycak, Peter Shostak and Iroida Wynnyckyj. UWC president Eugene Czolij presented the St. Volodymyr the Great Medal to James Temerty and Sen. Andreychuk.

UCC Youth Leadership Awards of Excellence were received by Christine Czoli, Danylo Korbabicz, Bozena Hrycyna and Andrea Kardasz.

The congress elected the officers, board of directors and board of auditors of the UCC. Members of the executive committee are: Mr. Grod, national president; Renata Roman, first vice-president; Emil Yareniuk, second vice-president; Andrea Kopylech, secretary; and Walter Dlugosh, treasurer.

Appointed on January 25 from Saskatchewan, Denise Batters is a new Canadian senator. She gave an exclusive interview to the UCC, answering questions about her educational background, her interest in politics and memories regarding her Ukrainian Canadian heritage. Growing up in Regina, Saskatchewan, she attended Ukrainian school, danced in a Ukrainian ensemble and still attends St. Basil Ukrainian Catholic Church in Regina. She was a practicing lawyer, and in the Senate she has taken up the cause of fighting the stigma of mental illness.

Ms. Freeland, a journalist, prize-winning author of "Plutocrats" and former senior editor of New York based-Thomson Reuters, won the Liberal Party nomination for the federal riding of Toronto Center. On November 25 she won the by-election. Ms. Freeland entered the House of Commons and was tapped to serve as co-chair of Liberal leader Justin Trudeau's Economic Council of Advisors, which is writing the party's economic policy. She will have to defend her seat in the next federal general election, which is scheduled for 2015.

Last but not least, it should be noted that 2013 began on a merry note in Ottawa, when members of the Canadian capital's Ukrainian community on January 16 performed a series of Ukrainian Christmas carols at Stornway, the residence of the leader of the Opposition. They sang the well-known "Carol of the Bells." Mr. Mulcair was then hosting a meeting of provincial NDP leaders, so the carollers had a larger audience than anticipated.



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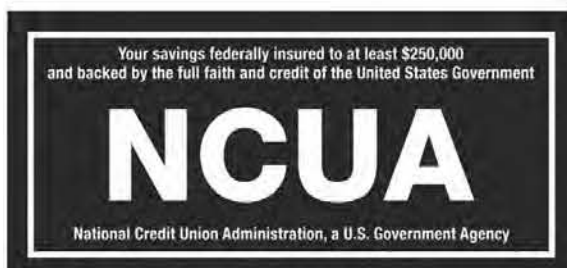
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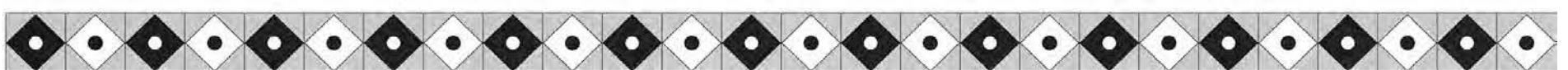
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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

remanded into custody. Kyiv's Pechersk District Court ruled on January 8 that Yaroslav Prytulenko must remain in detention and that a presidential decree on releasing individuals detained during peaceful demonstrations cannot be applied since the wording of the decree is unclear. Mr. Prytulenko was one of nine activists arrested after clashes with security forces in front of the presidential office in Kyiv last month. The other eight have been released after journalists and the opposition challenged their arrests. Mr. Prytulenko's supporters protested outside the court building, chanting, "A government of idiots is jailing the patriots!" Protests in Kyiv began in late November after the government walked away from signing an EU Association Agreement. (RFE/RL Ukrainian Service)

Chornovol to receive Symonenko Award

KYIV – Journalists from Lubny Media Club in the Poltava region will present a journalism award named after Vasyl Symonenko to Tetiana Chornovol for personal achievements in developing Ukrainian journalism, the UNN news agency reported on January 8, citing Ukrainian news media. "We have thereby recognized not only the personal merits of Tetiana Chornovol in developing Ukrainian journalism and displaying courage and patriotism, but also witnessed our solidarity with the colleague, our moral support," Lubny Media Club head Volodymyr Beschastny said, the report reads. Diplomas and prizes to all the awarded journalists were presented on the occasion of Vasyl Symonenko's anniversary on January 8. The Vasyl Symonenko Award was established in 2013 by journalists from Lubny Media Club. Vasyl Symonenko (1935-

1963), a well-known Ukrainian poet, journalist and activist of dissident movement, is considered one of the most important figures in Ukrainian literature of the early 1960s. Ms. Chornovol was brutally beaten by attackers in the early hours of December 25. Police are investigating criminal proceedings and have detained five suspects in the attack. (Ukrinform)

MFA on U.S. Senate resolution

KYIV – The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Ukraine took note of the U.S. Senate resolution on Ukraine. The MFA noted in comments released on January 8 that adoption of the resolution is a manifestation of support for the European choice and democratic development of Ukraine. "The Ukrainian government remains committed to the strategic course towards European integration and continuation of democratic reforms," the comments read. In addition, the MFA stressed the development of constructive and mutually beneficial relations with the United States: "We are ready to engage in an open dialogue in an atmosphere of mutual understanding, including on European integration." (Ukrinform)

UGCC head on different views of maidan

KYIV – The head of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church Patriarch Sviatoslav said Moscow-based Russian Orthodox Church Patriarch Kirill takes a view that is different from that of Kyiv-based Patriarch Volodymyr regarding the maidan protests and the European aspirations of Ukrainians. Speaking to Channel 5 TV on January 7, Patriarch Sviatoslav said: "I would not like to comment on the declarations of Kirill. However, I would like to stress that the attitude of Patriarch Volodymyr coincides with the attitude of other heads of Ukrainian Churches. The Church in Ukraine is with its people. The Church is the source of peace. It is a bridge for a peaceful dialogue in the

country that would prevent violence." He added, "I would like Ukrainians living in the south and east to come to the maidan rally in Kyiv to feel how the rally has become a source for the purification of Ukraine and the making of a nation." The UGCC primate further said: "I believe, many in Ukraine do not know the truth about what is happening on maidan square in Kyiv. I would advise Ukrainians to use their rights and liberties, and to be more demanding towards the authorities and politicians, not to be scared to protest peacefully." As reported by The Catholic Observer, Patriarch Kirill had said that he believes the latest political developments in Ukraine bring the threat of a civil confrontation and country's division. (zik.ua)

Tymoshenko lawyer's trial adjourned

KYIV – A hearing in a spousal-abuse case against Serhiy Vlasenko, a lawyer for jailed former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, was adjourned until January 10. The decision was made due to the absence of the Mr. Vlasenko's attorney. Several dozen opposition supporters rallied outside the Kyiv courthouse during the hearing on January 3. Mr. Vlasenko is accused of beating his former wife in a case the opposition says is politically motivated. He told reporters after the hearing, "I am only here because I am on Yulia Tymoshenko's defense team." Mr. Vlasenko was released by prosecutors in November after posting bail of 23,000 hrv (\$2,800 U.S.). The Ukrainian Procurator-General's Office said in November of last year that Mr. Vlasenko was suspected of "repeatedly causing bodily harm and willfully perpetrating acts of violence against his ex-wife," Natalia Okunska. Mr. Vlasenko has dismissed the accusations as absurd and says they are aimed at depriving Ms. Tymoshenko – a rival of President Viktor Yanukovich – of competent defense. Ms. Tymoshenko was jailed in 2011 for seven years on abuse-of-office charges also seen by the West as politically motivated, with further, unrelated charges pending. Her jailing remains a major source of friction between Kyiv and Brussels. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by AFP and AP)

Bandera supporters march in Kyiv

KYIV – Thousands of people have marched through the streets of Kyiv to commemorate Stepan Bandera, leader of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (1909-1959). Carrying torches, the nationalists marched in the evening on January 1 to mark the 105th anniversary of his birth. Bandera is hailed as a freedom fighter in western Ukraine; in eastern Ukraine he is seen as a traitor and is accused of collaborating with the Nazis during World War II. Bandera was assassinated by Bohdan Stashynsky, a Soviet KGB agent, in West Germany in 1959. Kyiv has been the scene of massive pro-European protests for more than a month, triggered by President Viktor Yanukovich's decision to shelve a deal on closer ties with the European Union. The nationalists are also pro-Europe, but the march was separate from the protest encampment in central Kyiv. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by ITAR-TASS and the Associated Press)

Fesenko: 2013 year of questions

KYIV – The director of the Penta Center for Applied Political Studies, Volodymyr Fesenko, said he believes that 2013 has become a year of questions without answers. Speaking with reporters at Ukrinform on December 26, 2013, he said: "2013 - it is a year of questions that we have not got the answers to, it is a year of pending issues." In this context, he noted that the main trends of the year were "dizzying fluctuations of Ukraine's foreign policy: we were

preparing for Vilnius, but got the Moscow agreements." The political analyst said he believes President Vladimir Putin prevailed over the West in the geopolitical competition for Ukraine. Mr. Fesenko said, that thanks to the Moscow agreements, Ukraine will receive more economic assistance and this will save it from default, but this loan will have to be returned in the future. In addition, he said, 2013 also saw changes in configurations of leadership in the opposition camp: Vitali Klitschko's promotion to the role of major electoral rival to President Viktor Yanukovich and a breakthrough of Petro Poroshenko's rating. Mr. Fesenko also said that right now it is impossible to answer the question of what will happen to the Euro-Maidan. "That's why this year can be seen as the year of pending issues and problems," he concluded. (Ukrinform)

More Lenin statues toppled

KYIV – Authorities in the western Ukrainian town of Berdychiv say a two-meter high statue to the founder of the Soviet Union Vladimir Lenin has been "completely destroyed." The Internal Affairs Ministry for the Zhytomyr region, where Berdychiv is located, said that the act of vandalism happened overnight on January 5-6. The toppling of Lenin's statue in Berdychiv came one day after a statue of Lenin in the Odesa region was vandalized. Officials in Berezhivka, the center of the Odesa region, said someone threw black paint on that statue. Another statue of Lenin was reported down in the town of Andriyevy-Ivanivka, also in the Odesa region, but officials said the statue simply "fell over" and broke into two pieces. A Lenin statue in downtown Kyiv was pulled down and demolished during pro-European Union protests early last month. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by Rossiiskaya Gazeta, ITAR-TASS and rbc.ru)

President pledges to fight corruption

KYIV – The year 2014 will be a special year in fighting corruption in Ukraine, which recently has become one of the main problems of the Ukrainian society, President Viktor Yanukovich said at a meeting of the Council of Regions on December 26, 2013. "Corruption, which has entered our society over recent years, and about which most often not only entrepreneurs speak, but ordinary people... I warn: the year of 2014 will be a special year, when we will take decisive steps to overcome corruption," he said. Mr. Yanukovich also noted that, "as a result of communication in Kyiv and in the region, he knows the situation, which exceeds all the limits." Special attention, according to the president, will be paid to work on protecting the rights of foreign investors. "We should put an end to such dishonorable practice as corporate raids," he said noting that one of the steps of anti-corruption fight will be the introduction of a special hotline for citizens and business. (Ukrinform)

Azarov promises year of development

KYIV – Prime Minister Mykola Azarov said 2014 will be the year of development of the Ukrainian economy. The head of government said this during a videoconference on "Ukrainian Industry: Realities and Prospects" with representatives of industrial enterprises in the Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia, Sumy and Kirovohrad regions on December 25, 2013. "The agreements we have reached with the Russian Federation, of course, open up to us great opportunities to realize all our plans," Mr. Azarov noted. He added that in Ukraine there already are grounds for such an optimistic statement. At the same time, the program on the economic revival, aimed at the development of domestic market, will

(Continued on page 17)

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 16)

also be implemented in the coming year. "We cannot rely solely on exports in conditions when external markets are rather unstable," Mr. Azarov said. (Ukrinform)

Almost 19,000 changed citizenship

KYIV - In 2013, a total of 18,700 Ukrainians changed their Ukrainian citizenship for citizenship of other countries. This is more than a twofold increase as compared to a 2012. According to January 6 news reports, the State Statistics Service said Ukrainians are going in search of a better life to European Union countries, the United States, Canada, Australia and Israel. At the same time, the number of persons who received Ukrainian citizenship declined. During 2013 a total of 41,600 persons received Ukrainian passports, which is 20 percent less than in 2012. (Ukrinform)

Ukrainians: situation has worsened

KYIV - Ukrainian citizens believe that the situation in Ukraine has worsened in most areas of life. The director of the Sociological Service of the Razumkov Center, Andriy Bychenko, presented the results of a recent study at a press conference at Ukrinform on December 27, 2013. "Seventy-one percent of respondents believe that the situation in the country deteriorated in 22 areas of life represented in the survey," he said. According to the expert, Ukrainians see the most significant deterioration in the level of prices and tariffs - 75 percent of respondents; in the level of stability - 72 percent; and in the attitude of citizens toward the government - 69 percent. Mr. Bychenko said such negative estimates were observed only last year. The survey was conducted by the Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives

Foundation and the Sociological Service of the Razumkov Center from December 20-24, 2013. A total of 2,010 respondents aged over 18 in all regions in Ukraine were interviewed. The poll's margin of error is 2.3 percent. (Ukrinform)

Guilty plea in child porn case

NEWARK, N.J. - Prosecutors in the United States say a man from Kharkiv, Ukraine, has pleaded guilty to setting up and running an international website that for years provided customers across the world with images and videos of children being sexually abused. As part of the plea, Maksym Shynkarenko on January 8 agreed to a 30-year prison sentence. Officials have called the 35-year-old Mr. Shynkarenko the biggest distributor of child porn ever prosecuted in the United States. Prosecutors say the ongoing investigation into the website Mr. Shynkarenko operated has led to convictions in 47 states of more than 600 U.S.-based customers. Since Mr. Shynkarenko's extradition in June 2012 from Thailand, where he was vacationing, to the United States on the charges, officials have touted the massive investigation that grew out of the website's discovery in 2005. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by The Associated Press)

Jewelry factory fire kills 8

KYIV - Eight people were killed in a fire that broke out in a jewelry factory in Kharkiv, according to January 8 news reports. The Civil Protection Agency said 22 people were rescued from the building. The blaze engulfed 250 square meters on the fourth and fifth stories of the building, which also houses a number of offices. One man died after trying to escape the fire by jumping out of a fourth-floor window. Investigators are trying to determine the cause of the fire. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by pravda.com and Deutsche Presse-Agentur)

Grytsenko, who posted on his Facebook page on January 13 that fewer people were attending the Euro-Maidan and that half the tents outside the barricades were empty.

He also criticized the Batkivshchyna party's parliamentary faction chair, Arseniy Yatsenyuk, for promising to lead a march to Mr. Yanukovich's office to force him to sign the amnesty law.

"People are ready to help Arseniy Petrovych break into the president's office in order to force him to fulfill the amnesty law," Mr. Grytsenko said. "I'm not intending to cool them down, but I myself am not sure whether Yatsenyuk will lead a line to Bankova in 10 days, as he promised. At least because January 22 is the Unity Day holiday and Yanukovich's office will likely be empty."

The next day, Mr. Grytsenko submitted his resignation from the Batkivshchyna faction citing "the inability to influence the decisions being made."

Messrs. Yatsenyuk and Grytsenko had been at odds since November 2012, Mr. Fesenko said. "He [Grytsenko] became a victim of his own character and his own hostility to Yatsenyuk," he said.

Another Batkivshchyna national deputy, Serhiy Vlasenko, accused Petro Poroshenko, the owner of the Channel 5 TV network, of ordering restricted mentions of imprisoned former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko on the air.

Mr. Poroshenko is well-known for opposition to Ms. Tymoshenko, whose lead defense attorney is Mr. Vlasenko. The billionaire confectionary magnate has indicated his interest in competing for the Ukrainian presidency next year.

"The attack on Channel 5 is an attempted hit on Poroshenko," Mr. Oleshchuk said.

OBITUARY

Tatiana Butovich, 97, widow of renowned Ukrainian artist



A recent portrait of Tatiana Butovich painted by her son, Nicholas Butovich.

DE KALB, Ill. - Tatiana Butovich, 97, of Lake Ariel, Pa., died on December 14, 2013, at the Ellen Memorial Health Care Center in Honesdale, Pa. She was the widow of the renowned Ukrainian painter Mykola Butovich, who died in 1961.

Numerous covers of the popular Ukrainian children's magazine, Veselka, once published by the Ukrainian National Association, were the work of Mykola Butovich.

Mrs. Butovich was born in Dolyna, Ukraine, the daughter of Antonia Doskovich Popovich and Dometie Popovich. Tatiana and Mykola Butovich were longtime resi-

dents of Ridgefield Park, N.J.; Mrs. Butovich was also the manager of Selfreliance Ukrainian Credit Union in the area.

Mrs. Butovich is survived by her son Nicholas Butovich and his wife, Jane, of Lake Ariel, and a daughter, Ariadna, and her husband, Paul Severin, of Weed, Calif.

Grandchildren and their spouses include: Nicholas Butovich of Chicago; Dorian and Eloise Butovich; Jesse and Joseph Valeri; Zacharian Butovich and Simona Graur; Christine and Daniel Mustoe; Tessa and Tim Johnson; and Michel Severin. Mrs. Butovich was also blessed with five great-grandchildren.

Surviving nieces are Lesia Kuropas, Oksana Maksymiw, Kathrusia Barrett and Ulana DeLuca. Another niece, Maria Kryvokulska Mackiewicz, passed away earlier. A second cousin, Ada Baylowa of Fort Wayne, Ind., also preceded Mrs. Butovich in death.

She had three sisters living in North America, Melania Kryvokulsky, Olympia Waskiw and Martha Olijnyk, all of whom preceded her in death. A brother, Dr. Myroslav Popovich, died in Ukraine.

A funeral liturgy was held at St. Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church in Scranton, Pa., on December 21, followed by interment at St. Andrew Cemetery in South Bound Brook, N.J.

Donations in Mrs. Butovich's memory can be made to the Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford, 161 Glenbrook Road, Stamford, CT 06902.

Euro-Maidan...

(Continued from page 3)

the opposition leaders settle on a single presidential candidate by the next day's deadline or else face protests.

In response the next day, Batkivshchyna National Deputy Oleh Medunytzia accused the citizen's council of serving the Presidential Administration. "It's a type of attempt to demoralize the Maidan from the inside," he told Hromadske TV. "It's the kind of technique when the government sees that it can't disperse the Maidan with force and tries to create a problem from within."

The citizen's council is composed of offended activists, he said. "Someone was offended, someone had his foot stepped on, someone wasn't allowed on stage. They are now gathering the offended and forming a quasi-structure with them."

That same weekend, a separate organization - the First All-Ukrainian Euro-Maidan Forum - held its first meeting in Kharkiv, drawing accusations by Batkivshchyna National Deputy Zorian Shkiriak that it also happens to be a government instrument.

He cited the forum's resolution, which had six points that he said "glaringly testify to Yanukovich's intention to implement a plan of dividing Ukrainian society, as well as further disturbing and dividing the Maidan."

The resolution referred to the parliamentary opposition's "ineffective deeds and inactivity" that "waste the energy of the Maidan," leading to the "depressed state of society." It made no mention of the need to remove Mr. Yanukovich and Prime Minister Mykola Azarov from power, he pointed out.

Another complainer about the opposition's failures was National Deputy Anatoliy



It is with the greatest sadness that we announce the unexpected passing into eternity on January 2, 2014, of our beloved mother, sister and aunt

OLGA RETCKA STASIUK

The deceased worked for many years as an administrator at the New York Stock Exchange. She taught at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic elementary school and was active as a Plast leader in the Newark stanytsia. Having moved to Florida, she was a member of St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church and choir, UNWLA Branch #56 in North Port, and a literacy teacher to newly arrived Ukrainian members of her community.

Left in deep sorrow:

son - Mykola
son - Justin
sister - Nadia Haywas with husband Askold
niece - Slavomira
nephews - Luke with wife Anne and children, Adrian

A Funeral Mass was held on January 4th, 2014 at St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church in North Port. A memorial service will be held at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Newark on Saturday, January 25, 2014, at 10:00 am with burial to follow at Gate of Heaven cemetery in E. Hanover, NJ.

May Her memory be eternal!

In lieu of flowers donations in Olia's memory may be made to:

Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation
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Ukraine's national...

(Continued from page 6)

tary 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 the socio-economic sphere of Sevastopol and other settlements – locations of the military formations of the Russian Black Sea Fleet on Ukrainian territory." Ukraine further agreed to permit 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).

This economic and political pressure by Russia on Ukraine is unacceptable and is a contravention of Russia's commitments on state independence and security made under the Memorandum on Security Assurances in connection with Ukraine's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (November 16, 1994).

Ukraine furthermore agreed to "the development and deepening of cooperation

in the field of secondary education" in an arrangement between the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine (Article 30).

No less important 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 terms accepted by President Yanukovich essentially curtailed all prospects for Kyiv undertaking the desperately needed reforms to its economy, judicial system and political institutions. 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 its identity. In signing the "Plan of Ukrainian-Russian Measures on Joint Celebration of the 200th Anniversary of Taras Shevchenko's Birthday in 2014," he 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.

The upcoming vote on Ukraine's 2014 budget is an important one and has dire consequences for the sovereignty and independence of Ukraine in the way that it is linked to a \$15 billion loan package from the Russian Federation. (The deadline provided by Prime Minister Mykola Azarov for adoption of the budget is 10 a.m. on January 16.) The first \$3 billion of the Ukrainian bonds purchased by Moscow was made in the first week of January and was quickly disbursed for payment of outstanding 2013 budgetary obligations. This was done with the approval of the president and the prime minister.

Prime Minister Azarov has publically

stated that the Russian loan package will save Ukraine from imminent financial collapse. In the eyes of the president and the prime minister, the country's situation is grave and alarming.

All national deputies should be reminded of the oath of office they have sworn as set forth in the Constitution of Ukraine (Article 79):

"I swear allegiance to Ukraine. I commit myself with all my deeds to protect the sovereignty and independence of Ukraine, to provide for the good of the motherland and for the welfare of the Ukrainian people.

"I swear to abide by the Constitution of Ukraine and the laws of Ukraine, to discharge my duties in the interests of all fellow-citizens."

A refusal to take the oath shall result in the loss of the deputy's mandate.

The approval of the 2014 budget will be a ratification of the Putin-Yanukovich accord and a violation of Ukraine's sovereignty. Any deputy supporting the budget ratification will be complicit.

Under the Constitution of Ukraine, such an act is forbidden and constitutes a betrayal of one's oath that is tantamount to treason. A member of Parliament is under a sworn duty to review all documents and agreements pertaining to the Putin-Yanukovich deal and the contents of the 2014 bill on the state budget. Deputies should therefore seek alternatives that do not compromise Ukraine's sovereignty and independence, and jeopardize the future of the country.

The International Monetary Fund, the European Union, Canada and the United States have all indicated that they are prepared to assist Ukraine, in the form of loans, loan guarantees, adjustment and technical assistance, provided that Ukraine agrees to necessary economic and political reforms required. It has been reported that Ukraine would have been in line to receive at least 19 billion Euros (\$26 billion U.S.) in European Union loans and grants over the next seven years if it had signed a trade and cooperation agreement with the EU.

This could provide immediate relief while putting Ukraine on a sustainable road to financial recovery. Perhaps most importantly this assistance does not undermine Ukraine's sovereignty and sets it on a path to financial independence. It's an obvious choice.

The world will be watching as Ukraine's parliamentarians deliberate the budget bill to see whether they perform their constitutional duties in the national interest and the best interests of the Ukrainian people.

The Ukrainian people call on them to say:

- No to the Russian Potemkin bailout that will only pull Ukraine into its sphere of control.
- Yes to the IMF loans and EU integration, and putting Ukraine on the road to recovery and to ensuring that Ukraine takes its rightful place as a proud member of the nations of Europe.



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OUT & ABOUT

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| <p>January 21
Morristown, NJ
Joint recital, featuring pianist Laryssa Krupa Slobodyanik and soprano Stefania Dovhan, Mayo Performing Arts Center, www.mayoarts.org or 973-539-8008</p> <p>January 23
New York
Presentation by Oleksandra Kunovska, "Consumption of Newspaper Advertising in Interwar Lviv," Columbia University, 212-854-4697 or ma2634@columbia.edu</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>January 25
New Britain, CT
New Britain Malanka, with music by Hrim and Zvook, St. George Greek Hall, 860-452-4023</p> <p>January 31
Chicago
Book launch, "Being" by Ksju Kami, Ukrainian National Museum, 312-421-8020</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
New York
Performance by bandurist Borys Ostapienko, Bandura Downtown, The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110</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> | <p>February 1
Rochester, NY
Presentation of debutantes, "Chervona Kalyna," Radisson Rochester Riverside Hotel, www.rochesterukrainiandeb.org or 585-872-0240</p> <p>February 1-April 16
San Francisco
Exhibit marking the 200th anniversary of the birth of Taras Shevchenko, "Life and Work of the Greatest Ukrainian Poet, Artist and Prophet," San Francisco Public Library Main Branch, 415-398-0240 ext. 2</p> <p>February 8
Chicago
Film screening, "The Lion and the Lioness" by Irena Kowal, Ukrainian National Museum, www.ukrainiannationalmuseum.org</p> <p>February 8
Kenmore, NY
Wine-tasting, Ukrainian National Women's League of America - Branch 97, St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church Hall, 716-984-4886</p> <p>February 9
Trenton, NJ
Concert, featuring virtuoso pianist Roman Rudnytsky, St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church hall, 609-695-3771</p> <p>February 9-March 30
Chicago
Art exhibit, "Survival, Spirit, Dreams and Nightmares," Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, 773-227-5522 or www.uima-chicago.org</p> <p>February 22
Ottawa
Masquerade dance, with music by Burya, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral hall, 613-277-4664 or mj.reshitnyk@gmail.com</p> |
|--|---|

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.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Ukrainian Weekly's website (www.ukrweekly.com) includes a Community Events calendar. A clickable link to the section appears on the bottom left of The Weekly's home page. The aim of this online listing is to help community activists keep track of what is going on when and where, and thus assist them in planning so that their events do not conflict with others that might be attended by the same audiences. As well, it is meant to help community members make plans to attend

such major events well in advance. (Therefore, please do not send info to this listing about strictly local events that do not have broad appeal.)

To have an event listed on this long-term calendar please e-mail info on type of event, venue and date (for example: XYZ Debutante Ball, Hromada Hotel, West Town, NJ, January 1, 2009) to community@ukrweekly.com. NB: The listings have color-coded labels for five categories of events: cultural, educational, political, religious and social.



Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America Detroit Branch
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 Christina Sudyk	 Tanya Maria Duzey					
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ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CONVENTION...

(Continued from page 1)

transferred to extended insurance, or paid-up insurance, or is suspended, may not be present at the meeting nor can he (or she) vote. Members in good standing may vote for delegates and their alternates only in that Branch where they pay dues to the Fraternal Fund. No vote by proxy shall be allowed.

Only those members may be elected as delegates or alternates who are in good standing and have all the qualifications for an officer of the Branch, i.e., have been members of the UNA not less than one year and of their Branch not less than six months, and in which they pay dues to the Fraternal Fund, are over 18 years of age, are of Ukrainian nationality or descent and are not officers or assembly officers, agents or salesmen of any other similar fraternal organization or life insurance company, and are fulfilling all obligations toward the UNA, in particular, have shown active participation in organizational and promotional work for the UNA. No person shall be eligible for delegate or alternate who at any time unjustifiably or maliciously instituted or caused to be instituted any suit, action or proceeding against the UNA either on his own behalf or on behalf of any other member.

Every duly established Branch in good standing in the Association, having 65 or more members who pay in fraternal dues into the Fraternal Fund of the UNA, shall be entitled to representation and vote on all matters to be acted upon at the Convention as follows: Branches having 65 to 129 members inclusive, one delegate; those having 130 to 194 members inclusive, two delegates; those

having 195-259 members inclusive, three delegates; those having 260 or more members, four delegates. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote. No Branch shall be entitled to more than four votes.

A Branch having less than 65 members, for the purpose of representation at the Convention, may unite with another Branch also having less than 65 members and if, when combined, the aggregate of the two Branches shall be no less than 65 members who pay dues in these Branches to the Fraternal Fund, they shall have the right to elect one delegate. Unless otherwise agreed by the mutual consent of both Branches, the Branch having the greater number of members shall be entitled to elect the delegate, and the Branch having the lesser number of members, the alternate.

Credentials of delegates and their alternates must be sent to the Home Office of the UNA within 10 days of the election, but no later than 60 days prior to the Convention.

Parsippany, NJ, January 17, 2014

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION:

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EUGENE OSCISLAWSKI, Second Vice-President
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CHRISTINE E. KOZAK, National Secretary
ROMA LISOVICH, Treasurer

Lutsenko becomes...

(Continued from page 1)

Union countries, as well as representatives from the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), the Internal Affairs Ministry, the Procurator General's Office and the Health Ministry.

The newspaper Kommersant-Ukraine reported that U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Geoffrey Pyatt was dissatisfied with the official version of events, asking Ukrainian authorities why, while they had video available of the night's events, it did not include the assault on Mr. Lutsenko.

The next day, video footage surfaced on the Internet that proved a Berkut officer punched Mr. Lutsenko's face, an illegal maneuver in dealing with crowds.

What sparked the night's violence was the announcement of prison sentences in the criminal prosecution of the so-called "Vasylkiv terrorists."

Two former deputies of the Vasylkiv City Council, Serhii Bezv and Ihor Mosiichuk, as well as Mr. Mosiichuk's aide Volodymyr Shpara, were given the maximum sentence, six years' imprisonment, after being convicted of planning a "terrorist" act of detonating a Lenin statue in Boryspil.

Mr. Bezv was also convicted of calling for overthrow of the government, while the others were convicted of illegal possession of guns, narcotics and explosive blueprints, among other banned items.

Mr. Bezv's wife, Khrystyna, told The Ukrainian Weekly the evidence for the charges was completely fabricated by the authorities. The court failed to produce a witness that confirmed the flier in Mr. Bezv's possession called for government overthrow, and merely storing that flier on his computer doesn't offer the legal basis to allege he had the intention for such an act, she added.

No evidence was presented at the trial proving that the three men intended to detonate the Lenin statue. Meanwhile, she said, law enforcement authorities planted the forbidden items for which the other two were convicted.

The prison sentence outraged the more

than 200 protesters attending the hearing, who attempted to block the police van transporting the defendants to prison, where they have already been incarcerated for two and a half years.

Several hundred Berkut special forces succeeded in clearing a path for the police van to depart, after which they began violently and randomly beating the protesters, witnesses reported.

Among the dozen or so estimated injured were three national deputies of the Svoboda party, Eduard Leonov, Pavlo Kyrylenko and Yurii Bubyk, as well as innocent passers-by.

The beatings at the courthouse outraged Euro-Maidan activists, an estimated 2,000 of whom departed for the local police precinct to confront the officers and hold them accountable for their violent acts. Among them was Mr. Lutsenko.

On January 14, according to information posted by the Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine, ambassadors of the European Union, the United States, Sweden and Germany visited Mr. Lutsenko in the hospital.

The next day in Washington, at a hearing of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee on "Implications of the Crisis in Ukraine," Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland of the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs raised the matter of "the latest assaults on human dignity, including the beatings of opposition leader and former Interior [Internal Affairs] Minister Yurii Lutsenko and journalist Tetiana Chornovol, as well as dozens of other acts of intimidation and criminality, and efforts to stifle the media and political activity across the country."

Ms. Nuland stated: "...the use of violence and acts of repression carried out by government security forces and their surrogates have compelled us to make clear publicly and privately to the government of Ukraine that we will consider a broad range of tools at our disposal if those in positions of authority in Ukraine employ or encourage violence against their own citizens." [A full report on the Senate hearing will appear in next week's issue of The Ukrainian Weekly.]

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ANNOUNCEMENT

regarding election of delegates in UNA Branches having less than 65 voting members

In accordance with the By-Laws of the UNA a Branch having less than 65 voting members, that is, members whose dues to that Branch include contributions to the Fraternal Fund of the UNA, may unite with another Branch also having less than 65 voting members, for the purpose of electing a mutual representative at the Convention. If, when combined, the aggregate of the two Branches shall be no less than 65 voting members, they shall have the right to elect one delegate.

Branches wishing to unite for the purpose of electing a delegate and an alternate, should each adopt a formal resolution at their meeting and after mutual agreement, should conduct an election. Unless otherwise agreed by the mutual consent of both Branches, the Branch having the greater number of members shall be entitled to elect the delegate and the Branch having the lesser number of members, the alternate.

Both Branches, which have agreed to unite for the purpose of electing a delegate and an alternate, should immediately notify in writing, the Recording Department of the UNA Home Office, which will send the proper credentials to each Branch.

In order to facilitate mutual agreements between Branches which have less than 65 voting members, we have listed these Branches below, showing the totals of voting members and the names and addresses of the Branch Secretaries, as well as telephone numbers if available.

Br. No.	Numb. of Mem.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF SECRETARY	Br. No.	Numb. of Mem.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF SECRETARY	Br. No.	Numb. of Mem.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF SECRETARY	Br. No.	Numb. of Mem.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF SECRETARY
007	56	WILLIAM J SLOVIK 47 W BLAINE ST. MCADOO, PA 18237 570-929-2963	134	32	IOURI LAZIRKO 5 BRANNON CT. CLIFTON, NJ 07013 973-881-1291	254	34	ADAM PLATOSZ 37 OLIVE ST. NEW BRITAIN, CT 06051 860-225-9258	402	38	ANNA BURIJ 16 KEYWELL COURT TORONTO, ON CANADA M8Y 1S7 416-251-2776
008	64	OKSANA STANISLAVCHUK-MALA 343 EASTERN CLOSE YORK TOWN HEIGHTS, NY 10598-4921 914-434-1445	137	47	KATHERINE SARGENT 2330 PARK AVE. EASTON, PA 1 8045-2811 610-252-3289	257	15	ZORYANA NATALYA KESKE 5124 PENFIELD AVE. WOODLAND HILLS, CA, 91364 818-339-2184	407	37	TATIANA MISKIV 636 RUNNYMEDE ROAD TORONTO, ON CANADA M6S 3A2 416-767-0628
012	11	EUGENE GULYCYZ 226 PROSPECT ST. APT. 104 WETHERSFIELD, CT 06109 860-721-0881	139	17	PETRO PYTEL 8920 371ST AVE. TWIN LAKES, WI 53181-0535 262-877-3539	267	21	GLORIA TOLOPKA 293 W.5TH STREET DEER PARK, NY 11729 631-667-6483	412	41	EMILIA SMAL 105-16 DIXIE RD. ST. CATHERINE'S, ON CANADA L2N 7N5 905-646-8158
017	13	PETER BYLEN 6510 VIKING AVE. PORTAGE, IN 46368-3895 219-764-3922	142	28	RODNEY S. GODFREY 188 LAKE AVE. COLONIA, NJ 07067 732-381-1212	287	47	DANA A. SZYMCZYK 775 BREWERS BRIDGE RD. APT 23C JACKSON, NJ 08527-1938	414	54	GLORIA HORBATY 3 PEQUOT RD. WALLINGFORD, CT 06492 203-269-5909
027	58	CHRISTINE BRODYN 187 HENSHAW AVE. SPRINGFIELD, NJ 07081 973-376-1347	153	35	JURIJ DANYLIW 146 ALBEMARLE DR. BLUE BELL, PA 19422-1128 215-646-3115	291	35	VERA NAPORA 3926 BROOKLYN AVE. CLEVELAND, OH 44109 216-749-7851	423	12	VERA GOJEWYCZ 2147 YALE CIRCLE HOFFMAN ESTATES, IL 60192 224-535-9117
028	10	OLHA DUB 7925 AIRLINE DR. HOUSTON, TX 77037 281-820-6132	162	14	GEORGE B. FEDORIJCZUK 3520 SUSSEX LANE PHILADELPHIA, PA 19114 215-632-8560	320	46	PAUL G. FENCHAK 7422 BROOKWOOD AVE. BALTIMORE, MD 21236 410-668-4325	432	51	OLGA SVYSTOUN 5 PLATINUM AVE. RICHMOND HILL, ON CANADA L4E 5E2 647-274-0642
056	13	PETE KOHUT SR 11 BEE HAVEN DR. WHEELING, WV 26003 304-242-4732	184	56	ANDREW W. LASTOWECKY 210 CLINTON AVE. APT. 5C BROOKLYN, NY 11205-3428 212-475-1547	325	52	BARBARA CHUPA 240 E. 6TH STREET NEW YORK, NY 10003 212-674-5340	441	12	SUSAN SOLDAN 190 WOLVERINE CRES. THUNDER BAY, ON CANADA P7C 5Z1 807-475-4550
057	17	MICHAEL SAWKIW 18 BERKLEY AVE. COHOES, NY 12047 518-237-4700	206	62	IRENE V. SARACHMON P.O.BOX 1044 WOONSOCKET, RI 02895-3564 401-766-3669	327	46	BOHDAN PODOLIUK 31 TEXAS ST. HICKSVILLE, NY 11801-2524 516-433-9381	444	39	ALBERT KACHKOWSKI 126 SIMON FRASER CRES. SASKATOON, SK CANADA S7H 3T1 306-374-7675
082	41	OLGA MARUSZCZAK 7420 ROBINDALE DEARBORN HTS, MI 48127 313-274-3807	226	9	MARKO ZAWADOWYCH 1163 STEELER ST DENVER, CO 80206 303-355-2940	341	10	ANNA PETRICHYN 2409 MEIGHEN RD. WINDSOR, ON CANADA N8W 4C2 519-948-1127	450	58	MOTRIA M. MILANYTCH 529 W. 111TH ST. APT #51 NEW YORK, NY 10025 212-749-1664
086	21	NADIA DEMCZUR 152 ST. PAUL'S AVENUE JERSEY CITY, NJ 07306 201-216-1788	233	28	JULIA KRYSCHTAL 1017 WEST RIVER RD ELYRIA, OH 44035 440-277-8440	345	31	ALEXANDER POLETZ 3520 EDWARDS ST. N E ST ANTHONY, MN 55418 612-781-8204	465	59	EUGENE OSIDACZ 6 OLD FOREST ROAD KIRKLAND, QUEBEC CANADA H9J 2Z8 514-695-0924
113	37	GEORGE CUNNINGHAM 601 BEECH ST. DERRY, PA 15627 724-694-2170	241	13	JANET BARDELL 544 WINTER ST. WOONSOCKET, RI 02895-1176 401-769-7132	353	30	OSYP RINNYK 71 VAN LIEW AVENUE MILLTOWN, NJ 08850 732-545-9171	466	31	ANNA KRUTYHOLOWA 21 ALICE STREET BRANTFORD, ON CANADA N3R 1Y1 519-756-5825
121	11	HELEN HEIM 7328 COLEMAN MILLS RD. ROME, NY 13440 315-339-2823	247	26	LUBOMIRA SZEREMETA 120 CHERRY LANE NEW CASTLE, DE 19720 302-652-8104	356	8	OLEKSA PRODYWUS 908 AVERY ROAD BELLEVUE, NE 68123-4001 402-292-2551	473	39	SERGUEI DJOULA 4740 LACOMBE MONTREAL, QC CANADA H3W 1R3 514-804-3686
133	42	MICHAEL W BOHDAN 5 WADE AVE. CRANFORD, NJ 07016 908-247-5841	253	14	PETER HAWRYLCIW 23 KAREN DRIVE LUDLOW, MA 01056 413-589-0056	379	56	MYRON LUSZCZAK 215 S. FOREST AVE. PALATINE, IL 60074-6318 847-359-0467	484	31	NATALIE CHOLAWKA 709 JAMES ST. UTICA, NY 13501 315-724-3584
						385	29	JULIAN PISHKO 610 2ND ST. N E MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55413 612-702-2505	488	6	VICTOR SZWEZ 5818 WCIELO GRANDE GLENDALE, AZ 85310 623-516-9812
						387	16	IRENE OLIYNYK 103 BIRCH STREET WILLIMANTIC, CT 06226 860-423-3815	489	28	HALYNA KOLESSA 100 MONTGOMERY ST APT 23-H JERSEY CITY, NJ 07302 201-200-1915
						399	56	ANDRIJ SKYBA 4575 N.NAGLE AVE. HARWOOD HEIGHTS, IL 60706 708-867-7762	498	14	LIDA HEWRYK 11440-37A AVENUE EDMONTON, AB CANADA T6J 0J5 780-435-1533
						401	47	STEPHAN CHORNEY 22 ARROWSMITH AVE. TORONTO, ON CANADA M6M 2W7 416-247-9618	500	7	MYROSLAV HLADYSHEVSKY 10 MARLOWE PL. N E CALGARY, AB CANADA T2E 5P8 403-277-3830

UKELODEON

FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Whippany UAYA supports Euro-Maidan



Chris Bytz

Members of the Ukrainian American Youth Association branch in Whippany, N.J., show their support for Ukraine's Euro-Maidan.

by Chris Bytz

WHIPPANY, N.J. – The Ukrainian diaspora across the world supports its brethren in Ukraine through thick and thin. During this time of widespread protest against Ukraine's president and his decision to ignore the will of the Ukrainian people by refusing to sign an Association Agreement with the European Union, members of the Ukrainian American Youth Association branch of Whippany, N.J., showed their support in their own way.

Parents joined the leaders and children of UAYA on December 2, 2013, at their weekly meeting to express their concern and solidarity. Dressed in their embroidered shirts, the group, from the youngest "sumeniata" to the oldest seniors, stood proudly and posed to show their solidarity with the Euro-Maidan.

Some held up signs in Ukrainian, others in English, but each with the

same message: "We support our brothers and sisters in Ukraine." They communicated with Ukraine via social media, and this was immediately shared by people all over the world.

Following the photo session, UAYA members made their way to St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church next door, to view a replica of the Shroud of Turin. The Shroud of Turin is a centuries-old linen cloth that bears the image of a crucified man that millions believe to be that of Jesus. The shroud was made available to St. John's by Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral in Philadelphia for two weeks beginning on December 1. The Rev. Roman Mirchuk, pastor of St. John's, led the group in prayer and afterwards explained the history of the shroud. Everyone was afforded the opportunity to touch and explore the shroud and ask questions.

(Continued on page 23)

Euro-Maidan unites Ukrainians across the globe

by Maria Kowalchuk

When I first heard about the beginnings of the Euro-Maidan, I felt immense pride for the country of my ancestors, Ukraine. For years we have lived in the shadow of a government that does not hold the best interests of the Ukrainian people or their culture. Bowing to the desires of Russia, President Viktor Yanukovich and Prime Minister Mykola Azarov have taken away the freedoms and rights of their people.

Though still legally an independent nation, Ukraine is in grave danger of being assimilated into Russian society once more. But with the injustices of Messrs. Yanukovich and Azarov, and others, has come an opportunity – an opportunity for Ukrainians to stand up for their country, to stand up and create a future that they can be proud of, with the democratic ideals and freedoms they so clearly desire.

The Euro-Maidan has united and engaged Ukrainians across the entire world. I have spoken to countless friends in Ukraine, Canada and the United States about the outrages in Ukraine and how we can contribute to the cause. Seeing many photographs of support for the Euro-Maidan around the globe, I realized just how quickly this has escalated to an international issue.

Yet it remains ignored by the U.S. government. In school, when I reference the events going on in Ukraine, people have no idea what I'm talking about. Americans are not educated about the protests. Ukrainians in America need to fight to spread the word, to educate those who are ignorant of the events in Ukraine, to show our government that it is time to support the democratic ideals that Ukrainians are fighting to regain.

On December 8, 2013, in Rochester, N.Y., we had our own protest in support of the Euro-Maidan. I was incredibly proud of my city when I saw that well over 100 Ukrainians had come out to support the cause. It is difficult for most of us to imagine what people go through on the maidan, but for that hour, numb from the cold yet alive with enthusiasm for our native

country, I felt as though I was one of the Ukrainians on the maidan in Kyiv.

At one point during the presentation of speeches, those gathered sang both the American and Ukrainian national anthems. I saw this as a wonderful symbol of how, although we live in the United States, we are still Ukrainians first and foremost. As soon as the first words of the Ukrainian anthem were sung, the spirits of the people lifted. One could feel the passion in the souls of the people as they sang about their homeland and patriotism. Ukraine has not died.

I am a second-generation Ukrainian in America. I have only been to Ukraine once in my life. Yet Ukrainian is my first language, and the first thing I say when people ask about my heritage. It is a part of me that I will never get away from. Though some at the rally were recent immigrants, many have lived in the United States since before I was born. No matter how distant they are from their ancestral homeland, Ukrainians maintain a love for their country that cannot be destroyed. We remember Ukraine every day in our language, culture, songs, prayers and dreams.

When I tell people that I am Ukrainian, often the first thing out of their mouths is "Isn't that kind of like Russia?" Ukrainians at the Euro-Maidan are fighting to disprove this theory once and for all. We are not Russian. We are Ukrainian. We will not be subjugated after all that we have fought for.

At this crucial point in Ukraine's history, I encourage all at the Euro-Maidan to remain united. You have the support of the world; we are all with you in our thoughts and in our prayers. We in the diaspora need to put our full support behind Ukraine so that countries around the world will support its people's efforts. Ukrainians are strong and will not back down. Ukraine is not Russia, it is Europe. Glory to Ukraine! Glory to the heroes!

Maria Kowalchuk, 16, is a junior in high school. She is a graduate of the School of Ukrainian Studies and is active in Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization.

Preschoolers welcome St. Nicholas



NEWARK, N.J. – On December 6, St. Nicholas – a.k.a. Sviaty Mykolay – visited the children at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Montessori Preschool in Newark, N.J.

Let us hear from you!

The next edition of UKELODEON will be published on February 9.

Please send in your submissions by January 31 to staff@ukrweekly.com.

A busy month for UAYA youth in Philadelphia

by Leo Iwaskiw

PHILADELPHIA – Each year the Youth Division No. 8, Kyiv, of the Ukrainian American Youth Association branch in Philadelphia holds an official formation in uniform dedicated to St. Michael the Archangel, the patron of UAYA, whose feast day falls on November 8.

The ceremony, which took place November 16, 2013, at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, drew not only the youths and their counselors, but also parents, “druzhynnyky” (adult UAYA members), seniors, local UAYA board members and guests.

The Striltsi group of young boys was commended for its project during the traditional Perseverance Day (November 10) in the local park. Wearing hats similar to the ones worn by the Ukrainian Sich Rifle-men (Sichovi Striltsi) during Western Ukraine’s independence proclamation (November 1, 1918), they raised the Ukrainian flag on the “Lviv City Hall” constructed by the Svitliachky group of “sumeniata.”

Youth Director George Mykytyn conducted the formal ceremony of transferring four sumeniata to the younger UAYA youth ranks, and also transferred five members from the

younger to the older youth ranks. A distinguished rank was awarded to counselor Melanie Tkach for her work with UAYA youth.

The Rev. Volodymyr Kostiuk, pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church in Jenkintown, Pa., reminded the children of the role of guardian angels in people’s lives. He narrated the story of St. Michael and his brave defense of God against the rebellious angels. At the end, he invited everyone to join in a common prayer and blessing of 14 small icons of St. Michael the Archangel, which were created by the youth group Rusalky along with the sumeniata and “huseniata” – the youngest UAYA groups.

Mr. Mykytyn then reminded everyone about the commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the Holodomor scheduled for the next day. Mr. Mykytyn and educational co-directors Larissa Luzeckyj and Dr. Chrystina Dolyniuk-Mykytyn came up with a design and created a commemorative badge, portraying wheat, the years 1932-1933, and the inscription: “I shall never forget the Holodomor.” UAYA counselors helped distribute these insignias during the November 16 ceremony. All then raised their hands to pledge not to forget the Holodomor.



Ukrainian American Youth Association members who participated in an event in Philadelphia honoring St. Michael the Archangel, the patron of the UAYA.

At the end of the ceremony, all gathered in a large circle, held hands and sang the well-known song “Hospody, Pomylyu Nas” (Lord, Have Mercy on Us). The words and music are by Taras Petrynenko. Chrystina Dolyniuk-Mykytyn read the text and explained it to the children. The ceremony ended with a minute of silence in memory of the Holodomor victims.

The next day, members of Philadelphia UAYA Branch, which is headed by John Midzak participated in mark-

ing the anniversary of the Holodomor during ceremonies near the Liberty Bell in downtown Philadelphia and later in the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Throughout the month, UAYA youths collected food items. On November 23, they, along with their counselors and branch leaders, distributed them to the needy, including elderly Ukrainians residing in the Ascension Manor housing complex near the cathedral.

Hillside parish children share a special gift

by Joe Shatynski

Hillside, N.J. – Hours after six inches of snow blanketed Union County in New Jersey, the children and parishioners of Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church in Hillside gathered on Sunday, December 15, 2013, to welcome a visit from St. Nicholas. The children honored St. Nicholas by presenting a bilingual holiday entertainment program that included the play “A Gift for Christmas” and performances of Christmas carols. The Rev. Vasyl Vladyka, parochial vicar, led the attendees in prayer and koliady. Russ Pencak served as liaison to St. Nicholas, and Mike Szyhulsky served as emcee.

On Friday, December 27, 2013,

the parish children and their parents journeyed to nearby Watchung, N.J., to carol in Ukrainian and English to the retired Sisters of Mercy and clergy of McAuley Hall Center at Mount St. Mary Academy. Julia Pelesz also performed music selections on the piano. The children distributed home-baked cookies and religious calendars to the attendees.

Afterwards, the parish caroling group of 18 children and adults traveled throughout Union, Essex, Morris and Middlesex counties to share the gift of koliady with parishioners at their homes.

Without a doubt, the children shared a very special gift with St. Nicholas, the retired sisters and clergy, and the parishioners: a gift of love and caring.

Students celebrate feast day of St. Michael



NEW HAVEN, Conn. – On Sunday, November 10, 2013, St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church celebrated the feast day of St. Michael the Archangel with a divine liturgy followed by a concert and a luncheon in the church hall. New Haven’s Ridna Shkola (School of Ukrainian Studies) students started the short concert with a prayer after the Rev. Iura Godenciuc welcomed all the guests and parishioners. The school’s director, Myron Melnyk was the commentator. A dance group, Edelweiss, also performed an unforgettable dance. See at the celebrations (from left) are: Melania Korenovsky, Diana Melnyk, teacher Halia Lodynsky, Stephania Korenovsky and Sophia Kozak.

– Halia Jurczak-Lodynsky

Whippany UAYA...

(Continued from page 22)

This replica, an exact copy of the original stored in Italy, is one of only six that exist in the world, and was encased on a wooden platform for better viewing. The cloth is 14 feet

long with the image of the man measuring approximately 5-foot-10.

After a busy evening, the younger children resumed their regular meeting while the older youths watched live coverage of the happenings on Euro-Maidan with Michael Koziupa, a UAYA member and guest lecturer.



St. Nicholas poses with the Hillside, N.J., parish children and the Rev. Vasyl Vladyka.

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Tuesday, January 21

MORRISTOWN, N.J.: A joint recital by pianist Laryssa Krupa Slobodyanik and soprano Stefania Dovhan will be presented by the Mayo Performing Arts Center. As solo pianist Ms. Krupa will perform Robert Schumann's "Kreisleriana." Ms Dovhan will perform selected lieder of Richard Strauss, in celebration of the composer's 150th anniversary. This second concert of the "Starlight on Stage" series will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Mayo Performing Arts Center's Community Theater, 100 South St., Morristown, NJ 07960. Tickets are \$40. For more information visit mayoarts.org or call 973-539-8008

Saturday, February 1

NEW YORK: Join us at 7 p.m. to see the

first New York performance by an emerging talent, Borys Ostapienko. In 2013 this 19-year-old engineering student from Toronto traveled to Ukraine, where he won first place in the most prestigious bandura competition. His playing combines impressive technical mastery of the instrument with nuanced musicianship and creative, idiomatic arrangements. The concert is organized as part of the Bandura Downtown series curated by Julian Kytasty, who will introduce the gifted young musician. Admission: \$15; \$10 for members and seniors; \$5 for students. Purchase tickets online at www.ukrainianmuseum.org or at the door. The Ukrainian Museum is located at 222 E. Sixth St.; telephone, 212-228-0110.

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.**

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